



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## Information on Hurricane Harvey Donations for Cattle Producers

TCFA is encouraging members who wish to give to the ongoing Hurricane Harvey relief efforts to donate to one of the following organizations:

### Cattle Raisers Relief Fund

The fund is administered by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation. Donations go to assist ranching families affected by natural disasters.

Donate online at <http://www.tscra.org/relieffund/> or send checks to:

TSCRF

1600 Gendy Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

### Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

The fund is administered by the Texas Farm Bureau. Donations go to farmers and ranchers in designated disaster areas.

Donate online at <http://tinyurl.com/TFB-Relief-Harvey> or send checks to:

Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture Research and Education Foundation

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

P.O. Box 2689

Waco, TX 76702-2689

Attn: Cyndi Gerik

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents have set up animal supply points in affected areas and are requesting donations. Before collecting or delivering donations, please contact the AgriLife Animal Supply Point Hotline at 979-845-7800. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/TAMU-Harvey>.

For information on animal shelters, holding facilities and lost livestock, call the Texas Animal Health Commission Harvey Hotline at 512-719-0799 or visit their website at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/emergency/index.html>.

TCFA would like to thank the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for their unrelenting and ongoing work in coordinating industry efforts among the different agriculture associations during the hurricane.

## Over 1.2 Million Beef Cattle Affected by Hurricane Harvey

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that about 1.2 million beef cattle were located in the 54 counties that were declared disaster areas after Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc on the Texas Gulf Coast this week.

"That's 27 percent of the state's cowherd," said David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock economist. "That's a conservative estimate of beef cow numbers because 14 of those counties only have cattle inventory estimates."

Putting a total number on damages will take time, John Nalivka, president of Sterling Marketing Inc., a consulting firm that works with the livestock and meat industry, said in an interview with *Meatingplace*. "This event was extremely disruptive, and no one will begin to know the total impact until the water clears out."

Meanwhile, Corpus Christi-based meat processor Kane Beef was forced to shut down operations during the storm but did not sustain major damage, and were able to resume operations this week.

Experts say that while the storm has caused significant damage for beef producers in Southeast Texas, they do not expect significant disruption to the nation's beef supply chain.

## Cattle Industry Must Remain Engaged in Antibiotic Discussion

This week, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) released a commissioned report that calls for more surveillance, oversight and restrictions of antibiotic use in food animals. The report, [Combating Antibiotic Resistance: A Policy Roadmap to Reduce Use of Medically Important Antibiotics in Livestock](#), consists of 11 core policy recommendations split into three areas aimed to decrease livestock use of medically important antibiotics, monitor livestock antibiotic use, and enhance surveillance and data integration to inform antibiotic resistance policy.

International comparisons of antibiotic use in food animals like this are underway, with anticipated increased detail in the future, says Mike Apley, Kansas State University professor of veterinary clinical sciences in *Beef Magazine*. As of January 1 of this year, medically important antibiotics for humans are no longer allowed in the U.S. to improve feed conversion or rate of gain in cattle. Producers are still able to use antibiotics to treat, prevent and control infectious diseases, but Apley says this type of antibiotic use is likely to come under fire in the future.

"To make sure these technologies remain available, it is essential that we accurately characterize the reasons for them and ways in which we use them," Apley said. "It's no revelation to beef producers that the influence of legislators and regulators in Washington, D.C, and in our state capitals have had, and will continue to have, an influence on our production practices."

Apley notes that it is crucial for producers to be part of a state and/or national association so that producers can better engage and educate regulators and lawmakers on the cattle feeding industry. TCFA members continue to increase their antimicrobial stewardship initiatives through BQA programs and participation in industry studies to more accurately document antimicrobial use. To read more from Apley, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Apley-StayingEngagedMatters>.

## Hotel Rooms Filling Up for TCFA Convention

TCFA is encouraging members planning to attend this year's TCFA convention to book their hotel room as soon as possible as rooms are filling up quickly. Room reservations can be made at <http://tinyurl.com/tcfa-conv-embassysuites>. **TCFA has secured a special room rate available through Sept. 24 or until rooms are sold out.** There will **not** be an extended deadline for this room block.



You can register for the TCFA Annual Convention online at [shop.tcfa.org/Convention/](http://shop.tcfa.org/Convention/). The convention will take place at the Embassy Suites Amarillo Downtown in Amarillo, Oct. 8-10.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear great speakers, gain valuable information for your feeding operation and network with fellow cattle feeders. For more information visit [tcfa.org/news-events/convention](http://tcfa.org/news-events/convention). We look forward to seeing you at this year's convention.

## WOTUS Comment Deadline Approaching

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 [tinyurl.com/TCFA-WOTUS-2017](http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-WOTUS-2017). An example comment letter for members to use is available [tinyurl.com/2017-Example-WOTUS-Comments](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.

"As EPA moves forward, TCFA will continue to stay actively involved in the process," said Ben Weinheimer, TCFA vice president. "Rescinding the 2015 rule 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."

