



# Chairman's Message

**I am honored to serve as chairman of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. My service in this Association is a way of giving back to a great industry that has done so much for my family.**

The Clucks have been in the cattle business now for five generations, and I want to see that extended to a sixth generation and beyond. No other business could have given my family such a rewarding opportunity to make a living off the land we live on. Through my small contribution in service to TCFA, I hope to help other families receive the blessings that have been given to mine.

Undoubtedly, these are difficult times for cattlemen. The global economic crisis has hurt domestic demand for beef and hit our foreign markets at a time when it looked like our exports were really beginning to take off. We are also dealing with a federal government

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that seems increasingly out of touch with the concerns of animal agriculture. There appears to be a higher potential for trade and environmental policies that will hurt our industry. And animal rights activists have made significant progress in pushing their radical agenda in ways that are hampering producers in the egg, pork and veal industries. I'm sure the activists don't intend to give cattle feeders a free pass.

Those are all significant concerns. But not one of them is an obstacle that cattle feeders cannot overcome if we just stick together. I believe the biggest threat we face today is the growing segmentation of our industry between larger feeding companies and smaller independent operations. It is the nature of our nation's marvelous free enterprise system that feedyards will compete with one another. Competition is healthy. But I would hope that even though we are rivals in one regard, we will also continue to respect the benefits of and the necessity of working as allies on the issues that we all share in common. Remember, whether we are talking about government officials or consumers in general, there are fewer and fewer people who truly understand our way of life.

Our industry must speak with one voice to protect our mutual interests. Fortunately, we have an organization that allows us all to work together for the good of the entire cattle feeding industry — TCFA. We have approximately 6,000 members, from operations that are large and small and everywhere in between. For 42 years, TCFA has been dedicated to representing all feedyards in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, as well as thousands of cattle feeders across the U.S. The TCFA staff works hard on our behalf, whether it's a matter of fighting to prevent burdensome taxation and regulation from hurting our businesses or coming to our yards to offer guidance on important matters such as environmental standards, animal care and employee safety. TCFA is one of the best friends the cattle industry has ever had.

Of course, like any organization, TCFA is only as strong as its members. I thank you for your support and hope that you will continue to be part of the TCFA team for many years to come.

Monte Cluck  
Chairman