49th Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale, February 14, 2015

A Mid-Winter, Ranchers’ Vacation Getaway!

By Stephanie Licht, Executive Director

I’ve heard many a “Cowboy’s Sweetheart” claim the only way to get a “vacation” away from the ranch is to spend time together, “...at a Bull Sale!” If that sounds familiar we definitely encourage you guys AND gals to bring your “Sweetheart” to the 49th Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale coming up Saturday, February 14 – yes, on Valentine’s Day - beginning at 11:30 a.m. where you can give your best pal or gal a great (sale) ring at Monte Bruck’s famous Fallon Livestock Exchange on Trento Lane – one of the premier destinations in, “Fallon - The Oasis of Nevada!”

Over 100 high-quality range-ready bulls are consigned. Hereford bulls from Nevada, Utah and Idaho represent the Bell Ranch, Phil Allen & Son, Daniels Hereford Ranch, and Hawley Harrison & Sons. Angus bulls from California, Oregon, Utah, Nevada and Idaho are coming from Edd Price, the Hone Ranch, Flying R J Ranch, Wild West Angus, White Angus, Dana & Rena Weishaupt, Steve Smith Angus, Rose Ranch – Travis Smith, Robison Ranch LLC, Westwind Ranch Angus, Potter’s Emmett Valley Ranch, Amador Angus & Farms, Schafer Ranch, Ocampo Cattle Company, Cardey Ranches, and the El Rancho Espanol de Cuyama. 7 Lazy 11 Murray Greys are making the trek from Nevada. California and Utah are sending Charolais from the Broken Box Ranch and H. B. Cattle Company, so there’s plenty of excellent breeding stock from which to choose.

Bull Sale Chairman Chris Gansberg, Vice Chair Tom Armstrong and Sale Vet Dr. Randy Wallstrom, DVM in company with other top notch cattlemen on pre-sale sifting and grading teams assure quality in one of the best Bull Sales in Nevada. The Fallon Bull Sale Committee and the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association sincerely appreciate the loyal consignors and buyers who have supported this sale for 49 years.

Other sincerely appreciated significant partners include, Bernard J. Petersen and Bruno Bowles of the Great Basin Ranch/Southern Nevada Water Authority, donors of the yearling 2015 Angus Replacement Heifer “Raffle Calf”; Louie Damonte and the Damonte Ranch for a “Dues Donation” calf; generous donors and sponsors including Larry Lester of Hoof-Beat Gates and Corrals for the Raffle panels; the Best of Breed Award Plaques/Hats, and ear tags from John Keithly of Pinenut Livestock Supply; the Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority; our supportive trade publications The Progressive Rancher and The Nevada Cattlemen; the Bonanza-Super 8; the Comfort Inn-Fallon; the Holiday Inn Express; the Churchill County FFA and office volunteers directed by Kristine Moore, and many others laboring behind the scenes.

Keeping the western romance alive is the ever popular Invitational Stock Dog Trials shepherded by Billy Lewis and Gaylene Hybarger. A Handler’s meeting at the Bonanza-Super 8 at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12 precedes the Stock Dog Trial at 7:30 a.m. Friday morning. Three started Stock Dogs will be auctioned off Friday night after the Annual Dinner.

Speaking of dinner, another highlight of this exciting mid-winter vacation getaway is the Churchill County Cowbelles’ spectacular Dinner-Dance at the Fallon Convention Center on Friday evening. Tickets are $15.00 and dinner reservations can be made through Kathy Lofthouse at Lofthouse@aiinc.com or (775) 423-5065. “Social Hour” begins at 5:30 p.m., the Welcome and Bull Sale Breed Awards will be at 6:00 p.m., Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m...

Finally, the object of your Mid-Winter Affectionation, the 49th Fallon All Breeds Valentines’ Day Bull Sale will begin Saturday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. Seasoned Auctioneers Eric Duarte and Monte Bruck will keep things moving along with help from ringmen Mark Holt, Terry Cotton and Logan Ipsen.

Special room rates are available from Holiday Inn Express (775) 423-6031, Comfort Inn (775) 423-5554 Code: LFBS, and Bonanza-Super 8 (775)428-2588 but you must mention you are with the Fallon Bull Sale when you make reservations.

