

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

56th Annual Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale Report

By Martin Paris, NCA Executive Director



Attendees get their bids in during the sale.

On February 19, 2022, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association held their 56th Annual Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale (FBS). Consignments arrived on Thursday the 17th. Sifting and grading of the bulls took place the morning of the 18th while the outdoor trade show vendors set up their displays.

This year's sale featured bulls ranging from 16-24 months of age. Cattlemen from California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah attended the sale looking to buy their range-ready bulls for the year. Sixty-four bulls were sold this year for an average of \$3,233. Breed Averages included: 48 Angus for \$3,566, 10 Herefords for \$1,930, 3 Brangus for \$2,633, 1 Charolais for \$4,250 and 2 Red Angus for \$2,175.

The Top Range Bull and the Angus Best of Breed were awarded to Rick and Jerrie Libby of the Flying RJ Ranch for lot #29, RJR Sunny Legacy 13. The Hereford Best of Breed was awarded to Dan Bell of the Bell Ranch for lot #97, BRS 132F 28C Buster 70H. Amador Angus was the recipient of this year's top selling bull, Amador Stockade 7467 0464, for \$5,250.

This year's recipient of the volume buyer jacket is Steve Lucas of Lucas Livestock. A special thank you to this year's volume buyer and all of the buyers. Whether you bought one bull or eight, your continued support of the Fallon Bull Sale is much appreciated. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Fallon Bull Sale Committee thank you for your participation and congratulate this year's award recipients.

Along with the dedicated group of buyers and consignors that participate in the sale, there are several sponsors who help make the sale possible year after year and they include: Elko IFA Country Store (ear tags for the sale), Progressive Rancher and Nevada Rancher (advertisement for the sale). Along with these dedicated sponsors a big thank you to Demar Dahl, Stix Cattle Company, and Robert



Top Overall Range Bull Award and Best of Breed Angus was awarded to Rick and Jerrie Libby of the Flying RJ Ranch for their bull RJR Sunny Legacy 13. Left to Right: Martin Paris, Jerrie Libby, and Rick Libby.



Fallon Bull Sale Committee Chair, Maureen Weishaupt, presents retiring committee member, Steve Biddinger with a vest.

— Fallon Bull Sale Report continues on page 5 —

WV western video market

UPCOMING SALES

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 14, 2022**

Wyndham Visalia
Visalia, California

**Consignment Deadline:
Monday, March 28**

**THURSDAY,
MAY 5, 2022**

WVM Headquarters
Cottonwood, California

**Consignment Deadline:
Wednesday, April 20**

**THURSDAY,
MAY 26, 2022**

WVM Headquarters
Cottonwood, California

**Consignment Deadline:
Wednesday, May 18**

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

March Madness is upon us, for most Americans that's about college basketball but it makes me think of calving heifers.

Hope your calving is all quiet nights, calves that shoot right out and jump up quick, and minimal confusion. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention was the first week of February and Nevada was well represented. Past NCA Presidents Joe Guild and J.J. Goicoechea are in the leadership ranks and doing a great job. We attended some very informative sessions, CattleFax being one of my favorites. They said that all the fundamentals are in place to see our markets improving over the next few years, as long as we keep Black Swans on the endangered species list, we'll be taking a bigger piece of the pie.

Their weather presentation was a bit of a mixed bag, there's agreement in the weather community that La Nina will be replaced by El Nino this year but not much agreement

when. El Nino events are better/wetter for us and hopefully it comes sooner rather than later but it looked like for most of Northern Nevada our spring will be near normal-what-ever that is. Being a weatherman is like being married- it's pretty hard to be right. We also attended presentations from some of our leadership at the D.C. level in BLM and USFS, and EPA. As difficult as the political climate is now, it seems these folks are willing to build relationships to understand what our challenges are and rest assured your NCA leadership will be doing just that.

Quite a bit of policy work happened as well at Convention. The Marketing Committee got a little spicy but at the end of the day we adopted policy that should lend transparency to the marketplace while retaining marketing options with minimal government intrusion. If you've made it this far, thanks for letting me intrude in your world a few minutes, and as always appreciate your support!

REMINDER: Scholarship Applications Due April 11

NCA is again offering two scholarships this year. The NCA Scholarship and the Marvel/Andrae Scholarship.

Scholarship application forms and eligibility requirements are available on our website at www.nevadacattlemen.org. Applicants may also call the NCA office at 775-738-9214 or send a request to nca@nevadabeef.org.

A completed application form and required information must be **postmarked by April 11, 2022** and sent to: Attn: Research & Education Committee, c/o Nevada Cattlemen's Association, P.O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803; or submitted by email with the subject line, "2022 NCA Scholarship Applicant (Your Name)" to nca@nevadabeef.org.

