

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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August Update

By Martin Paris, Executive Director, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

As we head into August, it's hard to believe how fast this year is going. Between the heat, the hay, and hauling water, I know your days are full right now between turnout, fire, markets, and everything else that comes with keeping an outfit running. This month I want to spend some time on the issue that's had most of my attention lately: the Bureau of Land Management's proposed grazing rule, and the comments NCA filed on your behalf.

Back in May, BLM published its proposed revision to the grazing regulations and opened a 60-day comment window. These rules matter because they set the ground rules for how permits get administered, how much flexibility we're given, and whether ranching families can keep operating on public lands. We run cattle across roughly 155 million acres of BLM ground in the West, a good share of it right here in Nevada, where public lands grazing is woven into our rural communities. This was one we needed to engage on, and we did.

There's a lot to like in the proposal. For years, ranchers have taken the blame for range conditions we didn't cause such as overpopulated wild horse and burro herds, catastrophic wildfire, drought, recreation. The proposed rule would require BLM to weigh all of those factors before it acts against a permit, instead of pointing at grazing first and asking questions later.

One piece of the proposal we're glad to see is a clearer framework for temporary nonrenewable use, or TNR. The idea is straightforward: when forage is temporarily available on an allotment, say after a good-moisture year or when acres open up for a season, BLM could authorize grazing on it for a



year or less, without that use becoming a permanent part of the permit. It's a common-sense way to put feed to work when it's there instead of letting it go to waste, and it gives operators a little more room to respond to the conditions in front of them.

We also made sure BLM heard us on suspended AUMs. Nevada is carrying more than half a million suspended AUMs on the books, a lot of them suspended for decades under conditions that may have nothing to do with the range today. NCA requested that BLM evaluate, restore, and reauthorize sus-

pended use where it makes sense as those animal unit months carry real value for operations.

The rule also opens more room for targeted grazing, which is about the most practical, cost-effective tool we've got for knocking down the fine fuels that feed our worst fires. Ranchers have understood this for generations. The trouble is that recognition has to turn into action, and too often an agency only remembers the value of grazing after a fire has already come through. We need policy that lets us put grazing to work ahead of the fire, through timely turnout, better use of vacant and underused allotments, quicker approval of range improvements, and real flexibility during drought and post-fire recovery.

That said, the proposal is not perfect. There are some provisions that still need work, and our comments told BLM as much, asking the agency to tighten up the language and

fix the places where the details don't quite hold up on the ground. But taken as a whole, this is a good rule that moves us in the right direction.

Looking ahead, the comment period has now closed. The deadline was July 13, and BLM is reviewing what it received before it drafts a final rule. We expect some of the provisions that help the most to draw quite a bit of opposition. I want to thank every member who took the time to file a comment. When individual ranchers, organizations, and NCA all make the same case, it goes a lot further than any one of us on our own. Filing comments is only the start. Even once a final rule is in place, we'll keep working with BLM on the implementation guidance that decides how these regulations actually play out on the ground. As we move into fall, we'll stay on this rule and on the many other issues shaping our industry.

One more thing, please save the date for our 91st Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show, coming November 12-14 in Elko. We're working through an agenda now. Keep an eye on www.nevadacattlemen.org as the details come together.

That's all for this month. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the office at 775-738-9214 or nca@nevadabeef.org with any questions, concerns, or anything you're seeing on the ground. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to continuing the work on behalf of Nevada's ranching families.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dave Baker, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Whiskey's for Drinking, Water's for the Trees Now Too

Drive up any drainage in the central Great Basin and you'll see it before you can name it: hillsides that used to be open sage, now thick with pinyon and juniper crowding in from the margins. Out here near Baker, where my family has run cattle for three generations, that creeping green isn't scenery. It's a water problem, a wildlife problem, and a ranching problem, all wearing the same disguise.

Pinyon and juniper encroachment isn't just new trees where there never were trees. It's old rangeland, sagebrush and grassland, that historically burned often enough to keep woodland in check, converting to dense pinyon and juniper forest because we suppressed the fires that used to do that work. Nevada loses roughly 100,000 acres a year to the densest stage of this conversion. That's not a back of the house statistic. That's water and forage we used to count on.

In my view, pinyon and juniper expansion is the single best example of biodiversity loss on Nevada's rangelands. As these trees take over, they crowd out the grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and wildlife that evolved together in healthy sagebrush ecosystems. A landscape that once supported a wide variety of plants and animals becomes increasingly dominated by just a couple of tree species.

