

OREGON CATTLEMAN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

APRIL/MAY 2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE >>>

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OREGON CATTLEMAN

APRIL/MAY 2026

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REMINDERS

Register Today!
Mid-Year Membership Meeting
June 26 | Madras
See Page 13

7th Annual Patriotic Ranch Photo Contest!

Submit photos to be featured on the cover of the July/August issue
 Submit by July 15th to orcattlemaneditor@gmail.com

ON THE COVER

Photograph of red angus cattle from OCA President Diana Wirth's ranch in Klamath County



HEADQUARTERS

President's Message 6
 From the desk of your Executive Director 8

PARTNER COLUMN

NCBA: The Working Families Tax Cuts Act secured a stronger future for family-owned operations 12
 OCW: More than a meal 30
 OBC Update 32

AGENCY UPDATE

State Veterinarian: Let's talk Oregon Grazing Permits 18

RESEARCH

Spent Hemp Biomass: What new research means for Oregon's cattle producers 34

OCA Committee Chairs & Affiliated County Presidents 36
 Advertiser's Index 36
 Past OCA Presidents 36

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RECAP OF THE
2026 LEGISLATIVE
SESSION

10

USDA ASSISTANCE
FOR DEATH LOSSES
DUE TO EPIZOOTIC
HEMORRHAGIC
DISEASE

14

SOCIAL SECURITY:
IT CAN BE A
RANCHER'S BEST
INVESTMENT

16

INTRODUCING THE
OCA YOUNG
CATTLEMEN'S 26-27
COHORT

20

WHAT CAN I DO
WITH LATE CALVING
COWS IN MY HERD?

26



Oregon's cattle industry: The strength behind us

Diana Wirth | 541-891-2295
OCA President

Oregon's cattle producers form one of the most deeply rooted and economically significant agricultural communities in the state. With cattle raised in every county, the industry is woven into the fabric of rural life, local economies, and Oregon's long standing agricultural identity. From the coastal grasslands to the high desert, county level leadership plays a vital and often under recognized role. These local affiliations serve as the first line of communication, advocacy, and support for producers, ensuring that the unique needs of each region are represented within the broader statewide effort—please give them your support.

At the center of this network stands the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA)—a unifying voice, a strategic advocate, and a driving force for the future of Oregon's livestock sector. For decades, OCA members, affiliates, and county leaders have worked tirelessly to protect the viability of cattle production while strengthening the communities that depend on it. Their leadership is not always visible to the public, but its impact is unmistakable. Whether navigating regulatory challenges, supporting local producers, or building partnerships across the agricultural landscape, OCA members consistently demonstrate the resilience and commitment that define Oregon's ranching heritage.

A Mission Rooted in Stewardship and Strength

The OCA's mission reflects the values that have guided Oregon cattle producers for generations. The organization works to promote environmentally and socially sound industry practices, ensuring that ranching remains compatible with the landscapes and communities it supports. It strives to promote a positive image of the industry, highlighting the stewardship, innovation, and responsibility that cattle producers bring to their work every day.

Equally important is the OCA's commitment to strengthening the industry's economics. Ranching

is more than a tradition—it is a business, and a challenging one. By advocating for fair regulations, supporting market opportunities, and fostering collaboration, the OCA helps ensure that Oregon's cattle producers can remain competitive and sustainable.

The mission also emphasizes the need to ensure a strong political presence. In an era of rapidly changing policies and public perceptions, having a unified voice is essential. The OCA works to restore and protect private property rights, defend the interests of rural communities, and ensure that the people who raise Oregon's food have a seat at the table when decisions are made.

Working Behind the Scenes for Oregon's Future

Much of the OCA's most important work happens quietly, behind the scenes, in partnership with other agricultural organizations, landowners, and industry leaders. One example is the ongoing effort to address proposed ballot measure Initiative Petition 28, known as the PEACE Act. Measures like IP 28 could dramatically restrict or eliminate animal health and agriculture practices in Oregon. Concerns include the potential loss of in state food production, increased reliance on out of state resources, and reduced food security for Oregon families.

The OCA collaborates with partners across the agricultural sector to analyze proposals, educate the public, and ensure that voters understand the potential impacts on rural communities, food systems, and the state's economy. This work reflects the organization's broader commitment to strengthening communities for future generations—a goal that depends on maintaining a stable, sustainable, and locally supported food supply.

The Power of Membership

The strength of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association comes from its members. Ranchers,

landowners, youth, business partners, and county affiliates all contribute to a statewide network that is stronger together than any one voice could ever be alone. Their involvement ensures that the OCA remains informed about local issues, responsive, and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

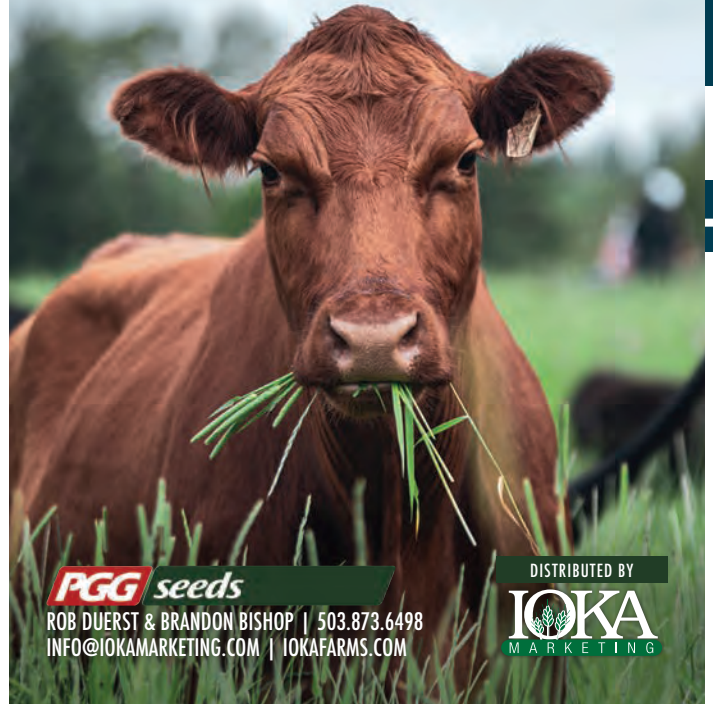
To every current member: thank you. Your dedication, leadership, and willingness to stand up for Oregon agriculture make all the difference.

A Season of Renewal and Community

As spring arrives across Oregon, ranching families are actively engaged in one of the most anticipated times of the year—branding season and spring turnout. It's a time when neighbors gather, generations work side by side, and the values of community, stewardship, and hard work shine brightest. These traditions remind us why the industry matters and why protecting its future is so important.

To those who are not yet members, I want to extend an open invitation to join us. Together, we can continue to protect the land, support our counties, and ensure that Oregon's ranching legacy remains strong for generations to come. Happy turnout! DW •

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Member FDIC

News and updates from the OCA headquarters

Spring may be on the calendar, but conditions across Oregon tell a different story. Some regions are already feeling the strain of early season drought, while others have slogged through heavy rain and unpredictable storms. No matter where your cattle are turned out, you're likely watching the sky as much as the markets, trying to gauge what kind of year we're in for. While you stay focused on your herd, your inputs, and your water, OCA will stay out front on the issues that affect your operation.

