



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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**Happy Fourth of July!** You are receiving TCFA *Newsletter* one day early this week because TCFA offices will be closed tomorrow (July 3). TCFA wishes everyone an enjoyable holiday weekend as we celebrate our nation's independence and grill a great steak or burger.

**USDA's June 30 Acreage Report Dropped A Bombshell On The Market.** After months of anticipation and positioning that the extended cool wet spring over much of the eastern Corn Belt would reduce corn acres, the USDA June acreage report was estimated at 87.035 million acres. That was outside the scope of pre-report estimates that ranged from 82.474 million acres to 86.000 million acres. The June report figure was also about 2 million acres or 2.4% above the March estimate. As if larger than expected new crop acres were not enough, the June 30 corn stocks were estimated at 4.26 billion bu, which was at the upper end of pre-release estimates. The futures market reacted by opening limit down and held there for the entire session. With the limit decline on Tuesday, corn prices have declined just over \$1 a bushel during the month of June and are currently trading at 50% of the value of the same time a year ago.

**A New Cattle Feeding Research Facility Was Dedicated Monday** at the Texas AgriLife Research and USDA complex near Bushland. TCFA believes the important research conducted at the \$450,000 facility has the potential to expand cattle feeders' options for feedstuffs.

"Projects like this don't just happen," said Dr. John Sweeten, AgriLife Research resident director in Amarillo. Sweeten credited the Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Team (CREET) for being the research engine driving this effort to build the facility. CREET involves facilities, scientists and administrators of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, AgriLife Research in Amarillo, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Amarillo, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in Amarillo and USDA-ARS in Bushland.

TCFA helped lead industry efforts to obtain state funding for the facility. Our special thanks go to State Senator Kel Seliger and State Representatives David Swinford, Warren Chisum and John Smithee.

To read more about the facility, go to <http://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/agnews/index.php?id=1286>.

**Many Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Participants Are Facing Tough Decisions** after being notified their contracts will not be renewed, said Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist. McCollum believes "We need to keep most of this land in rangeland."

The land put into CRP in the mid-1980s was planted primarily in the High Plains with native grasses, Old World bluestems or weeping love grass, he said. There are about 4 million acres of CRP in Texas, much of it in the High Plains. "About 10 years ago when we first started seeing people come out of the program, we realized we would not be making the same amount as with government payments," McCollum said. "But we know properly managed Old World bluestem and weeping love grass can produce more beef per acre than native rangelands in the region."

To read AgriLife's advice on converting CRP land to grazing land, go to <http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/agnews/index.php?id=1274>.

**TCFA's Leadership Participants** in the recent NCBA Young Cattleman's Conference (YCC) were Russell Goble of Texline and Heath Schulte of Tulia. The YCC, a nine-day series of events extending from Denver to Washington, D.C., is designed to cultivate leadership in participants by showcasing various aspects of the beef industry and the legislative process.

Goble said YCC was "...an adventure of a lifetime. This program covered every aspect of the cattle industry from pasture to plate. The knowledge and contacts gained from this experience will lead me into the future of this industry."

Schulte also said YCC was beneficial and added that his first ever trip to Washington D.C. drove home the importance of TCFA's work on Capitol Hill. "There are so many members of Congress with so many people coming to them with their agendas; you have to have someone in your corner to get them the right information."

## ...TCFA At Work For You...

### In Recent Weeks, TCFA Staff:

- Helped conduct the first ever Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program, which was attended by 13 high school students interested in future careers in the fed beef industry. (A full article and photos from this week's event will be included in next week's TCFA *Newsletter*.)
- Took the TCFA Safety Training Trailer to four feedyards during the month of June, providing workplace safety training to 43 employees altogether. So far in 2009, the Safety Training Trailer has been used to train a total of 190 employees of member feedyards.
- Worked with outside consultants to help members with their 2009 property tax valuations.
- Responded to questions related to workers' compensation and injured employees, employee terminations, unemployment compensation, and health insurance.
- Attended the NCBA National Beef Quality Assurance Meetings in Denver.
- Visited 60 feedyards during the month of June.

**I-9 Forms: U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS) Has Announced** that the Employment Eligibility Verification form I-9 (Rev. 02/02/09) currently on the USCIS website will continue to be valid for use beyond its previously announced expiration date of June 30, 2009. USCIS has requested that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the continued use of the current version of Form I-9. While this request is pending, the Form I-9 (Rev. 02/02/09) remains valid. USCIS will update Form I-9 when the extension is approved. Employers will be able to use either the Form I-9 with the new revision date or the Form I-9 with the 02/02/09 revision date at the bottom of the form. For more information on USCIS and its programs, go to <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>.

**Higher Education? The Humane Society Of The United States (HSUS)** has become a learning institution, at least in the eyes of the District of Columbia Education Licensure Commission. The Commission recently licensed HSUS to grant degrees. *BEEF* magazine reports HSUS has partnered with Duquesne University to provide curriculum that leads to a bachelor's degree in humane leadership and a master's in community leadership. A potential activist can become a Certified Advocacy Management Specialist by completing coursework that focuses on research and planning, influencing corporate behavior, message development, becoming a citizen lobbyist and building a grassroots movement.

**TCFA Sponsor Spotlight.** TCFA is proud to recognize its top sponsors whose efforts help deliver top-notch services to members.

This week's spotlight shines on



Allflex, the world's number one livestock identification systems manufacturer, is committed to helping people in the livestock industry use individual animal identification as a management tool. As the pace of the livestock industry accelerates, the need for accurate information that can be gathered quickly is increasingly important. Allflex is dedicated to bringing products, services and advice to the industry that create workable solutions in real-life conditions. For more information, go to <http://www.allflexusa.com/>.

Please note: All links are still available at [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) under Newsletter links.