Olde Time Comedian W. C. Fields once said, “There comes a time in the affairs of man when he must take the bull by the tail and face the situation.” If the Fallon Bull Sale is the only way a vacation is coming your way, we hope you will grab that tail and head on over. Like Fletcher Jones says, “[Wel’ll] see ya’ here!”
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 1, 2015
New Year’s Day!
A Brand New Republican Controlled US Congress & Nevada Legislature!
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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
Nevada Section, Society of Range Management
“Grazing Management for Fine Fuels & Annual Grass Ranges, Exploring the Science and Strategic Plan Development,”
Carson City, NV – 7 CEU’s available.
Objective: to bring grazers, rangeland managers, and scientists 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/.

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

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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Churchill Co. Cowbelles
Dinner/Dance

AND

FBS Awards Presentation
February 13, 2015
Fallon Convention Center
Social Hour 5:30 PM  •  Dinner 6:30 PM
Dance 8:00 PM
Kathy Lofthouse, 775-423-5065

See Our 2015 Catalog online

FBS Invitational Stock Dog Trial
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

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Sifting: Friday, February 13, 2015  •  7:30 AM
Fallon Livestock Exchange, Fallon, NV
Kentucky Cattlemen Trail West

There are stark differences when comparing Nevada to Kentucky. Nevada has a land mass of over 110,561 square miles of which 735 square miles or 0.66% is surface water. Kentucky has a land mass of 39,728 square miles and has more navigable miles of waters than any other state in the union with the exception of Alaska. Eighty-seven percent of Nevada’s land area is federal land. All but one percent of Kentucky’s land area is privately owned. Nevada is the driest state in the nation with an average annual precipitation of 9.5 inches. Kentucky’s annual precipitation stands at 40+ inches per year. Kentucky is known as the Blue Grass State due to the good grass its rich soils and moisture supports (a renewable resource). Nevada is nicknamed the Silver State for its rich non-renewable ore bodies. It is also sometimes known as the Sagebrush State for its pervasive sagebrush/grass rangelands. So what do Kentucky and Nevada cattlemen have in common? Eleven Kentucky livestock producers recently traveled to Nevada to find out.

The Nevada Cattlemen’s Association together with Newmont Mining Corporation and Elko Land and Livestock teamed up in late October to showcase northern Nevada and its livestock and gold industries to our eastern counterparts. The educational goal of hosting the tour was to expose our eastern friends to public lands grazing and Nevada agriculture. Every tour stop showcased Nevada agriculture and reflected a true picture of agriculture in a public lands desert state.

Dan Gralian, Nevada Cattlemen’s Association past president and Elko Land and Livestock ranch manager, along with Jeff White, vice president of Elko Land and Livestock and director of renewable resources, hosted a tour of the T Lazy S Ranch in Battle Mountain. The historic T Lazy S Ranch was founded in the early 1870’s. This 400,000 acre cattle ranch is owned by Elko Land and Livestock Company (ELLCo) which is a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont), one of the largest gold mining companies in the world. The TS Ranch is one of four ranches owned and operated by Newmont and ELLCo. These ranches are run as sustainable, rangeland livestock operations.

Kentucky cattlemen observed thousands of freshly weaned calves located at the T Lazy S feedlot facility in Boulder Valley. The process of weaning, sorting and culling into truckload lots for marketing is totally different from what the Kentucky tour participants deal with at home. Most in Kentucky let the local sale barn wear the statewide average size herd of twenty-seven calves. Diesel smoke and yellow line weaning are the standard management and marketing practices in their state.

Cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) was among one of the topics of discussion during the tour. Dan Gralian and Jeff White were able to show and discuss a fall grazing study being conducted in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the University of Nevada, Reno. The study is looking at ways to reduce fuel loads and seed banks of cheatgrass utilizing grazing animals and supplements in the fall of the year. The result is fire hazard reduction of our rangelands and facilitated release and/or establishment of perennial grasses. Other public lands topics of discussion during the tour included feral horses, Greater Sage-grouse, catastrophic range fires, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

Lunch time brought the tour to the T Lazy S feedlot corrals and chute. Participants had an open discussion that included livestock production issues, working facility design and the Cattlemen’s Association size and structure. Noticing pipettes left from recent Trichomoniasis testing of ranch bulls brought up the “common to Nevada” subject of trich. Kentucky tour participants had never heard of trich. Tub design and hydraulic chutes were not new to our guests, however, none of them or their neighbors utilized either which are commonplace in Nevada. The Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association has a membership of over 10,000 while Nevada struggles at maintaining a membership count of 500. Nevada struggles to maintain 450,000 head of cattle on inventory with many herd sizes of 600 to 800 head while Kentucky maintains a herd inventory of 2.15 million head with an average herd size of 27 head. Kentucky ranks fourteenth for national cattle inventory while Nevada stands at thirty-seventh.

