

April 2025  
VOLUME 79 ISSUE 8

# Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association





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Photograph taken by: Scott T. Baxter  
Casey Murph, 2010, H Bar Y Ranch, Navajo County,  
near Holbrook. Arizona Ranching family since 1904

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# CATTLE GROWERS' REPORT





# Letter from the Editor

## The Magic of the Mailbox

As a kid, I would be so excited to go get the mail. We'd all pile into the truck or the side-by-side, bouncing three miles up the dirt road to the mailbox.

The drive was more than just a chore; it was an adventure. Although, I am sure my mom looked at it like a chore. The Mingus Mountains stood tall in the distance, their peaks shifting colors with the light. The cattle dotted the landscape, heads down, grazing across the rangeland. Dust swirled behind us. My mom would hop out, unlock the mailbox door, and flip through the stack of letters, passing back what was mine.

I'd tear into birthday cards from Grandma Karen, Grandpa Ronnie, and Grandma Linda—carefully written in that perfect cursive that only grandmas seem to have. There were letters from my Aunt Stacey in Maryland. She was my pen pal for years, always sending me the most beautiful handmade cards. A fresh issue of the "ABS Global" catalog, and maybe even a surprise package. A few times, we'd find bullet holes right through the green metal box and all the mail housed inside. I guess it looked like a good target for hunters. But that's a story for another time.

**Back then, mail was magic.** If my name was on an envelope, it meant something special. **Now? Well, now mail means bills, junk, and more bills.** I still share a mailbox with my parents, and my mom plays the role of mailman, dropping my mail off at my house on her way home. **But the excitement is gone.** She recently mentioned that we should each get our own mailbox because being the "mail lady" was just another thing on her already long list. I jokingly told her, **"No need to bring me my mail, just throw it all away. It's just junk and bills anyway."**

**And then, today happened.**

**My mom—the mailman—handed me the March Cattlelog. And just like that, the kid-at-the-mailbox excitement came rushing back.**

This is the feeling I hope each of you has when you open your mailbox and see the latest issue of the Cattlelog. A magazine filled with stories, inspiration, updates, and education on the issues that shape our future.

It's about **connection**. It's about **people**. It's about **you**, our **friends**, our **industry**, and our **livelihoods**. **It's personal.** I create this magazine **with you in mind**. As I type these words, I think about you and your individual operations. I ask myself, "What will bring you **value**? What will help you **feel connected**? What stories **need to be told**?"

So, as you flip through these pages, know this: **this magazine is for you.** The rancher who wakes up before dawn. The family who has weathered droughts, overregulation, estate taxes, and generational challenges. The young cowboy and cowgirl raising their family. The generational rancher passing down wisdom.

This month, a few of my favorite stories are:

- Logan Hefner's heartfelt words, offering advice that will move you no matter how many times you read it.
- The perseverance of our northern ranchers in Coconino County, whose century-old legacies keep Arizona's ranching heritage alive.
- The latest legislative updates, highlighting the policy changes that will shape our industry's future.
- Insight into the burdens of the Endangered Species Act. Speaking of, the upcoming May Cattlelog will dive deeper into the struggles and lessons from ranchers dealing with wolves.

This issue will make you **cry**, it will **inspire** you, and it will fill your mind with **knowledge**. Thank you for reading. Thank you for being part of the Arizona Cattlelog. And thank you for letting me bring a little bit of that **kid-at-the-mailbox magic** back into your life.

Ashlee Mortimer  
CEO, Mortimer Farms  
Editor, Arizona Cattlelog





# Letter from the ACGA President

Greetings, Friends and Members of ACGA,

As we move further into spring, it has been **incredible to see Arizona ranchers come together at our rollover auctions**. These events have been a great success, bringing in strong support and much-needed funds to keep ACGA moving forward. More than that, they've provided an opportunity for ranchers across the state to connect, share stories, and stand united in our commitment to this industry. I encourage everyone to attend the upcoming auction still on the calendar—it's a great way to support the association and our fellow ranchers.

In March, **Dalton Dobson stepped up and testified before the House Committee** on Natural Resources – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee regarding the **Mexican Grey Wolf**. He made countless strong points and represented Arizona ranchers with the strength and clarity we need in these discussions. Wolves continue to expand their range, and **southern Arizona ranchers are feeling their impact more than ever**. That's why Ashlee is **dedicating the May Cattlelog to hearing the stories and lived experience of eastern ranchers, who have dealt with wolves for years**. Think of this as **a resource for ranchers** just starting to face the realities of wolf predation—a publication where those with firsthand experience can share insight and help others prepare for what's ahead. The content for the May Cattlelog is coming together nicely. **It will be a must-read issue!**

In legislative news, we saw a **win for the cattle industry as HB 2739 – the Meats Transparency Labeling Bill** – passed. This is an important step in ensuring that consumers know where their beef comes from, supporting American ranchers and fair labeling practices.

On a national level, the Trump administration's efforts to **unravel NEPA regulations and reduce federal overreach are music to the ears of every public lands rancher**. Less bureaucracy means fewer roadblocks, allowing us to focus on what we do best—raising cattle, caring for the land, and feeding this nation.

As always, ACGA will remain engaged on all these issues, ensuring that Arizona ranchers have a strong voice at the table. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events.

Best regards,  
Mike Gannuscio, ACGA President



**Board of Directors** are elected by Arizona Ranchers and represent you and your family.

## Executive Committee

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mike Gannuscio   | President           |
| Brian DeGanahl   | 1st VP              |
| Bopper Cannon    | 2nd VP              |
| Jared Lyman      | Treasurer           |
| Stephanie Teskey | Secretary           |
| Tim Petersen     | Member-at-Large     |
| Ben Menges       | Member-at-Large     |
| Andy Groseta     | Imm. Past President |

## County Presidents/Representatives

|                 |          |                 |                       |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Vacant          | Apache   | Ron Flake       | Navajo                |
| Steve Layton    | AZ Strip | Vacant          | Pima                  |
| Tim Klump       | Cochise  | Vacant          | Pinal                 |
| Mike Macauley   | Coconino | Vacant          | Santa Cruz            |
| Peter Oddonetto | Gila     | Reuben Verner   | Yavapai               |
| Bill Sollers    | Graham   | Scott Pilchard  | Business Rep.         |
| Ginger Cheney   | Greenlee | Vacant          | Native American       |
| Marty Byrne     | La Paz   | Trina Sue Riggs | AZ Cowbelles          |
| Lisa Khan       | Maricopa | Trever Hall     | Foundation            |
| John Harris     | Mohave   | Nate Brawley    | Ranchers for Tomorrow |





## Letter from the Executive Director

### **ACGA Updates: Staffing, Events, and Legislative Efforts**

Ken Ligon, Interim Executive Director

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA) has had a productive and eventful start to the year.

The Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation (ACIREF) Board met on February 18th to approve grants supporting ACGA's Summer Convention, the monthly Cattlelog, scholarships, and educational initiatives.

