



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **Wildfires Ravage Great Plains Region, Communities Rally in Support**

The Texas Forest Service estimates approximately 500,000 acres have burned across three Texas Panhandle fires (Potter/Carson, Ochiltree/Lipscomb/Roberts/Hemphill, and Gray/Wheeler counties). Estimates of acreage burned in Oklahoma, including Beaver and Harper counties, are approximately 500,000 acres. Fires also tore through parts of Southwest Kansas and Southeast Colorado. Death loss totals are still being assessed, but an estimated 5,000 head of cattle in Texas have been displaced and are in immediate need of hay/feed supplies.

Community leaders across the area have begun collecting and donating hay, feed, hauling services and other types of assistance to the families and cattle producers who have been affected by this horrible disaster. Please see below for contacts in the affected areas of Texas and Oklahoma that are coordinating donations.

### **In Texas:**

#### **Gray County Livestock Supply Point**

Clyde Carruth Pavilion

301 Bull Barn Drive, Pampa, Texas

Contact – Mike Jeffcoat, CEA / Office: (806) 669-8033 / Cell: (580) 467-0753

#### **Lipscomb County Livestock Supply Point**

Lipscomb County Show Facility

202 West Main Street, Lipscomb, Texas

Contact – J.R. Sprague, CEA / Office: (806) 862-4601 / Cell: (806) 202-5288

#### **Hemphill County Livestock Supply Point**

100 Hackberry Trail, Canadian, Texas

Contact – Andy Holloway, CEA: (806) 823-9114

### **In Oklahoma:**

#### **Buffalo Feeders**

4 miles east of Buffalo, Okla., on Hwy 64

Contact – Caleb Nelson: (580) 727-1332

#### **Tyree Ag**

US-283, Laverne, Okla.

(Located 1 mile north of stop light, last business north side of Laverne on east side of the road.)

Contact – Jay Dee Nielsen: (580) 334-6819

#### **Dale Long**

1 mile east, ½ mile north, ½ mile east of Gate, Okla.

Contact – Dale Long: (580) 571-1249

#### **May Co-Op Elevator**

May, Okla.

Contact – Tom Fanning: (580) 727-5530

#### **Buffalo Co-Op**

322 E Harper, Buffalo, Okla.

Contact – Beverly Mings: (580) 735-2533

#### **Western Equipment**

3999 Lakeview Drive, Woodward, Okla.

Contact – Caleb Zook: (580) 254-0080

For information on financial donations in Texas, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Wildfire-Donations>. For a full list of donation options in other states, visit [www.beefusa.org/firereliefresources.aspx](http://www.beefusa.org/firereliefresources.aspx).

**Government resources available for wildfire victims**, which are authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill, include the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or disasters, and ELAP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs. Assistance may also be available for fence rebuilding through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP).

For more information on LIP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/LIP-3-10-17>. For more information on ELAP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ELAP-3-10-17>. For more information on ECP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ECP-3-10-17>. Contact your local Farm Service Agency office with any other questions related to disaster assistance. You can find your local office contact information at <http://offices.usda.gov>.

### **Governor Abbott Suspends Permitting Requirements for Hay Haulers**

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced a permit waiver applying to certain types of feed haulers in the wildfire stricken areas of the Texas Panhandle.

“To facilitate the transportation and to ensure that state regulation is not an unnecessary barrier to the emergency transport of hay, I hereby direct you to suspend the permitting requirements and legal height restriction for cylindrical (round) hay bales, as well as associated permit fees, for carriers transporting round bales of hay to these counties,” said Abbott in a letter to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Counties covered by this waiver include Carson, Gray, Hemphill, Ochiltree, Potter, Roberts and Wheeler as well as any Texas county through which transport is necessary to reach the disaster response area.

To read the full announcement, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Hauling-Permits>.

**Governor Abbott has also requested a suspension on grazing restrictions** in the Conservation Reserve Program after devastating wildfires along with governors in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Kansas in a letter to USDA. The letter also asks for the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) to expedite implementation of the Emergency Conservation Program that will provide critical financial resources to affected farmers and ranchers to rebuild fences.

To learn more, visit <http://gov.texas.gov/news/press-release/23272>.

### **Bipartisan Agro-Terrorism Bill Introduced**

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Ranking Member Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) introduced the Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act in the Senate in an effort to address potential agro-terrorism threats to U.S. agriculture and livestock. Companion legislation was introduced in the House.

“As DHS continues to build the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kan., now is the exact time to shore up authorities regarding coordination and mitigation should the worst occur and the nation is hit by a biological attack on our food and agriculture,” said Roberts. “...I understand the unique threat our farmers and ranchers face. As the backbone of the U.S. economy, the spread of any deadly pathogen among our livestock and plant population would cause irreparable damage. I look forward to continuing to work with DHS and USDA, which play equally important roles, in protecting our homeland’s food supply.”