Our Kentucky guests also took in a tour of Newmont’s Gold Quarry Mine operations north of Carlin where Lisa Becker, senior external relations representative with Newmont, explained the entire non-renewable resource extraction, production and marketing process of gold and silver. The Kentucky group certainly got exposed to the multiple use concept of public lands as well as being educated on the obstacles of ranching in the Silver State. As a result of the tour and discussions, the authors reaffirmed our view that we, as land users and managers, need to continue and increase our efforts in getting accurate information out to the general public and our eastern counterparts about responsible public lands grazing and multiple use concepts.

So what do Kentucky and Nevada cattlemen have in common? We share a love and respect for the land, the outdoor, and for the ruminant as a method to harvest our most plentiful renewable natural resource – grass. We also value good stewardship that ensures sustainability of the resources enabling production of food and fiber in balance with the land. We share a mutual desire to protect our way of life which supports both rural and urban communities. The Cattlemen’s Associations and Farm Bureaus of both states work hard to do that. Nevada and Kentucky cattlemen share similar concerns relative to the political climate as it pertains to production- agriculture. Cattlemen from both states are astounded at the political accomplishments of extreme environmental and animal welfare groups such as PETA and the Humane Society of the United States. Issues common to both states are the inabilities to properly manage and harvest horses, predation of livestock, urban sprawl, water quality and the general publics disconnect to the land and basic understanding of where food in the grocery store actually comes from. As the Kentucky guests boarded their vans their comment to the tour host was, “We are appreciative of your efforts at being good stewards of our public lands and are sympathetic to the common problems our industry faces. We have much in common.”

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 Ron or the NCA staff, please feel free to contact NCA at 775-738-9214 or Ron’s NCA e-mail address ncapresident@nevadabeef.org.
Upcoming Video Sales

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Wednesday, April 8th
Visalia, CA

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Market your cattle with the professionals!
11th Annual Fallon Silver State Classic: Continued from page 1

the livestock business.

Good weather smiled upon auction consignors and buyers alike. Slightly cooler temperatures kept all present awake enough to see many lots of quality cattle pass through the ring. As usual Jim and Gale Kerr’s “Squeezy’s Café” kept everyone well fed, especially during a little lull in the sale when sold cattle needed to be properly sorted out back. A little coffee break was welcome, and the tasty desserts added to the day’s pleasantries.

The Silver State Classic is a fundraising project for NCA sponsored by FLE each of the past ten Decembers. A portion of the commission earned from NCA members cattle sold at the sale is donated back to the NCA to fund ongoing Association staff and activities that promote, protect and benefit the Nevada beef industry.


Brand Inspector Elaine Jones getting ready for trucks.

Lighter weight Charolais crossbred calves of similar type and weight, varied in color.

Office Manager “June” keeps records in line.

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SUMMARY: Christmas Presents From Congress
Plenty of Great Gifts to Help Public Lands Operators