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is also encouraging stakeholders to submit comments before the agency's deadline. In a [video](#) produced by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Pruitt says the EPA is trying to fix the challenges from the 2015 (WOTUS) rule, where the Obama administration re-imagined their authority under the Clean Water Act. He added that the changes established conditions that were too generic and created uncertainty and confusion among farmers and ranchers.

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

### **Largest Number of Cattle on Feed Since 2012**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that cattle and calves on feed for slaughter for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million on Aug. 1, 2017, up 4 percent from the same time last year.

According to analysts in the [Daily Livestock Report](#), the total was the largest headcount on Aug. 1 since 2012.

"More animals are on feed than a year ago, but that does not imply any cattle feeders have not marketed animals when ready, as happened in 2015," the report noted.

Derell Peel, livestock marketing specialist at Oklahoma State University, said that while placements were at the low end of expectations, they had been rising by double-digit percentages for the previous four months.

"The very surprising 16 percent year-over-year increase in placements in June include increased lightweight placements. These were likely placed early in June rather than July and contributed to the rather modest year-over-year increase in July placements," Peel said.

To read more from Peel, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OKFarmReport-Peel>.

### **Obama Overtime Rule Struck Down by Texas Judge**

A federal judge in Texas has struck down an Obama-era federal overtime rule that would have more than doubled the minimum annual salary required to qualify for "white collar" overtime exemptions from \$23,660 to \$47,476.

In his ruling, first reported by *Bloomberg*, U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant said that the agency (Department of Labor) improperly looked at salaries instead of job descriptions when determining whether a worker should be eligible for overtime pay.

More than 55 businesses challenged the Obama rule arguing that the Department of Labor exceeded its authority by raising the salary threshold too high and requiring employees to perform certain duties to qualify for the white collar (executive, administrative and professional) exemption.

The federal district court agreed. "Congress unambiguously intended the exemption to apply to employees who perform 'bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity duties,'" Mazzant wrote for the court.

The order is a final ruling on the matter, rather than a temporary injunction like the one issued last November.

### **HSUS Pushes Ballot Initiative in California**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) introduced a ballot initiative in California this week that calls for a requirement that all pork and veal sold in California be produced without restrictive crates, and that all eggs produced and sold in the state be cage-free.

HSUS says that its goal is to build upon Prop. 2, the state's existing legislation that requires that hens, pigs and calves on California farms be able to stand up, lie down and fully extend their limbs.

The biggest potential impact could be on pork, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The majority of pork sold in California is from out-of-state producers who would have to comply with the new regulation before they could sell their products.

Jim Monroe, spokesperson for the National Pork Producers Council, says that gestation crates prevent aggression among sows, injury and mortality and that a switch in housing systems could not only harm the animals, but would also add "significant cost" to the pork industry.

"Any change in production practices should be based on signals from the marketplace," he said. "Pork producers, not activists, know far better what's good for their animals," said Monroe.

## Research Suggests Beef is Best First Food for Babies

New [research](#) conducted by Nancy Krebs, a pediatrician and researcher with the University of Colorado, suggests that beef is a better first food for babies over iron-fortified cereal.

According to Krebs' research, "In a randomized-feeding trial, 88 exclusively breastfed infants were fed either pureed beef or iron-fortified cereal as their first complementary food from 5 to 7 months of age. After that time, all food choices were left to the parents' discretion. But, until then, infants in the beef and cereal groups exclusively ate beef or cereal, respectively. Measures of zinc and iron status were taken at nine months, and dietary, anthropometric and developmental data were taken up to 12 months. The study found that giving pureed beef to infants as their first complementary food is both practical and a better way to improve zinc intake than using iron-fortified cereals."

Amanda Radke, blogger for *Beef Magazine* and parent to three-year-old Scarlett, says this study is parallel to other popular recommendations for parents. She said an article published on the popular *parents.com* suggests animal proteins and fats such as red meat, eggs, butter and full-fat cheese and yogurt be at the top of the list of foods to feed babies.

The Beef Council is taking this message straight to parents through information packets that highlight beef's important role in a baby's diet. They note that the American Academy of Pediatrics advises that meat, including beef, be introduced as an early solid food in an infant's diet, since proper nutrition during this time sets the stage for continued development and lifelong health. To view the information packets from the Beef Council, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-BeefFirstFood>.

## CWD Sample Collector Trainings in the Panhandle

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host chronic wasting disease postmortem sample collector trainings in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos. Classes will be held on Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at the AgriLife Extension Building in Amarillo, and again on Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Van Horn Convention Center in Van Horn.

For more information or to register, contact Laura Leal at 512-650-0475 or [laura.leal@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:laura.leal@tahc.texas.gov).

## Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



RAMP and Sweet Bran, proud sponsors of TCFA, help cattle feeders across Texas minimize their cost of gain and maximize their profit. RAMP is a complete starter ration that changes the way cattle eat and the way they gain – all the way through finishing. Sweet Bran is a valuable part of the finishing diet that provides higher, more consistent feed intake and promotes better rumen health and reduced cost of gain. For more information on RAMP and Sweet Bran, call (800) 317-8825.

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