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VOLUME 80 ISSUE 4

Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association



Dr. Jim "Doc" Lytle 1949-2025



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CATTLE GROWERS' REPORTS



Letter from the Editor



There's a feeling I get every November that's hard to describe—something between gratitude and exhaustion, a strange blend of momentum and stillness. The closest analogy I can give is this: finishing Pumpkin Fest feels like jumping off a moving train. My heart is still racing, but my feet haven't quite caught up with the ground. After a month of welcoming thousands of guests, lighting up children's faces, and sharing the magic of agriculture from sunup to sundown, the sudden quiet is jarring. Beautiful, but jarring.

And yet, on the ranch, the seasons don't pause just because we're catching our breath. The minute Pumpkin Fest closes its gates, we step immediately into fall work—shipping, gathering, preg-checking, doctoring, fencing, planning for winter moisture, and preparing for the year ahead. The rhythm changes, but the work remains steady and full of purpose.

Maybe that's why this season—this stretch between Thanksgiving and Christmas—feels so meaningful. It slows us down just enough to notice. To breathe. To anchor ourselves again in what matters most.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Let It Be Christmas" by Alan Jackson, and every year it stops me in my tracks. There's a line in it that feels especially true for those of us in agriculture: "Let it be Christmas everywhere, in the hearts of all people both near and afar." I often find myself wishing the whole world lived with the same spirit year-round—the gentleness, the generosity, the kindness that Christmas brings out in people.

But then I look at our agricultural community and realize... we do.

Across Arizona, ranching families live out the heart of Christmas in every season—showing up for neighbors, supporting one another through droughts and storms, lending a hand before being asked, and working tirelessly to feed people we may never meet. That is the spirit I see in our producers every day. And that is the spirit we work to pass on at Mortimer Farms as we connect guests to the story of their food and invite them into our world, even if just for an afternoon.

My hope is that as you read this issue—full of policy updates, stewardship tools, health alerts, market insights, and stories from across the state—you feel proud of the work you do and the community you are part of. Arizona ranchers are resilient. Faithful. Generous. Grounded. And in a world that often feels rushed or divided, we stand as a reminder of what matters.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas. May your homes be warm, your pastures blessed, and your hearts steady as we close out another year together.

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

Upcoming ACGA Events Please mark your calendars!

December 5th- ACGA Board Meeting, 10 AM, Palo Verde Room, Maricopa Co Extension Office, 4341 E Broadway Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85040 and ZOOM

December 11th -13th - Joint Stockmen's Convention, Albuquerque, NM

February 3rd-5th, 2026 - NCBA Annual Convention, Nashville, TN

February 18th, 2026 - ACGA Winter Meeting, Phoenix

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

Letter from the President



Dear Members,

It has been a sad month in the Arizona cattle industry, as we have to say goodbye to my longtime friend and neighbor, Jim "Doc" Lytle. You can read the article in this issue. He probably has been to more corrals in the state of Arizona than anyone else in our time. From Babbitt's to Douglas on the border, he went everywhere. He always said he would probably die with his arm in a cow, and he didn't miss it by much.

The first time I met Doc was when my family bought the Vicksburg Ranch in 1998. My dad and he had gone to CSU together in the late 1960s and knew each other from that time. We had purchased a bunch of sale barn cattle with the ranch and were prepping them in a sort of makeshift setup when one jumped out of the lead-up. I think I caught her and got her in the pen with the ones that had been done, and someone heeled her. I was about to take my rope off when Doc said, "Hold on!" He crawled down on the ground, ran his arm in, called her bred, marked her, and took our ropes off. I thought at the time, "That's a pretty good vet." My first impression wasn't wrong.

We also lost Andy Groseta earlier this year. Both of these men were friends and mentors of mine, and also highly involved with ACGA. Their leadership in our industry will be sorely missed, and they are irreplaceable. That being said, we all will have to step up and do our best.

One of Doc's interests was trying to get new young vets to rural Arizona as large-animal vets. With the price of vet school and its highly competitive nature, this is a hard task. ACGA has been working on this issue, and we plan on continuing our conversation with the U of A vet school soon to see what we can come up with. Our industry needs it, and ACGA is making it a priority.

