



January 2014
Volume 3, Issue 1

THE POST RIDER

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

Would You Like \$1000??

To earn \$1000 working at \$10 hour job it would take you about 125 hours due to the deductions that come out of your pay check. That is at least three weeks at a 40 hour a week job.

What if you could earn that money in 3-6 hours? Would it interest you then? What if it took you two days?

Nation Wide Agribusiness and Marias River Livestock Association are offering a \$1000 award for young livestock breeder under the age of 18 to help them purchase the breeding stock they need for their 4-H or FFA projects. Applications can be found at www.MariasRiverLivestock.com. Hurry! Deadline to turn them in is January 25, 2014.

Ask Yourself 2 Questions.

If you feel that succession planning does not need to be a priority, ask yourself this.

For the youth, do you want to be your dad's 50-year old hired man?

*For the parents, do you want your children to work **with** you — or **for** you? What will happen to your business — your decades of work, sacrifice and success — if you don't plan for "what if" situations in the future?-- Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of Agriculture for South Dakota*

We invite you to explore these questions at the Montana's Next Generation Conference. This conference is for all generations. Don't send your kid who wants to own the ranch some day and not go yourself. It is great frustration to them to learn what needs to happen and not be in a position to work towards the goal. It needs to be a family/team goal.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

\$1000	1
Montana's Next Generation	1
Prime Rib & Rib Tickler photo page	2
Herefords	3
Liberty County Cattle Petition	4
Membership Renewal	5
Jack Holden	5
Thank You to Sponsors	6
Bull Bucks	7
Jeanette Rankin	7
Musing of a Feed Salesman	8
Whittlings	9
Montana's Next Generation Registration Form	10
Montana's Next Generation Schedule	11
Ridin' for the Brand	12
Save the Date	13
Working for you	14
News Bites	14
Letter to Daines from Jewell	15



Kevin Spafford, the founder of Legacy by Design, will be the main speaker on Friday of Montana's Next Generation Conference. He is dedicated to helping farm and ranch families to communicate and engage in a succession planning process. See pages 10 & 11

Sharing The Fun

Here are photos sharing the fun from the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler. We were very lucky to have two photographers, Lindsey Foard Habets and Trina Jo Bradley, taking pictures at the event. The Marias River Livestock Association Board of Directors wants you to know that we appreciate your support and the support of the Sponsors. Without such generous sponsors we would not be able to provide the quality entertainment and numerous door prizes that we do.



Photo by Lindsey Habets
**Marias River Livestock
Board of Directors**

Top Row: Bob Thompson,
Marvin Kimmet, Butch
Gillespie, Second Row:
Maggie Nutter and Carrie
Sue Lerum,
Front Row: Janet Hawks, Jeff
Habets and BJ Brown.



Photo by
Trina Jo Bradley
Dick Kinyon
carving and
serving excellent
prime rib. His
lovely and good
humored wife Mary
Jane serves up
corn pudding. We
appreciate their
services and the
great food.



Photo by Trina Jo Bradley
Ken Overcast and Wylie yodel "Montana Lullaby"
accompanied by Overcast Granddaughters



Photo by Lindsey Habets

Carrie Sue Lerum,
Diana Thompson and
Janet Hawks
kept the ticket taking
and registration lively.



Photo by Lindsey Habets
Notice the **Power Point** slide
show going on the back wall
in this photo.
We want to thank Lindsey
Foard Habets for putting
together such a nice
presentation to showcase our
sponsors for the event and
the producers who participate
in the BULL BUCKS. Please say
"Thanks" to the businesses
that support us.

What Does The New Year Bring for Herefords

By Chad and Stephanie Murnin

2013 has been a historical year in the beef industry and the momentum can strongly be felt within the Hereford breeders in Montana and nationwide. This fall the Montana Hereford Association (MHA) hosted a successful tour highlighting North Central breeders. As well the annual MHA feeder calf sale held November 13 was a success. As evidenced in Three Forks, the market continues its trend of being red hot and this puts even more weight on the importance of hybrid vigor. Commercial cattlemen that have incorporated the use of Hereford bulls on black cows have been reaping the benefits and padding their pocket books. How might you ask? It can be as simple as increasing weaning weights. Many ranches in Montana have seen spikes of up to 10% in weaning weights by simply incorporating Hereford bulls. Recent studies conducted by Circle A Angus Ranch indicate that the black baldie cow as compared to a straight Angus has more profit potential. Results benefit the baldie cow by returning an average net income of \$51 more per year, a 7% higher conception rate, and added longevity.

