



# SAGE SIGNALS

*The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry*

Volume XLVI, #1 | November 2022

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

## 87<sup>TH</sup> Annual Convention and Trade Show



The 87th Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show is right around the corner. It 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.

We have a great lineup of speakers this year including NCBA CEO Colin Woodall, Brett Stuart with Global AgriTrends, Patrick Linnell from CattleFax, Colorado State University Professor Stephen Koontz, KKTU 11 News Meteorologist Brian Bledsoe and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover.

Please be sure to register for the convention by November 15th. Registration can be done through our website at [nevadacattlemen.org](http://nevadacattlemen.org) or by completing and returning your registration packet. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please call

— Continued on page 4 —

## 20<sup>TH</sup> 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 sale 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.

## NCA Fall Update

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

Happy November all! I hope everyone is getting through their fall work and enjoying the change in seasons. Recently, Congress averted a government shutdown by passing the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act. The measure provides federal funding through December 16, 2022, and included several funding and policy provisions relevant to the livestock industry including:

- A Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program
- Livestock Mandatory Reporting Extension of Authorization
- Electronic Logging Device Exemption for Livestock Haulers
- Clean Air Act/Greenhouse Gas Reporting Prohibitions
- Greater Sage Grouse Listing Prohibition

While the stopgap spending essentially kicks the can down the road for two and a half months, it did include the key provisions noted above that will hopefully serve as a placeholder as Congress debates a broader budget deal for Fiscal Year 2023. While these provisions are all important to the industry, Congress maintaining a prohibition on listing the Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act is vitally important, especially as the Department of Interior considers new Sage Grouse Land Use Management Plans.

Also ongoing in Washington D.C. is the Sackett v EPA case. The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in the case which is a direct challenge to the Environmental Protection Agency's authority under the Clean Water Act and what qualifies as a "navigable water". In a nutshell, the Sackett family purchased an empty lot near Priest Lake in Idaho with plans to build a home on the property. The family began prepping the lot with gravel and dirt and were shortly thereafter notified by the EPA that they had violated the Clean Water Act by not obtaining the appropriate permits. The EPA had determined that the lot contained wetlands that qualified as "navigable waters" under the Waters of the U.S. rule.

For years, livestock producers and others have faced these same inconsistent interpretations regarding the federal governments jurisdiction over Waters of the United States. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association joined an amicus brief with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and several other state cattlemen's associations calling for a clear, limited Waters of the U.S. definition. Now that the oral argument portion of the case has concluded, the Supreme Court will hold a private conference where they will vote to decide the case. The justices will also write an opinion on the case which we expect to be released early to mid-2023. This is the fourth time that

— Continued on page 3 —



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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association*

If you hold a Bureau of Land Management grazing permit, you know that the dates your livestock can graze specific allotments are pretty much set in stone. Sometimes the range of dates is broad enough to allow flexibility within them to change your timing of use to allow for some growing season rest when needed. Often though, those dates lack that flexibility and lock us in to grazing the same way every year. I mean, it's nice to be able to plan your work on a calendar but it's definitely not the way to adapt to drought or other challenges we face. It's been an ask of the land management agencies from your Association to find ways to afford us the flexibility we need to adapt. I'm proud to report that a couple of tools are coming on line soon to help us change permits—temporarily or permanently—to adapt to drought and cheat grass on BLM

permits. BLM Range team lead Kathryn Dyer along with individual Districts in Nevada have completed the first step—an environmental analysis and will be ready soon to field our requests. Your Association, along with the BLM and Nevada Department of Agriculture are hosting workshops to answer questions and discuss the types of flexibilities that have been analyzed and how to request drought or cheatgrass related adjustments. They will be held:

- Ely, Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m. at the Bristlecone Convention Center
- Elko, Dec. 7, 3-5 p.m. at the Western Folklife Center
- Winnemucca, Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. at the Convention Center
- On-line virtual workshop, Dec. 13, 3-5 p.m.

Which is the week following our Annual Convention in Reno, can't wait to see you there!

## Fall Update: *Continued from page 1*

the Supreme Court has considered the definition of WOTUS and hopefully will be the last.

