Congress Passes FY19 Interior-EPA Appropriations Package

TO: NCBA/PLC Officers, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and State Affiliates
FROM: Tanner J. Beymer, Manager of Government Affairs for ESA & NEPA, PLC/NCBA Federal Lands
DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2019

The House and Senate have passed the remaining FY19 spending bills, which include Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. President Trump has indicated that he will sign the measure, averting a second partial-government shutdown.

With split control of Congress, this package looks much different than it has in previous years. Below are a few highlights:

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**
While the House debates the Senate-passed lands package, which includes permanent reauthorization of the LWCF, appropriators have included an additional, unrequested $435 million for land acquisition projects in this bill.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**
The PILT program is fully funded at FY18 levels ($500 million).

**Wildfire Suppression**
The Interior Department’s wildfire accounts would receive $941.2 million, including:
- $710.3 million for fire operations.
- $230.9 million for other operations, such as fuels management and rehabilitating burned areas.

The wildfire funding would exceed the 10-year average cost for fire suppression by $500 million.

**Greater Sage-Grouse**
A provision barring an ESA listing for the Greater Sage Grouse is included. This provision, which also prohibits FWS to promulgate a listing rule for the Columbia basin DPS, is typically included appropriations bills.

**Grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore**
The bill also includes report language stating that appropriators “strongly support the inclusion of alternatives that continue ranching and dairying,” saying the “historic activities are also fully consistent with the goals of the Park.”

**Feral Horses and Burros**
Many of you will recall that language in the FY17 Approps bill directed the BLM to submit a report to Congress detailing options for managing the horse and burro population crisis in the West. BLM followed through with this and submitted a report titled “Management Options for a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program” early last year. This report detailed four options for Congress to consider, including sale without limitation and euthanasia. Unfortunately, Congress was dissatisfied with the options presented to them, and have directed the BLM to submit a new report as part of the FY2019 appropriations passed last evening.

These are just a few provisions of note from this 1,169 page bill. Those brave enough to examine the full text can find it at https://rules.house.gov/conference-report/-H.J.%20Res.%2031. If you prefer a more brief summary contact the office and request a copy of “FY19 Interior-EPA Approps Summary.” As always, please feel free to reach out to Ethan (elane@beef.org) or myself (tbemer@beef.org) with additional questions or concerns.
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A Message from the WCA President
Sam Ledgerwood

We sure did enjoy some mild weather in the month of January and it made for easy travel. I attended Grant County Banquet mid January along with Ron & Bev Criddlebaugh as well as Senator Judy Warnick. Congratulations to Jeff & Jamie Sackman for being named “Grant County Cattlemen of the Year.” There was a great turnout and I enjoyed visiting with fellow producers as well as Senator Warnick.

Sheree and I along with Sarah flew to New Orleans for the National Cattlemen’s Convention, January 29th -February 2nd. As we are not seasoned travelers and easily stressed, it was great to have Sarah try to teach us the ropes as she guided us along. Bill and Bev McLean were also on the same flight. My thanks to Bill who represents WCA and Washington on the Cattlemen’s Beef Board. Sarah and I with the help of Dick Coon carried two resolution amendments to the NCBA. Both resolutions were to clarify language and expand to include all states not just a select few. WCA leaned heavily on Ethan Lane as we opposed the reintroduction of the Grizzly bear into the North Cascades, these amendments helped with that policy. I found the meetings and sessions very interesting and learned more about issues concerning Public Lands, fire fuel load, and endangered species regulations, to name a few that are of interest to our industry. During the closing session Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue told attendees trade continues to be a priority as does involvement by USDA along with FDA being involved in monitoring the issues with “Fake Meat.”

New Orleans is a far cry from our ranch on Stember Creek. We enjoyed the NCBA Trade show, the food, and many familiar faces. Sheree and Jill Kayser did a “City Tour” which both found to be very enlightening. We had a great evening with Washington friends at BB King’s Jazz Club, the food, music, atmosphere and company were great! We also enjoyed several evenings with the group from Idaho. Sheree and I stayed a couple extra days to take in the sites. We walked most everywhere we went which allowed us to really see New Orleans. We also went on a plantation tour and a swamp tour, where we actually got to see a few alligators. The tours were both very interesting and informative. When we returned to the city, we found the streets were so filled with people our driver couldn’t get us to our hotel and had to let us out to walk the last few blocks. It seems New Orleans Saints fans were upset about a blown call that kept them out of the Super Bowl and were having a “Boycott Bowl” party in the streets. Wow what a party! We left with a new respect for “home.”

