



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

PO Box 536 ~ Vaughn, MT 59487

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22nd Annual Cattlemen's Day

AGENDA

22nd Annual Cattlemen's Day

December 9, 2023 ~ Holiday Inn, Great Falls

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~ NO REGISTRATION FEE

ZOOM LOGIN: <https://tinyurl.com/CattlemensDay2023>

- 9:00 a.m. **Department of Livestock Update**
Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer
Jay Bodner, Brands Enforcement Administrator
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Montana State Veterinarian
- 9:45 a.m. **Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service**
Grazing & Rangeland management
Stacy Barta, Montana Coordinator for Rangeland Resource Program (NRCS)
- 10:30 a.m. **PANEL: "GRAZING: An Ecosystem Necessity"**
The importance and benefits of cattle and bison range management to conserve natural resources
Brad Hamlett, Montana Cattlemen's Association Director will serve as moderator
APR Representative – Corrie Williamson, Senior Outreach Manager
John Fahlgren, retired BLM and currently Valley County Commissioner; range management degree
Additional panel participants TBD
- NOON **Lunch**—Hot roast beef sandwich, garlic mashed potato with gravy, veggie ~ Cost \$20
- 1:00 p.m. **Livestock Risk Protection Insurance (LRP) and Grassland CRP;
Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Insurance**
Les Rispens, US Department of Agriculture
Jeremy NotAfraid, Senior Risk Management Specialist (FPAC-RMA, MT)
- 2:00 p.m. **Invasive Species**
Eastern Heath Snail, Invasive Broadleaf Plants, Invasive Annual Grasses, Feral Pigs
Brent Smith, Project Manager CEMIST (Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team)
- 3:00 p.m. **Producer Partnership**
Montana's first federally inspected, owned & operated nonprofit processing facility; Livingston MT
Matt Pierson, Founder and President & Jeri Delys, Program Manager
- 4:00 p.m. **MCA Annual Business Meeting** - Open to all members
Presentation of resolutions, MCA Board nominations, issues for 2024

From the MCA President's Desk . . .

MCA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Richard Liebert 590-9017

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Doug Campbell 632-4304
Newell Rouch 535-5288
Bruce Lee 466-2488

When the Work's all Done This Fall is a classic cowboy song, first published in the *Miley City Stock-Growers journal* in 1893. It was first written as a poem by D.J. O'Malley and has been sung by many, particularly Marty Robbins and Michael Martin Murphey. The 'work' - as we know it as producers - is always ongoing, but the song reminds us of our moving, gathering and working the cattle (and stacking hay) and getting them to market. As ranchers, we're still no strangers to the actual physical risks or working with livestock all year round, especially as we prepare for winter pastures and feeding as the 'Winter Work' will be upon us.

Our MCA Cattlemen's Day is now 'upon us' and a time to gather and share our ideas, vision and learn new things to improve our operations and industry. It will be held December 9th, 9am – 4pm at the Great Falls Holiday Inn on 10th Avenue South. We will have a Zoom capability option to reach out to all our members and communities across the state.

The proposed event agenda for that Saturday is on the front page of this newsletter and we've got a full schedule of dedicated speakers on very relevant topics that were developed by the MCA Board of Directors. I thank them and especially Jan McDonald who has tirelessly coordinated our MCA Cattlemen's Day.

We're going to focus on what we all manage: Grazing. We'll have Stacy Barta of the Montana NRCS and she's a 'Top Hand' on grazing and range management. We also plan to have a panel discussion titled "*Grazing: An Ecosystem Necessity*", which will address the benefits and challenges of livestock grazing in rural Montana. Our panel moderator will be Brad Hamlett, a rancher, former MT state senator, and a MCA board member. Our panelists will include Valley County Commissioner and rancher, John Fahlgren; APR Representative, Corrie Williamson, Senior Outreach Manager; and another panelist TBD.

Thanks to Sharon McDonald for composing our newsletter and also to our board members who share their writings with us. We thank our new sponsors which helps defray some of our printing costs and we're proud to provide many pages of quality content like the article on CRP grazing benefits and the one on cattle price discovery and transparency from Gilles Stockton.

I wish you all great success with the fall calf and cow sales and I welcome you to participate and come to our Cattlemen's Day. A Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving to all and please be safe out there, it's still a 'risky' business – both physically and fiscally - but we're the ones that Feed America and the World.



