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A Message from the WCA President
Sam Ledgerwood

What a busy time for our members and all in our industry. Like most of you I have been actively moving cattle to summer pasture along with haying. The WCA Executive Committee met May 21 and 22 with a long list of monthly issues and to interview 5 candidates for the Executive Vice President position. On the eve of May 21st we attended a barbecue at the Ryan Stingley ranch where Kititas County cattlemen and cattle women honored Ryan Stingley and family for their accomplishments with a nice meal and program. Congratulations Ryan and family, thank you for including the WCA board.

After 5 interviews the board felt we had good applicants and voted to hire Danny DeFranco. Danny has hit the ground running, please reach out to him and help welcome him to the organization. As I write this we are moving towards working jointly with Idaho Cattle Association to host the Summer Round-up in Lewiston Idaho on June 24 and 25.

June 3rd Jeff Keane and others attended a pronghorn meeting in Mansfield. Myself along with Charlie and Linda Card attended the same meeting in Prosser the following day. These meeting were put on by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with the number one objective of landowner acceptance. Pronghorns are being brought in to Washington by the tribes and are spreading to private lands impacting our members. Jeff and I both stressed the impact going forward on private land owners. WDFW has no plan or funding for pronghorn management, in fact they stated they are having to make staff cuts due to current funding shortages. Clearly another instance, like wolves, of introducing a species that will have potential impacts on all landowners. Dave Duncan has a meeting scheduled with the Director of Fish and Wildlife on June 24th to discuss the pronghorn and it’s status in Washington.

On June 12th Danny, Vic Stokes and Neil Kayser attended a meeting with the industry and Washington Department of Agriculture to go over the process and time frame of implementing the new brand law. WCA will continue to stay engaged to represent our members.

The WCA continues to represent all of you on all the issues. WCA is an affiliate of NCBA. That said, WCA is its own entity, has its own policies, staff and board who follow it’s own bylaws and policies. Many times these align with NCBA policy and action, however when they don’t we follow our policy. It is important for the WCA members to get involved to help set our policy. It is never too early to start planning to attend the state convention in November to review polices and see current actions that the WCA is taking. It is also important to have NCBA and Public Lands Council support on the many issues where our polices do align.

Please be safe in this busy season.
A Message from the WCW President
Kady Porterfield

The Washington Brewer’s Festival was a good time again this year and the weather couldn’t have been more perfect. I want to give a huge thanks to the cattlewomen who attended to run the donation table for the weekend. Marty Stingley, our liaison to the WA Beef Commission, worked all 3 days and headed up the money organization. This is a big and meaningful event and couldn’t be done without the volunteer effort. 100% of the donations taken in go to Food Lifeline for the Beef Counts program, which helps to put beef on the table for those in need.

I also want to thank the Beef Commission and its staff! You gals put on an excellent event and I’m so proud of the job you do promoting beef for our Washington producers. Thank you for all the hours you put in to make big events like Washington Brewer’s Festival and Cowabunga happen. I truly enjoy attending these events and you make it so easy on us! We just have to show up in our hat and boots when you’ve taken care of the rest.

This year’s big focus at the Washington Brewer’s Festival was Beef and Sustainability. The WBC has designed 4 new infographics with this focus and they got to be displayed for the first time at this event! Many festival-goers were interested in the upcycling power of cattle and how we are able to turn so much food waste into usable cattle feed. This is talking about food waste that never entered the grocery store shelves with the intent for human consumption that would have otherwise just been dumped (e.g. distillers grains, wheat middlings, soybean meal, beet pulp). The other great upcycling point is how cattle can graze lands that aren’t viable for growing crops that could be grown for human consumption. Those 4 stomachs are really powerful! The new infographics are also going to be displayed at Trinity Farms for the Northwest Explore Beef Experience this summer.

Our state has submitted its entry into the annual MOOVE contest again through ANCW. MOOVE stands for Making Our Outstanding Value Evident and is the membership drive tool that ANCW has been using the last couple years. After seeing what some other states are doing, I’ve been really inspired about trying to get our youth cattlewomen more involved. Therefore, I’m going to be looking into requesting we add a junior membership level. We already have a collegiate membership of $10/year, which I believe we need to promote heavier as well.

I will be traveling to the ANCW Summer Business Meeting this year in Denver, CO. This will be my first time to both Denver and the summer conference, so I’m looking forward to taking some leadership classes and hearing how this year’s Women In Ranching (WIRED) events went for other states. I think it would be great to host a WIRED event in the Pacific Northwest in the near future!

When I go to Denver, I’ll be sure to sport our new red messenger bags we’ve been selling the last year! We ended up selling out (so awesome!), so we ordered a few more to have on hand. If you still haven’t bought yours yet, just shoot me an email and I’ll make arrangements to get you one. Be on the lookout for new promo items to show off the WCW brand too. We are working on an online store feature for our website where you can buy direct from there. Hope to have more news out by next time!

