



# SAGE SIGNALS

*The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry*

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

## Announcing 90th Joint Annual Convention and Trade Show

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association is eager to announce this year's convention. The 90th Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show will be held on November 13-15, 2025, at the Elko Conference Center in Elko, NV. As NCA members around the state gather in Elko, we will celebrate a lifetime of traditions, revise and review policies, receive industry updates, and take the opportunity to enjoy our friends and neighbors.

At the convention members of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, guest speakers, and vendors who provide services to the beef cattle industry will join together to celebrate the Nevada livestock industry. NCA staff and officers are working hard to provide you with a memorable and educational experience.

The forms for exhibit booths and sponsorships have been sent out. If you did not receive one of these forms and wish to, please contact us or check out our website at [nevadacattlemen.org](http://nevadacattlemen.org) to download a copy. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would like to thank all of our convention sponsors and exhibitors; they help make



our event a success.

NCA's policy committees will meet prior to the convention to discuss new issues or resolutions to be proposed and will also review expiring resolutions. These meetings are the initial step in setting the Association's policies that help guide staff, officers, and members in responding to the various issues that impact Nevada's cattle industry. Participation in the

resolution process is a great way to get involved and have your voice heard. For more information on each committee or suggestions on any new or expiring resolutions, please contact the NCA office.

Registration for the convention and a tentative schedule will be available on our website here soon. Members will also receive a registration packet in the mail. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please call the office at 1-775-738-9214, email [convention@nevadacattlemen.org](mailto:convention@nevadacattlemen.org), or check out our website [nevadacattlemen.org](http://nevadacattlemen.org). Our website is constantly updated with the latest information. We look forward to seeing you all at the convention!



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Hanes Holman, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association*

### Dog Days Are Over

As I write this article, the Dog Days of Summer are drawing to a close, and as you read this article, Fall will be in full swing. I personally like the fall time of year the best. Getting to see the fruits of our labor pay off is rewarding and satisfying. As cow-calf producers, we're in the fourth quarter of ranching with one more big push to get over the line and start the game over for one more year. It seems like it has been a long, hot, dry summer, so I personally am looking forward to a little cool down!

At NCA, we have been working on some issues with private property rights. It seems some misinformation and personal "assumptions" have encouraged vandalism and trespass across the West, and that is something that **every private property owner** in Nevada should be concerned about. We are actively working to defend our rights and seeking counsel on how to proceed. There will be more on this topic in the future because it is not going away, but that is all I can say at

the moment.

Now I have got to give a plug for everyone to come to the NCA Annual Convention on November 13th, 14th, and 15th in Elko, Nevada. We are going to have two General Sessions: one on trespass and what to do when we have encounters, and one with agency updates to get informed on what our partners are up to. We will also have a CattleFax industry update breakfast. Everyone should be interested to see what the market outlook is, so you don't want to miss it. The big question is how long the market will stay high. I, for one, sure want to see what CattleFax projects! If that isn't enough excitement, we will also have a great trade show, our committee meetings, and voting on policy to guide the organization.

Put it on your calendar and get your tickets early because you really don't want to miss this Convention!

Cheers

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*We would like to thank  
the following people for joining or  
renewing their membership with  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association*

*between July 24 and  
August 25, 2025.*

*(New members are in bold.)*

- **A3 Ranch, Penelope Escalante**
- **JVR Ranch LLC**
- **Sierra West Livestock,  
John Rianda**
- USDA Farm Service Agency

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— **September 16–18, 2025** —  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
DoubleTree Hotel  
[https://publiclandscouncil.org/  
events/annual-meeting](https://publiclandscouncil.org/events/annual-meeting)

### Nevada Cattlemen's Association 90th Annual Convention & Trade Show

— **November 13–15, 2025** —  
Elko, Nevada  
Elko Conference Center  
[www.nevadacattlemen.org/events-  
meetings/convention-and-trade-show](http://www.nevadacattlemen.org/events-meetings/convention-and-trade-show)

### National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Convention

— **February 3–5, 2026** —  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Music City Center  
<https://convention.ncba.org/>

## NEVADA NEWS

# Newly Hired Professor to Implement Digital Technologies in Wildfire Recovery and Rangeland Restoration

Lucas Phipps' research aims to help Nevada ranchers and  
land managers build more resilient communities

RENO, Nev. – After a decade of work in ecological consulting, applied research and stakeholder engagement, University of Nevada, Reno alum Lucas Phipps is trading his field hat for a faculty one. He joins the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources as an assistant professor of rangeland ecology and management.