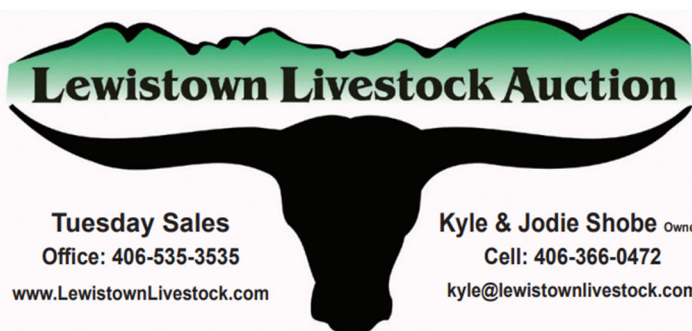
Richard Liebert, MCA President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2023 CATTLEMEN'S DAY!!



DECEMBER						2023
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
3	4	5	6	7		8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Cattlemen's Day



Lewistown Livestock Auction

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WASTE NOT, WANT NOT:

Studies show grazing may be beneficial to CRP land and habitat

by By Kennedy Tesch for Tri-State Livestock News

With severe drought in effect across many areas in the region, producers may turn to utilizing emergency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) haying and grazing practices. While CRP hay is well-known for being a low-quality forage, many farmers and ranchers must rely on putting up these acres to use as a base forage to stretch their feed throughout the winter.

The goals of the program, administered by the USDA and FSA, are to convert erodible crop land into permanently covered grassland to protect environmentally sensitive lands and wildlife.

During periods of drought these lands are opened to emergency haying and grazing to relieve livestock producers during forage supply shortages. CRP lands are only opened to haying and grazing after primary nesting season. Nesting season varies from state to state, but most of the dates fall during the prime of haying season.

Due to these regulations, CRP hay is often harvested at a very mature state, and not at the optimal time for quality forage production.

Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, a Feed Testing Product Manager and Strategist at Ward Laboratories, decided to explore the nutritional value of CRP haying and grazing to learn more about how we can improve CRP land to make it work better for not only the producer, but also the land and species that inhabit those acres.

Kern-Lunbery presented her findings at the Nebraska Grazing Conference.

Kern-Lunbery examined the nutritional value of CRP hay samples that had been submitted to Ward from 2012 to 2021 to determine the viability of harvesting and storing CRP hay and the effects that grazing can have on the quality of CRP land as well as the species that claim CRP land for habitat.

Samples were analyzed for crude protein, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber digestibility using NIR consortium equations and calibrations.

Initially, 76.42 percent (n = 431) of the CRP hay samples had crude protein concentrations less than the requirement. Additionally, 81.56 percent (n = 460) of the CRP hay samples had TDN based on ADF lower than the requirement. Overall, 90.07 percent (n = 508) of the CRP hay samples would require supplementation of protein, energy, or both.

"It's no surprise, I think we all know that CRP has low quality, Lunbery said. "It was really just showing the data for what we all already know, and that we're going to have to supplement that."

Kern-Lunbery then highlighted two studies in her talk which discussed the effects of grazing on avian species and habitats.

She found that incorporating grazing into CRP acres may enhance avian habitat. A study cited in her talk by Millenbah et al., found that unmanaged CRP lands had a declining benefit to bird species abundance, diversity, and productivity (1996). Management methods including haying, burning, grazing, and disking and interseeding were found to enhance vegetation and avian species diversity.

It was also found that while grazing during primary nesting season may have some short-term deleterious effects on avian reproduction, these effects are outweighed by the long-term effect of variable forage densities and heights to support a greater variety of grassland bird species on CRP lands.

"Grazing can be beneficial for avian diversity even though it can have positive or negative effects on specific species populations and reproductivity. Depending on the species that may be a good thing or a bad thing, and how that interacts with other avian species. It may not be worth it to be harvesting and storing CRP hay," Lunbery said.

Mike Heaton, a lifelong rancher east of Bismarck, North Dakota, finds that in his experiences of putting up CRP hay, proper management practices used throughout the program may be a better fit for land quality and habitat diversity.

"There's a saying that what's good for the herd is good for the bird," Heaton said. "As far as grazing, I don't think it hurts the bird population one bit."

Heaton believes that either grazing or haying should be included in the program as management practices due to the detriment of letting the land sit idle for years while in the program.

