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We encourage all of our cattlemen to send pictures to use in the Ketch Pen. We also are proud to acknowledge our “future ranchers” by publishing their accomplishments.

Send stories and pictures to: wacattle@kvalley.com

The Importance of Vitamins A and E to Beef Calf

NCBA Lays Out Principles for Regulating Fake Meat

Water Troughs are Key to Toxic E. Coli Spread in Cattle

Choosing Alfalfa Varieties

A Busy Time for Klickitat County Cattlemen and CattleWomen

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.
WCA Priorities for 2018

- **2018 Farm Bill**
  - Full funding of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank
  - Protect conservation programs – such as EQIP (environmental quality incentives program), ECP (emergency conservation program), drought and fire emergency response programs, and allow NRCS to continue to be a resource for agriculture.
  - Maintain research funding
- **Striving to Keep Washington’s safe and nutritious beef on dinner plates around the world**
  - 2018 Farm Bill – protect trade promotion programs (Market Access Program/Foreign Market Development Program)
  - Support and encourage resumption of beef exports and expansion of beef exports into new countries: Currently exports add $347/head (CattleFax)
  - Protect beef industry and our consumers from fake meat and misleading labels
  - Support National and State Beef Checkoff
- **Maintaining private property rights and the ability to stay in business through opposing federal or state land grabs and reduced (or no more) regulations and taxes, including limitations on agency actions which have a negative impact on agriculture.**
  - Oppose National Heritage Areas (Mountains to Sound NHA and Maritime Washington NHA)
  - Oppose Army Corps of Engineers attack on local land owners along the Snake River
- **Water Rights: Replace 2015 WOTUS (Waters of the United States) rule**
  - Litigation on several water issues both state and federal
  - Protect water rights for irrigation and stock water (Yakima Nation in Klickitat County)
  - Oppose removal or breaching of Snake River Dams
- **Endangered Species Act Modernization**, species listing and wildlife management:
  - State: Sharp-tail and Sage Grouse, Grey Wolf
  - Federal: Grey Wolf delisting and Grizzly Bear translocation (Support EIS Option A, WA State Morton Bill, 10j designation, NEPA, Recovery Plan)
  - Depredation by wildlife on private property: Ex. Cougars, bears, elk, geese, and wolves
- **Livestock Transportation:** Permanent solution to Electronic Logging Devices and Hours-of-Service
- **Reform Wildfire Management**
  - State and federal-owned lands management remain an area of focus
  - Supporting all efforts to ensure there’s a viable livestock inspection program providing proof of ownership. Also making sure we have a robust animal disease traceability program to protect the WA cattle industry and marketing options both nationally and internationally.
  - Ensuring Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife create a post-delisting wolf management plan containing future management objectives

Other issues we are participating in or watching for 2018:

- Washington agriculture, especially beef production, is already one of the most taxed and regulated in the nation – attention paid to those issues which could make it worse.
- Department of Ecology’s Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture – participant: implementation group
- WAG (Wolf Advisory Group) – several WCA members are participants
- Wildland Fire Management – participant in Summit
- Department of Natural Resources – maintain and increase grazing on state lands; participate in discussions on permit and lease pricing / awarding
- Member of the Public Lands Council – Public land ranching is essential to independent, family businesses that contribute to the economic and social sustainability of America’s rural communities.
- Participate in Columbia River Treaty discussions
- Maintain and improve relationships with Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Stockmanship & Stewardship, Oct 12-13, 2018, Pasco, WA – planning team
- Washington State University Extension – utilize resources to aid cattlemen
  - DNR permit and lease pricing
  - Stockmanship & Stewardship;
  - Beef Quality Assurance
  - Grazing, range, pasture utilization on private and public lands
- Disease Bio-Technology Facility (Diagnostic Lab) at WSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- Develop new and utilize committees of WCA members to address emerging and reoccurring issues impacting cattlemen throughout the state
NCBA Lays Out Principles for Regulating Fake Meat

WASHINGTON (April 10, 2018) – Today the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association submitted official comments to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) outlining key principles for the regulation of fake meat products. The comments, filed in response to Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Petition Number 18-01, encourage USDA to look beyond modifying “standards of identity” in order to provide adequate protection for beef producers and consumers.

“IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND ENFORCE FAIR AND ACCURATE LABELING FOR FAKE MEAT,” SAID KEVIN KESTER, President of NCBA. “AS LONG AS WE HAVE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, OUR PRODUCT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LEADING PROTEIN CHOICE FOR FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD.”

NCBA’s regulatory principles are designed to effectively address both plant-based and lab-grown imitation beef products. Specifically, NCBA:

1) Requests that USDA work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to “take appropriate, immediate enforcement action against improperly-labeled imitation products.” NCBA firmly believes the term beef should only be applicable to products derived from actual livestock raised by farmers and ranchers. For misbranded and mislabeled plant-based protein products, existing legislation gives FDA the authority to take enforcement actions. However, the agency has a history of failing to enforce labeling laws. Rather than expending time and resources to develop a standard of identity the FDA will blatantly ignore, NCBA requests USDA engage with FDA to facilitate immediate, appropriate enforcement actions against imitation meat product labels that clearly violate existing laws.

2) Urges USDA to “assert jurisdiction over foods consisting of, isolated from or produced from cell culture or tissue culture derived from livestock and poultry animals or their parts.” NCBA believes that USDA-FSIS is the agency best placed to regulate emerging lab-grown meat products. First, USDA-FSIS possesses the technical expertise and regulatory infrastructure to ensure perishable meat food products are safe for U.S. consumers. Lab-grown meat must comply with the same stringent food safety inspection standards as all other meat products.