Since earning an M.S. in rangeland ecology & management in 2019 from the College's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Science, Phipps has become a recognized voice in rangeland and wildland fire sciences. With a growing portfolio of more than \$600,000 in research funding and collaborations with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phipps brings a rare combination of field expertise and applied research that strengthens both the College's academic programs and its service to land stewards across Nevada and the West.

Drawing from his experience teaching professional development courses for wildland firefighters, who earn Office of Personnel Management credits through the Rangeland & Fire Ecology Education Program offered by the University's Experiment Station, Phipps will lead his degree-seeking students into hands-on, field-based exploration of ecological systems through courses such as rangeland restoration



Lucas Phipps, newly appointed assistant professor of rangeland ecology and management, brings a decade of field experience and a passion for building fire-resilient landscapes to the University of Nevada, Reno. Photo by Robert Moore.

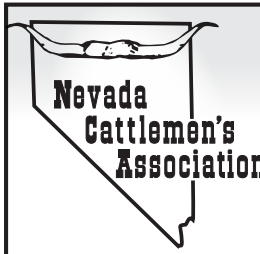
ecology and rangeland vegetation monitoring and data analysis. He will also conduct research as part of the Experiment Station, supporting land restoration and fire resilience across Nevada's rangelands.

"Lucas brings a forward-thinking approach to rangeland science that aligns perfectly with our mission as a land-grant institution," said Mike Teglas, professor and chair of the Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Science. "His ability to connect students with real-world challenges while supporting Nevada's land stewards makes him an exceptional addition to our faculty."

In 2024, while serving as a private consultant focused on ecological restoration and land assessment, Phipps earned his doctorate in animal and rangeland science from the same academic department. He has served as a senior range specialist for the Great Basin Sagebrush Restoration Fund, a research initiative led by Professor Tamzen Stringham, a rangeland and riparian ecologist in the Department.

Phipps' consulting work has spanned across the West, including in Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, California, Washington and Alaska, where he conducted biological assessments, rare plant surveys, post-fire rehabilitation and rangeland inventories, and mapping for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and served as an expert witness for the Department of Justice on Tribal water rights.

"I'm incredibly grateful to return to the University of Nevada, Reno in this new role," Phipps said. "It is an honor to help guide students who are passionate about land stewardship and ecological resilience. Nevada's rangelands are both delicate and vital, and I am excited to support the communities that depend on them through research, education and collaboration."



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90th Annual

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## Nevada Beef Council Update — September 2025

### Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Christie Van Egmond: Director, Retail & Foodservice Marketing

## Keeping Beef in the Grocery Cart Amid Rising Retail Prices

As the sun sets on summer, and the Nevada Beef Council looks towards the fall and winter months, we continue to see strong consumer-demand for beef. However, we realize that demand may soften as tighter supplies and elevated retail prices persist. Amid rising retail prices, how do we keep consumers shopping for beef at the meat case in-store and through retail e-commerce aisles online? The Nevada Beef Council works to communicate to consumers four key demand drivers to keep beef in the cart.

**Health.** Consumers all view health differently. Whether working on strength-training, or managing weight, or focusing on eating balanced meals, protein—and specifically beef—can fit into every lifestyle. Protein is having a powerful halo right now, and beef is at the center of it. One 3-ounce cooked serving of beef can provide up to 50% of your Daily Value<sup>1</sup> (25 grams) of this important nutrient—highlighting how beef can be a key source for protein needs! It's not just the protein, but the iron, zinc, and B vitamins, that provide bodies and minds fuel for all life stages. Beef is crave-worthy nutrition that helps consumers stay fueled and energized, and feel full longer throughout their days.

**Value.** When you consider the protein and other nutrients delivered from a 3-ounce cooked serving of beef, along with its role in promoting satiety, consumers are getting more value from their beef meals. With the cost of living on many people's minds, beef provides a nutrient-rich, satisfying option that delivers strong value in a single serving. According to Cattle Fax, global leader in beef industry research and analysis, while ground beef prices have risen, wages have also increased. On average it takes about 12-minutes of work to pay for one-pound of ground beef. When you consider its nutrients,



price, and satiety beef remains a hard to match protein option.

