

Full length version of articles abbreviated in TCFA Newsletter print edition.

From Newsletter Page 1 – 09/19/08

Cattlemen Rally To Assist In The Recovery From Ike's Devastation

In Hurricane Ike's aftermath, cattlemen and the entire family of agriculture are banding together to help producers who suffered losses in the storm.

A special way to contribute is the "No Fences" Hurricane Ike Horse and Cattle Relief website established by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Texas Agrilife Extension Service. Donations needed include hay, feed, water, fencing, corral materials and other agriculture-related items needed to assist with livestock. A link to the website is included in the Hurricane Ike page posted at www.tcfa.org/Disaster_files/Ike_Links.html. If you would like to donate by phone, dial (800) 835-5832 and select option 0.

If you have pasture available, please contact TDA's Hay Hotline at 1-877-429-1998. When you call, please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Location of the available pasture
- Carrying capacity of the pasture: number of acres and approximate number of head which can be supported
- How long the pasture is available

TDA will match cattlemen seeking pasture with available resources.

Producers who suffered livestock losses can also apply for assistance from the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Also, USDA-NRCS is coordinating livestock carcass disposal efforts. For more information on LIP, NRCS assistance and other matters related to the storm recovery effort, see the Hurricane Ike page at www.tcfa.org.

Eating Beef Is A Smart Idea

Vitamin B12, a nutrient found in beef, might protect against brain volume loss, according to a study by the University of Oxford. Published in the journal *Neurology*, the study found that people with higher B12 levels were six times less likely to experience brain shrinkage compared to those with lower levels in their blood.

An Oxford news release said that for the study 107 people between the ages of 61 and 87 underwent brain scans, memory testing, physical exams and blood tests. The brain scans and memory tests were repeated five years later.

Information released through the Beef Checkoff states that a three-ounce serving of lean beef provides 37% of the vitamin B12 we need every day.

CBB Budget Cut Even Deeper

Faced with decreasing revenue projections, the Beef Promotion Operating Committee this week approved a Fiscal Year 2009 program budget for the CBB of \$42 million for 35 national checkoff programs. That is down from the \$43.5 million budget that CBB approved just two months ago at the Cattle Industry Summer Conference.

CBB and Operating Committee Chairman Dave Bateman said, "In July, we approved a budget that was down 6.6% from a year ago. Before our meeting this week, however, we realized that the 2009 revenue projections we made in July actually were still too optimistic, so we had to cut back even more than we had anticipated."

In addition to the CBB budget, the Federation of State Beef Councils had approved a total of about \$8.1 million for national programs, bringing the combined total budget for approved programs to about \$50.1 million, down from a combined total of about \$57.4 million in the current fiscal year.

For more on the CBB program budget, go to http://www.beefboard.org/news/09_0919OperatingCommitteeReport.asp.

House Futures Markets Bill Passes

On Thursday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6604, the “Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008.” The bill, sponsored by Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson passed 283-133. The bill is intended to limit the size of and increase the transparency of offshore trading, require a commodity-by-commodity breakdown of what is included in Index funds, and mandate more detailed reporting from Index funds and swap dealers. The bill also requires changes in the way position limits are determined in agriculture and energy markets. Also contained in the bill is increased funding for CFTC staff increases for the additional monitoring.

From *Newsletter* Page 2 – 09/19/08

The D.C. Circuit Court Of Appeals heard oral arguments Monday on NCBA’s appeal of the EPA rule to regulate dust under the Clean Air Act. Producers routinely perform dust control, said Tamara Thies, Chief Environmental Counsel for NCBA. “But this rule would require an unattainable level of dust control, which could force producers to sell cattle to comply.” EPA released a final rule on regulating particles in the air under the Clean Air Act in October 2006, which says that states should focus on regulating dust in urban areas instead of rural areas. However, agricultural dust is nevertheless subject to regulation under the final rule. Every five years, the EPA is required to review studies associated with pollutants regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of the Clean Air Act to determine if the pollutant is regulated appropriately. Dust has been included as a pollutant, despite the fact that the NAAQS is a health-based standard. There is no scientific evidence that dust causes adverse health effects that justify inclusion in these standards. TCFA staff continues working with NCBA in opposing this unwarranted regulation.