



SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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Springtime Update

by Martin Paris, Executive Director

Happy Spring Cattlemen and Cattlewomen! What a winter we saw throughout Nevada this year. The weather experts have been saying we are in the middle of a shift from La Nina to El Nino. The neutral pattern we are in now has been dubbed “La Nada” by some, but winter was anything but nada this year. I hope the early calvers got by without too much difficulty, but one thing I know is that consistent freezing temperatures with blizzards added in is not kind to newborn calves or those old trusty mother cows. Here’s to happy calving and a mild spring instead of more of that white stuff or flooding.

This month is going to be busy per usual. On the docket for April, NCA will be sending a contingent to Washington D.C. for the NCBA/PLC Annual Legislative Conference. This is a good opportunity for NCA to meet face to face with our Congressional representatives to discuss priority issues. The Farm Bill will be a major discussion point this year. There is a lot of uncertainty with the Farm Bill as inflation continues to hang around like the plague, especially for those of us in agriculture. This is all while spending coming out of our nation’s capital continues at a warp speed pace. It’s going to take some out of the box thinking to come up with a plan that supports livestock producers while being mindful of national deficit. While things are nowhere near fleshed out, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting a baseline of \$709 billion dollars over five years and approximately \$1.5 trillion over ten years. These estimates are based on required spending on mandatory farm bill programs if current law continues. Obviously, those are some big numbers, but NCA will be working hard to make sure key livestock programs remain in place. We also intend to discuss animal disease traceability, wild horses, federal land designations and much more during the trip.

On the state side of the equation, the Nevada Legislature also continues their work at warp speed pace. By my count there are 676 resolutions and bills up for consideration with more able to be added until March 20th deadline for legisla-

tion to be introduced. The pace at which legislation is heard and considered makes it tough to provide an accurate assessment of where things stand as they seem to change by the minute, but recently NCA’s Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Davy Stix, expressed NCA’s support for Senate Bill 113, which would create some sideboards for water basins that are designated as critical management areas. Most importantly, SB 113 would protect prior appropriation – also known as “first in time, first in right” by ensuring that any restrictions to groundwater withdrawals in basins designated as critical management areas conform to priority rights. Senior water right holders would also have the opportunity to participate in a groundwater management plan but would not be required to do so.

NCA also testified in support of Assembly Bill 109 which would establish a Soil Health Advisory Board and also create a Healthy Soils Initiative which would allow conservation districts to leverage funding for on the ground soil health projects.

We are also keeping a close eye on several bills that will have had hearings by the time you read this or will soon have hearings scheduled including the following: Senate Bill 90 which would designate wild horses as the “State Horse” of Nevada while also seemingly classifying the stray horses in the Virginia Range currently managed by the Nevada Department of Agriculture as wild horses as well. Assembly Bill 102 proposes to ban coyote hunting competitions in Nevada. Assembly Bill 70 aims to remove the current requirement that 80% of the \$3 fee collected for a game tag be used to manage predators and would instead direct the collected fees to be used to prioritize programs, activities, and research that will provide the greatest benefit to big game mammals.

Most recently, the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association testified in opposition of Assembly Joint Resolution 3 which would add a new section to the Nevada Constitution with the opening section declaring that “Each person has an inherent, inalienable, indefeasible and self-executing right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.” If passed the bill would have to be passed again in the 2025 Nevada State Legislative Session and then be put on the ballot for all Nevada voters to approve/disapprove. As written, the resolution would give special interests and activists groups undefined and potentially unlimited legal standing to sue based on perceived environmental wrongs.

All things considered, NCA remains in a great position to influence the policy impacting livestock producers on both the state and federal levels, but there’s still a ton of work to be done. Stay tuned as bills continue to be debated and work their way through the process. I’ll continue to do my best to try to make sense of the often times non-sensical.

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SCAN ME



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Yep, that's me, yelling at the radio. Some of you may wonder why I'm yelling at an inanimate object, but I suspect most of you have been there. I happened to catch a news piece about the announcement of this year's fee for an Animal Unit Month paid by Public Lands Ranchers. It was no doubt promulgated by a shop of lawyers – I mean environmentalists litigating their way to a bigger bank account – I mean better environment. The piece was filled with the usual half-truths but the part that had me back-talking said inanimate object was the statement that cheap fees mean that ranchers can afford to graze more cattle, thereby increasing the damage caused. It's not hard to know the truth that the number of AUM's a rancher has to work with is limited by the land management agencies and pretty

much set in stone. The total lack of any business sense to that statement though is what prompted my verbal tirade.

