

# SAGE SIGNALS

*The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry*

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

## Springtime Update

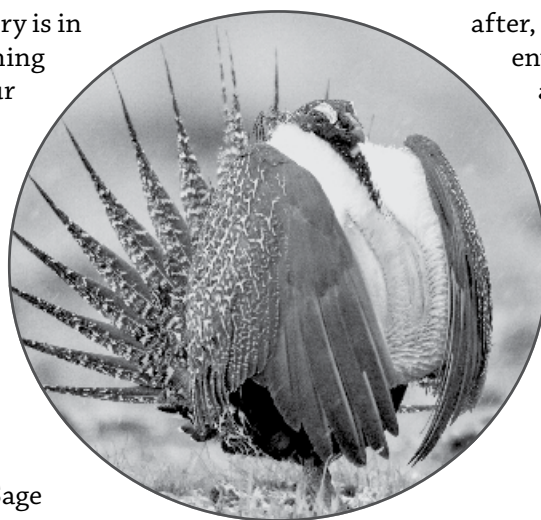
*By Martin Paris, NCA Executive Director*

The Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale that was held in February is in the books. We have just finished wrapping up everything from the sale and would like to give thanks to all of our consignors, buyers, sponsors, and volunteers once again for your support this year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023!

As we enter into spring, I hope everyone has some shiny new calves and lots of rain. While the Nevada Legislature is not in session this year, there is still plenty going on in the livestock industry, particularly on the public lands front. The bird is once again the word, sage grouse that is. Last November, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released their Notice of Intent to amend the 2015 and 2019 Sage Grouse Management Plans.

If we go back through the annals of history, the 2015 Sage Grouse Management Plans were rife with issues harmful to the livestock industry. With components such as 7-inch stubble height requirements, incoherent lek buffers, and sage brush focal areas, livestock appeared to be public enemy number one.

Fast forward to 2019, the Trump Administration/BLM was able to rework the Sage Grouse Management Plans to reflect on the ground realities and add in some much-needed flexibility for livestock producers. Shortly there-



after, U.S. District Court Judge, Lynn Winmill ruled in favor of environmental groups by deeming that the BLM failed to fully analyze how sage grouse would be harmed under the 2019 land use plans.

BLM's new planning effort comes on the heels of the Judge Winmill's decision and seeks to "examine new scientific information, including the effects of stressors like climate change, on Greater Sage-Grouse, to assess what management actions may best support habitat conservation and restoration on public lands to benefit sage-grouse, as well as the people who rely on sagebrush lands to support their livelihoods and traditions."

The comment period for the Bureau of Land Manage-

— **Continued on page 3** —

## Cattle Producers Welcome Contract Library Pilot Program

WASHINGTON (March 11, 2022) – Last evening, the Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations package. In addition to providing funding for a number of programs of importance to U.S. beef cattle producers, the bill also maintained key provisions the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has long advocated for, such as the Electronic Logging Device exemption for livestock haulers, important EPA regulatory relief, and an extension of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program. Also included in

the package is a Cattle Contract Library pilot program, a critical tool as NCBA works to increase market transparency for cattle producers.

The pilot program marks a win for the U.S. cattle industry as it equips producers with the market data they need to make informed business decisions and work to capture more value for producing the highest quality beef in the world.

"We are grateful to Ranking Member Hoeven and Chairwoman Baldwin for spearheading this effort, as well as the many members of Congress who worked behind the scenes to advance this important transparency tool for cattle producers," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane. "This pilot program will allow USDA to work on the model for a contract library that works for everyone in the supply chain while Congress and industry continue to work out the details of a permanent library in subsequent legislation like the Cattle Contract Library Act."

NCBA stands ready to ensure proper implementation of this program and looks forward to working with members of Congress to establish permanent solutions to ensure a viable business climate for cattle producers.



# WVM western video market

## UPCOMING SALES

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**Consignment Deadline:  
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**THURSDAY,  
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**Consignment Deadline:  
Wednesday, May 18**

**THURSDAY,  
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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association*

It's a crying shame that a perfectly good month that should be revered for its promise of Spring is instead dreaded as tax month. Former NY Yankees owner George Steinbrenner had to be a pretty sharp guy to amass the fortune he did but arguably the best thing he did for it- as far as his family is concerned- is die at the right time. He kicked over at a time when there was no Federal Estate tax which saved his family something like \$600 million. I personally believe an inheritance tax is immoral, and we know that in its various iterations, ranches have been foreclosed on or sold to cover the debt to the tax man. Your leadership at

NCA has spent a good deal of time on this issue and recently so with Senator Cortez-Masto's staff to ensure that if there is to be a death tax, the family ranch has the potential to weather it and stay in the family. We appreciate the Senator's efforts towards the inheritance tax and to preserve stepped-up basis in the version that values a ranch as a ranch and not any other use.

