

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

Nevada Cattlemen's Association May Update

By Martin Paris, NCA Executive Director

I hope everyone is having a good spring season. Turn out time is in full swing on many ranches. Often times Mother Nature reminds us of who is in charge and this year is no different. As I write this column, 90% of Nevada falls under one of the 5 U.S. Drought Monitor categories. Looking back at this same time last year, drought conditions appear to be less severe but grueling, nonetheless. I am hoping some moisture falls and conditions are much better by the time this article circulates.

Typically, this time of year NCA is in Washington D.C. participating in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council Annual Legislative Conference where we meet with members of our Congressional delegation and other agency folks to discuss issues important to Nevada's livestock producers. However, typical seems anything but that these days. Unfortunately, lingering COVID-19 restrictions in Washington D.C. made it nearly impossible to organize the event at this time, but the Public Lands Council was able to hold a successful Virtual Legislative Conference. During the conference we heard from USFWS Director Martha Williams, USFS Chief Randy Moore, and BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. We also had the chance to discuss natural resources in the 117th Congress with several congressional representatives.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to review the scoping comments received regarding an update to the 2015 and 2019 Sage Grouse Management Plans. There doesn't appear to be a firm timeline on when a draft of the new potential plan will be available, but NCA continues to engage with BLM on the relevant science and actions required to achieve the desired outcome.

BLM also continues to discuss a possible second look at the current grazing regulations. While the timing of release of new regulations is also unclear, it looks like it may be coming sooner rather than later. I'll be sure to keep you all in the loop as new informa-

tion comes forward, but NCA looks forward to continuing the push for more flexibility. As we all know, no two years or no two ranches are exactly the same. In many cases the current grazing regulations are the very thing that prohibit producers from being able to manage livestock grazing in a way that is beneficial to both the producer and our rangelands.

The cattle industry is in a very critical time right now whether it be inflation, drought, wildfire, market issues, wildlife management, special land designations, etc.... The list seems to go on and on and can seem daunting at times. However, I remind

myself that we are still here. Here as an Association, as producers, as people sustainably trying to feed an ever-growing population.

Even when the deck seems stacked against us, I have confidence that between our Association, agency personnel, representatives, and other partners that we will come out the other side of these challenging issues on top. Coming out on top requires engagement and lots of it and that's what NCA intends to do.

As always, if we can be of help in any way give us a call and please check out our website at nevadacattlemen.org as we are constantly updating it.

Nominations for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee Due May 16

EPA is currently seeking nominations to serve on its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). Established in 2008, the FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to EPA's Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

Nominations are due May 16, 2022. For further details and instructions for submitting applications, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/faca/frcc-2022-request-nominations>.

Under the current charge, the committee will focus on advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for U.S. agriculture. America's farmers and ranchers and workers find themselves on the front lines of the climate crisis, facing increasing impacts from extreme weather

events like severe storms, widespread flooding, prolonged drought, and more frequent wildfires. The advice and recommendations from the FRRCC will help EPA to support farmers and ranchers in their efforts to reduce emissions and accelerate a more resilient food and agriculture system.

To build a broad and balanced representation of perspectives for the FRRCC, members will be selected from a variety of relevant sectors. Members may represent farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; allied industries, including farm groups, rural suppliers, marketers, and processors; academia and researchers; state, local, and tribal government; and nongovernmental organizations. EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees.

For questions, contact: FRRCC@epa.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nevada Section-Society for Range Management Nevada Youth Range Camp

— June 19-16, 2022 —
Timber Creek Campground,
NE. of McGill, NV
<https://nevadarangelands.org/youth-range-camp/>

Proper Functioning Condition Riparian Workshop

— June 21-22, 2022 —
Cottonwood Ranch, Wells Nevada
Register by calling Vicki Smith at
(775) 472-0222 or by email at
vckasmith@gmail.com

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



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

I suppose it should be expected because of my advanced age, but it seems like I've lost an awful lot of people in the past couple of years. I recently traveled to a celebration of life get-together for Hank Brackenbury. I met Hank and Joi back in the early '80s and they're folks I've always thought a lot of. Hank was the consummate buckaroo, horseman and rancher but I will always think of him as a person who found value in folks, even when there wasn't much- as was the case when we met when I was a young and dumb cowboy (I've at least gotten past the young part). This thought was expressed by others at the celebration of life as well.

