What’s Inside

Message from WCA President                          Page 2
Message from BOD Assistant                           Page 3
Message from WCW President                           Page 4
Ag in the Classroom Update                           Page 5
Washington Beef Commission                          Page 6
Water and Ecology                                    Page 8
Update from WSDA                                     Page 9
Livestock Inspection Shortfall                        Page 16
Public Lands Committee Report                        Page 17
Will You Work for Whiskey?

By Tyler Cox

As this legislative session has unfolded, I have been very comforted by our policy on many an occasion. On a side note, please take my word for it that those unbearably long general membership meetings right before the whiskey drinking starts, have yielded some incredibly wise, timely, and pertinent policy. But I digress. More about the whiskey.

Like I said before, we have policy to kick a membership drive into high gear. Who am I to second guess WCA policy? Now the whiskey. Leslie Bennet and Toni Meacham threw down the gauntlet the other day. They went ahead and used some of the spiffy new membership forms that are hot off the press and signed some folks up. They challenged the rest of the counties, neigh, they defied the rest of you to ante up.

I, personally (and the WCA) will provide a “4:30 pm Club” style whiskey party for the county that provides the most new members. So there is a challenge and incentive in two short paragraphs. You should thank me for taking so little of your time and being to the point.

But...... there is this other thing I should quickly mention. As everybody is aware, the hunt for an Executive Vice President is on. To date we have received a handful of very qualified applicants. We are beginning the process of scheduling interviews. I expect another round of applications to arrive shortly and add to the list of interviewees.

In seeking wisdom from some other state cattle producer and ag groups I heard one thing over and over again. The best candidates and the ultimate picks all came from word of mouth, not advertising. My whole point is that the WCA is relying on its own members to find our next EVP. I have no problems twisting arms to get a resume from someone, just let me know who I need to railroad into applying.
After a whirlwind last few weeks the office has taken a small sigh of relief with the completion of another successful WCA Bull Sale! A big thank you goes to Rod Wesselman and Jack Field for their excellent job as Test and Sale managers; to Sarah Ryan for her excellent clerking skills; to Rene’ Groom for her fantastic shots of the sale; to Ruthie Caddell, Don Blakemore, Ron and Bev Cridlebaugh for the amazing food, and Linda Card and the Washington CattleWomen with the Connell FFA for faithfully braving the cold to serve the delicious beef! We truly could not do it without all of our amazing members and volunteers!

This past month the WCA and the Board have been hard at work making it through another busy legislative session. With issues spanning from wildfires to wildlife and brand fee increase and the Beef Checkoff. In addition, to battling in Olympia, your board has been hard at work preparing for the Beef Day on the Hill and lining out some exciting new spring events (stay tuned in next month’s Ketch Pen for more information.)

This month I decided to do a little experiment in the hopes to continue my knowledge as an ‘AGocate’ and beef promoter. In an effort to improve my mediocre cooking skills (on a chef skill level of 1-10, I would rate myself a solid 2.5, aka I have yet to burn water), and to better understand the challenges a consumer faces when purchasing and cooking beef, I decided to purchase, cook, eat, and review a recipe from the beefitswhatsfordinner.com recipe collection funded by the Beef Checkoff. Growing up on a ranch meant that I always had affordable, accessible beef right there in our freezer, butchered, wrapped and frozen at the peak of freshness (this happens to be one of my favorite perks of being a producers kid), which meant that I had no idea what the average consumer faced when purchasing a protein for their family.

Boy, was it an awakening when I moved away from home for college and found exactly what the cost of meat was, how many choices there were at the counter, and the utter confusion I felt attempting to make sense of the ever changing labels. Soon, after moving away from home, eating steak became a luxury only done if an exam was aced or my parents came to town.

