NCA Recommends USDA’s Checkoff Proposal Be Withdrawn

The Nevada Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) submitted comments Dec. 3, 2014, addressing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack’s unilateral government beef Checkoff, additional to the existing Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 program. Vilsack’s Checkoff is under Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. NCA recommends the new beef Checkoff proposal be withdrawn. NCA joined 44 other cattlemen’s and stockmen’s affiliates in signing NCBA’s direct letter to Vilsack objecting to his proposal.

The creation and implementation of the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 followed two unsuccessful attempts in the 1970s and 1980s to create a mandatory national beef Checkoff. Extensive research preceding the 1985 Act determined producers wanted a fair, easy to administer Checkoff, maximizing grassroots and state level involvement, and that didn’t create more bureaucracy. The 1985 Act achieved those objectives through state beef councils, like the Nevada Beef Council (http://www.nevadabeef.org/), which are key components of the national Beef Checkoff Program, maintaining producer control which has been essential to program success.

NCA Past President Ron Cerri said, “I can understand …[Secretary Vilsack’s] frustration with our industry and our inability to come to an agreement amongst ourselves on [expanding funding for] the Checkoff. With that said, if the beef industry can’t agree on how the program should be run I promise you we won’t like the program Washington will create for us! The Checkoff is supported by producer dollars exclusively, not taxpayer dollars, therefore any changes to it should come from the beef industry not the federal government. Until then it should be left alone.”

The Federal Register Notice restricted comments to eight specific questions on how to form a new Checkoff. In answer to that restriction Missouri Cattlemen’s Association (MCA) Executive Vice President Mike Deering said, “We are completely opposed to this government takeover of the Beef Checkoff Program. We do not want to offer suggestions for a plan that is bad for cattlemen, bad for the industry and all-around bad government.”

NCBA President’s Letter: “Don’t Politicize Checkoff”

by Bob McCan, NCBA President

Over my past year as President of the NCBA, I have had a rare opportunity to look at all sides of the beef industry. And I have come to realize, that much like our country, the cattle industry has individuals and organizations that differ on their views of government involvement. By and large, the members of the NCBA, the members who I have represented this year, want less government involvement. They don’t want the government to pick winners and losers. They don’t want the government to tell them how to market their cattle, they don’t want the government to market their beef, and they sure don’t want the government to run their research, education and promotion. The government is distant and ineffective when it comes to doing the work of private industry.

But there are also those who do want the government to do all these things and more. They aren’t all of one mind, but they sometimes feel at a disadvantage, they are a minority and the easiest way to tip the scales toward the minority, is if the government steps in and throws off the balance. This is nothing new; the government has been picking winners and losers since the very beginning. One of the very first cases ever to come before the Supreme Court was McCulloch v. Maryland, where the fourth Supreme Court Chief Justice, Justice Marshall wrote that “the power to tax was the power to destroy.”

The government power to tax, regulate and legislate is unparalleled in our economy. And now there are some that are looking to that authority to again tip the scales in their favor to fix what they perceive as an inequity. Their policy positions have fallen out of favor with the majority, they have been dealt one loss after another, and they cling to a system of production that no longer exists or is no longer practical. And like a wounded snake, they lash out at everything that moves, in the hopes they can latch on to something with their remaining venom. The problem is, that never solves the issue, it only hurts the industry.

The National Farmers Union and other groups oppose NCBA’s member passed policy. That is fine; there is always room for dissent in organized debate and our government system works on adversarial positions where in the end the right outcome is found. But to bring your losses from the adversarial arena of policy and politics to the public arena of education is foul. Just because you lose, doesn’t mean the system is flawed, sometimes you’re just wrong.

Cattlemen and Women nationwide, benefit from a Beef Checkoff that is non-partisan and non-political. A Beef Checkoff that is administered by boards of producers at the national and state levels and overseen by the USDA. A Beef Checkoff where national organizations that meet the most basic of requirements have a chance to submit their proposals for national funding.

So next time you hear someone throw stones, ask them if they have submitted a contract, if they have had an opportunity to submit a name for the Beef Board, if they have sat in on these meetings and given input.

The National Farmers Union was an active participant in meetings of several national organizations working to enhance the Beef Checkoff Program and when the groups had agreed on a concept to discuss with their respective boards on enhancing the Beef Checkoff, National Farmers Union pulled out. That doesn’t sound to me like they ever intended to reach a compromise. Fact is, the rhetoric from the National Farmers Union has been so inconsistent on this issue it’s impossible to determine what they want. One thing is clear; they want to get rid of the current Beef Checkoff that is supported by 78 percent of beef producers, because they mistakenly think it will humidate the NCBA. You can disagree with our positions, you can deny our success, or you can join and craft policy, engage in debate, but do not use a program that benefits everyone in the cattle industry as a political battering ram for your personal or professional gain.
Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale

Saturday, February 14, 2015 • 11:30 AM

Sifting: Friday, February 13, 2015 • 7:30 AM

Fallon Livestock Exchange, Fallon, NV

Churchill Co. Cowbelles
Dinner/Dance

AND

FBS Invitational Stock Dog Trial

February 13, 2015

FBS Awards Presentation

Thursday, February 12, 2015:
Handlers Draw Party
Bonanza in Fallon

Friday, February 13, 2015
Handlers Meeting at 7:00 AM  Trial at 7:30 AM

February 13, 2015
Cow Dog Auction: Dinner at 7:00 PM

BENEFITS THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

For more information or a sale catalog, please call the Sale Office.
Nevada Cattlemen’s Association
775-738-9214  PO Box 310, Elko, NV 89803  nca@nevadabeef.org
DECEMBER 4-13, 2014
National Finals Rodeo
Las Vegas, NV.

