



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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ABC Fails to Block BPI Case from Going to Trial

Beef Products Inc.'s (BPI) defamation lawsuit against ABC's reporting of lean finely textured beef will go to trial June 5. According to *Reuters*, the South Dakota Supreme Court denied the network's petition to appeal a lower court ruling that allowed BPI to take its case to a jury.

In a statement, BPI said, "The trial court's decision denying ABC's motion for summary judgement was correct and we are glad the South Dakota Supreme Court rejected ABC's request for an appeal of that decision. We look forward to presenting our case to the jury and holding the Defendants accountable for their actions."

For more on the story, go to <http://tinyurl.com/BPI-Trial>.

Neil Gorsuch Confirmed as Supreme Court Justice

Judge Neil Gorsuch was confirmed in the U.S. Senate today as a Supreme Court Justice. The vote was 54-45. Confirmation came after the Senate changed the rules to eliminate the filibuster for Supreme Court nominations. This procedural maneuver, called the "nuclear option", cleared the way for Gorsuch to be confirmed with a simple majority rather than the normal 60 votes needed in the Senate.

Scott Yager, NCBA environmental counsel, says the Gorsuch confirmation is good for cattle producers. He wants to preserve private property rights and narrow the deference given to agencies in how they interpret regulations. This is important particularly when it comes to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which for the past eight years has interpreted its own authority very broadly.

Two State Bills Garner Support from TCFA and Other Ag Groups

TCFA registered support in favor of SB 740 this week in Austin. The bill, authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), would help balance eminent domain laws to ensure landowners have a fair and equitable process when corporations and governmental entities come to take private property for public use. TCFA will continue to work with other state ag groups and the Texans for Property Rights Coalition toward a more balanced eminent domain process.

TCFA also testified in favor of HB 1643. The bill, authored by Rep. Drew Springer (R-Muenster), would add feedyards and other CAFOs to the list of critical infrastructures that drones are prohibited from flying over.

Kids Who Grow Up on Farms and Ranches Have Fewer Allergies

Science confirms what cattle producers have known all along — that people who grow up on farms and ranches have fewer allergy and asthma problems. A report published in *Science*, a publication from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, showed that farm dust protects against allergies through the induction of A20 — a protein produced when exposed to farm dust.

According to the study, researchers induced dust mite allergies in mice. They concluded that exposure to dust from a dairy farm early in life made the mice immune by producing the A20 protein. When they knocked out the A20 protein from the subjects' lungs, the farm dust stopped protecting them from allergic reactions. The research team then tested 2,000 children who lived on farms. They found that "those who suffered from allergies in spite of their upbringing had a mutation on the gene related to A20, causing the protein to malfunction."

"A20 was not a coincidence, it was really necessary," said Bart Lambrecht, a co-leader of the study. "This is linking, showing a cause and effect link, between exposure to farm dust and fewer allergies. I think our study is a big step forward."

A *Washington Post* article stated that one study found that only 25 percent of children living on Swiss farms had reactions to common allergens, while 45 percent of children in the general population had the same reactions. To read the full article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/farm-dust>.

Millennials and Generation Z Consumers Embrace Foods with Healthy Fats

A new study from Packaged Facts indicates that Millennials and Generation Z consumers are the most inclined to view any type of fat as permissible and potentially a positive factor for their health. The study found that these two demographics look to eliminate overly processed foods, but are likely to embrace foods with minimally processed fats like butter, meat, cheese, avocados, eggs and certain oils.

The trend is aligned with findings that author Nina Teicholz featured in her 2014 book calling for the inclusion of butter, meat and cheese in a healthy diet. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/MilGenXstudy>.

TCFA Feedyards Host BQA Trainings

Sessions on the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Cattle Care & Handling program for member feedyards were held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Over 350 people participated in the trainings, with 50 feedyards represented. The trainings were hosted by Bartlett I; Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders; and Cactus Feedyard. Presentations and demonstrations included cattle processing by Joel Ham, stockmanship trainer and ranch owner; moving and pulling cattle by Curt Pate, owner of Curt Pate Stockmanship; and BQA key principles of cattle handling, movement of non-ambulatory cattle and proper euthanasia of cattle by Dr. Ted McCollum, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"We were very pleased with the level of interest and participation in the trainings by feedyard owners, feedyard managers and feedyard employees," TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer said. "That clearly demonstrates a commitment to beef safety, beef quality and cattle care and handling by our members."

TCFA's educational programs are sponsored by the TCFA Allied Industries Committee with both financial and in-kind contributions. Lunches at the trainings this week were provided by Merck Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Texas Feed Fat, Bayer Animal Health and Micro Beef Technologies.

"TCFA is fortunate to have strong support for our education and training programs by our allied industry members," said Brady Miller, TCFA market and membership manager. "We appreciate all the time, effort and lunches those members provided this week."

To become certified under TCFA's BQA program, feedyards must be audited by TCFA and verified by their consultants. Feedyards are audited annually to keep their certification. For more information on BQA qualification, contact Matt Davis at matt@tcfa.org.

Bureau of Land Management Admits to Incorrect Methodology Used in Surveys

In a letter filed in a federal district court in Wichita Falls, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) admitted that the agency used incorrect methodology in surveys while determining the gradient boundary on Texas property along the Red River. The three surveys are the basis for the federal government's claims to private property in the area.

"Due to this use of incorrect methodology," Stever Beyerlein, a BLM chief surveyor, wrote, "the BLM is suspending these three surveys, effective on this date, in order to allow for further investigation."