The Beef Checkoff program strives to help eliminate some of the challenges the consumer faces at the meat counter. With helpful guides explaining the different cuts, how to cook beef to reach the most optimal eating experience,
A Message from the WCW President
Linda Henderson

Our State CattleWomen met on March 20th a combined meeting of the February and April meetings. Bev Cridlebaugh reported that the Silent Auction at the November Convention generated $2,475 and the Card Game $876 for a total of $3,351 for WCW. To date the fundraising from the banquets has generated $1,025 and there are still one or two remaining. Thank you to all for your support and generosity. At the meeting the WCW Beef Ambassador Scholarship in the amount of $500 was awarded to Shaunessy Joyner of Connell, WA. Shaunessy is a sophomore at Utah State University majoring in Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science. Congratulations to Shaunessy!!

I would like to ask all of you CattleWomen and Cattlemen to join us on April 6th for Beef Day on the Hill in Olympia. We can help serve delicious Tri-tip to hungry state representatives and employees on the hill. They love Beef Day and this year the Asparagus Association is partnering with the WCA to serve up asparagus with the beef. Come join us and share the “beef message”. We will be carpooling from the WCA Office leaving around 8:00. We should be done by 2:00. They love seeing the producers and asking questions about beef and how it is raised. What a great opportunity to tell our story!

On a very sad note I have been reading about the devastating wildfires in the Panhandle states on Facebook. If you live in an Ag community you have heard about the 6 brave souls who died when they rushed in to save their animals, homes and their way of life. What was supposed to be a promising spring with the birth of new calves and lots of moisture has turned into a swath of death and destruction. These folks lost their life’s work in one day and the homes their ancestors grew up in. Thousands of cattle and hogs and other livestock and game have been lost. My prayers go out to all those who have lost so much. My friends, where is the news media in all this? Just one small blurb on the news about a grass fire and then it’s on to political bashing. It’s a horrific tragedy worth National coverage but outside the Ag community, there is little to nothing. This in itself is a tragedy. The most beautiful and encouraging news of all is the amount of help that is pouring in to those affected. Truckloads of hay, fencing and supplies are arriving daily and Carthill has just donated $50,000 to the purchase of fencing and supplies to help the ranchers rebuild. 4-H and FFA kids are taking in calves to help bottle feed and care for them while still others are helping roll up burned fencing so new fences can be built. If you want to donate to help these folks out you can go to gofundme.com/texas-panhandle-fire-relief.

“The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have” -- Vince Lombardi

There are a number of events coming up and I am hoping to have as many of you help as possible. Until then God Bless all of you real good!!

Linda Henderson, WCW President

April 6th-Beef Day on the Hill in Olympia

April 15th-Young Cattleman’s Tour sponsored by CHS and WCA @ Chelan High School @ 215 Webster Ave. Chelan—serving lunch

April 27th-30th-Asotin County Fair and CattleWomen and Cattlemen BBQ

May 4th & 5th-Region V in Gillette, Wyoming

Next WCW Meeting June 12th— location TBA

Spring is just around the corner and it is a welcome sight to see green grass growing in the lawn and fields and the daffodils popping up. I stepped outside onto the deck this morning and the maple trees surrounding our house were filled with hundreds of blackbirds singing so loud that I’m sure it reached all the way to heaven. What a great way to begin the day!! Hopefully most of you are close to finishing with calving. It has been a difficult winter and one that we are finishing with calving. It has been a beautiful and encouraging news of all to be had. Hopefully most of you are close to finishing with calving. It has been a difficult winter and one that we are finishing with calving. It has been a beautiful and encouraging news of all to be had.

Shaunessy Joyner of Connell, recipient of the WCW Beef Ambassador Scholarship
A Message from Ag in the Classroom
Kristin Hinton

Is it Spring yet?? YES!!!!

As I write this it’s the FIRST day of Spring, we’ve sprung our clocks ahead and we’ve reached the point where the daylight is LONGER than the night! I don’t know about you, but that makes EVERYTHING better!

Our annual meeting, where all supporters are invited to attend, takes place April 13th at the Washington Farm Bureau office in Lacey. There we will mail our 3rd issue of the magazine, discuss this school year’s achievements, brainstorm ideas for next year and plan summer projects and fair booths.