DECEMBER 13, 2014
11th Silver State Classic Calf & Yearling Open Consignment Sale
Fallon Livestock Exchange, Fallon, NV. Jointly sponsored by NCA and the Fallon Livestock Exchange, NATIONALLY advertised. A portion of the Commissions from NCA members’ cattle sold through this annual event are returned to NCA. Contact Ron Torell 775 385 7665 or Monte Bruck 775 426 8279 for details.

DECEMBER 13, 2014
11th Silver State Classic Calf & Yearling Open Consignment Sale
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DECEMBER 15, 2014
Nevada Cattlemen’s Membership Due
Billing for Regular Beef Producers, Associate and a special mailing for Young Cattlemen Members

DECEMBER 24-25, 2014
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Merriest of Christmas and Happiest of Holidays is Our Wish for all Nevada’s Livestock producers!

JANUARY 1, 2015
New Year’s Day!
A Brand New Republican Controlled US Congress & Nevada Legislature! We not only believe in Miracles, we RELY on them!

JANUARY 8-9, 2015
Eastern NV Landscape Coalition’s WINTER WEED MEETING,
Tenth Annual Winter Weed Conference, Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, Nevada. Catalyst for Change: Opening the Conversation for Changing Nevada’s Noxious Weed Program
Breakout Pesticide Applicator Training on January 9, 2015, separate from the Weed Workshops. Contact Betsy Macfarlan for details: enlc@sbcglobal.net; 775-296-2289

JANUARY 13-14, 2015
Objective: to bring grazers, rangeland managers, and scientist to the table to discuss this important topic, this will hopefully result in the rangeland management modifications that improve rangeland conditions. Contact Mark Freese, (775) 688-1145 for more information.

JANUARY 22-24, 2015
Nevada Small Farm Conference
The Nugget, Sparks, NV
A premier gathering of Nevada farmers, ranchers, businesses, students, federal and state agriculture agencies, food policy advocates and many others involved in Nevada agriculture. Workshops and sessions will address a wide variety of topics relevant to the needs of Nevada’s farmers and a diverse range of those connected to Nevada agriculture. For more information contact Ann Louhela ann.louhela@wnc.edu or call 775-423-7565 ext. 2260. Learn more at the Nevada Small Farm Conference website http://nevadafarmconference.com/.

FEBRUARY 12-13, 2015
Fallon Bull Sale Invitational Stock Dog Trial
Benefits the fight against cancer
Fallon, NV
Thursday, February 12:
Handlers Draw Party at Bonanza in Fallon Friday, February 13, 2015
 Handlers Meeting at 7:00 a.m. • Trial at 7:30 a.m.
February 13, 2015
Cow Dog Auction: Dinner at 7:00 p.m.; Fallon Convention Center

FEBRUARY 13, 2015
Churchill Co. Cowbelles Dinner/Dance and Fallon Bull Sale Awards Presentation
Fallon Convention Center; Fallon, NV
Social Hour 5:30 p.m.; Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Dance 8:00 p.m.
Kathy Lofthouse, 775-423-5065

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2015
49th Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale
Fallon Livestock Exchange, Fallon, NV
Sifting Friday, February 13, sale February 14th
Show Your Love! Buy your Sweetie a Bull on Valentine’s Day! Contact: Sale Secretary Stephanie Licht slicht@nevadabeef.org or 775-738-9214 for more details.

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JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2015
National Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Elko, NV
The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is a week-long celebration of life in the rural West, featuring the contemporary and traditional arts of western ranching culture. Poetry, music, stories, gear, film, photography and food - all contribute to the texture of an event that has become an annual ritual and a place of personal meaning for thousands of people. See website for more information: http://www.westernfolklife.org/National-Cowboy-Poetry-Gathering/General-Information-on-the-Gathering/.

FEBRUARY 4-7, 2015
NCBA 2015 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show
San Antonio, Texas

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2015
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NCBA 2015 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show
San Antonio, Texas

NCA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen’s Association between October 24, and November 23, 2014. (New members are in bold.)
• Grant Groves
• Mack Land & Cattle, Brian Parks
• Neil McQueary
• Ira & Monti Renner, Zeke Renner
• Eric Rieman & Annalyn Settelmeyer
• Tom Ringkob
• Dave & Jane Secrist
• 2 U Ranch, Scott McLachlan
• The Wheeler Ranch, Frank R. Wheeler
During the November 3-5, 2014 Nevada Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) convention, Jon Griggs, manager of Maggie Creek Ranches, was recognized as the recipient of the NCA/American AgCredit Cattlemans of the Year. This award is the most prestigious award that NCA bestows upon one of its own. It was established to recognize NCA members who have made significant contributions to the NCA, their community, the land and the beef industry.