Thanks, and keep your powder dry,

Brian deGanahl, ACGA President

Welcome 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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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

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Letter from the Executive Director

One of the most surprising things I have learned in this position is the high level of networking and teamwork among state and national cattle associations. The amount of information sharing and collaboration from all areas of the country is remarkable. There are regional nuances, to be sure, but also commonalities; wolves are a problem for many states in the West, as are droughts and government overreach issues. There is some comfort in knowing that there are others out there fighting the same battles and who welcome our organization into the discussion. We are part of an important team.

Another revelation has been the importance of serving as spokespeople for the Arizona cattle industry. We have all heard how important it is to "tell our story," and that opportunity certainly came at the end of October. Tariffs, consumer beef prices, imports, and packer control are issues that have been in the news recently, and ACGA was repeatedly called upon to provide an Arizona perspective. It was certainly exciting, as reporters kept our phones ringing for about a week with constant requests for interviews. ACGA Executive Committee members stepped up and responded right away to every single request. Another reminder that teamwork is key in this business.

I hope whatever your team looks like—family, friends, and neighbors—you enjoy those relationships as well. I am grateful for the tremendous team at ACGA with whom I interact every day, and I appreciate the dedication of the many volunteer leaders, contractors, and members who have made the work of the association so enjoyable and productive.

From the ACGA team to yours—we wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2026!

Suzanne Menges
ACGA Executive Director
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At Work for You!



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PORCH TALK



Dr. Jim "Doc" Lytle 1949-2025

Empty Saddles

Dr. Jim "Doc" Lytle 1949-2025

Written by Jeanie Hankins, Wickenburg Sun
Edited by Sidnie Conerly, ACGA Administrative Assistant

Some called him Dr. Lytle; to others he was Doc. Many of his friends in Wickenburg simply called him Lytle. To his family, he was Jim, Dad, and G-Pa.

Whatever the name, those who knew Dr. Jim Lytle, DVM, received a painful punch in the gut when one of the state's most faithful and knowledgeable veterinarians died in Flagstaff on Oct. 28 at the age of 76. As most would guess, he was on his way to work. According to Chris, his wife, Lytle was having trouble breathing when he left his home in Wickenburg on Friday, October 24. Setting aside a medical doctor's recommendation that he should cancel appointments until his pneumonia cleared up, Lytle headed north for the fall run.

At an age when many Americans are retired, Lytle wouldn't hear of it. His career as a veterinarian had been a primary focus for Lytle since he was a young man. At first, following the traditional track with a full-service veterinary practice, in later years Lytle honed his services to an office at home which served as headquarters for him to provide statewide coverage for large animals, cattle in particular. Some of the largest ranches in Arizona were his clients. During the fall run, he traveled thousands of miles, crisscrossing the state to remote corrals where he provided an important piece of the ranchers' herd maintenance. Lytle was one of a dwindling number of vets still willing to preg check the state's largest cow herds in extremely remote locations in any kind of weather. Each September he would hook a squeeze chute to his truck and load a cowboy bed roll, groceries, vaccine and other medicines, a few clothes, coveralls, and his shin guards – the kind usually seen behind home plate (cows tend to kick during the process).

Lytle always left a calendar hanging on the kitchen cupboard with his appointments listed so Chris could keep track of where he was going and when he would be home. The next several weeks were locked in, and he wasn't about to let pneumonia get in the way of his commitments. He was headed to a ranch beyond Flagstaff. "It's what he lived for," Chris said.

According to Lytle's daughter Erica Morrell, he had an assistant with him the night of Friday, October 24. The two had eaten at a Flagstaff restaurant and were on their way to a hotel when Lytle lost consciousness. The assistant performed CPR, and lifesaving measures were continued at the hospital.



By Tuesday, surrounded by family and close friends, Lytle's fall run closed out for the final time. Shock and disbelief spread through the ranching community, his colleagues, and his lifelong friends in Wickenburg and throughout Arizona. Those who knew him agree he was as hardworking as he was focused on his mission to care for animals, and a nicer man you'd never meet.

