



THE UTAH CATTLEMAN



The official publication of the Utah Cattlemen's Association



The government shut down seems to be the biggest news and on top of mind as I write this article. As the 2025 shutdown continues, cattlemen across Utah are beginning to face some challenges that make it harder to operate and threaten the broader agricultural economy. With USDA service centers closed or operating with minimal staff, and critical programs suspended, Utah's livestock producers are navigating a landscape of uncertainty and possible operational disruption.

However, some would say it is not an entirely bad thing when the government shuts down.

The shutdown, triggered by a congressional impasse over funding legislation - primarily whether to extend health benefits to non-citizens, has led to the furlough of nearly half of USDA employees. For many Utah ranchers, this means the suspension of essential services such as loan processing, disaster relief payments, and delays in conservation program support. These services are important, especially during the fall season when ranchers prepare for winter, making important financial decisions, and planning future conservation projects.

One of the most immediate impacts is the halt in USDA-backed loans. Many cattlemen rely on these loans to purchase feed, repair infrastructure, and cover operational costs. With loan processing frozen, producers are left scrambling for alternative financing, often at higher interest rates or with less favorable terms. This places a particularly heavy burden on small and mid-sized ranches that operate on tight margins and lack access to private capital.

Disaster relief programs have also been paused, leaving Utah cattlemen vulnerable to the lingering effects of drought, wildfires, and early snowstorms that have damaged

grazing lands and disrupted herd management. Payments from programs like the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) and the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) are on hold, despite being critical for recovery efforts. Without these funds, some ranchers may be forced to reduce herd sizes or sell off cattle prematurely. These decisions carry long-term economic consequences. Market transparency has suffered as well. The USDA's Market News service, which provides weekly updates on prices and trends, has been suspended during this shutdown. This leaves producers without reliable data to guide sales decisions. This information is important because of the high levels at which the markets are currently trading. For Utah cattlemen, who often sell calves and cull cows in the fall, the lack of pricing information can be a serious handicap.

Animal health services are another area of concern. While emergency programs like screwworm surveillance and avian influenza response continue, routine inspections and disease monitoring have been scaled back. This raises fears about potential outbreaks that could threaten herd health and disrupt supply chains. State-run meat inspection systems, which rely partially on federal funding, are also under strain. If these programs are impacted, slaughter operations could slow, creating backlogs and

Message Continues on Page 2

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 5-6	UTAH SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT - RICHFIELD, UT
NOV 6	MEMORY RANCHES BULL SALE
NOV 8	ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANGUS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY SALE
NOV 18	UCA WINTER CONVENTION EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS
NOV 19-20	WESTERN RANCH MANAGEMENT ACADEMY - CATTLE MARKETING OPTIONS - LOGAN, UTAH
NOV 21	LEACHMAN FALL ROUNDUP BULL SALE
DEC 4-6	UCA WINTER CONVENTION AT LEGACY PARK EVENTS CENTER - HURRICANE, UT - SEE PAGE 4
DEC 5	YARDLEY CATTLE CO FOCUS ON THE FEMALE SALE
DEC 6	LEACHMAN HIGH ALTITUDE BULL SALE
DEC 6	T-HEART RANCH HIGH ALTITUDE FEMALE SALE
JAN 2	UTAH CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SEEDSTOCK MAGAZINE AD COMMITMENT DEADLINE - SEE PAGE 20
FEB 3-5 2026	CATTLE INDUSTRY CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW - NASHVILLE, TN
MAR 28	T-HEART RANCH HIGH ALTITUDE BULL SALE

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President’s Message Continued

further economic pressure on local slaughter facilities.

The economic ripple effects of the shutdown are significant. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, Utah’s gross state product is projected to decline by approximately \$157 million each week as the shutdown continues. For the livestock industry, this translates into reduced consumer spending and delayed federal contracts, which compound the financial stress on cattlemen.

The shutdown is hitting rural communities hard, cutting off access to critical data, delaying payments, and undermining confidence in the farm economy. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) has also highlighted the challenges, noting that while

some essential USDA services continue, disruptions to loan processing and conservation payments are already being felt.


Many producers are turning to local cooperatives, private lenders, and community networks to fill the gaps left by federal inaction. However, these stopgap measures are not sustainable in the long term. The longer the shutdown persists, the greater the risk to Utah’s livestock industry and the rural communities it supports.

