Beef Day on the Hill

over 1,400 people served

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Serving Washington State’s cattle industry since 1925
The Ketch Pen is published twelve times per year. It is the official publication of the Washington Cattlemen’s Association.

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WCA Mission Statement
Provide a unified voice for beef producers, promote innovative rangeland and livestock management, protect and preserve the cattle industry in the State of Washington.

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A Message from the WCA President
Tyler Cox

Now that it is beyond last second, I am going to go ahead and submit my monthly fireside chat with the WCA. It is certain to entertain and keep you all on the edge of your seat for at least two and a half paragraphs. First some great news, then some excellent results, followed by some thunderously poor results. And I shall end this visit with some new ideas to try out.

Our search for an Executive Vice President is moving nicely. The selection committee has narrowed their focus to four individuals. I cannot explain well enough how gifted, talented, and well-polished all four of these people are. They all have astonishing resumes, write elegantly, communicate clearly, and are passionate about the beef industry. In fact, when discussing one young gentleman in particular, I made the comment that if he was listed on Match.com, FarmersOnly.com, Tinder, CurvesConnect.com, or Eharmony.com, I would bite. But in all seriousness, I am so glad that my college days and resume offering are nothing but a fading memory. There is no way I could stand up against the young folks that are applying. They are truly impressive.

Beef Day in Olympia was a smashing success. Ron and Bev Cridlebaugh with the aid of the WCW made the event happen without a hitch. Tyson Food graciously donated the heavenly Tri-Tip that Rod Wesselman, Don Blakemore, Larry Olberding, and Jack Field masterfully cooked. It is extremely gratifying to see folks lined up almost a half a mile, four wide, to eat beef. The event was plenty of fun, we talked to and reached an incredible amount of people. We even had protestors! In all honesty there was only six of them. They showed up two hours late, and only put on a half-hearted attempt. But I had better expectations. Six scrawny, anemic looking, poor spelling protestors was all we got. Maybe they should eat beef. It might give them the nutrients needed to have a legitimate appearance and the energy to get out of bed earlier.

The legislative session is a horse of different color. In the interest of trying to be the good and dutiful cheerleader, I will spare ya’all the pain of a Legislative recap. It is ugly. In fact, it fell out of the ugly tree, got drug by the ugly plough, beat with an ugly stick, kicked by an ugly mule, and told it wore an ugly shirt to the whole affair. So, moving on. The one bright spot is Dave Duncan and Toni Meacham are making some clear in-roads on ESA related issues. The happy thought for the day is that wolves are now passé. Who wants to talk about them when we got Grizzly Bears? What’s next, Velociraptors?

To end this show, and blatantly stealing Allen Miller and Sarah Ryan’s thunder, we are going to try some new stuff at convention this year. Some of the ideas include Date Night, dedicated time for Trade Show attendance, increased alcohol availability, bouncy castles for kids, more speakers, less policy wrangling, and a general focus on engaging the younger generation. We intend to take full advantage of the new venue in the Tri-Cities, get more and younger folks there, have some fun, and put on a learning opportunity. I hope to see you all there.

Dottie Record of Yakima County is this month’s Member Spotlight. Record was nominated by a fellow member for her outstanding dedication to not only the Washington Cattlemen’s Association and the Yakima County Cattlemen’s Association, but to her community. Record is a Family and Consumer Science teacher in Yakima County and has dedicated her career to helping youth. The Washington Cattlemen’s Association is proud to have Dottie Record as a member (and boy were those cookies at the WCA Bull Sale good)!

Q: How long have you been part of the Cattlemen’s Association?
A: I think it was like 1999 or 2000.

Q: How did you get involved in the cattle industry?
A: I have been involved in raising cattle since birth. In 1994 I married Garry Record, moved to Washington and started converting a grade cattle herd to an all Angus herd.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Wallowa County in Oregon on a large cattle and sheep ranch that raises hay and grain

Q: How are you involved in your county association?
A: I am a past President and treasurer. I chair the Yakima County Cattlemen Association Yearly Western Party, with about 300 attendees. I try to attend all YCCA meeting and events. I help with WCA events as needed and time permits. My students and I provide the dessert for the ETF auction at the state WCA Convention.
May Day is a celebration of rebirth and fertility and the first rite of spring. If possible, take time to share a bouquet or basket of flowers with a spouse, neighbor or loved one. I remember the excitement of doing this as a child and it brought such joy. In our hectic world and lifestyles sometimes it’s these simple things done that make lasting memories and remind us of a simpler time in our world.

With spring comes celebrations of Agriculture and the many Farm Fair celebrations that Counties sponsored to engage the youth in Ag; whether it be with demonstrations, a pen of farm animals or by donating Ag books to the schools, our CattleWomen made sure that the grade school kids were able to have that hands on “Farm Experience”.

I was able to attend the Klickitat County Cattlemen’s Banquet in White Salmon for a fun evening of good food and celebrating the accomplishments of the young 4-H and FFA students who showed animals at their county fair. Awards were given and what excitement to see all these future Cattlemen and CattleWomen shine. The live auction raised approximately $450 for the WCW fundraising. To date we have raised approximately $1,500 for the WCW. Thank you to all the generous supporters of the auction.

The Brad Cameron family was named as the Klickitat County Cattlemen of the Year. Congratulations to the family!! They will be having their field day on June 11th and it would be wonderful for us to support them by attending this.

April 6th a contingent of Cattlemen and CattleWomen set up BBQ grills and tables to serve delicious tri-tip to those that work for us in our State’s Capitol in Olympia. The rain did not deter our spirits or theirs and the sight of long lines of hungry worker’s and legislators against a backdrop of glorious blossoming cherry trees was quite the sight to see. These folks truly love “Beef Day.” The Asparagus Association partnered with the WCA this year to serve 1200 lbs. of grilled asparagus, the first cut of asparagus in the state. Thank you to all those who came to cook and help serve and share your smiles. A special thanks to Ron and Bev Criddlebaugh and Bev’s two sisters who helped organize and set up the event. There were a few protestors, but they were far outweighed by the throngs of “Beef Lovers” at our Capitol.

The Young Cattlemen’s Tour was held on April 15th at the Chelan High School. This event was sponsored by CHS and Payback and the WCA. Our Cattlewomen helped prepare and serve the lunch to over 80 4-H and FFA members and college students and commercial producers. Everyone enjoyed learning about the wide range of topics that the event was able to cover. Thanks to Tucker Cool, Gary Knuas and Amber Charlton and also to our CattleWomen from around the state who helped serve, Jeannie Kiehn (Grant County), Schatzie Harvey, Mary Rutledge, Gail Shelton and myself (Kittitas County). We are looking forward to next year! To those who attended, “Stay focused and Work hard for your future is bright and promising!!”

