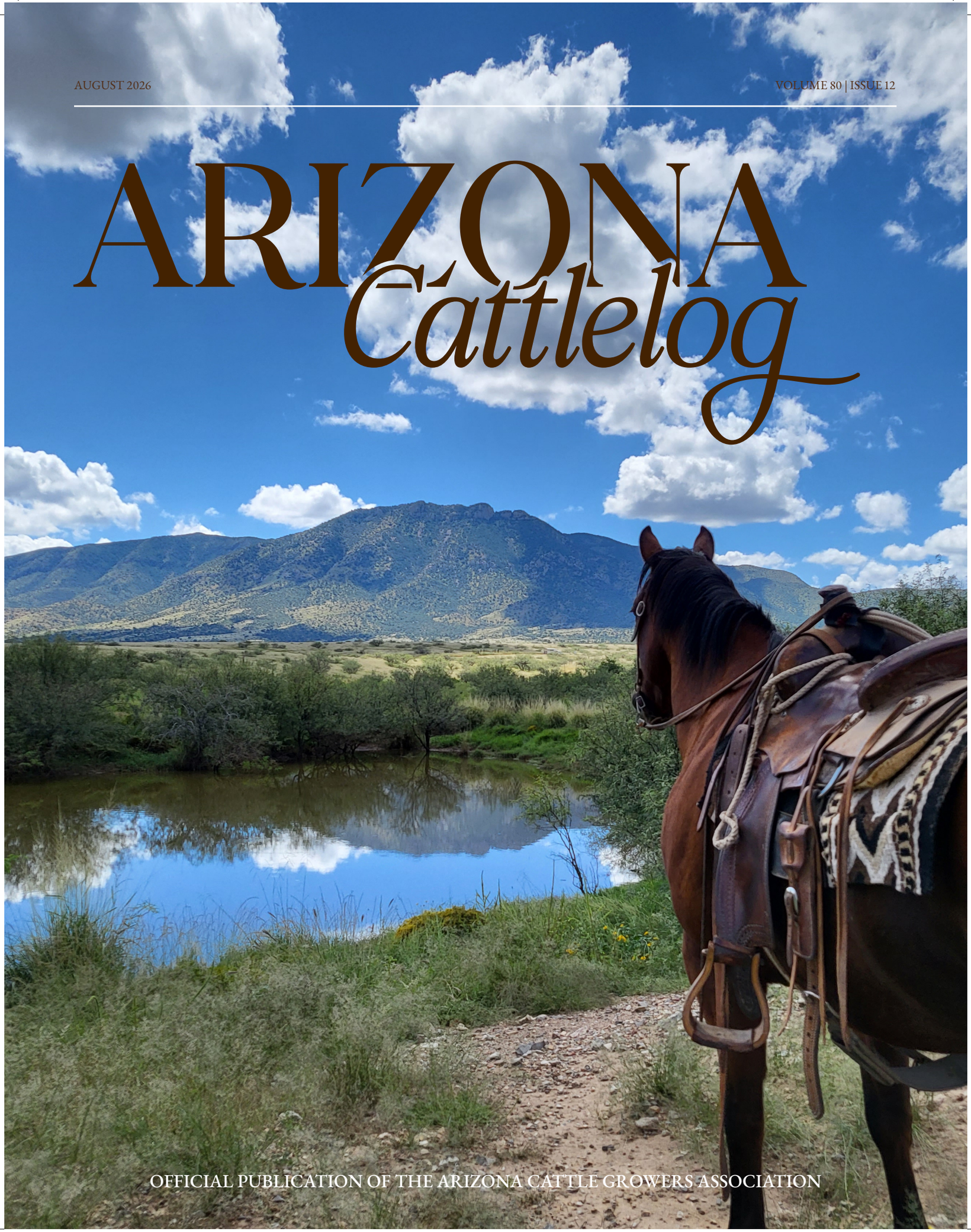
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ARIZONA Cattlelog



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

On the Cover | Photograph by: Richard Searle- Winner of Landscape Category of Photo Contest at the ACGA 123rd Annual Summer Convention

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Arizona Cattle Growers' Reports

5 ..... Letter from the President
6 ..... ACGA Leadership Directory
7 ..... Executive Director Update
9 ..... ACGA Success- Becki Ross

Cattle Comments

12 ..... Farm Bureau Update
15 ..... Natural Resource User Law and Policy Center
18 ..... Using the Livestock Indemnity Program for Livestock Losses
20 ..... Cattle Judging Contest
22 ..... Arizona Beef Council
27 ..... Summer Convention Photo Recap

Industry News

30 ..... Arizona Cowbelles Update
32 ..... U of A Update
33 ..... Arizona Dept. of Ag. Proposed Brands



PHOTOGRAPH OF TRIANGLE M RANCH TAKEN WINTER OF 2026

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KATIE HOBBS
Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Arizona Announces Increased Screening Protocols in Response to Federal Plan to Open Southern Ports to Cattle Imports

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Today, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a phased plan to reopen southern ports of entry for cattle from Mexico, starting with the Douglas, AZ, port of entry on August 24, 2026. In May 2025, the USDA suspended imports of livestock from Mexico due to the continued and rapid northward spread of New World Screwworm (NWS). Since the first detection of NWS in Mexico, the State of Arizona has led an all-of-government coordination approach to collaborate with Arizona's cattle industry in preventing and detecting the presence of NWS. In response to the USDA announcement, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has issued Director's Administrative Order 26-04 increasing the screening and tracking protocols for inspection of cattle from Sonora, Mexico, passing through Arizona's southern ports of entry.

This Order follows a previous Director's Order issued by AZDA in June 2026 that updated animal movement requirements for any animals transported from a domestic NWS Infested Zone (AZDA DAO 26-02). Despite detections in Texas and New Mexico, there are currently no confirmations of NWS presence in Arizona. "Arizona has consistently demonstrated its readiness to confront the challenges of screwworm, taking swift action to safeguard our cattle industry and ranchers from this latest outbreak," said Governor Katie Hobbs. "My administration is in constant communication with local cattle producers, ranchers, the USDA, and our universities. Through enhanced surveillance measures, www.agriculture.az.gov aligned operational response plans, and the development of new strategies to detect and deter the entry of this pest, Arizona is moving quickly and decisively to stay ahead of the situation."

