



Arizona **CATTLELOG**

Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association



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Educational content in the Arizona Cattlelog is supported in part by
the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation.

Letter from the President



Hello fellow ACGA members,

We have started our spring works, which I have been looking forward to all winter. After a drought breaking rain last fall and all time high cattle prices, it's easy to be in a good mood around here. After traveling around the state this winter to cattle industry functions, I see a lot of the state has recovered from drought, but I know some places in the eastern part of the state have not been so lucky. Hopefully the summer rains will hit, we are due.

On another note, the closed Mexican border has been a hot topic this past year. In conversations with the Department of Agriculture, I have learned that when the border opens, it will be in Arizona first. There are reasons for that decision. First, Sonora has had no findings of NSW and is geographically isolated from where the outbreak has been found. Secondly, the Sonoran state government and ag department have a long history of being very progressive on herd health issues. Sonora was TB free before New Mexico actually. I don't know when the border will begin to open, but it will happen. ACGA does not have policy on trade with Mexico; maybe we should work on that at the summer convention. Our stance on this issue is we are trusting in the USDA to monitor the situation and, when making the decision to open, it will not put our native cow herd in jeopardy. Feed yards in the southwest are shutting down because of lack of cattle, which hurts the industry. Cattle from Mexico have been a small but important part of our industry in the Southwest, and I hope science and time can return the relationship back to normal. Until then we have to protect our cowherd. Ask some of our senior members about dealing with the screwworm in the 1960's. They will tell you it was a lot of work and hard on animals.

Have a great Spring,

R Brian deGanahl

Brian deGanahl

President of Arizona Cattle Growers' Association

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.



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CATTLE CALL

by

ACGA Executive Director Suzanne Menges



This month's column will focus on an important but often postponed or ignored aspect of the ranching life: planning. We do practical planning the daily tasks of our business, perhaps what workers or family members could be working on, budgeting, and maybe succession planning. This year's convention will help attendees plan in many different ways.

We are happy to have Kaitlynn Glover from the Public Lands Council update us on that organization's important work. I'm sure she will be discussing topics such as the newly adopted USDA/Dept. of Interior MOU signed in late March called the Grazing Action Plan. This MOU outlines how the USFS and the BLM will cooperate on issues such as vacant allotments, streamlining permitting and using targeted grazing as a tool to prevent wildfires. All I can say, is "Finally!" We are all interested in learning exactly how this collaboration will help us strengthen and plan for the future of our operations.

Dr. Amy Ganguli, whom many of you met at the Winter Meeting in February, is also on our speaker roster. Dr. Ganguli is an Extension Specialist and Professor at the U of A where she serves as the Marley Endowed Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship. She specializes in developing management strategies that are economically viable for ranchers, integrating sound science with the practical realities of livestock production. I worked closely with Dr. Ganguli on the USDA New World Screwworm grant project and am very impressed with her commitment to helping the Arizona ranching community plan in case this annoying and costly pest arrives in our state.

We will also welcome Dr. Leah Madsen, sister to NM Cattle Growers' Association Past President Loren Patterson, who will provide tips to prepare for those times when things don't exactly go as planned! Most ranchers have experienced some type of physical injury at one time or another. Dr. Madsen will talk about what you should have on-hand—in a saddlebag, a truck and at home. I heard her speak at an NMCGA meeting a couple of years ago and filled several pages of notes from her hands-on, practical knowledge about triaging injuries in remote areas. A board-certified family physician with a ranching background, she has certainly seen her share of ranching mishaps—and is happy to help us plan our actions when we are involved in a potentially serious situation. Those first few minutes are key.

The last speaker I will highlight now is Dr. Phillip E. Kaufman, the head of the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. Dr. Kaufman will travel from College Station to share his extensive knowledge. His research focuses on the development of new pest management tools for livestock and companion animal systems. Dr. Kaufman has published over 118 peer-reviewed manuscripts and over 85 Extension publications on issues such as investigating the biology and ecology of pests common in cattle, insecticide resistance, and how biological control can assist with specific pest management plans. We are very lucky to have Dr. Kaufman speak to us about New World Screwworm and other parasites.

Don't forget our Arizona Junior Cattle Club will be hosting the 2nd Annual All-Beef Judging Contest for ages 8 to 18--a unique opportunity for youth to gain in-depth expertise on cattle traits. Please let your local FFA and 4H programs know about this contest so they can plan to attend.

Be sure to register soon at: <https://www.azcattlegrowers.org/2026-acga-summer-convention>



Budget Negotiations and Legislative Update

Budget Negotiations Continue to Stall

Things remained relatively quiet at the Capitol these last few weeks as we continue to wait for a Majority budget proposal to be introduced. With most policy work behind us, the Legislature has shifted into the budget phase of session, often the most uncertain stretch, where timelines become less predictable and negotiations largely happen behind closed doors.

Governor Hobbs recently issued a legislative moratorium, urging House and Senate leadership to put forward a serious budget proposal and indicating she will veto any bill sent her in the meantime. This signals increasing pressure on leadership to move budget discussions forward in a meaningful way.

On April 16, the Finance Advisory Council (FAC) met and delivered a more concerning revenue outlook for the state. Updated projections show a decline from January estimates, dropping from approximately \$577 million in available revenue to around \$378 million. These numbers do not yet account for major policy considerations like tax conformity or ongoing “one-time” expenditures, which will further complicate budget negotiations.

According to the FAC, several factors are contributing to the softer revenue picture, including global economic instability impacting energy markets, as well as slowing job growth here in Arizona. Broader federal economic uncertainty also continues to weigh on the state’s outlook.

At the Capitol, rumors continue to circulate about a potential extended “spring break” once a Majority budget is released. While neither a budget proposal nor a recess has materialized yet, we are hearing that next week could be a key turning point for both.

For Arizona’s cattle industry, this phase of session is critical. Budget decisions can directly impact critical programs, water policy, and rural priorities. We will continue to stay closely engaged and ensure your voice is part of the conversation as negotiations move forward.

Legislative Update

ACGA continues to actively advance our legislation aimed at addressing ongoing challenges with county assessors and ensuring a fair, predictable process for agricultural property classification.

With the Governor’s current moratorium in place, we are holding off on final floor action. In the meantime, we have taken advantage of the additional time to continue productive conversations with stakeholders. Based on that feedback, we anticipate further refinements in the Senate to strengthen the bills and ensure they strike the right balance.

Once Senate action is complete, the bills will return to the House for a final vote before heading to the Governor’s desk.

Given the current status of budget negotiations, which, at this point, have seen limited progress, we have the benefit of time to continue working these bills through the process thoughtfully. Our focus remains on building broad, bipartisan support and ensuring the final product reflects both fairness for taxpayers and a workable framework for assessors.

We will continue to keep members updated as these important reforms move forward.

-Brittany Bingold
Pivotal Consulting

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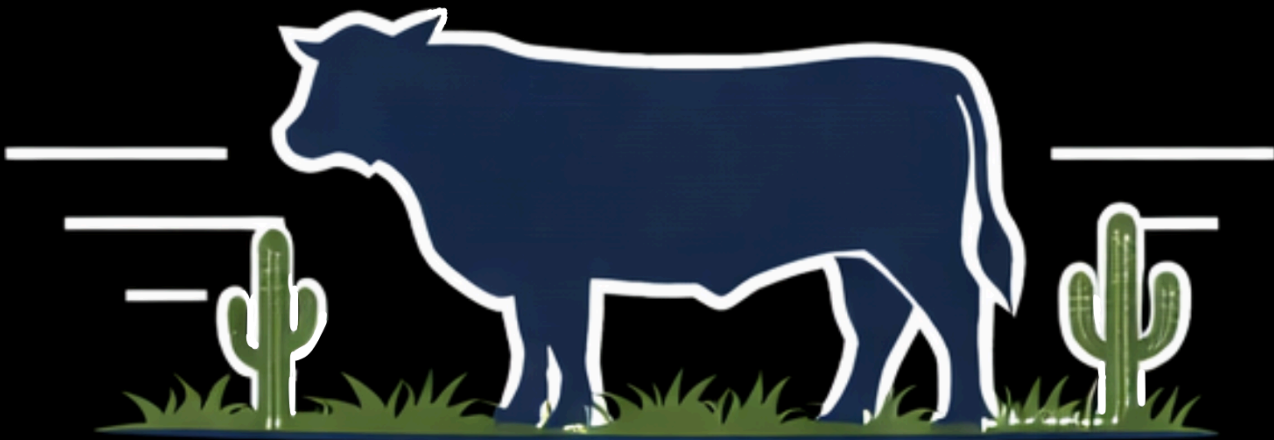
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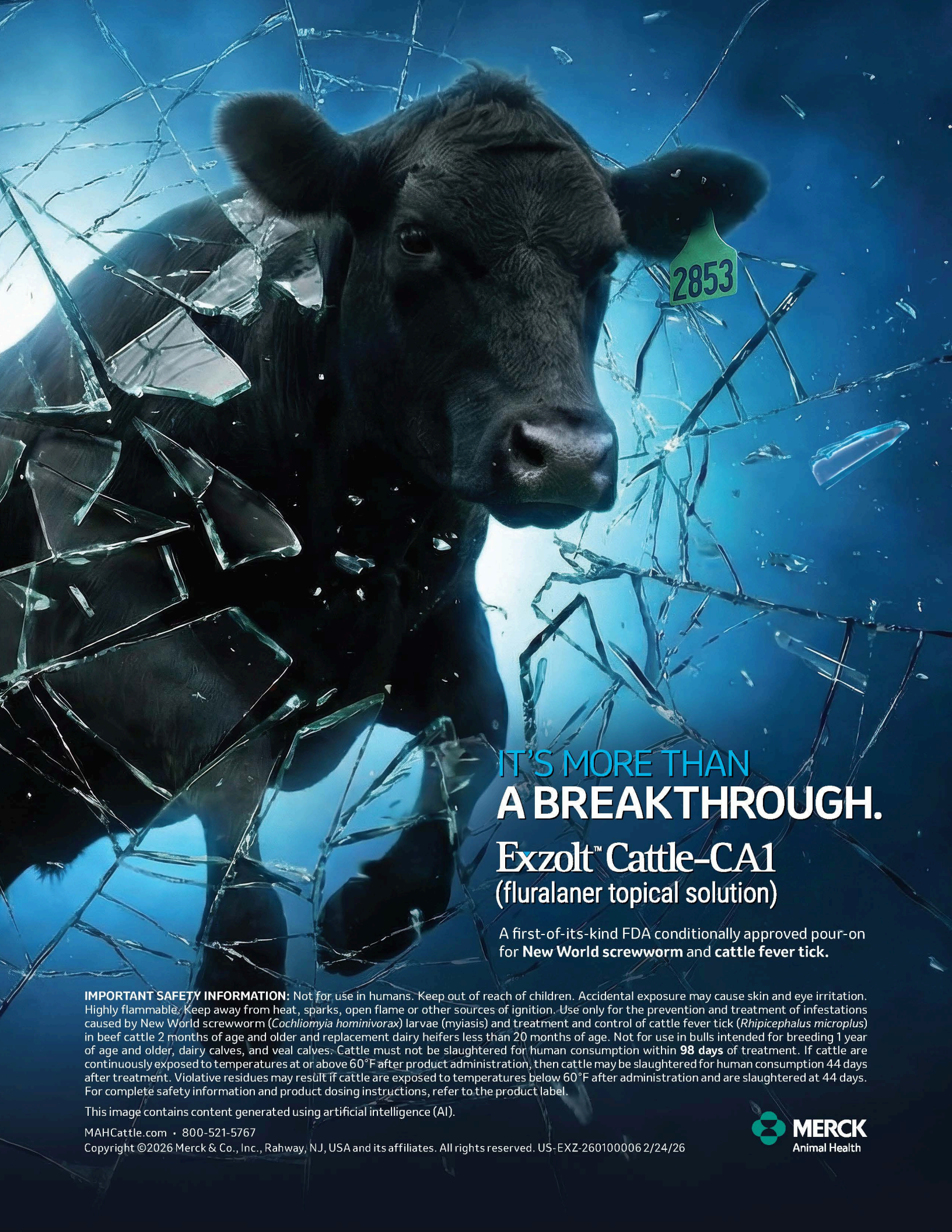
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Early Bird Deadline Ends: July 1st

register online: <https://www.azcattlegrowers.org/2026-acga-summer-convention>

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IT'S MORE THAN
A BREAKTHROUGH.