The ACGA Winter Meeting followed on February 19th at the Arizona Industrial Commission Building. The event featured insightful presentations from industry leaders, including Paul Brierley (Arizona Department of Agriculture), Dan Sturla (Arizona Game and Fish), and experts on conservation easements and financial outlooks. The General Membership meeting continued that afternoon, concluding with a well-attended reception and steak dinner at Frasher's Tavern in Scottsdale. Legislators, including Senators Tim Dunn and David Gowan and Representative Quang H. Nguyen, were honored for their support. Special thanks to Arizona Nature's Raised Beef, JBS Processing, and Frasher's Tavern for sponsoring this event.

The February 20th ACGA Board Meeting addressed key issues, including financial shortfalls at the University of Arizona Meat Lab and Arizona's Public Lands Council (PLC) dues. Suzanne Menges provided an update on the Summer Convention, set for July 23-25 in Safford.

On February 28th, the Executive Board met to draft a budget and discuss fundraising efforts. Under Andy Groseta's leadership, \$40,000 has been raised toward hiring an Executive Director, with a goal of \$2,500 in donations from members.

Additional meetings on March 7th and 11th focused on budget planning and fundraising. The ACGA Calf Rollover Auction at Willcox Livestock Auction raised \$13,472.82—special thanks to Don and Kim Lackner and Sonny Shores for their generosity.

ACGA continues to strengthen its influence at state and federal levels, demonstrating the importance of our collective voice.

## **ACGA is Looking for an Executive Director**

**The Arizona Cattle Growers Association is in the process of hiring an Executive Director to lead the state association.**

**We are seeking qualified applicants to head the one hundred twenty plus year cattle association.**

**Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to the following email address:**

**John Keniston Ligon, Interim Executive Director**

**Email: [jkligon@icloud.com](mailto:jkligon@icloud.com)**

**Phone: (702)672-1316**

**Address: P.O. Box 601, Cornville, AZ 86325**



# Legislative Update

Brittany Bingold, Pivotal Policy Consulting (ACGA's Legislative Representatives)

The Arizona Cattle Growers Association (ACGA) is proud to recognize our outstanding legislative champions who have tirelessly advocated for the interests of Arizona's ranching community. These leaders have demonstrated unwavering commitment to preserving and advancing the agricultural industry, ensuring that the voices of ranchers and rural Arizonans are heard loud and clear.

## **House Champion of the Year: Representative Quang Nguyen (R-LD1)**

Representative Nguyen has once again proven himself to be a staunch ally of Arizona's ranchers and rural communities. His dedication to supporting policies that promote agriculture and strengthen our state's ranching heritage has been instrumental in advancing our priorities. We are grateful for his leadership and partnership.

## **Senate Champion of the Year: Senator Tim Dunn (R-LD25)**

As a rancher himself, Senator Dunn brings invaluable firsthand experience and perspective to the legislature. His deep understanding of the challenges facing Arizona's agricultural industry has made him a powerful advocate for policies that support ranchers and ensure the viability of rural economies. Senator Dunn's commitment to agriculture is unmatched, and we are proud to honor him as our Senate Champion.

## **Overall Legislative Champion of the Year: Senator David Gowan (R-LD19)**

Representing Cochise County, Senator Gowan has consistently fought for the needs of his constituents and the broader ranching community. His leadership on critical agricultural issues has been pivotal in securing victories for Arizona's cattle growers. Senator Gowan's dedication to serving rural Arizona makes him a true champion of agriculture, and we are honored to recognize him as our Overall Legislative Champion of the Year.

**The ACGA extends our deepest gratitude to these leaders for their tireless efforts and unwavering support. Together, we will continue to work toward a brighter future for Arizona's ranching industry and rural communities.**

## **Legislative Session Updates**

As we pass the month of March with Crossover Week in our rear-view mirror, there are a few key legislative deadlines on the horizon. For the few hundred bills that have survived the process thus far, March begins the process anew in the opposite chamber. March 28th is the last day for bills to be heard in either the House or Senate. Following that deadline, budget negotiations will begin in earnest. Closed-door budget meetings have already begun in both the House and Senate, but these are fairly preliminary and won't get into firm numbers until early April.

The "Big Three" negotiate the budget: House and Senate Leadership and Governor Hobbs. If it's any indication of how those conversations tend to go, the room where they negotiate is affectionately referred to as "the cage." We will continue to monitor those negotiations for any impact on the industry and the many facets of the budget that it touches.

### **Agency Director Nominations**

For nearly two years, a battle has been brewing at the Capitol between Governor Hobbs and Senate Republicans over agency director nominees. In early 2023, Senate President Petersen created the Committee on Director Nominations (DINO) to vet Governor Hobbs' nominees before the full chamber vote. While a few nominees made it through this vetting process, several were rejected following increasingly contentious hearings. Hobbs attempted to sidestep the committee process by naming interim directors. The interims then appointed "executive deputy directors" and resigned, leaving the deputies in charge.

The Republicans took Hobbs to court over the maneuver and ultimately won when a Maricopa County Superior Court Judge ruled that the executive deputy director appointments were illegal, regardless of the job titles. Further, according to the ruling, Hobbs had to provide her slate of nominees in January of this year, and the Senate must approve them within a year or Hobbs will have to appoint new ones, which would also require Senate approval.

**ACGA will continue to engage on these issues, ensuring the interests of Arizona ranchers are protected at the state and federal levels.**

## **Mark your calendars!**

**Event: ACGA's 122nd Annual Summer Convention**

**Date: July 23rd through Saturday July 25th**

**Details: [www.azcattlegrowers.org](http://www.azcattlegrowers.org)**



# At Work for You!

## Your Vote Matters!

Officers are elected every two years at our Annual Summer Convention. **This year is an election year.** Save the date for July 24th in Safford during the general membership session.

While our officers traditionally "move up the chain" (for example, it's customary that our current First Vice President will be our next President), **any and all members in good standing may run for office!** If you're interested in taking on a leadership role in the organization, or you know someone who is, contact your county nominating committee member! If your county's seat is vacant, feel free to contact any other member or Sonia Gasho, the committee chair.

The Nominating Committee convened at the Winter Meeting and will continue to meet during the months prior to the Annual Summer Convention. One representative from each county organization, the immediate past president, and the current president sit on the committee. The committee will contact current officers regarding their desire to continue serving in their current position or move into a new one. They will also identify new candidates and provide a slate of nominations for the members to consider. **Watch for the slate in the May edition of the Cattlelog.**

**Members are free to submit nominations** for any of the officer positions **from the floor at the Summer Convention.** Once nominations (committee recommendations and any from the floor) are closed, officers will be elected by a voice vote unless there is more than one candidate for a position. If there is more than one candidate, a paper ballot will be provided. Each position will be voted on separately.

If you are unable to attend the convention, you may send a proxy. Please be sure to request a current proxy form from the office, sign it, and ask your proxy to turn in the form when they register at the convention.

