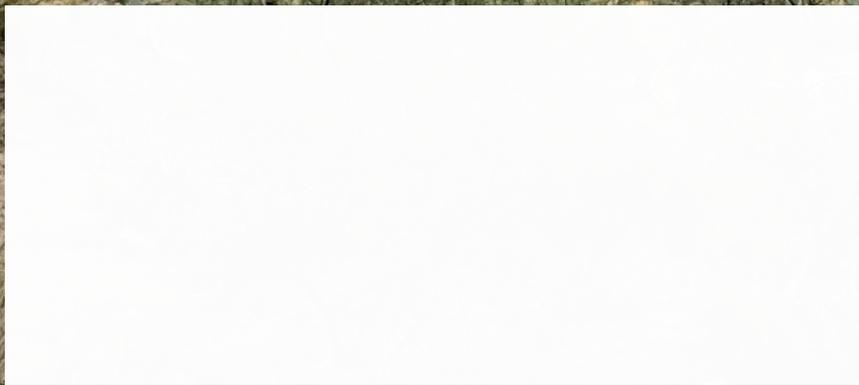


February 2026  
Volume 80 Issue 6

# Arizona CATTLELOG

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association



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Photograph taken by Kimberly Lackner

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CKP

## **Back Cover**

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# Letter from the President



Last month Sen. Tim Dunn of Yuma organized a meeting between all of the Ag leadership in the state and U of A President Suresh Garimella. The subject of the meeting was U of A Cooperative Extension and the expectations of the ag industry as a whole of the extension service. I would have to say it was a productive meeting. The President stated that he believed in the mission of a land grant institution and that ag is a priority for the university. It was clear that representatives of the farm sector believed that the extension could provide more relevant research, especially in the farm technology area, then what is currently going on. One of programs of the extension that does benefit our members is the range monitoring that is being done at the local level on USFS and BLM permits. I'm not sure the President was aware of this but I stated that it is a program that is highly successful and is needed in rural Arizona. I also mentioned our desire to see another meat processing facility built in rural Arizona in near future. This will be a tough year budget wise for both the university and the state as a whole. ACGA will be there working with our partners to advance our priorities. Thanks to Sen. Dunn for the invitation and we look forward to working together to protect Arizona agriculture.

*Brian deGanahl*  
Brian deGanahl

President of Arizona Cattle Growers Association

Don't forget to register for the ACGA 2026 Winter Meeting! This exclusive legislative event is your chance to have a true seat at the table, meeting directly with Arizona's top House and Senate representatives and discussing the key issues impacting ranching across our state. Whether you're coming to speak up, listen in, or build relationships that matter, this meeting is designed for real conversations and meaningful face-to-face access that can influence policy and protect our industry.

And yes, we're doing it right... beef brisket will be served for lunch, Tri Tip for dinner at Frasher's Tavern and hotel rooms are available at Solaya in Scottsdale for those wanting to stay close to the action.

See page 19 for the registration form.

A promotional graphic for the ACGA 2026 Winter Meeting. It features a photograph of the Arizona State Capitol building with the Arizona state flag in the background. The text 'A Seat at the Table' is prominently displayed in a serif font. Below it, the text 'Join us for the ACGA 2026 Winter Meeting' is written in a smaller, italicized font. A list of bullet points describes the benefits of the meeting. At the bottom, the date and location are given: 'Wednesday, February 18th | Phoenix, AZ'. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association logo is in the top right corner.

**ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

## A Seat at the Table

*Join us for the ACGA 2026 Winter Meeting*

- Meet directly with Arizona's top House and Senate representatives
- Opportunity to interact on key issues and set up meetings for further conversations
- Direct access that puts ranchers at the table, not in the hallway
- An experience designed for real conversations

This exclusive legislative meeting is designed to give Arizona cattle producers meaningful, face-to-face access to the people shaping policy that can directly influence their operation's bottom line.

**Wednesday, February 18th | Phoenix, AZ**

Limited Seating . Registration Required

# ACGA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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.

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# CATTLE CALL

## Your monthly update from the ACGA Executive Director, Suzanne Menges



This year has gotten off to a great start at ACGA. January was a month dedicated to planning projects, assisting members with issues they are experiencing on their ranch operations, ongoing internal strategy sessions, and of course, being always watchful of the bills being introduced at the legislature.

The New World Screwworm (NWS) situation continues to unfold with new developments coming every week. In mid-January, I traveled with two Executive Committee members to Douglas where we joined Cochise County officials, Farm Bureau representatives, and AZ Department of Agriculture staff as the group toured the site of the Bisbee Douglas International Airport (BDI), pictured below. As some of you may recall, Douglas served a critical role in the successful eradication of the NWS back in the 60's. We were there to view the existing facilities and available land at this site for a possible sterile fly facility, as our Congressional delegation has suggested to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins in late December. BDI is located just 11 miles from the Douglas Port of Entry, Arizona's second largest commercial port. It is within easy reach of Interstate 10 and rail links and offers 425 acres of developable land. In addition, it is located in a remote area outside of Douglas, thus alleviating concerns of residents about fly facilities nearby. We learned of the county's recent investment in modernizing the facility's infrastructure. With all these advantages and the time to get ahead of this threat becoming shorter, we supported the suggestion of our Congressional Delegation, and we send a letter to Secretary Rollins to consider this site for a NWS sterile fly production and/or dispersal facility to serve both Arizona and neighboring states, instead of relying solely on a facility 1000 miles away in Texas to combat this impending threat.

In other issues, we have heard from members experiencing significant delays in response times from the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), and other concerns. We took this opportunity to invite ASLD Commissioner Robyn Sahid to attend our Winter Meeting and were pleased when she readily agreed to come. We are looking forward to discussing these and other issues with her and are grateful for the collaborative and positive response she sent. Our Solar Working Group members will also be reaching out to Commissioner Sahid with some innovative ideas addressing solar development on state lands.

Speaking of the Winter Meeting, we have a terrific agenda lined out that will provide the latest information about how the "One Big Beautiful Bill" could affect us here in Arizona. Farm Service Agency Executive Director Sine Kerr, a Buckeye beef producer and farmer herself, will discuss the latest in FSA programs. Keisha Tatem, the State Conservationist with NRCS, will also update us on program changes within that agency. Finally, Arizona Department of Agriculture Director Paul Brierley will present the most recent developments at AZDA.

Be sure to listen to the latest Ranchers for Tomorrow podcast called "The Gate Post", check out the expanded Arizona Cattlelog designed and edited by our own Sidnie Conerly, sign up for the Winter Meeting at [www.azcattlegrowers.org](http://www.azcattlegrowers.org), and don't forget to share your beef story with someone!



### Start Them Young — Join the ACGA Cattle Club

The ACGA Cattle Club connects kids to Arizona ranching and agriculture while building pride, knowledge, and a sense of belonging in our ranching community. Designed for youth who love cattle, the land, and the lifestyle that comes with it, the Cattle Club gives young members something they can truly call their own.

Members receive a digital copy of the Arizona Cattlelog, an ACGA Cattle Club decal, access to internship and job listings, recognition as "Junior of the Month" in the Cattlelog and on ACGA social media, and opportunities to participate in Youth Round-Up activities at ACGA events.



For just \$10, the ACGA Cattle Club is a simple way to encourage curiosity and connection to agriculture. Register online through our website or submit a printed membership form.



### Arizona Beef Council Continued

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Arizona Beef Council was up for continuation before the Legislature. When an agency is “up for continuation” at the legislature, it means lawmakers must formally review and reauthorize the agency or board for it to continue operating, or else it will automatically sunset and cease to exist. The Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association signed in support of the Beef Council’s continuation and shared with legislators how critical the Beef Council’s work is to ranchers and beef producers across the state.

Following a brief presentation, the Arizona Beef Council was renewed for eight years, a significant accomplishment at a time when agency, board, and council continuations have increasingly become political flashpoints.

What was once a largely administrative process is now often complicated by broader policy and political debates. We are pleased to report that the Arizona Beef Council successfully bridged those divides and received unanimous bipartisan support, underscoring the value of its work and the importance of a unified voice for Arizona’s beef industry. We will continue to monitor and engage as their continuation moves through the process.

### Tax Conformity

Tax conformity solidified as the first major policy fight of the session as lawmakers debated which elements of President Trump’s tax cuts to conform to here in Arizona, particularly given our already bleak fiscal picture. On Wednesday, the House and Senate convened a joint Ways & Means Committee to hear [HB2153](#) and [SB1106](#): Internal Revenue Code; Conformity Deductions. Hobbs’ proposed “Middle Class Tax Cuts Package” adopts most of H.R.1’s individual income tax cuts but not new deductions for corporations. Meanwhile, the Republican caucus is seeking closer to full-conformity with a proposed \$1.1B tax cut. Following committee, the Majority moved their proposed tax conformity package on the floor in both chambers where it passed out on party line votes in both the House and Senate and sent the bill up to the Governor. On Friday, as expected, Governor Hobbs vetoed the bill. This is merely the first volley of what will be tense negotiations on conformity and the overall state budget.

### Governor Hobbs’ Executive Budget

Governor Hobbs released her proposed \$17.7B [FY27 budget](#) on Friday, outlining her priorities for the session. Ben Henderson, Director of the Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, is slated to present her proposed budget in a Joint Appropriations hearing on Tuesday, January 20th.

-Brittany Bingold  
Pivotal Consulting

## Bills to Watch: A Snapshot of Early Legislative Activity

As the legislative session gets underway, a number of bills have been introduced in the Arizona House that may be of interest to ranchers, landowners, and rural communities. This is not a comprehensive list of legislation impacting agriculture, but rather a snapshot of several early bills that producers may want to keep an eye on as the session unfolds.

One bill drawing attention is HB2007, which would authorize the sale of ivermectin formulated for human use as an over-the-counter drug, removing the requirement for a prescription or consultation with a health professional. The bill has received its first reading and has been referred to the House Health & Human Services and Rules committees. While ivermectin is a familiar product in livestock production, this legislation applies specifically to human formulations and has generated discussion well beyond the agricultural community.

More directly tied to ranch operations is HB2152, which expands transaction privilege and use tax exemptions to include fencing materials and livestock watering materials used in farming and ranching. If approved, this measure could help reduce the cost of infrastructure essential for livestock management, range stewardship, and wildlife compatibility. The exemption would apply to tax periods beginning after the bill’s general effective date.

Wildlife management is the focus of HB2159, which requires the Arizona Game and Fish Department to issue landowner permits for the taking of Mexican wolves under certain conditions on private land and leased grazing lands. The bill also authorizes a voluntary, compensated incentive program for humane, nonlethal trapping to reduce conflicts.

Lastly, HB2197 proposes changes to unlawful camping laws by prohibiting camping within one-fourth mile of natural or man-made watering sites if it denies access to wildlife or domestic livestock. The goal is to protect limited water resources, particularly in rural and arid areas.

All of these bills are in the early stages and currently assigned to House committees. As always, staying informed and engaged will be important as additional legislation is introduced and debated throughout the session.

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# Ranchers for Tomorrow: The Gate Post Podcast

**By: Nate Brawley, Livestock Agent:  
Graham, Greenlee, and Cochise Counties  
Proudly Sponsored by: ACIREF**

The Gate Post Podcast is a new and dynamic program produced by Ranchers for Tomorrow, a subcommittee of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA). Created to celebrate and support Arizona's beef industry, the podcast serves as a platform for storytelling, education, and connection within the ranching and agricultural communities across the state.