Exzolt™ Cattle-CA1
(fluralaner topical solution)

A first-of-its-kind FDA conditionally approved pour-on
for **New World screwworm** and **cattle fever tick**.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children. Accidental exposure may cause skin and eye irritation. Highly flammable. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flame or other sources of ignition. Use only for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding 1 year of age and older, dairy calves, and veal calves. Cattle must not be slaughtered for human consumption within **98 days** of treatment. If cattle are continuously exposed to temperatures at or above 60°F after product administration, then cattle may be slaughtered for human consumption 44 days after treatment. Violative residues may result if cattle are exposed to temperatures below 60°F after administration and are slaughtered at 44 days. For complete safety information and product dosing instructions, refer to the product label.

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Exzolt™ Cattle-CA1 (fluralaner topical solution)

Antiparasitic

50 mg of fluralaner/mL

CAUTION: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Conditionally approved by FDA pending a full demonstration of effectiveness under application number 141-617.

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product other than as directed in the labeling.

DESCRIPTION: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (fluralaner topical solution) contains fluralaner, an antiparasitic of the isoxazoline class. Each mL of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 contains 50 mg of fluralaner.

The chemical name of fluralaner is (+)-4-[5-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl]-2-methyl-N-[2-oxo-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethylamino)ethyl]benzamide. Inactive ingredients: pyrrolidone, isopropyl alcohol, 1-menthol, propylene glycol dicaprylate/dicaprate, FD&C blue No. 1, FD&C yellow No. 5.

INDICATIONS FOR USE: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is indicated for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding 1 year of age and older, dairy calves, and veal calves.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is a ready-to-use topical formulation intended for direct application to the hair and skin in a narrow strip extending along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail (see Figure 1). The recommended rate of administration is 1 mL/44.1 lbs. (1 mL/20 kg) body weight, which is equivalent to 1.13 mg of fluralaner for each pound (2.5 mg/kg) body weight. Effectiveness has not been evaluated in cattle with wet hides.

Recommended site of administration:

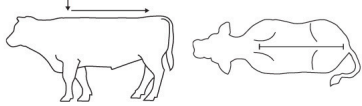


Figure 1: Recommended location for the topical application in a narrow strip along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail.

Administration of the product with 250 mL and 1L bottles with built-in dosing chamber:

To ensure administration of a correct dose, body weight should be determined as accurately as possible, and accuracy of the dosing volume should be checked before administration. Round the dose up to the nearest volume increment on the dosing chamber, which goes up in 2.5 mL increments.

The table below can be consulted to assist in the calculation of the appropriate volume which must be applied based on the weight of animal being treated.

Body Weight (Pounds)	Dose Volume (mL)
220	5
330	7.5
440	10
550	12.5
660	15
770	17.5
880	20
990	22.5
1100	25
1320*	30

*Add 2.5 mL for each 110 pounds above 1320 pounds of body weight.

Practice the Administration and Overflow Reduction Instructions a few times to become familiar with operating the package before dosing animals.

Step 1
On first use remove cap and peelable seal from the dosing chamber.

Step 2
Dosing chamber

Step 3

A small amount of liquid will remain on the walls of the chamber, but the chamber is calibrated to account for this. Avoid squeezing the container section while the solution is poured from the dosing chamber.

If the dosing chamber is overfilled follow the Overflow Reduction Instructions below:

Step 1
Re-apply cap to dosing chamber and tighten.

Step 2
Transfer Tube Air Pocket

Step 3

Step 4

Tilt the bottle to allow an air pocket to form at the beginning of the transfer tube inside the bottle.

Hold the bottle horizontally to allow product to cover the end of the transfer tube inside the dosing chamber.

Squeeze and release the bottle repeatedly. Product will return to the bottle through the transfer tube.

Administration of the product with 5L bottle with an applicator device: These bottles are designed for use with the Simcro Breaze™ Applicator Device (30 mL). This applicator device and delivery tubing (sold separately by Simcro as a kit) should be used with the 5L bottle. The 5L bottle is supplied with spigot cap attached to dip tube for its use with the applicator device. A strap is also included for use of the 5L bottle as a backpack.

To ensure administration of a correct dose, body weight should be determined as accurately as possible, and accuracy of the dosing volume should be checked before administration. Round the dose up to the nearest volume increment on the applicator device, which goes up in 1 mL increments.

The table below can be consulted to assist in the calculation of the appropriate volume which must be applied based on the weight of animal being treated.

Body Weight (Pounds)	Dose Volume (mL)
220	5
440	10
660	15
880	20
1100	25
1320*	30

*Add 1 mL for each 44 pounds above 1320 pounds of body weight.

Assembly, Disassembly and Cleaning Instructions for the 5L bottle with applicator device:

Step 1
Follow the applicator device manufacturer's assembly directions. Connect one end of the delivery tubing to the connection point on the dosing applicator.

Step 2
Remove the transit cap and protection seal from the 5L bottle and replace with spigot cap attached to tube. Tighten spigot cap to bottle and attach other end of delivery tubing to the spigot cap. Do not discard the transit cap until the contents of the 5L bottle are completely used. Please refer to Figure 2 for the assembled 5L bottle with applicator device.

Step 3
Keeping the 5L bottle in an upright position, gently prime the applicator device per the included manufacturer's instructions, checking for leaks. With the applicator device in an upward position, expel all visible air from the barrel and confirm that product is visibly expressed from the tip of the applicator device so that it is free of any residual air.

Step 4
Follow the applicator device manufacturer's directions for adjusting the dose.

Step 5
When the interval between uses of the applicator device is expected to exceed 1 week, take off the entire spigot assembly (delivery tubing connected to the spigot cap with attached dip tube while still connected to the applicator device), from the 5L bottle. Return any unused product remaining in the applicator device and in the delivery tubing back into the 5L bottle. Raise the spigot cap with dip tube attached and place the tip of the applicator device into the 5L bottle. Discharge the remaining product from the spigot assembly into the bottle. Place the transit cap onto the 5L bottle to close it. Submerge the dip tube in warm, soapy water. Flush warm soapy water through the delivery tubing and through the applicator device, followed by flushing them with clean water and allowing them to dry. Once dry, store the entire dosing assembly (applicator device, delivery tubing, spigot cap with attached dip tube) in a safe, clean place until next use. Refer to the manufacturer's directions for maintenance of the applicator.

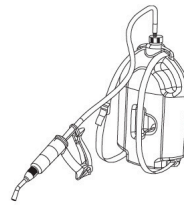


Figure 2: 5L bottle and applicator device with tubing

When the interval between uses of the applicator device is expected to exceed 1 week, take off the entire spigot assembly (delivery tubing connected to the spigot cap with attached dip tube while still connected to the applicator device), from the 5L bottle. Return any unused product remaining in the applicator device and in the delivery tubing back into the 5L bottle. Raise the spigot cap with dip tube attached and place the tip of the applicator device into the 5L bottle. Discharge the remaining product from the spigot assembly into the bottle. Place the transit cap onto the 5L bottle to close it. Submerge the dip tube in warm, soapy water. Flush warm soapy water through the delivery tubing and through the applicator device, followed by flushing them with clean water and allowing them to dry. Once dry, store the entire dosing assembly (applicator device, delivery tubing, spigot cap with attached dip tube) in a safe, clean place until next use. Refer to the manufacturer's directions for maintenance of the applicator.

WARNINGS:

WITHDRAWAL PERIODS AND RESIDUE WARNINGS: Cattle must not be slaughtered for human consumption within 90 days of treatment. Not for use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older or dry dairy cows; use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or calves born to these cows or heifers. Not for use in beef calves less than 2 months of age, dairy calves, and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves.

USER SAFETY WARNINGS:

Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children.

This drug product is a skin and eye irritant; special care should be taken to avoid contact. Personal protective equipment should be worn, such as gloves, long sleeve shirt and pants, as well as goggles to prevent skin, eye and mucous membrane contact and/or drug absorption, while handling the product. In case of skin contact, wash with soap and water. If contact with eyes occurs, immediately rinse thoroughly with water. In case of accidental spill, immediately remove affected clothing and wash contacted skin with soap and water. In case of accidental ingestion, immediately rinse the mouth with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling the product. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after use of the product.

The product is highly flammable. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flame or other sources of ignition.

To obtain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or for technical assistance, call Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Contact Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573 or <https://www.merck-animal-health-usa.com>. To report suspected adverse drug experiences, contact Livestock Technical Service at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about reporting adverse drug experiences for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or <https://www.fda.gov/reportanimal>.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action: Fluralaner belongs to the class of isoxazoline-substituted benzamide derivatives. Fluralaner is an inhibitor of the arthropod nervous system. The mode of action of fluralaner is the antagonism of the ligand-gated chloride channels (gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-receptor and glutamate-receptor).

Pharmacokinetics: The pharmacokinetic properties of a single 2.5 mg/kg dose of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administered topically along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail to cattle that were not restricted from grooming are presented in Table 1 (n = 12).

Table 1. Mean (± standard deviation) plasma pharmacokinetic parameters of total fluralaner* after a single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 in male and female cattle in warm conditions (54–98°F).

Parameter (units)	Estimate
C _{max} (ng/mL)	127 ± 82.2
T _{max} ^a (day)	5 (4–12)
AUC ₀₋₅₆ (day*ng/mL)	1570 ± 1220
AUC _∞ (day*ng/mL)	1590 ± 1230
t _{1/2} (day)	8.48 ± 1.84

*Although total fluralaner (R+S) is reported, the S enantiomer is more abundant and active than the R

^aMedian and range

C_{max} = maximum plasma concentration
T_{max} = time to maximum plasma concentration
AUC₀₋₅₆ represents the AUC from day 0 to day 56
AUC_∞ = area under the curve from the time of dosing extrapolated to infinity
t_{1/2} = half-life

TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY

Margin of Safety: In a margin of safety study, Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was well tolerated in 32 six to seven month old healthy beef cattle (16 males and 16 females). Study animals were administered 3.7, 11.1, or 18.5 mg/kg body weight (1X, 3X, and 5X the maximum anticipated labeled dose of Exzolt Cattle-CA1) by topical application three times 42 days apart (Days 0, 42, and 84). Cattle in the control group (0X) were treated with green dyed sterile saline at a dose volume similar to the 5X treated group. General health observations were conducted twice daily from acclimation to the end of the 98-day study. Variables measured periodically throughout the study for each animal were body weight; physical examinations; neurological examinations; analysis of blood for hematology, clinical chemistry, coagulation, and toxicokinetics; fecal and urine analysis; and feed and water consumption. All animals were necropsied at the end of the study for gross and histopathological examination and select organs were weighed.

Test article-related application site reactions, including skin flaking/scuffing and scabbing were observed. These findings were dose-dependent in both incidence and severity. Reactions in the 1X animals appeared after the second administration. These reactions in the 1X group were cosmetic in nature and did not require treatment.