It seems we're missing this in today's world.

There's a plethora of data that shows that even witnessing incivility, not even partaking in it, can harm interpersonal relationships, make people less productive, and make problem solving significantly less likely to happen.

I've always been proud of our Association in that we've provided for civil discourse for our membership and the folks we do business with, in order to further our mission. We have a long line of officers and presidents who have set the example of positive interactions with folks that we definitely don't agree with for the benefit of us all. We're in some tough times and there's likely more to come but we'll take every opportunity to engage those that have influence over it.

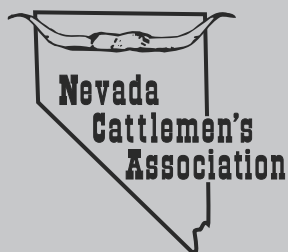
Hank you will be missed, rest in peace friend.

NCA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

(New members are in bold.)

- American AgCredit, FLCA, Pierce Mallory
- Robert E. Bennett
- Bottari Realty Inc., Paul & Lori Bottari
- Colby Cattle LLC, DeeAnna Pasquale**
- Cross Fence & Supply, Kristi Shafer**
- Scott & Kailen Dickson
- Frost Quarter Horses Inc., Karl Baker
- Laird Mfg., David McComb
- Tim Lawson
- James Linebaugh
- Multimin USA, Kip Hunter
- Salt Creek Industries, Kelly Peile
- Louis Scatena Ranch, Louis Scatena
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- Sloan Ranch, Jim Sloan
- Superior Livestock Auction, Jim Davis
- Nevada Water Solutions LLC, Thomas Gallagher



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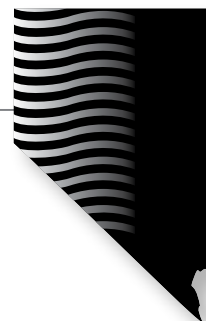
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Nevada Legislature Interim Finance Committee Approves American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Food Systems and Food Security Investments

The Nevada Department of Agriculture's approved work program funding will continue to strengthen Nevada's food systems and improve food security across the state

Sparks, Nev. - April 11, 2022 — The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) went before the Nevada Legislature's Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on Thursday, April 7, 2022, to request and seek approval for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for multiple work programs to continue to strengthen Nevada's food systems and ensure food security for all.

"Ensuring that all Nevadans have access to food is a critical priority for me and my administration," said Governor Steve Sisolak. "With the approval of programs from lawmakers on IFC last week, the Nevada Department of Agriculture will be able to bolster the state's food systems and infrastructure, which is important as we recover from the pandemic."

Due to additional stress on the State's food systems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NDA has administered over \$469.9 million in federal and state allocated funds to improve food distribution and nutrition programs since March of 2020. The NDA quickly pivoted program funding processes for schools to continue meal services for students while they were closed and during distance learning, in addition to expanding support for food banks, ensuring they had the necessary funding to address the increase in individuals seeking food assistance. The NDA also supported the improvement of food inventory and distribution systems to provide easier access for Nevadans to buy locally produced food products and aided agriculture businesses to continue safely operating during the public health emergency.

"Creating resilient food systems that increase food security is part of our mission," said NDA Director Jennifer Ott. "The additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act will help ensure that our systems can supply food to our communities and expand economic opportunities for Nevada's agribusinesses."

Funding requests put forth before IFC were proposed with the intent to strengthen existing food security efforts as well as allow the NDA to establish new programming including a state meat inspection program; the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase program, as outlined in SB370 during the 81st Legislative Session; and the Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program.

State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program

- The NDA received \$55,123 for this fiscal year to initiate the development of a State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program to support local meat processing. An inspection program will diversify market opportunities, strengthen local supply chains and ensure an adequate and safe meat supply. Through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, the state will implement the inspection program to expand inspection services to facilities wishing to sell meat and poultry products within Nevada, including smaller establishments in rural locations.

Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program

- The Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program will help Ne-

vada become more food secure, while creating economic opportunities for agricultural producers. The NDA received \$2 million for Home Feeds Nevada from ARPA to purchase Nevada-grown, produced and processed foods that will be distributed through Three Square Food Bank and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, to address food insecurity across the state.