A far happier use of money is in the pursuit of education. NCA Scholarship applications are due soon, make sure you get yours in!

Happy Spring friends, I hope you spend April rolling in green grass.

## Springtime Update: *Continued from page 1*

ment's Sage Grouse Scoping Period closed in February. NCA submitted comments urging that the BLM consider the following in preparation of new sage grouse plans;

- The alignment of any potential federal plan with the 2019 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan
- Removal of Sagebrush Focal Areas
- The reliance on the best available science regarding habitat objectives
- Addressing wildfire
- The use of livestock grazing as a tool to prevent devastating wildfires
- The need to address predation on sage grouse nesting sites

- The need for cooperative monitoring agreements between BLM and permittees
- Compliance with the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act

NCA will continue to closely monitor and engage as the process continues to work itself out. In the meantime, I'm happy to report that the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus package recently passed by Congress included a critical provision prohibiting funds from being used to enact a federal listing of the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. This key provision should empower voluntary, locally led conservation efforts from the ground up and not the top down.

## NCA 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, 2022.*

*(New members are in bold.)*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| • Barnes Ranches Inc., Tom & Kelly Barnes                     | • Marys River Ranch, Preston Wright, Victoria Biley              | • Julian & Joanna Smith                            |
| • Bieroth Ranch, Casey & Carissa Bieroth                      | • Modoc Co. Cattleman's  | • <b>Standish Farm, Kathy Sarman</b>               |
| • James Boyer & Traci Bracco                                  | • Dean Rhoads Ranch, Mr. & Mrs. Alvaro Rodriquez, Malacki McLain | • <b>Pawley &amp; Kenneth Pawley</b>               |
| • Cross 7 Livestock LLC, J.J. Goicoechea                      | • Salmon River Cattlemens Association Inc.                       | • Upper Hot Creek Ranch, Swainia & Gilbert Cochran |
| • Mark & Susan Fowler   | • Small Livestock, Wade & Cara Small                             | • Vesco Ranch LLC, Vance & Seth Vesco              |
| • H Bar C Cattle Company, Richard & Linda, Ashley Huntsberger | • Smiley Ranch, James & Edward Smiley, Tracie Smiley Fitzgerald  | • Maureen Weishaupt                                |
| • J S L Angus, Mark Ferguson                                  |  | • ZZ and 30 Ranch, Steve Capurro                   |
| • Nat & Karen Lommori   |  |  |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NCA/Marvel-Andrae Scholarship Deadline

— April 11, 2022 —  
<https://www.nevadacattlemen.org/>

### 2022 NCBA Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting

— July 25–28, 2022 —  
Reno, Nevada  
[www.ncba.org/events/summer-business-meeting](http://www.ncba.org/events/summer-business-meeting)

### Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

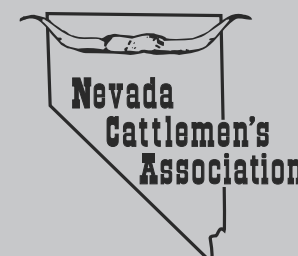
— November 30–December 2, 2022 —  
Nugget Casino Resort  
100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV  
[www.nevadacattlemen.org](http://www.nevadacattlemen.org)

## Official Publication of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association

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



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# University of Nevada, Reno Professor Honored by International Society For Range Management

Tamzen Stringham First Woman To Receive The Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award

RENO, Nev. – Tamzen K. Stringham, a rangeland and riparian ecologist at the University of Nevada, Reno, received the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Range Management last month at the society's annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by the Society to members for long-term contributions to the art and science of range management and to the Society for Range Management. Stringham, a researcher and professor in the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, is the first female to be honored with this award.

The International Society for Range Management is the professional scientific society and conservation organization whose members study, conserve, manage and sustain the varied resources of the rangelands, which



*Submitted Photo*

include prairie, shrublands, woodlands and savannas that cover nearly half the land on earth.