Your Association works hard to promote our industry and counter misconceptions, and we're fortunate to have our Land Grant Universities providing us current science that proves the benefits of well-managed livestock grazing, thank you to CABNR at UNR for having our backs. There's also a well-researched paper showing the true costs of an AUM too, I might add.

In cheerier news (cheerier?), The Great Basin Bull Sale proved to be a huge success and a really fun weekend in Fallon. Thanks to Jim and Jesse and the Rafter 3C crew for the beautiful facility and to Charlie and crew for a well-run sale with a great set of bulls. I'd much rather hear the excited shout of a ringman than my own dog-scaring holler at the radio.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between February 25 and March 24, 2023.

(New members are in bold.)

- 5 D Cattle Company, Jim Delaigle
- A V Land & Livestock, Justin M. Ely
- Bar S E Ranch, Jim & Suzy Estill
- Battle Creek Ranch, Greg & Mary Ann Foster
- Bieroth Ranch, Casey & Carissa Bieroth
- Boies Ranches, Steve & Robin Boies
- Brackett Livestock Inc., Bert, & Will Brackett
- Broken F Ranch, Kenneth Flippin
- Cardey Ranches/Roadrunner Angus, Don & Diana Cardey
- Cat Creek Cattle Co.
- Chris Collis
- Coverley Ranch, Dan Coverley
- Crawfish Place, Gus Brackett
- DeLong Ranches Inc., John & Will DeLong
- Edward Jones Investments, Jason Land
- First National Bank of Ely, John Gianoli
- Flat Creek Ranch, Jake Brackett
- Jennifer Garrett
- Gem State Angus Ranch, Kent & Kevin Thibault
- Glaser Land & Livestock, Brent Glaser
- Gudel Cattle Co., Kris Gudel
- Home Ranch, Lloyd Sherburn
- Kirby Mfg., Inc., Steven Freitas
- Lazy D Livestock, Pete Delmue
- Neil McQueary
- **Nv Bar Cattle Co., Amber & Carlos Gonzalez**
- Randy & Elysia Osterhoudt
- Floyd Rathbun, Certified Range Mgmt. Consultant
- **Sharon Sherburn**
- Wickahoney Cattle Co.
- WSR Insurance, Jim Vann

UPCOMING EVENTS

82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature

— February 6- June 5, 2023 —
Carson City, NV
401 S. Carson St.

NCBA/Public Lands Council Legislative Conference

— April 24-26, 2023 —
Washington, D.C.
<https://publiclandscouncil.org/2023-legislative-conference/>

NCA 2023 Teacher of the Year Nominations

— Deadline: June 16, 2023 —
Nomination forms/information at nevadacattlemen.org

NCBA Summer Business Meeting

— July 24-26, 2023 —
San Diego, CA
Hyatt Manchester Hotel
1 Market Place

Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— September 5-7, 2023 —
Pendleton Convention Center
Pendleton, OR 97801

Nevada Cattlemen's Association 88th Annual Convention

— November 16-18, 2023 —
Winnemucca, NV
Winnemucca Conventions Center
50 W. Winnemucca Blvd.



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Jon Griggs, President | Hanes Holman, Pres.-Elect | Dave Baker, 1st Vice Pres.

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The Winnemucca District Office Welcomes a New District Manager

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. - The Bureau of Land Management, Nevada has selected Sam Burton as the new Winnemucca District Manager. Mr. Burton previously served as the Field Manager for Helium Operations in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico, Amarillo Field Office.

"I'm happy to announce Sam Burton as the Winnemucca district manager. He is a proven leader and has a great understanding of our multiple-use mission that will be a great asset to one of the most important Districts in the agency," Jon Raby, BLM Nevada State Director, said.

The Winnemucca District Office manages around 8.2 million acres located in Humboldt and Pershing counties and portions of Washoe, Lyon and Churchill counties in the northwest corner of Nevada. Many of the District responsibilities

encompass mine permitting, wild horse and burro management, special recreation permitting (SRP) including the Burning Man permit, which is the largest SRP in the BLM.

During his BLM career Mr. Burton has also served as the AFM for Minerals in BLM's Northeastern States Field Office in Milwaukee, WI. In this position he managed BLM's mineral resources and oil and gas programs in 20 northeastern states with oversight for lead, gold, coal, and dimension stone.

