



THE POST RIDER

Marias River Livestock Association, 72 Sweetgrass Hills Rd, Sweet Grass, MT 59484

Third Annual

Prime Rib & Rib Tickler

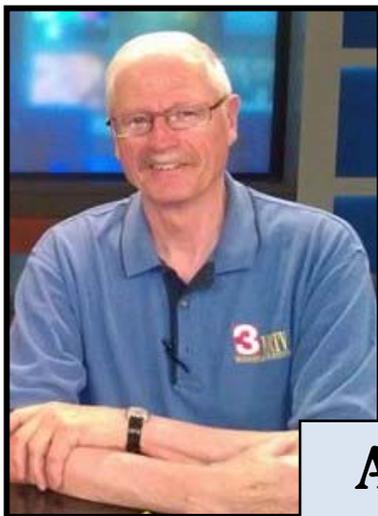
Nov 15, 2014

We have a hot ticket for this year's event.

You may know this gentleman from the morning news? Perhaps you took classes from him at the University of Great Falls. You may have attended school with him in Sunburst if you are from the North Country and graduated a *few* years ago. Art Taft from KRTV Great Falls, born and raised in North Toole County, will be our Master of Ceremonies this year for the Rib Tickler.

Our other local talent grew up in Cut Bank Montana and now lives in the Flathead country. Rob Quist has been lead singer and songwriter for Mission Mountain Wood Band, Montana Band and Rob Quist & Great Northern. His music is from the heart and original. We are excited to have him come and entertain us for the evening.

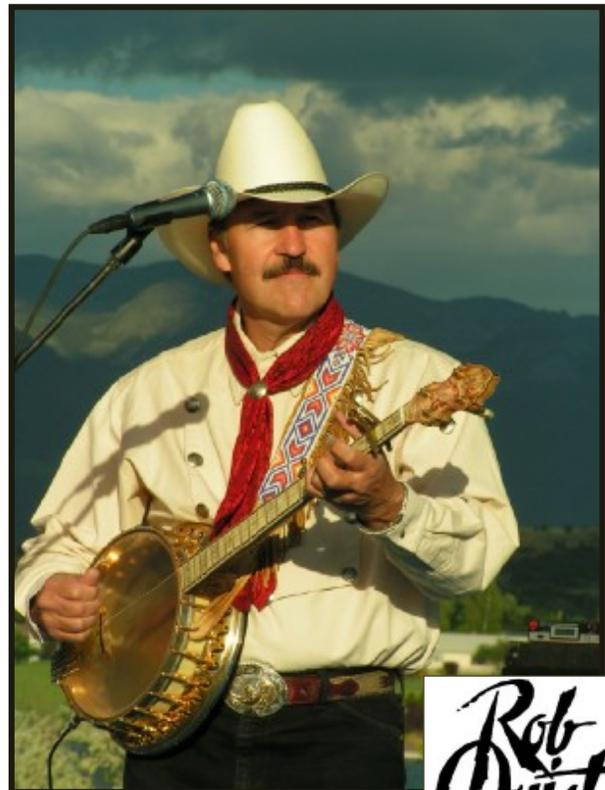
Social time (no host) will start at 5:30pm at the Civic Center in Shelby and seating for dinner will be at 6:15pm. Once again Dick Kinyon and his crew will be there to feed us a Prime Rib Dinner. We will have door prizes, a Youth Fund Auction and the Bull Bucks Drawing. All for \$28 a person which is a pretty sweet deal. Call Rick or Lana Schock for tickets at 406-937-6400.



**ART
TAFT**

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*Rob
Quist*

Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, November 3rd

5:30pm Ringside Ribs

Well it's Fall, that wonderful time between busy summer haying and autumn calf weaning/shipping where you try to cram all the tasks you haven't accomplished in the last two years into one month before it snows. I hope you have your shipping date set, scale reserved and preg testing vet scheduled.

Now would you please squeeze one more scribble onto your calendar... the Marias River Livestock Association Annual Membership Meeting, Monday, November 3rd 5:30pm at Ringside Ribs. Because we understand everyone's schedule is different you are welcome to come early and eat or stay afterward and socialize (no host).

On the agenda is election of Directors for Liberty and Toole County. If you or someone you know is interested in either position, we will be taking nominations from the floor in addition to the Nominating Committee's suggestions. John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Ex-Vice President, or Chelcie Cremer will give a legislative up-date on Bills that are expected to go before the legislators this fall. They will also be willing to answer questions you may have. This meeting is the perfect time to bring suggestions for events, activities or education opportunities that come to mind or have been burning in your brain. We would love to hear from you.

