

AUGUST 2025
VOLUME 79 ISSUE 12

Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association





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Photograph by: Michelle Mills Photography, more on page 15 of this issue.

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CKP

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CATTLE GROWERS' REPORTS

PHOTO FROM BECKI ROSS. MORE ON PAGE 23.

Letter from the Editor



This issue of the Arizona Cattlelog is extra close to my heart because it highlights friends and neighbors from Yavapai County—a place my family has ranched and called home since 2003. Ranching here is shaped by rugged mountains, sweeping grasslands, and a community that values hard work, family, and the heritage of the West. Inside, you'll meet the ranching families who care deeply for their livestock and land, and who contribute to the heart of Arizona agriculture. You'll also find practical tools, industry updates, and stories that connect every reader—whether you ranch in the desert, the high country, or anywhere in between.

Yavapai County stretches from the high desert near Black Canyon City to the cool pines around Prescott and Chino Valley. This incredible variation allows us to run cattle across diverse rangeland while also stewarding water, wildlife, and open spaces that define our county. Agriculture here feeds families, fuels the local economy, sustains rural communities, and preserves the breathtaking landscapes that draw so many people to this region.

Just like many of you, we are feeling the full impact of this relentless drought. In our last pasture move, we skipped two pastures—one lacked enough feed, and the other had nothing but dry stock tanks, with no feasible way to haul water. This drought will have lasting effects on both our land and our herd, and we are working daily to mitigate its long-term impacts.

Our family started by selling cattle through retained ownership, but we quickly saw the value in sharing our beef directly with the community. We've been growing our direct-to-consumer market ever since, and as of last year, every steer we raise is sold through our direct market beef program—a full-circle connection between our ranch and the families we feed. If we don't get rain soon, this program will be negatively affected for years!

Highlighting Yavapai County reminds us that we are protecting a lifestyle that feeds our state, supports our neighbors, and leaves the land better for the next generation. I am proud of the ranchers featured in this issue and proud to be part of this community that continues to define the true spirit of Arizona ranching.

Ashlee Mortimer – CEO, Mortimer Farms/Ranches & Editor, Arizona Cattlelog

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ARIZONA CATTLE
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122ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

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Letter from the President



Hello to all ACGA members. I know most of you, but my name is Brian deGanahl, a cattle rancher in western AZ, and I am honored to serve at the head of this organization as your new President. I would like to thank Mike Gannuscio for his tireless efforts over the last four years, as not only President, but acting executive as well. That was a huge job and Mike did it well. Once again, thanks Mike. Through his leadership, ACGA is now on the last leg of recovery and reorganization. It is my duty to see that it gets completed. We have already had a lot of positive feedback from the convention, and although we are still getting all the numbers put together, a profit was made by the association. We have a new Executive, Suzanne, who has hit the ground running and is doing well, and we are about to wrap up all new staff hires.

At the same time, we are also dealing with issues that never cease to be on our plate. New World screwworm, new regulations in DOI and USDA on grazing, and solar field encroachment are just a few of the issues on the front page right now. It is our job to get your positions known by the people that matter. That is our goal every day. Please feel free to reach out to me directly, or contact the office with any issues that you feel we need to work on. Thanks again for all of your support and I will tirelessly work to promote and sustain our industry and this organization.

Hope you catch a rain this week.

Brian deGanahl, ACGA President

New Committee Chairs will be announced in the September issue. If you are interested in serving please contact President deGanahl. Thank you to the following for their service:

Ag Issues and Policy Committee Chair

Beef Marketing Committee Chair

Business Member Committee Chair

Bylaws Committee Chair

Convention Committee Chair

Education Committee Chair

Federal Lands Committee Chair

Fundraising Committee Chair

Membership Development Committee Chair

Political Action (PAC) Committee Chair

Ranchers for Tomorrow (R4T) Committee Chair

Resolutions Committee Chair

State and Private Lands Committee Chair

Water Committee Chair

Wildlife Committee Chair

Sonia Gasho

Bill Inman

Scott Pilchard

Leatta McLaughlin

Suzanne Menges

Joslyn Beard

Brian DeGanahl

Vacant

Darcy Ely

Mike Gannuscio

Nate Brawley

Brian DeGanahl

Chris Lowman

Vacant

Don McDowel

strongholdbeef@yahoo.com

binman@onhir.gov

scottp@westernskiesadv.com

leattamc@yahoo.com

communications@azcattlegrowers.org

jkbeard2@gmail.com

bdeganahl@reagan.com

darcyely@aol.com

mikeg@azcattlegrowers.com

R4T@azcattlegrowers.org

bdeganahl@reagan.com

chris.rlc@outlook.com

don@shakerattleandtroll.com

The Faces Behind the Fight.

By Ranchers, For Ranchers.

Welcome to the New ACGA Executive Committee

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association is proud to welcome the newly elected Executive Committee, chosen by you—our membership. These leaders have stepped up to represent Arizona's cattle industry at a time when our work has never been more critical.

Serving on the ACGA Executive Committee is no small task. These individuals were entrusted with this responsibility because of their proven dedication to ranching, their willingness to listen, and their commitment to ensuring that the voices of Arizona ranchers are heard—from the high country to the desert floor.

Over the next year, they will guide ACGA through challenges and opportunities alike, tackling issues from water policy and regulatory pressures to land management, wildfire mitigation, and market concerns. Their direction is clear: to advocate for the rights of Arizona ranchers, protect our ability to raise cattle and steward the land, and ensure this way of life endures for generations to come.

We invite you to get to know your new Executive Committee, engage with them, and share the priorities that matter most to your operation. Together, we are stronger—and with your involvement and their leadership, ACGA will continue to be the united voice of Arizona's ranching community.

Here's to a new year of grit, advocacy, and forward momentum for Arizona ranchers!



L to R: Mike Gannuscio, Immediate Past President, Bopper Cannon, 2nd Vice President, Richard Searle, Treasurer, Ben Menges, Member-at-Large, Brian deGanahl, President, Tim Petersen, 1st Vice President, Ken Ligon, Member-at-Large, Stephanie Teskey, Secretary

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

Executive Committee

Brian DeGanahl	President
Tim Petersen	1st VP
Bopper Cannon	2nd VP
Stephanie Teskey	Treasurer
Richard Searle	Secretary
Ken Ligon	Member-at-Large
Ben Menges	Member-at-Large
Mike Gannuscio	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	R4T

Letter from the Executive Director

Thanks to many hands and tremendous dedication from our Convention Committee, the 2025 ACGA Annual Convention proved to be an outstanding event!

Back in March, there were about 40 members registered. That number stayed the same for several weeks, and we were definitely concerned! I was hoping for 150 people in total—we ended up with about a hundred more than that. The daytime venue and the evening event center seemed to work out pretty well, the auction was very successful, the trade show included over 40 vendors and sponsors, and according to the surveys that have been returned, everyone really enjoyed the program of speakers. The topics were certainly diverse; highlights include Sierra Jepsen providing an engaging and very timely demonstration of butchering techniques, Dr. Sarah Klopatek discussing her research on livestock sustainability and regenerative agriculture, and NCBA CEO Colin Woodall giving an excellent update about trends and political issues at the national level. The breakout sessions included a panel of sheriffs discussing ranch safety issues, and of course, updates from various agencies. Mark Brawley and his staff at AgWest grilled our steaks to perfection for us on Friday night. We also had new members join our association or renew their membership, and Denny Atchley, our NCBA regional representative, reported that several individuals joined NCBA.

