



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

## Board of Livestock Gives State Vet Authority To Waive Import Rules

By Maggie Nutter

Is giving one person power to waive the rules wise?

Giving authority does not remove responsibility.

At the Board of Livestock meeting in October 2014, it was realized that there was no authority for the State Veterinarian or the BOL to waive import requirements for animals being imported, though the BOL had been doing just that to allow for exemption for the NILE show. Zaluski presented the proposed rule changes to 32.3.206 and 32.3.2001 at the January 27, 2015 Board of Livestock meeting. While a rule change allowing the State Veterinarian to waive import requirements on a case by case basis may make sense on a test or health certificate being one day past the 60 day requirement or to waive the CAN brand for cattle coming in the NILE, it also opens the door to other more controversial waivers.

It is much easier to give permission than it is to take authority away. At the January 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Livestock meeting, State Veterinarian Dr. Marty Zaluski offered an Action Item revising the Administrative Rules to give authority to the State Veterinarian to waive importation requirements when it does not create a risk to Montana livestock, wildlife or public.

Board Member, John Scully argued that livestock producers should have the right to present their position and science prior to waiver being made and moved to authorize the proposals with changes to 206 and 2001 that would allow such decisions be subject to BOL approval. The motion died for lack of a second. There was discussion that ensued and Dr. Szymanski offered to wordsmith options so that there would be limits on what could be waived by the State Vet and what would need Board approval.

Jan French felt that Dr. Zaluski was trustworthy and that micromanagement was not needed. The changes passed with two Board Members opposed.

(4) The state veterinarian may waive requirements for animals imported into Montana on a case-by-case basis if granting the waiver does not create a threat of disease to livestock or to the public.

(4) remains the same but is renumbered (5).

AUTH: [81-2-102](#), [81-2-703](#), [81-2-707](#), [81-20-101](#),

Cont. pg 11 Waive the Rules

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## Intertribal Bison Council Asks to Have Bison Importation Rules Waived

Ervin Carlson and Majel Russel, Intertribal Council Attorney attended the Board of Livestock Meeting for a second time January 27, 2015 asking for a waiver of the bison import rules. They first attended the September 2014 BOL meeting with the request. Below are excerpts from the minutes of **September meeting** which show three requests that were made for waivers from **three different groups**.

Animal Health, Marty Zaluski

Action Items

1. Proposed variance ARM 32.3.244 - Domestic Bison

o Dr. Robin Parker presented a request from a Montana bison producer to import non-calfhood vaccinates for adult vaccination in Montana post calving. The herd to be moved from South Dakota to property near Babb, Montana, consists of 267

Continued page 15 Tribal waiver



Lacy Roberts, Glacier County FSA, Event organizer and borrower training



**Montana's Next Generation Conference**  
All photos on this page by Trina Jo Bradley  
Above is Dan Majerus, Stockman Bank and Cyndi & Ken Johnson, Front Range Counties Farm Bureau. Both Stockman Bank and Farm Bureau helped to sponsor this event.



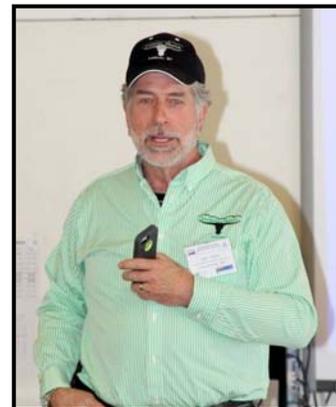
Boo Boo Bird, Browning was one of the producer on the Livestock Panel.



Troy Wanken, Bill Fenner and Mike Hoggan enjoy a conversation during break.



Pat Wheeler, Frontline Ag – Spoke about Advanced Precision Ag Topics Frontline Ag was also one of the sponsors



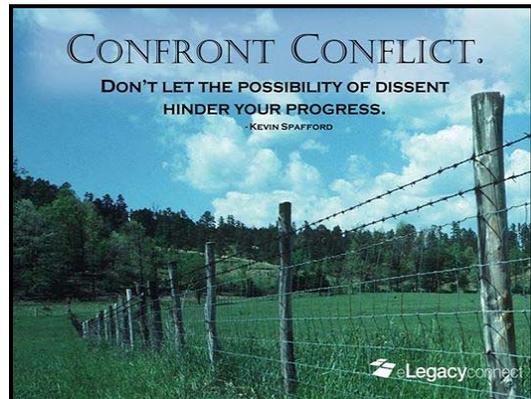
Lyle Allen, Lewistown Livestock Was there to help with Beginning Livestock Marketing.



Pat Greany, Leavitt Great West Insurance – Worker's Compensation



Jack Brown and Shannon Ireland ponder what they are learning about succession planning



You can follow Kevin Spafford on Facebook

# Board of Livestock Meeting

## February 25, 2015

### Twelve Day Milk Date Rule

This topic continues to haunt the Board of Livestock as Core Mark seeks to have the rule changed. In Montana milk is to be removed from the shelf at 12 days after its pasteurization date. Science shows that the milk is safe for 21 days after pasteurization but the BOL understands that in Montana the consumer often has to drive 20 to 50 miles to purchase milk and often purchases multiple gallons.

*The Montana Supreme Court in July of 2014 unanimously upheld the District Courts decision supporting the state Board of Livestock's decision to keep its rule providing for a "sell-by" date for milk of 12 days after pasteurization after Core-Mark had sued them.*

The Board believes that they are protecting the consumer by providing milk that will have a long shelf life after purchase. Core Mark would like to be able to double date the milk as they do in other states. One date would be past the 12 day limit. They state that enforcement of the rule will prevent them from being able to do business in Montana.

Ed Waldner, Board Member states, Core Mark provides 4% of the milk sold in Montana. If it is such a bad rule where are the other 96% of the Milk Providers? Our duty is to provide fresh good tasting milk to the consumer. (Thank you Ed!)

