OREGON CATTLEMAN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2025



OFFICER & BOARD NOMINEES

Get to know 2025 OCA nominees before the convention

WOLF DEPREDATION

An updated analysis of the economic impact

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ON THE COVER

"Bob Harrell at the winter calving grounds, a place we call Sunnyslope." Photographed by Beth Harrell Mackenzie, Harrell Ranch Hereford & Angus, Baker City



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2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

November 17th, Registration Deadline

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Enviro Advocacy Groups grow, but where are cattle industry advocates?

Matt McElligott | 541-805-8210 OCA President

This morning, I read an article penned by Andy Juris a fourth generation Washington farmer and former WAWG President. It was very well written chronicling the rise and fall of agriculture advocacy. The article gives historical reference to the hard times that farmers faced during the dust bowl and the depression era. It led the reader all the way from the hardship and heartache of ninety to 100 years ago to the present day. How out of those very hard times men came together with the resolve to never struggle like that again. They knew, as we do today, that agriculture is the lifeblood of a nation. Food security is national security. They also knew that droughts, floods, fires, and poor markets were inevitable and always would be, but what if a safety net were built to help those producers that suffered the unavoidable? Out of those early meetings rose producer organizations that advocated for their industry at the statehouse and the Whitehouse. Safety nets that we still use today like crop insurance and disaster recovery programs were born. These programs have been expanded to include the cattle industry like PRF, LRP and so on. In those early days, producer led organizations like the wheat league and the cattlemen's association were strong locally, statewide, and nationally. Producers learned firsthand that their voices would be heard and policy advancing their issues would be written if they stood together, united. It worked and it still does to this day. The last half of his article really resonated with me as I wrap up my two-year term as President of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. He outlines the fall of agriculture advocacy organizations because of the complacency of the modern-day farmer/rancher. Here is a direct quote from his article as he sees it, and I agree.

"Because in the decades since, we-sons and daughters of their sacrifice, have grown comfortable, complacent, and too often self-absorbed. Where hardship once united family farms into a common cause, prosperity has bred division, entitlement, and neglect, instead of asking what we can build for those who follow, too many of us ask what we can take for ourselves."

As President I have too often witnessed the

difficulty in getting people to volunteer, to step up and help. I have seen in the past 20 years the decline of attendance at the mid-year and annual meetings. I get it. We are all busy, but are we too busy to advance our industry? To make it better for us and the next generation?

Over the past 20 years I have also witnessed the growth of environmental advocacy groups. I have been in meetings sitting next to or right across from many of these groups. My most recent was a rules advisory committee (RAC) with Oregon Department of Agriculture. The RAC was to set the rules to accompany senate bill 777, the newly passed wolf compensation bill that will go into effect January 1, 2026. Why was a pro-wolf advocacy group setting wolf compensation rules for the cattle industry in Oregon? Because apathy opened the door and they walked in. I deal with these groups on public lands grazing issues, private lands issues, water issues and yes, ESA issues. Who gave these anti-agriculture groups such power as to have a voice in our industry yet have no skin in the game? Their membership did. You see they just copied the play book that we wrote one hundred years ago and their members, like ours of days gone by, are active and involved. I have seen them line up to testify in Salem on legislation that is essential to our industry, like water, land use, and wolves. They think nothing of taking a day off work to do this because they are passionate and believe in the cause.

If you have read this far into the article and have been thinking, "who the heck does this guy think he is?"

That is good, maybe I've awakened you. As 2025 concludes soon, I believe that gross sales of cattle and calves will be the number one agriculture commodity in Oregon. Surpassing for the first time nursery. Times are good in the cattle industry right now, the best I have ever seen and may ever see. We are the sleeping giant in Oregon! It is time we awaken as an industry, come together, and use our united voice and economic power to secure a prosperous future for ourselves, our sons and daughters, our grandsons, and granddaughters and those that follow them.



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From the desk of your Executive Director

Tammy Dennee, CMP, CAE | 541-980-6887 OCA Executive Director

Fall is definitely in the air as we welcome cool temperatures and a mixed bag of wind and rain. Many of you are tending to your herds and preparing for winter. It has been a busy season for your OCA team as we planned and executed another successful CattlePAC event in late September. By the time you read this, September will feel like ancient history. I am very happy to report that the CattlePAC event welcomed a record crowd and raised record dollars to be distributed following the Primary races later next year. We cannot thank the Malott family and their amazing staff enough for their generosity in allowing OCA to kick off their customer appreciation days with our event. If you happen to cross paths with Mark or Ann Malott, please express appreciation. We sure couldn't host this event without their partnership. The CattleWomen knocked it out of the park again this year with their beautiful desserts that were auctioned following dinner. Special thanks to Jake Seavert, OCA's Animal Health and Brand Co-Chair, for serving as Auctioneer for the evening. We were blessed with college students from Corban University, Salem Campus, and Willamette University who served as interns for the evening. If you missed this year's PAC event, but want to contribute to the PAC, you can do so at any time. The form is on the website at www.orcattle.com or you can place a check in the mail and mark the memo line as PAC donation. If you prefer, you can call the office, and we will be happy to assist you with a donation. Please mark your calendars for the 2026 event - September 24 in Powell Butte. You won't want to miss the fun of this unique fundraising opportunity that incorporates the Central Oregon Ranch Supply vendors, so you can shop while you bid.

Convention is on the horizon and will be here before any of us know it. The schedule is action-packed, starting with the CattleWomen's Annual Meeting kicking off on Thursday. We have added two additional offerings on Thursday: A Wolf Conflict Conversation and a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Workshop. The BQA event will include hands-on workshops in the new Equine Center, co-located with the Pendleton Convention Center. It is so exciting to incorporate the Equine Center into this year's programming. In 2024, the building was quite ready for occupancy. More than 20 educational workshops have been woven into the convention schedule to provide something for every attendee. If policy is your focus, you can dive into the committee meetings to build resolutions and actively participate in policy discussions. The exhibit hall is filling up, and we expect to sell out. You don't want

to miss the opportunity to interact with the exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, and fellow ranchers. This year, we will have several workshops geared towards the younger producer. Be sure to encourage participation from the next generation. In fact, a special rate of just \$50 has been established for the Friday of the Convention to allow students in 8th grade, college age to participate and view the activities of the convention. Of course, the hope is to secure their interest and keep them coming back for many years. If you're not yet registered, please complete the form in this magazine, go online at www.orcattle.com and complete the form, or just give us a call and we will be glad to assist you. We can't wait to welcome you to the 2025 Annual Convention.

This year's opening General Session at the convention is special because this is the year new OCA leadership will be elected. Nominations can be made from the floor at the first general session following the presentation of the slate of nominees. Once the slate is complete, the ballots will be cast at the meeting on Saturday morning in the General Membership meeting. If you are a member and wish to vote, you will need to be present. There is no charge to attend the meeting of the General Membership. Please let us know when to expect you so we can have your voting card ready when you arrive for the 9:00 am start.

We continue to welcome the renewal of members for the 2025 year. If you know of someone who has not renewed their membership, please encourage them to do so. Membership dues are the primary source of revenue for OCA. Your ongoing financial support allows OCA to continue to be on the front line in the Capitol, with agency officials, and in Washington, DC. Thank you in advance for continuing to make OCA membership a priority in your budget.

Finally, the Wildfire Stewardship Grant Application system has been activated for those who were affected in either the 2024 or the 2025 fires. An application is published in this magazine and is available online at www.orcattle.com. If you would like to donate, we have published the donation form in this issue of the magazine and made it available on the website at www.orcattle.com.

In October, I celebrated my fifth anniversary with OCA. It is a privilege to serve the largest commodity (for human consumption) in Oregon. Thank you for your ongoing support and words of encouragement.

God bless you and your family as you continue to produce the most desired protein by consumers. Tammy Dennee, CMP, CAE - OCA Executive Director •

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Wrapping up fall special session and Legislative days

Rocky DallumPolitical Advocate

This fall has been dynamic for an off-election cycle year, where typically there isn't too much policy work. Still, the Special Session, the impact of federal changes on state government, and constant churn in the Legislature are keeping us busy. As we recap the past month, let us take a moment to observe Thanksgiving and acknowledge our gratitude for the work of OCA members on all these important topics.

Three days in late September and early October brought plenty of new information to Capitol insiders. The Legislature convened in late September for two reasons: first, to finally wrap up the Special Session by passing the transportation package; and second, to hold quarterly Legislative days. The conclusion of the Special Session was by no means certain, as the Senate awaited the return of Senator Chris Gorsek (D-Gresham), whose absence for health reasons delayed the session for a month. Ultimately, the package passed and awaits the Governor's signature, which likely will happen in early November. Several Republicans and other groups launched a referral campaign in October to overturn the approved tax increases. To refer the various tax increases to voters, opponents will need over 78,000 valid signatures. However, the campaign cannot start collecting signatures until after the Governor signs the bill, leaving just under 60 days to meet the threshold. If successful, voters will get the final say on the six-cent gas tax increase, 0.1% payroll tax increase, and various vehicle registration fees.

