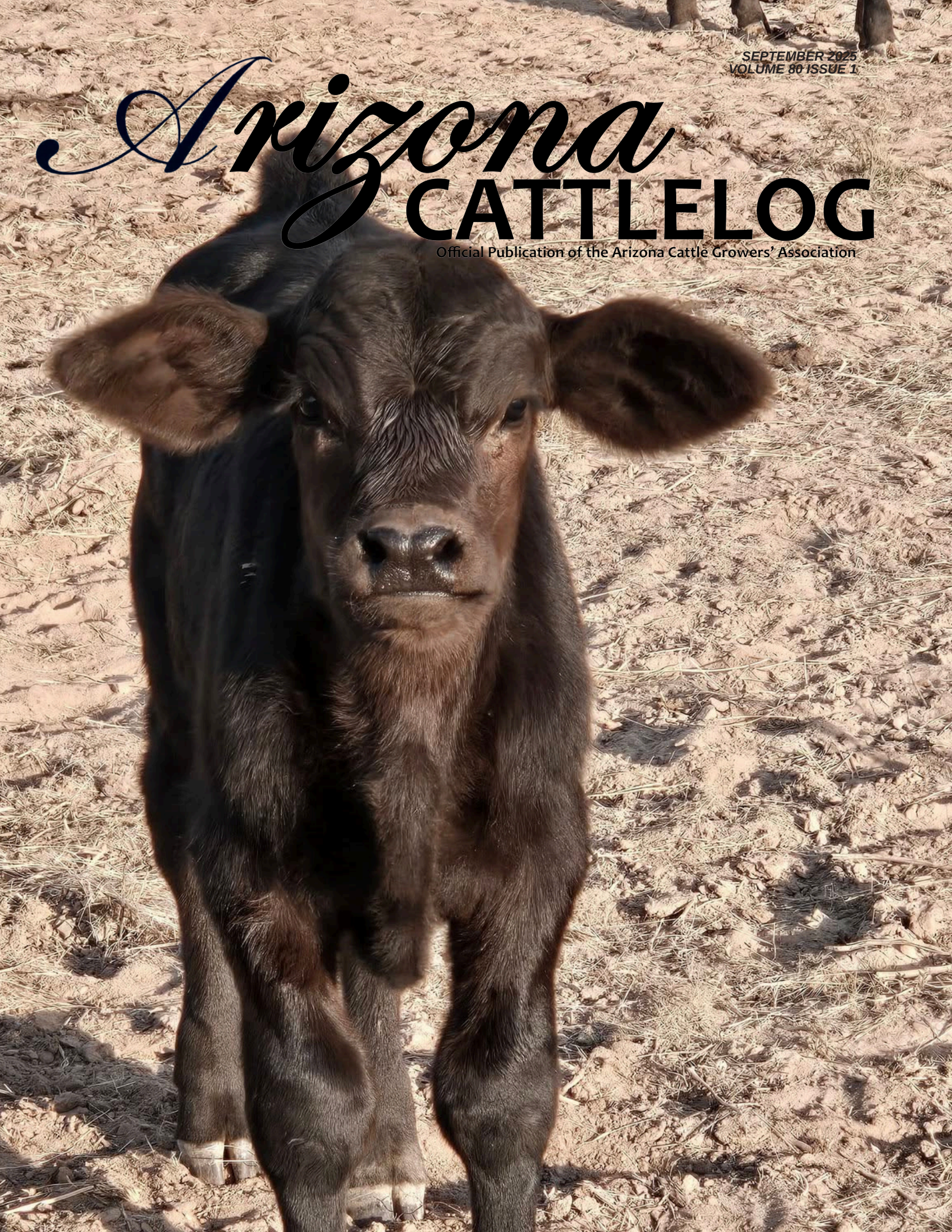


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VOLUME 80 ISSUE 1

Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association





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CATTLE GROWERS' REPORTS



SELENA SORENSEN

Letter from the Editor



Sometimes ranching reminds us, in the most humbling way, how dependent we are on things far beyond our control. This summer, like so many across Arizona, we find ourselves looking at brittle grass, dry tanks, and cattle searching for green—and praying. I posted a plea for rain on social media, asking friends, neighbors, customers, and strangers across the state to join us in prayer. The 14-day forecast was dry. The land was parched. We were desperate.

And then, three hours later, it rained. Not a sprinkle. Not a fleeting drizzle. A real, soaking rain that sent us jumping up and down, laughing like kids, and giving thanks with full hearts. It rained on and off all day, and with every drop came both relief and giddy excitement.

