



SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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2023 Year in Review

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

Happy December Nevada cattlemen and women. It's hard to understand where the time goes, but it sure goes fast. Much like other years, 2023 has been filled with ups and downs along the way. We kicked off the year with a winter that many have not seen, or at least has not occurred for several decades. Between trying to keep calves alive through the wet and blistering cold or figuring out how to get vehicles and equipment through washed out roads, it surely was a winter for the books. We also saw a pretty strong cattle market

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88th Annual NCA Convention Wrap Up

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

On November 16th-18th, 2023, NCA members and affiliates joined together from across the state to participate in the 88th Annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) Convention held in Winnemucca, Nevada. The joint convention brought together Cattlemen, Cattlewomen, and Wool Growers from across Nevada.

Attendees had the chance to hear from Sigrid Johannes, Executive Director of the Public Lands Council and Ethan Lane, Vice-President of Government Affairs at NCBA on the whirlwind that is Washington D.C. politics. Attendees also had a chance to hear from Nevada Department of Agriculture Director, J.J. Goicoechea, on the outlook of the Department and efforts taken through one of the most severe winter weather events our state has seen in quite some time. The convention capped off with an update from Patrick Linnell with CattleFax on the current beef market and what to expect moving forward.

The trade show was filled this year with great businesses and agencies that support and enhance our industry. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would like to thank the following trade show participants: American AgCredit, Bison Pipe & Supply LLC, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Boss Tanks, Inc., Crystalyx, Elanco, Envu Range & Pasture, Gallagher North America, IFA Country Store, Jasperson Cattle Co., Jorgensen

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Year in Review: *Continued from page 1* —

throughout the year which helped offset the lingering inflation that we are still experiencing in several different areas.

We survived the 82nd Session of Nevada's Legislature. This year's session was no different than those in the past with policy decisions and negotiations happening at breakneck speeds. I'm happy to report that the livestock industry came out the other side unscathed, but it's clear that some difficult decisions on how Nevada manages its water are on the horizon. Several other environmental proposals will likely be on the docket for the 2025 session as well. I'd like to thank our lobbyist, Neena Laxalt, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Davy Stix, and NCA's Board of Directors and Officers for their work during this year's session. It truly is an all hands-on-deck operation and we are lucky to have a group that can load up the truck and head to Carson City when needed.

NCA was also engaged on several different issues throughout the year with our federal and state partners. Whether it be animal disease traceability, lands bills, species management, grazing regulations, emergency assistance, or the many other topics that arose; NCA had a seat at the table.

We also had representation in New Orleans, Louisiana for the NCBA Cattle Industry Convention and the Public Lands Council Annual Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon held earlier this fall. Both of which provided an opportunity for livestock producers to come together to learn new things and create paths forward regarding many of the issues the industry is facing today. NCA also had a great trip to Washington D.C. in the spring to touch base with Nevada's federal delegation on several different topics.

As we look ahead to 2024, there is no lack of work to be done. Several poten-

tially dangerous regulatory proposals are peeking their heads from behind the bushes including BLM's proposed grazing regulation changes, the now infamous conservation and landscape health rule, and new sage grouse land use management plans. There will certainly continue to be attacks on beef from extreme environmental groups and those that would rather eat fake meat that is as highly processed as dog food.

NCA looks forward to continuing building on and carrying the message that livestock grazing is beneficial, water is vital to agriculture, and beef production in the U.S. is the most sustainable in the world.

One last thank you goes to outgoing NCA President, Jon Griggs. All of the travel, meetings, phone calls, and decision making required in the Association's day-to-day work can be daunting. It takes special people willing to dedicate their time and resources for the betterment of our industry, all while trying to run your own operation. Jon is no doubt one of those special people and made sure to leave no stone unturned. We appreciate Jon's leadership and for all of his efforts on behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

Now more than ever it's important that we protect, promote, and preserve our heritage and the ranching way of life. We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, and associates to join the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and learn more about our association and what we do. Please feel free to contact the NCA office for more information at 1-775-738-9214 or visit our web page at www.nevadacattlemen.org.

I hope everyone takes some time to enjoy family and friends this holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Hanes Homan, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Greetings from your new NCA President! First off let me convey my appreciation to the membership for bestowing this honor upon me. The responsibility of

overseeing the business of NCA is not something that I or the team at NCA take lightly.

en countless hours and devotion to NCA for the betterment of our industry and it is time for the younger generation to carry on.