Excerpts by Dustin Van Liew, Executive Director PLC

FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act – Provisions Important to Nevada Livestock Industry
(Including specific funding levels and congressional direction through rider language; $M=million; $B=billion; WHB=Wild Horse & Burro)
• Bureau of Land Management – Management of Lands and Resources - $970,016,000 total budget
  ♦ (BLM) – Funded at $1.12B : Range Management @ FY14 level - $79 M (+$4M over President’s request)
  ◊ Wild Horse and Burro funding @ FY14 level - $77M; BLM to consider sterilization as a tool for population control of WHB
  ♦ BLM directed when possible, to make vacant grazing allotments available to a grazing permit holder when lands in their current allotment are unusable due to drought or wildfire.
  ♦ $10M for range improvements (not more than $600,000 for administrative expenses)
  ♦ $19,746,000 for land acquisition in California, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana
  ◊ Oregon and California Grant Lands - $113,777,000
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Management - $1,207,658,000 total budget
  ♦ Not to exceed $20,515,000 for implementation of subsections a, b, c and e of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Of that, not to exceed $4,605,000 used for any activity regarding the designation of critical habitat
  ♦ Other: Construction - $15,687,000; National Wildlife Refuge Fund - $13,228,000; North American Wetlands Conservation Fund - $34,145,000; Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation - $3,660,000; Multinational Species Conservation Fund - $9,061,000; State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - $58,695,000
  ♦ Land Acquisition – $47,535,000, to come from the LWCF to carry out the LWCF Act of 1965.
  ◊ Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - $50,095,000 ($22,695,000 to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and of which $27,400,000 to be derived from LWCF.)
• National Park Service – Operation of the National Park System - $2,275,773,000 total budget
  ♦ National Recreation and Preservation - $63,117,000; Historic Preservation Fund - $56,410,000; Construction - $138,339,000; Land Acquisition and state assistance - $98,960,000; Centennial Challenge - $10M; Administra-

Continued on page 10
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FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act –
Provisions Important to Nevada Livestock Industry

Nevada

SEC. 3009 - NORTHERN NEVADA LAND CONVEYANCES. — Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to Yerlington, Nevada, subject to the agreement of the City, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land identified on the map located in Lyon County and Mineral County, Nevada.

The agreement transfers a number of BLM land parcels to various jurisdictions in the state of Nevada. Under the measure, these jurisdictions must pay fair market value for those lands. Specifically, the bill transfers:

- Approximately 10,000 acres to the city of Yerlington; Approximately 1,300 acres to the city of Carlin; Lands and a reversionary interest to the city of Pernley; 1,745 acres to Storey County; 275 acres to Elko County for use as a motorcross, bicycle, off-highway vehicle or stock car racing area, or for any other public purpose consistent with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and 400 acres of land adjacent to the Naval Air Station Fallon for the Navy to develop housing. The measure also puts into trust 373 acres of BLM-administered land for the Te-Moak Indian Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada and makes it part of their reservation.

SEC. 3064. PINE FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS — In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the approximately 26,000 acres of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the Map, is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to be known as the “Pine Forest Range Wilderness.”

- 26,000 acres of BLM land in Humboldt County, Nev., as the Pine Forest Range Wilderness

- Grazing of livestock will be allowed to continue if already established, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers to be necessary in accordance with the Wilderness Act, and the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs accompanying HR 2570 of the 101st Congress.

SEC. 3066. WOVOKA WILDERNESS — In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Federal land managed by the Forest Service, as generally depicted on the Map, is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to be known as the “Wovoka Wilderness.”

- Approximately 47,500 acres of BLM land in Lyon County, Nev., as the Wovoka Wilderness

- Grazing will be allowed to continue if already established, subject to reasonable regulations, policies and practices as the Secretary considers to be necessary. (Report language accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress)

SEC. 3067. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS — Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Withdrawal Area is withdrawn from all forms of—(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) operation of the mineral laws, geothermal leasing laws, and mineral materials laws.

- Withdraws 10,000 acres of land adjacent to the Wovoka Wilderness

SEC. 3092. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT — In order to conserve, protect, interpret, and enhance for the benefit of present and future generations the unique and nationally important paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources and values of the land described in this paragraph, there is established in the State, subject to valid existing rights, the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. (B) BOUNDARIES.—The Monument shall consist of approximately 22,650 acres of public land in the County identified as “Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument”, as generally depicted on the Map. Establishes a 22,650-acre monument outside Las Vegas as the Tule Springs National Monument. The area contains thousands of fossils of Ice Age mammoths, bison, American lions, camels and sloths. 

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Friday, February 27, 2015

Tentative Schedule of Events
Wed & Thurs, Feb 25-26, 2015
Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial

Friday, February 27, 2015
Stock Horse Challenge & Horse Sale Preview
Winnemucca Invitational Bull Sale

Saturday, February 28, 2015
Ranch Hand Rodeo
Professional Wild Horse Racing
Ranch, Rope & Performance Horse Sale

Sunday, March 1, 2015
Ranch Hand Rodeo
Professional Wild Horse Racing

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A number of things have happened quickly since the new Congress and President Obama apparently hit the ground running — for a little while. However, all either has done so far is confirm what we suspected on January 1. Tuesday’s State of the Union address will apparently confirm the early trends. The tax “reform” rumors which we had said last year would probably to Obama mean tax increases or new taxes is already being previewed as a key feature of Obama’s agenda.