Put down Friday, September 20th on your calendars. We will be serving beef and hosting a cooking show at the Central Washington State Fair again this year from 12:30PM-3:30PM. The Beef Promotion Committee is going to be selecting our featured beef recipe this month! We’ve had so many good ones already, but I’m excited to see what we come up with for this year. If promoting our awesome product isn’t enough to get you to Yakima that day, there is a Josh Turner concert that evening at the fair, so maybe that will help motivate!

Kady Porterfield
kadyporterfield@gmail.com

Nicole Derting, Grant County Cattlewoman, coaching roping at Washington Brewer’s Festival (photo by: Marty Singley)

WASHINGTION CATTLEWOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

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Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 925-9871 Fax (509) 925-3004
washingtoncattlewomen@gmail.com
www.washingtoncattlewomen.com

WCW Executive Committee

President - Kady Porterfield
Past President - Linda Henderson
President Elect - Linda Weatherly
1st Vice President - Brenda Hart
2nd Vice President - Jeanne Whitley
Secretary - Annette Smith
Treasurer - Bev Cridlebaugh
Parliamentarian - Debbie Sieverkropp

WCW Committee Chairs

Ag Day - Judy Ragland
Ag in the Classroom - Louise Acheson
Beef Promotion - Annette Smith
Cattle Woman of the Year - Jean Berney
Courtesy - Gail Shelton
Food Safety/Health - Judy Ragland
Historian - Nancy Johnson
Legislative - Bev Cridlebaugh
Membership - Barbara Weber
Memorial - Chris Clinesmith
Nominating - Marty Stingley
Publicity - Marty Stingley
Regoin V - Jeannie Kiehn
Revision & Resolutions - Barb Weber
WCW Liaison to WSBC - Marty Stingley
I would like to first thank everyone that has reached out to me over the past month. As some people can imagine the past few weeks have flown by. Sam, Bev, Liann, Sarah Ryan, and other members have been tremendous support helping me get up to speed. Everyone should know that we have a lot of good people within our organization and outside as well that are working hard to advocate for our members and our industry.

A quick recap on what we have been working on the past month:

• Had a short brand meeting in Ellensburg with industry stakeholders and WSDA on June 12th. Our new brand law is in the rulemaking stage. WSDA anticipates rulemaking should be complete in October. WCA nominated Neil Kayser to the brand advisory committee.

• WDFW had a commission meeting in Port Angeles on June 14th and I sat in on a panel about Skagit elk and communicated the problems facing our members up in that part of the state. Dave Duncan and I shared a proposed solution to this problem and have not been contacted about our solution since the commission meeting. This is a complex issue mainly because there are more than one group that has interest in the Elk either in the positive or negative. Mike Ware and Randy Good are engaged in this issue locally and have been keeping up to speed on how things are going.

• Took a short range tour with Ryan Stingley, Liam Shaw (Gallagher Electric Fence), and Tip Hudson (WSU Extension). The purpose of the tour was to see how a “Virtual Fence” would work in a range setting in the West. Gallagher has helped develop what is essentially a invisible fence for cattle. Each cow would be outfitted with a collar and each collar would communicate with a transponder to maintain a designated area for the cattle to graze. This technology could be a huge asset to cattlemen across the state. Some of the potential benefits could be grazing more public ground, more effective range utilization, pinpointed fuel load reduction in the forests as well as shrub steppe, wildlife friendly, etc. This technology is not yet available but will be in the near future.

• Visited Skagit County where Randy Good took me for a tour around the valley to show me the areas that the elk are causing damage. I appreciate Randy taking the time to show me the country and had a great visit with him. I also went to the Whatcom County Cattlemen’s meeting and was able to introduce myself and visit with the members there. This group is very active in their ag. community and very passionate about the cattle business. Whatcom County is having their summer picnic on July 14th at Stoney Ridge Farm in Everson and Skagit will have their picnic the on July 21 at Double O Ranch in Concrete.

• For members that are not aware, the Yakima Nation and the Colville Confederate Tribes have translocated a number of antelope to their tribal lands and as we all know wildlife don’t always stay where they’re supposed to. The main issue we are concerned about is the pathway in which these animals were brought to our state. This is something we will be participating in and monitoring in the coming months. Several members went to Antelope meetings this past month and Dave Duncan attended a meeting in Olympia in regards to this issue.

• I was able to be part of the Explore Beef Tour that the Beef Commission puts on for influencers in the food industry in our state. We toured Trinity Farms and they gave everyone a great overview of how a seedstock producer fits in to the beef production cycle. We concluded the tour with a visit to Washington Beef and lunch at the WCA office. The feedback from the people on the tour was very positive. Patti Brumbach and her staff do a great job setting up these educational opportunities to our end customers.

• Sam, Bev, and I just got back from the joint summer meeting with Idaho Cattle Association in Lewiston. It was a very well-run event and we would like to thank the ICA for all the hard work that went into putting this event on.

I would like to encourage all members, county presidents, state directors and committee chairs to attend our monthly meetings as well as your local meetings. With your participation it will only make our organization stronger moving forward. Please feel free to contact me anytime or stop by the office to visit. Bev always has a pot of coffee on.