Here's the part that matters most to anyone holding a water right in this state: those trees are thirsty. A mature pinyon or juniper has roots that reach deep and wide, and it pulls moisture that used to feed grasses, shrubs, and the soil itself. University of Nevada research is blunt about it. As tree canopy closes in, understory vegetation thins out, bare ground expands, and what rain and snowmelt we do get runs off the surface and erodes it instead of soaking in. Even snowpack changes under a closed canopy, which means less water stored through winter and less of it reaching the springs, meadows, and creeks our herds and our neighbors depend on.

It isn't only a water story. Closed canopy pinyon and juniper pushes out the sagebrush obligate species, sage grouse chief among them, that need open shrub steppe to nest and forage. It also sets up worse fire outcomes down the road. Dense, decadent stands carry far more fuel, and once they burn, cheatgrass and other invasive annuals often move in faster than native plants can recover.

The economics ought to get everyone's attention. It costs roughly \$1,500 an acre to proactively reduce hazardous fuels through thinning and other restoration work. Once those same acres start burning, suppression costs alone can approach \$50,000 an acre, before you even begin paying for rehabilitation, damaged infrastructure, lost forage, or impacts to wildlife habitat and watersheds. We can invest in preventing catastrophic fires, or we can pay many times more after the fact.

None of this is hopeless. Targeted thinning, mastication, and prescribed fire, done at the right scale and in the right places, have already restored sagebrush

and riparian function on projects right here in eastern Nevada. What it takes is ranchers, BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, and state agencies rowing the same direction, with funding that matches the size of the problem.

The piece that's been missing is a market for what comes off the land when we treat it. That's where Six Co. Nevada's work in Lincoln County is worth watching. Six Co., a Nevada infrastructure group with roots tracing back to the original Six Companies that built Hoover Dam, is developing the Lincoln County Renewable Energy and Sustainability Complex, an industrial park built around converting woody biomass into green fuels and power, in partnership with Denmark's Green-Lab model and with backing from USDA and the state's economic development office. If that complex gets built out, it gives agencies and private landowners an actual buyer for the wood coming off a pinyon and juniper thinning project instead of a slash pile that gets burned in place or hauled away at a loss. Pair restoration work with a real market for the biomass, and treating these woodlands at the scale we actually need stops being something we can only afford in pilot projects.

We didn't get into this fix overnight, and we won't fix it overnight either. But every acre of sagebrush we hold onto is an acre of water, forage, wildlife habitat, and taxpayer dollars we don't have to fight for later. That's a fight worth winning before it starts.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between June 27 and July 27, 2026.

(New members are in bold.)

- Harry L. Brown Family Trust, Donald Brown
- Randy Wallstrum
- Washoe Ranch, Brett Reed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— September 15–17, 2026 —
Copper Mountain, Colorado
Copper Mountain Resort

NCA 91st Annual Convention & Trade Show

— November 12–14, 2026 —
Elko, Nevada
Elko Convention "E" Center
www.nevadacattlemen.org/events-meetings/convention-and-trade-show



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Dave Baker, Pres.

Marlow Dahl, Pres.-Elect

Wade Small, 1st Vice Pres.

Ray Saliga Named New NDA Division of Plant Health and Compliance Administrator

SPARKS, Nev. - July 24, 2026 — The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has named Ray Saliga as Administrator of the Division of Plant Health and Compliance. Saliga will lead the division after serving as Deputy Administrator since 2024.

“Ray has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to Nevada agriculture,” said NDA Director J.J. Goicoechea. “His experience in plant health, pest control and regulatory programs, along with his collaborative approach, make him an excellent choice to lead the division. I look forward to working with him in this new role.”

Saliga joined the NDA in 2018 as an Agriculturist III before advancing to Agriculturist IV, overseeing the state’s Pest Control Operators Pro-



Submitted Photo

gram. As Deputy Administrator, he helped lead statewide plant health, inspection and compliance efforts.

Before joining the NDA, Saliga served as farm manager at the University of Nevada, Reno. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Plant Sciences from Michigan Technological University, where he developed the foundation for his career in plant health. Outside of work, Saliga enjoys exploring Nevada’s roads and trails, as well as spending time with his family and dogs.