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Senate-Ag-3-10-17>.

### **Senate Votes to Repeal BLM Rule**

This week, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution to repeal the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Planning 2.0 Rule. If not repealed, this rule would prioritize “social and environmental change” over ensuring multiple use of public lands by BLM. It would do so by eliminating stakeholder and local input into the planning process. The House passed the repeal resolution on Feb. 7, so it will now go to the President’s desk for final approval.

To learn more, visit [www.beefusa.org/newsreleases1.aspx?NewsID=6217](http://www.beefusa.org/newsreleases1.aspx?NewsID=6217).

### **Millennials, Gen Z Replacing Meals with Snack Foods**

According to a recent study by NPD group, the Gen Z and Millennial generations are increasingly eating snack foods as a part of or in place of their main meals with the most often occurrence being lunch. Snack foods eaten at main meals now represent 24 percent of all snack food consumption, and this is being driven by the younger generations.

“Although consumers are not adding new snacking occasions to the day, there is a shift in what’s eaten at main meals and how snacking is viewed,” says David Portalatin, vice president, industry analysis, The NPD Group. “Consumers today expect snacks to work for them; the snack is no longer just a reward.”

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NPD-3-10-17>.

## **Quiznos Sets Chicken Handling Goals for Suppliers**

Quiznos sandwich restaurant announced this week its goals to align 100 percent of its chicken suppliers with the Global Animal Partnership's (GAP) animal welfare policies by 2024. The GAP approach is utilized by retailers such as Whole Foods. Quiznos also plans to use exclusively cage-free eggs by 2025.

## **Registration Open for NAMI Meat Industry Summit**

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) announced speakers for its upcoming Meat Industry Summit to be held April 4-6, 2017, at the Rancho Bernardo Inn in San Diego, Calif. This is the first year for the Summit, which will replace and combine programming from the NAMI's Meat Industry Management and Outlook conferences. The conference will cover topics including food safety, government regulations, economics, communications and workforce issues. Among those speaking are John Schaus, fellow in the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Al Almanza, Food Safety and Inspection Service Administrator; and Dr. Charlie Cartwright, assistant vice president at Lockton.

To learn more or to register, visit [www.meatinstitute.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/40701/pid/40701](http://www.meatinstitute.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/40701/pid/40701).

## **2017 Fed Beef Challenge – Enter TODAY**

The best cattle in Cattle Feeding Country will make their way to the historic Amarillo Livestock Auction on Wednesday, April 12 for the 2017 TCFA Fed Beef Challenge. Feedyards from throughout the TCFA area will bring their top quality steers, heifers, Holstein steers and new this year, a category for Mexican steers, to compete for awards, cash and bragging rights. In addition to the carcass contest to determine the best beef, there will be a live evaluation contest, steak feed and special activities benefiting the TCFA Education Foundation. **The deadline to enter the contest is March 31.**

Visit [www.tcfa.org/news-events/fbc.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/fbc.html) for contest rules and the printable entry form. Contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org) for more information.

## **2017 Junior Fed Beef Challenge – Request Your Tags TODAY**

Steer validation for the 2017 Junior Fed Beef Challenge is underway. Contact the TCFA office to request your tags today, and get entered in this year's contest!

Junior cattle feeders from all across Cattle Feeding Country will compete for scholarships, cash and prizes by participating in four phases of the event, including carcass merit, record keeping, a written exam and oral presentation or interview. **Steers can be validated anytime from March 1 to March 27.**

Contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org) for contest information, or visit [www.tcfa.org/news-events/jfbc.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/jfbc.html).

## **Voting Open for 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame**

Cast your vote for the 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and Leadership Award nominees. TCFA member nominees for the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame include Johnny Trotter of Bar-G Feedyard and James Herring of Friona Industries. TCFA-area nominees for the Leadership Award are Dr. Kenneth Eng and Dr. Dee Griffin. Two Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame inductees and one Leadership Award winner will be announced at the 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

To cast your vote, visit <http://cattlefeeders.org/vote-hof/>.

## **Visit TCFA Member Feedyards Job Openings Web Page**

As recommended by the TCFA Human Resources and Industry Relations Committees, TCFA has launched a web page on the TCFA website to host feedyard job openings as a service to TCFA member feedyards.

TCFA member feedyards are eligible to post jobs to the site. However, anyone in search of a job may view and access the site. The website is not designed for direct communication between job seekers and feedyards, so applicants should contact the feedyard via information listed on the posting. Job postings will expire after one month and will be removed unless extended by the feedyard.

To view the web page and current listings, visit [www.tcfa.org/news-events/jobs.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/jobs.html). If you have any additional questions, please contact Jayce Winters at [jayce@tcfa.org](mailto:jayce@tcfa.org).

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