



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 WEST

AMARILLO, TEXAS 79106

806 / 358-3681

Volume 44, Number 10

March 5, 2010

**Japan's Restrictions On U.S. Beef Briefly Entered Capitol Hill Discussions On Toyota's Troubles** this week during a hearing by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. U.S. Senator Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) – a former U.S. ag secretary and a current member of the Senate committee – said he wondered how Japan would react if the U.S. declared "that until the Japanese government can assure us that all of the defects are out of these vehicles, we're just not going to accept any vehicles from Japan. And yet that's what they did with one of our industries." Johanns noted that Japan cracked down on U.S. beef severely when one case of BSE was found, but Japan's auto industry has not suffered similar consequences even though Toyota defects are linked to dozens of deaths.

According to *USA Today*, Johanns' comments did not draw a reaction from his fellow committee members. But Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said he would bring up the issue in future meetings with Japanese officials.

For video of Johanns' remarks, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJsgWPcwUow>.

**The State Of Texas Held Primary Elections** this week to decide party policy positions and determine who would represent the Democratic and Republican parties in the Nov. 2 general election. In what was probably the most highly anticipated contest, Governor Rick Perry (R-Paint Creek) defeated U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Dallas) in the Republican Primary for Governor. Perry will face former Houston mayor Bill White (D-Houston) in the general election. Another closely watched and competitive Republican Primary race was in House District 87 in the Texas Panhandle which ended with Four Price (R-Amarillo) defeating Victor Leal (R-Amarillo). Price will face off with Abel Bosquez (D-Amarillo) in the General. Also of note, Hank Gilbert (D-Whitehouse) defeated Kinky Friedman (D-Austin) in the Democratic Primary for Agriculture Commissioner and will challenge longtime TCFA friend and current Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples (R-Palestine) in the general election. Across the state, five incumbent state representatives were defeated including: Betty Brown (R-District 4), Tommy Merritt (R- District 7), Dora Olivo (D-District 27), Tara Rios Ybarra (D-District 43) and Al Edwards (D-District 146). Three incumbents are involved in runoffs including: Fred Brown (R- District 14), Norma Chavez (D-District 76), and Delwin Jones (R- District 83). On the federal level, 14 of 32 Members of Congress were involved in contested primary elections and all prevailed.

Beef-PAC of Texas Cattle Feeders Association supported 36 candidates in contested primaries with a record of 30 wins, 4 losses and 2 undecided races requiring a runoff. A detailed list of the results is available at [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2010\\_primary\\_recap.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2010_primary_recap.pdf).

**Research Presented At The 2010 Beef Industry Safety Summit** indicates that the essential oils in orange peel and pulp kill *E. coli* O157:H7 and Salmonella. This ongoing study is looking at these natural byproducts, created by making juice, as a potential feed ingredient for cattle.

More than 200 experts from every sector of the beef industry gathered in Dallas for the eighth annual summit this week to share research and identify ways to improve beef safety. TCFA President & CEO Ross Wilson spoke on producer considerations and adoption of pre-harvest technology.

Developing on-farm safety solutions was one area of focus at the summit, which was hosted by the Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo). Since its founding in 1997, BIFSCo has led the implementation of important post-harvest safety innovations. Bolstering safety at the pre-harvest level is the next step in advancing U.S. beef safety.

The citrus research is one of 13 safety studies funded by cattlemen in 2009. Lead researcher Todd Callaway with USDA's Agricultural Research Service found that dietary orange peel and pulp reduced Salmonella populations in the intestinal tract of sheep. Callaway expects the next phase of the study to yield similar results for reducing *E. coli* O157:H7.

"Research continues to find new ways beef producers can make the food chain even safer and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. This is important work, and it's why leaders from all segments of beef production

gather at this summit each year to discuss the latest research, share their best practices and set goals for the future," said James O. Reagan, Ph.D., chairman of BIFSCo and senior vice president of research, education and innovation for the NCBA.

"We know that the number of beef recalls has declined in recent years, but the folks at this meeting remain committed to eliminating *E. coli* O157:H7 from the food supply," said Reagan.

The summit also included sessions about traceability, recall lessons and sub-primal interventions.

**The Oklahoma House of Representatives Approved The Animal Husbandry Bill (HB 3202)** Thursday by a vote of 71 -25. Introduced by Representative Don Armes (R-Faxon), the bill clearly defines animal husbandry as the branch of agriculture and animal science concerned with the care, breeding and management of bovine, caprine, equine, porcine, poultry and other farm animals. The bill also clarifies that animal husbandry practices including dehorning, branding, tagging or notching ears, teeth floating, farriery, pregnancy checking, collecting semen, preparing semen, freezing semen, castrating, worming, vaccinating, injecting or artificial insemination of farm animals, or the acts or conduct of a person advising with respect to nutrition, feeds or feeding are not prohibited under the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act. The bill will now be considered by the Oklahoma Senate. The Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee could hold a hearing on the bill within the next three weeks. A copy of the bill is available at <http://www.okcattlemen.org/CMDocs/Oklahoma/does%20not%20display/HB%203202.pdf>.

**Idaho May Be The Next State To Attempt To Block Interference By The Humane Society Of The United States (HSUS)** in the regulation of animal agriculture. The Idaho State Senate has passed a bill to create a Livestock Care Standards Board to advise the state agriculture department on animal care matters. The *Times-News* of Twin Falls reported that the board would include state legislators, representatives of Idaho livestock and poultry organizations and state agriculture officials. Consideration of the bill by Idaho's State House is still required. The board under consideration in Idaho would be similar to one Ohio voters approved last year.