We need Congress to end the shutdown by passing a clean continuing resolution that funds essential government programs and services. We hope to see an end to the shutdown soon and I hope that by the time you read this the government will be back in full operation.

Jeff Young - UCA President

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Utah Cattlemen’s Association Winter Convention

December 4-6, 2025 - NEW DAYS & LOCATION!
Washington County Legacy Park - 339 5500 W, Hurricane

Early Bird Registration open until Nov. 18 at www.utahcattlemen.org
We are excited for a the change of scenery and new location. We have adjusted the days to include Saturday this year and are still finalizing the agenda.

All attendees 40 years and younger will receive free meeting registration.

Cattlemen’s college will be taking place on Saturday.

We have a great lineup of speakers and it will be worth your while to attend.

TENTATIVE AGENDA
Thursday, December 4

Extended Board Meeting
UCWA Board Meeting
Trade Show Reception with Food/Prizes
(Two tickets to the 2026 NFR and more)

Friday, December 5

Registration & Tradeshow
UCA/UCWA President Reports
UDAF Commissioner Kelly Pehrson
Collin Woodall, NCBA CEO
Southern Utah Producer Panel
Beef Tallow Marketing
Tradeshow Reception Lunch
Sustainable Intensification
Utah GIP Program Update
Representative Celeste Maloy (Invited)
Awards Banquet and PAC Auction
at the Staheli Barn in Washington

Saturday, December 6

Breakfast and CattleFax Market Update
UCA Business Meeting, Policy Adoption,
Financial Report, and Elections
Elanco Cattlemen’s College & Lunch
James & Jen Sewell, Starting a Ranching
Business From Scratch
Bovine Respiratory Disease
Breakthroughs in Cattle Health

Hotel rooms are available at
Best Western Plus Settler’s Point for \$115
Hotel features free full breakfast, pool,
fitness center, & free parking
To book hotel rooms online go to
<https://rb.gy/hv3ga2>
or call the hotel direct at (435) 986-7788
Ask for the UCA rate.



Winter Convention Scholarships Available!

**Apply today for one of five scholarships
available for young* producers!**

Western AgCredit is pleased to sponsor scholarships for young producers to attend Winter Convention this year. Individuals or couples can apply to be considered for one of five scholarships. The Utah Cattlemen’s Winter Convention blends education, networking, and industry advocacy. The robust agenda includes policy discussions and specialized meetings on federal and private lands, animal health, and marketing. The tradeshow offers a platform for exhibitors and sponsors to showcase innovations and services, while the convention itself serves as a vital forum for policy adoption, elections, and strategic planning for Utah’s cattle industry. **One of the couples selected to attend will randomly be selected to win a pair of NFR tickets for 2026!**

**Applicants must be under the age of 40 to be eligible for the scholarship.*

Scholarship Includes:

- Conference Registration
- Conference Meals
- Hotel Room
- \$100 Fuel Gift Card Per Application

Conference Highlights:

Thursday: Opening reception with door prizes including **2026 NFR tickets!**

Friday: CattleFax market update by Patrick Linnell & NCBA CEO Colin Woodall

Saturday: Cattlemen’s College

[**Apply Here!**](#)

**Application deadline:
November 1, 2025**

**Selected attendees notified by:
November 7, 2025**



Western AgCredit is dedicated to empowering the next generation of agricultural leaders. By sponsoring young cattlemen and cattlemen to attend the Utah Cattlemen’s Convention, which provides access to education, mentorship, and industry connections. Through their AgFuture program, Western AgCredit supports young, beginning, and small producers access credit and other resources to help them succeed in agriculture. For more information, visit: westernagcredit.com/agfuture.





Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Brand Renewal 2025



Brands are renewed statewide every five years, with the next brand renewal taking place in 2025. Brands can now be registered and renewed for 10 years along with the 5 year renewal. Most renewal notices were sent out in April of this year. Previously, your options to renew were by phone or by mailing in a check with your renewal form. Now, you can renew your brand online quickly and securely.

Here's How:

- 1. Go to brands.utah.gov.
- 2. Log in or create an account.
- 3. Search for your brand/earmark using your brand or earmark number.
- 4. Select “My Brand” and enter the PIN from your renewal notice.
- 5. Once your brands are claimed, go to “My Brands.”
- 6. Click “Renew” and follow the steps to complete your payment.