On a different note, I want to extend an invitation to everyone to join us in Sparks, NV at the Nugget from November 30th through December 2nd for the 87th Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show. This year we are merging forces with the California Cattlemen's Association and have a great convention planned. There will be meetings on all aspects of our industry and several general sessions with speakers presenting on items that are important to you. For more information or to register please check out [www.nevadacattlemen.org/events-meetings/convention-and-trade-show](http://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 Calf and Yearling Sale. The special sale will start at noon on December 10th 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.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

- Pine Forest Land & Stock Co., Mike Montero
- Y 2 Consultants LLC, Brenda Younkin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NDA Public Workshops: NAC 571 (Animal Disease)

— **November 16, 2022** —  
Winnemucca, NV; 1:00 p.m.  
University of Nevada Reno Extension Office

— **November 17, 2022** —  
Elko, NV; 11:00 a.m.  
Nevada Department of Agriculture Office

### NCA Annual Convention

— **November 30 – December 2, 2022** —  
Nugget Casino Resort  
100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV  
[www.nevadacattlemen.org](http://www.nevadacattlemen.org)

### BLM Drought & Targeted & Prescribed Grazing Environmental Assessment Workshops

— **December 5, 2022** —  
Ely, NV; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Bristlecone Convention Center

— **December 7, 2022** —  
Elko, NV; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Western Folklife Center

— **December 13, 2022** —  
On-line Virtual; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
To register for the virtual workshop please email [m.brown@agri.nv.gov](mailto:m.brown@agri.nv.gov)

### 20th Annual Silver State Classic Calf and Yearling Sale

— **December 10, 2022** —  
Fallon, NV; 12:00 p.m.  
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



### Official Publication of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association

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## NCA NEWS

### Convention: *Continued from page 1*

the office at 1-775-738-9214 or email [nca@nevadabeef.org](mailto:nca@nevadabeef.org).

The tentative convention schedule is below. The schedule as well as additional information about the convention is also available on our website.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would like to thank the sponsors and exhibitors for helping make our event a success.

Don't forget to register, 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 – 4:00 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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# Options for Addressing Drought and Annual Grass Grazing on Public Lands in Nevada

By: Kathryn Dyer, NV BLM State Office Range Program Lead

Dear Sage Signals Readers,

If you have worked with the Bureau of Land Management, you have probably heard that you need “NEPA and a decision” to take action. It is true that most actions on public land managed by the BLM first need to be analyzed and disclosed to the public under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and then authorized through a decision under the Code of Federal Regulations. However, some common grazing issues can be addressed more efficiently than you might think. Read on to find out how you can benefit from administrative tools developed by BLM Nevada that can help you adjust grazing to address two landscape issues: drought and cheatgrass.

Drought and cheatgrass are so common across Nevada that NEPA analysis has been completed on a variety of actions addressing them. These NEPA analyses can make it more efficient either to modify your permit terms and conditions (temporarily or permanently) or to plan a project outside your permit. In this article, I will discuss two tools that are available, and give some basic information on how to use them. These tools are the Drought Environmental Assessments (Drought EAs) (<https://on.doi.gov/3CSBo5Y> bottom right of page), and the Targeted and Prescribed Grazing Environmental Assessment (<https://bit.ly/3MsVEhR>)

In addition to reading this article, you may also wish to attend one of the upcoming workshops:

- Ely, Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m. at the Bristlecone Convention Center
- Elko, Dec. 7, 3-5 p.m. at the Western Folklife Center
- Winnemucca, Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. at the Convention Center
- On-line virtual workshop, Dec. 13, 3-5 p.m.
  - o To register for the virtual workshop please email [m.brown@agri.nv.gov](mailto:m.brown@agri.nv.gov).

The purpose of these workshops is to answer questions and discuss the types of flexibilities that have been analyzed and how to request drought or cheatgrass

related adjustments or projects and provide information to assist BLM in collaboratively developing project plans with you. These workshops will not be the time to develop adjustments or projects for individual grazing permits. Instead, they will give you an idea of the information and lead time your BLM grazing staff will need to help you develop these.