Mr. Burton was born in Eschwege, Germany and grew up traveling extensively around Europe in a military family (U.S. Army) serving overseas. He spent his high school and college years living in Sierra Vista, AZ and Tucson AZ. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Arizona.

BLM Elko Wells Field Office Initiates 30-Day Comment Period for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

ELKO, Nev. -The Bureau of Land Management Wells Field Office invites public review and comment of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the proposed treatments and improvements to the greater sage-grouse habitat in Northeastern Nevada. The 30-day public comment period begins March 13, 2023 and concludes on April 11, 2023.

"The need for the project is identified as conservation, enhancement, and protection of sagebrush ecosystems within the O'Neil PPA, and is vital to the protection and future success of our greater sage grouse populations," said Melanie Mitchell, Wells Field Office Manager.

The O'Neil Project Planning Area (PPA) was identified as an ecological assessment area by the Northern Great Basin Fire and Invasive Assessment Team (FIAT). This process is designed to identify strategies that consider threats to greater sage-grouse and their habitats. It incorporates emerging science, regional findings, and local data in identifying management opportunities that counter detrimental ecological trends in wildfire, invasive annual grasses, and conifer expansion.

The O'Neil PPA includes the FIAT PPA boundaries plus additional lands within the Elko District that border Idaho and Utah. The project encompasses an area of approximately 2.44 million acres, of which approximately 208 thousand acres are

being analyzed for treatment. The proposed vegetation treatments are in conformance with the BLM's Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment.

The Wells Field Office will implement vegetation treatment projects over a ten-year period to protect, improve, and restore habitat for various wildlife species, especially greater sage grouse, and restore natural vegetative conditions in the O'Neil PPA. The implementation of specific management strategies and conservation activities will maintain the status of the of the species and protect the habitat for other sagebrush-obligate species that are at substantial risk from wildfire due to hazardous fuels at the landscape level.

The public is invited to review and comment during the 30-day comment period for the PEA. To view the project information on ePlanning or submit comments online please go to - <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/58990/510>.

Comments can also be submitted by mail to: BLM, Elko District BLM, Attn: O'Neil PPA, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV, 89801; by fax to (775) 753-0347; or emailed to BLM_NV_EKD_ONEIL_PPA_PROJECT@blm.gov

For additional information contact Tyson Gripp at (775) 753-0362 or email tgripp@blm.gov.



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**THURSDAY,
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Consignment Deadline: Wednesday, April 5

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**THURSDAY,
MAY 4, 2023**

Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant
Coalinga, California

Consignment Deadline: Wednesday, April 19

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PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

**THURSDAY,
MAY 25, 2023**

WVM Headquarters
Cottonwood, California

Consignment Deadline:
Wednesday, May 17

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Cortez Masto Leads Nevada Delegation in Calling on USDA to Support Ranchers and Farmers Impacted by Nevada's Record Winter Storms

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) led the entire Nevada delegation in a letter urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to utilize all tools and powers at its disposal to assist Nevada farmers and ranchers impacted by extreme winter weather. The letter is signed by Senator Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) and Representatives Mark Amodei (R-Nev.-02), Dina Titus (D-Nev.- 01), Susie Lee (D-Nev.-03), and Steven Horsford (D-Nev.-04).

Northern Nevada has seen multiple record breaking storms this winter. To date, the Eastern Nevada Basin has received 210% of its average yearly snowfall. Prolonged blizzard and winter conditions have caused major travel disruptions throughout the state, limited access to food sources, severe livestock stress, and increased livestock mortality.

"We write to you today regarding ongoing winter weather conditions in the Mountain West region, as well as the severe impact that it is having on farmers and ranchers in Nevada," wrote the lawmakers.

"The Departments of Agriculture from four Western states, including Nevada, recently sent you a letter to request assistance with supplemental feed or water, snow removal, and the consideration of expanded eligibility for U.S. Department

of Agriculture (USDA) programs," they continued. "In particular, this letter called on you and your agency to utilize all tools and powers at its disposal to assist impacted farmers and ranchers with various needs resulting from extreme weather....We echo this call and respectfully request that you provide a prompt response to these Departments, and consider providing immediate assistance to Nevada producers."

They concluded, "It is imperative that USDA disaster programs continue to respond to the challenges that Nevada farmers and ranchers face."

The full text of the letter can be found below.