The Board will investigate if the 12 day rule unnecessarily injures Core Marks ability to do business.

### Request to fill open positions (pretty much denied)

John Granger, Brands Division, came with a request to fill the open positions that had recently been created in the Brands Division. Open Positions included District Brand Investigator from Still Water/ Carbon/ Sweetgrass counties, Great Falls Market Brand Inspector, Ramsay/Headwater Market Inspector, ½ time position for Cattle Data Input Clerk and Horse Date Input Clerk, Helena Office.

The payout of vacation time, sick leave, and compensation time for all 5 positions was approximately \$36,328, with the payout to the District Investigator alone being \$29,406. Due to poor cash flow in the DOL it would be extremely difficult to have to pay off multiple long time employees.

The open positions will not be filled until after June 30, 2015 which is the end of the fiscal year. The open Market Inspectors positions will be covered by the District Inspectors and Supervisors. This could mean added expense of overtime pay for the District Inspectors and Supervisors. (It would be kind of fun to run the math on whether that pencils out well.)

The District Brand Investigator Position for District 21

will be eliminated and that district divided up amongst the 3 districts north of it: Districts 4, 19 and 17. The Inspector from District 21 will then be transferred to District 4 (Carbon/Still Water/ Sweetgrass).

In order for the current brand inspections to be input into the computer system and back log of data input for brands to be caught up all positions in the Helena office will be expected to assist in data input. So the Brand Clerks, Marty Clark, Supervisor, and John Granger, Division Head, will all be working on that project until they are hopefully able to hire new clerks after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Executive Officer Evaluation

Despite all the letters the BOL had received from Industry Groups, individuals and Legislators asking that an evaluation of the Executive Officer be done, despite having discussed the need to evaluate the Executive Officer as directed in the BOL Procedures and Guidelines during the January meeting, despite having scheduled a special meeting in February for the Evaluation, and despite the Evaluation being allotted 90 minutes on the Agenda which is sent out two weeks prior to the meeting all but two of the Board members came unprepared. Pretty disappointing. Pretty amazing. Pretty sad. John Scully moved that they each complete the evaluation forms (He and Jeff Lewis had already completed theirs) and that they then review them together and then present them to Christian MacKay. MacKay would then have a chance to respond to the evaluations. This should be completed at the next meeting.

### Budget

George Harris presented the Monthly Financial Review. All Departments that utilize per capita revenue are managing to fall within their goals for reduced expenditures except the Brands Division. The monthly review of the finances of each Division has been a huge success in tracking revenue and cutting expense. It has also been helpful for finding issues that need addressed as the Department moves forward and plans for the next biennium. The review has brought in accountability.

Scully made a motion and it passed requesting a written plan that will show how the Brands Division plans to meet the year end objectives. Plan is to be submitted prior to the March meeting so the BOL can review it.

### Scully's three page request

John Scully presented the board with multiple motions which were voted on and passed and three pages of suggested actions or information points, which MacKay, Harris and Division Heads are to compile in a timely fashion. This information will help to provide the Legislators and industry with solid and consistent information and will be utilized to develop plans on how to move forward.

## WHY are the Dietary Guidelines important to us?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Human Health and Services (HHS) base many of their policies on the Dietary Guidelines. That means the Dietary Guidelines determine what will be in school lunches, what will be taught in classrooms as good nutrition, what is fed to the military, what is fed in prisons and what foods are available through WIC and SNAP. Since the 1980s- school halls, magazines, TV and now the internet have been filled with images of the Food Pyramid and My Plate.

## They don't always get it right

A committee, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to be exact, reviews the Guidelines every 5 years and ensures they include the most recent and accurate science. The problem with this is they don't always get it right. You will see that this year the Advisory Committees Report loosens up on cholesterol and caffeine. It Finds that current science doesn't support them as evil as they had thought, besides they have new enemies to battle: Sugar, Salt and Red Meat. Seems that even though lean red meat carries the Heart Healthy label and is nutrient dense they are concerned about how red meat production affects the environment.

## Sustainability

There is much debate on whether the Dietary Guidelines should reflect current concerns about sustainability of food production and the high amount of food waste.

Recently there have been some "news" articles that praise the just released Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee for looking at the health of the planet as well as our diet. While looking at sustainability sounds very noble much of their science is questionable and good science is ignored. Many articles state there were 15 experts on the Committee, I question experts in what??? Specializing in human health and nutrition does not mean you are an expert in sustainable food practices. I also question their motive. Are they truly concerned about my diet and health or are they focused on a green agenda?

On the Change.org website there is a petition which was created by Jillian Fry, who works at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

"Petitioning Secretaries Tom Vilsack and Sylvia Burwell, Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services  
This petition will be delivered to:  
Secretaries Tom Vilsack and Sylvia Burwell,  
Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services

## Resist pressure from big food corporations to remove sustainability from the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. By Jillian Fry, PhD, MPH, Baltimore, MD

On Facebook I am seeing posts by organizations promoting sustainability—less meat more plant based diets in the Dietary Guidelines. The public comments that were submitted while the Scientific Report on Dietary Guidelines was being written are also very biased towards plant based diets and aggressive towards meat. Am I concerned?? Yes!

The Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has been put up for public comment prior to the USDA and HHS writing the new Guidelines that will be in place for the next 5 years. The Scientific Report is over 500 pages long and discusses many topics and issues. To try to comment on the whole document and all of its attachments could be overwhelming, but I encourage you to comment anyway. They suggest comments of 250 words or less. You can read the report, other people's comments and make a comment yourself by going to <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2015/comments/>. Comments must be submitted by April 8, 2015. (Unless they extend the comment period to 90 days as is being requested by many groups.)

Written comments to the federal government on the [Advisory Report](#) are encouraged and will be accepted through midnight E.D.T. on April 8, 2015.

Please provide a brief (250 words or less) summary of the points or issues in the comment text box.

If also providing literature or other resources, complete citations or abstracts and electronic links to full articles or reports are preferred instead of attaching these documents to the comment.