AN AVERAGE AMERICAN

I work dad gummed hard for my money;
I don't travel a lot to go 'play',
I pay my bills when I get them
and try to save for a rainy day.
I pay taxes and donate to charity
cuz I know some folks need a hand.
I volunteer some of my own time
I'm just your average American.
I've had to do without when there's been
too much month at the end of the money,
then I look at our Government agencies
and I think it's kind of funny.
Department spending gets increases
automatically every year.
They take it all for granted
leading to an ending I really fear.
When someone makes more money
without a job than with,
there's something wrong in the system
it doesn't take a rocket scientist.
We're afraid of being offensive
to those folks we know are out there
just waiting to be offended
so they can say it isn't fair.
I don't mind paying some taxes
and helping those truly in need;
but I'm tired of the system abuses
by lazy folk filled with pure greed.
I just want a little reality check;
no one is owed a job and a car;
'free' services really are not free
and tax dollars only go so far.
So to all our elected officials
I only have one small request;
remember this average American
when you go to writing out all those checks.

Gina Stevens [jagstevens@tctwest.net]

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Montana's Next Generation Conference Will Be Back January 30 & 31, 2015



By Maggie Nutter

The scheduling and planning for the Montana's Next Generation Conference is well underway. The first day, Friday January 30th, will focus again on succession planning. Kevin Spafford will return for a FULL day. We were told repeatedly by people who attended that had they known how good Spafford's presentation was and what it was going to cover they would have brought Mom, Dad, their son or the in-laws. After hearing that over and over we took it to heart and are giving everyone a second chance to get their family there for the fun, informative and extremely helpful presentation. I'd say that even if you attended last year a refresher will be good and you are sure to hear new ideas and information.

The afternoon will be the "next steps" where do we go from here information. Kevin will take us further down the journey of how will we make the decisions about transferring the ranch/farm. Seems like once we have information on what we need to do it is hard to take those first few steps. Hopefully an afternoon with Kevin Spafford and your family will help you to move down the right path.

Succession conversations can be HARD to start, but they need to happen. Hearts are broken and families torn apart because we avoid what is "hard" and then it become the impossible. Just a will does not make a successful succession transition. It is truly sad to see families no longer speaking and a farm or ranch lost because of lack of planning. Make sure to attend and bring all the generations with you.

We have businesses, government agencies, agriculture organizations setting up tables for a "tradeshow" at the Civic Center. You will be able to chew the fat with these guys during breaks and meals all day Friday and again Saturday evening. Often these people have answers or solutions that you are looking for- just didn't know who to ask.

Friday will continue with a great dinner and keynote speaker. Sandra Hare will share some insight on "Generational Personalities and Conflict Resolution."

We are also hoping to have some musical entertainment but that isn't nailed down yet.

Workshops and speakers will fill Saturday morning and afternoon. Financial training for the "beginning borrower" will be provided and there will be sessions on crop scouting, crop insurance, grain marketing, developing replacement heifers, marketing your calves, beef cattle nutrition and herd health and MORE.

For the evening there will be social time, tradeshow, dinner, legislative expectations up-date, and hopefully a little more fun.

What is the difference between Succession Planning and Estate Planning??

Succession Planning is a little different than Estate Planning. Succession is how you plan to move the farm, ranch or business from one generation to the next or how you plan to allow multiple generations to work side by side and continue the operation from generation to generation. It helps recognize who would like to be involved in the



Kevin Spafford speaks to a full house at the 2013 Montana's Next Generation Conference

future of the farm/ranch and if that is possible. Succession planning is about how to make that transmission in ownership financially and to pass along things you can't always purchase like the business history, management skills, and work ethic. Succession Planning is about what should happen while you are still alive.

Estate planning is more about who gets your property—house, cars, furniture and treasures- when you die. It can be part of Succession Planning, but remember it is hard to mentor your successor from the grave. Estate Planning does not gracefully transition knowledge of how to operate a business nor is it necessarily based on the wishes of the recipients or their skills and talents.

Be Safe

By Maggie Nutter

The other day while my 30 something year old son climbed the barn wall to replace the light bulb that had burned out. I gasped and squeaked, "I'm afraid you are going to fall."

My son smartly replied, "Of course you are. You're my Mom."

I surveyed the shovel handles, pitch forks and saddle racks that he could impale himself on and thought --he must have forgotten the fact that he had totaled more vehicles in his short life than I had owned in mine. Forgotten the hours I spent next to his bed while he recovered from spinal compression fractures from the car accident that his sister had unfortunately not survived. Forgotten the days I had spent in Great Falls after his expensive helicopter ride to the hospital where he laid with a chest tube hanging out while he healed from broken ribs and punctured lung due to a motorcycle accident. Yep! I was worried. I knew I should be because I AM HIS MOTHER!

That brings me to this next topic. In this issue of the Post Rider we announce three upcoming events, the Membership Meeting, The Prime Rib and Rib Tickler and the Montana's Next Generation Conference. Each of these will be great events but will be sending people home late in the evening if not well past a normal bedtime. I clench my teeth and think, "I'm afraid for people driving home."