That night was our monthly sold out farm-to-table dinner, and we couldn't imagine celebrating anywhere but The Grove, under the canopy of our 100-year-old cottonwood trees and a sky full of rain clouds. The rain made setting up tricky—we delayed setup until the very last moment, not knowing if we'd need to move inside. Finally, as if on cue, the skies cleared just in time for us to gather.

What happened next was one of my favorite memories. Our farm and ranch crew—people whose hands are more at home on reins, shovels, and fencing pliers—rolled up their sleeves to help set tables. Imagine calloused hands carefully laying fine china, cowboys learning which side the fork goes on, and farm hands crafting flower arrangements. We've never set up faster, and never laughed harder.

Then, as the sun set and the cottonwoods glistened from the day's rain, we sat down together—ranchers, neighbors, and guests from the city alike—to share sirloin steak tacos (plus 3 other courses and wine pairings) and a meal that celebrated the very miracle we had prayed for, rain. And later that night, the rains returned, blessing the land again.

We still need more rain, and we continue to pray for it and pray that our Arizona rancher friends receive much needed moisture! But that day was a powerful reminder: ranching is more than cattle, forage, and water lines. It's faith. It's community. It's sharing the highs and lows of this life with those around us.

This issue of the Arizona Cattlelog reflects that same spirit. You'll find updates on critical policy discussions, tools for navigating drought, and resources to help tell your story. But you'll also find a reminder that our work is deeply human—rooted in hope, grit, and the kind of joy that comes when prayers are answered in the form of rain.

Wash your car. Do a rain dance. Post a plea. Pray. Whatever it takes. Because when the rain comes, it is an answer to our prayers!

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

Upcoming ACGA Events Please mark your calendars!

September 6th - Ranch Rodeo, Sonoita Fairgrounds

September 13th - Gila County Annual Meeting and Steak Fry - Little Green Valley Payson

September 16th-18th - Public Lands Council Annual Meeting - Flagstaff

September 27th - Yavapai Cattle Growers Calf Sale & BBQ - Peeples Valley

February 18, 2026 - ACGA Winter Meeting - Phoenix

Looking forward to networking and gathering at these upcoming events!

Letter from the President



This is an unprecedented time in the cattle business. The drought aside, there are several components of this business trending our direction. We all realize that we are experiencing all-time high cattle prices, but it is possibly the highest prices ever, even adjusted for inflation. Due to drought and the fact that our calves are too valuable to keep, herd expansion on a nationwide level is still a couple of years off. We can all take advantage of this situation and hopefully make up for some of the bad years.

On another front, this may be the friendliest administration to beef producers in my lifetime. The increase in the estate tax floor, fair trade policy, and tax policy in general are all positive factors for us. As public lands ranchers (which most of us in Arizona are), this is the area that may be the most consequential, as this administration is in the process of a total overhaul of BLM and Forest Service regulations. In the past weeks, I have had several conversations with prominent Department of Interior officials and also state-level BLM and Forest employees. There may be some changes in the near future that we have all been pushing for years. It is a new day in the halls of Washington, and I believe they are serious about common-sense changes. That being said, we need to take advantage of the situation as individuals. If there is a project that has been held up for years on your ranch for some bureaucratic reason no one can explain, I suggest you go into the local office and kick-start the process. The streamlining of NEPA has already been mandated by Washington, and the local field offices know this. There are several other initiatives by this administration that will be brought forward soon, addressing many of the issues we have been fighting for over the years. I am as optimistic right now as I have ever been that some major flaws in the public lands arena may actually be fixed in the near future.

I know optimism can be hard when you're feeding hay and pulling weak cows to the house, but we are one day closer to the drought buster, and there is a lot to be optimistic about.

Keep your powder dry,
Brian deGanahl, ACGA President

New committees will be announced at the September Board of Directors meeting. 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

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The Faces Behind the Fight

By Ranchers, For Ranchers

Hitting the Ground Running

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association has hit the ground running. Your newly elected Executive Committee wasted no time rolling up their sleeves and advocating on behalf of Arizona ranchers. From meetings in Phoenix to conversations in Washington, they are making sure your priorities are heard and your way of life is protected.

But the strength of ACGA doesn't rest on their shoulders alone. Our committees are where a lot of the real work happens—digging into the issues, shaping policy, and leading the charge on everything from water and land use to marketing and education. For that, we need strong chairs and volunteers willing to step up, take ownership, and guide these efforts forward.

If you've ever considered getting more involved, now is the time. By lending your voice and expertise, you help ensure ACGA remains the united, proactive voice of Arizona's cattle industry.

Together—with you setting the direction through policy and the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and our committees powering the work—we can continue to protect and advance ranching across the state.