Hosted by Nate Brawley, Livestock Agent with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension along with Sidnie Conerly ACGA's Administrative Assistant. The Gate Post Podcast brings together practical knowledge, industry expertise, and a deep respect for ranching traditions. With firsthand experience working alongside producers, the hosts offer thoughtful conversations that reflect both the challenges and opportunities facing today's beef industry.

The primary goal of The Gate Post Podcast is to highlight beef production in Arizona, showcasing the diversity of operations, landscapes, and management strategies that define ranching in the region. The podcast honors cowboy culture and heritage, recognizing the values, work ethic, and resilience that have been passed down through generations. By paying homage to the producers who came before us, the podcast preserves the stories and lessons that continue to shape the industry today.

At the same time, The Gate Post Podcast looks toward the future. Episodes explore progressive production practices, emerging technologies, and innovative management approaches that are influencing the sustainability and profitability of beef production. Topics may include range management, animal health, genetics, drought preparedness, market trends, and conservation efforts, all tailored to the unique conditions of the Southwest.

Through interviews with ranchers, industry leaders, researchers, and partners, The Gate Post Podcast bridges tradition and innovation. Whether listeners are lifelong producers, young ranchers, students, or supporters of agriculture, the podcast offers insight into the people and practices that make Arizona's beef industry strong. Ultimately, The Gate Post Podcast serves as a gatepost meeting place—where stories are shared, knowledge is exchanged, and the future of ranching in Arizona is thoughtfully discussed.

RANCHERS 4 TOMORROW PODCAST

## The Gate Post



# Ranch Rules From Out of the Blue

**By: Ginger Cheney**

## Hope

Over the years, I have watched my parents and grandparents advocate for our ranch, our livelihood, our business, and our passion. We have fought everything from minnows to wolves and wilderness to wild and scenic. Our area is a hotbed of lawsuits that don't take into account the health of the land.

The last few years, I have become more active than writing letters and going to a few meetings. I've put a lot of miles on my pickup and had a couple of long flights. Sometimes I wonder what the heck I'm doing. I'd much rather be out with the cows, enjoying God's beauty, and raising nutritious and delicious beef for Americans. Then I realize, if we don't have people fighting, that way of life will cease to exist.

So, I'll keep fighting, but the good news is that I'm not fighting alone. That is why we are part of organizations like ACGA, our county cattle growers, Cowbelles, PLC, Farm Bureau, and NCBA... just to name a few, so we aren't alone in our battles. Every agriculturalist faces challenges, and we need to be united to protect our industry.

I've been all over Arizona, New Mexico, and even to Washington D.C. I've had meetings at all hours and have participated in several meetings through Zoom horseback in the middle of nowhere. It can be a lot, but for the first time in a long time I have hope. Hope that we can get some common-sense changes made to help protect our industry. The current administration is our best chance to do this. Representative Gosar is fighting for us with the Mexican wolves. That started with a meeting Ben Menges, Nelson Shirley, and I attended. It is fantastic to see forward movement. It helps make the long days a little more livable. We have other outstanding representatives and senators at the state and national level who are also fighting for us.

We have hope. We have a future. We need to be united in our forward movement. I see good things coming down the pike for 2026. There is hope.



# 107 YEARS AGO ... FROM THE

**The following material is from a report of the proceedings of the 12th annual convention of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association held at Phoenix in February, 1919. McClintock was State Historian at the time.**

## **The Cattle Industry of Maricopa County**

**by Jas. H. McClintock**

"It has been well said that the future of the Salt River Valley of Arizona is safe just as long as mankind continues to eat beef. This has reference mainly to alfalfa, but, nevertheless to show that the widespread pastures of the state's largest cultivated area is merely an intermediary through which humanity may be fed from the ranges of central Arizona

It happens that the start of the range cattle industry of central Arizona followed closely the first settlement and improvement of the farming land of the Salt River Valley. It is told that the first Caucasian occupation of the valley was by Jack Swilling and a number of others from the Wickenburg placers, who in 1867, cut wild hay at points east of Phoenix for delivery to Ft. McDowell, which had been established in 1865. Swilling and his partners later dug the first canal in the valley, the same which now crosses the central part of Phoenix.

It is difficult to tell just who brought the first cattle into the region now embraced within the lines of Maricopa County. The overland trail that ran through Gila Bend and Maricopa Wells was traversed by many immigrant parties that brought with them domestic cattle, and it is probable that dairy cattle were scattered along the Gila as early as 1849, though these earlier cattle were undoubtedly exterminated by the ever-hungry Indians.

About the first permanent range cattle appeared to have come close after 1870. It is remarkable, considering the Apache-infested mountains, that some of the early herds were driven over the Mazatzal Mountains into Tonto Basin. Others were scattered in the well-grassed valleys to the northward of the village of Phoenix ...

Within the present Maricopa County, undoubtedly the first stock ranged in the vicinity of Gila Bend, where there is a notation as early as 1862, of a herd of cattle owned by Y. Garcia. The noted pioneer, King Woolsey, had a ranch at Agua Caliente in the early seventies and killed many Indians in the protection of his cattle.

Early in the seventies, some cattle belonging to L. A. Stephens of Prescott were cared for by Jack Swilling, thirty miles north of Phoenix. Frank Wells was in Bloody Basin, Ben Velesco, a well-known and honored Mexican, brought cattle into the McDowell country about the same time, and there remained for many years near the forks of the Verde and Salt Rivers. Roberts and Peeples were in the Cave Creek section, where Colonel Rountree also had horses and a few cattle.

A few years later the Verde above McDowell was well stocked by the Latourettes, who came from eastern Oregon and brought about 150 head. Marion Slankard came from California with about 200 head of cattle and sold a number of dairy cows to Mrs. Patrick White, who had a ranch just north of the McDowell reservation.

Slankard for some time kept a station at the Salt River crossing, south of McDowell. Dr. W. W. Jones established a ranch in the same period on the Salt River a few miles above the mouth of the Verde and had with him Pancho Monroy. Charlie Eyster, Phil Sheridan, J. M. Sears, Leon Bouvier, Dave Hardenburg, Jeff Adams, Jim McCann, John Asher, Ward brothers, J. W. Davenport and George Marler all are named in connection with this early stocking of the lower Verde range.

It may be worthy of notice that J.D. Thomas and others crossed the Salt River Valley in the fall of 1877 with several bands of California sheep, wintering near McDowell and passing on into Tonto Basin. Mr. Thomas, now a resident near Phoenix, remembered that there were cattle in the vicinity owned by Ben Powers, the Watson brothers, Robinson and Barton, while there were cattle owned by Jesus Otero and the Balz brothers at Sugar Loaf and Frank Welcome and Redondo in Sunflower valley. North of Phoenix, some of the early herds were owned by Jeriah Woods, George Morrison, Clanton brothers, the Mognetts, Logan Morris, Billy Widmer, Andy Farley, Beverly Cox, Lin and John Orme and Mrs. Edgar.

The New River section carries the names of a number of early stockmen including Swilling, John Mullen, about 1875, then John Eyer. J. D. Cook and W. W., his son, Jas. Gibson, the Alkires, George Hall, Fred Hudson and W. W. Williams came later. There were also cattle in the White Picacho country. Fritz Brill had cattle on the Hassayampa. Brill was the first to fatten cattle in the Salt River Valley. The Alkires followed.

The Cameron family was early with cattle in the Agua Caliente range on the Gila, and a herd of good California cattle is understood to have been brought into the Gila Bend section by Webb and Miller about 1877.

A material betterment of the grade of cattle came with the advent of the Mormons in 1878-1879 at Lehi, Tempe and Mesa. Considerable numbers of good dairy stock were then brought from Utah, and placed to some extent, on the Superstition ranges east of Mesa.

# CATTLELOG VAULT

The first of the really good stock was Shorthorn. It is understood that the first Durhams were driven in by Mrs. Edgar, who had a ranch southeast of Phoenix in the Wilson district and who had range cattle to the northward. The first dairy stock is said to have been brought from Texas to the Phoenix locality by Pete Holcomb, a well-beloved pioneer. John B. Montgomery, father of the present Sheriff, had cattle near Phoenix, a fact attested by John Orme, who tells that Montgomery alone chased northward after a band of Indians that had stolen a part of his herd. He found the Indians and the cattle in Antelope valley, charged the rancheria single-handed, killed two redskins and drove his cattle back home without further molestation.

The Long-horn Texas or the scrawny Mexican stocks never were permanent on the central Arizona ranges. The grade of cattle generally was fair and decidedly bettered by the bringing of blooded stock upon the pastures of the Salt River Valley. The first of the Herefords, now so favored by stockmen of Arizona as good range rustlers and beef producers, were brought in by O. H. Christy in the early nineties. About the same time A. C. McQueen brought to the Murphy ranch at Mesa, a large herd of Galloways, but this blood did not seem suitable to Arizona conditions. There have been variations among the dairy stocks but the cattlemen appear to have settled down to preference for the Hereford strain. Former president Dwight B. Heard of the American National Livestock Association has done especially good work in developing the Hereford idea among Arizona breeders of beef.

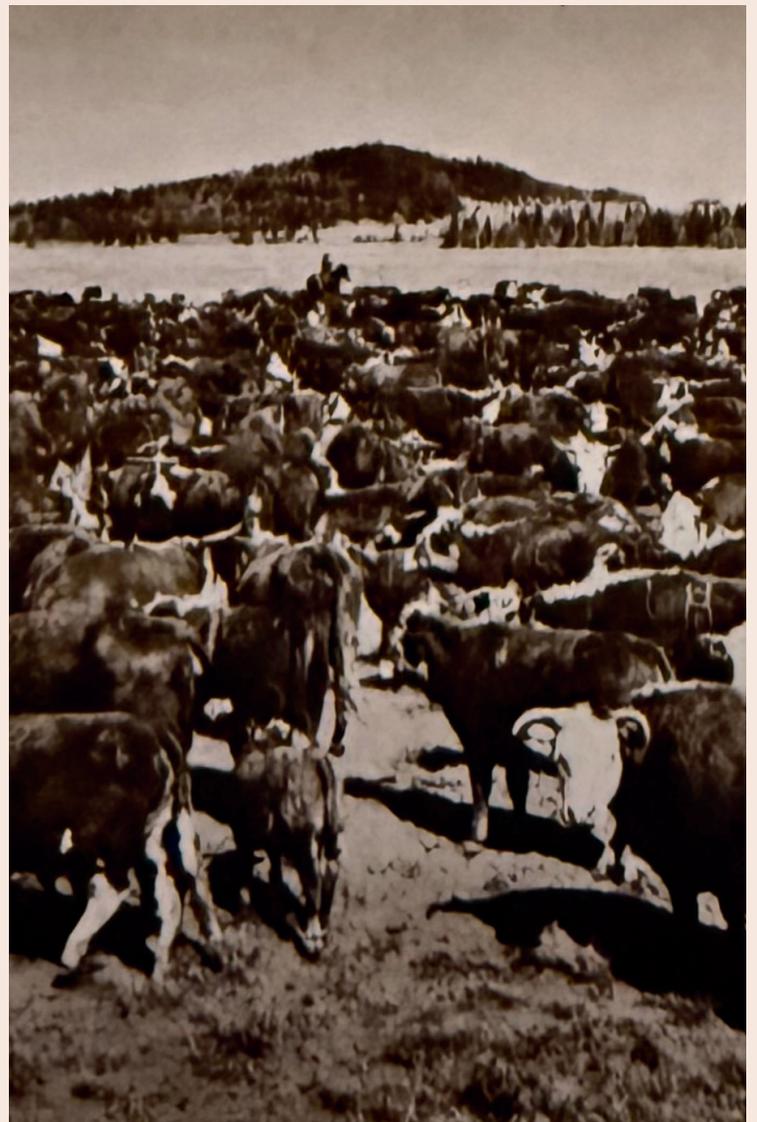
The real conjunction of the Arizona cattlemen with the Salt River Valley pastures came with the completion of the southern Pacific branch railroad from Maricopa in 1887. That fall, a large number of cattle from the Hooker and Vail and other ranges were sent to pasture near Tempe. The first experiment was a disappointment, for the fall and winter were very wet, and the steers gained little. But there was persistence till range cattle and sheep now consume most of the valley's pasturage and forage. There have been years when more than 50,000 head of range stock have been turned off. The supply of pasturage has lessened through the transfer of 72,000 acres to cotton, though this, in turn, has served to provide feeders with an even more highly concentrated food. Feeders also are offered the alternative foods of summer crops such as corn and milo maize.

