

With A “Steak” In Montana’s Future

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Vaughn, MT 59487

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Email: mca@montanacattlemen.org
Phone: 406-467-2251

You’re Invited to Join Us!

Sometime in 2015, one of Montana Cattlemen’s long time board members contacted some other board members and asked that we get things going again. For several years MCA had been stale. Not much was going on and we were losing members. We had a meeting in Lewistown and decided Montana Cattlemen’s Association was important to us and to cattlemen in Montana. We have been slowly reorganizing and working for the betterment of Montana agriculture. While you are out in the fields cutting hay, feeding or calving, it is important to have someone attending Board of Livestock meetings, monitoring legislative sessions, and working with State officials on your behalf. Montana Cattlemen’s Association would like to be there for you, but we need your membership support to do so.

As you know, the Montana 2019 Legislature is now in session. Montana Cattlemen’s Association, along with support from several local cattle organizations, will be introducing a Montana COOL bill. Senate Bill 206 will be introduced to the Senate Ag Committee on Tuesday afternoon, February 12. There are hundreds of bills being introduced, and we will be watching the bills which will impact the Montana cattle industry, such as:

- Montana COOL
- Water rights
- Ag property valuation & taxation
- Renewable resources
- Livestock loss & prevention
- Wolf and wildlife management

Not only do your membership dues enable us to actively monitor legislative bills that impact Montana cattle production, but increased membership numbers enable MCA to have a seat on the Montana Beef Council where we have input as to how you checkoff dollars are spent. Additionally, MCA hosts informational meetings throughout the year and with your help provides beef to Montana’s food banks through our “Beef on Every Plate” program.

We need your help! As a member-driven grassroots organization our work is completely funded through your membership dues and donations. MCA is run by volunteers only. We do not have a formal office and thus all membership dollars are spent directly on the issues. The more members, the more effective MCA will be in dealing with problems facing our industry. All memberships, whether new or renewal, are vital for us to continue to work on behalf of Montana cattle producers.

Please complete the membership application on Page 3 at your earliest convenience. Or you may also renew your membership with a credit card on our website: montanacattlemen.org and click on the “Membership” tab. Memberships received by May 15 will be entered for a drawing to win a Ruger rifle!

If you have already paid your 2019 dues, we thank you and look forward to working on your behalf representing Montana cattle producers on the many issues affecting our industry.

Don’t forget about our “Beef on Every Plate” program and our brand books. More information is available on our website.

Best Wishes,

MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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17TH ANNUAL CATTLEMEN'S DAY SUMMARY

By Jan McDonald

On December 8th Montana Cattlemen's Association held their 17th annual Cattlemen's Day at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. It was a great meeting highlighting a variety of discussions and providing important information to our members.

The day started off with recognition of Les Graham from the Montana State Fund Ag Safety Program. Les, along with his team, have been presenting safety seminars for 25 years to the ag industry of Montana. They have been doing a great service, teaching ranchers and farmers safety in the workplace. They will be retiring at the end of June. The Montana State Fund Ag Safety Program hopes to have a new team in place sometime after June to continue with this important work.

J. R. Killam, Safety Investigator at the Montana Department of Transportation, presented a seminar to explain the latest regulations regarding transporting of livestock and electronic logging by truck drivers. He explained there is a 150 mile radius around the pickup point that is exempt from electronic logging. The area outside of the 150 mile radius is regulated by DOT. There is an 11 hour maximum driving time in a 24 hour period.

Montana Department of Livestock updates were presented by Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, MT Department of Livestock and George Edwards, Livestock Loss Mitigation Coordinator.

Chaley Harney, executive director, Montana Beef Council, gave a presentation regarding the beef checkoff lawsuit and the requirements necessary to keep \$.50 of your \$1.00 checkoff money in the State of Montana. We all need to complete the Beef Checkoff Assessment form each year to keep \$.50 of our checkoff money in the State of Montana. The form is available on the Montana Beef Council web site and on Page 7 of this newsletter. Chaley explained it is a big job to verify the Beef Checkoff Assessment form with the sale of cattle throughout the State of Montana.

In the afternoon, we had a three member panel to discuss Montana COOL. MCA will present a bill to the 2019 legislature, proposing a placarding and labeling act for the State of Montana. The panel consisted of Chris Christiaens, Special Projects, Montana Farmers Union; Barnett Sporkin-Morrison, Food and Ag Development Center; and Gilles Stockton, board member of MCA and Northern Plains Resource Council. It was a very informative panel with varying viewpoints.

We also had a presentation from the People's Compact, an alternative to the CSKT Water Compact. This panel consisted of Senator Al Olszewski, from Kalispell; Catherine Vandermoer, PhD, Montana Land and Water Alliance; Jerry Laskody, Montana Land and Water Alliance; and Boone Cole, Jocko Irrigation. They discussed the differences between the People's Compact and the CSKT Water Compact.

MCA had its annual general business meeting at the end of the program. Members were asked to present suggestions on issues for MCA to work on during 2019 to effectively represent the Montana cattle industry. There were two resolutions presented, which are included in this newsletter for membership vote. All members owning cattle are eligible to vote on Montana Cattlemen's issues. Please vote and return your ballot to PO Box 536, Vaughn, MT 59487

The Yogo Inn served a great lunch and dinner to the participants during Cattlemen's Day. The day ended with entertainment presented by Wylie and the Wild West.

We had an excellent Cattlemen's Day discussing several issues important to our members. It is very important to have issues like these available for discussion with the hard working people of the agriculture industry. I hope more of our members take advantage of the opportunities offered at these meetings. We look forward to Cattlemen's Day next year and thank you to all who came to our presentation. We appreciate your support!

BEEF TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Choteau Beef to School program is working on getting local beef into our school lunch program. As of right now our school gets their beef from the USDA **at no cost** to the school but the meat that they are getting is an unsavory product that may include soy protein and other additives that doesn't bear much resemblance to beef. Our goal is to incorporate beef at no cost the Choteau School.

Why local beef you may ask? Home grown beef is perceived as higher in quality and more nutritious compared to what the USDA provides us.

The equivalent of beef we need to equal what the school currently gets from the USDA is 6 animals per year. We will be taking 3 animals in the spring and 3 in the fall. To maintain our program we need donations not only of beef but monetary donations to pay for transporting, butchering and processing these animals at a state inspected facility. For this we will need approximately \$600 per head, totaling \$3600 per year

At this time we have 12 beef and 2 buffalo donated. Our first buffalo is currently being used in the school lunch program. The children and faculty can taste a difference and LOVE it! Our

next animals are going to be processed mid-March.