DID YOU? KNOW

The "Big Four" (packers) do not hold any voting position on NCBA's Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Meat packing companies instead participate in NCBA's Product Council and in fact, due to a dispute over market issues during COVID-19, JBS has relinquished their membership entirely.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting

— **March 17-18, 2022** —

Idaho Fish & Game, Elk Room

Nampa, Idaho

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/idaho-rangeland-conservation-partnership-annual-meeting-tickets-53504952754?aff=e>

Public Lands Council Legislative Conference

— **March 30, 2022** —

Via Zoom

<https://publiclandscouncil.org>

2022 NCBA Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting

— **July 25-28, 2022** —

Reno, Nevada

www.ncba.org/events/summer-business-meeting

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

— **November 30-December 2, 2022** —

Nugget Casino Resort

100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV

www.nevadacattlemen.org



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Hanes Holman, Pres.-Elect

Dave Baker, 1st Vice Pres.

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NCA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between January 25, and February 24, 2022.

(New members are in bold.)

- A V Land & Livestock, Justin M. Ely
- David & Susan Abel
- Congressman Mark Amodei
- Anderson Ranch, Michael Andersen
- Arc Dome Partners
- Dave Baker, Tom Baker, Craig Baker, Clay Baker
- Bartell Ranch LLC, Edward & Darla Bartell
- RR Bass & Son, Richard Bass
- Bear Engineering Inc., John Langford
- Patti Benson
- Bently Ranch, Matt McKinney, Tod Radelfinger
- Biddinger Ranch, Steven Biddinger, Lara Biddinger
- Ira & Kim Brackett
- Brackett Livestock Inc, Flat Creek Ranch
- Broken F Ranch, Kenneth Flippin
- Harry L. Brown Family Trust, Shorty Brown
- John Bunyard
- Burrows Farms, Incorporated, Ron & Amanda Burrows
- **Butte Valley Land & Livestock, LLC, Scott Noll**
- Byrne Livestock, Brannon Byrne
- Cannon Ranch LLC, Michael Cannon
- Jared Card Hay & Trucking
- Cat Creek Cattle Co.
- Certified Range Mgmt. Consultant, Floyd Rathbun
- Cline Livestock Co., Adam Cline
- Cockrell 4L Cattle Co., Betty Cockrell
- Conley Land & Livestock, Ken Conley
- Cottonwood Ranch LLC, Agee Smith
- Coverley Ranch, Dan Coverley
- Damonte Ranch, Louis Damonte
- DeLong Ranches, Inc., John & Will DeLong
- Devil's Gate Ranch, Jeffrey Knight, Ken Bowler
- Diamond Cattle Co. LLC, Mark & Martin Etcheverry
- **Double Arrow Cattle LLC, Patrick Countryman**
- Double J A Land & Livestock, Rose & John Ascuaga, Leo & Betty Sommer
- Dufurrena Bros. Cattle, Tim Dufurrena
- Linda Dufurrena
- Easterly Romanov Ranch
- Ebert Fiddes and Dorsa, Tom Ebert
- Edward Jones, Tim Hatch
- Edward Jones Investments, Jason Land
- Egbert Livestock Limited Lblty. Co., F. Scott & Laurel S. Egbert
- Estill Ranches LLC, John Estill
- Farmers Bank, Fred W. Jaynes
- Brock Feyder
- Payton Feyder
- First National Bank of Ely, John C. Gianoli
- R. N. Fulstone Company, Steven Fulstone
- Galeppi Land & Livestock, Russel & Barbara Byington
- Genoa Livestock, Robert Coker
- W. H. Gibbs Company, William H. Gibbs, President
- Glaser Land & Livestock, Brent Glaser
- Goemmer Ranches, Shawn & Mindy Goemmer
- Gottschalk Ranch, Michael Gottschalk
- Rich Grant & Sons Ranching Company, LLC
- Great Basin Ranch, Bernard Petersen, Zane Marshall
- Greenway Seeds, Alan Greenway
- Ted Guazzini
- Joseph Guild
- Joe A. Heguy
- Hodges Transportation Inc.
- Hussman Ranch, David Hussman
- Hutchens Herefords, Lee Hutchens
- I T Quarter Circle Ranch, Steve Russell
- Intermountain Beef, Cevin Jones
- J & M Livestock LLC, Jason & McKenzie Molsbee
- J & S Land and Cattle LLC, James Kent
