

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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Nevada Cattlemen's Association Fall Update

By Martin Paris, Executive Director

Happy October Nevada Cattlemen and Women. I hope everyone is enjoying the slightly cooler weather and had a chance to take in the clear skies we had this summer which can be uncommon in recent summers. I'm writing to you from the Public Lands Council Annual Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon. As usual, there's no shortage of policy proposals and other issues floating around. We'll start

with one of the constants, greater sage grouse. If you remember in 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho stopped the BLM from implementing the 2019 Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendments brought forward during the Trump Administration. As a result, BLM is currently working on a new version of Sage Grouse Plan Amendments in which they anticipate having draft Environmental Impact Statements available in early 2024. It's yet to be seen what the plan amendments may look like at this point in time.

However, there is what's turning out to be a very interesting study in Idaho that recently wrapped up after 10 years. The study's aim was to evaluate the effects of cattle grazing on sage-grouse across five-sites in Idaho. All indications are that the findings of the study can be extrapolated across the sage grouse's range. While the study has yet to be peer reviewed and given the final stamp of approval, the preliminary results are quite interesting.

Like other studies, preliminary results show that successful sage-grouse nests have taller grass heights than failed nests. As we all know, grazing obviously reduces grass height which has led to habitat management guidelines based on the assumption that livestock grazing reduces nest success. However, the study's preliminary results show that at the pasture scale, sage grouse nesting success is no higher in pastures that have been rested than those currently or recently grazed. The reason for this is still being analyzed but is quite the departure from what academia has told us about the impact grazing has on sage grouse nest success.

Further, preliminary results also suggest that there is a greater biomass of insects that sage grouse prefer to eat in grazed pastures as opposed to rested pastures. Data summary and analysis is still ongoing, but you can learn more about the study by visiting idahogrousegrazing.org.

Sticking with the theme of species management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently proposing two revisions to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which will likely not be friendly to livestock producers.

The first proposed revision would affirm that listing determinations are made "without reference to possible economic of other impacts of such determination". The second proposed revision would reinstate the ESA's "blanket" 4(d) rules which provide an option to extend most protections provided to endangered species to those listed as threatened, unless the Fish and Wildlife Service adopts a species specific 4(d) rule.

Last month Senators Cynthia Lummis (WY) and Steve Daines (MT) introduced bill S. 2811 that would block USFWS from finalizing the proposed rule changes. NCA will continue to push back against harmful regulations and will keep a close eye as the proposed revisions continue through the process.

Also, just a reminder that the Nevada Cattlemen's Annual Convention will be held at the Winnemucca Convention Center in Winnemucca, NV

USDA Designates Douglas County, Nevada as Primary Natural Disaster Area

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

secutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Impacted Area: Nevada

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: 02/05/2024

Primary Counties Eligible: Douglas County

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Nevada: Carson City, Lyon

California: Alpine, Mono

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

The Rolling Stones are releasing a new album this Fall. They've been a band longer than I've been alive (that's a long time!), and clearly their retirement plan is to die on the job, as drummer Charlie Watts did. Does that sound familiar? The average age of Ranchers keeps creeping up, it's said that young people "don't want to work anymore" but I know that to not be the case. I suspect average ages are creeping up because we're healthier and can work longer. And honestly, is working the ranch such a bad thing for an aging person? I don't think so, having a purpose keeps us living.

You could argue that illicit pharmaceuticals have kept Keith Richards living and that may be the case, but having a purpose has surely helped. I'm proud of the work your Association has done to not only keep us on the Ranch, but also enable us to pass it on to our progeny. Remember, if you're nearing the age where a transition to the next generation is imminent, they won't have any "Satisfaction" if you treat them like a "Beast of Burden" and they're always "Under My Thumb." I myself am looking forward to transitioning out of my role as President and am "Waiting on a Friend" in Hanes Holman to take over. He can deal with issues such as "Wild Horses." I will encourage him to always remember "It's Only Rock and Roll".

NCA NEWS

Fall Update: *Continued from page 1*

on November 16-18. I encourage those of you who want to participate to please attend the convention and committee meetings. The convention is your opportunity to voice your opinion and help set policy that will guide the Nevada Cattlemen's Association forward. Registration packets have been mailed out and registration is also available online www.nevadacattlemen.org/events-meetings/convention-and-trade-show.