Primary Season is moving quickly, and by the time this reaches you, many of the races you voted on may be settled. OCA conserves our limited PAC dollars for the General Election, when they matter most. Later this summer, our leadership team will meet with candidates and evaluate where endorsements and PAC support should go based on their understanding of and commitment to Oregon's cattle industry.

Our annual CattlePAC fundraiser is set for September 24 in Powell Butte. This event gives us the ability to help candidates in the final stretch when they need support most. Mark and Ann Malott generously open their gates each year as part of their Central Oregon Ranch Supply Customer Appreciation weekend, and we're grateful for their continued partnership. Look for some exciting changes to this year's event. If you can make it, we'd sure like to see you there.

If you'd like to contribute before then, you can mail a check to the OCA Office with "PAC" in the memo line or donate online at <https://orcattle.com/donate/cattlepac/>. Every dollar helps us stand up for the folks who stand up for agriculture.

OCA is also working hard to slow down signature gathering for IP 28 by making sure the public understands what's at stake. We've recently learned that paid signature gatherers are targeting college campuses and pushing students hard for signatures. If you have a college student in your family, please talk with them about the real world consequences of IP 28 and encourage them not to sign.

The latest numbers show the pace of signature submissions has slowed somewhat, and we're hopeful that's due to the combined efforts of all

the groups working to educate voters. If enough signatures are eventually submitted and validated, the measure will be assigned a ballot number. We'll keep you posted every step of the way.

One important note: voters will not see "IP 28" printed on the ballot. If you want to help spread the word, educational one pagers are available at www.orcattle.com, and we've posted them on OCA's social media pages. Sharing them helps us reach more folks. When the ranching community pulls together, we can move the needle.

We're also proud to share that OCA has launched a new program for young cattlemen. The 2026-27 Young Cattlemen's Leadership Cohort kicked off in Salem in April. This program is led by Mike Alger, Trevor Meyer, and Pat Mallon, and includes Cohort participants: Liz Nielson (Boardman), Nathan Teixeira (Terrebonne), Mylisa McCarthy (Boardman), Elizabeth Roberts (Eagle Point), and Kyle Kennington (Central Point).

During their launch session, participants heard directly from the Governor's Natural Resource team, the Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron on leadership, the Oregon Department of Agriculture leadership, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership. It was a full couple of days, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. If you'd like to support this effort, you'll find a link and QR code on the OCA website. Your support helps us invest in the next generation of cattle producers.

Membership renewal season has wrapped up, but if you haven't renewed yet, don't worry — we're always glad to keep your membership active. Just give us a call or visit the website. And if you know a neighbor, a restaurant, an allied industry partner, or another business that should be part of OCA, we'd be proud to welcome them.

Thank you for standing with OCA and for staying engaged. We look forward to seeing you at the Membership Mid Year Meeting in Madras, June 25-26, at the Inn at Cross Keys. •

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Recap of the 2026 Legislative Session

Rocky Dallum
Political Advocate

We're entering one of the quieter periods for OCA's legislative and policy work as we move past the 2026 session and await the results of the May primary. Still, given publication schedules, we owe our readers a recap of the 2026 legislative session - OCA achieved some important successes during the February session. This spring, at least one state agency has kept the OCA team busy; we're closely watching the development of Initiative Petition 28. In the meantime, we'll be watching several primary election-related results closely and will begin the early phases of gathering information and planning for the 2027 session.

OCA had some significant successes on behalf of members during the short February session. First and foremost, we have finally secured a dedicated funding mechanism for Oregon's wolf depredation and compensation management program. HB 4134, passed with bipartisan support, imposes a 1.25% tax on hotel rooms and dedicates a portion of that revenue specifically for compensating ranchers through the existing ODA Grant program to counties. It was a hard-fought bill, and special thanks go to the Republican Representatives and Senators who spoke on their respective chamber floors on behalf of producers and

the significant losses many of you have incurred. This includes Senator Todd Nash and Representatives Bobby Levy, Mark Owens, and Greg Smith. Despite pressure from the hospitality industry and Portland-based businesses, Governor Kotek signed the bill in late March. Great work and dedication by all of you who came to Salem, submitted letters, testified, and shared your stories.

We also achieved several other positive results on bills, including the passage (and signing!) of SB 1539, allowing trained, certified non-veterinarians to confirm pregnancy in cows. Our continued advocacy for wildfire suppression also delivered an additional \$11.6 million for the Oregon Department of Forestry for wildfire suppression and administrative costs. This appropriation hopefully continues to help minimize the risk of passing firefighting costs on to private landowners.

Unfortunately, it wasn't all positive news coming out of Salem. Lawmakers passed SB 1507, which disconnected Oregon's tax code from the federal code for several specific new tax deductions: most notably, the ability to accelerate depreciation for capital expenditures. Democrats passed the bill based on projections that eliminating tax deductions would result in around \$311 million in state revenue. Still,

Oregonians, including ranchers, will be limited in their ability to finance new equipment purchases through bonus depreciation. Further, the bill adds complexity to taxes (as many of you may have learned last month), by requiring separate depreciation schedules for your federal and state returns. Despite the backlash on the proposed transportation taxes and the widely stated focus on supporting businesses, the bill passed and became law in early April.

Late March brought some unwelcome regulatory surprises to OCA as well. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) released a list of carbon-reduction proposals as part of its assessment of Oregon's progress toward carbon-reduction goals, a process called TIGHGER 2.0. ODOE did this without consulting impacted stakeholders (like OCA and other ag organizations) or even the Governor's office and/or various state agencies. These proposals ranged from reducing meat consumption by Oregonians to requiring businesses to switch from diesel to electric equipment and fleets. OCA joined a coalition of other natural resource and agriculture stakeholders expressing our significant concern with the process and underlying recommendations. We provided comments to ODOE outlining

our concerns and will keep the pressure on the executive branch to avoid further publication of these proposals without deeper analysis of their viability and costs.

OCA's other items of focus this spring are continued coordination with Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, and others as we gear up for a potential ballot fight over Initiative Petition 28. As a reminder, IP 28 would ban the killing of animals in Oregon, remove any legal allowances in statute for animal husbandry, and define livestock breeding as animal abuse. The proponents continue to gather signatures and will have 117,000 valid signatures by July 1. Our coalition is working to be ready to launch an opposition campaign if IP 28 qualifies for the November ballot.

This month's issue of Oregon Cattlemen's Magazine will likely hit your mailbox close to the same time as the May primary ballot. In addition to some significant primaries for gubernatorial, congressional, and state legislative candidates, you'll also be asked whether to repeal the gas and payroll taxes passed during the 2025 Special Session in September. Please remember to return your ballots and make your voice heard! •



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The Working Families Tax Cuts Act secured a stronger future for family-owned operations

An update from NCBA's Center for Public Policy



This past 2026 tax season marks the first year under the updated tax code enacted through the Working Families Tax Cut Act that was included in the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB), passed last July. This legislation represents one of the most significant tax reform efforts in recent years, delivering meaningful relief and long-term certainty for cattle producers and family-owned operations. Tax reform has been a central focus for NCBA, and the final package ensures producers can continue planning, investing, and transferring operations to the next generation without unexpected tax burdens.


