



January, 2017  
Volume 6, Issue 1

# THE POST RIDER

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

## Marias River Livestock Association

### Spring Meeting

May 8, 2017

5:30 pm No Host Social

6:00 pm Meeting

Ringside Rib, Shelby, MT

(Public is welcome to come to  
hear Tim Fox, MT Attorney  
General's speech)

Tim Fox, Montana's Attorney General takes a strong stand for Montana's agriculture and natural resource industries. Since taking office in 2012, Fox has filed nine lawsuits against the Federal Government including suits against the EPA expanding the definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Clean Water Rules, and the lawsuit against the "Clean Power Plan" which required Montana to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 47% by 2030. A quote by Fox, taken from a Montana Public Radio article, states, "It does not really have anything to do with whether this is wise policy, it has to do with whether it violates the rule of law, the individual states' sovereignty."

Again, showing his support for the rule of law, Fox joined Wyoming in challenging the BLM Federal Methane rule. In a November 2016 press release the Fox stated in a MDOJ press release, "The bottom line is, BLM has exceeded its legal authority with this rule, and

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is yet another example of the Obama administration pushing the envelope to see how much they can get away with before leaving office. Even if BLM had the authority to adopt this rule, it would have negligible environmental benefit, as it does little more than duplicate existing state standards for methane venting and flaring, while adding additional cost to the industry by creating even more compliance requirements."

In addition to ensuring the rule of law is followed, Tim Fox has worked hard on programs such as the 24/7 Sobriety Program for drunk drivers, stronger laws and enforcement on human trafficking, protected the identities of Concealed Weapons Permit holders from media, and currently he is seeking ways to stop the epidemic of opioid drug addiction and overdose deaths that plague rural Montana.

We would like to thank MRLA Director, Bob Thompson for working hard to get our Attorney General as a speaker for this event.

## MRLA hosts Informational gathering about carcass removal and preventative measures

The Marias River Livestock Association hosted an information sharing/gathering meeting Wednesday, Feb. 8 in Valier. Dave Mannix, Ovando rancher and Blackfoot Challenge board member, was present to share information about the Challenge's carcass removal program.

Mannix also talked about the effectiveness of electric fencing in the Blackfoot Valley, and shared information on other ways ranchers and farmers could avoid conflict with grizzlies.

What followed Mannix's presentation was some great dialog between the farmers and ranchers in attendance. Problem areas were discussed, and different possible solutions were proposed. Bears in the city limits of Valier were also discussed, and a task force to address hazing the bruins out of town is in the works.

Jack Holden, Valier rancher and Montana Stockgrowers board member, shared the progress that MSGA is making on getting their carcass removal program up and running. Holden estimated that the truck should be ready to begin by the end of February. Many in attendance were willing to participate in the pilot program.

MRLA is planning to cohost another meeting with MSGA in the near future to coordinate carcass removal in the Pondera and Teton county areas. MRLA will also assist the town task force with whatever help or information they need to get started.

Anyone interested in more information, or in participating in the carcass removal program can contact Carrie Lerum at 432-3925 or Trina Bradley at 472-3387.

## Success for the Next Generation Conference

By Lacy Roberts, Glacier County FSA

Montana's Next Generation Conference brings families from across Montana to learn about improving their operation and bottom line

From Bozeman to Potomac to Larshan to Forsyth to Whitewater and Ft. Collins, Colorado, over 200 farmers, ranchers, speakers and sponsors gathered in Shelby for two days of outstanding workshops for the Fourth Annual Montana's Next Generation Conference hosted by the local MSU Extension offices, Farm Service Agency, Marias River Livestock Association, Native American Community Development Corporation and Front Range Counties Farm Bureau.

Ethridge area producers Arlene and Miles Henke are one of those local families that have started making the conference a tradition. "Again, this year, we found this event to be a great investment of our time," said Arlene Henke. "We were amazed at the amount of good information shared with us, about the resources that were available there—the people and the experts in the field willing to help. And, the food served was also top notch! Our \$100 cost to attend was well worth it!"

This sentiment was echoed by speaker and sponsor Korey Fauque of KW Insurance. "We've been a part of this from the beginning and watched it grow. I think of all the meetings we go to all year, this one might be one of the most useful ones."

This year attendees definitely received their money's worth starting on Friday with keynote speaker, Dave Pratt from Ranching for Profit. Dave has been teaching farmers and ranchers how to improve their bottom line for over 25 years and he brought lots of examples and knowledge to the conference attendees thanks to the Marias River Livestock Association and KW Insurance for sponsoring Friday's presentation.