Defranco@wacattle.org
509-859-4949
Yogi Berra once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you will end up somewhere else!” I love that saying because at the Beef Commission, we feel it is our responsibility to know precisely what we are trying to achieve with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff. That is why the Beef Commission board of directors met on June 6, 2019 to approve the 2019-2020 annual marketing plan and budget that is the blueprint for achieving our mission to “increase demand for beef by connecting and growing our beef community.”

When setting priorities for the Beef Commission, the board reviews consumer research to determine what overarching strategies will best achieve our mission in Washington State. We have a targeted approach to reaching millennial consumers because our budget requires that we zero in on programs that will achieve the best results for your $1.50 investment.

We know where we are going, and we have a big job to do in a state where people far outnumber cattle and are disconnected from the farms and ranches where their food is produced. This disconnect provides fertile ground for planting misinformation among consumers who simply do not know, what they do not know. That is why earning and building trust in beef and beef production is the number one priority for your Beef Checkoff investment in Washington State.

In other business, the Beef Commission board voted to re-elect Liz Para, a cattle feeder from Othello, to lead the Commission as its chair. Kale McGuinness, an auction market owner from Davenport, was re-elected vice-chairman; and Case VanderMeulen, a dairy farmer from Mesa, was re-elected to serve as treasurer.

For more information about the Beef Commission’s 2019-2020 Strategic Plan or any program funded with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff investment contact Patti Brumbach at 206.444.2902 or e-mail her at pbrumbach@wabeef.org. Visit this beefitswhatsfordinner.com to learn more about national Checkoff-funded programs. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at wabeef.org, Facebook.com/WABeef, Twitter @wabeef, YouTube @WABeef, or Instagram @WABeefLove.
The B.C. Government is investing in what might not be your typical firefighters.

In a release, they say they're investing $500,000 in the B.C. Cattlemen’s Association to explore the use of grazing cattle and livestock to reduce vegetation which fuels fires.

The Province will be working with the ranching sector, local governments and indigenous communities to develop partnerships and provide opportunities.

B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham, thinks it’s an interesting idea.

"It’s an intriguing model that I’m hopeful will become a mainstay in our efforts to protect our communities and resources from fires, as well as supporting B.C. ranchers and B.C. beef."

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WASHINGTON (June 12, 2019) – After ten days of intensive leadership training and a three-city tour which showcased every facet of the beef industry, 60 beef leaders have successfully completed NCBA’s 2019 Young Cattlemen’s Conference (YCC). The event, which is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience, Elanco, Farm Credit, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, John Deere, Tyson and NCBA, is designed to give participants exposure to the full supply chain. Completion of YCC prepares participants to serve as leaders within their state associations in addition to being advocates for NCBA and the beef community.

The 2019 YCC class finished its whirlwind tour in Washington, D.C., where participants learned how NCBA’s policy work impacts their operations and the broader industry. After an in-depth policy issue briefing from NCBA’s lobbyists and staff experts, participants took to Capitol Hill, visiting more than 200 congressional offices to advocate for industry policy priorities.

Visits in Chicago included stops at Hillshire Farms and McDonald’s global headquarters office. Participants also gained a behind the scenes look at the manufacturing facilities of OSI, Inc., one of the nation’s largest beef patty manufacturers.

“The market for beef is becoming increasingly complex and it’s important that the next generation of leaders has a complete understanding of how changes in the marketplace impact our product,” said NCBA President-Elect Marty Smith. “The participants in YCC return to their respective state associations and serve in a wide variety of leadership roles and many of them rise to the national level, so providing them with the background knowledge they receive during this trip, helps prepare them for that future in leadership. It’s an important function for NCBA and one we take seriously.”

“Visiting the offices of elected officials in Washington, D.C., to advocate for the issues that affect us, was particularly meaningful for our class and we’re proud of the impact we’ve had this week. After spending time with each of these talented individuals, I’m absolutely confident that the future of the beef industry is bright.”

In Denver, participants took part in leadership development sessions, media training, and hands-on demonstrations of the work NCBA does as a contractor to the Beef Checkoff. The group made a visit to Greeley, Colo., to tour Five Rivers Cattle Feeding’s Kuner Feedyard, the JBS processing plant and an opportunity to meet with the executive team at JBS Headquarters. Prior to leaving Denver, participants also stopped at a nearby Safeway flagship store to learn how beef is being marketed to consumers at the retail level, giving the group an in-depth understanding of every aspect of the beef supply chain.

“The market for beef is becoming increasingly complex and it’s important that the next generation of leaders has a complete understanding of how changes in the marketplace impact our product,” said NCBA President-Elect Marty Smith. “The participants in YCC return to their respective state associations and serve in a wide variety of leadership roles and many of them rise to the national level, so providing them with the background knowledge they receive during this trip, helps prepare them for that future in leadership. It’s an important function for NCBA and one we take seriously.”

WCA Member , Pete Charriere, Attends Young Cattlemen’s Conference

WCA Member, Pete Charriere at Young Cattlemen’s Conference

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Ketch Pen | June 2019 9
Livestock Inspection Proposed Rulemaking
By Jodi Jones - Animal Service Division

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is proposing to amend chapter 16-610 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to align with recently enacted legislation.

