

# SAGE SIGNALS

*The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry*

Volume XLV, #1 | November 2021

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP



## 2021 NCA Annual Convention and Trade Show

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

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention is right around the corner! We have an engaging line up of speakers and events that will surely keep you informed and up

to date with issues that impact our industry.

At Convention, not only are Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) members in attendance, but members of the Nevada Land Action Association (NLAA), Nevada CattleWomen, Inc., Nevada Woolgrowers, Nevada Central Grazing Committee, Nevada Rangeland Resource Commission, vendors that provide services to the beef cattle industry and guest speakers to celebrate the Nevada Livestock Industry. NCA staff and officers are working hard to provide a memorable and educational experience. Come to convention and learn more about how NCA is working to increase public awareness of the Nevada livestock industry.

Along with the general sessions, committee meetings take place to set policies. This is a chance for you to provide input to a committee chairman on any changes to a policy or a new policy that affects our industry and way of life. Participating is a great way to get involved and have your voice be heard in the policy-making

process. As always, top government and industry officials will be on hand to participate in the discussions and answer questions.

Registration for convention is on page 7, and on our website. 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](mailto: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. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would like to thank the sponsors and exhibitors for helping make our event a success year after year.

A tentative schedule is on page 5 of this Sage Signals, as well as on our website, [www.nevadacattlemen.org](http://www.nevadacattlemen.org).

We look forward to seeing you all at convention!

## NCA Convention Inspirational Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Kaitlynn Glover



Kaitlynn Glover serves as the Executive Director of the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Natural Resources. She joined the office in January 2020 after spending five years as a policy advisor on agriculture, natural resources, and Tribal policy issues for a Western United States Senator.

Prior to moving to Washington, Kaitlynn spent several years working for Teagasc, the agriculture semi-state authority in Ireland. During that time, she received a Masters of Agriscience in Innovation Support from University College Dublin in Dublin, Ireland.

Originally from Wyoming, Kaitlynn has a diverse background in agriculture policy and production, and strong ties to grazers, recreationalists, and many other users of public land resources. She is an alumna of the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture where she studied agriculture communications, international agriculture economics, and farm and ranch management.

**Fallon Livestock, LLC and Nevada Cattlemen's Association are Pleased to Announce**

### **The 19th Annual Silver State Classic Calf and Yearling Sale**

Ranchers, we invite you to consign your cattle to the 19th Annual Special Sale, 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 (NCA) 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 bringing calves to the sale, please be sure to make arrangements by calling Tommy Lee, Owner, Fallon Livestock, LLC (775) 867-2020, (775) 741-4523; or for any questions contact Martin Paris, Executive Director, Nevada Cattlemen's Association at (775) 738-9214.

**See pages 3 - 7 for additional Convention Information and Registration**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UNR Cooperative Extension Creeks and Communities Program Training PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian Management

— November 8–10, 2021 —

Via Zoom

Contact: Sherman Swanson  
775-233-6221 or swanson@unr.edu

### Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale CONSIGNMENTS DUE

— December 1, 2021 —

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

— December 9–11, 2021 —

Elko Conference Center  
Elko, Nevada  
nevadacattlemen.org

### Silver State Classic Feeder Sale

— December 11, 2021 —

Fallon Livestock LLC.  
Fallon, Nevada  
<http://www.fallonlivestock.com>

### NCBA Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show

— February 1–3, 2022 —

George R. Brown Convention Center  
Houston, Texas  
<https://convention.ncba.org>

### NCA 56th Annual Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale

— February 17–19, 2022 —

Fallon, Nevada

Consignments are due December 1, 2021  
nevadacattlemen.org



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Tom Barnes, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

I was recently referred to as a traditionalist in a column written by an individual criticizing my beliefs with regards to hunting. I actually want to thank that individual as I take that as a compliment. That is one of the things I appreciate so much about this industry, we believe strongly in our heritage and our traditions. This is exactly the reason so many in our industry have served in leadership roles over the years whether it be Nevada Cattlemen, National Cattlemen, local, state, and national government and other related groups and organizations. We have all been the beneficiaries of the dedicated, unselfish work that so many have done and I want to thank them for their efforts. Because we are traditionalists, our industry and the people in our industry have remained strong and successful. There was a time when most people in our country were traditionalists as well. A time, I believe, when our country was

at its best and a time we need to return to. A year from now, we will be in the middle of the election process. I know I will be looking for candidates who believe in our country's heritage and traditions. Here's to being called a traditionalist.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between September 25 and October 25, 2021.*