April 23rd the Washington State Beef Commissions sponsored the “Mays Ranch Tour” for a group of dieticians from around the state to tour the ranch and see first-hand the stewardship and animal husbandry of the Mays Family Ranch. This was a great opportunity for these individuals

Helping with the Young Cattlemen’s Tour are: Schatzie Harvey, Floyd Lewis (Elanco Rep), Gail Shelton, Jeannie Kiehn, Linda Henderson and Mary Rutledge.

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A Message from the Assistant to the WCA Board of Directors
Amber Charlton

The Washington Cattlemen’s Association has been working closely with several state agencies on issues near and dear to our policy: water quality, public grazing, animal traceability and inspection to name a few. With snow gone the results of winter-feeding and practices becomes noticeable to agencies. I cannot stress enough the importance of continued conversations with conservation districts, the Department of Ecology, and others.

The WCA board and myself are excited to take on a challenge brought forth by Mr. Dave Duncan, WCA Chairman of the ESA/Wildlife Committee. Duncan asked the board and members of the association to review WCA policy and examine the current relevancy, structure and actions expected to take to ensure it reflects current political climate and enables the association to move in a positive direction. In order to achieve this goal the WCA will be hosting a mid-year work meeting July 18th, at WCA headquarters in Ellensburg. This will be a daylong event dedicated to brainstorming, evaluating and proposing changes to the WCA Policy. No official changes will be adopted until the General Meeting at the WCA Convention in November. A schedule with further details will be announced shortly, please stay tuned.

I would like to take a moment and thank the Washington Cattlemen’s Association for all that they do! Linda Henderson, WCW president, is a force of nature, with a go-getter attitude that the WCA has had the opportunity to benefit tremendously from this spring. Several WCW ladies have been an integral part in the planning of several WCA events including the WCA Beef Day on the Hill and this year’s Young Cattlemen’s Program in partnership with CHS University Payback. Thank you ladies for your...
Much to my disappointment, the Warnick Hirst fix bill SB 5239 did not make it out. This bill may still be of use as a guideline as special session is now underway. Rumors have been floating that the Dems may use the lack of a Hirst fix as a negotiation tool to come up with a workable budget. We can only hope that some type of fix comes out of this session. I have often heard people ask why Hirst has such large impacts, at the end of the day, without water land has very little value. Some would even go so far as to say that property without water is worthless as State Reps John Koster and Rep Jacqueline Maycumber said in an article featured in the Seattle Times on April 13, 2017. The articles states that the Hirst decision will impact property values causing counties to shift taxes to land with value so that said counties collect the same tax base. A shifting tax base would impact every land owner in WA, so yes, the Hirst decision does have far reaching implications.

Depending on a legislative fix may not be the answer. Establishing water banks in severely impacted counties with available water may be an answer. Walla Walla County has had a water bank for sometime. Now Spokane County is using Walla Walla as a template as they attempt to set up a water bank to combat the Hirst impacts. Spokane County Commissioners just approved over $1,000,000.00 for water bank activities. Water banks could be a very viable solution to this problem. In general, water banks are set up with the Department of Ecology so that there is one entity overseeing the water bank. DOE then controls that resource. This just one solution that has come up when dependence on a legislative fix has failed.

The Department of Ecology has once again done site visits in many of our Eastern Washington counties. In April 2017 DOE employees spent days going to hundreds of sites to evaluate the substantial potential to pollute. DOE employees followed the same practices and procedures as they have in the past, filling out their evaluation form and taking pictures. All of the information compiled by DOE is available to producers through an Public Information Act Request. Producers that feel that they may be at risk should request their files through this process. DOE has advised that anytime cattle are given unlimited access to surface water, that is a risky behavior and could lead to pollution. During conversations about cattle access, it was admitted that DOE spends very little time observing each site, so they continue to look for the items that they consider to be indicators of pollution- bear ground, lack of woody vegetation, trails, sloping banks, etc. These indicators could be caused by wildlife, natural events, or other factors, however, DOE sees them as clear indications of cattle access. If you have surface water on your property, please remember to document- take pictures, notes, get witnesses- be a good steward of the land and have a good grazing management plan. There are private individuals who can offer technical support if you believe you need it. The conservation districts also offer support. At the end of the day, if you get a letter from DOE DO NOT IGNORE IT! Seek the help that is available to you, there are many resources in Washington. Call the WCA for assistance.

The Washington Policy Center Agriculture Center Advisory Board Meeting was April 19, 2017. The Policy Center has been very active this legislative session in providing information to our elected officials on the impacts regulation has on agriculture as a whole. Madi Clark has produced publications, had speaking events, and blogs discussing the Hirst decision, the ag labor shortage, what's upstream, and water storage to name a few of the issues. The Policy Center also did a great piece on the impacts of removing the Snake River Dams. The WPC Solutions Summit is coming up May 15-16, 2017. They will be having one session in Spokane and one session in Bellevue so that anyone can attend. There will be discussions on new and changing ag issues and many presenters including Jack Field.

On March 23, 2017 Leslie Bennett and I got to participate in the 2017 Farm Fair which took place at the Benton Franklin Fair Grounds in Kennewick, WA. This is a two day event that allows fifth graders to come in and learn about agriculture. This event has been going on for many years with Charlie Card manning the booth. Due to Charlie’s health, Leslie and I stepped in this year. The event had over 900 fifth graders in attendance and 500 of those fifth graders came to the WCA booth. We were able to speak with the fifth graders for 7 1/2 minutes per session. Thank you to Chiawana FFA for assisting in this presentation on both days. Thank you to the Washington Farm Bureau for the event and to Charlie Card for all of his hard work. Many of these kids have no understanding of ag, this is a great chance to educate and try to establish a link with these kids that will grow up as city kids.
May Day, May Day, I think we finally have Spring!

While the weather is having a heck of a time figuring out what it wants to do, Washington Ag in the Classroom has completed two huge projects! Our 3rd and final issue of Ag@School for this school year was mailed out to 7800 students (mostly 4th graders) throughout Washington in mid-April that focused on stewardship. Articles covered a wide range of topics; water, soil, the marvel of ruminants, forestry, clams, berries, and highlighted Agri Beef in a career and company highlight! In the 3rd issue we also THANK our incredibly generous sponsors and I have to say, it’s an impressive list! There are numerous Cattlemen and Cattlewomen on that list and your dollars are greatly appreciated! If you’d like some magazines sent to you, please contact me!

We also completed our 4th annual NIE (Newspapers in Education) insert that was distributed to over 37,000 classrooms and 1 million Sunday readers! This insert was supported by many agricultural businesses and focused on technology and science in agriculture!