My daughter is dead and my son was severely injured because he fell asleep while driving to the ranch. Why didn't he stop and rest??? Because he was so close to home, less than 50 miles away. They just wanted to get to the ranch. We have all been there. That time things just didn't turn out well.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states "*Drowsy driving causes more than 100,000 crashes a year, resulting in 40,000 injuries and 1,550 deaths. As tragic as these numbers are, they only tell a portion of the story. It is widely recognized that drowsy driving is underreported as a cause of crashes....*"

The Center for Disease Control states, "*Cognitive impairment after approximately 18 hours awake is similar to that of someone with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.05%.⁸ After about 24 hours awake, impairment is equivalent to a BAC of 0.10%, higher than the legal limit in all states.*"

So I just want to say two things, not to preach, but because I don't wish to see anyone hurt or to lose someone they love.

1. If you are tired take a rest, sleep on the pick-up seat for a while, get a hotel room, call for a ride.
2. A hotel room or a call for a ride home is a lot cheaper than a DUI and not nearly as hard on your ego as a visit with the judge or a cot in a jail cell.

Please be safe.

Lodging Options for Shelby, MT

Comfort Inn & Suites 434-2212
455 McKinley, Shelby MT
Room w/ 1 Queen 2 people aprox \$82

Crossroads Inn 434-5134
1200 US Highway West, Shelby
Room w/ 1 Queen 2 people aprox \$60

Glacier Motel & RV Park 434-5181
744 Roosevelt Highway, Shelby
Room w/ 1 queen 2 people aprox \$64

O'Haire Manor 434-555
204 2nd Street South, Shelby
Room w/ 1 Queen 2 people \$49

Shelby Best Western Inn & Suites 424-4560
(also has RV Park)
1948 Roosevelt Highway, Shelby
Room w/ 1 Queen 2 people \$83-\$125

Totem Motel 434-2930
730 Oilfield Ave, Shelby
Room w/ 1 Queen 2 people \$39

Remember to mention the event you will be attending when you make reservations as there may be a block of rooms with discounts.

See www.MariasRiverLivestock.Com for more details on lodging.

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October and November are Membership Renewal Months

So what does your membership dollars do for you and the livestock industry?? Let's first look at the goals in the Marias River Livestock Association By-Laws.

1. Education of the public of the benefits of agricultural production and the problems facing livestock producers and those operating businesses linked with livestock production.
2. Promoting legislation that is favorable to persons engaged in agriculture.
3. Informing members of Marias River Livestock Association of Local, State and Federal issues that may affect their livestock operations in a timely manner.
4. Promoting interest in livestock production and agricultural business to the youth of our communities.
5. Promoting the values of individual liberty, limited government, and fiscal responsibility in local, state and national government.

This year we have held educational meetings, distributed newsletters and hosted the Gentle Hand Livestock Conference and are one of the four co-operating organizations for the Montana's Next Generation Conference. Education of members and the public has been a huge push.

We have engaged with many Legislators during the this last year and are education ourselves and them about issue such as wildlife, property rights, and water rights so that we can encourage favorable legislation for agriculture.

Marias River Livestock Association has a Facebook page and website for quick updates on comment periods that for anything from wolves to beef imports from countries with Foot and Mouth Disease. We also try to include such items in the Newsletter but with 30 day comment periods it isn't always fast enough.

To promote livestock production and interest in Agriculture we have organized the Two Year Heifer Breeding Project and Award for the Four County Marias Fair. We helped organize the Breeding for Success award with Nationwide Insurance and we helped sponsor the Young Ag Leaders Conference and the Young Ag Couples Conference. We are working with FFA to perhaps organize and promote speakers and educational experiences in agriculture for them.

Again, we communicate with the legislator about our concerns of over regulation and budgeting.

We appreciate your membership and your participation in our meetings and events. The Board of Directors is there to hear your concerns and bring them forward so that they can be addressed.

We hope that you will be motivated to join or renew your membership before November.

-Maggie Nutter, MRLA President

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Marias River Livestock Association
Carrie Sue Lerum
PO Box 56
Galata, Mt 59444

Active Membership is per individual not per ranch or corporation.

This a new membership _____

This is a renewal _____

_____ Active Member \$50

Any individual 18 years of age or older, active in the livestock production industry in the counties of Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, or Toole, Montana is eligible for active membership in the Marias River Livestock Association

_____ Youth Member \$10

Youth are under 18 years of age and interested in learning about livestock production, promoting the livestock industry and willing to volunteer 5 hours a year.

_____ Associate Member \$50

An individual, firm, corporation or partnership, no matter where it's or his/her place of business or residence may be eligible for non-voting Associate Membership

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Big Ticket Topics Budget and Bison

By Maggie Nutter

Department of livestock meeting Sept 29 & 30 2014
George Harris and Christian MacKay walked us through the budget for the rest of 2014 and 2015 forward. The "foreward" meaning the two year Budget created by Harris and the BOL to turn in to the Governor's office. They discussed budget reductions and raising the per capita fee, lab fees and the brand inspection fees. Harris has turned in that budget to the Governor's office and it is bases on a whole lot of hope and ifs. Hoping to get money from the Legislature and "ifs" the revenue comes in as predicted.