"We have worked tirelessly with USDA, the cattle industry, our sister states and Mexico to assure a safe border opening when the time came," said Paul Brierley, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. "Sonora is known for their excellent disease protocols, and we have implemented new requirements to assure the safe importation of livestock. When trade resumes, we will implement all necessary measures to protect Arizona livestock and wildlife. We are ready." "ACGA supports feeder cattle imports from Mexico contingent upon strict adherence to USDA inspection and treatment protocols," said Brian deGanahl, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association. "ACGA strongly requests adequate federal funding to accomplish this goal, including the development of the Douglas sterile fly dispersal facility. ACGA recognizes the effort of Sonora, Mexico, as a screwworm-free state and believes imports from this region can be done safely following USDA and AZDA guidelines."

"The threat of New World screwworm along our southern border is a serious concern for our members, for wildlife, anyone who manages livestock or has pets, and we appreciate the Arizona Department of Agriculture's efforts to protect animal health in our state," said John Boelts, President of the Arizona Farm Bureau. "Cross-border movement of livestock will require ongoing vigilance and additional resources, like countermeasure distribution facilities in Arizona, to confront this threat head-on. We are confident that through our continued work with USDA, AZDA and other government agencies, we can mitigate this threat and continue to protect Arizona's livestock industry." "Today's news is a welcome development for the cattle feeder industry that has been hit so hard by the border closure," said Dave Stevenson, Past President of the Arizona Cattle Feeders Association and President of Red Rock Feeding Company. "We appreciate all of the work that Governor Hobbs and the Arizona Dept. of Agriculture have done to ensure Arizona is prepared for every situation, and ready to manage this phased reopening. We are confident that the protocols and procedures in place will ensure the protection of Arizona's livestock, while resuming trade to stabilize beef prices and support the economies of the agricultural industry and border communities in southern Arizona."

To protect Arizona's livestock and wildlife, the State has implemented comprehensive measures to prevent and prepare for the potential intrusion of NWS, focusing on monitoring, collaboration, and www.agriculture.az.gov industry readiness. At Governor Hobbs' direction, AZDA has convened an Interagency NWS Coordinators Group to ensure that state, county, and local governments are coordinating with the federal government, tribal nations, Arizona universities, and industry partners. To maintain vigilance, AZDA works with USDA to maintain and monitor NWS fly traps along the southern border as an early detection system, with the capacity to deploy more if necessary. The Department operates the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) in partnership with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and Arizona Cattlegrowers Association to provide training, materials, and support to livestock producers, including NWS sampling kits. Over the past year, AZDA has engaged in over 60 educational outreach events to spread awareness and training on NWS preparedness and prevention. NWS is an external pest; it is not a disease, and there are no food safety concerns. Robust regulatory inspection requirements instantly quarantine any symptomatic animal long before it could ever enter the food supply. Grocery products remain 100% safe.

NWS is a highly treatable condition if acted upon quickly. If unusual fly activity or maggots are noticed inside a wound on livestock, pets, or wildlife, isolate the animal and contact your veterinarian immediately. Report suspected cases directly to the Office of the State Veterinarian at the Arizona Department of Agriculture by phone at 602-542-4293 or email at diseasereporting@azda.gov. More information on NWS can be found at AZDA's Screwworm Portal and USDA's Screwworm.gov.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: ACGA President Brian deGanahl

What a great convention that just concluded. The speaker line up was outstanding covering a wide range of subjects from NWS to estate planning to ranch emergency medical treatment. Our sponsors also added to the education and were very engaged with members. The food was also great. Probably my favorite part of the week was when I was able to present the Cattleman of the Year award to Jim O'Haco. Jim has spent a lifetime of leadership in the Arizona cattle industry. I was new to ACGA and the Board of Directors when he was the association President. I learned a lot about how to run a meeting, problem solving, but most importantly how to let the members iron out disagreements in the correct way. Jim is a mentor to me and I was proud to be able to present the award to him and also recognize his wife Jeanee.

I hope that when you see our staff again, Suzanne and Amanda, you will mention the fantastic job they did on the convention. It is pretty hectic before the convention and they handled it well. It takes a lot of volunteer help to pull this off, and this year was no different. I would like to thank the Sollers family, the Lackner family and the Menges family for all the work they put in over the week. Good job guys. Thanks also to all our sponsors. They are the reason we can afford to do what we do. Please see our sponsor adds in the Cattlelog and patronize these businesses when you can. Lastly thank you to ACIREF, or the Foundation. They supported our speaker travel expenses, allowing us to provide such top-quality presenters.

On another note, please see the letter from the AZ Department of Agriculture in this issue. The phased reopening of the border will start in August and in Douglas. We have followed our policy book on this issue and look forward to continuing to work with the USDA and the AZDA to keep our cow herd safe.

Thanks and hope you all catch a rain or already have!



R. Brian deGanahl



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

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Wildlife Chair	Bill Sollers	bill_sollers@sollersllc.com



By: ACGA Executive Director Suzanne Menges

It seems our 123rd Annual Convention was a great success! From reading the surveys that attendees turned in, you enjoyed the food, the venue and the program. We appreciate the Foundation supporting several of the informative and knowledgeable speakers. I want to extend very heartfelt thanks to our dedicated and engaged convention committee members and additional members from the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers Association. It was especially nice to have representatives from Williams speak to us about the 2027 Convention we will have there-I'm already getting excited about that!

With the convention behind us, we look toward the projects for the rest of the year. One of those projects is to expand and strengthen our committees. As we discussed in the general membership meeting in July, our committees are an essential part of our organization. Several committee chairs told me they had a number of members sign up for their committee at the convention. In addition to the standing committees, we form ad hoc committees as needed to deal with a particular issue. Thank you to these committee chairs listed below for leading this vital work:

Leatta McLaughlin, Bylaws Committee
Nate Brawley, Ranchers for Tomorrow (R4T)
Bill Sollers, Wildlife Committee
Chris Lowman, State Lands Committee and Solar Ad-Hoc Committee Chair
Ben Menges, Federal Lands Committee
Amber Morin, AZ Public Lands Council
Mike Macauley, Water Committee and 2027 Convention Co-Chair
Sonia Gasho- Ag Issues Chair
Amanda Pruznak-Membership
Suzanne Menges-Convention Co-Chair
Jill Wilson- Business Affiliates
Leatta McLaughlin-Taxation Ad-Hoc Chair
Mike Gannuscio- Political Action Committee
Sonia Gasho- Policy

If you have an issue that is having an impact on your ranch—and who doesn't?—please consider joining one of these committees. I sincerely hope everyone has received enough rain to put out some feed and fill some tanks!