There is a **20** minute time limit to complete this form, and you cannot save and return to a partial comment later. If you anticipate needing more than **20** minutes to draft your comment, we suggest that you compose the message separately and copy and paste it into the form.

# SB 100

## Feral Hogs

Senate Bill 100: "AN ACT GRANTING THE BOARD OF LIVESTOCK THE POWER TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE FERAL SWINE; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, HUNTING, AND OTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO FERAL SWINE"

When this bill was introduced this legislative session there were chuckles and joking. It seems so far fetched as most people think of wild pigs in places like Texas or Louisiana. With the harsh winters of Montana it just didn't seem real necessary for such a bill to be introduced.

All over the United States and Canada feral hogs are a growing concern. They have been reported in 47 states and USDA Wildlife Services believes there is growing free range populations in at least 35 states. The Canadian Government reports wild swine in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. Sightings in areas as close as Cardston and south of Swift Current makes the possibility of feral hogs moving into Montana seem very real.

Though the population here in the north is not as rapidly growing as in the southern states, the wild swine can and do survive the northern winters. The extra fat that they can gain eating farm crops allows them to survive the food lean winters. Also being omnivores they can be hard on the game bird populations, small mammals and even small livestock.

In the Calgary Sun, March 2013 article, "Feral boars cutting a destructive swath across Canada's wilderness" reports

*An infestation of as many as 3-million feral boars is shredding wilderness and crops, displacing wildlife and threatening to spread disease, say those who've mounted an extermination campaign that can't keep pace with the animals' rapid breeding....*

*"There's a small contingent of people ecstatic for the hunting opportunities but if you're in the conservation or agriculture business, you know it's a very bad thing," said Brook, of the University of Saskatchewan.*

*While other wild mammals gently consume grass and leaves, says Brook, "wild boars eat everything and act like a rototiller."*

*Boars, he said, can also pose a physical threat, with a size that can exceed 150 kg, armed with sharp tusks.*

*For now, the impacts the feral critters have had on the prairies has been limited, acknowledges Brook, but females' ability to reproduce typically two litters of as many as six piglets a year starting from the age of six months can't be overlooked.*

*"Without natural predators, a good number of those 12 will survive," he said.*



Serious feral hog research done in preparation for this article. Kelly Mothershead, Maggie Nutter and Steve Osgood with their hogs harvested in Louisiana, Feb 2015

*"You can knock them back by 50 percent every year and have no appreciable decrease to the population.".....*

*Phil Merrill (Alberta Pest Specialist) said it's possible the failure of a number of Alberta boar farms in the mid-2000s gave rise to the problem, with the possibility their pigs were simply released or more-easily escaped.*

*"They could also be from previous escapees," he said. And he said the perimeters of a few of Alberta's dozen boar ranches continue to be porous.*

CBS News, Saskatchewan, May 28, 2014 article, "More wild boars than people possible in Saskatchewan, expert says--U of S biologist says more aggressive eradication programs needed"

*"...The furry, tusked animals were introduced to the province as exotic livestock in the 1990s, but it's believed some escaped or migrated from other areas.*

*They have adapted well to the province's harsh climate and have been breeding at an alarming rate since. Wild boar are believed to have some of the highest reproductive rates of all large mammals, with two litters a year of six or more piglets at a time.*

*"I think many people in Saskatchewan are not aware of how severe the impacts of feral boar can be," Brook said in a news release. "In the U.S., the impacts are in the billions of dollars from disease, crop damage, livestock harassment, impacts on natural ecosystems and species at risk, and attacks on humans."*

Please continue to support the passing of SB 100 as it makes its way through the House and on to the Governor. Feral pigs just aren't that funny.

## If we Cowboy'd Like the Movies

If we cowboy'd like the movies  
we'd ride the range all day long  
from sunrise 'til the dark comes  
on horses Iron-man strong.  
Cuz they could gallop for miles  
and never break a sweat on the ride;  
nor drink at the rivers we'd run through  
without a slow'n up their stride.  
Our ropes would flap and clatter  
as we waved them all about  
to move cattle down the trail  
with whoops and yells and shouts.  
The cattle would never duck up a draw  
and never stall in the drag  
tho' we'd ride in the middle of the herd  
without leaders to point the way.  
I don't try to ride like the movies,  
I'd be laughed right off the crew;  
and my horse would probably dump me  
if I bounced around like they do!

GPS 2015

### Marias River Livestock Membership Application

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do YOUR GOALS INCLUDE:

- PASSING THE REINS TO WELL-PREPARED NEXT GENERATIONS?
- PRESERVING YOUR FARMING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?
- PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME?

THEN  
**SUCCESSION**  
IS FOR YOU.

KEVIN SPAFFORD

 Legacy  
connect



Hawks Angus

# Generations of Good Genetics at Hawks Angus

Hawks Angus is a family owned and operated ranch located in North Central Montana. The ranch is nestled away on the east side of an area called the "Sweet Grass Hills". We call it home.

Back in 1941 Adrian's Grandfather, Clarence Hawks purchased some of the first Black Angus heifers in the area. Since that time the Hawks' family has raised commercial Angus cattle. In the mid-1980s Adrian and I began to build a registered herd with the philosophy to breed cattle for quiet, workable dispositions, to be easy fleshing with natural thickness, and have tight udders, while being moderately framed.

We have 3 children, Kimberly, Kari and Cory, and are very proud of their accomplishments and work ethic. All have been participants in our operation but after the girls attended college they took different paths. Kimberly is a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Pediatric GI, while Kari went on to become a grade school teacher. Cory on the other hand, along with his wife Belinda, has joined the operation. They purchased the ranch next door and now Hawks Angus runs 300 head of registered cattle along with a small grain operation. Cory and Belinda are also proud parents of the 3rd generation Hawks Angus, Jaxon Adrian Hawks and are expecting a little girl in May.