“I am honored to serve as Administrator for the Division of Plant Health and Compliance,” said Saliga. “I look forward to continuing to work with our dedicated team and industry partners to strengthen programs that protect and promote Nevada agriculture.”

USDA Announces Phased Reopening of Southern Ports for Livestock Trade

(Washington, D.C., July 24, 2026) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing a coordinated, phased reopening of southern cattle ports, contingent on Mexico’s adherence to the Joint Action Plan. Beginning August 24, 2026, USDA will open the Douglas, AZ port of entry to cattle trade, while simultaneously initiating the operational steps necessary for subsequent openings at the Santa Teresa, NM, and Columbus, NM, ports. Every animal entering the United States through these ports will undergo a full USDA inspection to ensure it is free of any signs of New World screwworm (NWS).

“Protecting the United States from NWS and pushing this pest out of Mexico and back to the Darien Gap is a top priority at USDA and has the full attention of the Trump Administration,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins. “The closure of the Southern ports of entry for the last year has been a tough but necessary action to control the spread of NWS in Mexico and protect the American livestock industry. Thanks to the work across the federal government as well as state, local, and industry partners, it is now safe to reopen the Douglas,

Arizona, port in 30 days to resume the hundreds year old movement of cattle.”

For many years, Sonora and Chihuahua have maintained a strong animal health infrastructure program, built on the backs of successful animal disease control measures. While the rest of Mexico has not been able to stop the spread of the screwworm or stop legal and illegal movement, Sonora and Chihuahua do have a track record of success in these spaces, giving USDA confidence that they can do the job.

USDA proposes a phased reopening of Southern ports to livestock trade, contingent upon satisfactory progress on priority Action Plan milestones.

- Sonora and Chihuahua are identified as the lowest-risk Mexican states for New World screwworm due to their strong, well-established inspection programs and their geographic distance from southern Mexico, where most cases are concentrated.
- On August 24, 2026, USDA will reopen the Douglas, AZ, port, which borders Sonora, to livestock trade. The closest active case to the Douglas, AZ, port is ~325 miles detected on July 22, 2026. After evaluating the success of the initial reopening and potential impacts or risk assessment changes, APHIS will then consider reopening the Santa Teresa, NM, and Columbus, NM, ports to live cattle, bison, and horses.
- The reopening timeline will remain flexible and may be adjusted based on Mexico’s progress in meeting Action Plan milestones and addressing critical issues.
- The opening of ports may be paused if USDA identifies increased risk in Sonora or Chihuahua via post-opening audits or other observations/information.

For more information about USDA’s New World screwworm response, read here: www.aphis.usda.gov/animals/animal-health/livestock-and-poultry-disease/stop-screwworm/usda-continues-lead-aggressive

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MOU signing ceremony.

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SBA, USDA Sign MOU to Combat Lawfare Against Farmers, Ranchers, and Small Businesses

New Partnership Gives Producers a Direct Line to Report Costly Regulations and Advance Lasting Reform

WASHINGTON [July 2, 2026] — Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to combat lawfare targeting farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and small businesses. The agreement gives America's producers a direct line to report the regulations and rules driving up costs and impacting productivity, while helping SBA and USDA identify broader patterns of regulatory abuse to advance lasting deregulatory reform.

"Farmers and ranchers do some of the hardest and most essential work in America, yet they have faced a growing burden from costly federal regulations - crushing generational businesses that lack the time, money, or legal resources to fight back," said SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler. "With our MOU, the SBA and USDA now offer America's producers a direct line to report lawfare, with a new infrastructure to deliver lasting regulatory reform. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are eliminating barriers and supporting small businesses in their mission to keep America fed, clothed, and fueled."

"Producers and ranchers who feed this nation should never face the full power of government alone," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. "This partnership with the SBA creates clear pathways for redress, ensures fairness in enforcement, and demonstrates that Washington stands with, not against, the hardworking Americans who sustain our country. Through the USDA Lawfare Portal and interagency collaboration, we are delivering real protection under the Farmer and Rancher Freedom Framework."

Under the agreement, USDA will operate a centralized lawfare portal to receive complaints involving any federal agency and will share those submissions with SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman for case management and coordination. Matters involving USDA will be handled through the Department's designated channels, while complaints involving other federal agencies will be referred by SBA to the appropriate agencies for coordination and resolution.