Moving into 2014, the market is very good shape, the buzz about Hereford cattle continues to get louder, and hybrid vigor remains as one of the few free lunches in the industry.



Chad and Stephanie Murnin, Loma MT
Chad is a Director for the Montana Hereford Assoc

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www.diamonddangus.com

..hybrid vigor remains as one
of the few free lunches in the
industry.

Chad Murnin

A History of Herefords in Montana

"The abandoned, worn out and footsore cattle, brought westward by early pioneers, along the Overland trail through Utah to Oregon and California provided the beginning of the Montana cattle industry. In 1850 Richard Grant and sons began trading in Utah for worn out animals belonging to emigrants going to the coast, stock that were nearly all of good blood and only needed some rest and attention to make them fine animals again...." This is an excerpt from "A History of Herefords in Montana", a book compiled in 1995 by William and Fae Rolf. The book is available for sale for \$25 from the Montana Hereford Association. If you are interested contact the MHA Secretary Lacy Ehlke at info@montanahereford.org

Liberty County Cattle Petition Approved

By Maggie Nutter

Over the last year Bob Thompson has worked on getting signature on the Liberty County Cattle Petition for Predator Control. Last Wednesday, Jan 8th the County Commissioner after a public hearing passed the petition. There were signatures on the petition representing 90% of the cattle in Liberty County.

Jere VandenBos, Jeff Habets and others worked to get the Cattle Petition for Pondera County in 2012. Rick Schock spearheaded the gathering of signatures last spring for the Toole County Cattle Petition to increase the per capita fee paid by Toole County ranchers from the 1995 rate of 50 cents to the current rate of \$1.00.

Montana State Law or Montana Code Annotated (MCA) provides for County Commissioners with the recommendation of an organized association of cattle producers in the county to establish a predatory animal control program for the protection of cattle in their county (or counties may combine). With a petition signed by county residents owning at least 51% of the cattle in the county, as shown on the property tax records, the Commissioners are allowed to collect an annual per capita (per head of cattle) to help fund the predator control program.

Sheep are not included on Cattle petitions. There are separate petitions available to be signed and passed for counties that have sheep. Counties may have both Cattle and Sheep petitions in place at the same time. The Petition process is initiated by the cattle or sheep producers of a county who wish to reduce livestock losses to coyotes, wolves, red fox, black bears, grizzly bears, mountain lions, and so on. These cattle and sheep petition funds are then collected by the county from all cattle and sheep owners in counties that pass a petition.

USDA Wildlife Services then collects the funds from the counties and deposits them in a special Stock Grower Predator Control Account. One hundred percent of the funds collected by the County for the Cattle or Sheep Petition are utilized by USDA Wildlife Services for predator damage management in the county from where they were

collected. An independent auditor audits the Stock Grower predator account annually. The funds are used both for aerial hunting in the county and to support the government trappers time in the county.

Cattle and sheep Petition fees collected by the counties are completely separate from the Montana Department Of Livestock's per capita fee collected on the multiple kinds of livestock. Only a small percentage of the MDOL's livestock per capita fee goes to USDA Wildlife Services for predator damage management, about 8%.



John Steuber, USDA Wildlife Services State Director

John Steuber will be at the Montana's Next Generation Conference on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Shelby High School. He will be presenting about predator control, the livestock losses each year and where they get their budget and how the County Petition funds are used. He is more than willing to answer any questions may you have.

Steuber oversee all of the "State Trappers" such as Mike Hoggan, Kraig Glaizer and Steve Demerts.

Membership Renewal Time

We want to welcome you all back for another year, and encourage you to send in your membership renewals. Simply use the form to the right and check if you are a new member or renewing your current membership.

Membership runs from November to November.

Any person who became a member or paid their dues between May 2013 and November 30, 2013 are considered paid in full until November 2014.

We hope to see your check in the mail so we can continue to serve you and so that we can see we have your support.

Thank You
Maggie Nutter



We would like to offer up a big congratulations to Jack Holden of Valier. During the annual Montana Stockgrowers Convention in Billings Jack Holden was elected to the MSGA Board of Directors to represent the North Central District

We are excited to be working with Jack in this coming year.

