

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

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 chance to take in the clear skies we had this summer which has become uncommon in the past few years.



We have started our annual quest for **Teacher of the Year** and **100,000 Mile Club** candidates and are asking for your help in soliciting nominations.

We are looking for cowboys and cowgirls who have logged 100,000 miles horseback. This annual award will be presented at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Awards Banquet during the Annual Convention in Sparks, NV on December 1, 2022. Any Nevada resident who has ridden 100,000 horseback miles is eligible for the 2022 100,000 Mile Club Award. Nominations should include a narrative story to chronicle the nominees' miles through their life horseback.

The candidates for "Teacher of the Year" must be an elementary, junior high, or high school teacher who incorporates agriculture into their regular curriculum. Current Agricultural Education teachers are not eligible. Application forms can be found on our website at nevadacattlemen.org. The winner of this award will receive a \$1000 school supply stipend donated by the Nevada Agriculture Foundation and will be recognized at our convention banquet as well. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association believes that the future of our industry lies in the education of the generations to come. Please help us in our efforts to recognize and support our teachers and their vital efforts in educating our youth.

Nominations for either award are open now until November 1, 2022 and may be submitted by email to nca@nevadabeef.org, faxed to 775-738-5208, or sent by mail to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, P.O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803.



We also invite you to consign your cattle to the **20th Annual Silver State Classic Calf &**

— *Continued on page 2* —



87th Annual Convention and Trade Show

— November 30—December 2 —

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association is eager to announce this year's convention. The 87th Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show will be held November 30- December 2, 2022 in Sparks, NV, in conjunction with the California Cattlemen's Association. As NCA members around the state gather in Sparks, we will celebrate a lifetime of traditions, revise and review policies, and take a chance to enjoy our friends and neighbors.

At convention, members of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, guest speakers and vendors that 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.

Registration for convention will be on our website and sent out by mail and email. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please call the office at 1-775-738-9214 or email nca@nevadabeef.org. The forms for exhibit booths and sponsorships have been sent out. If you did not receive these forms and wish to receive one please contact us, we would be happy to send one to you. Forms are available on our website at nevadacattlemen.org as well. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association

— *Continued on page 3* —



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

“Where’s the Beef!?” A little old lady named Clara hollered in a commercial for Wendy’s back in the ‘80s. Clara might be hollering that again in the coming years if she were alive, beef cattle inventory numbers are headed to the lows seen a decade ago. Drought and market conditions have sent a lot of cows to town and will tighten the supply of beef for sure.

It’s interesting to me how we cattlemen think of marketing. Some of us think of ourselves as grass farmers- cattle being used to harvest our product. Others think of themselves as live cattle marketers without much thought to the end product. Still others consider themselves in the beef business even though they likely don’t control the product directly to the consumers plate. I think all of these are correct and producers who raise cattle that perform well from the ranch to the plate seem to have the most potential for profitability.

Nevada’s Cattlemen have endured some rough times the

past few years with market cycle lows and the drought we’re in. To be sure, the packing sector has taken a big slice of the “pie” that’s consumer dollars available for the beef industry. That’s put a lot of focus on how packers buy cattle, with some producers calling for a legislative fix which includes a percentage of mandatory cash trade.

Certainly market transparency is needed and the increased processing capacity we’re seeing will help also- as long as they’re able to weather the reduced inventory numbers ahead of us. While mandatory cash trade may look attractive, especially if you own an auction market, our member-led policy at NCA opposes mandatory marketing because limiting our marketing ability is what put us where we are in the first place.

Your leadership at NCA will continue to work towards fair markets on your behalf, from the ranch all the way to the little old ladies demanding our product—BEEF.

Fall Update: *Continued from page 1*

Yearling Sale, sponsored by the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, in conjunction with Fallon Livestock LLC. Fallon Livestock LLC donates a portion of the commission to NCA which helps us represent you on the issues that matter. The special sale will be held in Fallon, NV at Fallon Livestock LLC on December 10, 2022, and will begin at 12:00 P.M. If you plan on consigning calves to the sale, please be sure to make arrangements early.

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 will be mailed out shortly and registration will be available on the NCA website as well.