The next few months will focus on wrapping up the end of the school year statistics for our sponsors and initial planning for next school year.

Remember we have resources available for you to use for fairs as summer is fast approaching! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any requests, questions or comments!

Bring on the green grass,
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Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) is funded 100% by donations from individuals, organizations and businesses
It appears that spring is upon us, finally. With the greening of the grass and calves running around, it’s time to prepare to move livestock to summer pastures. Our pasture to pasture document, or “P to P”, for moving cattle between states bordering Washington was developed to shorten the time and money associated with getting veterinarians into the mountains to inspect cattle multiple times over the summer.

Originally, a 30-day health certificate was required. The P to P document extends the life of the health certificate to six months. That certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), along with a brand certificate, is obtained prior to movement from Washington to Idaho or Oregon. The P to P allows producers to obtain one CVI that can be used for returning cattle six months later. Brand inspections, however, are still required in both the spring and fall.

A request for a P to P permit is obtained from and submitted to the state of origin. The state agency reviews the form and all attached documents, such as trichomoniasis testing for bulls, and then forwards to the destination state. Both states’ animal health regulatory officials have to approve it. This review by both state agencies takes about a week, so please factor that into your timeline. And contact your local brand inspector to schedule your brand inspection. Spring and fall are busy times and you want to make certain your paperwork is in order before cattle are moved.

To obtain a P to P permit from Washington, visit our Animal Health website at agr.wa.gov/ FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Forms. aspx or contact us by calling (360) 902-1878 or by email at ahealth@ agr.wa.gov. Find your local brand inspector’s contact information by visiting the Livestock Inspection website at agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/ Livestock/WhoToContact.aspx.

This fall when you bring your calves in from pasture, ask your veterinarian about using electronic official ID tags when you get your bangs vaccinations done. One common type of electronic identification (EID) is Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). It looks like a button rather than a metal clip. Veterinarians can buy these official identification tags from the State Veterinarian’s office for about $2.25 per tag.

RFID technology, such as hand held devices, wands and panel readers, automatically detect and record the 10 digit number without the risk of human error. Recent audits have shown up to 20% error rates when tag numbers are hand entered.

**ADT protects industry**

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) protects animal health, human health and the state’s economy from the effects of diseased and exposed animals. ADT assists in early identification and quick containment of the animals exposed or infected. This technology provides a safe food supply and assists in the prevention of zoonotic diseases. Electronic capture of data speeds industry and regulatory response time if there’s a disease issue.

**Getting started isn’t easy at times**

We get it that the cattle industry along with its state and federal partners are in a difficult position right now. I’m talking about the work to develop this effective technology, utilize the data collected, migrate from paper systems that have been used for a hundred years and make it all work smoothly! Getting started is the most difficult part. No one likes change. But any way to decrease hand entering numbers and the possibility of errors is important.

**USDA Meetings on Animal Disease Traceability**

USDA APHIS announced they will host seven public meetings to receive feedback on the “next steps” for animal disease traceability (ADT). The meetings will focus on traceability in the cattle and bison sectors.

Information will be presented on what has been accomplished as well as traceability gaps or shortfalls. Although WSDA will be at one of the meetings, USDA wants to hear from you! What aspects are challenging, confusing, or problematic about disease traceability? How can obstacles be rectified? In addition, your feedback on the longer-term issues; in particular, what is the level of traceability that should be considered if we are to move beyond the basic traceability framework. Comments can be emailed to USDA at traceability@aphis.usda.gov.

No meetings will be held in Washington State; the closest locations are: Denver, Colorado on May 4, Sacramento, California on May 11, and Billings, Montana on May 25. For more information please visit: https://content.govdelivery. com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/ bulletins/18ecc1d7. Meeting handout materials, including agendas, may be downloaded at: www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/
to answer some questions they may have had about how beef is raised and produced and for the Mays Family to tell their story. Thank you to the WSBC for sponsoring this event.

The Region 5 CattleWomen Meeting is set for May 4-5 in Gillette Wyoming this year. The Wyoming ladies have worked long and hard to plan this event and it is stocked full of great speakers and entertainment for all those attending.

June 1st the Beef Commission will be sponsoring the Northwest Explore Beef Experience at the Forman Ranch, Trinity Farms here in Ellensburg. Lunch will be provided by the Beef Commission and served by the CattleWomen. It will include a tour of the ranch and facilities and is a great opportunity for these professionals to see how beef is raised and produced.

As we stretch into spring and summer I would like to challenge all of you county presidents and your members to reach out and help to increase our membership. We have a great story to tell and we represent a vital industry that deserves our support. I know that everyone is busy and has many irons in the fire but this is one organization that needs our support!! Visit with a friend or community member and ask them if they would like to join and support the Washington Cattlemen and CattleWomen. The least that they can say is no or maybe I will think about it. An organization is only as vital and dynamic as its members. I will talk with each of your county presidents about this and will also share ideas and information at our next WCW meeting which will be held in the Goldendale area on June 19th (tentatively) at a winery in the area.

Until then, “Pray for a good harvest and keep on hoeing.”

God Bless all of you,

Linda Henderson
WCW President

Farm Fair, Ellensburg

(Above) Annette Smith and Louise Acheson serving the kids at the Farm Fair in Ellensburg.

C4 Classic Man 0187 won Reserve Grand Champion bred-and-owned bull at the 2017 Western Regional Junior Angus Show, April 1 in Reno, Nevada. Coulson Chambers, from Tenino, Washington, owns the January 2016 son of EXAR Classen 1422B. Jon Davis, Gallipolis, Ohio, evaluated the 114 entries. Pictured with Coulson are his parents, Sean and Tara, and his brother Dalton, all of C4 Ranch.

( Picture and article taken from Angus News Feed.)
Utilization monitoring is sometimes called annual use monitoring, compliance monitoring, or grazing monitoring. The intent of utilization monitoring by most public land agencies is to serve as an easily measured guideline for limiting potential negative effects of grazing. This is a good goal; unfortunately, simple indicators often fail to capture the complexity of natural systems with lots of interacting parts. D. Costello, writing in the Journal of Range Management back in 1957, said: “Oversimplification leads to poor interpretation and poor interpretations leads to poor management.”

Before discussing various methods employed to measure utilization, I want to challenge the assumptions baked into this approach to public land permit policing and grazing guidance. Utilization monitoring is specifically designed to measure how much of the available forage has been consumed in a given grazing event, permit period, grazing period, or calendar year. Note that these are all different reference points and timeframes. Growing season measurements do not account for timing of grazing, uniformity of grazing impacts, species preferences, etc. These factors all matter to the actual long-term effects of grazing use on a plant community, which is what we’re really after.

