



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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By A Vote Of 47-53, The U.S. Senate Voted Down A Resolution Of Disapproval (S.J. Res. 26) introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The resolution received the support of every Republican Senator as well as six Democrats: Blanche Lincoln (Ark.), Mary Landrieu (La.), Ben Nelson (Neb.), Jay Rockefeller (W. Va.), Mark Pryor (Ark.), and Evan Bayh (Ind.).

"We are disappointed with the outcome of the vote, but we aren't giving in and will continue to fight EPA's regulatory overreach," said TCFA Government Relations Director Josh Winegarner. Through our affiliation with NCBA and the Coalition for Responsible Regulation (CRR), TCFA is supporting legal action to prevent EPA from moving forward on GHG regulation. In December, the CRR filed petitions with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and EPA challenging the science behind EPA's "endangerment finding." The finding provides the foundation for the agency to regulate GHGs from small and large sources throughout the economy (including farms, hospitals, office buildings and schools) under the CAA, which is ill-equipped to address climate change. In April, the CRR filed an appeal challenging the so-called "Johnson Memo" which interprets when GHGs become subject to the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit program. The CRR's most recent appeals challenge EPA's tailpipe standards for GHG emissions and the tailoring rule.

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) – with help from farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations throughout the country, including significant support from Beef-PAC of TCFA – withstood an unprecedented, multimillion-dollar smear campaign by labor unions and liberal activist groups and claimed victory in last Tuesday's hard-fought primary runoff election. Lincoln, a true friend of production agriculture and current chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, overcame the growing anti-incumbent, anti-Washington movement by focusing on her Arkansas roots, centrist credentials and populist economic policies. She again will have to overcome those challenges and others, not the least of which is the strong anti-Obama sentiment that exists in Arkansas, throughout her general election campaign. It remains to be seen whether her primary-winning strategy will resonate with a new, more diverse group of voters when she squares-off against U.S. Rep. John Boozman (R-Ark.) in November to determine who will represent the people of Arkansas in the U.S. Senate.

A Foreign Animal Disease Response Tabletop Exercise Was Conducted In Amarillo this week. The exercise, hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was well attended by federal, state and local officials, emergency management experts, academics and industry stakeholders. The exercise provided a forum to identify vulnerabilities and gaps in existing plans and procedures. It also allowed for discussion of ways to strengthen the preparedness and resiliency of the agriculture and food industries in the Texas Panhandle, especially the cattle feeding sector. The exercise was a component of the DHS Regional Resiliency Assessment Project which will allocate \$1.5 million to improve regional response capabilities in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

USDA-APHIS Will Hold A Public Meeting On The Animal Disease Traceability Framework Approach in Fort Worth on July 1. The meeting will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration starts one hour prior to the session.

At the meeting, APHIS will discuss animal disease traceability with livestock industry representatives and members of the public to gather feedback on appropriate approaches under the new framework. TCFA staff will participate in this meeting.

For more information on previous and future APHIS meetings on traceability, go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/meetings/index.shtml>.

NCBA's Cattle Industry Annual Summer Conference Is July 28 To Aug. 1 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel (formerly the Adam's Mark Hotel) in Denver, Colo. As part of NCBA's "green" effort, NCBA is not printing a pre-registration brochure, but instead is providing the link to everyone to access the virtual brochure on the website at <http://www.beefusa.org/convsummerconference.aspx>.

The website has hotel information and a link for making reservations online. The hotel cutoff date is Friday, July 2.

Please use the above link to view the schedule of events, event/program information, and to register and make hotel reservations. Save \$15 off the price of your registration by registering online!

TCFA At Work For You...