We flew back into Spokane late Feb. 4th. Sheree went right to holding Lynlee, our newest granddaughter, as did I albeit brief as I headed to Ephrata to meet Bill Sieverkropp then on to Ellensburg to meet the group that went to Olympia for “Boots On The Hill” on Feb. 5th. Legislative lobbyist Mark Streuli had a busy day lined up for us with meetings with many legislators as well as testifying during the Senate Ag Committee on a draft Animal ID Bill. We also met with Washington Dept. of Ag and Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Overall it was a busy and active day and well worth the trip.

On February 13th, Sarah and I braved the weather and went back to Olympia for a Livestock ID meeting called by Senator Warnick. We are down to the wire for getting a bill. I talked with Sen. Warnick, on the phone, Sunday afternoon (Feb. 17th). She states the bill is still “a work in progress.” We received SB 5959 on Monday, February 18th. I am as frustrated with all of this as all of you. I hope you know we are doing our best to get a workable solution.

As I finish writing this, the weather has and continues to challenge our perseverance. Hang in there it’s got to get better.

Stay tuned for more updates and hopefully Spring.
I’m hoping this month starts us with a turn towards spring. Many in the beef and dairy business have had a rough February with Mother Nature trying to cram all of winter into a two week span. I commend all of you for the tireless hours you’ve been putting in to care and save livestock in this weather. Unfortunately, we can’t win every case, but it would be so much worse without our dedicated Washington ranchers and farmers.

I’m glad I was able to get back from the ANCW meetings and NCBA trade show in New Orleans before the weather hit us too bad. The trip was great and definitely a cultural experience! It was a bit of a cold and rainy week down there, many Saints fans were still pretty upset about their loss in the semi-final game for the SuperBowl, and crawfish was out of season, but there was still plenty of good times to be had!

My favorite part of the trip was the ANCW Ag tours. We visited Ardoyno Plantation that was settled and built by the Shaffer family in 1888. The famous Ardoyno house has had 6 generations of family live there, with them still being there today. The house has been in a few movies, but is still very historic and of its original form. Not much has been changed including furniture, layout, the 13 fireplaces, or even the china used in the dining room for their meals.

Outside of the home, we got to treat ourselves to some New Orleans traditional King Cake while we listened to some USDA sugar research guys talk about how sugar is grown in Louisiana and how it differs from the more tropical areas as well. I thought it was interesting that they discover around 150,000 new varieties of sugarcane every year, yet only 1 usually becomes a viable crop out of that. It’s all dry land farming too, which cane can go an entire month with water - continuing to grow the entire time!

Our evening stop on the tour was at the Zero Brahman Ranch and it was such a treat to see all their breeding stock, learn about their cross breeding programs, learn about F1s, and check out their top show stock. We stayed at the ranch for a fun evening of fellowship, music, and food. Fried cajun shrimp, fried coconut shrimp, fried bacon wrapped shrimp, and friend alligator!!! I was darn almost too full to eat my steak for dinner after that array of hors d’oeuvres. I guess bread pudding is also a big thing down there, so I tried it for the first time and it was actually very, very good. I’m craving it now just writing about it!

About a week after returning home I got to attend the Kittitas County Cattlemen’s Banquet in...
This month’s article will be told through pictures… look through the Ketch Pen to see what we’ve been doing, galivanting around the country spreading the good news of the WCA!

NCBA held the annual cattle industry convention and tradeshow in New Orleans Jan. 30 – Feb. 2. Several WCA members were able to attend, myself included. It was a great opportunity to network with cattlemen and women from around the nation and world.

Following the Tri-Lateral meeting where beef industry leadership from the USA, Canada, and Mexico look for opportunities to collaborate and compare notes on trade and government policy, Sam and I were able to meet with a group of producers from Canada. They represented the western Providences of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. We compared notes on markets, imports/exports, and challenges. Our challenges on predators are similar, surprisingly the government in Canadian providences can be challenging when it comes to taking care of problems. They shared our concern about livestock ID/traceability and brand, they did not realize the financial issues our department was facing. It was a good meeting and one that will be good to revisit annually.