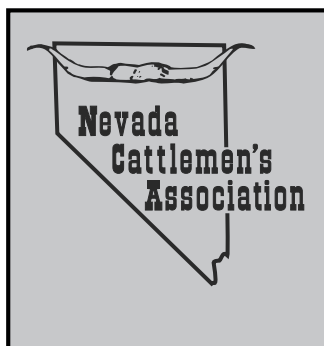
Finally, just a reminder that the **Nevada Cattlemen’s Annual Convention** will be held at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV from Nov. 30 – Dec. 2. I encourage those of you who want

For current and up to date information on things happening at the NCA, please follow us on Facebook and visit our webpage at www.nevadacattlemen.org as we are constantly updating it. If you have questions regarding any of our upcoming events, please feel free to contact the NCA office at 775-738-9214 or by email at nca@nevadabeef.org.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen’s Association between Aug. 26, and Sept. 25, 2022. (New members are in bold.)

• Estill Ranches LLC



Official Publication of the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association

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Jon Griggs, President | Hanes Holman, Pres.-Elect | Dave Baker, 1st Vice Pres.
NEVADACATTLEMEN.ORG | NCA@NEVADABEEF.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Stockmanship & Stewardship

— **November 1, 2022** —
7:00 am – 3:00 pm
<https://www.stockmanshipandstewardship.org/>

Nevada Cattlemen’s Association Annual Convention

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

20th Annual Silver State Classic Calf and Yearling Sale

— **December 10, 2022** —
12:00 p.m.
Fallon, NV
Fallon Livestock, LLC, 2055 Trento Lane

NCBA Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show

— **February 1 – 3, 2023** —
New Orleans, LA
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
<https://convention.ncba.org/>

Great Basin Bull Sale

— **February 18, 2023** —
Fallon, NV
3C Event Complex, 325 Sheckler Road

NCA NEWS

Convention: *Continued from page 1*

would like to thank the sponsors and exhibitors for helping make our event a success.

To see a tentative convention program, please see below and also look online at our website. We are constantly updating it. We look forward to seeing you all at convention!

Wednesday, November 30

7:00 AM – 6:30 PM	CA/NV Registration Opens
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM	NV WoolGrowers Breakfast
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	NCA Animal Health Committee Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Mandatory Trade Show Exhibitor Meeting/Allied Industry
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	NCA Research and Education Committee Meeting
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	NV Rangeland Resources Commission
12:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Trade Show Opens
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	NV Beef Council Lunch
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Central Grazing Committee Meeting
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Nevada CattleWomen Board of Directors Meeting
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Media Training
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Nevada Lands Action Association Meeting
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Opening General Session
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Allied Industry Wine and Cheese Reception
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Trade Show Welcome Party

Thursday, December 1

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	Prayer Gathering
6:30 AM – 5:00 PM	CA/NV Registration Open
7:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Allied Industry Trade Show
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast in the Trade Show
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Bloody Mary Bar
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	General Session #2
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NV CattleWomen General Membership Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NCA Public Lands Committee Meeting
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch in the Trade Show
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	General Session #3
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	NCA Private Lands & Environmental Health Committee Meeting
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NCA Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	NCA Presidents Reception/ Cocktail Hour
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	NCA Awards Banquet

Friday, December 2

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM	CattleFax Breakfast
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	General NCA Membership Meeting
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM	NCA Board of Directors Meeting



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Standing Together for a Better Future

Don Schiefelbein, NCBA President



Growing up in a large family and now running the farm with more than 80 family members involved, I have learned a tremendous amount about what the word “family” truly means. To me, it means a group of people who — despite differing opinions, experiences and values — find common ground, support each other and ultimately work together for the betterment of each other and their goals.

When I think about our industry, I think of it as a family. As the nation’s oldest and largest cattle organization, it’s no surprise that we as individual members have our differences from time to time. From the type of businesses we operate to the past

experiences we’ve had — each of us provides a perspective that ultimately drives our sector to learn from the past and be more prepared for the challenges we will face in the future.

Our grassroots, member-driven engagement is what keeps our industry strong year after year. July proved that when we gathered in Reno for our Summer Business Meeting. It was during this meeting that cattlemen and women helped guide NCBA policy for the next big issue for our industry — the 2023 Farm Bill. Authorized every five years, the Farm Bill is the largest piece of legislation impacting all of agriculture. For NCBA, the 2023 Farm Bill presents an opportunity to build on our successes in the 2018 Farm Bill by improving our investments in animal health, livestock risk protection and voluntary conservation programs. NCBA will continue advocating for all these programs that protect cattle producers and their livestock.