Suzanne Menges





DR. AMY GANGULI, U OF A; ROB SMOOK, AZDA; SUZANNE MENGES, ACGA



ACGA SUCCESS

BY: BECKI ROSS
WRITTEN 7/13/2026

This past week I had the privilege of attending the USDA–SBA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing and producer roundtable in Washington, D.C. It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I wanted to share a few thoughts.

The day began with a roundtable hosted by Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Small Business Administration Administrator Kelly Loeffler. They spoke about the need to reduce unnecessary federal overreach and regulatory burdens that make it harder for farmers and ranchers to do what we do best—produce food and care for the land. They also shared that USDA and SBA have created a way for producers to reach out if they need help navigating federal challenges.

It was encouraging to see leaders who have consistently supported agriculture in attendance, including our own Representative Eli Crane, Wyoming Representative Harriet Hageman, Bureau of Land Management Director Steve Pearce and also newly appointed Special Envoy John Rich.

One thing that stood out during the discussion was that, while our challenges may differ across the country, they all threaten the future of agriculture. Here in Arizona, many of our concerns center on regulatory delays and federal land management. Other producers spoke about national monument designations, losing state grazing leases, and productive farmland being converted to large-scale solar developments. Different issues—but the same desire to keep ranching and farming viable for the next generation.

Following the MOU signing and press conference, I received an unexpected invitation to join Secretary Rollins and two other producers for lunch at the White House. She was warm, genuine, and sincerely interested in learning about our families, our operations, and the responsibility ranchers and farmers carry in feeding America.

Being in our nation's capital over the Fourth of July made the experience even more meaningful. Meeting with public officials who wanted to hear directly from producers, connecting with our elected representatives, and walking through the halls of the Capitol reminded me of the vision and sacrifice of those founders who built this country and how truly blessed we are to live here.

We still have real challenges ahead, and one meeting will not solve them. But I came home encouraged. It was refreshing to see leaders who are listening and willing to work with producers instead of around them.





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NEW BLM GRAZING REGULATIONS COULD OFFER MUCH NEEDED FLEXIBILITY

Tim Petersen had grand plans to restore Palmerita Ranch, a 55,000-acre mix of private, state and federal land near Alamo Lake that began growing alfalfa and grazing cattle long before statehood.

The ranch fell into disrepair in the 1990s and is better known today for the many off-highway vehicles that tear through its publicly owned wilderness area. The Yavapai County Farm Bureau vice president applied in 2017 to restore a lapsed federal grazing permit, the lynchpin to making Palmerita a working ranch again.

But wildlife groups balked. And 6½ years later, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a permit to only graze portions of the land for a few weeks after a major rain.

Now, Petersen is ready to walk away.

"I'm just worn out," he said.

Revisions could offer more flexibility

Petersen is not alone.

For years, ranchers across Arizona and the West have shared similar stories about long waits and inflexible, sometimes unworkable decisions. Even the BLM acknowledges that its grazing regulations "have not kept pace with current needs."

The last time those rules saw a comprehensive update was in 1995. Grazing practices have changed markedly since then.

The agency began collecting input several years ago in hopes of streamlining reviews and offering more flexibility to adapt to changing forage conditions. Comments on the proposed revisions must be submitted by July 13.

Environmental reviews can take years

Ranchers depend heavily on sprawling public parcels to feed and care for their herds, particularly when less than 20% of land in the state is privately owned.

BLM oversees the largest chunk of Arizona's public land, issuing grazing permits to ranchers for 10 years at a time.

Those permits detail how much livestock can graze and for how long, on which allotments, using how much of its available forage, among other stipulations.

The agency must conduct a formal environmental impact review, complete with public comment, before permits can be issued or renewed.

It also must complete environmental assessments on applications to install water lines, upgrade fences or make other improvements. These reviews rarely move quickly, making it difficult for ranchers to rebuild herds, control erosion and regenerate pasturelands.

"One rancher I know wanted to drill a well when a spring went dry," said Anita Waite, who co-manages a 70,000-acre ranch near Kingman. "That was 21 years ago, and they've still not been given a permit."

Waite herself has waited 5 years for permission to build a check dam in a canyon, so she can study how slowing storm drainage restores soil in riparian areas and percolates extra water into the aquifer.

Land health assessments would change

BLM must assess land health before issuing permits.

But it is not authorized under the current rules to consider the impact of other uses, such as wildlife or off-road vehicles.

As a result, allotments or carrying capacity — a key metric that determines how many cattle can graze the land — can be scaled back to compensate for damage that cattle didn't cause.

Petersen has experienced this firsthand.

He and other ranchers near the Big Sandy River contend that wild burros, elk and off-road vehicles are destroying habitat for endangered birds and snakes.

An expert concluded that grazing was unlikely to adversely affect their habitat.

But BLM still would not allow cattle in some areas.

"Side-by-sides can run up and down the river unchecked, but not cattle," Petersen said.

"The irony is I can run cattle year-round on the state land that is mixed in with BLM land. Same forage, same terrain and everything."

BLM needs staff to make this happen

The proposed revisions would require evaluations for all authorized uses, not just grazing.

If an allotment doesn't meet its goals, BLM would have to determine what specifically caused the degradation before taking corrective action. Officials would have 6 months to identify the cause and 2 years to act on it.

To further speed reviews, the agency would no longer evaluate allotments one by one, but rather on a broader "landscape scale."

While many ranchers like the revisions, there is one key aspect that regulations alone cannot address.

Arizona's BLM field offices are notoriously short-staffed, they say. Few are willing to work in rural areas, particularly for the pay.