But first, some notes on the last bits of 2014 setting the stage for 2015.....

True to recent form, Congress rolled up a dozen or so spending bills into one giant omnibus bill and passed it at the last possible minute. We oppose these omnibus bills on principle, because it circumvents the process and does not force thorough debate on each department’s budget and goals. It leads to more spending. Passing a giant omnibus spending bill allows lots of stuff to slip through.

However, if there is no real budget voting process, restraint can be applied afterwards through Congressional spending oversight. In this omnibus bill, at least some Congressional oversight — in the case of prohibitions on department spending — worked to the advantage of free market livestock producers on key issues: mCOOL, a proposed new checkoff, WOTUS - Epa’s “Waters Of The U S”-, GIPSA, sage grouse and Clean Air permits.

Without getting into the weeds, the law directed USDA and USTR to work out COOL compliance with WTO rules no later than May 1, 2015; it stopped the new checkoff proposal; continues prohibitions on implementation of the livestock GIPSA rule; directs that EPA “shall withdraw the interpretive rule,” but does not force a full defunding of the WOTUS - Epa’s “Waters Of The U S” - rule; enacts greater sage grouse prohibitions, including rules for subspecies and regions; forbids any action requiring Title V Clean Air permits for CO2, NO2, water vapor or methane emissions from livestock operations and prohibits requiring greenhouse gas reporting related to manure management.

There was also a prohibition regarding the Dietary Guidelines folks, that they were to stay out of non-nutrition, non-health issues like sustainability. But it did not go as far as instructing the advisory committee to adhere to scientific evidence. More on that in a later column, as the signs of what the committee will recommend for red meat consumption are absolutely dumbfounding, given current scientific evidence.

These are very welcome roadblocks for the administration but they are just that — temporary reprieves giving you the voter time to ask Congress for permanent fixes. Congratulations to the livestock and farm groups that worked to get these halts in the bill. These are the first signs of Congress taking oversight responsibilities seriously since the first GIPSA prohibitions years ago. All of these issues will require constant pressure to reach final resolutions. Keep the pressure on your Congressmen. (Emphasis added.)

Speaking of women in politics .... new Iowa U.S. Senator Joni Ernst... [will] deliver the Republican response to President Obama’s State of the Union. That’s even before she gets a chance to replace one of the most liberal farm state senators we disagreed with the most — Sen. Tom Harkin....

Overall, there are some encouraging signs on the general political front. Despite the way the Republicans have been acting, they did win the recent election. Hopefully, they will figure that out before next year, when re-election campaigns begin....

There have been glimmers of Congressional oversight, in areas like the EPA and Interior — think coal, power plants... government scandals and WOTUS - Epa’s “Waters Of The U S” -. It will be very helpful that HARRY REID IS NO LONGER Senate majority leader. Most specifically, Harry will not be there to block more consideration of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). There will still be Democratic opposition to TPA. The President has again indicated he wants to see some trade deals but we’ve learned not to trust what he says when he’s talking. With TPP and TTIP negotiations entering critical phases, the livestock industries need TPA — both for our export efforts but also to boost the overall world economy so more people everywhere can afford our products. This is probably the item animal agriculture needs most likely to happen in 2015.

We’ve heard some rumbling about Canada sitting on its hands regarding TPP but the possible agricultural hurdles Canadian cattlemen have mentioned to us involves dairy marketing mechanisms and support. Hopefully, Canada is just playing their cards close to their vest and will saddle up once the U.S. grants TPA and the final negotiating rounds can begin in earnest. We’d hate to see pressure to out Canada from TPP as some have hinted.

Sources tell us both House and Senate staffers are hard at work on TPA legislation and it should be introduced soon. Some Democrats are reluctant, given their ties to liberal thinking and labor unions. Trade advocates are hoping the President will give a nudge to those folks during his State of the Union message, especially certain senators who are not free traders.

