

BEEF BUSINESS

by Julie Mais, editor

In this month's "Beef Business," we present industry news about new leadership and innovations along with celebrations and expansions.

Center for Digital Agriculture

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has announced the creation of the Center for Digital Agriculture (CDA), a new center that brings together agricultural producers, researchers and industries to innovate on the technology that is transforming agriculture to feed and support a growing global population. The center, which launched Oct. 8 at the CDA Industry Conference, seeks to develop digital solutions to agricultural roadblocks.

Source: University of Illinois

NCBA announces leadership changes

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced two significant leadership changes in September.

The NCBA executive committee confirmed Colin Woodall to serve as the association's new CEO. Woodall, who was named after an exhaustive national search, managed NCBA's efforts in Washington, D.C., for more than a decade. Since joining NCBA in 2004, Woodall has been instrumental in ensuring the interests of NCBA members and the beef community, are well represented in the nation's capital.

Originally from Big Spring, Texas, Woodall graduated from Texas A&M University. Following graduation,

he worked both as a grain elevator manager and sales manager for Cargill at several locations in western Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle before moving to Washington, D.C., to work on Capitol Hill.

Ethan Lane will serve in the role of Vice President, Government Affairs. In his new role, Lane will guide NCBA's policy efforts in Washington, D.C., where he has extensive experience advocating on behalf of cattle producers. Lane has been serving as executive director of the Public Lands Council (PLC) and NCBA Federal Lands.

Lane is a fifth-generation Arizonan, with 18 years of experience in natural resource and land use issues. Prior to his tenure with PLC and NCBA, he owned and operated a consulting firm specializing in natural resource issues.

Source: NCBA

KLA celebrates 125 years

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), founded in 1894, is celebrating its 125th birthday in 2019.

Association members will celebrate this milestone in conjunction with its 107th annual KLA Convention and 48th Trade Show, Dec. 4-6 in Wichita, Kan.

A group of more than 100 Flint Hills ranchers who met in Emporia to discuss cattle theft and unreasonable railroad freight rates started the organization. Today, KLA has 5,600 members from all 105 Kansas counties

and 40 states. Cattle theft continues to be a challenge, and today's issues in the transportation arena are electronic logging and limited hours of service (HOS) for truckers, which put livestock being hauled at risk.

"KLA has been advocating for its members at the Kansas Statehouse and on Capitol Hill since its earliest days," said KLA Chief Executive Officer Matt Teagarden.

Source: KLA

Kentucky ag deals with worsening drought

In October much of Kentucky was still dealing with temperatures in the 90s. Coupled with the driest September since the 1800s, Kentucky farmers know something must give.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than half of Kentucky is in the severe drought category and some areas of southeastern Kentucky are now into the extreme drought category.

"This is the first time since 2016 that any portion of the state has been placed under the extreme category," said Matthew Dixon, agricultural meteorologist for the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Impacts on the agricultural side are numerous, and unfortunately we'll start seeing some longer-term impacts of this drought."

Water is important for all crops, but especially for soybeans. Late-

crop or double-crop soybean producers are taking a big hit. Many of the plants may not be harvestable because there's simply no seed in the pods in many cases.

Source: University of Kentucky

Renewable fuel action crucial for farm economy

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Oct. 4 announced a series of actions designed to ensure the future of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall said the organization is pleased the administration is returning integrity to the Renewable Fuel Standard while ensuring the policy will continue to provide economic opportunities in rural America.

Source: AFBF

Cattle Industry Convention registration open

The Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show is Feb. 5-7, 2020. It will be hosted at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information visit <https://convention.ncba.org/>.

Source: NCBA

Plan to expand biofuels

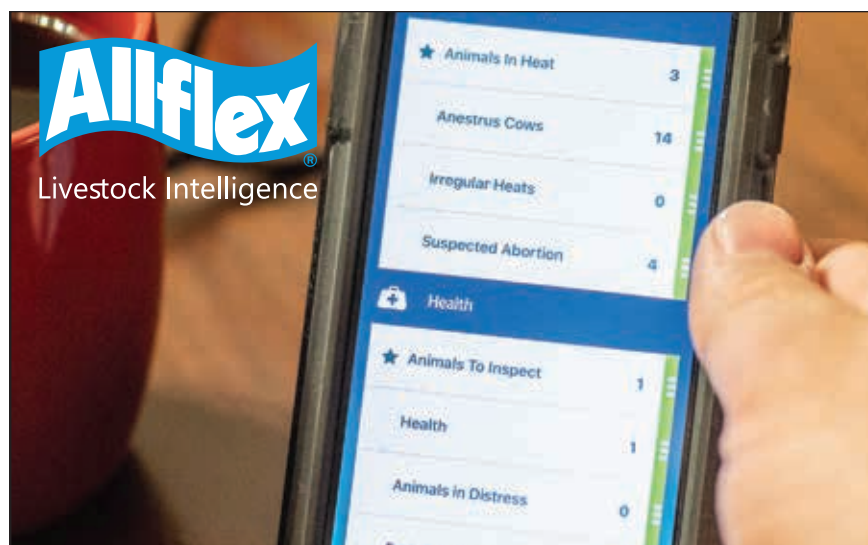
After several months of negotiations and much fanfare, the EPA and the USDA announced a broad plan to offset a portion of the 4 billion gallons of demand for biofuels eliminated due to the ongoing misappropriation of small refinery exemptions (SREs). More specific details will be rolled out, but EPA is expected to release a supplemental proposed rule that would add about 1.35 billion gallons to its annual

biofuel blending quota for 2020.

Under the RFS, 15 billion gallons of corn ethanol and 2.4 billion gallons of biodiesel are required to be blended into transportation fuel. However, EPA has waived that requirement for 85 oil refineries over the past three years, a rate quadruple that of the previous administration.

As a result, the amount of corn ethanol and biodiesel in the transportation sector during that time has been under the benchmark, representing a 1.4 billion bushel decline in demand for corn and an 825 million bushel decline for soybeans.

Source: National Farmers Union



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