

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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NCA June Update

By Martin Paris, Executive Director

Can you believe it is already June? This year is flying by! The little bit of moisture we have received so far this spring has made a difference in many parts of the state, however, it appears that dry conditions aren't going away anytime soon. We'll have to find solace in that we're better off than last year so far.

As your Association works on a multitude of issues on a daily basis, it is obvious how important it is to get out and vote on Election Day. Primary elections should be just a few days away by the time you read this. If there is one thing I know it's that elections have consequences, so make sure to get out and vote in the primaries and the general election later this fall.

Over the month of May, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association has been diligently working on your behalf. There are a lot of balls in the air right now that either directly or indirectly affect our livelihoods. Some of the things on the radar screen

include a rewrite of BLM's Sage Grouse Land Use Plan, a rewrite of BLM's grazing regulations, a renewed Lahontan Cutthroat Trout conservation effort, cattle markets, misinformed attacks on livestock production and on and on. Add some inflation to the mix and it's one heck of a party. While all of these can seem overwhelming at times, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association is committed to being an asset to you as we face a smorgasbord of issues. Our diverse committees are led by experienced people who are working hard to address your concerns and navigate through these challenging issues. Stay tuned for updates as some of these items begin to take shape.

On the Nevada Legislature front, the newly created Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources comprised of members of both the Assembly

— **June Update continued on page 3** —

The 2023 Farm Bill: What is it and Why Does it Matter to Cattle Producers?

By: NCBA Staff

Every five years, Congress is tasked with reauthorization of the Farm Bill, the multi-million-dollar bill that funds numerous agricultural and food programs governed through the United States Department of Agriculture. Farm Bill reauthorization is a critical priority because without it, the continuation of some agricultural-related programs would cease and much needed policy updates to Farm Bill programs would not be made. In fact, failure to reauthorize the Farm Bill would result in reverting to versions of the Bill passed in the first half of the 19th century that simply will not work for today's producers.

As the deadline for the 2023 Farm Bill approaches, preliminary conversations around Farm Bill priorities are underway between Congress and industry groups. While the Bill does not need to be reauthorized until next year, Congress will engage with stakeholders in the agricultural and food industry for months to determine the components of the Farm Bill. Writing this Bill is a huge undertaking as it encompasses 12 titles spanning from nutrition to crop insurance to conservation.

While a large portion of the overall Bill is allocated toward nutrition assistance programs, cattle producers benefit from the Bill through a variety of ways. As a result, NCBA's Government Affairs team is already engaging with key members of Congress to ensure cattle producers benefit from both new and existing provisions in the Bill.

Even in early conversations, our team stressed the importance of continued funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB) to protect against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), secured in the 2018 Farm Bill. This is an important tool as the cattle industry works toward proactive preparedness in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

As part of our 2022 Policy Priorities, NCBA is focused on the financial sustainability of farms and ranches. One way we can promote that is through ensuring the continuation of

— **Continued on page 10** —

Upcoming Educational Events at Cottonwood Ranch

Sponsored by
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





PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

It amazes me that a fair-prize goldfish can survive the fair, make it back to the ranch in a baggie, survive whatever habitat the ranch kid conjures up before reaching its home sweet home in a stock tank. It then flourishes and grows proportionately to the size of the tank. I've seen them get big enough to spook the horses! I'm similarly amazed by our State Fish, the Lahontan Cutthroat trout. There's the pan-sized version that can inhabit a creek less than a stride in width, but there's also the monsters that inhabit some of our western lakes. Unlike the seemingly indestructible goldfish though, Lahontan Cutthroat trout has particular habitat needs. Cool, clean water chief among them.

The Government Agencies associated with management of the fish are under pressure to stabilize and reverse the trend of a declining population. Your Nevada Cattlemen's

Association has worked diligently to make it recognized and well known that the fish and the cow can live together. But it takes management on our part. In order for the fish to have the habitat it needs, grazing has to be managed. Reducing or eliminating hot-season grazing is one of the fundamental changes to be made but its benefits go far beyond making fish habitat.