April marks the completion of the school year Ag@School magazine with the 3rd issue reaching classrooms mid-month that focuses on stewardship and explaining how every day is earth day for farmers and ranchers. I’m really excited about the articles in this issue as they range from forestry to fruit focusing on the dependence that farmers & ranchers have on our basic resources – water, soil, air and sunlight. One of our generous sponsors, Agribeef, is featured with a career profile and company highlight as well!

Our 4th annual Seattle Times Newspapers in Education insert, all about Washington Agriculture, will run (hard copy and electronically) April 24th and be viewed by over 1 million people!

Then as quickly as it’s finished, we begin planning for next school year, summer projects!

We are always working on the promotion of our program, signing up teachers to receive our FREE publications and being a credible source for teachers. Our magazine is targeted at 4th graders so please direct teachers to our website to sign up for their FREE subscription! They will also find many other resources and an on-line database of lesson plans!

WAIC also offers assistance for volunteers wishing to work in the classrooms so check our website! We are also available to help with fair booths, farm fairs and provide materials!

We are always looking for volunteers and partners! Feel free to contact me and I look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Easter,
Kristen
360-770-3383
www.waic.net
kintonranches@gmail.com

Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) is funded 100% by donations from individuals, organizations and businesses

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The Beef Checkoff and Amazon Fresh – Enhancing the Online Beef Shopping Experience

In 2014, the Beef Commission board and staff visited the Amazon Fresh headquarters in downtown Seattle to learn more about the emerging grocery delivery business from one of the world’s largest on-line retailers. It was a mutually beneficial opportunity to learn from each other and insure that beef has a prominent place in the rapidly growing on-line grocery delivery business.

During the visit, we shared beef research and consumer information and quickly learned that while they are experts in the on-line delivery of everything from furniture to food, their understanding of beef and how to give consumers a good shopping experience was very limited. The Beef Commission worked with the retail and digital experts at the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association to help address the opportunities presented by a business that has grown from primarily a Seattle focused test program to a business delivering beef to homes throughout the country in their bright green grocery delivery bags.

Since that first visit, your state and national Beef Checkoff staff have worked together to host the Amazon staff on industry tours, provide materials, beef insights and web content to help make beef an important player in their on-line protein business. Last year, those efforts yielded a refreshed Beef Category Page as part of the enhanced Amazon Fresh Prime program. During Q4 of 2016, Amazon utilized the checkoff’s investment in consumer videos, recipes and photography in a test to motivate more online steak, roast and rib sales. Overall, in Q4 of 2016, there was a 16 percent increase in beef units sold due to the checkoff’s content and placement. A key objective was to better understand the types of content shoppers use to help inform their purchase decisions, so a combination of a seasonal message banner, education about meat cuts and meal inspiration via recipe videos were tested.

Results showed that online grocery shoppers first want help finding the right fresh beef products and then more information about the beef – including tips for cooking it. The recipe video received higher engagement than the top banner, indicating the opportunity for more video engagement and recipe inspiration. Another key finding was that messaging which focused on product qualities and sensory details rather than the potential meal experience, were more effective with online shoppers. This is a key insight that helps address the challenges of selling beef online, where the consumer can’t see or touch the package, and something to continue to test in the future with additional digital supply chain partners. Amazon Fresh Prime is currently available in Seattle, parts of Northern/Southern California, Northern New Jersey, New York metro, Philadelphia metro, Stamford, Conn. and Baltimore markets.

Millennial consumers make fewer trips to the grocery store, only 96 trips compared to 119 trips on average across all age groups, according to a study conducted for the Food Marketing Institute and the North American Meat Institute. Accordingly, the study revealed a 3.6% decline in dollars spent in the grocery store meat department among millennials. Reaching millennials on-line is critical if we are to secure beef’s place at the dinner table for generations to come.

For more information about emerging beef marketing channels or any other program funded with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff investment, please contact Patti Brumbach at 206.444.2902 or e-mail her at pbrumbach@wabeef.org. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at www.wabeef.org and Facebook.com/WABeef.