Here's to building on this momentum and keeping Arizona ranchers at the table where decisions are made.



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

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Letter from the Executive Director

“Sustainability.” It has been something of a buzzword in the agriculture industry for some time now, encouraging producers to adopt practices that will ensure the longevity of their operation. I often smile wryly when I listen to an “innovator” discuss sustainability with a sixth-generation ranching family who has been on their place since the 1890’s. And yet, there are certainly advancements in feed efficiency, genetics, and herd management software, to name just a few, that can increase productivity and provide important metrics. Both are needed—the valuable historical knowledge of a cattle operation, and whatever innovations the rancher considers helpful.

The same can be said for organizations and associations. To be sustainable, different perspectives are needed to move the group forward. I have heard it said, “Only look back to learn.” We can always learn something from those that came before us—their struggles and their successes—but with the pace of change today, it is easy to overlook the lessons from the past. We should also embrace new tools and strategies that help ACGA improve both our service to our members and our advocacy efforts for the public.

There are certainly tools and strategies we will be considering this fall, with an eye on becoming even more efficient and responsive to our members. President Brian is streamlining the committees to focus on our most important work. Sidnie Conerly, who has been hired as our permanent administrative assistant, is working on membership development and outreach. In addition, we have established working groups to address both ranching issues and internal procedures in a timely and efficient manner. Several members have stepped up to help with these efforts, and we are truly grateful for their commitment. Watch for more details on these exciting developments. We will always welcome your ideas and feedback as we continue to raise the bar at ACGA!

Suzanne Menges
ACGA Executive Director
executive@azcattlegrowers.org



At Work for You!



Suzanne Menges,
ACGA Executive
Director



Sidnie Conerly,
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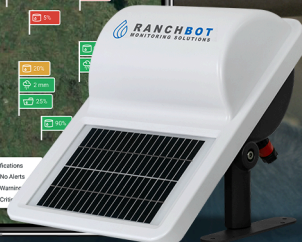
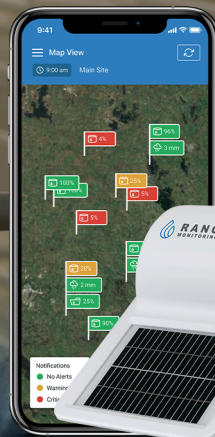
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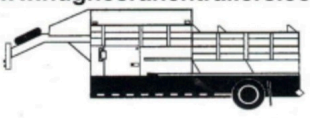
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PORCH TALK



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We are **Cattle Growers**

From the Blue to Washington DC

Written by: Ginger Cheney

On June 23-25, representatives from New Mexico Federal Lands Council, Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties, and Greenlee County Cattle Growers met with agency people, lawyers, congressman, and staff. The people who had gone to Washington DC before said they'd never had meetings that went as well as ours did. We discussed Mexican wolves, ESA, NEPA, grazing, fire, BLM solar, APHIS, ecoterrorist vandals, water rights, etc. Our group worked very well together and we all had our niche.

Our first day, we started with a FWS meeting with Joshua Coursey and David Miko. Mr. Coursey's priorities are the wolves and grizzly bears and I feel he truly wants to help. Next, we had meetings in the Department of Agriculture and all of those went well. They are working on redoing the handbooks and bringing some common sense back into the agencies. We went to the Department of Interior and we met with Karen Budd-Falen who gave us a lot of hope with what she and her team are doing to streamline NEPA. She has a lot of great plans that will keep her very busy for the next three years. We met with FSA and had some great discussions on some ideas to improve things.

Our second day focused more on the Hill where we met with Congressman Gosar and his staff, Congressman Crane, and staff for Congressman Biggs and Congresswoman Hageman, and an assistant with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Our last day we met with the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, the Congressional Western Caucus, and Congressman Ciscomani. With SBA, there were three lawyers who specialized in different areas including the EPA, OSHA, and regulatory economics. They were very interested in what we are going through with the wolves and the USFS. New Mexico's advocate is meeting with ranchers there and we can get our person to meet in Arizona as well. They put together a great report on several issues including the wolves.

This was a very positive trip to Washington DC. I'm so thankful that I was able to travel and meet with some amazing people. I truly have hope for great changes for agriculture with this administration. Just remember, we all have a voice and now is our time to be heard.



Photo from the Department of Interior. Left to right is Howard Hutchinson, Kelly Goss, Ginger Cheney, Carolyn Nelson, Ty Bays, Laura Schneberger, Caren Cowan, and Odie Prather.