The rest of the Legislative days focused mostly on various committees looking towards the challenges coming in 2026. Various committees looked at the impacts that Congress's HR 1 ("One Beautiful Bill Act") will have on various components of state government. The biggest changes will be to Medicaid and related health care and SNAP benefits (food stamps or Oregon Trail cards). Still, the fact that state economists predict a budget deficit in 2026 will be uncharted territory for many legislators. According to the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, the \$500 million set aside in June for this new biennium will be swallowed up, and we now face a \$300 million-plus shortfall. In the natural resources arena, committees discussed the wildfire season, the grass seed industry, and the possibility of eliminating the most expensive carbon tax program in the country (DEQ's Climate Protection Program) and instead implementing a market-based approach that matches Washington and California (known as "Cap and Invest").

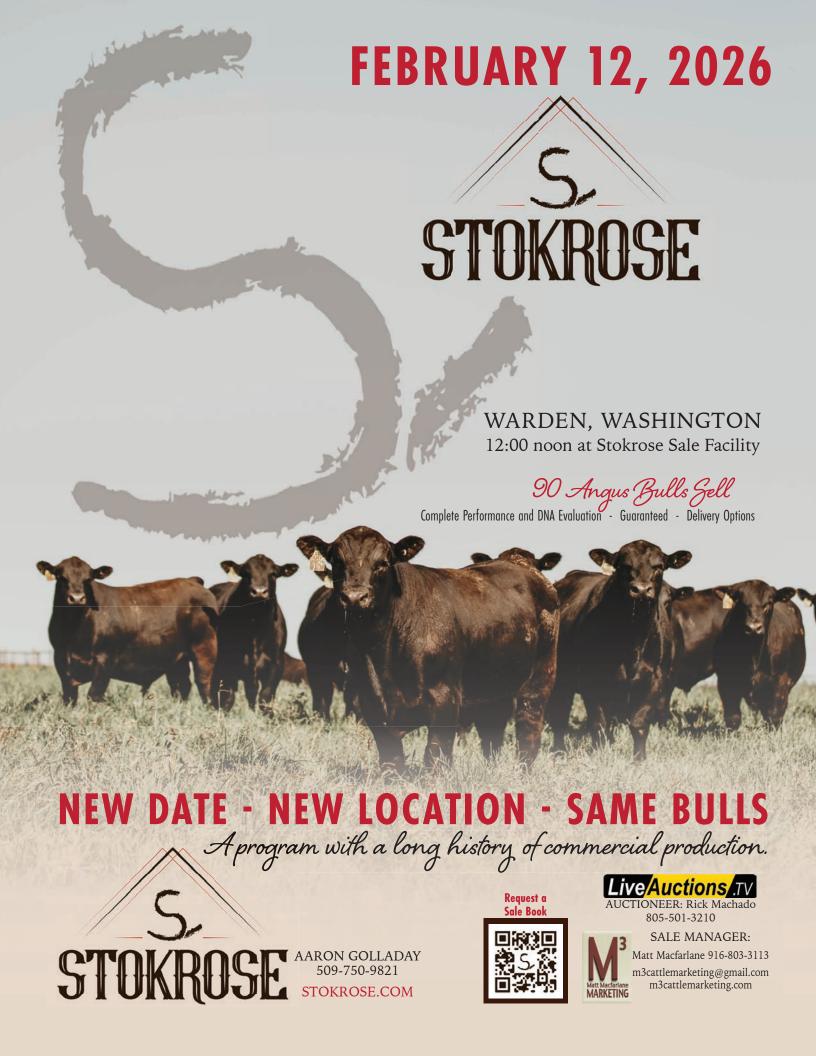
Legislators are already discussing how to address the budget changes during the next session. The Governor has asked agencies to make across-the-board cuts. We

know Legislators will continue to look at tax increases and changes. While true tax votes will require a 3/5ths supermajority vote (meaning all Democrats vote yes), there are other mechanisms where they can raise revenue on simple majority votes. Several legislators are evaluating disconnecting Oregon's tax code from the federal Internal Revenue Code, particularly new tax breaks granted through HR 1. This could impact ranches and many businesses if the Oregon Legislature votes to require you to "add back" deductions allowed under federal law, including tips (which will not be taxed federally), the new bonus depreciation for capital and equipment purchases, and certain expenses. All of this may not save Oregon money in the long run, but it will show additional revenue in the current biennium and provide a superficial band-aid to the budget, even if it reduces revenue in the future. Further, adding back deductions allowed under federal law will certainly complicate your Oregon tax filings and returns.

OCA will no doubt keep an eye on these and other proposed changes as we move towards the 2026 session. Additionally, we will continue our efforts to ensure adequate wildfire suppression funding and the Oregon Department of Forestry's "landowner offset" so ranchers and small landowners aren't stuck with the bill for fire suppression. We also keep a close eye on potential ballot measures, including IP 28, which would criminalize the killing of animals in Oregon (whether for food, hunting, or management), as well as a measure in Lane County that would give watersheds their own legal rights (wreaking havoc on ag, forestry, and business in general).

Finally, all of our work moves forward in light of many political changes. Republicans in the House and Senate have both elected new leaders (Rep. Lucetta Elmer, R-Yamhill County, and Bruce Starr, R-Polk County) respectively. As noted last month, some members have changed chambers, changed parties, or announced their plans to leave the Legislature. Several committee chairs have changed, most notably Senator Mark Meek (D-Clackamas County), who lost his position as Senate Finance and Revenue Chair and will be replaced by Senator Anthony Broadman (D-Bend). Both have worked closely with OCA on wildfire issues, taxes, and water rights. We also sadly acknowledge the passing of Rep. Hoa Nguyen, who lost her battle with cancer in early October.

If there is one constant in Salem, it's change. We will continue to advocate for rural communities and ranchers as we move into the quieter holiday season and on to the 2026 session. Have a Happy Thanksgiving with your families.





OCA Marketing/Beef Cattle Improvement Committee Update

Clint Sexson

OCA Marketing/Beef Cattle Improvement Committee Chair, Select Sires Large Herd Specialist providing genetics, reproductive services, and connections with supply chain partners, Sexson Brothers Reds partner & Family Man

As we proceed into fall work - weaning calves, picking replacement heifers, and shipping the genetics we take pride in our operations, we are having a year for the record book. We are experiencing the times in the cow calf business we have ever seen in my short history. I have been traveling across many areas of the country the last few months and have encountered opportunities to fellowship with cattlemen at every stage of production. We welcome the opening of new packing facilities, expanding opportunities to move towards supply chain relationships with many local, regional, national consumer driven markets. There is a movement of transparency and collaboration between segments of the industry to consistently improve and provide the best protein in the business - BEEF.

It is worth noting that the consumer has the most confidence in the high-quality product you produce day in and day out. Amidst the highest price levels in the grocery store and the restaurant business, the consumer chooses BEEF.

I closely follow the Kansas State University survey information at https://agmanager.info/livestock-meat/meat-demand/monthly-meat-demand-monitor-survey-data/meat-demand-monitor-august-2025.

The remarkably interesting take from their survey is beef is a competitive protein and a choice for the consumer. They are willing to buy at the grocery store counter and there are more families consuming more of those meals at home. If we look closer at the restaurant trade and consumers' willingness to pay, beef still leads to having the added market share and at a high price. So, demand is there, and we continue to hear in this survey model that taste, and freshness of product are on the minds of all generations of consumers. Your efforts and decisions consistently bring the quality to the consumer.

Let's dig further into why we are consistently seeing the consumer approving and choosing to spend their dollar with us. The pendulum of genetic opportunity of today's cattle is swinging heavily to the quality grade side of the equation. A decade ago, the national average of cattle grading prime was less than five percent with up nearly forty percent of the harvested cattle grading select or less. As we are near the end of 2025, the percentage of cattle hitting the prime grade is and will be close to ten percent. The movement towards prime is starting to show a new paradigm shift towards the prime/choice spread pricing as compared to the choice/ select spread. Those are real

dollars supporting purchases all the way back to the ranch. The premium payouts are incentivizing feeders to maximize the quality grade potential of your cattle. The resulting trend is cattle are stretched out longer than ever before. What I mean by this is that at each stage of feeding, the owner is growing the cattle bigger. They are taking calves in the stocker/ feeder phase and pushing the maturity of frame and muscle, as a result we are seeing cattle entering the finishing phase bigger and heavier. Those cattle with genetics to allow the extra growth are fed into the 1500-, 1600-, and 1700-pound range prior to harvest. If we take this to the hanging weight on the packing house floor, these numbers reflect the same result. Many steer carcasses weigh in excess of 1000 pounds and experts predict the national average heifer carcass will weigh close to 900 pounds as we close out 2025. This does bring to light how we have maintained pounds of production in the year of the lowest cow numbers in history. As a cow calf guy myself this seems amazing, especially as slow as the generation's turnover. It is humble to think the decisions we made in genetics seven to ten years ago to continually improve our cowherd, are handling the task at hand. Many experts see the marketplace is growing more demand for

beef with fewer cows. The world population is demanding protein, and we can answer that question with the ruminant. Recently I saw this analysis of the beef supply's role in feeding the world. If you take a sheet of paper and fold it in half and tear off one side you have the land mass of the globe, in the half sheet of paper you must sustain the human population. Further if you cut out a business card size part of your half sheet, you are left with the land mass sustainable for food production and one third of that business card is not suitable for farming. The cow dominates in this space utilizing forages on less desirable terrain to produce the best protein source in the world.