Another issue the organization is focused on is continuing to keep beef at the center of the plate. Beef demand is at an all-time high, but that doesn’t mean we can afford to be complacent in addressing consumer concerns and ignore the rising challenges from the alternative protein sector. The work of NCBA as a contractor to the Beef Checkoff is focused on increasing consumer confidence in beef’s nutritional profile and beef production practices. NCBA’s work in Washington, D.C., is focused on advocating for proper labeling of our product, fighting against false claims of fake meat companies, and making sure regulators don’t fall victim

to misinformation when making decisions about beef’s role in a healthy diet.

As I write this column, the White House is making its final preparations for the upcoming Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and agriculture is finding itself fighting for a seat at the table. Farmers and ranchers form the literal base of the food chain, and beef producers supply the highest quality protein, packed with essential vitamins necessary to provide Americans of all backgrounds with a healthy diet; we need to be part of this conversation.

Congress directed the organizers and attendees of the conference to examine why hunger and nutrition insecurity persists, as well as explore approaches to improve health by improving access to and consumption of nutritious foods. There is no better example of a nutritious food than beef, and farmers and ranchers are essential to food security and meeting Americans’ nutrition needs. You show up every day making sure beef makes its way through the supply chain to consumers’ plates. We will continue to make the case for beef with the Administration and use science-based, data-driven research to guide the conversation.

For the sake of the future of our business, we must work together as an industry. We need, as leaders, to find common ground that will likely determine our long-term fate and avoid the ruin of our industry that some desire. I am committed to working diligently to ensure the success of our industry now and in the future. Our industry is strongest when we band together and fight collectively. This year, I continue to be honored to lead that charge!



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Our Right to Vote!

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO



From drought to inflation, cattle producers are facing many challenges, so being informed of the latest industry information and legislative activity is critical to our success. The United States government also has tremendous influence on our success. Election day is approaching, and I know that you are sick and tired of seeing and hearing campaign commercials. That whole aspect of our election process just seems to get worse and more ridiculous each cycle. Regardless, it is a part of trying to get elected in America. However, do not let your disdain for the process keep you from participating. I need you to get out and vote!

Control of both the U.S Senate and House of Representatives is up for grabs, and I believe both parties still have a fighting chance. Democrats and Republicans have had primary and special election success they believe will bolster their positions going into the general election. All it takes to change that, though, is a three-second soundbite that reflects poorly on the party or the candidate. Late October and early November surprises have changed the course of some elections in our nation's history. It is not over until election day, and as we have seen over the past several elections cycles, there is no guarantee we will have all the races called on election night.

Congressional control becomes even more important during a mid-term election. President Biden wants to maintain Democrat control of Capitol Hill so he can keep moving forward with his political agenda. The Democrat leadership in Congress believes they have delivered on many of the President's priorities and deserve another two years of control. They are also looking at the 2024 presidential election cycle and the need to show more wins to get four more years of a Democrat in the White House.

The Republicans see an opportunity to capitalize on last year's withdrawal from Afghanistan, gas prices, food prices, overall inflation, the border crisis and even California's decision to stop selling gas-powered vehicles. They want to offer an alternative and hope they can get enough supporters to come along and vote for them. Republicans believe that their views of governing are more attractive right now and look at last November's success in Virginia's gubernatorial race as proof.

Now, I realize that many of you just read that and wondered why I did not make some sort of prognostication about who will win. While we can have our strong

beliefs, to win in Washington you must have friends in both parties. From Republican Frank Lucas in Oklahoma to Democrat Jim Costa in California, we have friends on both sides of the aisle willing to step up and fight for us. That is why, regardless of the outcome, NCBA will continue to work with all Members of Congress to advance our policy positions. As the head of our D.C. office, Ethan Lane, likes to say, "we are in the friend making business." While that statement may seem simplistic, the ability to work both sides of the aisle is based on relationships. That is why we have a full-time presence in our nation's capital. Relationships take time and effort to build, and in Washington, face-to-face interaction is still the preferred method to make this happen.

We start building our relationships when these Members of Congress are just candidates looking for the chance to serve. We bring them to our office on Pennsylvania Avenue and talk about our industry and find out what they know, or do not know, about cattle and beef production. These relationships prove critical when it is time to vote on a piece of legislation and we ask them to support us. If you wait and reach out to a Senator or Representative for the first time just to ask for their vote, you will be sorely disappointed in the outcome.