**Convenience.** Beef is not just that center-of-the-plate steak all-star. Beef can conveniently be a part of sandwiches, salads, skewers, chilis, pitas, tacos, and the list of meal ideas goes on and on. It can be shared over a family meal at home around the dinner table, packed in a school lunch or meal at the field, or handed to a child for breakfast as they're rushing out the door for school.

Beef can be incorporated into all day-part meals and snacks, as well as leftovers (if there are any!) used for meals the next day. There are so many ways to prepare and enjoy beef, the convenience is undeniable.

**Taste.** The taste of beef cannot be replicated. Beef has long been considered the "special occasion" meal to many because of its premier taste. However, with the rise of food and culinary influencers providing meal inspiration, and showcasing beef in so many creative culinary dishes, more consumers are finding the fun and flavors in experimenting with America's favorite protein. Younger consumers are especially interested in time-saving, indulgent, and global recipes that elevate their beef eating experiences.

Earlier this year, retail market research and technology company, Circana, reported that consumers spent \$388.27 on beef in the last year. When beef is in the retail cart the value of the basket is \$108.48, compared to only \$47.00 when not in the basket. Retail grocery operators are also working to keep beef in their shoppers' carts as they understand the value that beef brings to their business and bottom line.

**Health, value, convenience,** and **taste** continue to drive consumers' love for beef. The Nevada Beef Council will remain focused on these four key demand drivers to keep beef in the shopping cart in the Silver State.

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Nutrient Data Laboratory. FoodData Central, 2019. Available at [fdc.nal.usda.gov](https://fdc.nal.usda.gov) (Beef composite, cooked – NDB# 13364).

### NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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# What NCBA is Doing to Protect the Cattle Industry from New World Screwworm

By Buck Wehrbein, NCBA President

This year, NCBA has talked a lot about the threat of New World screwworm (NWS). We were the first national organization involved when screwworm was moving through Central America, and we raised alarm bells when it appeared in Mexico at the end of last year. In July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) detected screwworm north of Veracruz, Mexico — about 370 miles from the U.S. border.

NCBA and our state affiliate partners have been continuously working to combat the threat of New World screwworm, and we are focusing on a broad strategy to eradicate the pest and protect cattle health that involves everyone from the individual farm or ranch up to our international partners.

Our first priority is increasing sterile fly production. New World screwworm flies only mate once, so we can release sterile male flies into the environment to mate with female flies and ensure no offspring. In time, this eradicates the screwworm population. Right now, the COPEG sterile fly facility in Panama is producing about 100-117 million flies per week, but we need closer to 400-500 million flies per week to fully cover the current outbreak. During the height of screwworm eradication efforts in the 1960s, the U.S. was releasing up to 500-600 million sterile flies per week.

In mid-August, the USDA announced a major step in addressing NCBA's top priority for combating New World screwworm: the construction of sterile fly production and distribution facilities at Moore Air Base in South Texas. This initiative will increase weekly output to more than 300 million flies, strengthen domestic oversight and address supply challenges in Mexico and Central America — protecting cattle herds across borders.

Another focus for NCBA is readiness for a possible incursion of screwworm into the U.S. NCBA is seeking coordination between state animal health officials. In any animal health emergency, USDA may defer to state veterinarians and state ag commissioners who make decisions on the ground for their state based on perceived risks. If New World screwworm is detected anywhere in the U.S., state animal health officials need to be communicating and working with one another on establishing interstate animal movement controls. They should be implementing science-based rules and inspections that keep cattle safe, while also ensuring commerce can continue. By establishing these relationships early, we can make sure state animal health officials and USDA understand what steps to take in case an outbreak appears in our country.

Currently in the U.S., no FDA-approved medications are labeled to treat or prevent New World screwworm myiasis in cattle. Right now, if you were to experience an outbreak in your cattle, treatment may rely on extra-label use of approved drugs under veterinary guidance. A recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declaration now allows the FDA to issue Emergency Use Authorizations for animal drugs targeting NWS infestations. Bottom line: This gives FDA greater flexibility to quickly update labels for approved products and evaluate unapproved ones. NCBA is continuing to push FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine to expedite the review of new animal drugs that could treat cattle suffering from screwworm infestation. In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to maintain a relationship with a veterinarian, to alert your veterinarian of any health issues



in your cattle herd, and to make sure you have an enhanced biosecurity plan in place as a precautionary measure.