The amendments would:
~Establish definitions for call out fee, certified veterinarian, electronic official individual identification, field livestock inspector, and livestock legacy brand;
~Increase the membership of the Livestock Identification Advisory Committee;
~Expand the Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) system to allow for all cattle producers to report change of ownership and movement out of state transactions electronically;
~Establish an ECTR licensing and renewal fee;
~Modify those able to perform livestock inspections and the requirements associated with being a certified inspector;
~Reflect livestock inspection fees;
~Reflect a legacy brand transfer fee; and
~Reflect brand transfer fees.

The Department is also proposing to amend chapter 16-610 WAC to increase the certified inspector certification fee and revise language to increase clarity and readability and to conform with current industry practices.

April 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed engrossed substitute senate bill 5959 (ESSB 5959). This bill increases the membership of the Livestock Identification Advisory Committee, modifies livestock inspection fees, allows field livestock inspectors to perform livestock inspections, and expands the ECTR system to all cattle.

The Livestock Inspection program is supported 100 percent by user fees; deriving revenue from livestock inspections, brand recordings, and licensing fees. User fees had not been increased since 2006 and the program was facing a significant budget shortfall by the end of the 2017-19 biennium. ESSB 5959 not only increased fees but also allows the Department to move animal disease traceability forward by expanding ECTR and the use of official electronic individual identification.

As part of the rule making process, public hearings will be held to collect testimony on the proposed amendments in the near future. The public hearings will be posted on our website and interested parties will be notified of those hearings. The most current information is also available on our website at www.agr.wa.gov/lawsrules.

If you have any questions please contact Robbie Parke at (360) 902-1836 or Jodi Jones at (360) 902-1889.

Newly Expanded Livestock Identification Advisory Committee – WSDA Seeking Nominations.
By Robbie Parke

As noted above, the Washington State Legislature passed engrossed substitute senate bill 5959 (ESSB 5959). This new law expands the current Livestock Identification Advisory Committee members from six to twelve effective July 28, 2019. WSDA is seeking nominations from organizations representing beef, dairy, livestock markets, slaughtered facilities, cattle feeders, and horses for the following new positions on the Committee:

Beef Producer. Term expires 6/30/21
Dairy producer. Term expires 6/30/22
Owner of livestock market. Term expires 6/30/22
Owner of Slaughter Facility. Term expires 6/30/20
Cattle Feeder. Term expires 6/30/22
Horse Producer. Term expires 6/30/20

The purpose of the committee is to provide advice to the director regarding livestock identification programs administered under Chapter 16.57 RCW and regarding inspection fees and related licensing fees. The committee must meet at least twice a year and no more than two members at the time of their appointment or during their term may reside in the same county.

Staggered Brand Renewal
By Robbie Parke

Recent legislation (ESSB 5959) makes a few changes to Washington's Brand Recording Program. Starting in 2020, we will move to a two-year staggered brand renewal cycle. The new fee to record or renew a brand will be $132.00 for a four-year period. This reflects a 10% increase over the current fee of $120.00.

WSDA will begin issuing renewal notices in late July. We will notify approximately 25 percent each month in July, August, September and October. If you have not received a renewal notice by November, 2019 please contact the livestock inspection program to ensure we have your correct address. You can reach us at livestockid@agr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1855.
Working off the farm can have many upsides but the underlying motivation is usually simple: Making ends meet.

A reality of life in the countryside is that most agricultural operations often don’t generate enough steady revenue for a farmer to survive without holding another job.

“There are a lot of challenges that come with farming, and stability of income definitely is one of them,” said Angi Bailey, an Oregon nursery owner who also works for an agribusiness group. “There comes a point where you just can’t pay the bills.”

Of the 2 million primary producers in the U.S. — those in charge of major decisions and day-to-day management of the farm — more than 60% work at least part of the year for another employer, according to the USDA’s recently published 2017 Census of Agriculture.

About 63% of those growers devote more than 200 days a year to off-farm work, nearly full-time employment.

“It’s tough making a living just raising cows and making mortgage payments and putting kids through school,” said Matt McElligott, an Eastern Oregon rancher who also sells livestock feed across the Northwest.

Since feed dealerships are generally separated by long stretches of rural highway, McElligott is often traveling.

Though his wife and family help juggle the responsibilities, McElligott’s two jobs do clash on occasion, such as the time 100 calves got loose when he was four hours away from his home near North Powder, Ore.

Even when things are going smoothly, there’s seldom any downtime.

“It’s early mornings and late nights and taking vacation days working on the ranch,” McElligott said. “There’s sacrifices there, but that’s what I like to do, so for me it’s not a sacrifice.”

Young and old

Not surprisingly, off-farm work is most common among young farmers who’ve yet to find their financial footing: About 80% of principal producers under 35 hold other jobs.

At age 30, Dylan Wells qualifies as a young producer, but he’s no novice at farming. He’s been operating a miniature ornamental pumpkin business, Autumn Harvest, with his family for the past 15 years.

Changed circumstances in recent years — including marriage, his father’s chronic illness and new business regulations — have prompted Wells to branch out into doing home renovations and real estate.