"I am honored to be the first woman, in the 75-year history of the Society for Range Management, to receive the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award," Stringham said. "I guess it takes perseverance and graciousness to crack the glass ceiling, but it has been worth it for every young woman following in my footsteps."

Since arriving at the University in 2008, Stringham has been doing world-class research, mentoring and educating graduate and undergraduate students, and doing Extension work across the state. Her research has focused on state and transition ecology, watershed management, and fire ecology. Throughout her career, she has garnered over \$8.5 million in research funding.

Stringham has been a member of the Society for Range Management for 29 years and has served on the Academic Program Assessment Committee, Watershed and Riparian Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations Committee, and Awards Committee. She also served as the Chair of the Watershed and Riparian Committee. She has judged student oral presentations and poster presentations several times, and served as a reviewer for the Journal of Rangeland Ecology and Management.

Stringham has also been a strong proponent of rangeland management and ecology in her interactions with a number of allied organizations. These efforts complement the work she has done directly with the Society. Activities include providing journal and technical reviews for the Journal of Restoration Ecology, the Journal of Arid Environments, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station. She has also provided training and science outcomes for the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and the Nevada Bureau of Land Management.



## COWBOY ARTS AND GEAR MUSEUM

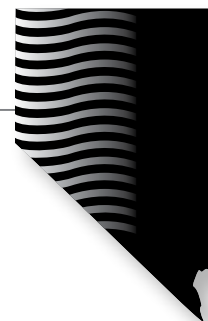
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# Nevada Cattlemen's Association Offers Quality Workers' Compensation Program to Nevada's Ranch and Farm Owners



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# Rural Nevada Resource Advisory Committee to Accept Project Proposals for Humboldt County



Winnemucca, Nev. – The Rural Nevada Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking applications for projects that benefit natural resources on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and nearby lands in Humboldt County. The RAC will have approximately \$78,000 to spend on projects made available to through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) Title II Program (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools>).

The Rural Nevada RAC works closely with the USDA Forest Service to recommend projects that will benefit forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds, and other resources; maintain roads, trails, and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds. Project proposals will be accepted through Friday, May 6, 2022.

RAC projects must be located on National Forest System (NFS) Lands in

Humboldt Counties or on other nearby lands if the project will benefit resources on NFS lands. Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements, or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations.

Projects can be submitted as followings:

- MAILED: RAC Designated Federal Officer Jose Noriega, Ely Ranger District, 825 Avenue E, Ely, Nevada 89301.
- EMAILED: [jose.noriega@usda.gov](mailto:jose.noriega@usda.gov)

For more information on the RAC committee or to learn more about proposing projects, please contact one of the individuals below:

- Santa Rosa District Ranger Boyd Hatch at 775-623-5025 ext. 119 or [boyd.hatch@usda.gov](mailto:boyd.hatch@usda.gov)
- RAC Designated Federal Officer Jose Noriega at 775-289-0176 or [jose.noriega@usda.gov](mailto:jose.noriega@usda.gov)

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# BLM Carson City District Seeds nearly 8,000 acres of Public Lands

Native plants will increase fire-resistant vegetation north of Reno and around Markleeville

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The Bureau of Land Management Carson City District in February aerially seeded approximately 8,000 acres of western Nevada and northern California's public lands. Objectives range from restoring and maintain watershed health and improving wildlife habitat to protecting human life and property and repairing fire damage.

"In our climate, water is the ultimate resource," said Ryan Elliott, Acting Fuels Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Carson City District. "Establishing deep-rooted perennial vegetation, be it grasses or shrubs, capitalizes on this resource in a positive way and limits the amount of water available for annual grasses such as invasive cheatgrass. The net result is less flammable grass crops and a more favorable environment for suppression actions."

The district seeded 6,000 acres in Douglas County, Nevada, and Alpine County, California, near Markleeville in response to resource damage caused by the Tama-



Helicopter picking up bucket of seed for next application. (Keith Barker photo)

rack fire. This project was an Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation effort to assist with soil stabilization and establish desired grass and brush species for wildlife. The project used 60,000 pounds of native brush and grass seed.

The BLM also conducted a fuels-related seeding project encompassing 2,700 acres with 27,000 lbs of seed in the Virginia Mountains north of Reno, near Rancho Haven, in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This seeding was conducted in areas that had been pre-treated by herbicide or mechanical brush removal. The intent of the seeding is to re-enforce the fuels treatments by disrupting the growth of annual grasses and provide opportunities for successful suppression actions in the event of future wildfires.