Finally, if you have heifers and steers for sale this fall/winter and are looking to get the best bang for your buck, please consider consigning them to the upcoming Silver State Classic Feeder Sale. The special sale will start at noon on December 2nd at Fallon Livestock LLC in Fallon, NV. Fallon Livestock LLC donates a portion of the sale commission back to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association which helps us represent you on the issues that matter. Till next time.

NCA MEMBERSHIP

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between August 24 and September 25, 2023.

(New members are in bold.)

- American AgCredit, Kelly Barnes
- American AgCredit, Zack Bunyard
- American AgCredit, Pierce Mallery
- Burge Ranch/Five Fingers Grazing, Pete Ferraro
- Envu Range & Pasture, Justin Hossfeld, Tom Dinn
- **Gallagher North America, Randy Bailey**
- Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Larry Gran
- Ninety-Six Ranch, Kris & Patrice Stewart
- S & L Trailers, Davy Stix
- U. S. D. A. APHIS Wildlife Services, Mark Ono
- U. S. D. A. Farm Service Agency

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nevada Cattlemen's Association 88th Annual Convention

— **November 16 – 18, 2023** —
Winnemucca, NV
Winnemucca Conventions Center
50 W. Winnemucca Blvd.
www.nevadacattlemen.org

21st Annual Silver State Classic Feeder Sale

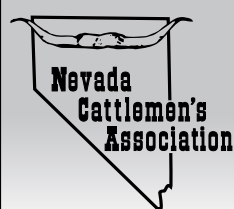
— **December 2, 2023** —
12:00 pm
Fallon, NV
Fallon Livestock LLC
2055 Trento Lane
www.fallonlivestock.com

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Convention

— **January 31 – February 2, 2024** —
Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center
South Concourse
8999 International Dr.

Great Basin Bull Sale

— **February 17, 2024** —
Fallon, Nevada
Rafter 3C Events Center
325 Sheckler Road



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21st Annual Silver State Classic Feeder Sale

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Fallon Livestock LLC and the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) invite you to consign your cattle to the 21st Annual Silver State Classic Feeder Sale. The sale is sponsored by the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and hosted by Fallon Livestock LLC. A portion of the sale commission comes back to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association to help support livestock producers on the issues that matter.

The sale will take place Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, at 12:00pm at Fallon Livestock LLC, which is located at 2055 Trento Ln, Fallon, NV 89406. Please plan to make arrangements early if you need transportation or Brucellosis vaccinations for your cattle. Arrangements can be made through Tommy Lee, owner of Fallon Livestock LLC at (775) 867-2020 or (775) 741-4523.

Prices continue to remain strong and there will be diverse buyer representation again this year. We hope you consider consigning your calves to the sale and we look forward to seeing you there.

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Nominations Sought For Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is currently seeking nominations for the 2023 Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award.

The award is given annually to recipients who have demonstrated significant results towards conservation, management, or enhancement of wildlife. An individual, non-profit organization, outdoor sports club, or business can be nominated for the award for their work done during the award year. Elena Larsen of Reno received the 2022 award for her work leading young professionals in restoration efforts at Rosewood Nature Study Area and connecting people to conservation throughout 2022.

The following criteria are considered in evaluating nominees:

- Time and depth of commitment to conservation, management, or enhancement of wildlife in the state of Nevada during the current calendar year.
- Influence of the person/project on the public and in presenting positive public relations regarding wildlife conservation in Nevada.
- Quantity and quality of measurable results for wildlife conservation.
- Obstacles, difficulties, and personal sacrifice involved in meeting wildlife conservation goals.

The judging panel is made up of two wildlife commissioners, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) staff assigned to the Kirch Award Committee, four judges representing county advisory boards to manage wildlife or outdoor groups, and Marlene Kirch, daughter of former commissioner Wayne E. Kirch.

The conservation award consists of a perpetual bronze and wood plaque, on which the recipient's name is added. This award is displayed in NDOW's public offices, and each winner also receives a smaller version of the award to keep.

This award is named in memory of Wayne E. Kirch, who served on the Fish and Game Commission for more than 25 years, the longest tenure on the board since its inception in 1877. Kirch proposed and championed the state wildlife management area concept and was a continuous force for wildlife conservation in Nevada. The Kirch Wildlife Management Area in southern Nevada is also named in his honor. Kirch, of Las Vegas, passed away in 1989.

All required official award nomination forms are available from the Nevada Department of Wildlife regional offices, or on ndow.org. The 2023 award is for work that occurred in 2023. To be considered, nominations must be received no later than November 15, 2023.