Let me state here that I’m not supporting unregulated grazing of public lands. The West has oceans of sagebrush and cheatgrass that are largely the product of decades of season-long growing-season grazing at moderate to heavy stocking rates. I’ll mention at the end of this article some keys to sustainable grazing. Grazing forests and rangelands well is serious business. We’re trying to do something radical—produce food and fiber on naturally occurring ecosystems while allowing those lands to produce other less tangible “goods and services” such as wildlife habitat, open space, clean water, clean air, recreation areas. No other segment of agriculture can claim this. Dr. Jerry Holechek, New Mexico State University, has made the case that doing wildland grazing successfully is a matter of national security. All other methods of food production require destroying the native plant communities and replacing them with agro-ecosystems. Cropping systems are necessary, but I am saying that rangeland-based meat production is unique and important. Because we have limited ability to pour money into these vast areas if we mess it up, it is radically important to avoid putting so much grazing pressure on soils and plants that the plant community crosses an ecological threshold into a less desirable and less productive stable state. Once that hump is crossed, we can’t just remove the grazing pressure and go back to the earlier stable state. Therefore, it is monumentally important to avoid crossing that threshold in the first place. This is what well-meaning agencies seek to do with utilization monitoring. But utilization measurements are not likely the best tool to prevent degradation.

Measuring utilization assumes 1) that utilization data is meaningful data as an indicator, 2) that it can be measured accurately (once we define what “it” is), 3) that it can be interpreted profitably by untrained professionals, and 4) that the data provide some basis for action. All these assumptions are problematic and have been seriously challenged in the scientific literature.

First, is it meaningful? Well-respected range scientists with many years of real-world experience have been saying for 20 years that utilization monitoring is not management, that it provides little direction for improving grazing and improving range condition. The use of utilization standards can be traced back to a 1937 report by Dr. Robert Campbell (who was with the Forest Service) who was tasked with formulating sound utilization standards and simple, practical methods of measuring degree of forage use. He stated in this report that “continued productivity or gradual death of a good forage grass may depend upon a difference in foliage removal of as little as 10%.” This premise, that rangeland healthy rides on the razor’s edge of minor differences in forage utilization, seems to be unfounded and unsupported by later research. Numerous studies have documented widely varying utilization levels without long-term decline in rangeland health in different kinds of plant communities. A utilization value is usually an inadequately sampled data average about a single species at a single point in time at a severely small spatial scale that may not tell much at all about grazing on an entire grazing area of many thousands of acres, or even hundreds of acres. It is not a particularly good indicator of range trend (improving or declining condition). Research has shown that the effects of a particular utilization rate vary within species and across species.

Second, can it be measured accurately?
tolerant species, which are usually less productive! However, 75% utilization which occurs after seed set every year is likely to have a strong positive effect on stand vigor and density because the plants have completed their reproductive cycle, produced and shed their seeds, and grazing use after that point just serves to plant seed, deposit beneficial plant litter on the soil surface, and cycle nitrogen back into the soil in an ecosystem where nitrogen is a bigger limiting factor to plant growth than water.

Unfortunately, many rangelands are not managed this way. There is no attempt to change season or timing of use from year to year, no attempt to ensure seed production occasionally, insufficient effort made to distribute animals across the landscape in space and time, and too many acres in Washington State show evidence of overgrazing. Again, utilization monitoring may provide a weak indication of overgrazing but it doesn’t help direct sustainable grazing. Utilization monitoring today may also reveal poor plant production resulting from overgrazing that happened 25 years ago rather than illuminate problems today.

Here are some common methods used by federal agencies to measure various kinds of utilization and my comments on their relative value. Note that these are well-established, published methods that have wide acceptance; as previously discussed, the value or potential for abuse is in interpretation and implementation.

**Extensive Browse Method**

With the Extensive Browse Method, pace transects are run to collect vegetation data. This method provides data on utilization, species composition, age classes, availability, and hedging for the browse component of the plant community.

TDH: This is reliable for measuring browse (shrub and tree grazing). Browsing is rarely a problem except in heavily-stocked winter pastures with antelope bitterbrush, newly planted regeneration areas on a harvested forest stand, or in riparian zones where woody species dominate and exceed nutrient values on adjacent upland grasses.

**Residual Stubble Height Method**

The Residual Stubble-Height Method measures stubble height or height (in centimeters or inches) of herbage left ungrazed at any given time. This method, because of its simple application, is becoming a well-accepted method for expressing rangeland use. This method would be used after stubble height standards for specific plant communities had been developed. An example, a stubble height of 4 inches might be specified to provide streambank protection, to trap sediments, and to rebuild degraded stream channels in riparian areas. This method is often prescribed in biological assessments and biological opinions in the Pacific Northwest Region.

TDH: Stubble height is a legitimate way to gauge negative site impacts. However, it often ignores selective grazing and site potential. It is relatively rare to have completely uniform grazing use in any ecosystem except one that is very homogeneous, so the target species could be grazed to 3" and trigger a violation when that species is only 20% of the plant community. Also, if Kentucky bluegrass is the target species and it only grows to 5 inches in a given environment, a 4-inch stubble height really isn't reasonable because it's not achievable.

The University of Idaho Stubble Height Review Team reported in 2004 that stubble height is effective when measured at the "green line", the narrow zone where water meets bank and vegetation and where vegetation is driving bank stability rather than shrubs, trees, and rock or cobble. Further, the review team says that stubble height as an annual indicator of riparian grazing impacts is NOT applicable "at the tops of streambanks above the influence of water in the..."
We’ve Got Trust-Building Work to Do!

The Beef Commission rated building consumer trust in Washington’s beef producers and modern beef production as the number one priority during their planning meeting held in March. Building consumer trust has long been a strategic priority for the Commission, because our urban millennial consumers are concerned about practices related to how cattle are raised and treated on ranches and at feedyards.

As a result, we have invested 50% of our promotion budget to conduct digital advertising targeting millennial consumers with information about the work you do every day to nurture animals and the environment. The goal of all this work is to illustrate for consumers that you are committed to top quality care for your animals and your land - a foundational aspect of producing a safe and wholesome protein - thereby increasing consumer confidence in serving beef for family meals. Visit our website at www.wabeef.org and you will see that our work is spot on in telling your story in a way that is compelling to consumers. Our messaging is based on extensive consumer research and every producer in the state can feel proud to say they help fund this important work. The Beef Commission uses powerful social media tools like Facebook, Google, YouTube and Pandora Digital Radio to drive consumers to our website to learn more about all aspects of beef.

In the first three-quarters of our fiscal year this advertising drove over 43,035 visits to the Beef Community and FAQ sections of our website, where consumers spent over 2 ½ minutes per visit viewing accurate and truthful information about beef producers and beef production in Washington State.