We have sent letters to all the beef producers in Choteau, Bynum and Pendroy and are reaching out to all Choteau residents for monetary help. We have had great reviews but still need help with the financial costs to implement and sustain this amazing program.

We are all very excited about being a part of making sure Choteau School can have locally grown beef and hope that your organization feels the same. Any contribution that Montana Cattlemen and its members could make towards this program would be greatly appreciated.

To avoid forming a 501(c)3 we are having all money donated to the Choteau School and they will then earmark the money for this program

If you have any questions please contact me at (406) 590-2976 or email at carli.neal@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for considering our program!

Carli Neal
530 19th Road NW
Choteau MT, 59422

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE JANUARY 1, 2019. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR DUES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW OR RENEW

ONLINE AT: *mca@montanacattlemen.org/Membership*

IF YOU JOIN MCA OR RENEW YOUR DUES BY MAY 15, 2019 YOU WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED TO WIN A RUGER 10/22 AUTOLOADING RIFLE MODEL 1103 (Retail value \$309)



Name: _____

Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues:

OR ~ Optional Premier Memberships:

Cattle Producer ~ \$50 _____ Gene Autry level ~ \$100 per year _____

Associate Member ~ \$50 _____ Roy Rogers level ~ \$150 per year _____

College Student ~ \$25 _____ John Wayne level ~ \$200 per year _____

Junior Member ~ \$25 _____ Additional Optional Contribution _____
(Age 18 & younger)

Own cattle: ___Yes ___No

Tribal member: ___Yes ___No

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

*Only members owning cattle have voting rights ~ One member—one vote
Associate members do not own cattle but are supportive of MCA goals*

Please mail completed form along with your check to:

**MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 536 ~ Vaughn, MT 59487**

Please make copies of this membership form for multiple memberships or to share with your friends and neighbors.

Your continued support of Montana Cattlemen's Association is very much appreciated!

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
2019 Per Capita Fee Information
(unchanged from 2017)

Cattle	\$ 2.29
Sheep and Goats	\$ 0.54
Horses and Mules	\$ 5.85
Swine	\$ 0.78
Poultry	\$ 0.05
Bees	\$ 0.41
Llamas and Alpacas	\$ 9.73
Bison	\$ 6.38
Domestic Ungulates	\$26.33
Ratites	\$ 9.73

The Board of Livestock annually sets the livestock per capita fee rates. The Department of Revenue collects livestock numbers and per capita fees on behalf of the Department of Livestock.

Per capita fees are per-head fees charged on livestock. Authorized by Montana Code Annotated 15-24-921, per capita fees are assessed on "all poultry and bees, all swine three months of age or older, and all other livestock nine months of age or older." The fees help fund the department's animal health programs, brands enforcement, theft investigation and recovery, and predator control.

Per capita fees are user-generated, and are an important component of the department's budget. Other

user-generated fees are derived from brand enforcement, lab testing and milk inspection fees. Overall, user-generated fees account for about three-quarters of the department's annual budget, with the remainder coming from state general fund and federal funds.

Per capita fees are unique in that livestock owners are responsible for "self-reporting" the number of livestock they own to the Department of Revenue, which bills and collects the fee for the Department of Livestock. Livestock owners must report the number of livestock owned on February 1 to the Department of Revenue no later than March 1. Even if you own just one horse and a few chickens, or owned and reported last year but no longer do, you still need to report. Report your livestock in the county(s) where the livestock are located. The Department of Revenue will then send out a bill, which is due May 31. Fees totaling less than \$5 are rounded up to \$5. You may also pay your per capita fees when you file your report.

Everyone benefits from programs funded by per capita fees. Livestock producers benefit from programs to monitor animal health, monitor and restrict livestock imports, track animal movements, prevent and investigate livestock theft, and manage predators. The general public benefits from programs that prevent the spread of animal diseases to humans.

Go to <http://liv.mt.gov/> for more information or to file your report.

LIVESTOCK REPORTING DUE 3-1-19

SCHWEITZER'S TIBER ANGUS

Geyser, Montana

Calve Easy Wean Big Finish Efficiently

*Black Angus Bulls
for sale from family owned herd*

*Over 30 years of selecting breeding lines
that will calve easy and wean big*

*Bulls are fed and tested at the ranch and sold
private treaty delivered to you*

**For more information contact Walter:
406-799-3782
or email: schweitzer@montana.com**



You may be interested in receiving
free printed copies of:

***Grown in Montana Magazine
Farming and Ranching Under the Big Sky***

The magazine is available free from the Montana Department of Agriculture while supplies last. To request copies, please contact:

Andy Fjeseth
Communications Officer
Phone : (406) 444-3684
E-mail : AFjeseth@mt.gov
302 N Roberts
Helena, MT 59601

You may also view past issues at:

<http://agr.mt.gov/Grown-in-Montana-Magazine>

Montana Country of Origin Labeling

by MCA director Gilles Stockton

The Montana Cattlemen's Association (MCA) hosted a very lively discussion on Montana Country of Origin Labeling (MT-COOL) at their annual meeting December 8 in Lewistown Montana. MCA Vice President, Wally Congdon, moderated the panel and explained that MCA shall be advocating for the passage of MT-COOL. He explained that MT-COOL was first adopted in 2005 but that bill had a sunset clause for when a National COOL was adopted, which happened in 2008. However, Congress rescinded COOL in 2015, leaving Montana without a labeling law.

Consumers and cattle producers overwhelming support COOL, so MCA along with the Montana Farmers Union (MFU) and the Northern Plains Resource Council shall be advocating for restoration of MT-COOL. Wally Congdon explained that the current draft of MT-COOL is very closely modeled on the 2005 law. The main addition is a clause defining what can be marketed as meat, beef, pork, lamb, and poultry to prevent "fake meat" from using those terms.

Northern Plains spokesperson Gilles Stockton explained how that organization was formed in 1972 by farmers and ranchers whose property was threatened by the North Central Power Study that called for massive strip mining and multiple coal fired power plants situated throughout southeastern Montana. The issue was compounded by the fact that many property owners in that part of Montana owned the surface rights but the mineral rights had been reserved by the Northern Pacific Railroad. Montana law favors mineral owners who can legally condemn the surface for their mining purposes. Northern Plains was founded on the principles of protecting property rights along with the cultural and economic integrity of Montana's rural communities. The organization was part of the coalition advocating for MT-COOL in 2005 and will also be advocating for MT-COOL in this coming Legislative session.

MFU's Chris Christiaens explained how both the National Farmers Union and the MFU has long supported COOL both on the Montana and national level. MFU was part of the supporting coalition in 2005 and is anxious to lend their influence for the restoration of MT-COOL. It was pointed out that all imported products and foods, except for beef and pork, are required to have a country of origin label. This makes no sense.