When the OB BB was signed into law, many of the important 2017 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act provisions were not only extended but strengthened, and some even made permanent. Among the most impactful changes are the permanently increased Death Tax exemptions, now set at \$15 million for individuals and \$30 million for married couples. The OB BB also raised the Section 179 equipment expense deduction limit to \$2.5 million, giving producers the ability to target specific assets while saving standard depreciation for others, providing a streamlined approach to managing tax brackets.

The OB BB also retains Section 199A bonus depreciation and the stepped-up basis, both critical tools for cattle operations. 100% upfront bonus depreciation means that all qualified property

(machinery, grain bins, and certain single-purpose structures) placed in service after January 19, 2025, are eligible for an immediate deduction of the full purchase price, drastically reducing taxable income in high-revenue years. The retained stepped-up basis means that when land is inherited, the basis is reset to the fair market value at the time of death, potentially eliminating decades of capital gains tax liability for the next generation of producers.

This tax relief was the result of extensive, sustained advocacy and grassroots member engagement. NCBA spent years working with Congress to secure these wins for cattle producers, especially critical given that more than half of the House members and many Senators were not in Congress during the passage of the 2017 tax bill. NCBA's tax survey, which featured anonymous submissions from U.S. cattle producers, proved to be the most important part of the advocacy process. The results served two essential purposes: they helped NCBA identify which provisions mattered most to producers, and they provided powerful firsthand accounts that helped lawmakers understand the real-world tax burdens facing family operations. Tax policy can be extremely complicated, and it is the personal stories that make these issues real for politicians in Washington.

Congress and the Trump administration codifying these tax provisions has created more opportunities for profitability and long-term stability, protecting thousands of family farms and ranches. With these provisions in place, producers this year and beyond will now be able to keep more of what they earn and reinvest in their own operations. While there is still more work to do to fully repeal the Death Tax, NCBA will continue working with Congress and the administration to protect and strengthen family-owned cattle operations. NCBA also encourages producers to consult with a tax professional to ensure they are taking full advantage of the updated tax code. •



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Corey, Byler & Rew, LLP. Contact Tom at 541.276.3331, byler@corey-byler.com



Oregon
Cattlemen's
Association

Mid-Year Attendee Registration

June 25-26 | Inn at Cross Keys Station | Madras, OR

66 NW Cedar Street, Madras, Oregon 97741

Attendee Information

Attendee #1

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

Attendee #2

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: _____

RANCH/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT EMAIL: _____ CONTACT PHONE: _____

OCA members who are only attending the policy discussion meetings on Friday may register at no cost. No meals included. Please call the OCA office to advise of your attendance.

Event Schedule

Thursday	5:00 - 7:30 pm	-	<i>Social and Reception with OCA Leadership and Committee Chairs</i>
Friday	8:30 am	-	<i>Coffee with OCA Leadership</i>
	9:00	-	<i>Welcome OCA Members - President Diana Wirth</i>
	9:15	-	<i>Tootie Smith, FSA State Director</i> <i>- Program Updates from Washington DC, Q & A</i>
	10:30	-	<i>Committee Chairs Review Expiring Resolutions and Recieve Proposed Resolutions</i>
	Noon	-	<i>Lunch</i>
	1:00 pm	-	<i>Committee Chair Review (cont.)</i>
	3:00	-	<i>County President / Board Vice President Updates</i>
	4:00	-	<i>Conclude</i>

Member Registration *

		How Many Attendees	Total Amount
Full Registration Thursday and Friday	\$50 x	_____ =	_____
Thursday only Social & Reception with OCA Leadership and Committee Chairs	\$25 x	_____ =	_____
Friday only Includes Coffee, Lunch, and Snacks	\$25 x	_____ =	_____
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* Current OCA Membership is required to attend

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USDA assistance for livestock death losses due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Tootie Smith
Oregon FSA – State Executive Director

Livestock producers in Oregon may be eligible for Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) assistance to offset death losses caused by Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), transmitted by biting flies or the flying midge. EHD has been identified in livestock herds in Oregon.

LIP is administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and provides assistance for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, eligible disease, and

attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

Eligibility and Testing

For LIP, eligible livestock deaths must be directly due to EHD. Producers will be required to submit positive EHD test results.

Payments and Mortality Rates

Calendar year 2026 LIP losses are calculated based on a

percentage of the average fair market value of the livestock as determined by CCC. Specific rates are set for different categories of livestock.

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

Reporting and Documenting Loss

Producers are encouraged to report losses throughout the year. To participate in LIP, producers will have to provide acceptable documentation of death losses and must submit a notice of loss and application to their local FSA county office no later than March 1, 2027, for 2026 calendar year losses.

Acceptable EHD loss documentation includes:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower contracts
- Livestock beginning inventory documentation and inventory changes throughout the year
- Positive test results for EHD

Note: Producers are encouraged to keep documentation for all livestock losses as normal mortality applies to EHD losses.

To apply for LIP or for questions about eligibility or documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office. •

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Social Security: It can be a rancher's best investment

Paul Neiffer, CPA
"Farm CPA"

When that FICA line item shows up on your payroll stub, or you write your annual tax payment that includes self-employment, it's easy to view Social Security as just another cost of doing business. But that perspective sells short what is, for many ranching families, the most valuable financial asset they'll ever own and one that offers benefits no private investment can match.

More Than a Tax: Building a Guaranteed Income Stream

As a rancher, you understand long-term investments. You put money into land improvements, breeding stock, and equipment, knowing the payoff comes years or decades down the road. Social Security works the same way, except instead of building equity in physical assets, you're building a guaranteed monthly income that will last the rest of your life and your spouse's life, too.

What makes this different from other retirement savings? Three words: inflation-protected guarantee. Your Social Security benefit adjusts annually with the cost of living. When feed prices spike, when fuel costs climb, when everything at the hardware store seems to cost twice what it did five years ago, your Social Security check increases to help keep pace. Try finding a private annuity that offers that protection without being charged a substantial premium.

The guarantee aspect matters just as much. Market downturns don't touch your Social Security benefit. Unlike a 401(k) or IRA that can lose value right when you need it most, your earned benefit is locked in. For an industry as cyclical as ranching and where cattle prices, drought, and input costs can swing wildly from year to year, having a bedrock of stable, predictable income in retirement provides invaluable peace of mind.

Spousal and Survivor Benefits: Protecting the Whole Family

Ranching is a family enterprise, and Social Security recognizes that. The spousal and survivor benefits built into the system provide protection that would cost a fortune to replicate privately.

Spousal benefits allow a husband or wife who

earned less or who spent years working on the ranch without formal wages to receive up to 50% of their spouse's full benefit amount. This isn't in their own best interest; they receive the higher of the two. For ranching families where one spouse handled most of the ranch income while the other managed the home operation, this can substantially increase total household retirement income.

Survivor benefits are where Social Security truly shines as family protection. When a spouse passes away, the surviving partner can receive the deceased's full benefit amount if it's higher than their own. This means the family doesn't face a dramatic income drop at an already difficult time. For ranchers who've spent decades building an operation together, knowing that a surviving spouse will have continued financial security is worth far more than any premium you've paid in.

These survivor benefits also extend to dependent children and, in some cases, dependent parents. It's comprehensive family protection that requires multiple expensive insurance policies to approximate in the private market.

Disability Protection: Coverage Most Ranchers Can't Get Elsewhere

Here's a reality that doesn't get discussed enough: for many ranchers, Social Security provides their only meaningful disability coverage.