To finish on a side bar that I think is particularly important to our business - the last two years at NCBA during Beef Quality Assurance meetings a few points came out of a survey from packers. The first is the high incidence of buckshot in carcasses and carcass damage from blemishes and/or bruising. So, let's look at three new year resolutions

- Keep the shotgun for bird hunting,
- 2. Practice using your doctoring rifle on a decoy and if you can't hit the decoy in the correct spot maybe you should not use the gun,
- 3. Look at your cow size and your working facility. An example from Darr feedlot - the manager emphasizes they continually evaluate their efficiency and the dollars returned to their customers feeding cattle with them. Considering the increased size of finished cattle, they are aggressively improving facilities to best fit the expanding weight ranges of cattle to reduce opportunities of injury or bruising.

Thanks for listening and I look forward to a successful annual convention in Pendleton. •



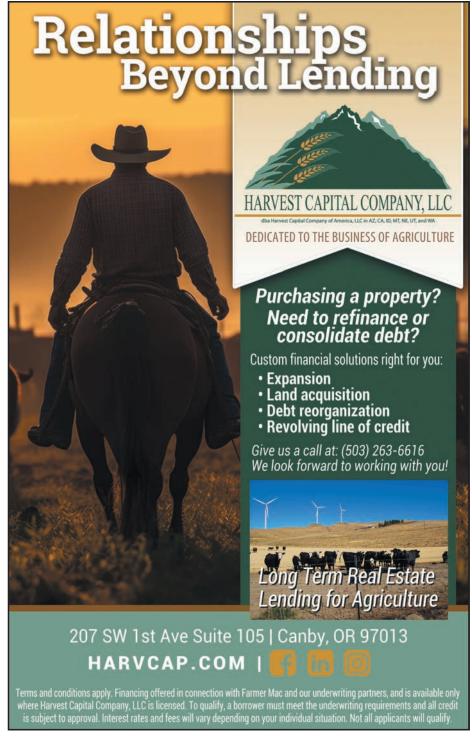


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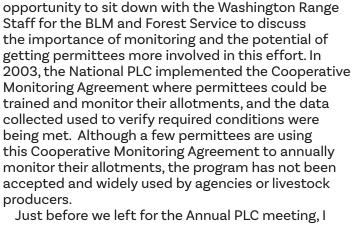


The governmental changes that have occurred in 2025 have been very impactful for livestock producers. Some of these impacts have been helpful to our industry, and some have led to uncertainty. One of the aspects of uncertainty is the decrease in workforce of the government agencies that oversee Federal land use, specifically our grazing allotments. With all the demands added to the range of staff within these offices, and the lack of personnel, and now the government shutdown, actions such as monitoring are not being completed. The data collected through monitoring ensures constituents



and other interested parties, and affirms the NEPA decisions for the allotment, that required conditions are being met.

At the 2025 Annual Public Lands Council meeting, a few of us had the



Just before we left for the Annual PLC meeting, I received a call from Luke Morgan who helps manage Lightning Bolt Cattle Company, asking if I would be interested in showing the employees of the company how to monitor for their allotments. We met, discussed, and practiced streambank alteration, greenline, riparian terrace, shrub, and upland monitoring. At this time, there is uncertainty of what the data collected "means" in terms of verifying condition, however, this data will help the employees of Lightning Bolt make management decisions, prove that the permittee is being proactive in managing the allotment, and hopefully allow for some flexibility if standards are met early.

PLC is hopeful that as we move forward with conversations at the National level, we can continue to encourage permittees to monitor, and the agencies that oversee livestock grazing to recognize monitoring as a tool that can be used to ensure the success of the permittee and the allotment. We encourage agency employees and permittees to get more involved in the Cooperative Monitoring Agreement.

Photos: The photos are of employees of Lightning Bolt Cattle Company along with Kelly Birkmaier conducting riparian monitoring. Participants included: Mark Estes, Luke and Lisa Morgan, Cody Ross, Orrin Fredric, Angie Belveal, Riley Cleaver, Joe and Braya Malecek, and Dan Probert.





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PARTNER COLUMN



The Rollercoaster that is Washington Politics

Kaitlynn GloverExecutive Director, Public Lands Council



The question I get most often when I walk into a room full of producers is "What is going on in Washington?!" – and for good reason. These last few months have been filled with drama and intrigue, from highs like passage of the historic One Big Beautiful Bill Act to lows like the government shutdown.

At PLC's 57th Annual Meeting in September, we talked about the rollercoaster that is Washington politics and how the scales balance up for 2025. Not to spoil the surprise, but the tally ended up squarely in favor of agriculture, grazing, and PLC's priorities. Immediately following the transition, PLC saw early wins: sustained withdrawal of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Old Growth proposal that would have further limited forest management nationwide. PLC secured recission of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) instructional memoranda that would have prevented the renewal of grazing permits across the West – not only was this bad policy, it was based on a fraudulent, unapproved "settlement agreement" with radical environmentalists who have long sought to remove grazing from federal land.

As we moved into the next few months, progress just kept coming. At PLC's urging, BLM and the Department of the Interior swiftly took up revision of grazing regulations. Even with the delays as a result of the government shutdown, we are already further along on grazing revisions than we were during the first Trump administration, a credit to the work all grazing permittees and lessees have done over the last two decades.

Next up: a duo of huge wins are imminent for federal land access and multiple use. USFS will soon rescind the incredibly damaging 2001 Roadless Rule, something PLC has opposed since its inception. While recissions of the rule won't immediately open the more than 45 million acres across the country where access is currently limited, managers and stakeholders on the ground now have

the opportunity to make careful, deliberate decisions about what should have road access, what should remain roadless, and how the process should work in the future. Land management is always more successful when decisions are made by stakeholders on the ground. Additionally, BLM will soon officially rescind the infamous "Public Lands Rule", also known as the "Conservation and Landscape Health" rule. When the proposed rule was announced in 2023, PLC rallied cattle and sheep producers, energy interests, recreational stakeholders, and local governments to submit thousands of comments opposing the catastrophic change that the rule would have brought. Despite standing up more than 60 groups to speak with a single voice on our comments alone, the Biden Administration's BLM finalized the rule. PLC and our coalition filed suit challenging the rule, and after the transition, BLM moved quickly to wipe the rule from the books. This is a huge win for all of livestock, because a change in BLM posture would soon follow to USFS, states, and even into the private market.

Following one of the most unproductive Congressional sessions from 2023-2024, this year has been a banner year for grazing and fire related legislation. PLC has secured movement on more than a dozen grazing-related bills that would expand access to allotments in the event of a catastrophic event (S.211), develop a strategy to increase the use of targeted grazing as fuels reduction outside of existing allotments (H.R.471, H.R.1110, S.140), and bills to reduce federal regulatory delays around basic maintenance of range improvements (H.R.2238).

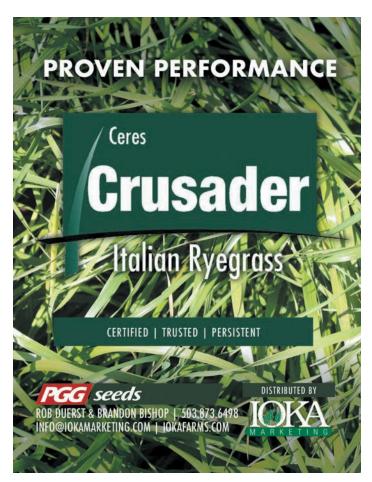
So far in 2025, PLC has had 6 witnesses testify in Congressional hearings on subjects ranging from the State of the Rangelands and grazing across federal lands to the need for Congress to provide clear direction to agencies on issues like wildfire recovery and endangered species management. This number of witnesses is virtually

unprecedented, and shows clearly the leadership federal lands grazing permittees exhibit across a variety of issues.

Even in the midst of all this good news, there's still so much work to be done. PLC remains focused on addressing the serious issues plaguing ranchers west-wide like herd stress and depredation from federally protected species. As wolf, bear, and Mexican wolf populations continue to expand their devastating impacts in wider areas, it's never been more clear that Congressional direction for agencies to use all available tools to return species to state management. We have so much work ahead to address frivolous litigation, permitting reform, and defense of multiple use in all corners of the West.

After more than a year of work with the Maude family, PLC celebrated the positive resolution for the family, but we know that Charles and Heather's case is not necessarily unique. PLC continues to work with families in multiple states to address situations just like theirs so that ranching and this heritage isn't threatened by overzealous federal agents or agency staff who simply don't know the process. This is something we watch for constantly – and depend on all of you to reach out to us for help so we can help stop a problem before it escalates.