The third panel member, Barnett Sporkin-Morrison, representing the Food and Ag Development Center, was skeptical about MT-COOL actually performing as livestock producers believe it would. He based his argument on three main points: the lack of a National Livestock Identification System (NAIS); the conviction that beef producers should not be opposing other aspects of agriculture such as pulse growers; and market research

that shows that consumers may be in favor of labeling but will not pay more for US produced beef. His presentation set off a very lively debate from the packed crowd and panel members.

The sense of the discussion was:

NAIS: It was pointed out that one should not confuse animal identification for marketing purposes with identification for veterinary surveillance. It is true that some consumers would like information about the farm or ranch of origin of their beef purchase. But meeting that preference should be a marketing option by producers engaged in a "branded beef program." There is no reason for the US government to require all producers provide farm of origin information for no compensation. It was further noted that COOL was working very well without NAIS until it was rescinded in 2015. It was simply a matter of tracking the 20% of beef that was being imported rather than the 80% that was domestically produced.

Fake Meat: Apparently pulse growers are very concerned about the wording of policies meant to define what is meat and what are meat-like substitutes derived from vegetable proteins. The pulse growers were vocal at the MFU annual meeting, insisting that the MFU policy was not discriminatory to the pulse growers. Someone in the audience pointed out that cattle producers are not telling anyone to not eat foods derived from beans, but they should not be allowed to call it meat or beef.

Consumer preference: A Country of Origin Label was required starting in 2011 and stopped in 2015. In that short time it looked as though COOL was having a positive influence on the market. Cattle prices certainly crashed after COOL was rescinded in 2015. Wally Congdon pointed out that a small market preference study in Nebraska showed that consumer preference went up for beef originating in the US, Canada, and Australia while beef from Central and South America went down. There was also a discussion about why the meat packers and their captive organizations, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Producers Council, were so opposed to COOL. They fought it from its first inception in 2002 until they were finally successful in killing COOL in 2015. Someone from the audience quipped, "Follow the money."

Senator Al Olszewski of Kalispell has requested the Legislative Services Division review the MT-COOL draft. It is expected that both Republican and Democrat Legislators will sponsor the bill. MCA, MFU, and Northern Plains all encourage their members, concerned producers, and beef consumers contact their local legislator and insist that they vote for this very needed and commonsense bill.

WOLVES STILL A HOT BUTTON ISSUE

by Scott Shindledecker, Daily Inter Lake

Emotions were strong as hundreds of hunters and trappers from Northwest Montana made their feelings known about wolves in the region at a gathering at the Red Lion in Kalispell on January 30. The meeting, one of a handful that have been held in Region 1 this winter, was organized by the Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Game, and Idaho-based Foundation for Wildlife Management.

Thompson Falls resident Glenn Schenavar opened the meeting, explaining the goals of the groups, primarily to reduce wolf numbers in Northwest Montana to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated objective of 150. That figure is the minimum threshold to keep wolves off the federal endangered species list, which allows states to manage wolves. "We are deeply concerned about the reduction of elk in our mountains and our goals are to reduce wolf populations and improve wildlife habitat here," Schenavar said.

The goals of the two groups are:

- Reduce wolf numbers to management objectives set by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated objective of 150 in Montana;
- Extending current trapping seasons;
- Change setbacks for trapping;
- Obtain reimbursement for ethical hunters and trappers for expenses incurred while harvesting wolves;
- Reintroduction of ungulates in areas impacted by wolves;
- Working with federal and state legislators to change existing laws;
- Working with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to find common ground to develop solutions.

Wolves have always evoked strong emotions among people, no matter their political leanings, or whether they are hunters or animal lovers. As the West was settled, wolves were hunted, trapped and poisoned to the point where they weren't killing rancher's livestock and competing with hunters for the prized elk and deer that were depended on for sustenance. But wolves from Canada slowly made their way back into the North Fork region of Northwest Montana 40 years ago and efforts by the federal government helped re-establish populations in the Yellowstone National Park area.

Today, Fish and Game officials estimate there are 850 wolves in Montana, including 350 in the Northwest part of the state. While Schenavar and others from Montana Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife were restrained in their feelings about wolves, many in the audience were not. Some thought it was time to return to using poison or aerial shooters to control wolf numbers.

While the general rifle season runs from Sept. 15, 2018, to March 15, and allows each hunter with required licenses that cost \$19 each to kill up to five wolves, sportsmen are looking for a little bit more when it comes to trapping. The current trapping season began Dec. 15, 2018 and ends Feb. 28. A license costs \$20. Trappers are seeking a season that begins earlier than mid-December because snow and ice that are common at that time of year make it more difficult to keep traps set and

functioning properly. Trappers also are seeking less restrictive setbacks, which dictate that traps must be located a minimum of 150 feet from open roads and hiking trails on public federal and state lands.

Neil Anderson, the wildlife program manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Region 1, and Diane Boyd, Region 1's wolf-management specialist, had a few responses to some of the things the group was hoping to change. Boyd, who is one of the leading wolf experts in North America, has studied them for 40 years in Northwest Montana. "We've had to release grizzlies from wolf traps and it's asking a lot of our people to put them in such a situation," Boyd said. "Earlier trapping seasons may increase those instances."

Anderson pointed out the restrictions are necessary for a variety of reasons, including the number of people hiking with their dogs on public lands. He noted there is a bill in the Legislature that would limit setbacks on seasonally closed roads. Anderson also addressed aerial shooting programs, saying Idaho spent \$75,000 on it and bagged 10 wolves. "That's a lot of money for not very many wolves," he said. Anderson reminded hunters and trappers that Fish, Wildlife & Parks is not telling anyone to not harvest wolves. "We have a season that runs six months and each hunter can take five wolves. Hunters and trappers are our best managers," Anderson said. "But wolves aren't just standing by the road, they are pretty darn smart. "Our only objective was to not go below 150 wolves," he added.

Wildlife habitat was another topic of discussion among the group. "We definitely have a habitat problem," Schenavar said. "We need more forest management. Our mature forests aren't providing enough forage for elk and moose and that doesn't help." That was one sentiment most agreed with. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Government Affairs Director Mark Lambrecht also spoke at Wednesday's meeting. "I urge everyone to contact your representatives and tell them how you feel about some of the legislation that has been introduced," Lambrecht said.

