Hey there my friends,

Last week was a very busy week for all of us in your NCA leadership positions as well as for our hard working folks at the Nevada Department of Agriculture. With so much going on in so many places, I thought it very appropriate to share with you what we here at NCA were doing last week to ensure that the livestock industry’s voice was heard.

It started on Tuesday, September 6th at the Smith’s Cottonwood Ranch in the O’Neil Basin. The Nevada Board of Agriculture met first on Tuesday to learn about the Stewardship Alliance of Northeastern Elko (S.A.N.E) and then on Wednesday the 7th to conduct the Board’s quarterly meeting. A big thanks to the Smith family for being such gracious hosts and showing us what happens in a remote spot such as the O’Neil Basin, and how neighbors can make a difference. The Board meeting went well with very little to vote on. However, great discussions were had on future items such as the electronic brand inspection system, which is here to stay. It will probably be another month before any discussions start as to the issue on brand fee increases, or at least until the state budget goes public. You were represented by Boyd Spratling and myself as board members along with key staff members of the NDA. Steve and Robin Boies were also in attendance as part of the host crew at the Cottonwood Ranch.

After the Board Meeting was over it was straight to Boise, Idaho to join up with Ron Cerri, Kaley Sproul and Joe Guild who were already at the Public Lands Council 2016 Annual Meeting. Ron had a tough go with trying to obtain grant money from the pipeline funds for study projects. Good projects were funded though, including the PLC Public Relations Programs that are used to get the word out regarding all of the positive points of public grazing.

I was asked to fill a seat on the Wild Horse Committee for PLC. However I’ll let you all know if they call me up, and if any of you have not been around PLC, they are a pretty tough nut to crack!

While Thursday kicked off with more PLC meetings and programs of the various committees, the National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board convened in Elko, NV. The PLC meetings showed some controversy when a vote was made to increase dues. The fees unfortunately did get raised. Other than that there was nothing too new going on within the meetings, but it was Elko where all of the fun was to be had! The livestock industry and NCA were

Continued on page 2

2016 Nevada Cattlemen’s Association Pre-Convention Committee Meetings

The Nevada Cattlemen’s Association has scheduled the pre-convention committee meetings for Private Lands, Public Lands, Animal Issues and Legislative Affairs to be held on October 25 and 26, 2016. The purpose of these pre-convention meetings is to review expiring resolutions and draft any new resolutions prior to convention. This is done in an effort to expedite the process at convention where full membership approval is sought. Active NCA members are welcome to participate in these pre-convention meetings.

The Animal Issues committee will begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 25 at the Division of Livestock Identification and Measurement Standards District Office, 4780 E Idaho St, Elko, NV 89801 followed by Private Lands then Legislative Affairs. The Public Lands committee will begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 26 at the Humboldt county fairgrounds extension office, 1085 Fairgrounds Rd, Winnemucca, NV 89445.

Should you have questions or would like to bring forward a resolution or change an existing policy or resolution, please come to these meetings and become a part of the process. For more information please visit our website at www.nevadacattlemen.org or contact our office at 775-738-9214.
President David Stix: Continued from page 1

well represented during the public input portion and our backs were being watched. Once again a pro wild horse person misrepresented our position on spay/neuter and Boyd set them straight. Tom Barnes was there to speak of the continuing need to reach AML. Also in attendance were Hanes Holman, Ron Torell, Demar Dahl, Ken Jones and many other ranchers. JJ Goicoechea gave a wonderful report as the Nevada State Veterinarian regarding the disgusting condition of some Wild Horses, as well as the poor conditions of the resources needed to support these horses. Again and again it was made clear that the resources and the animals are not being managed properly.

The best part of the week was Friday back at PLC in Boise, a day all of us here in Nevada can be proud of. During the luncheon the Bureau of Land Management presented the Rangeland Stewardship award for a grazing permittee to the Mori Ranch of Tuscarora, NV. They also awarded the Rangeland Stewardship award for a collaborative team to the Shoesole Resource Management Group of Elko County. We are so proud of the Mori family and the Shoesole Group for achieving these awards. It is really sweet when it is presented in another state at a function that was dominated by Idaho and all they do in their state.

Meanwhile, I made it back down to Elko to attend my first Wild Horse meeting on Friday. I was not disappointed that I missed the best part. The committee voted on the recommendations and clearly it was overwhelmingly noticeable that they are all on board. The specific language of the recommendation is: “BLM should follow stipulations of the WHB Act by offering all suitable animals in long and short term holding deemed unadoptable for sale without limitation or humane euthanasia. Those animals deemed unsuitable for sale should then be destroyed in the most humane manner possible.”

