



The official publication of the Utah Cattlemen's Association



The Public Lands Council had its annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. last month. The NCBA did something a little different this year. Instead of holding a conference at the same time it had Region V and Region VI fly in and participate with the Public Lands Council. Other regions with less public lands are holding their own legislative gatherings at other times. There was definitely a change in tone in D. C. from previous years. There seemed to be a greater sense of optimism that probably comes from the feeling that regulations and onerous oversight from the governmental agencies are being relaxed in many areas.

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Leaders from the USFS and the BLM indicate they will once again focus on the multiple use mandate on public lands. It sounds like the conservation rule that was enacted by the Biden Administration last year will not be implemented and will likely not be an issue in the future. This rule placed conservation practices on par with other uses of public lands and would have allowed for the leasing of grazing permits for the purpose of enacting conservation practices. These leases could have taken priority to grazing and other uses and could have been used as a tool to limit or remove grazing from public lands.

Other items of discussion included reforming the permitting processes required to do anything on public lands. This would possibly simplify the requirements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA was passed in 1970 and has not changed much since then. Tax reform remains a high priority. Making the Trump tax cuts permanent and working toward full repeal of the estate tax are top priorities.

The BLM is working to implement outcome-based grazing on a broader scale. They are seeking funding that will allow them to plan and implement the gathering of wild horses off public lands each year to maintain healthy and sustainable populations. There are about 90,000 horses on the range today and 60,000 horses held in off range facilities. The goal is to get down to about one third of the number of horses currently on the range.

Changes in wildfire management are also being discussed. More coordination

with local fire departments by the federal agencies during a wildfire event is welcome and will help keep many of these fires from getting so large.

The Trump Administration is also working to reform the Endangered Species Act. It is much easier to get a species listed and given protected status than it is to remove them from the list once they have recovered. There is work taking place to have the gray wolf delisted. The public comment period for the potential listing of the monarch butterfly has been reopened. The listing of this species could have a wide-ranging impact across the country given the natural range of the monarch butterfly.

There was also considerable discussion about recent overreach of federal agency law enforcement and their lack of coordination with the conservation officers that oversee grazing allotments. There are a couple situations across the country that are raising concern over the lack of coordination within the federal agencies between their different departments. The situation with the Maude Ranch and the USFS in South Dakota has recently been in the news and has brought to light the need for more coordination to allow issues such as fencing to be resolved by administrative personnel rather than law enforcement.

While in Washington we were able to meet with Utah's U.S. House delegates. They understand the issues facing farmers and ranchers in the state and understand the importance of access to public lands for our rural communities.

Jeff Young - UCA President

UPCOMING EVENTS

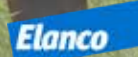
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- JULY 9-10 USU EXTENSION MEAT & POULTRY
HACCP WORKSHOP - LOGAN, UT
- JULY 22-23 USU EXTENSION FOOD SANITATION
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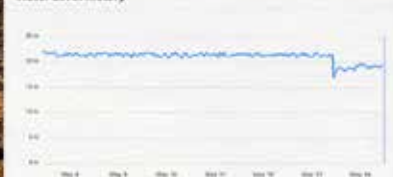
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UCA & UCWA Summer Meeting

June 26-27



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Thursday, June 26

10:00 am Cattlewomen's Meeting
(lunch provided)

12:30 pm to 5:00 pm - UCA Meeting
(lunch on your own)

UCA and UCWA Presidents' Reports

Committee Meetings

Private Lands - Animal Health

Federal Lands - Marketing

6:00 pm - Dinner at Events Center

Friday, June 27

Area Tour of Ensign Ranches
Lunch

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Income Diversity

By Dr. David Secrist, PhD - Beef Extension Specialist Utah State University



The new administration in Washington has brought about some interesting changes that will play out over the next several months, if not years. On April 2nd, the fed cattle futures were nearly at an all-time high of \$210.90/cwt! One week later, the futures were \$14.00/cwt lower. That is a loss of over \$200/head in one week! If you have any assets in the stock market, it is probably best not to look at them.

