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VOLUME 80 ISSUE 3

Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association





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NEW LISTING! McKeen Ranch and Farm in Alma, NM

OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 100 YEARS - Located on the banks of the San Francisco River, the ranch offers a rare opportunity to own one of the finest small cattle ranches in western New Mexico. Consisting of almost 500 acres of deeded land and the USFS Cedar Breaks grazing allotment, the McKeen Farm & Ranch is easily accessible. The property has been operated as a cattle ranch and hay farm but offers multifaceted opportunities. With secured irrigation rights out of the San Francisco River, the fertile soil can support a multitude of crops or a peppers paradise. Its location is ideal for a corporate retreat, dude ranch, summer camp, wedding venue or a base for big game hunting in the Gila Wilderness. The 145 head USFS forest allotment is contiguous to the Ranch and the current owners supplement cattle income with the sale of hay. The ranch is enrolled in the E-Plus elk tag program providing additional recreational opportunity and potential income streams.

Offered at \$8,300,000

Shelley Ranch in Queen Creek, AZ

8,000 acres of fully fenced Arizona State Lease Land which is crossed fenced and adequately watered using secured water rights from the CAP canal. This ranch is low cost to operate and provides enough winter feed to historically run between 1500-2000 steers most winters from January - May. The comprehensive set of working corrals allows for large volumes of cattle to be handled and weighed and shipped in a smooth and timely manner. **Offered at \$1,650,000**

NEW LISTING! Uncle Bill's Bar in Reserve, NM

Situated within the vast Gila National Forest, Uncle Bill's is ideally located to serve a steady flow of hunters, hikers, campers, and travelers with seasonal income increases. With approximately 4,100 sq ft under roof, you will find two full bars, booths, pool tables, stage, karaoke machine, numerous storage areas, an upstairs and multiple coolers. The building itself sits on an .19+/- acre parcel that is tied to a commercial area conveniently located in Reserve and at the junction of NM State Roads 12 ND 435. **Offered at \$1,700,000**

NEW LISTING! Whitewater Mesa Ranch & Airfield in Glenwood, NM

With easy access this multi-faceted property spans 764.9 deeded acres on top of Whitewater Mesa at the base of the Mogollon Mountains. The property features extensive improvements including a classic sitebuilt home with extensive 360 degree views of the majestic surrounding area, a two runway registered airfield with hangars, RV hookups, an apartment, and substantial cattle working facilities. This property has historically run up to 25 CYL **Offered at \$1,700,000**

Woodruff Farm in Woodruff, AZ

Turn-key farm located in the beautiful small town of Woodruff, Arizona. The farm includes a newly constructed 4500 sq ft. masonry barn with electric and water, large enough to store yearly hay production. Attached is a newer two bedroom home which is well-constructed, insulated, quiet and comfortable with all the modern amenities. Above the home, two unfinished, rough framed 750 sq. ft studio apartments are located which can be finished with minimal expense. Seller has established 54 acres of alfalfa/grass watered by historic Woodruff Irrigation District. Tractors and attachments may be included with the right offer. **Offered at \$1,550,000**

NEW LISTING! Stargazer Hideaway in Wikieup, AZ

161.59 acre off-grid property located within the Wagon Bow Ranch in northern Arizona's high desert. It offers fertile soil and a mild four-season climate suitable for vineyards, lavender, irrigated crops, livestock, or equestrian use. With a 3,600 sq ft home and fully insulated 40' x 80' steel workshop this property has too many unique features to mention. The gated property lies within a coveted Bortle Class 2 Dark Sky, a stargazer's dream. Please see our website for details! **Offered at \$1,200,000**

NEW LISTING! Bourdon Ranch Farm in Snowflake, AZ

Amazing opportunity in a growing area of the White Mountains! Approximately 180 acres including 45 acres planted in permanent pasture. Bring your animals and create your own ranch or farm or invest in a great piece of property to subdivide. Fantastic water area, great soil and welcoming neighborhood. Parcel features amazing views, and is located above the Coconino Aquifer for abundant, clean water. Just off a paved road and close to Show Low. **Offered at \$1,800,000**

NEW LISTING! River's Edge Farm in Pleasanton, New Mexico

The River's Edge Farm offers everything today's homesteader or retiree could want: privacy, self-sufficiency, and natural beauty. With approximately 36 acres and over 11 acres of irrigation rights dating back to the 1880s, this rare property combines historic water security with modern comfort. The custom passive solar adobe home (approx. 1,700 sq. ft.) built in 2013, blends rustic Southwest charm with thoughtful efficiency. **Offered at \$995,000**

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Photograph by: C5 Livestock

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CATTLE GROWERS' REPORTS



Letter from the Editor



Diversity.