Those who fill jobs often don't stay long, compounding backlogs and leaving some ranchers' calls unreturned for months.

"BLM doesn't have the manpower now to do reviews," said Dan Rodriguez, who has grazed a 6,300-acre allotment northeast of Kingman for nearly three decades.

"That worries me, especially if we're putting in time constraints for answers. You still need people to get the work done."

By Joanna Allhands- Reprinted with permission from Arizona Farm Bureau

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NEW LISTING! The 8 Mile Ranch in Ashfork, AZ – This is a working cattle ranch encompassing approximately 23,680 acres, with 483.64 deeded acres, 5,640.27 acres of Arizona State Land Department lease, and deeded grazing rights across contiguous private lands. The ranch features gentle rolling terrain, productive grasslands, abundant forage, and a reliable water system with more than 14 well-maintained dirt tanks. The ranch supports a carrying capacity of 300+ CYL and includes numerous improvements. At approximately 5,000 feet in elevation, the ranch provides year-round grazing. Operated as a productive Angus cow-calf ranch, the property benefits from transferable PRF insurance, agricultural tax status and deeded grazing access. **Offered at $3,600,000**.

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 appx. 4,100 sq ft under roof, you will find two full bars, booths, pool tables, stage, karaoke machine, storage areas, an upstairs and multiple coolers. The building 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**.

River's Edge Farm in Glenwood, NM – Tucked away at the end of the road and bordering National Forest, yet only an hour from Silver City, the farm offers everything today's homesteader or retiree could want: privacy, self-sufficiency, and natural beauty. With approximately 36 acres and irrigation rights dating back to the 1880's, this rare property combines historic water security with modern comfort. The River's Edge offers reliable water rights, featuring nearly ¼ mile of cool, year-round flowing water, fertile soil, regenerative pastures, and infrastructure. With its peaceful seclusion and low-maintenance 1,700 square foot home, the barns and corrals create the perfect place to settle. **Offered at $995,000**.

Bourdon Ranch Farm in Snowflake, AZ – Amazing opportunity in a growing area of the White Mountains! Approximately 180 acres including 45 planted acres 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 is located above the Coconino Aquifer for abundant water. **Offered at $1,500,000**.

NEW LISTING! Sunburst Homestead in Yucca, AZ is an extraordinary ±159.57-acre off-grid retreat in the scenic Mohave Desert. This unique property features a structurally sound 3,247-square-foot custom home with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, an office, attached garage, and a 2,400-square-foot shop. Designed for sustainable, independent living, it includes extensive solar power, a private well, backup generator, propane storage, water tanks, and established almond trees, Thompson grapes, and artichokes. While the home is fully functional and move-in ready, it offers an opportunity to add your personal touch with interior paint, trim, and cosmetic finishing. Surrounded by breathtaking mountain views and endless Arizona skies, Sunburst Homestead is a rare opportunity to create your ideal off-grid lifestyle. **Offered at $1,200,000**.

The 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 for storing yearly hay production complete with electric and water. Attached is a newer two-bedroom, well-constructed, insulated home with modern amenities. Located above the home are two unfinished, rough framed 750 sq. ft studio apartments that 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 $1,450,000**.

McKeen Ranch and Farm in Alma, NM – This is a rare opportunity to own almost 500 deeded acres and the USFS Cedar Breaks grazing allotment. Current revenue sources include a 145-head Forest Service grazing permit, premium grass hay production, alfalfa hay sales, elk landowner permits, and a recreation area suitable for weddings, reunions and special events. The ranch HQ is conveniently located along Hwy 180 and is well suited for a cattle operation. Alternatively, instead of farming the land, an additional 100 head may be run. The valuable water rights of appx 277 ac ft exist on the 85 irrigated acres and add significant investment appeal with the water rights alone representing substantial stand-alone value. The grazing operation is supported by four large rotational pastures, solar powered wells, dirt tanks, cattle scales, pipe corrals and multiple sets of working facilities. Additional improvements include a large hay barn, extensive outbuildings, a concrete diversion and dam system and professionally leveled irrigation fields designed for efficient agricultural production. **Offered at $6,500,000**.

Leist Homestead in Seligman, AZ – This 626-acre, all-deeded gentleman's ranch is located 22 miles north of Seligman on Route 66. It features an immaculately kept 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, hay barn, saddle house, and corrals. It has amazing views and meticulous landscaping. Multiple RV hookups offer potential additional income. Can run 10-20 head of cattle. Private and peaceful, with highway frontage and great amenities. **Offered at $1,489,000**.

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CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS!

Stefanie Smallhouse Takes the Helm at the University of Arizona's Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center

In June of this year, Stefanie Smallhouse of the Carlink Ranch was appointed as the next Executive Director of the University of Arizona's Natural Resource User Law and Policy Center (NRULPC). Stefanie brings to the position decades of experience working in natural resource policy through her work as a biologist and environmental consultant early in her career, helping to manage the family's farm and ranch operation in SE Arizona, working closely with Arizona's Natural Resource Conservation Districts, managing Arizona's Water Protection Fund grant program, and leading the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation as its president from 2017-2024.

The NRULPC was founded in 2015 in response to increasingly complex legal and regulatory challenges facing Arizona ranchers, farmers, miners, and foresters. Guided by the perspectives and experiences of individuals from these communities, the University of Arizona—through a collaboration between Cooperative Extension in the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences and the James E. Rogers College of Law—established the nation's first university- and Extension-based legal center dedicated to serving natural resource users. Working in partnership, the NRULPC and the Natural Resource Use & Management (NRUM) Law Clinic were created to advance the University's land-grant mission by connecting legal, policy, and science-based expertise directly to stakeholders, while simultaneously engaging students in hands-on, real-world problem-solving.

To ensure that the Center's work is informed and impactful it maintains an advisory board of a diverse set of stakeholders and engages with affiliated members primarily from across the collaborative colleges within the University. The NRULPC has a number of dimensions, including federal rule-making analysis for stakeholder engagement, building guidance for best practices, facilitating industry and community engagement, policy exploration for innovations benefiting natural resource users, engaging law students in real-world externship opportunities, placing undergraduate students in natural resource field internships, and providing classroom learning focused on natural resource law and policy.
Stefanie sums it up by stating, "Much like the primary industries we support, we are basically focused on cultivating and creating. We are cultivating future professionals in the fields of law and policy for natural resource management and use by providing real-world learning and experiences. We are creating a seedbed for practical solutions to natural resource challenges using analysis, applied research, and facilitated processes to ensure economic and resource sustainability for those users."