We stand ready to work with Congress, regardless of who is in charge. It will be easier, though, if you get out and vote for cattle-friendly candidates who are willing to step up and help us fight for your right to stay on your land and produce cattle and beef without the government making it even harder than it is. The process of voting varies from state to state, so be sure to take the time to review your polling location and the time it is open, check your mail-in ballot deadlines, vote early, or request your absentee ballots early enough to get them in. Every vote counts, and you need to make sure you are exercising your right to have your voice heard. Vote!

Register for Free Virtual Stockmanship & Stewardship Event

Register today for the free Stockmanship & Stewardship virtual event to be held Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. This online version of the popular in-person event provides an opportunity for cattle producers to learn about beef sustainability and livestock welfare, how consumer concerns have impacted the industry, and the role that Beef Quality Assurance plays in the conversation.

The full-day event features nationally recognized speakers and clinicians discussing topics such as grazing management practices in various climates, cattle handling, marketing, nutrition, international trade, labor, antimicrobial resistance and more. The program brings together beef and dairy producers, stakeholders and key industry members to engage in the discussion of current industry challenges, consumer driven trends, and realistic strategies to enhance producers' commitment to stockmanship and stewardship.

"As a proud sponsor of Stockmanship & Stewardship events, Merck Animal Health is pleased to help bring this virtual edition to cattle producers from coast to coast," said Kevin Mobley, executive director of sales and marketing for Merck Animal Health.

The program is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Merck Animal Health, and the Beef Checkoff-funded National Beef Quality Assurance program. For more information and to register, visit www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org.

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Support Partnership with Nevada Department of Wildlife to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Investment initiates 5-year project to support up to \$10 million in future work

RENO, Nev. — With funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Bureau of Land Management has signed a \$918,000 cooperative agreement with the State of Nevada to restore wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk. The cooperative agreement and initial funding are the first step in a five-year project that can go up to \$10 million.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes \$1.5 billion for the Department of the Interior over the next five years to invest in preparedness, fuels management, post-fire restoration, and fire science of which the Department will allocate over \$5.9 million to support projects in Nevada in fiscal year 2022. It also directs major reforms for federal wildland firefighters, including temporary pay increases and a new occupational series classification more specific to firefighters.

"This cooperative agreement will allow the Nevada Division of Wildlife to increase its efforts on BLM-managed lands to assist with hazardous fuels treatments, wildlife habitat restoration, and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation," said BLM Nevada State Director Jon Raby.

"We are extremely grateful to partner with the BLM on this effort," said Nevada Division of Wildlife Director Tony Wasley. "The wildfire and invasive grass problems are bigger than any single agency. Over the past decade alone, wildfires in Nevada have destroyed millions of acres of crucial wildlife habitat. This is exactly

the type of partnership that will help us restore and protect wildlife habitat in Nevada."

With this funding, the Nevada Division of Wildlife will conduct restoration and rehabilitation projects that may include fuels reduction, fuel breaks, brown strips, green strips, post-fire rehabilitation, aerial and ground herbicide application, aerial and ground seed application, seedling planting, tree removal, brush mowing/brushing, spring/riparian/meadow enhancements, water developments, or other similar restoration activities and monitoring. The Division of Wildlife's work on BLM-managed Federal land will occur under Good Neighbor Authority, which allows the BLM to authorize state and local agencies to plan and execute cross-jurisdictional restoration efforts. Funding for the cooperative agreement includes a \$814,000 investment from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, with the remaining balance coming from post-fire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation funding available to BLM.

The BLM fuels management program is focused on reducing wildfire risk, improving wildfire resiliency, and promoting fire-adapted communities.

For more information about the BLM's efforts under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, visit www.blm.gov/infrastructure.



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Could Your Private Property Become a Thoroughfare for People Accessing Federal Land?

by Rachael Buzanowski

From Montana to New Mexico and all states west, federal lands make up a great deal of the landscape. These lands are often open for grazing, mineral development, and recreational activities to the public. However, not all these federal lands have legal public access. Sure, some have public roads going to them, but others are completely landlocked by privately owned lands. Still other federal lands are found in what is known as the “checkerboard.” Checkerboard lands trace back to the time when the U.S. Government granted thousands of acres to railroad companies by giving them the odd numbered sections (640 acres), for up to twenty miles, on either side of the tracks. The remaining sections were reserved to the federal government and are now generally managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The railroad companies eventually sold their lands to private landowners to finance the construction of the railroads. This resulted in the current configuration of one section being managed by the BLM and the next being privately owned.