ARPA Food Security Programs

- The NDA received over \$9 million to better serve Nevada's food-insecure populations by investing in the needs of nonprofits engaged in food security and covering gaps exposed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, setting Nevada up for long-term recovery. Funding will go toward supporting infrastructure needs, like upgrading food storage capabilities and distribution channels and to support food purchases by nonprofits.

Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program

- The Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program received \$400,000 toward nutrition services for food-insecure senior populations in Nevada. Funds will be used for the rebranding of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to the Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program to increase program awareness and participation among Nevada's income-eligible seniors, as well as for the purchase of fresh produce and other perishable supplemental food with increased nutritional value for food-insecure seniors in Nevada.

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Upcoming Educational Events at Cottonwood Ranch

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the Western SARE, the Northeast Elko Conservation District,
the University of Nevada, Reno Extension, and Cottonwood Ranch

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Riparian Workshop

Date: June 21st and 22nd
Time: 9:00 AM on the 21st to 4:00 PM on the 22nd (PT)
Facilitator: Dr. Sherman Swanson

Synopsis: The Riparian class at the Cottonwood Ranch will focus on the needs of landowners and permittees. It will feature going to learn from various places on Cottonwood Creek on 6/21 and going to lentic spring meadows or ponds on 6/22. At each location, we will discuss riparian functions (PFC assessment) as the first step in integrated riparian management. Then we will discuss the remaining steps as related to that location.

1. Values such as fish, frogs or forage
2. Importance for management
3. SMART objectives
4. Management or recovery tools and strategies
5. Monitoring of strategies and objectives
6. Possible adaptations to management if progress meets expectations or not.

Attendance and Lodging

Class: Free

Lodging at Cottonwood Ranch:

Single (\$180 per night) Double (\$80 per night)

RV (\$55 per night)

Meals (\$50 per day)

Range Plant Identification

Date: July 7th and 8th
Time: 10:00 AM on the 7th to 12:00 PM on the 8th (PT)
Facilitator: Gerald Miller

Synopsis: A workshop geared towards local plant ID in Northern Nevada. Students will be instructed in practical plant ID out on the range and discuss the management of multiple species. Attendees will be able to take home some pressed plants as well if desired. Two resource books by Barry Perryman will be provided.

Attendance and Lodging

Class: Free

Lodging at Cottonwood Ranch:

Single (\$180 per night)

Double (\$80 per night)

RV Spots (\$55 per night)

Meals (\$50 per day)

Soils Workshop

Date: July 21st and 22nd
Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the 21st, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the 22nd (PT)
Facilitator: Dr. Nicole Masters

Synopsis: This two-day workshop will cover topics that deepen the students' understanding of soil health and soil microbes, the role of soil microbes and how they affect ranch performance, the enhancement of water, carbon, and nutrient cycles, and using livestock to improve microbial function. Students will also receive knowledge of tools that they can use to monitor their ranch soils' status and trend.

Attendance and Lodging

Class: \$500, includes the two-day workshop and breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day

Lodging at Cottonwood Ranch (first come first serve):

Single (\$180 per night)

Double (\$80 per night)

RV Spaces (\$55 per night)

Sage Grouse Festival

Date: August 4th, 5th, and 6th
Times: TBD
Location: Cottonwood Ranch

Synopsis: The Sage Grouse Festival will be a celebration of the sage grouse species in the form of educational talks and resources provided by the various professionals from US Fish and Wildlife, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and other associated entities. There will also be a dance and barbeque social.

Attendance and Lodging

Lodging at Cottonwood Ranch:

Single (\$180 per night)

Double (\$80 per night)

RV Spots (\$55 per night)

Food can be purchased

Attendance fees are to be determined

State and Transition Model Workshop

Date: September 14th and 15th
Times: TBD
Facilitator: Dr. Tamzen Stringham

Synopsis: This workshop will focus on State and Transition Models in Nevada and how they are associated with Major Land Resource Areas and Ecological Site Descriptions. Students will be educated on how these models work and how they can be practically applied to land management strategies, including how they are grouped into Disturbance Response Groups for larger scale systems. This class will include a combination of classroom and outdoor field sessions.

