

THE POST RIDER

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

Important Race You May Not Be Paying Attention To

By Maggie Nutter

An important race for Montana Supreme Court Justice is happening this year. It is a non-partisan race so may not get the attention that is deserved for these position that have such a great influence on Montana life. The Court consists of six associate justices and one chief justice. Terms for Montana Supreme Court are 8 years and there are no term limits. The positions are filled by public statewide elections; there are no districts or regions. If a position is vacated during a term the Governor can appoint a justice to finish out the term for that position. When up for re-election, if the Justice is unopposed, in Montana we have the chance to vote if they should be reelected or not.

This year three seats in the Montana Supreme Court are up for re-election. Two of the position Chief Justice Mike McGrath and Justice James Shea are unopposed at this point. The last date for day for candidates to file declarations for Primary Election would be March 14, 2016.

There is a race for Supreme Court Justice Patricia Cotter's seat, as she plans to retire when her term ends this year. State District Judge Dirk Sandefur of Great Falls and Kristen Gustafson Juras, Great Falls, originally from Conrad, who practices law in Great Falls and works as an adjunct professor at the University of Montana law school, will be competing for Cotter's seat.

"In October 2012, political science professors Adam Bonica and Michael Woodruff of Stanford University attempted to determine the partisan outlook of state supreme court justices in their paper, *State Supreme Court Ideology and 'New Style' Judicial Campaigns*. A score above 0 indicated a more conservative-leaning ideology while scores below 0 were more liberal. The state Supreme Court of Montana was given a campaign finance score (CFscore), which was calculated for judges in October 2012. At that time, Montana received a score of -0.87. Based on the justices selected, Montana was the 6th most liberal court. The study is based on data from campaign contributions by judges themselves, the partisan leaning of contributors to the judges or, in the absence of elections, the ideology of the appointing body (governor or legislature). This study is not a definitive label of a justice but rather an academic gauge of various factors." – BallotPedia website.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Important Race- MT Supreme Court	1
It's Always Something- MRLA Update	2
Membership Form	2
Take Away From Tim	3
Superior Livestock Auction- Steve Reeverts	4
Animal Law and Ownership	5
Bull Bucks Plus	6
Turner Angus	7
Bison Burden	8
Honoring the Past- Cowboy Hall of Fame	9
Save the Date	11
FBI at USDA Forum	11



Those of you who have interest in what is going on in Grizzly Bear Management in The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, the NCDE Grizzly Bear Recovery team meets in Choteau on April 19th. (Time and Place to be announced)

With the increase in bear population and the high dollar amount paid out by the Livestock Loss Board for 2015, there is cause for concern by livestock producers. Grizzly bears seem to be moving east from the Rocky Mountain Front and out onto the prairie. Grizzly sows were seen in the Kevin Oilmont area and into the south end of the Sweet Grass Hills in 2015.

It's Always Something

By Maggie Nutter

Marias River Livestock Association has been lucky to have active Board Members and some very strong members who volunteer. We have been able to accomplish some pretty amazing things because of this willingness of people to step up, take on a task and see it through. We all have full lives but seem to make time for those moments, events or people that we see as important.

The end of October 2015 we had our annual membership business meeting and new board members were elected. Trina Jo Bradley is the new Director for Pondera County and is also a participant of the Montana Stockgrowers Leadership Series. Jesse Wallewien is the new Director at Large for MRLA and also the newly hired Executive Secretary for the Montana Woolgrowers. These two young ladies are going to be powerhouses.

Maggie Nutter and Butch Gillespie were also re-elected for second terms as President and Vice-President of MRLA. Maggie is currently participating in the REAL Montana Class II, which allows her the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the different aspects of the agriculture and natural resource industries in Montana.

The 4th Annual Prime Rib and Rib Tickler Event in November was again a sold out smash hit with Kyle Shobe and the Walk'em Boys for entertainment. Kyle was emcee and gave a very uplifting oration on agriculture today in addition to playing and singing humors songs.

December brought usual rush of conference's to attend before the New Year and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee meetings. All four counties which MRLA encompasses saw grizzly bears this year. There is concern for safety with the bears finding "human settlements" a place for easy food and agriculture crops attractive places to feed and sleep. MRLA is focused on being as actively involved as possible with the new grizzly bear management strategy and are also encouraging the IGBC to consider the input of the Livestock Industry.