Beyerlein went on to say that, "Following investigation, the survey may be cancelled, corrected, or reinstated, either in whole or in part, but no administrative action based on the plats filed for these three surveys may be initiated or completed by BLM while these surveys are suspended."

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, who represents the land in question, said, "The portions of the river that the agency has surveyed strayed widely from the accepted gradient boundary survey method established by the Supreme Court in *Oklahoma v. Texas*. It is encouraging that the BLM has admitted their error and that all administrative action will be suspended until the matter is resolved."

In 2013, the BLM began updating their Resource Management Plan. During that process, landowners were told, for the first time, that the property they own, have deeds to, and have paid taxes on could actually belong to the federal government. In 2015, landowners joined in a lawsuit to fight for their private property. Both Rep. Thornberry and Sen. Cornyn have been actively working to resolve the issue in favor of landowners.

To read a copy of the BLM letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BLMThornberry>.

Texas Beef Council Takes Beef Message Straight to the Doctor's Office

The Texas Beef Council (TBC) is taking new research about including beef in a heart-healthy diet straight to the doctor. The checkoff-funded MD Outreach Program is a unique program that reaches physicians right where they are — in the office.

Last year TBC hired two pharmaceutical sales reps with experience in cardiac and nutritional health to visit offices and deliver science-based information on why beef is a crucial component of a heart-healthy diet. To date, there are four reps working to educate doctors on behalf of Texas cattle producers. As of February 2017, the reps have had one-on-one contact with more than 4,000 doctors.

“If you multiply that out over the long term, we have the potential to reach more than 1.2 million patients per month,” said Hawley Poinsett, TBC senior manager of nutrition.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TBCMDoutreach>.

Confirmation Date Set for Gov. Sonny Perdue

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Sonny Perdue, Former Governor of Georgia, to be the Secretary of Agriculture, Monday, April 24. The Majority Leader’s announcement follows a call by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Michael Conaway and Ranking Member Collin Peterson to swiftly confirm Perdue as the next USDA Secretary.

In the letter, Conaway and Peterson highlighted the many challenges facing America’s farmers, ranchers and rural America in general.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture plays the lead role in responding to these and many other serious situations that are unfolding, and the Department absolutely must have someone at the helm,” the letter stated.

Beef Exports Continue at Strong Pace

According to this month’s U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) assessment of USDA export statistics, U.S. beef export volume for the month of February was up 13 percent (186,905 mt) from a year ago, while export value increased 79 percent to \$1.02 billion. Additionally, February exports accounted for 12.6 percent of total beef production and 10.1 percent for muscle cuts — keeping steady with last year. Export value per head on fed slaughter averaged \$276.96, up 13 percent from last year. To learn more, visit

<http://tinyurl.com/BeefExports-Feb>.

2018 National BQA Application due June 2

Guidelines for the 2018 BQA Award nominations are now available. The application is due no later than June 2, 2017. Award applications should be downloaded, completed and emailed in the format specified on the application to gwebb@beef.org. To download the application, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BQA-Award>.

Animal Disease Traceability Meetings Scheduled

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a series of public meetings on the current Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) system. The meetings are an opportunity for the public to inform APHIS about the successes and challenges of the current ADT program.

The meetings will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in seven locations:

April 11: Oklahoma City, Okla., Tower Hotel Oklahoma City, 3233 Northwest Expressway

April 13: Riverdale, Md., USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road

April 20: Nashville, Tenn., Renaissance Nashville Hotel, 611 Commerce Street

May 2: Bloomington, Minn., Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Avenue South

May 4: Denver, Colo., Doubletree by Hilton Denver, 3203 Quebec Street

May 11: Rancho Cordova, Calif., Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova, 11211 Point East Drive

May 24: Billings, Mont., Hilton Garden Inn Billings, 2465 Grant Road

Cattle producers who wish to attend should register at <http://tinyurl.com/ADT-registration>.

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

Send checks to 6031 SW 37th Street, Topeka, KS 66614 (indicate "fire relief" in memo)
(785) 273-5115

USDA Allows Emergency Grazing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands located in parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. USDA Acting Deputy Secretary Michael L. Young authorized the emergency grazing of cattle by ranchers who are facing the ruination of their herds due to lack of sufficient grazing land because of wildfires.

"President Trump, the USDA, and Governors Brownback, Fallin and Abbott deserve a great deal of credit for moving swiftly to open these lands to grazing so that many of the cattle producers who were dramatically impacted by last month's wildfires can feed their herds," said Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/emergency-grazing>.

A list of affected counties for each state is below:

Texas

Counties affected include Armstrong, Carson, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman and Wheeler.

Oklahoma

Counties affected include Beaver, Ellis, Harper, Roger Mills, Woodward and Woods.

Kansas

Counties affected include Clark, Comanche, Ellis, Ellsworth, Ford, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Meade, Ness, Russell and Seward.

Resources Available for Wildfire Recovery

Several government resources are available to assist wildfire victims in recovery efforts including 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-3-24-17> 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>.

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

TCFA is turning 50! Save the date for TCFA's 50th Anniversary Reception May 18. Join members and friends of the Association at the Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza from 4 p.m. to 6 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 take place October 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.

New Jobs Posted to the TCFA Member Feedyards Job Openings Web Page

New job postings have been added to the TCFA Member Feedyards Job Openings web page. To view the web page and current listings, visit www.tcfa.org/news-events/jobs.html. If you have any additional questions, please contact Carmen Fenton at carmen@tcfa.org.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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