In Recent Weeks, TCFA Staff:

- Participated in a World Wildlife Fund meeting with other stakeholders to discuss development of life cycle analysis of beef production.
- Conducted feedyard member meetings for input on industry issues and possible dues increase.
- Met with Texas Comptroller's office and provided information to members on property tax issues concerning implements of animal husbandry and other items.
- Hosted FDA veterinarians, scientists and regulatory staff as part of an educational tour to discuss cattle feeding animal health issues, judicious use of antibiotics, veterinary feed directive and other issues of interest to cattle feeders.
- Conducted arbitration hearings to resolve disputes between cattle feeders and feedyards.
- Attended the 20th Annual NCBA Beef Quality Assurance State Coordinators meeting in Denver. The event is an information-sharing seminar on BQA that is attended by state BQA coordinators from across the U.S.
- Met with members to discuss current listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a candidate species and potential ramifications if it is listed as a threatened or endangered species in the future. Staff also participated in a Texas Comptroller's advisory committee meeting on the same issue.
- Participated in an advisory committee meeting with the Office of the Texas State Chemist/Feed and Fertilizer Control Service.
- Filed comments on proposed changes to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules for Confined Animal Feeding Operations.
- Participated in air quality research meetings.
- Participated in NCBA Governance Task Force working groups to develop new bylaws, policies and procedures and investment schedules for consideration at NCBA Summer Meeting.
- Hosted Texas A&M University Vet School students to discuss food animal veterinary issues, animal care and TCFA's role in the cattle feeding industry.
- Hosted Brazilian cattle leaders to discuss U.S. cattle feeding issues and TCFA member programs and services.
- Testified before the Texas Senate Transportation Committee, the House Transportation Committee and the House Agriculture Committee on a proposal to increase truck weights and other agriculture-related transportation issues.
- Co-hosted two labor seminars to inform feedyard management of current labor legal issues and human resource topics.
- Attended a USDA/DOJ workshop on competition in agriculture in Normal, Ala., which examined the poultry industry. TCFA's interest in this workshop was to gain perspective of how future meetings will be handled prior to the cattle and beef industry workshop scheduled for late August in Ft. Collins, Colo.
- TCFA leadership and staff met in Laredo with representatives from USDA-APHIS, TAHC, the Mexican government, and other cattle industry partners on both sides of the border to discuss ways to remedy the disruption in Mexican cattle inspections and imports that has occurred in Laredo and Pharr due to the ongoing violence in Mexico. TCFA representatives also toured the Coahuila Cattlemen's Association export pens south of Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuna.
- Attended the U.S. House Agriculture Committee field hearing in Lubbock on reauthorization of the Farm Bill. TCFA staff also attended a dinner the evening before with members of the committee.
- Participated in a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tabletop exercise to examine the existing vulnerabilities and response plans to a foreign animal disease outbreak in the Texas Panhandle cattle feeding sector. TCFA staff also participated in a follow-up meeting with DHS and local and state

emergency management personnel to discuss other components of the Regional Resiliency Assessment Project.

TCFA staff also made 88 visits to member feedyards between May 1 and June 11.

Have You Completed Your Online Coursework For The Masters Of Beef Advocacy (MBA) Program? If the answer is yes and you are a member of TCFA, you are invited to the TCFA MBA Graduation **July 13** at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and lunch will be provided.

In addition to the ceremonial aspects, the graduation is a full-day, hands-on advocacy workshop that will equip MBA graduates with the communication skills needed to answer tough questions from family, friends and consumers in their local communities as well as to deliver positive messages about beef to consumers in the global online community. **You must have completed all six courses in order to attend**, but there is still plenty of time to finish up and attend this special commencement exclusively for TCFA MBA graduates. The entire curriculum takes about 6-8 hours to complete. If you still need to enroll in MBA, please go here

<http://www.beef.org/mastersofbeefadvocacy.aspx>

You have until **July 6** to notify TCFA that your coursework is complete. However, space is limited to the first 75 graduates to RSVP. If you have already attended an MBA commencement in the past, you are welcome to join us if there is space available after others have responded.

To notify TCFA that you would like to attend the MBA Graduation, please contact TCFA Communications Director James Hunt at james@tcfa.org or (806) 358-3681.

USDA-FSIS Will Hold Public Meetings On The Draft Proposed Guidance Concerning HACCP Validation.

To pre-register and obtain more information about individual meetings, go to

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events.

FSIS made a preliminary draft of the validation guidance available in March in order to receive public input earlier in the guidance development process, as requested by a number of stakeholders. FSIS said the guidance does not create any new requirements on establishments, but clarifies existing requirements and provides direction on how processors, especially small processors, can meet them.

Comments on the preliminary draft are due June 19. FSIS will review the public comments on the preliminary guidance, and then announce an updated draft document in the *Federal Register* in July for a second round of comments. The preliminary draft guidance and more information on validation are available on the FSIS website at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/HACCP_Validation/index.asp.