NCBA, after a vote of members, released their 2019 Policy Priorities, see below. I attended a committee meeting where Animal Disease Traceability was the key topic. There was a panel discussion about the future of ADT, the pilot projects occurring in several states, the concerns and challenges of implementation. A comment was made that the only way for ADT to be completely successful is for a mandatory system for all cattle, interesting…

Sam mentions in his article that WCA took two amendments to NCBA policies, see photos for more details and to see Sam reading the amendments in committee prior to the (unanimous) vote.

Boots on The Hill was a success! You’ll see through the pictures several of the legislators we were able to meet with. Those we met with that are not pictured include: Rep. Chandler, Ranking Minority Member of the House Ag Committee; Rep. Blake’s staff (he was out sick) Rep. Blake is the Chair of the House Ag Committee; Sen. Van De Wege, Chair Senate Ag Committee; Sen. Jesse Salomon, Vice Chair of Senate Ag; Sen. Schoesler, Senate Republican Leader; Sen. Short, member Senate Ag Committee. Mark Streuli did a great job of setting up key meetings for us. Dave Duncan and I had the opportunity to visit with WDFW Director Susewind, we covered a number of subjects and left feeling like he really is trying to understand the issues from our perspective and to provide relief for ranchers, to the extent he can without being sued. The rest of our group met with WSDA Director Sandison and a few of his staff members to discuss the livestock ID (brand) situation more thoroughly; unfortunately, they didn’t leave their meeting as optimistic as Dave and me.

Thank you to the members who helped at the WCA booth at Spokane Ag Expo Feb. 5-7. I was only there for the afternoon of the 7th, so the photos are limited. We look forward to seeing new members join based on the efforts of those who volunteered over the three days!

It seems that across the state winter weather has hit. Just prior to winter arriving in Washington an arctic blast hit the central portion of the country, while we were in New Orleans. Cheryl has taken over our social media and she posted a really thoughtful post with a photo from Dawn Nelson. Never, ever, have I experienced social media the way this post went crazy (I’m not sure if it qualifies as viral). Look for the post in the photos. As of Feb. 20th, on Facebook: 306,567 people were reached, 19,522 likes/comments/shares. Since that time our engagement on social media has dramatically increased. We intend to use this momentum to do a membership drive, we are just trying to figure out the right combination of what it takes to enter and what the person wins. Stay tuned and follow us on social media to see what else is happening. WCA is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Lastly, in my article last month when I bragged about all the work the WCA does for cattlemen across the state I failed to mention...
By now we have survived the winter of 2019, which arrived in February. It was a horrendous winter event that cost our farmers and ranchers, time, energy, money, and more importantly, cattle lives. No matter how many hours were put in, there will still be an impact which we will see down the road. The dedication the livestock owners put forth during this storm was commendable, even if it will be overlooked by those that don't share our way of life. The dairy industry was hit hard. Especially those in the Yakima Valley area to the cows that died in the recent blizzard, using their common tagline “Not your mother, not your milk.” With low milk prices, low cull cow prices, low demand for milk, and ever increasing costs and pressures, the cattle industry as a whole did not need another attack from PETA. Mother Nature already struck a blow, this is just a kick while the dairy industry is already down. It is ironic to me that PETA wants to talk about the inhumane treatment of animals, but can't see that their actions are in essence, inhumane treatment towards other humans. Please be aware of these tactics and when questioned make sure to remind people of the good that agriculture does. If you need help in deciding what to say, http://www.sustainablebeef.org has a good article on talking points which is free to review online.

In this article, I am going to jump around a bit on topics. There is way too much going on and one of the biggest problems is deciding which subjects need to be written about. I am supposed to focus on water, but there are many legal concerns facing us today including water. One such non-water issue is PFAS. Schwabe, Williamson, and Wyatt produced a great legal article on the PFAS Action Plan, which summarizes the Action Plan very concisely. Said article states, “On February 14, 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) released an action plan (“Action Plan”) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”). PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals, including perfluorooctanoic acid (“PFOA”) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (“PFOS”). PFAS have been used in hundreds of products such as carpeting, apparels, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams and metal plating. This is basically a common chemical that is now being regulated and may have impacts on ag. It is also always a concern when there is proposed federal regulation as it seems to go too far and have wide overreaching implications that were never considered at the commencement of the regulation. Although we hope that this federal regulation will have minimal impacts on ag, it is important to be vigilant to make sure those impacts are minimal.