"When I pulled some land out of the program and started farming it, the land was pretty depleted," Heaton said. "It takes pretty good management practices to bring it back into its potential productivity."

According to Heaton, letting land sit in CRP for long contract periods can not only diminish the quality of land, but may also spark additional expenses and issues on neighboring land, even if you are not the owner of any land in the program.

"The first few years, it grew more weeds than it grew grass up until the grass got established," Heaton said. "Our fences were full of weeds, and it tore a lot of the fences down. We didn't own any of the CRP, but we got some of the side effects of it and when you're losing fences to somebody else's weeds, that's a real expense."

Kern-Lunbery reminds farmers and ranchers that substantial supplementation is required when feeding CRP hay and to consider grazing CRP ground and harvesting other pastures at more optimal times.

Grazing CRP provides the opportunity to improve nutritional value of forage intake through all seasons and reduce supplementation need and costs.

Policy makers should also consider reducing grazing restrictions for the potential to improve avian diversity and increase enrollment in CRP programs.

Electronic Ear Tags – Again!

By Gilles Stockton, Montana Cattlemen's Assn. Director

Reprinted from MCA April 2023 newsletter
See follow-up next page

Once again the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is insisting that cattle in interstate commerce be identified with an electronic ear tag (EID). (see: *Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison. Federal Register. Vol. 88, No 12, January 19, 2023. Page 3320*) As in the many previous attempts to impose this on cattle producers, they claim that it is necessary to respond to the introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

What USDA does not explain is how will having the millions of cattle moving interstate and identified with an expensive EID tag actually contribute to the control of a FMD outbreak. Obviously, it will take a lot more than just an ear tag to successfully stop FMD - if that is even possible. First off, why are we importing fresh meat from countries with endemic FMD? Someone benefits from this commerce, and it is not the American cattle producers. Shouldn't prevention be the first line of defense?

FMD is a very infectious, fast developing disease, with twenty-five different variants, each needing its own vaccine. It affects all cloven-hoofed animals including whitetail deer and feral pigs. Before you even know your herd is infected, up to two weeks will have passed. Samples from infected animals would be sent to a special lab to identify the variant, requiring more time to pass before the proper vaccine can be ordered. And then it takes a minimum of two more weeks to unfreeze and prepare the vaccine for administration.

The point is that under the most optimistic of scenarios it will take at least five weeks to even vaccinate the first animal. Of what possible benefit would it have been to have electronically identified cattle in anticipation of a future outbreak of FMD? In all probability veterinary authorities, once they have identified FMD, will stop all movement of livestock and then watch for clinical symptoms to appear. The initial surveillance phase will include all herds of cloven-hoofed animals everywhere in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Once they can start to vaccinate, the hope is to contain the disease in pockets. We can assume that all the vaccinated animals will be identified with an ear tag – EID or conventional. But having cattle pre-tagged would have been a waste of time and money, because knowing from where a cow came is not useful. Only the appearance of clinical symptoms is meaningful.

The current requirements for identification of cattle moving interstate are working, as evidenced by the fact that the state and federal veterinarians are successfully tracking down the outbreaks of tuberculosis. While here in the mountain states, they are also on top of brucellosis. If a cow has a registered brand, a metal bangs tag, and a legible tattooed shield in the ear, that should be enough. Yes, when vaccinating for brucellosis the vet can put in one of the official EID tags. But will that tag still be in the ear ten or twelve years later when you sell that cow? The metal tag may or may not make it that long, but the EID tag most probably will not.

Ultimately, USDA wants all cattle electronically identified. But so far they still exempt beef feeder cattle under eighteen months of age. However, this time they propose that all dairy feeder cattle be tagged. Dairy cows are already required to have tags. If I was a dairy farmer, I would probably use an electronic identification record keeping system, so that is not a major issue for some. But is it legitimate to require that the crossbred dairy feeder cattle also be identified? I am not so sure. I fear that once they require that dairy feeders are tagged, it won't be long before they insist that all feeder cattle are EID tagged.

We risk importing FMD because our government's trade policies favor beef importers over the well-being of our domestic cattle producers. The same can be said for tuberculosis. If our country continues to allow cattle from Mexico, we will be responding to outbreaks of TB forever. The current traceability regulations are obviously working although I am sure that this system is tedious and frustrating for those tasked to implement it. Nevertheless, veterinary authorities have been able to stay ahead of TB.