Here, the dairying industry has assumed immense proportions. At one time 54,000 dairy cattle have been counted in the valley. Owing to high feed costs, the number has decreased. Two great evaporative milk factories and a number of creameries take care of that part of the product not consumed locally or shipped elsewhere in the Southwest. The dairy stock generally affects the range industry only in the slaughter of cows and calves. The valley stock rather runs to Holsteins with many Jerseys, Red Polls and Durhams. Several breeding farms are devoted to Herefords.

Los Angeles is one of Arizona's best markets, in the month of March alone receiving 700 carloads of cattle from Arizona and New Mexico.

The Salt River Valley also has a reputation for its horses, serving a demand that usually is ahead of the supply available. It is a matter of common remark that a two-year-old colt in this valley is as large as an eastern 3-year-old. Winter pacing and trotting records have been beaten on the Phoenix track. Much attention has been paid also to the breeding of heavy horses. Riding stock has been rather thoroughly cleaned up by the war demands.

The cattlemen of Arizona have been guarded well since 1887 by the Arizona Sanitary Livestock Commission or board, which, with veterinarians A. J. Chandler and J. C. Norton in charge, early took action that has kept the Texas fever tick and similar diseases off the southwestern ranges and left Arizona the only western state not quarantined against for at least part of the year."



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# Beef Tallow: A Return to a Dependable Tradition

Long before grocery store shelves were lined with plastic bottles of cooking oil and lab-made alternatives, beef tallow was a household staple. For generations, ranch families and rural communities relied on rendered beef fat as a dependable, versatile resource. It wasn't trendy or novel. It was practical. Tallow fueled lamps, fed families, cleaned homes, preserved food, and kept tools running long before sustainability became a talking point.

Historically, beef tallow was one of the most valuable byproducts of cattle. Its stability and long shelf life made it ideal for cooking and food preservation in an era without refrigeration. Kitchens relied on it for frying and baking, while tallow candles lit homes, barns, and city streets across Europe and early America well into the 1800s. Tallow-based soaps were household essentials, and animal fats were used to condition leather, waterproof gear, and lubricate equipment. Nothing went to waste. Every part of the animal had a purpose.

As industrial seed oils and petroleum-based products took hold in the mid-20th century, beef tallow slowly faded from mainstream use. Cheaper inputs and mass manufacturing pushed traditional fats aside in favor of alternatives marketed as modern and efficient. Over time, tallow became something many people associated only with history books or old family stories.

But it never truly disappeared.

Today, beef tallow is experiencing a strong return as consumers, chefs, and manufacturers rediscover what earlier generations already understood. Properly rendered beef tallow is reliable, functional, and remarkably versatile. Its natural stability and high smoke point have renewed interest across industries ranging from food service and packaged foods to skin care, candles, and specialty manufacturing.

That renewed interest has also brought skilled processors back into focus, including several right here in Arizona. Across the state, companies are helping revive this traditional product, each serving a different role within the modern tallow market.

At the commercial level is Renderology, LLC, an Arizona-based company that specializes exclusively in beef tallow. Renderology has been rendering under USDA inspection for nearly a decade, producing dry-rendered, wet-rendered, and washed tallow for a wide range of end users. Their products support industries from food manufacturing and food service to skin care and candle production, with packaging options that range from retail jars to large commercial totes.

Arizona is also home to smaller, consumer-focused tallow producers. Arizona Tallow King, based in Queen Creek, focuses on tallow-based skin care products crafted for retail customers seeking traditional, animal-based body care. These businesses serve an equally important niche, delivering finished products directly to consumers while helping reintroduce this historic fat to modern households.

Together, Arizona's tallow processors reflect the full spectrum of today's revival, from small-batch artisans to large-scale, USDA-inspected operations. This renewed interest isn't about nostalgia. It's about rediscovering materials that work, honoring the full value of the animal, and recognizing that many of the most dependable tools we have today are the same ones relied on for generations.

Beef tallow isn't a trend. It's a return.

Written by Sidnie Conerly  
Administrative Assistant & *Cattlelog* editor/designer

# How Beef Tallow Is Made

Beef tallow is produced through a controlled process known as rendering, which separates usable fat from moisture, proteins, and connective tissue.

Rendering begins with raw beef fat, commonly called suet, collected during beef processing. The fat is trimmed and cut into smaller pieces, then slowly heated to allow it to melt evenly. As the fat liquefies, moisture evaporates and solid material naturally separates from the liquid fat.

Once fully melted, the liquid tallow is filtered to remove remaining solids and impurities. It is then cooled and allowed to solidify, creating a clean, stable fat with a long shelf life.

Different rendering methods are used depending on the scale of production and the final application:

- Dry rendering relies solely on heat to melt the fat and is often used to produce traditional cooking tallow.
- Wet rendering introduces steam or water to assist in separating fat from solids and is commonly used in larger commercial operations.
- Washed tallow undergoes additional filtering and purification steps to improve color, consistency, and odor, making it suitable for food, cosmetic, or industrial uses.

Although the fundamentals of rendering have remained largely unchanged for generations, modern tallow production operates under strict food safety guidelines. Today's facilities utilize precise temperature controls, sanitation protocols, and USDA inspection standards to ensure consistent quality from batch to batch. These safeguards allow beef tallow to meet current safety expectations while still relying on a process rooted in time-tested practices.





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**NEW LISTING! Mimbres River Farm and Ranch in Silver City, NM.** This well improved 47 head ranch provides a unique, turn-key opportunity to own a picturesque and remarkable farm/cattle ranch coupled with a developed investment property nestled in the Mimbres Valley. Consisting of 1,566 total acres the ranch is well watered and improved with good strong feed and irrigated farmland. **Offered at \$3,400,000**

**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**

**SOLD! 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 site-built 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.

**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 preppers 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 \$7,300,000**

**Woodruff Farm in Woodruff, AZ**

Turnkey 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**

**Bourdon Ranch Farm in Snow Lake, 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**



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# Share Your Story in the Arizona Cattlelog

The Arizona Cattlelog is built on the voices, experiences, and stories of the people who live the ranching way of life — and we're always looking for new content from across the state. We want to hear from our members — the stories ranchers share around the fire, the ones passed down, laughed about, and remembered long after the work is done. Whether educational, historical, reflective, or lighthearted, your story has a place here. We welcome submissions from anyone connected to Arizona ranching — from first-generation producers to families who've been on the land for generations.

## Cattlemen Chronicles

A four-column section featuring short, first-person stories.

Each issue of Cattlemen Chronicles highlights four short pieces centered on lived experience. Submissions should fit one column (max 300 words) and align with one of the following prompts:

**The View from Here** - A snapshot of ranch life from where you stand — the land, the work, or a moment that captures your day-to-day reality.

**Ranch Life Lessons** - Lessons learned on the ranch, passed down through generations or earned the hard way.

**On the Fence Line** - Stories about land, neighbors, change, or the realities of ranching alongside development and shifting landscapes.

**Sharing Your Story** - Personal reflections, family history, meaningful moments, or experiences that shaped your ranching journey.

## Feature Articles & Educational Content

We also accept longer submissions for feature placement in the Cattlelog:

- Full-page articles: 500–700 words
- Half-page articles: 250–350 words

Educational pieces, ranch history, youth involvement, stewardship stories, and industry insight are all welcome.

Photo Requirements, Photos are encouraged and help bring stories to life.

- High-resolution images preferred
  - JPG or PNG format
  - Historical photos welcome
  - Please include photo captions and credits when available
- Clear, well-lit smartphone photos are acceptable if high quality. (If you're unsure about the quality send it anyways!)

## How to Submit

Email submissions and photos to: [Cattlelog@azcattlegrowers.org](mailto:Cattlelog@azcattlegrowers.org)

Please include your name, ranch or operation (if applicable), and contact information. Your story matters — help us tell the story of Arizona ranching.



# THE CATTLEMEN'S CHRONICLE

JOURNALIST

## THE VIEW FROM HERE

January, and the high desert is green. A sight that was prayed for all summer and of all times of the year, it came in January. The abundance of moisture that we received in the late summer, again in early October and the storms then on out, combined with the warm fall and winter, presented nice green pastures in JANUARY. We have filaria, a warm weather plant, high in protein that our cattle love, growing in the winter months. It has been neat to see because a new discovery is that when we get a frost on the ground the tips turn a pinkish orange color. Tobosa grass is growing green and seeding out. Another warm weather plant that we would see grow in the summer months.

All these sights are a welcome sight from the lack of rain and vegetation growth this summer. A summer that we will never forget. A summer where we were preparing to sell more than half our herd. A summer that I clung onto my faith more than ever, Gods will and his plan for our family. On the back side of summer of 2025, I have been able to share my faith more with others because none of this would be possible without God, regardless of where you stand in your faith with Christ, it is hard not to see his wonders after this last year. It has also opened up conversations with many about what ranchers go through. Conversations with people that are completely out of the industry and have no desire to be in the industry, but are supportive of ranchers and knowing where their beef comes from. So we will welcome green landscapes and full stock tanks in January and pray that we continue to receive moisture throughout the year to help rebuild our herds.

- Sara Burris  
EZ Ranch

## ON THE FENCE LINE

Lest we get taken in by their irresistible charm, cattle are sure to often remind us why we eat them.

We are James and Larissa Reed, owners of Reeds Cattle Company in Show Low AZ. We graze our cattle on state land plus a lot of adverse land, so we have multiple families who live on our ranch. Thankfully, the majority of these people love our herd, and call us if they notice a problem with any cows. One November night we were awakened by a phone call at about 11:30 by a motorist who discovered one of our cows stuck in a cattle guard. It was 18 degrees Fahrenheit and windy. James and I grudgingly got out of bed, dressed, gathered tools, and drove out to rescue our cow. Sure enough, there she was lying down with both her front feet stuck in the cattle guard. We tried unsuccessfully to get her to stand up, unsuccessfully to pry the cattle guard rails apart, and finally settled on the solution of cutting the bars from around her legs. I stood shivering holding the flashlight while James put his grinder to the metal. She sat there like a sweetheart



while sparks were flying around. By the time James had finished cutting the bars away, we had quite a crowd of curious people standing around watching the drama unfold. They all cheered when we pulled the last bar away from her and helped her to her feet. She looked at us innocently, turned, and plodded away.

# THE CATTLEMEN'S CHRONICLE

JOURNALIST

## RANCH LIFE LESSONS

Paying attention to the old-timers.