Our cow herd runs on native and domestic grass grown on the two ranches in the Hills. After weaning we develop the calves at the ranch using a high roughage feed made with some of the products we have grown on our farm. We have held our annual bull sale the third Monday for almost 20 years. This year the sale will be no exception, it will be



Cory Hawks and his wife Belinda show son Jaxon how to tattoo a calf ear.



Cory, Belinda, Janet and Adrian Hawks all invite you to join them at the Hawks Angus Sale. There will be good food, good people and great cattle.

March 16, 2015. We still focus on balanced traits, fertility, longevity, good udders and good dispositions. We have always tried to raise cattle that will work for the commercial cattleman.

Please do not hesitate to give us a call anytime or come take a look at our operation; we would be more than happy to show you our ranch and cattle.

We definitely would like to remind everyone that we will be selling a heifer in the sale and give half the proceeds to **Hi-Line Women against Breast Cancer**. Because of the loss of my mother to breast cancer, this wonderful organization holds a special place in my heart. It reaches out and helps others in our own community, whether it be to help with bills, with travel expenses, or just being a friendly voice holding a person up. It is a worthy organization that truly does appreciate any donations they receive.

WABC  
Po Box 154  
Chester, MT 59522

Janet Hawks  
taking phone bids  
at their sale.



Ty Thompson,  
Auctioneer  
And  
Adrian Hawks  
in the auction box

## Congratulations

Kamron Ratzburg, son of Bryan and Cathy Ratzburg, Sunburst, has been elected President of the Montana State University Collegiate Stockgrowers for 2015. Kamron is a sophomore at MSU majoring in Animal Science with the Pre-Vet option. Bobcat Angus is lucky to have such an active and motivated next generation looking to return to the operation in the future.



[www.bobcatangus.com](http://www.bobcatangus.com)

Bryan Ratzburg 405-937-5858  
John Goggins 406-698-4159  
Ernie Ratzburg 406-788-3244

We'll see you in November 2015 at our  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Production Sale

## BULL BUCKS 2013 Participating Producers

**Flesch Angus**– Sale March, 2015 [www.fleschangus.com](http://www.fleschangus.com)

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

**Turner Angus**– Paul Turner 406-434-2823  
[www.TurnerAngus.com](http://www.TurnerAngus.com)

**Diamond D Angus**– Sale Nov 13, 2014 and some Spring  
Private Treaty [www.diamonddangus.com](http://www.diamonddangus.com)

**Bobcat Angus**– Sale Nov 24, 2014 [www.bobcatangus.com](http://www.bobcatangus.com)

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

**Diemert Ranch Herefords**– Ace & Tara Diemert 432-3412  
[http://www.ngrbulls.com/diemert\\_ranch\\_herefords.htm](http://www.ngrbulls.com/diemert_ranch_herefords.htm)

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

**Superior Livestock Video Auction**–  
Steve Reeverts 450-4586

**Hawks Angus**– Sale March 16, 2015 [www.hawksangus.com](http://www.hawksangus.com)

**Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh**– Sale March, 2015  
[www.kickinghorseranch.com](http://www.kickinghorseranch.com)

**Gillespie Show Cattle**– Butch & Doreen Gillespie 337-2943  
or 949-4453, [www.gillespieshowcattle.com](http://www.gillespieshowcattle.com)

**Enneberg Angus Ranch**– Jason and Pamala Enneberg  
406-845-4901 [EnnebergAngusRanch@ymail.com](mailto:EnnebergAngusRanch@ymail.com)

**Tomsheck Angus**, Darold and Lorna Tomsheck,  
406-937-3726 [www.blackranchesinc.com](http://www.blackranchesinc.com)

## Did the fat lady sing?

On February 20, 2015 after 9 months of negotiation, International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association (which is the shipping companies and port terminal operators) came to a 5 year agreement. Depending on the source of information the 29 ports along the coast that stretches from southern California north to the Canadian Border handles about 25% to 30% of the United States international trade. While many retailers like clothing and electronic stores complained about late shipments and empty shelves and seasonal items too late to use and you can understand the financial strain of it, but agriculture took the big hit.

Much of the products that agriculture produces are perishable. California, already suffering from drought, has seen a huge loss in the grapes and almonds that they would normally export. Up to 25% of the citrus produced in California this time of year is for export. Farmers sit by helpless, while produce rots in containers sitting on the docks. Others such as the Washington apple growers have dumped truckloads of spoiling apples in ravines; apples that were to be sent to China for the Chinese New Year's celebrations.

In a USA Today news article Peter Friedmann, executive director of the Agriculture Transportation Coalition, stated; "We know that even upon ratification, clearing up the congestion will take months. Agriculture has taken a beating." As a result of the work slowdown many orders for meat, fruit, hay, cotton, rice, nuts, and potatoes (French fries) were diverted to suppliers in other countries. Containers setting full of produce on docks for weeks longer than anticipated will be a major monetary loss and possibly loss of future contracts for those producers.

Closer to home, in a Bloomberg Business report article Barry Carpenter, president and chief executive officer of the North American Meat Institute stated "The short shelf life of chilled beef and pork makes timely delivery critical. Our cold chain simply cannot sustain this backlog much longer and our employees should not be forced to experience the lost work days that may result if we must slow or stop production in some of our plants."

**Meat and poultry exporters are being hit with an estimated \$40 million a week in lost sales and extra costs, with up to \$45 million in weekly hide and skin export sales lost.**

So the 20,000 Longshoremen and Warehouse workers are back to work, but the results of their work slowdown will affect agriculture producers for months if not years to come.