Although the NRUM Clinic, housed within the College of Law, was officially closed June 30 and the Center's funding was cut in the FY 2027 state budget, the Center will continue its work through

University funding and continue assisting stakeholders with complex legal questions by way of law student externships. NRULPC is focused on the future and already working to secure funding in next year's budget and your support is greatly appreciated!

"The policy environment where natural resource users exist becomes more complex every day, while the next generation of professionals working in this environment, those who understand the importance of the primary sector to Arizona, are fewer and fewer. This Center was created to address both realities and have a positive impact for Arizona," says Stefanie Smallhouse

To stay up to date as to the work and offerings of the NRULPC, visit our website at extension.arizona.edu/nrulpc

NEW WORLD SCREWWORM TRUSTED RESOURCES



Screwworm.gov

A one-stop shop for New World screwworm information, maintainted by USDA as part of a coordinated federal effort, offering centralized, up-to-date resources on surveillance, identification, reporting, and response to help protect livestock, wildlife and the public.

Agriculture.AZ.gov

A trusted source for animal health in AZ, AZDA houses the State Veterinarian and in coordination with federal partners provides up-to-date guidance, surveillance information, and response coordination to support detection, reporting, and management of threats like New World screwworm.

ARIZONA AZDA ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



extension.arizona.edu/programs/arizona-livestock-incident-response-team

ALIRT

AZDA in partnership with USDA, the University of Arizona, and Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, the Animal Livestock Incident Response Team provides on-site assessments and lab testing to identify livestock health problems such as disease, toxins, or poisoning at no cost to producers.

University of Arizona Screwworm

A comprehensive resource for New World screwworm preparedness in Arizona. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension offers guidance, detection kits, training materials and current information to help producers identify, report, and respond to potential infestations.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension

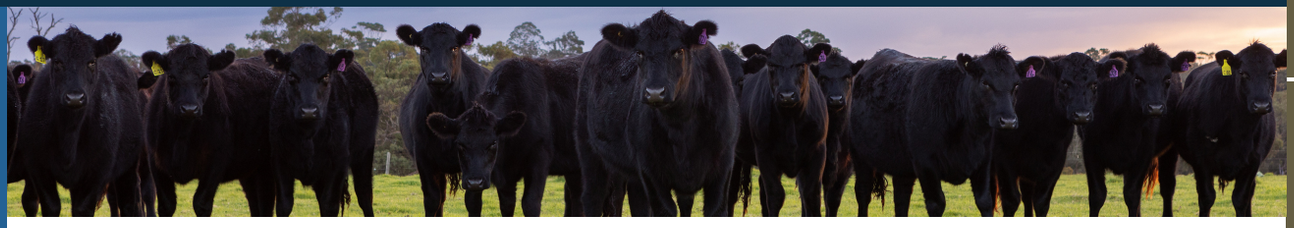
Destined to Cook

By: Bryce Angell

I made an observation standing back behind
the grill. I stirred the pancake batter thinking
this job sure ain't no thrill.
When the cowboys get together for a week
out on the trail. I'm designated as the cook.
Sometimes, I'd like to bail.
So let me take you back, lets' say, some fifty
years or so. I wrangled for my father. I was
young and fit to go.
We were out of bed 'fore daylight feedin' hors-
es hay and grain. And cinchin' up the saddles,
prayin' hard that it don't rain.
The smell of eggs and bacon always put my
nose up in the air. My father was the cook,
back then, none better I could swear.
But time has forced her change on me. I never
thought I'd cook. Now I'm flippin' eggs and
bacon, sometimes feeling like I've been took.
'Cuz I watch the younger cowboys ride all day
and not complain. I only lift the saddle, and
my back sure feels the pain.
Those young cowboys make it easy when they
climb up on their horse. I have to stack a rock
or two, get help from any source.
But one thing is for certain, those young cow-
boys sure can eat! I'll fill 'em full of meat and
spuds and maybe apple pie to treat.
I've watched old cowboy movies. Every camp
cook looks like me. They're short and bald
and grumpy. Dang near fits me to a tee.
Do I even need to wonder what my job is after
cook? I heard one older feller say, "That's one
I'd overlook."
A cowboy's life is simple, but it seems to fly by
fast. You're timed by Mother Nature. No use
wishin' for the past.
So, I hope you're not complainin' 'cuz my
cookin's kinda slow. And please don't think
I'm useless. I was you not long ago.



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USING THE LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM FOR LIVESTOCK LOSSES

Wildfires can result in devastating livestock losses. The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) was designed to help eligible producers recover financially when livestock deaths exceed normal mortality due to "eligible loss conditions," including wildfires.

LIP provides financial assistance for livestock that die as a direct result of a qualifying wildfire. In some cases, assistance may also be available for livestock that were injured by the wildfire and subsequently sold at a reduced price.

There are four key pieces to qualifying for LIP:

• A livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock died and/or were injured by an eligible loss condition (wildfire).

• Livestock must be used for commercial production and held for sale.

• Death or sale of injured livestock must happen within 30 days of an eligible loss condition.

• Livestock death losses must be beyond normal mortality.

One of the most important steps producers can take after wildfire is documenting losses. USDA requires evidence that supports both the livestock inventory before the fire and the losses that occurred afterward. Accurate documentation of normal death losses is equally important so they can be counted as part of normal mortality for the year.

It is critical producers maintain records of damages, expenses, livestock inventories, grazing records, dated photographs, receipts, veterinary records, third party certifications, brand inspections, rendering records, processing

records and correspondence related to the wildfire. Good documentation today can make the recovery process much smoother.