On another note, some major land issues are brewing on this side of the state. First, there is a concerning Washoe County Federal Lands Bill being discussed. Within this bill there will be millions of acres in Northern Washoe County; this includes many permits, which will be designated as Wilderness Area. The other issue is the expansion of the Fallon Navy Base’s Bombing Range Facilities. This will designate many acres of Federal Land, which also includes several permits, deemed not for public use. They are in the beginning stages though and I’ll keep you posted.

Again everyone, I just wanted to pass on to you what NCA is doing for you and to keep in mind that we are always looking out for the best interests of the industry.

Take care and keep in touch.

Membership Update

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen’s Association between August 21 and September 21, 2016. (New members are in bold.)

- Daniels Polled Hereford Ranch, Dan & Teresa Daniels
- MWI Animal Health, Tim Harberd
- Mack Land & Cattle, Brian Parks
- Quarter Circle 3S, Lindsey Stockton
- Dave & Jane Secrist
Nevada Ranchers Receive BLM Rangeland Stewardship Awards

BOISE, Idaho (September 9, 2016) – Today, at the 2016 Public Lands Council Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho the Bureau of Land Management announced the winners of this year’s Rangeland Stewardship Awards. We at Nevada Cattlemen’s Association are excited that two of the four awards given were received by Nevada Ranchers!

We would like to congratulate the Mori’s of Tuscarora, NV for winning the Rangeland and Stewardship award for a grazing permittee. They have strived to maintain healthy rangelands while maintaining a sustainable livestock operation. The other winners from Nevada are the Shoesole Resource Management Group of Elko County; they are the recipients of the Rangeland Stewardship award for a collaborative team. Members of this group include the Cottonwood, Boies and Home ranches. They are a collaborative, consensus-based group, working on natural resource management and are devoted to sustaining healthy and productive public and private landscapes.

NCA Seeking 100,000 Mile Club Nominations

— Nominations Close November 1 —

We are seeking 100,000 Mile Club Nominations! We are looking for Cowboys and Cowgirls who have logged 100,000 miles horseback. This Annual Award will be presented at the Cattlemen’s Banquet during the Annual Convention in Sparks, NV on December 1-3, 2016.

Any Nevada resident who has ridden 100,000 horseback miles is eligible for the 2016 Award and Club membership. Nominations should include a narrative story to chronicle the nominees’ miles through their life horseback. Nominations are open now until November 1, 2016 and may be submitted to the Cattlemen’s office. Please call 775-738-9214 for more information.

Conservation Credit Workshop

Attention Nevada Livestock Producers that graze on public and private lands, have you ever wondered about the Nevada Conservation Credit System?

There have been multiple questions regarding the CCS. The Nevada Cattlemen’s Association in conjunction with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team will be putting on a series of educational workshops around the state to have information sharing and discussion on the benefits to Landowners that the Nevada Conservation Credit System will provide.

LOCATIONS & DATES:

Eureka, Nevada
October 11, 2016:
3:00 p.m.
Eureka Opera House,
31 S Main St.

Elko, Nevada
October 12, 2016:
3:00 p.m.
Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
Lundberg Hall #102

Winnemucca, Nevada
October 13, 2016:
3:00 p.m.
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Winnemucca Office
1085 Fairgrounds Road

PROGRAM PARTNERS:

Nevada Department of Agriculture

WWW.NEVADACATTLEMEN.ORG
The 81st Annual Nevada Cattlemen’s Association Convention and Trade Show will be held December 1-3, 2016 in Sparks, NV, held in conjunction with California Cattlemen’s Association. As NCA members around the state gather in Sparks, we will celebrate a lifetime of traditions, revise and review policies, and take a chance to enjoy our friends and neighbors.

At convention, members of the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, guest speakers and vendors that provide services to the beef cattle industry, will join together to celebrate the Nevada Livestock Industry. NCA staff and officers are working hard to provide you with a memorable and educational experience.

Registration for convention can be found on our website and will also be sent out by mail and email. If you are interested in attending and would like more information please call the office at 1-775-738-9214 or email nca@nevadabeef.org.

The tentative convention schedule is at the right. Also, please look online at our website. We are constantly updating it.

We look forward to seeing you all at convention!
**Upcoming Sales**

**Thursday October 27th**
Cottonwood, CA
Consignment Deadline: October 19th

**Wednesday November 30th**
Nugget Casino & Resort  •  Reno, NV
Catalog Deadline: November 11th

Watch & Listen
To the Sale
On the Web at: www.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 videos on our website: www.wvmcattle.com

*Market your cattle with the professionals!*
51st Annual Fallon Bull Sale

The 51st Annual Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale is coming soon. The sale will be held February 18, 2017 at the Fallon Livestock Exchange at 11:00 a.m.