So, what is the problem?

This work is strategically appropriate but tight resources limit our outreach and the potential impact we can have on consumers who are hungry for more information. The Beef Commission resources strategically target millennial parents in Western Washington. This is a very narrow, but important, focus because millennial parents have more questions about beef production and are raising the next generation of beef consumers. They often will get the information they are seeking from well-funded organizations founded to work against animal agriculture (for example, the Humane Society of the United States and its affiliated groups claim assets of $191 million, which are not being invested in animal shelters).

In other words, while our Washington consumers self-identify as knowledgeable about how beef is produced, their information sources are cause for concern. "Talking with family and friends via social media," "internet sources/electronic communications" and "TV or movie documentaries" are their primary sources for information about beef production. This is much higher than consumers nationally who continue...
to rely on television news. While our local consumers feel confident in what they know, our market research indicates they use unreliable information sources more often than consumers nationally. This often results in misinformation that is damaging to our beef community.

A 2016 Consumer Beef Index consumer attitude study indicated that Seattle area consumers, ages 18 to 65, report much lower levels of trust in the beef industry than consumers nationally. For example, only 36% of consumers nationwide versus 25% of Seattle-area consumers agreed that the beef industry uses sustainable practices. When asked if the industry treats animals humanely, 33% of nationally surveyed consumers strongly agreed, versus 23% in Seattle. Further, while 61% of consumers nationally believe that positives about how cattle are raised outweigh the negatives, only 56% agree with that statement in Seattle.

In Washington State, it is more critical than ever that the Beef Commission continues to tell your story and work on your behalf to build trust in Washington’s Beef Community. We absolutely must elevate our ability to provide factual beef production information to consumers when and where they are looking for it, which is primarily on their mobile phones. This is important because whether you see yourself as a cattle or beef producer, Washington consumers - especially millennial parents raising the next generation of beef eaters - will likely buy your product or support your operation because they trust you.

For more information about the Consumer Beef Index or any other program funded with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff investment contact pbrumbach@wabeef.org, or call 206.444.2902. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at www.wabeef.org and Facebook.com/WABeef.

Patti Brumbach
Executive Director
WA Beef Commission

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

**Asotin County**
Jim Reiner
Recruited by Sam Ledgerwood

**Franklin County**
Scott Goodwin
Recruited by Lorne Lewis

**Klickitat County**
Leroy & Darlene Goodrich,
Wind River Cattle Co.
Recruited by Josh Hoctor

**Lincoln County**
Roger Wesselman,
RKW Enterprises, Inc.
Recruited by Rod Wesselman

**Snohomish County**
Karl Hereth
Recruited by Gerry Labish

**Whatcom County**
Ben Elenbaas
Recruited by Branden Brink

**Yakima County**
Arlen Moses

Catelynn Dawson
Grant Dawson
Kelsey Dawson
Barb Cartwright
Recruited by Jeff Dawson

Tyler Gray, Neogen

Kaneesha Gemmerling
Recruited by Carson Ruud
WCA continues to work actively against the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan

The Washington Cattlemen’s Association is taking a strong stance on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan. The letter displayed to the right was sent not only to Karen Taylor-Goodrich and Eric Rickerson, but to Representative Dan Newhouse and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers as well. The WCA will continue to stand up for ranchers and rural communities and their rights. For more information please contact the WCA office.

Official Statement from the Washington Cattlemen’s Association regarding the USFWS/Parks Service EIS on Grizzly Bears

The Washington Cattlemen’s Association represents over 1,100 ranch families and businesses in Washington State many of which would be negatively impacted by the proposed action of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Parks Service to re-introduce Grizzly Bears into Washington State. The WCA strongly opposes the reintroduction of an apex predator into Washington State. The WCA believes that Grizzly Bear recovery and re-colonization must occur naturally without human augmentation.

Grizzly Bear Reintroduction WRESA 2016-12

WHEREAS, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service have proposed the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public process regarding Grizzly Bear reintroduction into Washington State has begun. And

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The WCA recommend the USFWS must honor the Washington State Law from 1995, SSB 5106, Grizzly Bear Management, (RCW 77.12.035). The USFWS’s own regulation specifically 24.4(i) (5)(i) requires the Service to comply with Washington State permitting requirements prior to releasing Grizzly Bears which Washington State can’t give due to RCW 77.12.035 and not reintroduce Grizzly Bears in Washington State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA recommends “no-action” from the Service or the “status quo” policy. If Grizzly Bears re-colonize the North Cascades it should occur without any augmentation from the Service as stated in (RCW 77.12.035) and only allow “natural regeneration”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, If the Service elects to trump current State law (RCW 77.12.035) and appropriate permitting go forward with the translocation of Grizzly Bears, in Washington State, the state should be provided the following requirements and assurances:

1. Required Grizzly Bear recovery and management plan with recovery goals (populations) for delisting and arecovery zone clearly defined.
2. Assurances that The Service will not include any State or Private Land in the recovery zone.
3. Assurances that the Service will designate the Grizzly as non-essential experimental (10-j) so management actionsand control of problem bears can be taken quickly when needed.
4. Assurances that the Service shall provide all funds necessary to carry out all associated inter-agency both pre and post management of the bear (WDFW, DNR, WA Parks).
5. Assurances that the Service will clearly outline all methods that will be implemented to ensure for the protection of human safety
6. Assurances that Grizzly Bear recovery will not create any negative economic or ecological impacts to ranching, logging or recreational industries.
7. Assurances that private or State Lands will not be subject to any new land use restrictions as a result of Grizzly Bears on the landscape.

This letter is in response to your request for further comments on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan DEIS. Please also find the official statement of the Washington Cattlemen’s Association (WCA), regarding the USFWS/Parks Service DEIS on Grizzly bears from our Policy Book.

WCA believes that the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan DEIS is in violation of NEPA because it does not study or measure the economic impacts of its decisions on rural communities or economies. It is WCA’s opinion that designating millions of acres as “North Cascades Recovery Zone,” whose outline includes towns and tens of thousands of acres of State land and private property will have profound impacts on all current and future land management decisions especially pertaining to timber management, livestock grazing, fire suppression, road construction, hunting and recreational activities.

Please also be advised of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), pursuant to subsection 801(a)(l)(A) of the act “a Federal Agency promulgating a rule must submit a copy of the rule and a brief report about it to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General” for passage and the President’s signature before the rule can take effect. The WCA will insist that the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conform to Chapter 8 of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Thank you for the further opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Tyler Cox
Dave Duncan

Wildlife/ESA Chair, Dave Duncan
WCA President, Tyler Cox
Weak Calf Syndrome Investigation
Drs. John R. Wenz and Craig McConnel, WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Weak Calf Syndrome (WCS) was first described in Montana in 1964 and since then observed across the US and in other countries. The summary provided in Veterinary Medicine, a text by Constable et al, nicely captures what has been commonly observed in the Northwest.