January 29 & 30, 2016 brought the 3rd Annual Montana's Next Generation Conference which is

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

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Galata, Mt 59444

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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

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Take away from Tim Gill

36 years in Ag lending

Tim Gill, newly retired president of Montana Livestock Ag Credit, Helena, was asked to come to the Montana's Next Generation Conference and tell us what he had learned in the last 36 years about succeeding in an agriculture business. Here is the take away from his speech.

1. Have a business plan.
2. Be aware of reality and change that plan if you need to.
3. Sell when the price is up but don't be greedy waiting for the top as it can fall quicker than you can sell. i.e. getting offered \$2.00 and holding out for \$2.01 then selling at .75 is self inflicted hardship.
4. If it is too good to believe.... Take a hard look and then don't do it.
5. Make sure you can live with your consciences.
6. Paying some taxes isn't all bad. It means you are profitable.
7. Quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and stick it back in your pocket. In this age of instant gratification we need to learn to wait on a purchase until it is financially wise.
8. Lowering your overhead will gain you profit.
9. Do what is right, financial, environmentally and morally. What you do affects us all.
10. Learn from the survivors. You may avoid fighting the same battle, but if you do find yourself in that same situation; you will have the winning battle plan.
11. Old fashion values are always in style.



Tim Gill received his B.S. in Ag Business from Montana State University. He began his career working for the MT Department of Agriculture for four years and then thirty-six years with Montana Livestock Ag Credit, thirty of those years as President.

Tim has also served for over 20 years on the Montana Council for Economic Education. The mission of the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is to provide the youth of Montana the opportunity to understand essential economic systems.

Always from pg 2

collaboration between Marias River Livestock Association, Glacier County FSA, Glacier and Pondera MSU Extension. The event was well attended with over 170 on Friday for Succession Planning and Saturday bring over 250 again for the 36 breakout session for farmer and rancher education. We all get a little better at organizing each year and already have Dave Pratt, Ranching for Profit scheduled for next year's conference, so mark January 27 & 28, 2017 on your calendar.

Communication is necessary for an organization to grow and inform it's membership. Clear, timely communication and being relevant in today's culture involves social media. MRLA is organizing "Peacocking Your Social Media" Workshop (You can Google peacocking on urban dictionary if you need to). This workshop is geared to teach agriculture organizations, ag businesses, and individuals about how to affectively use social media to share agriculture friendly messages. The goal is twofold to learn about social media but also to network and collaborate on promoting agriculture the agriculture industry as a whole. The workshop will be April 1, 2016 in Shelby MT. If you are interested in the workshop e-mail or call Maggie Nutter nutter@northerntel.net for more information.

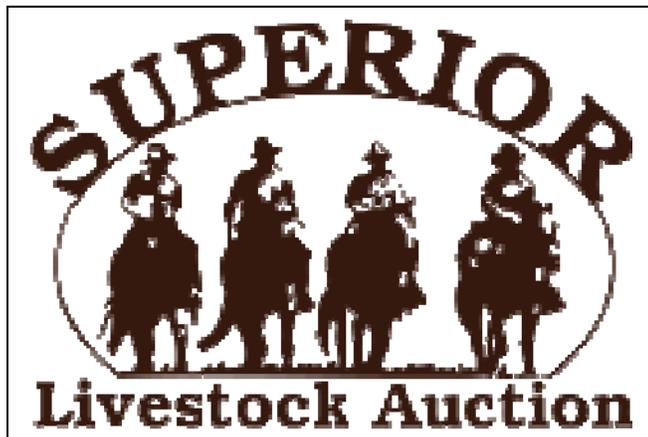
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Video Auction

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April 8	March 28
May 6	April 25
May 20	May 9
June 3	May 23
July 1	June 20
Sept 23	Sept 12
Oct 7	Sept 26
Oct 21	Oct 10
Nov 4	Oct 24
Nov 18	Nov 7
Dec 2	Nov 19
Dec 16	Dec 5

Steve Reeverts would be glad to talk to you about representing your cattle on the Superior Livestock Video Auction.

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Steve Reeverts sits with long time friend Bud Geer prior to the induction ceremony for the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. Geer was inducted into the Hall of Fame for his activity as a rodeo stock contractor.

Steve Reeverts is a representative for Superior Livestock Auctions and lives in the Browning, MT area.