The common corners of four checkerboard sections consist of two private and two federal sections, with the private sections situated diagonally from each other. Federal lands in the checkerboard have generally been deemed inaccessible to the

public unless serviced by a public road because there is no right to trespass across private land to access federal land. However, the scope of private property rights in the checkerboard are now being tested in a Wyoming federal court. In a case specifically designed to get a court’s ruling on the issue, four members of the public used a “ladder” to go from one corner of federal land to another. “Technically” these individuals did not touch the private surface, but they clearly entered the airspace above the private lands – it would be impossible not to. This airspace is as much part of the private property as the soil beneath it.

There is nothing in Congress’ creation of the checkerboard land pattern that indicates it intended to allow the public to access federal lands by crossing private property. Congress knows how to write bills that allow access across private property to federal lands, Congress did not do that here. Even the federal agencies do not believe that the public can corner cross to get to the federal checkerboard sections. Brochures developed by the BLM and Forest Service caution against corner crossing to get to federal lands. If access to federal checkerboard land is desirable, Congressional, and state statutes, provide a plan – purchase the access from the private landowner.

The defendants argue that because the federal Unlawful Inclosures Act (UIA) prohibits anyone from enclosing or obstructing free passage or transit over or through federal lands, a private landowner cannot stop the public from accessing federal lands across private lands. This argument grossly enlarges both the scope and the purpose of the UIA. The UIA was created to prevent ranchers from strategically fencing lands in such a way that provided them exclusive livestock grazing on federal lands. The Act in no way gives permission to the public to trespass on private property. Thus, the UIA simply does not apply here since the issue in this case is keeping unwanted trespassers off private land, not preventing others from grazing cattle on federal land.

The public does not have the right to trespass on private property to get to federal lands. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, “Ownership of property implies the right of possession and control and includes the right to exclude others; that is, a true owner of land exercises full dominion and control over it and possesses the right to expel trespassers.” This should include stopping someone from using a “ladder” just to get across your property. While the scope of private property is defined by state law, this case will have west-wide implications for all private property owners in checkerboard lands. Depending on the outcome of this litigation, your private land could become a thoroughfare to the federal lands.

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Forest Service Rangeland Management Permittee Questionnaire

By USDA Forest Service, Rangeland Management Program

The U.S. Forest Service is embarking on a strategic look forward that we call 'Range Futuring.' From time to time, organizations need to take a step back, away from the day-to-day work, and critically examine the program overall. We solicit your help. Imagine the world 25 years from now. What changes do you see? We want your best guess as to future economic, environmental, industrial, climatic, demographic, technological, sociological, and other changes you see coming as they relate to rangeland management. We want input on what we are doing right so that we may keep doing that. We also want constructive input on what isn't working so well and what might be working OK now but might not work so well in the future. Rather than jumping to solutions, please focus on identifying what isn't working and why. Thank you for taking the time to help guide the Forest Service's Rangeland Management Program!

We ask for input to the following three questions by November 30, 2022:

1. What is the Forest Service Rangeland Management Program getting right

as it relates to you as a permittee?

2. What do you see as challenges or roadblocks that stand in your way of a successful relationship with the Forest Service Rangeland Management Program?
3. What issues do we need to address to keep the program relevant, resilient, and sustainable?

Respondents can submit responses in any of the following options:

- Respond to this email: SM.FS.RngMgmtWO@usda.gov

- Mail your response to:

Gilbert Jackson

USDA Forest Service, Rangeland Management Program

1400 Independence Ave SW, Yates Bldg, 3rd floor

Washington, DC 20250-1103

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Publishes Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on New Framework for Livestock Disease Indemnity Valuation

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to solicit public comments on a new approach to indemnity valuation and a new indemnity framework. This approach aims to standardize and provide greater consistency to the livestock indemnification process.

