

Industry Link

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Industry leaders ask president and Congress to move swiftly on TPP

On Sept. 21, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the Coalition of Services Industries, the Information Technology Industry Council and the National Association of Manufacturers called on the president and congressional leadership to work together to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement by year-end.

In a letter, the presidents of the four groups laid out the important benefits expected to accrue from the deal — an accord that will give American farms, ranches and companies access to nearly 500 million consumers in the Asia-Pacific region.

“As the most productive industries in the world, our enterprises need access to new consumers and markets to sustain, let alone grow, production and good-paying jobs,” the groups wrote. “Yet, U.S. industries face increasing competition as our global competitors are benefitting from trade deals that exclude and disadvantage the United States. ... The status quo is not acceptable for industries that need new markets to sustain and grow our workforces in the United States.”

Source: AFBF.

American Farm Bureau urges caution on ag mergers

Farmers and ranchers know market forces have led to major-company mergers like Bayer-Monsanto, but they cannot afford to lose access to technology and innovation if they go through, AFBF Chief Economist Bob Young told the Senate Judiciary Committee Sept. 20.

“AFBF has had several — and repeated — assurances from the companies involved as to their intent to maintain as strong an innovation arm as they can,” Young said. “We have no reason to doubt, but we also are reminded of the old line: trust, but verify.”

Young noted the market for seeds, chemicals and crop nutrients is poised to shrink from six major companies to just three. He asked that regulators review these mergers not only in light of market concentration, but also the structure of the entire industry in a postmerger environment.

Source: AFBF.

NFU VP of international relations represents world's farmers in UN meeting on antimicrobial resistance

National Farmers Union (NFU) General Counsel and Vice President of International Relations Dave Velde represented the world's farmers Sept. 22 before a high-level meeting of the United Nations (UN) to discuss global antibiotic resistance. The meeting concluded with the 193 member countries of the UN adopting a declaration to fight antibiotic resistance and reduce the use of the drugs in agriculture and human medicine.

Velde, representing the World Farmers' Organization (WFO), presented with world health and economic leaders on a panel titled “Addressing the multisectoral implications and implementation challenges of antimicrobial resistance in a comprehensive manner.”

“In the worldwide discussion on tackling antibiotic resistance, we need to promote cooperation among the different stakeholders to agree on a common approach and a clear understanding of

the issue, while ensuring that producers are not disproportionately burdened in our solution to the problem,” said Velde, who was elected to the WFO board of directors earlier this year.

In many countries, there is no direct threat to consumers as clear food-safety standards have been developed that prohibit the presence of antimicrobial residues in food products, Velde explained to the UN member nations. “Each country needs to develop national strategies for reducing antimicrobial use and resistance.

“We must engage all stakeholders in this conversation towards constructive problem solving. The best way to engage the farm sector is to provide incentives for establishing public-private-producer partnerships to address the antimicrobial resistance issue,” he added.

NFU represented the only farmer organization on a panel involving the prime minister of Norway, the minister of health of Argentina, the secretary of the Department of Health of the Philippines, president of the World Bank, and president and CEO of *Consumer Reports*.

The declaration to fight antimicrobial resistance marked only the fourth time in the UN's 71-year history that it called on world leaders to address a health issue, commensurate with HIV/AIDS, chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes, and Ebola.

Source: NFU.

EPA violated personal privacy of farmers, ranchers

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has violated the personal privacy of tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers, according to a unanimous ruling issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

The ruling in *AFBF and National Pork Producers Council vs. EPA* concerned the federal agency's 2013 release to three environmental groups of a vast compilation of spreadsheets containing personal information about farmers and ranchers who raise livestock and poultry in 29 states. The case also related to similar personal information from farmers and ranchers in seven additional states that had yet to be released.

The information included the names of farmers, ranchers and sometimes other family members, home addresses, GPS coordinates, telephone numbers and emails. EPA claimed that it was required to disclose the information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

“This was an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy by a federal agency in violation of law,” said AFBF general counsel Ellen Steen. “The court's decision is a vindication of the right of farm families to control their own personal information.”

For more information, visit the AFBF newsroom online at www.fb.org/newsroom/news_article/480/.

Source: AFBF.

Free BQA certification

Until Nov. 13, cattle producers and those involved in the cattle industry can obtain their Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification for free courtesy of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI).

BQA helps those handling cattle learn better techniques and practices to make transporting, vaccinating and other on-farm practices go more smoothly. These practices help producers provide a higher-quality product while minimizing stressful situations. BQA also helps increase consumer confidence in the beef industry.

“BQA certification gives producers an opportunity to talk about their commitment to raising a better-quality product,” said Scott King, director of marketing for the U.S. Cattle Business Segment at BIVI. “We are consistently hearing that consumers want more facts on how their food gets to the grocery store, so now is a critical time to share our BQA story.”

Visit www.bi-vetmedica.com/species/cattle/training_programs.html for more information on becoming BQA certified.

Source: BIVI.

