



The official publication of the Utah Cattlemen's Association



My name is Darrell Holden and I am currently serving as a second vice president on the Utah Cattlemen's Association board.

I am married to my beautiful wife Angie, and we have two exceptional kids, Hailey and Dalton and one outstanding son in law, Hyrum Richins. We live on the edge of the West Desert in Vernon, Utah where we have a cow/calf operation. Both my wife and I also work full time jobs. I am a 5th generation rancher and continue to help out a little on our families' legacy ranch, operated by my cousin

and her husband, Marjie and Phil Adams. Our heritage is deep and strong. We honor traditions while dealing with the opportunities and challenges that come along in 2025. I am a fierce advocate for agriculture and ranching in a state that continues to become urbanized like a snowball headed for Hawaii. I use the stages I stand on as a cowboy poet, to lend a voice to the beauty of our lives and to educate those with no connection to the land.

Many of you knew Jim Ekker very well. He and my mom were first cousins and grew up together out on the ranch. I sure looked up to Jim as a cattleman, as a past president of the UCA, as a neighbor, and as a friend. His passing this past week has surely left a hole in our lives. I send my sincere condolences to his family, who we love with all our hearts. As I've thought about what he meant to me, I have remembered so many good men and women and their timeless advice I was handed. I thought I'd share a few with you all.

"Let 'em string boys." Words Uncle Bernell would say when the cowherd was trying to negotiate a steep mountain trail. Amazing how slowing down made things go faster.

"Never stop learning. Knowledge isn't a plateau, you're either learning or forgetting." Something my Grandma Ekker would tell me as a clueless teenager. She forgot more than I will ever know about cows.

doing right." My Dad, anytime we did anything from cutting posts, to assessment work, to farming, to showing steers. Dad wasn't wrong and he still isn't.

"It's ok to get your ox out of the mire. But we probably shouldn't push them in there." John Olson told us that one Sunday, when we noticed most of our neighbors weren't with us. I spent a large part of my life pushing stuff into the mire instead of resting from labors on Sundays. It's amazing how things work out when I listen to John.

"It takes the same amount of feed for a good cow as a bad one. Ya may as well have good cattle." Steve Moreland, a good friend from the Nebraska Sandhills.

"Horses, kids and dogs. Ya get out of 'em exactly what ya put in." Baxter Black, the late cowboy poet, and someone I sure admired.

"It's just fine to stand up for yourself, don't let people walk on ya." Jim Ekker to his girls throughout their lives.

And I'll leave you all to ponder the tidbits of wisdom you've gleaned from those you respect and love. The influence of incredible men and women in all our lives is one of the choicest blessings we are ever given. When they pass away, it is up to us to step up and fill the roles they held.

"If it's worth doing, it's worth

Message Continues on Page 2

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UTAH CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 540568
NORTH SALT LAKE, UT 84054-0568
WWW.UTAHCATTLEMEN.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 4-14	UTAH STATE FAIR
SEP 12	ANNUAL BEEF FEAST AT STATE FAIR
SEP 16-18	PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - FLAGSTAFF, AZ
SEP 20	AG DAY BARBECUE - LOGAN, UT - P. 11
NOV 5-6	UTAH SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT - RICHFIELD, UT
DEC 4-6	UCA WINTER CONVENTION AT LEGACY PARK EVENTS CENTER - HURRICANE, UT - SEE PAGE 4
FEB 3-5 2026	CATTLE INDUSTRY CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW - NASHVILLE, TN

We aren't always going to agree on every single issue we face. But it's up to us to stand together as Utah ranchers.

We face a myriad of challenges from the federal, state and local levels. It can be daunting to look for the positive when the sky doesn't rain and fires race across the mountain ranges we love. But as the western clouds reflect the colors at the close of another day, I would humbly submit that this life we live is the greatest way of life the world has ever known. We are caretakers of cattle, stewards of the land and keepers of tradition. Let's continue to stand together as an association and find ways to encourage others to join us.

The greatest benefit for joining the UCA has been the relationships, the friendships and the family I have made. I look up to so many of you good people. It's my hope we can honor Jim by being tough, smart, forward thinkers like he was. Gonna miss ya pard. Glad you're back with Linda and free from all the pain. See ya sometime.