I would advise you to check in with your Agency contacts about what LCT habitat you might have on your permit, it's not always obvious and often seems we permittees are the last to know. If so, there's likely change coming down the pike (fish pun intended) that may be difficult but should be do-able and I would argue-worth it. We will continue to extol the benefits of cattle and fish cohabitation and I personally will try to disremember a college goldfish eating contest I may have been a part of.

June Update: *Continued from page 1*

and Senate will be holding their next committee meeting on June 16th. The Committee is currently soliciting recommendations for possible consideration during next year's session. These can be in the form of a bill draft request (BDRs) or a detailed explanation of the policy you recommend. If you are interested in making a recommendation, please check out the solicitation and provided form on their website-

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/26644>. If you have any suggestions or input you would like NCA to consider submitting please reach out to me at nca@nevadabeef.org.

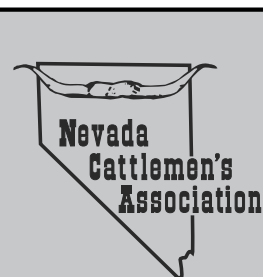
On an entirely separate note, NCA has already started preparations for the 87th Annual Convention and Trade Show. I know your schedules will be filling up fast over the next few months so I encourage you to mark your calendars for November 30-December 2, 2022 in Sparks at the Nugget. We will be joining up with the California Cattlemen's Association again this year and look forward to another great event.

If you know of anyone that is not a member of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, I ask you to inform them about our organization. Encourage them to become part of an Association that is working hard to protect the future of ranching in Nevada. If they would like to learn more about the Association refer them to our website at www.nevadacattlemen.org, like us on Facebook, or please call the office at 775-738-9214. We thank you for your continued support. Until next time.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between April 25, and May 24, 2022.
(New members are in bold.)

- American AgCredit, ACA, Kelly Barnes
- Boehringer Ingelheim, Kent Evans
- Boies Ranches, Steve & Robin Boies
- Madi Borkman**
- El Tejon Sheep Co.
- Jennifer Garrett
- David Goicoechea
- Mel Hummel Ranch, Mel Hummel
- Nevada Mining Association
- Powder River, Inc., Diane Hunter
- Sand Springs Ranch, Marta Agee
- Lander Smith



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nevada Section-Society for Range Management Nevada Youth Range Camp

— June 19-26, 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 —
Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV
www.ncba.org/events/summer-business-meeting

2022 Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— August 24-26, 2022 —
Cody, WY
<https://publiclandscouncil.org/>

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

— November 30-December 2, 2022 —
Nugget Casino Resort
100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV
www.nevadacattlemen.org

Livestock Inspection Program Change Notice Division of Animal Industry

NOTICE OF LANGUAGE AND FEE REVISIONS (Not inclusive): Livestock Inspection Program (SB 454, NAC 564 and 565)

Specifics of all updated language can be found at:
www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/8217/Overview
www.leg.state.nv.us/Register/2020Register/R101-20AP.pdf | www.leg.state.nv.us/Register/2020Register/R100-20AP.pdf

NOTE: Strikethrough text indicates deleted or revised language/fees. *Italicized, semibold text indicates new or revised language/fees.*

Temporary Brand Recording:

- *Application fee: \$35 nonrefundable (whether awarded or not)*
- Recording: *\$50* each year recorded or re-recorded annually (must not be prorated)
- Brand Recording Period: Valid for 1 year

Permanent Brand Recording:

- *Application fee: \$35 nonrefundable (whether awarded or not)*
- Recording: From ~~\$120~~ to *\$200* fee to record or transfer a brand (refunded if no brand awarded; must not be prorated)
- Brand Recording Period: From 4 years to 5 years of each current recording period

Brand Re-recording:

- Re-recording: From ~~\$120~~ to *\$200* fee to re-record (must not be prorated)
- Brand Recording Period: From 4 years to 5 years of each current recording period
- *Next Re-recording period begins 60 days prior to January 2023*

Abandoned Permanent Brand Re-recording:

- *Application fee: \$35 nonrefundable (whether awarded or not)*
- Recording: From ~~\$120~~ to *\$200* fee to record or transfer a brand (refunded if no brand awarded; must not be prorated)
- Brand Recording Period: From 4 years to 5 years of each current recording period