Fortunately, cattle prices are still historically high, and all indicators suggest that they should continue into 2026 and 2027. That said, the big shake-up over the last few weeks has been a reminder that things can change very rapidly. Are you using the market's current good fortune to prepare for the future? Is the long-term financial health of your ranching enterprise vulnerable to the whims of the latest headlines or the most recent election? What about wars in far-off lands that you have no control over? Do they impact your financial future? You can be sure that these factors have and will continue to impact your business.

The word "diversity" has taken a beating in political circles lately, but I would like to address that word from a different perspective. Let's talk about the diversity of your revenue stream. Financial advisors will tell you that you need a diverse investment portfolio. Businesses that are successful long-term have their assets deployed in many areas.

Henry Ford had the idea that he would make one automobile in one color and do it efficiently enough to make it affordable for the common man. That idea got him off the ground, but that is not who Ford is today. In other words, you can't put all your eggs in one basket!

How diverse is your income stream at the ranch? Certainly, the cattle business is at the core of your business, but do you have other enterprises that contribute to the long-term success of your business? The oil boom of the early 1900s saved many a Texas ranch. In fact, I would suggest that as you think through the iconic ranches in this country, the vast majority of them have significant income streams beyond cattle production. That is not to say that those ranches don't focus on the cattle business. Most are very well-run cattle operations. How-

ever, they have figured out that creating income diversity will even out ranch returns and help them weather difficult cattle markets with peace of mind.

There is a great opportunity for you to learn more about Expanding the Ranch Portfolio with a seminar coming up at USU on May 7 and 8. This seminar is the first in a series of seminars that are part of the newly formed Western Ranch Management Academy (WRMA). WRMA and IFA will be sponsoring a series of seminars addressing all facets of successful ranch management in detail over the next two years. There will be three seminars in 2025 and four in 2026. See page 9 of this newsletter or go to www.wrma.usu.edu.

Please feel free to reach out anytime. david.secrist@usu.edu



Utah Cattlemen's Association Scholarship (\$500)

The UCWA scholarship deadline is on May 31, 2025.

We invite Utah students to apply, from high school seniors to college juniors, through age 25.

Eligibility:

- Grade point average of at least 3.0 for those credit hours
- Resident of Utah
- Parent or guardian must be a current member of the Utah Cattlemen's or Cattlemen's Association

Go to utahcattlemen.org for scholarship application.

If did not win last year, please apply again. You are eligible to apply through your junior year of college.

Utah Cattlewomen's Association



Community in Agriculture

A common phrase used is that it takes a village to raise a kid. The older I get, the more I realize that these villages or communities are critical not only for raising kids but also for giving and receiving support as adults. Agricultural communities are unique. They face challenges that range from changing environmental conditions to public perception to policy changes. These challenges change from year to year and even month to month.

Those who have not experienced the strain and stress from these challenges struggle to understand and empathize with those who have. This makes it critical to have connections within the agricultural community. Human beings need other humans to help them carry their burdens. I would guess that anyone reading this article wouldn't hesitate to help a neighbor who called them up. Most of us want to help and lend a listening ear. Often, we have a harder time reaching out when we struggle. Who do we reach out to? If we reach out, will they listen and will they understand? Or do we not reach out thinking that we will be a bother if we do? I would encourage producers to find communities where they feel comfortable reaching out and talking. These people can be friends you grab a coffee with, a neighbor miles away who you click with, or a group of individuals you met at a farm bureau or cattlemen's meeting.

For the ladies, there is an opportunity to go to one of these events and help build your community. The Utah Cattlewomen's Association has their regional meeting combined with WIRED (Women in Ranching Education and Development), which takes place May 7-9.