Private disability insurance is notoriously difficult and expensive for agricultural workers to obtain. Insurers see the physical demands of ranch work, such as livestock handling, equipment operation, long hours in challenging conditions, and either refuse coverage entirely or price it out of reach. Even when policies are available, they often contain exclusions that limit their usefulness for the actual risks ranchers face.

Social Security Disability Insurance fills this gap. If you become unable to work due to a serious medical condition, SSDI provides monthly income based on your earnings history. Yes, the qualification standards are strict. You must have a condition expected to last at least a year or result in death, and it must

prevent you from doing substantial work. But for catastrophic situations such as a serious injury, a major illness, or a condition that truly ends your working days, SSDI provides a financial lifeline that most ranchers simply couldn't access otherwise.

The value here is substantial. A 40-year-old rancher with average earnings has disability coverage through Social Security worth roughly the equivalent of a \$350,000 disability insurance policy. That's protection you're already paying for and that you likely couldn't purchase at any price on the private market.

How Your Benefits Are Calculated

Understanding how Social Security calculates your benefit helps you see it as the investment it truly is.

Step 1: Track Your Earnings

Social Security records your earnings each year, up to the annual taxable maximum (\$184,500 in 2026). For self-employed ranchers, this is your net self-employment income.

Step 2: Index for Inflation

Your historical earnings are adjusted to account for wage growth over time, so earnings from 1990 are brought up to current-dollar equivalents. This ensures your early career contributions aren't undervalued.

Step 3: Calculate Your Average

The formula uses your highest 35 years of indexed earnings. These are totaled and divided by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to determine your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, or AIME.

Step 4: Apply the Benefit Formula

Your Primary Insurance Amount, which is the monthly benefit you'd receive at full retirement age, is calculated using a progressive formula applied to your AIME:

- 90% of the first \$1,226 of AIME
 - 32% of AIME between \$1,226 and \$7,391
 - 15% of AIME above \$7,391
- (These "bend points" adjust annually.)

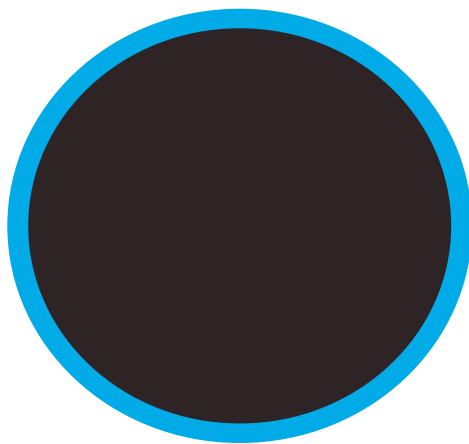
Step 5: Adjust for Claiming Age

Claiming before your full retirement age (currently 67 for those born in 1960 or later) reduces your benefit permanently up to 30% if you claim at 62. Waiting past full retirement age increases by 8% per year until age 70.

The Bottom Line

That self-employment tax check you write represents one of the soundest investments available to a ranching family. You're purchasing a guaranteed, inflation-adjusted income stream for life; protection for your spouse that continues after you're gone; and disability coverage that the private market largely refuses to offer agricultural workers.

No private financial product combines all these features at a comparable cost. The next time you see that FICA payment, consider what you're actually buying: security for your family that will last for generations, built on the same foundation of hard work and long-term planning that defines ranching itself. •



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Let's talk Oregon Grazing Permits

Dr. Ryan Scholz
Oregon State Veterinarian

Grazing permits, often referred to as pasture permits, are special authorizations granted to facilitate the movement of cattle between collaborating states for grazing purposes. Oregon has agreements with California, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada to permit established breeding cattle herds to graze on pastures owned or leased by the herd owner, provided they remain separate from local cattle. For herds that meet the criteria of a grazing permit, it serves as an alternative to a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (except in Idaho).

Grazing permits are offered as an alternative to conventional movement requirements, based on risk assessments that have determined that movements adhering to the permit's guidelines pose a low risk of introducing diseases. Consequently, both Oregon and the destination state must thoroughly review permit requests to ensure that the proposed movement aligns with each state's specific requirements.

In general, grazing permits facilitate temporary entry into the destination state without the cattle becoming fully qualified as resident cattle. For instance, Oregon cattle traveling to a leased pasture in Washington retain their Oregon identity and are only permitted to graze on the designated location before returning to Oregon. All cattle moved on a grazing permit must return to the origin state after the grazing season. Feeder or slaughter cattle cannot be moved to another state on a grazing permit and subsequently be sold within that state. Similarly, animals cannot be purchased and added to the herd while cattle are in another state on a grazing permit.

The requirements for obtaining an Oregon Grazing Permit include:

- Cattle must not be commingled with any cattle from the destination state.
- All cattle over 18 months of age must have official identification.

- There is no change in animal ownership permitted while cattle are outside Oregon on a grazing permit.
- Only animals from breeding herds assembled for more than six months are permitted. All cattle must return to Oregon at the end of the grazing season.
- All bulls must have undergone Trich testing within the past 12 months. Negative Trich test results for every bull must be included with the application if the bull is to be moved.
- Cattle cannot be moved before the grazing permit is approved by both the origin and destination states.
- Idaho requires that Oregon cattle obtain a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection before entering Idaho on a grazing permit. They can return to Oregon without a CVI at the end of the permit.

Every cattle operation is unique, so not every herd will meet the standard requirements. In many cases, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) can still approve a grazing permit, but additional documentation may be required to ensure the movement remains low risk. Therefore, it's crucial to submit applications for a pasture permit at least 14 days before the intended movement date to give ODA time to work with the applicant and the destination state. For more information on permits, visit the ODA website (<https://oda.direct/AnimalHealth>) or call 503-986-4680.

Dr. Scholz was hired as the Oregon State Veterinarian in November 2020. In that role, he serves as the Chief Livestock Sanitary Official and State Animal Health Official for the State of Oregon, as well as managing the Animal Health Program, Animal Rescue Entity Program, and Commercial Animal Feeds Programs of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. •

Have you heard of IP 28?

IP 28 is a direct attack against ranchers and pet owners everywhere. If the necessary number of signatures are gathered for this to be placed on the ballot, OCA will join the broad coalition of agricultural and natural resource based industries to fight against the ballot measure.

How would your grocery store's meat case look if IP 28 passes? **Empty.**

Oregonians deserve the right to choose; what to eat and where to shop.

IP 28 removes the freedom of choice from every consumer.



Intention of IP 28

IP 28, aka the PEACE Act, would prohibit processing of animals, in addition to restricting hunting and fishing, under the guise of preventing animal cruelty.



Signature Gatherers

More than 105,000 of the 117,000 necessary signatures have been gathered in support of this petition as of 03/30/26. Signature gatherers will continue to be out up to the July deadline. If approached, just say no.



Just Say No

Educate your friends and neighbors about IP 28. If enough signatures are gathered, this petition will become a ballot measure on the November ballot-- **VOTE NO**. All Oregonians deserve the chance to make their own dietary decisions.



You can help

With donations of any size

Donations to OCA's PAC fund will be directed to educational efforts to warn of the impact of IP 28. Scan the QR code to donate and support Oregon's largest livestock sector.



Preserve Your Freedom of Choice

IP 28 aims to shift your dietary choices. Protect your freedom of choice.

Oregon Cattlemen's Association urges you to understand the impacts of IP 28 and raise awareness with friends and neighbors.