Darrell Holden
UCA 2nd Vice President

Jim Ekker – 1942-2025 • 82 Years



James Harrison (Jim) Ekker, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at the age of 82. He was born on December 18, 1942, in Springville, Utah, the youngest of 4 children of John Gerrit (Jack) Ekker Sr and Florence Harrison Ekker. He was raised on the Ekker Ranch on the south side of the Sheeprock Mountains in Tooele County and in Springville, Utah, where he attended school. The ranch and his dad's homestead in the west desert were his favorite place to be.

Jim spent his entire life in the ranching business. He and his brother, Gary, worked full-time alongside their dad for many years, and later he consolidated his own operations in Vernon, Utah. In addition to his commercial herd, Jim established Ekker Herefords, where he raised and sold some of the best registered Hereford cattle in the state. Jim worked tirelessly to make his ranch the best it could be. He was very knowledgeable about every aspect of the cattle business, as well as many other topics. He continued ranching until the end of his life, one of the very few people who earn a living solely from ranching and farming.

Jim met Linda Lee Pehrson, from Vernon, in 1969, and they were married on June 5, 1971, in Vernon. Their marriage was later solemnized May 28, 1977, in the Manti Utah Temple. They worked their ranch together in Vernon, where they raised 5 children and spent the rest of their lives. Jim was very devoted to his family and loved them fiercely. He taught them all to work hard, to care for the land and animals, to be honest and generous, and to help each other. He was proud of his heritage and shared that pride with his family. He loved the cattle industry and served for many years on the board of the Utah Cattlemen's Association, including as President from 2005-2007. He also loved rodeos (especially the Ute Stampede in Nephi, Utah), deer hunting, a good horse, a good steak, Diet Pepsi, playing the guitar, and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many positions during his life.

Jim is survived by his five children: Matthew John (Debbie) Ekker of Taylorsville, Utah; Michelle (Tony) Adams of Tooele, Utah; Mary Lou Ekker of Tooele, Utah; Melinda (Brady) Johnson of Vernon, Utah; and Holly Christina (Nate) Sorensen of Payson, Utah; 16 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 50 years, and his siblings: Leta Bartholomew, John Gerrit Ekker Jr., and Louise Schouten.

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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 will be open soon 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
 Past President's Breakfast
 General Session
 UCA/UCWA President Reports
 Collin Woodall, NCBA CEO
 Southern Utah Producer Panel
 Tradeshow Reception Lunch
 Sustainable Intensification
 Awards Banquet and PAC Auction
 at the Staheli Barn in Washington

Saturday, December 6

Marketing Breakfast and
 CattleFax Market Update
 with Patrick Linnell
 UCA Business Meeting, Policy Adoption,
 Financial Report, and Elections
 Cattlemen's College & Lunch

Hotel rooms are available at
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Legacy Park
Hurricane, UT



Dec. 4-6, 2025



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.





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For more information contact:
Ed Hall at edhalljr3@gmail.com

How It Works

1. Bring both testes into the scrotum.
2. Apply TestiGrip by sliding onto the neck of the scrotum.
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5. Release the band and remove the TestiGrip.



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Jodi and Calf



Utah Cattlewomen's Association



The future of Utah's cattle industry depends on the next generation. These are the ones who will carry forward

the traditions, values, and innovations that keep our operations strong and sustainable.

It's more important than ever to engage young people in ranching, not just in the day-to-day work, but in the conversations and decision-making that shape our future. Involving youth in the Utah Cattlemen's Association (UCA) and Utah Cattlewomen's Association (UCWA) provides them with opportunities to learn from experienced producers, gain leadership skills, and understand the issues that affect our livelihoods.

Whether they're returning to the family ranch or starting their own path in agriculture, these young leaders will be the driving force behind the industry's resilience.

One of the most effective ways to involve the next generation is by encouraging them to attend UCA and UCWA meetings and events. These gatherings aren't just for networking—they're where policy is discussed, challenges are addressed, and strategies are developed to protect and grow the cattle industry in our state.

When youth have a seat at the table, they gain a firsthand understanding of how producer voices influence legislation, markets, and industry standards. This knowledge empowers them to advocate for agriculture and prepares them to lead with confidence when it's their turn to take the reins.

Mentorship is also a key part of this process. Experienced cattlemen and cattlemen can make a lasting impact by inviting younger producers to ride along, participate in marketing decisions, or serve on committees. These shared experiences help bridge the gap between generations, blending time-tested wisdom with fresh ideas and new technologies.

By investing in the next generation—through guidance, education, and encouragement—we ensure that Utah's cattle industry remains strong, innovative, and united for decades to come. The future is already here; it's up to us to equip it with the tools it needs to thrive.