Brands do not expire till the end of the year, but waiting to renew, you may run the risk of losing your brand. If you have questions on the registration and renewal process, please go to <https://ag.utah.gov/farmers/animal-industry/brand-inspection-and-registration/> or call Suzanne Butler our Brand Recorder at 801-982-2240

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Utah Cattlemen’s Association



For the American National Cattle-Women (ANCW) annual legislative trip this last month, I traveled to Washington, D.C. alongside Nikki Weston, who serves as both a UCWA member and the current ANCW President. Even with the government shut-down happening during our visit, we were still able to make great progress and have productive conversations. It was inspiring to see the good things happening in Washington and to know that the voices of cattle producers and agricultural advocates are being heard.

Our delegation met with numerous congressmen, senators, and their staff members from across the country. Many were genuinely receptive to our concerns and willing to take a closer look at the issues we face in the livestock industry. The relationships we continue to build in the nation’s capital are vital to keeping agriculture strong for generations to come.

Some of the key issues we brought forward included:

Modernizing the Endangered Species Act

We encouraged Congress to take a modern, science-based approach to wildlife management, including the potential delisting of wolves and grizzly bears, which continue to create significant challenges for ranchers and rural communities.

The Black Vulture Relief Act

We voiced strong support for this legislation to assist Midwest

ranchers and farmers who experience livestock losses from black vulture predation.

The HELP Act & Transportation Issues

We urged Congress to work closely with the Department of Transportation to secure a permanent exemption for livestock haulers from Hours of Service (HOS) and Electronic Logging Device (ELD) requirements. Livestock hauling is unique, and it’s critical that regulations reflect the realities of animal welfare and transportation logistics. We also requested that Congress consider updating the federal truck weight limits from 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds on Interstate Highways to improve efficiency and safety in livestock transportation.

Wild Horse Management

We discussed the ongoing impact of wild horse populations on Western ranches, emphasizing the need for effective management that balances environmental stewardship with the sustainability of livestock operations.

Despite the challenges surrounding the shutdown, the trip was both productive and encouraging. We left Washington, D.C. feeling optimistic about the future and grateful for the continued efforts of ANCW and UCWA members who stand up for our industry every day.

I highly encourage each of you to reach out to your congressmen and women to express your support on these issues. If you are interested in joining UCWA and

ANCW in our legislative efforts, please feel free to reach out to me. Together, we’re making a difference—one conversation at a time.

Brandee Mills
UCWA Immediate Past President



FALL ROUNDUP BULL & FEMALE SALE

NOVEMBER 21ST, 2025

SALE LOCATION: LEACHMAN \$PROFIT CENTER - MERIDEN, WY
OFFERING 60 CHAROLAIS & 30 STABILIZER BULLS +
MATURE COW DISPERSAL 81 CHAROLAIS BRED COWS, 36 RED ANGUS BRED COWS, 41 BLACK ANGUS BRED COWS, 160 BRED STABILIZER HEIFERS
PRIVATE TREATY OFFERING - 20 AGE-ADVANTAGED RED ANGUS BULLS

HIGH ALTITUDE BULL SALE

DECEMBER 6, 2025

SALE LOCATION: LOMA LIVESTOCK - LOMA, CO
OFFERING 250 LOW PAP RED & BLACK STABILIZER BULLS



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**Saturday,
November 8
1:00pm**

**Box Elder Co.
Fairgrounds-
Tremonton, UT**

- Preview 10 am
- Lunch available
- Friday 5pm Jr Futurity Show
- Friday 4 Assoc. meeting

**New this year
Registered Charolais
Prospect show steers**

UCA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates for Association Leadership

The Utah Cattlemen’s Association is reaching out directly to all members to share an opportunity to serve in a leadership role within the association. Our nominating committee is working to identify dedicated and capable members who care about the future of our organization. If you have ever thought about getting more involved, now is the time.

Each year during our annual business meeting, we elect new officers to help guide the association forward. These roles are vital to our success. There are certain qualifications required to serve on the board. They are as follows:

- Current member of the Utah Cattlemen’s Association.
- Actively engaged in the cattle industry, which may include ownership or management of a herd.