Of course, there are always areas that could be improved. If you haven't turned in your survey, or you would like to offer additional suggestions or comments, please email me at executive@azcattlegrowers.org, or text/call me at 928-458-1470. The plans are to hold our 123rd Annual Convention next year in Safford/Thatcher once again, and then move up north the following two years.

We are sincerely appreciative of our convention team of Lori Sollers, Kim Lackner, Sidnie Conerly, Ken Ligon, Sonia Gasho, Ashley Menges, Leatta McLaughlin, Joslyn Beard, Ben Menges, Scott Pilchard, Nate Brawley, Trina Sue Riggs, and Mike Macauley. Our goal is always to provide a worthwhile event for our members to learn, discuss, and meet up again with friends they perhaps haven't seen in a while. On behalf of the team, thank you for attending the convention, and if you couldn't join us, we hope to see you next year!

Suzanne Menges
ACGA Executive Director
communications@azcattlegrowers.org



At Work for You!



Making Progress, Together - July was a big month for the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, and we're proud to share the progress we've made. Our Summer Convention was a major success, bringing in over 42 vendors ranging from retail to resources—including, but not limited to, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Arizona Game and Fish, and the University of Arizona. It was a true gathering of industry minds, tools, and ideas.

We're especially excited to share that ACGA membership has officially climbed back above 400. This milestone is more than just a number—it's a sign that Arizona's ranching community is showing up, getting involved, and trusting us to represent its voice. Every new and returning member brings fresh energy, perspective, and strength to the association. We're continuing to improve our systems and outreach, making it easier than ever to stay informed, get connected, and feel part of something bigger.

There's more work ahead, but the momentum is strong. Thank you to every member who showed up, spoke out, and continues to support the future of Arizona ranching

Sidnie Conerly, Interim Administration Assistant
operations@azcattlegrowers.org

At Work for You!



Suzanne Menges,
ACGA Executive
Director

communications@azcattlegrowers.org



Sidnie Conerly,
Interim Administration
Assistant

operations@azcattlegrowers.org



Michaela Ward,
ACGA
Bookkeeper



Brittany Bingold,
Pivotal Policy
Consulting



Ashlee Mortimer,
Editor of Arizona
Cattlelog

cattlelog@azcattlegrowers.org

Legislative Update

Written by Brittany Bingold, Pivotal Policy Consulting.

For additional information on the budget specifics please email operations@azcattlegrowers.org.

After a long and entirely unique legislative session the Legislature has adjourned sine die after passing a \$17.6 billion bipartisan budget that the Governor has signed, avoiding a government shutdown before the looming June 30th deadline.

The 16-bill package was approved by the House in a bipartisan vote the last night following two earlier budget package vetoes and disagreements over previous proposals. Earlier this week, the Governor vetoed two Republican-only budget proposals pushed by the House. However, the final package reflects a slightly revised version of a bipartisan deal previously negotiated by Gov. Hobbs and leadership in the Senate. The Senate passed that earlier budget version on June 20.

The final budget includes partial funding for some of Governor Hobbs' priorities, such as child-care support and efforts to address veteran homelessness. While the House vote followed a contentious debate over process and immigration-related amendments, the final package passed 40-16 with cross-party backing, easing concerns over a potential government shutdown and sending the package to the Senate for the final bipartisan vote and transmission to the Governor.

Senate Leadership Shakeup: Shortly following the legislature's adjournment, the Senate Republicans met in a closed caucus and elected to make Senator John Kavanagh Majority Leader, replacing Senator Shamp in the role.

Budget Highlights for ACGA: *We are proud to share that the final state budget includes a \$250,000 appropriation to the Livestock Loss Board. This critical funding would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Senator David Gowan, who led the charge and ensured this line item remained a priority throughout every phase of the challenging budget process.*

We are also deeply grateful to Senator Tim Dunn, and Representative Lupe Diaz for their strong support and steadfast advocacy. Their collective efforts helped ensure this funding remained in the final budget, despite numerous revisions and competing priorities.

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, along with our industry partners, provided consistent leadership and advocacy in advancing this issue.

Having committed champions in the Legislature makes all the difference, and thanks to their work, the Livestock Loss Board can continue its vital mission.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture's request for six FTEs is also in the final budget. This includes two livestock inspectors, two state veterinarians, one meat/poultry inspector, and one food safety scientist.

New Funding Highlights of the \$17.6 billion State of Arizona Budget for 2025- 2026:

Public Safety- \$92 million in new investments

- 5% pay raises for all sworn state law enforcement officers
- 15% pay raises for state firefighters
- \$5 million for local border security support for county sheriffs
- \$4 million to help address human trafficking
- \$3 million in grants to law enforcement for fentanyl interdiction
- \$3 million for School Safety Interoperability

Infrastructure- \$119 million in new transportation initiatives

- \$54 million to finish major projects along State Route 347
- \$27 million to begin construction on I-10 widening between Citrus Road and State Route 85

K-12 Education- \$281 million in new funding

Higher Education- \$29 million in new funding

Health & Welfare - \$182 million in new funding

Water- \$12 million in new investments

- \$5 million for a Gilbert wells project
- \$3 million for a Kingman wells project
- \$2 million for Agriculture and Water Innovation Fund Deposit
- \$2 million for on-farm irrigation projects

Tax Breaks

- Exempts veterans who are 100% disabled from property taxes
- Increases the business personal property tax exemption from \$270,000 to \$500,000, reducing administrative burdens on small business owners
- Increases the deduction for adoption expenses from \$5000 to \$10,000

Convention Corner

THE 122nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

This year's Annual Summer Convention was truly one for the books! Ranchers, industry partners, and policymakers came together for three days of learning, networking, and celebrating Arizona's cattle industry. From your neighboring rancher to state senators and representatives, our lineup of speakers and panelists was nothing short of outstanding. Each session sparked meaningful conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing our industry today, inspiring action and renewed commitment to protecting the ranching way of life.

The convention floor was buzzing with energy as over 40 vendors filled our trade show, creating a vibrant hub of innovation, resources, gifts, fashion/jewelry, and hands-on learning. Attendees explored everything from the latest ranching tools and technology to services designed to strengthen operations and improve efficiency. Our trade show provided the perfect opportunity for members to connect with companies and organizations that are dedicated to supporting Arizona ranchers.