Born in a military family, Jon spent many of his youthful summers with his grandparents in Nevada. Working for area ranches as a cowboy, Jon was a quick learner. He always excelled in whatever was placed in front of him. It was on these Nevada ranches as a buckaroo that Jon began his lifetime love affair with agriculture and the range livestock industry. His strong work ethic and positive attitude has earned the respect of ranch owners, co-workers, neighbors, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service (FS), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), conservation groups such as Trout Unlimited, and the leaders of the livestock industry, such as those at NCA.

From buckaroo to ranch manager, Jon is well known for his cooperative nature. Elko BLM assistant district manager Tom Warren and Tuscarora BLM field office fisheries biologist Carol Evans have conveyed the positive cooperative nature of Maggie Creek Ranches with BLM and the on-the-ground results of that good working relationship. Case-in-point is the cooperative work highlighted as a side bar story to this article.

Nevada Division of Forestry commander Tom Turk and Dylan Rader, assistant fire management officer for Elko BLM District praised Jon’s leadership in the Fire Liaison program. “Jon was instrumental and on the ground floor of establishing our local liaison program (see second side bar story).” Jon Griggs has been an integral part of the formation and evolution of the Liaison Program since its inception in 1999. He has worked tirelessly with local, state, and federal government agencies as well as his neighbors and fellow ranchers to ensure the success of our local Fire Liaison Program. His work ethic and respect from others has been a driving factor in being able to recruit new members into the program. As these new members are added every year the program continues to evolve and become better,” concludes Turk and Rader.

Trout Unlimited research scientist Helen Neville, Ph.D., credits much of their success with the re-establishment of the Lahontan cutthroat trout to the cooperative work done between Maggie Creek Ranch and their organization. “Our partnership with Jon Griggs began in 2001 when we initiated a long-term fish monitoring study to track the response of Lahontan cutthroat trout to planned restoration activities on public and private properties in Maggie Creek. Over the years Jon has graciously allowed us access to his land for this work and has provided important on-the-ground insight and various forms of logistical support for Trout Unlimited field crews. Throughout our collaboration, now 13 years in the running, Jon has consistently supported the goals of the collaborative restoration in Maggie Creek and has had a keen appreciation of how habitat improvements that benefit trout also benefit cattle and thus the ranch’s bottom-line. More recently, he has partnered on our habitat assessment work in Susie Creek as well as a new (and fairly intensive) effort to install antenna structures on his private Maggie Creek properties to track fish movement. He has also participated in several important outreach opportunities to the ranching community providing key messages about how habitat restoration in both Maggie and Susie Creek has increased water and forage security for his operations. In short, we greatly appreciate the cooperation and support of Jon Griggs in helping us restore one of the largest remaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout — our state fish and an important component of Nevada’s natural heritage,” concludes Helen.

Connie Lee, NDOW private lands coordinator, has worked with Jon on numerous habitat restoration projects throughout the last several years. These have included native plant reseeding after fire, retrofitting fences to wildlife friendly standards, and most recently with funding from NDOW’s Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The LIP has protected and will continue to preserve a spring and outflow aquatic system that provides important habitat for the Columbia spotted frog which is native to Nevada and is also a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

From a manager’s standpoint, Jon works hard at keeping the land and natural resources of Maggie Creek Ranches in pristine condition believing that it is man’s responsibility to ranch in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. Under Jon’s leadership Maggie Creek Ranch is part of the Oregon Country Beef Marketing Alliance program and more recently initiated a direct marketing program of MCR freezer beef. Jon maintains an aggressive genetic improvement program on ranch cattle which includes buying quality bulls as well as an artificial insemination program on replacement heifers. Employee retention at Maggie Creek Ranch is unheard of in the ranching industry and can be credited to Jon’s managerial ability. Jon along with his wife Shelly, son Wyatt and daughter Mackie, reside on the Maggie Creek Ranch located west of Elko. Jon donates his time and talent to several community events and activities including the Ag in the Classroom program, 4-H and youth sports. He is also emergency medical treatment certified (EMT), holds a CDL license, is an excellent horsemanship, cattlemen and cow dog trainer/handler.

Neighbors and friends Mitch and Rhonda Heguy have nothing but praise for their neighbor to the west while employees Travis and Jennifer Whiteley enjoy the friendship and positive employee/employer relationship that continues to grow with each passing year. The Searle family, Jon’s employer and the owners of Maggie Creek Ranch, are delighted about the recognition given to Jon as NCA Cattlemen of the Year and praise his professional and personal performance both on and off the ranch.

NCA is a better organization because of Jon’s involvement. Along with having been in the officers’ lineup for years, Jon, through his many hours of donation, has served on many NCA committees including bull sale sifting, by-laws and resolution committees and executive committees. Additionally he has represented the livestock industry on many outside committees and issues that affect our livelihood. Jon brings calm and common sense to big issues with his pleasant way of communication and dry sense of humor.

As you can see the NCA Cattlemans of the Year award is more about character, work ethic, honesty, integrity, management, cooperation and stewardship of the land than it is about being a “good cowboy.” As leader of NCA it is my honor to announce this year’s recipient of NCA’s Cattlemans of the Year award: Jon Griggs. Jon received a custom-made western hat compliments of American AgCredit during the awards banquet at the NCA convention.