- Dale & Alice Johnson
- Johnson Livestock, Buck & Janet Johnson
- K D K Angus, Dana & Rena Weishaupt
- Kamtec, Inc., Matt Torley
- Key-Lix Supplements, Jed Archibald
- King Ranch, Jeanne King
- Kings River Ranch, James Buell DVM
- Lazy D Livestock, Pete Delmue
- Liphatec, Inc., Michael Brownell
- Maggie Creek Ranch, LP, Jon Griggs
- O. Kent Maher, Attorney at Law
- Joe & Camma Marvel
- Matt Marvel
- Mike Marvel Ranching, Mike Marvel
- Pete J. Marvel
- Marys River Ranch, Inc., Preston Wright, Victoria Biley
- Lawrence C. Masini Ranches (L-M), Larry Masini
- Maverick Ranch, Jack & Maria Martin
- Susan McCartney
- Cyd McMullen & Alan Glaser, Russell & Anne McMullen
- McMullen, McPhee & Company LLC
- Millett Ranch, George E. Manley
- Moura Ranch LLC, Anthony Moura, Lisa Moura
- Neff Equipment
- Nevada Agricultural Foundation, Sue Hoffman, Ex. Director, Michael Fischer, President
- **Nevada Section Society for Range Management**
- New Generation Supplements, Anna Bavor
- Nine S Brangus, Connie Simkins
- OPI, Ted Zimmerman
- Bob Oakden
- Owl Creek Ranch, Mike & Melinda Sarman
- Palisade Ranch Inc., Rita Stitzel-Miller
- Park Ranch LLC, David Park
- Parker Family Ranch LLC, Bart Parker
- Pete & Rama Paris
- Paris Ranch, Bert Paris
- Holly Pecetti
- Petan Company of Nevada
- Producers Livestock Marketing Association, Dan Schiffler, Manager
- Quality Tile & Marble Co. Inc., Wes & Linda Tews
- Quinn River Crossing Ranch, Wallace Slough
- Rafter 9
- Rafter Down A Ranch, C. Ralph Allen
- Read & Powell CPA's
- Red Dog Ranch, Jason & Angela Gault
- Renner Equipment Co., Don Renner
- Reverse F P Ranch, Dustin Feyder
- Rockin' 13, Bruce & Pam Jensen
- Resource Concepts Inc., John McLain, Don Henderson
- Ritchie Industries, Robert Amundson
- Sarman Ranch, Ed Sarman
- Sawtooth Gelbvieh, Dick or Jean Williams
- Scossa Ranch LLC, Russell Scossa
- Silver State Beefmasters, Dalton Lowery
- Simplot Western Stockmen's, Ramona Ridley, Kyle Marino
- Snyder Livestock Co. Inc., Lucy Rechel
- The Spanish Ranch, Pamela Doiron
- Steninger Ranching, Rex Steninger
- Dana Stuart-Moore
- Sustacha Ranches, Merilyn Sustacha, Jess Sustacha, Jr.
- Sweet Pro Northwest by the Rising B, Leo Baptiste
- T I Ranches LLC, Kenneth Jones, Marlow & Stephanie Dahl
- Julian Tomera Ranches, Inc. Battle Mtn. Division, Pete, Lynn, Paul, Paula, Dan, & Courtney Tomera
- Jim Thompson
- Robert & Cheryl Turner
- Turnipseed Engineering, Ltd., David Hillis P.E W.R.S.
- UNR Gund Ranch, Jon Wilker, Jake Trindle
- John Uhalde & Co., John Uhalde
- Venturacci Schuler Partners, Michael Schuler, Elizabeth Schuler, & Mark Venturacci
- Ward Ranches, Gary Ward
- Washoe Ranch, Brett Reed
- Karl & Bettie Weishaupt Family Trust
- Wells Rural Electric Company
- Western Video Market, Ellington Peek
- Wickahoney Cattle Co.
- Kimble Wilkinson Ranch, Kimble Wilkinson
- Willow Creek Ranch, Russell & David Fitzwater
- Winecup L Cattle LLC, Bill & Laura Lickley
- Winnemucca Convention Vis. Authority, Kim Petersen
- Wood Ranch LLC, Dustin Wood
- James J. Wright Ranch Inc., J.J. & Glynis Wright
- Jason Wright
- WSR Insurance, Jim Vann

Fallon Bull Sale Report: *Continued from page 1*



Martin Paris presents Amador Angus the High Selling Bull Award for their bull Amador Stockade 7467 0464.

DePaoli for contributing a donation calf.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would also like to thank the Churchill County FFA, Churchill County Cowbells, sale ringmen, Eric Duarte (auctioneer), Dr. Randy Wallstrum (sale veterinarian), the Sifting and Grading Committees, the Fallon Bull Sale Committee members, and Fallon Livestock LLC. for all their hard work at this year's sale. Without the support of our sponsors and vol-

unteers, this sale would not be possible.