It's one of the most beautiful and essential words in agriculture. Diversity is what keeps us thriving when markets shift, weather changes, or challenges arise that we can't predict. It's also what keeps our land, livestock, and livelihoods resilient.

Today, I had the privilege of joining a virtual field trip for more than 3,000 Arizona students. I spoke about diversity—not the kind you see on paper, but the kind that keeps operations like ours running. On our ranch, diversity is the reason we're able to pay our bills. From the outside, our business model might look a little chaotic. But when you take a closer look, you see how every piece connects—each part serving the greater good of the whole operation.

Take pumpkins, for example. Every fall, we grow more than 175,000 pumpkins—over 50 different varieties. They serve many purposes: retail sales, wholesale, photo ops, fall décor, and—my favorite—feeding our cattle. At the end of the season, when the festival winds down and guests head home, we intentionally leave pumpkins behind. Those leftovers aren't waste—they're feed.

We turn the cattle out on the pumpkin fields to start their backgrounding. Later, they're grain-finished using ingredients grown at the farm—providing beef that we sell directly through our retail market and use in our commercial kitchens. The connection between the pumpkins, the cattle, and the people we serve forms a full circle—a story of stewardship, sustainability, and care.

As ranchers, we often remind ourselves that we are as much grass farmers as we are cattle ranchers. We use cattle to benefit the land, and the land to benefit the cattle. It's a cycle that depends on diversity—in species, in practices, and in purpose.

At the ranch, this connection extends to wildlife as well. Although we've finally received much-needed rain, it came late this year. Our native grasses are still recovering and haven't yet produced enough forage to sustain the wildlife that call our ranch home. Many have found their way into our pumpkin fields, taking advantage of the nutrients. Once again, we see how diversity strengthens the bigger picture. A benefit that does not have financial value, but is important to our care of wildlife.

This issue of the Arizona Cattlelog highlights that same principle. Inside, you'll find stories that showcase how ranchers across the state are adapting, innovating, and building stronger, more diverse operations. You'll also find practical tools to help you share your story, plan for drought, and protect your herds and land.

As we move into the holiday season, my heart is full of gratitude—for the rain, for our people, and for this community of ranchers who continue to stand firm, work hard, and lead with passion. Happy Thanksgiving, friends. May your tables be full, your hearts grateful, and your land blessed.

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

Upcoming ACGA Events Please mark your calendars!

November 7th- ACGA Board Meeting, Zoom

November 20th-U of A Range Workshop, 9 AM Prescott

November 21st-Salute to Ranching, Gila Co. Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Globe

December 5th- ACGA Board Meeting, Location TBD

February 18, 2026 - ACGA Winter Meeting, Phoenix

February 19, 2026 - ACGA Board Meeting, Phoenix In-person

Letter from the President



Dear Fellow Members,

I hope you all are having a good fall, I know mine has been good with the drought finally breaking and all-time highs in the cattle market. The ladies in the office have been working overtime to restructure both the membership and sponsorship programs, please take a look at them in this issue. There are some great discounts for members that I hope you all take advantage of, and I want to thank the businesses that have partnered with us: C-A-L Ranch, Osuna Boots, Animal Health Express, and MCA Archaeology. I hope that you all support these businesses that support us. That goes for all of our sponsors also. The ranching industry is extremely small, we know everyone as neighbors, business partners, and friends. Although the American rancher has a personality profile of independence and toughness, we all are stronger as we work together. That is the whole concept of ACGA. I am really looking forward to the coming year as we strengthen our organization, which in turn allows us to have a larger voice on issues that directly affect our operations. Thank you for coming along on this ride, and I encourage you to reach out to your neighbors and companies that you do business with to join us. It matters.

Keep your powder dry,

Brian deGanahl, ACGA President

Welcome to 2025-2026 committee chairs! We are looking forward to the generational difference you each will have on the Arizona ranching industry!

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Don McDowell	don@shakerattleandtroll.com

The Faces Behind the Fight

By Ranchers, For Ranchers

Our mission: At Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, we protect, promote, and sustain Arizona cattle ranching for present and future generations through grassroots advocacy, policy formation, and education.



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

Chris Heaton	AZ Strip	Ron Flake	Navajo
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Mike Macauley	Coconino	Scott Pilchard	Business Rep.
Peter Oddonetto	Gila	Micaela McGibbon	AZ Cowbelles
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Letter from the Executive Director

Every two years since 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau partners with AmeriCorps to conduct the most robust longitudinal survey about volunteering in the United States. The results are informative. In 2023, about 28% of the respondents reported they volunteered through a formal organization, and 25% held a membership in at least one volunteer organization. The data indicates that those who join a group are most often older Americans, more than 36% of those with a family income over \$150K, and those with a graduate degree join most often, at a surprising 48%. Women hold memberships only slightly more than men.