Through this monthly column our hope is to update those involved in the Nevada Livestock industry about the issues NCA is working on for our mission continues to be to promote, preserve and protect a dynamic and profitable Nevada beef industry. Should you like to visit with me or the NCA staff, please feel free to contact NCA at 775-738-9214 or my NCA e-mail address ncapresident@nevadabeef.org.
Maggie Creek Ranch and BLM Cooperative Efforts

by Tom Warren, Elko BLM Assistant District Manager and Carol Evans, Fisheries Biologist, Tuscarora BLM Field Office

Changes in stream and riparian habitat conditions along Susie Creek between 1991 and 2008 in response to prescriptive livestock grazing practices employed by the Maggie Creek Ranch. In May of 2014, the Susie Creek Cooperative Restoration Project was featured on the PBS program, Nature.

The Elko BLM District and Maggie Creek Ranch working cooperatively has been able to complete a number of range improvement projects that has resulted in improved riparian and upland vegetation.

Since the early 1990's, Maggie Creek Ranch has been a key partner in a collaborative effort to restore the Susie Creek watershed on both public and private lands with the goal of re-establishing Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed threatened species. Over 25 miles of Susie Creek and its tributary streams have been improved through a combination of fencing and application of prescriptive grazing practices. Improvement of stream and riparian habitat conditions has been dramatic and recovery is to the point where cutthroat trout will be released into the system within the next few years. As part of this effort, the Maggie Creek Ranch has worked with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to develop Safe Harbor Agreements for private lands and with the Elko District for development of grazing prescriptions and cooperative monitoring efforts within the Susie Creek Basin.

In 2005, the Elko District in cooperation with the Maggie Creek Ranch, Trout Unlimited and local mines worked to replace a problematic diversion structure with a new structure designed to provide for both upstream and downstream passage of fish including Lahontan cutthroat trout while still allowing for the irrigation needs of the ranch. In conjunction with constructing the new structure, the Maggie Creek Ranch has continued efforts to improve the condition of scotch thistle and Russian knapweed. These efforts are ongoing and involve cooperative noxious weed treatments public and private lands. Thanks to the cooperation of Jon Griggs we continue to expand our treatment efforts while maintaining our existing treatment areas. Through this cooperation we are able to see that our combined efforts are being effective which gives us even more of an incentive to expand our treatments to adjacent areas.

In addition to riparian and upland rangeland improvement through improved grazing management, ongoing cooperative noxious weed treatment work between Maggie Creek Ranch and the Elko District has resulted in effective treatment of thousands of acres of scotch thistle and Russian knapweed. These efforts are ongoing and involve noxious weed treatments public and private lands. Thanks to the cooperation of Jon Griggs we continue to expand our treatment efforts while maintaining our existing treatment areas. Through this cooperation we are able to see that our combined efforts are being effective which gives us even more of an incentive to expand our treatments to adjacent areas.

Jon Griggs
& the Rancher Fire Liaison Program

by Nevada Division of Forestry commander Tom Turk, and Assistant Fire Management Officer for Elko BLM District Dylan Rader

The Rancher Liaison Program was born after the 1999 fire season where notable incidents like the Sadler Complex affected multiple use stakeholders including sportsmen, landowners, ranchers, conservationists and recreational enthusiasts. The Sadler brought forth many issues including how large fires were managed and how the decision making process affected suppression and safety of the public, firefighters and resource values.

At the forefront were individual ranchers and stakeholders who needed to impress upon the agencies their concerns, local knowledge and right to be out on the fire line as volunteer firefighters protecting their communities and vested interests. Meetings were set up around the fire impacted areas of Northeast Nevada, namely Elko and Eureka Counties to identify shortcomings and provide solutions to them.

One individual who has represented and carried the torch for both the ranching community and the agencies is Jon Griggs. Jon has worked tirelessly to find the common ground in stopping and reducing damage caused by catastrophic wildfire. Jon’s cool head and logical approach to problem solving has united an otherwise bridged a gap between fire managers and local interests.

It was decided that local volunteer firefighters, many of whom are ranchers, best know their communities, and ownership as well as permittees that would make the best liaisons.

Jon coined a phrase, “these lands are our factory” in 2001 or 2002. His motive was to emphasize to incoming incident commanders that this is not just sagebrush and grass. Like timber, manufacturing or a factory, these lands provide the livelihood of families, employees, provides food and contributes to the local economy. Jon was soon present at many of the “in-briefing” of fire teams coming into our region to help with suppressing our large fires.