**Don't miss the general session at the convention! Your vote matters!**

### ACGA Nominating Committee County Representatives:

|                                             |                              |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cochise – Sonia Gasho, Chair                | Greenlee – Ginger Cheney     |
| Past President – Andy Groseta, Yavapai      | Gila – Pete Oddonetto        |
| Coconino – Benny Aja                        | La Paz – Marty Byrne         |
| Outgoing President – Mike Gannuscio, La Paz | Maricopa – Leatta McLaughlin |
| Graham – Bill Sollers                       | Mohave – Dan Rodriguez       |
| 1st Vice President – Jare Lyman, Gila       | Yavapai – Tim Peterson       |

### Committee Zoom Meeting Dates:

March 10, March 31, April TBD

If you'd like to attend, please contact Sidnie at the office so she can include you in the emails.

## Proposed Amendments

We received proposed amendments to two sections of our bylaws, which will be voted on during our upcoming Annual Summer Convention in Safford.

The first amendment pertains to Section 5.4: Ranchers for Tomorrow. A member has suggested adding the word "young" to better describe the members of this group. Additionally, the phrase "a living" would be replaced with "income." (See the language in red font below.)

The second proposed amendment relates to Section 9.1: Nomination of Candidates. Since the first sentence already mentions "geographic areas of the state," a member has recommended deleting the fourth sentence as it is redundant. Furthermore, the following sentence would be added: "A majority of the members of this Committee shall elect a chair." (See the language in red font below.)

If you would like to propose an additional amendment to our bylaws, please reach out to Leatta McLaughlin at [leattamc@yahoo.com](mailto:leattamc@yahoo.com) or (623) 330-1779 by May 30.

### Proposed Amendments:

5.4 RANCHERS FOR TOMORROW. Any **young** person who aspires to make **income** ~~a living~~ in the cattle industry, and may or may not own cattle, may become a member upon written application. Ranchers for Tomorrow shall be afforded the privileges of Cattle Producer, except the right to vote, upon written application and payment of the specified dues for Ranchers for Tomorrow Members so provided.

9.1 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES. Nominations for Executive Committee shall be made by the Nominating Committee, with consideration given for equal representation of all geographic areas of the state. A Nominating Committee shall be formed at least six (6) months prior to the Annual Summer Convention of the Association for the purpose of nominating officers of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one (1) person appointed by each county organization, the immediate Past President, and the current (outgoing) President. ~~Consideration shall be given to all geographic areas of the state and for continuity in the succession of officers.~~ **A majority of members of this Committee shall elect a chair.** This Committee shall notify the Membership of its nominations at least sixty (60) days before the biennial election. Such notice may be given in the Cattlelog, by mail, or by email. The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate including all officers at the general session of the Annual Summer Convention. Following the report of the Nominating Committee, nominations may be made from the floor.





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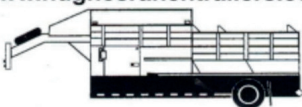
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## Arizona Cattle Growers Association Advertisement

Executive Director

The Arizona Cattle Growers Association is in the process of hiring an Executive  
Director to lead the State Association.

It is seeking qualified applicants to head the one hundred twenty plus year cattle  
association.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to the  
following email address:

John Keniston Ligon, Interim Executive Director

Email: [ikligon@icloud.com](mailto:ikligon@icloud.com)

Phone: (702)672-1316

Address: P.O. Box 601  
Cornville, AZ 86325





# Convention Corner

Convention Featured Speaker: Sierra Jepsen

## SAVE THE DATE!

2025 ACGA ANNUAL CONVENTION

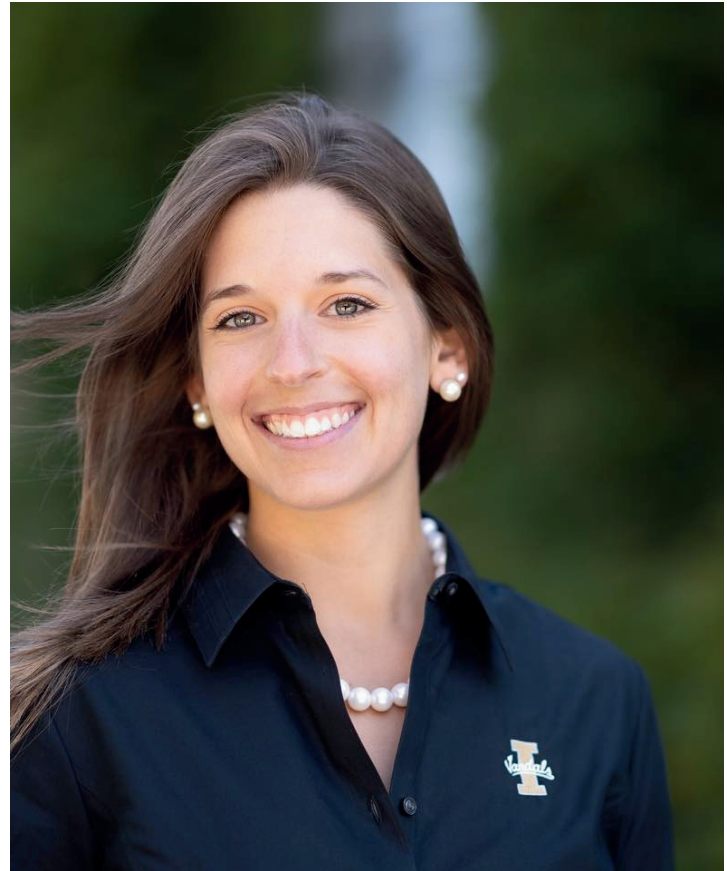
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**122ND ANNUAL CONVENTION**

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EMAIL!**



Sierra grew up on a grain and cow-calf operation within the rural farming community of Amanda, OH. Although she now resides in Livingston, MT, Sierra enjoys helping from afar with her family's freezer beef business.

Sierra's passion for meat science was realized during her undergraduate career at The Ohio State University. She held a variety of internships, served on the 2014 National Beef Ambassador team, competed on the 2016 Ohio State meat judging team, worked in the meat lab, and co-founded the Ohio Collegiate Cattle Association and Buckeyes4Beef program. From 2017 – 2021, Sierra coached collegiate meat judging teams at the University of Wyoming and managed the Cowboy Branded Meats program.

Multiple accounts from small meat processors struggling to find and retain skilled labor encouraged Sierra's transition to the University of Idaho for graduate school, where she rejoined a previous internship connection, Dr. Phil Bass.

In 2022, Sierra received her master's degree from the University of Idaho, focusing in meat science, with specific interest in innovative carcass fabrication. Butcher Solutions, LLC was created during her final semester of graduate school, officially launching December 2022 – one week following graduation.

ACGA is looking forward to hearing from her at the 122nd Annual Summer Convention in Safford, Arizona!



