



## TCFA Submits Comments On Proposed Greenhouse Gas Regs

TCFA has submitted comments to EPA in response to its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Regulating Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The EPA notice has prompted concerns among producers of an impending “cow tax.”

In the comments, TCFA said using the CAA to regulate GHGs would be economically devastating to businesses, including cattle feeders. The Nation’s food producers would suffer higher energy and transportation costs, TCFA stated in its letter.

Additionally, regulating GHGs under the CAA would impose new permit requirements on producers, the cost of which would both drive up food prices and force many producers out of business. TCFA’s letter also pointed out that records show Congress never intended to regulate GHGs under the CAA and that EPA’s current administrator has referred to the CAA as “an outdated law...ill-suited for the task of regulating global greenhouse gases.”

Noting that EPA encourages wider use of manure as a natural fertilizer to increase carbon sequestration and reduce nitrous oxide releases, TCFA’s comments said, “The availability of manure as a fertilizer is only possible because of the existence of concentrated animal feeding operations which generate manure.” In closing, TCFA’s letter urged EPA to reject GHG regulation under the CAA, to refrain from regulating agricultural sources under any GHG reduction program, and instead use agricultural operations “as an important source of carbon offsets that may be used to enable regulated industries to comply with any cap set by climate change legislation.”

## Cropland For Ethanol Increases

The amount of corn crop acres going to ethanol will jump significantly this year, according to a *Food & Fiber Letter* article, which cites Renewable Fuels Association and USDA figures. Corn-based ethanol will use 4 billion bu. of this year’s crop, thereby consuming production of 26 million acres from the 78 million acres being harvested. Corn acres devoted to ethanol was 15.5 million in 2007.

## Canada Says COOL Hurts Trade

Canada is seeking formal consultations with the United States under the WTO dispute settlement process on country-of-origin labeling (COOL) measures, according to a Canadian government news release. Canada’s International Trade Minister Stockwell Day and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz say the move is an important step in defending Canadian livestock producers.

Day said Canada believes COOL “is creating undue trade restrictions to the detriment of Canadian exporters.” Ritz said Canada is “committed to a respectful working relationship with our American neighbors, but have always made it clear that these new regulations must not discriminate against Canadian producers.”

WTO consultations provide the parties with an opportunity to resolve a dispute through formal discussions. If consultations fail to resolve the issue, the matter can be referred to a WTO dispute settlement panel.

The Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) hailed their government’s move. CCA says COOL has forced many U.S. meatpackers to refuse or discount Canadian cattle. CCA says COOL stands to cost Canadian cattle producers \$400 million (Canadian) annually.

## Another Breakthrough In Korea

South Korea’s top three retailers—E-Mart, Homeplus and Lottemart—have finally agreed to begin selling U.S. beef. And they have been rewarded with robust sales. In the first four days after last week’s decision, more than 200 tons of U.S. beef was sold, according to the Korean news service *Yonhap*.

Korea lifted the ban on imports of U.S. beef in June. But, following the large street protests that followed the announcement of U.S. beef’s return, the three companies had refused to sell it fearing the public was not ready. Well they’re ready now, it appears. *Yonhap* says U.S. beef is more popular than Australian imports and Korea’s own domestically produced beef.

## NBAF Appears Headed To Kansas

A bid by Manhattan, Kansas and Kansas State University has won the competition for the new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), according to U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R- Kansas). There will be an official comment period before the Department of Homeland Security decision on NBAF's location is formalized. NBAF will replace Plum Island, the federal government's current site for animal disease research.

**Texas Comptroller Susan Combs** will tour the Panhandle next week in an effort to update citizens and local governments about the Texas economy. Combs will make stops in Amarillo, Canadian, Dalhart, Dumas, Hereford, Pampa and Perryton on Monday, Dec. 8, and Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Go to <http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/SusanCombsTourSchedule.html> to find out more about the times and locations of these events.

**Organic Livestock Standards** will be the subject of a USDA listening session Dec. 8 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Amarillo. USDA is holding the session to discuss proposed changes to the standards. Meanwhile, the period for written comments runs through Dec. 23. Go to <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5073426&acct=noprulemaking> for more information.

**Distiller's Grains As Feed** will be the topic of discussion Dec. 9 at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Amarillo as nutritionists and producers explore up-to-date results of research related to beef cattle in the Southern Plains. The program, which is free of charge, will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and wrap up at 12:05 p.m. For more information and to register, go to <http://amarillo.tamu.edu/DistillersGrain-%20registration%20form%2011-18-08.pdf>.

**USDA Is Holding TB Listening Sessions** to garner stakeholder input on potential changes to the bovine tuberculosis program. The meetings, including one on Dec. 11 in Austin, are formatted as listening sessions with smaller breakout groups discussing the issue further.

Go to [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot\\_issues/bovine\\_tuberculosis/bovine\\_tb.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/bovine_tuberculosis/bovine_tb.shtml) for more information.

**Should The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog** be listed under the Endangered Species Act? The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has issued a notice seeking scientific and/or commercial information on the status of the species. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 2, 2009.

Earlier this year, WildEarth Guardians filed a complaint against the Service for failing to complete a finding on a previous petition to list the Prairie Dog. TCFA will work with a previously established coalition of agricultural organizations to file comments. For more information, go to <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/btprairiedog/>.

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**Hurricane Ike Recovery** continues with a joint effort by TSCRA and the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International to identify volunteers who can assist cattle raisers in the hurricane-ravaged areas of Southeast Texas. Volunteers will be asked to help out for a few days at a time clearing debris and building fences. Temporary housing may be provided. For more on the rebuilding effort and to volunteer, call the Fellowship relief coordinator Melvin Bell at (217) 249-2549.

**The Cattle Industry Annual Convention** and NCBA Trade Show is scheduled for Jan. 28-31 in Phoenix. Don't miss the Jan. 5 advanced registration deadline! For more information, go to <http://www.beefusa.org/convcattleindustryannualconventionandncbatradeshow.aspx> .

**TCFA Newsletter Enters The Modern Era.** Our Jan. 2, 2009 edition will be the last one for the print version. Please fill out the enclosed card to continue receiving the *Newsletter* by email or fax. Call TCFA staff with any questions.