Senators urge USDA, HHS to keep lean meat in Dietary Guidelines

Submitted by Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association A cohort of mostly GOP Senators is calling on USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services to make sure lean meat is included in the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

In February, a panel of nutrition experts - the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) released a report suggesting a healthy diet consisted of lower quantities of lean meat. inflaming meat and livestock groups eager to defend their products. The release of the report was part of a process that takes place every five years to update the http:// www.cnpp.usda.gov/ DietaryGuidelines , which dictate federal food policy and nutrition recommendations. Ever since, many legislators and lobbyists have been expressing their anger at the decisions of the DGAC and calling into question the scientific legitimacy of their findings.

In the letter, 30 senators Agriculture encourage Secretary Tom Vilsack and HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell to consider the most relevant nutritional research, which the lawmakers contend will cause them to ignore the DGAC's suggestion to decrease lean meat consumption as they write the final guidelines. They also advise the secretaries to stick within the statutory purview for the guidelines - that is to consider nutrition and health and not "sustainability" - and to expand the comment period

past the customary 45 days. The period is currently set to expire April 8.

> Vilsack has said that he will work to color "inside the lines" on the language of the final report, which doesn't bode well for the sustainability language that the DGAC is recommending. He has also said he doesn't expect the recommendations concerning meat to be "fundamentally different" from previous editions of the Guidelines.

> The letter was signed by 29 Republican and Independent Angus King from Maine.

USDA extends ARC and PLC deadlines

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has provided farm owners and producers one additional week, until April 7, 2015, to choose between Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), the safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill. The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres also will be April 7, 2015.

"This is an important decision for producers because these programs help farmers and

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AON slates fundraiser

AON will be selling pans of Chicken Tetrazzini until April 6, 2015. Contact any AON member or you may call 325-473-1206. Orders must be paid for before April 6, 2015.

This fund raiser helps provide scholarships for graduating in May 2015.

ranchers protect their operations from unexpected changes in the marketplace," said Vilsack. "Nearly 98 percent of owners have already updated their yield and base acres, and 90 percent of producers have enrolled in ARC or PLC. These numbers are strong, and continue to rise. This additional week will give producers a little more time to have those final conversations, review their data, visit their local Farm Service Agency offices, and make their decisions," said Vilsack.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, April 6

Sausage roll, yogurt, juice,

Tuesday, April 7

Breakfast pizza, juice, milk Wednesday, April 8

Waffles, sausage, juice, milk

Thursday, April 9 Cheese omelet wrap, juice,

Friday, April 10

Cinnamon roll, juice, milk

<u>Lunch</u>

Monday, April 6

Chicken quesadilla, salsa,

salad, refried beans, applesauce,

Tuesday, April 7

Chicken fried steak, gravy, cream potatoes, green beans, strawberries, roll, milk

Wednesday, April 8

Chicken fajitas, salsa, corn, baby carrots, ranch, grapes, milk

Thursday, April 9

Popcorn chicken, cucumbers, French fries, peaches, roll, milk

Friday, April 10

Hamburger, garnish, French fries, peaches, milk

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Mark Your Calendars!! Saturday, April 11, 2015 Robert Lee Rec Hall 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm • \$5/Plate

A free supper will be enjoyed by anyone who brings a used pair of prescription eye glasses, in usable condition, to donate to the Lions.

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