Another federal topic of interest is that our Supreme Court is slated to hear a case of interest next term. The court agreed to hear a case next term that could define the scope of the Clean Water Act, which regulates pollution discharges into what are called “navigable waters.” In this case, the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility in Hawaii first releases water into groundwater, some of which eventually reaches the Pacific Ocean. The CWA prohibits the discharge of any pollutants into navigable waters from any point source. Any such discharge requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit to avoid running afoul of the CWA. The County conceded that it discharged pollutants (i.e., the treated effluent) from a point source (i.e., the injection wells). But the County maintains that groundwater in the aquifer does not qualify as navigable waters. To determine if the water should be considered "navigable,"
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Consumer Demand for High-Quality Beef is Strong and Growing

Beef. It’s What’s for Dinner rang true in 2018 as beef prices remained strong and consumers regularly visited the meat case. According to the latest retail sales data from IRI/Freshlook, beef demand is up 15 percent since 2012. Strong consumer demand is expected to continue through 2019.

USDA predicts consumers in the United States will eat 8.9 percent more beef this year than in 2015. Much of beef’s demand is driven by ground beef and loin cuts, which are particularly popular with consumers at the grocery store. Beef demand isn’t only strong at retail. Ninety-seven percent of foodservice establishments report having beef on the menu which has been shown to increase restaurant traffic by 45 percent.

Not only are consumers eating more beef, they are also enjoying more high-quality beef. This is due to more cattle in the U.S. herd grading higher than ever before. From restaurants to retail, consumers clearly want beef on their plates. With beef supply on the upswing and consumer demand increasing, the beef industry is gaining momentum.

“Cattle farmers and ranchers, and the entire beef industry, have worked particularly hard during the past 10 years to produce higher-quality beef, and that work is clearly paying off with increased consumer demand,” said Bridget Wasser, Executive Director of Meat Science & Supply Chain Outreach for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff. “We’re seeing demand for USDA Choice and Prime beef grow, signaling consumer desire for a higher-quality product. An increase in the size of the U.S. cattle herd paired with a higher-quality beef supply shows the industry is responding.”

Consistent quality and taste have always been the primary reason that consumers eat beef. When the steak they purchase and cook is high quality and delicious, that is incentive to make repeat purchases with less concern about higher prices. Combine quality beef with solid beef cooking advice from the Beef Checkoff and everyone wins.

For more information about programs funded with your $1.50 beef checkoff investment contact Patti Brumbach at 206.444.2902 or e-mail her at pbrumbach@wabeef.org. Visit beefitswhatsfordinner.com to learn more about current beef demand trends. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at wabeef.org, Facebook.com/WABeef, Twitter@wabeef, YouTube@WABeef or Instagram@WABeefLove.
one very important issue. WCA was instrumental in getting the open space laws passed. WCA is committed to preserving open spaces. If you are fortunate enough to not have neighbors close by and enjoy paying a “reasonable” amount on your taxes, because your farming and ranching practices preserve open spaces, your WCA dues were and continue to be well spent.

2019 NCBA Policy Priorities

• Fake Meat. Ensuring implementation of a fake meat regulatory framework that creates a level playing field for real beef products and protects consumer health and well-being.

• Trade and Market Access. Promote a bilateral trade agreement with Japan, secure swift passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and expand access for U.S. beef in key markets like China, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

• Dietary Guidelines. Protect the scientific credibility of Dietary Guidelines and promote accurate information about the nutritional advantages of beef as part of a balanced diet.

• Regulatory Reform and Implementation. Reduce the regulatory burden on cattle producers and implement recent reforms.

Wildfire Contractors Needed

Want to help fight fires and protect communities across Washington?

In advance of fire season, DNR and the U.S. Forest Service are reaching out to local communities to help people understand how to provide fire suppression resources to wildland firefighting efforts.