Brought to you by: Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation





R.S.V.P. by April 1, 2025 to [info@bartbar.com](mailto:info@bartbar.com) or  
Bob at 928-380-5149 or Judy at 928-699-8587

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**2:00 p.m. Speaker Presentations**

**Jim Sprinkle, Ph.D. • University of Idaho**

*Grazing Behavior of Efficient and Inefficient Cattle on Rangeland*

**Dan Bell, ZZ Cattle Co. • Drew McGibbon, Santa Rita Ranch**

*The Future of Virtual Fence*

**Dave Daley, Ph.D. • Public Lands Council Board of Directors &  
5<sup>th</sup> Generation California Rancher**

*The Challenges and Opportunities of Public Land Grazing*

**Kent Anderson, Ph.D. • Zoetis**

*The Future of DNA and Economically Relevant Traits*

**Moderator: Lee Leachman • CEO, Leachman Cattle**

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# PORCH TALK



**SCOTT T. BAXTER, 100 YEARS, 100 RANCHES**

Michael Macauley at ranch headquarters, 2011. Perrin Ranch, Coconino County, north of Williams. Arizona  
Ranching family since 1870 - [www.scottbaxterphotography.com](http://www.scottbaxterphotography.com)



# We Are ACGA: The Many Faces of Cattle Growers

## The Balance of Ranching: Individual Responsibility & Collective Strength

Mike Macauley, Coconino County

Ranching is both an individual and a communal endeavor. The decisions we make for our ranch operations are specific to the needs and challenges we face—shaped by our geographic location, soil types, elevation, moisture levels, access to water, inholdings, land control, and public access. Each of these factors influences how we run our operations and the obstacles we must overcome. However, **ranching doesn't happen in isolation**. The communal side connects us with our neighbors, industry peers, and agencies like USFS, BLM, NRCS, and conservation groups. Sharing information, mentorship, lessons learned, and best practices **makes us all stronger**.

A generational rancher once told me, “We are fighting the same battles our grandfathers fought. I am just going to focus on the ranch.” At first, it sounds like he is focused only on his own operation. But even within that mindset, he still has to stay informed—researching issues, learning new practices, and adopting methods that benefit both his ranch and the industry. That process requires time, energy, and financial investment.

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA) **provides a bridge between individual effort and collective strength**. It grants access to vital information, decision-makers, pending legislation, and industry connections. Yes, it takes time, effort, and money to be involved, but it also ensures that **ranchers have the tools to make informed decisions and adapt to challenges efficiently**.

In the end, both paths—working alone or engaging with the industry—require commitment. One tends to isolate you; the other **opens the door to opportunity**. The choice is yours to make.

Over the last century my family's ranch has seen the benefit of collective strength firsthand!

The Perrin Ranch turned 100 last year. It began in 1924 when Lilo Perrin purchased 250,000 acres out of receivership through the Miners and Merchants Bank in Bisbee, Arizona. Today, the ranch spans 64,000 acres, consisting of both private and State Trust lands. The ranch ran both sheep and cattle until 2022 and now operates solely as a cow-calf operation.

The land that makes up the ranch was originally purchased in 1884 by Dr. E.B. Perrin, who acquired 350,000 acres of railroad land from Mr. Seligman in the Williams area. During that time, the U.S. Government was in the process of creating the Coconino Forest Preserve and was acquiring land from private landholders in Northern Arizona. As a result, when Arizona became a state, much of the Preserve Land was designated as State Trust Land and National Forest Land. Dr. Perrin sold off a significant portion of his holdings to the federal government and private individuals during this period.

Fast forward to the present, and management of the ranch has passed to successive generations of the Perrin family. The focus has been on developing water sources, addressing the encroachment of Piñon and Juniper trees, and identifying the various grasses and soil types on the ranch. The ranch has collaborated with the Arizona Department of Agriculture, State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and various “critter groups”—such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Society and Arizona Antelope Society—to tackle Piñon–Juniper encroachment through firewood harvesting, chaining, shearing, and, most recently, mastication.

Efforts to improve water access have focused on creating stock tanks and a water delivery system, as drilling a well is not cost-effective due to depth and expenses. Today, the ranch has 36 water-righted stock tanks and 20 miles of waterline. In partnership with conservation groups, the ranch has established ten monitoring sites, three of which include rain gauges. Over the past twenty-five years, monitoring has been conducted seasonally, with trend monitoring occurring every three years. The ranch has identified key grass species and soil types at each site, allowing it to observe the effects on biodiversity, soil moisture, plant vigor, and ground cover.

Currently, the ranch is working with the University of Arizona Extension Service and a renewable energy company to study the effects of solar energy production and grazing. The goal is to examine the shading effect that solar panels have on grasses, soil moisture, and biodiversity. The uniqueness of this project lies in the panels' ability to move, allowing sunlight and moisture to reach the grasses while being mounted high enough to permit cattle to graze underneath.

For over a century, the Perrin Ranch has weathered the test of time, adapting to challenges while holding firm to the values that built it. It is a testament to resilience, stewardship, and the deep-rooted love for the West that has carried generations forward. From the days of Dr. E.B. Perrin to us now, each era has left its mark, shaping the ranch into what it is today. Every decision made, from conservation efforts to innovative water and grazing management, is not just about survival—it's about ensuring that the land remains vibrant for the next hundred years.

As the sun sets over the vast Arizona rangeland, casting long golden shadows over the stock tanks and the wind-stirred grasses, it's clear that the story of the Perrin Ranch is far from over. It lives on in the hands of those who work it, in the cattle that graze its fields, and in the unwavering commitment to protect and preserve a way of life that defines the West.



# Empty Saddles

**Linda Beth Brake**  
**May 1, 1944 – January 28, 2025**



Photo on the left is of Linda and Betty Jo Nicholson when Linda received CattleWomen of the Year from the Arizona State Cowbelles in 2009.

Linda Beth Brake, 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family. A devoted mother, grandmother and friend, Linda's presence brought warmth and wisdom to those who knew her.

Linda was born in Oklahoma to James and Mildred Burns. She was the middle child of three girls with whom she was exceptionally close. During her high school years, Linda and her family moved to Phoenix, AZ where she attended Arcadia High School. After Arcadia, Linda attended the University of Arizona, graduating with a double major in French and Accounting.

At the U of A, Linda met her husband Bill Brake and for 61 years they conquered everything as a team. Including raising two daughters, Wendy and Shelly.

Linda was PTA president, softball coach, soccer coach, girl scout leader, brownie leader, 4H leader and every other volunteer position you can possibly think of. She was an avid tennis player and winner of the senior league doubles championship in her spare time. She and her girlfriends attended trail rides together for over 20 years and she enjoyed every second of it.

Around 1984, her husband came home and announced he had bought a ranch but that it wouldn't affect the family in any way. This led to Linda becoming President of the Gila County Cattlewomen, and Arizona State Cattlewomen President for two terms. She was also named State Cattlewoman of the Year, the Outstanding Cattlewoman of the Year from the American National Cattle Woman, and National Cattlewomen Region VI Federation Chairman. Linda was very involved in the Arizona Beef Council as a board member for ten years, as well as integral in the National Beef Checkoff board. She was the chair of the National Beef Cookoff committee for multiple years.