Rep. Bob Brown, R-Thompson Falls, brought forth bills that would add wolf licenses to existing hunting combination licenses. House Bill 280 would add a wolf license to the current sportsman license that includes black bear, deer, elk, upland bird and fishing licenses. House Bill 281 would add a wolf license to nonresident combination license holders as well as provide a discounted wolf license to holders of nonresident antlerless deer or elk permits. Another bill sponsored by Brown would allow wolf trappers to be reimbursed for their costs. The bill is in response to interest from the Foundation for Wildlife Management, an organization that has commenced an expense reimbursement program for trappers and hunters in Idaho. The organization says it reimburses hunters and trappers for their costs for every legally harvested wolf in that state. Anderson reminded the assembled group that there won't be any one solution. "There's not going to be an "easy" button that we can just press and have everything the way you want it."

BEEF CHECKOFF ASSESSMENT

Required to keep 50¢ of your checkoff dollar in Montana!

Form LPS-2

Approved OMB No. 0581-0093
Rev.: 08/2018

Producer Consent to Fund Montana Beef Council Form

For All Cattle Marketed During the _____ Calendar Year (Write in the year for which this form is being completed).

Name(s): _____ Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I hereby authorize the Montana Beef Council (MBC) to retain up to 50 cents per head of the Federal \$1-per-head beef checkoff assessment collected on cattle that I sell. Assessments will be retained on all cattle marketed during the calendar year indicated above (if the form is received by MBC by January 1, MBC will be authorized to retain up to 50 cents of the Federal \$1-per-head assessment during the entire calendar year. If it is received by MBC after January 1, MBC will be authorized to retain up to 50 cents of the Federal \$1-per-head assessment for the remaining days of the year, beginning on the date the form was signed by the producer. I also certify that I am authorized to sign this form.

Today's Date

PRINT name of cattle owner or representative

SIGNATURE of cattle owner or representative

The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) and the Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order) require collection of a mandatory \$1-per-head beef checkoff assessment every time cattle are sold. The Act and Order authorize Qualified State Beef Councils (QSBCs) to collect the \$1-per-head assessment. The law requires that at least 50 cents per head of the mandatory \$1-per-head checkoff assessment be forwarded to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (Board) to help fund the Beef Checkoff Program, while the remaining portion can be retained by QSBC. A preliminary injunction granted by the Court enjoined USDA from continuing to allow the Montana Beef Council (MBC) to use the assessments that it collects under the Beef Checkoff Program to fund its advertising campaigns, unless a cattle producer provides prior affirmative consent authorizing MBC to retain a portion of the cattle producer's assessment for State promotion, research, and information programs authorized under the Act. As a result of this preliminary decision, at this time, the full \$1-per-head assessment collected by MBC must be remitted to the Board unless a producer provides prior affirmative consent authorizing MBC to retain up to 50 cents of the cattle producer's assessment for State promotion, research, and information programs.

Producers who want up to 50 cents of their Federal \$1-per-head assessment to remain with MBC must complete this form on an annual basis. The form must be completed each calendar year by January 1. If the form is received by MBC by January 1, MBC will be authorized to retain up to 50 cents of the Federal \$1-per-head assessment during the entire calendar year. If it is received by MBC after January 1, MBC will be authorized to retain up to 50 cents of the Federal \$1-per-head assessment for the remaining days of the year, beginning on the date the form was signed by the producer. **Forms should be submitted to the Montana Beef Council; P.O. Box 80865; Billings, Montana 59108; telephone number (406) 656-3336; fax number (406) 656-3337, and email address info@montanabeefcouncil.org.**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this information collection is OMB 0581-0302. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

WHAT IS A WATER COMPACT? DO YOU KNOW?

Read the following two articles, think about their content, and form your opinions. On the west side of Montana, there has been an ongoing controversy between CSKT and The Peoples' Compact. One side believes the Water Compact issue will soon include the entire State of Montana. All Montanans need to research and study both sides of the debate and decide where they stand.

Comparison: Adjudication of CSKT Claims vs. CSKT-MT Compact Rights

As of July 2018, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT or Tribes) and United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) have filed 10,109 claims in place of the Compact. These claims, filed as placeholders to the Compact, are currently *stayed* before the Montana Water Court. If the Compact is approved by the U.S. Congress, the Tribes, and the Water Court, both sets of claims will be dismissed. If the Compact is not approved, both sets of claims will be adjudicated through the Montana Water Court.

Without Compact - Total Claims to be Adjudicated Absent the Compact - 10,109

The CSKT filed 1,720 on-Reservation water claims. They also filed 1,094 off-Reservation instream water claims, all with time immemorial priority dates. The off-Reservation claims are located in 51 of Montana's 85 adjudication basins. The USDOJ also filed 7,295 total claims in trust for the CSKT including 1,094 off-Reservation instream claims that are indential to those filed by CSKT. All 10,109 claims would need to be adjudicated in the absence of the Compact.

With Compact – CSKT-MT Compact Rights - 308

The Compact grants the Tribes' 211 on-Reservation water rights, 10 new off-reservation rights, and co-ownership in 87 existing instream flow, in-lake, and storage rights held by the Montana Dept. of Fish Wildlife & Parks (DFWP) which comes to 308 total rights.

The 211 on-Reservation water rights quantify the Tribes' rights including: instream flows, Hungry Horse Reservoir Water, high mountain lakes, wetlands, and Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) water. The Compact also includes an administrative process to grant over 1,000 non-tribal on-Reservation groundwater certificates left in limbo by the absence of a regulatory framework on the Reservation.

New off-Reservation water rights granted to the Tribes include:

Eight *time immemorial* instream rights on the Swan River, Kootenai River, Lower Clark Fork River, and five headwater streams, all with protections for existing water users;

One *time immemorial* Flathead Lake water right that protects the natural lake level; and

One 1855, any purpose, on- and off-reservation right that includes 11,000 acre-feet (AF) of Hungry Horse Reservoir storage that can be allocated by Montana; and

Co-ownership of DFWP rights includes: Two instream flow rights formally associated with Milltown Dam; 83 instream/in-lake rights; and fisheries storage shares in Lake Como and Painted Rocks Lake.

Montana FSA Upcoming Deadlines:

- **March 1:** Application for Payment deadline for the 2018 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). A notice of loss must be filed with the local FSA office by the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the owner or Dec 3, 2018.
- **March 15:** 2019 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Application Closing Date for Spring Crops (except spring seeded, rye, speltz, triticale, wheat and mixed forage)
- **March 16:** 2019 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Spring Managed Grazing Period Begins (with prior County Committee written approval)

Ongoing FSA Notice of Loss Requirements:

NAP – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program: Submit Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days of the earlier of a natural disaster occurrence, the final planting date if planting is prevented by a natural disaster, the date that damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent; or the normal harvest date.

ELAP – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program: Submit Notice of Loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or Nov. 1st after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred.