If you are interested in joining the qualified, trained, and available vendors who help DNR during wildfire season, check out our webcam for information on how to become a “Call When Needed” vendor.

Resources that are needed can include items such as potable water and engines, heavy equipment and operators, chippers, fallers, refrigerated trailers, and more.

Are you new to providing wildfire suppression equipment?

Fire Suppression Resource Availability Agreements, commonly referred to as “Call When Needed” Agreements, are preseason agreements used to support or engage in wildland firefighting. These agreements serve as an organized way to show DNR what private resources are available for hire within a specific geographic area or for their service specialty.

DNR uses these preseason agreements to establish a pool of qualified, trained, and available vendors who can provide equipment and services in a timely fashion, upon request.

For people who want to learn how to provide resources for wildland fire suppression and what all it entails, go to the Provide Equipment and Services for Fire Suppression page on DNR’s website.

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/CallWhenNeeded

For further info, contact Lori Johnson at 360-902-1326.

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Options for disposing of animal carcasses

A common saying in the ranching world is “If you have livestock, you’re going to have deadstock.” While that may seem grim, it’s a fact of life for livestock producers. Losing livestock for any reason can be emotionally trying and costly. But it also requires producers to determine what to do with the livestock carcass.

Like anything else, there are rules to follow when going about this unpleasant task. WSDA has a Livestock Disposal Manual, which is updated periodically, listing all the applicable rules and regulations. You can review the most recent version at agr.wa.gov by searching for Livestock Disposal Manual. Here are the highlights:

Approved methods of disposal

Burial, composting, incineration, landfilling, natural decomposition, and rendering are the approved methods of disposal, per WAC 16-25-025. directs that a carcass must be disposed of within 72 hours of the time of death or discovery to avoid nuisance odors or disease. If weather conditions prevent burial within that time frame, and rendering, composting, landfilling, or natural decomposition are not options, then the animal must be buried as soon as the weather permits.

The rule also suggests removing the animal to an area away from public view.

**Burial, landfills and composting**

Most livestock producers bury carcasses. Here are the basic rules for burial, though more information is in the Livestock Disposal Manual.

- All body parts must be at least three feet underground.
- Carcasses may only be buried with the landowners’ permission.
- The burial site must be at least 300 feet from wells, surface water, and neighboring homes.
- The burial site must be at least 50 feet from property lines.
- The site cannot be in a low-lying area subject to flooding or within a 100 year flood plain.
- The limit for burial is 1,000 pounds total per pit, per acre.
- Solid waste landfills can be an option, but this is at the landfill operator’s discretion because they have to meet ecological and local health jurisdiction requirements.

There is also research going on about composting carcasses. If done correctly, composting will completely digest an animal carcass and yield a valuable fertilizer end product. Washington State University has been studying this process and sells bagged fertilizer as an end product. Depending on where you live in the state, you may need to have a structure over the pile to control moisture when composting livestock. If you want to learn more about this process, WSU Extension would be a good place to start as they have a large amount of information on this topic.

**Other options for disposal**

Natural decomposition is a method that can be effective, but also prompts a lot of calls to regulatory agencies. Natural decomposition is allowed by state law, WAC 16-25-025, if the animal’s death occurred on private or state rangeland and was not caused by a significant infectious or contagious disease. If this is the case, the animal can be left to decompose naturally on the property as long as the carcass:

- Is at least 1,320 feet from any well, spring, sinkhole, or body of surface water, like a river, stream, lake, pond, or intermittent stream.
- Is at least 1,320 feet from any residence not owned by the owner of the dead livestock animal.
- Is at least 1,320 feet from any public roadway.
- Is out of public view.
- Is left to decompose on the land with the property owner’s permission.

Allowing decomposition out of public view and more than 1,000 feet from a public road can be difficult, especially in a flat, non-treed landscape. Also, burial is not allowed on properties less than five acres, except for the burial of a single carcass weighing less than 200 pounds.

Rendering was a common disposal method at one time, but is getting more difficult. Horses euthanized by Pentobarbital solution are no longer taken by the only rendering company in Washington State, reportedly due to the potential liability if raw pet food were to be produced from those animals.