Wells plans to stick with farming because he relishes the hustle and bustle of running the agricultural business, which is now based near Woodburn, Ore. However, he enjoys the variety of “flipping” homes, which also lets him work as his own boss.

“It’s something new every day, it’s not the same,” Wells said. “I love problem solving.”

Off-farm work isn’t solely the province of growers who are young, beginning or small-scale. Nearly one-third of producers with farms earning more than $1 million in annual revenues also work elsewhere, as do more than a third of those whose farms encompass 2,000 acres or more.

Apart from money, off-farm jobs can provide other forms of security, such as health insurance and retirement plans.

Outside experience

Some professionals who’ve devoted years to an outside career may also be reluctant to switch their focus entirely to agriculture, said Jon Paul Driver, an industry analyst with Northwest Farm Credit Services.

“They may not want to give up some of the work they’ve been doing. It brings a diversity back to agriculture as well,” he said. “There’s room for innovation for someone who’s worked in other sectors of the economy and can bring something back to the farm.”

While off-farm work is a familiar component of rural life, USDA’s statistics don’t indicate it has become more widespread. Between 2007 and 2017, the proportion of primary producers who work off-farm has actually decreased from nearly 65% to 58%.

The decline could be a facet of the rising age of U.S. primary farm producers, which crept up from 57.1 years to 59.4 years during that decade.

“Baby boomers are still a significant portion of producers, and that’s what’s driving your off-farm income discussion,” said Driver.

Some growers may have retired from their off-farm jobs while still working in agriculture, possibly driven by the particular economic fluctuations seen during that decade, he said.

The overall U.S. economy suffered a severe recession after 2007, followed by years of a
lackluster employment picture, while commodity crop prices were often solid, Driver said.

“Off-farm opportunities were not as strong, which may have contributed to fewer off-farm jobs,” he said.

Despite this shift, off-farm income has remained vital to most U.S. farm operations, many of which earn negligible revenues or lose money.

Though the average net cash income per farm is $43,000, more than half of U.S. farms are unprofitable, with an average loss of $22,000.

Lifestyle matters
Lifestyle may account for part of the reason that growers are willing to work off-farm to subsidize their agricultural operations, though they’re probably motivated by more tangible reasons as well, said Carrie Litkowski, senior economist with USDA’s Economic Research Service.

The average value of agricultural land and buildings was $1.3 million per farm in 2017, up from $790,000 in 2007.

From the grower’s perspective, hanging onto increasingly valuable farmland may be worthwhile even if the operation is barely self-sustaining, said Litkowski.

“I may be breaking even, but I have this land as an asset,” she said. “They might even see that as a net gain.”

For Matt Brechwald, working as a police officer was necessary to support his livestock and hay operation near Kuna, Idaho, but the off-farm job ultimately felt too distracting.

“The things you need to be there for, a full-time job will keep you from being there for,” he said. “The con for me is I was living two different lives.”

To supplement his income, Brechwald started a side business in gopher control that eventually became successful enough for him to quit law enforcement.

As an entrepreneur, he could be flexible enough with his schedule to pivot to farm duties when necessary.

“I didn’t have to ask for time off or a vacation day and possibly be denied,” Brechwald said.

Nuanced question
Whether such agricultural businesses are considered off-farm work by USDA is a nuanced question — the census counts revenue as farm-related income unless it’s a completely separate business.

Exactly where the line is drawn depends on the perspective of the survey respondent.

“It’s counting on the farm operator to make that distinction,” said Litkowski.

The number of farms engaging in custom work and agricultural services has dropped slightly, from about 121,900 in 2007 to 120,000 in 2017, even as their total revenues have increased in that time from $1.875 billion to $2.65 billion.

Farmers can expand into entrepreneurial ventures with assets they already own, as long as they find the right niche, Brechwald said.

“Are there people I can help with this equipment?” he said. “If you need it, that means somebody else needs it, too.”

Brechwald’s experience with off-farm income inspired him to begin an online podcast about the subject, which has earned money through advertising and has led to opportunities to produce broadcasts for agricultural companies and organizations.

Spending time in the studio continues to supplement his farm income, though it’s more than just a cash-generating enterprise.

“I enjoy doing it enough that I think I would continue doing it,” Brechwald said.

For Angi Bailey and her husband, Larry, running their nursery near Gresham, Ore., wasn’t so much the fulfillment of a lifelong dream as an unexpected development when her mother suddenly died in 2005.

“I hadn’t had my sights set on going back to the nursery,” she said. “I didn’t know where we were headed but I didn’t think it was going to be here.”

Even so, farming suited the couple and Larry left his job at a major technology company to operate the nursery full-time. Unfortunately, the nursery industry hit tough times soon after they inherited the operation, eventually forcing Larry to return to off-farm work as a patent agent for a law firm.

“He would much rather be building a greenhouse or driving a tractor,” she said. “If he could be out in the dirt every day, he would.”

Bailey herself has taken a second job as a grass roots coordinator for Oregonians for Food and Shelter, an agribusiness group that educates the public about the safe use of pesticides, fertilizers and biotechnology.