Second, USDA-FSIS labeling standards provided greater protection against false and misleading marketing claims. Unlike the FDA, USDA-FSIS requires pre-approval of all labels before products hit the marketplace. This will ensure consistent labeling practices across all products, and prevent misleading marketing labels such as “clean meat.”

####

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2018 Washington Beef Ambassador, Cassie Kayser.
A Message from the WCW President
Kady Porterfield

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The Kittitas County Cattlewomen made the trek over Snoqualmie and met up with the Thurston County Cattlewomen for our April 9th state meeting. What a lovely visit we had there and the weather couldn’t have been any better on top of it. Outside of meeting business, there were lots of great ideas shared on different cattlewomen activities and beef promotions we do in our respective counties. The Thurston ladies were more than excellent hosts and I’d like to thank them so much for the great company as well as the delicious cookies sent home with us for the drive!

The Washington Cattlewomen are so excited to announce our 2018 Washington Beef Ambassador. The recipient has been highly active in high school rodeos and has served as the National High School Rodeo Association’s Vice President and the Washington State High School Rodeo Association’s Student President. Through her leadership, she organized a “Rodeo for a Cure” event to help support the NHSRA’s membership secretary as she battled colon cancer and was able to successfully raise over $21,000 to help with her medical expenses with remaining going to colon cancer research.

At her high school, she plays basketball and is an active member of FFA. She’s served as President of the Goldendale Chapter and as Sentinel for District IV FFA while also competing in state and national competitions over the past few years. In addition, she does community service through her involvement in the National Honor Society and being a Link Crew Leader in her high school.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Cassie Kayser from Centerville in Klickitat County!! (picture on previous page) She will be receiving a $500 scholarship along with a free year’s membership for WCW and Klickitat County Cattlewomen. A 2018 graduate of Goldendale High School, Cassie plans to attend College of Southern Idaho in the fall to complete her associate’s degree before transferring to a 4-year university where she will major in Agribusiness and Agriculture Marketing. We look forward to having Cassie represent our industry this year!

The 13th annual Washington Brewers Festival is scheduled for Father’s Day weekend, June 15th – 17th, at King County’s Marymoor Park in Redmond. Cattlewomen from across the state will be attending to work alongside the Washington Beef Commission in serving beef brisket on a biscuit. What better pairing than beef and brew? The proceeds from the meal go towards the Beef Counts program at Food Lifeline. The event is also family friendly, so bring the kids along for the day too. This is a fun volunteer opportunity and a great way to give the festival goers a chance to visit with Washington ranchers face to face. We would love for you to join us!

Our next Washington Cattlewomen Meeting will be on June 25, 2018. Meeting location will be announced in June’s Ketch Pen article!

Kady Porterfield

A whirlwind trip to Washington D.C. last week (4/10-4/12) has me evermore grateful we have associations like the Public Lands Council (PLC) and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) with offices in Washington D.C. who know their way around and work our national issues daily. Rumor has it I was foolish to book red-eye flights out AND back… rumor was right, I sure was ready to go sleep Friday night.

A recap of my trip – it’s going to be as if you were with me, but you get to read this sitting in your recliner, relaxed.

Before I headed out to the East Coast, I was able to join some WCA members and impacted private land owners in a meeting with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the recent Skagit and Acme Valley Elk Count. This was both a helicopter and car survey where anyone could turn in numbers of elk they counted during a 7-day period. We left the meeting with some action items, time will tell if they are effective.

Dick Coon made it to D.C. Tuesday afternoon and we were able to get together to discuss our priorities and meetings for the next day. It was helpful and reassuring to make plans with another Washingtonian.

Wednesday morning kicked off with a recap of the NCBA action items that had been covered the evening before. We were provided a nice pocket-size card with four main topics (each with a couple bullet points): ELDs/Hours of Service; Endangered Species Act Modernization; Support and Protect Trade; 2018 Farm Bill. NCBA provided a folder we could leave with congressional members. Dick and I added a few papers to the folder: 2018 WCA Priorities – Federal Focus, as seen on the first page of the Ketch Pen, and two letters opposing National Heritage Areas.

Due to the late nature of finding out I was to make the trip to D.C. we only got meetings scheduled with four congressional representatives and our meetings didn’t start until the afternoon. In the morning Ethan Lane gave us a tour of the PLC and NCBA office as well as showed us the view from the roof top (see pictures). Spectacular!

Since there were several members we were not able to meet, Dick and I walked to each office and dropped off a folder with our priorities and supplemental information. I did end up receiving one email with a “sorry we couldn’t meet, thanks for the info.” I tried several times and...
In 2015 the Spokane Riverkeeper sued the EPA alleging that said EPA arbitrarily approved the Hangman Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in violation of the Clean Water Act. A portion of that lawsuit directly involved the Washington State Department of Ecology. One of the allegations was that the Hangman Creek Watershed was one of the most polluted watersheds in the state. Because part of the allegations stemmed directly from DOE work, DOE has entered into a 17 page settlement agreement with Riverkeeper. On April 12, 2018 the Spokane Conservation District held a meeting in Fairfield, WA to discuss this settlement agreement. The CD stated that even with their help in their programs, there is no “safe harbor.” The 17 page settlement agreement lays out a very aggressive schedule for DOE to clean up within the watershed, of course agriculture is seen as the number one culprit for all of the pollution.