Perhaps what they actually need are more clerical staff. Whatever!

When it comes to brucellosis, we have the National Park Service to thank. If there was a will, there would be a way to vaccinate Yellowstone Park's bison, and this country would be rid of that source of brucellosis. After all there are only about 5000 head of buffalo in Yellowstone Park. However, elk would still be carrying brucellosis. If their overpopulation was dealt with, maybe that risk would also be reduced.

Another interesting fact is that this rule making makes no requirements of the beef packers or importers of beef. Only U.S. producers are required to work their cattle, insert expensive EID tags, and keep records. Obviously, in the slaughterhouse identification (electronic or not) needs to stay correlated to the carcass and the meat cuts in question or else the whole exercise is useless. It is my understanding that packers are only required to keep identity to the point that the carcass has been cleared by an inspector.

In this opinion piece I have focused on addressing animal diseases such as FMD, but what about food born illnesses such as salmonella when beef may be contaminated with feces in the slaughter process. Since USDA proposes to identify animals to their source, shouldn't they also require that the chain of identity continues to the meat counter? Consumers should have the choice of buying beef born on my ranch in Montana versus beef from what had been the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. And if anyone gets sick, the slaughter plant in question should be held accountable.

This brings up the principal of equivalency. Production and slaughter processes in the counties that export beef to the United States are supposed to be equivalent to ours. Will foreign producers also be required to identify their cattle with EID tags and will the packer/importers be required to track that information to the retail level? Clearly, we producers in the U.S. feel cheated by the supposition that livestock production and slaughter in Brazil and Nicaragua is equivalent to ours. Obviously, American inspectors are not standing on the slaughter lines in those countries. Who is, and are they meeting the equivalent standards that are supposed to be happening here?

Finally, as carcasses pass inspection and move on to retail, the ID number should be retired. It is my understanding that Australia made themselves a mess with their EID system and now have an entire herd of "ghost" cattle. This USDA rulemaking makes no requirement as to the final disposition of the identification information. In fact, USDA is rather weak on the whole issue of where this ID information is kept and who has access to that information. In practice this whole EID mandate relies heavily on private veterinarians. I would suggest that any veterinarian reading this take a look at this proposed rule and see if you are comfortable with it.

It has been about twenty years now that USDA has been obsessed with imposing EID on the cattle industry. You would think that given that time frame they would have been able to come up with a fully workable plan. Perhaps they feel that it is easier to require producers to pay for EID tags than ask Congress to fund a proper system capable of actually responding to an outbreak of a foreign animal disease such as FMD.

Cattle producers understand the need for a reliable and efficient system capable of controlling an introduced disease, and FMD is not the only one out there that could cause us trouble. But requiring producers to use EID tags without assuring us-the other necessary bits and pieces of the system are in place is not a good way for USDA to get our support.

USDA tells us that currently it takes weeks or months to trace down TB infected herds. But nearly all dairies already use EID tags, so what is the problem, at least when concerning dairy cows? Many beef producers also use electronic tag record keeping systems. It is coming voluntarily so why mandate it? Maybe an incentive to use EID technology would be in order?

Still sometimes the old ways are the best ways. Here in Montana they recently had a TB incident in a beef cow herd. The State Veterinarian put a whole lot of resources to control it and apparently one of the most useful forms of identification was the hot iron brand. My point is that most cattle producers are willing to comply with animal identification requirements if USDA can show that they have a plan that covers all the bases and that it will be worth the time and investment.

UPDATE - MANDATORY ELECTRONIC EAR TAG

Congress is in the process of finalizing the 2024 budget. Representative Harriet Hageman from Wyoming tried to add Amendment #78 to HR 4368, the Agriculture Appropriations Act.

This proposed amendment would prohibit USDA funds from being used to implement the Mandatory RFID [Radio Frequency Identification Tags] rule scheduled to begin in 2024.

Unfortunately, this amendment did not pass by a 97 to 336 vote margin.

The one bright spot to this is the entire HR 4368 appropriations bill also did not pass so Rep. Hageman may attempt to add an amendment again for the next vote. Gilles wrote an excellent column explaining why MCA is against mandatory RFID cattle tracking (see page 4 of this newsletter).

Please call your Senate and House Representatives to let them know how you feel about this important government mandate and your opposition to mandatory EID.