Beyond the sessions and exhibits, the convention was a place for old friends to reunite and new relationships to form. Over shared meals, evening events, and hallway conversations, members exchanged stories, strategies, and encouragement—reminders of why our community is so special. This year's program also included timely updates from industry leaders on policy, market trends, and sustainability.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to every attendee, vendor, sponsor, and volunteer who helped make the 122nd Annual Summer Convention a success. Your participation and energy are what keep this tradition thriving. Plans are already underway for next year's event, and we can't wait to gather again to celebrate, learn, and strengthen the future of Arizona ranching.



Convention Corner

Cattleman of the Year



Joseph Michael (Mike) Gannuscio was born on May 12, 1975, in Fullerton, California. During his years in California, he worked as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic – skills that came naturally to him. A true jack-of-all-trades, Mike has a gift for fixing just about anything.

In 2003, he moved to Mohave County, Arizona, where he continued operating heavy machinery until he graduated from the law enforcement academy in 2006. He then joined the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, where his dedication and bravery earned him a life-saving award.

In 2012, Mike married his wonderful wife, Kenna. Together, they share a big, loving family of seven children and 10 grandchildren. A year after their marriage, in 2013, Mike and Kenna founded K&M Hay Company. Their agricultural

adventures expanded in 2019 when they secured their first cattle grazing lease. A second lease was acquired in 2023 in Valentine, Arizona. The Gannuscios are currently working on developing a backgrounding program.

Whether helping our industry or stopping to assist a motorist in need, Mike is always ready to lend a hand. Family and friends alike are proud to know him – not only for his many talents but for his kind, selfless heart that guides everything he does.

It was an honor to award Mike the 2025 Cattleman of the Year award for his dedication to Arizona ranching and his tireless support of the cattle industry. He now joins the list of highly respected past recipients who have each made an enduring impact on our community. As the Immediate Past President of ACGA, Mike's leadership and service have left a lasting legacy, and his steady hand will continue to guide and support the association as he transitions into this new role. His story is a reminder that true leadership is measured in service, integrity, and the lasting difference one person can make.



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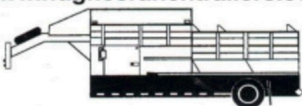
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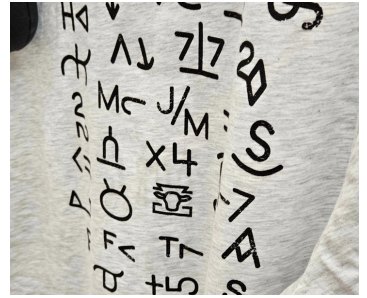
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Convention Corner



Here is to being Partners in Progress!

Photos by: Arizona State Cowbells, Trina Sue Riggs, Suzanne Menges, Wendi Wilcox (AZDA), and Cassie Lyman



PHOTO TAKEN BY JILL MYERS

Empty Saddles



Peter Andrew Groseta passed away peacefully on July 22, 2025, at home with his family after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Andy, as he was known, was born September 27, 1950, in Cottonwood, Arizona, the oldest son of Peter and Katherine (Maglich) Groseta Jr.

A proud descendant of Croatian heritage, he had fond memories with his grandparents Peter and Antonia Groseta Sr. and George and Anna Maglich. Whether stomping grapes for homemade wine or rotating lamb over a spit with cousins, he cherished those childhood memories. Every night before bed, he would say “Laku noć” (good night in Croatian) to his kids and grandchildren.

Andy took pride in being the third generation in his family to ranch in the Verde Valley. He attended Clemenceau Elementary and was one of the last classes at Mingus Union High School in Jerome. FFA and his Ag Teacher were influential in his life, and he served as a State FFA Officer his senior year. After graduating in 1968, he earned a B.S. in Animal Science and Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona in 1972 and completed his Master's in 1978. He taught Ag for eight years and began selling ranch real estate in 1978, eventually becoming a partner in Headquarters West in 1983. He remained a premier ranch realtor in Arizona until his passing.

Andy met Mary Beth Meyers in Tucson, and they married May 10, 1980. Together, they raised three children and returned to the Cottonwood ranch in 1986 to raise kids and cattle and build a life they were proud of.

He had a passion for serving his community and the cattle industry. His accolades include serving as President of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Chair of the Catholic Community Foundation, and member of the MUHS School Board. He was inducted into the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame, received the ACGA Cattleman of the Year Award, and holds an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Arizona.

Andy believed in God first, family second, and hard work always. Ever the optimist, he taught his children and grandchildren that anything worth doing was worth doing right. He shared his love of ranching and the land, quizzing his kids on mountains, canyons, and native grasses as he rode his favorite horse, Roosevelt. He was never one to shorten a workday, except to cheer on his beloved Arizona Wildcats.

Known as a friend, mentor, and leader, but most honored to be called Husband, Dad, and Grandpa, he is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Beth; children Paul (Gretchen), Katy (Kelly), Anna (Bass); and eleven grandchildren: Jacob, Dylan, Grace, Peter, Brandy, HB, Katherine, Richard, Basilio, Andy, and Perry. He is also survived by his brother George and many loving cousins.

Andy always showed up and proudly served the ranching community. He left a legacy and an impact that will live on for generations to come.

Empty Saddles



At the age of 83, Carol S. Anderson passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. She is survived by her three children, Becky A. Hill, Margie Joy (Leif), and J.D. Anderson (Rachel); and five grandchildren, Ellen Price (Wesley), Isabel Anderson, Addie Joy (Parker Poppe), Charlie Anderson, and Mason Anderson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stuart L. Anderson.

Carol was born on February 2, 1942, in Tucson, Arizona, to Edgar and Bertha Bartholomew and had two brothers, Richard (Dick) F. Bartholomew and Dr. Thomas (Tommy) H. Bartholomew, who both preceded her in death. She cherished her memories of visiting her father at his job as a pharmacist at the Tucson Drug Store, reading books, family picnics in the Catalina Mountains, and activities with her brothers.

In 1960, she graduated from Catalina High School. She volunteered as a Candy Striper at Tucson Hospital, and she attended the University of Arizona to pursue a degree in nursing. Carol met her husband, Stuart Anderson, on a blind date. They married in December 1961 and spent over 60 years together. Carol embraced her role as the wife of a United States Air Force Captain and enjoyed experiencing different European countries while overseas.

In the early 1970s, Carol and Stuart moved to Kingman, Arizona, to manage the family ranch known as the Willows Ranch. Carol became actively involved in the community with various organizations, including Homemakers, Soroptimist of Kingman, Mohave County Cowbelles, Arizona State Cowbelles, Order of the Eastern Star, Republican Women's Association, Kingman City Council, and eventually became the first female Mayor of Kingman, serving from 1984-1985 and again from 1988-1996. Carol also served as Mohave County Supervisor for two years and supported projects like the Pat Tillman Bridge at Hoover Dam. She served in leadership roles in nearly all these organizations and was very proud of the Arizona beef industry. She chaired the 1980 National Beef Cook-off, where all 50 state winners convened in Scottsdale and had their dishes judged by notable chefs like Julia Child and Merle Ellis, among others. Carol worked tirelessly to make that event a huge success. She felt water was important and was a fierce advocate for Kingman and Mohave County on water-related issues at both the state and federal levels.