*(New members are in bold.)*

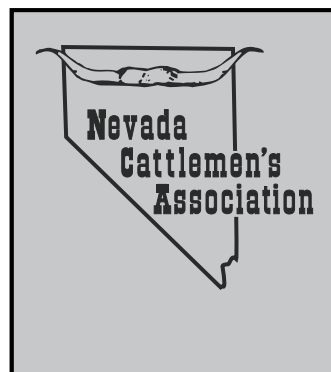
- Elanco, Kyle Loveland
- Kirby Manufacturing, Brett Baker
- Knipe Land Company, John Knipe
- MWI Animal Health, Tim Harberd
- Scales NW, Tyson Dunham

## Ranchers Seek Positive Action from Incoming Bureau of Land Management Director

WASHINGTON (October 1, 2021) – The Public Lands Council (PLC) and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) today issued the following statement on the Senate confirmation of Tracy Stone-Manning as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

"The BLM has been without Senate-confirmed leadership for multiple years, so today's confirmation is an important step for an agency that manages hundreds of millions of acres across the West. Public lands

ranchers are ready to get to work with Director Stone-Manning, especially because the mission of the BLM is critical to the future of these Western communities," said NCBA Executive Director of Natural Resources and PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "The BLM is an important partner to ranchers across the West, and it is our expectation that Director Stone-Manning uphold the law, support multiple use management, and recognize the important role ranchers play in managing and conserving these large landscapes."



Official Publication of the

## Nevada Cattlemen's Association

P.O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803-310 | 775-738-9214

Tom Barnes, President

Jon Griggs, Pres.-Elect | Hanes Holman, 1st Vice Pres. | Dave Baker, 2nd Vice Pres.

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86<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL  
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& TRADE SHOW

2021

ELKO, NEVADA

DECEMBER 9-11

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86<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL

# CONVENTION

## & TRADE SHOW

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, December 9

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration for Convention
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Rangeland Resources Commission
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Central Grazing Committee Meeting
12:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Nevada CattleWomen: Extemp Speaking, Prepared Speaking, Creed Contest
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Exhibitor Move-In
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Nevada Land Action Association Meeting
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	NV CattleWomen's Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM	Night on the Town-Free Night to Explore Elko, Dinner on Your Own

#### Friday, December 10

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration Open
7:30am- 11:00 am	NV CattleWomen's Breakfast & CattleWomen's General Membership Meeting
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM	NV Woolgrower's Breakfast
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Research and Education Committee Meeting
8:30 AM- 10:30 AM	Nevada CattleWomen- Meat ID and Carcass Grading
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Trade Show Open to All NCA Convention Attendees
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Trade Show Break
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	General Session #1 CattleFax
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Animal Health & Livestock Issues Committee Meeting
12:00 PM -1:30 PM	NV Beef Council: Beef Promotion Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Private Lands & Environmental Health Committee Meeting
2:00 PM- 5:00 PM	Nevada CattleWomen- Ag Sales Contest
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Break in Trade Show
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Public Lands Committee Meeting
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM	National Finals Rodeo Watch Party

#### Saturday, December 11

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration Open
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Inspirational Breakfast
8:30 AM- 10:30 AM	Nevada CattleWomen- Cattle Contest
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Trade Show Open to all NCA Convention Attendees
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Trade Show Break
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	NCBA D.C. Issues Update
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	General Session #2 What the Heck Do They Want?
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch in the Trade Show
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	General NCA Membership Meeting
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NV Cattlemen's BOD Meeting
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Last Call Reception
6:00 PM	Trade Show Closes
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	NCA Cocktail Hour
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	NCA Awards Banquet

### First General Session: CattleFax

Featuring Patrick Linnell, CattleFax Analyst



Born and raised in Eastern Oregon, Patrick Linnell grew up with a commercial and registered cattle background. Patrick graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science and agricultural business from Colorado State University where he was a member of both the meats and livestock judging teams, as well as very involved in other clubs. In the fall of 2017, he received a master's degree in agricultural economics from CSU. His research focused on price forecasting and fed cattle markets.

