



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • www.tcfa.org • info@tcfa.org

Volume 51, Number 11

March 17, 2017

Wildfire Assistance Update

TCFA would like to extend sincere thanks to all who have donated hay and feed supplies to those affected by the recent wildfires in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The response has been amazing, but for now, hay donations are no longer needed.

However, as you know, losses and related financial needs for fencing supplies, etc. are significant. The TCFA Executive Committee voted Monday afternoon to donate funds to the following entities to assist those in need, and encourages feedyard members to do the same if possible.

To help those in Texas, Oklahoma or Kansas, please send donations to:

Working Ranch Cowboys Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund

Donate online at <https://wrca.wildapricot.org/wrcadonate2016/> (indicate "WRCF Wildfire Relief Fund")

Send checks to WRCF Wildfire Relief Fund, 408 SW 7th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101

(806) 374-9722

To help those in Oklahoma, please send donations to:

Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation

Donate online at <http://okcattlemen.org/firerelieffund.aspx>

Send checks to PO Box 82395, Oklahoma City, OK 73148 (indicate "fire relief" in memo)

(405) 235-4391

To help those in Kansas, please send donations to:

Kansas Livestock Foundation

Donate online at www.kla.org/donationform.aspx

Send checks to 6031 SW 37th Street, Topeka, KS 66614 (indicate "fire relief" in memo)

(785) 273-5115

Resources Available for Wildfire Recovery

Several government resources available to assist wildfire victims in recovery efforts, 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. The Farm Service Agency has also authorized a request from Gov. Greg Abbott to allow the emergency use of the Conservation Reserve Program for grazing. 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 Declares State Of Disaster

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster for the six Texas counties most heavily impacted by the recent wildfires, including Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler. Gov. Abbott has also asked USDA for a Secretarial Disaster Designation to activate the USDA Farm Service Agency's Emergency Loan Program to help eligible farmers and ranchers rebuild and recover from losses sustained by the wildfires.

To learn more, visit <http://gov.texas.gov/news/press-release/23276>.

2017 Property Tax Dates

The following link contains information on a number of important property tax dates. Please contact josh@tcfa.org if you have any questions or need further assistance. <http://tinyurl.com/2017-03-17-TaxDates>.

USTR Nominee Shows Support for Agriculture

U.S. Trade Representative nominee, Robert Lighthizer, highlighted support for agriculture during his hearing with the Senate Finance Committee this week. During his questioning, he told the Committee that he has a long history with agriculture dating back to 1983 with the Reagan Administration, and he acknowledged the potential benefit of the Trans-Pacific Partnership to U.S. agriculture. He also recognized Japan as an important market to access for U.S. agricultural commodities.

"...we need a trade representative who understands the importance of abiding by rules-based trade, who is willing to rigorously enforce agreements with our trading partners, and who will work with the U.S. beef industry to address our many unresolved barriers to trade," said NCBA President Craig Uden. "We look forward to learning more about Mr. Lighthizer's views on these important issues during the confirmation process."

To learn more about Lighthizer's Committee hearing, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USTR-3-17-17>.

ABC News to Face Trial Over LFTB Comments

ABC News will finally head to court five years after a lawsuit was filed against the media company by Beef Products, Inc. (BPI) over negative false comments repeatedly broadcast by ABC about lean finely textured beef (LFTB), while also popularizing the reference term "pink slime." The suit was brought based on the comments made by Diane Sawyer and Jim Avila; however, South Dakota District Judge Cheryl Gering dropped Sawyer from the suit, and she will not face questioning.

Of the lawsuit, Gering said, "A jury could determine that there is clear and convincing evidence that ABC Broadcasting and Mr. Avila were reckless, that defendants had obvious reason to doubt the veracity of informants, and that they engaged in purposeful avoidance of the truth."

To learn more about the case, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2017-03-17-ABC>.

SAVE THE DATE – TCFA 50th Anniversary Reception & Annual Convention

TCFA is turning 50! Save the date for TCFA's 50th Anniversary Reception on the date of TCFA's inception, May 18. Join members and friends of the Association at the Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a come-and-go reception celebrating this historic occasion. Invitations will follow, and you will be requested to RSVP. Also, mark your calendars for the TCFA 50th Anniversary Convention, which will be held Oct. 8-10, at the Embassy Suites Downtown Amarillo. An incredible speaker lineup is planned, including *Lone Survivor* author, Marcus Luttrell; TCFA-favorite and generational/millennial expert, Jason Dorsey; agricultural economist and global futurist, Dr. Lowell Catlett; and more. Back by popular demand, the Cattle Feeders Get Together will feature live entertainment from premier 80s cover band, The Spazmatics.

Make plans to join us in Amarillo for both of these special events that you won't want to miss. To view a "Save the Date" flyer for these events, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-SaveTheDate>. To be entered for a special prize drawing, Tweet a photo of the "Save the Date" with #TCFA50.

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 for contest rules and the printable entry form. Contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or 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 may be validated anytime from March 1 to March 27.**

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

TSCRA Convention Registration Open

The 2017 Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo will be held March 31 through April 2, 2017 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The year's event will feature informational sessions with speakers such as Laura Kahn, MD, author and co-founder, One Health Initiative; Erin Borrer, economist, U.S. Meat Export Federation; James Garriss, *Browning World Climate Bulletin*; and others.

Discounted early bird registration is open through March 20. To learn more, visit www.cattleraisersconvention.com.

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.

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. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jayce Winters at jayce@tcfa.org.

This copyrighted material is the property of TCFA and is intended for the use of TCFA members only. It may not be redistributed, transmitted, stored or reproduced, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of TCFA. The information contained in this material is believed to be reliable and correct, and the views expressed reflect judgments at this time and are subject to change without notice. TCFA does not warrant or guarantee that the information is complete, comprehensive or accurate and it should not be relied upon as such.