This program is a model for all rural areas of the Western States and thanks to Jon and many others, provides a realistic expectation while emphasizing local interests in stopping large wildfires.
Upcoming Video Sales

Thursday, January 8th
Cottonwood, CA
Catalog Deadline: Monday, December 29th

Thursday, January 29th
Tehama District Fairgrounds • Red Bluff
In conjunction with Red Bluff Replacement Female Sale

Watch & Listen to the Sale on the Web at:

WVMcattle.com

For details call (530) 347-3793 or the representative nearest you:

Brad Peek
(916) 802-7335

Gary Nolan
Elko, NV
(775) 934-5678

Steve Lucas
Paradise Valley, NV
(775) 761-7575

Mark Venturacci
Fallon, NV
(775) 427-8713

Or email us at wvm@wvmcattle.com
Look for the catalog and pictures on our website www.wvmcattle.com

Market your cattle with the professionals!
House Passes Nevada Lands Bills, Again, As Part of Defense Spending Bill

Submitted by Brian L. Baluta, Communications Director, Congressman Mark Amodei (NV-2)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – [December 4, 2014] a historic package of Northern Nevada lands bills – six introduced by Rep. Mark Amodei (NV-2) and one by Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-4) – passed the House again, this time as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), in a move intended to help the Senate finally bring the legislation up for a vote in the waning days of the 113th Congress. Also included in the defense spending bill was Rep. Horsford’s Tule Springs legislation for Southern Nevada.

“In the House, I’m confident that we’ve exhausted regular order for these Nevada bills, with each of the provisions, in one form or another, passing out of committee and the full House two or more times,” said Amodei. “While their inclusion in the NDAA is not my preference, I am pleased that the Senate has found time to take up these worthy bills in the second to last week of Congress, which is more than can be said for hundreds of bills passed by the House. Although there is some opposition in the Senate to the inclusion of the legislation in the NDAA, I am hopeful the support exists for final passage when the Senate is expected to vote next week.”

The following measures important to Nevada were included in the NDAA and passed by the House, and if passed by the Senate:

H.R. 433, Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act, designates approximately 26,000 acres within the Blue Lakes and Alder Creek Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) as the Pine Forest Range Wilderness Area and releases approximately 1,000 acres of the existing WSA lands. The bill would also direct the BLM to exchange federal lands surrounding nearby ranches for private parcels within the existing WSAs to allow for management of public lands and ensure the economic viability of privately owned ranches.

H.R. 696, Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act, enables the City of Yerington to partner with Nevada Copper to purchase, at fair market value, and develop approximately 10,000 acres of BLM land surrounding the Pumpkin Hollow project site for industrial, recreational, and infrastructure purposes. The bill would also designate approximately 48,000 acres in Lyon County as the Wovoka Wilderness Area.

H.R. 1167, Restoring Storey County Act, transfers surface rights to approximately 1,745 acres of BLM land in Virginia City to Storey County to resolve conflicting ownership and title claims.

H.R. 1168, Carlin Economic Self-Determination Act, conveys to the City of Carlin approximately 1,400 acres of BLM land surrounding the city for the purpose of multi-use development.

H.R. 1169, Naval Air Station Fallon Housing and Safety Development Act, transfers an approximately 400 acre BLM parcel within the confines of the Fallon NAS to the Secretary of the Navy to be used for housing Navy families and provides needed flexibility to grow the base.

H.R. 1170, Fernley Economic Self-Determination Act, conveys to the City of Fernley approximately 9,114 acres of BLM and Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) lands within the city boundaries at fair market value for the purpose of multi-use development.

H.R. 2015, Las Vegas Valley Public Land and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act, establishes Nevada’s first national monument and conveys BLM land suitable for economic development in Clark and Nye Counties, additions to the Great Basin College in Pahrump, College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) campuses, the creation of the Nellis Dunes OHV park and an expansion of Nellis Air Force Base.

H.R. 2455, Elko Motocross and Tribal Conveyance Act, conveys to Elko County and the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada approximately 275 acres of BLM land to be used as a motocross, bicycle, off-highway vehicle, or stock car racing area.
Range Monitoring APP and Workshops

Submitted by Tina Mudd,
Range Health Program - Plant Industry,
Nevada Department of Agriculture

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is in the process of developing a Range Monitoring App built on the EDD Maps West, weed mapping app (www.eddmaps.org). The Noxious Weed Program is experiencing extreme success with this app and is working to make a similar application available to Nevada ranchers and land managers.

This app will incorporate the UNR UNCE “Ranchers Monitoring Guide” principles to put range monitoring at ranchers’ fingertips. The app uploads to the EDD Maps server and layers can be marked “private” for landowner privacy. Additionally, the landowner can log in and print monitoring summaries with photos for their records. Also, with the assistance of the NDA Range Program, if the landowner chooses, maps with topographic, land use and other features can be generated for the land owner. This program and its user friendly access will assist landowners in developing improved records of their land use and increase their ability to become part of the “co-operative, collaborative” conversation(s) with land use decision makers. This app will also allow those who are conducting rangeland health improvement projects to document project progress, from fence markers and escape ladders to pinion juniper removal and riparian fencing.

The workshops are designed to educate landowners about the App as well as provide basic monitoring training and encourage landowners to attend the UNCE Range School for Landowners/Permittees. The workshops will be held at ranches throughout Nevada. NDA will organize the workshop at an interested landowner’s ranch, in turn for that landowner committing to bring their neighbors (the goal is at least 8-10 ranchers per workshop). Should the rancher choose not to utilize the app, rangeland monitoring instruction will be provided and useful to attendees. See the accompanying Rangeland Health Program Monitoring Assistance Submission Form and/or for additional information contact: Tina Mudd, tmudd@agri.nv.gov.