Patrick joined CattleFax as an analyst in January 2018. His primary responsibilities include fundamental research and analysis focusing on cattle markets, as well as risk management. Patrick also covers CattleFax members in the western states region and writes for CattleFax publications.

### Second General Session: What the Heck Do They Want?

Join us for a very informative session with land and wildlife agency professionals on what they expect from the livestock industry when it comes to sage grouse, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and other rangeland health standards. There will be ample time for discussion, questions, and answers.

### Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are open to everyone.

During the meeting, Nevada Cattlemen's Association members will set priority direction for the Association. In these meetings, you will get the latest on Legislative Affairs, Research and Education updates, Private Lands, Federal Lands, and Animal Health and Livestock Issues.



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for all the work they do to protect our industry!

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FALLON, NEVADA

# 86<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

## Allied Industry Trade Show

Don't miss your opportunity to get into the trade show and find out about up-and-coming products and services from Allied Industries. The booths are filled with great businesses and agencies that support and enhance our industry. The trade show will be open Friday from 9:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

## Annual Awards Banquet

At our Annual Awards Banquet this year's recipients for the President's Award, Allied Industry Award, Teacher of the Year, Hall of Honor, 100,000 Mile Club, and the 2021 Cattlemen of the Year Award will be announced.

## Hotel Accommodations

### Maverick Casino & Hotel

2065 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801  
775-738-2111

Two Queens/One King Room

Rate: \$79.00 plus 14% Occupancy Tax  
Code: Nevada Cattlemen's Association

### Shutters Hotel

3650 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801  
775-777-1200

Two Queens/One King Room

Rate: \$65 plus 14% Occupancy Tax  
Code: NCA

### Holiday Inn Express

2542 Ruby Vista Dr., Elko, NV 89801  
775-738-8787

Two Queens/One King Room

Rate: \$92 plus 14% Occupancy Tax  
Code: NCA

86<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL  
**CONVENTION**  
 & TRADE SHOW  
 Pre-Registration

		No. Tickets	\$ Amount
<b>Cattlemen's All-Inclusive Registration</b> *denotes inclusion, save \$25.00	<b>\$295</b>		
<b>Full Registration</b> Includes Meetings, Trade Show, Lunch in the Tradeshow, and all General Sessions. (All meals may be purchased separately below)	<b>\$125</b>		
<b>Non-NCA Member Full Registration</b> Includes Meetings, Trade Show, Lunch in the Tradeshow, and all General Sessions. (All meals may be purchased separately below)	<b>\$135</b>		
<b>Young Cattlemen Registration</b> Includes a Full Registration, NFR Watch Party, NV Beef Council's Beef Promotional Lunch, Inspirational Breakfast, and NCA's Annual Awards Banquet.	<b>\$200</b>		
<b>NV CattleWomen, Inc. Registration</b> Includes a Full Registration and NV CattleWomen, Inc. Breakfast.	<b>\$115</b>		
<b>Daily Meeting Registration</b> (Excludes access to meal functions) Please provide name of the Day:	<b>\$60</b>		

Meals: Friday, December 10		No. Tickets	\$ Amount
NV WoolGrowers Breakfast	(Sponsored)		
Nevada Cattlewomen, Inc. Breakfast	<b>\$40</b>		
*NV Beef Council: Beef Promotion Lunch	<b>\$50</b>		
*National Finals Rodeo Watch Party	<b>\$15</b>		

Meals: Saturday, December 11		No. Tickets	\$ Amount
*Inspirational Breakfast	<b>\$45</b>		
*NCA Annual Awards Banquet	<b>\$85</b>		

**PRE-REGISTRATION CLOSES AND MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 22, 2021.**  
**ON-SITE REGISTRATION COSTS WILL INCREASE. NO MEAL TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON-SITE.**

**TOTAL:**

Name(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: ☐ CHECK (Please make checks to Nevada Cattlemen's Association)



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Please submit completed registration form by any of the following ways: Email: [nca@nevadabeef.org](mailto:nca@nevadabeef.org)  
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 PO Box 310, Elko, NV 89803