To record an instrument transferring ownership of a recorded brand:

- *Application fee: \$35 nonrefundable (whether awarded or not)*
- Recording: From ~~\$120~~ to *\$200* fee to record or transfer a brand (refunded if no brand awarded; must not be prorated)
- Brand Recording Period: From 4 years to 5 years of each current recording period

Fee for processing and continuing administration of a security agreement:

- From ~~\$35~~ to *\$100* for each period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following year

Owner of animals consigned to annual sales, regular sales, or special sales of livestock:

- *Must be charged a brand inspection fee regardless of whether the animals are sold*

Special Sales or Annual Sales of livestock:

- From ~~\$16~~ per hour to *\$24* per hour for inspector travel and inspection time
- Appropriate per head brand inspection fee for each animal inspected (inspection fees assessed regardless of whether the consigned livestock are actually sold)

Horse Permits:

- *Travel fee per inspection site: \$35*
- Annual permit fee from ~~\$25~~ to *\$35*
- Lifetime permit fee from ~~\$50~~ to *\$75*

Livestock Movement Permits:

- *Valid for 1 year after date of issuance*

Event Permits:

- *An event permit may be used to move animals out of this State or across the boundaries of a brand inspection district for use in a rodeo, show, fair or other public exhibition in lieu of an individual brand inspection. Before moving animals pursuant to an event permit, the permittee shall complete a statement on a form provided by the Department that includes, without limitation, the number of animals being moved, the destination of the animals and the date or dates, as applicable, that the animals will be moved. An event permit is valid for 1 year after the date of issuance. The Director may issue an event permit if:*
 - (1) *The permittee completes an application*

- on a form provided by the Department;*
- Each animal is identified using the animal's individual official identification;*
- The permittee holds a health certificate for each animal which identifies the animal by its individual official identification; and*
- The permittee pays:*
 - A travel fee of \$35; and*
 - A permit fee of \$50 for each permit requested by the permittee.*

Cattle Inspections:

- *Travel fee per inspection site: \$35*
- Deletion of the ~~\$9~~ first animal fee
- \$1 per head of each animal inspected

Horse Inspections:

- *Travel fee per inspection site: \$35*
- Deletion of the ~~\$10~~ first animal fee
- From ~~\$3~~ to *\$5* per head of each animal inspected

Brand Inspector hourly billing rate when assessed per regulation:

- From ~~\$16~~ per hour to *\$24* per hour

Inventory Inspections:

- \$0.40 per each head of livestock inspected
- *Travel fee per inspection site: \$35*
- From ~~\$16~~ per hour to *\$24* per hour for inspector travel and inspection time

Billing and Payment:

- *All fees set forth in this section are due upon completion of the inspection by check or credit card. If payment is not made in full immediately following the inspection, the Department shall bill the responsible party.*

Brand Inspector remittance of fees and clearance certificates:

- All fees collected pursuant to this section must

be forwarded biweekly to the Department together with the original *or a digital upload of* the brand inspection clearance certificate covering the inspection for which the fees were collected, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Administrator.

Approved state employed brand inspector positions consist of:

- *Brand Inspector III (1 full time supervisor position)*
- *Brand Inspector II (2 full time positions)*
- *Brand Inspector I (30 intermittent positions)*

HELP WANTED

Project Manager: Meat and Poultry Inspection Program

Director's Office

At the pleasure of the Director, the Project Manager directs, manages, supervises, and coordinates the activities and operations of the Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) new meat and poultry inspection program. Over the course of two years, the project manager will be responsible for developing and implementing a state meat and poultry inspection program to address supply chain issues in Nevada. This position is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to help Nevada and the agriculture industry recover from supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and build a program to support processing in the future.

This is a full-time contract position with the NDA for a period of two years. Ability to work remotely possible. Salary is \$36.48 per hour as a contract employee.