## Step 1: Know your Permit/Lease

The first thing you want to do is re-read your actual permit. Can you adjust operations within your existing terms and conditions? What temporary modifications would you need in order to meet management goals? In some authorizations, terms and conditions are minimal, and include livestock kind, numbers, total AUMs, on date, off date and allotment. Other authorizations may include more involved terms and conditions, including individual pasture dates, multi-year rotations, or other intricacies. If you have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) you will need to read that thoroughly also. Terms and Conditions contained on all permits and leases are available in the BLM Reporting Application - Rangeland Administration System Reports: <https://reports.blm.gov/reports.cfm?application=RAS>. If you need a copy of your AMP, please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist to request that.

## Step 2. Look at the Drought EA for your District

Each BLM district in Nevada, except Southern Nevada, has a “Drought EA.” District Drought Management Environmental Assessments were finalized in 2013, and are still very relevant. The purpose of these documents is to identify the effects of drought on rangelands in order to alleviate the impacts of authorized uses and activities on natural resources that are at risk of being adversely affected by drought. This broad purpose allowed for alternatives with a variety of possible management responses to conditions. These alternatives provide flexibility on how each modification is shaped, depending on specific conditions.

## Step 3. Consider Specific Impacts and Proposed Responses

Drought Indicators such as the U.S. Drought Monitor generally show where drought impacts may be greatest, but actual confirmation of on-the-ground drought impacts is needed to confirm the most appropriate response. It’s important to gather information and photographs from throughout your permitted allotment(s) documenting impacts such as amount of forage in different locations, and water availability. This information will greatly assist your conversation with your Rangeland Management Specialist, and will likely help expedite the process. Once the drought impacts have been confirmed, the suite of potential responses can be explored. There are opportunities to change the season of use outside the terms and conditions of the grazing authorization, change the timing or rotation of pastures, add temporary water developments or other infrastructure, as well as a variety of other responses. The outcome of any proposed drought response must include a reduced impact on the ecosystem resources that are already being taxed during the drought.



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# University of Nevada, Reno Launches New Agricultural Communication Minor

Students will learn how to communicate effectively about important agriculture-related issues

RENO, Nev. – With issues such as those concerning land use, food production and natural resource management becoming increasingly important to understand in today's world, the University of Nevada, Reno has launched a new minor in agricultural communication to help students effectively understand and communicate about issues related to agriculture, biotechnology, natural resources and environmental science. The program is meant to complement existing University courses, and to provide a minor degree for students interested in careers in the diverse agricultural and environmental science communication industry, including as journalists, multi-media producers, advocates or public relations professionals.

The minor is offered by the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, and administered by the College's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences. It is open to all students attending the University.

"There are a host of topics and issues that we teach about and conduct research on in our College that present communication challenges," said College Dean Bill Payne. "It's important that we prepare students to communicate effectively and ethically about these topics of study and research that affect our everyday lives and our future."

Barry Perryman, chair of the Department, points out that although only about 1% to 1.5% of the U.S. population works in agriculture-related fields, everyone is affected by these fields. He says it's important to increase understanding of these industries and issues.

"Agriculture-related fields provide food production and security, as well as maintain functioning rangeland ecosystems," he said. "Our new agricultural communication minor will equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to understand and communicate news and research in these fields through emerging and traditional media sources."

The minor is designed to help students tackle conveying accurate information

and emerging research related to a range of topics, such as rangeland ecology and management, plant science, forage science, horticulture, animal science, veterinary science, nutrition and dietetics, biochemistry, forest ecology, and environmental science. The courses cover reporting and public relations fundamentals, as well as how students can leverage technology to become more effective communicators.

Working with communication professionals and scholars, four new courses were developed for the 18-credit program and serve as its core: Introduction to Agricultural Communication, New & Emerging Media in Agriculture, Reporting & Public Relations in Agriculture, and Communicating Agricultural & Environmental Policy. Students in the program also complete the Introduction to Media and Society course, offered by the University's Reynolds School of Journalism.

The College developed the minor in consultation with the School of Journalism, and with the Department of Communication Studies. Students can choose from more than 20 courses offered by the College, the School of Journalism and Communication Studies to complete the minor, depending on their career goals.

For more information, contact Perryman at [perryman@unr.edu](mailto:perryman@unr.edu) or 775-784-1265.



University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval meets Desert Farming Initiative student intern Noelle Tegano at the University's Experiment Station Valley Road Field Lab. Looking on, left to right: Americorps service member Alison Bunyan, student intern Everett Cook and Desert Farming Initiative Director Jill Moe. Photo by Robert Moore.