Other methods of euthanasia to meet rendering criteria are being explored, but these take time to meet the objective of humane euthanasia. Although we never want to have to deal with animal deaths, planning for and knowing that there are many different methods available to dispose of livestock will help you make an informed decision when it happens. Just be sure to check local and state ecological rules to stay compliant.
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Here’s hoping all our farming and ranching friends are successfully battling this weather, and praying for all those calves being born and the safety of our agricultural community!

Exciting things are brewing with WAIC! Our spring issue of Ag@School is in full production which focuses on stewardship and that EVERY day is Earth Day to farmers and ranchers. Look for this issue to mail mid April. The readership of Ag@School, targeted at 4th graders, has rapidly increased in the past few months with new subscriptions rolling in! This is great news and shows efforts of our volunteers and promotional work! It’s a GREAT problem to have when you have to increase the amount of magazines we order because of an increase of subscriptions!

I traveled to Portland Oregon February 20-22nd for the Western Regional Conference where western state coordinators met to collaborate, share and glean information from each other! We had a packed agenda focusing on STEM, Farm to School and academic integration for agriculture.

On the horizon are some important dates coming up which include National Ag Week – March 10-16th with the official National Ag Day on Wednesday, March 13th. Check out www.agday.org to find information and find an idea or two that you could implement that week to promote agriculture! Even if it’s as simple as a social media post, YOU ARE making an impact!

As you know, we adopted the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture 2018 Book of the Year “John Deere, That’s Who!” by Tracy Nelson Maurer. This hard cover book explores the life of John Deere and his invention of the steel plow. The charming book is perfect for 5-8 years old readers to enjoy and learn about one of agriculture’s biggest names. We have books and an activity to assist volunteers! Please contact me if you’d like a book(s) and the activity!

Remember it’s never too late for a teacher to sign up, be involved in Ag in the Classroom or donate! Visit our website at www.waic.net or feel free to call or email.

Hope you are motivated by Spring and all the season has to offer!

God bless,

Kristen

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Ellensburg. Huge shout out to the Ellensburg FFA for the amazing dinner they put together again. You can’t beat their smoked prime rib! I have to also give a big thank you to the Kittitas County Cattlemens for honoring me with the County Cattlemans of the Year award. I am so touched by this and it means so much to me as I look up so much to all of you. However, I also have to give so much credit to my mother because without her example in life, I wouldn’t have grown such a passion for Cattlemens. She’s an amazing inspiration and I can’t believe her, my dad, and my sister made it all the way up to Washington in the middle of a snow storm just to be there to see me receive the award. I’m truly blessed.

The week after the banquet we also held our first state meeting of 2019. There are some great things in the works for this year and thank you to those that could make the trek through the storm! I love great brainstorming sessions and productive meetings. Currently, we are looking to try something new this summer with having a Mid-Year Meeting over in the Clarkston/Lewiston area along with the cattlemen’s mid-year meeting they are planning. Keep Monday, June 24th on your calendars and stay tuned for more details!! Our next upcoming meeting will be on April 15th and we are looking at venues in Central NE Washington.

National Ag Week is celebrated March 10th-16th with National Ag Day being Thursday, March 14th. What will you be doing to celebrate National Ag Day? If your cattlemens or cattlemen group does something to educate about ag or promote agriculture, please share it with us! We’d love to post about it on our website or on social media. This year’s theme is “Agriculture: Food for Life”. Let’s all show folks that they become a part of agriculture every time they sit down at the dinner table!

Porterfield family at Kittitas County Cattlemen’s Banquet after Kady received Kittitas County Cattlemens of the Year. From Left to Right: Myles Femrite, Kady, Tara, Chet, and Kara Porterfield.
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Last year over 1,400 people were served carved tri-tip on a bun at lunch time. Consider putting your smile behind that Tri-tip sandwich. The Cattlemen and Women of Washington have an opportunity to market themselves and their product in Olympia on April 11th as we grill and serve lunch to our Legislative personel. It would be great to get as many of our members as possible to show our passion and committment to the ranching industry.

We could use your help to make this day one that the legislature looks forward to! Contact the WCA office if you are able join us in Olympia and be part of the cattlemen volunteers.

509-925-9871
wacattle@kvalley.com

If you would like to carpool from the WCA office in Ellensburg, let us know. We will coordinate!