Rangeland Health Program Monitoring Assistance Submission Form

Please complete the following Monitoring Plan Submission Form (Form) for the Rangeland Health Monitoring Program. All Partners must sign the Form to assure their commitment to the Monitoring Plan and to its implementation. Requests for participation should be sent to Tina Mudd, NDA 401 S. 21st Street Sparks, NV 89431 or via email: tmudd@agri.nv.gov at least two weeks prior to the intended monitoring date. The Monitoring Program is on a first come first serve basis.

If you have access to supporting documentation such as previous monitoring locations and data, please prepare to share that data with your assigned range monitoring person.

Name of Allotment to be Monitored (list all):

Requested Monitoring Date:

Requested by (please print):

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ________________

Address: _________________________ Email: __________________

Does Existing Monitoring Data Exist?: (circle one) YES NO

Do you have access to this data or can you obtain this data by the scheduled monitor date requested? (circle one) YES NO

The NDA Rangeland Health Monitoring Program is designed to educate and assist landowners with establishing a self-monitoring program. NDA will assist in establishing monitoring plots, or locating plots previously utilized by land management agencies with the intention that the landowner or permittee will maintain consistent monitoring into the future based on their objectives.

Signed: _________________________ Date: ________________

For Office Use Only:

Received (date): __________ Assessment Scheduled For (date): __________ By: __________________

Draft: V.1_10292014
It’s a privilege to be in the Red Angus business and we sincerely appreciate the support of our fellow breeders and customers. Happy Holidays!

Watch For Information on Our March 7, 2015 Bull Sale
Nevada Cattleman’s Association Offers Quality Workers’ Compensation Program to Nevada’s Ranch and Farm Owners

The Nevada Agricultural Self Insured Group sponsored by The Nevada Cattleman’s Association offers an affordable workers’ compensation option to the standard insurance market for Ag related businesses with employees in Nevada.

Created for the sole purpose of providing Nevada’s Agricultural community with a viable workers’ compensation option, The Nevada Agricultural Self Insured Group provides employers with:

- Lower Stable Rates (20% to 60% savings over standard market)
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Congressman Amodei Needs Permittee Support!

On October 27 Congressman Mark Amodei met with about 50 people in the Humboldt County Commission Chambers to hear from constituents about how the Drought EA and BLM’s application of that document was affecting their ranching businesses. Concluding that meeting Amodei requested as many grazing permit holders as possible please submit their stories to him on how Permittees AUM’s and allotments have been impacted by BLM decisions. Some may be reluctant to submit comments and stories for fear of retaliatory action when permits are up for renewal.

Nevada ranchers have wanted someone to do something for the past 4 decades. Amodei needs evidence that something needs to be done because without hard evidence of economic impact or damage to individual and/or community stability, or of other questionable actions against Permittees on federal lands, there is no reason to request a Congressional Field Hearing in Northern Nevada. Without enough strength in numbers to warrant looking into a potential problem Congressional Field Hearings won’t happen. Somewhere a graph exists showing significant reductions from 1970’s cattle and sheep numbers … many points on that graph representing producers now out of business.

Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl wants to remind everyone to, “… write Congressman Mark Amodei asking for a Congressional Field Hearing concerning the economic hardships caused to ranchers because of present BLM practices.” Dahl continued, “…Your personal experiences are important and will help the Congressman as he works to schedule this hearing in Northern Nevada. Without enough letters being sent there will not be a hearing. The sooner Congressman Amodei receives your letter the sooner he can move forward with this effort…Thank you for helping to make this field hearing a reality.”

NCA appreciates distribution of this information to any and every one holding a BLM grazing permit. BLM has been able to divide and conquer ranchers over the past four decades… now may be the right time in history to stand together to portray a true economic picture of the plight of the Nevada Livestock industry. Ask yourself, shall we stand together or be just another dot on a downward trending statistical graph?

Thank you in advance for quickly submitting your letters and stories to show what cattlemen and cattlwomen have been individually facing for more than 4 decades.

Connecting all these stories will show the compounded effects of federal agencies on our ranching community across a huge expanse of federal lands.

Please send stories to Amodei’s Rural Representative (address below) or to his Carson City home. Letters and stories can be faxed (be sure to include all your contact information: address, telephone and email address) to (775) 753-9984.

Congressman Mark Amodei

Congressman Mark Amodei
Attn: Megan Brown
905 Railroad Street, Suite 104 D
Carson City, NV 89703-3751
(775) 777-7705

Direct Ag Sales To Schools, Ag In Classroom Help Sought by NV Dept. of Agriculture.

Submitted by Maddie Rehn, Farm to School Coordinator, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Maddie Rehn, the new “Farm to School Coordinator” at the Nevada Department of Agriculture is gathering information from Nevada producers to try to connect them and their agricultural products to use in their local schools. Maddie also wants to know about producers’ level of interest in Farm to School educational activities in helping tell the story of Nevada’s agriculture in their local classrooms.

The process is being facilitated by an on-line link to a survey Maddie put together asking about direct market products available all over the state. The link to the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NV_F2S_Survey which takes about 10 to 15 minutes and needs to be completed by Monday, January 5th, 2015. The payoff for completing the survey will be an entry into a drawing for a Buy Nevada Silver Level Membership!