Producers in the Hangman Creek Watershed need to be prepared to justify their management decisions. The settlement agreement, which DOE voluntarily signed, requires DOE to evaluate the watershed by June 2019. Said assessment will be looking for livestock access to riparian areas; tilled fields that are contributing sediment and nutrients to Hangman Creek; compacted soils; ag ditches conveying pollutants, and more. This assessment will help to prioritize work to address ag pollution within the watershed. Riverkeeper will be provided all of the information, and their review and input is considered critical to the assessment and how to address potential issues. DOE is required to assign a .5 FTE (full time equivalent employee) to Hangman Creek watershed for 10 years to address water quality problems. DOE is further required to contact a minimum of 10 livestock problem sites and 10 tillage problem sites, forcing these sites to clean-up through various programs or enforcement. Riverkeeper gets reports on all identified sites and progress reports. DOE must also compile a report on an annual basis that tells Riverkeeper how many sites they have evaluated, ranking, monitoring, BMPs implemented, compliance, enforcement, programs, etc. The annual report is required to be detailed, long, and will cost taxpayers a pretty penny to comply with the laundry list of requirements DOE voluntarily agreed to. DOE is required to develop BMPs to protect water quality and implement those BMPs in 75% of the sites designated as priority sites within 8 years.

To add insult to injury, after all of these steps are taken within the Hangman Creek watershed, the next thing that DOE agreed to do was to work on education and outreach with Riverkeeper. Within 1 year of the settlement agreement, DOE and Riverkeeper will develop an outreach strategy to help inform the public of all of the good work Riverkeeper is doing. This outreach and education will include schools, libraries, ag producers, videos, etc. The public will be indoctrinated with information developed by Riverkeeper and paid for with our tax dollars.

These few paragraphs are just the highlights of this 17 page voluntary settlement agreement. I know I have written the word voluntary numerous times, but it needs to be crystal clear, DOE entered into this agreement without being required to do so by any court of law. When DOE comes to our producers and says they are putting them out of business through enforcement action required by the Riverkeeper settlement, it is really something DOE agreed to. Is the settlement agreement legal? Now that is the million dollar question.

Pearson Farm and Fence had a wonderful Cattlemen’s Field Day in Moses Lake on April 13 and 14. It was blustery, or just flat out cold, but the event was well attended. Sarah Ryan and Tip Hudson both made it over to the event, as did I. We had a good discussion about riparian management, grazing management, ESA, etc. Even with the cold weather, it was a fun event and a good time to talk to people in an informal setting.

On Wed, April 18, I took cub scouts on a nature walk through our range ground. It is an opportunity to help these young boys understand the importance of ranching, the environmental benefits. It is a chance to show these mostly city kids, with their own eyes, how good management benefits everyone. Helping our youth understand first hand what raising cattle looks like, is one of the ways we can combat the misinformation put out by agenda driven entities like Riverkeeper. Telling our story, getting the word out, is something I try to do everyday, but it isn’t easy. We face backlash from close minded people, but we need to keep going. One person makes a difference, but think of what we can all do if we work.
In March, the Beef Commission teamed up with Haggen, AgriBeef and ranchers from Western Washington to put a positive face on Washington’s Beef Community and promote beef. The month-long cause-marketing promotion accomplishes many objectives at once – it increases beef sales, builds trust in Washington’s beef farmers and ranchers and educates consumers about the importance of beef protein in a balanced diet – all while feeding our neighbors in need.

The effort kicked off with one of two BBQ fundraisers hosted by Haggen in Whatcom County where they raised $1,700 for Beef Counts at Food Lifeline. Ranchers from Whatcom and Skagit County joined the events, meeting with consumers and sharing the beef story. In-store advertising included posters and signage at the entrance and in the meat case.

The Beef Commission supported the effort with digital advertising featuring Jeff and Jamie Sackmann, ranchers from Warden, encouraging consumers to visit Haggen stores to buy beef and fight hunger. The campaign delivered over 7.3 million consumer impressions during the month. Advertising on Pandora, Google, and Facebook encouraged geographically targeted consumers to go to their Haggen location to buy beef, donate to the program through events or at the check stand, and go to wabeef.org for more information about the program. The advertising resulted in 33,745 landing page views during the promotion, where visitors spent an average of roughly 2 minutes learning more about the Beef Counts program. Overall, the promotion raised $46,457 for Beef Counts at Food Lifeline to feed beef to hungry families in Western Washington. AgriBeef, the organization that helped create Beef Counts – Washington’s Beef Community United Against Hunger, donated beef for the fundraiser and contributes over $50,000 annually to the Beef Counts program. In the past ten years, the industry combined has raised well over $1 million dollars for the program.

The Beef Commission promotes Beef Counts activities throughout the state all year long. Producers are encouraged to become involved in the program and to learn more at https://www.wabeef.org/wabeef-community/beef-counts.

To learn more about any other program conducted with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff investment, contact Patti Brumbach at pbrumbach@wabeef.org or call 206.444.2902. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at wabeef.org and Facebook.com/WABeef.

Photos taken from the Beef Promotion held with Haggen Grocery Stores.
The way I see it, money is like a big manure pile, it’s no good unless you spread it around.

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A Message from Ag in the Classroom
Kristen Hinton

We’ve entered the last full month of school and are still a buzz of activity!

I just got back from traveling to Chicago for a National Ag in the Classroom meeting where 40 states were represented. We spent three days engaged in professional development, idea and curriculum sharing and exploration of programs. Wow, my brain is on overload and my wish list for WA Ag in the Classroom is long!

Back in Washington we’re preparing for another little farmer ag experience in Pullman, fulfilling a few new subscribers that have heard about the magazines and already gearing up for our summer meeting. WA Ag in the Classroom is pleased to announce that Linda Henderson has accepted a position on our board and joins a host of dedicated folks that are striving to promote and develop agricultural literacy in Washington! We are so fortunate to be supported by so many of you through your donations and volunteerism. You are greatly appreciated!

Our summer meeting will be in Ellensburg, at you guessed it, the Cattlemen/Cattlewomen’s office! This meeting focuses on our future plans and all are welcome Friday June 29th.

If you need any materials, ideas for lessons, a new book idea or just want to chat, feel free to call or email. Fair season is quickly approaching!