In 2009 the amount of State General Funds given to the Department of Livestock that was used to operated the lab started dropping. Unfortunately that coincided with the implementation of the Designated Surveillance area for Brucellosis.

"Montana achieved Brucellosis Class Free Status in 1985, but lost that status in 2008 after two brucellosis-positive herds were found within a 12-month period. MDOL responded by forming a work group that included producers, veterinarians, market operators and industry organizations to develop a plan for regaining Class Free Status. The state's [Brucellosis Action Plan](#) was officially implemented on May 15, 2009, and APHIS reinstated Montana's Class Free Status in June, 2009, for the quickest reinstatement ever received by a GYA state." *Steve Merritt, Public Information Officer Oct 7, 2009*

So the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) around the Brucellosis infected Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) was formed. There were many lab test done and would continue to be done at the expense of the Department of Livestock and the Montana State General Fund. The expenses from the DSA were to be paid by the State General Fund so the producers would not have out of pocket expense related to being in the DSA.

Then perhaps a mistake was made.

Despite rising operational costs and a challenging fiscal forecast, the [Montana Board of Livestock](#) held the line on per capita fees for livestock at its meeting in Bozeman, September 21-22, 2009. *(it is has been stated that Schweitzer requested a freeze on all fees during his governorship. --maggie)*

The board unanimously voted to keep [per capita fees](#) - which are assessed on "all poultry and bees, all swine three months of age or older, and all other livestock nine months of age or older" - for all livestock except domestic ungulates at the same level for the third consecutive year.

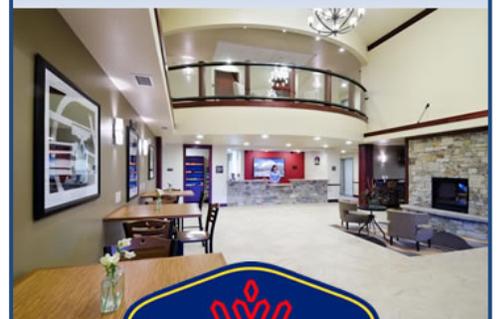
"These are challenging times for the state's livestock producers, and we hope that holding the line on per capita fees will help them out a bit," said board chair Janice French, a cattle producer from Hobson. "Every sector of Montana's livestock industry - beef cattle, pork, dairy - has been hit hard by the economic downturn, and every little bit helps."

Authorized by [Montana Code Annotated 15-24-921](#), per capita fees generate roughly one-third of the department's overall budget. The fees, which fund animal health programs, brands enforcement, theft investigation and recovery, and predator control, will generate approximately \$3,657,591 in FY2010.

Roughly three-quarters of the department's legislatively authorized budget is funded with state special revenues - funds paid by the livestock

Big Ticket Continued on pg 13

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Buy Local You deserve the best!

The third annual Bull Bucks Drawing will be held November 15, 2014 at the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler. It's not too late to become eligible, so join Marias River Livestock Association today.

All Charter Active and Active member of Marias River Livestock Association are eligible to be put in the drawing at the Annual Event November 15, 2014 at the Civic Center in Shelby Montana.

How it works: Participating Registered Bull Breeders and Seed Stock Female Producers each contribute \$50 for the "POT." At the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler Event a lucky winner will be drawn from the current Marias River Livestock Association, Active Membership to receive a Bull Bucks Voucher. The Voucher is good towards the purchase of Registered Bulls or Seed Stock Females from the participating Breeders/Producers.

The amount of the Voucher depends on the number of Breeders/Producers who participate in the program. **Currently the Voucher is worth \$800.** The Voucher is good only for cattle purchases from the participating Breeders/Producers and cannot be redeemed for cash. The Association keeps no money. All funds are placed in the POT for the winning member's Bull Bucks Voucher.

BULL BUCKS 2013 Participating Producers

Diamond D Angus– Sale Nov 13, 2014 and some Spring Private Treaty www.diamonddangus.com

Bobcat Angus– Sale Nov 24, 2013 www.bobcatangus.com

Curry Cattle Inc– Gene & Cheryl Curry 279–3561 Replacement Angus females

Connelly Angus– Sale Feb, 2015
www.connellyangus.com

Diemert Ranch Herefords– Ace & Tara Diemert 432–3412
http://www.ngrbulls.com/diemert_ranch_herefords.htm

Apex Angus Sale March 3, 2015
<http://www.apexangus.com>

Flesch Angus– Sale March, 2015 www.fleschangus.com

Holden Hereford– Sale Date March, 2015
<http://www.holdenherefords.com/>

Turner Angus– Sale April, 2015 www.TurnerAngus.com

Rocky Ridge Angus– Seed stock females, Dean Lerum

Hawks Angus– Sale March 16, 2015 www.hawksangus.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh– Sale March, 2015
www.kickinghorseranch.com