## Grand Canyon National Park frets over Bison

In 1906 Charles "Buffalo" Jones established a herd of bison on a Forest Service grazing permit in Arizona with the hopes of creating a hardy beefalo. This experiment failed and he sold the bison to Jim Owens in about 1926. These bison then became the core of the bison managed on the House Rock Wildlife Area in the Kaibab National Forest. Unfortunately in the late 1990's the bison left the Wildlife Area and migrated into the Grand Canyon National Park. SO here we have domestic bison being purchased and becoming wildlife. The reason for the scoping process is the bison are causing great damage to the National Park and as of 2013 have a recruitment rate of 50% a year. In 2013 there were about 300 and the herd now numbers closer to 600. Hunting is used to control population off the National Park but is not affective.

Below are excerpts from the Public Scoping process the Grand Canyon National Parks and Arizona started last year April, 2014.

"Arizona purchased 98 animals from Owens in 1926. These animals became the core bison herd in Arizona, forming the House Rock and Raymond bison herds. Since 1950, the AGFD has managed the bison in the House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA) on the Kaibab National Forest through an interagency agreement with the USFS and BLM.

By the late 1990s, the House Rock herd was spending more time off HRWA and venturing into the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park. Over the last several years, few bison have returned to HRWA, and most now spend a majority of their time inside the park, with many not leaving the park at all.....

**In 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) chartered a Bison Conservation Initiative to improve bison management among its various bureaus, including the National Park Service. Guided by our mission and DOI initiatives, the NPS seeks to work with our partners to conserve and manage bison as wildlife, as appropriate based on ecological role, best available science, governing laws and policies, and long-term public interest.**

Additionally, the NPS must manage bison to ensure other resources and values are protected, and this has resulted in some level of bison management in all cases where they occur on NPS land. In the case of Grand Canyon National Park, the bison in this herd have learned to avoid human interactions, such as hunting, and their current movement (e.g., when/where bison travel), distribution (e.g., where they spend their time), and abundance (e.g., the number of animals) creates concerns for other park resources such as soils, vegetation, archeological sites, and water resources. Additionally, the NPS has the opportunity to help our partners in providing bison hunting opportunities outside the park to meet their bison management goals."

## Letter from Ken Miller

Mark Twain said "No man's life, liberty, or properties are safe while the legislature is in session."

In the final week before the legislatures transmittal break many bills are thrown in at the 11th hour in effort to slide under the radar. One such bill is HB 454. HB 454 changes the way Precinct Committee Representatives, (which is the grassroots of political parties), are elected or appointed. The current system has worked well because it was based on "We the People" from every community deciding who holds these positions.

Currently individuals file and run for these positions like other candidates and are elected from the voters in their precinct. When there are vacancies, then the county central committee's which are elected representatives can appoint individuals to those vacant spots, thus giving the county central committees control. These elected positions decide who leads the party and help form the party platform. Precinct Committee Representatives also help recruit and elect candidates that are consistent with the will of the people in that community.

If HB454 passes, that will all change. HB454 states that "the party" could decide who fills these positions. "The Party" could even decide to eliminate the election process and just appoint these positions.

While HB454 does not define what "the party" is as a former State GOP Chairman I can tell you that under this language the state chairman could decide who holds these positions. Trust me; the State Party Chairman should not have more power. Top down decision making, instead of involvement from the grass roots, is very dangerous. Even if the bill is amended to specify the Party is made up of the county chairs or boards, it takes away the power of We the People and could cause a whole set of new problems. The process that we have now has worked well for many years and the claim that lots of money could be saved by having the hierarchy appoint the positions, is just not factual. There is no good reason for this bill.

HB 454 made it out of committee and is headed to the house floor. Democrats and Republicans alike should see through this very bad piece of legislation.

Join me and contact the Representatives today and tell them if they believe in rule by "We the People" they must vote NO on HB454.

**Ken Miller**

*Letters reflect writer's opinions  
The bill passed out of the House of Representative with 53 Yeas and 46 Nay and 1 absent on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. It will now go to the Senate to be voted on. You can go to [www.leg.mt.gov](http://www.leg.mt.gov) and click on "Bills" and find HB 454 to read and also there you can see who voted for and against the bill. This Bill is worth researching.  
Maggie*



## Movin' On

Marias River Livestock Association would like to thank Jeff Habets for serving as a Director for Pondera County on the MRLA Board of Directors.

Jeff was recently elected as President on the Marias Fair Board and felt he needed to focus as much time as possible on his new position so has resigned from the MRLA board. Jeff has served on the Fair Board since 2012 and enjoys working with people. He hopes to be able to contribute to building the Fair up and continue it as a great summer event for the four county area.

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Cont. from pg 1 Waive the rules

MCA

IMP: [81-2-102](#), [81-2-703](#), [81-20-101](#), MCA

REASON: The proposed amendment adds language which gives the state veterinarian authority to provide exemptions for import requirements. The citation [81-2-703](#), MCA, is added and required for importation – exemptions, and [81-2-707](#), MCA, is added and authorizes department rulemaking power

While the argument can be made that Dr. Marty Zaluski has the educational background to make science based and wise decision, there is also the point that this change gives authority to the State Veterinarian position and we do not know who may fill that position in the future. It would be naive to think that political pressure to look at one sided science or ignore science could not come into play. In reviewing the [Board of Livestock Procedures and Guidelines](#), it is found the “Board, as head of the DOL, has the duties and powers of a department head, as provided in Section 2-15-112 MCA.”

(2) Except as otherwise provided by law, each department head may:

(a) subject to law, transfer employees between positions, remove persons appointed to positions, and change the duties, titles, and compensation of employees within the department;

(b) **delegate any of the functions vested in the department head to subordinate employees;**

Under Chapter III of the [Board of Livestock Procedures and Guidelines](#) section 2:

2. Animal Health Division functions to:

A. Provide coordination of the diagnosis, presentation, control and eradication of animal diseases.

b. **Monitor and enforce import/export requirements applied to livestock;**

c. **Enforce state and federal animal health laws and rules:**  
(and so on)

Waiving import requirement is contrary to the defined function of the Animal Health Division.