LIP - Livestock Indemnity Program: Submit Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

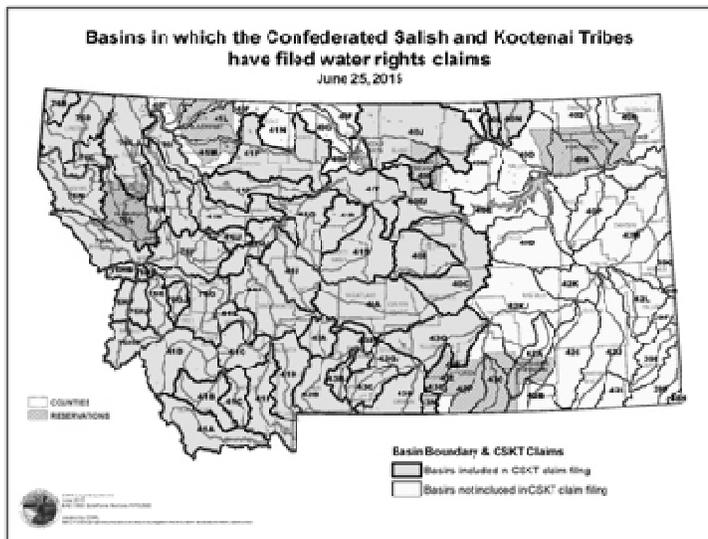
Introducing The People's Compact

A Paradigm Shift in the CSKT Compact Debate

After years of trying to point out the litany of flaws and illegalities of the CSKT water compact for the Flathead Reservation, we realized resolving this issue was never about the truth. It was about the federalization of Montana's water under the guise of an Indian Water Settlement.

The Flathead Water Compact is arguably one of the most divisive pieces of legislation to ever come out of the state of Montana. Three years after its questionable ratification in 2015, Montanans still have no idea of what is hidden within its 1,500 pages, including how much water was ceded to the U.S. / Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) in their proposed settlement.

And despite the fact that there is no legal precedent for any federal reserved water rights outside of the Flathead Reservation, in June of 2015, the United States and CSKT filed 10,000 claims, most with a time immemorial priority date, covering 2/3 of the state of Montana as noted in this map:



These illegal and unprecedented claims will never be examined for legality or reasonableness by the Montana Water Court, but you can rest assured that by the provisions of the CSKT compact, they will hang like a dark cloud over our state, establishing a foothold for generations of tribal litigation to come.

Earlier this year, we realized that you can only stand against something for so long, and it was time for the people to develop a fair and simple resolution of the federal reserved water rights for the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The People's Compact, introduced in October of 2015, accomplishes what our state and federal governments should have done in the first place.

The People's Compact:

STAYS within the constraints of federal reserved water rights law and the Constitution.

QUANTIFIES and limits the claims of the CSKT to the Flathead reservation, and is defined by the purposes of the reservation according to the Hellgate Treaty.

ACKNOWLEDGES AND RESOLVES an old grievance of the tribe against the United States related to Flathead Irrigation Project water. Damage funds for this claim will be awarded directly to individual tribal members as opposed to billions of dollars placed in a fund out of their reach.

FUNDS the development of the tribal water right, and rehabilitates the irrigation project for the benefit of both tribal fisheries and irrigators.

DISMISSES all "off reservation" claims because there is no foundation in the law or the tribe's treaty for them.

PROTECTS existing water rights of all Montanans both eastern and western as well as the water rights of individual tribal members.

RESPECTS equal protection and due process under the law for all citizens.

	Government's CSKT Compact	People's Compact
How much water?	28-48 million acf	508,000 acf
Priority Date	Time Immemorial	1855
Money	\$2.4 billion	\$600-\$775 million

Montana had its chance to solve the problem and failed miserably. Where governments have failed, the burden of resolution has now fallen on citizens, and we have delivered a grassroots solution that relies on common sense rather than fear mongering with ongoing threats of litigation.

About Us: The Peoples Compact was developed for the people, by the people. We come from many different places throughout Montana. We are non-Indian and Indian, multi-generational Montanans as well as newcomers, legislators and former legislators. We reside both on and off of the Flathead Indian Reservation, have many different occupations, and come from many different walks of life.

Website: <https://thepeoplescompact.wordpress.com/>

USDA Enables Rustlers

by MCA Director Gilles Stockton

We brand our calves to prevent theft and it works pretty good but because Department of Agriculture Secretary Purdue withdrew the GIPSA Rules, once those cattle reach a slaughter plant, rustling is condoned. Theft by packing plants may not be strictly legal but since there is nothing practical that a cattle owner can do about it, it comes to the same thing. Under President Obama, USDA went through the rule making process to clarify the Packers and Stockyards Act as to what kinds of actions by packing plants and poultry integrators is “undue and deceptive.” Underpaying because of inaccurate weights and wrong grades was definitely considered “undue and deceptive” under the new GIPSA Rule.

The Trump Administration withdrew the GIPSA Rule as fast as they could and now that a Federal Judge has agreed with them, cattle producers again do not have the right to sue packers for under weighing and mis-grading carcasses. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) agrees with the withdrawal of the GIPSA Rule because according to them, if cattle feeders are allowed to sue beef packers for underpayment, the entire system of marketing fat cattle would fall apart.

The NCBA is right of course, if packers were required to bid on cattle and accurately pay for what they bought, the current system would fall apart. Captive supplies are what makes the current market for cattle work, and captive supply is designed to extract cattle from the people who raise and feed them as cheap as possible. It is perfectly true that this is what companies do, they strive to buy low and sell high. The problem is that when a segment of an industry becomes sufficiently concentrated, it no longer makes sense for them to actively compete against each other. Economic studies have clearly shown that the three dominate packing companies have every incentive to coordinate how they buy and sell their products - in this case fat cattle and beef.

The purpose of anti-trust laws is not to punish successful businesses but to insure competition. When an industry becomes too concentrated, competition is compromised which in turn distorts the market and the structure of that industry. We see this clearly in the loss of smaller independent cattle feeders. This is important for cow/calf producers because with fewer independent feeders and the growth of larger feedlots that are

vertically integrated with packing firms, there is less competitive bidding on feeder calves. Witness this past fall’s feeder calf sales which were uniformly less than the cost of raising them.