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- Helps Stimulate Appetite
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- Safe To Use With Drug Treatments

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Managing for Resilience is the theme of the grazing conference scheduled for May 10 and 11, 2017 at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, Oregon. Keynote speakers for the conference are Dr. Fred Provenza, Professor Emeritus of Utah State University, and Kit Pharo, beef seed-stock producer from Colorado.

Provenza is known for his research on animal behavior and how managers can use their knowledge of animal behavior to train animals to fit landscapes rather than having to modify landscapes to fit the animals. Pharo is recognized for raising beef cattle that are high producing and of optimal size resulting in greater profit for the producer.

Other conference topics include holistic planned grazing, targeted grazing and fire control, climate change and soil health, water quality and riparian management, targeted grazing, managing lupine toxicity, using low quality forages, grazing cover crops and bio-char to improve degraded range.

The conference is being coordinated by Roots of Resilience an organization dedicated to revitalizing grasslands.

Pre-registration is necessary for anyone wishing to attend the conference. Early registration, by April 14, is $227 for the two days and covers the cost of lunch both days plus food served at the social gathering the evening of May 10th. Additional attendees from the same family, ranch or organization can each register for $167 for the two days. Special rates are available for students.

Those staying overnight in Pendleton may wish to take advantage of the special motel rate offered conference attendees by Oxford Suites in Pendleton, which is within walking distance of the Convention Center. To contact Oxford Suites call (541) 276-6000.

For more information and to register for the conference go to rootsofresilience.org or call (509) 629-1671.

Amazon Fresh says that online grocery shoppers first want help finding the right fresh beef products and then more information about the beef – including tips for cooking it.
The big news is month is on the Federal level. President Trump has issued an executive order directing the EPA and Army Corps to reconsider WOTUS and to further more narrowly interpret their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. WOTUS was considered by many to be a "land grab" allowing the Federal Government to extend their jurisdiction from navigable waters to include adjacent lands, steams, narrow waterways, some even say small puddles of water. This executive order does not repeal WOTUS, but this is another attempt to stop WOTUS. Currently WOTUS is on hold due to extensive litigation, WCA is a party to that litigation. Supporters of WOTUS claim that increasing Federal jurisdiction will help keep water clean and safe for drinking purposes. There is no proof that WOTUS would actually do anything other than allow for more regulatory harm to private property owners and specifically ag.

On the local front, the Warnick bill is still moving forward as a Hirst fix. This bill, as detailed in past articles, will allow for development to move forward in Washington. The Warnick bill has passed through the Senate and now goes before the House. The bill still faces stiff opposition, as opponents believe that the bill puts us back into pre-Hirst status. The bill itself does have a mitigation component, but allows for mitigation to be from other sources, such as improved stream corridor, versus making sure more water is left in the stream. Opponents to the bill do not contest the fact that exempt wells only account for 1% of water consumption. The Hirst decision itself will cause severe economic impacts in rural Washington that can no longer develop if allowed to stand. From an economic standpoint, the impacts of the Hirst decision greatly outweigh the 1% of water consumption on instream flow requirements. It should be noted that instream flow requirements are given a senior water right status and offered the protections of senior water rights under the current regulatory scheme. The Warnick bill is currently the only hope Washington has to allow development in rural areas.