• Specific Duties:

- o Strategize the implementation steps and timeline of the state meat and poultry inspection program
- o Work with USDA on the adoption of a Nevada meat and poultry inspection program cooperative agreement
- o Hire an inspector to lead trainings and develop standard operating procedures
- o Hire an inspector/educator to work with industry on inspection readiness, environmental plans and safety plans
- o Develop and maintain effective relationships with other states, federal agencies and industry to create a robust program
- o Seek out opportunities for federal funding for the department and industry
- o Prepare and execute administrative rulemaking changes to support the legal and financial operations of the program
- o Work with NDA colleagues to develop communication and financial plans
- o Create educational materials and presentations for meetings with local government officials on processing
- o Prepare monthly reports for the

Director and selected staff

- o Act as the subject matter expert for legislative and public inquiries

• Functional Requirements

- o Light to moderate lifting, 20 pounds with occasional lifting of up to 40 pounds
- o Occasional bending or kneeling
- o Drive a vehicle to perform duties
- o Statewide travel is required, out of state travel may periodically be required

• Environmental Factors

- o Working indoors and occasionally outdoors
- o May be required to wear appropriate safety protection
- o Working in cold temperatures for short periods of time

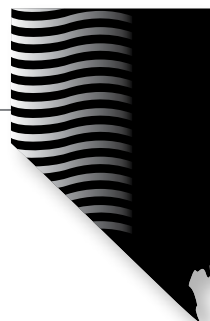
• Minimum Qualifications

- o Project management experience including budgeting, staff hiring and supervision

• Preferred Qualifications

- o Knowledge of and familiarity with laws and policies relating to public meetings, administrative procedures, and ethics
- o Experience working with the livestock industry
- o An understanding of the US food supply chain
- o Knowledge or experience in food science, food safety, microbiology, biology, or animal science

Position open until filled. Please send a cover letter, resume and list of references to: Samantha Bellwood, Executive Assistant, sbellwood@agri.nv.gov, (775) 432-4263.



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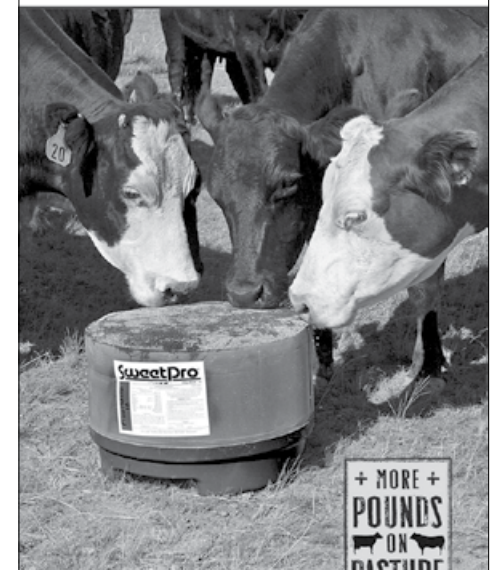
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UPCOMING SALES

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 9, 2022**

WVM Headquarters
Cottonwood, California

**Consignment Deadline:
Wednesday, June 1**

**MONDAY – WEDNESDAY,
JULY 11 – 13, 2022**

Silver Legacy Resort
Reno, Nevada

**Consignment Deadline:
Thursday, June 23**

**MONDAY & TUESDAY,
AUG. 15 & 16, 2022**

Little America
Cheyenne, Wyoming

**Consignment Deadline:
Thursday, July 28**

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Errol Rice to Join the BLM as Senior Policy Advisor

Rice will focus on grazing, sage-grouse habitat management and natural infrastructure

WASHINGTON – Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning announced that Montana native Errol Rice will join the agency as a senior policy advisor in support of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Rice will help guide the BLM's outreach and policy on grazing and investments in restoration.

Rice has significant experience in agriculture, ranching and renewable energy and works with clients in the agribusiness, agriculture technology and renewable sector to navigate the supply chain, government, climate, profit, risk, and strategy. He is a fifth-generation Montanan whose family has been farming and ranching the state since 1877.

"I am excited to have Errol join us," said Stone-Manning. "Errol will bring on-the-ground perspectives to some of the agency's most important priorities."

