



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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TCFA Action Alert: Submit Comments to Repeal Obama's WOTUS Rule; Comments Due Sept. 27

TCFA is urging all members to submit comments supporting the repeal of the Obama era 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. Comments are due Sept. 27 and can be submitted at <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-WOTUS-2017>. An example comment letter for members to use is available <http://tinyurl.com/2017-Example-WOTUS-Comments>.

In February, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revise or rescind the 2015 rule. EPA released a proposed rescension of the rule on July 27.

"The 2015 WOTUS rule was finalized by the Obama Administration during my tenure as TCFA Chairman. We knew then that this was going to be one of the biggest and most important fights for cattle feeders to lead and prevent a huge expansion of regulatory authority over waters on our private property," said Tom McDonald, TCFA past chairman. "With the swift leadership of President Trump and Administrator Pruitt, the door is open again for cattle feeders to be heard loud and clear that this rule is unacceptable and must be rescinded. I encourage all TCFA members to submit comments in support of rescinding the rule by the September deadline."

As EPA moves forward with this process, rescinding the 2015 is the first priority. That action will be followed by a new proposed rule to create a definition of WOTUS that is simple and provides clarity and objectivity of what is and is not a Waters of the United States. TCFA will continue to stay actively involved in the process.

For more information on WOTUS, contact Ben Weinheimer, TCFA vice president, or Josh Winegarner, TCFA director of government relations.

Talks Begin on NAFTA Renegotiations

Talk of changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) began Wednesday. In his remarks prior to the first round of discussions, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, U.S. trade representative, said that the current agreement had "fundamentally failed many, many Americans" and that President Trump was not interested in "a mere tweaking of a few provisions and a couple of updated chapters."

And while the trade agreement has brought positives for the U.S. agriculture community, it has not been as successful for people in other industries, he said.

TCFA, along with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), has asked that agriculture gains not be forgotten during negotiations. According to the U.S. Meat Export Federation, since NAFTA was implemented in 1993, exports of American-produced beef to Mexico have grown by more than 750 percent.

"The current NAFTA agreement has been a huge success for U.S. beef, cattle and other agriculture products," said Jim Lovell, TCFA chairman. "NAFTA has significantly added value to our industry and we should not renegotiate the terms of the agreement that are already working."

The Trump administration said it will also be sensitive to border communities, which have a strong stake in the trade agreement.

"It is important to look at states like Texas whose success with cross-border trade and commerce should serve as a model for growing the partnership between our three countries," said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas).

Cornyn has assured Texans that he will ensure that any new agreement is in the best interests of those whose livelihoods depend on free and fair trade.

FDA Proposes New Way to Measure Antimicrobial Use in Animals

The FDA announced Monday it is proposing a new way to measure sales data for antimicrobial drugs used in food-animal production.

FDA said in a notice that it will look to apply a "food animal biomass denominator" when it figures the amount of antimicrobial drugs sold for use in animals raised for food.

According to the notice, "This adjusted estimate will provide insight into broad shifts in the amount of antimicrobials sold for use in food-producing animals and give the agency a more nuanced view of why sales increase or decrease over time in a manner that is specific to U.S. animal production. Such analysis will also support our ongoing efforts to encourage the judicious use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals to help ensure the continued availability of safe and effective antimicrobials for animals and humans."

The agency says this method will allow them to get a better estimate of antimicrobial drug sales relative to the animal population potentially being treated.

The notice comes the same week that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) released the organization's first report outlining how livestock producers use antimicrobials in animals around the world. To read the full FDA notice, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-Antimicrobial>. For OIE's report, go to <http://tinyurl.com/OIE-Antimicrobial>.

TCFA Staff Participates in Brady, Cruz Roundtables

TCFA staff attended an agriculture roundtable Tuesday in Huntsville, Texas, with U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Conroe), House Ways and Means chairman. Participants spoke with Brady about taxes, trade, health care and the Farm Bill.