“Even off-farm, I’m still working with farmers and foresters,” she said.

The couple’s off-farm jobs are in line with those of other farmers: Nearly 36% of farm operators and their spouses hold “management and professional” occupations, which is a higher percentage than any other category of work, including sales, service, natural resources or transportation, according to a USDA study.

Between the two of them, Angi and Larry Bailey share day-to-day management responsibilities at the nursery, which has been easier than expected because they both work from home some days.

“We were able to coordinate well enough that things got done and got done well,” she said.
Relaunch of Washington State University’s Cougar Cattle Feeders
By Dr. Don Llewellyn, WSU

After a period of inactivity, the Washington State University Department of Animal Sciences student run cooperative Cougar Cattle Feeders (CCF), is back. Dr. Don Llewellyn, Livestock Extension Specialist with WSU Extension, has taken the role as the advisor for CCF after long-time faculty member and previous advisor, Dr. Mark Nelson, retired from his role of teaching, research, and advising. With eight new student members, CCF gives students experience in managing and feeding cattle to reach their target weight for slaughter and produce a superior beef product for consumers. Cougar Cattle Feeders gives students hands on experience in formulating diets, the process of putting cattle through a feedlot, monitoring health, practice determining when an animal is finished, estimating carcass characteristics on live animals, harvesting and carcass evaluation, marketing, and also the financial processes of running a feedlot.

Members of CCF have been actively rebuilding the brand for CCF in preparation for participation at conferences, gatherings, presentations, and other public events. Students gain valuable networking experience and insight from professionals in the cattle industry through these events. Since the program’s relaunch in January 2019, members of CCF have attended the Washington Cattlemen’s Association Bull Sale in Pasco, WA, the May board meeting of the Washington Cattle Feeders Association in Moses Lake, WA, and the Washington State Beef Commission Beef Counts Mobile Food Distribution in Spokane, WA. This April, CCF toured AB Foods, LLC in Toppenish, WA to gain an understanding of how beef is harvested, processed, and packaged. The group plans to make more trips to ranches, farms, and other businesses in the area this coming fall semester. Each of these events have provided opportunities for the CCF members to meet with cattle producers and industry professionals to make them aware of the program and to provide networking for the students. Acquiring these key educational experiences, helps students understand current issues in beef production and learn to problem solve, becoming well-rounded and contributing members of the beef industry.

Cougar Cattle Feeders is currently preparing to receive cattle this fall (targeting approximately November 1) to start feeding with finishing targeted for the end of the spring semester in May 2020. If you would like to donate to the CCF program, please contact, Dr. Llewellyn for more information: e-mail don llewellyn@wsu.edu and office phone number (509) 335-8759.

Scholarship Opportunity

2019 Jenny Lynn Stiles-Hudson Memorial Scholarship
Deadline: September 16, 2019

Jenny was a young, energetic woman who advocated for agriculture and was dedicated to God, her family and the Beef Industry. She never took no for an answer and knew she could accomplish anything she set her mind on. She truly exemplified the hope of the future for the Beef Industry.

$500: Scholarship: Awarded at the beginning of Fall Semester/Quarter

Eligibility
- Must be a Washington resident.
- Undergraduate or Graduate Student.
- Must be enrolling in a 2 year community/technical college or a 4 year college/university.

Scholarship recipient will be announced in November 2019 at the WCA Convention. Applications should be sent to:

Washington Cattlemen’s Association (WCA)
PO Box 96
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Application are for the 2019/2019 academic year and are available at www.washingtoncattlemen.org

Cougar Cattle Feeders - Spring 2019
Left to Right: Jamie Wolf, Jessica Guske, Abby Johnson, Rachel Meyer, Selena Davila, Sarah Bertapelle, Doug Rosman, Sarah Dreger and advisor Dr. Don Llewellyn (not pictured Savannah Crnick)
Toni Meacham, Attorney at Law

"In 1995, when I was 15 and my sister was 14, the large family ranch was splitting up. We had a family meeting and our parents asked if we wanted to sell the ranch or keep it," says Toni Meacham, "We didn’t want to leave, we wanted to stay." Toni’s strong connection and dedication to the only place she’s truly called home, to her family, to ranching, and to her community is the foundation of the hard work it takes to keep their plan alive.

Toni also decided early on, in fifth grade, that she wanted to be a lawyer. “As soon as I graduated from law school, the day after, I moved back,” she said. Today, Toni operates her law practice from the family ranch in Connell, Wash., where she can keep an eye on the cattle and provide needed services to farmers and ranchers. From Toni’s experience there’s not nearly enough lawyers that understand agriculture.

She runs the cow-calf operation with her close-knit family including her husband and two kids, sister and brother-in-law, with their two kids, and her parents are still active in their 70s. They make it work because, “We talk, we make decisions together. We still fight and have arguments. But we are cognizant about listening to each other,” says Toni. “You cannot treat it like a hobby. You have to make decisions from a business perspective.” And even then, there’s never enough money to go around. Everyone has off-farm jobs in the family.

