

BEEF BUSINESS

by Julie Mais, editor

In this month's "Beef Business," we present industry news about resources from the USDA, new actions to increase traceability and an internship opportunity.

Electronic ID

On Jan. 1, 2023, all animals will be required to wear a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag when moving interstate. All show animals or rodeo stock, any age will be required to have an RFID.

In January of this year, producers who register calves have the option to download a spreadsheet with the tag numbers they just registered to order/purchase custom cattle tags. For more information view the Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: A Plan to Achieve Electronic Identification in Cattle and Bison factsheet here: www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/plan-to-achieve-eid-factsheet.pdf

Source: APHIS

USDA resources for disasters

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced agricultural producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, including Hurricane Dorian, can apply for assistance through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Signup for this USDA program began Sept. 11, 2019.

"U.S. agriculture has been dealt a hefty blow by extreme weather over the last several years, and 2019 is no exception," Perdue said. "The scope of this year's prevented planting alone is devastating, and although

these disaster-program benefits will not make producers whole, we hope the assistance will ease some of the financial strain farmers, ranchers and their families

are experiencing. President Trump has the backs of our farmers, and we are working to support America's great patriot farmers."

More than \$3 billion is available through the disaster relief package passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in early June. WHIP+ builds on the successes of its predecessor program, the 2017 Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) that was authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Source: USDA



Research on new pest

A relatively new pest — the Bermuda grass stem maggot — is plaguing Texas hay producers this season, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

However, new research from Texas A&M AgriLife is helping growers better manage this pest.

"Previously, there was no information on how damaging this insect was to hay production and thus no guidelines on when an insecticide was needed to protect

yields," said Allen Knutson, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Dallas. "Our field research documented that for each percentage of stems with stem maggot damage, there is a potential loss of 8.9 pounds (lb.) of hay per acre."

Using data from fields in North Texas, Knutson and Forrest Mitchell, Texas A&M AgriLife Research entomologist in Stephenville, developed guidelines as to when an insecticide treatment is justified based on the cost of treatment and value of hay.

Source: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Cattle Industry Convention seeking interns

A fun, rewarding and engaging opportunity is available for college students

wanting to attend the 2020 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 5-7, 2020. A team of interns — who are vital to the success of the largest annual meeting in the U.S. beef cattle industry — will gain firsthand experience and interact with leaders of every segment of the cattle and beef industry.

Up to 18 interns will be selected for this opportunity. They will be



assigned to help many different staff members and attendees with meetings and events and should be prepared to handle a wide range of responsibilities, from setting up the indoor arena, assisting at committee meetings and Cattlemen's College to posting on social media and contributing in the NCBA booth. NCBA will strive to provide students time to maximize industry networking for the interns.

Students must be able to work Feb. 2-7 in San Antonio. They must be at least a junior-level college student at an accredited university at the time of application. Preferably they will have a background in, or

working knowledge of, the cattle and/or beef industry, and must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA).

Deadline for applying is Oct. 11, 2019. Find more information at www.ncba.org.

Source: NCBA

China imposes additional tariffs

China's announcement of imposing additional tariffs on \$75 billion of U.S. imports on Aug. 23, signals concern for American agriculture.

The United States exported \$19.5 billion of agricultural products to

China in 2017. Agricultural exports to China were reduced to \$9.1 billion in 2018 because of retaliatory tariffs, and exports were already down in the first half of this year by \$1.3 billion.

On Sept. 1 the country raised tariffs on American soybeans from 25% to 30% and on pork from 50% to 60%. On Dec. 1 they will increase tariffs on corn, sorghum and wheat from 25% to 35%. AJ

Source: AFBF and NFU

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Bob Seely, WY – "This product has been invaluable. It makes the job of doctoring and tagging calves significantly safer. I am grateful for the Calf Catcher for making the process easier!"