While the Board may be able to “delegate” the functions/ authority, they are not able to rid themselves of the accountability for the decisions made. A prime example could be made by the budget issues the Department of Livestock is now suffering. By giving the authority to waive rules pertaining to animal importation to an employee the Board is not upholding their responsibility to the livestock industry and weakening their ability to achieve the mission statement **“To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.”**

There are three separate rule change notices posted for public comment on the Department of Livestock website right now. You can read these under the “ARM Notices” heading. The comment period for “Notice 32-15-260 Exemptions Granted by State Veterinarian” ends March 26, 2015, so you will need to jump on these to let them know your point of view.

## How do you take action on purposed rules changes?

5. Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments in writing concerning the proposed action to Christian Mackay, Department of Livestock, 301 N. Roberts St., Room 308, P.O. Box 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001, by faxing to (406) 444-1929, or by e-mailing to MDOLcomments@mt.gov to be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 26, 2015.

6. If persons who are directly affected by the proposed action wish to express their data, views, and arguments orally or in writing at a public hearing, they must make a written request for a hearing and submit this request along with any written comments they have to the same address as above. The written request for hearing must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. March 26, 2015.

7. If the department receives requests for a public hearing on the proposed action from either 10 percent or 25, whichever is less, of the persons who are directly affected by the proposed action; from the appropriate administrative rule review committee of the Legislature; from a governmental subdivision or agency; or from an association having not less than 25 members who will be directly affected, a public hearing will be held at a later date. Notice of the public hearing will be published in the Montana Administrative Register. Ten percent of those persons directly affected has been determined to be more than 25, based upon the approximately 700 veterinarians and approximately 1,500 producers.

8. The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name, e-mail, and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies for which program the person wishes to receive notices. Notices will be sent by e-mail unless a mailing preference is noted in the request. Such written request may be mailed or delivered to the contact person in 5 above or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the department.

9. An electronic copy of this proposal notice is available through the Secretary of State's web site at <http://sos.mt.gov/ARM/Register>. The Secretary of State strives to make the electronic copy of this notice conform to the official version of the notice, as printed in the Montana Administrative Register, but advises all concerned persons that in the event of a discrepancy between the official printed text of the notice and the electronic version of the notice, only the official printed text will be considered. In addition, although the Secretary of State works to keep its web site accessible at all times, concerned persons should be aware that the web site may be unavailable during some periods, due to system maintenance or technical problems.

## MONTANA AUTHORS YOU MAY KNOW

**Prairie Sunrise:** My Montana Ranch Life by Sierra Dawn is a sympathetic, genuine portrayal of ranch life that appeals to all ages. It is told in first person from the view-point of my six-year-old daughter, growing up on a hundred-year-old family ranch. It is about seventy pages long with over a hundred full-color photographs. Only two of the pictures were posed for the book; it is truly composed of authentic snapshots from daily life. The captions combine actual comments by my daughter with my own answers to her questions. My background is in range science, with a Ph.D. in botany, so the book is ecologically accurate. Copies of the book can be obtained at [www.amazon.com/Prairie-Sunrise-Montana-Ranch-Life/dp/1500226947/](http://www.amazon.com/Prairie-Sunrise-Montana-Ranch-Life/dp/1500226947/) or by searching Amazon for Prairie Sunrise.

Thank you  
Sierra Dawn

**Prairie Ponderings:** Life on a ranch can be funny and frustrating, exhilarating and distressing, but it is never, ever boring. Local rancher and writer Lisa Schmidt shares it all in her latest book, *Prairie Ponderings, Adventures in Raising Your Food*.

Lisa brings readers along during each moment of raising cattle and sheep at the historic Graham Ranch near Montana's Rocky Mountains.

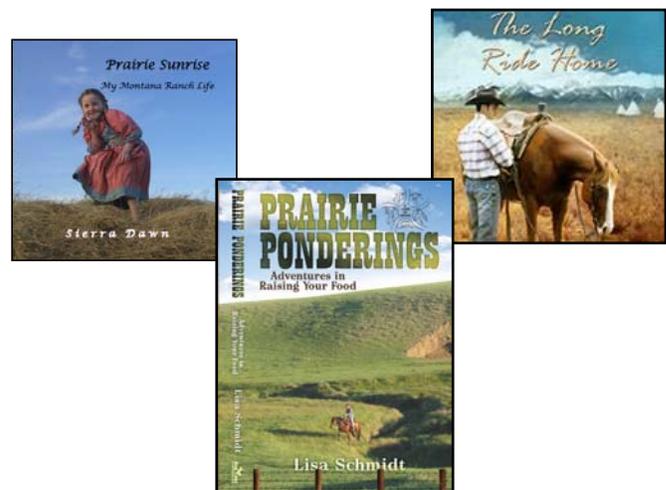
Walk beside Lisa during the intimate moments of bringing a lamb into this world. Survive winter storms and the perils of raising livestock with coyotes, wolves and grizzlies. Join Lisa and Steve to endure the unintended effects of political policies on the people who feed the world.

Most of all, prepare yourself for an adventure.

"Prairie Ponderings, Adventures in Raising Your Food" is available for \$19.95 at several locations in the region or by visiting [www.a-land-of-grass-ranch.com](http://www.a-land-of-grass-ranch.com).

Prairie Ponderings, Adventures in Raising Your Food is available at Prairie Peddlers in Shelby; Gary and Leo's IGA, Village Drug and the library in Conrad, Grizzly Sports and Mountain Front Market in Choteau and Latigo and Lace in Augusta.

**Long Ride Home:** Kari Lynn Dell is a ranch-raised native of northern Glacier County. At the tender age of two weeks old her parents took her to the Birch Creek rodeo, thereby dooming her to a lifetime of horse-induced poverty. After a dozen years as a certified athletic trainer in Texas, South Dakota and Oregon, followed by a brief stint as an insurance agent, she packed up with her husband and son and moved back to the family ranch where they loiter in the bunkhouse along with Max the Cowdog. She and her



husband Greg are members of the Marias River Livestock Association.

