



# 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 17

April 28, 2017

## **Trump Will Not Scratch NAFTA Just Yet**

President Trump agreed that the U.S. should remain a partner in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) after the leaders of both Canada and Mexico called him urging the U.S. to stay in, according to the *New York Times* Thursday morning.

The White House said that Trump “agreed not to terminate NAFTA at this time and the leaders agreed to proceed swiftly, according to their required internal procedures, to enable the renegotiation of the NAFTA deal to the benefit of all three countries.”

“It is my privilege to bring NAFTA up to date through renegotiation,” Trump said in a written statement. “It is an honor to deal with both President Pena Nieto and Prime Minister Trudeau, and I believe that the end result will make all three countries stronger and better.”

Ag industry groups continue to encourage the President to ensure the benefits of NAFTA remain in place if the trade agreement is renegotiated. According to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), exports of American-produced beef to Mexico alone have grown by more than 750 percent since NAFTA was signed into law.

## **White House Releases Tax Reform Proposal; Includes Death Tax Repeal**

The White House released its tax proposal this week citing it as the “biggest tax cut in U.S. history.” The plan is designed as a starting point between the Administration and Congress as they seek to pass comprehensive tax reform this year.

The report includes notable provisions such as a full repeal of the death tax; reducing the number of tax brackets from seven to three; repealing the 3.8 percent Obamacare tax on investment income; reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent; and restoring the 20 percent rate on capital gains. Also of note, the plan does not include the border adjustment tax. Immediate repeal of the death tax has been a priority for TCFA, NCBA and other ag groups.

“The death tax is clearly on the Administration’s radar and for that we are appreciative,” said Danielle Beck, NCBA director of government affairs.

“Small business owners, farmers and ranchers are particularly vulnerable to the death tax, making it more difficult for future generations to build upon their family’s hard work,” said Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) who has introduced death tax repeal legislation every year since being elected. “Death should never be a taxable event. All Americans should be able to work hard, build and save knowing that they can pass on what they have earned to their children and grandchildren.”

To read more on Trump’s tax plan from the White House, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WH-Tax-Proposal>.

## **Senate Confirms Sonny Perdue as Secretary of Agriculture**

On Monday, the Senate confirmed former Gov. Sonny Perdue as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Gov. Perdue will be a fierce champion for Texas farmers, ranchers and the communities across our state who support them,” said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas). “With one in every seven Texas jobs linked to agriculture, I look forward to working hand in glove with him to support our Texas producers and ensure we continue to have a thriving agriculture economy.”

Perdue was raised on a Georgia farm. He is a lifelong agri-businessman and veterinarian. He served two terms as the governor of Georgia where agriculture is the largest industry. After his final term as governor, Perdue founded “Perdue Partners,” an Atlanta company that deals in global trade and focuses on the exporting of U.S. goods.

## **Trump Signs Executive Order to Boost Rural America**

President Trump signed an executive order this week establishing a new Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity charged “to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts agriculture and rural communities.” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will chair the task force.

“We are appreciative for President Trump making agriculture a high priority right out of the gate,” said Craig Uden, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) president. “With Secretary Perdue in office and the establishment of this task force, we are in a strong position moving forward to develop policy that will bolster our rural economy rather than the continuous over-regulation we have recently faced.”

The task force is specifically designed to look at policy, regulatory and legislative changes that would lift up rural areas. The task force will seek input from stakeholders, including beef groups, in the agricultural community.

“It is further in the national interest to ensure that regulatory burdens do not unnecessarily encumber agricultural production, harm rural communities, constrain economic growth, hamper job creation or increase the cost of food for Americans and our customers around the world,” the Administration stated in the executive order.

“The rural farm economy has suffered with a drop in net farm income and an increasing regulatory environment,” said Uden. “This is a great step forward to putting rural America back into focus and addressing the issues that have negatively impacted our industry over the years.”

To read the full executive order issued by the White House, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EO-Ag-Rural>.