The Many Faces of Cattle Growers



Layton Cattle Company
Written by: Steve Layton

The Layton family has been ranching on the Arizona Strip since 1948. When the ranch was purchased, my parents, two siblings, and I moved from Southern Arizona to the northwest corner of Arizona. The ranch is about 50 miles from the nearest town (in Utah). We moved into town from the ranch when the kids were old enough to go to school, and we had a farm there until we moved to the town of Beaver Dam, AZ, in the 1970's. There, we built a farm and a feedlot. This is where we raised our family as well. My wife LaRene and I have two kids and now two grandkids. They are all involved in the farm and ranch.

Our family raises hay and backgrounds our calves. The ranch is all BLM land and we have a year-round allotment. Ranching on the Arizona Strip has many of the same challenges as the rest of Arizona. Our country ranges from Mojave Desert to a little higher elevation in the cedar trees and blackbrush. The drought is affecting the forage and our ability to rotate some pastures. Due to years of careful selection, our cattle are well suited for their environment and have been able to endure what seems like a never-ending drought. Thankfully, we are blessed with multiple springs across our ranch that feed many miles of pipelines and troughs, so water hasn't been an issue. Despite the challenges that go along with ranching in the desert, we are glad to be able to ride good horses and raise cattle with our family. We appreciate what the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association does for ranchers across our state, and we are proud to be a part of it.



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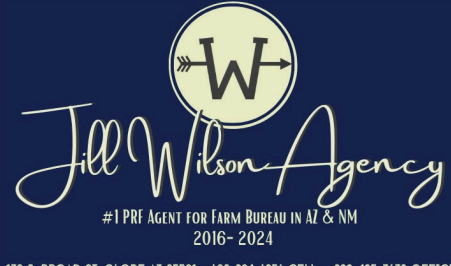
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My Grandkids

My grandkids are my pride and joy. They're growing up too fast. Their presence touches my old heart. I wish this time could last.

As each was born into our clan, more proud, I couldn't be. I hoped they'd grow up good and kind and want to be like me.

I grew up as a cowboy and rode horses every day. It's what my family did for work and what we did for play.

But our sons' professions moved our grandkids to the city way. Ya gotta make a living and there weren't much I could say.

And when they'd come to visit, I'd still teach the life I know-A man who loves the outdoors and a saddle horse to go.

But when I put them on my horse their eyes grew wide with fear. They tried it just to please me, but they made their feelings clear.

I've watched them bounce a basketball, play soccer all day long. But a cowboy hat they will not wear. Each says it just feels wrong.

The other day one told me he thinks golfing's kinda cool. Do I have the nerve to tell him? We call it pasture pool.

His dad bought him some new golf clubs. My grandson's joy was loud. When I see him golfing with his dad, I couldn't be more proud.

I'll learn to swing a club, I guess, if that's what it will take. I've swung an ax for sixty years and that's a piece of cake.

I understand that cowboy boots are taboo on the green. And me in yellow golfing shorts? That might be called obscene.

'Cuz my legs are old and show the wear of a grandpa's golden years. And 'bout as white as Casper ghost, you'd laugh almost to tears.

Do any cowboys play this game? Some prob'ly do somewhere, but I think I've talked myself right out of golfing anywhere.

Could they use a golf cart driver? I'd sit behind the wheel. Just to be there near my grandkids, for me would be ideal.

But no matter if they're far away and with the golfing crowd, my grandkids are the world to me. I couldn't be more proud.

Bryce Angell



CATTLE COMMENTS

PRAY FOR RAIN BY TINA A. THOMPSON

Stewardship Comments

The Power of Connecting

Written by: Suzanne Menges

You just never know where that post, story, or, in this case, beautiful ranch pictures will lead. If you have seen the photography of Tina Thompson, you won't be surprised to know that her consistent postings on Facebook of landscapes and ranching life led to quite an opportunity for her and her husband David.

The Thompsons own the YY Ranch near Willcox. A fifth-generation, mostly private land cow-calf operation, the YY property was settled by Tina's great-great-grandfather in the late 1870s. The sixth and seventh generation are now on the scene. Tina's family moved to the ranch when she was two years old, and David was raised nearby. Together the Thompsons have spent their ranching careers developing the land through careful rotational grazing management and installing pipelines, drinkers, and wells. Phone always at the ready, Tina enjoys sharing the striking scenery on this remote high-desert ranch at the foothills of the Chiricahua Mountains in Cochise County.