We have so much to celebrate this year, and I hope it has galvanized your resolve for the future like it has mine. Next year, we have more work to do with Congress, the White House, and the public. The global community will be celebrating the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, bringing light to ranchers, farmers, producers, herders, shearers, and so many more who protect these grasslands and rangelands around the world. With this kind of celebration and the progress we saw in 2025, I'm proud of the strong future we've built for our industry together. •







To our New & Recently Renewed Members

Greg Allen
Brian Allen
Steve Coleman
Susan FitzGerald
Garrett Haffey
Brenda Harris
Brian Harris
Justin Hossfeld

Robert Lazinka
Dan Leahy
Adrienne Lulay
Yu Lu
Josh Shockley
Clayton Tanler
Steve Wallace



An Updated Analysis of the Economic Impact of Wolf Depredation

Tim DelbridgeAssistant Professor, Dept. of Applied Economics, OSU



There have been significant developments in Oregon's wolf management policy in 2025. Most notably, SB777 was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, allowing for compensation of up to 5X the fair market value of a calf, sheep, or goat, and 3X the fair market value of other cattle. While not yet fully funded, the passage and signing of SB777 shows that there is broad recognition in Salem that livestock producers face economic impacts well beyond the market value of killed cattle and sheep. This was further reinforced this year by an OSU Extension article that David Bohnert

and I published in July, titled "How does the presence of wolves affect Oregon's livestock producers?" In that publication, we reported on the outcomes from a survey of Oregon ranchers that asked about the costs they incurred to protect their livestock from wolves, and the revenue losses they experienced when wolves came in contact with their herds (e.g., reduced calf weight, fertility rates, etc.). I encourage you to read the full article, but of particular note was that all survey respondents who graze livestock within an "Area of Known Wolf Activity" (or "AKWA") faced at least moderate wolf pressure.

Building on this first article, the next step is to extrapolate the estimates of economic impact from wolf depredation from the ranch level to county and state-wide values. To this end, I have combined ODFW AKWA maps from 2011 to 2024 with USFS and BLM grazing data to identify the number of cattle on public grazing allotments that have been exposed to wolf activity. Satellite-generated ground cover maps (USDA Cropland Data Layer) are used to estimate the approximate number of cattle on privately-owned grazing land. We can combine these datasets to develop reasonable county and state-wide



Oregon Wolf-Livestock Research Workshop

Pendleton Convention Center December 4th, 2025, 8-11:30am

Join Oregon State University, Western Landowners Alliance, and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for a workshop to create producer- and stakeholder-informed research and management priorities for wolf-livestock conflict in Oregon. They invite all producers or those concerned with and/or impacted by wolves to attend to share thoughts, challenges, and current efforts or ideas to tackle this issue.

Registration Link:

https://tinyurl.com/msnrsvsu

Contact Information: Dr. Ethan D. Doney, (541) 737-6255, ethan.doney@oregonstate.edu

NOVEMBER 2025

approximations of livestock exposure to wolves. A future academic article will lay out the methodological details and full analysis, but I can share some basic methods and general conclusions here

Using a statistical model, I estimated the relationship between the acreage of different vegetation types (e.g., shrubland, evergreen forest, grassland) and permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on USFS and BLM grazing allotments. I then used those results to predict the AUMs available on privately-owned tax parcels. Although these estimates are not going to exactly match actual grazing activity, there is a strong correlation between these private grazing estimates and the county-level cattle inventories published in the USDA agricultural census. Adding private lands to the available data on public grazing allotments, we can estimate the scale of wolf-livestock conflict more completely. Figure 1 shows the increase in grazing acreage that lies within an ODFW AKWA as wolves spread across the state from 2011 to 2024. This figure suggests that the number of cattle exposed to wolves has increased by a factor of 5 during this period.

Suppose we assume that livestock producers grazing within AKWAs experience increased management costs and reduced revenues equal to an average of \$50 per cow per year (which is considerably less than we found among the most heavily impacted producers that responded to our survey in 2024). In that case, the total estimated economic cost associated with wolf depredation grows from \$1.2 million in 2011 to roughly \$5.5 million in 2024. This economic impact estimate for 2024 is nearly 7 times the Oregon Department of Agriculture expenditure on compensation for wolf conflict prevention and lost livestock in that year. Figure 2 shows the concentration of estimated costs by county. Wallowa County is the most impacted, with an estimated impact in 2024 of \$1.4 million.

The statewide and county-level economic impacts of wolf depredation depend critically on a few key parameters, which include the probability and severity of wolf pressure within an AKWA and in the

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areas just outside of an established AKWA. Wolf management costs and revenue impacts also depend on the degree to which the population density of wolves in an area impacts the probability of depredation events. High market prices for livestock increase the economic impact of wolf pressure, and rancher grazing and management decisions can reduce depredation while increasing labor and other costs. Our survey

data provides information on some of these factors, but considerable uncertainty remains when estimating total costs at an aggregated level. As additional research and data collection continue in Oregon and elsewhere, this picture will hopefully become clearer.

Tim Delbridge is an agricultural economist at Oregon State University and focuses primarily on farm-level production and management issues. His research and outreach projects include investment analysis, risk management, and impacts of technology and regulation on agricultural markets and farm profitability. He teaches a number of undergraduate classes at OSU in the Agricultural and Food Business Management major.

Figure 2. Estimated Economic Impact of Wolf Depredation by County, 2024

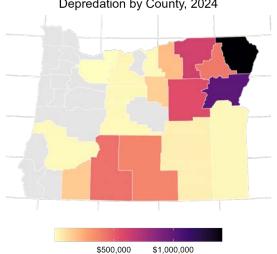
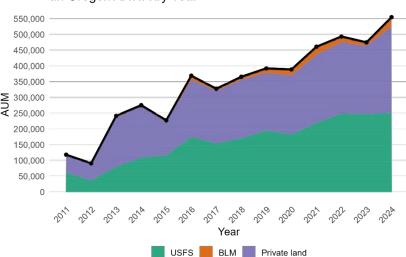
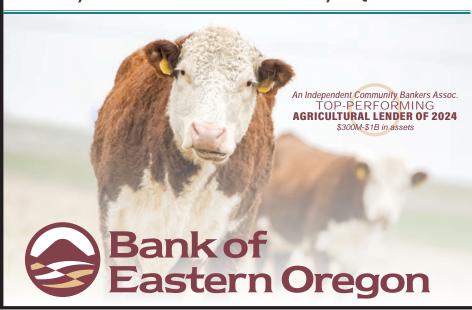


Figure 1. Estimated Animal Unit Months (AUMs) located within an Oregon AKWA by Year



Time to Renew your Cattle Business

LINES / COW CALF OPERATIONS / EQUIPMENT



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Bob Williams **541-426-4205**

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Amber Schlaich 541-676-9125

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Jared Lathrop Kolby Currin 541-303-8274

IONE

Shane Lazinka 541-422-7466

JOHN DAY

Bob Quinton **541-575-1862**

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Shane Lazinka **541-565-3712**

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Mike Short Sheehan Barnhart Tracy Hamby 541-276-6509

Member FDIC



My name is Diana Wirth and together with my husband and family, we own and operate a multi-generation Red Angus, cow/calf ranch in Klamath County. I am the Oregon Cattlemen's Association President-Elect.

Serving as your OCA President-Elect has been an honor and an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how the OCA can grow leadership, drive membership, build coalition, increase visibility and strengthen relationships in Salem. All of which are paramount to the longevity of our industry, and this organization.

I have served as a Co-Chair on the OCA Private Lands, Resolutions and By-Laws committee. In addition, I served as the Oregon CattleWomen President, American National CattleWomen Parliamentarian, past Klamath County CattleWomen President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Commissioner on the Oregon Beef Council.

Thank you for your confidence in my ability to lead the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. With an engaged Board that shares the same vision of growth and outreach, we will accomplish great things! I invite you to join us in Pendleton this December to cast your vote for the next round of leadership, who will guide our industry and the OCA into the 250th birthday of our great nation, and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



Hey all! I'm Jake Seavert, a native Oregonian born and raised in Eastern Oregon. I am a first-generation cattle producer who is raising two boys, Chase and Coy, with the help of my wife Kim. Doing the best to give access to them a lifestyle of production agriculture. Growing up in La Grande I was very active in 4-H and FFA raising market animals and was employed with the OSU Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center in Union from my sophomore year of high school, college and two years after in a full-time position as Assistant Herdsman. My family and I moved back to La Grande Oregon in 2017 where we now raise a small herd of cattle and I am currently a full time Union County Commissioner. I have been involved with OCA for the last 5 years.

I have been active in the cattle industry directly for over 13 years from being an outside salesman, Nutrition Consultant in Montana, Territory Account Manager covering 5 states and most recently a Division Manager for a Livestock Supply Store. I've had some experience through these positions with Montana Stockgrowers, Idaho Cattlemen's, Washington Cattlemen and NCBA as an Associate member. I also currently spend time on the auction block auctioneering, deepening my understanding of the cattle market. I am currently the Vice Chair on the Animal Health and ID Committee and current Union County Cattlemen's President.

I look at this opportunity to directly be involved and let your voice be heard with likeminded people. As 1st Vice President I will do my best to support the President, Executive Board and members navigate through sound decision making and guidance moving this organization forward. I feel we can have a dominating presence in the Capitol. We can increase membership and have a bigger voice and presence which will increase participation at our events. I bring experience and familiarity about Salem, both at the Capitol and Oregon Department of Ag. I look forward to representing the members of OCA and I want to give a big thank you to the nominating committee for having the confidence in moving me forward in the process.