Senator Cortez Masto is a strong supporter of Nevada's rural and agricultural communities and led the fight to protect the state's family farms and ranches from an unfair tax hike. She has introduced bipartisan legislation to put rural Western communities on an equal footing when it comes to applying for critical infrastructure grants to improve school buildings, promote small businesses, and bolster telehealth and health care services. She's introduced comprehensive legislation to help bolster wildfire prevention efforts, fund state-of-the-art fire-fighting equipment and programs, and support recovery efforts for communities impacted by fires.

Letter to USDA

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Zach Ducheneaux Administrator,
Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Ducheneaux:

We write to you today regarding ongoing winter weather conditions in the Mountain West region, as well as the severe impact that it is having on farmers and ranchers in Nevada. As you are aware, Departments of Agriculture from four Western states, including Nevada, recently sent you a letter to request assistance with supplemental feed or water, snow removal, and the consideration of expanded eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. In particular, this letter called on you and your agency to utilize all tools and powers at its disposal to assist impacted farmers and ranchers with various needs resulting from extreme weather. Accordingly, we echo this call

and respectfully request that you provide a prompt response to these Departments, and consider providing immediate assistance to Nevada producers.

This winter season has been particularly difficult for ranchers and farmers in the Western United States. In fact, the USDA issued a weather bulletin at the end of February to report on the hardships posed to the agricultural industry due to these sprawling and complex storm systems. The bulletin noted that: "multi- day snow accumulations have contributed to major travel disruptions and severe livestock stress...1" Moreover, USDA Snow Courses and Automated Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) data displays that the Eastern Nevada Basin has received over 210 percent of its average snowfall to date.² As referenced in the letter from these Western Departments of Agriculture, this winter barrage has resulted in higher livestock mortality, limited access to food resources, and restricted transportation opportunities or alternatives.

It is imperative that USDA disaster programs

continue to respond to the challenges that Nevada farmers and ranchers face. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on behalf of U.S. agriculture, and we look forward to your prompt consideration and response to this request.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto, United States Senator
Jacky Rosen, United States Senator
Dina Titus, Member of Congress
Mark E. Amodei, Member of Congress
Steven Horsford, Member of Congress
Susie Lee, Member of Congress

¹ "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin." U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Last modified February 28, 2023. <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wwcb.pdf>.

² "Nevada SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report." USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - National Water and Climate Center. Accessed March 5, 2023. <https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/reports/UpdateReport.html>

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Offers Quality Workers' Compensation Program to Nevada's Ranch and Farm Owners



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

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Rancher Profile: Ron Cerri

Public Lands Council: Real Ranchers, Real Stories, Posted February 16, 2023

Ron Cerri's ties to Nevada are deep – and not just because he is the 4th generation in Humboldt County, where he and his wife, Denise, own a family cow/calf ranch in Orovada. Cerri is currently serving his third term as a Humboldt County Commissioner, all while ranching at Orovada and in nearby Eureka County.

As PLC Secretary, Ron's longstanding leadership in agriculture and resource organizations has come to a head. He has long served as a key leader in the Nevada State Grazing Board Central Committee, is a past president of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, and as one of the key voices for public lands ranching in the region. For Ron, his advocacy is as much a part of his operation as the work he and his family do when managing their Black Angus beef cattle operation that relies on private, BLM, and Forest Service permits.

Sowing the Seeds of a Better Life

The Cerris hail from Italy. It was there, observing from afar, that Ron's great grandfather became fascinated with agriculture. Originally, Ron's great-grandfather was attracted to farming in the United States, but the draw of the iconic American cowboy led him on a different path. Ultimately, around the year 1800, he decided to emigrate to the United States and try his hand. Though not without some hardship, Ron's great-grandfather ultimately fell in love with his new profession and never looked back. The love for ranching, the heritage associated with the profession, and the knowledge to raise high quality cattle in challenging conditions has been passed from generation to generation in the Cerri family. Ron is the first to tell you that he loves this life, despite the many hardships that come with the territory.

Hardships Breed Hard Work

Like so much of the West, ranching in Nevada is heavily influenced by the ever-changing environmental and financial landscapes carry with them a variety of challenges. Over his lifetime, Ron has confronted prolonged and harsh drought which have threatened the health and prosperity of his herd. Bureaucratic inefficiencies from federal public lands managers further complicate matters, as efforts to build key infrastructure and range improvements are delayed for a variety of reasons.