Agency and political relationships have always been an important part of what NCA does. I feel that this is more true now than it has ever been and is going to be one of our biggest challenges for the unforeseeable future. Most voters and agency employees are becoming two or three generations removed from agriculture. Radical environmental groups and climate change theorist have the ear of the general public painting the livestock industry as the enemy. That image couldn't be further

Going to meetings, talking about budgets, and engaging with agency folks is not "fun and exciting" work, but it is necessary work to keep us in the ranch business.

from the truth, but it doesn't mean that the public doesn't believe them. The truth is that Ranchers are the original conservationists. We understand an industry of renewable resources and how to manage them for future generations. Year after year we magically harvest a totally renewable resource (grass) and turn it in to a juicy, tasty, protein source (beef) with minimal inputs, all the while restoring carbon. I don't think that the issues we as an industry face have changed over the last 30 years, but the people that we engage with on these issues have. They are less and less connected to agriculture production and that is why these relationships become more and more important. I find it hard to comprehend the vision of folks sitting down to a steak dinner after a long day of trying to regulate us out of business and not putting together the impacts of their efforts. Radical environmental groups can be anti-grazing because they get their meat at a grocery store not from a ranch. Hmmm OK choir, I'll stop preaching for now. Now that I am done laying all that out, I promise for my next article to be lighter!

*Cheers,
Hanes Holman*

The agreement with our Executive Director (Martin) is that his articles are more on the business side—intelligent, informative and keep membership up to date on what is happening in our industry. Mine hopefully will be more of my outlook of the world—humorous, cheeky, and a quick read. With that being said, I feel it is necessary to be a little more serious and lay out a couple of agenda items that are important to me to try to tackle during my two years.

Since my involvement with NCA, at almost every meeting there is some level of talk about recruiting and retaining new membership. At the end of the day the most important job that we have is enticing the next generation to want to be involved in our industry. Without membership there is no NCA. Going to meetings, talking about budgets, and engaging with agency folks is not "fun and exciting" work, but it is necessary work to keep us in the ranch business. It's no wonder that the younger generation is hesitant to become involved but the fact of it is if they don't, the outlook of longevity for our industry is gloomy. As we see some of the older "Great Leaders" of our industry pass on or become less involved we lose invaluable institutional knowledge that we can never get back. Some folks like to stand on the sidelines and be critical of NCA without knowing that much about the workings of the organization or becoming involved. John, Nelo, Harvey, Dean, and many other great people have giv-

en countless hours and devotion to NCA for the betterment of our industry and it is time for the younger generation to carry on.

21st Annual Silver State Classic Feeder Sale

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

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Convention

— **January 31 – February 2, 2024** —
Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center
South Concourse
9899 International Dr.

Great Basin Bull Sale

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

NCBA Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting

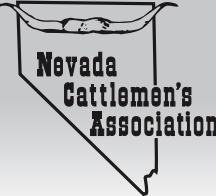
— **July 8–10, 2024** —
San Diego, California
Hilton San Diego Bayfront

NCA MEMBERSHIP

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between October 26 and November 24, 2023.

(New members are in bold.)

- Dufurrena Bros. Cattle
- Elanco, Kyle Loveland
- Kirby Mfg. Inc., Steven Freitas
- Neil McQueary
- **Paul Meiman**
- **Merck Animal Health, Shane Kerner**
- Seal Ranch LLC, Tyler, Mindy, Charly & Desi Seal
- **Spearhead Cattle Co., Lacey Tom**
- **Superior Livestock Auction, Angela Vesco**
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Susan Abele
- **USDA – NRCS, Chris Rose**



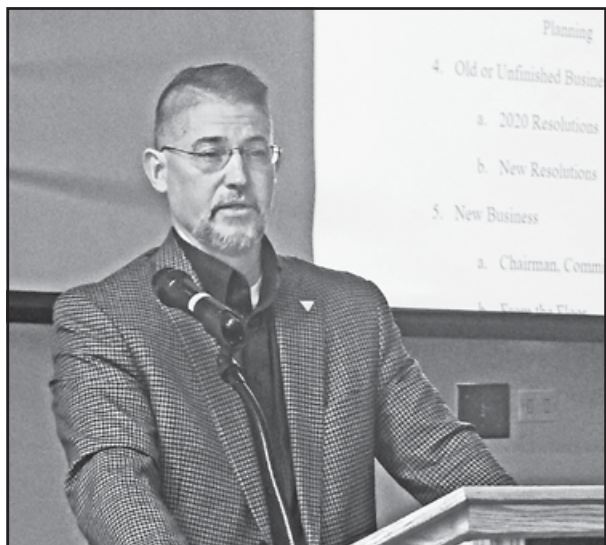
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Hanes Holman, President | Dave Baker, Pres.-Elect
Marlow Dahl, 1st Vice Pres. | Wade Small, 2nd Vice Pres.