LIP payments for livestock death losses, adjusted for normal mortality, are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for the applicable livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in that category times the producer's share. The LIP national payment rates are calculated using market data based on the previous year. The 2025 rates were released April 11, 2025 (USDA FSA Notice LIP-12) and based on 2024 national average fair market value. Payment rates for select kinds, types and weights are provided in the following table. Please note 2026 rates are not yet published. For a full listing of eligible animals, contact your local USDA FSA office.

Producers should also notify USDA FSA as soon as possible after discovering losses. Local FSA staff can help producers determine eligibility, identify required documentation, and complete necessary forms. Even if producers are uncertain whether losses qualify, scheduling a conversation with the local USDA Service Center is often the best first step.

For 2026 wildfire losses, producers who are seeking LIP support must submit their Notice of Loss and final application for payment by March 1, 2027.

USDA disaster and conservation programs are often designed to address different types of wildfire losses. However, federal rules generally prohibit receiving multiple payments for the same loss, expense, or conservation practice. Producers should discuss all wildfire-related damages with their local USDA Service Center so staff can identify the combination of programs that best fits their situation.

In addition to program-specific eligibility requirements, USDA disaster and conservation programs are generally subject to payment limitations and Adjusted Gross Income rules. These provisions can affect the amount of assistance a producer may receive. — Nebraska Extension and the Center for Agricultural Profitability

Western Livestock Journal®

Nebraska Extension and the Center for Agricultural Profitability. (2026, July 24). Using the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses. Western Livestock Journal. https://www.wlj.net/using-the-livestock-indemnity-program-for-livestock-losses/



SECOND ANNUAL ACGA CATTLE CLUB JUDGING CONTEST
ASHLEY MENGES AND ASHLEA GIDDEON

For the second year in a row, youth from across Arizona gathered the Friday of convention to compete in the ACGA Cattle Judging Contest. Made possible through a partnership between ACGA and Arizona 4-H, the contest provided participants with the opportunity to evaluate five classes of cattle while developing their decision-making, critical thinking, and public speaking skills.

Despite one of the hottest days of the year, competitors maintained a competitive spirit as they judged performance bulls with data, two classes of commercial heifers, registered Angus bulls, and a market steer class. The contest welcomed 32 youth, ages 8 to 18, from Arizona and New Mexico. Cattle Growers members earned top honors, with the Senior buckle awarded to Hadley DalMolin of Globe and the Junior buckle presented to Madelyn Klump of Willcox.

A sincere thank you goes to everyone who helped make this contest a success. We extend our appreciation to our officials, Houston Klump and Joslyn Beard, for their time and expertise. Thank you to Braxton Hoisington, Jeff Menges, Nate Brawley, and Ben Menges for providing the cattle. We also appreciate the Graham County Cooperative Extension office for providing assistance and the use of the facility. Finally, thank you to Bopper Cannon and Ben Menges for sponsoring the championship buckles. We look forward to hosting next year's contest in Williams. If you are interested in sponsoring awards or providing cattle for the contest next year please reach out.

Contest winners include:

Juniors:

1st Madelyn Klump

2nd Ian Lunt

3rd Archer Murray

Seniors:

1st Hadley DalMolin

2nd Riley Vermillion

3rd Belinda Monteverde

Senior 1st place team Greenlee County 4-H which consisted of Hadley DalMolin, Colee Pope, and Wyatt Lunt.









THANK YOU TO

EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!

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5 BLK	551	$419.00
5 BLK	561	$414.00
10 BLK	607	$396.00

HEIFERS

2 BLK	398	$455.00
5 ENGLISH X	366	$442.00
3 BLK	492	$420.00
5 BLK	495	$415.00
4 ENGLISH	475	$400.00
2 BLK	518	$392.00
2 BLK	560	$390.00
5 BLK	610	$357.00
2 BLK	753	$332.00
2 BLK	763	$331.00

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Arizona Beef Council Update

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Route 66 Beef Trail



BEEF
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Arizona Beef Council Update



Lauren Maehling

Girls Who Grill

The Arizona Beef Council hosted a Girls Who Grill event at the University of Arizona Food Product and Safety Lab in Tucson, bringing together female food and lifestyle influencers and cattlewomen for an intimate, invitation-only evening. The goal was straightforward and meaningful: give women the confidence, knowledge, and hands-on experience to feel right at home at the grill.



Girls Who Grill was designed to reach beyond the night of the event. With a combined audience of 136,160 followers across all participating accounts, the event generated 39,658 Instagram story impressions and 2,478 engagements from 33 stories alone. Reel engagement comes in at 2,772 with a reach of 16,162 and 70,312 views. Those numbers represent consumers across Arizona and beyond seeing beef content created by people they trust, in an authentic setting, telling a genuine story. That is exactly the kind of reach that moves the needle.

To read more, scan here:

Route 66 Beef Trail

Route 66 turns 100 this year, and beef is along for the ride. The Arizona Beef Council, in partnership with fellow state beef councils and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, has launched the Route 66 Beef Trail Pass. Travelers are invited to check in to participating restaurants and beef cultural attractions along the route to earn points and win prizes, including a $500 grand prize package. Billboards funded by the Arizona Cattle Industry Foundation are live along I40 between Holbrook and Winslow, in addition to social media promotions driving consumers try the beef stops along the Mother Road. This high-visibility campaign puts beef in front of consumers along one of the most traveled stretches of highway in the country.

To learn more and explore the trail, scan here:

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124TH ANNUAL SUMMER CONVENTION: JULY 22-24, 2027













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Summer Convention Photos







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COWBELLES UPDATE



By: Micaela McGibbon, Past-President
Arizona State Cowbelles

VICKI WILKINSON CATTLEWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Arizona State Cowbelles is proud to announce the recipient of the Vicki Wilkinson Cattlewoman of the Year Award.

This year's honoree was born into a family with a long tradition of ranching. She attended her first Cowbelle meeting at the age of 3 with her mother. From an early age, she learned the importance and satisfaction of promoting and educating about the beef industry we all love so much.

Throughout the years, she has served in many leadership and board positions with local and state organizations dedicated to the ranching and livestock industry. One of the many ways she promoted beef was though 'beef brakes". She and her local Cowbelles would visit businesses in their local community handing out beef broth, beef brownies, and a sweet bread made from beef.