Attendance and Lodging

Class: Free

Lodging at Cottonwood Ranch:

Single (\$180 per night)

Double (\$80 per night)

RV Spots (\$55 per night)

Meals (\$50 per day)

To register for these events or for more information, please contact: Vicki Smith, Phone: (775) 472-0222, Email: vcasmith@gmail.com





Nevada Beef Council Update — May 2022

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

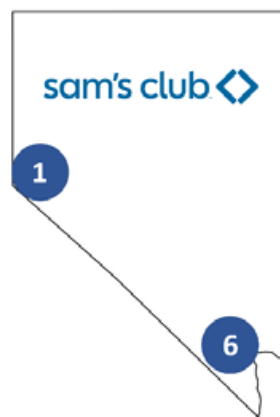
By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

At the Nevada Beef Council, we know how important it is to maximize the effectiveness of your dollar contribution to the checkoff. We are constantly working to leverage our budget to give you, the producer, the most return on your investment. One way we are able to do so is by taking advantage of national campaigns by working with the national checkoff and utilizing the other half of your beef checkoff dollar.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is a contractor to the national Beef Checkoff program, and manages the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand. One of the ways in which NCBA extends the beef brand messaging is by conducting foodservice and retail e-commerce partnerships on a national level with the 50 cents allotted by the checkoff.

Recently, NCBA, on behalf of the national Beef Checkoff, partnered with the big box retail chain, Sam's Club, to support retail beef sales for the



2021 holiday season. Beef. It's What's For Dinner. ads ran on Sam's Club digital platforms-- including on their website, mobile app, and online holiday entertaining page. Nevada has a total of seven Sam's Club stores in the state that were included in this nationwide e-commerce campaign.

The campaign ran November 3 through December 22 2021 and reached a total of 3.1 million people across the country. It resulted in \$8.7 million in incremental beef sales providing a \$41.72 return on ad spend (ROAS). Campaign results also showed 8% of Sam's Club shoppers were new to the beef category during the promotional holiday timing.

The Sam's Club campaign was a successful investment for the Beef Checkoff and Nevada beef producers. The Nevada Beef Council looks forward to the challenge of finding creative ways to invest Beef Checkoff dollars in the most economical and efficient strategies possible. Check out our website, nevadabeef.org, for more information about what the Beef Checkoff doing on your behalf.



NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

4231 Pacific Street, Suite 35, Rocklin, California, 95677

• www.nevadabeef.org

• 877-554-BEEF (2333)

• askus@nevadabeef.org

The Public Land Council President's Publication

by PLC President, Niels Hansen



Niels Hansen
(Submitted Photo)

With so many extreme groups and misinformed people attacking our industry regularly, it's hard not to be discouraged, and even a bit disgusted. In my case I get disgusted and mad, but I try to remember that many - maybe even most - of the people have no knowledge of our industry or natural resource management. They get their information from self-proclaimed experts and assume it is correct. Because of this unfortunate fact, it is important that we work together to address the false and misleading statements about the benefits of good grazing.

We must remember: we're working through temporary challenges in an industry that has fed our nation and others for hundreds of years. While dealing with these immediate issues we must work together to build the plan to achieve our 25-, to 50-, and 100-year goals.

PLC cannot change the weather or direct the future of our industry. However, working together we can help develop the programs, policies, and legislation needed to grow our industry. We need you to weigh in by sharing with us the issues you are dealing with. We need to know how you, as leaders in the industry, are dealing with drought, fire, heavy snow & cold, and all the rest.

Better than hearing from you would be if you would join us at our upcoming annual meeting in Cody, Wyoming. Your PLC team has been working on our annual meeting on August 24th - 26th in Cody. We will be meeting in Cody, WY from August 24th through 26th. This will be the first in-person meeting in two years, we have focused on making this meeting more than an informational meeting but an opportunity to get reacquainted with friends you haven't seen, make new friends and learn about their families and ranches.

This will be a great opportunity to hear directly from the decision makers in and out of government, it's an opportunity to influence your future.

Come join us as we work to protect the future of our industry.

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From the Desk of the PLC Executive Director

by Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director, Public Lands Council



Kaitlyn Glover
(Submitted Photo)

Typical spring work here in Washington looks less like shearing, branding, and turning out on summer pasture and more like dodging tourists, coordinating meetings with Members of Congress, and managing the bevy of requests that come through appropriations season. In her new role, Sigrid has been leading the charge on PLC appropriations requests this year, to great effect.