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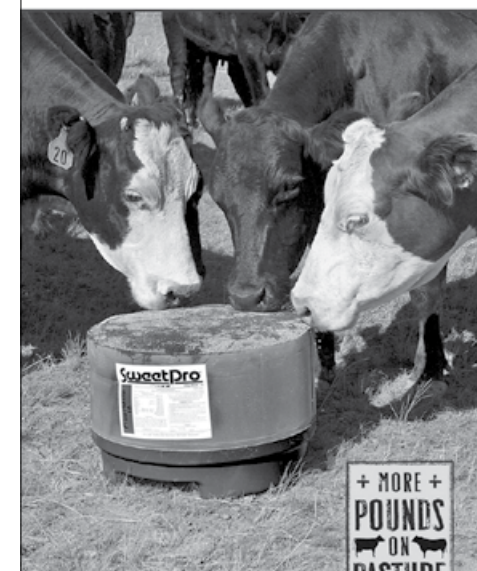
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# Will Farmers and Ranchers be Taxed Out of Agriculture?

*Katherine E. Merck, Budd-Falen Law Offices, LLC*

As the Biden administration's inevitable changes to the tax policy take shape, one thing remains constant: agriculture is under attack.

The House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over taxation, released draft legislation on September 13, 2021. As written, the proposed legislation would lower the amount that a person can transfer by gift or through an estate before incurring taxes, a change that will disproportionately impact agriculture.

Currently, a person may transfer a total of \$11.7 million by gift or through their estate essentially tax-free and any amount above that is taxed by the federal government. This amount was raised by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and is set to sunset in 2026, meaning that the exemption level would revert to \$5 million per person, adjusted for inflation to about \$6 million per person. The currently proposed legislation, however, would move the date of the reduction up to January 1, 2022. The tax on the portion of an inherited farm or ranch estate that is over the exemption level is 40% and must be paid within 9 months of death.

Although this amount is often discussed simply in terms of estate taxes, it also includes any gifts above the annual gift exemption. Currently, a person may annually gift \$15,000 each to an unlimited number of recipients without being taxed. Any amount above that uses up part of the lifetime exemption. For example, a gift of \$20,000 to a person in a single year will diminish the total lifetime gift and estate tax exemption by \$5,000.


While these numbers may seem high at first glance, especially for those familiar with the low liquidity of agriculture operations, they include the value of land and other non-liquid assets such as equipment. In other words, this amount includes the total value of a farm or ranch, not just the money in the bank. Generally, the most valuable asset of a farm or ranch is the land itself, which typically continues to appreciate over time. In many parts of the country, hot real estate markets are inflating the price of land to a point that a lowered exemption level is likely to trigger gift and estate taxes upon transfer through gift or inheritance.

Another major concern for agriculture under this administration is a change to step up in basis, and advocates for agriculture throughout the country collectively breathed a sigh of relief when the proposed legislation did not contain such a change. The proposed legislation is still subject to multiple rounds of debate and revision, so the threat of a change to step up in basis is by no means gone.

"Step up in basis" means that when property is passed at death, its value is adjusted to the current fair market value. When a property is sold, the owner is taxed on the difference between the current market value and their "basis" in the property, meaning the value of the property at the time they acquired it. This difference is referred to as a capital gain or loss, which is then federally taxed. A step up in basis reduces the capital gains realized by the inheriting generation because the calculation is based on the appreciation of the land during their ownership rather than since the original family purchase. Since land typically appreciates over time, an elimination of or tax on step up in basis would disproportionately impact generational transfers in agriculture.

Despite the proposed legislation not including this change, it is not completely off the table. The proposed legislation is not set in stone yet and such a change may easily be added back through the extensive revision process prior to congressional approval. Additionally, Biden's "American Families Plan" released on April 28, 2021, supports limitations on the existing step up in basis.

Although the current elimination of changes to step up in basis are a move in the right direction, changes negatively impacting the generational transfer of farms and ranches are inevitable under the current administration. Estate taxes can bankrupt an operation, so farmers and ranchers need to reassess their estate plans to protect their operations for future generations. Hopefully, our country will realize the disastrous implications of taxing agriculture out of business before it is too late. In the meantime, estate planning is one of the most powerful tools we can use to keep the industry alive for the next generation.