Arlene Henke had great praise for Pratt's keynote address. "He shared you must learn to run your operation like a business, because it is a business. You may want to farm or ranch because of the lifestyle, but it is the business that enables you to maintain that lifestyle. Pratt said he has seen it time and again that when your ranch (farm) is a business your lifestyle improves. Once you start running your

## Big on Building Profit

### *Lean on Cost of Time or Money*

**I believe it is my responsibility as a seedstock producer to create the most genetically pure, prepotent animals I can. This way the commercial producer benefits from increased fertility, consistency and heterosis.**

- Paul Turner, Turner Angus

The advantages of the ability of a sire to consistently and strongly stamp his likeness into his off spring is perhaps just not pondered enough. Nothing is nicer than going to the pasture and looking at an even carbon copy set of calves. To look at their head, back or rear and see that it reflects the bull you bet your hard earned dollars on last spring is pretty satisfying. That prepotency also applies to those genes or traits you can't see with your eye.

Paul Turner has a theory, "Any cow can do good if you baby it enough. What this country and most ranchers need is cows that can raise a good calf and breed back on the lean times." That is his premise behind the slogan "Common Sense Cattle Designed to Work for a Living."

Turner selects and breeds for bulls and cows that show a natural hardiness. When drought hits, it may last a year or ten. The rancher with cattle that will continue to produce during those tougher times will still be financially viable when it rains again. Turner's cattle are raised in dry short grass country and are built physically and genetically to not just survive but produce a profit under those conditions.

Turner's bulls shine in producing excellent daughters. They have longevity, nice udders, low maintenance and put out a big calf on their own. With April calving these cows raise a 6 to 7 weight calf. Any cattle that don't manage to calve unassisted are not kept in the herd. They also have a disposition that allows a single stockman to handle them without getting steamrolled or chased up a fence. These are the type of cattle that make you a profit without high input of time or money.



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Paul Turner breeds for hardy cattle that will do good on a lean year and even better on a wet year. Production Sale April 7, 2017 at Flesch Bull Development Center in Shelby MT.



To: US Cattle Producers

From: Kenny Graner, President, U.S. Cattlemen's Association

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The U. S. is currently accepting shipments of Brazilian beef. Following a change in health status by the World Health Organization (OIE) to "FMD Free with Vaccination," Brazilian beef was granted access to the U. S. markets, ***despite significant and unanimous opposition from the U.S. livestock Industry.***

The threat of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) remains in the Brazil region, placing U. S. livestock producers at risk. The lack of an established COOL law allows the comingling of Brazil and U. S. beef, without label recognition. Further, consumers wishing to avoid products produced by forced labor (as identified by the 2016 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, published by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of the International Labor Affairs) are unable to identify Brazilian beef at the retail counter. The use of slave labor and lack of regulations overseeing the safety of the country's food production allow Brazilian cattle producers significantly cheaper operating costs.

U.S. cattle producers will continue to be undermined and undercut by foreign meatpacking interests until we decide that we've had enough. Already, eight Brazilian packing plants have been granted USDA approval to export fresh/frozen beef to the U.S.. As these plants begin production, Brazil is expected to command the majority of the 64,000 tons of beef eligible for importation to the U.S. under the combined "other Countries" quota rate.

**In 2017, the United States Cattlemen's Association will petition the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency to ban the importation of Brazilian beef.** In February 2015, the U.S. Congress passed, and President Obama enacted, the Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act of 2015. The act closed a loophole in the Forced Labor Statute of The Tariff Act of 1930, which previously allowed CBP to ignore enforcement of the forced labor rule if they believed that domestic supply of a good or product did not meet U.S. consumer demand. *The removal of this loophole allows stakeholders to petition the CBP for the banning of an imported good that is produced by forced labor or slave labor.*

A significant initial investment will be required to compile the necessary research and data for a complete and compelling petition. We must raise \$100,000 to hire an attorney, send market research teams to Brazil, and begin the process of filing a formal complaint against the importation of Brazilian beef. If every cattle producer who reads this bulletin donated \$25, we'd be well-positioned to see this petition through. **Please join us in safeguarding the long-term health of the U.S. cattle industry.**

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☐ Yes! I'd like to donate \$ toward the development of a petition against Brazilian Beef and learn more about joining the fight as a member of the United States Cattlemen's Association.

☐ Yes! I'd like to join United States Cattlemen's Association. Enclosed is my \$100 membership fee.