Kari Lynn began writing novels...well, she'd rather not dwell on how long that's been, and how many books are in the bottom desk drawer. In 2010 she discovered blogging, which led to a bi-monthly column for the Cut Bank, Valier, Browning and Shelby newspapers. It seems to be pretty popular, much to her surprise and the consternation of her family members, who comprise a large percent of her column fodder. In November of 2014 she sold her debut novel, *The Long Ride Home*, to Samhain Publishing for release on February 3, 2015. This is the first book she's written that is set on her home turf, the Blackfoot Reservation, and the first to sell. Which really ought to tell her something.

Kari Lynn Dell's book is available on both Amazon and B&N.

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## Save The Date

- March 12 Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission Meeting, Helena
- March 24 & 25 Board of Livestock Meeting, Helena
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Citizens Advisory Council Region 6, Great Falls
- April 8 & 9 Open House and Commission Meeting in Billings
- April 23 8 am - 5pm Interagency Bison Management Plan Council, Holiday Inn West Yellowstone
- April 28 & 29 Montana's Nutrition conference and Livestock Forum, GranTree Inn Bozeman starts 11:00 am on Tuesday and 7 am to noon on Wednesday
- April 29, 10:00am NCDS Interagency Grizzle Bear Subcommittee Meeting, Hunger Horse Ranger District
- June 4-6 Montana Stockgrowers Midyear Meeting, Bozeman
- June 9-11 Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference, Sidney
- June 15-17 Montana Range Days, Harlowton
- June 16- 18 Executive Committee Interagency Grizzle Bear Committee Meeting, Many Glacier Hotel, Glacier National Park
- JUNE 19 & 20 Homesteader Days & Gentle Hand Livestock Conference in Valier
- July 16-19 Marias Fair, Shelby MT
- Aug 5 & 6 Interagency Bison Council Meeting , Lapwai ID



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# Wanted

Members willing to serve on committees

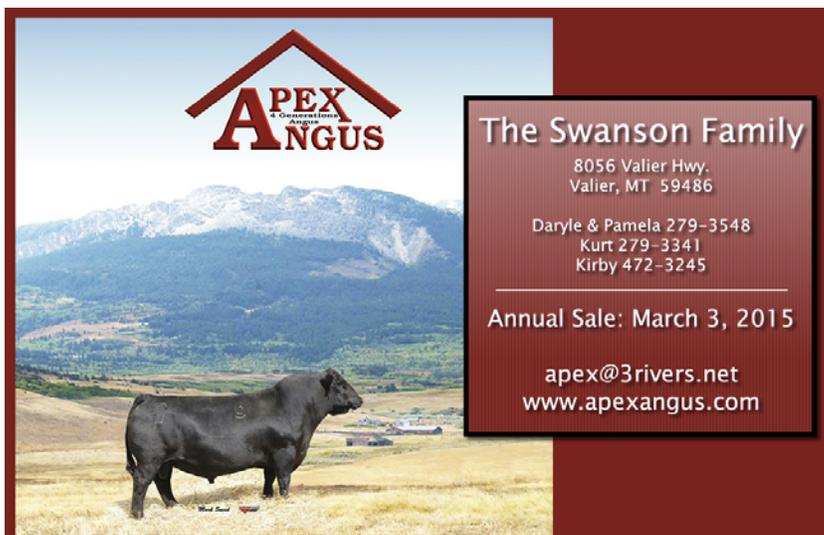
June - Gentle Hand Livestock Conf Valier MT

Help with Newsletter needed. Duties flexible depending on person's skills and interests

Person to manage Bull Bucks Participants and update sale dates

Person to attend Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meetings

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# News Nibbles

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service recently issued the 2014 lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land.

In Montana, the 2014 Animal Unit Month rate averaged \$23.00, up 9.5% from \$21.00 in 2013. The 2014 cow-calf/month rate in Montana averaged \$26.00, up 10% from \$23.60 in 2013.

For comparison, in the 11 western states in 2014 the rates averaged \$18.20/AUM and \$21.60 per cow-calf month. Thus, Montana rates in 2014 were 26% greater per AUM and 20% greater per cow-calf month than the average in the West.

Just thought I'd pass this information along, take care,

**Joe Parks**, Toole County Extension Agent

Toole County will be spending about \$65,000 for required easement purchases for roads that border a state section. All Montana counties have this requirement. – from the minutes of the Shelby Chamber of Commerce Meeting

## Few Bills you can continue to support

**SB 284 (Require approval of county commissioners for bison relocation)**

*Status: Passed Senate 32-17*

SB 284 would ensure local input for wild bison relocation by requiring approval from the county commission in which the animals would be released. The requirement would not affect bison transferred to Indian reservations or to private landowners, as those animals are treated as livestock. A similar bill was passed by the legislature in 2013 but vetoed by the governor.

**SB 286 (Limit agency rule making if it burdens property rights)**

*Status: Passed Senate 29-21*

The objective of SB 286 is to restrict state agencies from using their rulemaking authority to restrict property owners' rights; reserving that authority to the legislative process.

**SB 210 (includes the mountain lion in the livestock loss program)**

*Status: Passed Senate.*

**HB 145 ( adds funds to the Livestock Loss Board)**

Allows funding to be used for preventative measures and also allows funds to pay Wildlife Services for assistance.

*Status: passed House.*

**HB 439** requires recording of the Board of Livestock meetings

*Status: passed House*

You will need to learn about this organization. They will be evaluating red meat in October this year. Watch for more news on this topic.

## IARC – International Agency for Research on Cancer



The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization.

IARC coordinates and conducts both epidemiological and laboratory research into the causes of human cancer.

The Agency's work has four main objectives:

- Monitoring global cancer occurrence
- Identifying the causes of cancer
- Elucidation of mechanisms of carcinogenesis
- Developing scientific strategies for cancer control
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It disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships.