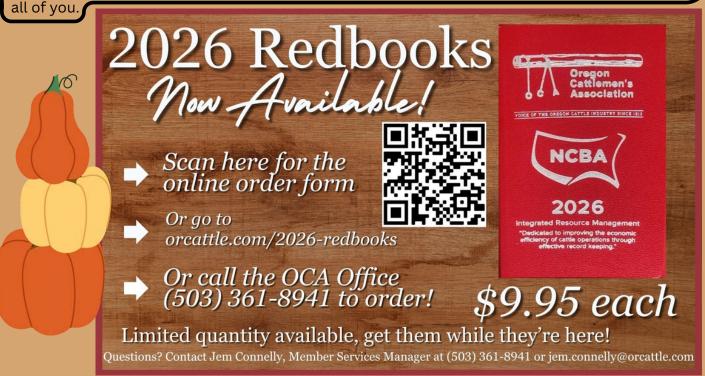


I, Michael Alger, have lived on our family ranch in Willamina since birth. I helped on the ranch in day-to-day tasks till I took over our cow/calf operations and butcher shop in 1997. Through my butcher shop I have served 22 of our Oregon counties during fair seasons, and am in touch with a lot of ranching clientele from all across our state.

I have been Polk County President for 8 years and District 7 VP for 4 years. I am currently on 3 committees and enjoy going to the Capitol any time needed to help out. I am currently the OCA Young Cattlemen's Chair and plan to really encourage our youth to get involved with this program.

I enjoy this industry and have a deep desire to help build it stronger and help others succeed. I have people constantly asking me what is going on in the cattle industry because of my ties with OCA. It is a great feeling to share with these fellow ranchers to hopefully help with their insight to bolster their ranches and encourage them to join OCA.

I would really appreciate your vote this December for me for 2nd Vice President to help me help





My name is Shane Gomes. I grew up in Antelope, Oregon where I attended a 1 room schoolhouse until I attended and graduated from Madras High School. From there I went to Eastern Oregon University where I played football and was part of the rodeo team. I graduated in 1993 with a Rangeland Degree from OSU and also a minor in Biology from EOU. After college I Steer Wrestled in the PRCA for a few years before settling back on the family ranch full time. Eagle Valley ranch is proudly a fourth-generation family operated ranch in Antelope. My Grandparents and folks acquired the ranch in 1975 and have steadily built up the acres and the cow numbers. Currently I run the ranch with my mother, wife Kristina, and the 4th generation- our son Cord. Our herd size is a 700 plus cow/calf operation that is run on the home ranch and through private leases around Central Oregon.

My family has always been very involved in the OCA and have been members since 1975. Grandfather was the OCA president in 90-91, and my Grandmother took a turn as President of the Cowbelles. My Father has served as a past OCA Vice President, and my mother and father are both past presidents of the Wasco and Jefferson County Livestock Associations. I, myself, was President of Jefferson Co Livestock Assoc and my wife is currently serving as the Treasurer. I, personally, have been involved with Private Lands, Wolf, and Wildlife Committees locally and at the State level. It is a family tradition to be involved with the OCA and the local Associations. I also try to stay involved in my community. I have been involved and instructed at Rodeo Bible Camp in Tygh Valley for over 30 years, and a 4-H leader for 26 years. Most recently I have stepped up to serve on our Church Advisory Board.

I see OCA as our industry's advocate and believe it is a Grass Roots Organization. They fight issues that we on the ground don't have time for, as we are out getting the ranch work done. Our lobbyist and our Executive Director are constantly fighting and keeping an eye on the issues that directly affect our industry.

The reason I have stepped up and have been involved in OCA, is because I think we should give back. The individuals before me put their time in so that I can continue to keep my family ranch alive. I believe in working hard and, as a rancher, know nothing comes easy. We must stay on top of the issues, be educated in the challenges ahead, and stand together to preserve our way of life for the next generation.



I am Rusty Inglis, a first-generation cattle rancher in Harney County for 36 years. I am running for the Second Vice President position.

My passion for the cattle industry has been my main driver to be actively involved in the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) for over 40 years.

As the membership committee chair for 8 years, I was responsible for developing 2 new dues structures for the organization. These last four years as the District One Vice president, I made a commitment to represent Grant, Harney and Malheur counties. During my tenure, I actively participated in all the monthly board calls and only missed one board meeting.

I have been fortunate to have a successful career in the livestock industry. It is my passion to make sure the next generation has the same opportunities with a support system using organizations such as the OCA. As Second Vice President, my goal is to ensure that OCA continues to be a strong organization for years to come. I will work to guarantee that the OCA is there for the next generation and remains a grass roots organization representing members big or small. God Bless

OCA is now accepting donations to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Wildfire Fund

Your generosity is very much needed and appreciated

First Name: Email:	Last	Select Payment Method: CREDIT CARD CHECK Donation total:		
Complete and return this form to	the OCA Officer	\$		
1320 Capitol St NE, Ste 150 Salem To donate online: scan		Credit Card Details Name on Card		
Or the QR code or go to orcattle.com/wildfire-fund-donations/		Card Number Expiration Date CVC Zip Code		
Thank you for your voluntary donation. Wildfire Fund Tax ID #:93-1252622				



Andy VanderPlaat is the current OCA Treasurer and serves on the Executive Committee and Board. He has been OCA Treasurer for 3 years and he is running for re-election for the 2026 term. He served as the Wildfire (now Disaster) Assistance chairman from 2019-2025 co-ordinating donated funds to producers who have experienced losses due to wildfires on their operations. He is active in the private lands committee and serves on the OCA budget committee. Andy's goal as a treasurer for OCA is to use his financial background to assist in reporting and financial oversight of OCA, managing Stewardship funds and monitor the OCA operating budget.

Andy has been a member of OCA and Umatilla Co. Cattlemen Association for 30 years and previously was a member of the Jackson County Stockmen's Association.

Andy, and his wife, Karen, live outside of Pendleton on an irrigated property where they run stocker calves and feed them for custom beef sales. They have two daughters, Amy Raymond and Abby Graybeal that live and work in the Pendleton area. Both families are OCA members and active in the beef cattle business including the grandkids. Andy & Karen have been active in local livestock and horse 4-H and FFA chapters over the years. Andy retired in 2020 after a 43-year career in agricultural and agri-business finance with Farm Credit Services, 25 of those years spent in the Pendleton branch.

Andy is an active volunteer in the Pendleton community as president of the Pendleton Cattle Barons; past board member and treasurer of the Happy Canyon Company; Umatilla County Cattlemen's board, volunteering at Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon and other community organizations. They are supporters of Oregon State University Ag. Department and enjoy participating in the Beavers athletic and alumni events and traveling with their families.

There are resources available for those Affected by 2024 & 2025 Wildfires!



Scan the left QR Code for a comprehensive list of available resources

Scan the right QR code for OCA's Wildfire Assistance Application

If you do not have an internet connection, visit your local FSA or OSU Extension Office for information on available resources.

Or call the OCA office at 503-361-8941 and we will mail you a printed copy.

Tom Doman is the owner and manager of White Sage Land & Cattle in Harney County, where he operates a large cow/calf business and also leases farm ground. A lifelong cattleman and businessman, he previously owned Crane Creek Ranch and managed a trucking company with 100 trucks for over a decade.

Deeply rooted in his community, Tom serves on several boards, including the Harney County Education Board, the construction committee for the new Harney County Event Center, and is Vice-Chair of the Crane Rangeland Fire Protection Association. As an Eagle Scout, husband, father of five, and grandfather of four, he credits his faith in Jesus Christ as the guiding influence in his leadership and service.

Although new to OCA leadership, Tom brings a fresh perspective and a strong network within the three counties he represents. His goal as Area Vice President is to strengthen the connection between local producers and OCA, increase membership and engagement at the county level, and ensure the region's priorities are heard in Salem.

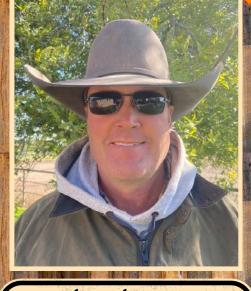
With his blend of business experience, community leadership, and servant-hearted approach, Tom is ready to represent and advocate for Oregon's cattle industry through the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.





Tom Doman

Harney County



Silas Skinner

Malheur County

I'm a 6th generation rancher from Jordan Valley OR. We are a family owned and operated ranch with 4 generations currently working and living on the ranch. I'm married to Tracy and together we have 3 kids, two currently work on the ranch with us and our daughter lives in Lakeview. I am looking forward to serving as the District Vice President and helping the industry move forward and preserve the ranching way of life for future generations.



Darren Hansen was born in Enterprise, but raised in the small town of Cove. He and his wife and two kids, Jayden and Trenten, still live in Cove where they run a commercial cattle operation. His ranch runs his Grandfather's Lazy H brand. Darren also owns his own trucking company, Lazy H Cattle. He serves as the assistant Fire Chief for the Cove Rural Fire District, and is on many committees for the Cove Charter School and the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show.