I am lucky to be one of those Arizona cattle ranchers with the good fortune of having access to the wisdom of a few generations of family that came before me. Great Grandad came to Arizona in the 1870's.

He ran a few cows along with the horses and mules west of Holbrook. In 1904, after years of very harsh drought, the mighty Aztec Land and Cattle Company failed and liquidated its herds. He secured some bank loans and purchased some of Aztec's land and cattle.

The next generation continued his legacy under the direction of my Grandad

Grandad struggled with drought, bad markets, a depression, bad neighbors and bovine epidemics, always adapting to stay in operation in one of the harshest environments in Arizona. In 1967, a freak snowstorm of six feet killed half his herd. But Grandad always endured these challenges. He adapted, and he never failed, even if it meant taking a job in town to avoid losing the ranch. His model was to keep the herd numbers at the worst-case drought scenario, never throw anything away that can be reused, and avoid debt like the plague

There are a lot of very smart people in this industry, and we can learn a lot from them. The Ag professors in school and the speakers at your FFA are a huge resource of information that you can benefit from. But when you are around that old timer, the fella whose learning is not on display by degrees on the wall, but in lines on his face, scars on his hands, and gray in his mustache, make sure to pay special attention to him, and add his wisdom to the ranching decisions you make. You will be glad you did.

Casey Murph

## CATTLEMEN CHRONICLES — YOUR TURN

Every ranch has a story, and every hand has one worth telling.

Cattlemen Chronicles is built from the real experiences of our members and the people who live this life — the long days, the hard lessons, the moments of humor, and the stories that stay with you long after the work is done. These are the memories shared around the pickup tailgate, at the kitchen table, or by the fire after a long day. The “Remember when” stories that reflect the grit, resilience, and pride of Arizona ranching.

We're looking for short stories to feature in upcoming issues. Got a funny branding day? A monsoon that tested your fences and nerves? A close call with wildlife, a tough loss, or a small win that meant everything? Whether it's lighthearted or serious, if it's part of ranch life, it belongs here.

Remember this column is open to anyone and everyone.

- Max 250 words
- Photos encouraged

Email submissions to:  
[Cattlelog@azcattlegrowers.org](mailto:Cattlelog@azcattlegrowers.org)

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# ACGA 2026 WINTER MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

### AGENDA

Arizona Industrial Commissions Building | 800 W Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85007

\*Agenda is subject to change

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 8:30 a.m. Registration  | 1 p.m. - <b>Senate Caucus Room - Open</b>  |
| 9:00 a.m. Welcome Brian deGanahl, President, ACGA   | 4:00 p.m. <b>House</b>   |
| 9:05 a.m. Paul Brierley, Director, Arizona Dept. of Ag.   | 5:30 p.m. Reception at Frasher's Tavern<br>4180 N Drinkwater Blvd,<br>Scottsdale, AZ 85251 |
| 9:25 a.m. Sine Kerr, State Executive Director, FSA  |  |
| 9:40 a.m. Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist, NRCS   |  |
| 10:05 a.m. Bylaw and Policy Update  |  |
| 10:35 a.m. ACGA General Meeting   | 6:00 p.m. Legislative Dinner   |
| 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Update on Bills Affecting Ranchers<br>(Lunch donated by Arizona Grass Raised Beef) |  |

### Thursday, February 19th

9:00 a.m. **ACGA Board of Directors Meeting**

U of A Scottsdale Center - 7135 E Camelback Rd Ste, 2nd floor, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**Lodging: Hotel Solaya (formally known as the Monarch)**

**4000 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

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Registration Includes:

- Lunch
- Reception/Legislative Dinner at Frasher's Tavern

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Additional Attendees' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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Registrations can be made online or by mailing this form to the office with a check.

**Please make checks payable to ACGA; Memo: Winter Meeting** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office: (602) 267-1129

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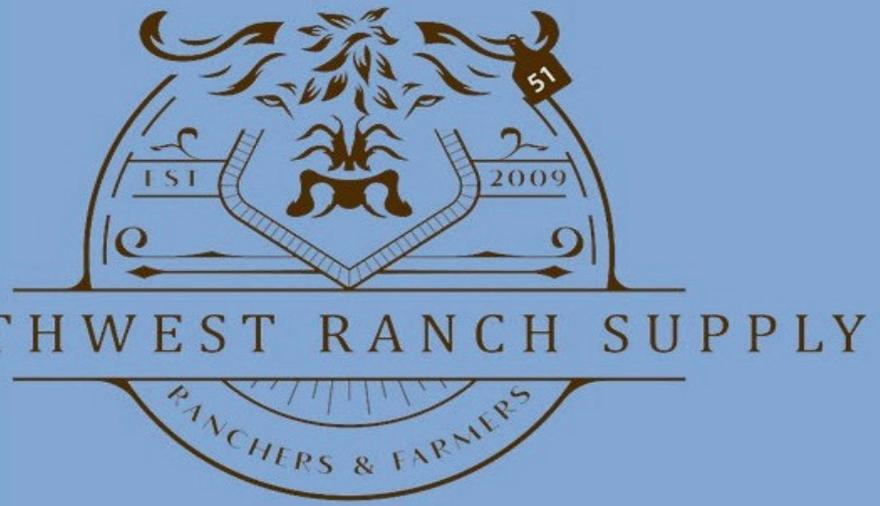
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## Suggested Bylaws Amendments for 2026 Winter Meeting

We received proposed amendments to Article 5 and Section 6.4.3 of our bylaws. These amendments will be presented for a vote at the Winter Meeting on February 18, 2026.

**Article 5 - Membership.** The proposed updates clarify that our organization currently recognizes two classes of members: voting and non-voting.

- Voting Members: Cattle Producers and Business Members (no change).
- Non-Voting Members: Ranchers for Tomorrow, Associate Members, and Friends of the Industry (no change).
  - The amendments would also create a new non-voting membership category, the Arizona Junior Cattle Club (previously referred to as AJLA). In addition, the Business Associate non-voting category would be removed.

**Section 6.4.3 - Duties of the Treasurer.** At the Summer Convention, the membership approved a change to our fiscal year—from July 1–June 30 to January 1–December 31. To reflect this adjustment, the annual financial report would now be presented at the Winter Meeting rather than at the Summer Convention.

If you have any questions, please contact Leatta McLaughlin at [leattamc@yahoo.com](mailto:leattamc@yahoo.com) or (623) 330-1779



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# EMPTY SADDLES

Kimble grew up on the family ranch east of Douglas in the Palencia Mountains. He attended Apache Elementary school until his family moved to Douglas. He continued his education in Douglas and graduated from Douglas High School in 1968. He was in FFA and a dedicated professional roper. He went on to Cochise College and the University of Arizona graduating with a degree in Agriculture Economics.

Kimble came home when his dad Ralph got sick and Don had to manage the ranch. His roping career never stopped and he roped in many national finals. He noted he was the West Coast Regional Team Roping Champion for four years. He logged 100,000 miles traveling to 60 rodeos around the country.

Kimble came home and even taught school at Apache Elementary. He went on and taught Ag courses and was the college rodeo coach for 11 years at Cochise College with his mentor and friend the late Frank Adams. He always said he liked working with kids tuning up their skills and teaching them horsemanship.

Don served on the APACHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLBOARD for 18 plus years. A board member of the MALPAI BORDER LANDS whose mission is to support local ranching families and maintain open spaces, wildlife, water and natural resources.

In February 14, 2006, he married the love of his life Lynn Ann Lawerance Brashears, and they continued to share their love of ranching and roping. Lynn passed away March 29, 2024, at the Copper Queen Hospital in Bisbee, Az. Lynn passed from Parkinson's and Don valiantly took care of her, never leaving her side. Her daughter Cy was also at her side.

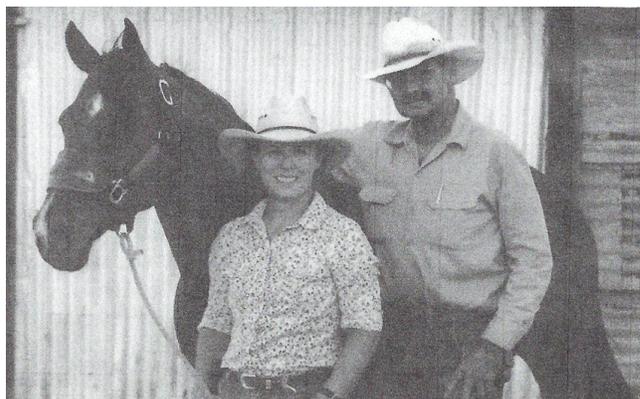
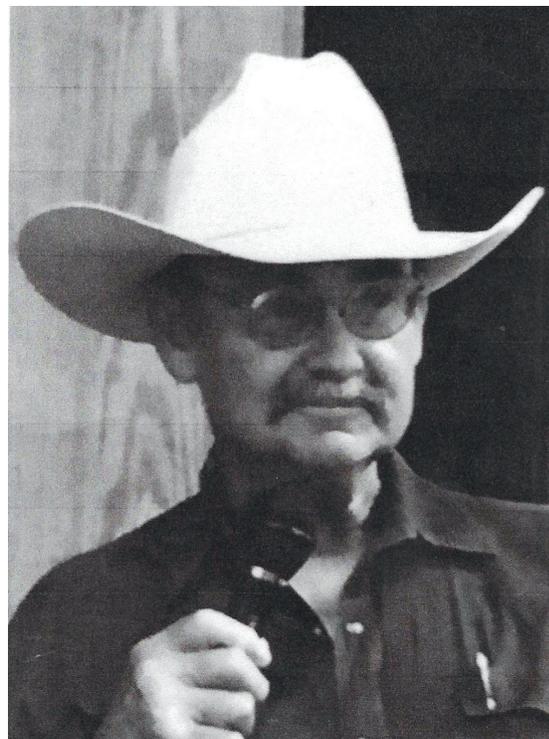
Kimble continued to live at their ranch northeast of Douglas called Silver Creek and he raised cattle and roped. His lifestyle was hard on him. Having his knees replaced, a broken neck, broken leg and a cut spinal cord. When he healed up, he went back to roping. He viewed ranching synonymous with gambling. The market, the weather, the financing but advised you to make your own success by making your own decisions. He was looking forward to going to the finals this fall.

In an interview for the ARIZONA FARM AND RANCH HALL OF FAME in 2020, he said he would like to be remembered as a person who treated other people just like he would like to be treated. His word and a handshake were binding contracts.

Preceding him in death were his wife Lynn, his parents June and Ralph Kimble, his sister Virginia "Ginny" Richards, sister-in-law Trudy Kimble nephew, Danny Kimble, and grandparents Gus and Irene Kimble.

Don is survived by his brother Larry Kimble of Sulfur Draw, a nephew of Tim Kimble of Tucson and his family. Neice Debra Sue Meadows of Portales, New Mexico, and Stephanie L. Meadows of Fresno, California, Stepchildren Cy and Kimble, Brashears, Paul and Kristen Brashears and family. Kent and Cinda Wenerton and family.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to:  
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# EMPTY SADDLES

LEE A. JONES

## Obituary

Lee Austin Jones, age 92, passed away peacefully on December 1, 2025, in Payson, Arizona.