On a personal note, two important members of my village were my grandparents. They lived across the road and kept an eye on us when we went gallivanting through the farmyard. Those same grandparents were active in their wider community. My grandma served as president of the Utah Cattlewomen's Association. My grandpa served on several boards, including the Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Farm Bureau,

and on wildlife boards. Their service and dedication to the community not only helped them, but it has helped their children and grandchildren. I have benefited tremendously from their service. Many times, I have attended a conference or event, and someone recognizes my last name. Just like that, I have made a connection and widened my community. As the cattlewomen's board, we encourage opportunities to widen and support our communities. We are excited to see you all at the Region VI meeting as well as WIRED.

Madelyn Kunzler - UCWA Treasurer

UTAH CATTLEWOMEN ASSOCIATION
PROUDLY PRESENT:

ANCW REGION VI AND WOMEN IN RANCHING EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

FEATURED SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- LIVESTOCK HANDLING
- PASTURE MANAGEMENT
- WELLNESS IN AGRICULTURE
- DIVERSIFYING YOUR OPERATION
- BQA CERTIFICATION
- HERD HEALTH HOT TOPICS
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The Economic Value of Beef Cattle Ranching-Based Ecosystem Services in Utah



Do the social benefits of beef outweigh the social costs?

While much of the conversation around beef production focuses on environmental concerns, especially greenhouse gas emissions, there is growing recognition of the positive social and ecological benefits tied to beef cattle ranching. These benefits include both the nutritional value of beef and a broad range of ecosystem services provided by grazing lands.

What Are Ecosystem Services?

Ecosystem services are the benefits humans receive from functioning ecosystems. These include:

- Provisioning services - like food and forage.
- Regulating services - such as air and water purification.
- Supporting services - including soil fertility and pollination.
- Cultural services- such as recreation, open space, and heritage.

In the context of beef production, properly managed grazing lands deliver a suite of these services, often without direct compensation to ranchers.

Scope of Beef Ranching in Utah

According to the Census of Agriculture, Utah is home to:

- 5,774 beef cattle operations
- Managing 3.3 million acres
- Supporting 733,252 beef cows
- Generating \$456.1 million in gross beef revenue
- Employing nearly 20,000 people

- Holding \$5.5 billion in assets

Valuing Ecosystem Services in Economic Terms

The annual economic value of key ecosystem services associated with Utah's beef ranching lands includes:

- Forage Production: \$4.77/acre
- General Ecosystem Services: \$4.97/acre
- Wildlife Recreation: \$24.90/acre
- Total estimated value: \$34.64 per acre.

When applied to 2.7 million acres of rangeland, this equals approximately \$93 million annually in ecosystem services - or \$347.86 per beef cow and \$0.41 per pound of retail beef.

Beyond Beef: Social and Environmental Impact

Beef cattle ranching helps maintain open space, provide habitat for wildlife, support outdoor recreation, and preserve cultural heritage. These benefits are not typically priced into the beef market, but they have real value to society- and risk being lost if ranching becomes economically unviable.

Conclusion

Beef cattle ranching is far more than an agricultural enterprise—it is a system of land management that contributes directly to the preservation of Utah's natural heritage and rural communities. Ecosystem services such as wildlife habitat, clean air and water, scenic

open landscapes, and opportunities for outdoor recreation are critical public goods. These benefits are often taken for granted or excluded from traditional market accounting, yet they hold substantial value for all Utahns, regardless of whether they consume beef.

This study provides a framework for understanding and quantifying the non-market value of ecosystem services associated with beef cattle production. It demonstrates that the contributions of ranching extend well beyond the cattle themselves, encompassing a broader set of ecological, cultural, and social values that enrich the quality of life for current and future generations.

As pressures mount from development, climate variability, and shifting land use priorities, it is vital to recognize the role that ranchers play as stewards of Utah's working lands. Supporting beef producers means investing in landscape-scale conservation, rural economies, biodiversity, and a way of life that shapes the character of the American West.

This study was funded through the Beef Checkoff. For more information on beef research go to beefresearch.org.