Record corn and soybean yields

USDA figures suggest farmers could spend a little extra time in the combine this fall, as record corn and soybean crops are projected across the United States. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), production is expected to reach more than 15 billion bushels (bu.) of corn and more than 4 billion bu. of soybeans.

Due to favorable weather conditions this year, corn yields are expected to set a record average 175 bu. per acre — with record-breaking yields in 10 states, including Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

Learn more in the Sept. 12 episode of *The Angus Report*. You can watch future episodes at 1:30 p.m. CST Saturday and

Industry organizations respond to China's lift of ban on U.S. beef

NCBA: China announces it will lift ban on U.S. beef

Following a 13-year ban on U.S. beef exports to China, an announcement from the Chinese government indicates they will begin accepting U.S. beef from animals under 30 months of age.

“This is great news for U.S. beef producers,” said Kent Bacus, director of international trade for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). “While these initial reports are positive, we must continue technical negotiations and undergo the process of formally approving export certificates. China is already the world's second-largest buyer of beef, and with a growing middle class, the export opportunities for U.S. cattlemen and women are tremendous.”

The next step is for USDA officials to work with China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine to approve the certificates and protocols for exports.

“Our cattle producers are the best in the world at producing high-quality beef,” said Bacus. “To continue to grow demand for our product, our industry relies on fair trade based on sound science. This latest announcement by

China is welcome news and further highlights the benefits of trade in the Pacific, opportunities that will only be expanded by passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.”

Source: NCBA.

USMEF responds to China's lift of ban on U.S. beef imports

According to a statement made by Philip Seng, president and CEO of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), China's Ministry of Agriculture and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine has announced that China's ban on imports of U.S. beef has been lifted.

Seng said, “While this is an important first step in the process of resuming beef exports to China, USMEF understands that China must still negotiate with USDA the conditions that will apply to U.S. beef exports entering this market. USMEF looks forward to learning more details about the remaining steps necessary for the market to officially open and for U.S. suppliers to begin shipping product.”

Source: USMEF.

7:30 a.m. CST each Monday morning on RFD-TV.

Source: Adapted from The Angus Report.

Utah rancher takes the reins of PLC

On Sat., Sept. 10, the annual Public Lands Council (PLC) meeting wrapped up with a high-desert range and operation tour in Southern Idaho. The meeting drew more than 150 public-lands ranchers along with affiliate representatives to engage in the grassroots policy process, hear from agency officials and discuss critical issues that are impacting the West.

This year's PLC meeting focused on top issues for public-lands ranchers, including preserving and enhancing sage grouse habitat through land stewardship, managing wild horse and burro populations at appropriate levels, and fighting regulation that threatens multiple use and vibrant western communities.

Dave Eliason, a fifth-generation rancher from Utah was elected to serve the two-year term as PLC president, succeeding Brenda Richards, who will serve as immediate past-president.

Source: PLC.

Congress addresses continued abuse of Antiquities Act

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the PLC applaud Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Chairman Lisa Murkowski for taking substantive action on the continued abuse of the *Antiquities Act of 1906*. These commonsense bills from Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Flake are critical to addressing the deficiencies in the existing law.

"The *Antiquities Act of 1906* is simply too broad and gives too much power to the administration," said Ethan Lane, executive director of the PLC and NCBA federal lands. "This administration continues to brag about President Obama's record-setting abuse of the Act, locking up hundreds of millions of acres with the stroke of a pen. We are glad Congress is finally stepping in to provide balance and refine that authority."

While the president has already used the Act to lock off hundreds of millions of acres of land and water, still more designations are expected by the end of this year.

Source: NCBA.

Where's the beef: Rabobank releases Q3 Beef Quarterly

Sept. 21, Rabobank released its *Q3 Beef Quarterly* report, highlighting global industry trends and what we can expect to see in key markets across the world.

A range of factors are expected to cause cattle and beef prices in many major beef countries to stay subdued or soften over the second half of 2016. At a global level, lower beef prices in the United States and a slowing Chinese economy are creating a downward pull on prices. Brazil is an exception, however, with an improving economic outlook and increased beef exports, cattle prices are expected to increase.

The report also highlights additional regional trends, including:

U.S. and Brazil reopen fresh beef trade. In August, the U.S. and Brazilian governments agreed to reopen trade of beef and beef products for the first time since 2003. Brazilian exports will be limited by the tariff quota of 64,800 tons for "other countries." However, exports of around 40,000 tons are possible in 2017.

China's slowing economy affecting beef consumption. The third quarter (Q3) is usually the peak season for animal protein consumption in China, and beef prices will be supported by the

rising seasonal demand. However, in the longer term, domestic beef prices are expected to decline given exposure to a weaker economy, which is expected to slow further in 2017.

First Indian bovine imports arrive in Indonesia. A decision by the Indonesian government now permits imports of Indian bovine meat. An initial shipment of 10,000 tons was approved, with the government indicating potential import volumes of 80,000 tons in 2016. Despite this, beef prices in Indonesia remain strong.