Lee was born March 11, 1933, at the Windmill Ranch outside Cottonwood to Payson and Gila County pioneers Claude Austin "Bud" Jones and Myrth Denalone Pyle Jones. He spent his early years moving with the seasons, winters at Windmill Ranch and summers near Rogers Lake, attending the one-room Oak Creek schoolhouse. In 1942, the family moved to the WEE Ranch near Payson, followed by the purchase of the S-A Ranch and the Buck Springs allotment on the Mogollon Rim, affectionately known as "the mountain."

To ensure a strong education, Lee attended Phoenix Union High School, living with his aunt while returning home for holidays and summers. A dedicated student, he excelled in ROTC as a marksman.

In 1951, Lee met the love of his life, Dixie Lee Sanders of Payson. They were married June 14, 1952, beginning a partnership rooted in ranching, family, and hard work. Together they raised four sons: Austin, Emmett, Sheldon, and Kevin. After time ranching in Nevada and working on early infrastructure in Payson, Lee and Dixie farmed in Montrose, Colorado before returning home to purchase the S-A Ranch in 1968. For nearly three decades, they worked the ranch alongside their sons, wintering west of Payson and summering on the Rim. Their operation later expanded to farmland near Agua Caliente, Arizona.

Lee was deeply committed to his community, serving on the Payson School Board, supporting agricultural organizations, and standing behind Dixie's leadership in Cowbelles and civic groups. In 1977, Lee and Dixie were honored as Range Managers of the Year by the Society for Range Management.

Lee is survived by his sister Peggy Randall; his sons and their families; 10 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Dixie, his grandson Landon, and his brother Stuart.



## Homer

by Bryce Angell

The first time I saw Homer, he was standing in the corral. His owner hadn't rode him much, as far as I could tell.

A big red roan and three-years-old; by luck he was for sale. His owner asked, "\$400." Seemed a little like blackmail.

But I handed over four green bills, put Homer in the truck. Then I drove him to our holding pen and soon found I'd been stuck.

The doggone gelding looked at me with eyes that seemed to say. Just try and get me out of here. The corral is where I'll stay.

I rode ole Homer in the holding corral most every day. But when we'd ride up to the gate, he'd brake and shy away.

After 'bout a week or so he stepped out through the gate. I grinned from ear to ear but had no inkling of my fate.

We'd rode about a mile when Homer's chin strap broke away. Homer knew just what to do. 'Twas my unlucky day.

He chomped down on the bridle bit and locked his jaw up tight. He jerked the reins and took a leap; you'd say we took to flight.

Homer shifted to high gear and headed for the corral. What flew out from his rear was jet propulsion sent from \$##&&!

I held on tight for my dear life. There weren't much I could do. Homer galloped breakneck speed. Looked like my time was due.

When Homer slammed into the gate, I feared I'd end up toast. 'Cuz when he stopped, I stayed in flight and bounced right off a post.

That day was my misfortune and it hurt my boyish pride. Homer got the best of me. I was thinking "homicide."

Homer wasn't injured, but the gate was quite a mess. And I swear my head kept spinning for a week or two, I guess.

Homer finally settled down. He lived a full, long life. He worked up to the lead horse. Never caused a bit of strife.

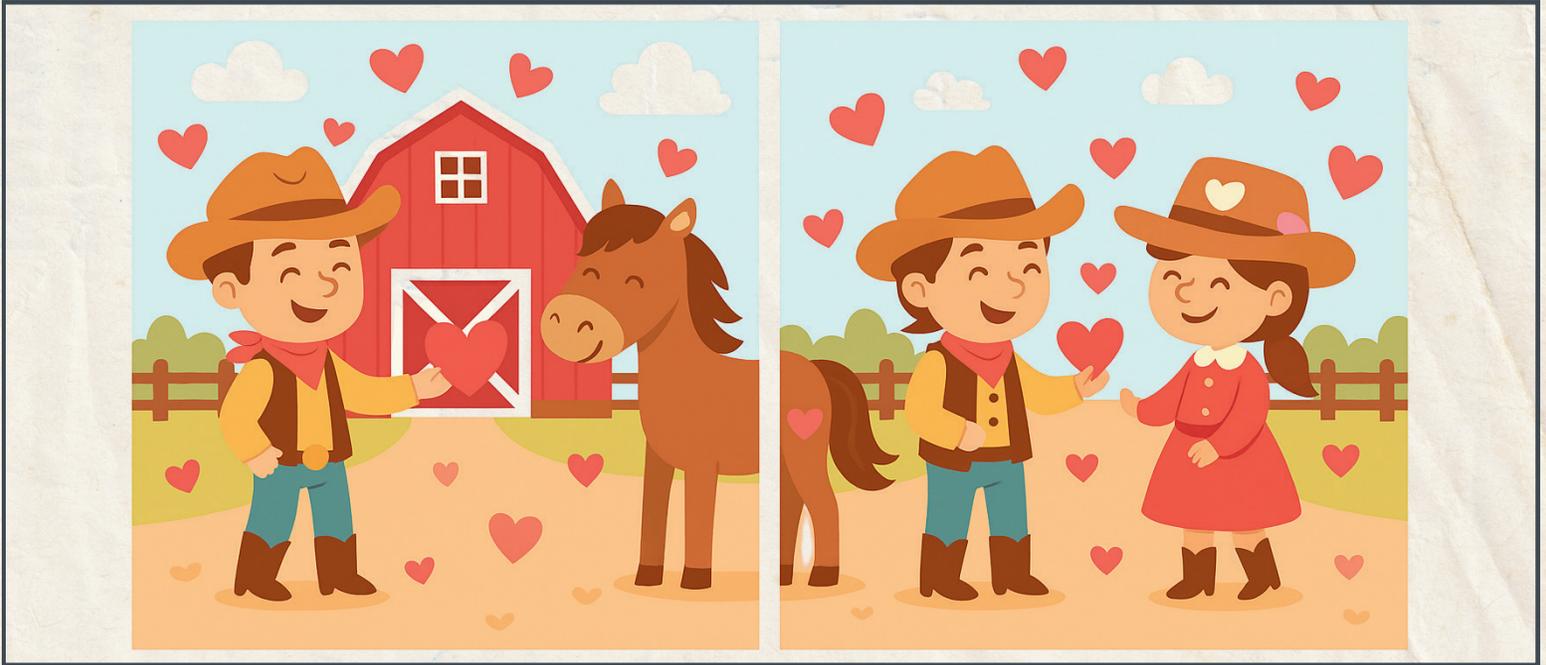
Most horses have their crazy quirks, while they're young, for sure. But, bridling Homer, from then on, his chin strap was secure.



# RANCH RASCALS



## SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES



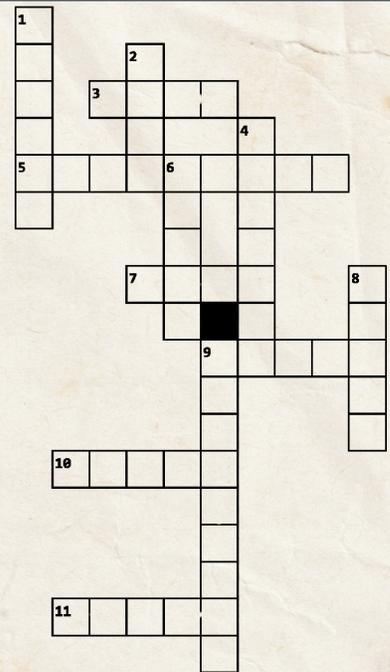
## CROSS WORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 3. Young cow or bull
- 5. Farm animals raised for food or profit
- 7. Group of cattle or other animals
- 9. Metal tools worn on boots to direct horses
- 10. Barrier enclosing a field or pasture
- 11. Protective footwear worn by ranchers

### Down

- 1. Domesticated cows, bulls, or steers raised for beef
- 2. Entryway in a fence or corral
- 4. Gathering of cattle for branding or moving
- 6. Castrated male bovine raised for beef
- 8. Rope used to catch cattle or horses
- 9. Common desert plant found on Western ranges



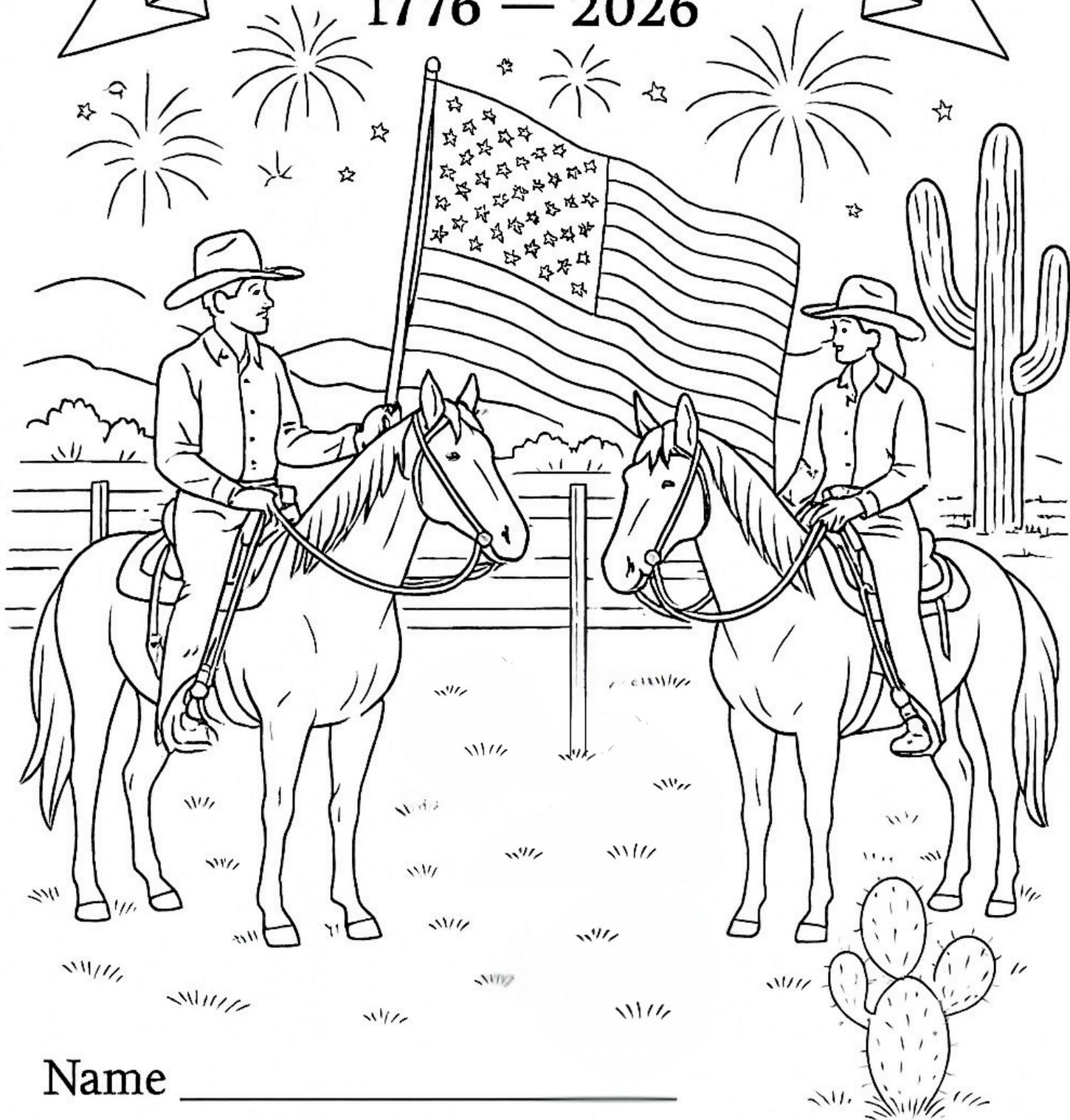
# AMERICA 250TH: RANCHERS RIDE FOR FREEDOM

Color this page and send it in for your chance to be featured in the July 2026 Cattlelog!



