



Beef Business

► A look at current issues affecting the cattle industry. Compiled by **Shelby Mettlen**, assistant editor

Administration proposes tax reform plan

On April 26, top officials in the Trump administration released their proposal for comprehensive tax reform, calling it the “biggest tax cut in U.S. history.” The plan is designed to serve as the starting point as Congress and the administration work to pass a comprehensive tax reform package this year.

Danielle Beck, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) director of government affairs, said the administration included in the proposal immediate repeal of the “death tax” — a priority for NCBA.

“Permanent repeal of the death tax has been a priority for cattlemen and women for decades,” said Beck. “Since the death tax was implemented nearly a century ago it has not only failed to meet the misguided goals set by Congress, but has threatened the existence of many multi-generational farms and ranches.”

The tax reform proposal comes on the heels of an executive order (EO) signed by President Trump on Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America. The EO establishes an Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Policy and contains specific policy goals aimed at supporting

rural agriculture, economic development, job growth and infrastructure improvement, including:

Promoting the preservation of farms and agribusinesses as they are passed from one generation to the next, including changes to the estate tax and the tax valuation of family or cooperatively held businesses.

Source: NCBA.

President Trump signs executive orders to boost rural America

President Trump is sending a clear signal that he is interested and engaged in helping boost rural America. With the executive order signed on April 26, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue will chair a newly established Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity, charged “to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts agriculture and rural communities.”

Craig Uden, NCBA president, said he is glad to see Trump’s engagement.

“We are appreciative for President Trump making agriculture a high priority right out of the gate,” said Uden. “With Secretary Perdue in office and the establishment of this task force, we are in a strong position moving forward to develop policy that will

bolster our rural economy rather than the continuous overregulation we have recently faced.”

Trump has specifically asked the task force to look at issues that have been high priority for NCBA — such as needed changes to the death tax and the protection of private property rights.

“The rural farm economy has suffered with a drop in net farm income and increasing regulatory environment. This is a great step forward to putting rural America back into focus and addressing the issues that have negatively impacted our industry over the years.”

Source: NCBA.

Culver’s kicks off second year of #FarmingFridays

Following the success of last year’s #FarmingFridays social content series, Culver’s has again invited agricultural influencers to share photos and videos depicting their passion for and knowledge about agriculture. #FarmingFridays is part of Culver’s Thank You Farmers initiative, which recognizes the hard work and commitment of the farmers who feed the nation.

New for this year, #FarmingFridays will extend throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons on five different Fridays, beginning April 28 and ending Nov. 3.

Here is the #FarmingFridays schedule:

April 28: Katie Pratt — Pratt is a fourth-generation Illinois family farmer and blogger who participates in ag literacy programs to teach kids about farming.

June 9: Cristen Clark — Clark is an Iowa farmer who raises corn, soybeans, cattle and pigs, and blogs about food and family.

July 21: National FFA Officer Team — Leaders of the national youth organization made up of 649,355 student members focus on agricultural education and career readiness.

Sept. 22: National Association of Agricultural Educators — Ag teachers from the organization will share what a day in the life of an ag educator looks like.

Nov. 3: Peterson Farm Brothers — The brothers (and one sister) are Kansas farmers who create farm-themed YouTube videos and share their farming stories on social media.

To date, Thank You Farmers has raised more than \$1 million in support of the

National FFA Organization and Foundation, local FFA chapters and a variety of local agricultural organizations. To learn more about the program and how to get involved, visit www.culvers.com/farmers.

Source: Becky Vollmer for Culver's.

Trump administration hosts historic White House ag roundtable

Fourteen farmers and ranchers from across the country met at the White House April 25 with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue for a roundtable discussion. The meeting, hosted the day Perdue was sworn into office, included a discussion on pressing issues for American agriculture, such as trade, labor, regulatory reform and rural infrastructure. At the discussion, Trump signed an executive order establishing the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity.

The roundtable discussion allowed representatives from all corners of American agriculture to raise concerns and share ideas, just as the task force begins its mission “to promote economic development and revitalization, job growth, infrastructure, innovation and quality-of-life issues for rural America,” according to the president’s order. The session capped a busy first day in office for Perdue, who was sworn in by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture before greeting employees at the USDA and travelling to the White House for the roundtable.