Senator Jon Tester: (202) 224-2644

Senator Steve Daines: (202) 224-2651

Representative Matt Rosendale: (202) 225-3211

Representative Ryan Zinke: (202) 225-5628



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



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302 N Roberts St, Helena, MT 59601

Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Applications Now Available

Applications are due by Saturday, January 6, 2024

HELENA, Mont. – The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2024 Noxious Trust Fund (NWTF) Grant Program.

Established by the 1985 Montana Legislature, the Noxious Weed Trust Fund provides funding for noxious weed research projects, development projects, state and community education, and on-the-ground management through a landowner cost share.

Applicants may apply for funding up to \$75,000 per project. Applications are due Saturday, January 6, 2024.

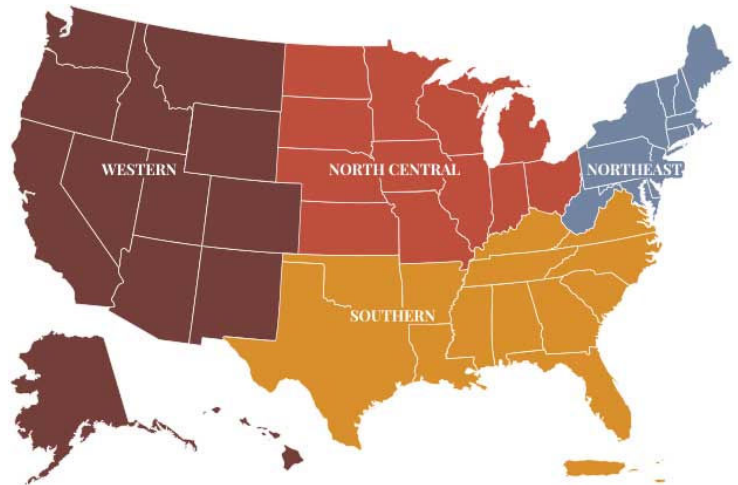
To learn more about NWTF opportunities, please visit the Noxious Weed Trust Fund website at agr.mt.gov/NoxiousWeedTrustFund or contact [Greta Dige](mailto:greta.dige@mt.gov), NWTF Program Coordinator, at 444-7882 or greta.dige@mt.gov.

To apply, please visit: funding.mt.gov/.

The Montana Department of Agriculture is serving Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information on department programs and services, visit agr.mt.gov.



**WESTERN
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RISK
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EDUCATION**



**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - Extension
Risk Management Education
Competitive Grants Program
Western Region**

Proposals are due by 5 PM, PST, Thursday, November 16, 2023

2024 Western Center RFA: westrme.wsu.edu

The Western Extension Risk Management Education Center (Western Center), in conjunction with the Northeast, Southern, and North Central Centers announce a competitive funding opportunity for educational projects designed to help agricultural producers improve their economic viability through targeted risk management strategies. The Centers expect to award grants in three program areas – Standard Education Projects, Exploratory Projects, and Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects.

ELIGIBILITY: This announcement seeks applications from qualified public and private groups, organizations, and institutions; including land grant colleges and universities, Cooperative Extension, other colleges and universities, and public and private entities with a demonstrated capacity to develop and deliver outcome/impact-based risk management education projects for agricultural producers and their families. The Western Center serves Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. RFA's have been concurrently released for each regional ERME Center – please visit the respective websites for additional information.

EDUCATION GRANTS: This funding opportunity focuses on educational projects designed to help agricultural producers improve their economic viability through targeted risk management strategies. Proposed programs should address any of the five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal or human. The Western Center will consider applications in two categories: 1) Standard Education Projects (awards of up to **\$75,000**) and 2) Exploratory Projects (awards of up to **\$10,000**) to support planning, development, and piloting efforts that are expected to lead to a future educational project. The 18-month project award period is April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

PRODUCERS UNDERSERVED BY CROP INSURANCE GRANTS: This funding opportunity is specifically designated for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by the Federal crop insurance program; with proposed educational programming that aligns with one or more of the five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal or human. The maximum amount of requested funding shall not exceed **\$100,000** for 18-month projects to be conducted between April 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025.