In rememberance - John “Jack” Bennett

Oakville resident, John R. “Jack” Bennett, 89, passed away at Providence Centralia Hospital Jan. 19, 2019.

He graduated from Winona High School and moved with his family to Oakville, Wash. John was drafted into the United States Army, where he served during the Korean Conflict. After his service in the military, he worked on his family ranch and eventually opened his own hay and feed business as well as a trucking business, which he ran until he was 87 years old.

John’s pride and joy were his Shorthorn cattle, a love that he inherited from his father and started his own heard from the same bloodlines.

He is survived by his wife, Dona Jean Bennett; sons, John (Cynthia) Bennett and Kenneth (Susan) Bennett; daughter, Janet (Tim) Kier; brothers, Bill (Norma) Bennett, Donald (Phyllis) Bennett and Douglas (Gladys) Bennett; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, J.W. “Bill” Bennett and Marie Francis Bennett; son, Karl Bennett; and daughter, Judy Bennett.
NEW and REINSTATED MEMBERS

Benton County
- Clint Reeves
  Recruited by Larry Reeves
- Gary & Judy Norby
  Recruited by Zoe Wilson
- Tricia Anderson
  Recruited by Zoe Wilson
- Kelly Reed, DVM
  Recruited by Fred Muller
- Cadance Russell
- Timbre Russell

Columbia County
- Jeremy & Lindsay Cox/JX Ag
- Curtis & Siera Hall
  Recruited by Marty Hall

Franklin County
- Nolan Van Hollebeke

Klickitat County
- Ray Willis
  Recruited by Bruce Davenport

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The WCA booth was between two friends at the Spokane Ag Expo: Trinity Farms and Washington Angus Association.

In photo: Travis Stansbury, Jim Hutton, Don Pierson, and Paulette Forman

In other federal news, the EPA has announced that it will not allow DOE to enforce its water quality standards at the federal dams. DOE had initiated public comment on draft permits that would allow DOE to enforce state water quality standards on the federal dams, inclusive of temperature standards. DOE contends that water temperatures are too high which in turn kills salmon. DOE Director Maia Bellon has not backed down and plans to pursue the permits. She has the backing of Gov. Inslee who has made it a priority to protect salmon... and clean water. It should be noted that the federal dams are under federal jurisdiction as are navigable waterways, which the Snake River clearly is. DOE really has no jurisdiction. What DOE can do is sue, or be party to a lawsuit, which requires the EPA to enforce the CWA to protect species listed under the ESA. There are currently multiple lawsuits doing just that.

Moving off of water issues, there are a couple of animal issues that are of great importance. On February 13, 2019 it was announced that The Center for Biological Diversity, joined by the Spokane-based Lands Council, intends to file a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to respond to a 2015 court order that the agency re-examine a drastic reduction in protected caribou habitat. The notice of intent to sue alleges the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to “issue a final rule listing the Southern Mountain Caribou” as a distinct population segment of the greater woodland caribou population. Said notice also claims that Fish and Wildlife failed to reconsider the critical habitat designation for caribou in North Idaho and Eastern Washington despite a 2015 court order demanding the department re-examine a 2013 decision that reduced critical habitat for caribou by 90 percent. Caribou have allegedly been driven from the contiguous U.S. through habitat loss, climate change and increased predation from wolves and cougars. The critical habitat designation can limit snowmobiling and logging, as well as ag uses. In response to a 2002 petition from the conservation groups, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed designation of more than 375,000 acres in Idaho and Washington in 2011. In a reversal in 2012, the agency designated only about 30,000 acres for the animals, saying that caribou primarily reside in Canada and that conservation efforts there were sufficient. WCA could potentially ask to intervene in this case depending on the response of Fish and Wildlife. If the finger is pointed at agriculture for ruining critical habitat, WCA will need to step up and defend cattlemen. The peer reviewed sound science indicates that the biggest threat to caribou are apex predators which are not being managed to allow for the survival of ungulate populations, such as the threatened caribou.