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Nevada BLM Director, Jon Raby, provides an update during NCA's Public Lands Committee meeting. (Leana Carey photo)



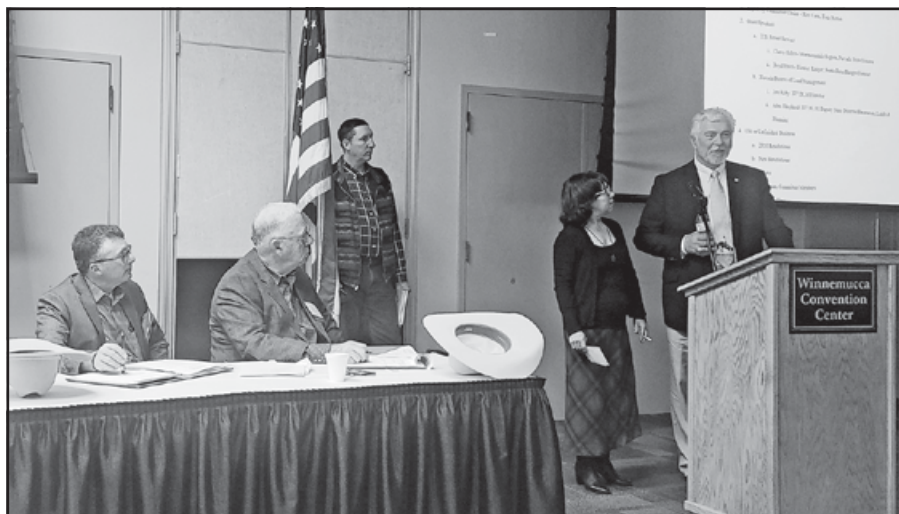
Nevada Department of Wildlife Director, Alan Jenne, gives a presentation on NDOW's recent projects. (Leana Carey photo)

Convention Wrap Up: *Continued from page 1*

Land & Cattle, Key-Lix, Kirby Manufacturing Inc., Knipe Land Company, Laird Mfg., Merck Animal Health, Multimin USA/Axiota, Neogen, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Pro Group Management, S & L Trailers, Scales Unlimited, Inc., Simplot Western Stockmen's, Snyder's Pinenut Livestock Supply, Sweet Pro/Numzaan, Superior Livestock Auction, USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, University of Nevada, Reno: College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno: Agriculture, Veterinary, &

Range Science, WSR Insurance. Thank you again for your continued support of the association and industry.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association would also like to thank our generous sponsors for making this convention a success: Agri Beef/PerforMix, American AgCredit, Elanco, Envu Range & Pasture, Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Laird Manufacturing, Eide Bailly, MWI Animal Health, Nevada Agricultural Foundation, Nevada Gold Mines, Western Video Market, Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority, WSR Insurance, Range Magazine, Resource Concepts, Inc, S & L Trailers, Snyder's Pinenut Livestock Supply, Utah Wool Marketing, and Zoetis. We encourage you to visit



U.S. Forest Service personnel provide an update on stock water maintenance policy. (Leana Carey photo)



Public Lands Council Associate Director, Sigrid Johannes, talks endangered species, wild horses, and agency rulemakings during the General Session. (Martin Paris photo)

88th JOINT ANNUAL
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& TRADE SHOW
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NCA Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Davy Stix (left), presents Senator Pete Goicoechea (right) with a jacket in recognition of his decades of service to livestock producers. (Leana Carey photo)



NV Beef Council Staff, Annette Kassis and Christie Van Egmond present on media and consumer engagement during the Nevada Beef Council lunch. (Martin Paris photo)

these businesses and thank them for their continued support of NCA and our industry.

Lastly, we thank the NCA policy committee chairs for their dedication and hard work in putting on the committee meetings. Five committees held meetings at this year's convention: Public Lands, Research & Education, Private Lands, Wildlife & Environmental Management, Legislative Affairs, and Animal Health & Livestock Issues. Along with reviewing and changing policy, the committees hosted a lineup of speakers presenting on the latest topics.

NCA's officer lineup was also voted on during the General Membership meeting and consists of the following: President – Hanes Holman; President Elect-Dave – Baker; 1st Vice President – Marlow Dahl; and 2nd Vice President – Wade Small. NCA's officers serve two years in their current capacities before moving up the ladder.

We look forward to working with each and every one of you throughout the year. Please feel free to contact the NCA office at 775-738-9214 with any suggestions, comments or concerns to help make next year's convention just as successful if not better!