FSIS encourages establishments and the public to submit comments to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 2-2127, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5474, Beltsville, Md., 20705-5474.

Consumers Support The Use Of Food Biotechnology When They Consider Its Potential Benefits for reducing the impact of food and food production on the environment and for improving sustainability. That's according to the newly released International Food Information Council (IFIC) 2010 "Consumer Perceptions of Food Technology" survey, which explored U.S. consumers' perceptions of various aspects of plant and animal biotechnology, as well as sustainability and new and emerging technologies such as nanotechnology.

Consumers responded most positively to benefits of biotechnology for the environment and sustainability. For example, 77% of consumers would be likely to purchase foods produced through biotechnology for their ability to reduce pesticide use, and 80% of consumers said they would be likely to purchase bread, crackers, cookies, cereal, or pasta products containing wheat that was grown using plant biotechnology if they were produced using sustainable practices to feed more people using fewer resources such as land and pesticides.

However, when it comes to impressions of animal biotechnology, 29% of respondents indicated they are somewhat or very favorable toward animal biotechnology. Slightly more than one-quarter (27%) are somewhat or very unfavorable, and 24% are neither favorable nor unfavorable. Interestingly, the majority of consumers who are either unfavorable or neutral in their views toward animal biotechnology cited "I don't have enough information" about animal biotechnology (55%) and/or "I don't understand the benefits of using biotechnology with animals" (39%) as their reason(s) for being unfavorable or neutral.

For more on the survey, go to http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/consumer_preceptions_food_tech.html.

Meanwhile To Address Public Perceptions About Animal Biotechnology, The Council for Agricultural Science And Technology (CAST) has released a new issue paper, "Ethical Implications of Animal Biotechnology: Considerations for Animal Welfare Decision Making." This is the final part – Part 9 – in the

CAST series *Animal Agriculture's Future through Biotechnology*. The authors discuss three broad categories of ethical issues associated with animal biotechnology, including the impact on the animals themselves, the institutions and procedures that govern the research and applications within the agrifood system, and the relationships between humans and other animals.

Topics examined in the paper include:

- General overview of animal biotechnology science
- Genetics in conventional animal breeding programs
- Ethical issues overview
- Religious views on animal biotechnology
- Public perceptions of animal biotechnology
- Regulation of animal biotechnology

"Many people do not have an accurate understanding of the methods and purposes of animal biotechnology," says CAST Executive Vice President John Bonner. "CAST is pleased to offer scientific information in this new paper that will help people consider the ethical questions associated with agricultural animal biotechnology."

To see the report, go to http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/cast_report.html.

Tickets Are Now Available For The Second Annual Cattle Feeders Hall Of Fame Banquet to be held July 8 in Denver. This year's event will feature the announcement of the newest inductees of the Hall of Fame, as well as the first recipient of the Industry Leadership Award. Last year, **Past TCFA Chairman Paul Engler** was named, along with W.D. Farr, as an inaugural member of the Hall of Fame.

Tickets are available until June 23. For more information and to obtain tickets, go to http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/hall_of_fame_tickets.html.

Taiwanese Officials Will Conduct Their Country's First Ever Inspections Of U.S. Packing Plants that export beef to Taiwan, according to Health Minister Yaung Chih-liang. Yaung told Taiwan's Central News Agency that inspections – scheduled at "five to 10" plants in August or September – are intended to ensure that all U.S. beef exports are adequately labeled, as required by the Taiwan's regulations. In a meeting on the sidelines of the recent conference of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation trade ministers in Japan, U.S. officials told their Taiwanese counterparts they would like to see Taipei speed up its examination procedures and customs clearance for U.S. beef imports. "The examination procedures and customs clearance will be able to become faster after the labeling problems are addressed," Yaung said.

The Beef Checkoff Is Promoting Protein's Role in Bone Health. The Checkoff continues to provide health professional influencers and nutrition media with science-based research and resources that showcase protein's role in optimal health. The nutrition team recently conducted outreach to health professionals and credentialed media, promoting research that suggests protein may play a vital role in bone health. The research was distributed electronically to more than 275 health professional influencers and nutrition media contacts.

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

Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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