The treated acres will be monitored to ensure that management objectives are met. Objectives include soil protection, forage and protective cover, and overall ecological and watershed improvement.

Aerial seeding operations near Indian Creek Campground (Keith Barker photo)



# USDA Announces Appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of 35 members to serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. All appointed members will serve three-year terms beginning February 2022 and ending February 2025.

Newly appointed members are:

- Arizona – Sine Kerr, Buckeye
- Colorado – Constance Hass, Trinidad
- Iowa – David C. Bruene, Kelley; and E. Michael Holden, Scranton
- Kansas – Evan Lesser, Palco; and Larry W. Kendig, Osborne
- Louisiana – John M. Thompson, Saint Francisville
- Michigan – Monte J. Bordner, Sturgis
- Minnesota – Bill Post, Chandler
- Mississippi – Janet Gent Parker, Seminary
- Missouri – Alfred Brandt, Linn
- Nebraska – David W. Hamilton, Thedford; and Becky Potmesil, Alliance
- New Mexico – Boe C. Lopez, Springer

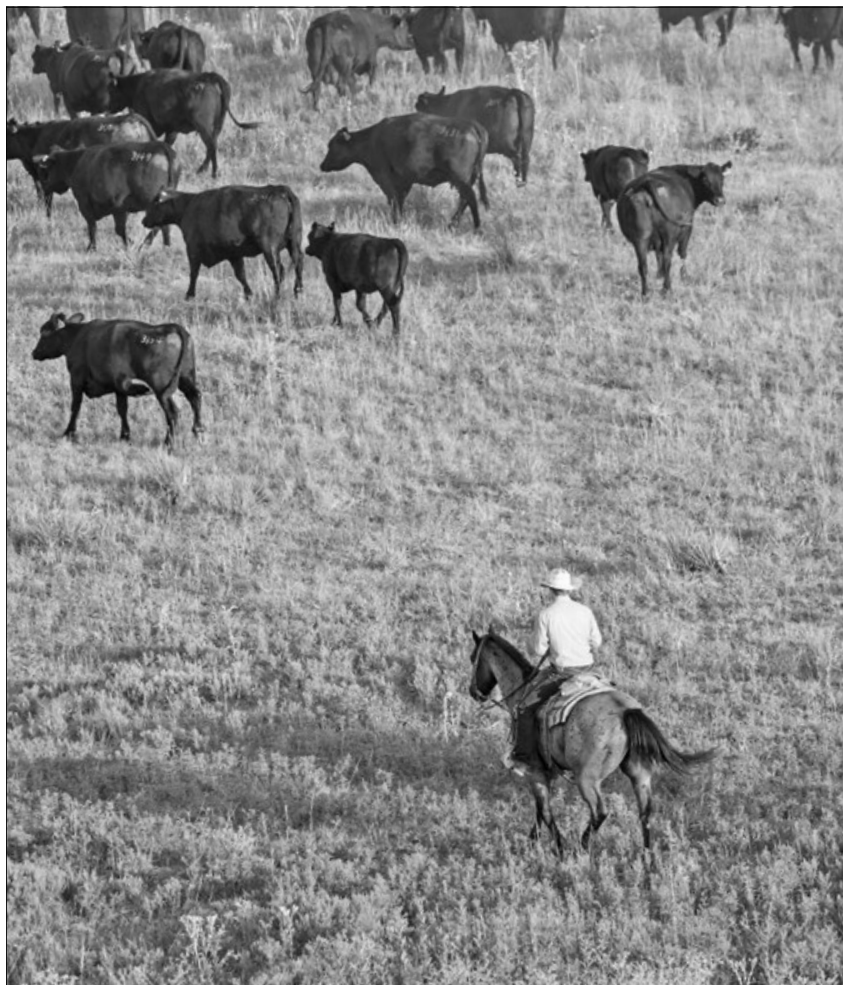
- North Carolina – Brian D. Warren, Newton Grove
- Oklahoma – Angie Meyer, Okarche
- South Dakota – VeaBea Thomas, Harrold; and Laurie Johnson, South Shore
- Tennessee – Kristina Oldfield McKee, Lebanon
- Texas – Wesley Ratcliff, Oakwood; Ernie A. Morales, Devine; Bilynn Johnson, Happy; and David Henderson, Tennessee Colony
- Utah – John Y. Ferry, Corinne
- Wisconsin – Arin Crooks, Lancaster; and Tammy Wiedenbeck, Lancaster
- Wyoming – Gwen Geis, Gillette
- Mid-Atlantic Unit – Creed Ward, Volga, West Virginia
- Northeast Unit – Warren W. Nop, Middlebury, Vermont
- Southwest Unit – Kristin A. McQueary, Elko, Nevada; Brandon VanderPoel, Visalia, California; and Cortney Blasingame-Lawrence,