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# FALLON *All Breeds* BULL SALE

**Saturday, February 19, 2022**

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**Sifting and Grading: Friday, February 18 • 7:30 AM**

*Friday, February 18*

**Churchill Co. Cowbelles Dinner/Dance  
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**5:30 PM • Fallon Convention Center**

For more information or, to request a sale catalog,  
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# WV western video market

## UPCOMING SALES

**TUESDAY,  
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Silver Legacy  
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**Consignment Deadline:  
Thursday, November 11**

**THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 6, 2022**

WVM Headquarters  
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# Melany Aten to serve as new Program Manager of the Nevada Conservation Districts Program

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) is excited to announce that Melany Aten will serve as the new Program Manager for the Nevada Conservation Districts Program (NCDP). As NCDP's Program Manager, Aten will collaborate with Nevada's 28 conservation districts and the State Conservation Commission to help advance natural resource conservation and management across the State's diverse rural and urban landscapes.

Aten has worked in all areas of natural resource project management and planning for more than 15 years, and has been with the Nevada Conservation Districts Program since 2017. Aten has been serving as Interim Conservation Districts Program Manager since January 2021, and she is an active member of the Nevada section of the Society for Range Management and The Wildlife Society.

Previously, Aten was the Winnemucca and Western Region Conservation Specialist supporting Conservation District Boards in planning and implementing



Submitted

grant projects to help restore and enhance natural ecosystems in Nevada's rural communities. She also worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service as a research assistant focused on Nevada's critical rangeland issues including invasive species, native

seed projects, and Juniper expansion. Additionally, she served as a partner biologist and conservation planner with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service implementing conservation projects on over 75,000 acres, including developing wildlife enhancement strategies and innovative monitoring programs for ranchers and land managers.

"We are very fortunate to have Melany at the helm of the Nevada Conservation Districts Program," said Dominique Etchegoyhen, Deputy Director of NDCNR. "Her deep knowledge and collaborative leadership will be instrumental to addressing Nevada's critical environmental challenges in the years ahead. With the mounting impacts of climate change, Nevada's Conservation Districts play a vital role in creating healthy, resilient, sustainable ecosystems in every corner of the state. We look forward to working with Melany to foster environmental stewardship on the ground by bringing people together in locally-led conservation."

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# BLM Seeks Comments:

## Proposed Extension of Withdrawal of Public Land for Possible Future Transfer to the Department of the Navy

CARSON CITY, Nevada – The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comments on the proposal to extend the withdrawal of 694,838.84 acres of federal land in Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, Nye and Pershing Counties, Nevada, for an additional four years. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal extension is to maintain current environmental baseline conditions, which would allow the BLM and the Department of the Navy to evaluate management of the land and consider a future legislative transfer of the land to the Navy's jurisdiction.

The proposal would continue the current withdrawal of lands from all forms of appropriation, subject to valid existing rights, under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws, for four years for land management evaluation purposes and to maintain the current environmental baseline.

If approved, this proposal would extend for four

years the withdrawal of an additional 68,809.44 acres of public land in the Dixie Valley Training Area from the mineral leasing laws for land management evaluation purposes, subject to valid existing rights (see Federal Register Notice 2016- 21213 [81 FR 60736]).

Comments on the proposed withdrawal extension should be received on or before January 10, 2022. In addition, a virtual public meeting will be held December 9, 2021, 4:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada). The Zoom link for the Bureau of Land Management - Carson City Land Management Evaluation Withdrawal Extension - Virtual Public Meeting is as follows:

Register in advance for this webinar: [https://emp-si.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_D\\_Kw02L0TuSr-S6we67\\_LdQ](https://emp-si.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D_Kw02L0TuSr-S6we67_LdQ)

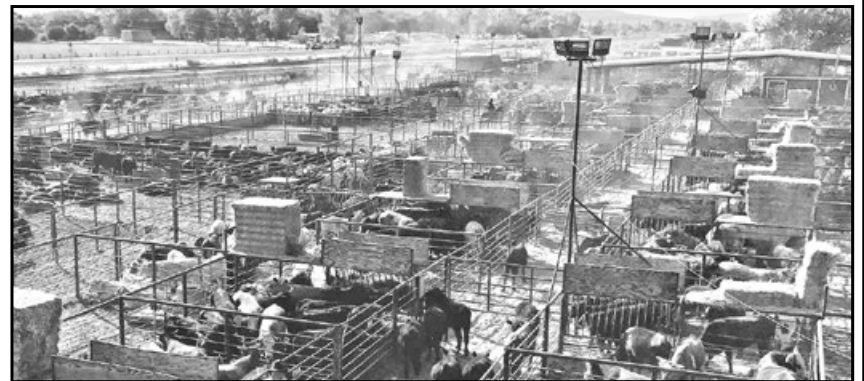
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar to help the public understand the proposed withdrawal and the associated decision-making process.