USDA withdrew the GIPSA Rule in October of 2017. By December 2018 USDA announced that they were fining JBS USA for not accurately tracking, weighing, and grading dressed carcasses. This underpayment happened over a four-month period starting in December of 2017 through March of 2018. JBS was fined a whopping \$50,000. This is a fine example of how our government looks after our interests and protects our backs. JBS probably stole more than \$50,000 in just one hour of operation.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a continual embarrassment to the packing concerns and their captive supply of cattlemen’s associations, docile federal employees, bought and paid for politicians, and agricultural economists. The Act clearly states that packers should not be engaged in deceptive practices but because their business model is based on deceptive practices, they are in constant violation of the law. They get by year after year by conveniently ignoring this law, emasculating the regulators, and using litigation to block reforms to the cattle markets. It is interesting that the NCBA and the packers are in favor of litigation when it them doing the suing, but they oppose cattle producers being able to sue for accurate payments. Past statements by the packers and the NCBA are quite clear, should cattle feeders ever be allowed to sue beef packers the sky would fall.

We have a see-saw situation going on. The Democrats, when they have power and after they have summoned up a little bit of courage attempt to reform the cattle market. Over the last two decades Democrats looked at forbidding captive supplies, passed Country of Origin Labeling, and enacted the GIPSA Rule. The Republicans, on the hand, rescind these reforms as fast as they possibly can.

It is actually quite simple to restore function to this dysfunctional livestock market. All that is needed is to require that packers actually bid for their cattle supply. Individual cattle producers have a couple of choices about what to do about cleaning up the fraud in the cattle market. One of them is to continue to do what many cattlemen have been doing - which is not putting up much of a fuss at all. On the other hand they can insist that Country of Origin Labeling is reinstated and follow that up with restoring competitive markets in fat cattle.

STUDY SHOWS BEEF DEMAND UP 15% SINCE 2012

by Greg Henderson, Drivers

Demand for beef has risen 15% since 2012, according to retail sales data cited by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. That trend is expected to continue in 2019, with USDA predicting consumers will eat nearly 9% more beef this year than they did in 2015.

Consumers not only are eating more beef, but also enjoying more high-quality beef because more cattle in the U.S. are grading higher than ever before.

Ninety-seven percent of foodservice establishments report having beef on the menu, according to a 2017 Foodservice study. Having beef on the menu has been shown to increase restaurant traffic by 45 percent, according to USDA.

Possible negative influences on beef demand this year could be found in an economic slowdown. Economists believe the first six months of 2019 appear to show an environment of slowing economic growth. Consumer confidence surveys indicate that confidence is declining, with some suggesting the outlook for the U.S. economy is the worst since mid-2014. The decline in confidence is due to several issues, including the partial government shutdown, the impact of tariffs, instabilities in the financial markets and the lack of clarity about monetary policies.



State Fund Agricultural Workers' Compensation Group Program

MCA Members are eligible for an annual dividend upon submitting this form



Enrollment Application

The Montana State Fund and the Agricultural Group Associations have entered into an agreement to provide a group plan to qualifying Agricultural Group Association members. To participate in the group plan, a group association member must complete and sign this enrollment application.

General Provisions

Acceptance into the State Fund Agricultural Group program is subject to approval based on the eligibility criteria for the program. The criteria define the classes of business that qualify and eligible loss ratio and/or experience modification factors. The effective date of the policy must be within the contract year. This enrollment application must be received within 90 days of the effective date of the policy to be considered for participation in the group program.

Participating members shall:

1. Maintain an individual workers' compensation policy with Montana State Fund and shall be subject to the terms of the policy.
2. Report all accidents immediately to the Montana State Fund (1-800-332-6102).
3. Adhere to and comply with the minimum safety requirements of the Montana Safety Culture Act and must participate in the loss control program conducted by Montana State Fund. Participation in the loss control program may include but is not limited to attendance of a safety-related seminar, on-site safety audit or response to a correspondence type program including but not limited to program-specific materials or publications.
4. Maintain an Agricultural Group Association membership in good standing.

The Agricultural Group Associations shall:

1. Assist Montana State Fund in implementation of the plan.

Montana State Fund shall:

1. Retain exclusive responsibility for soliciting, underwriting, individual policy issuance and cancellation, claims, management and administer and develop, implement and conduct the loss control program.

Release

By signing this form, I authorize Montana State Fund to release to the Agricultural Group Associations (for internal use only) premium, loss and other data on my workers' compensation policy, information which reflects the timeliness of reporting any work-related injuries and the status of my adherence to the terms of the group contract.

Termination

1. Montana State Fund may terminate a member's participation in this program if the insured does not maintain an Agricultural Group Association membership in good standing, is in default of an obligation to Montana State Fund or fails to meet minimum eligibility requirements in future years (if applicable).
2. Montana State Fund may terminate a member's participation by serving notice in writing to all affected parties. Termination is effective the date specified in the notice. If no date is specified in the notice, the date of the written notice is the termination date.
3. Members may terminate their participation by serving notice in writing to the Montana State Fund. Termination is effective the date of the written notice.

Effective Date

If the enrollment application is received by Montana State Fund within 90 days of the effective date of the policy within the contract year and the policy qualifies, participation shall commence on the effective date of the policy.

I am a member of this Agricultural Group Association: **MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

My membership is under the name of: _____

Montana State Fund Insured Name: _____

Montana State Fund Policy #: _____ Policy Effective Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City State Zip: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

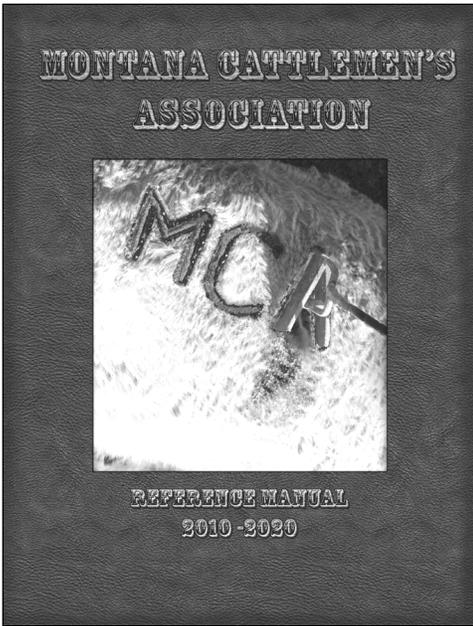
Return completed form to: **Montana State Fund**, PO Box 4759, Helena, MT 59604-4759