1980 Calgary Stampede Montana Team

Front Row: Linda Madsen, Judy Myllymaki, Jimi Lou Woodard, Cinde Barthelmess, Joe Demers

Middle Row: Steve Reeverts, Eddie Biegler, Colin Murnion, Butch Reynolds, Brent Powell, Mike Goyins, Mike Barthelmess, JO Hash

Back Row: Doug Buffington, Nick Siebrasse, Griff Davidson, Herb Harris, Randy Clebaugh, Danny Cross, Bob Schall, Kent Mosher

Animal Law

Time to Know and Educate

By Linda L. Chezem

The Federal Bureau of investigation is preparing to collect data on animal cruelty crimes through its National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. NIBRS is a collection of detailed crime statistics that law enforcement agencies from across the country provide to the FBI. The change in the reporting is planned in partnership with the National Sheriffs Association and the Animal Welfare Institute.

The stated reason for the inclusion of the animal cruelty as a NIBRS category is that “animal cruelty was an early indicator of violent crime.”

People who raise and care about animal welfare should be paying attention to this new NIBRS category. It adds another dimension to debates about who should be responsible for animal care. Animal owners need to inform themselves about the basic underpinnings of animal law in their state in order to protect their animals from the misguided as well as some malicious activists. Advocacy groups who use their complaints as fundraisers drive many poor decisions about animal welfare and care and now they can talk about “FBI reported” crimes against animals.

In every state in the United States, animals are classified as property, wild, or feral animals. Specific statutory definitions vary but the common understanding of animals as belonging to owners who have the responsibility to care for them is the current law. Animal ownership was the English common law and has been the national legal status of domesticated animals in the United States.

Most rational normal persons will agree that animal cruelty, neglect, or abuse is behavior that the community should not condone and try to prevent. The devil is in the details when it comes to determining whether someone has violated the statute. Indiana has a statute that directs law enforcement to seek the assistance of the Indiana Board of Animal Health in dealing with the animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect complaints. Indiana may not be perfect but our animal health people are dedicated and hard working. **Other states have statutes that contribute to their problems by giving private groups law enforcement authority with no oversight or competency requirements.**



Linda L. Chezem professor in the School of Agriculture at Purdue University currently teaches Forensic Science Ethics, Rural Public Health Law and Policy, Selected Issues in Juvenile and Youth Law, and Animal Ownership and Use Law

Animal owners should get up to date on the animal laws and regulations of their state. They also need to be sure that they understand the criminal justice system and its laws.

Many states and the federal government are moving toward a “justice reinvestment” approach for criminals and decreasing penalties for many crimes. **Why – in the face of decreasing criminal penalties and early jail releases for drug offenders would a state increase penalties on animal law violations?** If treatment works for drug use (and it can!) why not talk about the appropriate care of animals in terms of their species and environment and educate the owners.

Every animal producer association meeting has educational sessions and discussion after discussion about how to improve the health and productivity of the animals. Our farm and ranch associations have many experts and can offer a lot in terms of education about animal ownership. It is time to work together to share the animal science and fight the animal personhood myths. The public and all elected officials need that information.

Linda Chezem was the first female County Court judge in Indiana by Governor Bowen’s appointment in 1975 and then election in 1976. She was also the first female Circuit Court judge serving from 1982 to 1988. Chezem left the Lawrence Circuit Court in 1988 when she was appointed to the Indiana Court of Appeals and served on that court until January 1, 1998. She continues to work towards improving the lives of Indiana citizens through her position as a professor in the School of Agriculture at Purdue University and her assistance with various agencies in substance abuse and mental illness areas. Chezem currently teaches Forensic Science Ethics, Rural Public Health Law and Policy, Selected Issues in Juvenile and Youth Law, and Animal Ownership and Use Law.

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TURNER ANGUS

Turner Angus is all about developing cattle the rancher can make a profit on. Paul Turner started putting together his registered cattle herd in 1993 and has worked to develop a low input cow that thrives on the dry short grass that grows in the gumbo soil of Montana.

It is easy to raise cows on good wet years but when it is droughty the easy doers become more valuable.

Turner has worked to develop hardy medium framed cows, with big middles for storage, who are excellent foragers on dry land. There is a balance that needs to be found in developing cows with sufficient milk and easy maintained body condition. Each of these traits contributes to a cow that will breed up during a drought and raise a healthy calf. Turner's bull can bring those genetics to your cow herd.

Turner states, "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 the increased fertility, consistency and hybrid vigor that comes with heterosis."