I will freely admit that my next piece of information does not have much to do with water and ecology on its face. Yet, I think many will admit that the Endangered Species Act does impact the Clean Water Act and vice versa. There are current cases being litigated where plaintiffs state that the EPA is not enforcing the CWA to protect species listed under the ESA (Yes I know there are too many acronyms). Previously we have had an article in the Ketch Pen regarding ESA reform, as it is much needed. Congressman Dan Newhouse from our great state of Washington has introduced two bills to try and control over use of the ESA. HR 1274 would amend the ESA to require government agencies to release all data being used in rulemaking prior to the rule taking effect. This would allow opponents of said rulemaking to make sure that the agency is using peer reviewed, sound science in decisions under the ESA. HR 1273 would require the agencies to post all of this data online for easy access as well as cap attorney's fees related to ESA lawsuits. The bills have been introduced to improve transparency and the process of ESA listings, something that the ag sector has been requesting for years. ESA litigation and listings cost taxpayers millions annually. A listing under the ESA can be very detrimental to private property, water, and communities. An ESA listing should only be done if the agency can prove that the species needs protection by using peer reviewed, sound science. Currently the threshold to list a species can be based on agency recommendation without a scientific basis. In today's world this should be unacceptable to everyone. The Newhouse bills offer forward movement in the battle to reform the ESA.

The Washington Policy Center put on a great dinner in Pasco, WA on March 6. Thank you to Mike Poulson for having Franklin County Cattlemen's President Leslie Bennett and I at his table. One of the highlights for me was having a card at the table with our dinner menu and the increased cost of producing that meal due to regulation. We were able to listen to some really great speakers, including Dan Newhouse. Opportunities to come together and talk about the regulatory impacts on ag are important for all of us. It may be just a few cents added to a specific meal, but those costs add up. The dinner was informative and beef was served, so it was a good Monday night.
REPORT FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN OFFICE
Animal Health Proposed Rulemaking

WSDA is proposing to amend chapter 16-54 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to:

• Change the requirement that rams must test negative on an ELISA test for Brucella ovis within 30 days before entering Washington state to 60 days;

• Repeal WAC 16-54-101(4);

• Remove the Equine Infectious Anemia test exemption for equines traveling into Washington from Idaho and Oregon; and

• Remove the M. bovis test requirement for Old world primates, Gibbons, and Great apes.

Reasons for the proposals:

Changing the requirement from 30 days to 60 days for rams to be tested negative for Brucella ovis will allow flexibility for producers to attend multiple sales and or shows prior to retesting. The Washington State Sheep Producers petitioned WSDA to repeal the requirement that black face sheep imported for breeding purposes must be genetic tested before entry to be QR or RR at the 171 codon. Most sheep producers are no longer breeding QQ.

Washington, Idaho, and Oregon have identified Equine Infectious Anemia horses in all three states. The state veterinarians now have chosen to remove the test exemption in these states.

Old world primates, Gibbons, and Great apes are not subject to M. bovis testing because M. bovis is not seen in non-human primates.

As part of the rulemaking process, interested parties will be mailed the proposed language and public hearings will be conducted. If you would like to be notified when the Animal Services Division proposes a change to their rules, contact Jodi Jones at jjones@agr.wa.gov or call her at (360) 902-1889. Rulemaking information and documents can be reviewed on our website at www.agr.wa.gov/Lawsrules/.

Bev Cridlebaugh, Linda Weatherly (of Asotin County Cattlemen) and Linda Henderson at the Columbia County Cattlemen’s Fling.
24th Annual WCA All Breeds Bull Test Sale  
Wednesday March 22, 2017  
Bonina Ranch, Eltopia WA

Sale Report

81 total bulls grossed $259,850 for an average of $3,208

3 Angus Composites averaged $2,466
6 Red Angus averaged $3,200
6 Simmentals averaged $3,090
19 Herefords averaged $2,916
57 Angus averaged $3,383

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Angus Composites
Ruben Gutierrez, Yakima, WA
Gene Fernandez, Sunnyside, WA

Red Angus
Midvale Cattle Co, Sunnyside, WA
Midvale Cattle Co, Sunnyside, WA

Simmentals
Doug Koehn, Buhl, ID
Doug Koehn, Buhl, ID

Herefords
Henry & Linda Harder, Lamont, WA
Keane Cattle Co., Rock Island, WA
Henry & Linda Harder, Lamont, WA