Gillespie Show Cattle– Butch & Doreen Gillespie 337–2943 or 949–4453, www.gillespieshowcattle.com

Box O Breeders– Russ Offerdahl 406–278–3710
boxous@yahoo.com

Enneberg Angus Ranch– Jason and Pamala Enneberg 406–845–4901 EnnebergAngusRanch@ymail.com

Nine Irons Seedstock, – April 2015 Darold and Lorna Tomscheck, 406–937–3726 www.blackranchesinc.com

Musings of a Feed Salesman

By Jake "Spoon" Seavert

VFD! Is that some sort of STD? BVD? RFDTV? OMG? Nope, it's in a class of its own. VFD or Veterinarian Feed Directive is in the works nationwide. With the latest arguments of where antibiotic resistant bacteria derive from, the livestock industry or human health system, the finely tuned government (FDA) is placing verification into the Ag industry. This is stated in the Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA).

This has been the topic at of feed association and livestock meetings I have been to this year. The VFD basically states that feed retail locations are no longer able to sell livestock producers a medicated (Category I and Category II VFD Drug**excluding ionophores) feed, liquid, mineral or other such feedstuffs without the proper written VFD paperwork in hand. VFD drugs are drugs that FDA approved for use in animal feeds, and are used under veterinarian supervision and issued under written veterinary feed directive orders*. How do producers obtain VFD paperwork? It is a form filled out by a state licensed veterinarian for a specific producer stating a need to add antibiotics to feedstuffs for specific animals fed at a specific rate. The Veterinarian will have a copy as well as the producer, retail outlet and the feed manufacturer. The mentioned copy holders must retain those copies for two years. VFD's may be written with a 6 month timeframe.

Montana is currently investigating whether it will be a state that requires the veterinarian to have an "established client patient relationship with the producer" or "be under supervision", to be able to "prescribe" the drug to the feedstuff.

This will be a way for the FDA to track and document what levels of antibiotic use in animals and humans are and may lead to a conclusion of where the resistant strains are surfacing from. In the livestock industry we have realized over years of being in the business that prevention is always cheaper than treatment. Thus we have relied on the ease of receiving medicated feedstuffs to help battle the occurrence of respiratory illness during drought conditions as well as weaning and calving events. The stress on the animal during these times often weaken immune systems, in which case we see a rise of sick cattle adapting to the ever changing environments.



Jake "Spoon" Seavert Nutritionist for Co-Feeds

The uses of these medications can be broken into two categories, therapeutic and sub-therapeutic. Therapeutic uses of antibiotics would entail prevention, treatment and control of disease. Sub-therapeutic would be more apt to just growth promotion (use of antibiotics in feedstuffs have shown to increase feed efficiency). That being said, the drug companies would then withdraw claims of growth promotion for medically important antibiotic products

Broken down further, treatment is individual animals treated showing clinical symptoms. Control is a select few animals showing clinical symptoms and prevention is all animals not exhibiting clinical signs.

The proposed changes concerning VFD's are set for the spring of 2017. Even though dates and other details are still being hashed out; this will be in our near future. Some management strategies may need to be adjusted to compensate for said VFD, and may rely more on other alternative sources of animal health products, or a really good relationship with your veterinarian would be essential. Any questions or concerns can be directed at a Veterinarian, Montana State Veterinarian, Feed Consultant or Nutritionist. Till next time God Bless!

Composting Workshop What does your bone pile look like??

A workshop to explain proper composting for carcass disposal. Focus on building a functioning compost pile and managing carcass disposal on livestock facilities.

Karen Hoffman, NRCS engineer and Julia Dafeo, MSU will explain composting.

Kraig Glazier, Wildlife Services and George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board, will give update on predator control & how bone piles affect predator behavior. Edwards will explain composting cost share program

**Oct 21, 8:30 am, Marias River Electric
To reserve lunch call 434-5234 ex 113 leave message**

Gentle Hands Workshop Delights Crowd

By Lisa Schmidt

In the past, livestock producers did not purchase Rosetta Stone, but taught a new language to tender young ears in the corral. But the mouths connected to those tender young ears were not allowed to repeat the four-letter words and colorful metaphors anywhere off the premises.

The crowd of more than 100 participants at the Gentle Hands Livestock Conference in Shelby last week did not hear four-letter words and colorful metaphors.

Instead, they were treated to a new “language” of techniques and information that will move the livestock industry toward the qualities that customers request.

Livestock handling experts Curt Pate and Temple Grandin headlined the conference, demonstrating how to move yearlings through a corral system.

They also demonstrated patience when the yearlings did not always cooperate, just as on real life ranches. The key to their patience was understanding why the cattle did not cooperate.

“I am standing in their flight zone and they can see me,” Grandin said repeatedly as she stood near the head-catch within a u-shaped chute system. “We could use some cardboard or thin plywood to make a solid panel because I have to stand here. This is where the controls are.”

Pate had his share of trouble as he worked the yearlings on foot at the back end of the chute, too, but corrected it quickly.