Perhaps the best new news we’ve heard is that negotiations with Japan are going well. Prime Minister Abe is determined to get his economy going and sees trade as a key tool. But he is also using the cause of the overall Japanese economy and increased trade as a lever to reform the structure of Japan’s agricultural system — something no past Japanese leader has been able to do. If that goes well, a streamlined, lower cost (lower tariff) system will benefit both Japanese consumers and American beef producers.

Even some Republicans in recent years have wavered on free trade so voters shouldn’t assume that if a politician is a Republican, he/she is an automatic “yes” vote. We need to be able to sell each part of our carcasses to the market that will pay the most for it. In addition, trade not only boosts the overall economy but free exchange of capital and ideas brings in new investment capital and companies from other countries that employ people here. Last we checked, over six million Americans worked for companies owned by foreign companies.

The bottom line is that the freest trade possible lays the bounty of the world at the feet of our citizens at the lowest possible cost. Who else should the government serve?

As for mCOOL, 2015 should finally see resolution, with specific direction from Congress to fix it. WTO appeals expiring and punishing retaliation looming if USDA and USTR don’t get it together. Canadian cattlemen eagerly await a final resolution to the mCOOL debacle. U.S. packers could use more cattle to stave off more shift trimming or plant closings. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost on both sides of the border — all for nothing.

While export markets have held up well, we need tariff relief to make our products more affordable worldwide. We need access to new markets. And while the world economy is not as strong as the anemic U.S. economy, there is demand for American meat products.
Desert Tortoise Saga, Sage Hen Next?

As Reviewed By Stephanie Licht, Executive Director

In a Keith Rogers November interview appearing in the Las Vegas Review Journal late December, former citizens’ committee member Harry Pappas revealed some interesting views on his personal experiences observing those committee activities related to the “threatened” Desert Tortoise. The full article provides a “behind the curtain view” and can be found at: http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/desert-tortoise-troubles-blamed-ravens-other-large-birds. On reading the article I learned:

Nevada Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich who served from 1983 to 1997, appointed Harry Pappas to fill a seat on behalf of outdoor sporting interests on a Southern Nevada BLM Citizen Advisory Council in the mid-1980s, long before the “Mojave population” of Desert Tortoise was listed as “threatened” under the ESA in 1990.

One of the problems in “saving” the Desert Tortoise was dislocation by Las Vegas Valley land development. Thus, the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center was born, filling in as a holding, transfer and research resource for Tortoises removed from the land, where “cooperators” could come to understand the biology of the dry-land terrapin so projects could be designed aimed at species recovery. Another purpose of this “state-of-the-art” facility was to prepare rescued, and the thousands of tortoises which had become backyard pets now being abandoned, for release back into restored habitat. By 2013 there were as many as 1,400 animals in captivity.

Clark County established a Citizens’ Committee to come up with ways to protect the “threatened” not “endangered” Tortoise habitat enabling an end run around “protection” status by allowing “takings”, “collections” or “adoptions” – or just plain destruction as land was cleared by bulldozers for metropolitan expansion. The Citizens’ Committee progressed by finding methods of protecting habitat for many species beyond just the Tortoise.

Pappas served on both the BLM and Citizens’ Committees up to the time he discovered Tortoises were being dumped at the Conservation center to the point of overflow, and were then being “euthanized”, especially those contracting severe respiratory disease.

During one of the Las Vegas Citizens’ Committee meetings back in the ’80’s Pappas remembers wildlife biologists bringing 45-gallon trash bags full of baby Tortoise shells gathered from areas where Ravens either roost or nest, having been pecked to death by the predators.

Pappas couldn’t help but wonder if what was being said by government biologists about the Tortoise’s “threatened” state was correct, and posed questions during the meetings wanting more information related to predation. Pappas said little thought was given the matter and the subject quickly changed to the next item of business, the objective of getting past ESA rules so land development could continue.

In retrospect Pappas said the human activities such as development and livestock grazing might not have been the serious threats to Desert Tortoise as were being portrayed. Other biologists found young Tortoises being eaten not only by birds but also by coyotes, rattlesnakes, foxes and even feral dogs. Considering evidence presented Pappas thought that Ravens, Magpies, other birds of prey and predators might be the real threats to Desert Tortoise survival. And after three decades of watching many different events unfold there is some speculation that the Desert Tortoise was being used by federal agencies as a ploy to restrict access to federal lands.

