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Texas Cattle Groups Talk Trade with USTR Trade Rep

By: Jeralyn Stephens, NCBA Communications Intern

Yesterday, February 24, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) made their presence known at an international trade meeting in Austin. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples was joined by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to host this round table discussion focusing on the pending free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

TSCRA President Dave Scott was in attendance along with several leaders in Texas agriculture. Initially, Scott made it known that TSCRA and its members support the free trade agreements. If these three trade agreements are to pass, U.S. exports are said to increase by at least \$13 billion and thousands of jobs will be created.

“TSCRA strongly supports free and fair trading rules in the global marketplace for goods and service. Bilateral trade agreements can benefit many exporting and importing nations resulting in fairer trade rules for all producers and consumers,” Scott said during the round table discussion.

Renewing U.S. beef exports with China and the ongoing trade dispute regarding allowing Mexican trucks on U.S. roadways were also topics discussed during the meeting. Scott encouraged Kirk to make the Mexico trucking issue a significant subject to the U.S. government. He said the Mexican trucking dispute directly affects Texas agriculture because the boarding regions lack access and the ability to export agricultural commodities. An international trade meeting like this one brings a promising light to U.S. and Texas agriculture, specifically the beef cattle industry.

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