Scan to learn more about IP 28. →



Part of OCA's advocacy work involves educating the public against signing initiatives like IP 28.

Please share the graphics that are available on OCA's social media pages and website.



Scan to view OCA's webpage against IP 28 and view all sharable graphics.



Donate to CattlePAC and help to continue beef production in Oregon

We need Your Support to build a war chest that will allow OCA to educate the public about IP 28 and other initiatives that would be harmful to beef production and the agricultural industry.

Introducing the inaugural class for Oregon Cattlemen's Association's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program 2026-2027 Cohort

Kyle Kennington



Kyle Kennington is the VP of Ag Operations for the Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe as well as the General Manager of K Bar Ranches. Kyle has been with the Tribe in this role for the past 10 years. K Bar Ranches is a cow calf and feeder operation, running cattle in Jackson, Douglas and Deschutes Counties. Kyle's appreciation for agriculture has been apparent his entire life. Being born and raised in Central California in the heart of cattle and stone fruit country, agriculture has always been apart of his heritage. Kyle was honored to be chosen to participate in the upcoming Young Cattlemen's Leadership Cohort and hopes it allows him to both see how the Oregon Cattlemen's Association is supporting Cattlemen across the State as well as gives him the opportunity to network with an array of Cattlemen within the Association.

Elizabeth Nielson

Growing up in Central Washington, Liz Nielson was influenced from a young age by the rich agriculture presence in the Columbia River Basin. Although she wasn't raised in a farming or ranching family, her immersion in the local community inspired her to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of Idaho.

During her time at U of I, Liz capitalized on every opportunity to deepen her industry knowledge. She stayed active in student clubs, worked for the Steer-A-Year program, and eventually secured an internship with Beef Northwest. Following graduation, Liz moved to Morrow County to begin her professional career with the company full-time.

Today, Liz manages Training and Development across all Beef Northwest locations. Her work supports the essential people and processes behind the scenes—from animal health and grain processing to equipment technology and cattle trucking. Together, these efforts provide beef to over 2.5 million people annually throughout Oregon and beyond.

Beyond her primary role, Liz is a dedicated advocate for the beef industry. She is a Certified BQA trainer, Program Coordinator for the BNW Youth Livestock Program, and serves as the President of the Board for Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom.



Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program 2026-2027 Cohort

Elizabeth Roberts

Elizabeth Roberts is a second-generation farmer with a strong commitment to agriculture education and her local community. She serves as the County Representative for Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) on the board of the Jackson County Farm Bureau and is an active member of both the CattleWomen's and Stockmen's Associations. Through these roles, she advocates for agricultural education for youth and works to strengthen connections within the farming community.

Graduating from the Rogue Community College Diesel Mechanic Program, she now works for a local rancher and part time at a private semi truck and trailer repair shop.

Looking ahead, Elizabeth aims to establish a permanent career that allows her to continue contributing to agriculture. While remaining in Southern Oregon would be ideal, she is open to opportunities that align with her long-term goals and values.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Elizabeth enjoys attending music festivals and exploring the outdoors. Whether discovering new backroads in the woods or spending time on the dunes with friends, she values adventure and connection in her personal life.



Mylisa Shackelford

I was raised in Marion County on a small hobby farm, where I spent my childhood and early adulthood developing a deep appreciation for agriculture. While my early experiences shaped this interest, it was further strengthened during summers spent working on a grass seed farm in Eastern Oregon, where I also assisted with a small herd of cattle. Those hands-on opportunities solidified a passion that would continue to influence my path.

Although I did not initially plan to pursue a career in agriculture, I found myself consistently drawn back to the industry. During college, I relocated to Eastern Oregon and accepted an administrative internship with Beef Northwest at their Boardman feed yard. With increased involvement in the company, I developed a strong interest in pursuing a future in the industry and shifted my academic focus to accounting to support both the business and operational sides.

Over the past six years, I have advanced within the company and now serve as the Office Manager for both the Boardman yard and the Northwest Pasture Beef feed yard. Through this role, I have gained a deeper understanding of what makes agriculture so meaningful to me—the strong sense of community, shared values, and the daily work with cattle.

My husband, Tyler, and I have been married for nearly two years. We recently purchased a small plot of land and look forward to growing our family and farm. I am excited for this opportunity to connect with others in the cattle industry and continue learning and growing within this field.



Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program 2026-2027 Cohort

Nathan Teixeira

Nathan John Teixeira is a Young Cattlemen's cohort member and U.S. Army veteran with four years of service. He believes agriculture is the backbone of this country, and without agriculture, no one thrives. As part of the next generation in the cattle industry, Nathan is focused on building relationships with those with less experience in the agricultural industry, keeping an open line of communication so that we are all on the same page and all Oregonians can prosper. Drawing from hands-on experience at Teixeira Cattle Co., he brings real ranching insight to legislative advocacy and policy discussions.



Thank you to all who have renewed for 2026.
We appreciate your timely response.

If you have not yet renewed for 2026,
this is your final magazine and you will no longer receive
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Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program 2026-2027 Cohort



Governor's Natural Resource Team



Oregon's Water Resource Department



Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron

The YCL Cohort met for the first time in April in Salem, Oregon to launch the program and to meet with Agency Officials to understand their roles in the Cattle Industry. ODA Leadership Briefing (right)



Scan to donate to support OCA's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program



Oregon's Department of Agriculture Director (left), the cohort outside of ODA, and ODA Division Leaders (right)

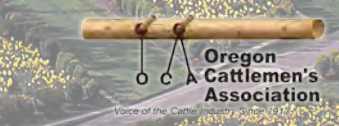
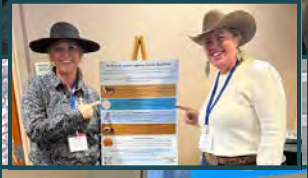
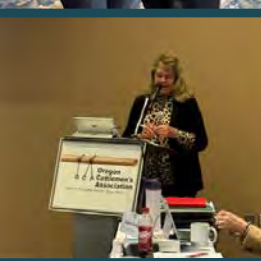


Oregon's Department of Fish & Wildlife leadership (left) and outside ODFW (right)



2026 Spring Quarterly & Beef Day in the Capitol

Photos courtesy of Oregon Cattlewomen,
OCA staff and members



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What can I do with late calving cows in my herd?

Travis Mulliniks

Glenn & Mildred Harvey Professor of Beef Cattle Management
Associate Department Head, Oregon State University

Every beef producer knows the feeling when you're wrapping up calving season, most of the cows are paired up and grazing, and then there's that group, let's call the stragglers. Late calving cows are those that calve in the last 21 days or more after the start of the calving season, or outside your planned breeding window entirely. They represent a common and costly inefficiency in a cow-calf operation.

The trouble isn't just the inconvenience of a longer calving season. Late calvers produce calves that are lighter at weaning (often 60-120 lbs lighter than early-born calves), are harder to synchronize for AI programs, and can be a perianal repeater year after year. Left unaddressed, late calvers can quietly drain your operation's profitability.

Late-calving cows are already behind, which means they have even fewer days to get back pregnant. If they don't catch up, they either stay late every year or eventually fall behind. That's where a lot of reproductive loss in cow-calf operations begins, especially with young cows.

So what do you do with them? You have several options, and the right answer depends on your goals, resources, and the reason they calved late in the first place.