Etiology: Uncertain; probably multiple etiologies and multifactorial.

Epidemiology: Most commonly several cases on a farm; several farms affected in a geographic region in a single season; problem may not occur for several years and then occur as “epidemic” in a region.

Clinical findings: Calves may be born weak and unable to stand. More commonly, they are born apparently normal and stand but subsequently collapse with hypothermia and die within hours of birth.

In what was described as the “most common” situation, calves are born weak and die within 10-20 minutes after birth but “sometimes” live for up to a few days. The “earlier descriptions” recounted in the textbook indicated about 6-15% of calves were affected by 10 days of age. About 20% of calves were affected at birth and calves that survived for a few days exhibited depression, weakness and a “hunched up back” if they stood. Death loss was 60-80% despite treatment.

This winter we worked with a beef herd in Idaho that reported 30% of calves affected. Most were first noticed “lacking vigor” at 3-5 days of age and presented as “dumpy, humped up and shivering” at 7-18 days of age. About 20% died, 20% remained with a “very rough appearance, poor condition and generally looking unhappy”. This outbreak was concurrent with a tough winter with more snow than usual and temperatures 10 degrees colder than normal. Some cases of WCS have been associated with “cold, hard winter weather”.

However, a veterinarian in Oregon with several herds affected over the years reported no association with weather during the calving season. The difference could have something to do with management response to adverse weather. In the Idaho case, because of the snow and cold temperatures, the cows were moved to a smaller pasture at calving time and on some nights animals were locked in a straw-bedded corral for easy observation. Along with WCS-delayed delivery of the calf because of a difficult birth is likely a primary factor associated with WCS along with the others such as weather and management practices that could affect the clinical presentation ranging from stillbirths to “dumpy, humped up and shivering” calves at 2 weeks of age.

A text-book description of “dummy calves” exists that appears different from WCS but could present similarly. Similar to “dummy foals”, affected calves appear alert at birth, but if observed closely don’t rise for 1-2 hours and seem to lack the drive to suckle. Depending on how closely calving is observed it is possible these dummy calves fail to suckle and present like a WCS calf due to hypothermia and starvation because they aren’t suckling. These calves would likely have failure of passive transfer of immunity from colostrum and if nursed through the initial problems would be at higher risk for infectious diseases. Dr. John Madigan at UC Davis studies this problem in foals and has been investigating the potential role of neurosteroids that have sedative effects. His theory is that foals delivered too quickly don’t experience adequate time in the birth canal to signal the normal downregulation of production of these sedative neurosteroids. Essentially, the foal is born sedated (“...good in the womb so they don’t gallop...” as he is quoted saying) but could lead to the apparent lack of interest in suckling.

This peaked our interest in the possible role of neurosteroids in development of WCS. It turns out allopregnanolone (APN) is such a steroid, derived from progesterone (the hormone that maintains pregnancy). APN has been shown to be protective against brain injury from not getting enough oxygen during delivery in sheep and guinea pigs. Reduced levels of this neurosteroid have been associated with damage to the brain and lasting neurologic deficits. Interestingly, acute, short-term stressors (such as a single corticosteroid injection) increased APN levels while chronic stressors (repeated corticosteroid injections) decreased concentrations. Is it possible that relatively longer stressors (weather, poor nutrition) reduce production of these neuroprotective steroids and also predispose cattle to delayed parturition? The result would be a calf less resistant to but more likely to experience hypoxemia during and shortly after birth.

These are all very interesting ideas, but in the end, how do we reduce losses associated with WCS? To date there have been many general suggestions targeting some of the potential risk factors: adequate nutrition (protein, energy and trace minerals), close observation and appropriate assistance at calving, vaccination, and provision of wind breaks and warming boxes during cold, harsh weather. Despite knowledge of these, WCS persists as a problem. Appropriate management of cattle is important but may not be the root cause. Maybe it is a seemingly inappropriate response like bringing the cows up close into a smaller calving area so they can be...
The wet drizzle that dampened the morning was gone before over 1400 people lined up for the tri-tip beef sandwiches served on the Legislative campus in Olympia. This year Washington Cattlemen teamed up with the Asparagus Growers and the Dairymen to present a great lunch to those who work everyday for the good of our state.
Work Crew!!

Above left: Jack Field, Don Blakeman and Rod Wesselman
Above right: Rex Harder, Tyler Cox and Linda Henderson
Below: Vic Stokes and Larry Olberding

Left: Jack Field and Don Blakemore
Bottom left: Fred Colvin and Ron Criddlebaugh
Below: Mary Rutledge, Linda Johnson, Ruthie Caddell, Linda Henderson, Bev Criddlebaugh and Leanna Stidham
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.

Public hearings will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 24 at the Department of Agriculture office in Olympia and at 2:00 p.m. on May 24 at the Department of Agriculture office in Yakima.

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/.
rooting zone . . . [or on] erosional banks whose tops are above the bank-full level [and] are not favorable to hydric vegetation."

**Paired Plot Method**

Under the Paired Plot Method, forage from protected and unprotected plots is clipped and weighed at the end of the use period. The difference between those two weights represents the amount of forage consumed or otherwise destroyed during that period.

TDH: This is a good approach which does consider site potential as long as the protected plot moves annually. Otherwise, it's a long-term trend exclusion experiment. Note that several researchers have stated that using forage biomass weights “obtained from caged areas to calculate utilization will usually indicate higher utilization values than values calculated from actual yield” (Sharp, et al 1994).

**Ocular Estimate Method**

With the Ocular Estimate Method, utilization is determined along a transect by ocular estimate. The percentage by weight of forage removed is determined for individual plants of the key species of from all plants of the key species within small quadrats.

TDH: Ocular estimates are good for internal use where the same observer is used every year. I would never recommend this method for any measurement that would be used in an official capacity, such as alleging non-compliance on a federal land lease. This depends heavily on observer calibration, and even good observers can be tricky to calibrate.

**Key Species Method**

In the key species method (formally the modified key forage plant method) utilization levels are based on an ocular estimate of the amount of forage removed by weight on individual key species and observations are recorded in one of seven utilization classes.

TDH: This is a modification of the grazed-class method described below. The grazed-class method is as good as ocular estimation gets, i.e., is somewhat objective. This is better than stubble height, although less objective, and not as good as height-weight, which requires concrete measurements which could be performed/colllected by different observers and still get the same answer.