For the past 50 years, producers from Nevada and the surrounding states have worked to bring the best quality range ready bulls and participate in the sale. Bulls range from yearlings to two-year olds of different breeds are bought and sold at the annual sale. Last year the sales of 113 high quality bulls came to a total of $496,000.00, with a Sale Average of $4,389.38. Breed Averages included: Angus for $4,396.34; Red Angus for $2,950.00; Charolais for $4,541.67; and Herefords for $4,723.68.

If you have questions regarding the sale or would like a copy of the sale catalog please contact the sale office at 1-775-738-9214 or email the sale secretary at nca@nevadabeef.org. The catalog will also be posted on the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association website at www.nevadacattlemen.org.

2017 Pre-Fallon Bull Sale Committee Meeting

Tom Armstrong, Chairman, Fallon Bull Sale Committee

Are you interested in becoming more involved within the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association? If so, here is a great opportunity. The Fallon Bull Sale Committee is inviting all who would like to become more involved in this sale to come participate as a committee member.

The first meeting to be held this year will be on November 30th at 5:30 p.m. at Stockman’s Insurance, 1664 U S Hwy 395, Suite 107, Minden, NV. This meeting is where decisions are made for the upcoming bull sale.

If you would like to attend please contact the Sale Secretary, Kaley Sproul at 775-738-9214, and she will send you a tentative agenda and details prior to the meeting.
Fight Back
Against Lack of Rainfall With PRF!

Here is what ranchers like you have to say:
“We are very happy with the results of the PRF program over the past three years. It has become part of our management strategy here on the ranch. Give the WSR team a call today.”
Likely Land and Livestock (Likely, CA)

WSR’s Pasture, Rangeland & Forage (PRF)
Program helps pay your bills during a lack of rainfall!

Current Programs
• Pasture, Rangeland & Forage (PRF)
• Livestock Risk Protection (LRP)
• Fire Insurance
• Livestock Mortality

Contact us to see what programs we offer to keep you in business during good and bad times!

Jim Vann
(530) 218-3379
Matt Griffith
(530) 570-3333
Tanner Patzke
(541) 810-2957
Stephanie Myers
(530) 237-6282

www.ranchprotection.com

Endorsed by:
Dear Sage Signals Readers,


Once you go to that press release, there are links to each one of the actual IMs, should you want to read the entire IM. I want to give you all a little summary here of the Grazing permit review priorities and the Grazing management thresholds and responses IMs. Also, we will discuss these in further depth at the January Workshops. At that time, we will also discuss any Nevada specific direction associated with these Washington Office IMs. IMs are often not in 'plain English', so I will do my best here to summarize in plain English. Let me know if I miss that mark.

WO IM 2016-141 Setting Priorities for Review and Processing of Grazing Authorizations in Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Habitat

This IM describes how to prioritize the review and processing of grazing permits and leases in GRSG habitat. It also provides guidance on prioritizing monitoring of grazing allotments in GRSG habitat to ensure they are meeting Land health Standards (LHS) and GRSG habitat objectives. It clarifies that the highest priority areas of GRSG habitat are allotments in SFA, followed by PHMA, then GHMA and lastly OHMA. It reminds us that allotments with listed threatened and endangered species (T&E) habitat and BLM sensitive species habitat are also high priority, even if they don’t have any GRSG habitat.

As for monitoring, this IM directs us to prioritize monitoring of grazing use and permit/management plan compliance in areas where livestock use has the potential to affect seasonal GRSG habitat.

This IM has a table (attachment to the IM) that provides a documented, well-organized procedure for prioritizing the review and processing of grazing permits in GRSG habitat. This table has to be filled out (at the Field Office (FO) level) and provided to Washington Office (at the State Office level, meaning I collect and compile FO information and then send it as a complete NV package) by February 1, 2017 and is to be updated annually thereafter.

WO IM 2016-142 Incorporating Thresholds and Responses into Grazing Permits/Leases

This IM provides policy for incorporating thresholds and responses into the NEPA analysis and, as appropriate, into terms and conditions of grazing permits within GRSG habitat (SFA and PHMA specifically). We are directed that when a FO fully processes a grazing permit/lease in SFA or PHMA, then the NEPA analysis will include at least one alternative that analyzes the incorporation of defined thresholds and responses into the grazing permit or lease. This alternative does not have to be chosen, but since it has been analyzed, it would be able to be chosen later (with a Determination of NEPA Adequacy and Proposed/Final Decision) if it proved necessary. Allotments that qualify for a CX (please see the October 2015 Sage Signals for details on this) do not have to have thresholds and responses, even if they are in SFA or PHMA, and a CX can still be used to fully process these permits.

Thresholds have to be measurable and quantifiable and will be developed at a site-specific or allotment level based on the GRSG habitat objectives, land health standards, ecological site potential and condition. This policy directs BLM to promote the flexibility of BLM and permittees to quickly respond if a grazing use threshold is exceeded that would not allow an allotment to make progress towards meeting land health standards. Because of that, the grazing use thresholds and the range of responses will likely vary and will be dependent upon the allotment’s ecological conditions, site potential, and site specific objectives.