CELEBRATING 250 YEARS  
OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

1776 — 2026



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_



# What is the Foundation?

**By: Trever Hall, Vice President**

Many of you may have wondered, what is this organization referred to as “The Foundation”, what is its purpose, where does it get its funding and what is its affiliation with the Arizona Cattle Growers Association? First, it is important to understand that The Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation (ACIF) is classified as a 501(C)(3) with the IRS, meaning it is a nonprofit, tax exempt from federal income taxes because we operate for public benefit purposes of charitable, educational and scientific activities. As such, any contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible for the donor. Seeing the need to support the charitable, educational and scientific needs of our industry, while leveraging the favorable income tax code provisions, ACIF was born in 1982 with the following mission:

- Promote awareness and knowledge in the community about the benefits of the Arizona cattle industry.
- Educate, promote and encourage research and development programs related to the Arizona beef industry.
- Conduct fundraising activities for the scientific, charitable and educational needs of the Arizona cattle industry.
- Provide funds for education programs and scholarships for people pursuing studies in subjects directly and indirectly related to the cattle industry.
- Engage in activities and programs which encourage and promote the general interests of the cattle industry.

It is important to note that the Foundation is managed totally separate from ACGA. It has an independently elected Board of Trustees, all of them being volunteers. The only paid position is our Business Manager who is fairly compensated for their time. We have been successful at keeping overhead to a minimum and being good stewards of the donations entrusted to us. In the past there have been some individuals, outside of the Foundation board, who believed that we should provide our funds to ACGA, with no questions asked and no strings attached. This cannot happen. The Trustees have a fiduciary duty not only to the Foundation, but also to our donors, to ensure the assets are protected, funds are allocated in alignment with our stated mission and that we remain in good standing with IRS requirements. An independent CPA firm also provides an annual Reviewed Financial Statement to the Board of Trustees.

The ACIF Board of Trustees are as follows:

- President: Mike Macauley
- Vice President: Trever Hall
- Secretary: Linda Vensel
- Treasurer: Ron Allen
- Business Manager & Statutory Agent: Grant Boice

((Term Expires 2026) Bill Brake, Keith Cannon, Sandy Eastlake, Jeff Homack, Mike Macauley, Kathy McCraine, Tom Ryan (Term Expires 2027) Ron Allen, Dan Bell, Galyn Knight, Ken Ligon, Susan Wilson-Sanders, Linda Vensel, Jim Webb (Term Expires 2028)

Jesse Davis, Amy Doyle, John Fowler, Pam Griffin, Trever Hall, Catherine Mann, and Jill Wilson.

- Trustee Emeritus: Chuck Backus, Jolene Miller, Louis Maxcy and Bill McGibbon
- Arizona Cattle Growers' Association Representative: Brian deGanahl
- Arizona Cattle Feeders Association Representative: Richie Kennedy
- Arizona State Cowbelles Representative: Trina Sue Riggs

The Foundation has established a scholarship endowment totaling over \$1.4 million. This asset and the income generated are considered “restricted” meaning it can only be used for its specific purpose. Conversely, no scholarship dollars are paid from the general fund. We also maintain another \$400,000 in endowments earmarked exclusively for research and education. Investment income generated from another \$2 million in “unrestricted” investments is used to fund additional grants and pay the small amount of our expenses through the general fund.

Our portfolio is managed by the investment firm Morgan Stanley, under the direction of the Foundations Investment Committee. To ensure the sustainability of the organization, the portfolio is invested conservatively, and only a modest amount of the income is used annually to fund the Foundations’ activities.

Several years ago, ACIF was gifted the Four Spear Ranch from the Elizebeth Husband Trust. The ranch had to be donated to a 501 c 3 and came with a deed restriction, so it cannot be sold or developed and only preserved as a working cattle ranch. As such, the asset is considered “restricted.” However, the lease income generated from the ranch is “unrestricted” and can be used in our general fund.

Since 1994 the Foundation has awarded over \$800,000 from our scholarship endowment to college students who are pursuing studies in courses and careers directly or indirectly related to the cattle industry. A few of the notable benefactors who have generously contributed to this endowment over the years have been the Coughlin, Webb, McGibbon, Backus and Fowler families, and the Marley Foundation.

Our grant program supports research and education that contributes to the viability and sustainability of Arizona’s ranching industry. Over \$435,700 has been awarded directly to the Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association for specific industry projects and programs. Some of the notable grants include sponsorship of the Arizona representative attending the annual NCBA Young Cattlemen’s Conference, Wolf Study Grant, Economic Study Grant, Forest Guidebook, Resource Management Education, Forest Plan Research, “Keeper of the Range” commemorative book, educational articles for the ACGA magazine and the Cattlemen’s College at the annual convention. We have also awarded grants of \$418,800 to other organizations for specific industry projects and programs.



# An Update on US Beef Imports

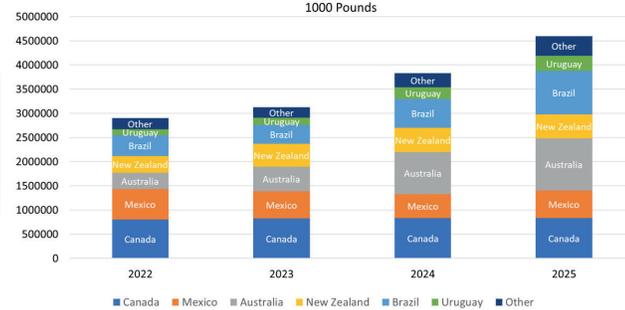
These organizations include Arizona Society of Range Management, Arizona FFA Foundation, University of Arizona, Arizona Cowbells, Foundation for Ag Literacy- Summer Ag Institute, Project Central and Arizona Beef Council. The Foundation has also sponsored and produced a series of Western Rancher Symposiums which were spearheaded by now Trustee Emeritus, Dr. Chuck Backus.

None of these accomplishments could be possible without the past generous support and donations from numerous individuals. There are many ways you can contribute to the Foundation besides cash, which may include: stocks, bonds, marketable securities, mutual funds, retirement plan designations, will codicils, trusts, real estate (without mortgages or liens), tangible personal property (stamps/coins/etc.), life insurance policies or proceeds, and royalties from oil, gas and mineral rights. You can also support our annual calf rollover auction held in March at the Angus Invitational Bull Sale at Marana Stockyards; or by contributing an item for the auction held at the ACGA summer convention. If you would like to donate, please contact Fundraising Committee Members, Jill Wilson 602-284-6856 email: [jillwilsonAZ@gmail.com](mailto:jillwilsonAZ@gmail.com), Trever Hall 602-309-8331 email: [trevhall@msn.com](mailto:trevhall@msn.com) or ACIF Business Manager, Grant Boice 602-510-0980 email: [grant.boice@gmail.com](mailto:grant.boice@gmail.com).

The latest release of shutdown-delayed trade data provides information on beef and cattle imports and exports through October 2025. Beef imports have been a particular focus in industry and politically for several months.

For the first 10 months of 2025, beef imports were up 20% year over year (Figure 1). This follows a 24.4% year-over-year increase in 2024. Increased beef imports are the expected market response to declining beef production in the U.S., especially decreased production of nonfed processing beef. Through 2025, U.S. cow slaughter is projected to be down a total of 29.2% from the recent peak in 2022. Beef imports have increased to partially mitigate the resulting decreases in lean processing.

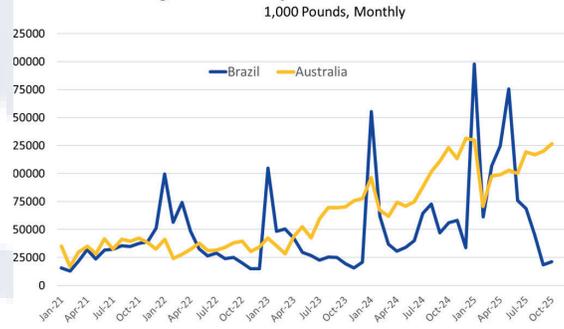
Figure 1. Beef Imports, January-October



Through October, Australia was the largest source of U.S. beef imports with a 23.6% share of total imports. No. 2 Brazil accounted for 19.5% of beef imports, followed by Canada (18.2% share), Mexico (12.3% share), New Zealand (10.8% share) and Uruguay (6.8% share). Despite much political focus on Argentina in the fourth quarter of 2025, Argentina only represents about 25% of the “Other” category in Figure 1, representing 2.2% of total beef imports.

Figures 1 and 2 shows the dramatic increase in beef imports from both Australia and Brazil since 2022. Figure 2 also illustrates the dramatic difference in the seasonal pattern of beef imports from the two countries. Beef imports from Brazil are included in the “Other Country” quota. Since 2022, Brazil has moved quickly in January of each year to fill the “Other Country” quota before being subject to over-quota tariffs. The January spikes in imports of Brazilian beef are obvious in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Beef Imports from Australia and Brazil



In 2025, a second peak in beef imports from Brazil occurred in May as market values stimulated additional imports despite the over-quota tariffs and additional 10% tariffs imposed in April. However, an additional 40% tariff imposed on Brazil in August did result in sharply lower imports from Brazil in September and October. By the end of November, all the of the additional tariffs have been removed leaving Brazil with only the over-quota tariff (26.5%) for the remainder of the year.

So far in January 2026, Brazil is moving quickly to fill the “Other Country” quota in the first two weeks of the year with zero tariff. Subsequent imports from Brazil going forward will be subject to the over-quota tariff. Once again, data will eventually confirm a spike in total beef imports in January as a result. Despite this, the domestic price of 90% lean trimmings in the first full week of January was \$401.71/cwt, up 19.8% from the same period one year ago.

— Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist  
Republished with the permission from Western Livestock Journal.





## MCA CONSULTING

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

MCA Consulting (MCA) is an Arizona-based cultural resources and archaeological consulting firm founded by longtime Arizona archaeologist Mike Cook in 2014. MCA started with a simple goal: to help landowners, ranchers, and farmers meet cultural resource requirements without unnecessary delay, confusion, or cost. Having worked across Arizona for decades—often on active ranches and agricultural lands—we understand that working landscapes are not museums. They are places of production, stewardship, and multi-generational investment.

MCA specializes in Class III cultural resources surveys, site documentation, monitoring, and agency coordination required for projects involving Arizona State Trust Land, NRCS programs, BLM actions, , USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans and private development. These requirements can be frustrating, especially when they appear late in the process. Our role is to guide landowners through the process efficiently, explain what is required and why, and keep projects moving forward.

What sets MCA apart is our practical, landowner-focused approach. Our crews are experienced working around livestock, crops, irrigation systems, fencing, and active operations. We coordinate closely with landowners to minimize disruption, respect private property, and maintain confidentiality. Over the years, MCA has successfully completed hundreds of surveys supporting stock tanks, pipelines, wells, fences, renewable energy, range improvements, and agricultural infrastructure across rural Arizona—helping projects proceed while meeting federal and state compliance requirements.

As part of our commitment to the ranching and farming community, MCA offers Arizona Cattle Growers' Association members a preferred-rate discount on qualifying cultural resources services, along with clear, upfront pricing and scheduling priority when timelines are tight. We are always available to review a project early, provide honest guidance on whether a survey is needed, and help avoid surprises later in the process.