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

Thank You To Our Sponsors

The last two years the businesses and individuals of this community have supported us in a very generous way. We are thankful that we are able to bring educational meetings, newsletters, The Prime Rib and Rib Tickler, awards for the Marias Fair and now we are helping with the "Montana's Next Generation Conference." All of these things have been made possible through the dues paid by members, the purchase of the auction items and the generous sponsorships of businesses.

Some are able to give much and some are able to give small amounts, but every dollar given is appreciated. We understand that money does not come easy to either members or businesses. It comes through hard work and good management.

Thank you again to all the businesses that sponsored the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler and to every member who has paid their dues and to the other who have donated money in support of our cause.

The following list is the businesses that helped to bring you the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler. If you get a chance to say thank you to them, please do.

Albertson's of Shelby
 Bear Paw Credit Union - Shelby
 Bear Paw Livestock
 Ben Taylor, Inc. dba: BTI Feeds
 Big R
 Big Sky Equipment Co.
 Billmans, Inc.
 Browning Lumber & Hardware
 Cherry Creek Radio- KMON
 Christiaens Meats - Valier
 CHS
 Coyote Club
 Cut Bank Tire, Inc.
 DrugMart - Cut Bank
 Dwaine J. Iverson, CPA
 First State Bank
 Frontline Ag, LLC
 Hi Line Web Design
 Hoven Equipment
 KSEN-KZIN
 Larson Clothing
 Montana Livestock Ag Credit
 Mountain View Co-op
 Nationwide Agribusiness
 Norman's Sport & Western
 Northern Ford
 Northern Livestock Video - Gary Buffington
 Northern MT Insurance Services
 Seubert Insurance

Shelby Paint and Hardware
 Steel Etc.
 Streamlight Corporation
 Tiber Agency LLC
 Torgersons LLC - Ethridge
 Tumbleweed Sales, LLC
 US Bank
 Walco Animal Health Intl
 Wells Fargo
 Western Livestock
 Zoetis



Photo by Trina Jo Bradley
 Rib Gustafson and his son Wylie sing
 "The Little Red Hen"

Bull Bucks 2013

Lance McDowell of Chester was the winner of the \$750 BULL BUCKS voucher drawing at the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler event Nov 15, 2013.

We are so happy to have the participation of the Registered Bull and Seedstock Female Producers in this area. Lance, there is no question that you will have great genetics to choose from.

There are numerous spring sales coming right up. I think about first in line is the Connelly Angus Sale Feb. 25, 2014. Then comes March with a slew of choices. Don't forget to give the many producers that sell private treaty a call too. There are great genetic right here close to home and we should be proud of that.

Jeannette Rankin, Kicking Horse

Gelbvieh Ranch was inducted into the American Gelbvieh Association Hall of Fame during the AGA National Convention in Denver, Colo. See the video on You Tube or Facebook.

Jeannette was a little busy and overwhelmed when I contacted her for an interview and asked if she could be interviewed at a later date. Jeannette has been involved in promoting the Gelbvieh breed since 1973.



BULL BUCKS 2013 Participating Producers

Diamond D Angus– Sale Nov 14, 2013 and some Spring Private Treaty www.diamonddangus.com

Bobcat Angus– Sale Nov 25, 2013
www.bobcatangus.com

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

Connelly Angus– Sale Feb 25, 2014
www.connellyangus.com

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

Apex Angus Sale March 4, 2014
<http://www.apexangus.com>

Flesch Angus– Sale March 7, 2014
www.fleschangus.com

Holden Hereford– Sale Date March 10, 2014
<http://www.holdenherefords.com/>

Turner Angus– Sale March, 2014 www.TurnerAngus.com

Rocky Ridge Angus– Sale March, 2014
Seed stock females

Hawks Angus– Sale March 17, 2014
www.hawksangus.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh– Sale March, 2014
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

Musings of a Feed Salesman

Jake "Spoon" Seavert

As general consumers we try and watch carefully on what we put into our bodies. This time of year is really hard as we go through the holiday season along with the shorter daylight periods. I experience this every year as I find myself always snacking on something, a grazer of winter seasons. Reading labels have become a habitual process in the grocery store. How much fat, protein and carbohydrates? We can relate these to energy and other daily needs (especially me when I am trying to lose a few pounds).