Maddie is excited about expanding Nevada’s Farm to School program for both providing producers a local market for their products and for additional connections between ranchers and farmers and their local consumers who are heavily influenced by what children learn and experience in school.

Nevada’s Farm to School program is at: http://nutrition.nv.gov/Programs/Farm_to_School/Farm_to_School_Program/.

Maddie can be contacted at mrhen@agri.nv.gov or by phone at 775-353-3616 if you want to know more about Farm to School. For more information on Buy Nevada, visit http://buynevada.org/
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RANGE Magazine Writer Reveals
EPA: A Story of “…Fraud and Deceit...”???

RANGE Magazine has a dandy article in Winter 2015 that validates what many of us out here in the West, and in businesses across the nation, have felt down deep in our guts all along – there is an “Anatomy of Corruption” present in the EPA, which leads one to ponder on the possibility this might also be the case in other federal agencies.

Dr. Michael Coffman, PhD, authors a splendid piece called, “Secret Science” in which the masks are ripped off and the ugly underbellies are exposed, verifying ineptitudes, environmentalist infiltration, cronyism, fraud, lies, corruption, lust for power, data manipulation, sue-and-settle boon to environmental elitist groups, corruption breeding corruption, yada, yada, yada... better than the grocery check-out tabloids because ALL THIS STUFF IS TRUE – AND HAS BEEN IMPACTING ALL OF OUR LIVES FOR DECADES!!! There is even reference to a 67-page Senate Minority Report of the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled, “EPA’s Playbook Unveiled: A Story of Fraud, Deceit and Secret Science” described as, “riveting, very well-documented”.

Here is a direct quote from the article that might serve as an enticement that goes, “For nearly 20 years and without any environmental experience, John Beale rode roughshod over every air quality standard set by the EPA, using unscientific secret data that he denied anyone else access to, while shutting down any criticism from anyone. His actions are costing the nation hundreds of billions, even trillions of dollars. Worse, he is costing families their jobs and a dramatically...” now you will have to go to the article and read it...

If for nothing but the satisfaction of saying to ourselves, “I Told Ya So!” at least go on-line and cruise through this easily read piece that blows the doors off of a few of those infamous backroom, dirty dealings: http://rangemagazine.com/features/winter-15/range-wi15-secret_science.pdf.

The article additionally cites other RANGE articles that serve as companions to and support for this great story. Take a few minutes, go to the website and print the pdf copy – pass it around to your friends. I know it will be part of the Holiday Cheer at My House! ♥

Next Congress: More Positive Outlook for Cattlemen

The November midterm election results held a reason for Republican celebration who gathered at least 15 more House seats and at least eight Senate seats to change the pace in the federal legislative branch. Republicans were finally able to gain control of both houses even though a few House seats and the Senate seat in Louisiana were still not decided.

Colin Woodall, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) VP of Government Affairs, feels the midterm results will give the cattle industry “a much more optimistic view of what we can do” on several issues in the new Congress, including the Grazing Improvement Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rewriting of the “waters of the U.S.” definition, tax reform and trade promotion authority. “So, given [the Republican] increase in seats in the House and Republican control of the Senate, the results bode well across the board for the cattle side,” Woodall says.

Beef Magazine conducted an on-line poll at their website (www.beefmagazine.com) the week following elections asking visitors to assess the meaning of the results. Of 100 respondents, 88% said it was “a repudiation of Obama’s policies,” while an equal percentage (6%) either didn’t know or believed the Republican gains were “a vote against incumbents.”

In business for 20 years, NCBA’s political action committee (NCBA PAC) supports candidates based on their record of support for cattle and the beef industry. NCBA PAC used $856,000 of NCBA member voluntarily contributed funds to Congressional candidates who are for the beef industry in this election cycle. “We were in the middle of all the Senate races where there were pickups by the Republicans. We were in early in most of those races and, in just about every single one, we maxed out our giving. We made sure we gave them the most we could legally to try to help these candidates,” Woodall explained. ♥
“Tax Extenders Package” Passes House 378-46

Colin Woodall, NCBA VP of Government Affairs reported that the U.S. House Wednesday in late afternoon discussion agreed to extend by a 378-46 vote a host of expired tax provisions, including higher section 179 expensing levels, retroactively for 2014. H.R. 5771, “The Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014” aka the “Tax Extenders Package” is a one-year extension of many of the tax credits that expired at the end of 2013—reauthorizing them for calendar year 2014.

Specifically, Section 179 Expensing and Bonus Depreciation are restored to the 2013 levels (Sec 179 = $500,000 expense of up to $2 million capital purchase) (Bonus Depreciation= 50% depreciation in first year). The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. There is still some debate in the Senate over supporting a one or two year bill. NCBA has been a strong supporter of renewing the tax extenders. While a longer-term tax code would be nice cattlemen cannot afford to let this slip into 2015. Time is running out and producers need the Senate to act.

All agriculture has closely watched the section 179 provision, which in previous years has allowed farm businesses to take the full depreciation deduction of items in the current tax year, with a maximum deduction of $500,000 and a phase-out threshold of $2 million. Scheduled to fall to $25,000 with a $200,000 phase-out for 2014, the House’s bill will return the deduction to previous levels for the 2014 tax year.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp said a one-year extension was a way to move forward though many thought the bill should go through the end of 2015. While the one-year extension was the best solution for the situation at hand, many voiced the opinion that tax issues should be discussed earlier in the year. Aside from higher Section 179 deduction levels, the bill also provides for bonus depreciation and the biodiesel tax credit.