Finally, we are working with USDA to make sure Mexico is an active partner in the fight against screwworm. Screwworm is endemic in many South American countries, which means there is always the threat of screwworm moving north. We have spent many hours with Mexican government officials and representatives of their cattle industry to make sure Mexico steps up their screwworm eradication efforts by establishing active surveillance with fly traps, supporting sterile fly release to control screwworm populations and initiating construction on a sterile fly production facility in Mexico as well as instituting movement controls and rigorous inspection and standardized treatments for cattle at their borders.

NCBA is doing everything we can to prevent an outbreak in the U.S. We will keep pushing to get more sterile flies, get approvals for new screwworm treatments, and hold Mexico accountable to fight against screwworm too. This is a rapidly changing situation, so for the latest updates be sure to follow NCBA on social media and visit our website at [ncba.org](http://ncba.org). Until next time, happy trails!



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# Big Wins!

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO



It has been a fruitful summer for NCBA in Washington, D.C. From the One Big Beautiful Bill to trade, we have delivered wins on many of our producer-directed policies. These wins illustrate the effectiveness of our association as well as reminding us of the need to have full-time policy staff located on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Since the election, you've heard President Trump talk about a big piece of legislation that would address many of his priorities. That talk led to the development of what was dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill." With this bill, the president utilized the Congressional budget reconciliation process to get over procedural hurdles that might otherwise sideline this legislative effort. With support from the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House, we witnessed a focus and determination we haven't seen in some time on Capitol Hill. The process was fraught with doubt and setback, but it all culminated with the feverish action we saw leading up to passage of the bill and a symbolic signing into law by the president on Independence Day.

We approached this process focused on NCBA's policy. That is important to note because this bill covers many topics we don't engage in. By focusing on NCBA's tax and Farm Bill priorities, we were able to stay focused and let members of Congress know exactly what this bill would do for cattle producers. This legislation was centered on the expiring tax provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed by President Trump during his first term. For several decades, we have been plagued with the passage of tax bills that immediately had eight- to 10-year expiration dates. For example, the Death Tax provisions included in the 2017 bill were slated to expire at the end of this year.

As soon as the 2017 bill passed, we picked up our work preparing for the expiring policies, and after the 2024 election results came in, we knew we had our chance to act. Included in the One Big Beautiful Bill are several provisions of importance to us in production agriculture. The Section 199A small business deduction is now permanent at 20%. Section 179 expensing increased from \$1 million to \$2.5 million, and the phaseout threshold increased to \$4 million. These Section 179 limits will be adjusted annually for inflation. Bonus depreciation has been very popular, and this bill restored 100% bonus depreciation and made it permanent.

Repeal of the Death Tax has long been an NCBA policy priority, but even with a Republican-controlled Congress and White House, it once again eluded us. Instead, we focused on increasing the exemption amounts protecting you from this onerous tax. The Death Tax exemption was raised to \$15 million per person

and \$30 million per couple. Those exemptions will be indexed to inflation so they will continue to grow over time. We were also able to maintain the step-up in basis. Most importantly, these provisions were made permanent.

Now, it is important to recognize that nothing is permanent in D.C. All it takes is a different White House and Congressional makeup to see changes, but at least we don't have to start on day one of this new bill worrying about a scheduled expiration. Permanency is probably the biggest win of all. Now, I'm sure you have all seen the detractors talk about this bill being a big tax cut, especially for the rich. What is important to remember, and lost on the media, is the tax provisions are an improvement over, and extension of, existing tax policy. It's disingenuous to look at the tax provisions in relation to what they might be if the 2017 tax bill had simply expired. You need to look at it in relation to tax policy as it is today. Rather than the \$15 million Death Tax exemption being a \$10 million increase over the \$5 million level it would have been at expiration, you need to realize that the \$15 million exemption is only about \$1 million more than the exemption level in 2025. Looking at the bill this way gives a more accurate assessment of the impact on national debt.

Taxes weren't the only items of importance to us in the bill. This legislation also contained various parts of the Farm Bill. USDA's conservation programs have been very popular among cattle producers and have provided critical funding for grazing lands' improvement and management. The One Big Beautiful Bill funds these programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP. This bill also reauthorized the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank established in the last Farm Bill. As we look at the FMD cases we've seen in eastern Europe this year, we know the risk of reintroduction remains high and the vaccine bank will be an important tool in our preparedness. Funding for the national animal health laboratory network was also included as part of the USDA animal health provisions. As the threat of New World screwworm looms, we will need these labs to help identify suspected screwworm larvae.