As producers we should be taking a really long and hard look at the same dietary needs on our cowherds. How much energy is our hay and rations providing the cows? What phosphorus and calcium levels are in there as well? Where's protein content? In some cases is there enough copper and zinc, or is the ratio to Molybdenum and Iron in abundance and tying these other minerals up to not be available for absorption in the hind gut for the cow?

Proteins are obviously going to change with the maturity of the plants when harvested; along with Phosphorus and other mineral levels. In my experience, these levels can also dramatically change from the conditions of the year whether it be drought or an overabundance of moisture.

I feel it is important to know if we are achieving the daily nutritional requirements of the animal. You can do this by testing your hay and other forage on a yearly basis. For a little fee you can do this with your hay or standing grass. Adjust protein and mineral supplements, feed more or less hay and ensure your cows are getting a complete balanced meal.

By knowing what you are feeding those factories out in the pasture you can ensure better conception rates, healthier live born calves and most importantly getting that factory ready to start producing another calf for the following year. An old cowboy told me once "you can't starve a profit out of a cow", and I use this motto to stand behind sound recommendations to my customers.

We can also look at the water sources available to our herd and see what antagonist are affecting or not affecting our diets. Water can change dramatically as well



Jake "Spoon" Seavert Nutritionist for Co-Feeds

depending on the course of weather we are having (ie. drought and abundant rainfall). Once we get an idea what the food and water sources are doing on a normal year we can then build a baseline on diets. From then on we may have to test when we see those conditions change above or below our baseline.

Don't be afraid to use your resources to improve efficiencies in your business to become better managers. You have the success at your fingertips, to improvise, adapt and overcome....Oorah!

If this doesn't reach you before, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Jake Seavert will be speaking on
Nutrition in
Heifer Development**

Saturday, January 25th

**Montana's Next Generation
Conference
Shelby High School**

WHITTLINGS....

Let the Chips Fall Where They May

By John J. Maatta

A New Year is upon us. What will 2014 portend for us as a nation? Will we be a positive world influence by returning to the precepts that made our land a model of what a God-driven democracy can do for its people? 2014 is an election year and candidates for a myriad of national, state and local offices will be doing their best to win your support and vote. Upon what are you going to base your support for an individual? Perhaps you are truly dedicated to a political party come what may and you'll take the easy way out and vote a straight ticket. Maybe you will be more discerning and consider the individual and where they stand on the issues of the day, be it economic, the Affordable Health Care Act, the war on terrorism, the NSA snooping into your affairs, illegal immigration, one's personal morality or perhaps where a candidate stands on the social issues that are such a perplexing dilemma in the minds of many. Maybe you will think about the candidate's stand on the historical vision that our founding fathers espoused and each candidate's interpretation of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with its Bill of Rights? Does the candidate hold to the vision that we are a nation that will continue to trust in God? These, I believe, are things that must be seriously considered.

Let us not be pessimistic as we go into the New Year before us. It is easy to be caught up in a cynical frame of mind as is pointed out in the first chapter of Ecclesiastes. Solomon wrote, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Says the Teacher.

Utterly Meaningless! Everything is meaningless." Various other translations use words such as futile or vain regarding how empty and worthless life seems, having no positive results or outcome.

It is true that we need to feel satisfaction in life and not many things are more satisfying than being able to look back at our work and efforts with a sense of accomplishment. It is good to feel that we have spent our time profitably. I, for one, have always wanted to feel useful and have a sense of purpose. Yet, as we see from Solomon, the opposite is often true. Sometimes it seems we are compelled to perform a dreary chain of duties which are only a repeat of all that has gone before.

On a national front, I believe America is similar to ancient Israel after the time of Solomon. Both of our countries were built upon a biblical foundation and dedicated to God's purposes. Like Israel after Solomon there was a slide to godlessness and immorality that America is also experiencing.

So what do we do? Do we look to the political candidates and parties with their promises to bring a little more meaning to our lives? Do we continue to live as we are in our slide to national mediocrity? Or maybe we need to look to someone else to give lasting purpose? Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." I like the word that is used in the King James Version - "abundantly." Jesus' promise to us is that our lives can be filled with newness and abundance. Is this not something to seriously consider as we go into the New Year?

Friends, have a Very Happy and Blessed 2014.