What would the statistics show if Arizona ranchers were asked about membership in cattle associations? Does the size of the ranch matter? Does the market price of cattle have an impact? Maybe how long a person has been in ranching makes a difference? We at ACGA have been discussing membership quite a bit lately, looking for ways to demonstrate the true value of joining the association—in a practical, professional, and even social sense. Our work thus far in these three aspects includes many facets, but some of the highlights of our efforts are:

Practical: how can we provide a tangible benefit to our members? We obtained monetary discounts from supportive businesses for our voting members.

Professional: how can we involve more members in tackling issues that affect them? We presented more opportunities for members to engage through our working groups, and they are expanding. This work helps us to represent ranching interests to various decision-makers, and to collaborate with other organizations.

Social: how can we build a stronger cattle community in Arizona? Our new podcast, "The Gate Post," is launching soon, we post on Facebook more regularly with motivational and factual information, and outreach to members is our focus as we strive to be responsive and effective.

ACGA leaders are working diligently and strategically for our members. There truly is a place for everyone in this association, and it is a great time to get involved. We are happy to help, and we may just ask you to share your knowledge to help others, because that is how you build a community. Drop in to an upcoming board meeting (November 7th on Zoom, December 5th in Phoenix) or give us a call. We would love to talk!

Suzanne Menges
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At Work for You!



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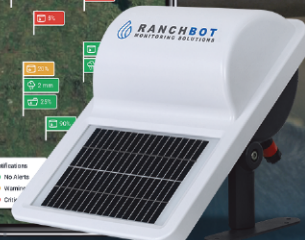
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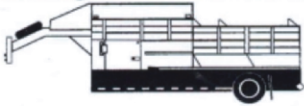
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PORCH TALK



We are Cattle Growers

2025 Gila County Cattle Growers' Association Annual Meeting & Steak Fry

Great food, good friends, and fresh air welcomed the members, guests, and friends who gathered in Little Green Valley on September 13, 2025, for the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association Annual Meeting & Steak Fry.

GCCGA President, Peter Oddonetto, provided an overview of the 2024-2025 year, thanking Jared Lyman, GCCGA Vice President, for taking the lead in arranging the Drought Mitigation Workshop on September 26, 2025. He also commended GCCGA Secretary, Wrangler Huckeby, for testifying at the State Legislature and for receiving the Governor's appointment to the Arizona Livestock Loss Board.

Gila County Supervisor, Woody Cline, and the entire Gila County Board of Supervisors were thanked for drafting and adopting a Wolf Resolution, similar to Cochise County's but targeted to Gila County, regarding Wolf Management/Mitigation and Compensation. Special guests joining us included Steve Otto, Mayor of the Town of Payson; Don McDowell, Chairman of the ACGA Wildlife Committee; and Lori Mills, Field Representative for Representative Eli Crane.

In closing the General Meeting, President Oddonetto thanked the membership for allowing him the opportunity to serve them, and to all those who have provided input and support! He also asked, as always, to pray for rain!

Following a steak lunch, speakers addressed the membership and guests on current issues significant to the Gila County cattle industry, including Brian DeGanahl – President, ACGA; Sammi Jenkins Cooper – TNRCD; Marty Suter – LOFFAP Coordinator, AZ Department of Agriculture; Ashley Hall – U of A Cooperative Extension; Senator Sine Kerr – FSA State Executive Director; and closing with a presentation and discussion with our District Forest Rangers, Jeremy Plain from Tonto Basin, Matthew Paciorek from Payson, and Jason McInteer, Deputy District Ranger.

The meeting concluded with a drawing for the winners of the two Half-Beef Raffles: Liz Casillas and Jim Warner. The Gila County Cattle Growers' Association thanks Hal Earnhardt for his gracious hospitality and support. We also thank each of our speakers for taking the time to join us and discuss current issues in the cattle industry with our members.

We hope you plan to join us next year for this fun get-together with friends and family.

Elaine McBride



Photos from left to right: Steve Otto, Mayor of Payson; Lori Mills, Field Representative for Representative Eli Crane; and Peter Oddonetto, President, Gila County Cattle Growers' Association, A group shot and Greg Pariseoff & Wade, our BBQ Chefs

Who Is C-A-L Ranch?

A Western Story That Started with a Simple Idea

Way back in 1959, three Idaho fellas—Clint, Allen, and L. Wayne Murphy—had themselves a notion. They figured folks out West ought to have a place to find just about everything they need to live, work, and play under the wide-open sky. So they opened a little store in Idaho Falls and called it C-A-L Stores.