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# New Resource Sheds Light on Tree Encroachment on Sagebrush Ecosystems

Up-to-date science-based information available on new website details how trees are taking over sagebrush ecosystems, the impacts, and what is being done to manage the issue

Extensive research shows that native conifer trees, such as juniper and pinyon pine, have been increasing their footprint on the landscape at an unprecedented rate for the past 150 years, especially in places such as the Great Basin, where 1.1 million acres have transitioned from shrubland or rangeland to woodlands since 2000. This accelerated conversion of shrubland and grassland ecosystems to woodlands is having undesirable impacts, including the loss of unique wildlife and wildlife habitat, reduced water availability and increased runoff and erosion, less land available for livestock grazing, and greater fuel loading for wildfires.

A new website by the collaborative “PJ (pinyon-juniper) Encroachment Education Project” sheds light on the issue. The site is also a resource for those trying to manage this threat, particularly in the Great Basin, where encroaching pinyon pine and juniper trees are taking over sagebrush ecosystems and contributing to the decrease of imperiled species such as the sage grouse.

“The whole thrust of this project is to provide science-based information on the ecology and impacts of the problem, as well as the collaborative work being done to address it,” said Christina Restaino, natural resource specialist with University of Nevada, Reno Extension, the organization leading the project. “The website is intended to help people understand the issue and serve as a clearinghouse of information to help land managers, professionals and agencies throughout the West in their collaborative efforts.”

Restaino, who is also an assistant professor in the University’s College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, said a new report by the U.S. Geological Survey and Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies identifies tree encroachment as one of the top three threats to sagebrush ecosystems – the other two being invasive species and land development.

The website launched today and includes sections explaining the ecology of how and where the conversion is happening, as well as outlining the impacts of sagebrush range converting to woodlands. The “Resilience in Action” section shows projects being done around the West to manage the issue. Finally, there is an impressive “See the Science” section, where online viewers can search a database with over 400 peer-reviewed articles on an interactive map for information on the issue by location, topic, key word or year.

The partners in the project worked for two years to build the website, diving into research; holding multiple stakeholder working sessions; working with web designers to create an organized, easy-to-navigate site; and working with a

technical illustrator to provide clear, accessible graphics for the site. Partners in the project include the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Working Lands for Wildlife partnership, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture’s Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands initiative.

“Communicating why more trees everywhere isn’t always a good thing is a real challenge for land managers charged with conserving nonforest lands,” said Jeremy Maestas, who is part of the working group and a sagebrush ecosystem specialist with the USDA-NRCS. “With Ex-

tension, we were able to build a website that helps broad audiences understand the science behind the problem.”

Besides the devastating effect on sagebrush-dependent wildlife, Maestas points out there are also economic impacts of the encroachment.

“In the Intermountain West, 90% of tree encroachment has occurred in sagebrush shrublands, a habitat type that has already been reduced by half due to a wide variety of threats. Species like sage grouse, found nowhere else in the world, will abandon breeding habitats when there are just a few trees per acre. Encroaching trees also suck up precious soil moisture needed on arid lands to grow other native grasses and wildflowers, which means less food and cover not only for wildlife, but also for livestock that sustain rural agricultural economies in the West.”

Mandi Hirsch, sagebrush collaborative conservation specialist for the Intermountain West Joint Venture and leader of the Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands initiative, is also part of the project’s working group. She knows firsthand the impact the encroachment of trees on rangeland can have to ranchers. Hirsch is a rancher at heart and by trade who now also works toward the conservation and sustainability of Western rangelands.

“The conservation of a unique species like sage grouse is very important, but it’s only part of the entire picture when managing natural resources at a landscape scale. What many people don’t realize is there are many other potentially devastating impacts of encroachment – including jeopardizing the livelihoods of our ranchers and their ability to produce food. I really think this website can help people to understand that, and all the other impacts of this encroachment. And, I think it will be a tremendous ongoing resource for those trying to do something about it.”

UNR Extension, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources



Junipers have begun to encroach upon this sagebrush ecosystem in Oregon. Photo by Jeremy Maestas, USDA-NRCS.