Female Reproductive Safety: In a reproductive safety study, Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was well tolerated in 200 healthy beef cows between the ages of 3 to 11 years old. Study animals were administered 11.1 mg fluralaner/kg body weight (3X the maximum labeled dose) of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 by a single topical application once during breeding (estrus; before timed artificial insemination), early in the 1st trimester of pregnancy, during the mid-1st trimester of pregnancy, or in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy. Cattle in the control group (0X) were treated with green dyed sterile saline at a dose volume similar to the treated groups (3X). General health observations were conducted twice daily from acclimation to the end of the study at 30±2 days postpartum. Variables measured at each of acclimation and at the end of the study for each animal were body weight (including prior to start dosing) and physical examinations (including at parturition for offspring). Reproductive safety parameters included conception rates, abortion rate, calving rate, live births, stillborn calves, perinatal death, premature deliveries, neonatal death, dystocia, ability of calf to stand, walk and suckle, and abnormalities. Three stillbirths and one premature delivery were observed in animals in the control group. One stillbirth associated with dystocia and one premature delivery were documented in cows treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1. Six abortions occurred across three of the Exzolt Cattle-CA1 treated groups (2 out of 31 cows in the estrus-treated group; 2 out of 34 cows in the early first trimester-treated group; 2 out of 27 Exzolt Cattle-CA1 treated cows). These events were considered to occur at rates typical for the source herd and unlikely to be test article related. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding over 1 year of age, as reproductive safety has not been evaluated.

Reasonable Expectation of Effectiveness: A reasonable expectation of effectiveness may be demonstrated based on evidence such as, but not limited to, pilot data in the target species or results from published literature.

Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is conditionally approved pending a full demonstration of effectiveness. Additional information for Conditional Approvals can be found at www.fda.gov/animalma.

A reasonable expectation of effectiveness for Exzolt Cattle-CA1 for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age is based on results from the following foreign studies conducted in Australia, Brazil, and South Africa.

A. New World Screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)

Three effectiveness studies utilizing natural NWS infestations conducted in Brazil in 2018 are described below:

1. Support for a prevention indication: This study evaluated prevention of New World Screwworm (NWS) myiasis in a surgical wound created seven days after treatment administration. Animals received either a placebo (n=6) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=6) on Day -7. Seven days later, two surgical incisions were made on each side of the body at the shoulder. Animals were housed outside to facilitate natural infestation of the wounds with NWS. Cattle were monitored twice daily for 10 days post-incision to assess the presence of eggs and larvae. A single topical application of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg provided 100% prevention against myiasis for the length of the study.

2. Support for a prevention indication: This study evaluated prevention of NWS myiasis in castration wound created on the day of treatment with either a placebo (n=15) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=15). Animals were housed outside to facilitate natural infestation of the wounds with NWS. Cattle were monitored daily for 14 days post-surgery to assess the presence of eggs, larvae, and the progress of wound healing. A single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg provided 100% prevention against myiasis for up to 14 days following castration.

3. Support for a therapeutic indication: This study evaluated the effectiveness of the product to treat a wound already infested with NWS. A surgical wound was created and left exposed to facilitate natural infestation with NWS. Three days later, after confirming the presence of live larvae, animals were treated topically once with either a placebo (n=12) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=12). A single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg achieved 90.9% effectiveness by the second day post-treatment and reached 100% effectiveness by the third day. No myiasis in treated animals was observed up to day 5.

B. Cattle Fever Tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*)

Three dose confirmation studies conducted in Brazil and South Africa and a rain exposure study conducted in Brazil utilizing induced infestations of *R. microplus* were evaluated. These studies were conducted between 2018 and 2021. In each study, animals were individually housed and randomly assigned to control and Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups. Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups received a single administration at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg. A total of thirty animals were treated with either a placebo (n=12) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=12). A single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg achieved 90.9% effectiveness by the second day post-treatment and reached 100% effectiveness by the third day. No myiasis in treated animals was observed up to day 5.

Thirteen field effectiveness studies conducted in Brazil and Australia utilizing natural infestations of *R. microplus* were evaluated. These studies were conducted between 2017 and 2023. In each study, animals were grouped housed and randomly assigned to control and Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups. Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups received a single administration at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg. Approximately 220 animals were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 across these thirteen studies. The product demonstrated 100% effectiveness within the first week after Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administration. Length of consistent 100% persistent effectiveness ranged from 39 days to approximately 110 days post-treatment.

Thirteen field effectiveness studies conducted in Brazil and Australia utilizing natural infestations of *R. microplus* were evaluated. These studies were conducted between 2017 and 2023. In each study, animals were grouped housed and randomly assigned to control and Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups. Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups received a single administration at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg. Approximately 220 animals were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 across these thirteen studies. The product demonstrated 100% effectiveness within the first week after Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administration. Length of consistent 100% persistent effectiveness ranged from 28 days to 70 days post-treatment.

C. Rain exposure study
One study was conducted to evaluate the impact of simulated rainfall post-treatment on the effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 with cattle artificially infested with *R. microplus*. A total of 30 cattle (cross-bred beef bulls) were randomized to one of five groups with six animals each: Groups A, B, C, and D were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (2.5 mg/kg) and Group E with saline (equivalent volume). Groups A, B, and C were exposed to simulated rainfall at the following post-treatment timepoints: 6 hr, 12 hr, and 24 hr, respectively. Groups D and E had no exposure to rain. Percent effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was 100% in Groups A, B, C, and D up to 77 days. Rain exposure as early as 6 hr post-treatment did not affect the therapeutic or persistent effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 in beef cattle.

HOW SUPPLIED: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is available in 250 mL, 1L, and 5L bottles.
STORAGE AND HANDLING: Store at or below 30°C (86°F), with excursions to 40°C (104°F). Use within 6 months after first opening. Store the dosing applicator when loaded with product at or below 30°C (86°F) and use within 1 week.
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246425 R1

AZ PLC Dues – Keep Your Voice at the Table

If you graze on public lands, your voice matters and the Public Lands Council (PLC) is working on your behalf in Washington, D.C. to protect grazing, defend working lands and advocate for producers across the West. PLC represents thousands of ranchers who rely on federal grazing permits and works daily to ensure our industry stays on the land and part of the conversation.

Now is the time to pay your AZ PLC dues. Maintaining your AUM-based dues ensures Arizona retains its voting representation at the national level, including delegate seats that directly influence decisions impacting public lands ranchers. These dues help fund the advocacy, education and outreach efforts that keep producers informed and protected in an ever-changing regulatory environment.

While the traditional AUM-based structure remains in place, there is now also an option to contribute as a supporter, offering flexibility for producers and industry partners who want to stay involved.

Dues are now processed through the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), serving as the fiscal agent to ensure efficient and transparent handling of funds.

Please complete the form below and return it with your payment. Your continued support helps ensure Arizona ranchers remain represented, informed and heard, where it matters most.



AZ PLC Dues

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Via the AZ PLC Fiscal Agent, Arizona Association of Conservation Districts

Pay by check, payable to the **Arizona Association of Conservation Districts** and mail to 222 South Mill Ave., Suite 800, Box 49, Tempe, AZ 85281. Your payment will be in an account restricted account for PLC dues only. Please note “AZ PLC AUM Dues” on the memo line of your check or “AZ PLC Supporter”.

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Sign up for the Public Lands Council’s Newsletters: <https://publiclandscouncil.org/news-media/newsletters>

Daily Roundup

The Daily Roundup publication reaches PLC affiliates, subscribers, and to individuals on the Hill. The daily electronic publication provides the latest news and updates about issues impacting federal lands ranchers directly to your inbox.

Weekend Roundup

The Weekend Roundup publication reaches PLC affiliates and subscribers. This publication dives deeper into certain topics and issues and explains how these matters affect cattle and sheep producers operating on federal land each Saturday morning.

Capital Issues

Capital Issues shares the latest happenings of the PLC. Sent directly to PLC affiliates and subscribers, the monthly publication includes a briefing from the PLC president, executive director, and committee leadership.

ACGA Recommendations are Successful

ACGA nominated these two extraordinary men for their positions. We are thrilled they were successful in locking in the positions. Stephen Williams and Tim Petersen have extensive experience and qualifications, and we were very happy to support them as representatives of ACGA.

STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Stephen Williams of Elgin, an Arizona native, was recently confirmed as a livestock industry representative to the Livestock Loss Board (LLB). Mr. Williams, with a background in wildlife and rangeland management, worked for 31 years at the Arizona State Land Department in the Range Section and Natural Resources Division. He will serve a 4 year term. He plans to use his administrative experience to improve LLB processes, as needed, to serve livestock producers applying for program financial assistance. The 9 member LLB was created in 2015 by the Arizona Legislature to address depredation of wolves on livestock operations. Three represent the livestock industry. Two represent wildlife conservation. One is a livestock auction market owner. One is a University faculty member who has expertise in agriculture and life sciences. The director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A livestock compensation fund was also established consisting of federal monies, legislative appropriations from the state general fund, public and private grants and private donations. The compensation fund was established for compensating landowners, lessees and livestock operators for wolf depredation on livestock, implementing avoidance measures to prevent wolf depredation on livestock, participating in a pay for presence program, and carcass removal. The LLB meets monthly to review submitted claims. Information about the board can be obtained at its website (azllb.com).



TIM PETERSEN



Congratulations to Tim Petersen for his appointment to the Arizona Beef Council's Board of Directors! Tim began his career as an Arizona Certified Real Estate Appraiser. In that role, he managed a team of 23 appraisers and completed property valuations for lending institutions throughout the state. His work included single-family homes, multi-family properties, small commercial sites, proposed construction, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, Department of HUD, farms, ranches, agricultural land and complex rural holdings in multiple Arizona counties. He also developed specialized knowledge in water rights, agricultural values, land use and market trends, while serving as an expert witness in Superior Court cases involving bankruptcy, divorce, eminent domain and other property matters. From there, Tim expanded into real estate development and contracting. He helped create subdivisions, custom homes, rural estates, cattle properties, equine facilities and land improvement projects in Yavapai County and Maricopa County. In more recent years, Tim has focused on cattle ranching and restoring large ranch properties in Yavapai, Maricopa and La Paz Counties. He is the founder of Natures Fed Cattle Company and AZ Grass Raised Beef. His ranching operations have included private deeded land, Arizona State Trust Land leases, Bureau of Land Management allotments, National Forest grazing permits and large-scale cattle operations throughout the state. Tim is the current President of Yavapai County Farm Bureau and Vice President of Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. Through every chapter of his career, Tim has remained dedicated to supporting ranchers and protecting the land for the future of Arizona agriculture.



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48 YEARS AGO ...

FROM THE



C. Curtis Cable, Jr.

**Marketing Specialist, Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agriculture, University of Arizona**

Americans love hamburgers... they are good, easy to cook and relatively inexpensive. They are a favorite for picnics and backyard cook-outs, and "the hamburger" simplifies preparation and serving of the main course at many fast-food eating places. Also, ground beef is used in numerous other meat dishes by housewives and restaurant chefs.

The popularity of "hamburger meat" has increased at such a rapid pace in recent years that some are saying "we are becoming a hamburger society." Does this mean that we Americans are demanding more and more hamburgers because we actually prefer them? If this is the case, there are important implications for cow-calf ranchers, cattle feeders, packer wholesalers, retailers and all other segments of the cattle-beef industry. For example, which breed of cattle is the most efficient producer of hamburger meat? Will it be necessary to feed grain to cattle that are eventually going through the meat grinder? Many similar questions could be listed. And, if during the next five years it becomes more evident that "we are becoming a hamburger society," these questions must be answered... by "trial and error" and research. However, before devoting a lot of time and effort to answering these questions, I think it is important to consider whether or not we are definitely becoming a hamburger society.. that is, are we going to demand larger and larger quantities of ground beef in relation to other beef cuts.