The stories and remembrances have been many in the days following his death. Longtime friend and neighbor Bruce Meier knew Lytle as "one of those guys that would help anybody he could." Bruce recalls a time when Lytle decided to help a friend move from Arizona to Visalia, California. He had asked to use Bruce's horse trailer, so Bruce offered to go along and help with the move. "I was so tired and hungry by the time we pulled in!" Bruce said.

"We hooked up at 3 a.m. After we got loaded and going down the road, he said, 'I just need to make a couple stops.'" Bruce remembers. The "couple of stops" turned out to be Lytle's appointments to preg check about 90 head of cows near Kingman. Then they made another corral call to castrate three colts, hopped back in the truck—still pulling a trailer full of someone else's household stuff—and drove the rest of the way.

Driving was all part of the deal, as far as Lytle was concerned. "He called it windshield time, and he had a lot of it," said longtime friend and fellow veterinarian Dr. Steve Dow from Prescott. "He had a lot of admirers in a lot of the ranches, and they counted on Jim Lytle to show up and do the work, seven days a week in any kind of weather."



"It's quite a loss for Arizona," Dow said. He and Lytle are fellow graduates of Colorado State University vet school in the 1970s and have worked together since the early 2000s to help found the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT). The team was formed after 9/11 to investigate and respond to potential bioterrorism in livestock herds.

Lytle was also involved with Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA), the Arizona Cowpuncher Reunion Association, and other statewide organizations. ACGA President Brian DeGanahl said, "He's been a big supporter of Cattle Growers, and he's irreplaceable. We've been talking for years about what these ranchers would do when he was gone, and we're going to have to get that figured out ... He was an inspiration and a good neighbor."

Lytle cared for more than animals; he also contributed to his community in many ways over the years. He was the vet for the Desert Caballeros Ride from 1980 until 2009. The DC recognized Lytle with the Silver Spur Award in 2009 and the Top Hand Award in 2001.

Lytle served as a volunteer firefighter for at least 20 years and was on the Wickenburg Fire District Board for 27 years, serving as chairman until his death. "His leadership was instrumental as the department grew into what it is today, including the new Station 755, Engines 755 and 756, Tenders 755 and 756, and Utility 757," WFD Chief Ed Temerowskisaid.

Lytle grew up in Prescott in the 1960s, when it was a rural town. He was an Eagle Scout and spent time on a family ranch near Bisbee. Having been exposed to the ranch lifestyle surely led to Lytle's choice to become a vet, and those roots contributed to the Lytle family's partnering with Ben and Claudia Billingslea to buy Forepaugh Cattle Company near Wickenburg in 1997.

But it wasn't all about work. The Lytle family remembers fun, playful times as well. "Dad brought home a duck one time and put it in the bath with us. She became Sally Duck. We kept her around."

"We knew he would never retire. When we traveled, like to Alaska or Hawaii, he would go visit other vet clinics to see how they were. He was a student of his own craft. Always wanting to learn more, always working," Shawn said.

"We always said he would probably die in a chute with his arm in a cow," Shawn said fondly. "And he didn't miss it by much."



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There's My Cowboy

Christmas Eve with Grandma

Each Christmas Eve our grandma's home was filled with family. We all knew what the next day was and waited anxiously.

Her house smelled like the juniper dad cut two days before. The branches were so wide they almost tore off grandma's door.

Grandma said her father liked a juniper the best. It wasn't hard to choose one 'cuz they all looked like the rest.

Grandma hung the Christmas stockings high up on a wire. She said, "The mantle is too warm. They might just catch on fire!"

Each name was on a stocking with a homemade chocolate treat. Every grandchild knew that grandma's fudge you couldn't beat.

So, we snuggled in, just close enough to feel the fire's heat. And dug our toes down in her rug. Life couldn't be more sweet.

We opened presents, feasted and we all sang Silent Night. The Christmas Spirit filled our Grandma's house with pure delight.

Affection for the grandkids proved to be her loving smile. Each Christmas Eve our grandma's smile was wider than a mile.

Grandma told us Santa Claus would soon be on his way. Rudolph and the other reindeer pulled the toy-filled sleigh.

Grandma said there's more to Christmas than your favorite toys. 'Cuz Christmas was to our grandma the gift of all her joys.