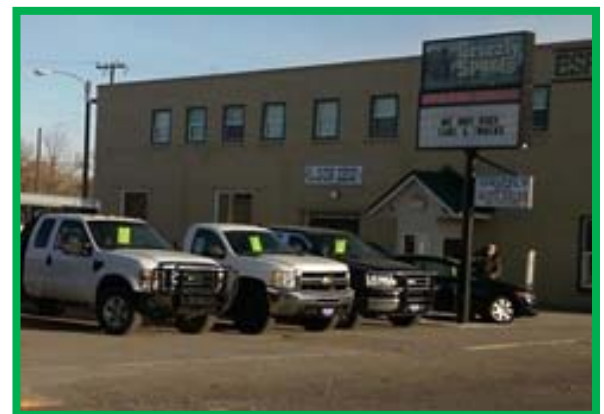


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Montana's Next Generation Conference Registration

Please enclose payment of **\$20/person/day** or **\$30/couple/day** with checks made payable to **MSU Extension**. Children will be **\$15/day**.

Return registration form and payment by **January 20 if possible** to:
Toole County Extension
226 1st St. South
Shelby, MT 59474.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone #: _____

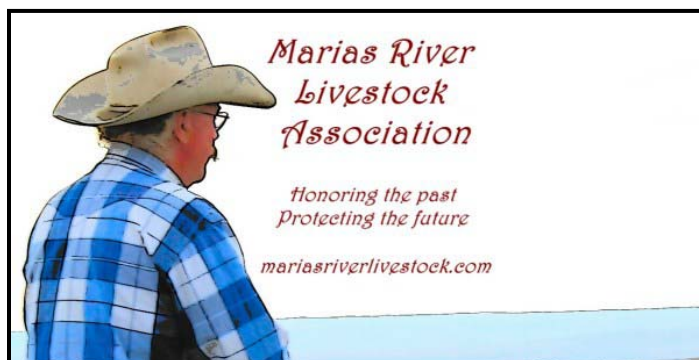
E-mail address: _____

Livestock & Crops Raised: _____

Names of Additional Family Members to Attend: _____

We are planning to have daycare provided by local youth. If this is something you would be interested, please list the names, ages and any allergies that the children attending may have:

Proudly brought to you in part



Montana's Next Generation Conference Schedule

Friday, January 24th – Coyote Club and Events Center – 137 Main St. Shelby, MT

Friday is all about Succession Planning

1–5 pm: Legacy Project workshops with Kevin Spafford

5 – 6:30 pm: No host social followed by Roast Beef Dinner

6:30 – 8:30 pm: Introductory Address – Curry Family, Valier MT
Discussion Panel mediated by Kevin Spafford with area succession planning experts including: Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension Specialist in Estate Planning; Dave Rindal, Investment Broker at First State Bank; Erik Nelson – Loan Officer at First State Bank; Curt Barnkoff—Accountant – Galusha, Higgins and Galusha; Bob Hermance—Toole County FSA; Brian Lee – Attorney– Lee Law Office; Vanessa Bucklin and Brett Keaster – Insurance Topics; Eric Torgerson and Curry Family—Local Producers and Business Owners.

Saturday, January 25th – Shelby High School Auditorium

Saturday contains Succession Planning along with livestock nutrition and health and crop care or planning.

9 – 12 pm: Workshops on: Financial Recordkeeping– Lacy Roberts, Estate Planning, Utilizing your CPA– Kurt Bonkoff, Nutrition for Heifer Development– Jake Seavert, Crop

Insurance– Wendy Fauque, Predator Control– John Stuber, Verified Beef–Ty McDonald, Beginning Farm Works– Mitch Konen, Precision Ag– Scott Moody, Updates in the seed industry

12–12:30 pm: Lunch – included in conference registration

12:30 pm – 5 pm: Rumen Health–Scott Anderson, Beef Cattle Nutrition– Travis Standley, Herd Health Management, Livestock Marketing– Ryan Perry & Mike Haze, EPDs– Jeff Flesch and Industry changes, Predator Control – John Stuber, Getting the most out of your fertilizer dollars– Scott Knapton, Crop Scouting, Grain Marketing, FSA and NRCS program changes, Advanced Farm Works– Mitch Konen and Producer Topics Discussion Panel– Wendy Fauque, Ken Johnson, Mitch Konen, Lyle Benjamin.

We then move back to the Coyote Club

5 pm to 10 pm: Taco Bar Dinner– again included in conference registration

Speakers and Sponsor will have Booths set up with information upstairs in the Coyote Club

Live Music downstairs at Coyote Club that night.