Angus
Dave Wilson, Prosser, WA
Midvale Cattle Co, Sunnyside, WA
Lathrop Group, Joseph, OR
Midvale Cattle Co, Sunnyside, WA
Carlson Cattle, Lacey, WA
Lathrop Group, Joseph, OR
24th Annual
WCA All Breeds Bull Test Sale
March 22, 2017 at the Bonina Ranch, WA.
In Memory of

HAROLD SANDERS COX

9/4/1926 - 3/12/2017

loved to travel, and traveled the world considerably during his life, visiting more than 20 foreign countries. His fascination with diverse cultures, farming methods, and politics lead him to places like China, Japan, Bulgaria, and Australia. His love of the tropical sun and surf took him to Hawaii 41 times. Other than a year serving in the Army just outside Seoul, South Korea in 1945, he never lived further than 65 miles from where he was born. In fact, Harold was very well known locally, having built a successful farming and ranching business in the Tri-Cities area.

Harold spent his first 15 years in the small farming community of Outlook, Washington, where he attended Liberty School, which had approximately 60 students. As part of a family farming effort, he worked many hours on their irrigated farm, growing potatoes, rutabagas, turnips, sugar beets, hay, and raising livestock. At 3 1/2 he lost the use of his left eye due to a physician's mistake; and at 8 simultaneously suffered from and overcame Polio, Spinal Meningitis, and a broken neck vertebra. In 1941, the family began farming a 200-acre island in the Yakima River near Granger. Harold attended Granger High School for 3 years and began his senior year at Sunnyside High School. Harold never graduated from high school. His father was stricken with Cancer, and so, Harold abandoned his studies to look after the farm while his father underwent costly and experimental treatments. Throughout his life, Harold talked about the importance of education and valued it highly for his family and for those seeking leadership roles in agriculture.

After returning from Korea, Harold returned to the family farm and in 1948 met his future wife, Bonnie Jean Mears, at a Legion Hall dance in Prosser. They were married July 3, 1949. Harold and Bonnie continued living in the Grandview/Prosser area, farming on the Rosa. In May of 1950 their first daughter, Saundra Lea, was born and in September 1951 she was followed by a sister, Sharon (Sherry) Marie. The family moved to Moses Lake for a short period of time, and in 1956 to Paterson. Harold served on the Paterson School Board, the first of many organizational posts he would hold during his lifetime.

With the construction of John Day Dam on the Columbia River, the town of Paterson was relocated, and the Cox farm became part of the flooded area behind the dam. Harold and Bonnie moved to Mesa in 1963, and eventually to Pasco in 1978. While Harold was actively involved in agriculture throughout his life, his real love was in cattle ranching. During the 1970's he ran cows and calves on rangeland in the Wallowa-Hells Canyon region, and later finished feedlot cattle at various times.

Harold was very active in local agricultural and civic efforts, serving as the President of the Washington State Cattlemen's Association and President of the Washington State Cattlemen's Association and President of the Washington State Cattlemen's Association and President of the Washington State Cattlemen's Association. He is the only person to have served as President of both associations, and was an active member in the National Cattlemen's Association as well. He served on the National Beef Board and was instrumental in constructing the "Where's the beef" campaign during the late 1980's. In 1976, he was asked to join the Ag & Forestry Leadership Foundation where he was excited to help young people develop their careers in agriculture. In 2002 Harold served on the National Beef Board Executive Committee and in 2005 was honored for 30 years of service by the Washington State Cattle Feeders Association.

Harold, affectionately known as Pop or Papa Bear, loved family gatherings. During summers at his Pasco home, you might find him tending his beloved rose garden or ready for a swim. He dearly loved a rib-eye off the Trager with a baked potato and all the trimmings. On a trip, Harold always knew where to find the best steaks and other good eats.

Harold is survived by his daughters (Saundra and Sherry) and their husbands (Ron and David), 5 grandchildren (Harold, Annee, Charity, Vanessa, Nicole), and great-grandchildren (John, Emily, and Natalie).

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, if you feel a desire to remember Harold, please contribute to the Ag & Forestry Leadership Foundation in his honor. Harold loved the work of the foundation which aims to help young people develop careers in agriculture.