Youth involvement also strengthens our sense of community within

the Utah Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Associations. When young members see that they are valued, heard, and given real opportunities to contribute, they are more likely to stay engaged and committed to the organization long-term. Their energy and enthusiasm can reinvigorate meetings, inspire new projects, and bring fresh solutions to challenges we've faced for generations.

By fostering a culture where every age group has a role to play, we not only secure the future of our industry but also build a stronger, more connected association that can face whatever comes next, together.

Michelle Merrill
UCWA President




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Meat Foundation Update on Beef Checkoff Efforts

The 2025 Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting provided an opportunity for contractors to the Beef Checkoff to share highlights of their efforts on behalf of beef producers. Programmatic efforts on producer communications; industry information; foreign marketing; research; promotion; and consumer information were shared during the Highlights Session on July 8.

The Meat Foundation, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, provided updates on outreach efforts at the Consumer Food Safety Education Conference and newly funded post-harvest beef safety research. Additionally, the Summer Business Meeting is the venue for prospective contractors to share proposals for fiscal year 2026 with program committees. Evaluations and committee feedback will be used to refine proposals for presentation to the Beef Promotion Operating Committee in September where funding awards will be made.

Beef Safety Research

The Foundation, through its post-harvest beef safety research contract with the Beef Checkoff, awarded several grants in response to Beef Safety Request for Proposals issued in fall 2024. Overviews of four of the newly funded projects follow.

Historical analysis of Salmonella using pre-existing data: trends in outbreaks, genomics, and geographic factors, University of Georgia

Emerging pathogen monitoring programs, such as wastewater monitoring for COVID-19, have

gained critical focus as a possible way to predict the next outbreak and assist in development of management tools before the first wave of illnesses hits. These approaches can be extended to beef-related Salmonella outbreaks by leveraging the wealth of surveillance data that is collected into the NCBI Pathogen Detection Isolates Browser.

This study will develop a framework for understanding where, why, and how certain Salmonella strains emerge to cause outbreaks. A short-list of warning signs and monitoring recommendations will be developed to predict the next outbreak before it happens.

Rapid identification of ground beef and beef trim samples exceeding a Salmonella threshold level, Kansas State University and Cargill

The study will determine the impact of the Salmonella inoculation method on various Salmonella quantification and limit of detection (LOD) methods. Additionally, the study will determine the reliability and repeatability of various Salmonella quantification and LOD methods for the identification of non-intact beef samples harboring Salmonella equal to or above a threshold. Findings will address beef industry concerns regarding specific methods.

Effect of organic acid components on the inhibition of Clostridium perfringens during extended cooling of uncured meat products and the inhibition of Listeria monocytogenes during extended refriger-

ated storage, University of Wisconsin-Madison Food Research Institute

This research will compare the relative efficacy and synergistic effect of the active components (lactate, propionate, acetate/diacetate) found in clean label growth inhibitors (such as cultured sugar and vinegar-based products) on the inhibition of Clostridium perfringens in a model-uncured beef system, with primary focus on extending Phase 1 cooling (120 to 80°F). It will also validate inhibition of Listeria monocytogenes during extended refrigerated storage of a model deli meat system formulated with organic acid salts used to control C. perfringens.

Targeting Foodborne Pathogens in the Beef Industry through an Integrated Analysis of the Beef Processing System, Texas Tech University, University of Nebraska, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center USDA-ARS, and Auburn University

This research will take a comprehensive approach to targeting Salmonella and Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli (STEC) conducted through optimization of sampling techniques, microbial detection and microbial quantification methods combined with microbiome and metagenomic analysis to enable mitigation strategies and validation techniques to impact pathogen presence in beef products.





College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences
UtahStateUniversity

Saturday
**September
20th**

**BBQ
STARTS AT
3:00 PM**

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Fall Nutrition

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



With the coming of September, another long, hot, and dry summer is coming to a close. As I have traveled around the region this summer, much of the range looks tough, and the cows are not showing the bloom that they may have had in years past.

I have been asked recently about the best approach to putting weight on thin cows. Although the specific application may vary across the state, two principles apply everywhere. First, reduce the cow's energy output. Second, increase her energy input. It is truly a simple math problem.

First, address the energy output. The single largest energy drain on the cow is her calf. Weaning the calf even 30 days earlier can change the energy balance significantly. Additionally, if grass conditions are poor, the calf is not likely to grow at a two-pound or better rate as it should be at this time of year. With a calf that is approaching 6 months old, high-quality feed is better provided directly to the calf. At this age, a calf will convert the feed to sellable gain much more efficiently than if that same feed were supplied to the cow.