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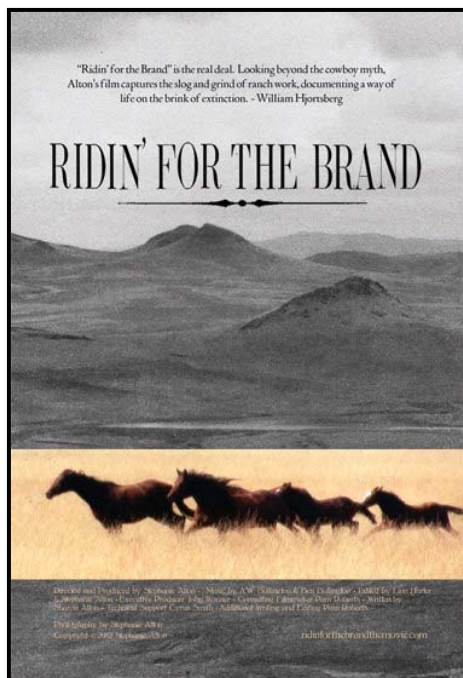
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Ridin' For The Brand

The Teton Cattle Women and the Marias River Livestock Association teamed up to bring the documentary film "Ridin' For The Brand" to Choteau on January 4th. There was a no host social time with complimentary beef hors d'oeuvres first where people could meet and get to know the film maker Stephanie Alton currently from Bozeman. Also Lisa Schmidt, Conrad area rancher and writer, and Ryan Goodman, Montana Stockgrowers Association were on hand to mingle.

In the film Alton shares her passion for the rancher's way of life and reveals how that lifestyle is being endangered by outside pressures of lost grazing, environmental and Government over regulation.

Flickers of city folk showing how disconnected they are from their food sources and the reality of the cowboys life display the need for there to be more connection between the city and the farm.

The discussion panel after the film reinforced the need for Rancher to share the story of what happens and why on their ranches. We need to get truth out before instead of after misinformation is spread by "undercover videos".



Butch Gillespie, V.P of MRLA and his wife Doreen mingled with the crowd.



CattleWomen Diane Collins and Maisie Johnson mingle with local ranchers



Lisa Schmidt and Stephanie Alton converse during the meet and greet.



Discussion Panel made up of Lisa Schmidt, Stephanie Alton, Ryan Goodman and facilitator Maggie Nutter

Save The Date

Jan 13 & 14 MT Dept of Livestock Board Meetings, Helena

Jan 14 7:00pm Public Comment Meeting for Region 4 Hunting Regulation Changes, Pondera Center, 311 S. Virginia Street, Conrad

Jan 16 7:00pm Public Comment Meeting for Region 4 Hunting Regulation changed, Community hall Fairfield

Jan 16-18 MAGI Show, Great Falls

Jan 24 & 25 Montana's Next Generation Conference, Shelby MT
More info at [www. MariasRiverLivestock.com](http://www.MariasRiverLivestock.com)

Feb 13 8:00am FWP Commission Meeting, Helena

March 19 & 20 MT Environmental Quality Council, Capital Bldg, Helena

March 13 8:00am FWP Commission Meeting Helena

April 10 Interagency Bison Management Plan Council meeting, C'Mon Inn Bozeman

June 27 Temple Gandin and More, Shelby Montana

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Wanted

Members willing to serve on the

Temple Grandin
Low Stress Livestock Handling
Event Committee.

Event will be June 27, 2014
Shelby High School
Lots of planning and work will need
to go into this event.

Call Maggie Nutter
937-2751
E-mail
nutter@notherntel.net

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BW: 87
205: 738

JOHN FLESCH
C: 406-450-1080

JEFF FLESCH
C: 970-290-4353
H: 406-337-3402

JOE FLESCH
C: 406-239-2660

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FLESCHANGUS.COM

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Working for You

Oct 16 FWP Citizens Advisory Council– Marvin Kimmet and Maggie Nutter

Oct 30 Next Gen Conference planning meetings
Maggie Nutter

Nov 1 Marias River Livestock Annual Membership Meeting.