God bless,
Kristen

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Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) is funded 100% by donations from individuals, organizations and businesses.
An outcome of WSU investigations into Weak Calf Syndrome has been a renewed focus on the importance of trace minerals and vitamins to calf health. Two papers from Cheryl Waldner et al (J. Vet. Diag. Invest., 2014, Vol. 26 (3), 376-389; Can. J. Anim. Sci., 2017, Vol. 97, 65-82) highlight the importance vitamins A and E in calf health outcomes. Deficiencies in either can contribute to a number of causes of fetal, neonatal, and postnatal losses in beef calves. Selenium and vitamin E deficiencies lead to well-documented degenerative conditions such as myocardial and skeletal muscle lesions, but many micronutrients play an important role in the development and function of the immune system. In the 2014 paper by Waldner et al and based in western Canada, the two most commonly identified micronutrient deficiencies potentially associated with death in calves born alive were vitamins A and E. In that study, Calves with serum vitamin A concentrations in the lowest quartile of the study group were 2.8 times more likely to die during the follow-up period than calves with higher vitamin A concentrations. Furthermore, calves with less than adequate serum vitamin E concentrations were also 3.1 times more likely to be treated for scours. Interestingly, neither vitamin A nor vitamin E concentrations were associated with the risk of pneumonia.

In herds where infectious disease and poor cow body condition do not seem to be contributing factors to neonatal calf mortality, the role of other nutritional factors such as micronutrient deficiencies should be considered. Vitamin A is not present in plants. Cattle acquire vitamin A primarily through bioconversion of its precursor, β-carotene which is present in forages. The intensity of green color in a plant is a good approximation of its carotene content. In a growing plant all green parts are rich in carotene and have a high vitamin A value. The amount of vitamin A in cows’ colostrum and milk depends on their intake during late gestation. Yellow to orange pigmentation is an important indicator of carotenoid-rich and, therefore, vitamin A rich colostrum. Concentrates are a poor source of vitamin A and β-carotene, and vitamin A concentrations are higher in cattle after summer grazing periods compared with after winter feeding.

Forage type is considered to be the primary factor affecting β-carotene concentration in milk, while parity and production level seem to have only a limited effect. Primary hypovitaminosis A in pastured cattle may occur during periods of drought conditions when heat and sunlight contribute to oxidation and depletion of carotenoids. Drought conditions during the plant growing period can reduce the quality of forage and decrease the availability of carotene for vitamin A production in cattle. This leads to lower levels of vitamin A in colostrum and milk. Newborn calves must get most of their vitamin A from colostrum as they are born with very limited plasma β-carotene and retinol concentrations and little vitamin A reserves. Intake of decreased quality or quantity of colostrum may result in deficient serum concentrations of vitamin A, often associated with substandard levels of serum immunoglobulins as well. Furthermore, plasma β-carotene and retinol concentrations are also reduced in calves with delayed colostrum administration, possibly because of reduced intestinal absorptive capacity or changed post absorptive repartitioning.

Up to 90% of vitamin A is stored in the liver and can serve as a vitamin A source to the animal for a long period of time. As such, it is important to consider that plasma concentrations of vitamin A may not provide an accurate indication of current vitamin A status, and liver biopsy samples have been reported to be more accurate. In contrast to vitamin A, the liver is not a major storage site for vitamin E. Adipose tissues and muscles store a significant amount of the total body vitamin E, and body stores are generally more limited. Although specific time frames for the duration of vitamin E persistence in the body have not been reported, small amounts of vitamin E can persist for a long time. The rate at which stores are depleted varies depending polyunsaturated fatty acids in feedstuffs and other factors increasing the need for antioxidants. Given these differences, an association between vitamin E and the previous growing season would not be expected if vitamin E consumed during the growing season is not stored by cattle for prolonged periods. Similar to vitamin A, green grass is one of the most important sources of vitamin E for cattle. Although vitamin E tends to be less susceptible to destruction in stored feed (including premixes) compared with vitamin A, it will deplete over time and is sensitive to heat and moisture. Most unsupplemented rations consisting of stored forages and cereals or processed feed are considered poor sources of vitamin E. Stage of maturity of grass at harvesting for hay and the time from cutting to dehydration affect vitamin E concentration in forage, with losses of up to 50% in forage stored for 1 mo and up to 60% within 4 d during drying in the swath.

As with vitamin A, the newborn calf depends largely on colostrum as a source of vitamin E at birth as placental transfer is minimal. Vitamin E is an essential antioxidant that enhances neutrophil function by protecting them from oxidative damage, and it has immunostimulatory functions. Further it is essential for the integrity and optimum function of the reproductive, muscular, circulatory, and nervous systems. Nutritional myodegeneration is probably the most recognized condition associated with vitamin E deficiency, and supplementation is a principal preventive measure for white muscle disease in young calves.

The amount of vitamin E contained in currently available commercial injectable products containing both selenium and vitamin E is limited, and these injections alone should not be relied on to address vitamin E deficiency. The product label maximum recommended dose of Mun-Se® (Merck Animal Health) for a 100 lb calf contains 187.5 mg (255 IU) of vitamin E, and the recommended dose of Vita E Selen® (Bioveta) for a 100 lb calf contains 114 mg of vitamin E. There are, however, injectable vitamin E formulations without selenium that have much higher concentrations of vitamin E. One product, Vitamin E-300 Injection® (Vet One, MWI Veterinary Supply, Boise, ID) provides 1200–1800 IU of vitamin E to a newborn calf at the recommended dose as well as 400,000–600,000 IU of vitamin A.