The BLM will accept comments on the proposed withdrawal extension through the following methods:

- E-mail: Email: [blm\\_nv\\_ccdowebmail@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_ccdowebmail@blm.gov) with the subject line "LME Withdrawal Extension"
- Fax: 775-885-6147
- Mail: BLM Carson City District, Attn: LME Extension, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701

The Federal Register Notice is available on the Federal Register web page at: <https://www.federal-register.gov/documents/2021/10/12/2021-22137/notice-of-proposed-extension-of-public-land-order-no-7873-and-public-meeting-nevada>

For further information, contact Colleen Dingman, Project Manager, at (775) 885-6168 or email at [cj-dingman@blm.gov](mailto:cj-dingman@blm.gov).



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## Kim Dow named as new BLM Sierra Front Field Manager



Submitted

Carson City, Nev. – Kim Dow has been named the new Field Manager for the Carson City District's Sierra Front Field Office.

Dow started her career with the BLM as a volunteer, later becoming an intern through the Student Career Experience Program. After graduating college, Dow began her permanent career as a wildlife biologist in BLM California's Folsom Field Office. In 2006, she joined BLM Nevada holding several positions at the Nevada State Office, including Management and Program Analyst, Natural Resource Specialist, Fisheries Program

Lead, Renewable Energy Coordinator, and most recently Branch Chief for Renewable Resources.

"I am eager to start the next chapter of my career with Sierra Front Field Office. This field office offers many opportunities for people to explore and enjoy their public lands," said Dow. "It is exciting to be part of this team."

Dow is a California native and a graduate of California State University Sacramento, with a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology. Dow's time away from work is spent with her family participating in Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and sports.

## Bureau of Land Management names new Stillwater Field Manager



Submitted

Carson City, Nev. – Jake Vialpando has been named the new Field Manager for the Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office.

Vialpando started his career as a Range Conservationist Cooperative student with the BLM Boise District. The majority of Vialpando's career was in the Owyhee Field Office where he worked as a Rangeland Management Specialist, Wild Horse & Burro Specialist, and a Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist. Vialpando has experience as a wildland firefighter and worked as the District Renewable Resource Coordinator with the BLM

High Desert District in Rock Springs, WY, before moving back to Boise where he was the Project Manager over Idaho's Grazing Permit Renewal Team (GPRT). In 2014, Vialpando moved to Reno where he served as the supervisor for the GPRT. Vialpando has been the Acting Stillwater Field Manager since January 2021.

"I am honored to be part of the hardworking Stillwater Field Office team," said Vialpando. "My goal is to draw upon my own successes and failures to support the team's success going forward."

Vialpando is a Wyoming native and a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Management/Ecology. Vialpando's time away from work is spent with family and bowhunting.

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# USDA Offers Online Tool for Drought-Stricken Ranchers to Estimate Compensation for Feed Transportation Costs

## Assistance also available for water hauling expenses

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13, 2021— An online tool is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought, which are now covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated the program this year to include feed transportation costs as well as lowered the threshold for when assistance for water hauling expenses is available. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin taking applications this fall.

"Drought has had a tremendous impact on producers, and we are thinking outside the box to help producers mitigate the effects of drought, which is a necessary first step to realizing the Secretary's vision of ensuring agricultural producers get a fair share of the food dollar," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "From climate change to COVID-19, we are continuously working to make our programs as flexible as possible and so they effectively help producers face today's challenges."

The new ELAP Feed Transportation Producer Tool is a Microsoft Excel workbook that enables ranchers to input information specific to their operation to determine an estimated payment. Final payments may vary depending on eligibility.

To use the tool, ranchers will need:

- Number of truckloads for this year.
- Mileage per truckload this year.
- Share of feed cost this year (if splitting loads).
- Number of truckloads you normally haul.
- Normal mileage per truckload.
- Share of normal feed cost

The tool requires Microsoft Excel, and a tutorial video is available at [fsa.usda.gov/elap](https://fsa.usda.gov/elap).

### Updates to ELAP

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. ELAP now covers feed transportation costs where grazing and hay resources have been depleted. This includes places where:

Drought intensity is D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor; or

Drought intensity is D3 or greater.

