

BEEF BUSINESS

by Julie Mais, editor

In this month's "Beef Business," we present industry news about the China trade agreement, new NFU leadership and helping consumers understand the GMOs.

China Phase One Agreement Progress

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced March 10 that China has continued its progress in implementing the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement and has taken several additional actions to realize its agriculture-related commitments. The agreement entered into force on Feb. 14, 2020, and the actions announced March 10 build upon the measures announced on Feb. 25. The most recent actions include:

- Signing a protocol that allows the importation of fresh California nectarines (USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will share details once they are finalized);
- Conditionally lifting a ban on imports of beef and beef products from animals over 30 months of age, subject to other relevant import requirements;
- Updating lists of facilities approved for exporting dairy, infant formula, seafood, and fish oil and fish meal.

In addition, China's new tariff exclusion process went into effect on March 2 and importers can now apply for exclusions from retaliatory tariffs. USDA has published a translation and analysis of China's guidance for participating in this latest round of exclusions.

Source: USDA

'Feed Your Mind' Initiative

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the USDA, March 4 launched a new initiative to help consumers better understand foods created using genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The initiative "Feed Your Mind," aims to answer the most common questions that consumers have about GMOs, including what GMOs are, how and why they are made, how they are regulated and, address health and safety questions that consumers may have about these products.

"While foods from genetically engineered plants have been available to consumers since the early 1990s and are a common part of today's food supply, there are a lot of misconceptions about them," said FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn. "This initiative is intended to help people better understand what these products are and how they are made. Genetic engineering has created new plants that are resistant to insects and diseases, led to products with improved nutritional profiles, as well as certain produce that don't brown or bruise as easily."

Source: FDA

NFU Convention

The National Farmers Union (NFU) 118th Anniversary Convention

concluded March 3 following the adoption of the organization's policy book and special orders of business. More than 500 family farmers and ranchers convened in Savannah, Ga., to set policy positions and priorities that support American farm and ranch families and strengthen rural communities.

Delegates to the convention adopted the NFU Policy Book and six special orders of business that will guide the organization's government affairs priorities during the course of the next year, especially as they relate to the tough economic circumstances and sustainability issues facing family farmers. Before the policy review began, they elected Rob Larew to succeed Roger Johnson as the organization's president and reelected Patty Edelburg of Scandinavia, Wis., to serve as NFU vice president.

"The reason for Farmers Union's longstanding success — and the reason why I am so enthusiastic about leading this organization — is its grassroots structure," said newly elected Farmers Union President Larew. "Each year, our members set organizational directives and federal policy priorities in a democratic process, which ensures that the work we do in our national office is really in the best interest of the hard-working family farmers and ranchers feed, fuel and clothe our nation."

Source: NFU

Farm Bureau Survey

USDA recently projected net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability, to rise 3% in 2020 to the highest level since 2014. In fact, USDA data suggests that farm profitability has been on the rise since 2016, e.g., A Tale of Two Farm Incomes. Moreover, at USDA's 96th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum USDA projected higher crop prices for soybeans, wheat and cotton (not for corn) and higher livestock prices

for cattle, pork, dairy and some poultry products (not broilers).

In order to provide additional perspective on the farm economy, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) conducted an informal online survey between Jan. 8 and Feb. 14. Nearly 300 respondents completed the survey with high participation across the Midwest. Nearly 80% of the respondents identified as a farmer or rancher and the primary farming activities represented included crops,

cattle and calves, followed by dairy, other livestock and specialty crops.

Survey participants were asked to provide their short-run and long-run perspectives on commodity prices and costs, farm profitability, land values and cash rents, farm debt and farm investment decisions.

Less than 25% of the survey respondents expect commodity prices to be higher in 2020 than in 2019.

Source: AFBF



A Unique Breeding Alternative, like a **SUPER HERO**; A **COMBINATION of POWERS**:



1. **MUSCLE**; top, rump, round
2. **WIDTH**; top, hip, base
3. **CLEAN**; front, sheath
4. **LONG**; fronted, hiped, spine
5. **SOUND**; big footed, travels true



LAFINS GALAXIE 3332-DAM

CHAMPION AT:
2019 IOWA STATE FAIR
2019 NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

2019 KANSAS STATE FAIR

CLASS WINNER
2020 NWSS DENVER

LAFINS
MARVEL
1801

1909161B

SIRE:
PVF INSIGHT 0129

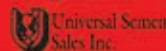
DAM:
LAFINS GALAXIE 3332

MGS:
EXAR CONSENSUS 1972B

CEB	BW	WW	YW
+7	+1.2	+45	+88
DOC	RE	\$M	\$B
+25	+1.24	+53	+137
BW 84# WW 675# NO CREEP			
REA 17.4 ADJUSTED TO 365 DAYS			
<small>EPDs AS OF 2/20/20</small>			

Owners:
Hartzell Angus
608-574-6150
Breeze Hill Angus
515-280-1249
Walridge Farms
319-430-0820

For semen, contact
Ken Hartzell
608-574-6150



Semen collected at
Nichols Cryo-Genetics.
Successfully used in
conventional flushes
and reverse sorted
IVF flushes.