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*continued from pg 1 Tribes Request for Waiver*

cows and 24 bulls. Dr. Parker presented a management plan over a five year period similar to DSA herd management plans.  
 o domestic bison are subject to 32.3.224 (OCV)  
 o the board questioned if the board has authority to grant a variance to state law

Linda Nielsen moved to table the request pending attorney review. John Lehfeldt seconded. The motion carried.

2. Intertribal Buffalo Council request for importation of non-vaccinated bison from the Badlands Nation Park to Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, and Blackfoot Reservations  
 o estimates of 25 to Fort Peck, 100 to Fort Belknap, and 120 to Blackfoot  
 o domestic bison are subject to 32.3.224 (OCV)  
 o bison will be going from one federal entity to another federal entity, merely transporting across Montana on Montana roads to management on federal tribal lands

Jeff Lewis moved to table the request pending attorney review. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried.

3. NILE official order  
 o the NILE exemption provides for non-brucellosis vaccinated and no branded Canadian cattle to travel to the NILE in Billings, MT and return to Canada by October 30, 2014  
 o past procedure has been to allow exemption by Official Order issued by the Montana State Veterinarian  
 o the board questioned whether they or the State Vet have authority to waive state law  
     The board deferred to attorney opinion and tabled the issue pending attorney review.

There was much discussion at the January, 2015 BOL meeting about the requested waiver for the Intertribal Council. Currently the importation rules for cattle – Administrative Rule 32.3.212 – is up for public comment as it is being changed so as not to require calfhood vaccination for female cattle over 4 month for importation. So what is the difference between cattle and bison. I would guess none if the bison are from domestic herds and going to domestic herds and will remain domestic livestock, and right there is the kicker.

Once bison are in Montana, the Department of Livestock only has authority over animals on private & state land. Livestock and wildlife on tribal land are managed by the tribes. Wildlife in National Parks are managed by the National Parks Services. The National Forest Service may regulate its wildlife or allow the State to manage it. Forest Service is to provide habitat to native species of wildlife.

In the Memorandum of Understanding Between the MT FWP and the Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes, Fort Belknap Indian Community of it states that after the terms of the agreement end April 31, 2017, the bison leaving the Reservation will be considered wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MFWP, under its authority to manage wildlife generally and disease-free bison specifically pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §87-1-216, and FBIC enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to effect the transfer of a mutually agreed upon number of QFS bison associated with the Fort Peck Tribes/MFWP MOU to the Fort Belknap Indian Community. For the terms of this MOU, MFWP and FBIC agree that transferred bison will continue to be considered QFS bison. Upon completion of the terms of this MOU, MFWP and FBIC agree that such bison will no longer be considered QFS bison, but will be under the sole jurisdiction of FBIC **unless they are found outside reservation boundaries, in which case they would be considered wildlife and under the jurisdiction of MFWP pursuant to MCA §87-1-216.**

A great example of domestic bison becoming wild bison is the bison in Grand Canyon National Park. Please read excerpt from the Arizona Bison Management Scoping on page 9.

The unintended consequences of waiving the import requirements for bison that are coming from a National Park are not predictable at this time. With the DSA spreading wider due to Elk infected with brucellosis are livestock producers in Montana willing to risk the possibility of another infected herd of wild bison in a National Park or on Forest Service Land. Brucellosis infected Elk may not be in the Glacier Park area today but what about 10-15 years from now. A domestic herd of bison in that area could simple be quarantined or culled, but an escaped herd of bison on Federal land would be might hard to manage we have proof of that.

Please look up Innii Initiative if you have not already become familiar with it.

**Marias River Livestock  
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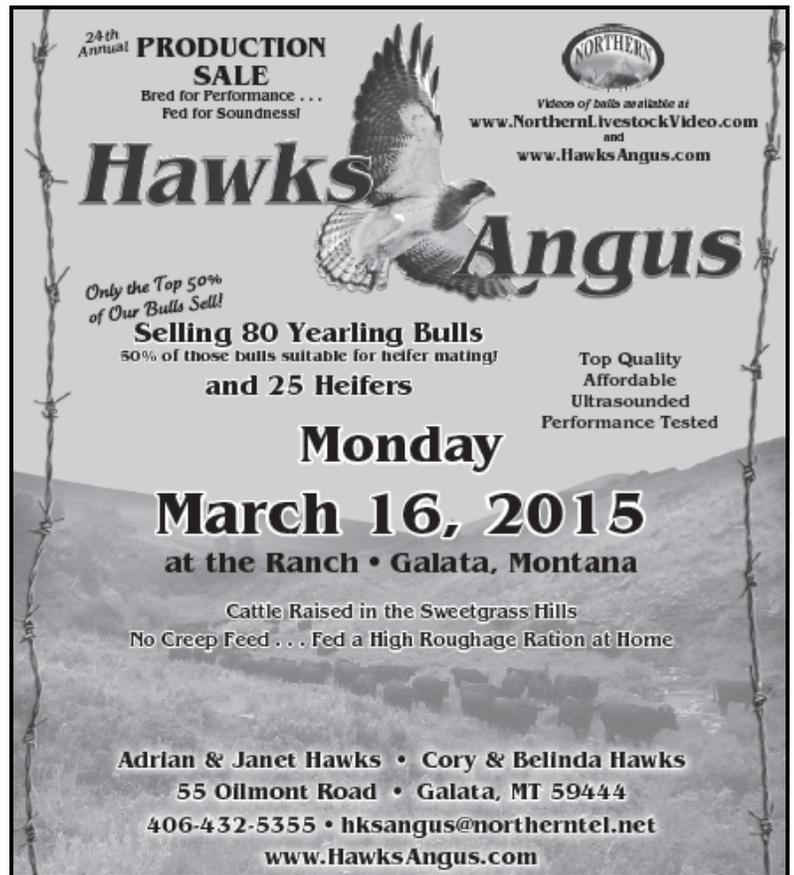
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