- Willing to commit to serving the association and its members with integrity.
- Willing to represent the association and its members according to the association’s bylaws and principles.
- Willing to support the efforts of NCBA as UCA is the state affiliate organization.
- A strong understanding of the cattle industry and the goals of the association will be beneficial.

What’s Involved:

- Attending our summer meeting and winter convention.
- Participating in quarterly board meetings each year (in-person or virtual).
- Helping with meeting planning, leading a committee, and representing the association at local events.

Please let us know if you meet these qualifications and are willing to be considered for a leadership position. You may also let us know of others whom you think would qualify. Board members serve for one year and if reelected, are eligible to serve for two consecutive years in each position.

Please contact Jacob in the office (801-355-5748) if you are interested. Your information will be shared with the nominating committee. You may contact any nominating committee member with questions about the process and Jacob can provide contact information. We know there are strong leaders across our membership, and we hope to hear from you.

UCA Nominating Committee
Mark Wintch, Tracy Hatch,
Dan Crozier, and Jeff Young



WESTERN RANCH MANAGEMENT ACADEMY



Utah State University Extension has joined with Intermountain Farmers Association (IFA) to provide high-quality educational opportunities for ranchers and allied industry professionals. We'll have four more in 2026!

Seating is limited!
\$200

Cattle Marketing Options for the Western Rancher

November 19-20th

Key topics:

- Value-added marketing opportunities for cow/calf producers – Cattle Fax
- A progressive rancher's perspective on cattle marketing
- What brings value to the cattle feeder
- The role of animal health in marketing
- Retained Ownership: A rancher’s perspective
- Getting more value from cull cows
- Risk management options for the rancher
- Cattle Fax market outlook

Nov. 19-20, 2025
Wed 1-7pm
Thurs 8-12PM

Utah State University
Champion Club,
Maverik Stadium
Logan, UT

In cooperation with



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Registration & Housing NOW

CATTLE2026 CON26

NASHVILLE MUSIC CITY CENTER FEBRUARY 3-5



convention.ncba.org

TEXT BEEF TO 877-319-2142

Much To Be Thankful For

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



Before writing this article, I looked back at the November 2024 article I wrote for this publication. I noted that a 500-pound steer was selling for \$3.00/pound. That same steer is now selling for well over \$4.00/pound! The beef cow inventory is now at its lowest point since 1962. I am an old man, and even that is before I was born! With cattle supplies continuing to tighten down the supply chain, it's not unreasonable to think that we have not yet seen the highs for this cattle cycle. In addition to high cattle prices, feed inputs are reasonably low. Hay prices have moderated from the drought-stressed market of a couple of years ago. A predicted record corn yield should keep feed-yard cost of gains low with strong demand for feeder cattle. There is some indication that the cattle numbers have hit their low, and the industry may be preparing for expansion. However, few, if any, prognosticators expect the U.S. to return to 32 million head of beef cows.

In the midst of good times, it is wise to pause and count our blessings and, at the same time, prepare for change. Beef prices are not the only thing that has been affected by inflation over the last five years. Nearly everything needed to operate the ranch costs more than it did before the 2020 pandemic. Just as we don't expect cattle prices to go back down to levels seen even two years ago, it is safe to assume that many of the inputs required to run a ranch won't go down either. Be careful not to get caught up in gross revenue and stay focused on your

margin. These good times are an excellent opportunity to pay down debt and replace worn-out equipment or facilities. Be prepared to operate leaner when the margins get tighter.

With that said, we have much to be thankful for. I don't recall a better time in the cattle business in my lifetime. There is cause for celebration and especially gratitude. Whatever your beliefs, it's safe to say that none of us creates success by ourselves. No doubt, ranching is hard work, and plenty of blood, sweat, tears, and capital have been invested to get to the point we are now. However, as I reflect on my years in the beef business, the industry has been left for dead more than once. We have weathered interest rates in the 70's and 80's that are beyond comprehension today. The war on fat had many people convinced that beef was unhealthy at best and toxic at worst. We were also told that our cattle were destroying the earth on which we all live. The chaos of 9/11 followed closely by BSE, threw the markets into a tailspin that lasted several years. The recent COVID pandemic was a ride that none of us want to repeat.