Upcoming Training Opportunities!

There will be a NRST/UNR led ‘Soils, Ecological Sites and State and Transitions Model’ training in Winnemucca on October 25 & 26. This course is geared towards permittees, and is a very informative and useful training.

I hope this article was informative, but if it left you with questions, please let me know. As always, feel free to send your feedback, comments, topic ideas and questions by emailing me at kdyer@blm.gov.
“Watering the West”

Office: (775) 738-2677
Fax: (775) 738-2367
www.bosstanks.com
7861 E. Idaho St. • P.O. Box 70 • Elko, NV 89803

NEVADA’S PREMIER WATER RIGHTS ENGINEERING COMPANY

Turnipseed Engineering, LTD

Over 50 Years of Combined Water Rights Experience
Michael Turnipseed, P.E.
David G. Hillis, Jr., P.E.
775-885-2101
Carson City, Nevada

www.turnipseedengineering.com

We are experts in State of Nevada Water Rights. We provide a wide range of water right and resource development services that can be customized to meet your needs.

Our team works directly with you to develop the best solution for your farm, ranch, business or home.

WATER RIGHTS PROJECTS

• APPLICATIONS AND EXTENSIONS
• WATER RIGHT IDENTIFICATION & ANALYSIS
• PROOF OF BENEFICIAL USE
• GROUND AND SURFACE WATER MAPPING
• BUYER/SELLER/OWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE
• OWNERSHIP TRANSFER
• WATER RIGHT LITIGATION SUPPORT

WE OFFER SERVICE TO ALL OF NEVADA
Endangered Species Act to Sage Signals

By Lacey Sproul – Tom

Picture the glare of millions of lights and the sound of a million slot machines. Las Vegas, Nevada is home to more than just endangered promises, dreams and hopes, it is home to many of the species on the endangered species list for the great state of Nevada.

Meet Mojave Max. Max is what my 6 year old son endearingly calls the 6 foot tall giant desert tortoise he sees at many events and functions in our community. Max is the official mascot for the local desert tortoise in part with the Clark County Conservation Program. Although Max is a marketing tactic to reach a wide range of audiences on the efforts of conservation he does not tell the whole story.

Now that we've been given an overview, let me walk you through the history of Endangered Species Act, the issues that relate to our farmers and ranchers in this current day and age and lastly I will introduce you to American Farm Bureau policy and how we can work together on this important topic.

Let's get started. The Endangered Species Act or ESA provides a set of protections for species that have been listed as endangered or threatened and is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. This act was enacted in 1973 with only 109 species listed for protection. Today that list has nearly 1600 domestic species listed and another 125 species are considered candidates for the listing. Are all 1600 species endangered or in critical need for protection? The answer is a hard no. The ESA is one of the most far-reaching environmental statues ever passed. With it being interpreted to put the interests of species above the people, the ESA has failed at recovering and delisting species since its inception. Less than two percent of all listed species have been removed from ESA protection since 1973, and many of those are due to extinction or "data error." My family and the ESA went head to head about 20 years ago in regards to this over stretch and the available resources in Nevada. My family ran cattle in the Clark County area for over 100 years. Over 86% of Nevada is federally owned; therefore most ranchers in the state graze their cattle on these lands.

Unfortunately, due to the ESA and the beloved Mojave Max or known by most as the desert tortoise our family's heritage was on the verge of extinction. Long before the most recent news with ranchers in southern Nevada, my family fought the same fight. Unfortunately, my family lost. Ranching is not a wealthy lifestyle choice and the ESA is a litigation-driven model that rewards those who use the courtroom at the expense of those that practice positive conservation efforts.

We see the same thing happening presently as we did twenty years ago. To this day, the ESA is continuing to pressure and policy our American Farmers and Ranchers. Ultimately, while policing our stewardship of the land, our agriculturists are being penalized. Unlike other industries, farm and ranch land is the principal asset used in their business. These restrictions handed down to our farmers and ranchers restrict and prevent the use of their land by making productive use of their primary business asset. These negative impacts also affect a farmer and rancher's family, as most live on the land that they work, which in turn affects their quality of life.

Now that we have a background on this topic, let's discuss the American Farm Bureau policy as of February 2016. The policy states that "We believe that endangered and threatened species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than by imposing land use restrictions and penalties. The ESA should not be reauthorized in its current form. The current federal ESA must be amended and updated to accommodate the needs of both endangered and threatened species and humans with complete respect for private property rights within the framework of the United States Constitution. Human need for food, fiber, shelter and energy shall have priority over the protection of endangered and threatened species."