Carol held various governor-appointed positions, including on the Arizona Water Advisory Board, the Arizona Preservation Task Force, the Arizona Municipal Tax Code Commission, the Mohave County Water Authority, and the Commerce and Economic Development Commission. She was active with the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, where she held the offices of treasurer, vice president, and president. She also participated in numerous organizations outside Mohave County, such as the Agri-Business Council of Arizona, Arizona Rural Water Association, and the American Heart Association-Arizona Chapter. She received several awards, including the Lifetime Achiever Award for Women Making History in Mohave County.

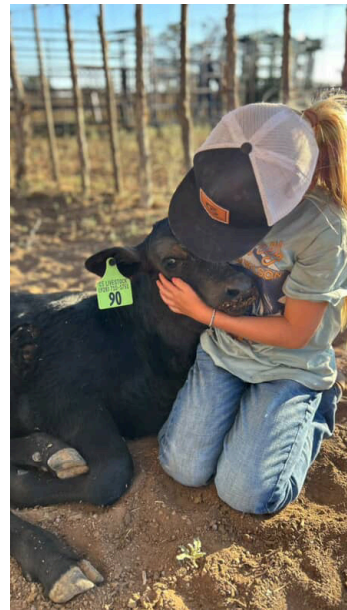
After retiring from politics, Carol worked at Hualapai Elementary School as a paraprofessional in kindergarten classes. She valued her interactions with students and especially loved receiving hugs from them when she saw them at the grocery store or around the community. Carol loved her family. She was a committed wife, sweet mom, and cherished grandmother. She was very proud of each of her grandchildren; to them she was Gmom. Carol was an amazing seamstress. She loved sewing for her family and made beautiful prom dresses, Halloween costumes, baby blanket quilts, and more. Ask any of her grandchildren and they will tell you about something special their Gmom sewed for them.

Stuart and Carol were honored to have the Kingman Campus Student Services Building at Mohave Community College (MCC) dedicated to them in recognition of their support for community, education, and MCC. It is in that spirit that the Stuart L. and Carol S. Anderson Family Scholarship Fund has been set up to honor both Carol's and Stuart's commitment to education. Carol also had a soft spot for stray animals and adopted numerous cats and dogs from the local animal shelter.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be mailed to Mohave Community College Foundation, Stuart L. and Carol S. Anderson Family Scholarship Fund, 1971 Jagerson Ave., Kingman, AZ 86409, Attn: Richard Holborrow, or to The Friends of Mohave Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 1224, Kingman, AZ 86402.

Memorial services for Carol will be held in Kingman on August 30, 2025, at St. John's United Methodist Church at 10 a.m., with a fellowship following the services. Carol's favorite color was purple. Please join us and celebrate her by wearing purple to her memorial service.

The Many Faces of Cattle Growers



C5 LIVESTOCK

FAMILY OWNED – RANCH GROWN. Written by Baillie Cooper.

Our family has dreamed of the opportunity to own our own ranch, and in February of 2025, we made that dream a reality. We are young entrepreneurs who also own a general contracting business (TEK Construction), but we wanted to raise our children around the lifestyle that ranching has to offer. We are so fortunate to have so many local ranchers who are willing to lend a hand or share wisdom without hesitation. It's truly an incredible community to be a part of.

We homeschool our three young children, and incorporating ranching into their curriculum has been beneficial in so many ways. From learning the business aspect to doctoring calves, there is no shortage of hands-on learning. The kids love working on the ranch, and it is providing them with work ethic and real-life skills that will give them the opportunity to succeed in any path they choose in the future.

Being from a family of dedicated hunters, we are blessed to have the opportunity to be stewards of the land through forage and water management, helping provide an ecosystem that is sustainable for healthy cattle and wildlife, allowing them to thrive together.

It's truly a family operation.



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We are **Cattle Growers**

Written by: Carol Wagner,
Karzac Ranch



Several years ago, my friend MaryEllen Ortlieb convinced me that it was in my best interest to join the Cowbelles.

It turned out to be a great decision. The Cowbelles are a wonderful group of women, united by a shared mission to promote beef. Beyond that, the potlucks were amazing!

Through my involvement, I also attended a Yavapai Cattle Growers meeting. Although they didn't have the same potluck charm, I joined anyway—and I'm glad I did. Over time, I've seen firsthand that there is real strength in numbers.

Those of us in agriculture are often taken for granted. Shoppers expect full grocery store shelves without realizing what it takes to get products there. From raising livestock to navigating regulations and markets, the work is constant and demanding.

Organizations like the Yavapai Cattle Growers show that positive change is possible. By uniting producers and working directly with local, state, and federal officials, they help ensure our voices are heard and our challenges understood.

Being part of this community has shown me that when we work together, we don't just survive—we thrive!



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There's My **Cowboy**

Got Your Back

We saddled up the horses, they were
stomping, hot to go. One goofy cowboy
hollered, "Let's get this road on the show."

I scanned the trail ahead of me and watched
the cowboys ride. The measure of the bond
we share is strong as grizzled hide.

We come from different backgrounds. Some
have riches, others pocket change. But
common comes together when we're riding on
the range.

With innocent charisma, wearing hats and
boots with pride, their number one priority,
stick by your good friend's side.

And when this world of misforgiving squeezes
you off track. It's soothing 'cuz you know
these cowboy friends have got your back.

Some say a cowboy's word stands strong as
any social pact. Don't know if it is written, or a
plain unspoken fact.

I trust these men with family. From my
youngest to the old. And thank the Lord I've
got true friends whose hearts are made of
gold.

We'll ride all day then back to camp for stew
and homemade bread. And maybe have a
nice warm fire before we go to bed.

While sitting 'round the warm campfire we'll
listen to the tales of when we were much
younger, of the heartbreaks, and the fails.

The younger ones will play guitar with
harmonica chimed in. And we'll feel the bond
grow tighter. Every face will wear a grin.

We'll check the saddle horses before calling it
a night. One cowboy hollers, "Goodnight all!"
Then douses out the light.

I take my hat off to the cowboy codger and the
new. They share a bond that no one else can
tether to come true.

And when we're out there sleeping on a
starless night so black. We can dream a little
deeper 'cuz the cowboys got our back.

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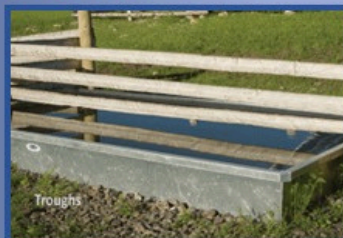
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CATTLE COMMENTS



BURRIS FAMILY

On the Ranch Q & A

Written by Sara Burris

How has the U.S. Administration impacted your livelihood as a rancher?

Policy changes occur with every new administration, and it is difficult for ranchers to plan ahead or make decisions—often expensive decisions—about infrastructure and compliance with new regulations. In the cattle business, the impacts of regulations are realized two to three years down the road. Generally, a policy that negatively impacts ranching takes six to eight years, or sometimes longer, to remediate in a positive direction.

What policy changes do you hope to see in the near future and why?

Changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements limit our capacity to rotate grazing throughout the year. Additionally, animals are placed on the list and not removed. The restrictions on grazing and pasture utilization prevent ranchers from effectively managing rangeland. For example, we may be required to follow ESA guidelines for an animal on the Endangered Species Act list that has not been found on our range.

What is the single largest factor contributing to your profitability, and how does it relate to herd health and calving rate?

Ranchers have a low profit margin, and with fluctuating market factors and drought conditions, we have to get everything we can out of every cow we support. DNA genotyping enables us to pick better replacement heifers that hold up well in this tough drought and calve younger without assistance. Ultrasound also helps us make better-informed decisions about culling our herd, as 'open' cows do not contribute to our profitability.

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

Ranchers are connected to the land, and we work diligently to be sustainable and conserve our natural resources. The land is the source of our profitability; without healthy rangeland, we don't have profitability. It is frustrating to know there are ways we can do better, but governmental regulations frequently stand in the way of doing what is best for the land and the wildlife that live in our environment.

What challenges keep you up at night, and how are you navigating them?

The drought causes us to haul water four to five days a week for the cattle and wildlife, plus the lengthy approval process required to install and supply storage tanks, wells, pipelines, and drinkers costs ranchers money and time. We ride our pasture land, do cattle checks on a weekly basis, and have regular check-ins with our range manager about the status of our requests. We attempt to utilize grants when available to help offset the costs.

How do you stay connected to your community and help others understand the realities of ranching?

Social media and ranch tours are the main ways we stay connected to the community. We strive to educate the public to understand the realities of ranching. We do tours with homeschool groups, as well as partnering with the Arizona Beef Council and Arizona State Cowbelles to host tours with dietitian students and social media influencers.

What advice would you give your younger self when starting out?

Don't worry about where other people are in their operation or goals; set your own goals and go after them. Enjoy the fact that we get to do this work and have this life through all the hard times and the good. Always keep good records and do projects right the first time around.



Stewardship Comments

Healthy Rangelands Begin with Ranchers

Written by: Becki Ross

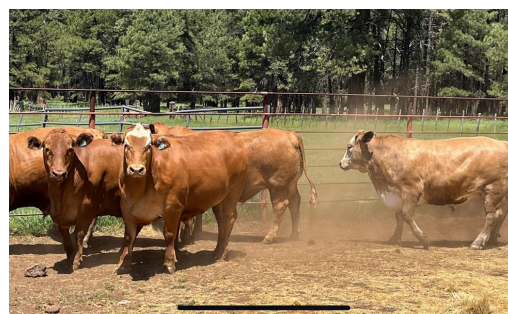
On our ranch in central Arizona, we've recently begun participating in projects aimed at improving range health—and the results are encouraging. Replacing aging waterlines and implementing brush management practices have not only benefited our cattle but also supported wildlife, reduced erosion, and helped grasses recover. These efforts take time and coordination, but they make a real difference.

We've been fortunate to partner with the NRCS, and we hope to work with Arizona Game and Fish and The Nature Conservancy on future efforts. Collaboration often feels like a full-time job, but it opens doors to meaningful change. Many organizations now recognize what ranchers have long known: the health of public lands begins with those who live and work on them.

Grazing plays a critical role in reducing fire danger and promoting land productivity. But with prescribed burns and wildfires increasing, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies must help repair and replace damaged infrastructure—especially fencing. We appreciate federal attention to forest and fire management, but those actions come with real impacts on our operations, and those impacts must be addressed.

Juniper encroachment continues to damage our grasslands, worsening erosion and limiting productivity. We need renewed focus and resources to tackle this problem.

If your ranch has faced similar challenges or has ideas for improving range conditions, we encourage you to speak up. Together, we can build a stronger voice and a healthier future for our lands. Reach out to AZCattleGrowers.com to learn more and get involved.



Sharing Our Story – It Matters

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The Compliment Sandwich

Written by: Ashlee Mortimer, CEO, Mortimer Farms/Ranches

One of the simplest tools for connecting with consumers is the compliment sandwich—starting and ending with something positive, while placing a potentially sensitive fact in the middle. It keeps conversations friendly, informative, and reassuring.

Here's how it works:

1. Start with a Positive Connection

Lead with something relatable or admirable about ranching. For example:

"We're proud to raise our cattle on open pastures here in Arizona, where they graze on native forages." or "Thank you for asking! This is one of my favorite parts of ranching."

2. Share the Fact or Address the Concern

Deliver the piece of information they're asking about—even if it's a topic that can feel tricky. For instance:

"We use vaccines as part of our animal care program to prevent fatal diseases that are preventable, keeping the herd healthy and strong."

3. Close with Another Positive

Reassure them with your values and care:

"Our priority is always keeping our animals healthy and ensuring safe, high-quality beef for your family and ours." or "Healthy animals mean safe, wholesome beef for our family and yours, and that's always our priority."

This approach keeps the tone warm and trustworthy, even with hard questions. The positive open and close help people feel comfortable, while the factual middle answers their question clearly.

Remember: Your goal isn't to defend—it's to connect. A compliment sandwich invites people into your world, leaves them with confidence in your care, and keeps the conversation open for next time.

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Cattlemen's College

New World Screwworm: What Every Arizona Rancher Should Know

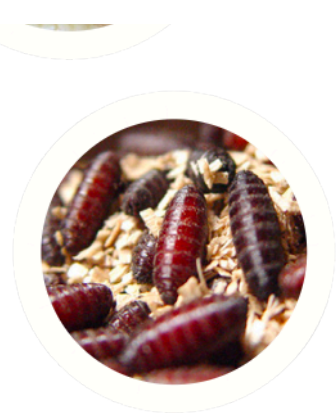
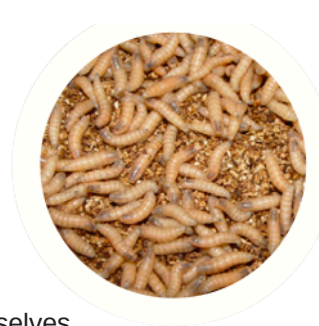
Written based on a report from the Arizona Beef Checkoff

New World Screwworm (NWS) is one of the most serious threats to livestock health in the Western Hemisphere—and it's closer to the United States than many ranchers realize. These pests are the larvae of a type of fly that burrows into the flesh of living animals. Unlike common maggots that feed on decaying tissue, screwworm larvae eat live tissue, causing severe pain, infection, and even death if left untreated. Pets, livestock, wildlife, and even humans are at risk.

Why the Concern Now?

The United States eradicated NWS in 1966 using the sterile insect technique, which involved releasing sterile male flies to disrupt the breeding cycle. But the threat never disappeared. Today, NWS is endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and much of South America. Over the past two years, cases have spread through every Central American country and into Mexico.

The U.S. and Panama maintain a barrier zone in eastern Panama to slow northward spread, but recent detections are raising alarm. During the 20th century, NWS cost the U.S. livestock industry over \$100 million annually. Another incursion could bring massive financial losses, trade restrictions, and new eradication efforts.