12 April 2017, Ketch Pen
**Beef Stir-Fry with Couscous**

*Fast, delicious and nutritious!*

Now most of the time I think the "total recipe time" in cookbooks are a total lie, however, this one wasn’t. Somehow I really did manage to cook this in less than a half hour. The recipe was simple to follow and delicious. I will admit that I was more nervous to make the couscous than I was to cook the steak.

Cooking the couscous in the beef broth added a delicious flavor and brought the whole meal together. The main attraction to this meal was the ease and speed, but I was not disappointed by the taste. This will definitely be a repeat in my book.

Total Recipe Time: 25 minutes
Makes 4 servings

1 ¼ pounds beef Top Sirloin Steak Boneless, cut 1 inch thick
1 can (14 to 14½ ounces) ready to serve beef broth
1 cup couscous
1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into ¼-inch thick strips
½ cup coarsely chopped Vidalia or other sweet onion
½ cup prepared honey-Dijon barbecue sauce
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1. Trim fat from beef steak. Cut steak lengthwise in half and then crosswise into ¼-inch thick strips; set aside.

2. In medium saucepan, bring beef broth to a boil. Stir in couscous; cover pan and remove from heat.

3. In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add beef, ½ at a time, and stir-fry 1 to 2 minutes or until outside surface is no longer pink. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon; keep warm.

4. In same skillet, stir-fry bell pepper and onion 2 to 3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Return beef to skillet; stir in barbecue sauce. Cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through. Arrange beef mixture on couscous; sprinkle with chopped parsley. Garnish with parsley sprigs.

---

**Beef Stir-Fry**

**with Couscous**

*Fast, delicious and nutritious!*

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**In Memory of Ardis S. Dashiell**

Ardis S. Dashiell, of Fairfield, Washington, passed away March 8, 2017 in Spokane, Washington. Ardis was born on February 25, 1924 in Creston, Washington to Gilbert and Lillian (Selde) Simons. She was a graduate of Creston High School, Class of 1940. She married Thomas W. Dashiell on December 5, 1945. Ardis worked for the railroad for many years as a teletype operator. She was a member of the Rockford Community United Methodist Church, Rockford Historical Society and several other Rockford civic organizations. She was also a member of the national and local county Cattlewomen Association. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Dashiell of Fairfield, Washington; daughter, Elaine Garcia (Gill Larsen); sons, Paul Dashiell (Jane) and Ross Dashiell; sister, Eunice Dick of Fairfield; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association, Fairfield Care Center, Rockford Community United Methodist Church or the Rockford Historical Society.
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For the complete recipe and my review of the Beef Stir-Fry with Couscous turn to page 13.
Livestock Inspection Program Funding Shortfall
by Amber Charlton

WSDA and Stakeholders continue to work towards innovative solutions to address the Livestock Inspection budget shortfall.

Over the past year, the WSDA has worked with key livestock stakeholders, including the Washington Cattlemen’s Association to develop a workable solution to address funding shortfalls in the Livestock Inspection Program. The Livestock Inspection Program has continued to face increasing expenses while also simultaneously experiencing a notable slow down of revenues over the last 10 years. Over the past 20 years, brand registrations have dropped by 37%. The Livestock Inspection Program has heavily relied on brand registrations to cover the increased cost of operations; with a decrease in brand renewals the program is facing a very gloomy reality. After detailed review the WSDA found a few key areas of revenue loss.

Several stakeholder meetings led the WSDA to put forth legislation (HB 2018 and SB 5750) this session to address the budget shortfalls, that would 1) increase hourly rate for time and mileage inspections, 2) increase minimum livestock sale inspection fees, 3) increase minimum inspection certificate fees, and 4) increase inspection fee for cattle at a USDA <500 daily capacity slaughter facilities. It should be duly noted that the WSDA and stakeholders recognize that this is just phase one in a two-phase project to bring the program out of the red. Industry leaders will need to continue working together with the WSDA to help put in place efficiencies and solutions to increase the success of the program long into the future.