Now that we have heard the background of the Endangered Species Act, the American Farm Bureau's policy on this topic here is my suggestion on how you and I can tackle this. I believe that we, as farmers and ranchers, will respond to incentives to protect species and habitat on their privately owned lands. Instead of being forced to feed and shelter listed species on their own, farmers and ranchers should receive technical and financial help to accomplish this. The ESA should provide a carrot instead of the stick it currently wields. I am going to end with a quote by Henry Ford, "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." Thank you.

WE CARRY

CEREAL RYE
FOR RANGE FALL PLANTINGS
ONE PLANTING can often be grazed TWO WINTERS!

GREENWAY SEEDS
Alan Greenway, Seedsman
Caldwell, Idaho • Cell: 208-250-0159 • Message: 208-454-8342

Nevada Water Solutions LLC
Water Rights / Resource Permitting Expertise

Thomas K. Gallagher, PE
Hydrologic Engineer

Over 31 years of experience with the Nevada State Engineer’s Office

775-825-1653 / FAX 775-825-1683
675 Sierra Rose Dr., #109 / Reno, NV 89511
tomg@nevadawatersolutions.com
VF RED ANGUS
Calving Ease, Growth, Maternal and Carcass Traits

Looking forward to seeing you at VF’s Fall Cattlemen’s Classic Sale!
October 8th • 1 p.m. PST • Terrebonne, Oregon

Offering 80 Elite Red Angus Cows & Bred Heifer Replacements
Along with 75 Commercial Red Angus Replacement Heifers
All A’d to Acquisition & Followed Up With Calving Ease Red Angus Bulls
50 Commercial Red Angus Heifer Calves

VF RBN HOOD C331
Reg #3529664

LARSON ABIGAIL MARIE 279
Reg #1510612

VF DIAMOND C311
Reg #3515058

Projected Calf EPD’s
Dunn Acquisition #1686396

Projected Calf EPD’s
Dunn Acquisition #1686395

Projected Calf EPD’s
Brown Incredibull #1550654

Projected Calf EPD’s
Bleak Gladiator #3474701

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
165 53 11 -2.7 71 111 25 1
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
12 2 13 0.73 -0.01 32 0.3 .00

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
157 53 11 -2.8 69 110 16 2
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
11 5 15 0.59 0.06 31 0.35 .03

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
131 53 9 -3.3 71 108 20 0
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
10 3 13 .88 0.02 29 0.42 .03

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
125 54 10 -4.0 69 108 21 1
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
10 2 12 0.94 0.03 28 0.37 .03

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
143 54 7 -1.9 78 126 17 1
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
12 4 11 .78 0.01 42 0.65 .03

HERD GRID CED BW WW YW MLK ME
138 55 9 -4.4 85 114 24 6
HPG CEM STAY MARB YG CW REA BFAT
8 4 12 .86 -0.06 32 0.70 .03

Everett Flikkema: 406.580.2186
Jack Vollstedt: 818.535.4034
Terrebonne, Oregon
vfredangus.com
vfredangussllc@gmail.com
Cattle Theft

By Flint Wright, Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division administrator

The cattle industry is an important cornerstone to Nevada’s agriculture economy, and when the price per head of cattle increases, unfortunately so does cattle theft. Though still a problem, thankfully technology helps us prevent and detect cattle theft better than ever before.

Last year, there were 134 head of cattle reported stolen or missing in Nevada, and the number of unreported theft is likely much higher. By taking proper precautions and using the resources available to you, hopefully you can prevent such an economic hit to your operation.

Signs of cattle theft

In Nevada’s big country and vast open ranges, it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish cattle theft from loss. Here are a few signs your cattle have been stolen:

- **Look for suspicious activity** – You know your operation better than anyone. If you see unusual vehicles or people along with missing cattle, report it to your district’s enforcement officer.
- **Inspect carcasses** – Of course, many cattle die of natural causes. Inspect carcasses for unusual wounds, injuries or bullets/shells.
- **Cut fences or gates** – If you suspect cattle have been stolen off your private land, look for cut fences or gates as a good indicator of intrusion.

What to do if you suspect cattle theft

If you suspect theft on your operation, the best thing you can do is report it to the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Animal Industry Division as soon as possible, and fill out the livestock missing/theft form available at agri.nv.gov/livestock_id. As with many crimes, the sooner an enforcement officer can start collecting evidence and interviews, the better chance there is of apprehending a suspect.

Nevada is divided into four brand inspection districts, and each district has at least one enforcement officer:

- **Blaine Northrop**
  Northeastern Nevada
  (775) 777-5750

- **Chris Miller**
  Northwestern Nevada
  (775) 385-1986

- **Justin Ely**
  North Central Nevada
  (775) 388-7726

- **Sterling Wines**
  Eastern Nevada
  (775) 530-3678

- **Raul Godinez**
  Southern Nevada
  (702) 668-4590

Cow/calf pairs are Nevada’s top agricultural production, contributing $466 million directly to Nevada’s economy in 2014.
If theft has taken place, NDA also offers identification through DNA testing if necessary. Online livestock renewal is also available to help ensure no lapses in brand registration. Digital brand inspections give enforcement officers real time information, so that they can support the industry in a timely and informed manner.