WESTERN RANCH MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

Utah State University Extension has joined with Intermountain Farmers Association (IFA) to establish an ongoing ranch management seminar series focused on the Intermountain West. The series will provide high-quality educational opportunities for ranchers and allied industry professionals.

We will hold three seminars in 2025, and four in 2026.

Expanding the Ranch Portfolio, May 7-8

Key topics:

- Diversifying Revenue Streams
- Carbon and Methane Cycles
- Green House Gas Markets
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USU To Begin New Vet Program

Utah State University's College of Veterinary Medicine received assurance of its provisional accreditation with the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA COE), a pivotal step to making USU home to the state's first four-year veterinary degree program.

Dirk Vanderwall, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, said receiving the Letter of Reasonable Assurance from the AVMA COE indicates that USU's program is on track to meet its 11 standards of accreditation, the highest standard of achievement for veterinary medical education in the United States.

Graduation from an institution with AVMA COE accreditation is required for any practitioner of veterinary medicine to be licensed or certified by state licensing boards.

With this announcement, the college opens applications for enrollment to prospective members of the inaugural class. Accepted student's - the Class of 2029 - will begin their studies this fall semester.

"Receipt of the Letter of Reasonable Assurance puts us on the path to fulfill our commitment to graduating exceptional veterinarians who are not only skilled practitioners but also compassionate professionals, ready to take on the challenges of animal health with confidence and competence," Vanderwall said.

USU Interim President Alan L. Smith said, "This is an incredibly important milestone for the College of Veterinary Medicine at USU. Reaching this point speaks

to the committed efforts of the faculty, staff, and administrators in the CVM, USU leadership, and the many stakeholders across the state who fervently supported the establishment of the college."

This milestone has been 118 years in the making, starting in 1907 when trustees of the Agricultural College of Utah, as USU was then known, put forward their vision for a veterinary school. But it wasn't until 2011 that the Utah Legislature voted to create and fund a veterinary medical education program within USU's College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. This launched a partnership with Washington State University, wherein USU vet students spent their first two years of study in Utah before relocating to Pullman, Washington for their final two years and graduation. That partnership will sunset after graduation of the class of 2028. State leaders foresee that a home-grown veterinary education will translate into home-grown veterinary practitioners to bolster Utah's \$1.82 billion agricultural industry, as well as the needs of small animal owners around the state.

USU looks forward to expanding class sizes for the College of Veterinary Medicine in the future, capping at 80 students per year. By summer 2026, construction will be completed on the program's new state-funded Veterinary Medical Education building, designed by Salt Lake City's VCBO Architecture, with Jacobson Construction as general contractor. The new laboratories, classrooms, offices and study spaces will soon be ready to welcome the College of Veterinary Medicine to its permanent home.

ANCW Hires New Executive Director



The American National CattleWomen, Inc. (ANCW) is pleased to announce Brandee Mills as its new executive director. With her experience in non-profit leadership, advocacy for the beef industry, and proven ability to drive strategic initiatives, Mills is poised to lead the organization into its next phase of growth and success.

Mills brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the cattle industry to the executive director role. As a long-time advocate for agriculture, she has held leadership positions, including immediate past president of the Utah CattleWomen's Association and a member of the Utah Beef Council. Her extensive experience in managing nonprofit organizations, overseeing membership engagement, and coordinating large-scale events aligns perfectly with the responsibilities outlined by ANCW. "I am honored to step into the role of executive director for the American National CattleWomen, Inc.," said Mills. "ANCW plays a crucial role in advocating for cattlemen and the beef industry, and I look forward to working closely with the leadership and membership to further the organization's mission and ensure its continued success."

"We are thrilled to have Brandee Mills as our new executive director," said Nikki Weston, 2025-2026 ANCW President. "Her communication and leadership skills, vast expertise, and deep passion for the cattle industry make her the ideal fit to guide ANCW into the future. She is well-equipped to lead our efforts in advocacy, membership engagement, and the development of strategic initiatives that will continue to benefit ANCW and the beef community."

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