The MOU also authorizes SBA to analyze complaint data to identify recurring

lawfare practices and enforcement or regulatory issues that may be disproportionate, inconsistent, or abusive, helping inform potential deregulatory action for broader reform.

This partnership builds on broader Trump Administration regulatory relief efforts for rural America. This year, in partnership with SBA and USDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reaffirmed farmers' right to repair - clarifying that manufacturers can no longer use the Clean Air Act to justify limiting access to repair tools or software. The SBA and USDA likewise supported EPA efforts to remove costly Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) sensor requirements for diesel equipment - in an action expected to save farmers \$4.4 billion a year.

The MOU also advances President Trump's Executive Order, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, by supporting the Administration's broader effort to cut red tape and restore a federal government that works for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and small businesses.

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Can Cow Patties Help Restore Our Rangelands?

University of Nevada, Reno researchers test having cattle do the heavy lifting of reseeding through their manure

RENO, Nev. – After decades of losing ground to cheatgrass-fueled wildfires and spending millions of dollars on restoration efforts with mixed success, researchers are exploring a new rangeland management tool: cattle dung.

Cattle already play an important role in rangeland restoration through targeted fall grazing, which helps suppress cheatgrass, an invasive annual grass that has transformed millions of acres across the West. Cheatgrass grows quickly, dries out early in the season, and leaves behind highly flammable fuel that helps drive larger and more frequent wildfires. The grass also outcompetes native plants for limited moisture, making restoration increasingly difficult across much of the Great Basin.

Now, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno are investigating whether the cattle that help suppress the cheatgrass can also help disperse seeds of beneficial perennial grasses through their manure, potentially supporting large-scale reseeding efforts across degraded rangelands.

In a newly published study, researchers found that specialized seed coatings helped native grass seeds survive conditions that mimic passage through a cow's digestive system, increasing the likelihood that livestock could be used to deposit viable seeds across the landscape through their manure.

The findings build on earlier research by the team showing that cheatgrass seeds do not survive long enough in a cow's rumen to remain viable. The rumen is the largest compartment of the cow's stomach and serves as a fermentation chamber for digesting fibrous plant material. After spending approximately 32 to 36 hours in the digestive system, the seeds are effectively destroyed, meaning cattle can help reduce cheatgrass by eating it without spreading it to new areas through their manure.

"We've already shown that cattle can help us manage cheatgrass," said the project's principal investigator Tamzen Stringham, professor and rangeland ecology specialist with the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources. "The next question is whether we can use those same animals to help



Photo by William Richardson.

Experimental dung patties containing native grass seeds are placed on Nevada rangelands as part of a University of Nevada, Reno study evaluating whether cattle can help disperse and establish perennial grasses for rangeland restoration. Researchers are monitoring seed germination, emergence and establishment under field conditions.

seed desirable plants across the landscape and support restoration at scales that would be difficult or prohibitively expensive using conventional methods."

Coated versus uncoated seeds: Not every seed needs protection

The study, funded by Nevada's Bureau of Land Management and the Public Lands Council, evaluated four grass species commonly used in Western rangeland restoration: Indian ricegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail and crested wheatgrass. Researchers tested whether specialized polymer coatings could protect seeds from the harsh microbial and digestive environment of a cow's rumen.

"Originally, we thought we would need to coat every seed," said Will Richardson, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Science. "What we found was much more nuanced. Some species need that extra protection because the rumen environment quickly damages the seed, while others already have natural defenses."

Results varied considerably among species. Coated crested wheatgrass showed some of the strongest performance, retaining viability during extended rumen exposure and successfully emerging from manure under greenhouse conditions. Bluebunch wheatgrass also benefited from the dual-layer coating, which helped maintain seed viability during prolonged digestion.

One of the biggest surprises was Indian ricegrass, a native Great Basin species with a naturally hard seed coat. Researchers found Indian ricegrass survived passage through the digestive system without additional protection and, in some cases, germinated more readily after 24 to 36 hours in the rumen. The digestive process appeared to naturally scarify, or weaken, the seed coat, helping break dormancy and prepare the seed for germination.

Researchers also tested whether seeds could germinate after being deposited in cattle manure. Under greenhouse conditions, coated crested wheatgrass successfully emerged from fecal material, demonstrating that some seeds can survive

INDUSTRY NEWS

digestion and remain capable of establishing after dispersal.