At this point in time I am not convinced that this will happen.. certainly not in the near future. It is my contention that hamburger is currently very popular because 1) it is being produced in relatively larger quantities than in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and 2) as a consequence it is being priced relatively lower than other beef cuts to encourage consumption. Larger volumes of hamburger have been produced because annual cattle slaughter and beef production have been all time highs for the last three successive years - 1974, 1975, and 1976. In 1976 the U.S. slaughtered 42.7 million head of cattle,

producing 25.7 billion pounds of beef. The number slaughtered was 27 percent greater than the 33.7 million killed in 1973, and beef output was 22 percent greater than the 21.1 billion pounds produced in 1973.

Cattle and beef industry people know the reasons for this pronounced increase in cattle slaughter. They are numerous and interrelated, but it finally comes down to the fact that when cow-calf ranchers are losing money, they sell-off a greater than usual number of cows and keep fewer replacement heifers. Also, when feeding becomes unprofitable, a greater than usual number of calves and yearlings bypass the feedlot and go directly to slaughter.

An indication of the extent to which this has occurred since 1973 is shown in Figure 1. Almost 30 million cows were slaughtered during the three-year period 1974-76, compared to 19 million total in the three previous years.

Also, almost 18 million non-fed steers and heifers were slaughtered in 1974-76, compared to less than 5 million total in 1971-73. It seems logical that the big increase in cattle slaughter numbers, plus the proportional changes in kinds and classes of cattle going to slaughter has greatly increased the supply of hamburger meat in relation to other cuts.

From the standpoint of consumers, hamburger has been a relatively good buy the past three years. The U.S. average retail price for hamburger meat reached a high of \$1.10 per pound in early 1974, whereas retail prices for beef cuts such as porterhouse and round steak, and rib, rump and chuck roast peaked in the summer of 1975. Prices for pork chops, bacon and other pork cuts reached highs in the fall of 1975.

Referring to Figure 2, it is evident that the price for hamburger has trended downward since early 1974. I would argue that this was necessary to "clear the market" of the relatively large supplies of ground beef.

In contrast, there has been an irregular but definite upward trend in the price of porterhouse steak since late 1973 and early 1974. This is probably because the supply of this particular cut was relatively scarce in 1974-76, whereas there was a surplus of "hamburger type" beef.

In order to move the surplus of hamburger type beef into consumption, it has to be processed into a product that receives widespread consumer acceptance, and it has to be priced attractively. I think this has been occurring since late 1973... the industry has been "grinding" its way out of a surplus beef situation, and consumers are responding by eating more and more ground beef which is relative low in price.

My basic argument is that the current popularity of hamburger is based on necessities... not preferences. It has been necessary for cattle producers to sell-off the large, price-depressing surplus of beef animals, and because of the necessity to stretch their food-buying dollar, consumers have cooperated by buying more and more hamburger.

CATTLELOG VAULT

47 YEARS AGO ...

When the down-side of the current cattle cycle ends and a new cycle begins with cow herd expansion, I am sure less hamburger will be produced relative to other beef cuts. In turn, this should reduce the price difference between hamburger and steaks. And, if the demand for beef remains strong, some consumers will buy less hamburger and more of the higher-priced beef cuts.

I realize my logic may be wrong. However, I think we will have to be at least one year into the next cycle before sufficient price and beef products data are available to decide if I am right or wrong. This is likely to be three or more years from now. Therefore, during this period I would urge cattlemen to keep close tabs on retail prices for hamburger and other beef cuts.

If consumers really prefer hamburger, they will bid the price up appreciably compared to other beef cuts. This is the clue that the cow-calf rancher should use in deciding if he should change over to hamburger-type cows.

Despite predictions that by 1990, the nation's diet will be 65% ground beef product, American cattlemen continue to produce for a steak market.

There is a question that a cattleman must ask regarding his future plans in raising his cattle: As the demand for ground beef continues to rise, is it economically feasible for a rancher to raise his cattle for hamburger?

Three men at the University of California-Davis are trying to answer that question. Ken Ellis, Cooperative Extension Service animal scientist, and Bill Garrett, animal nutritionist, are working on a special experiment with some not-so-special beef animals. It all began when a Modoc County, California rancher, Bob Byrne, decided to give up his own money and cattle to research the concept of raising beef for America's large hamburger demand. In the first phase of the experiment, the calves, primarily Hereford, intermingled with a few crossbreds, were split into two groups. For testing, half of the calves were left as bulls and half were steered. The calves were then weaned and brought to the University of California-Davis feedlot in January 1978, where Ellis and Garrett began their feeding program.

Ellis felt that an ideal "hamburger steer" would be a faster-growing animal fed a lower energy ration. Subsequently, Garrett placed half of the steers on a medium-energy ration and half on a high-energy ration. The bulls were fed the same. On the medium-energy ration, the cattle were given just enough feed to promote growth, but not fat.

The cattle were then fed a "common feedlot ration" that consisted of alfalfa hay, oat hay, barley, molasses, fat, trace mineral salt, dicalcium phosphate, calcium chloride, gypsum, urea and Vitamin A.

Weights and feed consumption of the cattle was record-ed, and half of each group was killed when their efficiency of gain showed the beginning of fat deposition. At present, the process for adding final pounds to a potentially heavier animal is expensive.

Ellis reported that there was a difference in the group's overall performance: weight gain, feed conversion and carcass composition.

At slaughter, the average steer weighed between 850-900 pounds, with the bull's weights slightly heavier. Of the four groups, $\frac{3}{4}$ graded Good, and $\frac{1}{4}$ graded Choice.

According to Ellis, the high-energy rationed bulls were the most efficient and returned the most profit. The medium-energy bulls followed in efficiency, with the high-energy Steers and medium-energy steers returning the least profit of the bunch. Due to higher testosterone levels, a bull will always grow faster and leaner than a steer.

Ellis stated that lighter slaughter weights may not be an answer to cheaper beef, since it costs about the same to kill and bone a small animal as it does a larger one. Higher quality cuts also end up too small for commercial market

Data kept on the ground beef percentage and fat percentage showed that the fat found in the ground beef from these cattle was "quite acceptable." Local restaurants and fast-food outlets were given the beef for a "taste-test" and were "very pleased" with the flavor and texture of the

Although the cost of processing the carcasses and feeding are to be compared with the returns in the various methods of marketing, this project will not yield all answers to whether hamburger beef" will be economical.

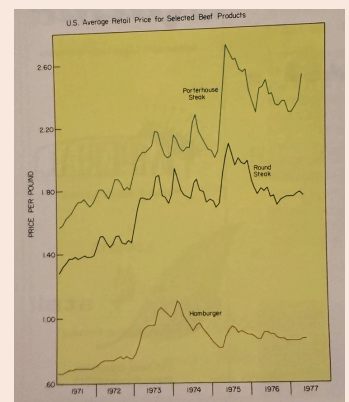
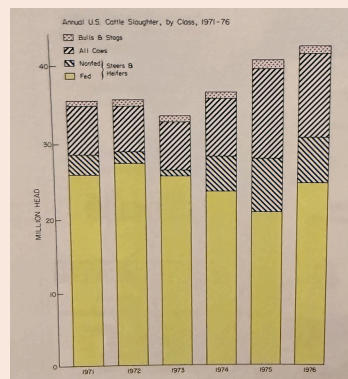
These tests are also being conducted to draw attention to the trend of the amount of beef being used in ground form and going to market without a grade.

Ellis is still not sure if it will be more practical to retain the high price cuts and grind only part of the carcass or grind the whole carcass.

A lot depends on the availability of beef and the market situation, and Ellis explained that it is important that more methods and alternatives are explored to produce cattle for hamburger. Next, he will be feeding some Exotic Breeds and Holstein cattle to compare the Modoc County group.

Exact cost comparisons and specific data on this research will not be available until Ellis and Garrett can compare the Exotic and Holstein cattle with the group already processed.

Meanwhile, it is necessary that cattlemen at least know that these experiments are underway, because the results may predict his future in producing beef.



PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT: ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, ARIZONA

Sarah King spent most of her childhood in New Jersey, about as far away as you can get from Arizona. Every year, though, her family vacationed at the Elkhorn Ranch, a dude ranch in the Altar Valley, south of Tucson, Arizona. In college, she worked for Elkhorn Ranch's sister ranch in Montana then, shortly after graduating, moved to Arizona to work full-time at the ranch where she made so many of her early memories. Within her three years working at Elkhorn Ranch, she met her now-husband, Joe, and his family, who have ranched just to the north since 1895. Joe is the fourth generation of King's Anvil Ranch, and now his and Sarah's children are the fifth generation to live and work on the ranch.

King served as the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance's community outreach and education coordinator before becoming its executive director in 2020.

"I feel passionately about ranching and big open landscapes," King said. She appreciates that the Alliance is about gathering "people who are looking to solve real-world problems by finding common ground."

One project she is particularly proud of is the [Elkhorn/Las Delicias Watershed Demonstration Project](#), which was funded by an initial \$50,000 grant from Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation. The 1,500-acre project site houses nearly 400 rock structures and was installed in 2012. It continues to showcase innovative watershed restoration practices, like "one-rock dams," and management in an area where flash flooding had caused severe erosion. A team of restoration experts evaluated the site and designed a plan in April 2011 based on landowner objectives and research-based practices.

A one-rock dam essentially uses rocks, placed edge to edge along a channel, big enough to slow the flow of water. The placement of the rocks creates bends for the water to gently wind down so that water does not rush straight down the channel, taking precious topsoil with it. The result has been a significant amount of soil deposition and improved duration of vegetative greenness. One added benefit was the project funded improvement to a nearby road that, in more recent decades, had not been able to handle increased traffic from hunters and border control.

The project site is located between two ranch properties. Those ranchers were already on good, neighborly



Sarah King and her family ranch in the Altar Valley of Arizona. Photo credit: Sarah King

terms, but King noted that "having a third-party player helps streamline things" by giving participants someone to contact if issues arise.

"Local conservation groups are important," King said. "It's really easy to shout at people across the divide, but when you're up close and you're trying to work on shared goals and you're trying to do something positive, that's where the solutions are. These locally led groups are a huge part of making stuff like that happen."

Learn more about this project and the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance at www.altarvalleyconservation.org.

"Local conservation groups are important. It's really easy to shout at people across the divide, but when you're up close and you're trying to work on shared goals and you're trying to do something positive, that's where the solutions are."

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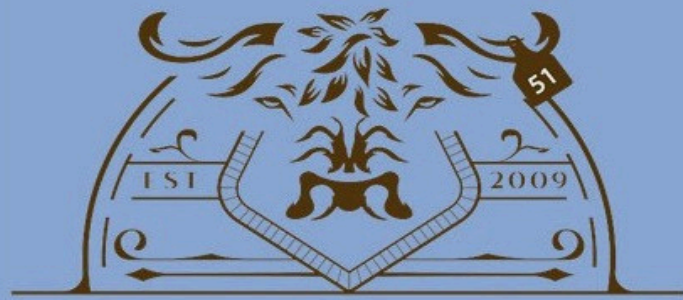
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Taking a Look at Beef Imports

By: **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension, livestock marketing specialist**

Beef imports increased 18% year over year in 2025. Total beef imports have increased sharply due to declining U.S. beef production and high prices as the current market developed. Total beef imports are up 61.4% since 2022. A variety of beef products are imported from a number of different countries.