Nov 1 Breeding for Success with NW Award committee Meeting– Janet Hawks, Carrie Lerum, Lindsey Habets, BJ Brown

Nov 6 Next Generation Conference planning meetings– Maggie Nutter Jeff Habets

Nov 11 & 12 MT Farm Bureau Federation Conference– Policy formation– Maggie Nutter

Nov 15 Prime Rib and Rib Tickler

Nov 18 Next Generation Conference Planning meetings– Maggie Nutter

Nov 26 MRLA Board meeting

Dec 3 Next Generation Conference Planning Meeting– Maggie Nutter, Jeff Habets, Bob Thompson

Dec 12–14 Montana Stockgrowers Convention– Butch Gillespie.

Dec 17 FWP Land Owner Meeting in Whitlash
Bob Thompson, BJ Brown, Maggie Nutter

Jan 4 Ridin' for the Brand film and discussion panel
Butch Gillespie and Maggie Nutter

Jan 7 FWP Citizens Advisory Council– Marvin Kimmet

Jan 8 Liberty County Commissioner meeting– hearing on the Cattle Petition– Bob Thompson.

Jan 10 Next Generation Conference Planning Meeting– Maggie Nutter

Info bites sent to Maggie from others

There was a legislative audit of FWP done on the block management program. You need to get a copy of this audit and the response from FWP to this audit.... The audit states "Between 2001 and 2012, the block management program provided almost 2 million in compensation for public hunting access to private lands where such access already exists through department conservation easements."The audit also states there are "significant control weaknesses exist" and the auditor which presented the audit to the EQC stated that because of the way FWP administers the block management program "there is opportunity for fraud".

Rep. Kerry White

Audit can be down loaded at

<http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Audit/Report/13P-04.pdf>

USDA AHPIS is taking comments on opening door to cheap Brazilian beef imports.

Sure you are aware just thought maybe someone could put this gov comment page on your website and encourage folks to not only comment but voice their opinions to our reps.

Ace Diemert

Comments can be made at

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017>

Read the Jewell article. Hopefully the HiLine opposition to monuments was recorded and noted in Washington but it does look like the west is in for another monument blitz. Ron Poertner

House Dems to prod Jewell on designations

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter, *Published: Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Legislative paralysis and partisan bickering have held up dozens of conservation bills in Congress, a signal that executive action is needed to protect the nation's most treasured landscapes, according to leading House Democrats.

..., the top Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, respectively, plan to lobby Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to push President Obama to designate national monuments.

They argue that Congress is running out of time to pass conservation bills.

The draft was roundly criticized yesterday by Republicans in the Congressional Western Caucus, who argued that Democrats are trying to get Obama to circumvent Congress.

"Congress taking the lead role in proposing national monuments guarantees the opportunity for input from surrounding communities, public hearings and a full review of the pros and cons of a given designation," the caucus said yesterday in a statement. "The one-sided approach congressional Democrats are asking for shuts local communities and land users out of the planning process."



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

NOV 21 2013

The Honorable Steve Daines
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Daines:

Thank you for your letter dated November 13, 2013, regarding your reaffirmed commitment to conservation and multiple use management of our public lands. The parks, refuges, monuments, and public lands that Congress and Presidents protected in the past safeguard our uniquely American heritage, provide our families a place to recreate, sustain watersheds and wildlife, and generate important economic activity in your State and around this Country.

I do believe, as I said in the National Press Club remarks your letter references, that we have a moral obligation to build on this legacy and to leave our lands, waters, and wildlife to the next generation in a better condition than we found them. Fulfilling that obligation could happen through legislation or may mean using the Antiquities Act, as have 16 Presidents of both parties over the course of more than a century, to protect 130 National Monuments at places like the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

As the Administration moves forward to determine what sorts of places may warrant protection, we will continue to focus our efforts on areas where there is a groundswell of local support. I am committed to continuing this Administration's public engagement and the involvement of local communities as an important part of considering any new designation. That is a commitment the President has made and has delivered on. Each of the nine designations made by this Administration to date was the result of strong local support and the type of "bottom-up" effort your letter endorses.

We are not driven by lists made in Washington, but respond to letters and invitations from citizens on the ground and members of Congress who have drafted legislation or invited me to their communities to see their most cherished lands and prized historic landmarks. These are places such as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, which members of Congress sought to protect.

There are dozens of bills in the House and the Senate right now by members of both parties that identify special areas that they want to protect. I am equally committed to work with Congress to make another public lands bill, like the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, a reality.

I look forward to working with you and all interested stakeholders as we move forward to preserve our Nation's treasures and build a conservation legacy for the next generation. A similar reply is being sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

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JEAN DE LA FONTAINE