She is proud to be from Arizona and made sure that during her time with Wyoming Cattlewomen, they remembered while Wyoming may have had the first state Cowbelle organization, Arizona is where Cowbelles all began.

Marian Jo Walker – better known to many as "Sissy" – has served two terms as Arizona State Cowbelles State President. She said her second term was in honor of her mother, Daisy Mae Cannon, who was a long-time state member who never had the time to take on the job herself. Daisy Mae received our Cattlewoman of the year award in 2006 making this the first 2nd generation Cattlewoman of the Year.

Congratulations Sissy! We are all so very proud of all of your accomplishments and are blessed to have you back in our state helping Arizona State Cowbelles continue on their great tradition of beef industry, consumer education, and cattle industry issues.







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2026

CONGRATULATIONS!

ARIZONA STATE COWBELLES MATTIE COWAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND ALTERNATES



RECIPIENT

CALVIN KING

Tombstone High School
Sonoita, Arizona
New Mexico State Univ
Ag Economics & Business



ALTERNATE

CRISTYN BELL

Willcox High School
Pearce, Arizona
West Texas A & M
Ag Business & Economics



2ND ALTERNATE

DANICA VIMMERSTEDT

Tanque Verde High School
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U of A Update



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

1. Dr. George Smith is scheduled to join the UofA as the next dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (CALES) on August 1st. Dr. Smith is currently a professor of animal science at Michigan State University where he also serves as director of AgBioResearch and as the senior associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

2. The University of Arizona has been awarded a $3.74 million Grand Challenge Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to help strengthen Arizona's preparedness for New World screwworm. The grant brings together a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, veterinarians, government partners and conservation groups, and is being led by Dr. Amy Ganguli, Marley Endowed Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship in the CALES School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

3. The Meat Judging Team has just returned from the Australian National Meat Judging contest and reports that it was an amazing experience. In addition to several individual awards, the Team placed 2nd in Beef Judging and 2nd in Pork Judging. Thanks to all of you that helped to support this opportunity for our students!

4. Those interested in processing at the FPSL can call 520-318-7021 for the current schedule. Additionally, the Wildcat Country Market (https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html) will only be open Fridays from 9-4 during the summer months. 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 store front at 4181 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have (dscottmerrell@arizona.edu), and I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming ACGA Summer Convention.

Scotty

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Maid Rite Feeds

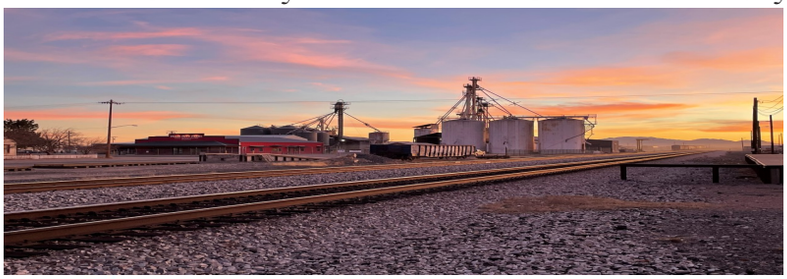
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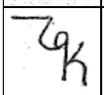
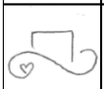
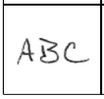
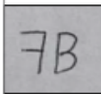
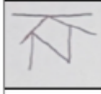
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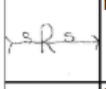
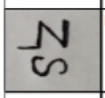
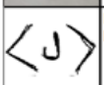
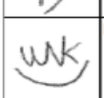
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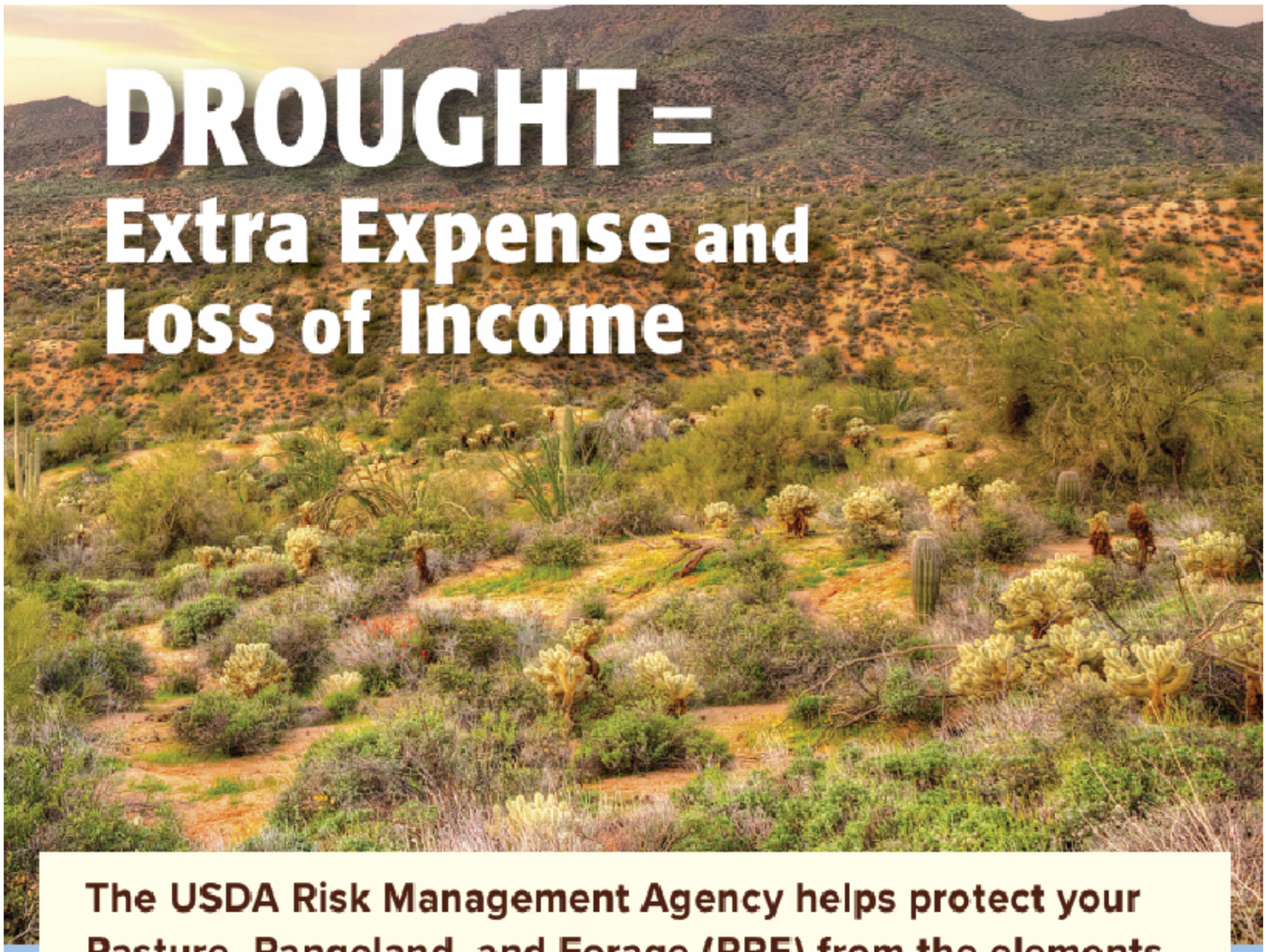
Important Notice!
The following are proposed brands submitted by the Applicants listed below in accordance with A.R.S § 3-1261(C).