At MCA, we believe good archaeology supports good land stewardship. Our job is to handle the regulatory requirements professionally—so you can stay focused on running your operation.

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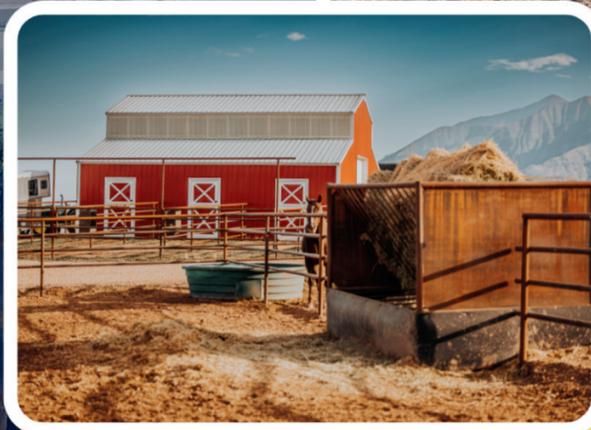
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# Foothill Abortion

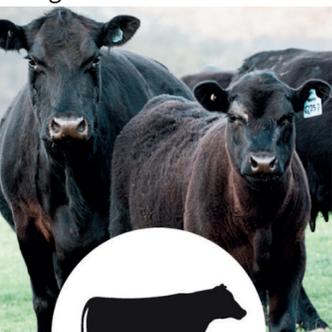
**By: Ryan Wolker DVM MVetSc, DACVS, State Veterinarian, FADD  
Animal Services Division, Arizona Department of Agriculture**

In Arizona, there has recently been renewed interest in Foothill Abortion or Epizootic Bovine Abortion (EBA). Foothill Abortion is a disease that is sporadically seen and may not manifest on a regular basis for a variety of reasons including climatic conditions, appropriate exposure to the tick vectors of this disease, and the requirement for those tick vectors to actually be infected with the bacteria that cause EBA. As you can appreciate, all of these factors have to come into alignment to create a fetal loss event. Foothill Abortion was officially recognized as a disease of beef cattle in the 1950's in California and probably existed earlier with unrecognized cases being documented in the 1920's as a mystery illness of cattle in those affected regions. It took another 55 years for the specific causative agent (*Pajaroellobacter abortibovis*) of Foothill Abortion to be finally identified in 2005. Foothill Abortion is recognized in several states including California, Southern Oregon, Nevada, Southern Idaho, and Arizona.



<https://pacvec.us/pajahuello-tick/>

The bacteria implicated as the source of this disease is *Pajaroellobacter abortibovis* which is only estimated to infect about 10% of the species of ticks that carry this bacteria. The ticks that act as the vector for this bacteria are the Pajaroello or *Ornithodoros coriaceus* ticks which are soft-ticks that typically live at elevations of 400-8000+ feet above sea level and prefer dry habitats frequently living in the soil or duff at the base of trees where cattle may bed down and seek shelter from midday sun such as oak, juniper, pinon pine, Ponderosa pine, large sage and mountain mahogany. The ticks are transient and only feed on the animal for a brief period of time (a matter of minutes) before returning to the soil so there is a good chance that ranchers or veterinarians may not find these ticks on the animals themselves if examined at a later date and time. This is much different than hard-ticks that attach or embed themselves on cattle for extended periods. For this reason, avoiding pastures or known areas where Pajaroello tick problems have been recognized before in the immediate 2 months prior to breeding is important. Due to the minimal amount of time required for the tick to bite and feed on the cow and transmit the bacterial organism, this disease can be



**Foothill Abortion  
Vaccine**

Give your heifers a strong  
start for greater productivity.

a frustrating one to manage a herd out of without resorting to vaccination in known affected areas and ranchers will not know they even have a problem until they start seeing aborted or stillborn fetuses. Calves in-utero are susceptible and at the greatest risk from the effects of this bacteria from 60-150 days gestation – basically the first and second trimesters.

EBA caused by the *P. abortibovis* bacteria primarily results in late gestational abortion or stillbirth and has negligible impact on the heifer or cow, but the disease is devastating on the calf-crop and resulting incurred losses. Working with your herd veterinarian, diagnosis of an EBA outbreak can be suspected or confirmed using a combination of diagnostic sample collection from aborted fetuses, molecular testing, and attempting to work backwards by looking at the pastured location of the cow 4 months prior to abortion to determine hot areas where the infected ticks may be found and which may provide a useful exposure site for un-bred naïve heifers to generate immunity prior to breeding. Once exposed, cows become immune and retain this immunity for several years. However as previously mentioned, the best strategy to protect your investment in your animals is vaccination because of the unreliable nature of exposure to ticks that also must be concurrently infected with the causative bacteria.

A modified-live vaccine was commercialized and received conditional licensure in 2020. Importation, distribution, and use of biologics is covered by Arizona Revised Statute 3-1203 and Arizona Administrative Code R3-2-404. This vaccine is a modified-live vaccine that is kept under strict cryotemperature control until use. It is authorized by the State Veterinarian for use by or under the supervision of a herd veterinarian for designated herds and is not available for general, wide-spread use. If your ranch is experiencing or suspecting an EBA event and wish to incorporate vaccination into your management strategy going forward, you must work with your herd veterinarian who will request through the manufacturer permission from the Office of the State Veterinarian at the Arizona Department of Agriculture to add your ranch to the approved recipient list authorized to receive this vaccine. Ranchers will need to work with their herd veterinarian and must recognize that the handling and administration of this vaccine (proper thawing and use within 4 hours, temperature control, administration of 2ml subcutaneously 60 days prior to breeding) which is also not inexpensive (\$35+ per dose) is critically important. This vaccine is highly effective conferring protection upwards of 98% when handled and administered properly. The target group of animals for the vaccine given that it is a modified-live product and should not be given to animals within 60 days of breeding are those young replacement heifers. Antibiotic administration for other concurrent illnesses when also vaccinating for EBA is discouraged. With these management and vaccination tools, EBA risk can be mitigated as much as possible.

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# PLC Update

## Arizona Public Lands Council Announces New Fiscal Agent Structure

By: Amber Morin

The Arizona Public Lands Council (AZ PLC) is entering a new chapter aimed at strengthening administrative efficiency while retaining independence in policy direction and producer-led decision-making.

Beginning in 2026, the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) will serve as the fiscal agent for AZ PLC.

### What is a fiscal agent?

As fiscal agent, AACD will maintain a separate bank account exclusively for AZ PLC, send dues letters, receive and process membership dues payments, and issue consolidated payments each year to the national Public Lands Council. AACD's role is strictly administrative and does not include influence over AZ PLC policy, priorities, or directives.

AACD is a non-profit that assists Arizona's Natural Resource Conservation Districts in planning and implementing natural resource outcomes that benefit agricultural producers across the state. AACD does not engage in policy advocacy, making it uniquely suited to support AZ PLC without conflicts of interest.

Since 1968, the Public Lands Council has been the only national organization whose sole mission is to represent cattle and sheep ranchers who hold federal grazing permits. PLC operates through state affiliates, which collect member dues and remit consolidated payments to support national representation. In recent years, Arizona producers were allowed to submit dues either through the state affiliate or directly to the PLC office in Washington, D.C. Going forward, payments should no longer be sent to Washington, D.C., allowing national PLC staff to remain focused on policy and advocacy rather than administrative processing.

### Where to send your 2026 dues?

All Arizona PLC dues will now be handled through AACD and can be mailed to the following address: 222 South Mill Ave., Suite 800, Box 49, Tempe, AZ 85281. Please put "PLC Dues" in the memo of your checks.

AZ PLC will retain full autonomy in governance and decision-making. The current AZ PLC Committee includes Amber Morin, Brian deGanahl, Marci Schulp-Hall, and Bob Prosser.

Looking toward the rest of 2026, committee goals include hosting an AZ PLC Annual Meeting—likely paired with a larger organization's meeting, hosting educational webinars and outreach regarding PLC, and establishing a member-driven process that allows dues-paying members to select future committee leadership.

Thank you!

AZ PLC also extends sincere gratitude to the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA) for its longstanding leadership as the state PLC affiliate. While AZ PLC is now standing on its own with a fiscal agent, a close working relationship with ACGA will continue. For example, you'll see updates here in the Cattlelog and in the Herd That emails.

This transition, which reflects growth and maturation, not separation, was approved and supported by ACGA and positions AZ PLC for long-term sustainability, additional administrative support, stronger member engagement, and continued advocacy for Arizona's public-lands ranchers. More information will be coming to your inboxes and mailboxes soon!

## January & February: Rangelands and Access

Pastoralists are people who raise livestock by working with natural landscapes and adapting to seasonal changes in forage, weather, and water. In Arizona, that description fits cattle ranchers who manage livestock across diverse rangelands.

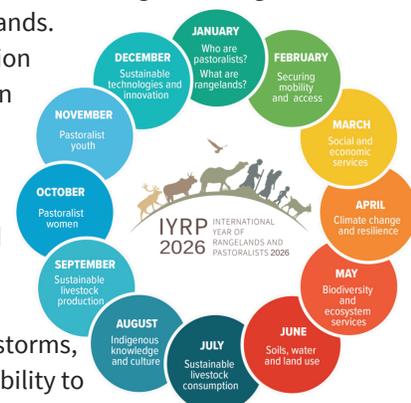
Arizona's rangelands stretch from desert grasslands and mesquite flats to foothills and high elevation forests. Ranchers adjust grazing based on rainfall, elevation, and forage conditions, allowing vegetation time to recover and helping prevent overuse. Well-managed rangelands also help capture rainfall, reduce erosion and support wildlife.

February highlights the importance of securing mobility and access. Ranchers depend on safe, reliable access to grazing areas, water sources, and working roads to move cattle and manage the land responsibly. In Arizona's rugged and remote country, access isn't just convenience — it affects animal care, pasture rotation, and stewardship.

Being able to check water regularly, repair fences, and respond quickly during drought, monsoon storms, or wildfire season helps keep cattle healthy and reduces strain on the range. When ranchers have the ability to move livestock and adjust to conditions, rangelands recover better and remain productive for both livestock and wildlife.

Written by: Sidnie Conerly

Administrative Assistant & *Cattlelog* editor/designer



# NCBA Update

## Farm Bill

America's cattle farmers and ranchers don't ask for much from the federal government, but they do rely on a few key programs to protect animal health, aid in disaster recovery, reduce risk, and strengthen our nation's food security.

## Overview

Authorized by Congress every 5 years, the Farm Bill is the most comprehensive piece of legislation impacting agriculture. For the cattle industry, farmers and ranchers rely on several critical programs that help producers manage risk, recover from natural disasters, protect animal health, and promote conservation.

## Strengthening Risk Management

Cattle farmers and ranchers support risk management programs like Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), which can help hedge against price decline and protect producers from extreme market conditions that could detrimentally affect their businesses.

## Supporting Disaster Programs

When disaster strikes, cattle producers sometimes need support to get their operation back up and running again. NCBA strongly supports programs such as the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) that help producers recover from predator attacks on livestock, and extreme weather conditions like heat, drought, and wildfire.