Attendees at the meeting included:

- ▶ Luke Brubaker of Pennsylvania, dairy farmer and chair of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board
- ▶ Hank Choate of Michigan, dairy farmer
- ▶ Tom Demaline of Ohio, president of Willoway Nurseries and vice chair, AmericanHort
- ▶ Zippy Duvall of Georgia, beef cattle and poultry farmer, president, American Farm Bureau Federation
- ▶ Valerie Earley of Minnesota, recent graduate of the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; National FFA officer (central region vice president), 2016-2017

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- ▶ Lynetta Griner of Florida, owner/operator of Usher Land and Timber, president of the Florida Forestry Association
- ▶ A.G. Kawamura of California, third-generation fruit and vegetable grower and shipper from Orange County; former secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; current board member, Western Growers Association
- ▶ James “Cookie” Lamb of North Carolina, hog farmer
- ▶ Bill Northey of Iowa, corn and soybean farmer and secretary, Iowa Department of Agriculture
- ▶ Jose Rojas of Colorado, vice president of farm operations at Hormel Foods

- ▶ Terry Swanson of Colorado, owner of Swanson Farms
- ▶ Maureen Torrey of New York, fresh market vegetable farmer
- ▶ Steve Troxler of North Carolina, farmer and commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- ▶ Lisa Johnson-Billy, former member of the Oklahoma state house, small-farm background

The event is a historic occasion, as it is believed the last time such a diverse group of farmers met with a U.S. president this early in an administration was prior to the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Source: NCBA and USDA.

USDA announces funding for Food Safety Outreach Program

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced \$4.8 million in available funding to develop and implement food safety training, education, extension, outreach and technical assistance projects. This funding, offered through the Food Safety Outreach Program and administered by NIFA, will address the needs of owners and operators of small to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.

“This has been an excellent collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,” said NIFA Director Sonny

Ramaswamy. “We’ve successfully expanded the program’s reach through establishment of a National Coordination Center and four regional centers across the U.S.”

The Food Safety Outreach Program supports projects that encourage participants from local communities, community-based and nongovernmental organizations, universities, extension, state and federal agencies that develop and implement food safety outreach programs. These programs facilitate the integration of Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) food safety guidelines into a variety of agricultural production and processing systems, including conventional and organic systems. New projects will focus on, but are not limited to, addressing knowledge and resource gaps for

Angus Media to offer coverage of BIF Symposium

The University of Georgia recently hosted the 2017 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium and Convention May 31-June 3 at the Classic Center in Athens, Ga.

The conference opened with a Young Producers Symposium on Wednesday, May 31, designed to network and equip young cattle producers with essential knowledge as they grow their role in the business.

Other key sessions focused on the importance of genomics in beef improvement and profitability in the cattle business. The conference wrapped up with a tour on Saturday, June 3.

Angus Media will provide online coverage of the event at www.bifconference.com.

Source: BIF.

the target audience in the areas of pre- and postharvest water testing and sampling, soil amendments, and developing supply chain programs and/or food safety plans. The program continues to fund projects that develop bilingual and culturally appropriate training resources.

Eligible applicants include:

- ▶ The Cooperative Extension Service for a U.S. state or territory;
- ▶ Nongovernment organizations and/or community-based organizations representing owners and operators of

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farms, small food processors, or small fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers that have a commitment to public health and expertise in administering programs that contribute to food safety;

- ▶ Federal, state, local or tribal agencies;
- ▶ An institution of higher education [as defined in Section 101(a) of the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) or a foundation maintained by an institution of higher education;
- ▶ A collaboration of two or more eligible entities.

The deadline for applications is June 6, 2017.

See the request for application for details at <https://nifa.usda.gov>.

Source: USDA NIFA.



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2017 ARSBC symposium set for Aug. 29-30 in Manhattan, Kan.

Make plans now to attend the 2017 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC) symposium Aug. 29-30. Hosted by the Kansas State University (K-State) Animal Sciences and Industry Department and K-State Research and Extension, the event will be headquartered at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Manhattan, Kan.

Considered the premier national event in beef cattle reproductive management, the meeting has a long history of providing the latest information on the application of reproductive technologies and includes a range of topics related to cow herd reproduction, such as nutritional interactions, management and male fertility.

The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in beef cattle reproduction, including producers, technicians, veterinarians and professionals in related industries.

Program details have not been released for this year's program, but check back to www.appliedreprostrategies.com and watch for future announcements. Extensive online coverage of past meetings can be found at the Newsroom Archive of the site. The meeting is organized by the Beef Reproduction Task Force, a multi-state Extension group made up of specialists from K-State, the University of Missouri, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University, the University of Florida, the University of California–Davis, the University of Idaho and Oregon State University.

The Beef Reproduction Task Force hosted the first ARSBC symposium in 2002 at Manhattan, Kan. Since that time, symposia have been conducted at 16 locations across the United States.

"We are looking forward to bringing this meeting back to Kansas," says Sandy Johnson, K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry associate professor and extension beef specialist.

For questions about the event, contact Johnson at sandyj@ksu.edu or 785-462-6281.

Source: Beef Reproduction Task Force.

