



E-Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Fellow members and breeders,

Well I guess the low cattle numbers can have good and bad effects on the cattle business. It was announced last week that L&H Packing will be closing down their operation. They were one of the major processors of slaughter cows and bulls. The shortage of cattle caused by the droughts in Texas and surrounding states has made it impossible for them to get the number of cattle needed to make their operation profitable. I hope this shutdown does not drive the prices of slaughter cows and bulls down in the south and central areas of Texas.

The TBBA Directors are looking for suggestions on the type of events that you as members would like to see happen. Please feel free to send any suggestions that you might have on this to my email listed below. We are also open to a suggested area and time of the year to stage a event.

Till Next Time,
Doug Muenchow
Texas Brangus Breeders Association President
Cell: 210-394-1952
Email: cattlemadoug@aol.com

Drought Aid Available

COLLEGE STATION - Federal disaster aid for Texas cattle producers is available and officials are encouraging producers to act quickly in applying for programs.

directed to the page.



Suggestions?

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any suggestions to the Facebook page or E-Newsletter should be sent to mollie@txbrangus.org

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency Texas administrators gave updates on livestock disaster programming in College Station at the 60th Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the department of animal science at Texas A&M University.

Ranchers are encouraged to call the Farm Service Agency office in their county to set up appointments as deadlines approach for these programs, officials said.

The disaster programs are part of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the new farm bill, which will help Texas cattle producers rebuild and recover drought losses dating back to 2011, said Judith Canales, Texas state executive director for the USDA-Farm Service Agency.

"(As of Aug. 6), \$258 million in livestock disaster payments have been distributed in Texas," Canales said. "We have 173 offices here in Texas to work with you, and we encourage you to schedule an appointment."

Highlights of programs offered to cattle producers were:
-Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance provides assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. This includes grasses planted for livestock production. A fact sheet on this program is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap .

- The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. To be eligible, a producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. A fact sheet on this program is available at <http://1.usa.gov/1sIsUaj> .

- The Livestock Forage Disaster Program is retroactive to cover eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a

federal agency if the producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

The grazing losses must have occurred on or after October 1, 2011. Payments are based on animal units. A fact sheet on this program is available at <http://1.usa.gov/1sAsEWe>.

For more information on the disaster programs, visit <http://1.usa.gov/1sFkON6> or contact a local Texas FSA county office.

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-Release by Southern Livestock Standard

Ground Beef Tracking Updates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) declared new procedures to speed up tracing the source of contaminated ground beef, remove it from the market and find its cause to prevent future occurrence. These new procedures build on proposed initiatives for retailers to keep records of their ground beef suppliers and new methods to test the products for pathogens.

Under the new procedures, FSIS will conduct immediate investigations as soon as notification of a positive test for E. coli is received during initial testing. Prior to the new procedures, investigations began at the grinding facility only after a positive test was confirmed, which could take two days.

As part of the traceback investigation, the agency also will determine whether the supplying establishment shipped product that may be contaminated to other grinding facilities or further processors. If so, FSIS will take steps to have that product removed from commerce, according to USDA.

The improved traceback procedures will be fully implemented 60 days after publication in the Federal Register on Oct. 14, 2014.

-Release by Texas Farm Bureau

New Beef Grading System Proposed

For the first time since the adoption of the current U.S. Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef in 1997, the U.S. Department of Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is looking to move forward on adjusting methods used to keep up with changes in animal raising and feeding.

"When beef is voluntarily graded, the official grade may consist of a quality grade, a yield grade, or both. The quality grades principally refer to the characteristics of marbling and maturity and are intended to identify differences in the flavor and satisfaction of eating cooked beef," says the USDA's official release. "The principal official USDA quality grades for young cattle and carcasses are Prime, Choice, Select, and Standard."

Throughout the years, changes in trends regarding export requirements, animal and packing plant management, feeding methods and grading instruments have occurred. With the proposed changes, grading would more accurately reflect the quality of meat consumers purchase.

"The yield grade is used to predict the percentage of a carcass that should yield boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts and is an important tool for determining value of both live cattle and beef carcasses. The beef yield grade standard and equation was developed 50 years ago," says USDA. "Changes that have affected the quality of beef have similarly affected carcass yield, and AMS is seeking input for improving the yield grade equation."

The public comment period on the revised changes are open until November 13, 2014. Comments should be sent to: Beef Carcass Revisions, Standardization Branch, LPS Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, STOP 0258, Washington, D.C. 20250. Comments may also be sent by fax to: (202) 690-2746 or by e-mail to: beefcarcassrevisions@ams.usda.gov.

-Release by Drovers CattleNetwork

TBBA Business Card Ads

TBBA members have the opportunity to advertise their farm or ranch through the new business card advertisements to be launched on the TBBA website soon. If you would like to purchase a business card ad, e-mail mollie@txbrangus.org for more information. Business card ads will cost \$50.

Call for Cattle Photos

The TBBA is constantly looking for ways to improve our social media sights. If you have photos of your Brangus cattle around the farm or ranch that you would like us to share on the Facebook page, please e-mail those in .jpg format to mollie@txbrangus.org.

To view the current "Around the Farm and Ranch" album, [click here](#).

August/Sept. Calendar of Events

August:

23rd:

Southeast Brangus Annual Field Day- El Dorado, AR

September:

7th:

Entry Deadline- Brangus Show of Merit

20th:

Western National Brangus Show- Oklahoma City, OK

Are you a TBBA member with an upcoming sale or field day? E-mail mollie@txbrangus.org to have it listed on the website and E-Newsletter calendar

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

Serving and promoting the interest of its members specific to the breeding, raising, and marketing of Brangus cattle.