Linda was preceded in death by her mother and father as well as her two sisters, Jamie Burns and Barbara Myers. She is survived by her husband, Bill Brake as well as her two daughters Wendy McGuirt and Shelly Brake, as well as her grandchildren whom she adored, JW McGuirt, Brody Bowler and Gabbi Bowler.

Linda will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy is as strong as her grace. We will look to her in every sunset, every rainbow and every rainstorm we face.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles.



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# There's My Cowboy

We'd driven ten long hours with our trailers back in tow. We were searching for a place to ride away from sleet and snow.  
The Southern Utah border should have welcomed us from cold. But, the Utah, Arizona weather promised snow tenfold.

The frigid wind blew from the north. It packed a nasty punch. So, the cowboys crowded  
'round the fire, the dangest sorry bunch.

One cowboy spoke up. Said, "It's warmer back in Idaho. I think we should pack up before we freeze from nose to toe."  
Another chimed in, "Why so grim?" And tossed wood on the fire. But the weather made us wonder, was our situation dire?

Right then I heard a stranger's voice. The sound came from a phone. The voice cried,  
"There's my cowboy" with a female tender tone.

The cowboys gave a whoop, then every eye turned back his way.  
The cowboy looked down to his phone without a word to say.

The look his face was wearing, oh, so precious none-the-less.  
We knew she was his sweetheart, not much need for us to guess.

The cowboy got up from his chair and moved back from the fire.  
The cowboys pondered what they'd heard. Her words would soon inspire.

Soon every cowboy held his cell phone tight against his ear.  
They walked back from the fire pit just so no one else could hear.

Each cowboy called his sweetheart. They were yearning for her voice.  
One bachelor called his mother. Said, "I didn't have much choice."

The cowboys moseyed back around the fire to feel the heat.  
They tossed more wood to warm their limbs and found the warmest seat.

No word was uttered but each face grinned like a Jennie mule.  
The cowboys knew at home they had the world's most precious jewel.

And then one cowboy piped right up and said, "I'm feeling warm. Maybe we should stay a while. There can't be any harm."

Why is it that a sweetheart's voice can soothe the saddest bumps?

It's a little bit of heaven when you're feeling in the dumps.

And I won't forget those gentle words the cowboy shared that night. 'Cuz,  
"There's my cowboy," makes a man feel number one outright!

Bryce Angell

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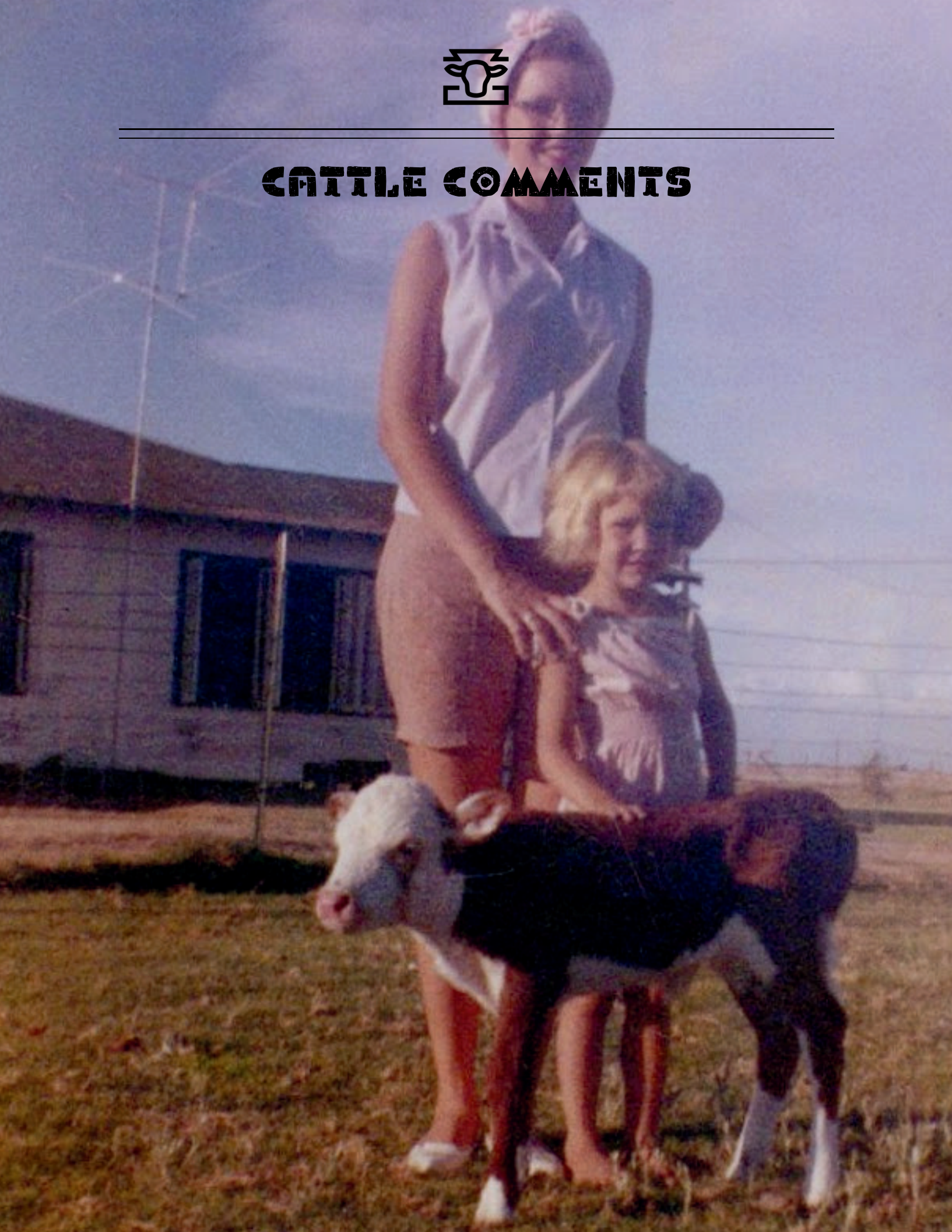






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## CATTLE COMMENTS







# On the Ranch Q & A

**More Than You Can Imagine:  
The Realities and Rewards of Ranching**  
Written by: Logan Hefner

**Q:** How has the new U.S. Administration impacted your livelihood as a rancher?

**A:** I think it is too early to form opinions on how this administration is impacting my ranches. I know some of the government cutbacks have had negative impacts on some programs in the short term, but overall, the outlook for a lot of ranchers, including myself, is a lot more positive for the future. This administration seems to be pro-agriculture and supportive of the people producing America's food supply.

**Q:** What is the single largest factor contributing to the profitability of your ranch or operation? How does this relate to the health of your herd and your calving rate?

**A:** I believe the knowledge a person has accumulated through years of hard work, hands-on experience, trial and error, and the wisdom that has been passed on to us from our ancestors, elders, and peers is what successfully enables your cowherd to be as efficient as possible year after year. And, of course, plenty of moisture.

**Q:** What role does your operation play in sustainability, and how do you balance conservation with profitability?

**A:** My whole operation revolves around sustainability, working to maximize the full use of the land and resources while being careful not to overuse or abuse them, and always reserving some for the near and distant future.