Woodlake, California

- Importer Unit – Stephen Sothmann, Washington, DC; Jason Frost, Washington, DC; and Steven D. Hobbs, Great Falls, Montana

The board is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 and is composed of 101 members representing 34 States and 5 units. Members must be beef producers or importers of beef and beef products nominated by certified producer organizations. More information about the board is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Cattlemen's Beef Board webpage.

Since 1966, Congress has authorized the development of industry-funded research and promotion boards to provide a framework for agricultural industries to pool their resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets and conduct important research and promotion activities. AMS provides oversight to 22 boards, paid for by industry assessments, which helps ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.



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From The Desk the Public Lands Council Executive Director, Kaitlyn Glover

# It's a Strange Time to Be in Washington



Kaitlyn Glover  
(Submitted Photo)

Congress is simultaneously winding down their legislative activity after passing the omnibus, but is still a hive of activity during the latest SCOTUS nominee hearings. Campaign season is in full swing, too. This makes for an environment where we all have to be on our toes, ready to block and tackle some of the latest bad ideas. There are a host of bills that would require permanent retirement of grazing allotments, change access across millions of acres of public lands, and even those that try to change the underlying intent of foundational land management laws. We're starting to see agencies roll out regulation after regulation that affects your operation. From ESA listings to changes in the way carbon is measured, there's a revolving door of regulatory comment periods that need your voice. My message to you: be ready to weigh in at a moment's notice.

But let's talk for a moment about the hot topic this month:

whether BLM rangelands are healthy, and grazing's role in that determination. Earlier this month, a group who purports to be an "objective" organization rolled out data they'd obtained in a FOIA that said that a certain portion of BLM rangelands weren't meeting land health standards, and that it was the fault of livestock grazing. What they didn't tell you, however, is that data extends as far back as reports from the last decade, and that the measures they FOIA'd are unable to attribute resource conditions to anything other than grazing. Put simply, this "objective" group has a mission to get livestock grazing off the landscape and are willing to distort data and lie by omission in order to make their point.

**The bottom line:** Grazing permittees work with the agencies to assess rangeland health conditions to ensure land health and productivity, and these assessments should be able to capture all of the complex multiple uses that affect the landscape. That's why PLC continues to emphasize cooperative monitoring (like through our MOUs with BLM and Forest Service) and updates to grazing regulations to reflect complex multiple use factors. Grazing alone should not bear the brunt of other multiple uses that unlike grazing are not regenerative resources.

## The Public Land Council President's Publication

by PLC President, Niels Hansen



Niels Hansen  
(Submitted Photo)

As we move deeper into spring and closer to turnout dates, many of us are trying to get answers from the agencies about what they can expect in 2022. Many ranches have been hit with fires and drought - or both - which has caused a lot of uncertainty as they plan for summer 2022.

There's been an uptick in the number of calls PLC staff and leadership have received from ranchers asking for guidance on how to move forward through some of the more challenging issues with the agencies. PLC is here to help you work through some of those troubling discussions, but don't forget that there are a lot of tools in the toolbox when it comes to land and grazing problems.

It's been my experience that when you have a problem, it's always better to address it as close to home as possible. When you are working with agencies, whether it's a disagree-

ment on land use or condition or a need to make changes in your grazing permit, always start at home. If you can't resolve your problem locally look for help from your state agriculture groups maybe your Department of Agriculture or your university range department can help. There's someone out there who can help, whatever the problem is, and many of us have solved the same problems before in other areas. By reaching out, you may not only solve your problem but help another rancher with theirs.

PLC's state partners - affiliates and our PLC Board members - are there to help you, too. State agriculture groups are well positioned to help with state issues, and tied in with PLC to know when a local issue could affect every rancher in the west. These rangewide issues are where PLC spends most of our time, working to ensure national issues don't affect you at the local level. Your involvement in PLC and your local groups helps us to make that national advocacy more effective across the board.

