



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

---

# NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) • [info@tcfa.org](mailto:info@tcfa.org)

Volume 51, Number 13

March 31, 2017

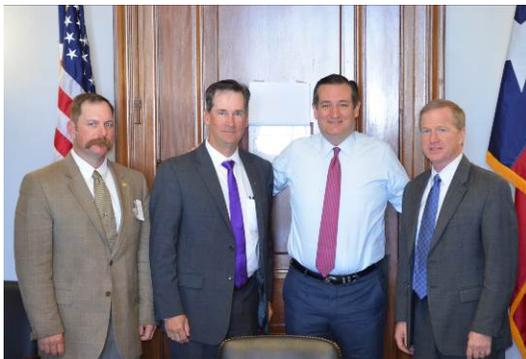
## **TCFA Leadership Represented Members at NCBA Legislative Conference This Week**

TCFA officers, board members and staff took TCFA policy priorities to the Hill this week in Washington, D.C., during the 2017 NCBA Legislative Conference. The TCFA group met with several congressional offices and federal agency officials to discuss issues such as market policy and recent trading activity, international trade, antimicrobial resistance, environmental regulations, tax reform, transportation and immigration reform. TCFA also encouraged a Senate vote of approval as soon as possible for USDA Secretary nominee Sonny Perdue.

"I appreciate the time that our leaders took from their businesses to represent the association. It was a productive trip with opportunities to meet with Congressional and agency leaders and discuss key issues for TCFA members. While there are many months left in this Congressional session, we are optimistic that federal overreach into market structure, environmental and other areas will be reduced. TCFA leaders and staff will be back in Washington again this year to continue this input," noted TCFA Chairman Jim Lovell. Find a full list of issues at <http://tinyurl.com/2017-TCFA-Issues-Update>.

TCFA leaders who attended include Chairman Jim Lovell, Chairman-Elect Jason Peeler, Vice Chairman Levi Berry, Past Chairmen Tom McDonald, Jason Hitch and Clark Willingham, as well as board members Clay Allen, Scott Anderson, Kynan Sturgess and William Bransgrove.

Find photos from the NCBA Legislative Conference on TCFA's Facebook page.



## **EPA Administrator Addresses Cattlemen at Legislative Conference**

The new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt spoke to cattlemen and women from across the country this week at NCBA's annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C. During his remarks Pruitt said he is working to build a partnership between the agency and the men and women who serve as the stewards of our natural resources.

"In Oklahoma, I saw first-hand that cattlemen care deeply about a clean and healthy environment because their livelihoods depend on it," said Pruitt. "Looking forward, we will build a partnership with landowners across the country and create commonsense rules that protect our environment."

Prior to being named EPA Administrator, Pruitt served as the Attorney General of Oklahoma where he was a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda.

Craig Uden, NCBA president, said that after eight years of aggressive overreach from EPA, it is reassuring to have an Administrator that actually wants to work with farmers and ranchers.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EPA-3-31-17>.

## **U.S. Beef Industry Addresses Trump on Beef Access to China**

NCBA, U.S. Meat Export Federation and the North American Meat Institute sent a letter to President Trump this week asking him to address the restoration of U.S. beef access to China at his upcoming summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. U.S. beef producers have not had access to China since 2003.

"Our industry associations represent the entire beef value chain, from ranchers to feedlot operators to meat packers and export trading companies. We believe that access to the large and growing Chinese beef market is essential to the future health of the U.S. beef industry," said the letter. "Exports are a critical component of the continued profitability of this industry and make a significant contribution to the positive balance of trade that the United States enjoys in food and agricultural products."

To read the full letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-3-31-17>.

## **President Trump Signs BLM Planning 2.0 Repeal**

This week, President Trump signed into law a resolution to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Planning 2.0 Rule. If not repealed, this rule would have prioritized "social and environmental change" over ensuring multiple use of public lands by BLM. It would have done so by eliminating stakeholder and local input into the planning process.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BLM-3-31-17>.

## **MBA Program Reaches 10,000 Graduates**

This month, the Masters of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program surpassed 10,000 graduates. According to the beef checkoff, this group of graduates, which consists of chefs, teachers, doctors, dieticians, producers and more, is leading the way in advocating for the beef industry and agriculture as a whole.

To learn more about the MBA program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/MBA-3-31-17>.

## **Congressional Beef Caucus Re-Established**

The re-establishment of the Congressional Beef Caucus was announced this week during NCBA's annual legislative conference. The bi-partisan caucus, co-chaired by U.S. Reps. Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) and Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.), will organize and educate Members of Congress and their staff on policy issues that impact America's cattle and beef producers.

The caucus currently stands at 35 members from 21 different states. According to NCBA president Craig Uden, the Beef Caucus will help cattle producers highlight federal issues so that lawmakers know how those policies affect cattle producers back home in their districts.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA2-3-31-17>.

## **Ag Groups, EPA Settle CAFO FOIA Lawsuit**

An ongoing lawsuit of the National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation brought against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has come to a settlement this week. The two ag groups sued EPA over personal information from over 100,000 concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) that was released by EPA. While EPA claimed this action was protected under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the ag groups said this information was exempt from FOIA requests.

As part of the settlement, EPA agreed to only disclose a CAFO's permit status, city, county and zip code under FOIA requests, and those who received the information that has already been disseminated have been instructed to return it to EPA or destroy all copies.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FOIA-3-31-17>.

## **Trump Administration Considers Retaliatory Tariffs in Response to EU Beef Ban**

According to the Wall Street Journal, the Trump Administration is considering imposing tariffs on certain goods from the European Union (EU) in response to its ban on U.S. beef from hormone-treated cattle. The EU lost a case at the World Trade Organization in 1998 for its ban on U.S. beef, and later negotiated an agreement with the U.S. in 2009 to allow limited market access for beef that met EU standards. However, no progress has been made since 2009 due to increased imports under the duty-free quota from other countries.

To read the full Wall Street Journal article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WSJ-3-31-17>.

## **Wildfire Relief Giving**

TCFA encourages members who are interested in continuing to give to the ongoing relief efforts to contact one of the following organizations as local supply points will soon be closing.

### **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](http://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-3-24-17> 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>.

## **2017 Property Tax Dates**

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

## **SAVE THE DATE – TCFA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception & Annual Convention**

TCFA is turning 50! Save the date for TCFA's 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

### **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 Carmen Fenton at [carmen@tcfa.org](mailto:carmen@tcfa.org).

### **TCFA Staff Changes**

TCFA welcomes Carmen Fenton to the staff as the communications director. Carmen has worked in communications for three Members of Congress, including Rep. Mac Thornberry. Before moving home to Amarillo, Carmen served as the Director of Public Affairs for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. She was raised in White Deer, Texas, and is an active partner in her family's cow-calf operation. Fenton graduated in 2004 from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communications and in 2006 from the University of Oklahoma with a master's in Communications. "We are excited to have someone with Carmen's experience in communications and government relations join our team, and we look forward to the many contributions she will make in serving TCFA members," stated TCFA CEO Ross Wilson.

Jayce Winters has accepted an opportunity in her hometown of Satanta, Kan., as public relations manager for Cattle Empire. Winters has served in various capacities in membership, market and communications during her time at TCFA. "Jayce's passion and depth of care for TCFA members and the beef industry is infectious and has been a wonderful asset to TCFA for several years. In addition to all things communications, Jayce successfully managed several important community related projects, and we know that she will make a very positive contribution in Kansas," said TCFA CEO Ross Wilson. "Please join us in congratulating Jayce on her new opportunity and thanking her for her dedicated and excellent service to the members of TCFA."