"Our costs have skyrocketed. With the price of diesel and the current drought impacts, we've had to adjust. We will have to supplement [feed] our livestock which will be very difficult with the current hay prices."

In order to build rangeland resiliency over time, the Cerris makes timely adjustments to address immediate risks with the mindset that each step should contribute



to long-term sustainability. Ron uses a deferred rotation system on both his private pasture and the public lands he manages, rotating and resting lands on a yearly basis. This allows for responsible stimulation for use and regrowth of the forage, especially in the dry years. The adoption of a deferred rotation system, according to Ron, has considerably improved the land. Ron also works closely with the Bureau of Land Management to address the ever-increasing risk of invasive species and other threats.

The priority the Cerri family places on rangeland resiliency is perhaps best exemplified by the work they have done to address the explosion of wild horses and burros in the state that affects the land all around them. Nevada is home to more than 46,000 horses and burros managed by the BLM under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The Appropriate Management Level for both species in Nevada is just 12,000, and land managers like Ron have had to confront some hard realities on the range: there are too many horses on the rangeland and not enough forage to feed them. Streams, creeks, and springs take a beating as horses compete with wildlife, and other horses, for resources that are simply insuffi-

cient for the demand.

Ranchers like Ron play a unique role in this issue. Ron is on the land, managing his livestock according to specific ecological conditions and goals. Often, he is the eyes and ears for the BLM when horses stray from their herd areas. He is at the front of the line to advocate for a better future for the landscape – a future which requires the expertise of ranchers to help the land and water recover. Ron knows that public lands in the west have to be healthy to work for a wide variety of purposes: for horses, for wildlife, for cattle, and for people.

"It's a system. When things are balanced, when all multiple uses are working together, it works really well but when one use is allowed to run rampant, every other use suffers. This is one area where we have to make progress, otherwise these landscapes may be lost."

Maintaining the Longevity of the Cerri Ranching Legacy

Ron often tells a cautionary tale, warning that the worst thing for the future is inaction. Like his great-grandfather, Ron knows that tenacity is often rewarded with success, and this is what he hopes to share with the next generation. As Ron once again steps into leadership at a national level, the transfer of his business to his children is one of his largest priorities. Ron's dedication, passion, and relentless drive to promote the sustainability of both his operation and land has inspired his leadership and in turn has inspired his family.



From The Desk of the PLC Executive Director

By Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director, Public Lands Council

While most of the country was tuned into March Madness of the basketball variety, Washington was focused on our own version: March [Budget] Madness. With the release of the President's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2024, Congress kicked off the spring season of budget hearings. There were tense exchanges about the U.S. Forest Service's failure to meet timber targets and concerns about misplaced funding priorities in the face of significant challenges (investing in Electric Vehicle infrastructure while forests continue to burn was a fan favorite).

While the President's budget request is typically dead-on-arrival with Capitol Hill lawmakers, this year's spending fights converge with the only other must-pass piece of legislation: the Farm Bill. For public lands grazers, the Farm Bill is often a tale of two cities- the best of times: a bill that allows the federal government to support the good work farmers and ranchers are doing nationwide – and amplify that work; and the worst of times: a bill where the same practices, wisdom, and stewardship that are celebrated on private lands are limited, stymied, and villainized on federal land. PLC is striving to bring some parity to the Farm Bill – and to all agency activities. USDA should continue to support working lands programs through NRCS, FSA, and RD while also supporting grazing on Forest Service grasslands and forests. Grazing is both a permitted use and a landscape management tool. This is true whether the landscape you're managing is private or public. This was the focus of my remarks when the Western Caucus Foundation held a Farm Bill marquee event with House Agriculture Chairman G.T. Thompson and other key leaders.

This recognition is critical to our future success. While Congress is bearing down on funding levels for next year, the agencies are moving funds around for their priorities. This month, the Council on Environmental Quality previewed new guidance on land management planning surrounding wildlife corridors and the White House previewed a forthcoming BLM rule on conservation- and recreation-focused management of public lands. In addition to the two national monuments designated this month, regulatory activity is coming to a crescendo. In the coming months, we can expect a new NEPA guidance, a draft rule on BLM grazing regulations, sage grouse plan revisions, finalization of the West-wide solar plan update, three ESA rules... the list goes on. It is more important than ever before that grazing is recognized as providing added value across the board.

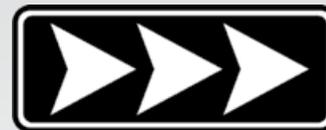
Public lands ranchers' voices are the ones Members of Congress need to hear on these issues – and more. I hope you join us at Legislative Conference in April to share your story and help us secure the future for generations to come.