Her photos happened to be noticed by Jimmy Emmons, Senior Vice-President at Farm Journal, who was intrigued not only by the photos but also by the rich ranch history and the sustainability work the Thompsons have done over the years. Through this connection, a program called Trust in Beef entered the scene, and their personnel were equally impressed. Trust in Beef supports farmers and ranchers through peer-to-peer rancher engagement, community-building, and outreach at scale using Farm Journal's 23 brands of agriculture media. Through in-field activities and virtual programs, Trust in Beef addresses topics such as grazing management, regenerative practices, and profitability.

The YY Ranch was an ideal location to include in their five-state 2025 Sustainable Ranchers Tour, and that came about on July 30th. The event began with a BQA certification class and reception the evening prior to the tour of the ranch's pastures and improvements the following day. Hugh Aljoe from the Noble Research Institute discussed soil health, and Arizona State Veterinarian Dr. Ryan Wolker presented an update on the New World Screwworm.

Congratulations to the Thompson family on receiving this recognition, and for serving as an excellent example of the environmental benefits of ranching in Arizona!



A few of Tina's photos as we continue to pray for rain!

On the Ranch

Written by: Michael Macauley

Good afternoon, I am Michael Macauley and I am the President of the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the recipient of the 2025 Grant Boice Hall of Fame Award.

The award is designed to honor and give recognition to those who have made highly significant achievements in Arizona Livestock Associations at the national, state and county levels. An honoree must have impeccable character, have provided outstanding leadership, have made noteworthy contributions and have received recognition for those achievements. It is an award for excellence.

Before identifying the recipient, let me state a few of his accomplishments: He began his career as an engineer, received his Doctoral Degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Arizona, then worked at Westinghouse on the Mars Space Program. In 1968, he and his wife Judy moved back to Arizona and he became a Professor of Engineering at Arizona State University specializing in Solar Electric Systems. In 1993, he became Vice President and Provost of ASU East, now the ASU Polytechnic Campus. During this time, he took classes in Animal Science and Range Management to pursue his goal of becoming a rancher.

In 1977, they purchased the Quarter Circle U Ranch located in the Superstitions, thus Chuck Backus begins cattle ranching in one of the most challenging areas in the state. It is dry, rocky, and not conducive to raising cattle. In spite of this, Chuck is very successful. Using an analytical approach he learned as rocket scientist, he worked on improving range conditions, working with the Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and setting up plots to monitor vegetation, thus improving the range. He was recognized as Arizona Rancher of the Year by the Arizona Society of Range Management in 1995. In addition, he was working on improving the genetics in his cattle to the point that his cattle achieved three times the national average for Certified Angus Beef. He then took what he had learned and shared it with the Arizona Cattle Industry.



He once stated he had taken on the educational improvement of Arizona ranchers, to right the wrong of historical assumptions that Arizona cattle must settle for mere survival. "It is a very harsh environment, but it still can produce good cattle". He put together seminars and helped the rest of us to become better ranchers, cowmen and stewards of our respective operations. The seminars he organized taught us how to "Ranch Using Science", "A Cow – Calf Symposium for Southwestern Ranchers" and "Herd improvement and Bull Selection". He brought together leaders in the livestock industry for these symposiums presenting us with information that informed us, challenged us and benefited us.

In Chuck's own words on leadership: **"I have a personal drive to leave the world a little better than I found it. Ranching combines improving mother earth with the quality of the products that come from it. That quality is much better, either because of my direct contribution or setting an example that others could use to pursue goals."**

He led by example that being a conservationist and a cattle rancher is not a conflict of interest.

In gratitude for his years of service to the Arizona cattle industry, especially through the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation with a series of seminars on herd improvement, we are honored to recognize Dr. Charles Backus with the 2025 Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation's Grant Boice Hall of Fame Award. Thank you for sharing your knowledge.

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6 CHAR	486	\$440.00	18 ENGLISH X	445	\$440.00
4 BLK	499	\$427.00	10 BLK	454	\$430.00
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Cattlemen's College

Public Lands Policy: Ranchers Caught in the Middle

For many Arizona ranchers, our operations are tied directly to public lands. Grazing permits on BLM and Forest Service allotments provide the base that makes our ranches viable. Without them, most operations simply wouldn't have enough deeded land to hold together. That reality means we're constantly balancing two worlds: the on-the-ground needs of our cattle and lands and the shifting priorities of federal agencies and policymakers.

The hard truth is that the policy coming out of Washington—or even from regional offices—doesn't always match the realities of running cows and managing lands in Arizona. A grazing rotation might make sense on paper but fall apart on the ground when drought cuts forage by half, or when wildfire closes access for months at a time. We've all been there: standing on country we know inside and out, only to be told the "management plan" doesn't match what we see with our own eyes.