Nevada Department of Agriculture Director, J.J. Goicoechea, discusses recent changes at the Department and actions taken during last year's unprecedented winter. (Martin Paris photo)



NCBA Vice-President of Government Affairs, Ethan Lane, speaks to attendees about the political climate in Washington D.C. (Martin Paris photo)



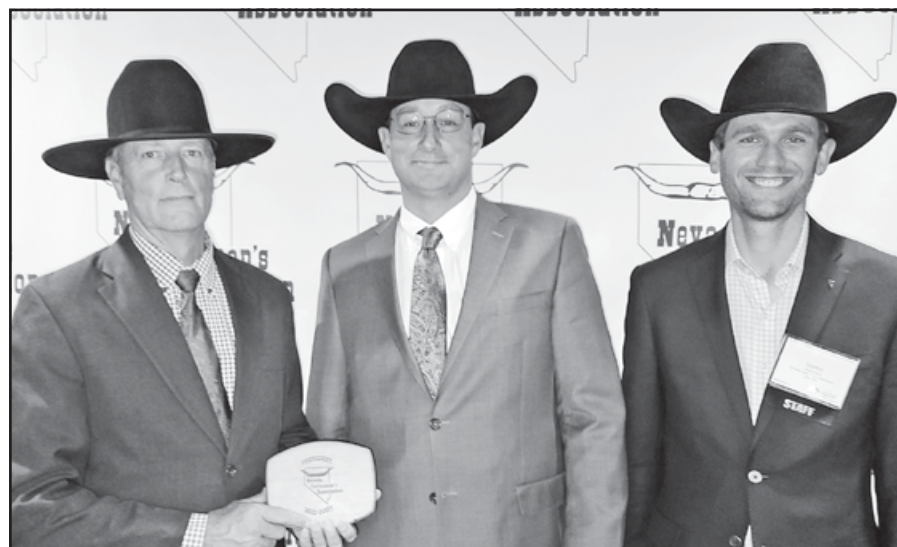
2023 NCA Annual Awards Banquet

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

During the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) Convention Annual Awards Banquet held in Winnemucca, Nevada, President Jon Griggs announced this year's recipients for the 2023 President's Award, 100,000 Mile Club Award, Allied Industry Award, Teacher of the Year Award, Hall of Honor, Cattleman of the Year. These awards are given annually to individuals in recognition of significant contributions to NCA, their community, the land, and the beef industry.

NCA would like to congratulate the 2023 Teachers of the Year, Jean Donley and Erin Macaluso. Jean and Erin teach 4th grade at Roy Gomm Elementary in Reno, NV. Teacher of the Year candidates must utilize agricultural information and/or materials within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. NCA salutes Jean and Erin in educating the students in their classroom on where their food comes from and their efforts to expand and develop outdoor agriculture instruction for each grade level at the elementary school. NCA would also like to thank the Nevada Agricultural Foundation for their continued partnership in recognizing outstanding teachers throughout Nevada.

Each year, the President honors an individual who they feel have served the industry with dedication and passion by presenting them with the President's Award. The 2023 President's Award was given to Laura Van Riper. Laura, a social scientist at the Bureau of Land Management, has provided an integral service to ranchers over the past several years by improving



Incoming NCA President Hanes Holman presents outgoing President Jon Griggs with a buckle for his service. Left to Right- Jon Griggs, Hanes Holman, and NCA Executive Director Martin Paris. (Leana Carey photo)

communication between agencies and producers.

The 100,000 Mile Club Award went to two recipients this year. Started in 1980, the award has been given out to dozens of cowboys and cowgirls that



100,000 Mile Club Award awarded to Chris Bengoa. Left to Right: NCA President Jon Griggs, Chris Bengoa, and Mike Harry. (Leana Carey photo)



100,000 Mile Club Award awarded to Allie Bear. Left to Right: NCA President Jon Griggs, Allie Bear, Dea Mitton. (Leana Carey photo)

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have traveled 100,000 miles horseback over their lifetime. This year NCA would like to congratulate Chris Bengoa of McDermitt, NV and Allie Bear of Elko, NV. Both Chris and Allie have spent much of their life on the back of horse and NCA congratulates them on 100,000 miles well spent!

The 2023 NCA Allied Industry Award was presented to Snyder Livestock Company, Inc. a family-owned corporation in the Mason Valley area. The Snyder family has been ranching in the Mason Valley areas since the mid 1800's. Accepting the award on behalf of Snyder Livestock Company was Lucy Rechel. The Snyder family and Snyder Livestock Company go above and beyond in their efforts to assist cattlemen and women and the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

The NCA Hall of Honor became one member larger as State Senator Pete Goicoechea was inducted at this year's Awards Banquet. Hall of Honor inductees have made extraordinary contributions to Nevada's livestock industry within their lifetime. Pete has served on numerous boards and committees important to Nevada agriculture and as an ally to Nevada's livestock producers in the Nevada State Legislature for 20

years as both an assemblyman and senator. The halls of the Nevada Legislative Building won't be the same without Pete guiding legislators on the ins and outs of water and beef production in Nevada. NCA wishes Pete the best as he closes the chapter of public service at Nevada's State Legislature.