Australian cattle prices expected to ease slightly. A combination of improved seasons, resulting in slightly more, heavier cattle being available, and the ongoing margin squeeze felt by processors and feedlots leads us to expect to see prices ease slightly from their record highs through the remainder of 2016, although with limitations on supply remaining critical, prices will continue to remain high.

Source: Rabobank.



Anthrax found in deer

Reports of about 30 cases of anthrax in deer at a Kinney County ranch by the Texas Animal Health Commission has revived interest in understanding the disease and how to prevent its spread, said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

The instances of anthrax were isolated and occurred in deer on a high-fenced ranch, according to Emily Grant, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resource agent for Kinney County. The area has been quarantined and risk of further exposure to wildlife or livestock outside the contained space is unlikely.

"It's important for area landowners to be cognizant of the fact that anthrax can and does occasionally occur here, and to be mindful of the conditions that cause it," she said. "It's also important to know the symptoms and what to do in the event you encounter an animal that has the disease."

Susceptible species

Many common species are susceptible to anthrax, including sheep, goats, horses, cattle, swine, domestic or exotic deer, and humans, said Maureen Frank, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist in Uvalde. Wild deer are usually hit hardest, because unlike livestock, they can travel and spread the infection to other areas.

In Texas, anthrax typically occurs in an area of southwest Texas that includes portions of Crockett, Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Sutton, Uvalde and Val Verde counties. Most anthrax-caused animal deaths occur during warm weather, particularly in July and August. The spores that cause the disease become dormant again once the weather cools, but there have been cases of anthrax during the winter.

"For many people, the word anthrax brings to mind a biological weapon, but the disease occurs naturally in many parts of the world where soil types and weather are favorable to it," said John Tomecek, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist in San Angelo.

It's caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, which produces spores that can lie dormant in the soil for years, and are largely responsible for the disease.

Reporting outbreaks

Tomecek said anthrax outbreaks are spurred by mild, wet winters and springs followed by dry spells and intense summertime drought. Surface water from rains relocate the spores in the dusty soil and create "hot spots" where animals graze.

Frank said animals with the disease have symptoms that typically appear three to seven days after exposure to anthrax spores, and typically die within 48 hours.

"Some of the symptoms are similar to those of other diseases, including lethargy, a loss of coordination, staggering and difficulty breathing. A symptom characteristic of anthrax is blood oozing from the animal's orifices — the nose, mouth and anus — although it is important to note that not all affected animals will display this symptom."

Sudden death without any symptoms, especially during warm months, may also indicate anthrax infections, Frank noted.

"Anthrax is a U.S. Department of Agriculture reportable disease and must be reported to the Texas Animal Health

Commission," she said. "This means that if you suspect anthrax in your animals, you need to seek assistance from a veterinary professional or TAHC. They will give advice on how to best manage the situation."

Failure to report a suspected case is a crime, she said.

For wild animals, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and TAHC staff will work together to determine if the case is actually anthrax and help manage it appropriately.

If a landowner notices 10 or more wild or exotic deer dying at a time and the carcasses show bleeding characteristic of anthrax, it is imperative to immediately move livestock away from the carcasses.

Disposal

Both Frank and Tomecek said the best method of disposing of an affected carcass is by incineration and that wood, diesel and gasoline are approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for incineration. If weather conditions preclude burning, they recommend burying the dead animal deep in the pasture where they died.

The experts said to use extreme caution when decontaminating infected premises or when handling live animals or carcasses suspected of infection. Wear long sleeves, pants, rubber gloves and a facemask if possible.

Tomecek said ranchers in regions where the disease is common should consider anthrax vaccinations for livestock.

"There is no approved vaccine for deer," he said. "And if a livestock infection occurs in a confinement scenario such as a barn, pen or paddock, remove all bedding, manure and other materials and burn them. Then ask your local veterinarian or TAHC contact how best to sanitize working facilities."

Hunting

As most hunting occurs during the cooler months, the experts noted hunters are generally not at risk from the disease, but caution dictates using personal protection, including wearing a long-sleeved shirt and rubber gloves, plus covering any open wounds on the carcass while field dressing the animal.

"If you suspect an animal had any disease when harvested, do not consume any part of it and be very selective about taking sick-looking deer," Tomecek said. "Remember that wild pigs are also susceptible to the disease but do not exhibit symptoms as strongly as deer and other livestock."

He said those finding animals that may have died from anthrax should not attempt to salvage antlers, horns, heads or any other body parts.

Tomecek and Frank said the prompt reporting of instances in which animals are acting abnormally and exhibiting symptoms known to be associated with anthrax are key to the early detection and management of outbreaks.

For more information, see the publication *Anthrax: Conditions, Symptoms and Advice for Landowners* authored by Tomecek, Frank and Terry Hensley, AgriLife Extension veterinarian and assistant agency director, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. This publication can be found at <http://agrilife.org/texnat/files/2016/09/EWF-060.pdf>.

Source: Texas AgriLife Extension.