**Q:** What advice would you give your younger self regarding ranching and business, and why?

**A:** I'm sure that I have a lot more to learn, but at this point in my life, I would probably say:

**It will cost more than you think,  
take more out of you than you  
thought possible, be more  
rewarding than you could have  
imagined, and that good help is  
invaluable.**

Ranching is not just a way of life—it's a test of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment. It will cost more than you think, demand more from you than you ever thought possible, and push you beyond your limits. Yet, in the midst of the long days, the financial strain, and the relentless challenges, it gives back in ways that cannot be measured. The land teaches patience, the cattle teach responsibility, and the work itself teaches perseverance. And through it all, the reward is greater than you could have ever imagined—a deep, unshakable connection to the land, the satisfaction of hard-earned success, and a legacy that carries forward for generations. In the end, the struggles fade, but the fulfillment of this life remains, proving that every sacrifice was worth it.





Brought to you by: Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation

## Stewardship Comments

The Landowner Relations Program (LRP) houses many opportunities for landowners to implement practices to improve both habitat and resources for wildlife and cattle alike. The program builds relationships with ranchers by acknowledging that wildlife uses their resources, and we strive to do our part to assist with water needs in this time of drought. Each Arizona Game and Fish region has its own LRP specialist who is always ready to come out and talk about new projects on the landscape.

Coyote Tank is a dirt tank spanning 1.5 acres of the Dunton Ranch in Yavapai County, centrally located in Game Management Unit 18A. It serves an important role in the network of water sources that sustain local wildlife. The general rule of thumb in Arizona is that, in prime habitat for mule deer, water sources should be no more than a mile and a half apart. For several decades now, Coyote Tank has been filling with sediment, limiting its maximum capacity. Arizona Game and Fish's LRP program, along with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, partnered with the Dunton Ranch to remove 17 feet of sediment from this tank to improve water availability for cattle and wildlife in the area. Restoring dirt tanks is a key component of Arizona Game and Fish's strategy to combat Arizona's drought crisis.

Pinyon-juniper woodlands and grasslands on the Dunton Ranch support mule deer, elk, javelina, mountain lions, bobcats, quail, dove, and pronghorn. In order to sustain populations of these important game species, along with cattle grazing on Dunton Ranch, dirt tanks must be maintained at full capacity.

The game species populations on Dunton Ranch provide abundant hunting opportunities for the public. These populations depend on wildlife movement corridors to connect water sources. Dirt tanks, in conjunction with juniper mastication projects, restore grasslands as part of a comprehensive habitat strategy to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife populations. With the help of Arizona's ranchers, we can ensure healthy cattle and thriving wildlife populations!

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## Sharing Your Story – It Matters

### How to Talk to Consumers About Agriculture: A Simple 1-2-3 Approach

Written by: Ashlee Mortimer, Mortimer Farms

**Misinformation about agriculture is everywhere**—especially online. Recently, I came across a post claiming that beef cattle are mistreated, locked up, uncared for, and part of a “toxic” system. However, the video attached to the post actually showed healthy, well-cared-for dairy cattle, who's heads were in their feed bunk and their ration was being put out—a clear example of how misinformation spreads.

Instead of responding with frustration, **I choose to engage with kindness and education.** My comment simply explained the reality of dairy farming, highlighting how farmers go above and beyond to ensure their cattle are well-fed, comfortable, and healthy. I wasn't trying to change the mind of the original poster—people who are committed to their beliefs often won't listen to logic. Instead, **I was speaking to the bystanders—the people scrolling through, reading both sides, and forming their own opinions.**

And it worked. Nearly 300 people liked my comment, and over 30 replied with questions, gratitude, and genuine curiosity. By keeping my response factual, respectful, and non-defensive, I built trust and encouraged readers to do their own research instead of just believing misinformation.

#### Here's exactly what I wrote:

“This video shows dairy cattle, which are treated like queens! Dairy farmers go above and beyond to provide them with the best care—many have air-conditioned and heated barns or awnings so the cows can stay comfortable no matter the weather. Cattle naturally come to the feed bunks when it's time to eat, and the hay being dropped is light—it doesn't hurt them at all. In fact, they eagerly wait for fresh feed because they know it's mealtime!

At Mortimer Farms, and across the ranching and dairy community, **we have deep respect and gratitude for the animals we raise. Ranchers dedicate their lives to ensuring cattle are well-fed, healthy, and cared for every single day. We believe in honoring the sacrifice these animals make by raising them ethically and responsibly, and we are deeply indebted to them for providing such nutritious food.**

We understand that everyone has different perspectives, and we always welcome respectful conversations about agriculture. Our goal is to connect people with the food that sustains them and the farmers and ranchers who make it possible.”

This is why your voice matters. Every time we share our firsthand experiences in agriculture, we help bridge the gap between consumers and producers. **The most powerful way to advocate for our industry isn't through debate—it's by calmly and confidently sharing the truth.**





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## Cattlemen's College

### Arid Lands Biomass Harvesting

By Reuben Verner

Brought to you by: Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation

Growing up on a ranch in central Arizona, I spent more hours of my formative years driving a tree shear than I can count. After cutting and leaving several million juniper trees, I thought, "Wouldn't it be nice if we could actually do anything with these?" Twenty years later, we are finally figuring out how. The cost of energy and the politics of coal have made biomass harvesting economically feasible.

The Prescott National Forest, Reliance Brush Management, Salt River Project (SRP), Northern Arizona University (NAU), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Rocky Mountain Research Station are working collaboratively to economically harvest juniper biomass. The product is being used to offset coal usage at Drake Cement in Paulden. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, Conservation First USA, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have provided the funding to get the first phase of the project off the ground. As one of the permittees where many of the trees are being harvested, it is hard to imagine a more exciting project.

In the areas of northern Yavapai County targeted for harvesting, we have, on average, 15 tons of juniper per acre. For the first phase of the project, we have a goal of harvesting 5,000 tons per month, which translates to about 20 acres cut per day by early 2026. The implications of this on the health and biodiversity of the landscape are hard to overestimate; our range monitoring program generally measures a 40%-60% reduction in bare ground and a 50%-400% increase in herbaceous plants post-treatment. More importantly, areas currently stocked with 15 tons per acre of juniper are not habitat for grassland-obligate species like pronghorn antelope.

The RMRS, NRCS, NAU, and SRP have teamed up to study the use of satellite technology to monitor soil moisture, evapotranspiration, and soil carbon sequestration changes within the project area, which will supplement our vegetation and drought monitoring efforts. This research has exciting implications for the entire Southwest. We have treated a lot of juniper trees over the past 30 years, and while we all agree that these treatments have positive impacts on all those attributes, this will be the first time we will accurately quantify them.

The Prescott National Forest has assumed the heavy lifting of administering the project as a timber sale. The amount of red tape involved with cultural clearances, prescriptions, temporary roads, etc., was substantial, and they have successfully cleared every hurdle that arose.