Darren has been honored to serve the last two years as the District II Vice President. Thank you to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for their continued support.





I was born and raised in Chillicothe, Missouri on a diversified livestock farm. I graduated from the University of Missouri with a BS in Agriculture. My wife (Connie) and I have lived in Gaston, Oregon since 1991. We own and operate two businesses: The Springhill Ranch, LLC and Northwest Animal Supply. The Springhill Ranch consists of breeding registered Black Angus Cattle, Boer goats and boarding horses. Northwest Animal Supply is an IBA Distributorship, selling dairy sanitation chemicals, animal health products and forage treatments (hay preservative and silage inoculants) in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

I am a member of National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Oregon Cattlemen, American Angus Association, Washington County Farm Bureau. Currently, I am the president of Washington County Livestock Association.



Currently serving as President of the Linn County Cattlemen's in Lebanon, Oregon.



Join your fellow OCA Members at the Annual Convention & Tradeshow for fun, education, fellowship, and networking.

General Session Speakers: Patrick Linnell, CattleFax | Kaitlynn Glover, PLC Executive Director | Buck Wehrbein, NCBA President

Workshops on Oregon Water Rights, Virtual Fencing, Oregon Beef Research, BLM Grazing Permits, Succession Planning, and more.

Your registration includes:

- 20 Educational Workshops
- Industry Speakers
- 2 Nights of Entertainment
- Industry Exhibitors
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- OCA Committee & General Membership Meetings **
- Meals included with registration
- Live cattle handling demos
- Wolf Conflict Conversation

** Committee and General Membership meetings are open to all Oregon ranchers.

Accommodations

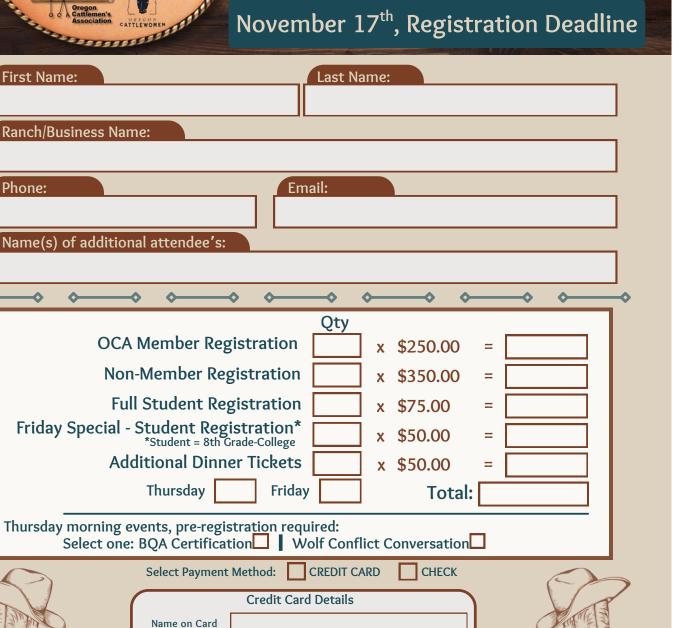
Room Block at Oxford Suites 541-276-6000

Register with QR code, or

Registration form on following page, and available online at orcattle.com



Questions? Call 503-361-8941 or email jem.connelly@orcattle.com



2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

REGISTRATION FORM

Card Number

Expiration Date

CVC

Please complete and return this form to the OCA office. Mailing Address: 1320 Capitol Street NE, Ste 150, Salem, OR 97301 Questions? Contact Jem Connelly, Member Services Manager at 503-361-8941 or jem.connelly@orcattle.com

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Cattle Size: "The bigger the better, but what could go wrong?"

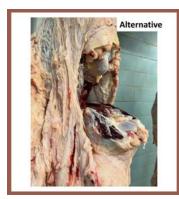
Yufei Guo, Michael Colle, and Phil Bass Veterinary & Food Sciences Dept., University of Idaho University of Idaho.

We – beef producers, ranchers, researchers, nutritionists, and geneticists – are doing a phenomenal job on cattle breeding and management, as a result, we are getting animals with excellent feed efficiency and genetic potential. Cattle size has been on a linear increase over the years. 14.6% of beef carcasses observed in the 2022 National Beef Quality Audit had hot carcass weights over 1,000 lbs. Cattle have a dressing percentage of about 63%, meaning that these cattle weighed roughly 1,600 lbs. live when they were sent to slaughter. If a little is good, then a lot more must be better, right? Well, hold your horses, let's take a closer look.

Bigger cattle yield more products despite receiving discounts for exceeding 1,000 lbs. carcass weight from packers. The additional weight also presents challenges during carcass cooling. Bigger carcasses mean there is more mass to chill – especially to get to the deeper portion of the carcass. Why does this matter? Insufficient chilling tends to cause rapid meat protein denaturation, which can trigger a series of events that impact consumer purchasing decisions and eating experiences.

Discoloration is one of the major issues caused by insufficient chilling, which also happens to be the most important factor when it comes to consumer purchasing. While we can hop on the soapbox of how many things can impact meat color, the truth is, ultimately consumers shop with their eyes. The bright cherry red beef color is often associated with consumers' perception of "freshness". Previous research reported that the US beef industry loses around \$3.73 billion annually due to discoloration, to put this another way, that's the loss of about 780,000 animals plus the resources that went into producing them.

Beef top round steaks are notoriously known to show discoloration. The beef round is one of the largest primal on the carcass and accounts for about 22% of the entire





carcass weight. If the hot carcass weight is 1,000 lbs., the round primal will make up about 220 lbs. Within the round, the top round subprimal makes up about 6% of the entire carcass weight. On the same 1,000 lbs. carcass, that's about 60 lbs. of just top round. The deep portion of the top round is prone to discoloration displaying a pale appearance due to insufficient chilling. This translates to the "two-toning" phenomenon in top round steaks at the retail level. With such a big volume, we need to minimize any losses possible, it adds up!

Packing houses and researchers are constantly exploring adaptive ways to generate the best products possible. To address chilling-related defects in top rounds, researchers at the University of Idaho looked into a novel fabrication method, performed on the kill floor, to aid in deep top round chilling. After the carcasses were split into sides, we made a cut at the kneecap then peeled the knuckle along the seams of the top and bottom round subprimals, partially exposing the femur bone. The knuckle was loosened from the femur but still attached to the bottom sirloin. Traditionally, carcasses are chilled with the knuckles intact. By partially exposing the femur before chilling,

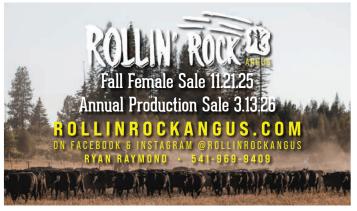


the additional exposed surface area should help cool the deep portion of the round. After carcass chilling and aging, individual steaks were cut from these top rounds and analyzed for meat quality traits like color, tenderness, consumer ratings, etc.

While the alternative fabrication method did not turn out to be the end all be all cure for top round color issues, it sure did its magic for top round chilling rate, and we found some interesting results regarding consumer eating experiences. Our consumer panel suggested that participants liked steaks from sides that were alternatively fabricated more than their traditional counterparts. In addition, some characteristics we observed due to the different locations within the top rounds suggested possible alternative marketing strategies that are worth exploring.

. Ultimately, we are producing a product tasked to feed the world. If consumers like it, they will likely purchase more. Consumers are the ultimate gatekeepers that drive the industries' decision-making. What I'm trying to say is, make the consumers happy! We evaluated the sample's overall acceptability, flavor, tenderness, and juiciness. Our panelists rated top round samples from the alternatively fabricated sides with higher average scores on flavor and overall acceptability. We saw that the deep portion of the top round had a roughly "6 hours chill ahead" response compared to the traditionally chilled sides, and the chilling rate can impact compounds responsible for flavor development in meat. With a more favorable flavor, it makes sense that the overall acceptability of the sample would increase as well.

As for the locations within top round steaks, we found that the superficial portion is more tender than the deep portion. If we merchandise the superficial portion



separately, we can yield a more tender product with higher value and a more desirable appearance.

Here's the moral of the story: cattle are getting bigger, and while the increased size brings more yield, it also presents chilling-related meat quality issues that need to be addressed. By peeling down the knuckle and partially exposing the femur before chilling, we can get top round steaks that taste better to consumers. And if we use more creative ways to market the top round steaks, we can generate higher quality products and potentially increase profit margin. While you are pondering your next move in the world of beef production, take a break, enjoy a steak, go beef!

Author's Note: Yufei Guo is a graduate student at the University of Idaho where she will be completing her Ph.D. in May of 2026. Dr. Michael Colle and Dr. Phil Bass are meat science professors in the Animal, Veterinary and Food Sciences department at the University of Idaho. •



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OBC visits Japan to see the Pacific Northwest Initiative

Will Wise

CEO, Oregon Beef Council



The Pacific Northwest Initiative (PNI) is an excellent program that was lacking in one regard. It had never had beef council members and beef producers join in a trade team together. This year, we made a goal of having members from the Oregon Beef Council, Idaho Beef Council, and the Washington State Beef Commission as a trade team to visit Japan to see the Pacific Northwest Initiative (PNI).