All sorts of human activities have contributed to the explosion of Raven numbers across rural deserts. Fences, transmission lines and other man-made objects have provided roosts from which Ravens attack Tortoises in the south and Sage Hen nests across central and Northern Nevada. Over the past 4 decades some estimates are that Raven populations have multiplied by 300% across the U.S., and could have proliferated in Nevada by as
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College Student Scholarships for PLC’s Legislative Conference

The Public Lands Council is once again offering two Nick Theos scholarships of $250, complimentary hotel accommodations on Capitol Hill, and complimentary conference registration to attend the annual Spring Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., March 23-26, 2015.

In an effort to get more college students involved with PLC and provide them with an unforgettable learning experience, PLC is offering this chance to meet members of Congress and their staff; attend meetings with agency officials; and hear from the leading experts and influencers in the industry. Scholars will be able to actively participate in our efforts to promote and support public lands grazing in our Nation's Capital.

Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in public lands ranching. We ask that they complete the attached form and include a letter of recommendation from a teacher or professor, FFA mentor, livestock association, or other leader that can attest to the professionalism and interest of the applicant. If selected, applicants should be prepared to give short remarks to meeting attendees during lunch on Tuesday, March 24th. PLC will provide hotel rooms and registration fees. Sponsorships to help cover travel costs are encouraged.

Application and letters of recommendation are due by close of business Monday, Feb. 2, 2015 (to meet the PLC deadline of Friday, Feb. 6, 2015) at the Nevada Cattlemen’s office (775) 738-9214. The PLC Executive Committee will select the two recipients and PLC staff will notify them by Friday, February 13th.

Nick Theos PLC Scholarship Program 2015 Application Form

Please submit by February 6, 2015 to mschlup@beef.org or Public Lands Council 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20004

Name of Applicant: ____________________________________________________________

Name of Organization/Individual whose recommendation letter is enclosed: ______________________________________________________

Applicant SSN# (for Capitol/Agency security):________________ Birthdate:________________

Home Address: _______________________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________________

Telephone:__________________________ Cell:_____________________________________

Name of School:________________________ Grade/Year in School:____________________

Major(s)/Minor(s),if applicable: ___________________________________________________

List up to three careers or occupations you are considering:

List school activities or work you have done that helps qualify you for the scholarship:

Describe in 200-300 words why you are an eligible candidate and why you are interested in attending the PLC Spring Legislative Conference (use additional pages, if necessary):

Attachments may include resume and letter(s) recommendation.

Southern Nevada USFWS biologists estimate Tortoise populations at around 650,000, and admit that Raven predation has been a known threat for decades, but say that respiratory disease was a major consideration in listing.

Given Mr. Pappas eyewitness account of the Desert Tortoise issue related in the full article, when compared with the federal agency activity regarding Sage Hen, one can only wonder if my Mother wasn’t right when she said, “There’s nothing new under the Sun...Some things never change...”
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

68th Annual
Technical Training & Trade Show

January 31-February 6, 2015   Sacramento Convention Center


At the Fallon Bull Sale
2/14/15
6 Bulls Sell
Sons of Mytty In Focus, BT Crossover, Boyd New Day 454

Growth Bull with Carcass
Amador New Day 8809 3834

Look at the DNA to see the carcass value of this bull. This rare New Day son has both breed leading marbling and breed leading low back-fat. The DNA places him in the top 20% for carcass weight, top 22% for marbling, and top 18% for back-fat.

Marb+.88, WW +52, SB +89.00

The Complete Package
Amador Country 9818 3837

Here is an outcross pedigree that put it all together. This low birth Cross Country Son has all of the date in the right places and his Grand-dam lasted 14 years in our herd and left with a perfect udder. He has a birth weight ratio of 96 and a weaning ratio of 106. This bull excels for carcass quality, high growth, low birth, and the DNA indicates top 8% for feed efficiency.

CED = 12, CEM +12, YW +98,
Marb +.69, SW 37.48

Elite Calving
Amador Top Answer 1816 3835

This curve bender is in the top 10% or better for all the ways to measure calving-ease, while still be in the top 20% for growth. The females from the Right Answer son should be great.