## **EPA Administrator Hopes to Earn Back Landowners’ Trust**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new administrator, Scott Pruitt, told Radio Oklahoma Ag Network Farm Director Ron Hays, that the agency has lost its moorings.

Pruitt explained how rolling back the Waters of the United States rule, will help bring the EPA back to the basics.

“As far as the WOTUS rule is concerned,” Pruitt said, “what folks need to understand is — we’re on the pathway to undoing, rescinding the previous rule, which is needed.”

Currently, Pruitt has issued a stay against the standing rule, put in place by the previous administration. He emphasizes that farmers, ranchers and landowners of all types need to feel confident that the rule, as written today, will never be put into effect, Hays reports.

To read the full interview, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EPA-WOTUS-Pruitt>.

## **Being a Vegetarian Won’t Make You Live Longer**

A new study in New South Wales, Australia, suggests vegetarian diets won’t prolong life. According to the study, researchers who tracked nearly a quarter-million adults aged 45 and older found no significant differences in the likelihood of dying between those who followed a complete, semi or pesco vegetarian diet.

University of Alberta’s Timothy Caulfield, a Canadian research chair in health law and policy, told the *National Post* that the study fits with an emerging body of evidence that vegetarian diets don’t reduce the risk of premature death.

The Australian study is based on data from the “45 and Up Study,” described as the largest study of healthy aging in the Southern Hemisphere. To read the full article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/vegetarians-don-t-live-longer>.

## **Japanese Consumers Eating More Meat**

Japanese consumers ate 4.7 million tons of chicken, beef and pork combined during the 2016 fiscal year, a 3.4 percent increase from 2015, according to statistics released from the country’s Agriculture and Livestock Industries Corporation (ALIC). According to reports, this growth indicates the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of gains and the country’s appetite for meat shows no signs of waning.

According to an article in *Global Meat News*, beef consumption has risen also. An official with ALIC noted that, in 2016, more Japanese consumer chose to eat beef at restaurants and bars than at home. Beef eaten outside the home in Japan accounts for 70 percent of consumption, the article said.

The rise in total beef consumption is due in part to the growth of affordable beef imports, said Shiho Futamata, a spokesperson for ALIC. However, she did note that it is not possible to predict beef consumption levels for 2018. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/japanese-beef>.

### **More Trouble for Chipotle**

Chipotle Mexican Grill reported its first quarter of higher same-store sales in more than a year, as more customers headed to its restaurants and spent more while they were there. According to reports, shares of the company rose as much as 6.8 percent after the company reported better-than-expected earnings.

However, those gains were quickly erased after the restaurant told investors during an earnings call Tuesday that it had detected “unauthorized activity” on a network that supports payment processing for purchases made at Chipotle. Shares recovered Wednesday morning, rising 2.8 percent in premarket trading, according to CNBC, but there is still little information about the scope of the unauthorized activity.

“Because the investigation is continuing, complete findings are not available,” John Hartung, Chipotle’s CFO, said during the call. Hartung said it was “too early to provide further details on the investigation.” He added that the company has implemented additional security, and then declined to comment further.

The restaurant has been fighting back from food safety issues in 2015 that included E.coli and norovirus outbreaks.

In an editorial to *Drovers*, JoAnn Alumbaugh, editor of the *Pork Network*, wrote, “While it’s not nice to gloat, those of us in agriculture aren’t too upset over the newest troubles to emerge for the fast-food chain: Its previous problems related to ‘locally-sourced’ and ‘clean’ ingredients were self-inflicted.” She went on to say that, “Not only do consumers have to be careful when they eat at Chipotle, now they need to closely monitor their payment card statements and notify their bank if they see an unauthorized charge.”

### **Tyson Announces Program on Sustainability and Better Support for Employees**

Tyson Foods Inc. has announced programs to focus on sustainable food production and expand efforts to create a better workplace at its production facilities. In a release this week, the company said that these programs will affect more than 95,000 employees who work in the chicken, beef, pork and prepared foods operations.