**Height-Weight Method**

The Height-Weight Method involves the measurement of heights of ungrazed and grazed grasses or grasslike plants to determine the average utilization. Measurements of plant heights recorded along transects are converted to percent of weight utilized by means of a utilization gauge (Lomasson and Jensen 1943). The utilization gauge is developed from height-weight relationships curves. The method provides a mechanical tool which can be used for training, checking personal judgment, and promoting uniformity of results between examiners, as well as for determining percent utilization. A utilization gauge developed by the U.S Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station can be obtained from Colorado State University.

TDH: I like this approach. It isn't excessively time-consuming, allows focus on the most preferred plants, is objective, and can be fine-tuned for local conditions (height-weight curves can be easily developed and compared against the utilization gauge described above).

**Grazed-Class Method**

The Grazed-Class Method uses photo guides of key species to make utilization estimates. These estimates reflect herbage removed but also show herbage remaining.

TDH: These are okay. They are objective, but I think not as reliable as actual field measurements. If a person is on a specific site long enough to take some photos, it doesn't require that much more time to collect stubble heights. I think doing both is a winning combination.

Very brief grazing guidelines (adapted from Floyd Reed, retired USFS range con and private consultant, and added to by the author):

1. Defoliate the primary forage species moderately.

2. Change the season of use from year to year. This will let grasses go to seed periodically.

3. Provide an adequate regrowth period before re-grazing the same area. October to April is not adequate regrowth because plants are not growing.

4. Find ways to distribute animals on the landscape both in space and time.

5. Not grazing everything is not leaving money on the table—it’s leaving money in the bank.
March 25th, marked the date for a fabulously packed house at the Elk’s Lodge in White Salmon for the 2017 Klickitat County Livestock Grower’s Banquet. Cattlemen’s president, Josh Hoctor of Glenwood had a full agenda of awards, heart felt speeches, and cowboy poetry.

Kristin Chambers presented the Bernice Thiele Memorial Hog to Goldendale High School Freshman, Corbin Bland. Billie Rolfe presented the Jean Schilling lamb to Natalie Schroder, a 7th grader at Goldendale Middle School referencing Natalie’s top notch attitude, impressive GPA, and her love for animals. Jim Sizemore gave a tremendous speech while presenting the community service centered Jim Bridgefarmer award to Phil Garner. His granddaughters Natalie and Emily Hurst and Karlie Garner were there to receive the award in memory of their grandpa. Harry Miller of Glenwood was able to add side notes about his long-time friend, Jerry Throop of Glenwood that was awarded the OP Krebs. Gabe Starr will receive the Hassing Memorial Steer donated by Columbia Bank.

The six steer of merit kids for 2016 are Jace Enwards, Caitlyn Jauken, Cassie Kayser, and the top three are 3rd Grace Hanning, 2nd Mackenzie Swift, and 1st Shania Henderson. Brad and Kristin Cameron of Centerville are the 2017 Cattlemen of the Year.

The Cattlewomen wrapped up the night with their Live Auction items sold by auctioneer John Rolfe. John did a great job and kicked off the auction with the highest selling item, a table by local artist Joan Bowman, owner of Ranch Cut Designs. The proceeds from the table went directly to the Phil Garner Memorial Account at the Klickitat County Fair. Four other items were auctioned off, one of the items being the Beef Counts Cooler that will benefit Beef Count Program. The Cattlemen and women are planning on teaming up with the local Food Bank and Second Harvest to host a Beef Counts Event at the end of June at Goldendale High School. Proceeds from both the Live and Silent Auction will go to pay for the annual Ag Day BBQ, their scholarship to a graduating senior, and Beef promotion events. Both the men and women had spent the day before at the Glenwood School where they cooked and served lunch to all students and staff. After lunch, a school wide assembly was held to learn about and celebrate National Ag Week and the benefits of agriculture.

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**Tenderloin, Cranberry and Pear Salad with Honey Mustard Dressing**

Ready in just 25 minutes, this will be a go-to for quick & nutritious weeknight meals.

**Ingredients**

- 4 beef Tenderloin Steaks, cut 3/4 inch thick (4 ounces each)
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse grind black pepper
- 1 package (5 ounces) mixed baby salad greens
- 1 medium red or green pear, cored, cut into 16 wedges
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- Salt
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans, toasted
- 1/4 cup crumbled goat cheese (optional)

**Honey Mustard Dressing:**

- 1/2 cup prepared honey mustard
- 2 to 3 tablespoons water
- 1-1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse grind black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

**Instructions**

1. Season beef steaks with 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Place steaks in skillet; cook 7 to 10 minutes for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.


3. Carve steaks into thin slices; season with salt as desired. Divide steak slices evenly over salads. Top each salad evenly with dressing, pecans and goat cheese, if desired.

Recipe and photo as seen in The Healthy Beef Cookbook, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Please complete the following when donating to the Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) or other Funds

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Contributions may be sent to: WCA, P.O. Box 96, Ellensburg, WA 98926

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*add $5 to total for each additional County Affiliation

Amount Paid: __________ Check #: __________ Visa/MC/Amex (circle) #: ________________
Expires: __________ V-Code: __________ Signature: ________________

**Voting Membership:**
- Individual voting membership
  - $125 per year under 50 head
  - $150 per year plus 40¢ per head over 50 head
- Joint Membership
  - $175 per year under 50 head
  - $200 per year plus 40¢ per head over 50 head

**Number of Head:**

**Associate Memberships (no cattle):**
- Choice Club $300 per year
- Allied Industry $200 per year
- Select Club $100 per year
- Regular Associate $50 per year
- Student $35 per year*

*Must be under 23 years of age
Dear Washington Cattlemen’s Association,

My name is Dakota Olberding and I would like to express my deep appreciation for selecting me as a recipient of the Jenny Lynn Stiles-Hudson Memorial Scholarship and the Western Stockmen’s and Simplot Cattle Feeding Scholarship. I am extremely grateful for this generosity and support to continue pursuing my education.

I am currently a sophomore at Washington State University, studying Agricultural and Food Business Economics with a minor in Animal Sciences. In addition to attending school, I am also employed as a volleyball official for junior high and high schools in South-Eastern Washington. I have also been traveling home frequently on the weekends to take care of responsibilities I have at home on the ranch.

As we all know, this winter was, in a word, awful. My Dad even admitted it was the worst he’d seen in his whole life. It was cold, with non-stop snow and freezing rain, and I was very nearly convinced we’d never see the end of it. The only things that helped me stay positive were the facts that our cows were holding up well in spite of everything working against them, and that all that moisture meant we should be in store for green, tall pastures come spring and summer. As much as I felt the need to complain sometimes, I knew that others were struggling far more than I.