“That heifer ran right through me,” he said. “If you step toward the cattle too quickly, they walk through you. If you step back a few steps and then step forward to push them, they will turn. Watch their nose because that is the direction they will move.”

“Do not stand at the head and poke its butt,” Grandin added. “Good handling requires more walking.” Pate and Grandin gave several more tips on what Grandin called low-stress livestock handling and Pate called effective stockmanship and then explained how quiet handling can improve so many issues that torment the cattle industry.

“Research shows over and over that calves get sick if they are stressed and if a calf gets sick at any time in its life, it loses marbling and will drop at least one quality grade,” said Grandin, a professor at Colorado State University.

“Our antibiotic problem is our report card,” Pate added. “Our antibiotic practices show that we are doing something wrong. We need to reduce stress on our cattle.”

Grandin also noted that, while cow-calf producers often use four-wheelers or horses to work their cattle, at some point in a bovine’s life, it will see a person on foot.



Temple Grandin takes the time to explain to Dean Lerum details for improved corral set-up and livestock handling.

“A man on foot is different so an animal reacts to this distraction with fear,” she said. “You should pre-condition cattle so you get the response you want. Work them on foot so they are used to seeing someone on foot when they get to the feedlot or auction sale or (processing) plant. It’s a matter of human and animal safety.”

Production improves when cattle are handled quietly, too.

“Research shows that heifers have improved conception rates if they are worked gently and quietly,” Grandin said.

Some cattle are genetically inclined to be high-headed. “Cattle that have been agitated in the chute perform poorly. Get rid of the nutcases, but don’t turn beef cattle into Holsteins that don’t care about their calves,” Grandin said.

Pate addressed what he called a touchy subject, the role of a cowboy when handling cattle.

“We can’t work cows without cowboys to get wild cows in off the range, but sometimes cowboying becomes the goal instead of stockmanship and profit,” he said. “I’m about as traditional as they come – I’ve worn a hat and boots for a long time – but I like to ranch for profit and for the consumer. The consumer doesn’t want to see a rodeo.”

Pate celebrated traditional skills and the knowledge that “old-timers” had before fancy chutes and equipment were available.

“They understood pressure and release,” he said.

“When we are branding, pregnancy checking, sorting and weaning we can measure our knowledge and skill with our pregnancy rates and weight gain.”

Best Practices Improving

International speaker and internet myth buster Jude L.

Continued from pg 9



Curt Pate stated that he likes to call it “effective stockmanship” and reminded the us that doesn’t always mean slow. You move the appropriate speed to control the cattle’s movement.



Chaley Harney, Jude Capper and “Neep” relax after a eating lunch and before Curt Pate’s stockmanship demonstration. Jude reminded us, “Sustainable means ‘able to last or continue for a long time.’ It means a practice that is resilient, strong, and adaptable.”

Capper gave conference participants plenty of food for thought, too. Capper, an adjunct professor at Washington State University and affiliate of Montana State University, encouraged ranchers to talk about what they do and how they do it because “Dr. Oz and Oprah will tell people if we don’t. They are smart and know how to market, but they don’t know what we do,” Capper said. Even though the term “sustainability” often implies organic, local or grassfed agricultural practices, Capper encouraged all conference participants to claim the term and celebrate it. “Sustainable means ‘able to last or continue for a long time.’ It means a practice that is resilient, strong, and adaptable. Agriculture, all agriculture, is environmentally sustainable. There is a place for everybody,” she said. Capper also armed participants with facts and figures to combat incorrect conventional wisdom about animal agriculture’s impact on the environment. Efficiencies in daily gain have reduced the time to finish cattle so the impact on water, land and energy is significantly less now than it was in 1977. Capper calculated that today’s livestock producers use 81% of the feed that was used in 1977, 88% of the water that was

used in 1997, 67% of the land that was used in 1977 and contribute 84% of the carbon that was produced by livestock in 1977. The sustainability consultant also warned participants to question “research.” Some studies offer correlations, but do not measure causation, Capper said. “There’s a 99.5% correlation between eating high amounts of cheese and dying because of being tangled in bedclothes,” she said.

What if...?

The crucial importance of preventing and controlling a potential outbreak of a contagious livestock disease was on Dr. Jeanne Rankin’s mind during the second day of the conference. The Montana State University Extension Agro-Emergency Projects Coordinator talked about how to spot Foot and Mouth Disease in cattle, sheep and pigs, how to reduce the risk of spreading FMD and what to do if a producer suspects an animal has a contagious disease. “A contagious disease like FMD wouldn’t just affect you. It would wipe out all of your neighbors, too, if it spread,” she said. Rankin and Dr. Carla Huston, Mississippi State University Beef Extension Specialist, led participants through a table-top Real Life FMD scenario in Montana to explore all of the logistics of managing such an outbreak and the implications for producers,



Attendants participated as Dr. Jeanne Rankin organized a table top demonstration and discussion on FMD



Eric Liska, DVM Department of Livestock, Animal Health Division informed attendants of his progress on the Montana State plan for disasters that would affect animal health.