“We believe sustainability is about continuing improvement and solutions that last, and this includes a healthier workplace,” said Noel White, chief operations officer at Tyson Foods. “We’ve always been committed to supporting our employees and have sound workplace practices in place, but also want to do better. That’s why we’re taking steps that include expanding training, improving workplace safety and compensation, increasing transparency and helping workers with life skills.”

To read the full release from Tyson, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Tyson-Sustainability>.

### **TCFA Feedyards Host BQA Trainings**

Sessions on the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Cattle Care & Handling program for member feedyards were held Tuesday and Wednesday in South Texas this week. The trainings were hosted by Texana Feeders and Howell Cattle Company. Presentations and demonstrations included cattle processing, horsemanship, and moving and pulling individual cattle and lots by Curt Pate, owner of Curt Pate Stockmanship. TCFA staff also discussed BQA principles of cattle handling, movement of non-ambulatory cattle, proper euthanasia of cattle and feed best management practices.

“The trainings were well attended by feedyards across the South Texas region. It was great to have feedyard owners, feedyard managers, feedyard employees and feedyard consultants participate in the sessions,” TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer said. “That clearly demonstrates an on-going commitment to beef safety, beef quality, and cattle care and handling by our members.”

TCFA’s educational programs are sponsored in part by the TCFA Allied Industries Committee and Stockmanship and Stewardship Program. Lunches at the trainings this week were provided by Jason Peeler, Texana Feeders and Jesse Howell, Howell Cattle Company.

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](mailto:matt@tcfa.org).

### **Applications for Texas Family Land Heritage Program Due June 1**

Applications are due June 1 for The Family Land Heritage Program. The program recognizes families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more.

Applications are due June 1. For more information, including qualifications and an application, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Family-Land-Heritage>.

## **Animal Disease Traceability Meetings Scheduled Through May**

To address gaps and other concerns within the Animal Disease Traceability System (ADT), APHIS is hosting a series of meetings around the country. Cattle producers who wish to attend should register at <http://tinyurl.com/ADT-registration>. The remaining meetings will take place at the following locations:

**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

## **2017 TCFA Feedyard Camp**

TCFA, in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and West Texas A&M University, will host the 2017 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program, also known as Feedyard Camp. The program is open to incoming high school juniors and seniors who are interested in a career in the fed beef industry.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction about feedyard operations, as well as career opportunities in the fed beef industry. The registration fee for camp is \$100, which covers all costs except travel to and from Canyon. Applications must be returned to TCFA by May 12. To download an application, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FeedYardCamp>. Contact Brady Miller at [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org) or Rachel Hernandez at [rachel@tcfa.org](mailto:rachel@tcfa.org) with any questions.

## **New Farm Journal Wildfire Fund Doubles Your Donation for Wildfire Recovery**

*Farm Journal* announced a new fundraising effort for producers affected by the March wildfires. The Million Dollar Wildfire Relief Challenge will enable donors to help ranching families rebuild by doubling donations through July 31, 2017. To learn more and/or donate, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Wildfire-Fund>.

## **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 May 18. Join members and friends of the Association at the Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza from 4 - 6 p.m. for a come-and-go reception celebrating this historic occasion. Invitations have been mailed, and we ask that attendees RSVP.

Also, mark your calendars for TCFA's 50<sup>th</sup> 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 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](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).

## **Texas A&M AgriLife Research and U.S. Forest Service Conference May 12 in Kerrville**

Producers can attend a conference offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the U.S. Forest Service that will address strategic supplementation strategies to enhance Texas rangelands and reduce livestock costs. Registration is open until May 5 and costs \$15 a person. For more information and to register, visit <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu/sss-conf>.

## **102<sup>nd</sup> Panhandle Grain and Feed Association Convention**

The annual Panhandle Grain and Feed Convention is scheduled for May 4-5 in Amarillo. For more information or to register, visit [www.panhandlegrainandfeed.org](http://www.panhandlegrainandfeed.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.