Much of the imported beef is lean processing beef used to support ground beef production in the U.S. Imported lean beef supplements domestic supplies of fatty trimmings from fed cattle and lean beef from cull cows and bulls. Fed steers and heifers produce 150 or more pounds of fatty trimmings which must be mixed with lean beef to make ground beef.

For example, it takes 7 lbs. of 90% lean beef to mix with a single pound of 50% trimmings from fed cattle to formulate an 85% lean ground beef mixture. Without imported beef, it would be impossible to maintain ground beef supplies in the U.S. Per capita ground beef supplies in 2025 were estimated at 29.4 lbs., 49% of per capita retail beef consumption of 59.8 lbs.

Figure 1. Beef Imports by Product Type, 2025

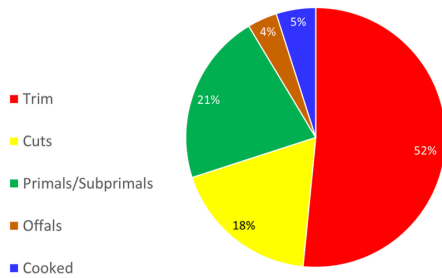
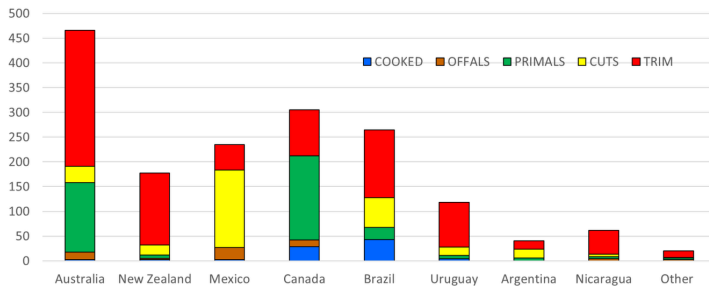


Figure 1 shows that 52% of beef imports consist of beef trimmings. Nearly every source of beef imports includes significant proportions of trimmings (Figure 2). Australia was the largest source of beef imports and the largest source of beef trim, accounting for 31.5% of imported trim. New Zealand was the No. 5 source of beef imports but the second largest source of beef trimmings (16.7%) because 82.2% of beef from New Zealand is trimmings. Brazil is the second largest source of imports and accounted for 15.7% of imported trimmings. Canada and Uruguay each contributed just under 11% of beef trimmings.

Figure 2. Beef Imports by Country and Product Type, 2025
1000 Metric tons, Product Weight



Some portion of the 21% of imports in the form of primal/subprimals are also used for ground beef production. In other cases, the primal/subprimals are used as muscle cuts. The majority of primal/subprimals are imported from Canada and Australia.

Imported beef cuts make up 18% of beef imports and may be used in either retail grocery or food service. Mexico accounts for over 50% of imported beef cuts, much of which is sold in retail grocery markets. Imported cuts from Brazil, Australia or other countries are more likely used in food service. Minor amounts of edible offals (mostly Mexico) and cooked beef products (mostly Brazil and Canada) are imported as well.

Greens Plan to Sue Over Grazing in AZ Conservation Area

By: **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona. Bob Wick/BLM

The Center for Biological Diversity and Maricopa Bird Alliance announced in late March that they intended to sue the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over cattle grazing in Arizona’s Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

“Endangered birds, fish and other animals desperately need these wild places,” said Chris Bugbee of the Center. “The sensitive habitats that Las Cienegas was created to protect are being trashed, not just by cows but also by federal incompetence.”

The conservation area comprises more than 45,000 acres in southeastern Arizona and includes a working cattle ranch, Empire Ranch, that has been established since the 1860s. BLM is authorized to allow livestock grazing in “appropriate areas” in the conservation area, as designated under a 2003 Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The Notice of Intent to Sue alleges the agencies have violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Administrative Procedure Act by allowing unlawful livestock grazing in the conservation area, specifically the Cienega Creek and Empire Gulch. The documents claim that the 2003 RMP for the area is not being followed, and that the biological opinions in effect are based on “false assumptions,” including that cattle are excluded from riparian critical habitat.

The groups contended that because of unauthorized cattle grazing, endangered species have been negatively impacted, including the northern Mexican garter snakes, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Chiricahua leopard frog, Gila chub and Gila topminnow.

“Our public lands are being treated like discount feedlots, where endangered species have to compete with cows for dwindling water and habitat,” Bugbee said.

The groups called for the agencies to immediately enjoin livestock grazing and the grazing authorizations, as well as to vacate and remand the previous biological opinions. The notice also pressed for a new consultation under the ESA Section 7.

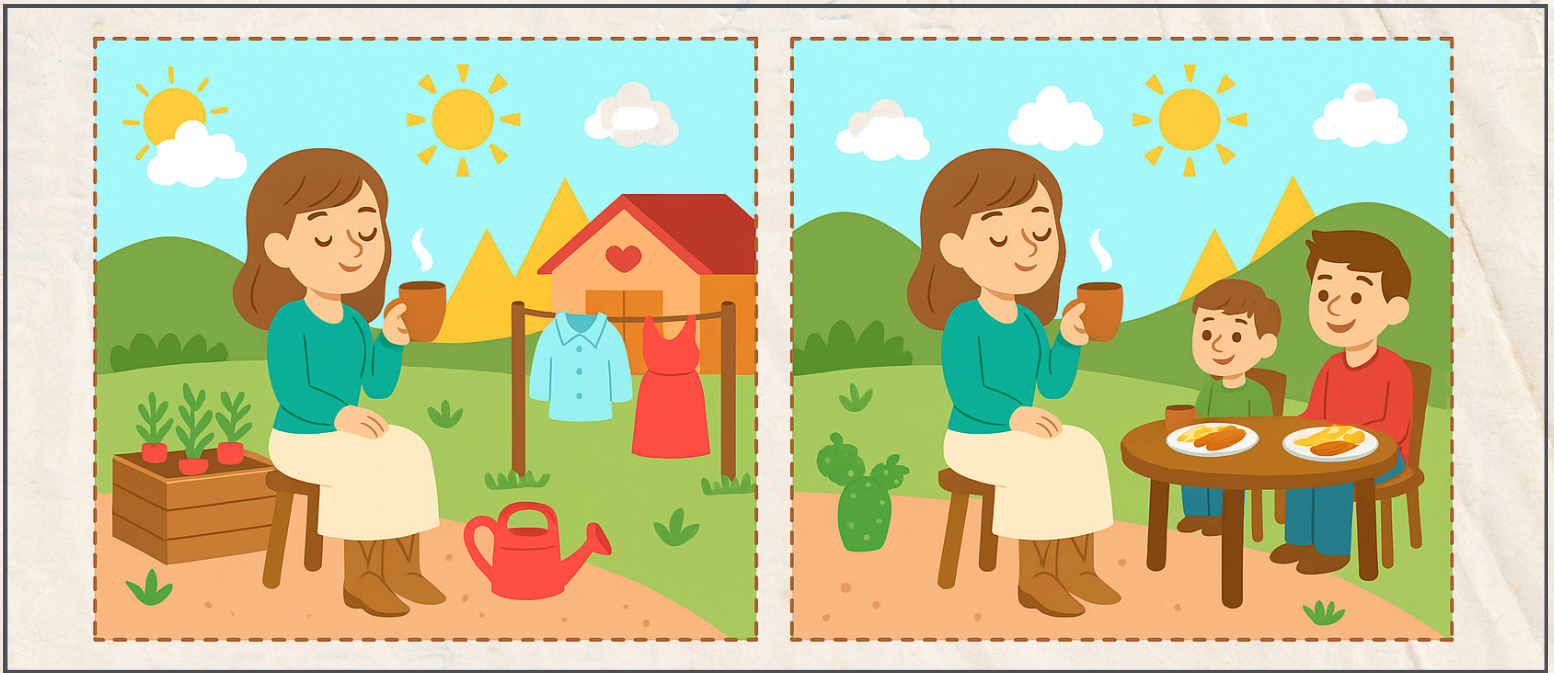
The conservation groups gave the agencies 60 days to respond to the alleged legal violations before the groups will file suit.



RANCH RASCALS



SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES



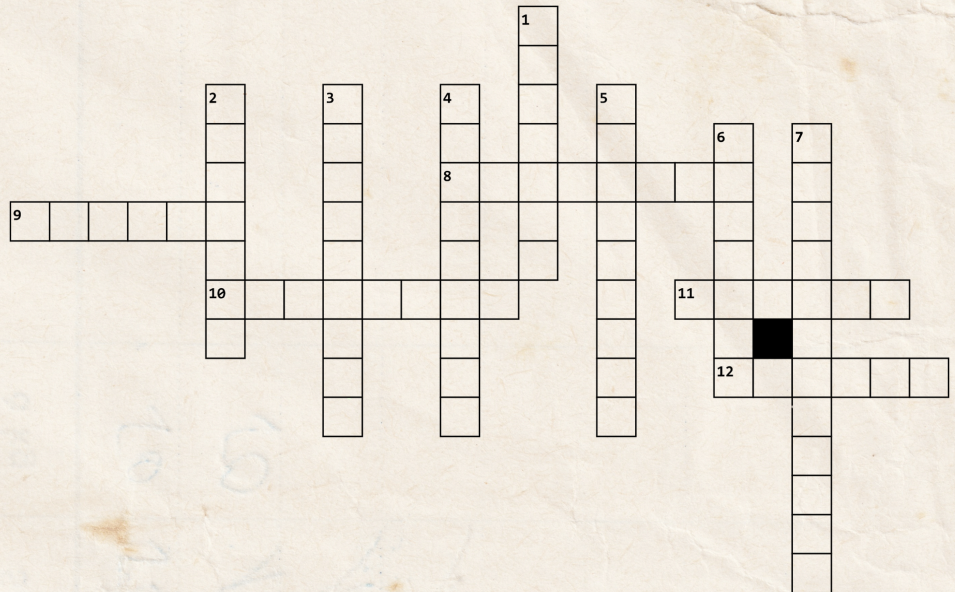
CROSS WORD PUZZLE

Across

- 8. The daily roundup that happens around the kitchen table
- 9. Where the ranch books, bills, and calf counts are tracked
- 10. What every ranch mother carries quietly, day after day
- 11. The family's all-purpose vehicle — feed truck, school bus, and rodeo rig
- 12. Where fresh vegetables and flowers grow beside the barn

Down

- 1. The song sung to sleepy cowkids after a long branding day
- 2. The time of day most ranch moms have already been working for hours
- 3. Always full — keeps the crew fueled from dawn to dusk
- 4. The ranch house and land passed down through generations
- 5. The woman who leads or anchors a ranching family
- 6. A never-ending job, whether it's jeans, fences, or hearts
- 7. Versatile ranch tool — for sweat, dust, or kids' scraped knees



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Developing the Next Generation: YCC

By: Amanda Pruznak

ACGA would like to introduce you to our Young Cattlemen’s Conference (YCC) participants, Amber Morin and Timm Klump. Amber is a second-generation southern Arizona public lands rancher and conservation professional, serving as Southern Arizona Program Director for the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts and Chair of the Arizona Public Lands Council. She focuses on supporting producers through conservation efforts and partnerships across the region including projects like the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape. Timm Klump is a fifth-generation Arizona rancher. His ranch is in Cochise County, Arizona. He has five brothers who all work alongside him and his dad on their ranches, a story that is not often heard of in the ranching community. Amber and Timm received support to attend the 2026 conference from the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation.