Without an increase in funding for the Livestock Inspection Program the WSDA will be forced to begin cutting services including but not limited to: cutting up to five full time employees; eliminating customer billing accounts; eliminating time and mileage waivers for private sales of 10 head or less, and special sales of 4-H, FFA and youth groups; and eliminating the inspection fee waiver for grazing permit calves.

As the 2017 legislative session has progressed forward there have been some stumbling blocks in the path of HB 2018 and SB 5750. Neither bill made it past the cutoff date in March, leading to great concern by the industry. However, all hope is not lost, HB 2018 has begun the process of being labeled as Necessary to Implement the Budget (NTIB). NTIB means that HB 2018 will not be required to meet the cutoff dates as the session moves forward and will only face the same end date as the budget.

The WCA has been active in conversations with key stakeholders and the legislature to ensure that one of the most vital programs to the cattle industry remains intact.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this issue please contact Amber Charlton at 509-925-9871 | evpcattle@kvalley.com or Tyler Cox at tcox606@gmail.com.

THANK YOU
WSCA & WCW Members for your support

February 18-March 17, 2017

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I thought I’d jot a little note and let folks know some of things the WCA Public Lands Committee has been following this winter.

The first big issue began at the end of January, when the Tonasket Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest started sending out what are call non-compliance letters to the majority of the Permittees for the 2016 grazing season. Of the 25 sent, most of these letters were sent addressing what was claimed to be forage overutilization. For Permittees in the District it was quite unexpected as it was the first time they had heard that there was a problem and they had been off their permits since last fall. We probably don’t have the time to do a step by step analysis of what has gone on since then, but suffice it to say Daryl Asmussen and I, along with Nicole Kuchenbuch, Okanogan County Farm Bureau, have been working with the Permittees (he’s one of them) on possible ways forward that would either remove the non-compliance letter or negate it with a series of actions that include letters, legal analysis and strong suggestions to the District to improve the way it does monitoring and business in general for the range department. I would sum it up as being slow, frustrating and infuriating but with hope that in the long run the District will come into line with a functional range program again. Contact with elected officials, Public Lands Council, which WCA is an affiliate, and the chain of command in the USFS from Wenatchee to Portland to Washington, DC has been put into play so a host of folks know the Permittees are watching and educating themselves on a path forward.

“...with hope that in the long run the District will come into line with a functional range program again.”

The second issue to surface started with a phone call from a DNR grazing leasee whose lease was to come up for renegotiation this spring. The DNR notified the leasee that they would go directly to public auction without the usual channel that would include the bonus bid clause in DNR rules. The public auction would use a sealed bid process so the current leasee has little if any chance to know what a winning bid should be proposed as and unlike the bonus bid scenario doesn’t have the chance to have the right of first refusal. So, I encourage anyone with a DNR lease to study the DNR leasing law rules. Go to RCW 79.13 for the general leasing authority language and follow that up with looking at the WAC 332-22-40 through -100 for the procedures they could use in the re-lease. Some of the things DNR looks at for at re-lease are legal access, other interested parties, water availability, improvements, etc. In going to public auction DNR is trying to get the most money for the School Trust program but this could have a profound effect on ranchers and their ability to have grazing lands that they may have held for some time.

If you have any questions on Public Lands issues please feel free to contact Daryl at 509-486-2138 or Vic Stokes at 509-997-4781.

“Sorry about that, we couldn’t find our branding iron.”
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If you would like pictures, announcements or have any ideas for the Ketch Pen please email us at wacattle@kvalley.com

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

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Jarin Ladiges, Block L. Ranch
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Yakima County
Hexon Hay & Straw, Curtis & Michelle Clark

WCA staff is asking for your help to select a member of the month! Please send in your nomination with a short explanation (500-750 words) as to why they deserve to be featured as our member in the spotlight and a photo of them doing their good deeds. Next month’s winner will receive their choice of WCA T-Shirt or a WCA Hat!

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