In the unfortunate event that you have suffered abortions, stillbirths, or neonatal and postnatal losses in your beef calves, you may want to consider screening for both vitamin A and E. Serum and liver samples can be submitted through the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab. Serum samples suitable for vitamin A and E evaluation can be obtained in the field using techniques that are practical and economical. Blood should be collected into Vacutainers™ or clean syringes and allowed to clot. Care should be taken to avoid hemolysis. Serum samples should be stored out of direct sunlight and refrigerated or frozen. They should be sent to the laboratory on ice and by overnight courier. Liver samples for vitamin A analysis can be taken from necropsy specimens or as biopsy samples.

If you are interested in additional information and details related to vitamins in ruminants, you may want to check out DSM’s excellent website regarding Ruminant Vitamin Nutrition.
two methods of contacting Senators Murray and Cantwell about a meeting and never received any communication in return. They sure had a long line of people waiting outside of their offices when we dropped off our info.

NCBA provided us with packets of beef jerky to leave with those we got to meet – it was very well received. Next time, we need to take WCA stickers to put on the packages.

Our first meeting was with Congressman Reichert (8th District) where we spent a great deal of time discussing trade as this is his focus on the Ways & Means Committee. He told us he ate beef for lunch, for which we thanked him! We had enough time with him to cover our key issues and learn from him what his personal priorities are: Lymphoedema bill, human trafficking, opioid crisis, gun violence (causes not control), corporate giving, and Trade/NAFTA.

Next, we had to find our way through the tunnels below the House Buildings to Congresswoman DelBene’s (1st District) office. Her staff asked for our priorities sheet ahead of time, and both Rep. DelBene and her staff were prepared to discuss what matters most to us. We were happy to start the meeting off with thanking her for signing on to the bill that would have exempted us from CERCLA! Tidbit for those of you in her district, based on our meeting, if you have a specific example of how a specific bill will help or hurt your business, I think she will be receptive. Right now, I’m thinking the ELD/HOS transportation conversation.

Now is where the plot thickens… Dick and I went separate ways. He headed to “Coffee with Cathy” (McMorris Rodgers – 5th District) and a meeting with her Agriculture Aid – Andrew. He said they were good meetings, thanked them for their efforts on the Snake River both with Army Corps and Dam Breaching/Removal.

Dick’s last meeting was with Representative Newhouse. He was there at the same time as people wanting to talk about salmon when he handed the staff some packets of beef jerky. They agreed that was way better than fish. ☺ Rep. Newhouse was headed to vote on a bill, so Dick spent most of the visit walking with him. The conversation mostly focused on the Grizzly Bear situation and next steps. Timely, because while Dick was having those conversations I was with a group at Department of Interior (DOI) meeting with staff and Secretary Zinke.

The meeting was specifically about our Wolf situation and the potential reintroduction of Grizzly Bears. In attendance: PLC Leadership: Pres., Dave Eliason; VP, Bob Skinner; Sec./Treas., Niels Hansen; Exec. Director, Ethan Lane; Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Leadership: Past Pres., John O’Keefe; Pres., Nathan Jackson; Exec. Director, Jerome Rosa; Minnesota Cattlemen’s Association: Exec. Director, Ashley Kohls (over 5,000 grey wolves and over 500 packs in MN); and myself. There were 4 from DOI, for the whole meeting and Sec. Zinke joined us for the last half.

An interesting meeting that started off with Grizzly Bears then went to Wolves. We let them know that Option A of the EIS on Grizzly Bears we would support. Any other option would not be welcome. We were informed they wanted to be sure they did this reintroduction as they would do it best (with 10J designation), better than any other administration. We didn’t appreciate that answer, evidence in Arizona with their 10J wolf situation.

By the end of the meeting they knew: 1. Wolves must be dealt with, waiting is not an option. 2. Washington State will not welcome Grizzly Bears. WCA and PLC will participate in the 10J designation process, should that be necessary. 3. Other than their work on apex predators, we appreciate the work this administration at Department of Interior is doing, generally. (This was not the forum to bring up USFS challenges.)

You’ll see in the photos, after our meeting we got to go see Sec. Zinke’s office where we took a photo. Unfortunately (conveniently?), the light wasn’t good in front of the fireplace, so we had to move next to the Grizzly Bear. I found a spot away from the bear – as a final note of our dislike for the reintroduction.

That evening concluded with a big congressional reception back “on the hill” where we were able to debrief and visit with more congressional members and staff. I was informed “WCA sure got their money out of sending you to the meeting with Sec. Zinke, you were tough.” The next day Dick and I attended meetings at the hotel where NCBA arranged for congressional members and agency staff to share programs and priorities with us.

Most noteworthy thing about Thursday… the Montana delegation also had a meeting with Sec. Zinke. Prior to the meeting they asked Ethan how they could help us? Which resulted in each of them giving Sec. Zinke a first-hand account of the negative impact Grizzly Bears have had on their ranches. Thanks to Montana for being sure to share those stories with him, it made him think twice about his decision. It makes a difference when people from your state share stories with you. Sec. Zinke is from Montana and had told us “Grizzly Bears don’t impact ranchers or bother cattle in Montana.”

Red Eye flight home, 3-hour nap in my bed. Then, Friday, I was invited to give a short presentation in Moses Lake to producers about brand and ADT. It was nice to meet more people!

And, that concludes one very busy, very effective week!

If you want more details about any of the stops on the trip feel free to drop me a line.

Sarah Wyman

Secretary Zinke shows Sarah and Jerome Rosa (OCA) a painting in his office.

EVP continued from page 6.
Neurological diseases in Washington’s horses: West Nile virus and Equine Herpes Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) and equine herpes virus (EHV) are both diseases of concern for any horse owner—they are of regulatory importance and must be reported to the state within 24 hours of diagnosis. And they can also lead to similar outcomes with horses that become recumbent and neurological and may need to be euthanized.