YCC builds perspective by giving producers a better understanding of the challenges the industry is facing. The program gives participants the chance to see how everything connects from cow-calf operations, to feedyards, packing plants, retail and policy. They will come back with a broader view of the industry and a better understanding of how Arizona fits into the bigger picture of ranching. Amber and Timm will travel across multiple states, starting in Denver, Colorado, seeing different operations and meeting the people behind them. They will also spend time in Washington, D.C., where they sit down with decision-makers and get a firsthand look at how policy affects what we do on the ground.



The Young Cattlemen’s Conference, hosted by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, has been around since 1980 and is one of the strongest leadership programs our industry has to offer. At its core, it’s built to do one thing, give the next generation of cattle producers a real look at the entire beef industry and prepare them to step into leadership roles. Amber and Timm head to Denver at the end of May, then they go to Iowa and South Dakota then end in Washington, D.C. at Capitol Hill over a ten-day timespan. ACGA is so proud of these two young members, and we cannot wait to see Amber and Timm grow and flourish from what they learn and bring back to Arizona. We will get an update once they return!

On February 28, the Arizona Cattle Industry Foundation held a rollover auction in cooperation with the Elite Angus Bull Sale at Marana Stockyards, generating \$14,000 for the Foundation’s Scholarship Fund. Lance & Kristin Knight / Diamond K Ranch donated a Registered Angus heifer.



<p>Diamond K Ranch / Lance & Kristin Knight YY Ranch / David & Tina Thompson X5 Ranch / Corey Thompson Elanco & Maid Rite Feeds James M. Webb Rocker 7 Ranches LLC ZZ Cattle Corp / Dan Bell Bear Valley Ranch / Dan Bell Brielle / Gabbe Thompson</p>	<p>Trever Hall Santa Rita Ranch / Drew McGibbon Cynthia Tidwell-Shelton Anchor F Cattle / Dean Fish Feenstra Friesians / David Feenstra Baca Float #3 LLC Three Sisters Land & Cattle Rick Lehman Cash Cattle Co / James Weidendener</p>
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EMPTY SADDLES

Jeffrey Scott Homack

August 27, 1975- April 3, 2026

Jeffrey Scott Homack began his adventure on August 27, 1975. He was reunited with his angel brother, Peter Homack, on Friday April 3, 2026. He is survived by his loving wife, Meaghan Homack, and the bright star of their lives, son Blake. Surviving family members include his parents, Carolyn and Jeffrey Hamack, and siblings:

Thomas Homack, Kelly Homack Parks (Jake), and Donald (Katie) Homack.

Growing up, Jeff and his family split time between Tucson and the family ranch. While at Salpointe High school, Jeff played soccer and baseball. For anyone lucky enough to meet Jeff, you instantly saw his passion and support for all things Arizona Red and Blue. Jeff was a proud member of the University of Arizona. Besides attending many sporting events as he could to show his support for his beloved university, Jeff was a member of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji). His political science degree opened the world of finance for him, first in Phoenix and then in California. While in California, Jeff fell in love with surfing and anything beach related. His favorite California spot was New Port Beach. Jeff eventually returned home to help manage the family cattle ranch as President of Bonita Ranch, Inc.

Jeff was proud to be a member of the Cochise/Graham Cattlemen's Association. He was honored to help promote, protect, and advance the Arizona cattle industry during his term as President. Jeff was full of passion, believing in the love of his family, the ranch, and all things U of A related. Bear Down! Instead of flowers, please consider doing an act of kindness or donating to your favorite charity in Jeff Homack's memory.

Irish Blessing meant for hard times:

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sunshine warm upon your face, the rain falls soft upon your fields, and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



The Roan

by Bryce Angell

I shifted into granny, then I hopped back on the hay and let the tractor pull the wagon on that winter day.

The horses milled around behind and tried to reach the feed. I kicked the hay bales off each side and gave them what they'd need.

You could hear the horses chomping down, all lined up in a row. Their nostrils blowing steam while eating hay right off the snow.

Our horses all looked plenty sound, especially one big roan. I'd seen too many horses in the winter, skin and bone.

I wondered why the roan had put on so much extra weight. He was no easy keeper. Looking fat was not his trait.

So, I finished up the feeding and sat down to watch them eat. That's when the roan did something, to the likes you couldn't beat.

The crazy roan let out a snort and scared Dad's Bay away. Then straddled the alfalfa, urinated on the hay.

Had I really witnessed why the sly roan was so overweight? He'd learned to get some extra food. Just had to micturate.

I watched the other horses, guessing what a horse would do, as they passed up all the flavored hay, while the big roan ate that too.

I've heard of spitting in your drink. I can't say that will work. But the roan was such a wisecracker, I swear I saw him smirk.

I had to wonder how the big roan's brain could figure out. I'd watched him do the dirty deed. He was guilty without doubt.

But, we couldn't let one greedy horse eat all the horses' hay. So, we penned him in the corral, and there the selfish horse would stay.

The hungry roan was smart enough to steal the hay away. But did he have a clue why he was corralled away that day?

We fed the roan his hay and straw, kept track of what he ate. We put him on a diet. Soon enough he lost the weight.

I tried to be observant, feeding horses every day. And from then on he never urinated on the hay.

So, I'll give the old roan credit, how he planned his little trick. And I must admit his reasoning was pretty doggone slick.

The Basics of Cattle Imports and Exports in Mexico

By: **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist**
 Republished with the permission from Western Livestock Journal

Prior to the border closing in November 2024, U.S. imports of Mexican cattle had averaged 1.18 million head annually in the previous decade (Figure 1) and 1.12 million head per year in the previous 35 years. Mexican cattle imports equaled 3.4% of the total U.S. calf crop from 2015-24 and 3.1% since 1990. The brief border opening in 2025 allowed about 230,000 head to cross, 0.7% of the 2025 calf crop.

Figure 2 shows the average seasonal pattern of Mexican cattle imports from 2019-23. The typical pattern is bimodal with peaks in March and again in November/December. Calves carried over from the previous year are typically exported in the first half of the year with relatively few exported in the heat of the summer. New crop calves start to be exported in the final months of the year, carrying over into the next year.

Figure 3 shows the distribution Mexican cattle imports by port in 2023, the last year with a fully open border. The largest port is Santa Teresa, NM, which accounted for nearly 43% of cattle crossing. Along with the Columbus port, New Mexico accounted for over 53% of total cattle imports. The ports at Nogales and Douglas in Arizona represented another 27.5% of cattle crossings. The six ports in Texas accounted for a total of 19.2% of total Mexican cattle imports. The largest Texas port is Presidio/Ojinaga with 7.7% of the total.

Rumors are currently swirling that the border could open soon, probably with the phased plan to open ports from west to east over time. How much and how fast can cattle imports recover? How fast is ... not very. It will take several weeks for border facilities to restaff and have USDA personnel in place to inspect and clear paperwork for crossing cattle. It takes time (and cost) for Mexican producers to prepare cattle and the paperwork needed for crossing.

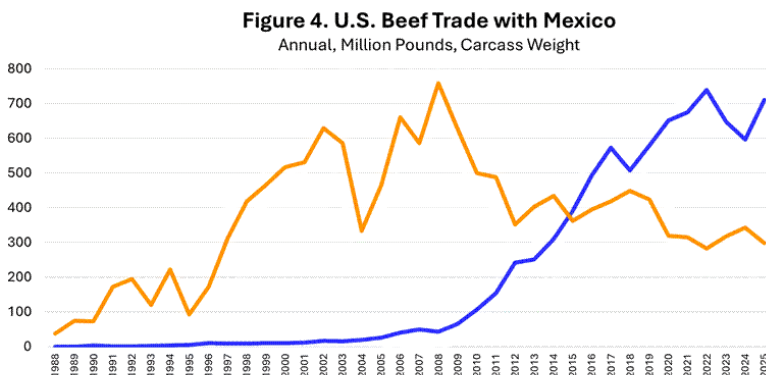
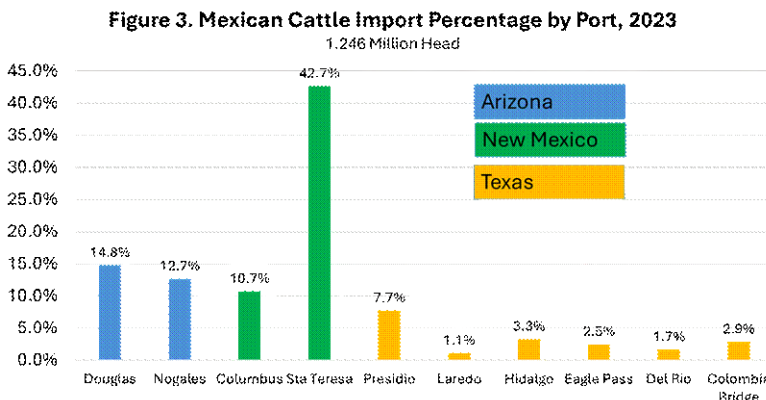
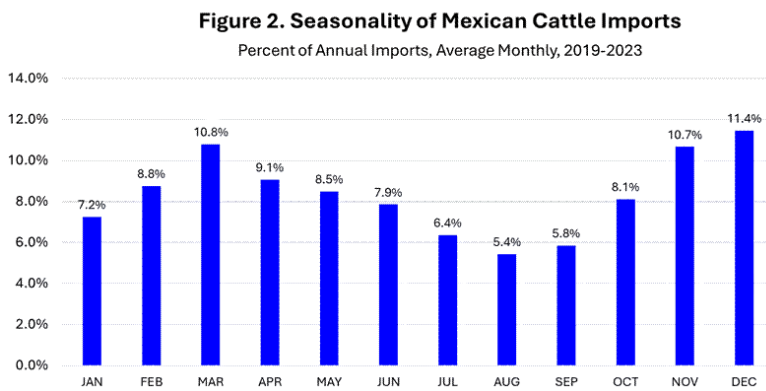
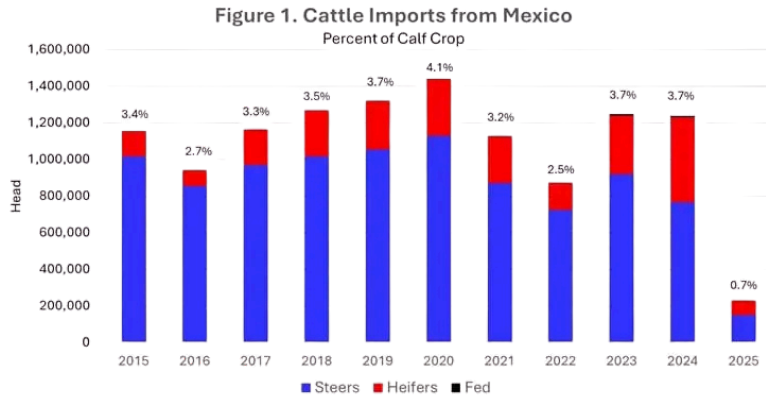
It's not clear how aggressive Mexican producers will be initially until they have a sense of how stable the border situation might be. By the time that cattle can begin crossing it will be close to the heat of summer, which is likely to limit crossings. If it starts relatively soon, numbers of cattle imports could begin to recover significantly by fall.

Exactly what that recovery looks like, and the numbers expected, is uncertain. Mexico has continued to adapt since the border has been closed, utilizing previously exported cattle in domestic markets. Mexico has developed significant cattle feeding and packing infrastructure in the past 25 or so years.

More infrastructure investment is underway. Mexico is the eighth largest beef-producing country and the seventh largest beef-consuming country. Mexico is the No. 11 beef-exporting country and beef exports have grown more than 10 times in the past 20 years.