Now, that humble beginning has grown into something mighty special. Today, C-A-L Ranch stretches across 55 locations in the West, with 12 right here in the great state of Arizona. From dry desert valleys to snowy peaks and high-mountain plains, we've kept our boots planted firmly in the communities we serve—never forgetting where we came from.

Rooted in the West

Here at C-A-L Ranch, we know how much difference the little things can make. A simple bag of feed can keep a homestead running steady. A sturdy pair of boots can turn a cold, wet morning into a day you can face with a smile. Around here, we don't just talk the talk—we live the lifestyle.

We raise animals. We fix fence. We haul hay and move pipe. We hunt and fish. We're not afraid to get a little mud on the tires or dirt under our fingernails. And when the rodeo comes to town, well, we clean up pretty good too.

More Than a Store

C-A-L Ranch ain't just a place to shop—it's a way of life. We believe in the products we sell because they're the same ones we use ourselves. Every item on our shelves has a purpose, a story, and a place on someone's ranch, farm, or front porch.

We're here for the folks who live and love the West—for the ranchers, the hunters, the fixers, the do-it-yourselfers, and the families who gather 'round the fire when the work's done.

Your Ranch & Home Store... and So Much More

When you walk through our doors, you're not just a customer—you're part of the C-A-L family. We've built our name on legendary service and fair prices. We're proud to be your local ranch and home store, a place where community still matters and where a handshake means something.

So whether you're buying a bag of feed, gearing up for hunting season, or just looking for some good conversation, C-A-L Ranch is here for you—just like we've been since 1959.

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The Many Faces of Cattle Growers

Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductees

Adapted from the Willcox Hall of Fame Dinner Program by Eddie Browning

The ranching community from southeastern Arizona came together on October 2nd to honor some of their own. The Annual Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame induction ceremony was an evening of celebration of the ranching culture, Arizona history, and lives dedicated to the preservation of the western lifestyle.

The History of the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame

In 1983, Ellen Clark was the Director of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Carl Clapp, the renowned artist from Casa Grande with roots in Willcox, approached her with the idea of starting a Cowboy Hall of Fame. The timing was perfect as the leaders of Willcox were looking for ways to define the community and honor the area's ranching heritage. The first dinner was set for Saturday, September 10, 1983, as part of a Founders Day event. Six local ranchers were named as Charter Members and Mr. Clapp agreed to paint their portraits. The dinner featured steaks, baked potatoes, beans, and salads. Held in the Willcox Community Center, there were about 250 tickets sold for \$12 each. In 1986, the Hall of Fame was moved to coincide with Rex Allen Days and became the opening event for the weekend of activities. The portraits are now displayed in the Rex Allen Museum. The menu still features steaks, beans, baked potatoes and salads, and continues to honor the area's rich ranching heritage.

Inductees

Don Martin and Houston Davis were the 2024 inductees honored posthumously, and the 2025 inductee was Don Lackner. Don was born in Safford in 1958 and as a newborn was taken to the Four Mile Ranch in Klondyke, AZ. Don has a twin brother, two other brothers and two sisters. He attended school at the two-room schoolhouse in Klondyke and finished his schooling in Willcox when his dad moved the family to town.

Don spent his younger years helping his dad, Harold, on the farm in Willcox and returned to the Four Mile to help his uncle, Eddie, on the ranch. He later took a job as a ranch hand on the Eureka Springs Ranch between Bonita and Klondyke, becoming the manager two years later. He managed the Eureka for twenty years.

Don, his dad, and brothers formed a partnership to purchase the Grant Creek Forest allotment on the south side of the Graham Mountains, and this partnership later bought several other allotments and ranches. Don also worked as a correctional officer for the Fort Grant prison, where he ended up running the prison's cattle program.

In 1980, Don married Kim Schlittenhardt. They have one son and two grandsons, who all help each weekend and on Don's round-up crew. Today, Don is serving as the president of the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers Association, and you can find Don and Kim still ranching down in Klondyke.





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There's My Cowboy

Angus and the Turkey

The bunkhouse cook snuck all the booze and left without a trace. Thanksgiving was a day away, so Angus took his place.

Angus wasn't much for cook, he really was no winner. But he made a promise to the men, they'd have a turkey dinner.

He knew they had a turkey 'cuz it gobbled every day. But when he opened up the pen, the gobbler ran away.

The turkey ran right through the cows. Then up, away it flew. For sure he wasn't coming back. Now what would Angus do?

Angus yelled, "The turkey's gone. I'm mad enough to fight! Someone must have warned him off. I tell you it ain't right."

The cowboys all thought Angus had completely lost his mind. And now without a turkey, they sure were in a bind.

The cowboys figured Angus might just be a little slow. And to have some fun they fessed up that they let the turkey know.