This project serves as a timely reminder that collaborative public lands management can work. State and federal agencies, private industry, universities, and stakeholders have not always seen eye to eye on how to manage public lands. The casualty of this has been the health and productivity of our natural resources. In this case, we were able to prove that it is possible to get some very diverse partners on the same team. It took a lot of work and relationship building, but the results are going to speak for themselves.



# Cattlemen's College

Brought to you by: Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation



## Adding Conservation Easements to Your Toolbox

Danielle Corral, Working Lands Protection Specialist/American Farmland Trust

Photo description: 648 acres of Bar Triangle Ranch protected by Central Arizona Land Trust

Photo credit: Central Arizona Land Trust

Any rancher knows the value of a good tool, and conservation easements are one that every rancher should know about. A conservation easement is a way to protect your working land from development and keep it available for agricultural production in the future, while conserving natural resources. It can also bring in some valuable income and help transfer a ranch to the next generation.

In legal terms, a conservation easement is a deed restriction that landowners voluntarily place on their property to protect important natural resources by limiting certain activities and uses. Agricultural conservation easements (ACEs) are a type of conservation easement designed to keep land forever available for farming and ranching. ACEs enable landowners to sell or donate some property rights while keeping others through a type of real estate transaction.

After granting an ACE, landowners retain title to the property and can still farm the land, restrict public access, use it as collateral for a loan, or sell the property. Land with an ACE stays on the local tax rolls. Landowners continue to be eligible for state and federal farm programs.

USDA-NRCS purchases agricultural conservation easements through a program called ACEP-ALE. Like other government programs, navigating ACEP-ALE can be challenging; there is paperwork, jargon, eligibility requirements, and more paperwork. However, the juice can be worth the squeeze. And American Farmland Trust (AFT), the only national land trust focused on protecting agricultural land, works with farmers and ranchers to serve as a bureaucratic sherpa through the process.

AFT has created accessible resources through an online ACEP-ALE Toolkit (<https://farmlandinfo.org/acep-ale-toolkit/>) that provides links to eligibility checklists, How To's, and accessible guides. The web pages will walk you through the process of participating in ACEP-ALE and other agricultural conservation easement programs and answer some frequently asked questions.

To learn more about conservation easement opportunities, reach out to Cris Coffin at American Farmland Trust, [ccoffin@farmland.org](mailto:ccoffin@farmland.org).





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# **INDUSTRY NEWS**

## **FROM PARTNERS & FRIENDS**

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# U of A Report



Dr. D. Scott (Scotty) Merrell, Director of the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences (ACBS) at the University of Arizona (UofA), provided the following updates for the ACGA membership.

1. The Meat Judging Team, launched this academic year by Dr. Duane Wulf, had a strong showing right from the start. The team placed 5th overall at the National Western in Greeley, CO, and 4th place at the Southwestern Meat Judging Contest in Fort Worth, TX. Congratulations to the team!
2. ACBS still has open faculty searches for a Livestock Judging Professor of Practice and a Livestock Extension Specialist. Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis, and a candidate for the Livestock Judging position was recently on campus.
3. FPSL, or the 'meats lab,' obtained its certificate of occupancy for the renovated and expanded building in early March. Budget overruns on the project, combined with the current university financial model, have impacted the ability to outfit the inside of the renovated building with necessary furniture and equipment, as well as funding for operations. Working with Dean Burgess, CALES has committed to securing funding for both needs. However, this will come at a cost, requiring cuts to other CALES priorities and staffing. The available funding will not allow the FPSL to be staffed as originally planned.

Despite these challenges, we are moving forward with hiring some staff so that we can reopen the facility to meet our instruction, research, and extension missions. Processing for external stakeholders will be the next priority, but not yet at the originally envisioned capacity. We will continue working to secure the necessary funding needed to open at full capacity.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have ([dscottmerrell@arizona.edu](mailto:dscottmerrell@arizona.edu)) and wish you all the very best as we head into spring.



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# PLC Update

## PLC Secretary Testifies on ESA Burdens

On March 4, 2024, Public Lands Council (PLC) Secretary and Colorado multiple grazing permittees testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the regulatory burdens imposed by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10(j).

LeValley (a Colorado rancher) emphasized that while Section 10(j) allows for deterrents and lethal take, these tools are rarely used, leaving livestock producers vulnerable to species like gray wolves, Mexican gray wolves, and grizzly bears.

The hearing provided a critical platform for ranchers to voice their concerns directly to policymakers. LeValley's testimony underscored the need for meaningful ESA reform that prioritizes both wildlife management and landowner protections. Lawmakers acknowledged the challenges faced by ranchers and expressed interest in exploring legislative solutions to reduce burdens and improve conservation outcomes.

The May 2025 Cattlelog will explore this critical issue in depth, sharing firsthand accounts from Arizona ranchers impacted by ESA regulations.

# NCBA Update

## U.S. Cattle Producers Hail New WOTUS Guidance

WASHINGTON (March 12, 2025) – Today, National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of guidance for implementing the "continuous surface connection" definition under the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

"For years, NCBA has worked across the federal government – educating members of Congress, participating in agency rulemakings, and fighting for cattle producers in federal court – to secure a WOTUS definition that protects both our nation's natural resources and Americans' property rights. We are proud of the Trump Administration's effort to further conform the WOTUS definition to the Supreme Court's decision in Sackett v. EPA. Today's guidance is an important step toward refocusing the Clean Water Act to its original purpose. NCBA thanks EPA Administrator Zeldin for his work to finally close a decades-long chapter of severe regulatory whiplash."

# Cowbelles Report

The Arizona State Cowbelles (ASC) were well represented on February 18th at the state legislature, as leaders gathered to speak in opposition of HB 2031, primarily proposed by Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R-3). **The bill sought to do away with several state boards, councils, commissions and committees, including the Arizona Beef Council.**

The bill was amended at the hearing on the 18th to remove the Beef Council from the list of boards and councils on the chopping block, but the ASC members and others from the Arizona beef industry spoke volumes by their presence at the hearing. Rep. Kolodin remarked that his office had certainly heard from the cattle community regarding the value of the Beef Council. A significant supporter of many Cowbelle education and promotion projects, the Beef Council has been a valuable partner for many years. ASC President Trina Sue Riggs states, "Arizona State Cowbelles is a group of women who have always worked hard to promote the beef industry since we began in 1939. **This bill is an attack on agriculture and that is who we are.**"

**While the amended bill failed on Feb. 26th, Representative Biasiucci (R-5) requested reconsideration on the same day, and that it be placed on the Third Reading of bills. As of this writing, no further action has taken place.**

### Photographed below:

Front row: Pam Griffin, Suzanne Menges, Janice Bryson, Sue Krentz  
Back row: Barbara Jackson, Anne Henderson, Tiffany Selchow, Trina Sue Riggs





# CHECKING IN ON YOUR CHECKOFF:

## COOKING UP SUCCESS: SHOW LOW HIGH SCHOOL'S CULINARY PROGRAM GETS A BOOST FROM ARIZONA BEEF COUNCIL



William Crawford, a culinary teacher at Show Low High School, is inspiring students and building a bridge between academics and real-world skills through his innovative program. Thanks to the Arizona Beef Council's Beef Up the Classroom grant program, Chef Smokin' Bill has been able to transform his classroom into a hub of learning and practical application, fostering student growth and community engagement.