Last but not least, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Fallon Bull Sale Committee would like to recognize retiring committee member, Steve Biddinger. Steve has been involved with the Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale for 55 years as both a consignor and committee member. We wish Steve all the best and can't think him enough for his decades of contributions to the sale.



J.J. Goicoechea pauses to relieve an itch during sifting and grading.



Best of Breed Hereford was awarded to Dan Bell of the Bell Ranch for his bull BRS 132F 28C Buster 70H.

NCA President Jon Griggs arrives at the Churchill County Cowbells's Dinner/Dance.



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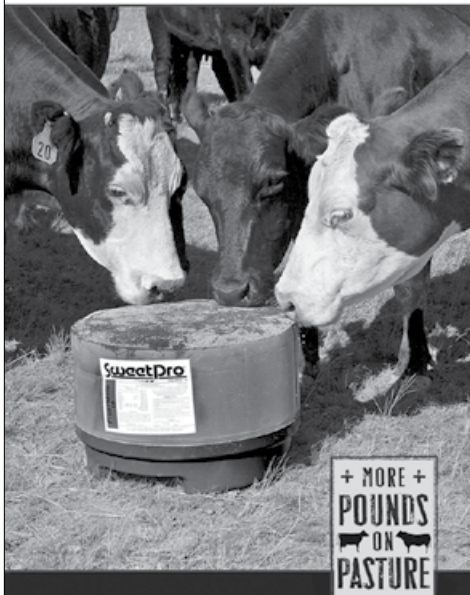
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New Farm to Fork Certification Program Provides Information on Livestock Production and Processing

Extension program offers course for
new or up-and-coming Nevada livestock producers

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada, Reno Extension's Herds & Harvest Program is hosting a new Farm to Fork Certification Program, 6 – 8 p.m., Wednesdays, March 2 – 30. The courses in this program will offer information for beginning farmers and ranchers on the process of livestock and poultry production, from raising livestock to selling the products on the market.

The program's courses will be conducted via Zoom and will draw upon the knowledge and experience of established Nevada livestock and poultry producers and University experts. There will also be an in-person field trip touring local farms and ranches. Participants who complete the course will receive their Farm to Fork Level 1 Certification. Course topics include:

- **March 2:** Overview of Farm to Fork for livestock production: focusing on jurisdictions and regulations existing in Nevada, livestock production for local consumption, developing a business plan, public and private land grazing, and identifying resources.
- **March 9:** Livestock nutrition and reproduction: focusing on the basics of livestock nutrition, feed management, reproduction and characteristics of meat based on nutritional management.
- **March 16:** Poultry nutrition and reproduction: focus-

ing on the basics of poultry nutrition, feed management, reproduction and characteristics of meat based on nutritional management.

- **March 23:** Defining grow local and developing marketing plans: focusing on developing a grow local product, creating a marketing plan and how to sell a local product.
- **March 30:** Farm financial management in the 21st century: focusing on financially building a farm, building business skills and assets, estate planning, and balance and cash flow basics. University students will provide financial analysis of different agricultural ventures.
- **Field trip dates announced upon registration:** Field trips to tour local farms and ranches. Participants can choose which one of the two tours they wish to take, according to their location and interests.

The cost for the program is \$60 per person, and registration can be completed online at https://nevada.formstack.com/forms/btr_2022. For more information, contact Staci Emm, Extension educator for Mineral County, at emms@unr.edu or 775-475-4227, or Kaley Chapin, outreach specialist, at kaleys@unr.edu or 702-467-2668.

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should call or notify Paul Lessick, civil rights and compliance coordinator, at plessick@unr.edu or 702-257-5577 at least three days prior to the scheduled event.

The Extension Herds & Harvest Program combines a series of workshops on different topics and provides educational business management and mentoring skill building to support Nevada agricultural producers. This project was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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Wolf Pack Meats Welcomes New Operations Manager

Tom Kulas hopes to grow facility to better serve the community

RENO, Nev. – Tom Kulas has joined the University of Nevada, Reno Experiment Station's Wolf Pack Meats facility as the new operations manager. Kulas will be overseeing the operations of the facility, which includes the slaughter, processing and packaging of livestock such as beef, lamb and sheep, swine, and goat.

Wolf Pack Meats is a USDA-approved facility that offers students the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of meat technology while using the industry's best machinery. Kulas is focusing on continuing the facility's efforts in teaching, research and outreach to offer students and faculty a first-hand experience in meat production, retail distribution and packaging.

Kulas has been in professional management for over 20 years in various industries, gaining experience in managing and motivating teams and overseeing program finances. He plans to use his knowledge and experience to grow the Wolf Pack Meats team and increase the production of the facility to better serve northern Nevada consumers.