I have seen the generosity of farmers and ranchers, and the Washington Cattlemen’s Association, for as long as I can remember. When Washington state was ravaged with fires a few years ago, it really solidified the fact that cattlemen and livestock producers are some of the toughest people you’ll come across in your lifetime. Kind people and organizations donated feed, animal transportation and countless other necessities to those in need out of the goodness of their hearts and their understanding of hard times. As time goes on, I have seen it again these past couple months, with strong people fighting their way through the fires in the South. The generosity and helpfulness that cattlemen show each other and those involved in the industry is truly astounding and I have been fortunate to receive some of that kindness.

Over the next few years, I plan to finish my college education, receive my degree and enter the agricultural workforce. In addition, I plan to continue to take on more responsibilities on the ranch and expand my own cow herd. One of the reasons these goals are a possibility is through receiving scholarships, and the Washington Cattlemen’s Association has been so gracious to choose me as someone on the receiving end of their scholarships. I am so grateful to the WCA and to be a part of such a wonderful industry.

Thank you again
Dakota Olberding

We will be using this information only to provide summary feedback to ranchers and veterinarians and to set the stage for more in-depth investigations. Let us know if you have herds (beef or dairy) that have experienced WCS. Share your WCS experiences and your ideas about potential causes and what you think we should do during the study to better understand the problem. Work with us to gather the needed data and samples to better understand WCS.

References


Possible Causes of Weak Calf Syndrome
• Fetal infection around the time of birth (lepto, BVD, adenovirus)
• Maternal nutritional deficiencies
  O Iodine deficiency resulting in hypothyroidism exacerbated by low selenium
  O Gross nutritional inadequacy (crude protein 7% during last trimester led to lower birth weights and ability to keep warm)
• Placental insufficiency resulting in intrauterine growth retardation.
• Trauma associated with excessive force during assisted calvings
• Fetal oxygen deprivation associated with delayed birth/difficult birth

Drs. John R. Wenz and Craig McConnel, Field Disease Investigation Unit, WSU College of Veterinary Medicine
continued dedication to the WCW and the WCA!

Please look online for our Convention Survey. The WCABoard, with planning headed by Allen Miller, is working hard to bring members a convention to remember. Take a moment to fill out the survey (available on our website), so that the WCA can bring you the information you want in a way that suits your needs.

Like most farms and ranches in the spring, the WCA is in a time of great growth and transformation. Similar to a rancher’s inability to control the weather, the WCA is unable to control certain variables, but we can control the direction we head, our skills, and our response. Regardless of the blocks we may reach in the road I encourage everyone to keep at it, your passion for the industry further fuels the fire of the WCA board and myself to advocate on behalf of our great industry.

As always Eat Beef!
Amber M. Charlton

WCA Midyear Meeting
July 18th, 2017
WCA Office
Ellensburg, WA
Stay tuned for more details!
**WELCOME DR. HOLT!**

A new feature is being added to the Ketch Pen which we hope will be a benefit to our ranching community across the state. Robert Holt, DVM has graciously agreed to accept questions or concerns about their cattle and send a response. Dr. Holt has a real love for cattle and cares deeply about their welfare. Questions that would benefit everyone will be published monthly in this new column.

**Send your questions by email to us at wacattle@kvalley.com.**

We will immediately forward the email to Dr. Holt and he will then respond to both of us. That way you get the answer in a timely manner and we have an experts advice to publish in the Ketch Pen.

Robert E. Holt, DVM is a food animal veterinarian and one of 4 partners in Mt. Baker Veterinary & Embryo Transfer Services, Inc. of Lynden, WA. Dr. Holt has 18 years experience in food animal medicine practice, primarily with dairy and beef cattle, both in his current position for 16 years and his previous position with Mid-Valley Large Animal Service, Inc. of Turlock, California for two years.

Dr. Holt holds a DVM and a BS in Veterinary Science from Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, having graduated from WSU in 1999. He also holds a BS in Biology from Eastern Oregon State College.

Dr. Holt actively participates in organized veterinary medicine. He has been a member of the AVMA, AABP, and Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA) since veterinary school. Dr. Holt has served on the WSVMA Program Committee for 10 years working to bring quality continuing education to WSVMA members. In 2007 Dr. Holt reincorporated the defunct Tri-County Veterinary Medical Association (TCVMA), bringing organized veterinary medicine back to veterinarians of Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties. He currently serves the TCVMA on the Large Animal Continuing Education Committee, as well as Vice-President. He has also previously served as President of the TCVMA. Dr. Holt is an active member of the Whatcom County Cattlemen’s Association and the Washington State Cattlemen’s Association.

Dr. Holt was born and raised in Dillon, Montana, working on local cattle ranches. He enjoys breeding and raising his own herd of full blood Wagyu cattle, snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, along with spending time with his family. Dr. Holt currently lives in Everson, Washington on his farm.
If you would like pictures, announcements or have any ideas for the Ketch Pen please email us at wacattle@kvalley.com
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509-787-3546

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**Yoricka Farm, Inc.**

Registered Herefords
yorickafm@aol.com
8941 Glendale Road
Custer, Washington 98240

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**Simplot Western Stockmen’s**

Curtiss Ickes
Sales Representative
(509) 426-0737
133 Erica Drive
Richland, WA 99352
www.westernstockmens.com

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**McLean Ranches**

Bill & Bev
1901 Road NE
Coulee City, WA 99115
(509) 632-5662 Phone/Fax
wmbmcleanranch@gmail.com

Positive Impact Angus Genetics
When the significant female in your life is a cattlewoman……..

Never forget, she knows how to castrate. Always keep this in mind when saying, “yes, Ma’am.” Know that agreeing is for the greater good.

Don’t expect to get fed before the cattle. You are capable of getting your own food. They are not. If you starve, it’s not on her hands.

Don’t complain that the cattle eat better than you. You’re treading on dangerous ground. Simply eat your sandwich and drink your wine. She put some thought into picking a wine to go with that sandwich.

Don’t fall for the jewelry stores line about nothing showing your love like a diamond. Nothing says ‘I love you’ like a 250 ml bottle of Draxxin.

Don’t take it personally when she absently mentions that she has some Probios or Vita Charge left over from that sick calf that might help your flu symptoms after she just spent a small fortune at the vet on a bull.

Don’t think for one second that you will get her to back down. She’s stared death in the face, aka a mad mama cow. You are a push over.

She’s done this before. She isn’t trying to emasculate you. Her way is better and faster… Well, maybe not always, but it’s the way she’s always done it? Who wants to reinvent the wheel?

You can always count on her help no matter the weather or situation. However long it takes, she’ll be there until the job is finished.