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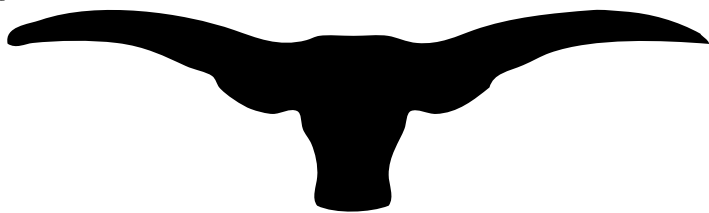
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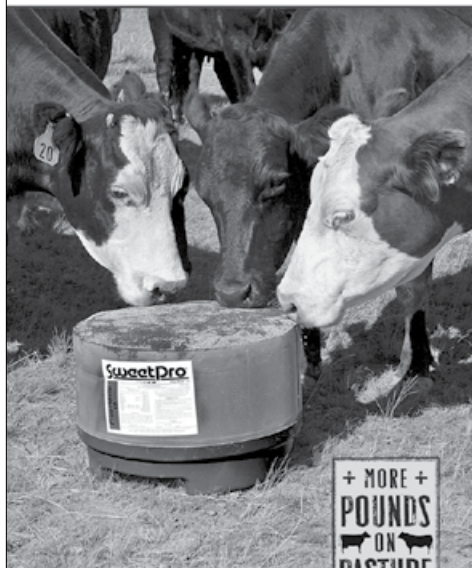
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## NDA Announces Interim State Veterinarian

(ELKO, Nev.) – The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) announces Dr. J.J. Goicoechea, DMV, as interim state veterinarian. The state's animal health programs, regulatory procedures and NDA laboratories will be overseen by Dr. Goicoechea who will be based in northeastern Nevada and travel throughout the state to meet program needs.

Dr. Goicoechea previously served as the NDA state veterinarian from 2016 to 2019 in addition to 20 years in private veterinary practice. Dr. Goicoechea received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Nevada, Reno.

## Protect Horses and Cattle from Pigeon Fever This Fall

23 Cases of Pigeon Fever Have Been Confirmed This Year

(SPARKS, Nev.) – The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is encouraging horse owners to practice good horse health safety measures to mitigate the risk of disease as numbers of confirmed cases of pigeon fever rise in the fall. Year to date, the NDA Animal Disease Laboratory has confirmed 23 cases of pigeon fever, 18 of which have been confirmed since Sept. 1, highlighting the spike commonly seen in this disease this time of year.

A reportable disease in Nevada, Pigeon fever is a bacterial infection that can occur in cattle and horses. It can cause large abscesses to form and are most commonly found on the chest and under the belly. Horses are infected when the bacteria enters through broken skin or small scrapes or wounds. Peak season for infection is late summer and into the fall.

"The key to limiting the spread of pigeon fever is good horse health safe-

ty practices," said NDA interim state veterinarian Dr. J.J. Goicoechea. "Bioscurity practices at home and at events are important."

Good horse health safety practices include fly control, not sharing water buckets and equipment, and avoiding tying horses in high traffic areas. If a horse owner suspects their animals might be affected, they should contact their veterinarian.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### Brady Owens Begins 120-day Detail as BLM Sierra Front Field Manager

Carson City, Nev – On October 23, Brady Owens began a 120-day detail as the BLM Sierra Front Field Manager.

"Having an opportunity to continue the legacy of multiple use and sustained yield of public lands in the Sierra Front Field Office is a supreme honor. I look forward to working with the public, our many partners, and our capable specialists in this mission of stewardship and collaboration," says Owens.

Owens currently serves as the Assistant Field Manager for non-renewable resources in the Wells Field Office, located in Elko, Nevada. Owens began his career with the BLM in 2013 at the Hollister Field Office (now named the Central Coast Field Office) in the Central



California District. After that, he worked as a public affairs officer in the High Plains District, located in Casper, Wyoming from 2015 to 2019.

Owens is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a BA in Political Science and a graduate certificate in Natural Resource Communication.

Owens says the best part of his career with the BLM has been the people and teams that he has worked with.

Owens currently lives in Elko, Nevada with his wife, two cats, and two Chesapeake Bay retrievers. In his spare time, Brady enjoys hunting, fly fishing, and Nordic skiing.