"We are delighted to have been able to bring someone of Tom's experience in management and business operations to Wolf Pack Meats," Chris Pritsos, director



of the University of Nevada, Reno Experiment Station, said. "Under Tom's leadership, we expect that Wolf Pack Meats will be able to better serve our students, faculty and stakeholders."

Located at the Main Station Field Lab in east Reno, Wolf Pack Meats is one of only two meat-processing plants in Nevada capable of providing U.S. Department of Agriculture-inspected harvesting services to local farmers. The facility maintains its own herd, which it uses to study ways to produce meat in greater quantities with higher quality.

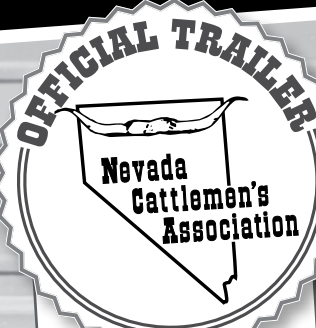
"I was looking for something different, and I think this position is going to be an exciting new project for me," Kulas said. "It's also great to be part of an organization like the University and have so much support."

The facility currently harvests about 3,000 animals each year, while providing students with the chance to not only see the commercial process in action, but also receive hands-on training and experience in a real commercial facility.

Kulas is excited to continue to grow the Wolf Pack Meats facility while maintaining the high quality, consistency and safety that students, employees and shoppers expect.

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Biden Administration Appoints Janice Kolvet to Serve as State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Nevada

WASHINGTON, March 2, 2022— The Biden Administration recently appointed Janice Kolvet as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA). Kolvet joined the Nevada FSA team on Feb. 28, 2022.

"Individuals selected to serve as FSA State Executive Directors are incredible public servants who have a proven track record when it comes to their commitment to advance their states and communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Each will serve on the frontlines, carrying out USDA's mission at the state level and ensuring the voice of each and every USDA customer is heard. We are fortunate to have each of these talented individuals at this critical time for farmers and producers and rural communities across America."

Born and raised in Reno, Nevada, Kolvet began her career with FSA 25 years ago. She managed the

delivery of FSA farm programs at the county level as a district director and as an agricultural program specialist in Nevada and California. At FSA headquarters in Washington, D.C, Kolvet served as a supervisory agricultural program specialist directing staff on national farm policy with the Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division. She also worked on a 2014 Farm Bill taskforce, tasked with developing new policy for federal disaster assistance. Kolvet also has previous experience as a cattle rancher in Elko, Nevada.

As SED, Kolvet will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of FSA programs to agricultural producers in Nevada. These commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs ensure a safe, affordable, abundant, and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for consumers.

"The State Executive Director is a pivotal leadership position for the Agency and for the agricultural pro-

ducers we serve," said Marcus Graham, FSA Deputy Administrator for Field Operations. "These leaders, appointed by the Biden-Harris Administration, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their respective states. We are happy to have them on board and wish them much success."

Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural partners through the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of federal agricultural programs. The Agency offers producers a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity and disaster programs. Additionally, through conservation programs, FSA continues to preserve and protect natural resources and provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including targeted loan funds for beginning, underserved, women and military veterans involved in production agriculture.

NCBA NEWS

Minnesota Cattleman Becomes New NCBA President

HOUSTON (Feb. 3, 2022) – Don Schiefelbein, a central Minnesota native, seedstock breeder and cattle feeder became the new NCBA president during the 2022 Cattle Industry Convention, held this week in Houston. Schiefelbein and his family operate Schiefelbein Farms, a diversified farming operation in Kimball, Minn.

"I'm very fortunate to have been involved in the cattle industry through several different avenues and have seen the positive results when people come together," said Schiefelbein. "As NCBA's incoming president, I will continue bringing people together for the benefit of the industry."

The 2022 NCBA officer team, approved by the NCBA board of directors, took office at the end of this year's convention. Todd Wilkinson of South Dakota was named

president-elect and Mark Eisele of Wyoming was elected vice president. Nebraska rancher Buck Wehrbein was elected chair of the NCBA Policy Division and stocker/backgrounder Gene Copenhaver of Virginia was elected policy vice chair. Brad Hastings of Texas and Clark Price of North Dakota were elected as chair and vice chair of the NCBA Federation Division, respectively.

Before returning to the family farm, Schiefelbein served as the executive director of the American Gelbvieh Association, and previously worked for the North American Limousin Association after graduating from Texas A&M University.



2022 NCBA Officers Submitted Photo

Schiefelbein has a long history of industry service, most recently in the role as chair of the Beef Industry Long Range Planning Committee. He has also held several positions on committees and the board of directors of the American Angus Association. In addition, Schiefelbein is a past president of the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association.