TCFA Director of Government Relations Josh Winegarner addressed concerns with the elimination of the interest expense deduction and reiterated TCFA's support for the elimination of the death tax and retention of stepped-up basis. Winegarner also expressed TCFA's support for NAFTA and other trade agreements that provide more market access for U.S. beef exports.

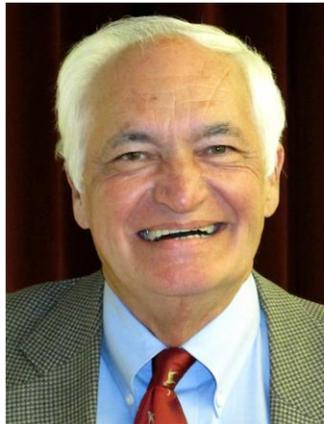
The House Ways and Means Committee has jurisdiction over both tax and trade legislation. Chairman Brady is a strong supporter of Texas agriculture and emphasized that he will continue to work with TCFA and other groups to address concerns.

On Friday, TCFA staff participated in a small business roundtable meeting with U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) in Amarillo. Cruz discussed efforts to reform health care, taxes and burdensome regulations. He also talked about NAFTA and its importance to Texas small businesses including agriculture. The Senator will host an agriculture roundtable Friday in Lubbock.

Lowell Catlett — TCFA Annual Convention

You won't want to miss Dr. Lowell Catlett at this year's TCFA Annual Convention, October 8-10 in Amarillo.

Dr. Catlett is well known as one of agriculture's most imaginative, entertaining and remarkable futurists. His unique perspective of emerging technologies will prepare you and your operation for coming changes, help you see a world that will soon be a reality, and share his positive predictions for the cattle feeding industry in a way that you won't forget.



You can register for convention online at <http://shop.tcfa.org/Convention/>. Hotel reservations can be made at <http://tinyurl.com/tcfa-conv-embassysuites>. **Hotel reservations must be made by Sept. 24.**

For more information visit www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Convention.

HSUS Pushing for Farm Bill Animal 'Welfare' Title

The Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) is working to get an animal "welfare" title into the 2018 Farm Bill. You've been warned, says Steve Kopperud, a long-time veteran in the animal rights battle.

At the August 5 House Agriculture Committee's listening session in Modesto, Calif., "several speakers," by one media account, called on the committee to include in the new Farm Bill legislation dealing with so-called "animal welfare issues." HSUS seriously needs a legislative "win" to placate those among its donors who value such things. It's been remarkably unsuccessful on Capitol Hill in recent years, even when Barack Obama was president, he writes for *Brownfield Ag News*.

To read more, go to <http://tinyurl.com/HSUS-FarmBill>.

Court Grants Stay of CERCLA-EPCRA Reporting for Agriculture

On Wednesday, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued a three-month stay on the implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) reporting requirements for agriculture.

The Acts were created to help communities plan for chemical emergencies by requiring that hazardous waste emissions be reported to local emergency planning offices. In 2008, the EPA finalized a rule to exempt all agricultural operations from such reporting requirements because the low-level continuous emissions from livestock are not the "releases" that Congress intended to limit. In April of this year, the D.C. Circuit Court issued a decision vacating the exemption, concluding that these statutes provide no room for an agriculture exemption.

TCFA will keep members informed on any updates. For questions, call Josh Winegarner, TCFA director of government relations.

Kane Gets Green Light for China Exports

Corpus Christi, Texas-based Kane Beef announced it has been cleared to export beef products to China.

"Research shows that per capita demand for beef in China is on the rise, and our team has already received multiple inquiries from interested customers," said Andy Davis, vice president for international sales at Kane Beef. "Regaining access into this growing market and being able to meet consumer demand with our high-quality beef sourced from Texas producers is a significant opportunity."

Kane Beef is no stranger to the global market. It distributes boxed beef to more than 25 countries, accounting for 20 percent of current sales. The first orders for export into China are projected for the fourth quarter 2017, reports *Meatingplace.com*.