Recognizing Screwworm Infestations

Early detection is critical. Ranchers should watch for:

- Irritated or restless behavior and animals isolating themselves.
- Head shaking or rubbing, especially if the infestation is near the head.
- The smell of decay from wounds.
- Visible maggots in a wound—they often appear by the third day after eggs are laid.

Because NWS larvae feed on live flesh, they burrow deeply into wounds or natural openings like umbilical cords in newborn calves. Infestations are extremely painful, often leading to depression, loss of appetite, and rapid decline.

What to Do if You Suspect Screwworm

If you see suspicious wounds or maggots:

1. Immediately report it to your local veterinarian, state animal health official, or the USDA.
2. Do not delay treatment—infestations can worsen quickly.
3. Follow veterinary guidance for wound care and approved insecticide use.

Timely reporting and response protect not only your operation but the entire livestock industry.

Prevention and Management

If an outbreak occurs in the U.S., USDA's response plan will rely on quarantines and movement restrictions to contain the spread. Livestock movement from affected areas may require inspection and permits.

In endemic areas, the best prevention is to avoid creating open wounds whenever possible:

- Delay dehorning, branding, castration, ear notching, and shearing if screwworm risk is high.
- Treat all wounds immediately with approved insecticides.
- Spray or dust animals with insecticide before transport as a precaution.

Umbilical cords of newborn calves and hoof injuries are common infestation sites—these should be monitored closely.

Why This Matters to Arizona Ranchers

Even a single case in the U.S. could trigger quarantines, affect market access, and threaten the health of our herds. Screwworm infestations can lead to millions in economic losses, not only from livestock deaths but also from trade embargoes and eradication costs.

The health of your herd and the strength of the beef industry depend on early detection, rapid reporting, and proactive management. While the risk of NWS reaching Arizona is currently low, vigilance is our best defense.

For updates and resources, contact ACGA.

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4 BLK	701	\$347.50	6 BLK	783	\$300.00

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Cattlemen's College

Drought Planning and Forage Management: Facing the Challenge Together

"I have never seen it so bad." That was the reflection of a southern Arizona rancher this week, and it echoes across our state. From the desert grasslands to the high country, ranchers are staring down one of the toughest drought years in recent memory. When the rain doesn't come, every decision on the ranch feels heavier—and the margin for error shrinks.

Drought planning isn't just a seasonal task—it's a mindset. Whether you're in your first year of ranching or carrying on a legacy that spans six generations, planning ahead for dry times is the difference between staying in control and being forced to react.

1. Monitor and Manage Forage Early

Know what you have and adjust before pastures are overgrazed. Walk your country, take notes, and track grass conditions. Early destocking—whether selling culls, weaning early, or sending pairs to grass in another area—can prevent long-term damage to your rangeland. Protecting your forage base today will make recovery faster when rains return.



2. Use Rotational Grazing to Your Advantage

If you can rotate or rest pastures, even on a small scale, it makes a difference. Allowing sections to recover, even for a short time, helps maintain root strength and reduces erosion. Water and fence projects that create flexibility now can pay off for decades, letting you respond to dry years without overusing any single pasture.

3. Plan Feed and Water Strategies Before Crisis Hits

Supplemental feeding is expensive, but sometimes it's the bridge that keeps the core herd intact. Identify reliable sources of hay early—and consider buying before the market spikes. Likewise, check wells, storage tanks, and drinkers often. Hauling water is labor-intensive and costly, but clean and consistent water is non-negotiable for herd health in extreme heat. Get your water hauling plan in place.

4. Lean on Community and Resources

Drought wears on more than just the land—it takes a toll on ranch families. Talk with your neighbors, local extension agents, and conservation partners. Programs through NRCS, Arizona Game and Fish, and local conservation districts can sometimes help with cost-share projects or technical support for range improvements.

5. Pray for Rain

Some things will always be out of our hands. Pray for rain, do a rain dance every night, keep your faith strong, and never lose hope—because every Arizona rancher knows that when the clouds finally break, the land, the cattle, and our spirits all breathe easier.

No two droughts are alike, but the principle stays the same: protect the land first, and it will carry you forward. Arizona ranchers are resilient because we know how to adapt. With careful planning and a commitment to stewardship, we can weather even the driest seasons and leave our ranges ready for the next generation.



INDUSTRY NEWS

FROM PARTNERS & FRIENDS

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PLC Update



Washington, D.C. has been particularly eventful, with Congress racing to meet deadlines and the Administration fully engaged in implementing its agenda. The PLC team has matched their pace and ensured the perspectives of public lands ranchers remain at the forefront of conversations in D.C. From attending affiliate meetings across the West to representing your interest on Capitol Hill, we've made some progress and are pleased with several recent developments.

A major milestone was the signing of the "One Big Beautiful Bill," an expansive legislative package that became law on the Fourth of July. This bill represents a landmark victory for President Trump and the Republican led Congress. This critical legislation addresses the hazardous forest conditions that make our landscapes susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. Key provisions include expanding timber harvests by 250 million board feet annually for the next decade, extending timber sale contracts to 20 years, and providing meaningful regulatory relief. PLC continuously works to develop effective solutions that help rural communities and producers navigate the challenges they face during fire season. This provision is a result of PLC's commitment to promoting effective forest and land management in our work with Congressional leaders.

The bill also enhances livestock loss compensation—offering 100 percent reimbursement for animals lost to protected predators and 75 percent for those lost due to weather or disease. While the work on this issue has taken time, its inclusion is a result of PLC's unwavering commitment to addressing the ever-present issue of predation. The bill also creates new efficiencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by allowing project sponsors to prepare or fund environmental documents, with firm timelines: 180 days for Environmental Assessments and one year for Environmental Impact Statements. The ability for a producer to pay for their own NEPA provides them with an option to see projects move forward and avoid agency hurdles.

The tax relief package included in the bill is also equally important. The estate tax exemption has been extended, with new higher thresholds set at \$15 million for individuals and \$30 million for couples, both adjusted for inflation. Additionally, the provisions for full expensing of business property and permanent deductions for federally declared disaster losses represent significant victories for family ranches focused on generational transfer. When faced with drought and fire this critical deduction provides producers with additional much needed relief.

In a critical regulatory development, USDA Secretary Rollins announced that the Forest Service will begin the process of rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule. For nearly 25 years, this rule has limited access, hindered fire and fuel management, and obstructed effective stewardship across vast landscapes. This announcement reflects decades of work by PLC and our partners to address one of the most rigid and outdated policies that have burdened federal land managers. In Arizona, 699,000 acres have been locked up under this outdated rule, blocking essential tools for timber management that could reduce fire risk. Rescinding the Roadless Rule could unlock significant potential for timber harvests, grazing, and forest health restoration in fire-prone areas across the state.