As I monitor the long-range forecasts, it's obvious: we all will be forced to make some hard decisions. As the industry and the world change, remember that you have advocates and allies that range from close to home to Washington, D.C.

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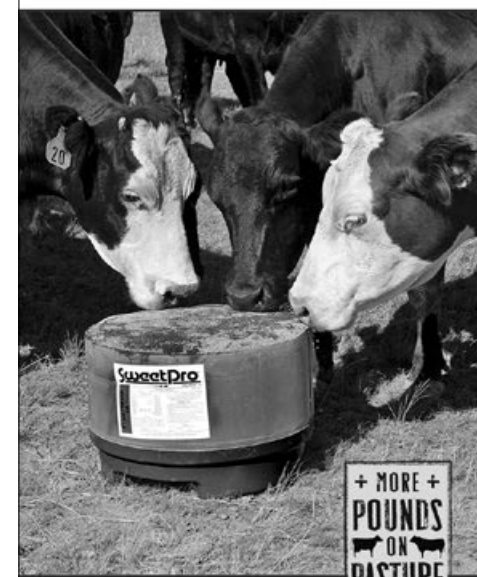
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# Economics 101—As Goes the Price of Fuel, so Goes the Price of Food

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

Anyone driving a vehicle has noticed an extreme increase in fuel prices across the country in the last year, let alone in the last few weeks. As of March 12, 2022, gas averaged \$4.33 per gallon and diesel averaged \$5.14 per gallon. To put those numbers in perspective, the average price a week ago was \$3.92 per gallon for gas and \$4.41 per gallon for diesel. One year ago, gas was \$2.84 per gallon and diesel was \$3.06 per gallon. Those in California are paying an average of \$5.73 for gas and \$6.29 for diesel.

These skyrocketing fuel prices impact all Americans, including when we sit down for a meal. To produce a pound of beef or a head of lettuce, farmers and ranchers use tractors, plows, balers—all things that run on fuel. For a lot of businesses, when the prices of inputs (such as fuel) increase, the business equally increases the price of their goods. But because there are a lot of necessary middlemen between my Wyoming ranch and your table and because most farmers and ranchers are still family businesses, they don't have the ability to simply increase their prices because the middlemen will just buy the raw product from someone else. And the family farmer or rancher will simply go bankrupt.

Additionally, truckers transport 70% of nation's goods from one place to another. Truckers can't stay in business if the fuel prices increase too much, so they must charge more to transport our goods. Those increased transportation costs will result in increased grocery prices.

This all means we are not just in a fuel crisis; we are close to a food crisis. A year ago, the average family of four was spending \$256.70 a week on groceries. The

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has noted a 7% increase in the price of food from January 2021 to January 2022. Assuming food prices do not increase the rest of the year (which is highly unlikely), the average family will spend an additional \$862.51 on groceries this year. Transportation and production costs are not the only factors increasing the price of groceries, but they are large ones.

"How did these skyrocketing costs happen?" First, start with President Biden's first day in office when he revoked the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. That pipeline, running from Canada to Nebraska would have transported 800,000 barrels of oil per day to be refined in the U.S. The price for oil determines half of the price of fuel. Less oil means higher prices for what is produced. While there are other factors decreasing the supply of oil in the U.S. besides cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline, it still means higher fuel costs.

Second, President Biden also "paused" the issuance of new oil and gas leases on federal lands, again, decreasing the supply of oil and gas to meet our current demand. This caused another increase in price at the pump, for us, for transporters, and for farmers and ranchers.

Since economics is not a mandatory class in school, here is a summary. If the demand for a product increases, even if the supply is the same, the price will increase. If the supply of a product decreases but the demand stays the same, the price will still increase. We are currently in a situation where we have the same demand for fuel, but the supply is decreasing, causing prices to increase. As with the price of fuel, so goes the cost of food. This is a food crisis.

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## **Ranch Manager Position**

### **About Tonopah Lithium Corp. / American Lithium Corp.**

American Lithium Corporation is well-positioned to play a key role in society's shift to a secure, sustainable new energy paradigm in the Americas with lithium projects in the United States and Peru. In the US, the company owns the subsidiary **Tonopah Lithium Corp.** which holds the **Tonopah Lithium Claims (TLC)**, a claystone lithium deposit project located 6 miles north of Tonopah, Nevada. In conjunction with the lithium project, Tonopah Lithium Corp. also owns two ranches with high quality alfalfa production north of the TLC claims.