**How to prevent cattle theft**

The number one most reliable way to prevent cattle theft is to ensure your cattle have a brand and current brand inspection when transporting or selling your livestock. Having at least one method of livestock identification is much like a lock on a door: it may not prevent the crime every time, but proper security measures are certainly a deterrent to crimes of opportunity like cattle theft.

Although cattle prices are down from last year, they are still historically high, and cattle theft remains an issue. Don't allow cattle thieves the opportunity; brand your cattle, request brand inspections and report any potential thefts to your local enforcement officer.

**How the NDA helps prevent cattle theft**

Nevada's livestock industry represents an enormous economic value to the state, and the role of our Livestock Identification program is to protect livestock producers and owners from theft and unfair business practices through the recording and inspection of brands whenever they are presented for sale, shipment across state or district lines or slaughter.

- Every head of cattle moved across state or district lines is required to receive a brand inspection through Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 561.
- NDA enforcement officers monitor every stretch of road to ensure these inspections are taking place. Our enforcement officers are peace officers standards and training (POST)-certified police officers who can stop any livestock transportation vehicle on any road in Nevada for any reason.
- All cattle sold to or from anyone in Nevada are also inspected. In addition, the NDA registers and licenses every livestock broker, dealer, agent and sale barn in the state.
Low-Stress Weaning

by Stephen S. Foster, Extension Educator, UNCE, Pershing County

Weaning time for many spring-born calves is just around the corner. There has been much discussion about the best way to wean calves. But any discussion should keep several considerations in mind, including: age of calves, low-stress handling, whether you’re selling off the cow or planning to precondition and bunk break at home, available labor and time, quality of fences, location of the herd, etc.

First of all, weaning can be a very stressful time for both the calf and the cow. When cows and their calves are separated, they both experience drastic changes in their environment and diets. There are many potential sources of stress during weaning that may include any of the following: loading and unloading from trailers, transport, crowding, restraint, commingling with unfamiliar animals, withholding of feed and water. These stresses can make calves more susceptible to respiratory infections such as bovine respiratory disease, causing a high level of mortality and morbidity in feeder calves. It has been estimated that the beef industry may lose over one billion dollars every year from this disease.

Preparing calves well in advance to actual weaning time has benefits well worth the effort.

Because immune function and response is lower in times of stress, and weaning can be stressful, many veterinarians suggest that vaccinations be given 3-4 weeks prior to weaning and that deworming be done after weaning. This not only lessens the stress at weaning, but also improves immune response to the vaccines and anthelmintics. Other management procedures, such as branding, castrating, and dehorning should be done well in advance of weaning. Also, it is a good idea to make sure that, before weaning, calves are used to eating the intended post-weaning diet. You can feed that diet to both cows and calves for a short period of time, about two-weeks, or provide it in a creep feeder - narrow passages into a feeding area are set up so the calves creep in, but larger cows cannot. Although creep feeding can be used to acclimate calves to a post-weaning diet, it’s primarily use is to provide supplemental feed to nursing calves in order to increase weaning weight. Economically, a good rule of thumb is that calf prices at sale time ($/lb) should be 10 times the cost of the creep feed ($/lb).

There are more gradual ways of weaning which can potentially reduce the stress experienced by the calf. “Low-stress” weaning methods work by breaking down the weaning process into two steps. The first step is preventing the calf from suckling while still allowing it some contact with the cow and then after a period of time (usually anywhere from 4 to 10 days) the calf and cow are separated completely.

Fenceline weaning involves the separation of cows from calves by a fence. Separation by a fence-line allows calves and cows to still have visual, physical (although limited), vocal, and olfactory contact with each other, but prevents calves from suckling.

The fence needs to be of a quality to withstand pressure from both sides. Cows will want to get with their calves and calves will want to get with their mothers. South Dakota Cooperative Extension (Wright and Pruitt, 2005) provides the following considerations for fenceline-weaning.

- Fencing should be substantial enough to prevent the calves from nursing and keep the cows and calves separated. Producers have used various combinations of electric and non-electric, and high-tensile, barbed, and woven wire fencing. Gerrish (1998) suggests that, for cattle that have not been exposed to electric fencing, either woven wire or at least five strands of electric fencing will likely be necessary. If the cattle are familiar with electric fencing, three strands will likely be sufficient. Yet another option is to utilize four to five strands of barbed wire combined with a single strand of electric fence offset from the main fence.