Many of you have upcoming meetings with your delegation, and I urge you to be prepared to discuss west-wide issues with them: the recent attack on the grazing industry by those who claim grazing is the cause, rather than the solution to western range health, the need to ensure state-based management of wildlife (including wolves, sage grouse, and more!), and the need to utilize grazing as both an incredibly important part of a sustainable rural economy and as a primary tool to manage western landscapes.

Through COVID, we have been focused on ensuring we keep you up to date – and get the latest from you – on all of the pressing issues of the day. This year, we have the opportunity to revisit, restart, and reinvigorate projects that saw a ‘pause’ during COVID transitions. Coming soon: in-person meetings, new dues structures, and – with your help – new resources for academic, legislative, and litigation inquiries.

She’s been in touch with many of you to ensure your state priorities are represented in the federal process, but your role is just as important.

Public Lands Council Policy Spotlight

Sigrid Johannes, Associate Director, Federal Lands, Public Lands Council



Sigrid Johannes
(Submitted Photo)

Every place has its own quintessential signals of spring, and Washington, D.C. is no exception. The cherry blossoms jump to mind for millions of people, but for those of us working on agriculture and natural resources policy, April can only mean one thing: appropriations.

In our month-long sprint to submit appropriations requests, PLC has focused on two

main buckets: legislative and regulatory outcomes that we can influence through funding, and outcomes we can influence through directive language from Congress. An example of the former is funding for the BLM’s humane, non-lethal population control of wild horse and burro herds. Per our policy book, PLC is advocating strongly for an increase in funding for this program because taking aggressive action to reduce on-range populations is an urgent need – not just for livestock, but for the health of native wildlife, forage, and over-taxed water supplies. An example of the latter is our efforts to direct agencies to open up more vacant allotments for grazing in times of drought and in areas where sheep producers need to mitigate contact with bighorn sheep.

As we all know, legislators from both parties on Capitol Hill can be spend-happy with your tax dollars. It’s important to note that some of our appropriations work is not about where we want federal dollars to be spent, but where we don’t want them. Our long-standing request on sage-grouse asks Congress to prevent federal funds from flowing to any implementation of a hypothetical future ESA listing of the greater sage-grouse.

Years of hyper-partisan politics and the normalization of last-minute omnibus spending bills at the end of the year have all but obliterated the normal process for appropriations, resulting in a lot of variation from office to office on how members handle requests and set their deadlines. On top of that, we have midterm elections approaching this fall and many members are already turning their focus to either defending a very tenuous Democratic majority or flipping seats for the Republicans. With a thin window of opportunity, the work your PLC team puts in year-round to build strong relationships on both sides of the aisle is key. We have also been closely coordinating with our partners at NCBA and ASI to ensure that we are maximizing the impact of our united voice in agriculture.

If you have any questions about appropriations season or want to flag a policy issue that you’re hearing about in your state, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Kaitlynn at kglover@beef.org or Sigrid at sjohannes@beef.org.

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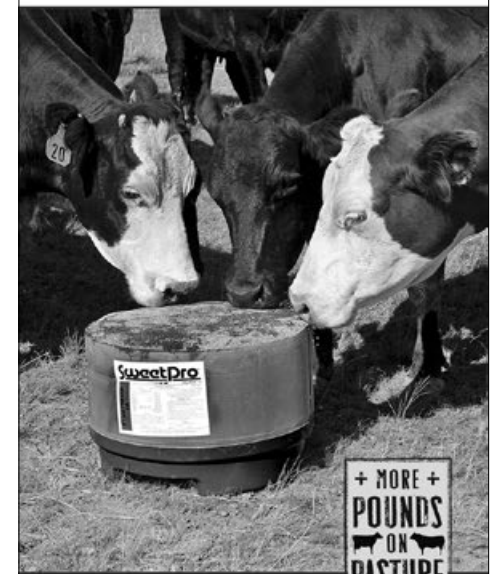
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NCBA President Urges Congress to Adopt Broadly Supported Cattle Market Policies

WASHINGTON (April 27, 2022) – Today, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) President Don Schiefelbein, a Minnesota cattle producer, testified before the House Agriculture Committee in a hearing on issues in the cattle markets. Schiefelbein urged House members to support key policies with broad, unified support across the entire cattle industry including a cattle contract library, Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) reauthorization, and investments in small regional processing capacity expansion.