### **Ranch Manager Job Description**

Tonopah Lithium Corp. is looking for a Ranch Manager to support the production and maintenance of the two ranches totaling 760-acres over five alfalfa pivots. The right candidate for this position will possess the ability to complete all daily tasks proficiently without regular supervision, have a strong understanding of all the aspects of a well-run ranch, along with a can-do attitude. The ranch manager will work closely with the Tonopah Lithium Corp team, along with the previous ranch owners for the first season. We invite you to apply to become the key player on the ranching team.

### **Expectations and Responsibilities**

- Management duties as needed
- Pivot irrigation operation, maintenance, and repairs
- Perform all phases of ground preparation and planting
- Hay production: Hands-on operation of haying equipment
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# Technical Assistance Now Available to Processors; \$23.6 Million Available for Meat, Poultry Readiness Grant Program

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the launch of the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) to provide technical assistance to meat and poultry grant applicants and grant-funded projects. Processors and applicants involved with the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program and the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) can access this technical assistance. USDA also announced it is now accepting applications for \$23.6 million in competitive grant funding available through the MPIRG program.

## Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA)

As part of Biden-Harris Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has established cooperative agreements with three non-profit organizations to coordinate and provide technical assistance utilizing a wide range of expertise and outreach strategies. These organizations will also establish a national network of support for meat and poultry grant applicants to navigate the application process, and to assist grant recipients throughout their project.

"This is a true partnership to help meat and poultry processors and grant applicants diversify processing ownership throughout the country," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Meat and poultry processing is a complex sector that requires significant planning and forethought to manage economic viability concurrently with worker, food, and environmental safety. We are pleased to partner with these initial organizations, given their deep technical expertise and demonstrated service to underserved communities, as part of our support for fairer, more competitive, and resilient meat and poultry supply chains."

Taking the lead role, the Flower Hill Institute, a native owned nonprofit based out of the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico, will serve as the MPPTA Technical Assistance Coordinator for this multi-year program. In close cooperation with AMS, they will connect USDA grant applicants and grant-funded project managers to the experts best suited to support a project's needs. They are joined by Oregon State University's Niche Meat Processors Assistance Network and the Intertribal Agricultural Council. USDA is also pursuing agreements with the American Association of Meat Processors, the American Meat Science Association, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to expand assistance and provide the depth and capacity needed for meat and poultry projects nationwide. All MPPTA organizations will use both in-house resources and their connections within the industry, academia, and state and federal government to connect stakeholders to four distinct technical assistance scopes: federal grant application management; business development and financial planning; meat and poultry processing technical and operational support; and supply chain development.

To learn more about the MPPTA program, or to initiate a request for technical assistance under this program, visit the AMS webpage <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta>. For information on MPIRG, MPPEP, and USDA's other Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Initiatives, visit [www.usda.gov/meat](http://www.usda.gov/meat).

## Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants (MPIRG)

AMS is accepting applications now through May 24, 2022 for a second round of MPIRG program funding totaling \$23.6 million.

"We are building on the success of the first round of our MPIRG program to build capacity and increase economic opportunities for small and mid-sized meat and poultry processors and producers around the country," said Secretary Vilsack. "In the MPIRG program's first round, we provided \$32 million in funding to cover the costs for necessary improvements to achieve a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act, or to operate under a state's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program. And the second round will help us continue to help processors grow."

USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers.

Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities must be operational and not have a Federal Grant of Inspection or comply with the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program at the time of application. These entities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises. MPIRG's **Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection project type** is for processing facilities currently in operation and are working toward Federal inspection. Applicants can be located anywhere in the states and territories. MPIRG's **Cooperative Interstate Shipment Compliance project type** is only for processing facilities located in states with a Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) CIS program. These states currently include Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin. Applicants must be working toward CIS program compliance requirements to operate a state-inspected facility or make a good faith effort toward doing so. Potential applicants should contact FSIS to determine the expenses necessary to obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection or comply with the CIS program.

Applications must be submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 24, 2022. Any grant application submitted after the due date will not be considered unless the applicant provides documentation of an extenuating circumstance that prevented their timely submission of the grant application. Read more in AMS Late and Non-Responsive Application Policy.