The ANPR describes two structural changes to the indemnity regulations. The first is the use of an annual indemnity value table to standardize the indemnification process and resolve discrepancies between disease programs. The current regulations for valuing animals for indemnification vary from species to species and, in some cases, from disease to disease within the same species. Under the new approach outlined in the ANPR, APHIS would collaborate with other USDA agencies—including the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program—to develop harmonized USDA indemnity values, along with the methodology to determine them. These values would be published online annually.

Second, the ANPR describes an approach to standardize allowances for appraisal when an indemnity value cannot be calculated using the tables or when a producer elects to appeal the indemnity value based on extraordinary circumstances surrounding the animals at issue. This approach would resolve known challenges with indemnification based on fair market appraisal by an appraiser.

The ANPR also outlines the potential consolidation of all APHIS indemnity regulations into a single section of the Code of Federal Regulations. This would harmonize how APHIS addresses value determination, compensation for cleaning and disposal, and other related issues across existing programs.

APHIS is publishing the ANPR to solicit comments to inform future rulemaking. Specifically, we are seeking comments on the standardized approach to

indemnity valuation and how it may affect members of the public, as well as any suggestions to improve it. We are also seeking input on whether any species or commodity classes would not benefit from consolidation, whether consolidation would significantly alter disease management, and any other concerns.

This ANPR may be viewed in today's Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2022-19260/indemnity-regulations>. Beginning tomorrow, members of the public may submit comments at www.regulations.gov. All comments must be received by November 6, 2022. APHIS will carefully review and consider all comments before developing a proposed rule.



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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Major Actions to Spur Competition, Protect Producers and Reduce Costs

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 2022 – Today, at a meeting of the White House Competition Council, President Biden will announce two new efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support fair and competitive meat and poultry markets, as part of the Department’s role in the President’s Competition Council. These efforts include (1) publishing the proposed Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity Rules Under the Packers and Stockyards Act to protect farmers and ranchers from abuse, and (2) a new \$15 million Agricultural Competition Challenge to ramp up collaboration with the State Attorneys General (AG) on enforcement of the competition laws, such as the laws against price-fixing.

“Highly concentrated local markets in livestock and poultry have increasingly left farmers, ranchers, growers and producers vulnerable to a range of practices that unjustly exclude them from economic opportunities and undermine a transparent, competitive, and open market—which harms producers’ ability to deliver the quality, affordable food working families depend upon,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who is a member of the White House Competition Council. “USDA is focused on building new, fairer, and more resilient markets, protecting producers, and reducing food costs, and we are proving again today that we will use all tools at our disposal to do so.”

Proposed Rule on Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity

USDA is proposing these modernized regulations under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act’s provisions prohibiting undue prejudice, unjust discrimination, and deception to provide for clearer, more effective standards to govern the modern marketplace. The Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity proposed rule would revise regulations under the P&S Act by prohibiting certain prejudices and disadvantages against covered producers in the livestock, meat, and poultry markets. The regulations would prohibit retaliatory practices that interfere with lawful communications, assertion of rights, and participation in associations, among other protected activities—such as retaliating against a farmer or rancher for blowing the whistle on price-fixing. The regulations would also identify unlawfully deceptive practices that violate the P&S Act with respect to contract formation, contract performance, contract termination and contract refusal.

The purpose of the rule is to promote inclusive competition and market integrity in the livestock, meat, and poultry markets.

- First, the proposed rule prohibits certain prejudices

and disadvantages against covered producers. Specifically, the proposed rule seeks to protect “market vulnerable individuals” who are those at heightened risk of adverse, exclusionary treatment in the marketplace, which may include on the basis of their race, gender, sexual orientation, and religious affiliation.

- Second, the proposed rule prohibits retaliatory practices that interfere with lawful communications, assertion of rights, and associational participation, among other protected activities.
- Third, the proposed rule identifies unlawfully deceptive practices that violate the P&S Act with respect to contract formation, contract performance, contract termination and contract refusal.
- Finally, the rule proposes recordkeeping requirements to support evaluation of regulated entity compliance, including the ability to inspect relevant records, such as policies and procedures, staff training and producer information materials, data and testing, board of directors’ oversight materials, and other relevant materials.

The second of three priority regulatory Packers and Stockyards Act initiatives USDA announced it would pursue, this rule, will soon be published in the Federal Register and made available for public comment. A preview of the rule is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service website. Once published, stakeholders and other interested parties will have 60 days from the date of publication to submit comments via the Regulations.gov web portal. All comments submitted will be considered as USDA develops a final rule.