The good news is that there is an effective vaccine for West Nile virus. For EHV, horse owners should practice good biosecurity and be aware of common symptoms so they know when to call a veterinarian.

West Nile virus

West Nile virus is potentially fatal to horses and is spread by mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. While WNV can sicken people, horses, and birds, it does not directly spread from horses to people or other animals. Most of the confirmed cases of WNV have been diagnosed in the central and eastern part of Washington state.

Cases crop up during the mosquito season through late spring, summer and fall. Since WNV is spread by mosquitoes, there are no mass outbreaks affecting a bunch of horses at once, but just one and two at a time. Last year, there were nine confirmed cases of WNV statewide, compared to 27 cases in 2016 and 37 in 2015.

WNV can be totally prevented by vaccination. Every spring, WNV should be included with your annual equine vaccinations. Horses being vaccinated for the first time will need a booster in 3-4 weeks. Afterwards, horses just need a yearly booster.

Clinical signs of WNV in horses include fever, lack of coordination (especially in the rear legs), and recumbency, which is the inability to rise. Some horses only get flu-like symptoms and can go undisagnosed.

Equine herpes virus

All horses are exposed to the equine herpes virus (EHV) at a young age and develop an immunity for life. But when the horse is stressed, is transported to events like rodeos or auctions, or there is co-mingling with other horses, the virus can transform into equine herpes myeloencephalopathy virus (EHM). EHM mimics WNV in clinical signs including fever, incoordination, recumbency, and death. The main difference is EHM is an emerging disease and is being seen all over the U.S.

EHM is highly contagious among horses and is spread through respiratory contact of horses, people, trailers and tack. When an EHM outbreak occurs, many horses will be susceptible and get the disease. In a recent 2017 outbreak in Woodinville, Wash., out of 60 horses, more than half showed clinical signs of EHM and 7 had to be euthanized due to neurological disease.

EHM can be very costly to manage compared to WNV. Intense equine biosecurity measures and quarantine orders are needed until the location where the disease is detected is completely cleared, with remaining horses testing out negative and showing no clinical signs of EHM. In the 2017 case, it took three months before the quarantine order was lifted.

At this time there is no vaccination for EHM. Limited research shows that vaccinating for other EHV vaccines may reduce nasal shedding of the EHM virus. The EHV or EHM viruses is not transmissible to humans, unlike WNV.

Diagnosis of WNV, EHV, and EHM can be performed by your veterinarian. Blood samples and nasal swabs can be taken from the infected horse and sent to an accredited lab like Washington State University’s Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The lab can provide results in two to three days and identify the difference between EHV and EHM.

Unfortunately, there is no good treatment for WNV or EHM, except for supportive care and sometime using anti-viral drugs. Once the horse is recumbent and showing neurological signs, the prognosis is grave.

Remember, it’s never too late to vaccinate for WNV and if you have a neurological horse, call your veterinarian immediately to come out and perform the necessary testing to confirm the diagnosis of your horse.

WSDA Brand Program Postpones Closing Customer Billing Account

By Robbie Parke, Livestock Inspection Program Manager

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Livestock Inspection Program announced last month it would be closing all customer billing accounts as of April 30, 2018. After further analysis and discussion, we’ve postponed this move until June 30, 2018. This allows customers more time to adjust to the change in services.

Under the new timeline, all livestock inspection fees will be due and payable at the time of inspection beginning July 1, 2018.

Closing customer billing accounts is one of the cost cutting measures we are taking to address our significant budget shortfall. This action will save about $75,000 annually.

More work remains to be done to address the program’s budget problems. Those of us at WSDA and in the Livestock Inspection Program are committed to working with the livestock industry to develop solutions that will help make the program solvent.
A major study led by Cornell researchers reveals for the first time that water troughs on farms are a conduit for the spread of toxic E. coli in cattle, which can then spread to people through bacteria in feces. The study was published Feb. 7 in the journal PLOS ONE.

“Water troughs appeared in our mathematical model as a place where water can get contaminated and a potential place where we could break the cycle,” said Renata Ivanek, associate professor of epidemiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the paper’s senior author. The hypothesis was then tested in the field – with surprising results.

Though cows carry and spread E. coli 0157:H7 when they defecate, the bacteria do not make them sick.

“Farmers do not see a problem because there are no clinical signs in cows; it is totally invisible,” Ivanek said.

A vaccine to reduce bacterial shedding in cows exists, but the beef industry has little incentive to use it, partly due to cost, and the industry does not benefit from labeling beef as “E. coli safe,” Ivanek said. So Ivanek and a research team of 20 co-authors conducted a study to identify other ways to reduce the bacteria’s prevalence in cattle, which can vary over the year from zero to 100 percent of cows in a feedlot carrying the bacteria, with rates generally rising in the summer.

The researchers ran mathematical modeling studies to see if they could pinpoint areas in the farm where infections might spread between cattle. They found that water in a trough, especially in summer months, could heat and promote pathogen replication, causing more cows to acquire the bacteria when they drink. The researchers hypothesized that frequently changing the water in the summer could keep the water colder, limiting bacterial growth.

On most farms, water troughs automatically refill when they get low enough, and farmers can adjust the water levels so they refill more often. This tactic saves water and keeps it fresher while ensuring cows still have enough to drink.

The group ran control trials in a feedlot over two summers. This involved reducing the water volume in troughs in randomly selected treatment pens and leaving the volume unchanged in control pens. They expected that reducing the water levels in troughs would prevent the spread of E. coli. Instead they found that it increased spread; in the treatment pens, the odds of finding shiga toxin-producing E. coli in cows was about 30 percent higher than in the control pens.

“Our modeling studies did pick up the right parts of the system,” Ivanek said, “but the mechanism that we postulated is the opposite from what we thought.”