Challenges on the Range

Policy challenges hit us in a dozen ways:

- NEPA delays that hold up permit renewals and tie management plans in knots.
- Endangered species rules that shift overnight, forcing sudden changes to grazing schedules.
- Closures that keep allotments locked even after pastures are recovered.
- Pressure from outside groups who have never set foot on a working ranch but know how to file lawsuits.

These situations aren't abstract. They affect how we move cattle, where we can graze, and whether our families can make a living. Ranchers know cattle are one of the best tools for reducing fuel loads, restoring grasslands, and managing invasive species. Yet too often, the very work we do to steward the land is treated as a threat rather than a solution.

Ranchers Stepping Up

Despite the frustrations, Arizona ranchers continue to show up. We attend permit meetings, document stewardship projects, and spend hours explaining what it actually takes to run livestock in the desert. Families who already work daylight to dark still carve out time to fight for flexibility—because we know what's at stake.

Across the state, ranchers are putting their own dollars and sweat into improvements:

- Water systems that keep cattle dispersed and wildlife thriving.
- Cross-fencing and rotational grazing that protect riparian areas and give pastures rest.
- Fuel-reduction grazing projects that reduce wildfire risk for entire communities.

These aren't small efforts. They are long-term investments that prove ranchers are conservationists by trade and necessity.

Why Policy Matters

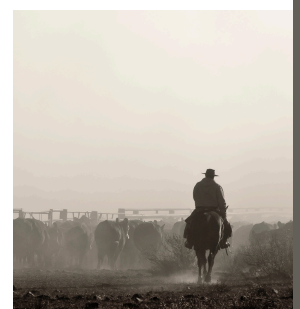
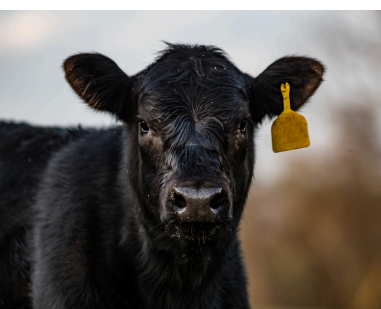
Policy may feel distant, but it shapes every decision we make on the ground. The wrong regulation can force herd reductions, close off grazing country, or add costs that a ranch simply can't absorb. At the same time, supportive policies—like streamlined NEPA processes or flexibility in drought response—can make the difference between holding on through a tough year and having to sell out.

That's why involvement is critical. Whether it's through ACGA, local associations, or direct conversations with agency staff, ranchers must keep raising our voices. These decisions are being made with or without us, and if the people writing the rules don't hear from those of us living with them, someone else will be more than happy to fill that silence.

Looking Ahead

Policy battles aren't won overnight. They take persistence, patience, and numbers. But history shows that when ranchers work together—sharing our story, showing our stewardship, and demanding a seat at the table—we can protect our ability to ranch on public lands.

At the end of the day, this is about more than grazing permits. It's about keeping ranching families on the land, preserving open space, and ensuring the landscapes we steward remain productive and healthy for the next generation. Arizona ranchers have proven we can do the work. Now we have to make sure the policies allow us to keep doing it.



Cattlemen's College



Ranching Through Drought: Realities on the Ground

For Arizona ranchers, drought isn't a possibility to prepare for—it's the reality we've been living with season after season. The real challenge isn't if we'll face dry conditions, but how to keep our cattle and our ranges moving forward when options are limited, especially for those of us who operate on public lands.

On BLM and Forest Service allotments, flexibility isn't always in our hands. Rotation schedules, permit terms, and agency timelines can clash with on-the-ground realities. That means many ranchers are forced to make tough calls—reducing numbers, marketing calves early, or holding onto only their most efficient cows. These aren't "management strategies" on paper; they're decisions that impact family legacies, land health, and long-term viability.

Even with these constraints, Arizona ranchers continue to innovate. Some are working with agencies to open new pipelines or redevelop old springs, expanding water options to give cattle a fighting chance. Others are documenting stewardship work—showing how cattle reduce fuel loads and help prevent catastrophic wildfires—so regulators understand the full picture of what's at stake.

Drought also brings a mental toll. Making cuts, watching pastures decline, or hauling water mile after mile wears on families. But it's the same grit that has carried Arizona ranchers through decades of challenges that keeps us in the saddle today.

At the end of the day, drought management here isn't about adopting trendy buzzwords. It's about survival, stewardship, and stubborn determination. And as long as there are Arizona ranges, there will be ranchers rising every morning to do what needs to be done—no matter the weather.