As he looks to his year as NCBA president, Schiefelbein is serious about helping lead NCBA's fight for policies and a business climate that supports cattle producing families. It's all part of maintaining the opportunity to make a living on the land.

"To me, I just sit in awe of how many people have the opportunity to do something they love to do and would love to do every day with their family by their side," Schiefelbein said. "There's just not many

places in this world that gives you that opportunity."

Schiefelbein plans to focus on several priorities, including ensuring NCBA members' voices are heard as the organization continues to grow, uniting its membership and making sure NCBA is at the forefront of issues that impact the cattle industry to protect producer interests. He also plans to continue the organization's focus on producer profitability and build upon the work in the sustainability space to create opportunities for members and their ability to pass on their operations to the next generation.

NCBA Disturbed by JBS Action, Cattle Producers Demand Completion of DOJ Investigation

HOUSTON (Feb. 2, 2022) – The announcement that JBS USA has decided on a \$52.5 million settlement over allegations of beef price fixing is deeply disturbing to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). NCBA was the first national organization to request a government investigation of beef markets in 2019. Now there are settlements occurring without Department of Justice (DOJ) having released findings or even providing cattle producers with an update on progress.

In August 2019, following a fire at the Tyson plant in Holcomb, KS, NCBA sent a letter to USDA requesting an examination of price discrepancies in fed cattle markets. Again in 2020, NCBA took its plea directly to the White House, which then directed DOJ to investigate possible wrongdoing in the cattle markets. NCBA has also worked directly with members of Congress to press DOJ for an update and information about its investigation.

"America's cattle producers expect and deserve full transparency on any, and all, information related to the ongoing market investigations. NCBA encourages the government to finalize its investigation so we can fully understand any damage that may have been caused," said Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO. "It is clear from this settlement that cattle producers still don't have all the information they have demanded and is deserved. The DOJ has an obligation to finish their investigation. Cattle producers do not have years to wait for the government to determine whether there has been wrongdoing, we demand answers now."



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It's an EPA "Miracle"—Turning Your "Dry Land" into a "Wetland?"

By: Karen Budd-Falen, Budd-Falen Law Office, LLC

Remember the story from the Bible where Jesus turned the water into wine? The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can also perform miracles—turning dry land into a wetland under the Clean Water Act (CWA). In fact, according to the EPA, a "wetland" can be private property that has NO surface water but has water beneath the surface that then flows under a paved street into a small manmade ditch that goes past other homes and eventually flows into a lake (a navigable water). Because the EPA has defined this dry land as a "wetland," placing dirt on that property is regulated by the agency. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether the federal government can determine that dry land is a wetland or a "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) under the CWA.

In April 2007, the Sackett family broke ground to build a home on a lot that they purchased in a residential subdivision. The lot is bordered by a county-paved road on one side and residential houses on the other three sides. After the houses, there is a lake. Shortly after they began construction, the EPA sent investigators to inspect the job site for CWA compliance. Without doing any of the technical measurements required under the law, the EPA announced that the Sacketts were violating the CWA by putting additional dirt on their land without a federal permit. The EPA then sent the Sacketts an Order stating that their lot was a "federally regulated wetland" and commanded them to restore the lot to its natural condition and fence it for three years, or face tens of thousands of dollars in daily fines. The EPA Order was based on the property being adjacent to a small ditch across the street that eventually drained into a navigable lake.

The U.S. Supreme Court has now taken this case. The landowners are arguing that the Court should clarify its decision in a prior CWA case from 2006. In that case, four Supreme Court Justices held that the CWA only grants federal authority over a WOTUS if the wetland (1) exhibits a relatively permanent water flow, (2) there is a continuous surface water connection between the wetland and a relatively permanent waterbody, and (3) it is difficult to determine where the wetland begins and the permanent navigable water ends (called the "connected waters" test). In contrast, four Justices argued that the definition of a WOTUS should be determined by the federal government as the CWA "experts." The "tie" was broken by Justice Kennedy who said he would define a WOTUS to include a wetland if it bears a "substantial nexus" to a navigable water.

Based on the Supreme Court split, every President has issued a markedly different rule defining a "WOTUS." Obama expanded the authority of the EPA over private property justified by the "substantial nexus" test. Trump repealed Obama's rule and developed his own definition based on the "connected waters" test. Now Biden is writing his own rule likely favoring greater authority for the federal government to govern the use of private property.

The ruling soon to be issued by the U.S. Supreme Court will hopefully give landowners an answer as to what lands should be federally regulated under the CWA. This firm will be supporting the private landowners in this case because while I believe that Jesus did and can perform miracles, under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government should not have that same power.