Before deciding a cow's fate, it's worth understanding the cause. To maintain a yearly calving interval, a cow typically has only about 80 to 85 days after calving to recover, start cycling again, and get bred. The time

from calving to resumption of estrus varies among cows but is correlated with cow age. Mature cows will start cycling on average 50-60 days or earlier after calving. However, young cows (2- and 3-yr-old cows) often wait 70 - 90 days after calving before they start cycling. Late calving can stem from:

Nutritional deficiency

Thin cows at breeding are less likely to cycle early or at all. A body condition score (BCS) below 5 at calving can be a driver for late-calving cows (ie, late breed cows). If cows are thin at calving and not gaining weight before the start of breeding or losing weight afterward, it can become difficult for them to resume estrus in time. The key is to have cows gain weight, regardless of condition score, prior to the start of the breeding season.

First-calf heifers

Two-year-olds need more time to recover from their first calving before rebreeding. Is a greater percentage of late-calving cows young cows? If so, nutrition may be an issue. Too many late-bred heifers can also be a culprit in late calving and subsequent late-bred young cows.

Genetics

Over time, we can have "genetic creep" occur in our genetic selection, which can be an inattentive consequence of selecting for more genetic potential than we desired that may not fit our environment anymore. Two traits that can cause late-bred cows are increased milk and increased cow size.

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Digital Tools for Connectivity

Your Step-by-Step Guide to Accessing Member-only Content

Did you know OCA has an App?

Available for download from the Apple store, and on your desktop. Android app is coming soon. The OCA App is available to all members to feel more connected!

1. To download the app, search for 'Oregon Cattlemen's Association' and download (App logo displayed to the right) or visit oca.groupfire.com/login.
2. If you do not have an account select 'Sign-up' below the login screen.
3. Enter first and last name, email, and phone number.
4. Your account requires staff verification of current membership.
5. This may take time, especially if submitted outside of business hours.
5. In the meantime, fill out your profile with contact information.
6. Your login credentials are your phone number and a 4 digit passcode, which you will be prompted to set up once you request an account.
7. Once approved, you can enjoy the digital benefits listed below.



App view

Benefits and Resources Available on the OCA App

- Scroll announcement newsfeed, which includes the Post announcements and Calls to Action.
- Renew your membership or sign-up for membership dues with auto-pay (subscription).
- Check and pay invoices, view past receipts, or confirm your membership is current; all available under the payments section.
- There is a membership directory at your fingertips. Curious about who else is an OCA member? Head here for contact info of fellow ranchers, or to search for an allied industry business.
- Keep up with OCA Events.

To Access the Member Only Portal at orcattle.com

To set up an account on the OCA website:

1. Go to orcattle.com/login
2. To the right of the login screen, there is a button to "Create Account". Click that.
3. The next screen will ask for your name (first and last), your email, and a password.
4. Account approval is needed, so your current membership can be confirmed. Once you submit the form, a request for an account will have to be confirmed by OCA staff. This may take time, especially if submitted outside of business hours.
5. Once your account has been confirmed and approved, you can login to the OCA portal.

Behind the member only portal on OCA's website (orcattle.com) you can access a digital record of previous editions of the *Oregon Cattleman Magazine*, *The Post*, and the current version of OCA's Policies and Bylaw's.

If you have any membership questions, including difficulties setting up your account, or if you are unsure if you have created an account already, please reach out to Jem Connelly, Member Services Manager at jem.connelly@orcattle.com or (503) 361 - 8941.

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A good benchmark is to calculate the percentage of cows calving in the first 21 days, the second 21 days, or cows calving after that. In a defined breeding season (45 - 60 days), I would prefer to have 75 to 80% of cows calve within the first 21 days of the calving season. If the cause is nutritional, you may be dealing with cows that can return to normal productivity. If the cause is genetic or structural, culling is the more economical path.

Late-calving cows are trying to lactate, recover, and get bred all at once, so their nutrient demand is high. If energy or protein is lacking, reproduction is usually the first thing to suffer. Prioritizing later-calving cows, especially younger cows, can help get more of them cycling before the breeding season ends. Even small improvements in diet during that window can pay off in greater pregnancy rates.

Previous research has shown that cows gaining over 1 lb per day prior to the breeding season had conception rates during the first 20 days of the breeding season that were over 42% higher than those of cows gaining less than 1 lb per day.

Estrus synchronization protocols can also help bring late-calving cows forward, but expectations should be realistic. Cows must be cycling for most synchronization programs to be effective, and late-calving cows are the least likely to have resumed estrous cycles by the start of breeding. Pairing synchronization with improved nutrition and possibly early weaning can increase success, but it is

not a silver bullet. Using synchronization with a CIDR will help “jump-start” cows greater than 20 days post-calving. This can be useful in both artificial insemination programs and just synchronizing cows and using a bull.

Bottom Line

The reason all of this matters comes down to productivity and economics. Late-born calves are younger and lighter at weaning, which directly impacts revenue. On top of that, late-calving cows are more likely to have reproductive issues going forward. In contrast, cows that calve early tend to stay early, breed back more consistently, and wean heavier calves year after year. The compounding effect of a tight, well-managed calving season shows up clearly at the sale barn over time.

Managing late-calving cows is about being proactive. Keeping cows in adequate condition, supporting them nutritionally during the critical post-calving window, and using targeted tools like early weaning and synchronization protocols can help more of them breed back on time. But just as important is holding the line on your breeding season and not letting late cows dictate the system.

A cow that consistently calves late is costing you more than her calf is worth. Good records, sound nutrition, and the discipline to cull based on reproductive performance are what lead to a more uniform, productive, and profitable herd over time. •

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More than a meal.

Morgan Kromm | 805-801-9960
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We've all heard it said, sometimes jokingly and sometimes not, that all CattleWomen do is bake pies and serve meals. It is one of those comments that tends to get brushed off with a smile, but it has stuck with me. Not because it bothers me, but because there is a piece of truth in it, just not in the way people might think. The reality is, if all CattleWomen did was bake pies and serve meals, we would still be doing something pretty important.

There is something meaningful about feeding people. Taking the time to prepare a meal, to gather folks together, and to create a space where people can sit down, slow down, and connect is not insignificant. It has always been part of ranch life. If someone shows up, you feed them. It does not matter who they are or where they came from; there is a place for them at the table. What I have come to realize is that those moments around a table are rarely just about the food. They are about what happens as a result of it.

Earlier this year, during Legislative Days at the Capitol, Oregon CattleWomen organized and served a beef lunch for 500 legislators, staff, and members of the



public. On the surface, it looked simple. People moved through a line, grabbed a sandwich, and exchanged a few words. But if you stepped back and paid attention, you could see something more taking place. Conversations were starting that might not have happened otherwise. People paused long enough to ask questions, to listen, and to engage. Relationships were being built in real time, not through formal meetings or talking points, but through something as simple as sharing a meal. That was certainly my experience with the team I was on as we went around meeting with legislators; it created a natural opportunity to connect in a more relaxed, approachable setting.

A plate of beef has a way of bringing people together who might not otherwise find themselves in the same conversation. It creates common ground in a world that often feels divided. Urban and rural, producer and consumer, policymaker and constituent. When people sit down to eat, those lines tend to soften.