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- Pro Group Management
- S & L Trailers
- Simplot Western Stockmen's

- Sweet Pro/Numzaan
- U.S.D.A. APHIS Wildlife Services
- U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency

University to Expand Training Programs for Meat- and Poultry-Processing Industry

USDA funds to boost hands-on opportunities for meat and poultry industry students and workforce

By Mark Earnest, NevadaToday

A new grant awarded to the University of Nevada, Reno will help efforts to bring more sustainability to Nevada's meat and poultry industry, providing more training to people who want to work in this vital supply chain for the nation.

The University recently received one of seven Meat and Poultry Processing Agriculture Workforce Training awards from the United States Department of Agriculture and its National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It's part of a \$4.5 million effort from the federal government given to learning institutions around the country.

The \$650,000 grant for the University will be used by the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources to enhance its current harvesting and processing training programs for the meat and poultry industry.

The program is a partnership with Western Nevada College. Through the college, students will be able to earn a certificate for the program and apply credits toward an associate degree. University of Nevada, Reno students may be able to earn a transcript endorsement for credits earned toward the bachelor's degree they are pursuing.

Western Nevada College will be exploring the best format of instruction, including online, in-person and hybrid education for some of the credits needed for the program. The other credits for the program will include hands-on internship work at Wolf Pack Meats, which is part of the University's Experiment Station unit; the University's Extension Mobile Harvest Unit; or other Nevada meat- and poultry-processing plants.



Hands-on training in processing at Wolf Pack Meats is part of a meat and poultry industry education program at the University of Nevada, Reno that recently earned more funding from the USDA. Photo by Robert Moore.

"Ensuring our food supply is safe and sustainable is incredibly important to our region," said Western Nevada College President Kyle Dalpe. "We're proud to work with UNR and play a role in developing a skilled workforce for the meat and poultry industry in Nevada."

Staci Emm, professor and Extension educator in Mineral County, said a goal of the program is to offer a high school-university dual enrollment program by its third year. Emm added that several high schools are in the process of building their own meat labs, which will facilitate the dual enrollment program.

"Students in high school will eventually be able to take classes in the program, and then apply those credits toward a college degree," she said.

Program leaders are predicting 40 participants a year for the three-year program, equaling 120 graduates by 2026. It is estimated that at least 40% of these graduates would work in a Nevada meat-processing plant.

These programs tie into the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture's stated goal to build a pipeline of highly skilled meat-processing workers, while also supporting fair wages and safe workplaces.

According to the USDA's press release on its overall programs for meat- and poultry-processing businesses, the efforts will "make investments to increase independent meat and poultry processing capacity, expand market opportunities for farmers, and support a growing workforce in rural areas."

For more information on these training programs, contact Emm at 775-945-3444, ext. 1039.

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Regional Water Authorities Seek Funding for Voluntary Water Rights Retirements in Central Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA) and Humboldt River Basin Water Authority (HRBWA) recently approved the submission of applications to purchase and retire groundwater rights from willing sellers.

\$25 million is available from the Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative. The funds are to purchase and permanently retire groundwater rights from willing sellers in groundwater basins with insufficient water supply to serve all water rights and domestic wells.

Funding is available for over-appropriated and over-pumped groundwater basins in the Central Hydrographic Region and Humboldt River Basin. The program addresses and avoids conflicts with existing rights or detriments to the public interest and natural resources. Retiring groundwater rights will help stabilize groundwater levels.

Funding priorities are for retiring irrigation rights in over-pumped basins subject to curtailment. Pur-

chasing groundwater rights in other over-appropriated basins will also be considered if such purchases mitigate conflicts with existing rights or if there are detriments to natural resources.

If funding is approved in October, CNRWA and HRBWA anticipate initiating the application process in early December. A list of prospective sellers must be submitted to the state by February 1, 2024.

The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority was established in 2005 and assists member counties (Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Nye, Pershing, and White Pine) in addressing water resource issues so these counties will not only have an economic future but also their valued quality of life and natural environment will be maintained.

The Central Hydrographic Region is the largest of Nevada's hydrographic regions and includes 23 over-appropriated groundwater basins. Nine of the over-appropriated basins located in CNRWA member counties are also over-pumped. More than 90% of the

groundwater pumped in the Central Hydrographic Region is for irrigation.