This statement's importance becomes more relevant with the 2nd Annual "Heterosis on the Hi-Line" Bull Sale. Turner will be selling his line-bred Black Angus bulls in the sale that includes 3 other seedstock breeders selling Hereford, Maine-Anjou, and Simmental. Research from land grant universities show that when done right cross-breeding can add to the weaning weight on the first cross and kept females from that cross will have increased milk production and longevity in the herd.

"The greatest amount of benefit gained by crossbreeding is with crossbred cows. Even though many stockmen use crossbreeding of straightbred parents to produce exceptional market calves (calves that gain faster than straightbreds and do well in the feedlot), the crossbred cow is the key to maximum beef production and profitability in a cow-calf operation, since hybrid vigor in the cow produces phenomenal maternal advantages. Research has shown that a crossbred cow is eight percent more efficient than a purebred cow, lives 38 percent longer and has 25 percent more lifetime production (pounds of calf weaned). This is partly due to the fact that crossbreeding has the biggest impact on traits that are not highly heritable (and hence more difficult to improve through selective breeding



Paul Turner strives to raise cattle that will make the rancher a profit.

within a breed), such as fertility, age at puberty, and longevity.

Crossbred cows live longer and are also less apt to be culled for being late or open, due to increased fertility. Any cow that can calve at two years of age, never miss a year of calving, and stay in your herd another year or two beyond average culling age makes you money. When you consider all the benefits of a crossbred cow, you can see why animal scientists call this the "only free lunch" in the cattle business. As pointed out by Dr. Larry Cundiff (U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska), data from their heterosis studies showed that breakeven costs of production were reduced about 10 percent by using crossbred cows. Another study at Montana State University compared effects of breed and heterosis on heifer pregnancy using purebred and crossbred females of several breeds. Results showed that a higher percent of crossbred heifers calved at two years of age (reaching puberty and becoming pregnant earlier) than purebreds."- Cross Breeding Provides Benefits to Breeding Programs: Heather Smith Thomas

Turner believes that line breeding in his herd has improved the consistency in calves that the commercial producer will get using them. Consistency in steer calves and replacement females helps in figuring nutritional needs for a herd. When you have large and small cattle mixed it increases the difficulty of ensuring they are all getting what they need for maximum growth and health. Line bred bulls will also help to maximize on the vigor received from cross breeding. His bulls will be available for sale April 1, 2016 at the Flesch Bull Development Center in Shelby, Montana. The Heterosis on the Hi-Line Sale starts at 1:00pm.

Montana's Bison Burden

By Michael Burns

Montana has a rising wave of conservationists from near and far choking the interests of our state's historical and economical foundation. Squeezing slowly, our governor, the American Prairie Reserve and [Bureau of Land Management](#) have tightened their grip, choosing the health of bison population over the well-being of one our state's most important contributors, our farmers and ranchers. The BLM's recent prefatory approval given to the APR regarding grazing permits for bison is a scary foreshadowing of further decline of the use of private and public lands.

The APR is a private organization with millions of dollars at its hands from donations given by people from all around the nation - not a reflection of sole Montana interest. They currently handle about 600 bison and would like to get that number to an astonishing 10,000. The permits given to the APR were previously used for cattle grazing. This would be almost a non-issue if it was a private landowner wanting to raise a few bison; the negative impact would be much smaller. However, they hope to set up a free-roaming bison utopia in Montana. This directly affects eastern Montana and cannot be tolerated for the sake of our ranchers. In an hierarchy of needs, the needs of humans unquestionably outweighs those of animals. We can all appreciate the goodwill of wanting to preserve and flourish the bison community but to soak up so much public land for the existence of bison over the rancher's cattle is egregious. Without caution, they have also been approved for the removal of fencing on their Flat Creek allotment located in Phillips County. Furthermore, bison and cattle do not mix.

Brucellosis, a disease common among bison, if spread to cattle, would be devastating to a herd and the economic success of a rancher. Brucellosis aborts unborn calves in infected cattle. The governor, [Steve Bullock](#), because of an overpopulation issue in Yellowstone National Park recently approved the importation of bison into Montana. It is estimated that over 50 percent of those bison have come into contact with brucellosis. His short-sightedness does not fit into the vision of Montana that its people possess. Letters of discontentment have been written at a high volume. The Montana Farm Bureau submitted a letter of complaint along with over 100 other Montanans to the BLM.