Well Angus wasn't fooled. He'd let them have their little joke. He'd like to buy a turkey, but till payday, he was broke.

Hank, the oldest, spoke right up and said, "I'll make this brief. I don't care if there ain't turkey, 'cuz you know I got no teef."

Thanksgiving without turkey is like pepper with no salt. Angus thought how could this be? This mess was all his fault.

Angus grabbed his double-barrel and set out to bag a bird. He had to find another one. He gave the boys his word.

Well Angus kept his promise, cooked his bird a golden-brown. He'd shot a big tom turkey. Took him hours to run it down.

Charlie took a drumstick, and he chomped down nice and tight. The lead BB he bit on broke his two front teeth outright.

Hank gobbled down the turkey even though he couldn't chew. He hoped the heavy shotgun lead would make its way on through.

When Thanksgiving Day was over, Charlie had a bad toothache. Hank felt like he'd been gut shot. The turkey? Bad mistake!

Did Angus keep his job as cook? I guess we can't be sure. But I'll bet you next year's turkey comes from Merkle's country store.

Bryce Angell



CATTLE COMMENTS



Stewardship Comments

Federal Lands Ranchers Gather in Flagstaff: Why Your Public Lands Council Membership Matters More Than Ever

Written by: Amber Morin

This September, Arizona had the honor of hosting the 57th Annual Public Lands Council (PLC) Meeting in Flagstaff, September 16–18, 2025. Ranchers, policymakers, administration officials, and industry stakeholders from across the country met to discuss the most urgent issues facing the federal lands ranching industry. Grazing permittees reviewed PLC's policy book for the next year and had the opportunity to make changes. They also heard from Trump Administration officials, including USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator Jessica Fantinato, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik.

PLC's Annual Meeting isn't just another conference. PLC represents cattle and sheep ranchers who hold 22,000 federal grazing permits in 14 Western states. Public lands ranchers manage more than 155 million acres. This conference brings together people who graze the land, along with the agencies that manage it, all at the same table. For Arizona's federal permittees, this year's agenda hit close to home—covering wildfire mitigation using targeted grazing, Endangered Species Act and NEPA reform, permitting flexibility, and recreation damage on public lands.

Policy with a Purpose

PLC President Tim Canterbury opened the meeting with a message that resonated across the room: "Annual Meeting is the premier event for federal lands ranchers to come together to discuss pressing issues and plan out our next year of advocacy work. The goal of this meeting is always forward-facing, on what we need to do to strengthen the ranching industry and ensure our way of life endures for generations to come," said PLC President Tim Canterbury.

As PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover reminded attendees, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." PLC's advocacy in Washington, D.C., ensures ranchers are at the table when rules are written, when lawsuits are filed, and when Congress debates the future of grazing.

Field tour and practical workshops

Beyond the meeting rooms, participants visited a neighboring USFS allotment to examine how grazing, recreation, wildfire, and water management during drought intersect. For those staying in town, workshops dug into virtual fencing use-cases on public lands and how to build a modern grazing plan, reflecting the meeting's blend of technology and traditional stewardship.



Pictured, Dustin Ross shows Jim and Sue Chilton the recreational damage to their USFS allotment via drone images.

Celebrating Western Stewardship

The meeting also honored ranchers who set the standard for stewardship. This year's BLM Rangeland Stewardship and Innovation Awards recognized permittees who use technology and adaptive management to keep rangelands productive and resilient. These awardees highlight ranchers as caretakers, scientists, and conservation partners.

Why PLC Membership Matters to Arizona Ranchers

Arizona's ranching families depend on public lands, and PLC is the only national organization exclusively representing federal lands ranchers. That distinction matters. When federal agencies propose new rules or anti-grazing groups challenge allotments in court, PLC is often the first—and sometimes the only—voice defending our way of life.

PLC membership means:

- Direct advocacy in Washington on BLM, USFS, and ESA issues that affect Arizona permits.
- Access to timely updates on grazing regulations, federal funding programs, and agency guidance.
- A unified national network of ranchers who understand the unique challenges of managing livestock and habitat on federal lands.

Drought: A Common Challenge, A Shared Solution

Written by: Debbie Greff Carter, Arizona Game and Fish, dcarter@azgfd.gov



Arizona attendees pose for a group photo in Flagstaff at the PLC dinner.

Looking Ahead

As new policies evolve and grazing discussions grow more complex, the voice of ranchers must stay strong and united. The Flagstaff meeting underscored one truth: public lands ranchers are conservationists, business owners, and the backbone of rural economies.

Joining PLC ensures Arizona remains part of that national conversation. Membership doesn't just support advocacy—it sustains a legacy.

So, if you run cattle on USFS or BLM lands, or if you believe in the future of working rangelands and want to be a supporter, PLC needs your membership.