The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority was established in 1995 to ensure the quality and availability of water supplies within the Humboldt River Basin for the mutual benefit of the residents and industries within and visitors to Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, Elko and Pershing Counties.

Some groundwater pumping in the Humboldt River Basin has created water shortages for some senior decreed surface water rights, and 19 of the 34 groundwater basins are over-appropriated, including nine that are over-pumped. About 70% of the groundwater pumped in the over-pumped basins in the Humboldt Basin is for irrigation.

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources manages the program which is supported by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

For more information, contact Jeff Fontaine at ccj-fontaine@gmail.com and 775-443-7667.

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PLC Honors Awardees from OR and NV During 55th Annual Meeting

WASHINGTON (Sept. 14, 2023) – During their 55th Annual Meeting, the Public Lands Council (PLC) honored two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the public lands ranching community. PLC selected Oregon rancher John O’Keeffe as the 2023 President’s Award recipient and Dr. Barry Perryman as the 2023 Friend of PLC.

PLC President Mark Roeber recognized John O’Keeffe with the 2023 PLC President’s Award. O’Keeffe’s family has ranched in Lake County, Oregon since they emigrated from Ireland in the early 1900s. For them, ranching is a family affair and means that multiple members of the family are involved both in the ranch and with the wider community. O’Keeffe has served as president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, a long-time representative of the state to the national Public Lands Council, and as a voice for the industry in national commissioners and leadership positions.

“John O’Keeffe lives and breathes the notion that public lands ranching is good for the land, good for our communities, and is a key part of our nation’s future. His visionary leadership at the state and national level has made Oregon and our industry better. Most recently, John has given of his time to represent the industry as a whole in a federal effort to develop a wildfire strategy that moves us away from crisis management toward thoughtful, methodical prevention and

mitigation,” said PLC President Mark Roeber. “John is not only preserving western heritage and producing high-quality protein, but his work will influence years of natural resource policy for ranchers, landowners, and communities across the country. I am honored to give John this award and thank him for all that he does.”

Dr. Barry Perryman was honored as the recipient of the 2023 Friend of PLC Award. Dr. Perryman is a professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Nevada-Reno, where he also serves as the Department Chair for Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences, college of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources.

“Dr. Perryman is truly a great friend of the Public Lands Council and an invaluable resource for ranchers, due to his vast knowledge of the native and non-native grasses that grow on the western range,” said PLC Vice President Tim Canterbury. “For all the work we as ranchers do, we cannot do this job alone, we need help from friends and allies. Dr. Perryman exemplifies everything about this award, from his research into how grazing non-native grasses can reduce catastrophic wildfires to educating the next generation on the best practices to manage working lands, his tireless work makes our jobs easier and more efficient. I want to thank Dr. Perryman for his dedication to the relentless pursuit of science to guide responsible range management and for everything he does for our industry.”

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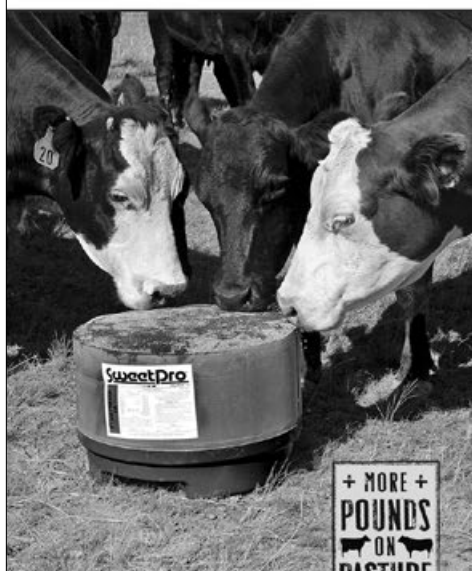
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The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provided several crucial tax provisions that help keep farms and ranches in business. Unfortunately, these provisions that we fought hard to secure will expire in 2025 unless Congress takes action.

NCBA is working hard to educate Congress on why these tax provisions matter to cattle producers, but we need your help. **Please take the NCBA Tax Survey** and share your thoughts on key tax policies such as the death tax, capital gains, small business expensing, and other tools that are important to your operation. Your grassroots participation in the survey will also help us educate Congress and help them understand how real farmers and ranchers are impacted by the tax policies made in Washington.

With your help, we will continue fighting to ensure the farming and ranching way of life can continue for our children and grandchildren. **Please join the fight today.**

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