APPLICATION INFORMATION: All applicants should read the RFA in full and note the requirements for the Project Director Training in section II.E. The complete RFA and details on how to apply can be found on the [Western Center's](#) website under "Funding" and then "Apply for Funding 2024 Western Center RFA"; or the link provided at the top of this announcement. All applications must be submitted online through the Results Verification System (RVS). There are application resources within the RVS system to help guide you through the application process.

Questions or comments regarding the RFA may be directed to Jo Ann Warner, 509-477-2168, warnerj@wsu.edu or Shannon Neibergs, 509-335-6360, sneibergs@wsu.edu.

FIXING THE CATTLE PRICE DISCOVERY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Op-Ed by Gilles Stockton, Montana Cattlemen's Association Director

After years of depressed prices, we ranchers and cattle feeders are desperate for Congress to do something – do anything! It was in this context that the 50/14 concept was conceived. When the “negotiated spot market” for fat cattle got down to less than 20% of the total, it became a problem that obviously needed correction. Particularly since the prices derived in this very thin market are used by the packer cartel to buy the remaining 80% of cattle – the “captive supply.” Clearly, the cattle industry has a corrupt price discovery mechanism.

The idea is that if beef packers are required to buy more of the cattle on the “negotiated spot market” this market dysfunction would be corrected. Many felt that 50% of the fat cattle should be purchased on the “negotiated spot market” for delivery no more than 14 days in advance. Hence 50/14.

As a result of the advocacy of cattle producers and their organizations, a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Senators Grassley and Fischer have proposed “The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act” which would put the 50/14 concept into law. Unfortunately, there is a big flaw.

First, we should more clearly understand that the “negotiated spot market” for fat cattle is a “negotiated” market. Whenever you have a “negotiated” market, you lose transparency because each transaction is made in secret from all of the other transactions being negotiated in the same time frame. Therefore, the party who has the most information has the most power. Packers clearly control the information and has the least to lose if an individual purchase is not confirmed.

Furthermore, in a recent op/ed “Please We Want No New Subsidies” Bill Bullard (CEO of R-Calf) demonstrates that the “negotiated spot market” transactions are all made at the end of the week all at the same time. A practice that looks suspiciously like packer collusion. The sellers, the ones who have the most to lose, are not allowed time to negotiate with each of the four potential buyers or even confer with one another about bids being offered. It is a matter of take the price offered or feed your cattle for another week.

Because of the Mandatory Price Reporting law, the results of these “negotiated” sales are eventually reported to USDA and the average price derived by this corrupt mechanism is then used to price the “captive supply” cattle committed to be delivered that coming week. What you have is a “Captive Market” pricing the “Captive Supply.” This can never work honestly, even if the “negotiate spot market” is substantially greater than 20%.

There is, however, a simple way to fix this. “The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act” directs USDA to come up with a plan to increase the numbers of cattle purchased in the “negotiated spot market,” and directs USDA how they should proceed. However, the Act also allows for packers to buy fat cattle through an electronic auction market, but does not require that this actually happens. The sponsors of the Act need to put teeth in this provision.

In general, auction markets are the best form of price discovery and electronic auctions are a very cost-effective way to buy and sell. There is no technical reason that an electronic market for fat cattle would not work very efficiently, just as they do for marketing feeder cattle. However, although there have been numerous attempts, no electronic market for fat cattle has been successful because the packers have no incentive to use it. From the packer's perspective, the “negotiated spot market” works just fine.

In order for the packer cartel to buy through independently operated electronic market auctions, Congress would have to specifically require that they do so. If the sponsors of the “Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act” were to amend this Act to require that packers start purchasing fat cattle through independent electronic marketing platforms, we would finally be on the road to a truly competitive and transparent price discovery mechanism. This amendment need only set specific targets for its adoption. Private enterprise would do the rest.

We can have a price discovery system and market that is transparent and competitive - but only if we so demand and only if we convince Congress that this is the proper way to restore competition to the fat cattle market.