"The results showed that different species respond very differently to digestion and coating technologies," Richardson said. "For fecal seeding to be successful, we'll likely need species-specific strategies rather than a one-size-fits-all approach."

Forming a regional research network

The interdisciplinary project brought together researchers specializing in rangeland restoration, animal nutrition, seed technology and microbial ecology. The core research team included Stringham, who also conducts research as part of the University's Experiment Station, Richardson and master's graduate Graham Holton, along with collaborators from Texas A&M University and Brigham Young University.

Next step: Testing fecal seeding on working ranches

This fall, the project will enter its next phase at Horseshoe Ranch in northern Nevada. Researchers will mix coated seeds into protein supplements commonly provided to cattle and monitor small grazing paddocks to determine whether seeds that survive digestion can take the final step from germination to establishment in the field. The trials will track where cattle deposit seeds, how many seedlings emerge and whether the approach can be scaled across larger landscapes.

"At this point, we're moving from asking whether seeds can survive the cow to asking whether they can survive the landscape," Richardson said. "If we can successfully establish desirable perennial grasses using cattle that are already on the range, it could provide land managers with a practical restoration tool that works at the scale of the problem."



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Early Bird Registration Rate for PLC's 58th Annual Meeting in Colorado Ends August 15

WASHINGTON (July 24, 2026) – As the Public Lands Council (PLC) approaches the 58th Annual Meeting, PLC reminds attendees and supporters to register before prices increase on August 15! Public lands ranchers will meet with academic, government, and industry partners in Copper Mountain, CO from September 15-17, 2026, to discuss industry priorities and opportunities to advance land and industry policy.

“Annual meeting is our time, as federal lands ranchers, to plan our advocacy efforts for the upcoming year and do a deep dive on our grassroots policies. Updated grazing regulations, the repeal of the nefarious public lands rule, and the revised greater sage grouse management plans all started as producer-led conversations at previous annual meetings and all of those have all been landmark wins for our industry in the past year,” said PLC President and Colorado rancher Tim Canterbury. “I am looking forward to having as many permittees as possible at this meeting to give their policy input and discuss what they are

seeing on the ground. This is the perfect time to have your voice heard in our grassroots policy process and hear from other permittees on what is happening across the entire ranching industry.”

PLC is the only national group that defends the rights and interests of cattle and sheep producers who utilize federal lands and grazing permits as part of their operations. Every year PLC's Annual Meeting brings these ranchers together in the West to discuss pertinent issues, develop producer-focused policy, and plan advocacy efforts for federal agencies and Congress. Registration for this event is \$385, with discounted rates available for family members, students, and media. Early bird registration closes August 15, 2026, after which registration is \$450. The entire event will be hosted at the Copper Mountain Resort, with PLC room rates available. Join PLC in Colorado as we work to preserve the future of public lands grazing!

Register here: <https://publiclandscouncil.org/events/annual-meeting>.



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Reflections from Summer Business Meeting

by Gene Copenhaver, NCBA President

When nearly 700 cattle producers gather in one place, the conversations are about much more than committee meetings and votes. They are about the future of our industry.

As I reflect on our Summer Business Meeting held last month in Colorado, I leave encouraged, not only by the business we accomplished, but by the people who continue to make this organization strong. Every producer who took time away from their operation and family to participate demonstrated a commitment to something bigger than themselves — ensuring the cattle industry remains strong for generations to come.

We are fortunate to be part of this industry at a remarkable moment. Cattle markets remain strong, consumer demand for beef continues to reach historic levels, and producers have opportunities to build successful businesses. That optimism was evident throughout the week, but that alone doesn't secure our future. It takes engagement, thoughtful discussion and a willingness to work together to address the challenges that lie ahead.

One of the greatest strengths of NCBA is our grassroots process. Our policy priorities don't begin in Washington, D.C., and they don't originate in NCBA's offices. They begin with cattle producers.

Throughout the week, NCBA members and our network of state cattlemen's associations brought forward ideas, debated solutions and helped shape policies on issues that matter to producers across the country. Discussions ranged from reviewing the Conservation Reserve Program and strengthening Livestock Risk Protection to addressing emerging animal health concerns like *Theileria orienta-*



lis Ikeda, a disease transmitted by the Asian longhorned tick. Those conversations ensure our policies reflect the realities facing cattle producers today.