Then Grandma said, "Do you know why we have a Christmas day? It's the birthday of our Savior, who was born so far away."

She talked about the little child and of his humble birth. Then told us how the angels sang of love and peace on earth.

I loved to hear my grandma tell the story every year. I know why there's a Christmas. She made it very clear.

Those Christmas Eves were years ago. I've grandkids of my own. But I'll cherish all those memories, no matter how old I've grown.

Each year we buy our children Christmas gifts, but of what worth? Maybe we should ask their grandma, "Teach them of His birth."

Bryce Angell



CATTLE COMMENTS



Stewardship Comments

People Stewardship: Caring for Your Crew, Family & Community



Stewardship is often described in terms of land, water, forage, and cattle—but the truth is this: the most enduring form of stewardship is how we care for our people. Long after a pasture recovers from drought or infrastructure gets rebuilt, it's the relationships within a ranching family, the strength of a crew, and the resilience of a community that determine whether an operation thrives for generations.

Ranch life demands grit, long hours, and a level of responsibility that most people never see. That's why leadership rooted in respect and clarity is one of the greatest gifts we can give our teams and families. Crew members perform their best when expectations are communicated clearly, when safety is non-negotiable, and when every person understands the "why" behind the work. In a business where one wrong move can injure a person or an animal, stewardship means slowing down enough to teach, guide, and check in.

Workload management is also an act of stewardship. We all know the seasons when the wheels barely stay on—branding, monsoon repair work, weaning, fall gathers. But burnout is real, even among the toughest hands. Allowing people to rest, rotate tasks, and step away when needed doesn't weaken the operation; it strengthens it. Healthy people create healthy ranches.

Stewardship extends to our families as well. Whether you are part of a fifth-generation outfit or you're building something new from scratch, ranch culture is preserved by intentional conversations—about values, land ethics, finances, and expectations. Children and young adults learn by watching how we treat others, how we face hardship, and how we talk about the work we love. Passing on a skill is helpful; passing on a mindset is priceless.

And in Arizona especially, community stewardship matters. Rural neighbors depend on one another in ways city life will never require—whether that's hauling water, helping gather cattle after a fence goes down, showing up after a wildfire, or simply checking in during drought. The strength of our industry depends on strong connections.

At the heart of ranching is people—hardworking, committed, faithful people who keep this way of life alive. Caring for them with the same devotion we show our land and cattle is not optional; it's essential. Through leadership, safety, communication, and community, we protect the most irreplaceable resource we have—each other.

On the Ranch

TJ and Amanda Atkin

Written by the Atkins

We are TJ and Amanda Atkin from St. George, Utah. We own the Top Hat Ranch located on the Arizona Strip. Our family has been involved in agriculture in Northern Arizona and Southern Utah since 1868. The ranch has transitioned from dairy, to sheep, and now to a cow-calf operation. We are the 6th generation to operate the ranch and we run around 1,200 head.

As ranch owners, we work long hours, but we believe that there should be a balance in life. All of the ranch improvements we focus on are to make better use of our resources (water, forage, grazing) which will create more time to contribute to our family, church, and community.

Our number one priority for ranch improvements is developing water sources. We depend on the heavy monsoon rains in the summer that flash flood water into dirt ponds for drinking water for our cows. To help combat drought years and to utilize different areas of feed, we continue to construct water catchments/guzzlers that collect water from rainstorms. The water is stored in lined ponds or tanks, then piped to troughs. We are currently working to finish our 20th catchment.

Since we operate on mostly public land, we often have trouble with people leaving gates in different positions than they found them, both open and closed. This has resulted in our cows re-grazing pastures that need rest and perishing from being locked out of water. After a lot of frustration, and lost productivity, we decided to install cattle guards in place of gates in high traffic areas. Within the last eight years, we have installed over 45 cattle guards.

Another improvement strategy we implemented is running smaller-framed, efficient cows. They wean a higher percentage of their body weight and breed back at a higher percentage than our older, tall, lean, hard-doing cattle. During the last six years, we have successfully reduced our frame score from tall, thin, 7-frame cows to shorter, thicker, 5-frame cows. We have accomplished this by raising our own bulls from superior genetics, bred to our desert adapted cows.