Rules and regulations are coming out of Washington faster than a mad momma cow who doesn't want you tagging her calf. Through the NEPA process, local government authorities have the ability to coordinate with federal agencies to address key issues early in the process.

This process – acting as a cooperating agency is different than another similar, but distinct process: coordination. Both are equally important, and we need county commissioners, conservation district boards, departments of agriculture and natural resources, and other governmental bodies to understand how important these roles are for federal lands grazers. Need to understand the difference? Share the PLC's Beginner's Guide to Cooperating Agency Status or the PLC Beginner's Guide to Coordination today!



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Interior Department Releases Proposed Plan to Guide the Balanced Management of Public Lands

Public Lands Rule lays groundwork for conserving wildlife habitat, restoring places impacted by wildfire and drought, expanding outdoor recreation, and thoughtful development.

WASHINGTON — Today the Department of the Interior published a proposal to guide the balanced management of America’s public lands for the benefit of current and future generations. The proposed Public Lands Rule provides tools for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to improve the resilience of public lands in the face of a changing climate; conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes; plan for development; and better recognize unique cultural and natural resources on public lands.

The proposed rule directly responds to the growing need to better manage public lands, waters, and wildlife in the face of devastating wildfires, historic droughts, and severe storms that communities are experiencing across the West, as well as to deepen BLM’s collaborative work with communities, states and Tribes to support responsible development of critical minerals, energy and other resources. The proposal is consistent with strategies used by other state and federal land management agencies to ensure the federal government has tools and direction to identify areas in need of restoration or conservation, as well as the ability to encourage investments in public lands to help balance the impacts of development. It will increase access to outdoor recreation by putting conservation on equal footing with other uses, consistent with the BLM’s multiple use and sustained yield mission.

“As the nation continues to face unprecedented drought, increasing wildfires and the declining health of our landscapes, our public lands are under growing pressure. It is our responsibility to use the best tools available to restore wildlife habitat, plan for smart development, and conserve the most important places for the benefit of the generations to come,” said Secretary Deb Haaland. “As we welcome millions of visitors to hunt, fish and recreate on our public lands each year, now is the time to improve the health and management of special places.”

“Our public lands provide so many benefits – clean water, wildlife habitat, food, energy and lifetime memories, to name just a few– and it’s our job to ensure the same for future generations,” said Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning. “As pressure on our public lands continues to grow, the proposed Public Lands Rule provides a path for the BLM to better focus on the health of the landscape, ensuring that our decisions leave our public lands as good or better off than we found them. We look forward to feedback from the public on how this proposal will help us best uphold the BLM’s important mission.”

The proposed rule would build on the historic investments in public lands, waters and clean energy deployment provided by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act by directing land managers to identify and prioritize lands and waters through the land management process that require habitat restoration work, such as removing invasive species or restoring streambanks. BLM lands are an economic driver across the West, and the proposed rule will ensure those lands and the resources they produce continue to be available for future generations.

It also proposes conservation leasing, a tool authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), to facilitate restoration work on public lands in cooperation with community partners. A conservation lease is a time-limited lease of public land that allows interested organizations to conduct specific restoration or mitigation activities and would generate revenue for the American

taxpayer. This tool has the potential to expand opportunities to accelerate restoration of big game migration corridors or establish carbon markets, for example, and directly responds to comments from state and industry partners on the need for a reliable path on public lands by which to pursue compensatory mitigation to facilitate development projects.

The proposed rule includes a roadmap to align the BLM with other land management agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, in ensuring the agency is inventorying and assessing the health of public lands, including watersheds, forests and wildlife habitat. In light of the rapidly changing climate and increasing demands on public lands, the additional information will be used to identify trends, implement adaptive management strategies, and ensure decisions are informed by the best available science and on-the-ground monitoring. It will also be utilized during the existing land management planning processes to identify public lands in need of restoration work or intact landscapes that may be best managed for their contributions to healthy, functioning ecosystems or water quality.

The proposed rule also provides a framework for land managers to apply provisions of FLPMA that direct the BLM to prioritize the identification, evaluation and designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) through land use planning. ACECs are the primary BLM designation for public lands where special management is required to protect important natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources, systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

The publication of the proposed Public Lands Rule in the Federal Register in the coming days initiates a 75-day public comment period. In addition, the BLM will host five information forums to discuss the details of the rule.

NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER



If you have not renewed your 2022-2023 NCA Membership, your current membership benefits, including Sage Signals, will expire on June 1st, 2023.

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NCBA Slams FDA Commissioner's Comments on Cell Cultured Meat

WASHINGTON (March 29, 2023) – Today, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane slammed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Robert Califf's comments regarding cell cultured meat that he made during a hearing on the FDA's fiscal year 2024 budget request:

"By his own admission, the FDA's role is to ensure food safety, but Commissioner Califf's comments today indicate that he intends to bring his agency into climate and environmental discussions while promoting cell cultured meat. This viewpoint is extremely disappointing to America's cattle producers whose stewardship of the land already does more to protect our environment than fake meat production ever will. We appreciate Congresswoman Letlow shining a light on these concerning issues at FDA and hope that Commissioner Califf will reverse course and coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the regulation of these cell cultured substitutes."

Background

Today, FDA Commissioner Robert Califf testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug

Administration, and Related Agencies. During the hearing, Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA) asked the Commissioner how the agency plans to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on pre-market consultation for reviewing cell cultured chicken products. In his answer, Commissioner Califf referenced climate change and the need for additional cell cultured research as a way to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed in 2019, USDA and FDA have joint jurisdiction over fake meat products, with USDA taking the lead on enforcing accurate labeling and food safety. This memorandum was supported by NCBA because of USDA's expertise in food inspections and labeling.

When FDA announced its second pre-market consultation for cell cultured chicken last week, the agency said that it is "ready to work with additional firms that are developing cultured animal cell food" and "will issue guidance to assist firms that intend to produce human food made from cultured animal cells." These statements are highly concerning and indicate FDA's desire to promote additional cell cultured meat products.

Watch Commissioner Califf's comments at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zN8eCwC2n30>.

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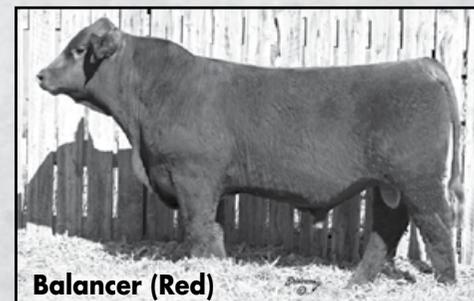
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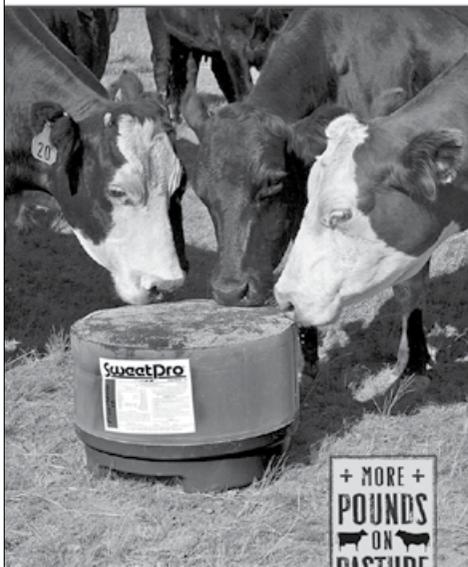
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Farm to Fork Certification Program Provides Information on Livestock Production and Processing

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 Farm to Fork Certification Program, 6 – 8 p.m., Wednesdays, April 19 – May 17. 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:

- **April 19:** 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.
- **April 26:** Livestock nutrition and reproduction: focusing on the basics of livestock nutrition, feed management, reproduction and characteristics of meat based on nutritional management.
- **May 3:** Poultry nutrition and reproduction: focusing on the basics of poultry nutrition, feed management, reproduction and characteristics of meat based on nutritional management.
- **May 10:** 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.

- **May 17:** 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://BFRfarmtofork1.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact Staci Emm, Extension educator for Mineral County, at emms@unr.edu or 775-475-4227; Kaley Chapin, outreach specialist, at kaleys@unr.edu or 702-467-2668; or Jamie Lee, program officer, at jamielee1@unr.edu or 775-426-8299.

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should contact Paul Lessick, civil rights and compliance coordinator, at plessick@unr.edu or 702-257-5577 at least five days prior to the scheduled event with their needs or for more information.

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.



