



*The premier representative of the cattle industry since 1974*

**For More Information, Contact:**

Bill Hyman, Executive Director  
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas  
Office: 512.620.0162 / Cell: 830.857.3500

## **US and Korea Agree on Beef Trade**

**Lockhart, Texas – April 18, 2008 – For Immediate Release –**

U.S. and Korean officials recently announced that a trade protocol enabling the resumption of U.S. beef exports to South Korea has been established. For several years Korean and U.S. trade negotiators have worked diligently to establish a protocol for the importation of U.S. beef into Korea. U.S. negotiators were unwavering in their pledge that a free trade agreement with the U.S. and South Korea would not be considered until U.S. beef was allowed into the Korean market. Past Korean concerns over whether to accept only boneless beef had kept trade negotiations stymied.

“The announcement of a new trade protocol with Korea is a milestone for the beef producers and is a direct result of the entire beef industry working with government trade negotiators to achieve a goal,” said H.A. ‘Peanut’ Gilfillian, President of the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas. Gilfillian added, “The agreement could mean up to more than \$1 billion in additional beef trade for U.S. ranchers.” Marketing experts in the U.S. also believe that the agreement will place pressure on Japan and other countries to loosen current restrictions on U.S. beef.

The new protocol will allow all meat products from cattle less than thirty months of age to be shipped to Korea. Previously Korea only accepted boneless beef from cattle less than 30 months of age, but the more popular bone-in cuts of beef were excluded from trade along with variety meats.