We also changed our grazing strategy to a short duration-extended rest grazing management. This helps increase the resting periods on our forages to improve organic matter, multiply plant diversity, and increase water infiltration to help stockpile forage for drought. This allows us to better distribute our cattle and more uniformly consume forage in our 61 pastures that total over 220,000 acres.

We always have an eye toward the future - making and implementing plans for what we want the ranch to become. Our tip for you is to have a goal in mind of what you want your operation to become, in the short-term and long-term. Then apply strategies to make it happen. Accomplishing these goals will allow us all to better balance our lives and increase our opportunities to spend more time as a family, improve our relationships, and appreciate God's creations.



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7 BLK	461	\$374.00	7 ENGLISH X	477	\$368.00
5 ENGLISH X	549	\$330.00	24 ENGLISH X	496	\$325.00
7 BLK	596	\$320.00	3 BLK	510	\$310.00
6 BLK	621	\$306.00	6 BLK	643	\$286.00
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Multi-Generational: Passing Down Healthy Land

Stewardship in Arizona is never a one-person, one-generation job. Our landscapes—wide, rugged, and beautiful—are shaped over decades, even centuries. Much of the land we run cattle on is not deeded ground, but a mix of BLM, Forest Service, and State Trust land. That means every decision we make isn't just about improving our own operation—it's about protecting a shared resource we hope to pass down, in better shape, to our sons, daughters, and the generations that will follow.

Stewardship as a Mindset, Not a Moment

In a state where drought cycles, wildfires, regulatory pressures, and endangered species concerns shape our daily reality, thinking generationally is both a challenge and a responsibility. Stewardship becomes less about "What do I need for this year?" and more about "What will my grandchildren inherit because of what I choose today?"

Healthy land isn't built in a decade—it's built through patterns of care. That includes soil health, water systems, grazing distribution, genetics, and the relationships we maintain with the agencies who manage the majority of our rangelands.

Soil, Grass, and Infrastructure: The Foundations We Inherit and Leave Behind

Many Arizona ranches span elevations, soil types, and forage compositions. When we invest in brush management, erosion control, seedings, wildlife-friendly fencing, or improved water access, we're building equity that rarely shows up on a balance sheet but profoundly shapes the ranch's future.

Infrastructure stewardship matters just as much as ecological stewardship. A well-maintained pipeline, a functioning drinker, a cleaned-out dirt tank—these outlast us. Good infrastructure makes good grazing possible, and good grazing makes healthy soils possible. It is a cycle that, if protected, benefits every generation after us.

Investing in Genetics for Tomorrow, Not Just Today

Cattle genetics are part of legacy, too. In Arizona's harsh climate, multi-generational stewardship means selecting cattle that thrive on the land we have—efficient, maternal, sound-footed cattle that work with the environment, not against it. A cow that raises a calf every year for ten years leaves a larger mark than any single improvement project. Thoughtful genetics ensure our herds remain viable for the long haul.

Relationships With Land Agencies: A Stewardship Skill of Its Own

On BLM, Forest Service, and State Trust Land, relationships are as critical as rainfall. Multi-generational stewardship means teaching the next generation how to work with agency personnel, navigate NEPA, respond to drought strategies, and collaborate—not clash—on range improvements. The most successful long-term ranchers are those who view agency relationships as partnerships rooted in common goals: healthy rangeland, healthy wildlife, and healthy herds.

When we manage with openness, data, monitoring, and communication, we build trust that allows future generations to continue operating on these landscapes.

Legacy Care: The Heart of Stewardship

Ultimately, stewardship is legacy care. It is passing down not only land in better condition, but also knowledge, reputation, and relationships. It is teaching the next generation how to think, not just what to do.

Arizona ranching families—both multi-generation and first-generation—carry the same calling: to leave something better than we found it. Healthy soil, resilient forage, thoughtful genetics, and strong agency relationships shape a future in which our children and grandchildren can succeed.

That is stewardship. That is legacy. That is the work we do—one season, one pasture, one decision at a time.