Agricultural Competition Challenge to the State Attorneys General

Building on the Biden-Harris Executive Order’s “Whole-of-Government” approach, USDA is also taking action to ramp up enforcement of the competition laws by challenging the state attorneys general (AG) to partner with USDA on competition issues in the food and agriculture space, using up to \$15 million in funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA).

Through a combination of renewable cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding, these new partnerships will assist state AGs in tackling anticompetitive practices in the agricultural sector and related industries that are contributing to heightened inflationary pressures, lack of choices for consumers and producers, and conflicts of interest and anticompetitive barriers across the

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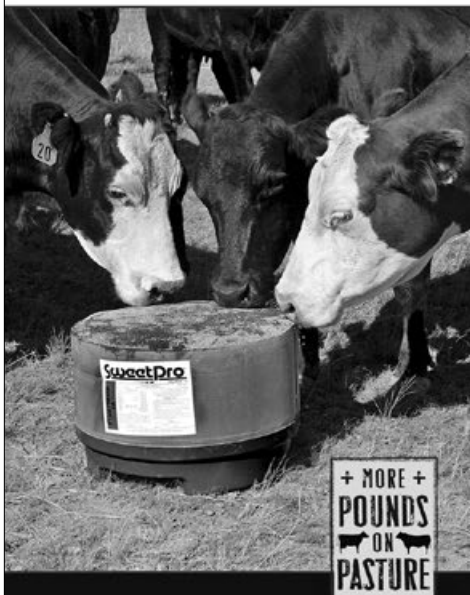
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Specifically, this initiative will improve state AG capacity to conduct on-the-ground investigations of competition issues, enhance coordination between Federal and state agriculture and competition enforcement authorities, create new and more independent research programs, and ultimately result in more rigorous enforcement of the competition laws.

USDA is working directly with state AG offices to solicit applications and requests for funding under this initiative and looks forward to these partnerships as we work together to secure America’s food systems.

Earlier this year USDA and DOJ announced their commitment to work more closely together to effectively enforce federal competition laws that protect farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers and growers from unfair and anticompetitive practices, including by launching the www.FarmerFairness.gov complaint portal for reporting suspected violations of federal competition law. Today’s challenge seeks to expand that collaborative effort to state AGs, who often have additional state authorities they can leverage to help achieve that goal.

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

To learn more, visit usda.gov.

20th Annual Silver State Classic Feeder Sale

Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

Fallon Livestock, LLC and Nevada Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) invite you to consign your cattle to the 20th Annual Special Sale. The is sponsored by the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, in conjunction with Fallon Livestock, LLC, where Fallon Livestock, LLC gives a portion of the commission back to the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association for each head consigned. This is an Open Consignment Sale. We will have strong buyer representation again this year and there will be competitive bidding on all classes of cattle.

If you are planning on consigning calves to the sale, please be sure to bring them early. The yard crew is trained in beef quality handling practices where we size, sort, and class your livestock so buyers will bid and buy your livestock at full market value. Your livestock will be on feed and water up until the time of sale, keeping shrinkage at a minimum.

Transportation or other arrangements can be made by calling Tommy Lee, owner of Fallon Livestock, LLC, at (775) 867-2020, or (775) 741-4523. For any questions contact Martin Paris, Executive Director, Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, at (775) 738-9214.



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Nevada Beef Council Update — October 2022

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement

Checking in on the Checkoff

It is common knowledge for many producers that one dollar out of the sale proceeds of every beef animal sold in the state of Nevada is collected for “beef promotion.” But do you know how those dollars flow through the Beef Checkoff program? Actually, every dollar collected is split; fifty cents is kept in Nevada and managed by the Nevada Beef Council (NBC) for beef promotion within the state. The other fifty cents of each dollar collected is sent to the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB), which manages the National Beef Checkoff program through multiple contractors.