The tool calculates the estimated payment for feed transportation assistance, but it is not an application. Once FSA begins accepting applications later this fall for feed transportation assistance, ranchers should contact their FSA county office to apply. To simplify the application process, ranchers can print or email payment estimates generated by this tool for submission to FSA. The deadline to apply for ELAP, including feed transportation costs, for 2021 is Jan. 31, 2022.

ELAP already covers above normal costs for hauling water to livestock in areas where drought intensity is D3 or greater on the drought monitor. FSA is also updating ELAP to also cover water hauling in areas experiencing D2 for eight consecutive weeks, lowering the threshold for this assistance to be available. Program benefits are retroactive for 2021.

### Payment Calculations

USDA will reimburse eligible ranchers 60% of feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

USDA uses a national cost formula to determine reimbursement costs that will not include the first 25 miles and distances exceeding 1,000 transportation miles. The calculation will also exclude the normal cost to transport hay or feed if the producer normally purchases some feed. For 2021, the initial cost formula of \$6.60 per mile will be used (before the percentage is applied).

### Eligibility

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. Although producers will self-certify losses and expenses to FSA, producers are encouraged to maintain good records and retain receipts and related documentation in the event these documents are requested for review by the local FSA County Committee.

### More Drought Recovery Information

USDA has taken additional steps to assist drought-impacted producers, including:

- Extending deadlines for crop insurance premium and administrative fees, and deferring interest accrual.
- Streamlining and accelerating losses and issuance of indemnity payments for crop insurance.
- Investing \$41.8 million through a four-state pilot of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contracts focused on drought practices.
- Investing \$15 million through a block grant to the Klamath Drought Response Agency to provide payments to producers to reduce irrigation demand.

USDA offers a comprehensive portfolio of disaster assistance programs. On [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov), the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine all program or loan options available for disaster recovery assistance. For details, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In 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 [www.usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

# NCBA Welcomes Cattle Contract Library Bill Amid Ongoing Push for Transparency

WASHINGTON (October 20, 2021) — Today, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed the introduction of the Cattle Contract Library Act, led by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX).

The bipartisan bill would establish a cattle contract library within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS), equipping cattle producers with the market data they need to make informed business decisions and exert greater leverage in negotiations with major meatpackers.

The cattle contract library is widely supported by industry groups and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and the introduction of this legislation comes after more than a year of NCBA pushing for the creation of the library.

"After more than a year of upheaval, facing everything from extreme drought to supply chain disruptions, many cattle producers have been backed against a wall. We need to act urgently to provide them with relief," said NCBA President Jerry Bohn. "There is no single, silver bullet solution to the wide variety of needs among our diverse membership, but lawmakers can start by focusing on viable solutions that have broad-base support across the industry. The cattle contract library is

one such solution, and it will help our producers command more leverage in negotiations with the packers. We appreciate the work of Congressman Johnson and Congressman Cuellar to move the ball forward on this urgent issue."

Earlier this month, NCBA Vice President and South Dakota rancher Todd Wilkinson testified before the House Agriculture Committee and underscored the need for greater transparency in cattle markets. One of the solutions he advocated for was the creation of the cattle contract library, as well as full reauthorization of Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR).

## Background

NCBA has long advocated for increased transparency in the cattle and beef supply chain.

In August 2021, NCBA succeeded in pushing USDA to make more market data publicly available. The agency began publishing a new daily report on the foundational prices used in cattle market formulas, grids, and contracts, and a new weekly report on the volume of cattle purchased at each different level of pricing.

In June 2021, NCBA led a letter with the support of more than 36 state affiliate groups urging Congress to act on the reauthorization of LMR. LMR is the legislative mandate that requires large meat processors to regularly report information on their transactions, such as the price they pay for livestock and the volume of purchases.

In May 2021, NCBA met with American Farm Bureau Federation, Livestock Marketing Association, National Farmers Union, R-CALF and U.S. Cattlemen's Association to discuss urgent concerns and the need for a cattle contract library was one of three priorities agreed upon by these disparate groups.

The introduction of the Cattle Contract Library Act follows months of NCBA engagement to ensure Members of Congress understand the most urgent needs facing cattle producers, the complex cattle market conditions influencing these outcomes, and the risks of adopting one-size-fits-all policy solutions that may hurt producers' bottom line.

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