The One Big Beautiful Big provided us with tax and farm policy wins which will help producers big and small. Thanks to our policy process, we were able to show Congress and the White House our need. Thanks to our lobby team in D.C., we were able to be your voice and get these provisions signed into law. We often joke that our team lives in D.C. so you don't have to, but having a full-time presence in D.C. is how we win at this level.



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# ICYMI: EPA Green Lights Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) Fix Protecting Hard-Working American Farmers, Truckers, Equipment Operators

WASHINGTON — On Tuesday, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced new guidance urging engine and equipment manufacturers to revise diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) system software in existing vehicles and equipment. EPA's action will protect hard-working American farmers, truckers, and other diesel equipment operators from sudden shutdowns and give them the time to make repair without impacting productivity or safety.

Starting with model year 2027, EPA requirements state that all new diesel on-road trucks must be engineered to avoid sudden and severe power loss after running out of DEF. To fix the problem for vehicles already in use, EPA's new guidance, developed in collaboration with manufacturers, will work to ensure that the necessary software changes can be made on the existing fleet.

Read coverage below on this new, commonsense DEF fix.

## Ag Web: Farmers, Truckers and Gear Heads Rejoice: EPA Rolls Out Streamlined Diesel Engine Fluid Guidelines

"EPA is rolling out new guidance for manufacturers of farm equipment and other heavy-duty vehicles, removing regulatory red tape requiring diesel-powered farm equipment to reduce engine torque dramatically when a problem arises with

the machine's Diesel Exhaust Fluid system... To fix the problem for farm machinery already in the field, EPA's new guidance, developed in collaboration with farm equipment manufacturers, will work to ensure necessary software changes can be made on the existing fleet."

## RFD TV: Farmers Are Applauding the EPA's "Common-Sense Approach" to Diesel Exhaust Fluid Guidelines

"In what is considered to be a win for rural Americans, the EPA says that it will revise diesel exhaust fluid guidelines. Farmers say it is a common-sense approach to diesel engines. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin made the announcement at the Iowa State Fair, where he called on manufacturers to take action to update their software and eliminate the unnecessary sudden loss of power that many had complained of. . . It is estimated that the change will save family farms alone an estimated \$727 million a year."

## Pickup Truck Talk: EPA Diesel DEF Fix Promises Millions in Savings for Family Farms

"At the Iowa State Fair, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced they are pro-

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posing an EPA DEF fix promising millions in savings for family farms.”

## **The Progressive Farmer: Trump Administration Eases DEF System Rules that Caused Truck, Farm Equipment Shutdowns**

“...To fix the problem for vehicles already in use, EPA’s new guidance allows software changes to be made on the existing fleet. ‘In addition to providing certainty to manufacturers about how EPA wants this issue resolved, the agency is not requiring separate approvals beyond that provided in EPA’s guidance,’ the agency said in a news release. ‘This ensures that bureaucratic steps do not delay manufacturers’ ability to put solutions into the field.’”

## **Truckers News: EPA Administrator Zeldin Announces Diesel Exhaust Fluid Changes**

“The trucking industry is praising the latest regulatory change from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. At the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines today, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced new action the agency said will ‘protect American farmers, truckers, and other diesel equipment operators from sudden speed and power losses caused by diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) systems.’”

## **The Drive: EPA Tells Truck Makers to Stop Forcing Immediate Limp Mode for Low DEF**

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is on a roll when it comes to undoing past regulations and directives. Now, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin is urging truck and engine manufacturers to do away with sudden speed and power losses due to low diesel exhaust fluid levels. In his announcement at the Iowa State Fair, a key event humming with agricultural workers who have long voiced their negative opinions of modern diesel emissions systems...”

## **Agri-Pulse: New EPA Guidance Issued to Prevent Vehicle Shutdowns from Diesel Exhaust Fluid Loss**

“...Often, vehicles experiencing diesel exhaust fluid problems are reduced within hours to going as slowly as five miles per hour, according to a press release. Such power reductions were likely meant to ensure compliance with the agency’s Tier 4 Emission standards. ‘It is unacceptable that farmers, truckers, construction workers, and many other small businesses continually experience failures of diesel-powered equipment when they need it most—costing millions of dollars in lost productivity,’ Zeldin said.”