The Pacific Northwest Initiative is a jointly funded beef promotion and market development project that has been underway for about 12 years. It is funded by the three beef councils in the Pacific Northwest and by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Two Oregon Beef Council members joined this effort, and I asked Oregon Beef Council Chairman, John Seymor from Cloverdale, and Brittany Szasz, OBC's Director of Education and Outreach from Boardman, a few questions about their work assignment in Asia.

Will - Question 1: By joining this trade team, did you get a good perspective about the US Meat Export Federation's work with the Pacific Northwest Initiative (PNI) in Japan, and what did you learn about the main marketing objectives for that market?

John: Joining the trade team in Japan was an excellent way to see firsthand how the staff was working on our behalf to drive demand for U.S. beef with buyers, store managers, and consumers. The focus was very much on targeting high-earning markets and consumers who can



afford to purchase our beef.

Brittany: Through meeting with the Japan team in Tokyo, yes, I was able to gain a much clearer perspective of how the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) works to promote U.S. Beef. The main marketing objectives were to increase awareness of the quality of U.S. beef, focusing on increasing demand for prime grade beef. Further marketing initiatives are focused on improved packaging to enhance sales, and on grocery retail promotions to attract customers in the storefront sector.

Will - Question 2: Japan is a long way from home. What would you like to inform Oregon producers about what this work is doing for Oregon beef producers?

John: This work in Japan and other areas internationally adds carcass value here at home for Oregon producers. Items like trim, offal, and other varieties of meat have a lower margin in the domestic market, whereas in Japan, tongues, for example, can be sold at more than 2X the dollars per pound.

Brittany: The Japanese culture is very welcoming and excited about U.S. beef! At each of the three promotional events, we witnessed a genuine excitement as the Japanese people were learning first-hand how U.S. beef is cared for and raised from the beginning through the finishing stages. Furthermore, from working with future chefs to those enjoying U.S. beef on their plate, all wanted to meet U.S. producers and know where U.S. beef came from. It was great to help them make the connection with our handful of PNW producers.

Will -Question 3: These are dynamic times in Japan. How did you feel about the Japan USMEF staff, our strategic partners in Japan, such as importers and distributors, culinary experts, foodservice and grocery retail marketers, and others? Did you feel there was effective cooperation in working on our marketing objectives, and was there support for U.S. and Oregon beef in the Japan market?

John: The staff was very impressive and accommodating of our team and a variety of things that came up during our trip. Our very full agenda had to be reworked twice due to the government shutdown and an impromptu visit from USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Affairs, Luke Lindberg. We were whisked around, meeting everyone in the food chain that would involve getting U.S. beef to Japanese consumers. The access we were permitted at numerous meetings is a testament to the relationships that USMEF has built in Japan.

Brittany: The Japan USMEF staff is very professional and knowledgeable about not only their culture but also





the quality of U.S. beef. Their work is currently focused on educating and increasing awareness of the quality of prime U.S. beef. Working with top-notch importers such as SOFCO, which imported 50,000 metric tons of North American frozen beef in 2024. US beef has 25% of the market share in Japan, and I am sure we will gain more. USMEF staff is well connected throughout the supply chain as we met with experts at the Culinary Institute in Hokkaido, visited with multiple grocery retail marketers, and connected with the U.S. Under Secretary for Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, Luke Lindberg. When Luke asked what he could do for PNW producers in the U.S., we asked him to continue to work on tariffs and keep the market open for continued favorable exports of U.S. beef.

Will - Question 4: Finally, what would you care to share about this experience, and did you find it valuable, enjoyable, and stimulating? How did it impact your thinking about working in these markets? How was your experience with Japanese people and with the members of our neighboring State Beef Councils, and do you have an interesting experience you had while there that you would like to share?

John: Being able to share it with four other producers from the Pacific Northwest was great because we were able to rely on each other to tell our stories and promote and educate for the Pacific Northwest Initiative and U.S. beef as a whole. Here we think primarily of steaks and burgers for our beef, whereas in Japan, the traditional styles and cuts are very different. Meat is thinly sliced and cooked in a number of different ways, often with those eating doing the cooking themselves at the table. Our second night, we ate Shabu-shabu, which is the swish-swishing of thinly sliced meat and vegetables boiled in water and served with dipping sauces. One of the other trade team members wouldn't eat anything too 'fishy', and another couldn't get past the eyes of the whole prawn looking back at him, but neither of these things stopped me from trying everything we were offered.

Japan had great people, was very clean, quiet, and safe. We ate lots of great food and new cuts and styles of beef. It was definitely a premium type of market and consumers that we met with, which seems a perfect match for the

animals we raise and products we make here in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The experience was truly once in a lifetime.

Brittany: This was an incredible experience to meet and work alongside not only neighboring State Beef Councils but also to experience Japanese culture first-hand. Possibly the kindest and most welcoming culture I have experienced thus far. The Japanese people are very curious about things we take for granted, such as a thick 1.5-inch steak grilled to perfection. It was an enjoyable experience to witness the Tokyo FM listeners attend our grilling promotion in downtown Tokyo and help a few lucky listeners experience grilling a thick-cut, US beef, prime steak for the first time. •

Left Photo: U.S. and Japan partners come together at AEON Shinagawa to celebrate premium American beef! From left: Satoshi Kato (USMEF Japan), Jihae Yang (USMEF Asia Pacific), John Seymour (Oregon Beef Council), Pete Cherriere (Washington State Beef Commission), Luke J. Lindberg (U.S. Department of Agriculture), Will Derting (Washington State Beef Commission), Jared Brackett (Idaho Beef Council), Tatsuru Kasatani (USMEF Japan), and Brittany Szasz (Oregon Beef Council).

Above Photo: Students of Koen Culinary Institute in Sapporo participated in a U.S. beef lecture and cooking demonstration led by a local chef, joined by Brittany Szasz (Oregon Beef Council), John Seymour (Oregon Beef Council), and Pete Cherriere (Washington State Beef Commission). For many students, it was their first time cooking a steak.



I'm Grateful for the Growing Presence of Oregon CattleWomen

Morgan Kromm | 805-801-9960 OCW President | orcattlewomen@gmail.com



As my fall work is wrapping up and we settle into the slightly slower rhythm that comes with shorter days, I find myself reflecting on all we have to be thankful for, as ranchers, as families, and as members of the Oregon CattleWomen.

This time of year always brings perspective. The long, hot days of summer work are behind us, our ranches and farms are quieting, and there's a moment to breathe, to look back on what we've accomplished, and to appreciate the people who made it possible. For me, that gratitude begins with all of you.

Every county meeting, every educational booth, every legislative testimony; none of it happens without the dedication of our members. You are the ones who show up early to set up tables, stay late to clean up, answer questions from the public, and mentor the next generation of ranch women. Whether you're brand new to OCW or have been part of it for decades, you are the heartbeat of this organization.

If there's one theme that's stood out to me this year, it's connection. No matter where I travel in Oregon, I see women who care deeply about their families, their ranches, and the beef community as a whole. We may live miles apart, but we share the same values of hard work, faith, and stewardship. That common ground is what keeps our organization strong and what gives me hope for what's ahead.

Our county affiliates have been a big part of that growth. This year, we have seen renewed energy in several areas: women stepping forward to lead, host events, and reignite local involvement. It's inspiring to watch communities rally around for a shared purpose: promoting beef, supporting one another, and investing in the future of our industry.

The Region V Meeting this summer was another highlight. CattleWomen from six western states gathered at Black Butte Ranch to learn, network, and share ideas. From leadership and estate planning to advocacy and media, we gained tools that will strengthen not only our local chapters but also our individual confidence as spokeswomen for beef. Yet, what stood out most was the fellowship, the laughter over shared meals, the encouragement exchanged between new friends, and the reminder that none of us does this alone.

I'm also grateful for the growing presence Oregon CattleWomen continue to have in the legislative arena. Whether it's celebrating wins like the T-Bone State Steak resolution or testifying on complex issues like water, wildfire, and brand inspection, we're proving that women's voices in agriculture carry both weight and wisdom. As we move into the 2025 session, I encourage each of you to stay engaged, stay informed, and stay brave as you share your stories. That's how we protect the way of life we're all so thankful for.

Thanksgiving is often thought of as a time to count blessings around a table, but I think it's also a time to recognize the unseen hands and hearts behind the scenes. The family members, neighbors, and volunteers who make this way of life possible. The ones feeding before sunrise, hauling kids to practice after dark, or sitting through late-night meetings because they care about their community. Those quiet acts of service are the backbone of both ranch life and organizations like ours.

As we look toward the close of the year, my heart is whole. I'm thankful for the friendships that have grown through OCW, for the women who continually inspire

> me, and for the opportunity to serve alongside you. Ranching is not always easy, and leadership rarely is either, but together, grounded in faith and gratitude, we keep finding ways to move forward.