“The only people who know exactly how cattle producers should navigate these uncertain times are the individuals who work around the clock, day in and day out, to raise the safest and highest quality beef in the world—in other words: cattle producers,” said Schiefelbein.

Schiefelbein’s testimony was rooted in the policies adopted by NCBA through its century-old grassroots policymaking process. Instead of focusing on con-

troversial matters, NCBA has encouraged Congress to support policies with wide industry backing.

“Broadly supported proposals have seen tremendous legislative success in this chamber recently,” said Schiefelbein. “However, repeatedly belaboring the same divisive issues has detracted from that collaborative work to the benefit of no one. It is time to move on and focus on areas where agreement can be reached.”

NCBA stands ready to work with policymakers to develop solutions that strength the cattle markets and benefit producers in every sector and region of the country.

Background

NCBA is advocating for numerous policies with unified industry backing that address critical issues in the cattle markets.

Programs like the Cattle Contract Library and LMR provide critical market information to cattle farmers and ranchers, helping them make more informed

business decisions.

To expand processing capacity and return leverage to the side of the producer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has pledged \$1 billion of investments in launching and expanding small to medium-sized processing plants. NCBA is working with USDA to target those investments in the most effective way. Previously, NCBA secured introduction of the Butcher Block Act to establish loan and grant programs for new processing facilities.

NCBA is also the leading voice for oversight of the meatpacking sector and has called for the swift competition of a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation into possible anticompetitive practices by the big meatpackers.

NCBA is the oldest and largest national trade association representing U.S. cattle and beef producers. Through a network of forty-four state affiliate organizations, NCBA represents 175,000 cattle farmers and ranchers in addition to over 26,000 direct members.

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Our Similarities Are Stronger Than Our Differences

By Don Schiefelbein, NCBA President

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom to meet with British officials and discuss the importance of bilateral trade between our countries. Great Britain is no longer part of the European Union (EU) and is seeking to establish its economic independence from Europe by pursuing trade agreements with allies like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada—but there is also a desire to strengthen the special relationship with the United States. Unfortunately, talks have lagged over the past year, but recent events in Ukraine have highlighted the need for both countries to work together to strengthen supply chains and address food security concerns through trade.

In our meetings with Members of Parliament and British trade officials, many were surprised to learn that our industry is rooted in family farms and ranches. The British perception of American agriculture is one of “factory farming,” but the reality is our average herd size is 43 head and over 96% percent of cattle operations are family owned and operated.

Similarly, there is also the perception that our cattle spend the majority of their lives on a corn-based diet. While corn has an important role to play in cattle feeding, our calves spend most of their lives on grass just like their British counterparts.

I share these stories to illustrate that often our similarities are stronger than our differences. British cattle producers employ many of the same practices we do. They maintain small, family-owned herds with initial feeding on grass followed by grain supplements.

Likewise, British producers share our strong commitment to animal welfare. For us, the Beef Quality Assurance program provides training in low stress animal handling and livestock care, while the U.K. teaches their producers through a similar program called “Red Tractor.” The U.S. and U.K. both prioritize sustainable cattle and beef production. As America’s original conservationists, caring for our land is second nature. Along the way, cattle producers have improved efficiency and now produce 60% more beef per animal while reducing emissions by 40% per pound. Britain’s Ambassador to the U.S. previously highlighted

NCBA’s producer-developed sustainability goals as a particular item of interest. British consumers also care deeply about the sustainability of their food, and our sustainability story makes us a good fit for the British market.

One of NCBA’s goals for 2022 is increasing producer profitability and an effective way to do that is increasing your customer base abroad. As American cattle producers, we make a unique product. Our beef is the highest quality in the world and presents a unique flavor profile that consumers around the globe desire. Still, those who have never seen our production methods may have false ideas about how we raise our cattle. At NCBA, we are breaking down misconceptions about our industry and forging relationships to expand future trade opportunities

for you.

It was an honor sharing our story in the U.K., but it’s only possible because of your daily commitment to raising the highest quality cattle in the world. Thank you for the dedication you bring to the farming and ranching way of life and thank you for your support of NCBA.