To pay your PLC dues today, you can write a check to the Arizona Cattle Growers Association with "Arizona Public Lands Council Dues" in the memo or write a check to the PLC office in Washington. At this time, we ask that you pay what you can or work with the following formula: 100 head AUM means you would multiply 100 head times 12 months, for a total of 1,200 AUM, then multiply it by .07 cents, the amount due equals = \$84.00. 500 head X 12 months = 6,000 X .07 = \$420.00.

Arizona Cattle Growers Association
P.O. Box 1267
Buckeye AZ 85326

Public Lands Council
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 801
Washington DC 20004



Across Arizona, drought is the one challenge that affects both the ranching community and wildlife conservation. While the effects may be felt differently, cattle operations struggling to provide for livestock and wildlife searching for scarce water, the core issue is the same: prolonged dry conditions place enormous strain on the land, the animals, and the people who depend on them.

Some parts of the state have endured nearly two years without significant rainfall. In these conditions, the burden of hauling water becomes both a financial and logistical challenge. For ranchers, it means hauling water for cattle; for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), it means hauling water to wildlife waters. Both groups are working tirelessly toward the same outcome: ensuring that animals survive.

Recognizing this, AZGFD has expanded efforts to partner directly with Arizona ranchers and landowners, finding ways to provide water and improve habitat that benefits both livestock and wildlife. One of the most effective efforts is the Landowner Relations Program. This initiative offers funding assistance to ranchers and farmers who are willing to take on water development and habitat restoration projects that are mutually beneficial to both wildlife and livestock, while improving conditions on the ground.

The benefit of these cooperative projects is clear: healthier rangelands, more resilient cattle operations, and stronger wildlife populations. By investing in shared infrastructure, Arizona ranchers and AZGFD ensure that resources are used more efficiently and the land remains productive for future generations.

Drought may be a common foe, but it also provides an opportunity for collaboration. When ranchers and the Arizona Game and Fish Department work together, they not only overcome today's challenges but also lay the groundwork for a stronger, more sustainable Arizona landscape.

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Written by: Elaine McBride

To help our ranchers as they work through these tough times, the GCCGA will continue to provide as much assistance as possible. The University of Arizona Drought Management tools, including those mentioned above, and FSA Drought Relief Forms, are available on our website at www.gccga.com.

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To the left is ACGA's Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation required to be published in the Cattlelog by the United States Postal Service. Please contact ACGA with any questions.

Cattlemen's College

Law, Policy, and the Land: How the University of Arizona Is Shaping the Future of Natural Resource Management

By: Taylor Rogers, Agriculture Policy and Outreach Manager, Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center

The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center (The Center) is a unique one of a kind creative partnership of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and James E. Rogers College of Law. The Center's main objectives are to address underrepresented law and policy needs of Arizona and the Western natural resource users' community by providing education and engage with students, provide legal and policy analysis, as well as engage undergraduate and law students directly in these matters. We create an environment to combine the science-based knowledge of natural resource-focused students and the legal skills of law students to promote responsible stewardship. Find helpful documents, like our NEPA for Ranchers handbook, on our website.

We also collaborate with the Natural Resource Use and Management Clinic (The Clinic). The Clinic is a student experience to engage with clientele, including ranchers, nonprofits, and public entities, at no cost. Law students in their second- or third-year focus on transactional work and issue spotting. Examples include water rights transfers, water adjudication processing, good neighbor agreements for mines coming to rural communities, lease or notice drafting and interpretation, conservation easement interpretation, and so much more.

The Center is gearing up to launch our "Policy Cats" internship program in Spring 2026 for upper-class undergraduate students. We will pair students with natural resource organizations for natural resource policy experience. Find the application on our website to submit by October 24, 2025. Please reach out to Taylor Rogers at tjrogers@arizona.edu for further questions.

Students in our programs make a difference while developing skills to become our next generation of natural resource science professionals, lawyers, agency heads, political leaders, and judges.

We would love your input for research projects or to connect you to The Clinic or Center for assistance. Find us at <https://extension.arizona.edu/programs/natural-resource-users-law-and-policy-center-nrulpc>.

Sharing Our Story – It Matters

Sharing Your Story Online

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

In today's world, where information spreads faster than wildfire, every post, photo, and caption we share has the power to shape how people see agriculture. For ranchers, social media isn't just a tool—it's a lifeline between our world and those who've never stepped foot on a ranch.