AMS offers webinars for new applicants to help walk them through the application process while also providing helpful hints on what has made past recipients successful. Additionally, grants management specialists are standing by to answer any incoming questions and emails during regular business hours. For more information about grant eligibility and previously funded projects, visit the MPIRG webpage, or contact us at [mpirg@usda.gov](mailto:mpirg@usda.gov).



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# BLM Schedules Public Hearing On Use of Motorized Vehicles for Wild Horse and Burro Management

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Bureau of Land Management will conduct a virtual public hearing regarding the use of motorized vehicles and aircraft in the management of wild horses and burros. The hearing is scheduled for April 26, 2022 from 3 to 5 p.m. MT and will be held using Zoom video conferencing technology

and live-streamed at [BLM.gov/live](https://blm.gov/live).

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires BLM conduct an annual hearing to consider the use of motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros. The BLM typically uses motorized vehicles to conduct gather operations, complete population surveys, and transport animals to/from corrals, pastures, and adoption, sale and transfer events.

To provide comment during the virtual public hearing, members of the public may register in advance by April 25. Written comments may also be sent to [BLM\\_HQ\\_MotorizedVehicleHearing@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_HQ_MotorizedVehicleHearing@blm.gov). Please include "Motorized Vehicle Comment" in the subject line of the email. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. Mountain Time on April 26.

For additional information regarding the public hearing, please contact the Wild Horse and Burro National Information Center at 866-468-7826 or [wild-horse@blm.gov](mailto:wild-horse@blm.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) at 711 to reach the National Information Center during normal business hours.

The BLM manages and protects wild horses and burros across 26.9 million acres of public lands in 10 Western states. More information on the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program can be found at [BLM.gov/whb](https://blm.gov/whb).

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# Nevada Beef Council Update — Spring 2022

## Your Checkoff at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement

# Eat Beef.

## Our Registered Dietitian Suggests.

Registered Dietitian, Kori Dover, is the Director of Food and Nutrition Outreach at the Nevada Beef Council (NBC). Her role at NBC plays an integral part in promoting beef to consumers. Why? Her expertise in nutrition and the food system allows us to effectively communicate how beef plays an essential role in a healthy diet.

Nevada is not the only state who sees nutrition as a fundamental piece of beef promotion. Kansas and Nebraska also see that value. So much so that the Kansas State Beef Council and Nebraska Beef Council pay Dover's salary to increase beef visibility on the west coast.

Dover, a self-proclaimed "foodie," had early aspirations of becoming a chef. However, when she was diagnosed with her first autoimmune disease, Celiac disease, life steered her in a different direction. Learning to navigate the gluten-free world led her to pursue a career in health and nutrition. Which eventually led her to her role at NBC.

While studying to become a dietitian, she also studied farm-to-table and small farm agriculture. She quickly learned how disconnected and removed many people are from the food system. "I fell in love with telling the story of how food gets to our plates while highlighting the nutritional benefits. Working for the Beef Checkoff was a natural fit, and I knew that's exactly where I wanted to be," said Dover. Telling beef's nutrition story means covering all the different aspects of food. It covers everything from sustainability, the nutrients found in beef, healthy convenient meals, and more.

When asked about her favorite part of her job, Dover describes seeing people have their "light bulb moments." Now more than ever consumers want to know where their food is coming from, and she has a passion for

helping people connect those dots around the food system. "When students, consumers, and even health professionals connect those dots there is nothing more exciting to see. People light up and begin to understand the importance of cattle within our food system," said Dover.

Additionally, she described her love for meeting producers and sharing their stories. Specifically, when she provides immersion experiences and hands-on learning for folks in the dietetic world. She appreciates the direct impact these experiences have because of those who work to feed the world. She again references those light bulb moments stating, "I get to sit back and see those light bulb moments spread across a crowd. It's one of the most rewarding things to see as a strong believer in our food system."

Dover's role at NBC allows her to be a strong voice for producers when it comes to nutrition and beef. She leaves us with her best piece of

nutrition advice, "All beef provides 10 essential nutrients your body needs! And yes, healthy, delicious, and convenient meals can be made with beef! Pair beef with flavorful fruits, veggies, and whole grains to pack your meals with a punch!"

For more information about the Nevada Beef Council please visit our website at <https://www.nevadabeef.org/>.



### NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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