U.S. imports of Mexican cattle are part of an increasingly integrated cattle and beef trade relationship between Mexico and the U.S. Mexican cattle imports have been important for many decades. In the 1980s, Mexico became a significant beef export market for the U.S. and is currently the No. 3 beef export market (Figure 4).

More recently, after 2010, Mexico has become a significant source of U.S. beef imports, currently the No. 4 source of beef imports (Figure 4). Cattle and beef trade between the U.S. and Mexico are interrelated markets so the current disruption in cattle movement across the border may have a variety of impacts in the future.





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GAR DUAL THREAT U206	-0.9	TOP 15%	55	550	AAA 20536545



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HEARTSTONE ADEPT VII L361	1.07	.99	AAA 20716749
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Ranching by the Numbers

by: **Amanda Pruznak**

For Arizona ranchers, 2026 has brought exceptionally strong cattle prices, particularly for cow-calf and feeder cattle operations. USDA and university market data show fed cattle prices averaging roughly \$235–242 per hundredweight (cwt) in 2026, up about 8% from 2025, while feeder cattle prices are running near \$355–360 per cwt, levels that are among the highest ever recorded in nominal terms. National calf prices illustrate the magnitude of the increase: average prices rose from roughly \$360 per cwt in early 2025 to over \$520 per cwt by early 2026, reflecting intense demand driven by the smallest U.S. cattle herd since the early 1950s. Persistent drought across the Southwest, including large portions of Arizona, has slowed herd rebuilding, further tightening supplies and supporting higher prices for ranchers selling calves and feeder cattle.

Despite these high market prices, profitability for Arizona ranchers remains uneven because production costs are also elevated. Feed, water, land, labor and equipment costs remain well above pre-pandemic levels, and drought pressure continues to limit grazing capacity in many areas of the state. Still, current market conditions favor producers more than other segments of the beef supply chain: ranchers captured roughly 54–55% of the retail beef dollar in 2025, while beef packers experienced sustained negative margins, indicating that a larger share of today's high beef prices is flowing back to producers rather than processors. Most USDA and university outlooks project that Arizona-relevant cattle prices will remain historically strong through at least 2027, with meaningful price softening unlikely until herd rebuilding accelerates and drought conditions improve across the region.

Sited: USDA-NASS and BeefPriceTracker.org



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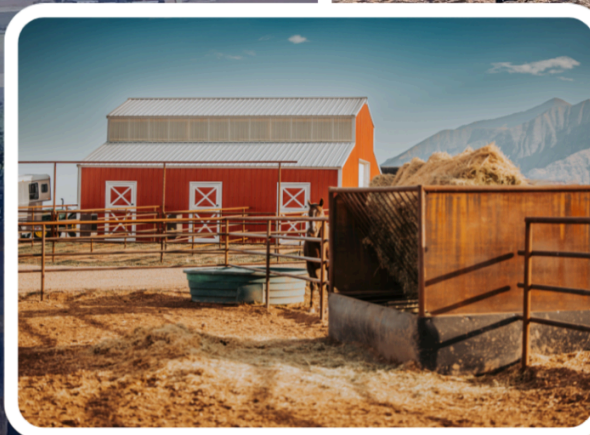
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Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers Rally Support for Wolves Among Us



On March 23, 2026, the Cochise Graham Cattle Growers Association, in conjunction with the Willcox Livestock Auction, held a calf rolover to benefit the Wolves Among Us campaign. For those of you who aren't familiar with this organization, we would ask that you go to their website, wolvesamongus.org to learn more about the devastating impact the wolf reintroduction has had on Arizona's and neighboring New Mexico's livestock industry, wildlife populations and our fellow ranchers.

Members of the CGCGA would like to thank Sonny Shores and the whole crew with the Willcox Livestock Auction for their ongoing support of the ranching community and their continued dedication to assist in the issues we face as an industry.

We would also like to thank John and Jo Beth Ladd for donating the heifer calf that ultimately raised \$18,121.23 for the Wolves Among Us campaign. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

For all those who generously donated to the calf rolover, we deeply appreciate each of you for your financial support and interest of the Wolves Among Us organization.

With sincere thanks,
CGCGA Membership

The XXX Brand

By: Duane Coleman



This is a story about some very special people in my life, a story about a prominent and historic brand, and a story about a special day.

Fred Fritz Sr., born in 1857 and the son of German immigrants, started the XXX Ranch and brand in June of 1888 on the lower Blue River near Clifton, Arizona. He operated the ranch until his passing in 1916. Much of his illness prior to his death was attributed to a near-fatal grizzly bear attack in the steep canyons along the Blue River.

Fritz Jr. (Freddie), born in 1895, took over the ranch in the early 1900s and continued running it until he sold the ranch in 1976. The ranch was sold to Sewell Goodwin, but not the brand. Rather, Freddie passed the brand on before his death in 1989 to his niece, Sue Cosper.

My mother, Rose, whose maiden name was Cosper, had a great-grandfather, Tolls Cosper, who was among the first to settle the upper Blue River, much like Fritz Sr. did on the lower Blue in the late 1800s. Rose was a third-generation rancher on the upper Blue and had cattle on her VM Ranch her entire life. When my mother passed away in late 2024, I took her remaining Blue River-raised cows and brought them to my place in Winslow.

In late January 2026, my mother's cousin, Sue Cosper, contacted me and asked if I would take the XXX brand that had belonged to Freddie. She asked that I keep it, use it on my cattle, pass it on to my sons, and continue its legacy. I am deeply honored and grateful to have such a unique piece of history.

When my sons and family branded calves in the spring of 2026, it marked 50 years since Freddie branded his last calves in 1976. It also marked the 138th year of the brand's existence. In addition, the cattle are offspring of my mother's upper Blue VM Ranch, located along the same river as Freddie's former XXX Ranch on the lower Blue.

Like my mother and her mother, Kathrine, who both named many of their cattle, I have continued the tradition. I named some of the calves in honor of my mom, Rose, including one named "Rosie." In honor of Mr. Fritz, one is named "Freddie," and in honor of my mother's cousin Sue, who entrusted me with the XXX brand, one is named "Cosper."

I am very proud to carry on the traditions and legacies of my mother, Rose, and my friend, Freddie.



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Ranch Rules From Out of the Blue

Exhaustion

By: **Ginger Cheney**

We've all had those days, sometimes weeks, months, or even years that it seems that no matter what happens you are working backwards. You're constantly on the go with no rest in sight. I feel that is part of the ranching lifestyle, something that we all sign up for, but sometimes it seems excessive.

Most people don't realize what we go through to put a nutritious and delicious steak or hamburger on their plate. Some people want to complain about the price of beef, but they don't realize the countless hours we spend hauling water, feeding, chopping ice, gathering, moving, and caring for our cattle. They don't know how we fight predators, doctor calves, supply minerals for both cattle and wildlife, create and maintain viable waters, fix and build fences, maintain and create infrastructure to better manage grazing, and the countless other jobs ranchers have. They don't see us losing sleep to help heifers calve, worry and pray about moisture, fight to pay our bills, the heartbreaking and heartwarming moments, and just survive the daily grind. On top of all of this, we have to convince people that we aren't hurting the environment and that beef is healthy. Many people think that the ranching way of life is very romantic. They don't have a clue what it entails or the exhaustion we feel. Right now, I feel my world revolves around predators and trying to protect our way of life. The exhaustion I feel is extensive, but it isn't any different from anyone else who ranches.

Just remember that you aren't alone. I have been very humbled in the last few years at the fellow ranchers who want to help with the problems I face. We all have so much on our plates, but we also have one of the best communities. Neighbor, friend, associates, etc. means so much more in ranching. I'm so thankful that I get to be part of the ranching community. The exhaustion may be real, but our brotherhood is the best.



PLC Grazing Roundtable Brings Producers and Agencies Together

The Public Lands Council (PLC) is inviting grazing permittees and lessees to participate in an upcoming Grazing Industry Roundtable in Arizona, focused on improving communication and addressing challenges on federal lands.

The roundtable will bring together producers with leadership from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to create an open line of dialogue centered on practical, on-the-ground solutions. This effort supports the USDA and Department of the Interior Grazing Industry Plan released last fall, which emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and improved administration of federal grazing programs.

Designed as a working discussion, the roundtable will provide permittees the opportunity to share direct feedback on existing regulations, guidance, and day-to-day program management. Topics will include identifying areas for improvement, strengthening communication between agencies and producers, and ensuring that real-world experiences are reflected in decision-making.

For those operating on federal allotments, this is a valuable opportunity to engage directly with agency leadership and be part of the conversation shaping future management of grazing programs. Input gathered during the roundtable will help inform ongoing efforts to improve program effectiveness.

The discussion will be moderated by PLC staff and leadership, with a focus on productive, solution-oriented conversation.

Permittees and affiliate partners are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP in advance to receive location details and additional event information.

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with leadership from

**Bureau of Land Management and
U.S. Forest Service**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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**OR RSVP by email: info@publiclandscouncil.org
(subject of email: Queen Creek Roundtable)**

Ranch Rules From Out of the Blue

Washington D.C. March 2026

By: Ginger Cheney



Laurie Schneberger, Caroline Nelson, Kelly Goss, and Katherine Brooks from New Mexico and Barbara Marks and I from Arizona went to be a voice for ranchers in Washington D.C. at the end of March. After a few meetings, we became known as the Desperate Ranchwives. Desperate to be heard and to try and make a positive change for ranching in the west. We later joined another group who had some amazing people like Jim and Sue Chilton.

We had some fantastic meetings with some people who have the ability to make some positive changes. Our group discussed wolves, screwworms, fires, water rights, undue economic hardship, NEPA, endangered species, vacant allotments, primitive areas, feral animals, and persecution by federal employees. These were the main talking points, but usually led to more discussions. The good part was we had discussions with people who actually took notes and have already had many follow-ups. When someone has conversations like these, it gives a person some hope. We had some great meetings on the hill and it truly makes one appreciate the good politicians we have who are actually working for us like Congressman Gosar and his staff along with others.

We had some very productive meetings at USDA with Undersecretary Michael Boren and Undersecretary Dudley Hoskins. We attended Ag. Day and were there for the unveiling of the Product of the USA label by Secretary Brooke Rollins. We also met with FWS Director Brian Nesvik and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Kate MacGregor. We had a lot of other great meetings with some influential people, but one of the best was with SBA. They've been helping us since last year with the wolves. A person never knows when something will come about from a simple conversation.

This doesn't scratch the surface of the meetings, the people, and all of the great discussions we've had. Please know that you do have a voice and people fighting for you. There are people in high places that want to do what is best, but they need our support. We'll keep fighting, because American agriculture is worth it!



Cowbelles Update

It was so nice to have a cool down before summer takes over. I hope this spring treats us well and the true heat of summer does not come too soon.

With the thought of summer quickly headed our way, there are a few events I would like for you to put down on the calendar. In Flagstaff on July 16th and 17th, The 2026 Summer Agricultural Conference sponsored by the Arizona Women's Leadership Committee will be a great way to spend a few summer days. If you sign up for the first day, you can choose to join in an experience at Bearizona Wildlife Park that includes a private guided bus tour. In the evening, there will be family friendly dinner on the lawn at Little America with Sierra Anthony, the key note speaker. On July 17th, the core of the conference takes place focusing on 'leadership, education, and empowerment within agriculture'. I am happy to say that Arizona State Cowbelles, and the Arizona Beef Council has a seat on the board that plans the conference.