This month I jumped around a bit because on the larger scale, it is not just water issues that we need to be concerned about. As Sarah talked last month, WCA is more than just public lands, WCA is about preserving the iconic cattlemen. When faced with challenges to our lands and livestock, whether through Mother Nature or uninformed elected officials, it is important to note and be aware that we are not alone. We have an ag industry and a livestock industry, both determined to help preserve our way of life. Although the bills coming down the pike seem daunting, overall we have some great warriors out there that are in our corner. The key is keeping ourselves informed and making sure we are discussing these issues that are before us. Remember that an elected official works for the public, that includes you. Do not be afraid to pick up the phone and talk to them about these issues.
Our first meeting was with Senator Rolfes, Chair, Senate Ways and Means. Left to right: Sarah Ryan, Mark Streuli, Sam Ledgerwood, Senator Rolfes, Bill Sieverkropp and Dave Duncan.

Sam Ledgerwood and Mark Streuli testify during a hearing on the draft Livestock ID bill in the Senate Ag Committee.

Mark Streuli, Rick Nelson, Senator Warnick, Sam Ledgerwood, Bill Sieverkropp and Pete Charriere

Meeting with Representative Kretz (far left)

Below: Stopped to see the gallery where the work gets done.

We left behind our 2019 WCA priorities sheet and a packet (or two) of beef jerky with a WCA sticker.

BOOTS ON THE HILL

NCBA Annual Convention

WCA had amendments to two NCBA policies in the Property Rights and Environmental Management committee. Both amendments can be seen in the photo and were passed out of committee and at the BOD meeting. A grassroots change to national policy that should help WCA members and others across the nation who are impacted by

Dick Coon Leads Region V meeting at NCBA Annual Convention

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION Convention 2019 – New Orleans

PROPERTY RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Proposed Amendment:
P/R/M 4.12
2015 Repealed

Whereas, the grizzly bears into Montana/Idaho

WHEREAS, opposition to the grizzly bear by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the area is widespread among citizens of the area and...
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**26th Annual Washington Cattlemen’s Association Bull Test Sale**

**WED., MARCH 20**

Bonina Feed & Sale Facility, Eltopia, WA

**107 BULLS ON TEST**

70 Angus
9 Red Angus
11 Herefords
17 Simmental/Simangus

**Semen Tested & Quality Evaluated**

Ages Range from January 1 - March 31, 2018

**Bulls Now on Test Can be Viewed at the Beus Feedlot, Pasco, WA**

**Live Broadcast Online Bidding LiveAuctions.tv**

**Schedule of Events**

- March 19: Viewing of Sale Bulls at Bonina Feed & Sale Facility
- March 20: Attend the Pre-Sale Trade Show & Complimentary Lunch prior to the Awards Presentation at 12 p.m. and Sale at 12:30 p.m.

**2019 Bull Test Sale Criteria**

1. All bulls must pass semen and quality test.
2. Bulls must index 85 or greater for gain and yearling weight.
3. Bulls must ration in top 75% of each breed.
4. Low-Birth EPD for Angus (2.0 BW EPD or less, CED 8 or greater, actual BW 80 or less and BW EPD of 2.0 from both dam and sire).
5. All bulls will have individual ultrasound carcass data results.
6. All bulls tested PI-negative for BVD.
7. Angus and Angus-Composite identified as potential carriers of genetic defects will be identified in the sale catalog.
8. Calving-ease Hereford bulls must have an actual birth weight of 80 lbs. or less, a BW EPD of 2.0 or less and a CED of 2.0 or greater, and both the sire and dam must have a BW EPD of 3.5 or less, based on updated EPDs at the conclusion of the test to quality for the low-birth EPD division.

**Progress Reports & Sale Catalog**

m3cattlemarketing.com

**Sale Manager**

Matt Macfarlane: 916.803.3113
m3cattlemarketing@gmail.com
m3cattlemarketing.com

**WCA has made arrangements for a discounted room price at the Red Lion. To make your reservation:**

1. Call 1-800 REDLION (733-5466)
2. Ask to make a reservation at the Pasco Red Lion
3. Let them know you are with a group on March 19th-20th, 2019 - WA Cattlemen’s Association - Bull Sale
4. Give them the group block code BULL2019
5. Complete individual reservation with agent.

**Room Rate is $90 per room.**

*This rate is not guaranteed at third party booking sites such as expedia.com and hotels.com.*