Tom Barnes was recognized as this year's recipient of the NCA Cattleman of the Year. This award is the most prestigious award that NCA bestows upon one of its own. Tom has devoted countless hours serving the livestock producers in Nevada and the NCA is proud to recognize him as the Cattleman of the Year. A special thank you goes to American AgCredit for sponsoring a new cowboy hat for the Cattleman of the Year recipient.

Outgoing President Jon Griggs capped off the evening by giving closing remarks and reflecting on his time as President. The leadership gavel was passed into the hands of President-Elect, Hanes Holman. Hanes presented Jon with a buckle to thank him for all of his efforts in serving Nevada's livestock producers during his tenure as NCA President and throughout the years.



President's Award: NCA President Jon Griggs with Laura Van Riper (Katlyn Mendive photo)



Allied Industry Award: Snyder Livestock Company LLC. Left to Right: NCA President Jon Griggs with Lucy Rechel of Snyder Livestock. (Leana Carey photo)



Hall of Honor inductee Pete Goicoechea (Accepted by J.J. Goicoechea). Left to Right: NCA President Jon Griggs, J.J. Goicoechea, Mia Goicoechea, Jules Goicoechea, and Sally Goicoechea. (Leana Carey photo)



Cattleman of the Year awarded to Tom Barnes. Left to right: NCA President Jon Griggs and Tom Barnes. (Leana Carey photo)



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▶ **Thursday, January 25**

Consignment Deadline: January 17, 2024
Tehama District Fairgrounds – Red Bluff, CA

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New Assistant Professor to Help Expand the University's Pre-Veterinary Program

Hannah Rodriguez joins the University's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences



Assistant Professor Hannah Rodriguez joins the University's Veterinary Science Program as new assistant professor. (Submitted Photo)

RENO, Nev. — The University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources recently welcomed Dr. Hannah Rodriguez as assistant professor to its Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences.

Rodriguez, a graduate of the University's Animal Science Program, was selected because of her vast experience, which the College hopes to leverage to help grow the Pre-Veterinary Program. She has been a licensed veterinarian of her own practice for over five years and practices on both large and small animals. Students will benefit from not only her academic knowledge, but also the practical aspects of her experience.

"My goals are to try to connect with my students and work on myself as an

instructor because this is totally new water for me," Rodriguez said. "The veterinary profession is really hurting right now, and we are short on veterinarians across the U.S. So, I hope to stimulate a passion for the profession."

Rodriguez grew up raising pigs, sheep and dairy cattle for her local 4-H and FFA chapters. She loved being able to work with many species and learning about the agriculture industry and what's involved in taking a product from farm to plate. This grew into a passion for helping to keep animals healthy from birth until they are ready for slaughter, ensuring a high-quality product for the public that provides wholesome nutrition.

"We are so excited to have someone with Dr. Rodriguez's knowledge and expertise join us," Claus Tittiger, the College's associate dean of academic affairs, said. "Her position is key to maintaining and growing our B.S. Veterinary Science Program, and she is stepping into her new role admirably."

The Veterinary Science Program is one of the largest in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources in terms of student enrollment. The College is working to involve the program in the University's dual enrollment program in high schools. In addition, it is adding a new education building with a modern flexible classroom and teaching lab that can accommodate large animals in student training to the Experiment Station's Main Station Farm located just east of Reno. This will provide more opportunities for program growth, student success and impact.

The Veterinary Science Program is designed as a pre-professional program to prepare graduates for careers in veterinary medicine. Graduates from the program have all the prerequisites required to enter doctor of veterinary medicine programs in most U.S. schools, and abroad. Some graduates do not aim to be veterinarians, and so use their degrees to find employment in other animal health fields, including as veterinary technologists.

Nevada does not have its own veterinary school, but the state has a strong demand for veterinarians, especially to care for large domestic animals in rural areas, which are relatively underserved. This program is an important pipeline to help fill that workforce.

Jon Stansfield named Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor



Jon Stansfield (Submitted Photo)

Ogden, UTAH, October 29, 2023 - Intermountain Regional Forester Mary Farnsworth selected Jon Stansfield as Forest Supervisor for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Stansfield will replace William Dunkelberger, who will retire late December 2023.

"We are excited Jon accepted the position to lead the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest," said Farnsworth. "His extensive experience in fire, fuels reduction, and the multiple uses of national forest system land will help the forest continue to succeed in achieving the Forest Service mission."

Stansfield started his U.S. Forest Service career in 1999 in timber management on the San Juan National Forest in Colorado. While in Colorado, he transitioned to Fire and Aviation Management as an assistant engine foreman and hazardous fuels crew leader.

In 2003, Stansfield accepted a position as a fuels technician on the Modoc National Forest in California. In 2009, he was promoted to forest fuels program manager then moved shortly after in the same role for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. He became district ranger on the Pleasant Grove Ranger District in 2012. Stansfield served as district ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest's Poplar Bluff Ranger District beginning in 2016. He was selected as the deputy forest supervisor for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in December 2020.