After graduating from Montana State University in 2001 with his bachelor's degree in agriculture education, Rice served as the Industry Communications and Associate Director of Livestock Marketing Services for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association until 2005. He was the Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Montana Stockgrowers Association from 2006 to 2018.

In 2014, Rice earned his Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University.



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USDA Updates Livestock Insurance Options to Offer Better Protection, Flexibility

WASHINGTON, May 4, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has updated three key crop insurance options for livestock producers: the Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP), Livestock Gross Margin (LGM), and Livestock Risk Protection (LRP). USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) revised the insurance options to reach more producers, offer greater flexibility for protecting their operations, and ultimately, better meet the needs of the country's swine, dairy, and cattle producers. The updates were published last week for the 2023 crop year, which begins July 1, 2022.

"Great and sound customer service is the most important thing we can provide our nation's producers, making sure the programs and products we offer give them the most useful tools for covering their risks," said RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger. "Agriculture is not a static industry, and these updates reflect the importance we place on always knowing the evolving needs of producers and offering the most people the best risk management tools we can."

DRP is designed to insure against unexpected declines in the quarterly revenue from milk sales relative to a guaranteed coverage level; LGM protects against the loss of gross margin (or livestock's market value minus feed costs); and LRP provides protection against price declines.

Producers will now have more flexibility for DRP, LGM, and LRP, when indemnities are used to pay premiums, which can help producers manage their operation's cash flow. With these updates, producers can now have both LGM and LRP policies, although they cannot insure the same class of livestock for the same time period or have the same livestock insured under multiple policies.

Additional updates by insurance option include:

Dairy Revenue Protection

- Dairy producers are now able to continue coverage even if they experience a disaster, such as a barn fire, at their operation.

Livestock Gross Margin

- Cattle, Dairy, and Swine coverage has been expanded, making it available in

all counties in all 50 states.

Livestock Risk Protection

- Insurance companies are now required to pay indemnities within 30 days, rather than the previous 60 days, following the receipt of the claim form.
- Head limits have been increased:
 - Fed Cattle: 12,000 head per endorsement and 25,000 head per crop year
 - Feeder Cattle: 12,000 head per endorsement and 25,000 head per crop year
 - Swine: 70,000 head per endorsement and 750,000 head per crop year
- The termination date under LRP has been extended from June 30 to August 31
- Location reporting requirements have been relaxed to list only state and county, instead of the precise legal location.

Learn more on RMA's Livestock Insurance Plans webpage. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator.

More Information

These improvements to livestock insurance options build on other efforts by USDA to improve programs for livestock producers. Recently, USDA expanded the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish to cover transportation costs of livestock to feed as well as feed to livestock. And USDA expanded Dairy Margin Coverage to enable dairy producers to enroll supplemental coverage.

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

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the Silver State Classic Special Calf and Yearling Sale held every December
 sponsored by the Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Fallon Livestock, LLC

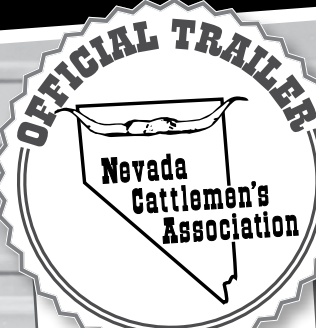
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Farm Bill: *Continued from page 1*

USDA risk management and disaster assistance programs. It is critical to protect these programs for producers, and make sure they meet producer needs as severe weather conditions, including snowstorms, hurricanes and drought continue

Bulls Raised for the Real World in Reese River Valley

- Home raised at 6,000 ft elevation
- Never grained or creep fed
- Maternal focused program
- Hereford and Angus x Hereford

Brennen Burkhart at 940-765-3107

Shawn Schacht at 775-291-1429

Delivery and quantity discounts are available

across the country.

In addition, conservation is anticipated to be a key focus for many. As discussions around conservation drive the focus of the Bill, we are working to ensure that conservation measures included are voluntary and allow cattle producers across the country to do what they do best – conserve the land and natural resources in a way that is suitable to their region of the country and the type of operation they are running.