Cattlemen's College

Grassland Renewal & Regenerative Grazing

Arizona's rangelands are living systems shaped by seasons, soils, and the long rhythm of monsoon and drought. Healthy grasslands do not happen by accident—they are built through intentional, well-timed grazing that strengthens root systems, encourages plant diversity, and preserves forage for the generations who will follow us.

Regenerative grazing is not a trend for Arizona ranchers; it's the foundation of survival in a landscape defined by limited rainfall and broad elevation changes. Strategic grazing—moving cattle with purpose, providing adequate rest, and adjusting plans based on weather—helps perennial grasses recover after use. Deep-rooted perennials like blue grama, tobosa, side-oats grama, and vine mesquite respond especially well to rest following monsoon moisture. When cattle lightly disturb the soil surface and remove older growth, they stimulate new shoots, improve nutrient cycling, and reduce thatch that can choke out desirable grasses.

Rest periods are essential. In Arizona, a pasture grazed before monsoon rains may need a full season or more to bounce back. Stewardship means reading the land, not the calendar. Some years, monsoon rains miss entire regions; other years, they bring a flush of opportunity. Adaptive planning—monitoring utilization, watching plant vigor, and matching stocking rates to forage conditions—keeps the land resilient even in long drought cycles.

Regenerative grazing also strengthens soil health. Hoof action improves seed-to-soil contact, cattle distribute organic matter, and healthy grasses protect the ground from erosion. Over time, this builds forage stability—allowing operations to withstand dry spells, support wildlife, and maintain healthy cattle.

Grassland renewal isn't just a management strategy; it's a commitment to the future of Arizona ranching. When we graze with intention, we honor the land that sustains our families, our herds, and our heritage.

Sharing Our Story – It Matters

Why Your Voice Matters More Than Your Product

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

In an age where information moves faster than a dust storm across open range, ranchers have more power than ever before—but only if we choose to use it. Today's consumers don't simply want beef. They want a story. They want a hero. They want to understand the heartbeat behind the families who raise the food that lands on their tables.

That means your greatest asset isn't just your cattle, your genetics, or your grazing program.

It's your story—and your willingness to share it.

Across industries, the most influential brands aren't successful because of clever marketing. They succeed because people feel connected to a deeper movement. Ranchers are uniquely positioned to lead a movement rooted in stewardship, faith, grit, and generational purpose. But the public won't know that unless we show them.

A good story always has a hero. In agriculture, that hero isn't a single person—it's the ranching way of life. It's your early mornings in the saddle, your dust-covered hat, your prayers for rain, the calves you pull in the middle of a storm, and the long, quiet miles checking waters when no one else is watching. These moments are ordinary to you—but extraordinary to the people who have never lived them.

When you share your story through photos, short videos, or a simple caption, you invite the public into your world. You help them understand that ranching isn't about "selling beef"; it's about responsibility. It's about heritage. It's about protecting the land God trusted you with and raising cattle with integrity. It's about the values you hope to hand down to your sons, daughters, and grandkids—values much bigger than any product you'll ever sell.

Your daily life—the work, the hardship, the beauty—is the movement.

A movement of families who refuse to give up, who care for the land, who protect wildlife, who steward watersheds, who love their communities, and who feed the nation.

People are craving authenticity. They want to follow someone who stands for something real. When you share your day-to-day moments, you build trust with people far beyond the ranching world. One post reaches one person...and that person tells two more... and those two share your message again. That ripple effect is how narratives change. It is how false information is replaced with truth. It is how the story of ranching stays alive.

So pick up your phone. Take a picture of branding day. Film the sunrise from the saddle. Tell the story of your grandfather's worn-out spur strap or the new heifer calf your kids named. Share why you do what you do, and why it matters.

Your life is a story worth telling. And the world is waiting to hear it.



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. The Grand Opening event for the FPSL (Food Products and Safety Lab) was held on Nov 7th. In addition to a picnic lunch and tour of the facility, a memorial plaque to honor Andy Groseta and his years of advocacy on behalf of the college, school and the FPSL was unveiled. This plaque will be a permanent fixture in the FPSL lobby as a lasting reminder of Andy's impact and legacy.

2. 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>

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.

