



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

# ISSUES UPDATE

Federal | June 2019

## TRADE

- Support swift passage of the United States–Canada–Mexico (USMCA) free trade agreement.
  - The USMCA builds off of the success of NAFTA and continues duty-free access to Mexico and Canada for U.S. beef. Under NAFTA, beef exports to Mexico increased more than 750%.
  - Mexico and Canada were the third and fifth largest export markets for U.S. beef in 2018.
  - Oppose the inclusion of failed policies like country-of-origin labeling in any side agreements.
- Support a bi-lateral trade agreement with Japan, the largest export market for U.S. beef despite a 38.5% tariff. TPP would have lowered the tariff to 9% over 15 years. Congress and the Administration must prioritize a bi-lateral agreement with Japan to keep us competitive with other beef exporting countries.
- Support ongoing negotiations with the E.U. and ensure the removal of non-scientific trade barriers.
- Support greater foreign market access for U.S. beef by demanding compliance with science-based standards by importing countries. There is no scientific justification for restricting imports of U.S. beef.
- Beef exports account for \$325 per head.

## ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS (TRUTH-IN-LABELING)

- Support efforts to ensure that product labels accurately identify the product and differentiate those that are synthetic, lab-made products. Only products derived from live animals should be labeled beef or meat.
- Support efforts to maintain USDA's role in approving labels and inspecting lab-made products.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Oppose unscientific climate change proposals like the Green New Deal that target cattle and beef.
  - According to EPA, beef cattle represent only two percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.
- Support efforts to exempt livestock producers from EPCRA air emissions reporting requirements.
- Support efforts to repeal the 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule and replace it with the new proposal.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Support efforts to increase the agriculture, hours-of-service exemption to 300 air-miles and continue to delay implementation of the electronic logging device mandate for livestock haulers until legislative and regulatory changes are made.
- Support efforts to increase maximum commercial motor vehicle weights to 97,000 lbs. for agricultural haulers that add a third trailer axle to evenly distribute the additional weight so as to not cause road damage.

## IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Support immigration reform legislation that strengthens border security and creates a practical, year-round guest-worker program for farmers and livestock producers.
- Oppose amnesty, but allow workers to register, pay a penalty and obtain guest-worker status.

## DIETARY GUIDELINES

- Support efforts to protect scientific credibility and transparency by utilizing sound, peer-reviewed science throughout the process and ensure that the process remains focused on nutrition and a balanced diet.

## FARM BILL

- Ensure full implementation and funding of the 2018 Farm Bill.