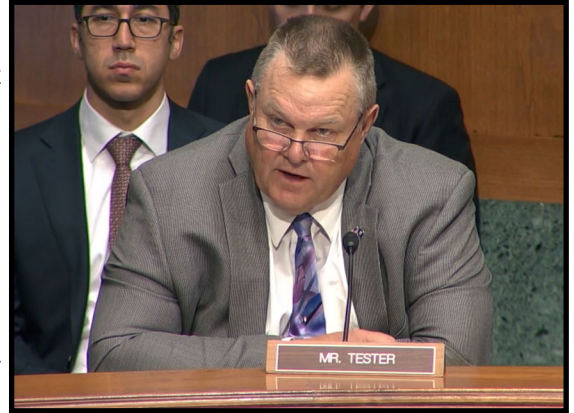
Tester Presses SEC Chair on “pain in the neck” Reporting Requirements for Family Farmers and Ranchers

Senator: SEC must make sure “that the proposed climate rule does not lead to burdensome reporting requirements to add additional workload, pain in the neck – and I’m being generous when I say pain in the neck – to agriculture producers”

Sept. 12, 2023 (U.S. Senate) — U.S. Senator Jon Tester today pressed Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Gary Gensler about concerns that the agency’s “climate disclosure rule” could lead to burdensome paperwork and bureaucracy for Montana family farmers and ranchers.

Tester began his remarks during a Senate Banking Committee hearing by noting that as an active farmer himself, he understands firsthand that agricultural producers across Montana should not have to deal with burdensome reporting requirements:

“You know, as many of the folks know, I’m somebody that’s still involved in production agriculture. If I don’t cut the crop, the crop doesn’t get cut... Every once in a while, in the mail – far too often, in my opinion – I’ll get a survey as to how much grain I raise, and how much grain I have on hand, and how many cattle I have, and chickens and pigs and horses. It’s a real pain in the butt. And the problem is you got to do this over and over and over again. So surveys aren’t something that I’m real crazy about, okay, because I’m busy trying to make a living.”



The Senator then directly pressed Chair Gensler on whether he intends to honor his prior commitment that Montana farmers and ranchers won’t be hit with onerous reporting requirements:

“We have had previous conversations about making sure that the proposed climate rule does not lead to burdensome reporting requirements to add additional workload, pain in the neck – and I’m being generous when I say pain in the neck – to agriculture producers who do business with publicly traded companies, which by the way is by far and away the vast, vast, vast majority of folks in production agriculture. I appreciate you’ve been receptive to those concerns we have discussed previously in this hearing that it is not the Commission’s intent to have farmers or ranchers in Montana or any other state or any other producers have to report on goods that they sell to publicly traded companies. I want to make sure that that still stands true. Is that right?”

Tester concluded his remarks by making sure his concerns have been made crystal clear to the Commission: “You’re fully aware that it’s gonna take more than your intent for this happen. Bleed down of regulation is something that happens all the time. And I just want to make sure that it is crystal clear that people in production agriculture are not going to be faced with these surveys.”

As the Senate’s only working farmer, Tester continues to be Montana’s leading champion for Montana ag producers and fights tooth and nail to defend family farmers and ranchers from efforts by politicians in Washington DC to harm their bottom lines.

Last November, Tester pressed the SEC Chairman in a Senate Banking Committee hearing about concerns he’d heard from ag producers across Montana that the agency’s “climate disclosure rule” could lead to burdensome paperwork and bureaucracy for family farmers and ranchers. During the hearing, Tester received a commitment from the Chairman that the rule would not include requirements for producers to report information to the SEC, and that public companies will be able to use an estimate and will not require the companies to collect any additional information from suppliers like family farmers and ranchers. During the hearing and in a separate conversation with Chairman Gensler, Tester emphasized the importance of the SEC addressing the comments they have received from agricultural producers and other stakeholders and making sure any final rule works for Montana.

To view video: sentester.app.box.com/s/ef34q24n9o8hihbys9c0crogu6qaet9

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE JANUARY 1, 2023. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR DUES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW OR RENEW ONLINE AT: mca@montanacattlemen.org/Membership

Why should I be a part of MCA?

MCA was formed in the 1950's to represent Montana cattle producers on issues vital to the future of our industry. MCA is a producer-driven, grassroots, all volunteer organization committed to ensuring profitability for you and your family as well as for future generations. Our goal is to effectively address the concerns of Montana cattle producers, both statewide and nationally, and we need your input to continue to do so. Membership numbers enables us to represent you on the Montana Beef Council.

Name: _____

Spouse Name (if joining): _____

Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Own cattle: ____ Yes ____ No

Tribal member: ____ Yes ____ No

⋮

Membership Dues:

Cattle Producer ~ \$50 _____

Associate Member ~ \$50 _____

College Student ~ \$25 _____

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

OR ~ Optional Premier Memberships:

Gene Autry level ~ \$100 per year _____

Roy Rogers level ~ \$150 per year _____

John Wayne level ~ \$200 per year _____

Additional Optional Contribution _____

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*

Join online at www.montanacattlemen.org ~ OR ~ mail this 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!