- Pasture the cows and calves together in the pasture where the calves will be placed following weaning. One week in the pasture allows time for the calves to become familiar with the fences and water source. At weaning time, return the calves to the same pasture and move the cows to the adjoining pasture.

- Some producers have found it useful to use a yearling or a cow without a calf in the weaning pasture to lead the calves to the water source.

- The need for supplementation of calves weaned on pasture depends on forage quality and quantity and the desired average daily gain.

A past colleague of mine, Steve Boyles, Ohio State University (OSU) Extension specialist, recently compared pasture weaning vs. drylot weaning. Boyles looked at a recent study that compared three weaning methods for calves averaging 180 days old:

1. Drylot weaning + complete visual and auditory separation from dams
2. Pasture weaning + fence-line contact with dams
3. Pasture weaning + fence-line contact with dams + supplemental feed delivered in a bunk

Boyles summarizes the results of the study, writing, “Body weight of drylot calves was greater than that of pasture weaning or pasture weaning plus supplement at the conclusion of the 28-day weaning period. This was expected since the diet for the drylot calves was formulated for higher gains. Providing supplement to pasture fed calves was intended to accustom pasture-weaned calves to eating out of a bunk rather than to promote gains that were competitive with drylot calves.”

Upon arriving to the feedlot 28 days post weaning, all three groups were...
NCF Accepting Applications for CME Beef Industry Scholarship

DENVER (Sept. 27, 2016) - The National Cattlemen’s Foundation is now accepting applications for 2017-2018 beef industry scholarships sponsored by CME Group. Ten scholarships of $1,500 each will be awarded to outstanding students pursuing careers in the beef industry.

“The CME Beef Industry Scholarship represents an investment in the future of the cattle business. By helping the next generation of cattlemen and women further their education, CME Group is helping to advance the future of the U.S. agricultural economy,” said Tim Andriesen, CME Group Managing Director of Agricultural Products. “Our partnership with the National Cattlemen’s Foundation and NCBA has spanned nearly three decades, and during that time, we’ve underscored the importance of risk management to the beef industry while contributing to the education of tomorrow’s industry leaders.”

Applicants for the 2017-2018 scholarship must submit a one-page letter expressing their career goals related to the beef industry. Students must also write a 750-word essay describing an issue in the beef industry and offering solutions to this problem. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or full-time undergraduate student enrolled at a two- or four-year college.

Online applications should be submitted by Oct. 31, 2016. To apply, or learn more about the scholarship, click here. Scholarship winners will be announced during the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn.

For more information, visit www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

China Announces it Will Lift Ban on U.S. Beef

WASHINGTON (Sept. 22, 2016) – Following a 13-year ban on U.S. beef exports to China, an announcement from the Chinese Government indicates they will begin accepting U.S. beef from animals under 30 months of age.

“This is great news for U.S. beef producers,” said Kent Bacus, director of international trade for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. “While these initial reports are positive, we must continue technical negotiations and undergo the process of formally approving export certificates. China is already the world’s second largest buyer of beef, and with a growing middle class, the export opportunities for U.S. cattlemen and women are tremendous.”

The next step is for United States Department of Agriculture officials to work with China’s Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine to approve the certificates and protocols for exports.

“Our cattle producers are the best in the world at producing high quality beef,” said Bacus. “To continue to grow demand for our product, our industry relies on fair trade based on sound science. This latest announcement by China is welcome news and further highlights the benefits of trade in the Pacific, opportunities that will only be expanded by passage of the Trans Pacific Partnership.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Takes Steps to Address ESA Deficiencies

WASHINGTON (Sept. 26, 2016) – Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a final rule that begins to address rampant abuse of the Endangered Species Act listing process. The rule limits petitions for new listings to one species and will require more substantive justification in order to file a petition for listing under the ESA. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the Public Lands Council applaud FWS for taking steps to address these serious shortcomings.

“We have been pushing for reforms to the broken ESA listing process for quite some time, and this final rule is a great step in the right direction,” said Ethan Lane, NCBA federal Lands and PLC executive director. “Limiting petitions to one species at a time will provide some desperately needed focus, and notification to the states affected in a timely manner – even if only 30 days – is progress toward increasing local input into the process.”

The ESA, which is continuously abused by radical environmental groups, has a less than two percent recovery rate. Groups like the Center for Biological Diversity threaten litigation in order to force action on hundreds of species, without any regard for a recovery plan or actual species recovery. This continued abuse hampers real conservation efforts and species recovery by forcing arbitrary listing decisions that leave no time for sound research or science-based decisions.

“Serious groups from across the spectrum that are engaged in true conservation will applaud these changes,” said Lane. “By the same token, the habitual high-volume ESA abusers will be pretty easy to spot by their opposition to the rule.”