2018 FARM BILL OVERVIEW
Signed into law December 20, 2018

- * Protects crop insurance and expands coverage to new crops including fruits, vegetables, hops, and barley. The bill also improves crop insurance access for veterans, beginning farmers, and fruit and vegetable growers, and more than doubles the disaster assistance coverage options for crops that are not eligible for insurance.
- * Improves risk management options for commodity crop farmers and dramatically expands the coverage for dairy farmers. Building on the \$1.1 billion added to support dairy farmers in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the bill provides improved coverage options at more affordable rates and refunds up to \$58 million in premiums paid under the former program.
- * Allows producers to sign up for the county option under the Agricultural Risk Coverage program or the Price Loss Coverage program for 2019-20 crops and annually for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 on a farm-by-farm and crop-by-crop basis.
- * Allows producers to update their program yields.
- * Increases the Marketing Assistance loan rate for soybeans by 24%, to \$6.20 per bushel from \$5 per bushel.
- * Establishes the Agricultural Trade and Facilitation Program, which will provide \$255 million per year to fund FMD, MAP, emerging markets, and TASC. FMD is funded each year at not less than \$34.5 million, and MAP is funded each year at not less than \$200 million. A Priority Trust Fund will provide \$3.5 million per year to programs for which requests are greater than the funds available. The Bill also allows FMD funds to be used in Cuba.
- * Reduces mandatory funding of the Energy Title significantly, but continues baseline funding for the Rural Energy for America Program. The Biobased Market Program will be funded at \$3 million per year for 5 years – the only Energy Title program to get increased funding.
- * Expands export opportunities by securing an additional \$500 million in permanent funding over the next decade to help farmers find new global markets for their goods.
- * Strengthens investments in agricultural research to support groundbreaking science that makes farmers more efficient, resilient, and sustainable, and invests \$185 million in public-private research through the innovative Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, which will generate nearly \$4 billion in returns to the agricultural economy.
- * Grows local food economies by securing \$500 million in permanent funding, more than doubling past investments for farmers markets, local food systems, and value-added production as a part of the new Local Agriculture Market Program.
- * Helps socially disadvantaged, veteran, and new and beginning farmers by combining initiatives to create \$435 million in permanent funding – tripling the current investment – to educate the next generation of farmers and reach more minority farmers as a part of the new Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program.
- * Helps military veterans with careers in agriculture by making risk management tools more affordable, improving access to land and capital, and prioritizing training for veterans.
- * Establishes new support for urban agriculture in the farm bill for the first time by creating a new office at the USDA to advocate for urban farms. It also includes provisions to make it easier for urban farmers to start their farms, grow their businesses, and manage their risk.
- * Grows the organic sector by providing \$395 million in permanent funding, which almost quadruples investment for organic research. The bill also offers cost-share assistance to help farmers transition into organics and strengthens trade enforcement.
- * Provides support for specialty crop growers by continuing \$2.4 billion in permanent investments in research, pest management, and promotion of fruits and vegetables and providing \$125 million to conduct five years of critical citrus disease research.
- * Legalizes hemp as an agricultural commodity, expanding the diversity of American agriculture and opening up new market opportunities for farmers.
- * Safeguards livestock and poultry from disease outbreaks through strong investments in detection, response, and recovery, including the creation of a national vaccine bank.
- * Offers \$40 million in new scholarship opportunities at land grant universities for students attending historically black 1890's colleges and universities and authorizes scholarships for tribal students pursuing careers in agriculture.

- * Maintains funding in the conservation title, maintains unique working lands programs, and grows overall funding for conservation by leveraging private dollars.
- * Invests in regional conservation partnerships by tripling mandatory funding, which will leverage nearly \$3 billion in new private investment in locally-led conservation over the next decade, while also streamlining requirements for farmers and local partners leading the projects.
- * Improves soil health and water quality by encouraging farmers to plant cover crops, providing incentives in conservation programs, driving climate-smart practices through a new soil health pilot to sequester carbon, and prioritizing the protection of drinking water by dedicating at least 10% of all conservation dollars to these projects.
- * Secures opportunities for outdoor recreation by adding 3 million new acres to the Conservation Reserve Program, bringing it to 27 million acres, including 8.6 million acres for continuous CRP and 2 million acres for grasslands. expanding Voluntary Public Access to allow more recreation on private lands, and designating 20,000 acres of national forest wilderness.
- * Promotes clean energy and efficiency upgrades by including \$500 million to help rural small businesses and farmers use renewable energy and create energy installation jobs.
- * Protects against wildfires by expanding bipartisan forest health tools and expediting wildfire prevention treatments across federal, state, and private ownership.
- * Safeguards important environmental protections by rejecting over 40 harmful poison pill riders, including provisions that would have undermined the Endangered Species Act, allowed unaccountable logging on federal lands, and weakened pesticide regulations that protect families, farmworkers, and drinking water.
- * Protects access to food assistance for families in need by avoiding harmful benefits cuts and eligibility changes that would take away food and create obstacles for working families.
- * Increases job training opportunities to help SNAP participants find and keep good-paying jobs the right way, while keeping out partisan changes to work requirements.
- * Expands access to healthy foods by securing \$510 million in permanent funding – more than doubling investments for Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives that encourage SNAP participants to purchase fruits and vegetables. The bill also creates new produce prescription initiatives that make fruits and vegetables more accessible and affordable for families.
- * Establishes a “Farm to Food Bank” initiative to provide healthy, local foods to families in need while reducing food waste.
- * Reduces paperwork for seniors to help them access food assistance.
- * Strengthens oversight of state administration of SNAP to address integrity and technology issues and prevent participants from receiving benefits in multiple states, while safeguarding privacy.
- * Expands high-speed internet in rural communities by providing new grants that will target areas most in need and connect communities with modern internet access. The bill increases funding from \$25 million to \$350 million per year – nearly 15 times the previous amount.
- * Fights the opioid crisis by opening up billions in financing opportunities for expanded telemedicine and community facility investments to provide critical treatment options for those who suffer from opioid addiction.
- * Improves rural drinking water by targeting infrastructure investments to ensure small town water systems are providing clean and reliable tap water.
- * Invests in biobased manufacturing, which creates and supports millions of rural and urban manufacturing jobs by using American-grown crops and trees to make biofuels and biobased products.
- * Reestablishes the position of Under Secretary of Rural Development at USDA to be a champion for small towns and rural communities.
- * Encourages innovative uses for wood as a building material by enacting the bipartisan Timber Innovation Act that will create rural jobs and protect forestland from development.
- * Provides new opportunities for tribal communities to participate in research and extension projects and grow their economies through Promise Zone partnerships.
- * Grows rural small businesses through new investments that promote rural entrepreneurship, redevelop Main Streets, and provide essential skills training opportunities.

GREAT GIFT IDEA!



The Montana Cattlemen's Association Brand Book and Reference Manual is a deluxe hard cover three-volume series which catalogs Montana's recorded livestock brands. It also includes some special "extras": ranch histories, western poetry, traditional cowboy recipes, and photos.