Stansfield has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Colorado State University. He lives in Spanish Springs, Nevada, with his wife Candice, a nurse practitioner for the Veterans Health Administration, and their dogs, Hazel and Belle.

"It's the highest honor of my career to represent the world-class employees of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest as Forest Supervisor and share the stewardship of Nevada and California's National Forest System lands with our State, County, Local, and Interagency Partners," Stansfield said.

Wolf Pack Meats' New Line of Jerky and Local Lamb Now Available for Holidays

University's Experiment Station ramping up local offerings

RENO, Nev. – Just in time for the holidays, Wolf Pack Meats has a new line of locally produced beef jerky and fresh cuts of lamb. The meat processing, teaching and research facility in east Reno, off McCarran Boulevard near Mill Street, is part of the University of Nevada, Reno's Experiment Station, and is open to the public for retail sales Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The new line of jerky and expanded offering of lamb products is part of Wolf Pack Meats' efforts to enhance its offerings of local meats and products to the community, which support the growth of its production capacity, along with its teaching and research missions.

Local lamb

The lamb cuts are from sheep raised by the University here in Nevada, in Eureka and Reno. In fact, the sheep are Rafter 7 Merinos, a breed that the University developed more than 30 years ago, now prized internationally for its wool and meat.

Local celebrity Master Chef and restaurateur Mark Estee has jumped on board to snatch up some of the meat for his restaurants. Estee is owner of the Reno Local Food Group, which includes Liberty Food & Wine Exchange, Great Basin Brewing Co. and other northern Nevada restaurants.

"The Local Food Group has always been committed to supporting local farmers and ranchers, and in this case, we get to also support the University of Nevada, Reno," Estee said. "Wolf Pack Meats is a key piece to a robust and successful food community here in the region, and we are happy to be partnering with them to buy these local lambs."

Tom Kulas, operations manager for Wolf Pack Meats, said that in addition to selling the lamb meat by the cut – lamb chops, rack of lamb, ground lamb, leg of lamb, etc. – the lamb will also be sold as a whole lamb, by the pound.

"The price for a whole lamb is \$6 per pound, based on carcass weight, and carcasses are around 45 to 60 pounds," Kulas said. "The price includes cut and wrap, so there are no other fees or charges. A lot more people are focusing on trying to buy locally produced food and meat, and this just provides them with a more affordable option if they



The University's Wolf Pack Meats has fresh, locally produced rack of lamb in stock, just in time for the holidays.

have the room to store it."

New line of beef jerky, and beef products

Kulas said the beef for the jerky was raised here in Reno, at the Experiment Station's Main Station Field Lab, home of Wolf Pack Meats.

"It's the first time we've offered jerky, and we're really happy with it," Kulas said. "It makes a great stocking stuffer or gift for foodies."

Kulas said Wolf Pack Meats partnered with a local business to make the jerky, which comes in five flavors – teriyaki, sweet & spicy, garlic, smokey BBQ, and black pepper & sea salt.

Kulas said Wolf Pack Meats is also fully stocked with a variety of beef cuts produced from cattle raised by the University, including filet mignon, New York steak, ground beef, short ribs, beef liver, beef tongue and other items.

What happens at Wolf Pack Meats

Wolf Pack Meats, which opened in 1967, harvests, processes and produces fresh meat from cattle, pigs, lamb and goats. This includes cattle and sheep raised by the University as part of part of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources' educational and research programs, and for production. Kulas said the facility provides students with the chance to not only see the commercial process

in action, but also receive hands-on training and experience with a real commercial business in a critical industry. Students get experience in meat production, packaging and distribution.

The facility also works closely with local farmers, ranchers and small producers to process and package livestock, supplying the state with locally produced meat and keeping a way of life alive for many local ranchers. The facility is one of a few U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved processing facilities in the state. Employees, as well as others in the community who sign up for workshops, are trained in ways to humanely process meat and guard against contamination.

Wolf Pack Meats is located at 5895 Clean Water Way. For more information on Wolf Pack Meats, call 775-857-3663 or visit its website.



The University's Wolf Pack Meats now has locally produced beef jerky for sale.