Through all these difficult times, I see a few common threads that have held our business together and allowed us to thrive. First and foremost are the determination and ingenuity of the American cattle producer to persevere and con-



Photo Courtesy of Larry Blaine

tinue to find a better way. We are producing more beef with fewer resources than at any time in the history of the world. Second is education/research and product development funded by the Beef Check-off helped improve the product and ensured that beef stayed in the center of the plate for consumers in the U.S. and around the world.

Finally, we should be thankful for a free country that allows us the opportunity to seek out our dreams in the best way we see fit. Yes, there are problems, and when we get those solved, there will be more. However, for 250 years, we have been overcoming problems and keeping our country great and free. Recent events in the world and in our own state have been very disheartening. I firmly believe that, regardless of political affiliation, the good people far outweigh the bad. It is important to remember that as long as good people engage in the democratic process, allowing their voices to be heard and their votes to be counted, we will remain free for centuries to come.

Have a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! Please feel free to reach out anytime. david.secris@usu.edu

Utah Cattlemen's Association

"Working For You and Your Operation Since 1890"

UCA has been working for cattle and beef producers in the state of Utah since 1890. We are grassroots driven. Every day we work for cattlemen in the state of Utah. Our success depends upon you, our members.

Advocacy & Representation

UCA actively advocates for the interests of cattlemen at the local, state, and national levels. We encourage cattle-friendly legislation and fight actions that harm the cattle industry.

Networking

Connect with ranchers like you through sales, events, and conventions. Meet with industry professionals & build valuable relationships.

Education

Stay informed about the latest industry trends, best practices, and technological advancements. Receive the Utah Cattleman newsletter.

Secure the future of Utah agriculture. Contribute to the development of policies and initiatives to pave the way for the next generation of cattle producers. Join us in ensuring a prosperous future for Utah's cattle industry.

UCA Membership Application

New Member: Yes___ No___ Recruited by:_____

Name _____ Email _____

Spouse Name _____ Email _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Utah Cattlemen's Association (State Dues)

Cow/Calf Producers

Cattle Owned: Dues

0 to 50 head.....\$100
51 to 100 head.....\$130
101 to 200 head.....\$160
201 to 300 head.....\$190
301 to 400 head.....\$220
401 to 500 head.....\$250
501 to 750 head.....\$325
750 to 1000 head.....\$400
Over 1000 head.....\$125 + .30/hd

Feedlot Operators

\$175 plus 10 Cents Per Head
One Time Capacity

Associate Business Member

NON-VOTING
(MAY NOT OWN CATTLE)

State Dues.....\$150
National Dues...\$213

Cattlemen's Dues

A portion of the state cattlemen's membership will be contributed to the cattlemen for women's state membership.

Optional ANCW (national) dues are an additional \$60
Please pay directly to ANCW - Refer to ANCW.org

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (National Dues) Cow/Calf Producers

Cattle Owned: Dues

0 to 100 head.....\$180
101 to 250 head.....\$360
251 to 500 head.....\$540
501 to 750 head.....\$779
751 to 1000 head.....\$1,080
1001 to 1250 head.....\$1,381
1251 to 1500 head.....\$1,679
1501 to 1750 head.....\$1,980
1751 to 2000 head.....\$2,281
2001 head and up.....\$2,281 + \$0.4560/head

Feedlot/Stocker Operators

\$180 + \$0.4560/head

Make Checks Payable To:

Utah Cattlemen's Association

PO Box 540568 • North Salt Lake, Utah 84054

(801) 355-5748

Pay by credit card at www.utahcattlemen.org

State Dues: _____

National Dues: _____

TOTAL: _____

Utah Agencies Collaborate on Crisis Preparedness Training



Workshop strengthens cross-agency communication and response planning for Utah’s agriculture industry

Representatives from the Utah Beef Council, Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Utah State University Extension, Division of Wildlife Services, Department of Natural Resources, and Dairy West recently came together for a Crisis Preparedness Workshop led by staff from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) through the Beef Checkoff program.

The workshop, held October 10 in Salt Lake City, focused on helping Utah’s agricultural and natural resource leaders strengthen their ability to respond effectively during industry crises. NCBA’s Issues and Reputation Management team guided participants through key concepts including issues management, media relations, and crisis communication planning.