The Ritchie Ripple Effect

Every Saved Drop Matters

The benefits of adding a Ritchie to your operation extend far beyond saving you time, money, and water. By choosing Ritchie, you'll conserve water, protect the land, and reduce energy to promote a healthier environment for generations to come. Learn how a more sustainable future starts with a drop of water at ritchiefount.com/sustainability.



"BEEF ON EVERY PLATE"

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 327,000 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 406-467-2251 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. 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:

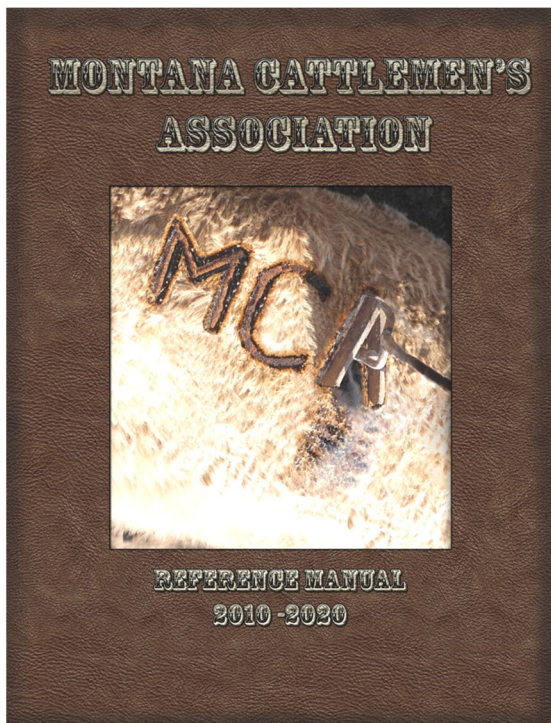
MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
PO Box 536 ~ Vaughn, MT 59487 ~ (406) 467-2251

Email: mca@montanacattlemen.org

Web: www.montanacattlemen.org

Your Support Is Appreciated!





DISBURSAL SALE ~ Christmas Gift Idea ~

Montana Cattlemen will **NOT** be publishing a third edition of the Brand Book covering the new renewals for 2022-2030. Therefore, the previous edition of the Montana Cattlemen's Association Brand Book and Reference Manual is being offered at a special reduced clearance sale price. This is a deluxe hard cover three-volume series which catalogs Montana's recorded livestock brands through 2021. 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 (while supplies last)

SHIP TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Eastern Volume (516 pages): \$65 now **\$20.00 plus \$5 shipping** _____
(Quantity)

Central Volume (634 pages): \$75 now **\$25.00 plus \$5 shipping** _____
(Quantity)

Western Volume (512 pages): \$65 now **\$20.00 plus \$5 shipping** _____
(Quantity)

Three-volume set: \$185 now **\$60.00 plus \$10 shipping** _____
(Quantity)

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: \$ _____

✂

NEWSLETTER

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

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit #237
Great Falls MT

MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

To address market interests, serve to support Montana's environmental, cultural, and historical heritage, and protect the interests of Montana cattle producers in international markets and trade issues.

The Montana Cattlemen's Association shall be true environmentalists in protecting and advancing their environmental position in water rights, mineral rights, and natural resources.

* * * * *

Montana Cattlemen's Association has a long history going back to the 1950's of representing Montana cattle producers on issues vital to the future of our industry. Our goal is to continue that tradition with the help of experienced cattle producers across the state—just like yourself!

Montana Cattlemen's Association is a producer-driven, grassroots organization committed to ensuring profitability for the Montana cattle industry. We are dedicated to increasing profit opportunities for you and your family as well as for future generations.

WHY JOIN MCA?

- ◆ Producer-driven grassroots policies
- ◆ Credibility and integrity within the cattle industry and in Helena
- ◆ Working only for Montana cattle producers to increase profitability
- ◆ Membership numbers strengthen MCA's effectiveness
- ◆ MCA works with legislators, businesses, communities and other like-minded organizations in the development of rural Montana
- ◆ Opportunities to become involved within the organization
- ◆ Every cattle producer has a voice in decisions that affect his livelihood