Sources:
Utah State Fact Sheet AG/AH/2011-07, Low Stress Weaning Alternatives for Cow-Calf
Producers: FenceLine-Weaning, Kerry A. Rood, MS, DVM, Extension Veterinarian
3 weaning methods compared; which one rises to the top? by Amanda Radke in BEEF Daily

WWW.NEVADACATTLEMEN.ORG
Beef Checkoff Approves Plan of Work for FY17

The Nevada Beef Council (NBC) regularly shares updates on its efforts and programs to provide you with a sense of what's happening in beef promotion and education throughout the state. This month, we'd like to share some of the planning efforts that occur on a national level, to offer more information about how your checkoff dollar is put to work across the country and globe.

Note: The following information was provided by the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

After being forced to make cuts of more than $5 million from proposed programs, the Cattlemen's Beef Board will invest about $40.7 million into development and implementation of programs of beef promotion, research, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing and producer communications in fiscal 2017, subject to approval by USDA.

In action concluding its Sept. 13-14 meeting in Denver, the Operating Committee — 10 members of the Beef Board and 10 members of the Federation of State Beef Councils — approved checkoff funding for a total of 12 “Authorization Requests,” or proposals for checkoff funding, in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2016. The committee also recommended full Beef Board approval of a budget amendment to reflect the split of funding between budget categories affected by their decisions.

The fiscal 2017 budget represents a decrease of more than 9 percent from the $44.8 million fy16 budget. Six contractors brought a total of $43.2 million worth of funding requests to the Operating Committee this week, $5.3 million more than what is available from the CBB budget to fund them.

“This was one of the most challenging years ever, in terms of the gap between the value of proposals before us and the budget we had to invest,” said Anne Anderson, a cattle producer from Texas. “I'm extremely proud of how all committee members worked together through this extremely difficult situation to make the best possible decisions about how to invest our checkoff dollars in the coming year.”

“There were so many great proposals, but not nearly enough money to fund them,” Anderson said, “so we had to make some pretty substantial cuts, and I can't overemphasize how well the committee members worked together to do what we had to do to meet budget requirements. I feel confident that the plan of work we created for fiscal 2017 will put us in a position to continue increasing consumer confidence in and preference for beef.”

In the end, the Operating Committee approved proposals from six national beef organizations for funding through the FY17 Cattlemen’s Beef Board budget, as follows:

- National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (four proposals for $27.5 million)
- U.S. Meat Export Federation, a subcontractor to NCBA (one proposal for $7.2 million)
- Cattlemen’s Beef Board (one proposal for $1.5 million)
- North American Meat Institute (three proposals for $860,000)
- Meat Import Council of America (one proposal for $350,800)
- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (one proposal for $370,178)
- National Livestock Producers Association (one proposal for $66,500)

Broken out by budget component, the Fiscal Year 2017 Plan of Work for the Cattlemen’s Beef Board budget includes:

- $8.1 million for promotion programs, including continuation of the checkoff’s consumer digital advertising program, as well asveal promotion.
- $9.5 million for research programs, focusing on a variety of critical issues, including pre- and post-harvest beef safety research, product quality research, human nutrition research and scientific affairs, market research, and beef and culinary innovations.
- $7.6 million for consumer information programs, including a Northeast public relations initiative, national consumer public relations, including, nutrition-influencer relations, and work with primary- and secondary-school curriculum directors nationwide to get accurate information about the beef industry to classrooms of today’s youth.
- $3.9 million for industry information programs, comprising dissemination of accurate information about the beef industry to counter misinformation from anti-beef groups and others, as well as funding for checkoff participation in a fifth annual national industrywide symposium focused on discussion and dissemination of information about antibiotic use.
- $7.2 million for foreign marketing and education in some 80 countries in the following: ASEAN region; Caribbean; Central America/Dominican Republic; China/Hong Kong; Europe; Japan; Korea; Mexico; Middle East; Russia/Greater Russian Region; South America; Taiwan; and new markets.
- $1.5 million for producer communications, which includes investor outreach using national communications and direct communications to producers and importers about checkoff results; as well as development and utilization of information conduits, such as auction markets; maintenance of a seamless partnership with state beef council producer-communication efforts; and producer attitude research to determine producer attitudes about and desires of their checkoff program.

Separate from the authorization requests, other expenses funded through the total $40.7 million 2017 CBB budget include $221,000 for evaluation, $290,000 for program development, $325,000 for USDA oversight; and about $2 million for administration, which includes costs for Board meetings, legal fees, travel costs, office rental, supplies, equipment, and administrative staff compensation. Fiscal Year 2017 begins Oct. 1, 2016.

For details about the proposals considered by the Operating Committee this week, visit the Meeting Center on www.MyBeefCheckoff.com.

For more about the NBC or beef checkoff, visit www.nevadabeef.org or www.mybeefcheckoff.com.