Please print name and address below

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to USCA  
 Mail with filled out form to:

United States Cattlemen's Assoc  
 653 Constitution Ave NE  
 Washington, D.C. 20002

# Bovine Tuberculosis

## Protecting Your Herd

By Maggie Nutter


In September of 2016 the USDA notified the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that a Canadian cow sent to slaughter had been identified as having TB. The cow had originated from an Alberta ranch which used shared grazing pastures. An investigation ensued and approximately 53 premises were quarantined in Alberta and Saskatchewan. **As of March 10, 2017, 10,500 Canadian animals have been destroyed** and approximately 7,500 animals released from quarantine.

The Canadian investigation and testing continues at this point. The bacteria, through DNA analysis has been identified as a strain found in Mexico that has not been previously identified in Canada. It is not thought to be from wildlife and there is no idea yet as to how it was introduced. It has been a devastating and very puzzling experience for the Canadian cattle producers but they continue to make the best of the situation as cattle producers are a hardy bunch.

February, 2017 South Dakota, State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven announced that during routine slaughter inspection, cattle from South Dakota had been identified as having TB. These are the first cases since 2011. Originally three cattle which had been sent to slaughter were identified as having TB and traced back to a ranch in Harding County, South Dakota. Ten more cattle were tested and found positive. They all came from the same established herd.

The area the TB infected cattle came from was adjacent to the Montana/South Dakota border and the investigation spilled into Montana. There are currently Montana cattle herds quarantined and to be tested. Cattle infected with TB are never treated. Test and slaughter is the standard here in the US. Destroying the whole herd is an option at this point in time.

Through DNA testing it was found that the strain of TB in the South Dakota cattle is believed to be from central Mexico dairy herds. It is not the same strain that was recently found in the Alberta cattle. It is not a strain usually carried in rodeo stock or wildlife. The



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investigation continues to see if the origin of the disease can be tracked.

This is a good time to really look at the biosecurity of your livestock operation. Taking note of what animals come and go from the ranch. Bovine TB can be carried in any warm-blooded animal including horses, dogs and humans. A person can become infected by close contact with infected animals, eating unpasteurized milk or milk products from infected animals. These are not common products in the US food system but may be encountered in Mexico and other foreign countries.

## Montana Department of Livestock Investigates Ties to South Dakota TB Infected Herd

**Helena, Mont.** – The [Department of Livestock](#) (DOL) is investigating ties to Montana cattle from a tuberculosis (TB) infected herd in South Dakota.

Montana is focusing on three distinct groups of animals:

- Contact herds – herds that have shared pasture or fence line contact with the affected herd;
- Herds that have supplied animals to the affected herd; and

*TB Continued from pg 5*

- Herds that have received animals from the affected herd.

At this time, two Montana cattle herds that had contact with the South Dakota positive animals must undergo a tuberculosis test to confirm that the disease has not spread. Additional herds may be identified as the investigation progresses. The likelihood that Montana herds are infected is extremely low, however, the department is conducting a thorough investigation. "Following up on interstate movements after a detection of TB or other animal disease is a routine part of disease investigations," said Tahnee Szymanski, Assistant State Veterinarian. "Our strong working relationship with South Dakota is critical in promptly identifying animal movements and protecting the state of Montana."

Bovine TB is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium bovis*. The disease causes granulomatous lesions inside the lymph nodes, lungs, liver, spleen, and skin of affected animals. The primary route of spread is aerosol transmission to other animals in close contact. The bacteria is also capable of infecting wildlife, such as deer, and people. The disease has an incubation period that can range from months to years and infected animals may show no clinical signs until later stages of infection, meaning healthy appearing cattle may be infected with the bacteria. Although TB is a zoonotic disease capable of infecting people, it is not a food safety threat, thanks to a robust meat inspection program and the pasteurization of milk for retail sale. The mission of the DOL is 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. For more information on the department, visit [www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov).

## BULL BUCKS PLUS 2016

**Apex Angus** – Sale March 7, 2017

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

**Bobcat Angus** – Sale January 28, 2017

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

**Connelly Angus**– Feb. 2017 [www.connellyangus.com](http://www.connellyangus.com)

**Curry Cattle Inc** – 279-3561

Replacement Angus females

**Diamond D Angus** – Sale Nov 10 2017, Spring Private Treaty [www.diamonddangus.com](http://www.diamonddangus.com)

**Diemert Ranch Herefords** – 432-3412

[www.ngrbulls.com/diemert\\_ranch\\_herefords.htm](http://www.ngrbulls.com/diemert_ranch_herefords.htm)