Squeezing slowly, our governor, the American Prairie Reserve and Bureau of Land Management have tightened their grip, choosing the health of bison population over the well-being of one our state's most important contributors, our farmers and ranchers

The burden reaches further. Wild bison are not classified as livestock. As deemed wildlife, they carry unwanted liabilities. Livestock will be transferred off of someone's private land if they migrate there unwanted. Damage done by livestock to a farmer or rancher's land is also reimbursed by the state, not paid for from the victim's pocket. To have free-roaming 2,000 pound beasts possibly tear up land or fences at the expense of the landowner is not right.

Montana must be willing to stand up to these actions which degrade farmers' and ranchers' ability for a prosperous livelihood. Yellowstone National Park is federal land and should be treated as a federal problem. We cannot allow the dumping of this issue onto our state. If overpopulation issues have arisen there because of mismanagement, it is possible we may eventually have overpopulation issues here as well. We should not break the backs of Montanans to appease conservationists' wishes. However, our backbone is strong. This upcoming election year will prove to be vital to the outcome of this affair. We must elect leadership in the legislature that represents a more complete picture of what Montanans desire and elect a governor who will not veto legislation that blocks the eradication of Montana's bison burden.

Glasgow's Michael Burns is a candidate for Montana's 33rd District State Representative seat.

While I find the phrase "Brucellosis, a disease common among bison" inaccurate, as it is actually in only a few bison herds in the whole U.S., it is certainly rampant in the Yellowstone Bison and Elk. Domestic bison in Montana are vaccinated and tested. Bison rancher take pride in their herds health and do not desire to have the challenge of Brucellosis to contend with. It is important to remember that ranchers are producing domestic bison for meat and seedstock. Bison as livestock are a valid and important industry in Montana and needs to be respected as such.

Large wide ranging bison herds (free-roaming is not politically correct anymore.) that are now or will be considered wildlife (because FWP says you can change bison as livestock to bison as wildlife) should continue to be a concern to all of those in the agriculture industry and property owners. -Maggie Nutter

Honoring the past and Protecting the future.”

By Maggie Nutter

February 5 & 6 The Best Western Inn, Great Falls, was filled with cowboy hats, pearl snaps and denim. Friends and family were gathered to celebrate the induction into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame cowboys past and present.

Sitting in the room filled with women and men of high standards, competence in their industry, strong wills, unending determination and witty stories was a real education in what it took to build this state we call Montana. These were and still are the men and women who established this country. They tamed the land and coaxed the cattle and sheep industries prosper. They performed in the rodeos, raised the bucking stock and promoted the rodeo industry. They are the people who laid the foundations of the towns, the churches and schools. We owe these people a tip of the hat and nod of the head. Montana would not look the same today without them in our past.

Melvin R. Icenoggle, 1912- 1985, was inducted into the MT Cowboy Hall of Fame for his Rodeo exploits and accomplishments, which spanned over 20 years. He was a Bronc rider but also participated in many other events including Roman Racing, standing straddle two horses while they loped around the track. Melvin was the father of Edgar, Bill and Bruce Icenoggle. Bill is a local rancher out of Cut Bank Montana.

Miles (Bud) Geer was born in 1921 in a time when medical care was scarce. At the age of 14 Bud contracted meningitis and lost his hearing and ability to walk. He learned to read lips and taught himself to walk again pushing a wooden chair around the house.

Bud didn't let a those little inconveniences hold him back. He went on to be a rancher and a rodeo stock contractor with broncs and bucking bulls. Bud knew his stock well. He was known for being honest and upfront with the cowboys. Bud considers one of his greatest treasures to be his "cowboy friends."

Rick Schock, Sunburst, Steve Reverts of Cut Bank and Kelly Mothershead of Sweetgrass attended the MT Cowboy Hall of Fame induction Ceremony as they are Bud's "Cowboy Friends". Bud Geer in the past supplied stock for Steve Reverts Rodeo Schools held in Vaughn back in the day. Kelly Mothershead helped drive truck hauling Bud's stock and then rode in the saddle bronc event in the rodeos. Bud Geer's son, Dan Geer, ranches in the Browning/Cut Bank area.

I encourage you to go to the website and read more about all of this year's inductees.