## **American Ag Network: EPA Eases Diesel Exhaust Fluid Rules to Prevent Sudden Power Loss for Farmers, Truckers**

“EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the changes address widespread complaints from farmers, truckers, and other diesel equipment operators about ‘de-rates’ — abrupt engine power reductions triggered by DEF sensor failures or empty fluid tanks. Current rules can slow vehicles to just five miles per hour within hours, stranding operators during harvests, delaying shipments, and halting construction projects.”

## **Hoosier Ag Today: EPA Relaxes Diesel Exhaust Fluid Rules to Protect Farmers, Truckers from Sudden Power Loss**

“New rules have been rolled out by EPA to prevent sudden speed and power losses in diesel-powered trucks and farm equipment caused by Diesel Exhaust Fluid system failures—also known as DEF. ‘This was one of the top issues discussed by farmers and ranchers at a round table I attended and Guyton, Georgia in May, and one I continue to hear about in my travels throughout the United States,’ says Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator, who announced the new rules on Tuesday.”

## **Truck News: EPA Issues New DEF Guidance to Prevent Engine Derates, Shutdowns**

“The new guidance bridges the gap between now and then, ensuring existing vehicles on the road and in the field are just as dependable and new vehicles and equipment don’t have these issues.”

## **Commercial Carrier Journal: EPA Proposes Tiered Derate System to End Power Loss from DEF Faults**

“U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin on Tuesday urged engine and equipment manufacturers to revise system software to prevent sudden loss of power from engine derates related to aftertreatment problems. The proposal implements a tiered derate structure versus the current limp to 5 miles per hour, giving the driver more time and more power to get the truck to a safe location for repair.”

## **Brownfield Ag News: EPA Moves Forward with Guidance Addressing DEF Concern**

“...EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin says the agency is taking action to protect American farmers, truckers, and other diesel equipment operators from sudden speed and power losses caused by DEF systems. ‘We’re putting out guidance today to the manufacturers (and) we’ve been in touch with the manufacturers already. This stuff has been vetted out in discussions with them to make sure that they’re ready for implementation, and there are no further approvals required.’”

## **1Truck US: EPA Unveils Diesel Exhaust Fluid Fix at Iowa State Fair**

“Speaking alongside U.S. Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler at the Iowa State Fair, Zeldin unveiled EPA guidance directing engine and equipment manufacturers to update DEF system software in existing vehicles. The goal is to give operators more time to address system faults without abrupt shutdowns — and without compromising emissions standards.”

## **Radio Iowa: EPA Directs Diesel Engine Manufacturers to Change Emission Sensors**

“The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has used a trip to Iowa to announce changes in federal regulations for vehicles that run on diesel. For a couple of decades tractors, trucks and other diesel-powered vehicles have had systems that inject a fluid into the exhaust to reduce nitrous oxide emissions, but sensors immediately slow down and even stall the engine when that fluid runs out. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said it means diesel equipment shuts down unnecessarily, ‘which has led to so much in lost money for Iowa farmers and truckers and so much more.’”

## **The Fence Post: Zeldin, Loeffler Announce Diesel Exhaust Fluid Policy**

“At the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines today, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin and Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler announced guidance urging engine and equipment manufacturers to revise diesel exhaust fluid system software in existing vehicles and equipment to prevent sudden shutdowns, giving operators more time to repair faults without impacting productivity or safety.”

## **Rural Radio: EPA Issues New Guidance for DEF**

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued new guidance aimed at preventing sudden shutdowns in diesel-powered vehicles and equipment due to diesel exhaust fluid system failures, a move the agency says will save farmers and truckers hundreds of millions of dollars in lost productivity.”



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# Ranchers Congratulate Brian Nesvik on his Confirmation as FWS Director



WASHINGTON (August 1, 2025) – Today, the Public Lands Council (PLC) congratulated Brian Nesvik on being confirmed as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

“While the Trump administration is making huge progress reforming the Endangered Species Act and alleviating other regulatory burdens, ranchers need a permanent FWS Director, and this afternoon, the Senate confirmed a qualified, experienced leader. Nesvik has led western engagement on complex wildlife and natural resource issues, and we expect he will continue to be a decisive leader in Washington,”

said PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. “Nesvik is uniquely qualified for this role having previously served as the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and honed his leadership skills while serving in the National Guard with overseas deployments in Iraq and Kuwait. NCBA and PLC thank the Senate for diligently working to swiftly confirm nominees and reduce uncertainty for producers and livestock producers across the country congratulate Brian Nesvik on his confirmation to lead such an influential agency.”