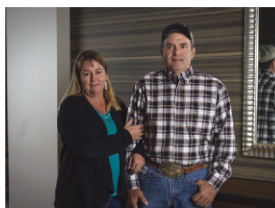
It's easy to think, "I'm just posting for my friends," or "Other ranchers already know this." But that's the beauty of it—your story doesn't stop with who you know. Each time you share your daily work, your love for the land, your cattle, your family, and your faith, you're inviting the non-ranching world into a story they rarely get to see. Maybe one person shares your post. Maybe another repeats something you said at their dinner table. One by one, hearts change, curiosity grows, and the story of ranching spreads farther than you could ever imagine.

Don't overthink it. Snap a photo while you're checking cows, record a short video of branding day, or post a reflection about praying for rain. It doesn't need to be perfect—it just needs to be real. People crave authenticity. They want to see that behind every steak, every pasture, every cowboy hat, is a family who loves what they do and works hard to care for their animals and the land.

Your posts build trust. They bridge the gap between the pasture and the plate. And while you might think your audience is small, remember this: one post can reach thousands. One honest story can change a perspective.

So keep sharing. Keep showing the world what it looks like to live a life rooted in grit, stewardship, and faith. Each word, photo, and video you share becomes part of a much bigger picture—one where agriculture is understood, respected, and celebrated.

Let's keep telling our stories. The world needs to hear them. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th photos below were taken by Carl Schultz.





INDUSTRY NEWS

FROM PARTNERS & FRIENDS

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University of Arizona 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. ACBS still has an open faculty search for a Livestock Extension Specialist and applications are being reviewed as they are submitted. Additionally, we have a Professor of Practice in Animal Science faculty position that is newly open and accepting applicants for individuals to teach animal science courses. See the following url for details: <https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/24132?c=arizona>

2. FPSL or 'meats lab'. The renovated/expanded facility is open, and we currently have limited capacity to process for external Stakeholders; we are working to add more butchers to the team. Anyone needing processing can reach out to us at 520-318-7021 or cml07@arizona.edu to get information on current availability and pricing.

3. The Wildcat Country Market (<https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html>) is currently open Fridays from 9-4 and Mondays from 9-2; we hope to have further 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 wanted cuts are available before stopping by our storefront at 4181 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.

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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We would love your input for research projects or to connect you to The Clinic or Center for assistance. Find us at <https://extension.arizona.edu/programs/natural-resource-users-law-and-policy-center-nrulpc>.

Cowbelles Update

As the holidays draw near, I would like to reflect upon gratitude. For some, maybe many, gratitude is something that does not come easy. It is easy to get caught up in all the day-to-day chaos and misfortunes, but there is so much to be thankful for. I would invite you to pause and think of one thing you are thankful for—even if you have to dig deep, really, really deep. It is a talent to find the things you are grateful for—but one that, with time and practice, can be developed. While reflecting with the guidance of God, I hope you will be able to turn the page with a small smile on your face and a little less stress on your heart.

The first component of ranching would be land. Where would we be if we did not have the land to raise cattle? We are responsible for so much each day and are accustomed to so much diversity. There are so many things to fix, people to send in ten different directions, and many have the added weight of their own ranching legacy to live up to or keep alive. Some have turned to new technologies to help with a variety of chores. Ranchers and land managers now use tank monitors, real-time cameras, drones, and I am sure there are others I forgot to list. Each plays a new role in management. Each can be an amazing addition once you master using them. If you are not into some of those, I hope you have a good horse or old truck you can bounce around the ranch with, checking waters, cattle, and fences. No matter how you do it, isn't it amazing what ranchers are responsible for? God's creations—the cattle you raise and the wildlife that is supported because of your existence. It is a hefty task few are able to continue, but whether I am talking about you or a friend of yours, take a minute to think how blessed you are to be where you are.

Cattle would be the next component. The ability to raise cattle and see baby calves grow into stockers or heifers being turned out with bulls to eventually raise their first calf is something few get to experience. That knowledge of lifecycles and ability to foster the growth of the animals to market should bring a sense of gratitude to each and every stockman. There is nothing like gathering a herd and seeing cows and calves reunite after being worked. How about shaking your head at the same time you chuckle as you watch fighting bulls running over chollas, never batting an eye? How about watching deer bound amongst cattle as you ride through them, knowing how they use the herd as shelter from the dangers of the wild? Each experience you live through, I hope you get to share with a family member or friend at some level and realize how blessed you are to have had that experience.

Finally, in our industry, we should be grateful for the people that surround us. Whether your family has been ranching in Arizona for generations, you just bought your first few head, or you simply know and support someone in the business, you are a part of something special. There have been so many examples of how we have stepped up to support our peers. We have been there for each other by fundraising for lawsuits, sending loads of hay to those who have had a catastrophic event, and riding over to help fix fences or gather cattle. We are also reminded of those who strengthen us by belonging to industry groups. There are numerous acts of kindness every day that we do not see. By this, we are reminded of what really matters—the people who stand beside us.

