



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Corn Should Remain Below \$4 Through 2014, according to a report issued by the University of Missouri's Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI).

FAPRI projects corn prices for the 2009/2010 marketing year will average \$3.47 per bu. By the end of the 2014/2015 marketing year, FAPRI believes corn will have risen to \$3.98 per bu.

The outlook for corn is included in a FAPRI report that also anticipates recovery for meat prices in 2010, although that depends on improvement in the overall economy and a continued reduction of supplies. For more on the report, go to <http://extension.missouri.edu/news/DisplayStory.aspx?N=487>.

Animal Traceability And Tracking Are Important To McDonald's, the director of the corporation's beef and pork supply chain told attendees at this week's ID Info Expo hosted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

Rob Cannell said McDonald's "brand is very visible, and we have to protect that brand" – a responsibility Cannell said includes responding to consumers' growing desire for information about the food they eat and where it comes from.

"If we are going to be the best, we need to be able to prove that we are, and (traceability) is part of that," he said, according to *Feedstuffs*.

For more reports on ID Info Expo, go to http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/feedstuff_links.html.



The Cattle Feeders' Event Of The Year, the 2009 TCFA Annual Convention, is just around the corner, Oct. 28-30. TCFA staff is working hard to put the finishing touches on another great program you don't want to miss.

The Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo will play host to cattle feeders from across Cattle Feeding Country. You can get a jump on your Convention plans today by making your reservations. Call the Ambassador at (806) 358-6161 or go online at <http://www.ambassadoramarillo.com> and use the group code: TEXASCAT. The Ambassador will also host the Convention's Welcome Reception on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Watch your mail in the coming days for more program and registration information. Remember, the first TCFA member to register will receive a free \$125 registration. Every 100th member to register will also receive a free registration. Make your plans now to attend the 2009 Convention!

Carlos Rubinstein Of Austin Will Become The Newest Member Of The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on Aug. 31. Governor Perry appointed Rubinstein to a six-year term on TCEQ, which oversees and establishes policy for the state.

Rubinstein is TCEQ's deputy executive director. He also serves on the Governmental Advisory Committee that provides advice to the EPA Administrator on environmental concerns regarding NAFTA, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. He is also a Texas representative in the Border Governors Conference Water worktable and, as Rio Grande Watermaster, he was instrumental in finding a solution to Mexico's water debt to the United States.

Perry also announced that **Dr. Bryan Shaw** of Round Rock will become TCEQ's presiding officer on Sept. 10. Appointed to TCEQ in 2007, Dr. Shaw's term expires in 2013. He is a cattle producer and a former associate professor in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University.

Zak Covar has been appointed as the new deputy executive director at TCEQ. Covar has been with the agency since 2007 and has served as executive assistant to Commissioner Shaw and most recently as assistant deputy executive director in the Executive Office. Before joining TCEQ, Covar served as the governor's environmental advisor and clerked for the House Environmental Regulation Committee.

Animal Rights Activist Cass Sunstein Will Apparently Get A U.S. Senate Vote on his nomination to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget.

That's because Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has exercised a parliamentary procedure known as invoking cloture, which nullifies the efforts of individual senators to put a hold on the nomination.

A vote on the nomination is expected in early September. But the holds placed by U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) and others did have an effect. Under cloture rules, Sunstein's nomination will now need 60 yes votes to succeed instead of just a simple majority. And, in the effort to win over senators who challenged his nomination, Sunstein promised he will not use his position to push an animal rights agenda.

TCFA continues to urge the defeat of Sunstein's nomination.

Organic And Natural Beef Production Systems May Not Provide Any Advantage over conventional production when it comes to antibiotic susceptibility of *E. coli* O157:H7, according to a new study. This discovery emphasizes that, despite the supposed health benefits, little is actually known about the effects of organic and natural beef production on food-borne pathogens.

The researchers from Kansas State University detail their findings in the August 2009 issue of the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

"The prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7 that we observed in organically and naturally raised beef cattle were similar to the previously reported prevalence in conventionally raised cattle," say the researchers. "No major difference in antibiotic susceptibility patterns among the isolates were observed."

An Independent Advisory Group Focused On Beef Cattle Health And Well-Being Has Been Formed.

According to an NCBA news release, the North American Food Animal Well-being Commission for Beef (NAFAWC-Beef) – which includes world-renowned experts in animal well-being – will advocate for increased research funding for animal well-being, facilitate the communication of research results in a more timely manner, advance best management practices in cattle health and welfare, and serve as an unbiased, science- and production- based group to address concerns about animal well-being.