A member of the Arizona congressional delegation is spearheading efforts to bring balance to species management. Representative Paul Gosar introduced the Enhancing Safety for Animals (ESA) Act, which would delist the Mexican gray wolf and separate U.S. and Mexican populations. This proposal reflects the reality on the ground: the species is abundant, its listing status is no longer justified, and rural communities are unfairly burdened by its protections. PLC worked to secure the introduction of this legislation and is actively engaging with Congressman Gosar's office to advance this science-based approach to delisting. We will continue advocating for critical reforms to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

We remain committed to advancing our efforts across key policy areas, including the mitigation of wildland fires, reform of the ESA, and regulatory modernization. Our focus is on securing policy that can withstand judicial scrutiny, and our recent successes are a direct result of constant engagement with decision-makers. We are committed to advocating for policies that support ranchers' ability to operate, grow, and pass their operations on to the next generation.

Garrett Edmonds
Director, Public Lands Council

Cowbelles Update

We had such a wonderful day at our Annual Meetings, celebrating the heart and dedication of Arizona's cattlemen! One of the highlights of the day was honoring Pamela Weston Griffin as our 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year. Pamela's tireless efforts, leadership, and passion for sharing the story of beef make her an incredible representative of our industry. Congratulations, Pamela—you inspire us all!

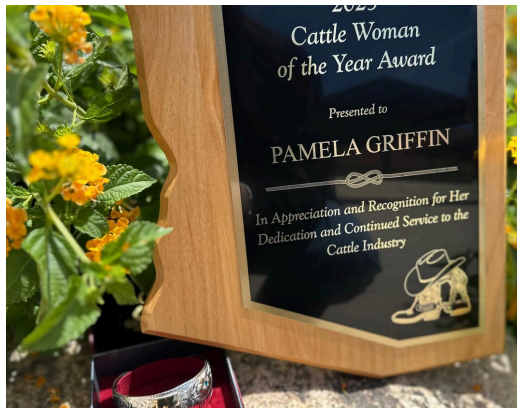
We are also excited to welcome our new board as they step into leadership for the coming year:

- President: Micaela McGibbon
- Vice President: Katie Spanyers
- Treasurer: Adriana Arrington
- Secretary: Kellie Wolverton

These women bring energy, experience, and commitment to the mission of the Cowbelles: promoting beef, supporting ranching families, and strengthening the future of our industry.

Thank you to all who attended, participated, and contributed to making the day a success. Our members are the heartbeat of this organization, and it is your enthusiasm and involvement that allow us to continue making a difference across Arizona.

Here's to another year of advocacy, connection, and celebrating the incredible women of Arizona ranching!



USDA Update

Livestock Monitor – Market Situation as of July 7, 2025

The U.S. livestock sector is moving through the summer with key developments in cattle, hogs, and dairy.

Cattle & Beef:

Federally inspected cattle slaughter totaled 474,000 head last week, down from 521,000 a year ago. Live steers averaged \$229.43/cwt, up sharply from \$197.09 last year, while dressed steers were \$369.30/cwt. The Choice beef cutout was \$393.94/cwt, reflecting strong consumer demand despite seasonal price easing. Beef production reached 409.2 million lbs., below last year's 440.6 million lbs.

Hogs & Pork:

Hog slaughter was 1.846 million head, down from 2.019 million a year ago. National negotiated hogs averaged \$111.34/cwt, well above \$91.20 last year, while the pork cutout was \$112.16/cwt. USDA's June 1 Hogs and Pigs report showed total inventories up 0.3% to 75.1 million head, signaling slightly larger supplies than anticipated. Lighter hogs under 50 lbs. saw the largest increase at +1.2%, while hogs over 180 lbs. declined -0.6%.

Dairy Expansion:

The U.S. milk cow herd has expanded by 90,000 head in the first five months of 2025, reaching 9.445 million head. Growth has been concentrated in the High Plains, South Dakota, and Michigan, with New York showing its first notable increase since 2022. Milk production is forecast to rise +1.3% this year, though the All-Milk price has been adjusted to \$22.00/cwt for 2025.

Grain Market Context:

Corn plantings are estimated at 95.2 million acres, the highest since 2013. A projected 15.4 billion-bushel crop combined with carryover supplies suggests a record-large U.S. corn supply for 2025/26, likely pressuring farm-level prices toward \$3.95/bu—supportive for feed availability.

Strong livestock prices continue to meet cautious supply growth, with feed markets positioned to support producers through the year.

CHECKING IN ON YOUR CHECKOFF WITH THE ARIZONA BEEF COUNCIL

ARIZONA BEEF COUNCIL POWERS UP "FAD TO FACT POWER CONFERENCE" WITH PROTEIN-PACKED SNACK BREAK



The Arizona Beef Council recently sponsored a well-received snack break at Grand Canyon University's "FAD to FACT Power Conference", providing future nutritionists with both educational content and a delicious demonstration of balanced nutrition in action.

The student-organized nutrition conference featured prominent speakers who delivered valuable insights to a packed audience of nutrition students eager to expand their knowledge. As these future nutrition professionals absorbed information throughout the day, the Arizona Beef Council stepped in to provide a much-needed energy boost with an interactive and educational snack experience.

The centerpiece of the Arizona Beef Council's contribution was a customizable beef jerky trail mix bar that showcased nutritious ingredients while demonstrating practical applications of balanced nutrition principles. The station featured four key ingredients displayed in separate bowls, allowing attendees to create personalized trail mix combinations:

- **Beef Jerky:** A protein powerhouse providing approximately 13g of high-quality protein per 1oz serving, plus essential iron, zinc, and B vitamins including B12 for nerve function and red blood cell formation
- **Dried Cranberries:** Adding natural sweetness along with vitamin C, antioxidants, and polyphenols that support urinary tract health
- **Sunflower Seeds:** Contributing vitamin E, magnesium, and selenium along with heart-healthy polyunsaturated fats and complementary plant protein
- **Almonds:** Offering heart-healthy monounsaturated fats, vitamin E, 6g of protein per ounce, and fiber for digestive health



To read more,
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visit

<https://shorturl.at/r4KsB>

AZAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP: NOURISHING OUR FUTURE

The Arizona Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AZAND) held its Annual Conference at the University of Arizona's Student Union Memorial Center in Tucson. The event, aptly themed "Nourishing Our Future," brought together nutrition professionals from across the state to explore cutting-edge topics in dietetics and foster meaningful connections within the community.

The Arizona Beef Council served as a proud sponsor of the conference, showcasing their commitment to advancing nutrition education and supporting healthcare professionals in their vital work. Additionally, through the *Beef. It's What's For Dinner.* Nutrition Seminar Program, they sponsored featured speaker Lauren Manaker, MS, RDN, LDN, CLEC, CPT, whose presentation on adolescent nutrition was a highlight of the day's educational offerings.



To read more,
scan here or
visit

<https://shorturl.at/rQQqh>

Lauren Manaker's presentation, "Adolescent Nutrition: Balancing Diet and Development," addressed a critical gap in nutritional research and practice. She shared compelling statistics from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) demonstrating significant nutritional deficiencies among adolescents.

Manaker highlighted the essential role of high-quality animal proteins, particularly beef, in supporting adolescent growth and development. She emphasized that these protein sources provide crucial nutrients like iron, zinc, and B vitamins that are often lacking in teenage diets yet vital for cognitive function, immune support, and overall development.