In our meetings with Members of Parliament and British trade officials, many were surprised to learn that our industry is rooted in family farms and ranches.



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USDA To Compensate Drought-Stricken Ranchers for Above Normal Costs to Haul Livestock to Forage

Assistance also available for feed and water hauling expenses

Reno, Nevada April 6, 2022— Due to the persistent drought conditions in the Great Plains and West, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering additional relief through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres. This policy enhancement complements previously announced ELAP compensation for hauling feed to livestock. ELAP livestock and feed hauling assistance is retroactive for 2021 and will be available for losses in 2022 and subsequent years.

“Stakeholder input matters. After we rolled out updated ELAP policy last year to help cover the cost of hauling feed to livestock, thankful producers across the country expressed their appreciation for the expanded assistance and made suggestions to further improve the program,” said Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator. “The additional update we are announcing today to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage reflects our commitment to meet our producers’ needs, whenever we have the flexibility and authority to do so.”

“Unfortunately, drought conditions across the U.S. continue and, in many states, have worsened. In response, we continue to find ways to help livestock producers alleviate some of the financial strain,” said Janice Kolvet State Executive Director for FSA in Nevada. “This most recent ELAP program update recognizes that, for some ranchers, hauling livestock to forage rather than feed to livestock is easier and makes more sense financially.”

ELAP Assistance Overview

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition to ELAP covering feed transportation costs where grazing and hay resources have been depleted, ELAP now also covers transportation costs associated with hauling livestock to feed sources. This includes places where:

- Drought intensity is D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor; or
- Drought intensity is D3 or greater.

Additionally, FSA has updated ELAP policy to also cover water hauling in areas experiencing D2 for eight consecutive weeks, lowering the drought intensity threshold (previously D3) triggering the availability of this financial assistance.

Eligibility

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed or livestock transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. Although producers will self-certify losses and expenses to FSA, producers are encouraged to maintain good records and retain receipts and related documentation in the event these documents are requested for review by the local FSA County Committee.

Payment Calculations

USDA will reimburse eligible ranchers 60% of livestock transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

USDA uses a national cost formula to determine reimbursement costs that will not include the first 25 miles and distances exceeding 1,000 transportation miles. The calculation will also exclude the normal cost to transport hay or feed if the producer normally purchases some feed. For 2021, the initial cost formula of \$6.60 per mile will be used (before the percentage is applied).

Online Decision Tool

Producers can use the updated ELAP Feed Livestock Transportation Producer Tool to help producers document and estimate payments to cover both feed and livestock transportation costs caused by drought. The tool (a Microsoft Excel workbook) and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/elap. Final payments may vary depending on eligibility.

Eligible ranchers should contact their FSA county office to apply for ELAP assistance. To simplify the application process, ranchers can print or email payment estimates generated by the online tool for submission to FSA. The deadline to request ELAP assistance for hauling livestock to forage in 2021 is June 30, 2022. The deadline to request all ELAP assistance for 2022 calendar year losses will be Jan. 31, 2023.

More Information

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producer impacted by drought and wild-fire and the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Farm Loan Discovery Tool. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

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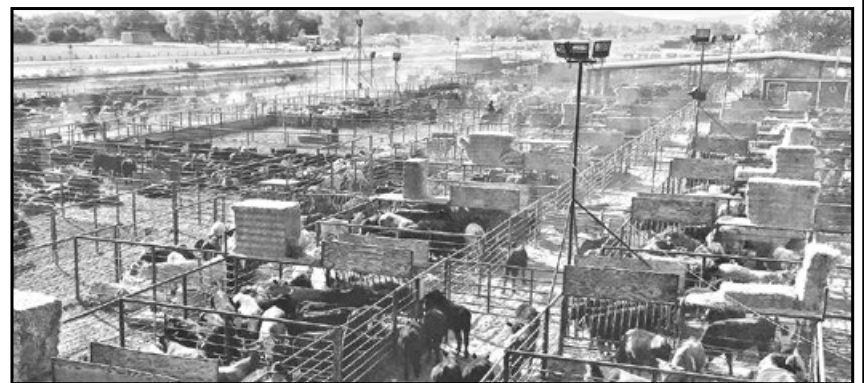


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USDA to Provide Payments to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire

New Emergency Livestock Relief benefits to be delivered through two-phased approach; compensation for 2021 forage losses

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2022 – The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that ranchers who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire in 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021 through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP).