# NCBA Urges EPA to Pause WOTUS Rulemaking Following Supreme Court Arguments

WASHINGTON (October 3, 2022) — The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pause their "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rulemaking following today's Supreme Court oral arguments in the case Sackett v. EPA, a case that will determine the EPA's authority to regulate bodies of water under the Clean Water Act.

"Today's oral arguments highlighted the need for the Supreme Court to put this issue to bed once and for all. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act, cattle producers have experienced the regulatory whiplash of shifting WOTUS definitions—on average, a change every 3.8 years," said NCBA Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "NCBA is hopeful that the court will support NCBA's argument for clear and limited WOTUS definition, but in the meantime, we call on the EPA to suspend their rulemaking until the outcome of the case is clear."

In April 2022, NCBA filed an amicus brief before the Supreme Court calling for a new test for determining whether a water feature fell under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. NCBA's argument would allow the government to protect substantial bodies of water while preventing overreach on small isolated agricul-

tural water features.

NCBA also filed comments on the Biden administration's proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule. NCBA is calling for this rulemaking to halt until the Supreme Court issues a ruling in the Sackett v. EPA case.

## Background

NCBA has been involved in every step of the WOTUS rulemaking process. In February, over 1,600 cattle producers from 44 states submitted a letter to the EPA calling for a limited WOTUS definition that retained exclusions for common small water features found on farms and ranches. The Kansas Livestock Association, an NCBA affiliate, also organized an EPA roundtable where cattle producers highlighted their concerns with an expansive WOTUS rule.

NCBA also backed a report from the EPA's own Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee that recommended the EPA develop a clear WOTUS definition, protect WOTUS exclusions of agricultural features like farm ditches, stock ponds, prairie potholes, and prior converted cropland, and ensure EPA compliance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent

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# Nevada Beef Council Update — November 2022

## Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement

# Busting Beef Checkoff Myths

## CATTLE MARKETS

**Myth:** *The Checkoff isn't doing anything to fix the broken cattle markets.*

**Fact:** Meatpacking capacity and other economic factors impact today's cattle markets — but that's completely outside the scope of the Beef Checkoff. The Checkoff was created to increase demand for beef and not to play favorites or influence markets. It has no power to increase the price of cattle. By helping generate greater demand, though, consumers will pick beef over other proteins and be willing to pay more for beef and beef products.

## HIT THE ROAD, CHUCK

**Myth:** *The Beef Checkoff isn't doing much to get U.S.-produced beef into foreign markets.*

**Fact:** Au contraire! The Checkoff has contracted with the U.S. Meat Export Federation for decades to put U.S.-produced beef on the world's table. U.S. beef exports greatly exceeded previous volume and value records in 2021, surpassing \$10 billion for the first time, according to year-end data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). And since many foreign markets desire underutilized cuts like tongue and liver, exporting those increases the overall carcass value.

## IF I ONLY HAD A \$1.00, OR \$11.91

**Myth:** *I pay \$1.00 per head, and I never see that money back in my pocket.*

**Fact:** According to the National Beef Checkoff Return on Investment study, for every \$1.00 invested from 2014 to 2018, \$11.91 was returned to the beef industry. Additionally, had there not been any domestic Cattlemen's Beef Board demand-enhancing activities over the latest 5-year period, total domestic beef demand would have been 14.3% lower than actual demand. Read the Return on Investment Report [here](https://www.beefboard.org/return-on-investment) (<https://www.beefboard.org/return-on-investment>). All that to say, your \$1.00 matters.

## YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER...

**Myth:** *As usual, another year has come and gone, and producers have no idea what the Cattlemen's Beef Board spent our Checkoff dollars on.*

**Fact:** Beef Board meetings are open to those who pay into the Checkoff, and the CBB's website, [DrivingDemand-ForBeef.com](http://DrivingDemand-ForBeef.com), is transparent about how funding decisions are made, current programs and their budgets, the producer-led Checkoff Program Committees that review and provide input on the programs, the most recent Annual and Evaluation Reports, audited financials, and more. Plus, you can sign up for a complimentary subscription to The Drive for updates about how your Checkoff dollars are invested.

## NEVADA BEEF COUNCIL

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