Continued on pg 12

Save The Date

Oct. 7, FWP Citizens Advisory Council, Great Falls head Quarters

Oct 9, FWP Bison Discussion Meeting, Holiday Inn Great Falls

Oct 9 TICKETS for Prime Rib and Rib Tickler go on sale

Oct 16, FWP Commissioners Meeting, Bozeman

Oct 20 Comment Period for Waters of the US ends

Oct 21 What Does Your Bone Pile Look Like?
Composting Workshop, Marias River Electric Co-op, Shelby MT
8:30 am

Nov 3 Marias River Livestock Association
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING- voting for Directors
Ringside Ribs, Shelby MT 5:30PM

Nov 9- 11 MT Farm Bureau Convention, Billings hotel and
Convention Center

Nov 13 FWP Commissioners Meeting Helena

Nov 15 MRLA- 3rd Annual PRIME RIB AND RIB TICKLER

Nov 17 & 18 Board of Livestock Meeting Helena

Nov 20 Interagency Bison Management Plan council Meeting
Chico Hot Springs 8am – 5pm

Dec 4-5 Wool Growers Convention Billings & Livestock Loss
Board Meeting

Dec 11- 13 Montana Stockgrowers Convention

Jan 30 & 31 Montana's Next Generation Conference, Shelby MT

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News Nibbles

Thoughts on the Bison Issue

Vicki Olson, As a rancher member on the MT FWP Bison Discussion Panel, I feel like nobody is listening sometimes. But On the other hand, if you don't show up and give your side of the story then you have lost a chance.

The goal of these meetings at this time is to develop alternatives for a draft Scoping plan. I want to just say go for the No Change Alternative, but that probably won't solve the problem. And we have to read and see what each alternative says and what it means for the future.

It is very important for all of us to keep up with what is going on and let everyone hear from you and let them know the law states No Bison on private land unless you want them on yours. I am sure that is one thing that they will try to change this next Legislative session, but we must stand together and strong on this.

Bison are a species of their own and must be managed differently than other animals. The really crazy part is keeping the wild and domestic thing all straight. Anyway, keep informed and keep involved. We must not let others make all the decisions that affect our daily lives.

Deanna Robins, rancher-I have come to be very much against all of these discussion groups, advisory councils, etc., as they allow the agencies to choose who speaks for me. (Have to add that Deanna was not speaking of Vicki when she stated that. She was speaking to the fact that FWP or the Governor decides to have a panel or advisory group and then they determine who will be on it. Can that hunter, rancher or tribal member REALLY speak for everyone?? They certainly aren't elected by the people they represent.)

Continued Page 12

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Cont Gentle Hand from pg 10



Lynda Barker, Shelby, was one of the three winners of \$250 certificates for Sweet Pro feed from Agri Best Feeds, Billing MT.

Dean Lerum, Galata, and Kari Lewis, Cut Bank, were also winners of Certificates.

www.agribestfeeds.com

News Nibbles- bison from pg 11

John Steuber commenting on the "Conservationists" who petitioned Obama to stop the culling of the Yellowstone bison.

"They are not wildlife conservationists, they are wildlife protectionists. Wildlife conservationists look at the entire ecosystem then use science to manage wildlife to protect the environment. Wildlife protectionists care only about protecting all wildlife never mind the damage they may do to the environment if they overpopulate the land"

Taylor Brown, "Remember as you get into these issues--- it's not about bison, it's not about sage grouse or grizzly bears and it really isn't about water. It's about control of the land and the people. There are people advocating for the bison, and they are sincere, but they are being used by the people who have the agenda. "

FWP Bison Discussion Meeting, Oct 9th at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. 9:00am

policy makers and emergency providers.

All of the conference presenters included a plea for participants to use social media to share their thoughts and experiences. Ryan Goodman, communications manager for the Montana Stockgrowers Association, and Jude Capper helped participants learn how to use Facebook, Twitter and other media to tell their story.

"There are lots of improvements in handling systems on the ranch, in feedlots and at processors, but public doesn't know. They think a squeeze chute is a cattle torture chamber," said Grandin.

Share the positive aspects of ranching, Grandin advised, but be careful of aspects that the general public might not understand.

"If it won't look good on YouTube, don't do it. Every phone has a video," said Grandin.

Capper also encouraged participants to use social media.

"Sixty-six percent of people trust their family and friends. The average person has 338 Facebook friends. Social media posts are trusted. Share your life with people on Facebook," Capper said.

Once again, the Marias River Livestock Association organized and hosted an opportunity for sound, practical education.

MRLA president Maggie Nutter and the team of behind-the-scenes organizers exceeded expectations to provide a thoroughly worthwhile event.