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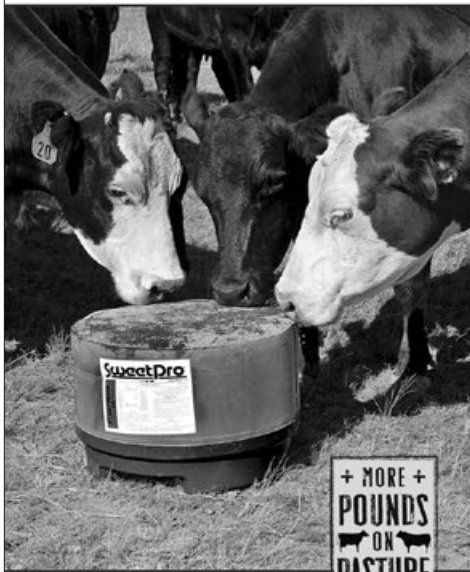
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NRCS Nevada Accepting Applications for FY24 Agricultural Easement Conservation Program

Applications are due by 5 p.m., Jan. 5, 2024

RENO, Nev. – The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which helps landowners, tribes, and partners enroll wetlands, grasslands and farmlands into conservation easements. Applications are also being accepted from eligible entities (agencies of state or local governments, tribes, or non-profit or nongovernmental organizations) who work with landowners to submit applications for the program.

ACEP protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses, protecting grazing use and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land.

Eligible partners include American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-government organizations that have farmland, rangeland or grassland protection programs. Eligible landowners include owners of private land, including land held by tribes and tribal members.

While NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, Nevada producers and landowners should apply by January 5, 2024, to be considered for FY24 funding. Applications received after the sign-up date will be considered for funding in FY25. Funding is provided through a competitive process.

ACEP enrollment options include:

- ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE): Helps restore, protect and enhance wetlands on eligible land. Wetland reserve easements are either perpetual, 30-years, or maximum duration under state law, or 30-year contracts (for Indian Tribes).
- ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements (ALE): Protects farmlands and grasslands by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land. Agricultural Land Easements are either perpetual or the maximum duration allowed under State law.

NRCS is also making efforts to improve the program this year by streamlining appraisals, land surveys, and certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land

into easements.

Key program changes include:

- Appraisals for ALE: The threshold for national review of ALE appraisals is now \$3 million, raised from \$1 million. NRCS raised the threshold to align program requirements with increased land values, enabling the agency to better target staff resources and speed up implementation. Appraisals help ensure cost-effective and appropriate use of federal funds that are contributed to a conservation partner for their purchase of the ALE from the farmer or rancher.

Eligible landowners include
owners of private land,
including land held by tribes
and tribal members.

- Land Surveys for WRE: NRCS plans to encourage procurement of land surveys earlier in the acquisition timeline, such as when an application has been tentatively selected for a WRE. These surveys help with locating land boundaries, which is needed to purchase

and manage the easement. NRCS is also increasing its use of partnerships to assist with acquiring the land surveys and has simplified the review process for producer-acquired land surveys. This will speed up the time it takes producers and landowners to enroll.

- Certification of Entities for ALE: For ALE, NRCS works with eligible entities, such as American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations, to conserve prime farmland and at-risk grasslands. NRCS is working to expand the number of entities by launching a certification initiative to proactively notify potentially eligible entities that they qualify for administrative flexibilities. Certified entities have greater independence and less oversight in their purchase of easements funded under ALE. Information for entities on how to get certified is available on the ALE webpage.

More information about ACEP, ALE and WRE can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2xctkwj>

For more information contact Erik Bray, acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs at erik.bray@usda.gov or 775-834-0878 or Trina Johnson at trina.johnson@usda.gov or 775-834-0870.

BLM Releases New Funding Opportunity For Wild Horse and Burro Research

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bureau of Land Management is accepting proposals from public and private organizations to fund new research in support of its efforts to manage and protect wild horses and burros while ensuring the health of the public lands they roam. The BLM anticipates awarding up to \$2 million in total funding, subject to Congressional direction and appropriations.

Proposed research should support the goals of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Strategic Research Plan. Topics identified as priorities for funding include:

- Developing new or improving existing fertility control methods for wild horses;
- Examining the relationships between wild horses or burros and their environment (with special attention paid to climate change); and
- Further improving a variety of wild horse and burro program activities, including aerial surveys, genetic monitoring, animal handling, adoption rates and/or BLM's understanding of indigenous knowledge or the human dimensions of wild horse and burro management.

The current population of wild horses and burros roaming public lands was an estimated 82,883 animals as of March, 2023. While this number is only slightly more than the 2022 estimate of 82,384, it remains more than three times the number of animals that is in balance with available resources.

With few natural predators capable of controlling herd growth, the health and welfare of wild horses and burros and their habitat depend upon effective management actions that control herd size, protect animal and habitat health, and prevent overpopulation. Overabundant populations of wild horses and burros can cause substantial damage to rangeland forage plants and soils; outcompete native wildlife species for scarce water; spread invasive plant species such as cheatgrass; reduce sage-grouse populations; limit post-fire ecosystem recovery; and affect authorized grazing. To the extent that excessive herds of wild horses and burros may consume high volumes of vegetation, cause erosion, foster ecological type conversion to annual grasslands, and hamper rangeland restoration projects, they can also contribute to net carbon release to the atmosphere. Finally, overabundant herds are at risk of starvation and drought impacts.