NCBA Update

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative ahead of the required review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). NCBA strongly supports science-based, market-driven trade and emphasized that USMCA remains essential to protecting duty-free access for U.S. beef in Canada and Mexico—two of our top export markets.

NCBA noted that cattle production is the largest segment of American agriculture, representing more than 622,000 operations and over \$112 billion in annual cash receipts. Export sales add more than \$415 per head, and Canada and Mexico alone account for 21% of U.S. beef exports.

The association also highlighted the importance of cross-border cattle movement. Imports from Canada and Mexico account for just 2% of the U.S. herd and 6.5% of slaughter, helping maintain year-round feedlot and processing efficiency.

NCBA voiced strong support for USDA's strengthened voluntary "Product of USA" labeling rule, which now requires cattle to be born, raised, harvested, and processed in the U.S. They cautioned against restoring mandatory COOL, citing past trade retaliation and high compliance costs.

NCBA urged continued commitment to USMCA and policies that support a competitive, expanding U.S. cattle industry.

2024 U.S. Beef Exports / Imports

U.S. Beef Export Values (Jan.-Dec.)

- World \$10.45 billion (+5%)
- Korea \$2.22 billion (+4%)
- China/HK \$1.98 billion (-2%)
- Japan \$1.87 billion (+3%)
- Mexico \$1.35 billion (+13%)
- Canada \$896 million (+2%)

Exports account for \$415 per head

U.S. Beef Import Values (Jan.-Dec.)

- World \$11.73 billion
- Australia \$2.93 billion
- Canada \$2.82 billion
- Mexico \$1.91 billion
- Brazil \$1.37 billion
[\$407m cooked]
- New Zealand \$1.19 billion

- ✓ Most imports are lean trimmings
- ✓ "Other Country" Annual Quota Filled – January 17

(Sources: USDA/USMEF/Dept. of Commerce)



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Arizona Farm Bureau Update

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

Federal Funding Restored, Key Ranching Programs Back Online: What Ranchers Need to Know

After a 41-day federal government shutdown, Congress passed the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026, restoring full federal operations through January 30, 2026. For ranchers, this reopening brings much-needed stability across USDA agencies, disaster assistance programs, and livestock services that had been stalled.

Most importantly, the bill extends 2018 Farm Bill programs through at least September 30, 2026, ensuring continuity for livestock disaster programs, conservation tools, market reporting, and risk-management programs. This prevents interruptions in programs producers depend on—especially critical during ongoing drought and disease-monitoring needs. AFBF President Zippy Duvall called the extension “much-needed certainty” as Congress continues work on a long-term five-year farm bill.

The legislation also reopens USDA operations, including APHIS, FSA offices, grain inspection services, and emergency assistance channels that ranchers rely on for permits, livestock movement, disease control, disaster claims, and market data.

Screwworm Response Expands: Major USDA Investments in Control Efforts

The USDA has intensified its defense against New World screwworm (NWS) with the opening of a new sterile fly dispersal facility in Tampico, Mexico, expanding aerial distribution into northern Mexico. This allows quicker, more flexible sterile fly drops in high-risk areas such as Nuevo León.

Key developments include:

- 100 million sterile flies released weekly, with a goal of reaching 300 million per week by 2026.
- A new Texas dispersal facility is under construction for rapid response near the U.S. border.
- Recent screwworm detections in Nuevo León traced back to transported cattle are no longer active, but vigilance remains high.

For Arizona ranchers, this means federal and state agencies are scaling up surveillance, border protections, and preparedness capacity—important as the pest remains within 70 miles of the U.S. border.

Arizona Rule Reviews, Workshops & Water Policy Updates

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is seeking stakeholder comments on forest and range management burn rules, which directly influence prescribed burns and rangeland management tools.

Meanwhile, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension will have hosted a New World Screwworm webinar on Nov. 17, offering identification, prevention, and sample-submission training—vital for ranchers, 4-H groups, and veterinarians.

ADWR’s ongoing work in the newly designated Willcox AMA continues with updates on groundwater rights, conservation requirements, and long-term aquifer goals—critical for livestock operations depending on reliable well access.

Soil Health Grants Available

The Arizona Department of Agriculture has launched a \$1.8 million grant program supporting soil-health projects aimed at boosting water efficiency—an opportunity for ranchers integrating dryland forage, pasture improvement, or regenerative practices.