National Cattlemen’s Foundation Accepting Applications for Beef Industry Scholarship

Applications for 2015-16 beef industry scholarships sponsored by the CME Group are now being accepted. The CME Group is where the business world comes to manage risk by offering the widest range of global benchmark products across all major asset classes, helping businesses everywhere mitigate the myriad of risks they face in today’s uncertain global economy.

Ten scholarships of $1,500 each will be awarded to outstanding students pursuing careers in the beef industry. Students studying education, communication, production, research or other areas related to the beef industry should consider applying for the scholarship. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or full-time undergraduate student enrolled at a two or four year college.

The National Cattlemen’s Foundation administers the program. Applicants for the 2015-16 scholarship will be required to write a one page letter expressing future career goals related to the beef industry. They also must write a 750 word essay describing an issue in the beef industry and offering solutions to this problem.

Applications should be submitted by Dec. 19, 2014 and sent to National Cattlemen’s Foundation, 9110 E. Nichols Ave., Suite 300, Centennial, CO 80112. The winning recipients will be announced on Jan. 15, 2015.

For more information visit www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.
It's hard to believe that December is already upon us. At the Nevada Beef Council, we enjoy this time of year for many reasons – getting together with loved ones for holiday toasts (not to mention those delicious holiday roasts) and enjoying the magic of the season are part of what make our spirits bright. We also like to pause and reflect on what we're grateful for as another year comes to an end, and as we do so, we can't help but give thanks to the beef producers in Nevada and throughout the country who work hard, day in and day out, to provide food for our families.

Thank you for all you do!

**Beef’s Time to Shine**

There's no question that many occasions throughout the year just wouldn't be complete without a delicious beef meal. What's better than a grilled burger or steak as you're celebrating Independence Day, or succulent prime rib served during a special family gathering? And who can resist a bowl of savory beef stew as the leaves turn and summer fades to fall?

Despite the many good reasons we have throughout the year to enjoy a steak, burger, or other beef dish, it can be argued that the holiday season is beef's time to shine. Consider, for example, that from September to December of 2013, sales of the most popular oven roasts (including Tri Tip, ribeye, sirloin tip, bottom and top rounds, and others) totaled a whopping 100.9 million pounds nationally. What's even more impressive is that this was a 5.6 million pound INCREASE from 2012.

To help consumers have the perfect beef meal this holiday season, the NBC and Beef Checkoff Program nationally are providing helpful resources to consumers in partnership with retailers across the nation. Holiday roast brochures, which provide cooking tips and times, easy recipes for roasts and other beef cuts, and other helpful information, will be available at select stores through December. In Nevada specifically, the NBC is partnering with Raley's and Save Mart stores in Reno, and Food4Less and Smart & Final stores in Las Vegas to share these helpful brochures.

**Social Media Enhancement**

Have you checked out the NBC's Facebook page recently? If so, you might have noticed a significant jump in the number of the Facebook fans – from fewer than 100 earlier in 2014 to nearly 1,200 by the end of November!

That's no accident. The NBC is putting an enhanced focus on social media engagement and outreach, with an eye toward growing the consumer audience who engage with the NBC through social media sites like Facebook.

According to NBC manager of consumer communications Annette Kassis, using social media properties to interact with consumers online allows the NBC to share key, relevant, day-to-day content, as well as provide an avenue for an open dialogue about issues that are important to consumers.

"Engagement with our target audiences – in this case, specifically the older millennial – begins with the content we share through our online and social media properties," says Kassis. "We know, based on market research, that this audience likes beef and sees beef as having value, but they also have questions about things like how to select, store and cook beef, how to fit it into a busy lifestyle, and various aspects of the production process. Being able to have a conversation about these issues and broaden awareness about various aspects of beef are critical components of our social media strategy."

In addition to the NBC’s social media properties, the Beef Checkoff’s “Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner” branded social media properties also provide a way for consumers to engage with and learn more about the beef community on a national level. The @Beef Twitter page currently boasts nearly 13,000 followers, and the Beef’s Time to Shine Facebook page has approximately 880,000 total likes.

**National Spotlight: 30 Day Protein Challenge**

Did you know that consuming protein in balanced amounts at each meal is more beneficial to improving the impact of higher protein intake on health and wellness? Some of the benefits of distributing protein throughout the day include feeling satisfied after a protein-packed meal or snack, which helps reduce mindless eating. Additionally, meals with high-quality protein (like lean beef) help to build muscle and reduce body fat.

Yet, despite these benefits, Americans today either aren’t getting enough protein throughout the day, or consume most of their total daily protein intake at dinner, according to market research.

With that in mind, the Beef Checkoff program recently launched a “30-Day Protein Challenge”, which provides a simple step-by-step program to help consumers change the way they eat protein. By making simple changes over 30 days, consumers can start feeling the positive benefits of eating 25-30 grams of protein for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The challenge is currently being rolled out to a select group of influencers throughout the country, and will be available for consumer participation in January 2015. Stay tuned for more details!
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