<http://www.montanacowboyfame.org/>



Passed Bronc riders John Soper, Glasgow, Dan Maag, Miles City, Kelly Mothershead, Sweetgrass. Up-Front is Bud Geer, Glasgow, MT. Bud was a rancher and rodeo stock contractor. After retiring from Geer Rodeo, Bud would spend time at his son Dan Geer, Cut Bank and at Kelly Mothershead's ranch by Sweetgrass, MT. He now resides in Glasgow, close to his Granddaughter, Tara Harrington and her children.



l-r Edgar Icenoggle, Belgrade, Mark Larson, Bill Icenoggle, Cut Bank, and Bruce Icenoggle, Plains.

Sons Edgar, Bill and Bruce Icenoggle accept their late father, Melvin R. Icenoggle's Montana Cowboy Hall of fame induction plaque from MT Hall of Fame Board Member, Mark Larson. Icenoggle was inducted for his Rodeo exploits and accomplishments.

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www.diamonddangus.com

Diemert Ranch Herefords – 432-3412

www.ngrbulls.com/diemert_ranch_herefords.htm

Enneberg Angus Ranch – 845-4901

Flesch Angus – Sale March 2016

www.fleschangus.com

Gillespie Show Cattle – 337-2943 or 949-4453

www.gillespieshowcattle.com

Flying Horse Ranch – Sale April 2016

www.fhrcattle.com

Holden Hereford – Sale March 2016

www.holdenherefords.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh – Sale March 2016

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Superior Livestock Video Auction – 450-4586

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Tomscheck Angus – April 6, 2016 in Nebraska,

937-3726 www.blackranchesinc.com

Timber Coulee Columbia – 937-2775

Turner Angus – 434-2823

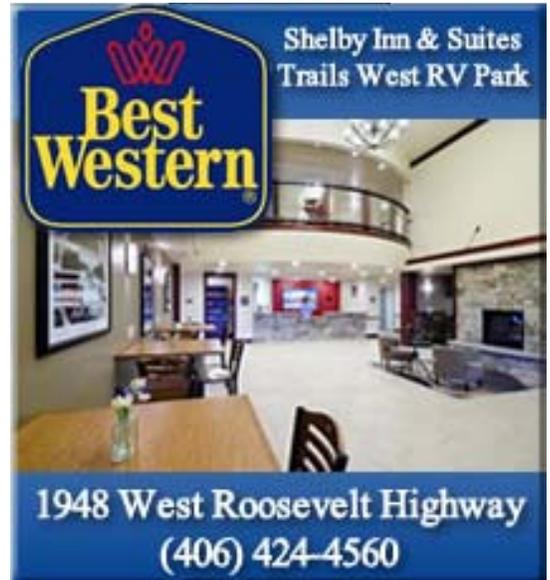
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Save the Date

- March 9 & 10 Environmental Quality Council Meeting
Capitol Bldg, Helena
- April 6 Interagency Bison Management Plan Committee
West Yellowstone, Holiday Inn 8am-5pm
- April 14 MT FWP Commissioners meeting, Helena
- April 19 NCDE Interagency Grizzly Bear Sub-Committee
Choteau MT
- June 1 Marias River Livestock Assn Membership Meeting
(Tentative date)
- June 7-9 Montana Farm Bureau Mid-Year Meeting
- June 9-11 Montana Stockgrowers Mid-Year Meeting
- June 21-23 Interagency Grizzly Bear Meeting,
Bonners Ferry, ID www.IGBC.org
- Aug 3 Interagency Bison Management Plan Committee
Bozeman
- Oct 3 Marias River Livestock Association, Fall Membership
Meeting
- Nov 12 Prime Rib and Rib Tickler



Barb and Joe Larsen, Galata, discuss succession planning with Mick and Cathy Odden, Dutton
Friday January 29, 2016 at the Montana's Next Generation Conference in Shelby MT



FBI at Agriculture Department's Agricultural Outlook Forum.

The USDA hosted the 92nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum in Arlington, Va. on Feb. 25-26, 2016.

It is USDA's largest annual meeting and attracts over 1,500 attendees. The Forum is used to promote communication of key issues and topics within both the foreign and domestic agricultural community. An interesting note from the [Hagstrom Report Feb. 25, 2016](#) is below.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken a booth in the exhibit hall of the Agriculture Department's Agricultural Outlook Forum. Robert Spelbrink, an FBI official in the booth, told *The Hagstrom Report* that the FBI has taken the booth to promote awareness that "agriculture is being targeted" by foreigners engaged in "economic espionage." FBI officials are distributing a pamphlet that calls agricultural economic espionage "a growing threat" and foreigners may steal "intellectual property."

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