While there are several provisions NCBA will advocate for, the Government Affairs team is also working to ensure certain provisions are not included, such as a separate livestock title. Cattle producers across the country benefit from programs administered through other titles in the Farm Bill, but efforts to create a separate livestock title would not be beneficial to the industry as it could increase government oversight and regulations on certain programs and business practices, and it opens the door to unwanted policy initiatives.

As debate ramps up between industry groups and Congress, NCBA has already been engaged in conversations to ensure decision makers understand how cattle producers benefit from this legislation. In addition, the team is working to ensure we have the critical relationships to help secure beneficial provisions.

However, like any other NCBA policy, our official priorities will be determined by membership. State affiliates will have the opportunity to present policy recommendations to our current Farm Bill Directives, and members will vote to determine NCBA's official next steps at Summer Business Meeting in July. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your state affiliate or NCBA staff with questions you have regarding this process and how you can get involved.

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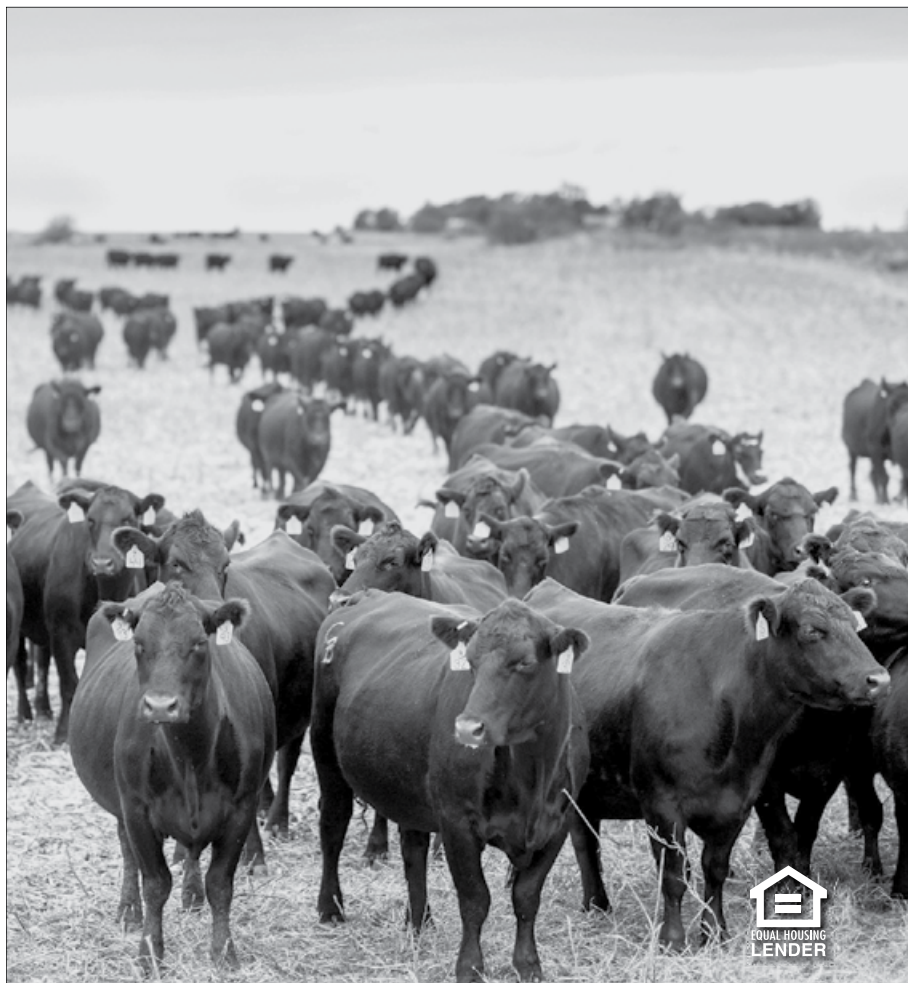
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Your Voice in Washington