Toni’s grandparents, Bill and Norma Bennett, who started it all, are still helping out. Norma’s cooking brings in all the grand and great-grand kids. And Bill, who just turned 91, might just have a reputation of being the best cowboy in a Tahoe in the US.

On succession planning, Bill says there’s no advice that fits everybody: “Circumstances dictate what you do, and you don’t ever do anything 100 percent right.” He says, “Trusts can be very valuable, but be careful who you have to be the trustee.”

Toni’s been working closely with the Washington Cattlemen’s Association to provide guidance on succession planning.

Here are her top five pieces of advice:

“Plan, even if you feel like it is too late. Do something. The worst thing you can do is nothing

There is a difference between an estate plan and a succession plan. An estate plan takes care of your estate when you pass away, a succession plan transitions the business/entity to the next generation. It can occur while you are still alive to see it (yes, seriously, it can happen while you are alive for those of you that cannot hand over the reins).

Include long-term care plans. Decide what you want to happen to you in the twilight of your life. Life happens if you have planned for it or not, and it will be smoother if you make decisions that impact you before the choice is taken out of your hands.

Decisions that impact generations should be decided by those generations, not by one person that has failed to consider what everyone else may want. Family dynamics are not ‘cookie cutter’ but are rather specific and need to be considered. Have discussions, talk, make plans, and put things in writing. There are experts out there to help you. It won’t be easy, it won’t be fun, but in the end it should be worth it.

Look at all plans with a holistic approach, knowing that plans change and evolve. I tell people that your documents are living, you must take care of them, and they aren’t that hard to change once you have the format figured out. Estate/succession planning is like running a ranch, decisions need to be made on a daily basis, with big decisions documented.

Most importantly, Grandpa Bill says, “you’ve got to have a plan. Things can happen quick.”
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We encourage all of our cattlemen to send pictures to use in the Ketch Pen. We are also proud to acknowledge our “future ranchers” by publishing their accomplishments. Send stories and pictures to wacattle@kvalley.com
The shrub-steppe, grassland, and dry pine forests of much of the Western United States are naturally prone to fire. There are some ecological benefits to fire, and land managers need to consider how to manage the risk rather than attempt to eliminate fire altogether. Some advocate more widespread livestock grazing to limit the severity of rangeland and forest fires. Others caution that heavy grazing, the kind sometimes employed to reduce fuels, can shift plant communities toward more flammable species. Both viewpoints are valid. The dilemma is more nuanced than just the simple principle that grazing reduces fine fuels and therefore prevents wildfire.

Pacific Northwest shrub-steppe ecosystems are adapted to periodic wildfire. Perennial bunchgrass plant associations dominate shrub-steppe community types. Bunchgrass communities exhibit bare spaces between plants which naturally break up the continuity of fine fuels. Further, those deep-rooted perennials are actively growing long after soil moisture in the surface horizon has dried up. Thus, moisture content of the vegetation remains relatively high until much later in the summer than plant communities with invasive annual grass—bunchgrass communities have a shorter window of flammability because of this feature. Cheatgrass-dominated plant communities may have dangerously low moisture from May 1 to October 1, creating fire-prone conditions lasting 5 months or more. Perennial grass-dominated plant communities may only be flammable from August 1 to October 1, a 2-month window with high fire potential.

Grazing cannot really prevent wildfire, but strategic grazing management can reduce risk, primarily by manipulating the kind and amount and continuity of fine fuels. This can reduce the intensity, spatial extent, and rate of spread of wildfire. Whatever fuel reduction goals are established, grazing must maintain the vigor of perennial grasses.

Humans can manage fire intensity by manipulating the kind and amount and continuity of vegetation. As a fine fuel management measure, grazing disturbs soil less than mechanical techniques for managing fuels, is less expensive, and is more environmentally friendly than herbicides.

The sort of improper grazing most commonly applied West-wide is moderate to heavy grazing for the majority of the short growing season (April-June). A century of rangeland science has shown that bunchgrasses must be allowed to go to seed at least every other year. That does not necessarily mean bunchgrasses cannot tolerate being grazed every year—they just cannot be grazed during April-June every year. If grazed early in the season, they require a growing season after the grazing event to recover leaf tissue, root mass, and produce seed. The length of the recovery period, rather than the grazing period, is the key to avoiding overgrazing. Grazing animals which linger too long on a plant community and return too soon after the previous grazing event can damage bunchgrasses.

Well-managed grazing can be a effective means of control for invasive annual grasses and broadleaf weeds, on its own or in combination with other methods as part of an integrated pest management approach. Grazing can improve the health of wildland ecosystems by maintaining grass vigor, facilitating nutrient cycling, increasing litter cover, and decreasing bare soil. The key is understanding how the timing, frequency, and intensity of grazing affect a plant community and associated ecosystem components.

There is good research on using grazing to manage fuel loads. But healthy, grazed rangelands can still burn. Heavy grazing, every year, everywhere, is not the solution to fire on rangelands and dry forests. Well-managed grazing that targets invasive or undesirable plants AND promotes fire-resistant plant species and plant community structure is helpful for limiting the severity and extent of wildfire.