The Beef Up the Classroom grant program, funded by the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation, aims to support educators in implementing agriculture-focused curricula that emphasize the importance of the beef community, sustainability, and nutrition. This program provides funding and resources so teachers can keep and use beef in their curriculum, teaching students how to choose, prepare, and cook beef. Show Low High School is one of many beneficiaries of this impactful program.

Crawford's program goes beyond traditional culinary instruction. He integrates hands-on activities and real-world applications that resonate with students. Through the grant, he was able to enhance his classroom resources, purchasing

essential tools and supplies to expand his culinary program. "The grant allowed us to acquire equipment for butchering demonstrations and hands-on lessons that teach students about the journey of beef from pasture to plate," Crawford explains.

One notable aspect of his program is the focus on teaching students how to cut and prepare beef. By incorporating butchering demonstrations, Crawford not only imparts technical skills but also encourages a deeper understanding of the beef community. These lessons align with his broader goal of preparing students for future careers in culinary arts, agriculture, and food sciences.

Students at Show Low High School have embraced these opportunities enthusiastically. For many, this is their first exposure to the practical aspects of food preparation and agriculture. "It's amazing to learn where our food comes from and how much work goes into getting it to our tables," shared one student. Another added, "I'm considering a career in culinary arts now because of this class. It's really opened my eyes to all the possibilities."

For Crawford, the impact of the grant goes beyond financial support. "It's about showing students that culinary arts is not just a subject to study; it's a way of life and a cornerstone of our community," he says. His passion for teaching and commitment to his students are evident in the success of his program and the enthusiasm it generates.

As the program continues to thrive, Crawford hopes to expand its reach and impact. He envisions collaborations with other schools and community organizations to further enrich the learning experience. His ultimate goal is to inspire students to see agriculture and culinary arts not only as career paths but also as vital parts of society.

For more information about the program, visit <https://bit.ly/azbeefupclassroom>.



# Arizona Dept. of Ag Update

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finalized a rule requiring electronic identification (EID) tags for certain cattle and bison moving interstate, effective November 5, 2024, to enhance animal disease traceability. All official identification tags applied to cattle and bison after November 5, 2024, must be both visually and electronically readable. The benefits of the implementation of EID tags includes faster and more accurate identification, reduced disruption to normal herd operations, reduced stress on animals, and improved traceability. This new rule applies to sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or older, all dairy cattle, and cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, recreation events, shows, or exhibitions. Direct-to-slaughter cattle and sexually intact cattle and bison under 18 months of age are exempt from the federal ID requirement. An important note is that identification requirements for importation set forth by the destination state may be MORE STRICT than federal rules and therefore some classes or age groups of animals may need to be tagged per state rules. This rule aims to improve the ability to quickly respond to animal disease outbreaks and limit their impact, ultimately reducing economic losses. Producer data confidentiality is protected, with access to identifying information limited to regulatory officials involved in disease tracing activities. USDA is providing EID tags free of charge through state veterinarian offices to facilitate transition. To obtain your free EID tag, please fill out and submit the AZDA Premises Identification Number (PIN) Application at:

<https://agriculture.az.gov/sites/default/files/National%20Premises%20ID%20app%2010-2-20.pdf>

If you already have a PIN, contact SVO directly by emailing [diseasereporting@azda.gov](mailto:diseasereporting@azda.gov) to obtain your free EID.



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## Proposed BRANDS

The official location for notice of proposed brands is the Arizona Department of Agriculture's website at <http://searchagriculture.az.gov/mastercontent/brandsnotice.aspx>. To view the complete list of proposed brands, be sure to check the AZDA website. Below are a few of the brands submitted in accordance with A.R.S § 3-1261(C).

These brands are not available for sale by the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The "End Date" shown is the deadline for receiving protests for the proposed brand. All protests or objections must be submitted in writing and postmarked before the "End Date" in the chart below. Protests that are postmarked after the End Date will not be considered.

| Brand                                                                               | Brand No.   End Date                    | Location                                         | Brand                                                                               | Brand No.   End Date                    | Location                                         | Brand                                                                                 | Brand No.   End Date                    | Location                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|  | Brand No.: 20059<br>End Date: 3/27/2025 | Cattle: RH<br>Horse: RH<br>Sheep: RH<br>Goat: RH |  | Brand No.: 20060<br>End Date: 3/27/2025 | Cattle: LS<br>Horse: LT<br>Sheep: LS<br>Goat: LS |  | Brand No.: 20058<br>End Date: 3/27/2025 | Cattle: RS<br>Horse: RS<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |
|  | Brand No.: 20057<br>End Date: 3/26/2025 | Cattle: LR<br>Horse: LH<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |  | Brand No.: 20056<br>End Date: 3/22/2025 | Cattle: RR<br>Horse: RS<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |  | Brand No.: 20055<br>End Date: 3/22/2025 | Cattle: RS<br>Horse: RS<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |
|  | Brand No.: 20054<br>End Date: 3/20/2025 | Cattle: RR<br>Horse: RT<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |  | Brand No.: 20053<br>End Date: 3/16/2025 | Cattle: RH<br>Horse: RH<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |  | Brand No.: 20052<br>End Date: 3/15/2025 | Cattle: RR<br>Horse: RT<br>Sheep: NO<br>Goat: NO |

## AZFB Update

**Arizona Farm Bureau: Advocating for Ranchers and Agriculture**

**Daniel Harris, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager, [www.azfb.org/join](http://www.azfb.org/join)**

**Written on March 14, 2025**

With 1,677 bills introduced this session, many have already been decided, but those still moving forward now face tougher challenges as they navigate the opposite chamber and upcoming budget negotiations. Agriculture's budget priorities remain a focus, ensuring that funding and legislative measures benefit Arizona ranchers.

Key updates:

- HB2135 (Unlawful Camping; Wildlife Access) passed with bipartisan support (34-24).
- SB1448 (\$10M On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Fund) is moving through the House.
- SB1518 (Groundwater Portability in AMAs) allows irrigation grandfathered rights to be sold or transferred within the same AMA.
- HB2385 (Produce Incentive Program) allocates \$1M to support food accessibility.
- HB2544 (Agriculture Brand Inspectors) increases AZDA staff to improve efficiency.
- HCR2051 (Yuma Agriculture & Water Rights) reinforces legislative commitment to preserving Yuma's agricultural industry.

Stay tuned for further legislative developments and how they impact Arizona ranching.



# **DROUGHT = Extra Expense and Loss of Income**

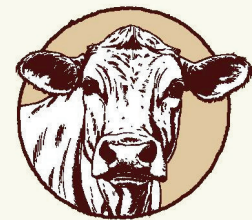


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