## Promoting Voluntary Conservation Programs

Cattle producers are our nation's original conservationists. Every day they care for millions of acres of land, soil, and water. To help producers continue caring for the land, NCBA supports voluntary conservation programs that help producers invest in improvements to the land, water, and natural resources, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

## Protecting Animal Health

Foreign animal disease is one of the most significant threats to the cattle industry. An outbreak of a disease on American soil could lead to billions of dollars in economic losses and significant disruptions to food security. Support for programs like the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) are important for foreign animal disease protection and detection. NADPRP helps states, agricultural organizations, universities, and others carry out research projects, emergency planning, and producer education to prevent animal disease outbreaks.

NCBA strongly supports funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB), which currently holds the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine. A disease like FMD could decimate the cattle industry, therefore, making investments in these countermeasures is essential for protecting the U.S. livestock industry and the overall economy.

This article is reprinted with permission from <https://www.ncba.org/key-issues/top-priorities/farm-bill>



# U of A Update

1. The Wildcat country Market (<https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html>) is currently open Fridays from 9-4 and Mondays from 9-2. Please make sure to check the website or give us a call at 520-318-7021 to confirm that we are open and that wanted cuts are available before stopping by our storefront at 4181 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.
2. The FPSL is working on expanded staffing. Those interested in processing can call 520-318-7021 for the current schedule.
3. The University has announced the search for the next Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. Details can be found at <https://wittkiewer.com/positions/201719>
4. 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 open and accepting applicants for individuals to teach animal science courses. See the following link for details: <https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/24132?c=arizona>

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have ([dscottmerrell@arizona.edu](mailto:dscottmerrell@arizona.edu)) and I wish you all the very best as we move forward into 2026.

Dr. D. Scott (Scotty) Merrell,  
Director of the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences  
The University of Arizona



# Cowbelles Update

To finish out 2025, I reached out to all of the Arizona locals I introduced to you last month to see what they had been up to since we last met this summer. What I found was no less than inspiring. When you put pen to paper and list the accomplishments done by each, you have a better understanding of how Cowbelles and CattleWomen are more than beef advocates; they are community leaders making a difference in their communities.



I do not have time or space to detail each and every activity at the local level but I can assure you that through ASC and local Cowbelle and CattleWomen groups, tens of thousands of dollars have been awarded to deserving students across the state to go towards higher education. In Santa Cruz County, they were even able to help send a student to NASA Space Camp. Many locals also make their way into schools to teach elementary students about beef byproducts and other subjects related to beef in the classroom or out on a ranch.

We all know Christmas is a special time of year and so many locals do their part to participate. Willcox Cowbelles participate in their town Christmas Festival. Tucson Cowbelles collect toys at their annual Christmas party to donate to one of the area hospitals. The toys are given to children that have to spend their holidays in the hospital. Other locals adopt a family or donate food items to the food bank and take time to serve meals to the community.

Cowbelles of course do their share of beef promotion across the state. Most county fairs will have a Cowbelle booth or they will support the youth at the fair by sponsoring different contests. Some locals even have merchandise to sell like my favorite brand sweatshirts or scarves. On the University of Arizona campus in March at the Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson Cowbelles, with the help of the Arizona Beef Council and Arizona Cattle Research & Education Foundation are able to put beef sticks, recipes and information in front of thousands of people walking by their booth. Many see it as the last place they might learn about beef - but most enjoy learning more about our industry and ranching practices in the desert.

Preserving history, Cowbelles and CattleWomen find themselves at cattlemen's meetings across the state. Not only do they play an active role in the meetings and boards, they learn from the speakers and new information relayed. If the need arises, they help prepare or serve a meal. You may also be lucky enough to enjoy a delicious dessert they took along to share.

Arizona State Cowbelles (ASC) have been helping yearly with the The Pioneer Stockmen Association luncheon held during the Arizona National Livestock Show (ANLS) in Phoenix, in late December. ANLS provides a place for the Arizona Pioneers to gather, reminisce and enjoy a delicious lunch. It is a pleasure to see the faces that make up the history that help shape agriculture across the state.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Janice Bryson. This year at the Pioneer Stockmen Association luncheon, Janice was named the 2025 Pioneer Stockman of the Year. This well deserved honor adds itself to the long list of honors Janice has received including ACGA's Top Wrangler of the Year and Cattle Woman of the Year. We are blessed to know such a hard working woman that has dedicated so much time to Arizona history and Cowbelles.

I am proud to be a part of this community and I hope this letter increases your curiosity about what Cowbelles and CattleWomen are and what they accomplish in their communities. Please consider joining one of the locals, Arizona State Cowbelles and American National CattleWomen. Each association builds upon the other and unites CattleWomen from across the country to learn from one another on how to promote beef all while interacting with their communities and building friendships that last a lifetime.





## Why Arizona's Climate Makes It an Agricultural Powerhouse

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Director of Strategic Communications

Recently, a reporter interviewed me about Arizona's climate and how it impacts our agricultural industry. A major component of Arizona's famous "5 C's," I realized it's important to celebrate our climate that make our state's agriculture so viable.

When people think of Arizona, images of vast deserts, scorching sun, and towering cacti often come to mind. Yet, paradoxically, this arid landscape with its warmer climate is precisely what fuels one of the most productive agricultural regions in the United States. Arizona's farming isn't happening despite the desert; it's thriving because of it. With over 300 days of sunshine annually, mild winters in key growing areas, and innovative irrigation systems that include solar, the state has turned challenging conditions into a competitive advantage.

Today, Arizona agriculture and agribusiness contribute nearly \$31 billion to the state's economy, according to a 2024 University of Arizona study based on the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture. And climate is key. And cattle ranching is a big part of that, rotating back and forth with dairy as the top agricultural commodity in the state.

### Abundant Sunshine: Nature's Free Energy Source

Arizona boasts more than 300 sunny days per year, providing an unparalleled natural resource for plant growth, including forage for cattle. The Arizona Farm Bureau calls this sunshine a "golden gift." University of Arizona researchers note that this solar abundance accelerates crop development, and abundant forage during our rainy season though we need more consistent rains for our cattle.

### Using Solar Power on Ranches Before Green Energy Was Even Popular

Providing reliable water for livestock is essential. It is typical for Arizona ranchers to run solar-powered water pumps, leveraging the state's abundant sunshine to ensure consistent water supply. Other technologies allow improved tracking systems of water levels in tanks to ensure water is always where it's needed. The ranching community will continue look for ways to exploit the sun's free resource. For Arizona cattle ranchers, solar-powered water pumps represent a forward-thinking blend of tradition and innovation, ensuring the industry's viability in a sun-soaked state. Now for a stronger negotiation with Mother Nature for more consistent rains on our public and state lands!

## USDA Update

### USDA Highlights Healthy, Affordable Eating in New Dietary Guidelines

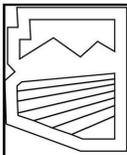
In a January op-ed published in The Hill, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins outlined how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to make healthy, affordable food choices more accessible to all Americans by leaning into the newly released Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030. The guidelines emphasize the importance of "real food" — nutrient-dense options like proteins, dairy, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats — while steering away from highly processed foods.

Rollins argued that the updated guidelines provide a flexible and attainable framework, designed to support personal preferences, cultural traditions, and different lifestyles without dictating exact meals or driving up grocery costs. According to the USDA, hundreds of thousands of meal combinations adhering to the guidelines can be prepared for about \$3 per meal, based on extensive meal cost simulations conducted by the agency.

A key point in Rollins's op-ed is the expanded focus on nutrition assistance access. The USDA plans to finalize stocking standards for SNAP retailers that would require more than double the current availability of nutrient-dense foods at the more than 250,000 outlets authorized to accept SNAP benefits. This move aims to ensure that healthier food options are within reach for families using nutrition assistance programs.

The effort reflects a broader federal push to reshape nutrition policy and reinforce the connection between public health and agriculture. Earlier in January, USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services jointly released the new dietary guidelines that underscore the value of whole, minimally processed foods as central to a balanced diet.

Rollins's message underscores the USDA's vision of a food system where healthy, affordable meals are accessible to all Americans. Through policy changes, retailer requirements, and clearer guidance, the department is aiming to translate nutritional science into practical choices that support both individual health and community well-being.



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# Proposed BRANDS

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

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

Brand	Brand No.   End Date	Location	Brand	Brand No.   End Date	Location	Brand	Brand No.   End Date	Location
	Brand No.: 30674 End Date: 2/14/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30672 End Date: 2/12/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: RS Goat: RS		Brand No.: 30673 End Date: 2/12/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 6912 End Date: 2/12/2026 AMEND	Cattle: LH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30671 End Date: 2/5/2026	Cattle: RS Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30670 End Date: 1/30/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30669 End Date: 1/30/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30668 End Date: 1/23/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: RS Goat: RS		Brand No.: 30666 End Date: 1/17/2026	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: RS Goat: RS
	Brand No.: 30667 End Date: 1/17/2026	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30665 End Date: 1/16/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30664 End Date: 1/15/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30663 End Date: 1/9/2026	Cattle: LR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30662 End Date: 1/7/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30661 End Date: 1/4/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LS Sheep: LR Goat: LR
	Brand No.: 30658 End Date: 1/3/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30659 End Date: 1/3/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO		Brand No.: 30660 End Date: 1/3/2026	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30657 End Date: 1/2/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: B Goat: RR		Brand No.: 30656 End Date: 1/2/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: RH Goat: RH			

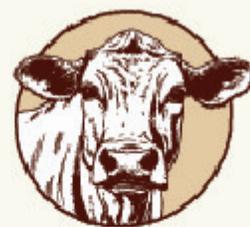
## Latest Livestock Monitor Newsletter

Total cattle slaughter numbers for 2025 are expected to be down by -6.9% from 2024 to about 29.1 million head. The last time slaughter numbers posted an annual decline in the -7% range was from 2013 to 2014 (-7.1%) and slaughter bottomed out the following year in 2015. From 2023 to 2024, slaughter numbers were down -3.1% but heavier slaughter weights made up for the loss in numbers such that beef production was flat (+.08%). In spite of a further increase in slaughter weights of about 3% for 2025, U.S. beef production is expected to be about 4% lower for 2025. Feeders from Mexico typically supply over 3% of our harvested cattle and the impact of restricted feeder imports in 2025 (just 0.8% of slaughter) will mainly be felt in 2026 due to the lag time of around 9 to 11 months in going from their imported feeder weight to final slaughter weight. Prices for 800-pound feeder steers at Oklahoma auctions began 2025 at \$267.91/cwt. and ended with a December price of \$349.89/cwt., an increase of 30.6% for the year. Beef cow retention also tends to lead heifer retention before herd expansion. Cow slaughter estimates for 2025 indicate a decline of -19.8% for 2025, lower than the -18.8% decline for 2024. Oklahoma City cull cow prices started in January 2025 at \$120.57/cwt. and finished the year at \$156.39/cwt., a 29.7% price increase. Beef imports have increased 20.0% through October 2025 from 2024 to partially fill the decrease in lean trim from fewer cull cows slaughtered. This increase also follows a 24.4% year over year increase in beef imports for 2024. Through October 2025, Australia made up the largest share of beef imports at 23.6%, followed by Brazil (19.5%), Canada (18.2%), Mexico (12.3%), New Zealand (10.8%), Uruguay (6.8%), and Argentina (2.2%). From 2022 to 2025, imports from Australia and Brazil have increased 3-5 fold while imports from other countries have been rather flat. For 2026, Brazil moved quickly to fill the relatively small 65,000 metric ton "Other Country" quota in the first two weeks with zero tariff. Subsequent imports from Brazil will be subject to the 26.5% over-quota tariff.

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