CED +12, BW -0.7,
CEM +14, YW +98
Make BQA Certification Your New Year’s Resolution

Are you certified in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) yet? If not, consider making this your resolution for 2015! The checkoff-funded BQA program is important to the cattle industry as it provides producers a set of best practices for producing quality beef. It also gives consumers the assurance that the beef they eat is both safe and wholesome. What’s more, BQA management practices are scientifically researched and proved by industry experts.

Getting your BQA certification has never been simpler. The full program is available online at www.bqa.org. There, you can find BQA certification modules customized to fit the specific needs of each segment of the cattle industry – cow-calf, stocker, feedyard and dairy operations. The program covers best management practices such as proper handling and administration of vaccinations and other products, eliminating injection site blemishes, and better cattle-handling principles.

Another useful tool available on the BQA web site is a series of videos just produced this summer on low-stress cattle handling, emphasizing practices on ATV, horseback and on foot. These videos, featuring Curt Pate and Temple Grandin offering their thoughts on cattle handling, are free and available at www.bqa.org/videos.aspx.

Want to participate in a live cattle handling demonstration and BQA certification? The Nevada Beef Council is planning a few events for late winter and early spring. Stay tuned for more, or e-mail jill@calbeef.org to be added to our e-mail list and get the latest event updates and announcements!

Checkoff Sponsorship of Kids LiveWell Program Promotes Beef in a Healthy Diet

The Beef Checkoff Program and National Restaurant Association recently announced a partnership on the Association’s award-winning Kids LiveWell program, a voluntary industrywide initiative designed to help make the healthful choice the easy choice when dining out with children.

The Beef Checkoff’s sponsorship of this program helps promote the important role that lean protein plays in building a healthful meal, and will aid current participants and restaurants looking to join the program by identifying healthful, innovative recipes that highlight lean cuts of beef, helping to provide the industry’s youngest patrons with the essential nutrients they need.

In conjunction with its sponsorship, the Beef Checkoff has identified a collection of kid-friendly recipes that meet the Kids LiveWell criteria. To make it turn-key for operators to incorporate these items on their menus, the recipes, nutritional details and pairing suggestions are available online at www.Beefoodservice.com/NRAKidsLiveWell.aspx.

The 2010 USDA Dietary Guidelines recommend that Americans build a healthy plate with nutrient-rich foods, including lean protein. High quality lean beef provides nutrients that are vital for a healthy and active lifestyle, from infancy to adulthood.

The Kids LiveWell program was launched in 2011 to help restaurants highlight their better-for-you menu choices for children. To join the program, restaurant operators agree to offer and promote a selection of healthful menu items that meet nutrition criteria based on scientific recommendations from leading health organizations, including USDA’s Dietary Guidelines.

Currently, Kids LiveWell includes 150 restaurant brands representing more than 42,000 locations nationwide.

National Digital Advertising Campaign Results

The checkoff’s new digital advertising campaign recently wrapped up its first full year in the marketplace, and the results are in! The campaign educated millions of consumers on beef’s superior taste, nutrition and ease-of-use. Thanks to this comprehensive campaign, many consumers are now equipped with the beef tips, techniques and recipes they require to ensure a great beef eating experience, each and every time.

Here are some of the key results:

• The campaign’s overall reach was an impressive 733 million impressions.
• There were over 3.6 million page views of the flagship website beefitswhatsfordinner.com.
• There were more than 8 million views of the new “No Recipe Recipe” videos, featuring quick and easy meal preparation tips for busy consumers.
• More than a million consumer engagements with the beef’s Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The NBC also deploys these digital properties in its consumer campaigns and promotions. Along with the NBC website, Facebook page and other social media properties, Nevada consumers have a number of digital and online options when it comes to enhancing their beef knowledge.

What’s Trending in Foodservice Menus?

If you’re curious about the latest trends in foodservice beef dishes, you might be interested in some recent data shared by Technomic, a research and consulting firm focused on the foodservice industry that recently conducted a menu review to uncover some new trends in beef dishes.

Beyond steaks, today’s most frequently offered beef entrees are ethnic dishes – primarily Mexican, Italian and Asian – and burgers. Beef items added most often to chain-restaurant menus in 2014 included quesadillas, roast beef, corned beef, and build-your-own-burgers, and at independent restaurants, the most-added included soup-salad-sandwich offerings and breakfast-platter items.

For more on the Nevada Beef Council or Beef Checkoff programs, visit www.nevadabeef.org, or www.mybeefcheckoff.org.