**A Survey Regarding HSUS** revealed that 71% of Americans questioned wrongly believe the radical animal rights organization is an "umbrella group" for America's local humane societies. Among respondents, 63% incorrectly think their local "humane society" is affiliated with HSUS, and 59% falsely believe HSUS "contributes most of its money" to local organizations that care for cats and dogs.

The poll, which sampled the opinions of 1,008 Americans, was commissioned by the nonprofit Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) and conducted by Opinion Research Corporation.

"These numbers indicate that Americans don't really know what HSUS is all about," said CCF Director of Research David Martosko. "HSUS intentionally uses those sad dogs and cats in its TV infomercials as props in an animal rights fundraising shell game. Meanwhile, thousands of American pet shelters are underfunded and struggling." Martosko blogs about HSUS at [www.HumaneWatch.org](http://www.HumaneWatch.org).

For more about the survey, go to <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nationwide-poll-seven-out-of-ten-americans-wrongly-believe-the-humane-society-of-the-united-states-is-a-pet-shelter-umbrella-group-85945152.html>.

**Past TCFA Chairman Paul Engler Has Announced A \$20 Million Gift** to the University of Nebraska Foundation's Campaign For Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities. The donation from the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation will establish a permanently endowed fund to support the Paul F. Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln said the gift will provide new student scholarships and an endowed chair in agribusiness entrepreneurship. The endowment will also go toward support for student courses, a lectureship series, entrepreneurship training camps, internship placement assistance, student travel and more. It will also help create a venture capital fund to support student start up businesses.

**TCFA To Host 2010 Junior Fed Beef Career And Leadership Program.** Following the success of a great 2009 program, TCFA is happy to join Texas AgriLife Extension Service and West Texas A&M University in hosting the 2010 Junior Fed Beef Career and Leadership Program June 28-30 in Canyon. The program is open to incoming high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in feedyard management and the fed beef industry. The Career and Leadership Program will give students a chance to be exposed to many aspects of the cattle feeding industry through such activities as tours of commercial cattle

feeding operations and a beef processing facility, receiving instruction in the anatomy of a beef carcass and learning how to fabricate a beef half. Students will also tour retail meat counters and participate in a consumer beef taste panel. Additionally, students spend a day learning day-to-day operations of a feedyard and have the opportunity to participate in a job shadow program at a local feedyard after the program.

Applications to participate in the program can be obtained from TCFA and must be returned to TCFA prior to May 1. For more information about the Junior Fed Beef Career and Leadership Program and to obtain an application, contact Trent Tyson at (806) 358-3681 or [trent@tcfa.org](mailto:trent@tcfa.org).

**The Beef Checkoff Reminds Us That March Is National Nutrition Month** and March 10 is Registered Dietitian Day. The Checkoff continues to focus nutrition communications efforts around the following topic areas: The American Weight Crisis; Hot Topics in the Nutrition Environment; Professional Development; Food Production & Trends; Health Promotion through the Life Cycle; Nutrition and Disease Prevention and Management; and The Power of Protein and Family-Focused Nutrition. According to the Checkoff, Americans are loving lean beef. Fifteen of the top 20 most popular cuts of beef sold at retail meet government guidelines for lean, including top sirloin steak, strip steak and T-bone steak. So while they may not realize it, most of the beef consumers are choosing today is lean. For fact sheets, protein research, recipes and ad, go to <http://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/>.

**Restaurant Owners Gained Confidence** about future economic and business conditions despite recent downward trends in sales and customer traffic, according to a new report by the National Restaurant Association.

After posting a moderate improvement in December, restaurant operators experienced a softening in sales results in January as 27% reported a same-store sales gain between January 2009 and January 2010, down from 35% of operators who reported higher sales in December. Also, 57% of operators reported a same-store sales decline in January, up from 49% who reported negative sales in December.

Customer traffic results also softened in January as 26% of restaurant operators reported an increase in traffic between January 2009 and January 2010, down from 30% who reported higher customer traffic in December. Meanwhile, 54% of operators reported a traffic decline in January, up from 47% who reported lower traffic in December.

Nevertheless, restaurant operators remain relatively optimistic about sales growth in the months ahead as 33% expect to have higher sales over the next six months. In comparison, 22% of restaurant operators expect their sales volume to be lower.

For more information, go to <http://www.restaurant.org/pressroom/pressrelease/?ID=1895>.

**The Generosity Of Cattle Feeders Will Be On Display Sunday, March 7** when the Panhandle Office of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society presents its 40<sup>th</sup> annual Beef-A-Thon from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Amarillo television station KAMR. Viewers can call in and bid on quarters of beef and other items. A total of 27 feedyards in the Texas Panhandle area have donated animals to supply beef for the fundraiser. TCFA has also made a monetary donation. All proceeds benefit the MS Society's Panhandle office.

For more information, go to

[http://txpmain.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TXP\\_BEEFATHON\\_HOMEPAGE](http://txpmain.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TXP_BEEFATHON_HOMEPAGE).

**TCFA Dues Rebates Available.** If you fed 10,000 head or more in 2009, you may apply for a dues rebate. The rebate is based on the cumulative number of cattle fed by a single feeding entity. Rebate applications must be completed and returned to the TCFA office by **April 15**. For more information or to request an application, call TCFA at (806) 358-3681 or contact Trent Tyson at [trent@tcfa.org](mailto:trent@tcfa.org) or Kaci Barclay at [kaci@tcfa.org](mailto:kaci@tcfa.org).

*Please note: All links are still available at <http://www.tcfa.org> under This Week's Newsletter links.*