Members of the panel from the TCFA area include:

- Dr. Guy Loneragan, West Texas A&M University
- Dr. Barry Dunn, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Ron Gill, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Bob Smith, Oklahoma State University

Co-chairs of the panel are Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones professor of production medicine and epidemiology at Kansas State University, and Dr. Joseph Stookey, professor of applied ethology at the University of Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Also named to the 21-member inaugural panel are:

- Dr. Carolyn Stull, University of California at Davis
- Dr. Dave Sjeklocha, Academy of Veterinary Consultants, Chair of Beef Cattle Health and Well-Being
- Dr. Dee Griffin, University of Nebraska
- Dr. Frank Mitloehner, University of California at Davis
- Dr. Gatz Riddell, AABP, Executive Director
- Dr. Hans Coetzee, Kansas State University
- Dr. Jan Shearer, Iowa State University
- Dr. Janice Swanson, Michigan State University
- Marie Belew Wheatly, American Humane Association
- Dr. Temple Grandin, Colorado State University
- Dr. Tom Noffsinger, Beef Cattle Handling Expert, Benkelman, Neb.
- Dr. Jeff Rushen, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada
- Susan Church, Alberta Farm Animal Council
- Dr. Karen Schwartzkopfh-Gesnswein, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada
- Jennifer Woods, Livestock Handling Expert, Blackie, Alberta

Ad hoc members of the commission include: Dr. Elizabeth Parker, NCBA; Dr. Jim Sartwelle, American Farm Bureau Federation; Dr. Tom Field, NCBA; Ryder Lee, Canadian Cattlemen's Association; Bryan Walton, National Cattle Feeders Association (Canada); Dr. Mike Siemens, Cargill Animal Protein; and Dr. Juan Ramon Gonzalez, Confederación Nacional De Organizaciones Ganaderas (Mexico).

Other international partners are expected to be added in the coming months.

U.S. Beef Production In July Was 4% Below Levels For The Same Month Last Year, according to USDA. Total production for the month was 2.27 billion lbs. The number of cattle harvested was 2.92 million head, down

5% from July 2008, while the average live weight increased 9 lbs. to 1,282 lbs. Meanwhile, total commercial red meat production was 4.12 billion lbs. in July, down 3% from July 2008.

Beef In Cold Storage Rose 4% In July Over Year-Ago Levels, USDA reported. The total amount of beef in storage was approximately 448.2 million lbs. on July 31. Overall, total red meat storage was up 7% from last year at 947.8 million lbs.

Public Comments On The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Have Been Requested by USDA-FSA on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Nine public meetings are scheduled around the country including two in the TCFA area: Sept. 29 in Oklahoma City and Oct.1 in Clovis.

Topics to be discussed at the public meetings include provisions dealing with cropping history requirements, crop rotation practices, contract incentives, program enrollment terms and the CRP enrollment authority of 32 million acres established for the remainder of the 2008 Farm Bill.

USDA will consider each comment received at the public meetings and during the comment period when preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. This statement will help USDA decision makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental benefits and potential impacts associated with implementing various changes to CRP consistent with the 2008 Farm Bill.

Information, including more details on the public meetings and instructions on offering comments in writing, go to

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 2KD?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/08/0393.xml>.

One Of Five Remaining Claims In The State Of Oklahoma's Lawsuit Against 12 Poultry Companies should get a jury trial, a federal judge has ruled. A trial is set for Sept. 21.

Federal Judge Gregory Frizzell determined that he will rule on the other four claims from the bench. The poultry companies had wanted Frizzell to rule on all five claims without a jury trial. But the judge determined that a jury could decide whether the defendants are liable for civil penalties under the state's anti-pollution laws, *Associated Press* reports.

The case involves Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson's efforts to prevent poultry growers from applying poultry litter as fertilizer on land in the Illinois River watershed.

Public Apprehension Toward Animal Cloning and other reproductive technologies should be addressed through a new government regulatory process, the authors of a new issue paper say. The authors believe such a process could respond to consumer concerns and also offer realistic expectations of biotechnology. The issue paper – "Animal Productivity and Genetic Diversity: Cloned and Transgenic Animals" – was produced by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, a nonprofit organization composed of 33 scientific societies and many individual, student, company, nonprofit and associate society members.

In the paper, the authors cover topics including the cloning of farm animals for breeding and direct food consumption; disease resistance in transgenic animals; and the use of transgenics for improved food safety and quality, decreased environmental impact and increased production efficiency. To access the full document, go to <http://www.cast-science.org/displayProductDetails.asp?idProduct=165>.

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This week's spotlight shines on



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