More study is needed to determine why more water in troughs reduced E. coli in cows, but Ivanek questions whether the lower volume made it easier for cows to swallow debris at the bottom of tanks, or whether a fuller tank reduced E. coli concentrations.

The study will trigger more research on environmental sources of E. coli spread in cattle, Ivanek said.

Next steps include repeating the results in other feedlots, evaluating the effectiveness and cost benefit of using more water to reduce E. coli, investigating how seasons and temperatures play a role in prevalence of E. coli, and understanding the actual mechanisms that led to the results.

Wendy Beauvais, a postdoctoral researcher in Ivanek’s lab, is the paper’s first author. Co-authors included researchers from Texas A&M University, West Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health and the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation.
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Tortellini and Ground Beef Skillet

We love quick and easy meals around our house. Not only is this recipe for Tortellini and Ground Beef Skillet quick and easy, it’s also super tasty! Ground beef is mixed with cheese-filled tortellini noodles and stirred together with a creamy, cheesy sauce. Give this 30 minute, one-skillet meal a try!

Ingredients
1 pound ground beef                      1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic minced                   1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning       1.5 cups beef broth
1 - 10 oz. can diced tomatoes (I prefer petite diced), drained
1 - 20 oz. bag frozen cheese-filled tortellini
1/4 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup cheddar or colby jack cheese, shredded
1/2 cup pepper jack cheese

Instructions
Brown the ground beef and onion in a large skillet. Drain if needed.
Return the beef mixture to the skillet and add the garlic, salt, pepper and Italian seasoning and stir to combine.
Add in the diced tomatoes, broth and tortellini. Bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to simmer for about 3-5 minutes. Remove the lid and simmer for another 5 minutes until the liquid is almost absorbed.
Stir in the cream and cheeses and heat through.

Past President in Action

Jim Sizemore at the North Central Bull Tour
Choosing Alfalfa Varieties

By Bill Demers

I read there are over 5,000 alfalfa varieties worldwide with many more released yearly. The need for protein is outpacing supply. Alfalfa grows beef. Beef is the most efficient and highest quality protein source available. Consequently Alfalfa is in high demand.

Factors and benefits to consider and often not quantified or tested are: How does a variety fit in a crop rotation? How much nitrogen does the variety fix? How long will the stand last? Does the root system break up compaction? Will it be easily terminated or will it cause problems for the next crop? How well does the variety stand up to grazing after I have harvested the primary crop?

Dryland Eastern Washington farmers want deep tap roots. On my farm I want resilient, long lasting varieties. I look for a stand to last nine or ten years. A variety only lasting 5 years, loses an additional year for establishment and doubles the expense for tillage and planting.

Disease, insect resistance and root rot must be considered. No variety will do it all. Deep roots may stay wet and die. Your growing environment may have a persistent shortage of crucial nutrients needed by some varieties, but not others. Your region may not need certain pest or disease resistance. Look to the varieties details and attributes to fit your conditions.

Dormancy ratings vary. A lower rating means; lower yield, higher quality nutrition and stronger winter hardiness. A higher rating translates to; earlier and later green up, more cuttings, more yield and more susceptible to winterkill.

Price of seed is a short sighted criteria for variety choice. Planting at a rate of 12 pounds per acre with seed costing $1.00 per pound more, may still be a bargain: 12 pounds per acre X $1.00 more is only $12.00 per acre. If a variety yields .20 tons per acre more at today’s prices, you more than make up the expense in one year. Multiply that extra income in a 200 acre field times 3 or 4 or even 8 years and wow! Choosing a less yielding variety that may last 8 or 10 years will reduce the environmental impact and expense of tillage and loss of crop waiting for it to establish.

Another factor to consider with yield is how many cuttings did it take to achieve the yield. In my microclimate neighborhood we only get two cuttings. If the yield took 3 or 4 cuttings what good is the tonnage number or high dormancy number?

In farming, the managers or number crunchers stay in business. Economics drive efficiency and innovation. Less impact on our world goes hand in hand with good management. We are more profitable and better stewards of our land and resources by being a number cruncher.

William “Bill” Demers is a small farmer and seed sales company owner in Southern Spokane County. His company’s motto is: “We don’t sell seeds, We sell success!”

Only 0.11 cents of every food dollar makes it to a cattlemen’s pocket. Successful farming today is a game of numbers. University studies and field trials are very helpful. In my opinion, they are usually quite unbiased. Results from a trial must be looked at critically. Universities conducting trials grow their crops with premium fertility and conditions. I myself have never been farmer enough to raise crops in such a Utopian environment.

To use field trials effectively, Alfalfa producers should learn where the trials were conducted. They should read how they were performed. Compare the climate, humidity, average temperature, irrigation, rainfall, soil, length of day growing season and number of cuttings. These conditions will affect outcomes.

In Spokane I think the Kalispel Research Facility University of Montana’s data is most synonymous. I try to match mine or my seed customer’s conditions to the studies. I look at trials to see how one variety performs or yields, percentage wise versus another. For example: I believe testing results at the U of Idaho, Camas Prairie(a cooler wetter environment) does not match my farm.
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WCA 2018 Bull Sale Donation Heifer

This year at the 2018 WCA Bull Sale a heifer was donated by Unruh-Burkholder Angus that directly benefits the WCA. The heifer was first purchased by Mike and Chelsea Hajny, Hajny Land & Livestock (also part of The Angus Alliance) of Ellensburg, WA for $2,400. They graciously turned the heifer so she could be sold again. Ron Frank, R-Angus of Yakima, WA then bought the heifer for $2,200.

Sincere thanks go to all these ranchers for generously supporting the WCA!
On Tuesday, March 20th, the Klickitat County Cattlemen and Women teamed up to celebrate National Ag Day at Wishram School District. An assembly and lunch for 120, was provided as part of the program to the community, students and staff. During the assembly students learned about their food, it’s by-products and how it is raised and harvested. Staff member and CattleWoman, Kadee Amidon, helped to arrange the event and appreciated the opportunity for students to learn about their food and have a special lunch provided.