Thanks to support from Congress, the BLM has removed nearly 70,000 animals and treated nearly 5,600 with fertility control since 2018 as part of its strategy to reduce the threat to these animals caused by overpopulation, overgrazing and severe drought. During the same time period, the BLM also significantly increased

the number of animals placed into private care, finding homes for more than 42,000 animals in support of its efforts to reduce overpopulation on the range.

The goal of the BLM's research program is to improve humane fertility control methods and better understand how to manage wild horse and burro populations sustainably to ensure that the public lands in the agency's care are healthy and capable of supporting native wildlife and plants, as well as the BLM's multiple use mission. Learn more about the BLM's science and research efforts in support of wild horses and burros.

The funding opportunity announced today supports the BLM's efforts to apply the best available science in its management and protection of wild horses and burros on public lands. Additional details on BLM's priorities for funding, as well as instructions for submitting a proposal, can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. A similar Request for Proposals is also open for research proposals from federal agencies. The deadline for both solicitations is Feb. 1, 2024.

The BLM also recently released an associated funding opportunity to support adoptions and other off-range operations, which closes on Jan.15, 2024. The BLM anticipates releasing an additional funding opportunity related to on-range projects (including on-range fertility control application) in December 2023. Additional guidance on applying for funding is available on the BLM's website.

Follow the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program on Facebook and Twitter



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The Cow That Stole Christmas

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO

Remember where you were on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003? The fact that I remember it was a Tuesday shows just how that day changed our lives and our industry. This month marks the 20th anniversary of the discovery of BSE in a Canadian-born dairy cow found in Washington state. Anniversaries like this need to be recognized to remind us of what we went through and to educate younger producers on this infamous milestone in the U.S. cattle business.

BSE was not new to us as we had seen what it had done to the cattle business in Europe, and in May of 2003, Canada had its first indigenous case. Until Dec. 23, however, “mad cow disease” had been somebody else’s problem. The saga started on Dec. 9 when a downer Holstein cow arrived at a processing plant in Moses Lake, Washington. The original assessment of the cow’s non-ambulatory nature was attributed to calving complications, but USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service took samples under the BSE surveillance testing program and sent them to USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. On Dec. 22, the preliminary results came back positive, and more testing was done. The additional tests were also positive, so Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman announced to the nation that there was a presumptive positive case. Two days later, the world reference laboratory in Weybridge, England, confirmed the positive BSE case.

In the meantime, international markets began shutting us out and our consumers were being hit with this uncertainty and confusion as they planned their holiday meals. To paraphrase Charles Dickens, it was the worst of times, but it



The planning and prepping paid off as we responded to one of the biggest industry issues we had faced in years.

was also the best of times. It was the best of times because NCBA was prepared. Our team had been planning and prepping for this very situation, and as soon as the call came from USDA, NCBA jumped into action. NCBA staff were seen on most every national news program talking about the facts of BSE and reassuring the consumer this was an animal health emergency and not a threat to the beef supply. We coordinated among our state partners, USDA, Congress and international diplomats. Our team worked with USDA as they prepared to roll out enhanced BSE protocols. The planning and prepping paid off as we responded to one of the biggest industry issues we had faced in years.

Throughout 2004, the NCBA team remained hard at work with the ongoing response of consumer outreach, testifying before Congress and working to reopen markets. Our consumers reacted favorably, and we never saw a precipitous fall in demand. Fairly quickly, Canada, Mexico and Egypt reopened to our beef and illustrated we could be successful in trading in a post-BSE world. The enhanced BSE surveillance program did what it was intended to do by identifying and testing suspect cattle. It definitely was not an easy task to respond and protect our industry, and much of the past two decades have been focused on reopening our foreign markets. Australia is the one major market that has not reopened, but we are not done with them, yet.

Our team put in place a similar response model in preparation for reintroduction of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). We have a response plan which includes communication to you, State Beef Councils, policy and breed affiliates, state officials and USDA. We have a working group consisting of the other species susceptible to FMD, so our collective efforts are coordinated. We have conducted response drills with our staff and state partners to test our process, improve it and make sure everybody knows their role. While response planning is critical, we are also working on preventing FMD from getting in. Just last year, the White House announced that food security was national security. While we have always known that, it did open the doors for more coordination with federal departments and agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP has been very willing to work with us to better understand our concerns and to recognize their role in keeping us safe.

Did you hear about the atypical BSE case in South Carolina last spring? Many of you probably did not because it never became a headline news story. That is a testament to NCBA’s successful response to that initial case 20 years ago. Our work ensured BSE is no longer the scary unknown it once was to the global beef industry, and we will remain vigilant in our effort to protect our industry from foreign animal diseases.



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