I have seen conversations start over a meal that never would have happened across a desk. I have watched people ask questions they might not have felt comfortable asking otherwise. I have seen perspectives shift, not because someone was trying to win an argument, but because they were willing to listen.

Hospitality has always been a quiet form of leadership. It does not demand attention, but it creates opportunity. It builds trust, and trust is what enables real conversations. As CattleWomen, we step into that role more often than people may realize. Sometimes that looks like organizing a meal, serving beef at an event, or making sure people are taken care of, but behind those efforts is something much bigger. There is planning, coordination, outreach, education, and a genuine desire to connect. The meal might be what people see, but the relationships built around it are what last. The reality is that many of the women known for baking pies and serving meals are also the ones who feed cows before daylight, fix fences, check calves, deal with government agencies regarding the ranch, and do whatever the day requires. Those things are

not separate. They are just part of the same life.

These relationships matter more now than ever. In an industry that is constantly being discussed, often by people far removed from it, it matters that we show up. It matters that we are present in those spaces. It matters that when we do, we bring more than just information. We bring a willingness to engage. Sometimes that starts with something as simple as sharing a meal. There is a long tradition, both in agriculture and beyond, of breaking bread together. It is something most of us grew up with without thinking much about it. Feeding neighbors, helping at brandings, or bringing food to a gathering. It is how relationships are built. It is how people get to know each other beyond surface-level conversations.

That is where the real work begins. What follows those meals, conversations, connections, and moments of understanding is where advocacy takes root. It does not happen in a loud or forceful way, but in a steady, relational way. It is built over time through consistency, presence, and trust. That work does not just happen at events like Legislative Days or AgFest. It happens at county events, community gatherings, classrooms, and everyday conversations across the state. It happens anytime we choose to show up and share our story in a way that invites others in rather than pushing them away.

So yes, you might see CattleWomen serving food at events, cooking for a crowd, or making sure everyone is fed. But if you look a little closer, you will see something more. You will see men and women

building bridges between communities that do not always understand each other. You will see leaders who understand that influence does not always come from standing at a podium. It often comes from sitting at a table. You will see an organization that knows the value of doing the kind of work that is not always recognized but always matters. Because it was never just about the meal. •

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The Federation Orientation in Denver from an Oregon beef producer's perspective

Will Wise

CEO of the Oregon Beef Council

The Oregon Beef Council gets offers from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) once or twice a year to send one or two representatives to a two-day training session for new staff and board members. These take place in Denver, where the NCBA is located. They were formerly called New Director Orientations in the past and are now called Federation Orientations. This year, Wes Killion, an Oregon Beef Council member from Boardman, attended in March. We thought it might be of interest to you to get his perspective on this opportunity to learn more about the beef checkoff, NCBA, and other state beef councils. Following is a brief bio about Wes and a few questions I asked him to respond to for the Oregon Beef Council. Thanks, Wes.



Wes Killion is a father of four living in Boardman, Oregon, with his wife, Mary. He grew up working on ranches and feedlots and turned that into a career, spending the last 27 years with Beef

Northwest Feeders. He represents the feedyard sector on the Oregon Beef Council and applied for the opening because he wants to support Oregon beef producers in a meaningful way. One area he is particularly passionate about is increasing the beef industry's focus on Oregon's youth – connecting the next generation to the people, the animals, and the nutritional value behind the beef they eat. He sees that as an opportunity worth pursuing.

Will: You attended the Federation Orientation in March, and I would like to ask you to share some thoughts about your experience, Wes. For example, did you gain new insights about the work the NCBA does, and was this orientation what you expected? Who were some of the people you met while attending, and what parts of the beef industry did they represent?

Wes: Going to the Federation Orientation gave me a chance to meet the people who actually do the work behind NCBA. One thing that caught me off guard was how small the Federation staff is, given everything they manage. Along with the State staff, there were council members from across the country who have stepped up to take on this responsibility – Washington state had three people in attendance, and Idaho, Texas, Missouri, Wyoming, New York, New Mexico, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Utah were all represented as well, among others. The group was made up primarily of cow-calf producers,



which makes sense given where most of the checkoff dollar originates, though there were also NCBA officers present for another meeting that we got to interact with, along with state council directors / CEO's. It was a good reminder that a lot of people from a lot of different places are invested in making this thing work.

Will: Much of the Federation Orientation training involves nuts and bolts about the checkoff such as collections, compliance, appointments, and the requirements for administrative management. Did you get a better understanding of the items the NCBA deals with in terms of managing checkoff dollars, and do you have any insights on this process that you could share with Oregon beef producers?

Wes: The training covered a lot of ground and was more thorough than I expected. One thing that stood out was how much goes into managing labor expenses and making sure they are applied correctly across each project code the federation works on. I also came away with a much greater appreciation for the financial checks and balances the NCBA operates under – there are significant federal oversight requirements that govern how checkoff dollars are tracked and accounted for, and they take that seriously. I also learned that states without brand programs collect checkoff dollars differently than brand states like Oregon, and that creates some real logistical challenges. For producers here, it is worth knowing the system has real guardrails built into it. There were good visuals that walked through how funds flow into research, promotion, and education, and how the Beef Board provides oversight of the whole process. It gave me a much clearer picture of the structure behind the dollars.

Will: What areas of focus for beef promotion did you find most interesting? Are there certain promotional areas that were discussed that you feel may be more relevant to Oregon beef producers?

Wes: I did not fully appreciate before attending just how deep the resource library runs at the national level. There is an extensive catalog of promotional and educational materials that states can draw on and customize for their own audiences, a real asset for a state like Oregon. I also learned that many states are partnering on initiatives to cost-share and collaborate, which stretches

checkoff dollars further. One promotion that stood out was a program called “Girls that Grill”, which targets women and focuses on building confidence around grilling beef through recipes and practical guidance. It was a good example of how the national program thinks about reaching specific audiences in a relevant way. On the promotional side, the area I keep coming back to is reaching Oregon's youth with resources that highlight the benefits of beef in their diets and help them understand how producers in this state raise their animals to produce a wholesome, safe product. That includes getting kid-friendly beef recipes in front of them – simple, quick meals that make it easy for families to put beef on the table on a busy weeknight. Knowing that national resources are available to support that kind of effort at the state level was encouraging.

Will: We thank you for your time to travel to attend the Federation Orientation this year on behalf of the Oregon Beef Council, Wes. Is there anything further you would like to share about how this orientation went in Denver?

Wes: I have been in the beef business, and specifically the feedyard sector, for going on 35 years, and I will be honest – I did not fully understand everything that goes into a successful beef checkoff program until now. I have always supported the checkoff, but this orientation gave me a firsthand look at what it actually delivers for producers. One thing that also caught my attention was the Cattlemen's Beef Board website and the amount of data and insights available there. They offer an online resource that includes email newsletters and printed hard copies available free of charge – and I had no idea it existed until this trip. I would encourage any Oregon producer who has not already done so to go check it out and subscribe. It is a solid resource and there for you.



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Spent Hemp Biomass: What new research means for Oregon's cattle producers

Massimo Bionaz and Serkan Ates

Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Oregon State University

What are hemp and the spent hemp biomass?