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USDA Commits \$215 Million to Enhance the American Food Supply Chain

Department Will Make Available \$215 Million for Projects That Will Promote Competition and Increase Resiliency and Create Economic Opportunity in Rural America

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is making available up to \$215 million in grants and other support to expand meat and poultry processing options, strengthen the food supply chain, and create jobs and economic opportunities in rural areas. Today's funding opportunity, announced on the one-year anniversary of President Biden's Executive Order 14017 "America's Supply Chains", is one of many actions that USDA is taking to expand processing capacity and increase competition in meat and poultry processing to make agricultural markets more accessible, fair, competitive, and resilient for American farmers and ranchers.

"For too long, ranchers and processors have seen the value and the opportunities they work so hard to create move away from the rural communities where they live and operate," Vilsack said. "Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA is committed to making investments to support economic systems where the wealth created in rural areas stays in rural areas. The funding we're announcing today ultimately will help us give farmers and ranchers a fair shake and strengthen supply chains while developing options to deliver food produced closer to home for families."

USDA Rural Development will make \$150 million available in grants to fund startup and expansion activities in the meat and poultry processing sector. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will provide another \$40 million for workforce development and training, and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will provide \$25 million to offer technical assistance to grant applicants and others seeking resources related to meat and poultry processing. These new opportunities are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic commitment to fight monopolization and promote competition across the economy. They are also aligned with USDA's vision of a food system that supports health and ensures producers receive a fair share of the food dollar while advancing equity and combating the climate crisis.

Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

USDA Rural Development is making \$150 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding available through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). USDA is offering grants of up to \$25 million each to expand processing capacity through a variety of activities, including but not limited to construction, expansion of existing facilities, and acquisition of equipment.

USDA encourages applications that benefit smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, Tribes and tribal producers, socially disadvantaged producers, military veteran producers, and underserved communities.

USDA will host two informational webinars to provide information on MPPEP. The first, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, will provide an overview of the program. The second, March 7 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, will cover application requirements. Registration information for the webinars is available on the MPPEP website.

For additional information, applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the MPPEP website: www.rd.usda.gov/mppep. Questions may be submitted through the website or sent to MPPEP@usda.gov.

All application materials can be found at www.rd.usda.gov/mppep or at www.grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 11, 2022, through www.grants.gov.

Meat and Poultry Processing Workforce Development

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will invest an additional \$40 million through existing workforce development programs to provide a pipeline of well-trained workers to meet the demand for both current processors and increased independent processing capacity. The primary investment will be through competitive grants to support workforce training at community, junior and technical colleges with programs specifically for meat and poultry processing. A Request for Applications will be published in April 2022. Additional investments will leverage existing regional USDA education and Extension networks and establish new, or supplement select existing, Centers of Excellence at Minority-serving Institutions focused on meat and poultry research, education and training. Each of these investments is designed to deliver needed support more quickly. Additional investments, either through the same or new programs and partnerships, are expected later this year. To sign up for notifications of these and other NIFA funding opportunities, visit the NIFA website.

USDA expects to continue working with the Department of Labor to support and encourage the development of good jobs in the agricultural sector, including jobs in meat and poultry processing.

Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance

USDA also is helping to ensure that entities proposing independent meat and poultry processing projects through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion



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— Supply Chain continued on page 14 —

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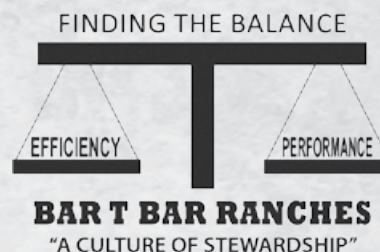
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Supply Chain: *Continued from page 12*

Program (MPPEP) have full service technical assistance support from application through post-award. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will provide approximately \$25 million in American Rescue Plan funding to establish partnerships with organizations that will provide technical assistance to MPPEP applicants, recent recipients and future applicants of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant program, and to entities who require general guidance and resources on meat and poultry processing. Of the \$25 million, AMS will utilize \$10 million to implement the first phase of support by establishing an initial technical assistance network and lead coordinator. More information about the technical assistance is available at the Meat and Poultry Supply Chain website.

USDA's one-year supply chain report, also published today, assesses the opportunities, including today's significant investment in the meat and poultry sector, that USDA, other Federal agencies and Congress have made over the long-term to infuse stability, improve equity, diversify and expand infrastructure and markets, and transform the food system.