May this Thanksgiving season remind us of all of the blessings found in simple things: a healthy calf crop, a friendly neighbor, and a hot meal shared after a long day's work. May we continue to give thanks not just in November, but in how we live, lead, and serve all year long.

Happy Thanksgiving from our ranch to yours. Wishing you a season filled with warmth, grace, and gratitude. •



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Ellie Norris is a second-generation blueberry farmer managing a 700-acre farm located in the lush Umpqua Valley of Southern Oregon. Norris Farms has been a family-owned operation since 1976. When Norris was a teenager, her parents planted their first few acres of blueberries. After earning degrees in biology and chemistry, she pursued careers in marine biology and the outdoor apparel industry, where she opened stores and trained employees. In 2014, Norris returned to the family farm to help manage the business and guide it into its second generation. Norris Farms supplies fresh-picked berries from early June through late September, growing multiple varieties across their land.

Since Norris' return to the farm, she has been actively involved with various organizations, including the Oregon Blueberry Commission, the United States Highbush Council, and the North American Blueberry Council. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek appointed Norris to the board in June 2024.

"Farming and agriculture are my passions, and I have devoted my life to preserving them," said Norris. "I am a fierce advocate for family farms, advancing technologies to improve farming practices and improving the quality of life of the American farmer. I feel I could continue to have a unique voice and perspective for the ODA Board with my experiences as a Southern Oregon farmer."





From Berries to Beef: Oregon's Board of Agriculture is well represented



Moving from berries to beef, Eric Orem of Heppner owns and operates a diversified dryland wheat, hay and cattle farming operation. He is a proud first-generation farmer who developed a passion for agriculture while working the land in high school. In 2001, he began leasing a 2400-acre dryland wheat farm from a farmer he used to work for. Since then, Orem has grown his farm to 7000 acres. He converted all acres to direct seed - no till practices to conserve the topsoil and utilizes GPS and other

technologies to reduce overlap of fertilizers and chemical treatments. He runs a 120 cow and calf operation, grows hay, and provides custom seeding and spraying.

"From a young age, I had a passion for agriculture, but I never thought I would get to be a part of it or own my own operation," he said. "It just wasn't in the cards." He was told that farmer owners had to either inherit their farms or marry into them, he said.

Orem grew up in Morrow County and earned an associate degree in marketing and business management from Blue Mountain Community College. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown appointed Orem to the Board in December 2021. The Board advises the Oregon Department of Agriculture on policy issues, develops recommendations on key agricultural issues and provides advocacy of the state's agriculture industry in general



Vitamin B-Complex Supplementation in Beef Cattle

Juliana Ranches, Assistant Professor and Beef Extension Specialist Erica Ferri de Oliveira, Graduate Research Assistant OSU, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC), Burns



INTRODUCTION

Cattle are frequently subjected to various stressors, including castration, weaning, separation, transportation, periods of food and water deprivation, and environmental challenges. These stressors, combined with dietary changes or inadequate diets, can significantly impact nutrient absorption and utilization. For cattle produced in grazing systems where the nutritional foundation is forage, as its nutritional quality declines over time, it becomes important to manage the impact of possible nutrient deficiencies, and strategic supplementation may be necessary to meet cattle requirements. While mineral supplementation is a standard practice, vitamin supplementation is not so often discussed and may represent an emerging opportunity for producers.

Vitamin Classification and Functions Vitamins are defined as micronutrients, due to their small required amounts and are classified according to the solubility: fat-soluble (vitamin A, D, E, K) and water-soluble (vitamin C and B-complex: B1, thiamine; B2, riboflavin; B3, niacin; B5, pantothenic acid; B6, pyridoxine; B7, biotin; B9, folate and B12, cobalamin). Both groups play an important role in ruminants. Fat-soluble vitamins are associated with successful reproduction, including higher fertility rates, increased conception rates, reduced calving intervals, and earlier onset of first estrus. Water-soluble vitamins are involved in all metabolic pathways of protein, carbohydrates,

Vitamins are essential for metabolic functions, and their availability in forage must be considered to ensure optimal health and productivity. Low forage quality or conservation processes can significantly reduce

vitamin concentrations in feed, impacting not only grazing animals but also fed cattle. Properly balancing diet or supplements with vitamins is crucial for enhancing production efficiency and preventing health complications related to vitamin deficiencies, which can lead to unnoticed issues, or can trigger serious consequences, including diseases, reproductive inefficiency, weakened immune response, reduced growth, lower milk production, increased morbidity, and in severe cases, death.

VITAMIN REQUIREMENTS IN RUMINANTS

Vitamin requirements for A, D, and E have been established, while vitamin B-complex requirements remain undetermined, mainly due to their production by rumen microbes. However, microbial vitamin B production is a very dynamic process, and can be influenced by many different aspects, including feed processing, feed sources, and other variables such as stress, maternal nutrition, fetal programming, and nutritional status. Vitamin B-complex plays a crucial role in activating enzymes involved in carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism, which is very important for cattle performance. Young calves are more susceptible to vitamin B deficiencies due to their underdeveloped rumen, which lacks sufficient microbial activity to produce vitamin B, therefore relying on maternal transfer.

CURRENT RESEARCH IN VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTATION

Most studies evaluating vitamin B supplementation have been conducted in dairy cows due to the challenge associated with high production demands. Benefits include enhanced immune response, reduced heat stress, increased milk components and production, and improved hoof health.

Promising findings from dairy cattle studies have spurred research to determine whether these benefits apply to beef cattle as well. Vitamin supplementation has been studied to a lesser extent in preconditioning programs, and its use under these conditions might be beneficial to recently weaned calves that may or may not receive optimal nutritional. In addition, late gestation cows might benefit from supplementation as well, and these effects can be extended to their calves through maternal transfer.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

Two studies were conducted at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC; Burns, Oregon) to investigate the effects of vitamin B-complex supplementation on weaned beef calves during a 42-day preconditioning period and on late-gestation beef cows. Performance parameters, including body weight, average daily gain, and feed intake, were measured, as were blood parameters such as cortisol, acute-phase proteins, and vitamin concentrations. In both studies, cattle in the treatment groups received dried distillers grain (DDG) fortified with a rumen-protected vitamin B-complex composed of pantothenic acid, pyridoxine, folic acid, biotin, and cobalamin (Vivalto®, Selko® USA, Indianapolis, IN, USA).

PRECONDITIONING STUDY

In the preconditioning study, it was hypothesized that supplementing growing calves with a vitamin B-complex during a preconditioning program would improve growth performance and enhance feed OUTCOMES FROM VITAMIN
B-COMPLEX supplementation on
beef cattle have been variable, with
some studies showing benefits such
as increased average daily gain and
improved efficiency, while others
report improvements in feedlot
settings, including reduced morbidity,
fewer liver abscesses, and enhanced
immune function.

LATE GESTATION STUDY

In the late gestation study, the objective was to evaluate the effects of vitamin B-complex supplementation on the performance of cows and their calves, expecting benefits on the energy metabolism of cows, resulting in greater milk production, which would result in greater calf weight gain and ultimately greater weaning weights.

Cows were grouped into two treatments: control (receiving DDG with no vitamin supplementation) and treatment group (fed 2.0 g of vitamin B-complex daily). Results showed that supplementation during late gestation increased biotin and cobalamin concentrations in cows at calving. At birth, calves from supplemented cows had higher plasma biotin and cobalamin concentrations, confirming the hypothesis that dam supplementation affects the nutrient status of the offspring.

Despite these positive improvements in vitamin concentration, vitamin B-complex supplementation under these environmental conditions did not enhance cow-calf performance.

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

More studies need to be conducted to investigate the long-term benefits and their practical application in both cow-calf operations and preconditioning programs. Future research should focus on the optimal timing, dosage, and duration of vitamin B supplementation to maximize benefits while maintaining economic feasibility for producers. •



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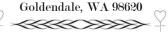
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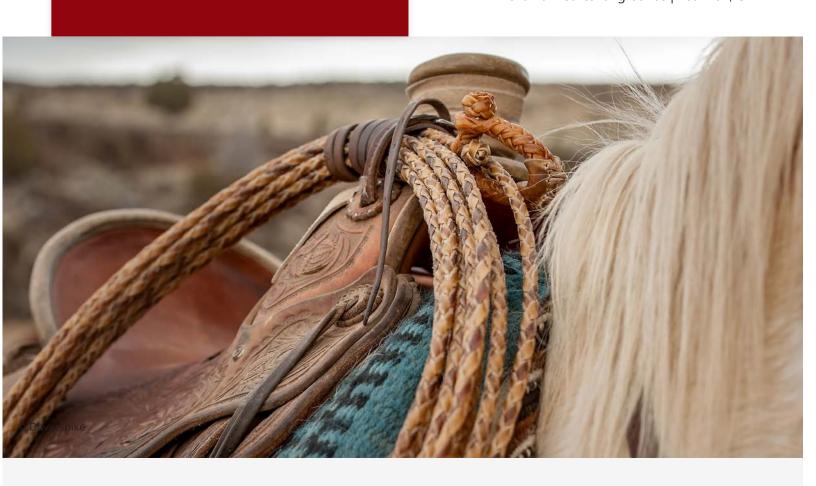
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