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Temple Grandin And Curt Pate answer questions from the crowd and explain stockmanship theory

Continued from Big Ticket pg 6

industry – with the remainder derived from federal funds (approximately 15 percent) and state general funds (approximately 10 percent). In addition to the per capita fee, other state special revenues are derived from inspection and control fees, such as brand enforcement revenues, lab testing fees and milk inspection fees.” For more of the article go to <http://www.liv.mt.gov/news/2009/20090924.mcpx>

This is where the trouble started. The legislators were not as kind with the General Fund to the Department and the DOL (reserve) Fund Balance started dropping like a rock from 2009 to 2012 to the point that there is no reserve and cash flow became an issue. The Department though it stated it attempted to run leaner did not cut to the point of staying within their collected revenue. Hence the funny tricks with the budget that the State Audit found.

So here we are today. The Department of Livestock has committed to reducing positions (actual staff) and other expenses (travel and such), they will need to raise the per capita fee, Lab fees and the Brand Inspection Fee AND manage to get the legislature to fund them with \$800,000 this legislative session. If those things do not happen they will end up 2 million in the hole. The results would be drastic. No one at the meeting debated that.

George Harris and Christian McKay at the request of the Board (John Scully) will provide an itemized break down of expenses and revenue for each Division of the Livestock Department on a monthly basis so that the Board may track and see if they are getting sideways. If revenues are not what is predicted they will have to adjust expenditures downward. At some point these reductions will start to affect the services that the Department provides and possibly the existence of the Department as we know it.

There is strong rumor that two place holder bills have been created that would merge the Department of Livestock into the Department of Agriculture. Though this sounds as if there would be a saving of money by merging the two departments the only big change would be the Board and the CEO. Christian states there was a study done about 5 years ago and it determined that there would be little monetary saving by combining the two departments. (Christian say he will send that to me)

The Department of Agriculture is not excited about the possibility of merger either though they have done well with the getting the Horse Racing Division which was turned over to them headed towards the black (you can see this and hear it if you listen to their Audit Committee Hearing or pull up their audit and read it.)

BISON

Ervin Carlson and the Intertribal Council Attorney were there with a request to bring bison from the Bad Lands National Park (I believe) to the Fort Peck, Fort Belknap and Black Feet Reservation. Each Reservation was to get anywhere from 30 to over a hundred bison. The issue was that the bison do not have Calf hood vaccination for Brucellosis as required by state law, but the tribe argues that they are coming from a Brucellosis free state and going from one federal land to another federal land, therefore they do not believe that the state had jurisdiction over them. The Board was going to consult an attorney and find out what the rules and regulations on that would be.

Marty Z says that there has to be some regulation as if we were to take possibly brucellosis infected bison from Yellowstone and ship them to a reservation in any other state that state would be up in arms and try to stop it or perhaps have regulation over it. So heads up on that we hope to hear the legal opinion later.

Then there is a request from the Double T ranch to move bison from leased land in North Dakota to their Ranch up north of Browning on the reservation but privately owned. These bison also lacked the calf hood vaccinations. They presented a very though list of the precautions, testing and quarantine they would do to ensure the bison were and remain brucellosis free. The question John Scully brought forward is does the Board of Livestock or Marty Zalusky as State Vet have the right to wave that requirement. The initial finding was they do not have the authority to wave that and if they do what precedence does that set. Though the Double T seems to have it all together and is willing to go above and beyond with their self imposed quarantine and testing program there does not seem to be any way for the Department to enforce that they follow the agreement other than fines and possible quarantine. But the Double T is private land on the reservation. The question occurs though, If the bison wander onto reservation land what authority or power does the department have?? If they mingle with the Tribes bison would that be a risk for the Tribe? What if the tribe imports none vaccinated bison and they mingle with the Double T's is that a risk??

There is also an issue with the NILE as the Board Discovered that even though they had been waving the vaccination rule for Canadian cattle and out of state cattle the few years they now see that they do not have the authority to do so and will have to come up with alternative plan quickly.

Ability to grant waver for disease testing does not wave vaccination requirement.

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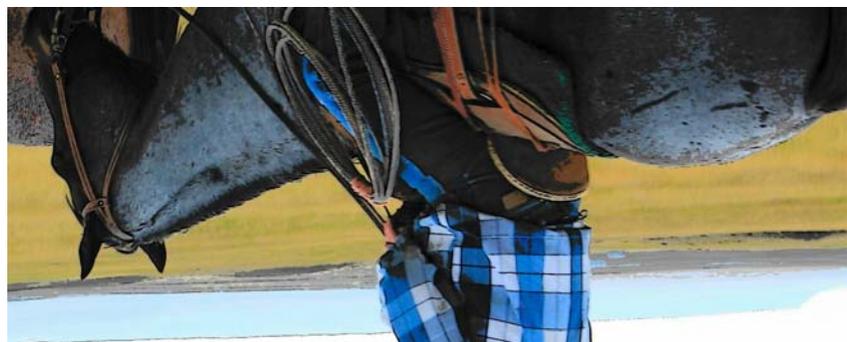
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