Sharing Our Story – It Matters

Myth-Busting: Talking About Ranching With Consumers

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

Consumers today are curious about where their food comes from—and that curiosity often comes with misinformation, as there are so many sources sharing incorrect information about our livelihoods. As ranchers, we have a unique opportunity to set the record straight in conversations at the grocery store, county fair, or even online. Here are some tools you can keep in your back pocket to make myth-busting easier, more effective, and less intimidating.

1. Lead with a Question

When someone says, "Cows waste too much water," try responding with:

"That's interesting—where did you hear that?"

By asking first, you show respect, uncover the source of their information, and buy yourself time to think.

2. Keep it Simple

Avoid overwhelming people with data. Instead, share one clear fact in plain language:

"Something you might find interesting, most of the water counted in those numbers is rainfall on land that can't grow crops. Cattle are turning grass into beef we can eat."

3. Use Your Story

Personal stories carry more weight than statistics. Saying,

"On our ranch, we've built pipelines to save water and keep cattle healthier," is often more convincing than quoting a national average.

4. Find Common Ground

Instead of arguing, connect:

"I care about clean water and healthy land too—that's how my family makes a living. Ranchers depend on it just like you do."

5. Use Comparisons People Understand

Relating ranching to something familiar makes it click. For example:

"Cattle are like natural lawnmowers—they keep grasses managed, which also reduces wildfire risk."

6. Stay Positive

The goal isn't to "win" the argument. It's to leave them with a better impression of ranching. End with something like: "Thanks for caring about where your food comes from. That's what we care about too."

Bottom line: Myth-busting isn't about memorizing every fact—it's about listening, sharing your story, and keeping the conversation respectful. Every interaction is a chance to help someone see ranching for what it truly is: hardworking families stewarding the land and raising beef for their communities.



INDUSTRY NEWS

FROM PARTNERS & FRIENDS

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PLC Update

RANCHERS CONGRATULATE BRIAN NESVIK ON HIS CONFIRMATION AS FWS DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON (August 1, 2025) – Today, the Public Lands Council (PLC) congratulated Brian Nesvik on being confirmed as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

“While the Trump administration is making huge progress reforming the Endangered Species Act and alleviating other regulatory burdens, ranchers need a permanent FWS Director, and this afternoon, the Senate confirmed a qualified, experienced leader. Nesvik has led western engagement on complex wildlife and natural resource issues, and we expect he will continue to be a decisive leader in Washington,” said PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover.

Nesvik brings decades of wildlife management and public service experience to this role. He previously served as Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, where he worked closely with ranchers, hunters, and conservationists to address endangered species, predator management, and habitat restoration. His background in the National Guard, with deployments to Iraq and Kuwait, underscores his leadership and ability to navigate difficult challenges.

With his appointment, livestock producers have confidence that the agency will work more collaboratively with stakeholders across the West. PLC and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) commend the Senate for acting swiftly to confirm him and reduce uncertainty for rural communities. Ranchers across the country congratulate Brian Nesvik and look forward to his leadership at USFWS.

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 (UofA) provided the following updates for the ACGA membership.

1. FPSL or 'meats lab'. The renovated/expanded facility is open, and we currently have 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 at the UofA. Mr. John Lockhart joined us on July 14th as the new Livestock Judging Professor of Practice and will be spending the next months working on restarting the program and meeting Stakeholders around the state. John can be reached at jwlockhart@arizona.edu for any questions about the program.

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

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Cowbelles Update

Hello! It is my privilege to be able to write my first letter in the Arizona Cattlelog as the President of the Arizona State Cowbelles. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I grew up in Three Points on the King's Anvil Ranch, west of Tucson, where my dad, John King, always included me, my brothers, and my mother in the day-to-day workings of our ranch. Growing up on a ranch, The Cattlelog is one of the magazines that has been a staple in my house since before I was born. In fact, my great-grandfather, Manuel King, was on the back cover in April of 1951. As a young girl, I remember the excitement surrounding a new issue; digging through all of the articles, seeing if I recognized any names or faces. Each month, Arizona Cowbelles had an article and, beginning at a young age, I looked up to the women leaders and the leadership they portrayed through their writings. I am fortunate enough to know most of these ladies and, to this day, use them as a source of knowledge about the industry and history, hoping to uphold the traditions of the Arizona State Cowbelles.

After graduating from the University of Arizona, I married Andrew McGibbon. We live on the Santa Rita Ranch south of Tucson and east of Green Valley. We have had the privilege of managing the family operation. We have raised four children on the ranch, Izzy, Cora, Tessa, and Liam. Two are left at home while the two older have gone on to their respective colleges. All of them have had the pleasure of attending several Cowbelle meetings, and Izzy was selected as one of American National Cattle Women's Collegiate Beef Advocates from 2022-2023 and traveled to several places around the nation promoting beef and learning more about the industry.