**Enneberg Angus Ranch** – 845-4901 Private Treaty

**Flesch Angus** – Sale March 2017

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

**Gillespie Show Cattle** – 337-2943 or 949-4453

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

**Hawks Angus** – Private Treaty 432-5355

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

**Holden Hereford** – Sale March 13 2017

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

**Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh** – Sale March 15 2017

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

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937-3726 [www.blackranchesinc.com](http://www.blackranchesinc.com)

**Timber Coulee Columbia** – 937-2775

**Turner Angus** – April 2017 434-2823

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

## Save the Date

**April 6** Interagency Bison Management Plan Meeting, West Yellowstone.

**April 6** Interagency Bison Plan Meeting, West Yellowstone

**April 22** Montana Agri-Women Annual Meeting and tour. Comfort Inn, Shelby MT [www.mtagriwomen.com](http://www.mtagriwomen.com)

**April 25** Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Interagency Grizzly Bear Sub-Committee Meeting, Glacier Peaks Casino, Browning 10:00AM to 4:00PM [www.igbconline.org](http://www.igbconline.org)

**MAY 8** Marias River Livestock Association, Spring Meeting with Montana Attorney General, Tim Fox, as main speaker. Ringside Ribs, Shelby MT 5:30pm No Host Social with meeting to follow.

**May 31 & June 1** Ag Summit, Great Falls MT **US Senator Pat Roberts, the Chairman of U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry will deliver a keynote address at the summit. Event sponsored by US Senator Steve Daines.** [www.agsummitmontana.com](http://www.agsummitmontana.com)

**June 20, 21, 22** Interagency Grizzly Bear Executive Committee Meeting in Choteau MT at the Stage Stop Inn. [www.IGBConline.org](http://www.IGBConline.org)

*Cont. from page 2 Next Generation*

operation as a business—and not like “it’s a bunch of jobs and collection of assets”—things will improve. You will see problems you didn’t recognize before and opportunities you didn’t consider earlier. You can act before you have no choice in what you do,” related Henke.

Thinking outside of the box was a theme carried into Saturday’s workshops sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit Services as producers had an opportunity to choose from 42 different workshops throughout the course of the day.

Hot topics for the crop producers focused on workshops for improving their bottom line thru looking at alternative crops and all the considerations that go into these non-traditional crops.

Succession planning was a key facet of the conference again this year with six workshops dedicated to estate and succession planning including a great presentation from the Hammond family from Malta who shared how their operation succeeded in establishing a succession plan and the challenges they faced. Henke had high praise for the workshop titled “Saving the Farm” with Ty McDonald from Waddel & Reed. “It was an excellent discussion,” said Arlene. McDonald emphasized the importance of “having a written plan: if it is not written, it is not real. Estate planning is simply the transfer of assets: it’s the figuring out how to do it, who wants to do it, and how will the older folks retire?”

However, as producers delve into the succession side of the transfer, McDonald shared there are some other items to consider starting with the operation’s ability to cash flow in the future as issues like long term care and taxes become a large expense item to an operation. He encouraged producers to consider investing in some non-ag related assets as well to diversify their options when the transfer does occur.

“With the number of beginning producers in our area, the Marias River Livestock Association feels this is an area we need to invest in to make sure that we continue to have a strong and viable agriculture community. This conference really helps on both ends of that scale by having a little for the entire family – crops, livestock, beginning producers and advanced knowledge for the experienced producers. We hope to see this continue to expand and grow over the coming years and are excited to keep bringing back the caliber of workshops and presenters attendees have come to expect,” added Nutter. “We appreciate all the sponsors who help provide the funding for this event and for all the FSA and MSU Extension Agents who take their personal time to turn this event into the success it is. We are lucky to have such a wonderful education opportunity in our neighborhood.”

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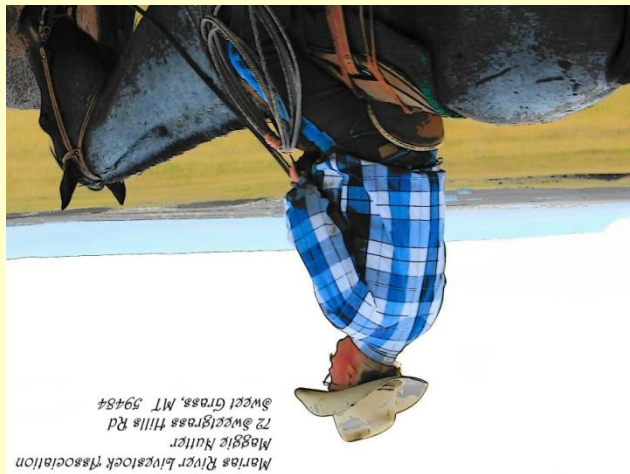
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