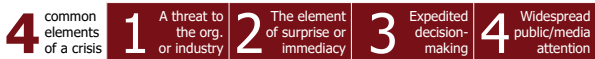
Attendees learned how to distinguish between ongoing issues and true crises, establish a clear communication plan, and ensure that accurate, timely information is shared with both the public and industry partners. Through hands-on group exercises and scenario discussions, participants developed frameworks to align messaging across agencies, coordinate joint briefings, and build consistent consumer communication strategies during emergencies.

The training also covered Utah-specific media monitoring data highlighting top issues facing the beef industry in both traditional and social media. Additionally, it explored how proactive communication can help maintain consumer confidence in beef and other agricultural products.

By working together, these organizations are helping ensure that Utah’s agriculture industry is prepared to speak with one voice when challenges arise, protecting both producers and the reputation of the state’s food system.

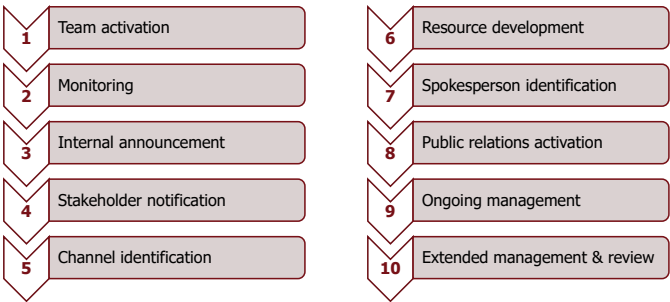


Issues vs. Crises



Issues Levels		
NCBA typically categorizes issues as yellow, orange or red depending on the situation. This aids in determining strategy and necessary action steps.		
YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Isolated situation (one operation, company or production practice)Visibility outside the industry is limitedMinimal level of inquiries from stakeholders, producers or mediaImportant to alert relevant stakeholders, but no widespread immediate action necessary or recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Isolated situation (one operation, company or production practice)Visibility and scope broader than yellow with clear consumer concernReputation damage is possibleModerate level of inquiries from stakeholders, producers or mediaImportant to alert relevant stakeholders, and immediate action may be necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Industry-wide issueBroad scopeHigh visibilityHigh potential to impact industryCritical to alert stakeholders, plan consumer outreach and take immediate action

Crisis Communications Protocol



Getting Started

- Team** Internal Crisis Team Worksheet
 - Identifying your core issues team that will be responsible for managing a crisis
- Audiences** Key Audience Worksheet
 - Outline your key audiences to insure you don't forget to communicate with an important group during a crisis
- Spokespeople** Spokespeople Identification Worksheet
 - Identify various spokespersons to speak to media and serve as experts during a crisis

RANCHING IS HARD. PRF SHOULDN'T BE.

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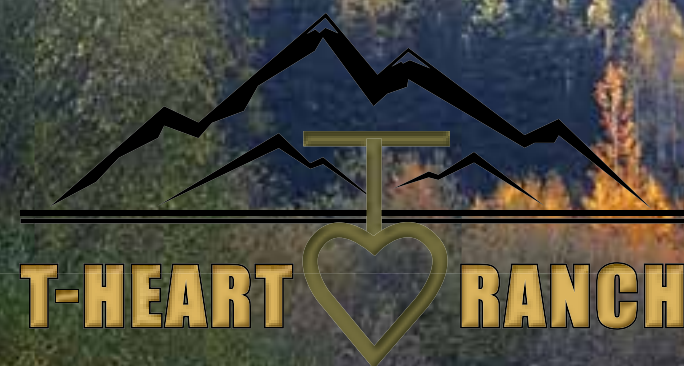
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HIGH ALTITUDE *Female Sale*

December 6, 2025 || LaGarita, CO
1,000+ HEAD OFFERED

950 COMMERCIAL BRED HEIFERS || 50 REGISTERED BRED HEIFERS || 100 THREE-YEAR-OLD ANGUS COWS BRED TO HEREFORD BULLS
95 REGISTERED BRED MATURE COW DISPERSAL

- Uniform load lots and small groups available
- Known calving dates and ages, all bred to PAP Tested T-Heart bulls and top Angus sires
- Heifers are AI bred to GW Medicine Man
- Cattle located at both ranches – LaGarita, CO and Pauls Valley, OK

TWO RANCHES – ONE PROGRAM

We have recently added a new location near Pauls Valley, OK.

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FEBRUARY 2026

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