On the ranch, we raise Red Angus cattle. We raise both seedstock and commercial cattle. Off the ranch, I am a bonafide soccer mom, and a longtime member of the local Parent Teacher Club. I sit on the board of our county Farm Bureau and am the Treasurer of the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association, and have been since 1998. The cattle industry is rooted deep in my blood, and I believe the future of the industry is in our hands and cannot be taken for granted. For that reason, I am excited to serve as the President of the Arizona State Cowbelles.

My history with Cowbelles began when my great-aunt, Louise King, took me to my first Tucson Cowbelles meeting when I was in college. I was able to participate in some events and attended when I could. I was well known for dragging the kids along everywhere I went, and I still do. As they got older, I was able to take a more active role and became the President of Tucson Cowbelles. And the rest is history.

Throughout my term as ASC President, I look forward to traveling to meet more people who are able to teach the public about all of the aspects of beef, from nutrition and preparation of different cuts of beef to the importance of ranching, land stewardship, and low-stress cattle handling. Cowbelles and CattleWomen locals are all across Arizona (as well as other states), and I encourage you to join! As you can see, any participation is appreciated and kids are always welcome. We as Cowbelles are the heart of the industry. Many of us wear many hats, and the more we can come together to help, the more impact we can have to promote and learn about our industry.

In keeping with the herd and the heritage,

Micaela McGibbon
azcowbelles@gmail.com



Arizona Dept. of Ag Update

The Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) issued a "Be On the Look Out" (BOLO) bulletin for New World Screwworm (NWS) and highlighted prevention efforts ranchers can take to identify and slow the spread of NWS in livestock. The danger of NWS is from the larvae of NWS flies. NWS flies lay their eggs within open wounds and body openings of any warm-blooded creature, potentially causing severe infections. This is especially dangerous to the U.S. livestock industry, since NWS was eradicated by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1966. Due to the spread of NWS throughout Central America and parts of Mexico, ALIRT will initiate the NWS Surveillance Project Collection Kit in collaboration with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, which will assist in early identification of NWS larvae.

According to the ALIRT BOLO bulletin, the collection kit will be distributed among farmers and ranchers who will be instructed to collect any samples of suspected NWS larvae. Upon collection, the samples are to be sent to the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for early identification. Any positive identification of NWS larvae will be reported to federal agricultural authorities.

The ALIRT team urges anyone and everyone to be on the lookout for potential cases of NWS. For more information on how to identify potential cases of NWS larvae, here is a link to the NWS BOLO bulletin: https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-07/Az2149_2025_ALIRT_BOLO_NWS_final.pdf



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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.: 20202 End Date: 9/13/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RT Sheep: RR Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20203 End Date: 9/13/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20199 End Date: 9/12/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 20200 End Date: 9/12/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20201 End Date: 9/12/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20198 End Date: 9/11/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20197 End Date: 9/10/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: RR Goat: RR		Brand No.: 7178 End Date: 9/7/2025 AMEND	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: B Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20196 End Date: 9/6/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RT Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 20194 End Date: 9/6/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: RH Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20195 End Date: 9/6/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20193 End Date: 9/5/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RR Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 20192 End Date: 9/5/2025	Cattle: NO Horse: LT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20191 End Date: 9/5/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: RH Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20190 End Date: 9/4/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RS Sheep: RR Goat: RS
	Brand No.: 20189 End Date: 9/4/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: LH		Brand No.: 20188 End Date: 9/3/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: LR Goat: LR		Brand No.: 20187 End Date: 9/3/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: NO Sheep: LH Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20186 End Date: 9/3/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20183 End Date: 8/31/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RS Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20184 End Date: 8/31/2025	Cattle: NO Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO

Arizona Farm Bureau Update

Daniel Harris, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager, www.azfb.org/join. Written Aug., 2025.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has unveiled its largest initiative yet to block the northward spread of the New World screwworm (NWS), a flesh-eating parasite that can devastate cattle and other livestock. The plan includes a new sterile fly production facility in Edinburg, Texas, capable of producing 300 million sterile flies weekly, complementing facilities in Panama and Mexico. USDA will also invest \$100 million in new technologies, traps, and treatments. Mounted patrol officers, detector dogs, and expanded surveillance will strengthen border defenses. Import restrictions from Mexico remain in place, as outbreaks continue just 370 miles south of the U.S. Ranchers are urged to stay vigilant, report suspected cases, and use USDA and Arizona Farm Bureau resources to protect herds from this deadly threat.

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