Submitted Photo

Making Ourselves Better

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO



Spring is here, and it is a natural time to look at how the year's fresh start is playing out in each of our lives. For some of you, calving is done, and you are focused on getting every bit of value out of the new calf crop. Many of you are getting tractors and planters ready for field work. Some of you are still praying for rain. Whatever situation you find yourself in, there is probably something you are doing, or plan to do, that is different from what you have done in the past. Making ourselves better by taking advantage of the many educational opportunities that exist is why the U.S. cattle and beef industry is better today than it was even five years ago. A commitment to continual improvement is required for us

to continue to do more with less. USDA's Economic Research Service reported in January that direct on-farm employment accounted for only 1.3% of U.S. employment. We also know that every day we lose more and more agricultural land to development. If we are going to continue our record of feeding the world, we need to learn new tips, tricks and methods in raising our cattle.

NCBA is committed to producer education. Our Producer Education team works diligently throughout the year to provide continuing education programs for producers of all ages and all ranges of experience.

One of the highlights of the Cattle Industry Annual Convention is Cattlemen's College. The number of courses available, presented by top-rate speakers and experts, is really hard to fathom unless you have attended it. We always receive feedback from attendees who intend to take what they learned and implement it back home. Once-a-year training, however, is not enough. Throughout the year, our Producer Education team hosts the Cattlemen's Webinar Series. These are typically hour-long webinars hosted in the evening on important topics such as managing drought or dealing with stress. Want to get more hands-on educational opportunities? Then you need to participate in a Stockmanship & Stewardship seminar. The 2023 tour covers value-added programs, animal health, cattle behavior and low-stress cattle handling demonstrations. If you are concerned that you don't have the financial resources to attend these training sessions, then you should apply for a NCBA Rancher's Resilience Grant established by the National Cattlemen's Foundation and Cargill Protein. Go to ncba.org/producers and search for Rancher's Resilience Grant to learn how to apply.

When it comes to training and its impact on our industry, nothing does more than the Checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance (BQA). BQA is the gold-standard of producer education and training by showing you the proper way to handle and administer vaccines and other veterinary products, addressing bio-security protocols on your operation, learning how to safely transport cattle and more. In fact, if you are reading this and are not BQA certified, go straight to bqa.org and start the training. You can learn at your own pace through the various online learning modules. BQA has been a critical component of improving the quality of animal care, the overall quality of our beef and it was a key element of turning around the downward beef consumption trend we saw years ago.

You can also find local seminars and field days conducted by your cooperative extension agents. Extension has long been a source of information producers can use to improve their operations, the quality of their herds and their financial management. In many cases, extension programs are reliant on the wealth of information gleaned from research conducted at our nation's land-grant universities. This research is the foundation of continual improvement, not to mention its role in protecting us from animal diseases or helping us treat them once they manifest themselves. NCBA's Farm Bill priorities include protecting the funds for agricultural research and information dissemination.

Learning something new each day is a trait I believe is important. NCBA is doing our best to help you do the same.



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Nevada Beef Council Update – April 2023

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement



Beef Quality Assurance: Raising the Bar on Raising Cattle

Courtesy of BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

The beef community has a long-standing commitment to caring for their animals and providing families with the safest, highest-quality beef possible. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a program that trains farmers and ranchers on best practice cattle management techniques to ensure their animals and the environment are cared for within a standard set of guidelines across the U.S. beef industry.

Simply put, BQA helps beef farmers and ranchers raise better beef so consumers can feel even better about buying it. But it's not always that simple, of course. Raising quality beef requires commitment and hard work. Certification is earned, not bought. For beef farmers and ranchers, that means using modern techniques to raise cattle under optimal environmental and economic conditions. For consumers, it means knowing the beef they buy is wholesome and delicious. In fact, more than 85% of U.S. beef comes

from BQA-certified farmers and ranchers.

Beef Quality Assurance is better for cattle, better for ranchers, and better for people who appreciate beef's place in a healthy, sustainable diet. To earn BQA certification, beef farmers and ranchers can take courses online or attend in-person trainings taught by a network of hundreds of state BQA coordinators and trainers. This voluntary program is an example of how the beef community is committed to raising cattle safely, humanely and sustainably. A BQA advisory group is made up of farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, cattle nutritionists, animal and meat scientists, animal welfare experts and industry stakeholders to evaluate and make recommended changes or updates to the program as needed. BQA certification should be renewed every three years.

To earn your BQA certificate, or to renew your certification, head to www.bqa.org.

NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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