"Producers of grazing livestock experienced catastrophic losses of available forage as well as higher costs for supplemental feed in 2021. Unfortunately, the conditions driving these losses have not improved for many and have even worsened for some, as drought spreads across the U.S.," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "In order to deliver much-needed assistance as efficiently as possible, phase one of the ELRP will use certain data from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), allowing USDA to distribute payments within days to livestock producers."

Background

On September 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act* (P.L. 117-43). This Act includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. Additionally, the Act specifically targets \$750 million to provide assistance to livestock producers for losses incurred due to drought or wildfires in calendar year 2021. ELRP is part of FSA's implementation of the Act.

For impacted ranchers, USDA will leverage LFP data to deliver immediate relief for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021. LFP is an important tool that provides up to 60% of the estimated replacement feed cost when an eligible

drought adversely impacts grazing lands or 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of a qualifying wildfire.

FSA received more than 100,000 applications totaling nearly \$670 million in payments to livestock producers under LFP for the 2021 program year.

Congress recognized requests for assistance beyond this existing program and provided specific funding for disaster-impacted livestock producers in 2021.

ELRP Eligibility – Phase One

To be eligible for an ELRP payment under phase one of program delivery, livestock producers must have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2021 calendar year, and have applied and been approved for 2021 LFP. Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was disallowed due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP payments, if they applied and were approved for 2021 LFP.

As part of FSA's efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP phase one benefits, producers are not required to submit an application for payment; however, they must have the following forms on file with FSA within a subsequently announced deadline as determined by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

- CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application*
- Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, if applicable, for the 2021 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*) for the ELRP producer and applicable affiliates.

ELRP Payment Calculation – Phase One

To further expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP phase one payment, FSA will utilize livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer when they submitted a 2021 CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application* form.

Phase one ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer's gross 2021 LFP calculated payment multiplied by a payment percentage, to reach a reasonable approximation of increased supplemental feed costs for eligible livestock producers in 2021.

The ELRP payment percentage will be 90% for historically underserved pro-



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ducers, including beginning, limited resource, and veteran farmers and ranchers, and 75% for all other producers. These payments will be subject to a payment limitation.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, form on file with FSA for the 2021 program year.

Payments to eligible producers through phase one of ELRP are estimated to total more than \$577 million.

ELRP - Phase Two

Today's announcement is only Phase One of relief for livestock producers. FSA continues to evaluate and identify impacts of 2021 drought and wildfire on livestock producers to ensure equitable and inclusive distribution of much-needed emergency relief program benefits.

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Assistance for Crop Producers

FSA is developing a two-phased process to provide assistance to diversified, row crop and specialty crop operations that were impacted by an eligible natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 or 2021.

This program will provide assistance to crop producers and will follow a two-phased process similar to that of the livestock assistance with implementation of the first phase in the coming weeks. Phase one of the crop assistance program delivery will leverage existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program data as the basis for calculating initial payments.

Making the initial payments using existing safety net and risk management data will both speed implementation and further encourage participation in

these permanent programs, including the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index Crop Insurance Program, as Congress intended.

The second phase of the crop program will be intended to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs.

Through proactive communication and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as ERP implementation details are made available.

Additional Livestock Drought Assistance

Due to the persistent drought conditions in the Great Plains and West, FSA will be offering additional relief through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage. This policy enhancement complements previously announced ELAP compensation for hauling feed to livestock. Soon after FSA announced the assistance for hauling feed to livestock, stakeholders were quick to point out that producers also were hauling the livestock to the feed source as well and encouraged this additional flexibility.

It is important to note that, unlike ELRP emergency relief benefits which are only applicable for eligible losses incurred in the 2021 calendar year, this ELAP livestock and feed hauling compensation will not only be retroactive for 2021 but will also be available for losses in 2022 and subsequent years.

To calculate ELAP program benefits, an online tool is currently available to help producers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation cost increases caused by drought and will soon be updated to assist producers with calculations associated with drought related costs incurred for hauling livestock to forage

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