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Arizona Dept. of Ag Update

Relaunch of Arizona Grown Program

Written by: Rachel Andrews, Public Information Officer, AZDA

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) is excited to relaunch the Arizona Grown program. This program will be housed within our Agriculture and Food Systems Support Division.

There is strong interest from producers, ranchers and consumers in re-engaging with a restructured Arizona Grown program that better reflects their values and supports market access channels. Both consumers and producers strongly agreed on the importance of distinguishing between "locally grown" and "locally produced" products.

In direct response to stakeholder and industry feedback, the AZDA is committed to a community-led and community-developed reimagining of Arizona Grown, supported through the collaborative development of new program guidelines and rules.

Timeline:

2024


- Nov - Stakeholder Meetings (Wilcox, Yuma, Prescott, Phoenix)
- Dec - March 25' - Reviewed past program process and current agreements

2025

- Jan - June - Survey planning, implementation, and analysis
- April - Stakeholder Meeting (Phoenix)
- April - July - Program research and meetings with other state "buy local" programs
- July - Survey analysis and comprehensive report development
- Aug - Oct - Internal review of program processes, development of first phase of state policy - compliant website
- Oct - Stakeholder Meetings (Thatcher, Phoenix, Yuma, Flagstaff)
- Nov - Dec - Phase two of state policy - compliant website

Upcoming Listening Sessions:

AZDA will be hosting moderated listening sessions to solicit input for program development. These listening sessions will be crafted to include a variety of stakeholders from all different agriculture sectors. The feedback received will directly impact program development.























AZDA
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 OF AGRICULTURE

Licensing Section
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 Mail To: 1802 W. Jackson St #78
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 PHONE (602) 542-3578 FAX (602) 542-0466

Proposed BRANDS

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

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

Brand	Brand No. End Date	Location	Brand	Brand No. End Date	Location	Brand	Brand No. End Date	Location
	Brand No.: 20310 End Date: 12/17/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20309 End Date: 12/14/2025	Cattle: NO Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20308 End Date: 12/14/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20307 End Date: 12/13/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20306 End Date: 12/12/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20305 End Date: 12/12/2025	Cattle: LR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20303 End Date: 12/7/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20302 End Date: 12/7/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20304 End Date: 12/7/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20299 End Date: 12/5/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20300 End Date: 12/5/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: RS Goat: RS		Brand No.: 20301 End Date: 12/5/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LT Sheep: LH Goat: LH
	Brand No.: 20298 End Date: 11/28/2025	Cattle: RT Horse: RT Sheep: RH Goat: RH		Brand No.: 20297 End Date: 11/23/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: LR Goat: LH		Brand No.: 20295 End Date: 11/22/2025	Cattle: RR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20296 End Date: 11/22/2025	Cattle: RS Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20294 End Date: 11/22/2025	Cattle: LT Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 20103 End Date: 11/21/2025 AMEND	Cattle: RS Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 20293 End Date: 11/21/2025	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: LH Goat: LH		Brand No.: 20292 End Date: 11/20/2025	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO			

DROUGHT = Extra Expense and Loss of Income

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

- Very affordable – Government subsidized
- No adjusters needed
- Rainfall monitored by NOAA
- Premiums are not due until October 1st
- No claim forms
- Protects your cash flow



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When buying business insurance, it's okay to have a generalist agent. When buying PRF insurance, it's SMART to have a SPECIALIST.

Wishing You the Blessings of the Season!

As 2025 comes to a close, we give thanks for our customers, our family and for cattle that perform in one of the most challenging environments in North America.

For four generations, we have been working to improve the range and livestock that make Bar T Bar Ranches home.

**Join us in 2026 as we continue a
second century of ranching on
the Mogollon Rim.**

SAVE THE DATE
2026 Bull Sale: April 11, 2026

Genetics That Matter!

OWNERS
Bob & Judy Prosser
(928) 380-5149

SEEDSTOCK HERD MANAGER
Kristin Hovey
(970) 485-0974

Bar T Bar Ranches

info@bartbar.com • www.bartbar.com