By Don Schiefelbein, President NCBA

Volatility in the cattle markets has been a challenge for all of us over the past few years. Cow-calf producers, stockers, backgrounders and feeders alike all benefit when the market is transparent, and all participants play by the rules. The challenges in our markets have also captured the attention of Congress.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to testify before the House Agriculture Committee at a hearing on meatpackers and market conditions. Currently, we face a shortage of beef processing capacity at a level not seen in several decades. I emphasized the importance of financial support for small, regional processing facilities to increase hook space and return leverage to the side of the producer. I also urged Congress to press the Department of Justice to complete their investigation into the four major meatpackers that was first launched in 2020. After two years, we have yet to hear the results of the investigation, but we need answers before considering new regulations. In the meantime, our industry is facing new challenges from inflation, rising input costs, and labor shortages, and I asked Congress to focus on these concerns too.

One of things that stood out to me when I visited Washington, D.C., is how NCBA commands the attention of lawmakers and their staff. There is an organization ready to lobby Congress on every imaginable issue, but NCBA is different — not only because people enjoy seeing our hats — but because of our time-honored policy process rooted in a diverse membership.

Since 1898, NCBA has been a forum for cattle producers in every sector and region to discuss issues and build consensus. In my family's operation, we all come

with different perspectives, but we talk together, debate, and move forward with a united front. NCBA policy is set the same way. We each have vastly different business practices, and we face different regional conditions, but we all come together to drive policy forward. Through collaboration, we send a powerful message to policymakers.

As a member, I'm honored that you invested in NCBA, and I thank you for trusting us to represent your interests. Testifying before Congress is only one example of how NCBA works to improve conditions for cattle producers, but every day we are notching victories on policies that keep the government out of our way or make our jobs a little easier. I know that being a cattle producer is not an easy life, but it's a rewarding one steeped in heritage and tradition. That is why NCBA fights for you.

You have important work to do running your farm or ranch, which is why we have a dedicated team in Washington to advocate for you. Every day, NCBA monitors hours of debate on Capitol Hill, meets with agency staff, and reviews the hundreds of rules churned out by regulators each week. It's an overwhelming workload for one person, but your membership in NCBA supports this crucial work that protects the entire cattle industry.

Next month you will have an opportunity to add your voice to the policy process at NCBA's Summer Business Meeting in Reno, Nevada. I am always encouraged when members have thoughtful conversations about our future policy priorities, and I look forward to connecting with you in Reno. Thank you for your continued involvement in NCBA!

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Nevada Beef Council Update — June 2022

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement

Checkoff Stewardship Starts with Education and Inspiration

The Nevada Beef Council (NBC) joined 30 other state beef councils (SBCs) to learn about the Beef Checkoff and share ideas during the annual orientation hosted by the Federation of State Beef Councils. Keri Pommerening, a director on the Nevada Beef Council board, participated in the SBC Staff and Director Orientation held on April 6, in Denver.

New SBC staff members and directors came together to learn about their roles and responsibilities as stewards of the Beef Checkoff. Attendees learned about the Beef Act & Order, Checkoff history, fiduciary responsibility and Checkoff payment compliance.

“I really enjoyed meeting everyone from the other states and I learned a lot about the history of the checkoff and the latest research,” said Pommerening, “I am also a brand inspector, so when I did an inspection for a load of cattle at the feedlot this week, I had lots of answers for the producer who asked ‘just where do my check off dollars go?’”

Staff from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association



Keri Pommerening, Nevada Beef Council board.

(NCBA) also provided recent campaign results of Checkoff-funded programs and discussed the robust financial firewall that exists between policy and Checkoff spending. The event also served as a way for SBCs to network with one another, meet NCBA staff and learn about available Federation resources.

“This important annual event gives new state beef council staff and directors the resources they need to be successful,” said Brad Hastings, Federation of State Beef Councils chair. “The information shared also helps reinforce the strong state and national partnership that exists through the Federa-

tion of State Beef Councils.”

The vision of the Federation of State Beef Councils is to build beef demand by inspiring, unifying and supporting an effective state/national Checkoff partnership. The Federation, organized in 1963, represents the 44 Qualified State Beef Councils and is housed by the NCBA, which is a contractor to the Beef Checkoff.

For more information, visit Nevadabeef.org.

NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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