USDA Replaces 'Climate Change' with 'Weather Extremes'

Officials at a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) office told staffers to avoid the term "climate change" in their communications and use language like "weather extremes" instead, *The Guardian* reported.

"We won't change the modeling, just how we talk about it," Bianca Moebius-Clune, NRCS director of soil health, wrote in an email to staff on Feb. 16, according to the report. Moebius-Clune said the new language was given to her to pass on to staff.

It is not clear whether the NRCS's use of "weather extremes" instead of climate change is part of a broader shift within the USDA. An official said the directive was designed to allow the office to continue its climate change work while presenting it in a way that would better resonate with the new administration and the agricultural interests with which it works.

"It has become clear one of the previous administration's priorities is not consistent with that of the incoming administration," Jimmy Bramblett, NRCS deputy chief for programs, wrote in an email to certain officials. "Namely, that priority is climate change."

For more, go to <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-WeatherExtremes>.

In the Crosshairs: Alliance Releases Report From 2017 Animal Rights National Conference

Animal rights activists gathered recently for their national conference, and livestock producers were centered in the crosshairs. According to conference organizers, nearly 2,000 individuals were present at the event, described as "dedicated to the vision that animals have the right to be free from all forms of human exploitation."

"The speakers at this year's Animal Rights National Conference made their goals clear – ending all forms of animal agriculture, regardless of how well animals are cared for," said Kay Johnson Smith, Animal Agriculture Alliance president and CEO. "Their persistent focus on pressure campaigns targeting restaurant, retail and foodservice brands is of great concern to the Alliance and our members."

Activists in attendance were encouraged to be as extreme as necessary to advance their goals. "Breaking the law can often be a good thing to do," said Zach Groff, Animal Liberation Collective. Groff spoke about the 'nature of confrontational activism' such as "protests, open rescues from farms without permission, vigils..." According to Groff, "this is a type of activism that can often upset people, it can rile people up."

A major focus of this year's conference was on pressuring restaurant, retail and foodservice brands to adopt certain policies, with the end goal of forcing them to stop selling animal products. When an audience member commented about 'humane' policies not being as good as complete liberation, Krista Hiddema, Mercy for

Animals (Canada), hinted at no animal products being sold as the end goal, stating "we're never going away." Hiddema also stated that "we [the animal rights movement] are winning against the largest organizations in the world," and "they are terrified of us."

To read more speaker comments from the conference, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AnimalAgAlliance-2017>.

New Trends Shaping the Future of Food

New forces are shaping the future of food, according to several Cargill researchers and marketers who recently attended the Future of Food-Tech summit in New York City, wherein investors, scientists, and food makers gathered to talk about what's behind the trends in food innovation and investment. According to *Feedstuffs*, here's a rundown of the forecast:

1. Personalization is key

According to the Cargill personnel who attended, the number one trend emerging from the summit was that personalization is key. From meal delivery services that customize menus for dietary needs, to companies that create products tailored to an individual's gut health, there's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to food.

2. Ethical production matters

Consumers continue to seek products that align with their values, and that they consider to be responsibly produced. The same goes for many investors looking to participate in the food industry.

3. There's growing interest in alternative proteins

A burger made entirely from lab-cultured meat or sushi made from eggplant: These are just two of the innovations that were showcased at the summit.

4. The industry has high hopes for blockchain technology

Imagine being able to trace any food product back to the field or the animal from which it came. That's the potential promise of blockchain technology, which could essentially create a digitalized traceability system for food.

5. Food start-ups are on the rise

As more entrepreneurs get into the food business, they're looking for investors of all kinds. Likewise, traditional consumer packaged goods companies and ingredient suppliers are keeping their eyes on the newcomers for opportunities to connect.

For more, go to <http://tinyurl.com/FoodTrends-Feedstuffs>.

Sponsor Spotlight

TCFA is proud to recognize its top sponsors whose efforts help deliver top-notch service.

This week's spotlight shines on



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