## Secretary Burgum Announces Order to Rein In Environmentally Damaging Wind and Solar Projects

WASHINGTON — Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum signed a Secretary’s Order to more efficiently manage our nation’s energy resources by permitting projects that optimize energy generation while minimizing their environmental impact. Massive, unreliable energy projects, such as wind and solar, are inefficient uses of federal lands when compared to other energy sources with much smaller footprints, like nuclear, gas and coal.

In accordance with existing law and President Donald J. Trump’s energy executive orders, the Department will now consider proposed energy project’s capacity density when assessing the project’s potential energy benefits to the nation and impacts to the environment and wildlife. This order directs the Department to permit only energy projects that are the most appropriate use of the federal land and resources.

“Gargantuan, unreliable, intermittent energy projects hold America back from achieving U.S. Energy Dominance while weighing heavily on the American taxpayer and environment,” said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. “By considering energy generation optimization, the Department will be able to better manage our federal lands, minimize environmental impact, and maximize energy development to further President Donald Trump’s energy goals. This commonsense order ensures our nation is stronger, our land use is optimized, and the American people are properly informed.”

Under the law, the Department must consider reasonable alternatives to proposed projects and make land use decisions—both onshore and offshore—that are judicious. These laws ultimately raise the question of whether the use of federal lands for wind and solar projects is permissible, given these projects’ encroachment on other land uses and their disproportionate land requirements, especially when reasonable project alternatives with higher capacity densities are technically and economically feasible.

Based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, one advanced nuclear plant (2 x AP1000) produces 33.17 megawatts (MW) per acre, while one offshore wind farm produces approximately 0.006 MW/acre, which is approximately 5,500 times less efficient than one nuclear plant. Thus, when there are reasonable project alternatives that can generate the same amount of or more energy on far less federal lands, wind and solar projects may unnecessarily and unduly degrade federal lands.

The Department will identify and make the necessary revisions, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to any regulations, guidance, policies, or practices, necessary to implement this Secretary’s Order.

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## Secretary Rollins Opens Next Step in the Roadless Rule Rescission

WASHINGTON, August 27, 2025 – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has taken the next step in the rulemaking process for rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule by opening a public comment period.

“We are one step closer to common sense management of our national forest lands. Today marks a critical step forward in President Trump’s commitment to restoring local decision-making to federal land managers to empower them to do what’s necessary to protect America’s forests and communities from devastating destruction from fires,” said Secretary Rollins. “This administration is dedicated to removing burdensome, outdated, one-size-fits-all regulations that not only put people and livelihoods at risk but also stifle economic growth in rural America. It is vital that we properly manage our federal lands to create healthy, resilient, and productive forests for generations to come. We look forward to hearing directly from the people and communities we serve as we work together to implement productive and commonsense policy for forest land management.”

The USDA Forest Service is publishing a notice

seeking public comment on its intention to develop an environmental impact statement for the proposed rescission of the rule. The notice details the reasons for rescinding the rule, the potential effects on people and resources, and how national forests and grasslands are managed. The USDA Forest Service will publish the notice in the Federal Register on Friday, August 29, 2025.

“For nearly 25 years, the Roadless Rule has frustrated land managers and served as a barrier to action – prohibiting road construction, which has limited wildfire suppression and active forest management,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz. “The forests we know today are not the same as the forests of 2001. They are dangerously overstocked and increasingly threatened by drought, mortality, insect-borne disease, and wildfire. It’s time to return land management decisions where they belong – with local Forest Service experts who best understand their forests and communities. We encourage participation in the upcoming public process. Your input will help to build a stronger, safer future for our forests and the communities that depend on these forests for jobs, recreation, and clean water.”

While the rescission would apply to roadless areas in Alaska, state-specific rules for Colorado and Idaho, which were part of the Administrative Procedure Act petitions, would not be affected by the proposal. In total, the 2025 rescission would apply to nearly 45 million acres of the nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

The proposal aligns with President Trump’s Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation to get rid of overcomplicated, burdensome barriers that hamper American business and innovation. It also supports Executive Order 14153, Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential which directs the Forest Service to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

The public is invited to comment on the potential effects of the proposal to guide the development of the environmental impact statement no later than Sept. 19, 2025. Public comments will be considered during the development of the draft environmental impact statement. Additional opportunities to comment will occur as the rulemaking process continues.

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