Just as importantly, Beef Checkoff committees reviewed and discussed NCBA's proposed body of work as a contractor, and we were proud to spotlight our efforts that will continue advancing the research, education and promotion efforts that help build consumer confidence and drive demand for beef. Advocacy protects our ability to raise cattle. Beef promotion helps ensure consumers continue choosing beef. Together, those efforts create a stronger future for every segment of our industry.

As I think back on the week, I'm reminded that progress is often measured in a series of small wins. A productive committee discussion. A new relationship formed between producers from different states. A fresh perspective shared across the table. A policy recommendation refined through respectful debate. Individually, those moments may seem small. Collectively, they shape the direction of our association and the future of the cattle business.

We will continue this work as an industry when cattle producers and stakeholders gather for CattleCon 2027, which is returning to downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Feb. 2-4, 2027, with business meetings beginning Feb. 1. Registration opens Aug. 10, and housing tends to fill up quickly so make sure to check our website for details at www.convention.ncba.org. I hope to see many of you there.

New Resource Helps Farming and Ranching Families Transition to Next Generation

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Succession planning is one of the most important conversations farming and ranching families need to have, but those dialogues are often hard to navigate or never even get started. While it is a difficult subject to bring up, the time to plan is now.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is launching a new resource to help start the discussion. The online learning module guides families through the steps of transition and helps them create a succession plan unique to their operation.

"I've been through transition discussions with my kids, and I know it's not comfortable. As a former ag lender, I've also seen my community struggle with these conversations," said NCBA President Gene Copenhaver. "I hope resources like this make it easier for cattle producers across the country to secure the future of their farms and ranches."

Professor Shannon Ferrell with Oklahoma State University specializes in estate planning and has spoken to thousands of producers on this topic. He emphasizes the importance of planning to secure business continuity and reduce stress when a family member passes.

"You owe it to your loved ones to have the courage to tackle this challenge by creating a succession plan," said Professor Ferrell. "If you don't plan now, you may end up leaving your family with a burden instead of a gift."

Ferrell adds, "A failure to plan is a plan to fail." He helps producers understand that their operations will undergo a transition at some point, either when someone dies or at a time of their choosing, so it is best to be proactive and have a structure in place.

This learning module is a starting place for cattlemen and women to initiate the necessary steps to pass on ownership and continue a hard-earned legacy. While the conversations may be difficult, they are easier than not being prepared.

The Succession Planning Learning Module, which includes a workbook, is available for free by creating an account at <https://cultivate.vivayic.com/?tenantid=8>. For assistance, email help@cattlelearningcenter.org. This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2024-70027-42471.

Additional resources, including a Cattlemen's College session recording, Cattlemen's Webinar Series event, and recent Cattlemen's Call podcast about this topic are also available.

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NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION NEWS

Midterms Don't Matter?

by Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO

Just a few months ago, President Trump commented that he really didn't care about the midterms. I'm here to tell you that I do, and I hope you do, too. I care because the outcome of the 2026 General Election will impact everything we work on for the next two years, and beyond. Truth be told, the president is still watching these races very carefully.

This midterm election cycle has been wild. As I am writing this, we've just learned South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham passed away. In the U.S. Senate, nine Republicans are retiring, running for other office, lost their primary, or have died. Four Democrats are retiring. That is 13% of the Senate. In the House of Representatives, 33 Democrats have either retired, are running for other office, lost their primary, or died. On the other side of the aisle, 40 Republicans have met similar fates. That is almost 17% of the total House membership. This is particularly high turnover for Congress.

Republicans running for re-election have had to navigate many obstacles, including the threat of President Trump getting in the middle of their race. Rep. Thomas Massie from Kentucky, Sen. Bill Cassidy from Louisiana, and Sen. John Cornyn from Texas all met a primary demise, and President Trump's endorsement of their ousters made a difference. For Democrats, the rise of Democratic Socialist candidates running, and winning, their primary races could open more Congressional districts up for similar candidates. All of this has been further complicated by a mid-decade redistricting push that may, or may not, influence November's outcome.