The Arizona State Cowbelle Annual Meeting will be held on July 22nd in Safford near the ACGA convention. I will be able to pass along more details as the date gets closer but I would like to invite all of the ladies to join us! We will begin mid-morning with a lunch and finish mid-afternoon. Please, also keep in mind that to have a vote at our meeting, you must have your membership dues paid ONE MONTH BEFORE the meeting. You can find the updated membership form on the ASC website. Come network with ladies from across the state of Arizona that have the common thread of supporting the beef industry! During the meeting, we have local reports that will highlight the activities of each local and their activities - beef promotion, fundraising and camaraderie within Cowbelles. I believe it is the most important part of being a part of ASC; learning from each other and celebrating each success throughout the state. So, please take the time to become a member and join us in Safford!

Until next time, look around for the closest local and join them for their next meeting. Keep promoting and educating!! The public is hungry for knowledge and need to know first-hand about the cattle industry and beef fun facts!

By: Michaela McGibbon, President, Arizona State Cowbelles



July, 2025 Arizona State Cowbelles meeting.. Come be a part of our 2026 photo this July!!!



QR Code to register for the 2026 Summer Agricultural Conference in Flagstaff, AZ July 16 & 17. Hosted by the Women's Leadership Committee.

Five Decades of Beef Promotion in Greenlee County

Greenlee County Cowbellees held a very special event recently dubbed the "Living Legends Banquet". Organized by new member Donna Michelle Snow, the purpose of the banquet was to honor those ladies who have dedicated so much of their time and energy over the years promoting beef in the smallest county in Arizona. Each of them has been a member for more than five decades. Honorees included Ginger Pattison, Norma Davis, Wanda Gomez, and Pearl Willis (topping the list with a 61-year membership!). Friends and family gathered to show appreciation for these beloved members, three of whom are now in their 90's. Donna Michelle commented, "I felt we needed to honor our older women while they are still around. When I saw we had four women who have been members for 50 years or more, I felt it was time to let them know how much we appreciate their dedication to the Greenlee Cowbellees".

Greenlee County Cowbellees has gained many new and younger members recently. They host an annual "Ranch Days" education event with funding from the Arizona Cattle Industry Foundation for area fourth graders, offer two substantial scholarships, provide a popular booth full of beef information at the county fair, and host a holiday dance. To join or support the Greenlee County Cowbellees, please contact new President Amanda Calloway at 928-651-2535.



USDA Update

Latest Livestock Monitor Newsletter

Provided by: Russell Tronstad with U of A

The latest Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade report (USDA-FAS) projects global beef production to decline this year for the first time since 2020 and be 1.1% less than last year. Brazil, Australia, and Uruguay are approaching peaks in their cattle inventories while the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and New Zealand are all in rebuilding mode. Most of Europe and the U.K. have been on a continual decline with their beef production. In line with production, global beef exports are expected to decline (-0.9%) in 2026. For 2026, the U.S. is expected to be the second largest producer of beef with 11.74 million Metric Tonnes (mMT), just behind Brazil's production of 12.37 mMT. Brazil and the U.S. are expected to account for 20.1% and 19.1% of global production. The U.S. is the largest consumer of beef, exceeding second place China by a fair amount (23.5%). However, China is expected to be the largest net importer of beef at 3.20 mMT. The U.S. is projected to export 1.07 mMT of mainly high quality cuts and import 2.63 mMT of predominantly lean trim, making the U.S. the second largest net importer by weight at 1.55mMT. Brazil is by far the largest net beef exporter at 4.28 mMT, coming in almost double that of second place Australia with 2.16mMT.

Global pork production is pegged at 120.2 mMT, almost double that of beef (61.6 mMT) and also ahead of chicken production (100.7 mMT). Both pork and chicken are forecast to be at record levels in 2026 by being up 0.6% and 2.5%, respectively. China is the largest pork producer at 59.5 mMT, producing almost half (49.5%) of global production. China is also by far the largest consumer. Since China consumes (60.36 mMT) more than they produce, they are expected to be a net importer of 950 MT of pork in 2026. The U.S. is projected to be the third largest producer of pork at 12.70 mMT and the largest producer of chicken with 22.19 mMT or 20.0% of global production.

Consistent with global production forecasts, U.S. retail beef prices are up noticeably from a year ago while pork and broiler prices are a bit lower. For March 2026, the all-fresh beef price is up 13% from a year earlier while both retail pork and composite broiler prices are 2% lower. Ground beef is up 12% from a year ago and steaks are up 16%.

U of A Update



1. The search for the next Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences is ongoing. Candidates will visit campus in April/May. Details on the position can be found at <https://wittkiewer.com/positions/201719>

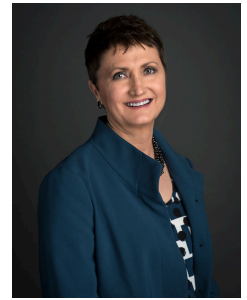
2. The FPSL is working on expanded staffing. Those interested in processing can call 520-318-7021 for the current schedule. Additionally, the Wildcat Country Market (<https://wildcatcountrymarket.arizona.edu/index.html>) is currently open Fridays from 9-4 and Mondays from 9-2. Please make sure to check 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.

3. Numerous members of the CALES Extension team continue to work on the New World Screw Worm issue. To prepare and respond, the Extension teams will be on the front line communicating with stakeholders and community members. Efforts are ongoing to secure USDA funding to support specific research and extension objectives in this area.

4. The University Meat Judging Team has been invited to compete at the Australian Meat Judging Contest. Each year, this contest hosts only one American team! This is a fantastic opportunity for the nine undergraduate students who compete on the team and for the University. These students will gain new knowledge and build lifelong career connections! To provide support or to discuss sponsorship, please contact meganvsorenson@arizona.edu. Thanks for your support of the UofA Meat Judging Team as they represent the University and the USA!

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have (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



MOU Aims to Boost Ranching on Public Lands by Cutting Red Tape

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Director of Strategic Communications

In April, USDA Secretary Brooke L. Rollins and Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes closer coordination between the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The agreement is designed to better support ranchers who rely on public lands for livestock grazing, addressing long-standing frustrations in the Western beef industry.

The new MOU builds directly on the USDA's Grazing Action Plan, which was released in fall 2025 as part of broader efforts to strengthen America's beef sector. Together, the plan and the MOU focus on practical steps to increase and stabilize access to federal grazing lands, reduce bureaucratic delays, and treat ranchers as essential partners in land stewardship. The goals include boosting domestic beef production, supporting rural Western economies, maintaining or improving rangeland health, lowering wildfire risks through managed grazing, and ultimately helping bring down consumer beef prices by expanding supply and improving efficiency.

Ranchers in Arizona and across the West know the challenges these initiatives aim to fix. Many federal grazing allotments sit vacant while producers struggle with permitting delays, inconsistent rules, and mounting operational obstacles. Arizona Farm Bureau Second Vice President and southern Arizona rancher Ben Menges put the situation in stark terms: "At last count, we have 84 vacant U.S. Forest Service grazing allotments in Arizona and New Mexico. That's just one agency, and one Forest Service region. This is the same story throughout the West, and if the trend continues, we simply won't be using the public's land for food. This MOU is a terrific start to make meaningful changes to ranches that utilize federal lands. A rancher's job in the desert is difficult enough. It's high time the federal government realizes it should be working to encourage beef production rather than presenting unnecessary obstacles preventing it from occurring. It's refreshing for Arizona ranchers to have friends in Secretaries Rollins and Burgum, and I look forward to seeing what results come from this MOU."

The scale of the issue is significant. Roughly 240 million acres of federal rangelands, managed by the Forest Service and BLM across 28 states, currently support between 20,000 and 23,000 ranchers and permittees. About 10 percent of grazing allotments—equating to roughly 24 million acres—are vacant. The MOU and Grazing Action Plan set a clear objective of "no net loss" of grazing opportunities, with active efforts to assess and restore underused allotments where environmentally feasible.

Key provisions of the MOU center on efficiency, transparency, and collaboration. They include streamlining the approval of grazing permits, infrastructure projects such as fences and water developments, and emergency adjustments for drought or wildfire. The agreement improves coordination between the Forest Service and BLM, particularly for ranchers whose operations span agency boundaries. It also calls for greater transparency and direct engagement with permittees, treating them as partners in decision-making rather than simply regulated users.

Additional measures promote targeted grazing as a tool for wildfire mitigation by reducing fuel loads on the landscape and establishing rancher liaisons to assist with incident command during fires. The agencies will work toward unifying permitting frameworks to create more consistent rules across jurisdictions. These changes aim to modernize grazing management without compromising the long-term health of public lands, with the hope of relying instead on collaborative, science-based approaches.

Secretary Brooke L. Rollins stressed the importance of putting "America's farmers and ranchers first" by cutting costly bureaucracy and making better use of public lands for productive purposes. She connected the MOU to larger objectives of rebuilding cattle herds and easing pressure on food prices. Secretary Doug Burgum highlighted the value of the partnership, noting that it strengthens the ranching community while protecting public lands and advancing the priorities outlined in the Grazing Action Plan.

For Western ranchers, the MOU represents a welcome shift in tone from Washington. Years of regulatory hurdles and vacant allotments have threatened the viability of family operations that have stewarded these lands for generations. By reducing red tape, improving inter-agency cooperation, and recognizing the role of grazing in both food production and land health, the agreement offers hope for more stable operations and a stronger domestic beef supply.

Arizona ranchers like Ben Menges are watching closely to see how quickly these commitments translate into tangible improvements on the ground. If successful, the initiative could help ensure that public lands continue to support both productive agriculture and healthy ecosystems for years to come.



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Phoenix, AZ 85007
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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 No.: 30693 End Date: 3/14/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 30690 End Date: 3/13/2026	Cattle: LT Horse: LT Sheep: LH Goat: LH
A5	Brand No.: 16711 End Date: 3/11/2026 AMEND	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30687 End Date: 3/11/2026	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: LS Goat: LS
O=	Brand No.: 30683 End Date: 3/8/2026	Cattle: LT Horse: LT Sheep: LS Goat: LS
	Brand No.: 30678 End Date: 3/5/2026	Cattle: RS Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30677 End Date: 2/22/2026	Cattle: LS Horse: LS Sheep: B Goat: LS
	Brand No.: 30674 End Date: 2/14/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
J	Brand No.: 6912 End Date: 2/12/2026 AMEND	Cattle: LH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30669 End Date: 1/30/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO

Brand	Brand No. End Date	Location
	Brand No.: 30692 End Date: 3/14/2026	Cattle: LT Horse: LT Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30688 End Date: 3/11/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 17511 End Date: 3/11/2026 AMEND	Cattle: RH Horse: RT Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30684 End Date: 3/8/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: LH Goat: LH
	Brand No.: 30681 End Date: 3/5/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: B Goat: RR
	Brand No.: 30682 End Date: 3/5/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30676 End Date: 2/21/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30672 End Date: 2/12/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RT Sheep: RS Goat: RS
	Brand No.: 30671 End Date: 2/5/2026	Cattle: RS Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30695 End Date: 5/7/2026	Cattle: LH Horse: LH Sheep: LH Goat: LH

Brand	Brand No. End Date	Location
	Brand No.: 30691 End Date: 3/13/2026	Cattle: NO Horse: LH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30686 End Date: 3/11/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30689 End Date: 3/11/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30685 End Date: 3/8/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RS Sheep: RH Goat: RH
	Brand No.: 30680 End Date: 3/5/2026	Cattle: RR Horse: RS Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30679 End Date: 3/5/2026	Cattle: LR Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30675 End Date: 2/21/2026	Cattle: RT Horse: NO Sheep: NO Goat: NO
	Brand No.: 30673 End Date: 2/12/2026	
	Brand No.: 30670 End Date: 1/30/2026	
	Brand No.: 30694 End Date: 5/6/2026	Cattle: RH Horse: RH Sheep: LH Goat: LH

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