U of A Update

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

1. *FPSL, or 'meats lab,' is open following renovations and expansion, and we currently have limited capacity to process for external stakeholders. Anyone needing processing can reach out to us at 520-318-7021 or cml07@arizona.edu to get information on current availability and pricing.*
2. *The Wildcat Country Market (<https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html>) is currently open Fridays from 9-4 and hopes to have expanded days/hours soon. Please make sure to check the website or give us a call at 520-318-7021 to confirm that we are open and the cuts that are available before stopping by our storefront at 4181 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.*
3. *ACBS still has an open faculty search for a Livestock Extension Specialist, and applications are being reviewed as they are submitted.*
4. *We are excited to restart the Livestock Judging program here at the U of A. Mr. John Lockhart joined us on July 14th as the new Livestock Judging Professor of Practice and will be spending the next month working on restarting the program and meeting stakeholders around the state.*

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have (dscottmerrell@arizona.edu) and wish you all the very best as we navigate these hot summer months.

Scotty

Page sponsored by:



ARIZONA RURAL FOOD ANIMAL SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Dr. Jim Lytle

History of the Bill Owen, Cowboy Artist, Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. (BOCA), and the Arizona Rural Food Animal Scholarship

This scholarship was originally set up by the Arizona Cowpunchers' Reunion Association to fund scholarships for members and their children. Bill Owen started an art auction at Rancho de Los Caballeros where he, other cowboy artists, and other western artists donated their artwork for the program. The proceeds were put in a 501(c)(3) account and managed with minimum overhead. Over several years, the fund grew to a significant value, allowing the BOCA Board to fund scholarships without affecting the principal. The Arizona Cowpunchers' Reunion Association then renamed it to honor Bill Owen, and it has kept going in his name.

I, Dr. Jim Lytle, a board member of BOCA, have been given permission by the BOCA Board to set up a fund under the umbrella 501(c)(3) to create a scholarship program for veterinary students in Arizona.

Due to the high cost of veterinary education (veterinary students have \$180,000 in student loan debt upon graduation, according to statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association), and because there is an extreme shortage of rural food animal veterinarians in Arizona, it is my thought that we can help defray the cost of their education and encourage them to go into the rural areas where they are going to provide service to our ranching and rural residents. The Board agreed that the best way to structure this scholarship would be to have it pay out to the students after their graduation to help pay off their student debt if they meet the requirements of working in large- or mixed-animal practice in a rural area. In doing it this way, the BOCA group would not have to become bill collectors for students that had the scholarship in school and decided to go into a different type or area of practice.

At this time, over two-thirds of those of us that do ranch and food animal work are over 50 years old, with the majority being 70 years old or above. Looking at these statistics, ranchers in Arizona are facing a major problem in the near future.

It is my goal to create a fund under the umbrella of the BOCA 501(c)(3), that will help our rural areas and ranches and will be self-sustaining without having to have massive fundraisers each year to sustain it. The 501(c)(3) of the organization has extremely low overhead, with the annual cost (other than fees from the investment firm that handles the funds) under \$2,500 per year. The members of the BOCA board do not receive any type of compensation for their time and dedication. This non-profit organization is dedicated to their cause and dedicates 100% of their resources to the intended purpose. It is the perfect organization to manage the Bill Owen Memorial Rural Vet Scholarship, and with your help, we can rebuild the desperate shortage of food animal veterinarians in Arizona.

If you have donations or know of an individual or group that would like to help us with this fund, please contact me, and I will provide information on how to donate. Thank you.

Dr. Jim Lytle, 928-684-2872
PO Box 1473, Wickenburg, AZ 85358

Arizona Dept. of Ag Update

The New World Screwworm (NWS) presents a significant threat to livestock and all other warm-blooded animals, including pets and humans, potentially causing serious health issues and economic setbacks if not addressed. As a livestock owner, understanding NWS, recognizing its signs, and knowing how to respond are crucial. The adult NWS fly is comparable in size to a housefly, distinguished by its orange eyes, metallic body, and three dark stripes. Female flies are attracted to open wounds on warm-blooded animals, even minor ones like tick bites, the umbilicus or navel of newborn calves, or castration, tail docking, or ear tagging sites, where they deposit their eggs. These eggs hatch into larvae, or maggots, which then develop within the animal by eating live tissue. This feeding behavior on live tissue is what sets screwworms apart from other maggot infestations that only feed on unhealthy tissue.

Should you suspect an NWS infestation, it is imperative to report it immediately. Contact your local accredited veterinarian, State Veterinarian's Office, or a USDA veterinarian without delay. Prompt reporting and action are essential to prevent the spread of this serious disease, which could otherwise have significant negative consequences for agriculture in the U.S. The USDA utilizes a sterile insect technique as part of its successful eradication efforts, in addition to quarantine and animal movement controls by regulatory officials and active area surveillance to control the spread of the disease. The importance of community vigilance in protecting livestock as well as the broader agricultural industry and human health cannot be overemphasized.

 AZDA ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	Licensing Section 1010 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007 Mail To: 1802 W. Jackson St #78 Phoenix, AZ 85007 PHONE (602) 542-3578 FAX (602) 542-0466	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.: 20169 End Date: 8/15/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: RS Goat: RS		Brand No.: 20170 End Date: 8/15/2025	Cattle: NO Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20168 End Date: 8/15/2025	Cattle: NO Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20167 End Date: 8/14/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20164 End Date: 8/13/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20165 End Date: 8/13/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LT Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20166 End Date: 8/13/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20163 End Date: 8/13/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20161 End Date: 8/9/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 20162 End Date: 8/9/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RS Sheep: RS Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20160 End Date: 8/8/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20159 End Date: 8/7/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 7178 End Date: 8/7/2025 AMEND	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: B Goat: NO		Brand No.: 3843 End Date: 8/6/2025 AMEND	Cattle: RH Horse: RT Sheep: RS Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20158 End Date: 8/6/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20157 End Date: 8/2/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: LH Sheep: RR Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20156 End Date: 8/2/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20154 End Date: 8/1/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20155 End Date: 8/1/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: LH Goat: LH		Brand No.: 20152 End Date: 8/1/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20153 End Date: 8/1/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LT Sheep: LH Goat: LH

Arizona Farm Bureau Update

Arizona Farm Bureau: Advocating for Ranchers and Agriculture

Daniel Harris, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager, www.azfb.org/join

Written July, 2025

Arizona agriculture is navigating a season full of change and opportunity. USDA has announced a major reorganization to realign the Department with its core mission of supporting farmers and ranchers, aiming to improve services and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. Closer to home, ADWR has approved the transfer of groundwater from the Harquahala Basin to Buckeye and Queen Creek, a move that will help support urban growth while balancing rural water impacts. Meanwhile, policy discussions continue to focus on land management, water conservation, and the challenges and opportunities facing ranching operations across our state. Arizona producers remain at the forefront of these conversations, ensuring that the voice of agriculture is heard.

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