The three volumes of the brand book have been divided into the following counties:

WESTERN: Lincoln, Flathead, Lake, Sanders, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Lewis & Clark, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Silverbow, Madison, Beaverhead, Gallatin, Broadwater, and Mineral.

CENTRAL: Toole, Liberty, Hill, Choteau, Judith Basin, Blaine, Fergus, Petroleum, Meagher, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Park, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Cascade and Carbon.

EASTERN: Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter.



**MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
PO Box 536 ~ VAUGHN, MT 59487**

Brand Book Order Form

Books can also be ordered online at www.montanacattlemen.org

SHIP TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Eastern Volume (516 pages): \$65 _____
(Quantity)

Central Volume (634 pages): \$75 _____
(Quantity)

Western Volume (512 pages): \$65 _____
(Quantity)

Three-volume set: \$185 _____
(Quantity)

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

MCA Annual Vote

FOR VOTING MEMBERS ONLY—MUST OWN CATTLE

Please return completed ballot on Page 11 by April 1, 2019 to: **MCA, PO Box 536, Vaughn, MT 59487**

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED AT THE MCA ANNUAL MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AND POLICY VOTE BY MEMBERS:

RESOLUTION #1—WATER COMPACT PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received significant input regarding a Salish Kootenai water compact; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received many comments regarding concerns about the compact proposed by the Montana legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received numerous comments and concerns about the legislation about the proposed federal legislation to implement that compact; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received numerous comments regarding alternative compact language or revised compact legislation which encourages discussions regarding adoption, implementation or changes in the proposed CSKT compact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports continued discussions about a CSKT water compact and legislation to implement, amend, revise or change the compact proposal.

RESOLUTION #2—STATE BUDGETS

WHEREAS, Montana Cattlemen's Association is aware state budgets are stretched; and

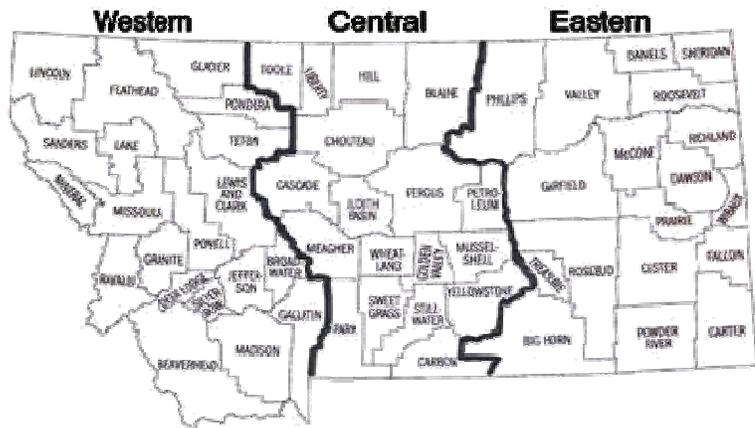
WHEREAS, four departments of state government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks affect Montana agriculture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports retention of the budgets and services provided by these departments of State government as they impact Montana agriculture significantly.

***EXPLANATION OF MCA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TERMS:**

Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer serve two-year terms.

Directors: Two directors are elected from each district; four at large directors elected from any part of Montana; one business director; one Native American director, for a total of 12 directors. Directors are nominated and elected by the majority vote of the membership within each district and serve three-year terms.



Refer to this district map when voting for directors on Page 11

OFFICIAL BALLOT

For MCA Voting Members Only

Please vote on the policy resolutions as described in detail on the preceding page. Please mail this ballot back to the MCA office by **April 1, 2019**. In keeping with MCA's by-laws, all policy matters must be submitted to membership for approval or disapproval. If you have any questions, please call or email.

RESOLUTION #1: Water Compact	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove resolution
RESOLUTION #2: State Budgets	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove resolution

The following Officers were nominated for a two-year term. All members who own cattle may vote for Officers.

Approve Y or N

President: **Jim Baker** _____ or Write in _____

Treasurer: **Jan McDonald** _____ or Write in _____

Secretary: **Kelly Clarke** _____ or Write in _____

The following Directors were nominated for a three-year term.

Western and Eastern directors may only be voted on by MCA members in those districts (see map previous page) who own cattle. All members who own cattle may nominate an At Large director from any district.

Any tribal member may vote for the tribal district director and do not need to own cattle. Any business member may vote for the business district director and do not need to own cattle.

Approve Y or N

Western District: **Bruce Lee** _____ or Write in _____

Eastern District: **Tim Hudson** _____ or Write in _____

Second Eastern director: Write in _____

At Large: **Walter Schweitzer** _____ or Write in _____

Second At Large from any district: Write in _____

Tribal District: Write in _____

Business District: Write in _____

Yes, I own cattle and am a voting member of MCA

*Please return completed ballot no later than
April 1, 2019 to:*

MCA ~ PO Box 536 ~ Vaughn, MT 59487

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit #237
Great Falls MT

Montana Cattlemen’s Assn.
P.O. Box 536
Vaughn, MT 59487

“BEEF ON EVERY PLATE”

Proudly sponsored by MCA and its members!

One in seven Montanans struggle with hunger; one in five children in Montana live in households that struggle with hunger. USDA reports 11.5% of Montana households are “food insecure” and often skip meals or go to bed hungry, including the elderly and young children. Many on fixed incomes, single mothers, and the working poor simply cannot afford to purchase quality meat to feed their families. Montana Cattlemen’s Foundation has organized the “**BEEF ON EVERY PLATE**” program to enable cattle producers to donate beef to help feed our neighbors. To date we have provided beef for over 253,000 meals!!

As cattle producers, we always have beef in the freezer. Unfortunately, this is a luxury that too many Montanans do not share. The need is overwhelming! If you wish to donate a cow, bull, or steer, please call the Montana Cattlemen’s Foundation 406-930-1883 to make arrangements. For those who do not own cattle, cash donations are also needed to help pay for costs associated with processing the beef. **THANK YOU** to Town Pump for another \$5000 donation to help with meat processing costs—your support is greatly needed and appreciated!!

Montana Cattlemen’s Foundation is working with the Montana Food Bank Network and others to distribute the hamburger throughout the state. With your help we can provide assistance to Montanans in need!

Montana Cattlemen’s Foundation for Research, Education and Endowment is a non-profit tax-exempt charitable foundation organized under IRS tax code Section 501(c)(3). All of your contributions are fully deductible. There are no administration costs, so 100% of your donation goes to this program!

For more information please contact:

MONTANA CATTLEMEN’S ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
PO Box 536 ~ Vaughn, MT 59487
(406) 930-1883

Email: mca@montanacattlemen.org
Web: www.montanacattlemen.org

Your Support Is Appreciated!