Hemp is a cannabis plant that contains a low level of the psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), usually <0.3%, but enriched with other cannabinoids, especially cannabidiol (CBD). It was one of the first plants domesticated and cultivated by humans, and one of the first crops cultivated in the USA by settlers. Being a cannabis like marijuana, it was made illegal in 1970 with the Controlled Substances Act, but the 2018 Farm Bill legalized its cultivation. Hemp is predominantly cultivated in Oregon for the extraction of cannabinoids, yielding a large amount of extracted biomass, a.k.a. spent hemp biomass (SHB), that could be fed to ruminants.

Main results from the hemp studies

Over the past 6 years at Oregon State University, we have conducted several studies on lambs, dairy cows, steers (all funded or co-funded



by the Oregon Beef Council), and poultry to assess the feasibility of using SHB as a feed ingredient for livestock (Figure 1).

Our data revealed that SHB has exceptional nutritive properties across many parameters, comparable to alfalfa. Feeding SHB did not affect animal performance, although palatability varied across spent hemp biomass materials and appeared to be influenced by processing method. No adverse effects on carcass traits were observed except for a slightly higher cook and purge loss in lamb. We did not observe any effect on animal behavior. We detected minor effects on animal health across species with lower blood cholesterol, higher bilirubin, mild increases in antioxidant markers, and no signs of liver damage, inflammation, or immune suppression. Higher bilirubin levels indicate decreased liver clearance, including

drug clearance. In a recent experiment, we demonstrated that animals fed SHB take longer to clear drugs.

When considering the cannabinoid residuals, we detected accumulation of CBD and THC primarily in adipose tissue, with lower accumulation in muscle, and less than 1% of ingested cannabinoids transferred to milk. However, 4 weeks of SHB withdrawal from the diet was sufficient to eliminate most cannabinoids from milk and tissues. When evaluating consumer exposure using FDA-CVM and European guidelines, we determined that meat from lambs and milk from cows fed SHB exceed the acute reference dose for THC. After a 4-week withdrawal, exposure falls well below all international safety thresholds. In steers, the level of THC was undetectable in the SHB but slightly accumulated in muscle, although at levels well below the international limits.

What do the results of our research on SHB mean to Oregon cattle producers?

The SHB provides some opportunities: it has high nutritional value comparable to alfalfa, is widely available in Oregon, and poses minimal risk to animal health or performance. Thus, it can reduce feed costs and support circular agriculture between the hemp and livestock sectors. However, it still presents some challenges. Chiefly, the presence of cannabinoid residues in meat and milk remains a primary regulatory barrier. Additional challenges are the fact that

FDA-CVM has not yet approved SHB as a feed ingredient. Considering the above, our data indicate that a mandatory withdrawal period would likely be required for any future approval.

Conclusions

Our research provides the scientific foundation needed for SHB ingredient definition petitions, FDA-CVM safety evaluations, and an industry-led effort to integrate SHB into feed markets. Oregon is uniquely positioned to lead this effort, given its strong hemp and livestock sectors and the research already completed. Across

multiple species and dozens of measured outcomes, the evidence is clear: SHB is a safe, nutritionally valuable feed ingredient for ruminants when managed with an appropriate withdrawal period. •



Figure 1. A. The authors, while running the steer experiment, B. The flower of hemp prior to the chopping and extraction of cannabinoids; B. Lambs in the experiment where spent hemp biomass was fed at 10 or 20% in the diet; D. Steer eating hay in the experiment where spent hemp biomass was fed at 15% level in the diet; E. Jersey dairy cows consuming the TMR with top-fed spent hemp biomass. The cows consumed around 7.5% spent hemp biomass in the diet; F. Broiler chicks in the 10% spent hemp biomass group; G. Laying hens fed with 15 or 30% spent hemp biomass.

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Auction Sales Co.	14	Hygieia Biological Labs	2
Baker Angus	31	Ioka Marketing	7
Bank of Eastern Oregon	7	Kessler Angus	31
Buchanan Angus	31	Oregon Community Foundation	15
Central Oregon Ranch Supply	3	Oregon Trail Seeds	26
CKP Insurance	39	Romans Ranches	31
Corey, Byler & Rew LLP	12	Scales NW	25
Diamond K Sales	14	Teixeira Cattle Co.	31
Eugene Livestock Auction	33	Vitalix	17
FAY Ranches	11	Western Video Market	38
Harvest Capital Company	11	Y Tex	40
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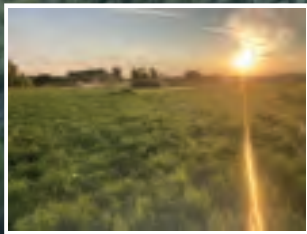
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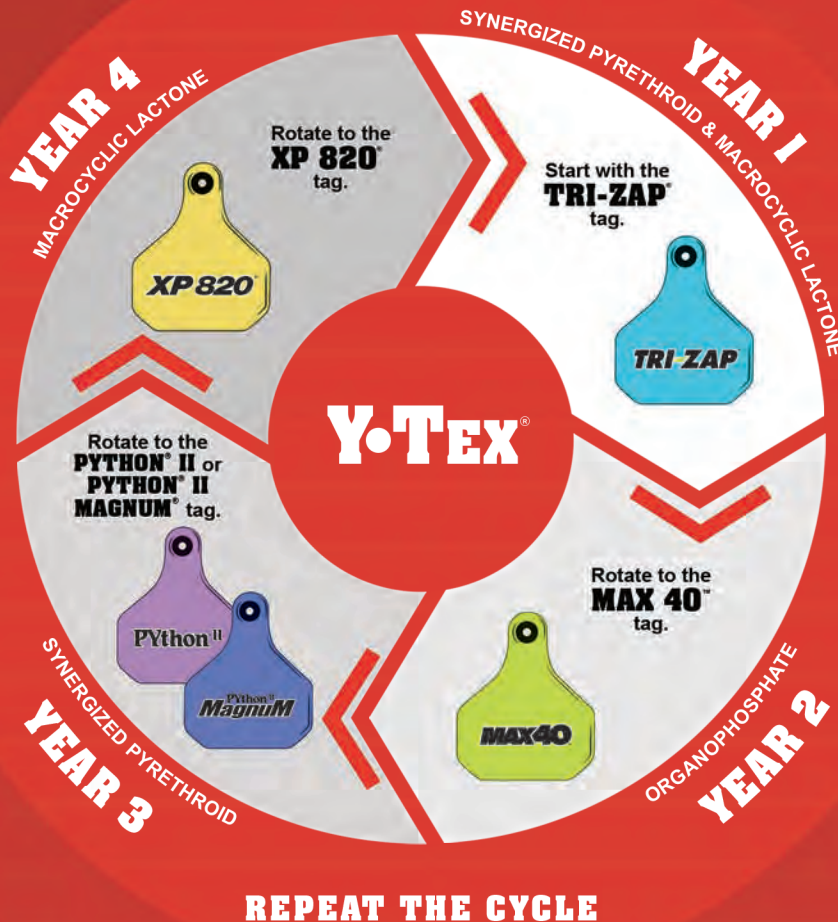
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Fly control isn't a one-and-done deal. That's why only Y-TEX offers a 4-year rotation featuring our TRI-ZAP®, MAX 40™, PYthon® II/PYthon® II Magnum™ and XP 820® tags — proven to break resistance cycles and extend the life of your insecticide program. With tags across three chemical classes, Y-TEX gives you the power to protect your herd from horn flies, face flies and other costly pests year after year.

Y•TEX®

To learn more, see your livestock products supplier or visit www.Y-TEX.com.
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