**Ag Day**

Kristin Cameron, KC Cattlewoman, leads the assembly presented to younger students at the Wishram School.

ABOVE: Pace Amidon and Clay Schuster cook hamburgers for school lunch.

RIGHT: CattleWomen, Susan Marlow, Hailey Guenther and Kristin Cameron hand out lunches of hamburgers, carrots, apples, potato chips and ice cream bars for dessert to students and staff.

**2018 North Central Bull Tour Hosted by Klickitat County**

Centerville Grange where a few more participants were registered.

The Bull Tour, co-sponsored by OSU Extension Service and the North Central Livestock Association, is an opportunity for ranchers and farmers to educate each other and the public about agricultural practices, changes, and conservation measures ensuring that right decisions are made by stewards of the land. The first Bull Tour originated in Wasco County in 1958. Over the years it expanded to tours in Klickitat and Jefferson counties. This is its first year returning to farms and ranches in Klickitat County in quite a while.

Eshelman Angus in Centerville was the first stop in the morning. The daffodils and nice cattle that Eshelman’s had to offer was a good way to start the morning. After Eshelman’s, the tour went north to Kristie and Chris Siebert’s for a presentation of their training and breeding horse facilities. The tour then moved northeast of Goldendale to the Pleasant Valley area and Schuster Herefords/Clay and Lauren Schuster ‘sfor lunch. The hot and hearty lunch was welcomed as the rain continued to fall. Lunch was catered by Terry Cobb and Cobblestone Catering out of The Dalles.

The weather didn’t stop the presenting of Schuster’s herd sires, heifers, and 2 year old bulls available for sale. Curtis Ickes of WSI/Simplot also gave a presentation on the supplements and supplies that are offered through WSI/ Simplot. Centerville hosted the next two stops. Owner of Centerville Livestock, Jim Sizemore, gave a demonstration of his Hi-Hog brand equipment that is available for sale. Then, onto Neil Kayser’s, to view bulls and listen to speaker Leo Baptiste. The last stop was at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds for dinner and to view producer Jay Jauken’s Angus bulls. Marcia Perry from Bayer Animal Health and Zack Wilson from Beef Northwest were the guest speakers for the evening. Dufur FFA Ag students were on hand throughout the day to help with lunch and dinner. The students also raffled off a Yeti cooler during dinner.

It was a great day to see all the beautiful cattle and country that Klickitat County has to offer. Thank you to North Central Livestock Association for bringing the tour to Klickitat County again.

2018 North Central Livestock Association kicked off morning at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts at Auction Sales in The Dalles Oregon. The Dalles Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony too. Registration bags were loaded with lots of neat goodies and information from sponsors and participants. Crossing the mighty Columbia and entering into Klickitat County, the first stop was at the

The lunch crowd gathered at Schuster Herefords.

The crowd enjoying a docile bull who loves to have his back scratched.
On Saturday, March 21st, the annual Klickitat County Livestock Growers Banquet was held at the Elk’s Lodge in White Salmon, WA. The sold out crowd of 250, enjoyed an evening of a Prime Rib Dinner, slide show, awards and Live and Silent Auction items. Cattlemen president, Josh Hoctor and wife Jaecee, spent a lot of time organizing, decorating and preparing for the evening and it showed. After dinner was served and before the awards began, the audience enjoyed a slide show Jaecee made up of pictures from fellow county cattlemen, women, and their families.

The first award, the O.P. Kreps, was presented by J.P. Enderby to Wayne Clausen, both of Goldendale. Mary Anna Evans delivered a speech introducing the Jim Bridgefarmer Memorial Award recipient, Olga Jane Hecomovich of White Salmon. The speech included the introduction of the county cattlemen’s association to Klickitat County, noting that both women’s fathers were pioneers in the association. 2018 Klickitat County Cattleman of the Year, Nate Kayser, gave an entertaining and well-articulated acceptance speech. Nate appreciated his family, daughters, Shelby and Macy, and significant other Monique Bailey, in their abilities to stick together and get all of the work done despite all of the ups and downs that life on the ranch delivers.

Kristin Cameron, led the Heads or Tails game giving the audience to stand and stretch. Winner, Desi Stewart, returned the funds and gave the CattleWomen an opportunity to offer 2 scholarships for 2018 to students interested in pursuing a degree in agriculture.

All Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion youth from the Klickitat County Fair were recognized again. The Steer of Merits were announced and awarded as follows: Grace Hanning, Cassie Kayser, Corynne Kayser, Curtis Kayser, Lydia Hanning, Brielle Starr (3rd place), Layne Bruhn (2nd place) and Gabe Starr (1st place). The Jean Schilling Lamb, presented by Billi Rolfe, was awarded to Ada Garner of Centeville. Kristin Chambers, delivered a thoughtful speech to her niece, Kinley Troh of Glenwood, who was awarded the Bernice Thiele hog. Anthony Pereira, Columbia Bank representative, awarded the Hassing Steer to Caitlyn Jauken of Centerville.

The night ended with the CattleWomen’s Live Auction. Auction items varied from a pair of chaps from Ron Wilson Leather, furniture donated by RanchCut Designs/Joan Bowman, a fishing trip charted by Flye by Nyte, and a Yeti Cooler full of branding items to benefit the Beef Counts Program. The proceeds from the auction will go to help fund the Ag, Day, Beef Counts Event, and fair activities.

The Beef Counts Event will be held this year again on June 19th at the Goldendale High School. Last year, 10,000lbs of food, including beef, were donated to the community at the event.
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