Check out Tip Hudson’s Podcast “The Art of the Range”
www.artofrange.com
INGREDIENTS:
• 1 beef Top Round Steak, cut 3/4 inch thick (about 1 pound)
• 1 pound asparagus, trimmed
• 1 teaspoon olive oil
• 3 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
• Salt
• Hot cooked orzo (optional)

Marinade:
• 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
• 2 tablespoons olive oil
• 1 tablespoon fresh thyme
• 2 large cloves garlic, minced
• 2 teaspoons steak seasoning blend
• 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper

COOKING:
1. Combine Marinade ingredients in medium bowl. Place beef Steak and marinade in food-safe plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight, turning occasionally.
2. Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Toss asparagus with oil. Place steak in center of grid over medium, ash-covered coals; arrange asparagus around steak. Grill steak, covered, 10 to 11 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, times remain the same) for medium rare (145°F) doneness, turning occasionally. (Do not overcook) Grill asparagus 6 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, covered, 8 to 12 minutes) or until crisp-tender, turning occasionally.
3. Immediately sprinkle cheese over asparagus. Carve steak into thin slices. Season with salt, as desired. Serve with asparagus and orzo, if desired.
Applications available for 44 Farms International Beef Cattle Academy

COLLEGE STATION, Texas. [June 20, 2019] – Applications are open for the 44 Farms International Beef Cattle Academy. Now in its second year, the academy offers a one-year, comprehensive online certificate program to beef industry professionals through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

“Our inaugural class is wrapping up their learning experience, and student feedback so far has been tremendous,” says Reinaldo Cooke, program coordinator and associate professor at Texas A&M University. “We worked to develop the strongest course offerings paired with industry-leading experts, and we anticipate our second program year to be even stronger.”

Applications are available online now and are due by August 2. Class size for the prestigious academy is limited in order to offer an exclusive and customized learning experience. Prospective students should apply as soon as possible.

Comprehensive coursework

The 44 Farms International Beef Cattle Academy consists of eight courses at 30 learning hours per course. Courses are taught online with pre-recorded lectures.

“Each week there is an interactive session allowing for one-on-one student-instructor interaction,” says Ky Pohler, program coordinator and assistant professor at Texas A&M University. “Interactive sessions are customized based on the needs and demands of students.”

Courses are taught by world-renowned researchers and educators. Course topics include:

- Cattle welfare and behavior
- Forage production and utilization
- Nutritional management and requirements
- Reproductive physiology and management
- Breeding and genetics
- Immunology and herd health management
- Safety of beef products
- Carcass and beef quality

Following online coursework, the academy concludes with an optional residency period and graduation ceremony in College Station, Texas.

Passionate students

“The academy covers the most up to date and emerging information in the industry,” says Pohler. “An ideal student candidate is eager to learn and is passionate about driving the industry forward.”

Applicants should have a foundational understanding of beef cattle production and speak fluent English.

Potential students could include:

- Advanced beef industry professionals
- Technical services and marketing professionals
- Graduate or professional
- Government officials
- Breed association personnel
- Progressive farmers and ranchers, etc.

The academy’s online learning format allows anyone from across the globe to participate.

Unparalleled value

“Students get leading-edge education from world-renowned instructors, without the traditional cost of higher education,” says Cooke. “When students apply course learnings to their own operations and businesses, that’s where the value really starts to add up quickly.”

The current international academy class is completing their coursework this summer. Students have provided the following feedback regarding the coursework and academy experience:

- “The International Beef Cattle Academy was an excellent investment for myself and my operation. It provided an efficient delivery of an extraordinary amount of material that, at a minimum, enhances your awareness of issues and in some cases makes you conversant in them.” – United States student
- “Prior to the commencement of this course, I would have never entertained the thought of feeding grain to my animals. Now I appreciate that the judicious use of grain and supplements to complement what is missing from the animal’s diet in my pasture-based setting is essential to animal health and well-being.” – Australian student
- “We can bring our operations and daily routines into the course. The exchange of information has been extremely valuable.” – South American student
- “I was confident the material would be very high quality. What surprised me and exceeded by expectations was the involvement of the instructors and other students.” – South American student
- The next academy begins in September 2019 and continues through August 2020. Apply today at animalscience.tamu.edu/ibca/ or email ibca@tamu.edu for more information.

Ron Cridlebaugh with Jaxsen Meacham’s show heifer at the angus show in Ellensburg.

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

WCA Happenings

County Picnics

Okanogan County
Date: July 21st
Contact: Rachel McClure 509-386-6353

Skagit County
Date: July 21st
Place: Double O Ranch in Concrete

Whatcom County
Date: July 14th
Place: Stoney Ridge Farms in Everson
Contact: Branden Brink 360-441-8375

Annual Convention

Looking to the Future

2019 WCA/WCW Annual Convention
November 13 –15, 2019
Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick
www.washingtonattlmen.org

By Honoring the Past

Mid-Year Meeting
June 24-25, 2019
Lewiston, Idaho

WCA Board of Directors Meeting

Historic Kirkwood Ranch
Hell’s Canyon, Idaho