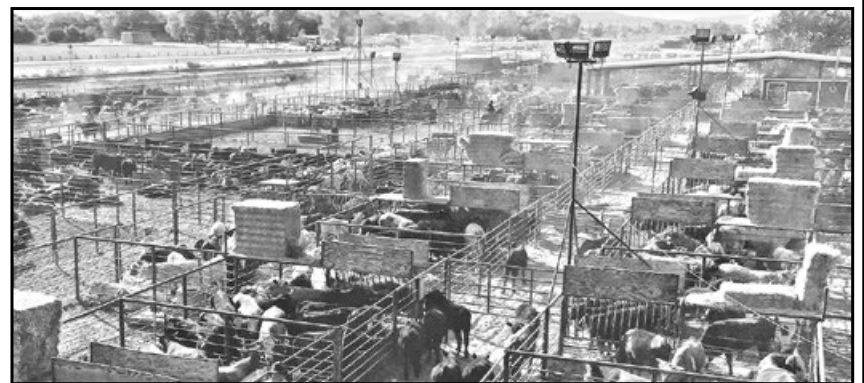
Biden-Harris Administration Commitment to Supporting American Farmers and Ranchers

This funding announcement follows the Biden-Harris Administration's September 2021 announcement about the steps it is taking to address concentration in the meat-processing industry and the January 2022 announcement about an Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain. It also follows USDA's December 2021 announcement of \$100

million for guaranteed loans on top of the previously announced \$500 million investment to expand meat and poultry processing capacity. See all recent actions taken to support the American food supply chain on www.usda.gov/meat.

As Co-Chair of the Biden-Harris Administration's Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force, Secretary Vilsack and USDA have brought together industry, labor and federal partners to address the short-term supply chain disruptions arising from the Administration's strong economic recovery. This is one of several key steps that USDA is taking to build a more resilient supply chain and better food system and to increase competition in agricultural markets. These steps are pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy and his Executive Order on America's Supply Chains. This initiative will support key supply chain infrastructure investments to expand and scale existing capacity, as well as support long-term investments in new operations.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



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Rancher Profile: Niels Hansen

Public Lands Council Blog: Real Ranchers. Real Stories.

The great American West was built upon the ideals of hard work, perseverance, and tradition. It's these same principles that serve as the foundation for so many families who ranch in that part of the country today. And that's no different for Niels Hansen, a third-generation rancher from Rawlins, Wyo. He takes pride in the rich family heritage and history of the ranch that has been in his family since his relatives immigrated to the United States from Denmark in the late 1800s.

Niels' involvement in the ranch comes after decades of generational investment from his ancestors. When Niels' great uncles, Peter and Jim (Jens), immigrated to the United States, they both started ranches in the Rawlins area. In 1927, Niels' father joined Peter and Jim in the United States and started working on the ranches, ultimately managing and owning the ranch started by Jim. Finally, Niels' and his sister Anna became the third generation on Jim's ranch, but the first to be born here in the United States.



the decisions made today are decisions that will leave the land better and the business stronger than when he started working on it. While Niels is proud of the work his family has done on the ranch, he is more proud that his son will be able to build on the good work being done.

"One of the hardest parts about transition is truly letting it transfer," explained Niels. "When my son started running the yearling operation, unless he called asking for help, I did my best to leave him alone."

For Niels, it is commitment to innovation, respect for the land, and dedication to upholding a strong family legacy that has allowed him to improve the operation through the years. Even though some ranchers may find it hard to accept that the next chapter of conservation and management may be written by someone else, he knows that for ranchers to remain experts in conservation, it is essential that the next generation bring new and innovative ideas to the table – just as he did when he took over the ranch from his ancestors.

A History of Data-Driven Decisions

Originally, Jim raised sheep and remount horses for the army, but over the years as new generations joined the business, the ranch evolved. From its beginnings with sheep and horses, to raising cow/calf pairs and yearlings, to now focusing on the yearling operation – Niels' family is committed to using science-based, data-driven decisions to ensure that their ranch has the ability to be sustainable for generations.

"My family has been working on improving the land through conservation for years," recalled Niels.

This deep-rooted passion for land conservation started with his great uncle in the early 1900s. In a time when over-trapping was a serious issue, he began live-trapping beaver and reintroducing them to the Rawlins area. The passion for improving the land and ecosystem in which they were responsible for has been passed from one generation to another, including Niels himself.

"The land management aspect has really been our bread and butter that's kept us going here for so long," said Niels. "After two high runoff years in a row, we recognized that we had growing erosion and riparian problems. We got the University of Wyoming and the Bureau of Land Management involved, we started working together on things, and it's just been improving ever since."

Niels believes that a strong line of communication and trust with conservation professionals is vital to ensure the decisions being made are the best ones for the natural resources and the business. Daily, he relies on the strong working relationship that has been built with their Bureau of Land Management (BLM) range conservationist. It's the frank conversations and council from others, both in and out of the industry, that allow him and his family to continue to be a good stewards of the land and protect the reputation of their operation, along with the reputation of public lands ranchers throughout the west.

Leaving the Land to The Next Generation

For Niels, one of the most important parts of his daily work is to ensure that



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