So, in this season and every season, we give thanks for so many things that make up our life. We give thanks for the land that provides forage for cattle; the rain, when it comes, to nourish the land; the cattle that we are so blessed to raise; and the family, friends, and industry partners that surround our industry to give guidance, assistance, or strength to keep us going no matter what the season brings. Look around you. Count the small things to be grateful for so your count will increase each and every day, as well as your happiness as you reflect upon what creates your sense of gratefulness.

In keeping the herd and the heritage,

Micaela McGibbon

Arizona Cowbelles President

azcowbelles@gmail.com

www.arizonacowbelles.org

www.ancw.org



New ACGA Opportunities



Introducing the new AZ Junior Cattle Club

- Stay Informed – Digital copy of Arizona Cattlelog, Herd That!
- AZ Junior Cattle Club Decal
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- Awards & Spotlights – "Junior of the Month" feature in the Cattlelog or ACGA social media
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Arizona Dept. of Ag Update

As it has been reported all over the national news, Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) confirmed a new case of New World screwworm (NWS) in Sabinas Hidalgo, located in the state of Nuevo León, less than 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border. Thus far, this is now the northernmost detection of NWS during the outbreak, and the one most threatening to the American cattle and livestock industry. Previously, the northernmost detection was reported on July 9, 2025, in Veracruz, approximately 370 miles farther south. Traceability in both cases was critical, as both animals in question were tracked to the exact locations where they originated. Currently, the U.S. ports remain closed to imports of cattle, bison, and horses from Mexico.

In Arizona, the Arizona Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office continues to be proactive on this front. They have secured materials and assembled more than 400 NWS sampling kits to be distributed to key sectors in the industry with the goal of providing five kits per auction yard, each of our licensed dairies, with the rest being allocated for distribution through our livestock inspectors and officers during the course of their normal duties to get sample kits to producers/ranchers, 4-H/FFA groups, and during activities at the fairs/livestock shows. Recognition of potential maggots that may be consistent with NWS is critically important. If veterinarians or animal owners of livestock or companion animals suspect an infestation of NWS, they should notify the Office of the State Veterinarian at diseasereporting@azda.gov as soon as possible so that we can investigate and obtain specimens for lab submission and identification.

 AZDA ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			Proposed BRANDS					
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			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.: 11584 End Date: 11/9/2025 AMEND	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 18467 End Date: 11/8/2025 AMEND	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20289 End Date: 11/8/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20288 End Date: 11/8/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20286 End Date: 11/7/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: LT Sheep: RH Goat: RR		Brand No.: 20287 End Date: 11/7/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20285 End Date: 11/6/2025	Cattle: LT Horse: LT Sheep: LS Goat: LS		Brand No.: 20284 End Date: 11/6/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20282 End Date: 11/2/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20283 End Date: 11/2/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20280 End Date: 11/1/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: LS Goat: LS		Brand No.: 20281 End Date: 11/1/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20279 End Date: 11/1/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20276 End Date: 10/31/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20277 End Date: 10/31/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20278 End Date: 10/31/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20275 End Date: 10/30/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20274 End Date: 10/30/2025	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20273 End Date: 10/29/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: RR Goat: RR		Brand No.: 20271 End Date: 10/29/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20272 End Date: 10/29/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO

Arizona Farm Bureau Update

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

The USDA's New World Screwworm (NWS) Response Playbook details how ranchers may be directly affected and involved if the parasite enters the U.S. The plan outlines livestock movement restrictions, inspection requirements, and the establishment of 20 km quarantine zones to prevent spread. Producers could play a vital role in surveillance by inspecting herds regularly, monitoring for unusual wounds, and submitting samples when needed. The playbook emphasizes early detection, sterile fly releases to break reproduction cycles, and close communication among APHIS, veterinarians, and livestock owners. Ranchers near border states, especially in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, are urged to remain alert, participate in training opportunities, and report suspicious cases immediately. Rapid reporting, biosecurity vigilance, and collaboration are key to avoiding devastating herd losses, trade disruptions, and costly quarantines that could cripple the cattle industry. Preparedness today could be the line that keeps this pest south of the border.

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

The USDA Risk Management Agency helps protect your Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) from the elements.

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RAIN CHANGES EVERYTHING

After months of extreme drought, 4.5 inches of rain has changed everything for many of us. Moisture is reviving the grass and regenerating the soil, filling the tanks, boosting cow condition heading into winter and reminding us just how fragile and beautiful this life can be.

Gratitude Keeps Us Grounded

We're deeply thankful – for the rain, for the cattle that nourish families near and far, and for the chance to live and work in a way that matters. Ranching isn't just what we do; it's who we are.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Bull Sale: April 11, 2026

Genetics That Matter!

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