The primaries aren't over yet. Many of you live in states with August and September primaries, so the final stage for the November General Election has not been completely set. Here in Colorado, the primary to select the Democrat candidate for governor resulted in current Sen. Michael Bennet losing a race many thought he had in the bag. The reason I call this race out is because his loss means he will remain a U.S. senator and has the seniority to become the next Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Had he won and gone forward with his gubernatorial campaign, it would have set up Sen. Cory Booker from New Jersey with the seniority to take that committee slot. While we find ways to work with Members of Congress from all sides, having a vegan Senate Ag Committee Chairman would have been challenging.

Working with all sides is key to NCBA's success in D.C.



Our focus now is capitalizing on the current political environment. Both Congress and the president are working on issues important to us, and we are trying to help them find ways to be successful. We would still like to see a Farm Bill finished so that all of us in agriculture will know what the USDA program landscape looks like. Right now, they are home for the annual August recess. Once they return after Labor Day, it will take everything they have in the tank to pass some sort of federal funding bill before the end of the fiscal year. After that is done, they will high-tail it back home for the final stretch of the campaign. The "lame duck" session will be the next best time for any legislative action.

While capitalizing on the current political environment is important, we also take a strategic look at where the political environment will be after Election Day. Reading the political tea leaves is not as easy as it once was, but we need to be prepared for a Democrat-led House of Representatives.

If that happens, the next two years will be a series of oversight and impeachment hearings. We will work with our friends in the House to influence some of those oversight hearings in a way that could help us. You've heard me say this before, but any organization that only works with one party will ultimately fail in their policy advocacy work. We have a long list of House members from both parties who support us and work with us. We also have a list of House members from both parties who are as irritating as birdshot in the rump.

Regardless of the Congressional leadership, the president still has more than two years left to roll back burdensome rules and regulations, and we will be helping him and his team get as many done as possible. His team has delivered several huge wins for us, but we have many more that need to get done before they leave 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The American electorate is in the driver's seat when it comes to what will happen on Tuesday, Nov. 3, but we aren't without a way to help influence the outcome. NCBA's Political Action Committee, or PAC, is an effective way to help get pro-cattle business candidates elected to Congress. NCBA-PAC has a long track record of supporting winning candidates, and we are pushing to raise \$2 million to support as many candidates as we can. Your support of our PAC is critical, but at the very least, I'm asking you to show up and vote. It is always important to exercise our right to vote, but especially during our semiquincentennial year.



Nevada Beef Council Update — August 2026

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Kori Dover, RD

Big Flavor, Same Great Nutrition

You don't need a heavy sauce to help develop the great flavor from beef, whether it's steak, roast, or ground beef. Beef already brings its own rich, savory flavor to the plate, and a simple rub or marinade is there to build on that, not cover it up. Herbs, spices, and a splash of acid often add flavor without adding much fat, sugar, or sodium, making them a great match for lean cuts that already deliver high-quality protein, iron, zinc, and B12.

A rub is a mixture of seasonings, such as herbs and spices, pressed onto the surface of the meat before cooking. A marinade works a bit differently, using an acid like citrus or vinegar to carry flavor deep into the meat while helping to tenderize it. Even a short marinating time, 15 minutes to an hour, can make a real difference in texture and taste.

That makes a well-seasoned piece of beef an easy anchor for a healthy meal. Pair it with whole grains like brown rice or quinoa, a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, and you've got a well-rounded meal built around real, simple ingredients.



Lemon-Oregano Steak Rub

Provided by *Beef It's What's for Dinner*

Rub Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup chopped fresh oregano or 1 tablespoon dried oregano leaves
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon peel
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon pepper

Cooking:

1. Combine Rub ingredients; press evenly onto beef steaks.
2. Grill, pan-broil, or broil steaks; place roast in oven. Cook to medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness.

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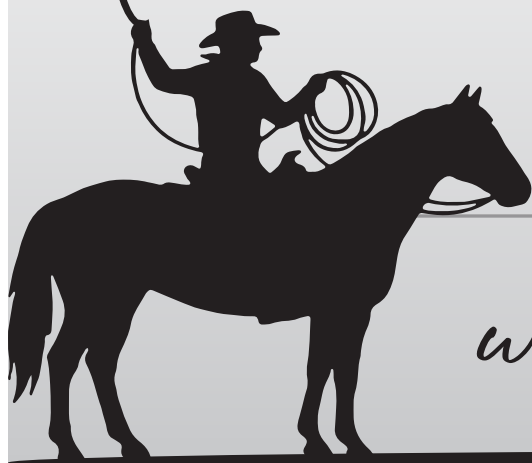
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