Refer to the recent USU Fact sheet, Weaning Beef Calves (<https://extension.usu.edu/beef/research/weaning-beef-calves>) for more information on weaning and calf nutrition.

Second, focus on improving the energy intake of the cow. Fall (after weaning) is the best and cheapest

time to improve cow body condition. The weather is usually moderate, and the cows' nutritional demands are at their lowest. Cows entering winter with a body condition score of 4 or lower will struggle to maintain or gain the necessary fat stores to give birth to a healthy calf and to breed back next spring. Don't allow a short-term problem to become a long-term disaster by not addressing the cow's body condition in the fall.

It is essential to assess the current situation. Do you have adequate but poor-quality grass, or is the quantity of grass an issue? Do you need to supplement or replace the forage resource? Solving the nutrition equation hinges on the answer to these questions.

If grass quantity is adequate but quality is poor, protein supplementation is the answer. Providing a relatively small amount of supplemental protein will increase dry matter intake by 20%. Often, protein supplementation alone will solve the energy problem IF protein is deficient in the forage.

Depending on ranch logistics, commercial protein can be provided in the form of tubs, blocks, meals or range cubes. Additionally, alfalfa hay can be used as a relatively inexpensive protein supplement when fed in small amounts.

There are more variables than we can address in this article, but it boils down to the cost of the supplement per unit of protein and the cost of delivering that protein to the cow. Many of the higher cost supplements have the advantage of being much more convenient

to feed, especially if the cows are spread out over a great distance and still graze native range. Less expensive supplements may need to be fed three times per week. Understand your delivery cost and find the best solution for your operation.

A deeper dive on this topic will be coming in the form of a USU Fact Sheet covering cow supplementation. It will soon be available at www.extension.usu.edu/beef.

If forage quantity is an issue, protein supplementation will not fix the problem. Protein supplements increase grass consumption and will not be effective if grass is not available. In this case, a forage substitute needs to be found. This year, hay is reasonably inexpensive. A mix of lower-quality forage (straw or grass) with alfalfa hay will provide the needed nutrition to help your cows gain weight. Silage can also be very effective.

Best of luck with the gather this fall!

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





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Improved Flavor

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Hybrid Vigor

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The enhanced meat quality and potential higher yield grades lead to increased profitability.

Akaushi cattle are successful across all climates, including cold, heat and high altitude.



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Crossbreeding with Akaushi bulls can significantly increase the percentage of Prime-grade carcasses in a herd. Research indicates that crossbreeding Akaushi with other breeds can result in a considerable rise in the number of Prime carcasses in the first generation. Akaushi crossbreds consistently achieve higher USDA quality grades, with some trials showing over 85% of carcasses grading USDA Prime when Akaushi bulls are crossed with Angus cows. Another source notes Akaushi-sired calf crops averaging 51.4% Prime and 47.4% Choice. Another source states that Akaushi genetics have doubled prime grade and improved yield in crosses with 13 different breeds.

Utah Cattlemen's Association Membership Matters

Your membership in the Utah Cattlemen's Association is critical to the continued vitality of the cattle industry in Utah. We invite you to join or renew your Utah Cattlemen's Association membership. The cattlemen's association works hard, in good years and in bad, to defend and protect the cattle industry in our state. By joining UCA, you are not only protecting your own interests, you're also investing in the future of the cattle industry. The more members we have, the louder our voice and influence can be. We also encourage you to join the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. They work diligently on issues facing the entire industry combatting burdensome tax regulations, ensuring our freedom to operate and pass on the farm or ranch to the next generation.

While you are enjoying the best markets your ranch has ever seen, it would be a good investment to place a little support towards the industry with your membership dollars. Membership application and renewal can be done at www.utahcattlemen.org. If you are unsure of your membership status you can check online or call the office at (801) 355-5748.

Please note that you will still receive this publication even if you are not a current member.

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

\$12.50 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.....\$170

101 to 250 head.....\$340

251 to 500 head.....\$510

501 to 750 head.....\$736

751 to 1000 head.....\$1,020

1001 to 1250 head.....\$1,304

1251 to 1500 head.....\$1,586

1501 to 1750 head.....\$1,870

1751 to 2000 head.....\$2,154

2001 head and up.....\$2,154 + \$0.4307/head

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TOTAL: _____





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