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	Earmark	Brand No.	Location	Applicant	Range/County	End Date
	LEFT UNDER SPLIT	20330	Cattle: LH Horse: LS Sheep: LH Goat: LH	FROST, KARSON OR BRANDON	DEWEY / YAVAPAI	08/09/2026
	NONE	20331	Cattle: NO Horse: NO Sheep: LH Goat: LH	KELLEY, JENNIFER OR ANTHONY OR SAVANNAH	MARANA / PIMA	08/09/2026
	NONE	20329	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: LS Goat: LS	BISHOP, CORTNEY	RIMROCK / YAVAPAI	08/08/2026
	NONE	20328	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	SEAY, TANYIA OR GRACELYN (MINOR)	BENSON / COCHISE	08/08/2026
	NONE	20327	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: RH	ARIAS JR, WILFRIDO	TUCSON / PIMA	08/07/2026
	NONE	20325	Cattle: LR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO	PETERSEN, REND	SNOWFLAKE / NAVAJO	08/05/2026
	NONE	30709	Cattle: LS Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO	COEN, JOSHUA	WOODRUFF / NAVAJO	07/23/2026
	NONE	30708	Cattle: RT Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO	HARTER, HEATHER	WILLCOX / COCHISE	07/23/2026
	RIGHT UNDER HALF CROP, LEFT SWALLOW FORK &OVER BIT	30704	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	BEGAY, LUCIE OR HARRISON	ROUGH ROCK / NAVAJO	07/22/2026
	NONE	30707	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO	GODFREY, DEVIN AND KELLY	KINGMAN / MOHAVE	07/22/2026
	NONE	30705	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	LEBARON, MARC OR MEGAN	MESA / MARICOPA	07/22/2026
	L CROP	30706	Cattle: LH Horse: LT Sheep: NO Goat: NO	NORRIS, ALBERTA LEE OR ECKEL II, ROXY WADE	ORACLE / PINAL	07/22/2026
	NONE	30702	Cattle: NO Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	MAXWELL, CLIFFORD OR KIM OR LITTLE, JORDIN	TAYLOR / NAVAJO	07/19/2026
	LEFT UNDER SLIT	30703	Cattle: LH Horse: LS Sheep: LH Goat: LH	SOTO, SAMANTHA AND DAMIAN	RIO RICO / SANTA CRUZ	07/19/2026
	NONE	30701	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	NOWAKOWSKI, KRYSTYNA	MARANA / PIMA	07/16/2026
	UNDER BIT L OR SPLIT L	30700	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	RAY, CALEB OR ELISABETH	DRAGOON / COCHISE	07/10/2026

Brand	Earmark	Brand No.	Location	Applicant	Range/County	End Date
	NONE	30699	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	SANCHEZ, LUCY K AND DANIEL A AND KIMBERLY G	BLUE GAP / APACHE	07/05/2026
	RIGHT HOLE IN CENTER	30698	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO	PRICE, JONA MARIE	BISBEE / COCHISE	07/01/2026
	LEFT SWALLOW FORK AND RIGHT SWALLOW FORK	20326	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: LH Goat: LH	PLUYM, RYAN VANDER AND MOLLY VANDER	FLORENCE / PINAL	08/05/2026
	NONE	20324	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RR Goat: RR	SILVERSMITH, NORA OR ERNIE	WIDE RUINS / APACHE	08/05/2026
	RIGHT UNDER HALF LEFT CROP	18863 AMEND	Cattle: LR Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	JOHNSTON, CASEY	SELIGMAN / YAVAPAI	07/31/2026
	NONE	30716	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	REYNOLDS, DYLAN OR ELLIS, MEGAN	MARANA / PIMA	07/29/2026
	RIGHT OVER HALF CROP, LEFT UNDER HALF CROP	30714	Cattle: LR Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	JOHNSTON, CASEY OR CARTER	SELIGMAN / YAVAPAI	07/26/2026
	NONE	30715	Cattle: NO Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	MAESTAS, MIRIAM	BENSON / COCHISE	07/26/2026
	NONE	30711	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	MICHAELIS, LESLIE RUTH AND RIMROCK RANCH FOUNDATION	KINGMAN / MOHAVE	07/26/2026
	NONE	30712	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO	NEITCH, CODY AND WALTER AND KATHY	TONOPAH / MARICOPA	07/26/2026
	NONE	30713	Cattle: LR Horse: LS Sheep: RR Goat: RR	SMILEY, RADLEY	COTTONWOOD / APACHE	07/26/2026
	NONE	30710	Cattle: LH Horse: LS Sheep: NO Goat: NO	FELIX, ALEJANDRO AND DOLLAR, MADISON	KEARNY / PINAL	07/24/2026

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

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During this time of extreme drought in the high-desert of the Southwest, we are all learning the value of a cow that can survive and even thrive on 100% range raised – and show up pregnant this fall. Bar T Bar Balancers are those cows.



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Sorted into uniform load lots.

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