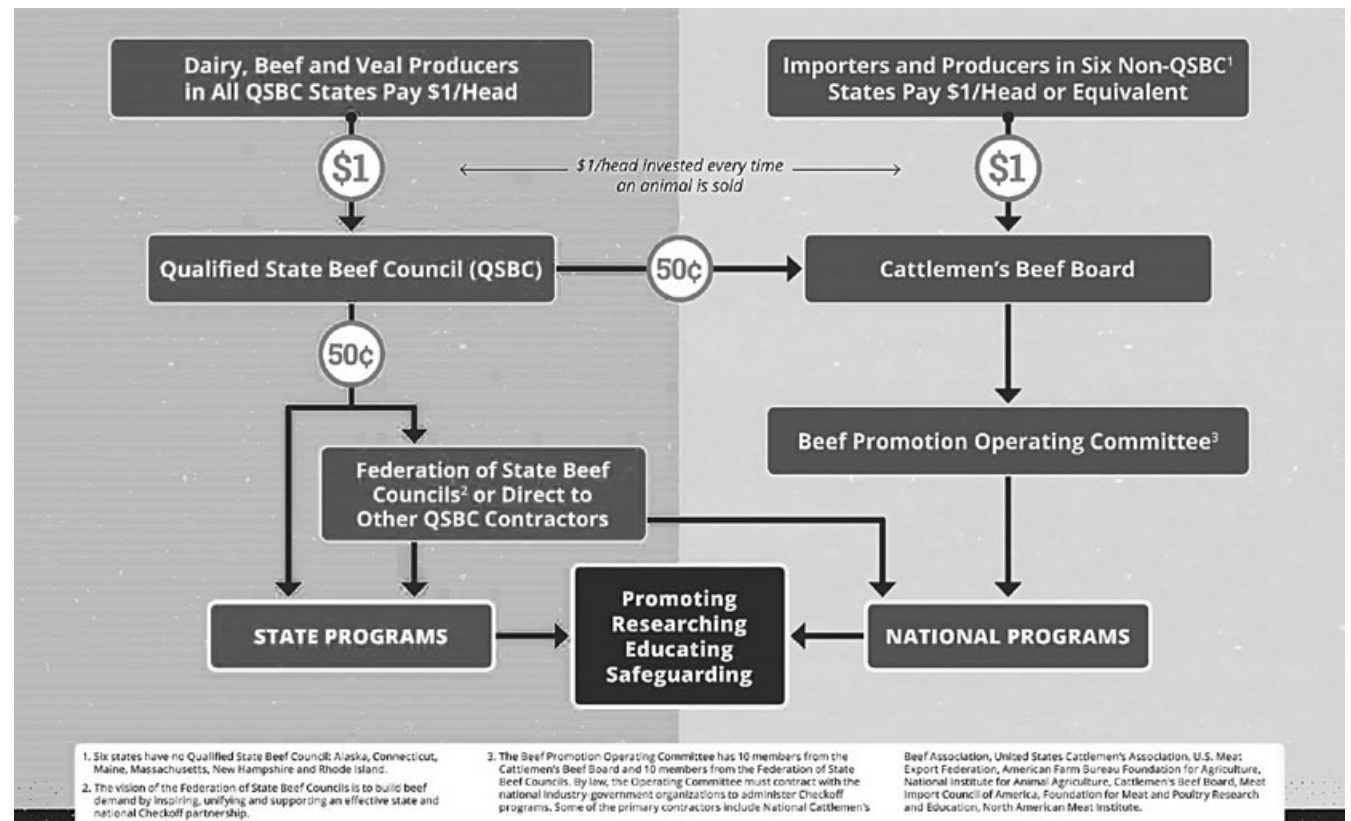
Across the country, beef, dairy and veal producers, and importers, pay \$1 per head on each sales transaction directly to their Qualified State Beef Councils. State beef council boards vary in size but are always representative of the cattle industry in the state. The Cattlemen’s Beef Board includes 101 beef, dairy and veal producers, and importers, who are nominated by producer organizations in their state and then officially appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Beef Board sets the budget for and evaluates all national programs in an effort to be good stewards of your Beef Checkoff investment.

Because the Beef Checkoff works at both a state and national level, the Beef Promotion Operating Committee was created by law to ‘bring the two halves of the dollar together’ into a coordinated program. The Operating Committee includes 10 Beef Board members

and 10 producers selected by the Federation of State Beef Councils. The Operating Committee is responsible for approving national checkoff programs and contracting with national industry-governed organizations to implement these programs. This structure has been effective for more than three decades in promoting, researching, educating, and safeguarding the beef industry.

The graphic included provides a visual of what the flow of the dollar looks like.

For more information about the Cattlemen’s Beef Board, please visit beefboard.org. For more information about the Nevada Beef Council, please visit nevadabeef.org



NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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