A NOTE FROM THE AGENT–

Have any of you even been to Oklahoma in July?? Likely, if you really thought about it, you would not logically plan such a visit at this time of year. Despite my reservations of extreme heat and humidity, I had the opportunity to attend the National Association of County Ag Agents (NACAA) annual convention, hosted in none other than– Tulsa, Oklahoma. (Admittedly, this was not my first time, as I once traveled under the guise of being an enrolled member of the National Junior Hereford Association, a cattle show that also took place in July.)

My eight day adventure was incredible, and well worth my time. Not only did I attend the national meeting and gather ideas, many of which I hope to implement here locally, I met many fellow agents. I also participated in two great tours and actually got to get out and see some country and livestock!

Among the highlights to me were Pfeiffer Farms (boar goats), McGolden (show lambs) and Express Ranches. Now you may recognize the last stop, as they now officially hold the title as being the largest seedstock producer in the Nation. Or maybe you recognize them for their incredible Angus and Limousin cattle, or their rare black Clydesdale team. Or perhaps, like my husband you watch the NFR and have seen the amazing Billy Etbauer, saddle bronc rider extraordinaire wearing the Express Ranches vest. Whatever your connection, it was amazing. As a fellow tour member said to me “this is what money looks like!” No doubt! It was amazing to me, as we entered the sale barn and viewed the shrine of champion cattle and AI studs that I only read about in the bull magazines, to try to process how many hundreds of millions of dollars have walked in and out of that structure. Unbelievable!!!

I also learned that Okies must eat a lot of BBQ’d brisket and rib eye sandwiches. In fact the only cuts of beef I ate were in one of these two forms! Not a bad way to live. I also got a great recipe for out-of-this-world sweet tea! Despite the great people and wonderful hospitality, the heat and humidity, which seemed to be the same, made me long for the dry-high desert. Aww, its good to be home!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August:
3-7 Malheur County Fair
5- You Be The Judge – Live cattle carcass evaluation contest, Malheur Fairgrounds, 7:30 pm
11 - Sage Grouse Meeting, 6-8 pm at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City
21- Horse Workshop, 10am - 2 pm at the Extension Office
24 - Sage Grouse Meeting, 6-8 pm at the Jordan Valley Lions Den

September:
1 - MCCA Beef Heifer Applications due to the Extension Office
14-17 - Lost Rivers Grazing Academy, Salmon, ID.
14-17 - EBIPM Field School, Boise, ID.
County Moisture Outlook

Reservoir Report  7-28-10

- Thief Valley 79% full
- Philips 89% full
- Unity 66% full
- Beulah 49% full
- Bully Creek 70% full
- Warm Springs 36% full
- Owyhee 38% full

According to Bureau of Rec. web-site

Public Invited to Meetings on Updated Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host public meetings to present information and accept public comment on a five-year update to the greater sage-grouse conservation plan. The updated plan, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon, builds on the 2005 plan and includes accomplishments to date, refined population estimates, core-area mapping and mitigation recommendations.

The Baker City meeting will be held Aug. 11, Sunridge Inn (Best Western), 1 Sunridge Lane from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Jordan Valley meeting will be held Aug. 24, Jordan Valley Lions Club Hall, Hwy 95 N from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The draft sage-grouse plan is available to view on ODFW’s website, www.dfw.state.or.us. Request a print copy from the Wildlife Division, ODFW Headquarters, 3406 Cherry Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97303.

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact:

Philip Milburn
District Wildlife Biologist, Malheur District
3814 Clark Blvd.
Ontario, Oregon 97914
541-889-6975

Lost Rivers Grazing Academy

Once again the LRGA is being held in Salmon, Idaho. This is an incredible opportunity for livestock owners to gain knowledge and skills in implementing rotational grazing practices and in reducing the winter feed bill. You will learn about what to plant, when to graze, how long to graze among many other things! The workshops is geared towards livestock owners and is very hands on.

If you would like further information, please let me know or contact Scott Jensen in Owyhee County.

Registration is due September 8th.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/malheur
“Enjoy the Process”
Ron Torell, Long-Standing Educator and Advocate of Agriculture, University of Nevada

I recently received some very sound advice from a trusted and loyal friend that is worth passing on: “Slow down and enjoy the process.” Most agriculture producers are just like me. On any given day they have too many irons in the fire and too much on their minds. Consequently we all try to do too much in a day with too little help and too few resources. The slim profit margin agriculture offers is simply too small to afford the labor force and infrastructure we once enjoyed so we simply do without. We rely heavily on our family, neighbors and friends to fill this labor void. We shoulder the bulk of the added burden and are often unable to enjoy the process and the reason why we are in agriculture production to begin with. We hurry through one job so we can move on to the next. We become crisis managers rather than ranch managers. In this issue of Cow Camp Chatter let’s discuss the subject of slowing down and enjoying the process, and how, by doing so, we may become more efficient ranch managers and more enjoyable people to be around.

It’s important to keep in mind that the boss of any given outfit sets the tone for the day. Take for example working cows. This is generally one of the most pleasant of tasks associated with livestock production. It involves sorting calves from cows, running cows through the chute for vaccination, and processing calves. Normally this is a good day unless the boss starts it out with a sour attitude or tries to work the cows all in one day with marginal facilities and inexperienced labor. As this scene often plays out, what could have been a very pleasant day for both man and beast often goes south. The boss has a meltdown and goes ballistic. This isn't all due to the marginal facilities, the inexperienced and untrained labor, or the large number of animals to be processed before dark. In large part it may be because of the overload the boss is packing around mentally. The tone has been set. No one wants to be there at this point including the cows and calves. The fun has been bled out of the day for all.

I rather suspect that if you manage or live on a family ranch the above scenario comes close to describing a day or two on your operation. So what can be done to change this situation? For starters, slow down and enjoy the process. Do not try to do it all in one day. Don’t carry the weight of the world on your shoulders. Take an iron or two from the fire. Prioritize responsibilities and eliminate those tasks or jobs that are the most stressful and could possibly be done on another day when time allows. Become an advanced planner. Improve your infrastructure so it is untrained-labor friendly. As inexperienced as your labor force may be, you can change that by taking the time to educate and train those individuals and make the job enjoyable so that your limited labor pool will want to return to help the next time. Select and train mother cows to be more human friendly. And, yes, that can be done! Remember, you set the tone for the day.

True to my word, I recently took an iron from the fire and retired from my position as the University of Nevada Cooperative Livestock Extension Specialist. I had an amazing twenty-six year career with UNR. This was my dream job. I was paid to spread the bovine message, something I’ve always been passionate about. Most importantly, I made lifelong friends throughout the industry. All good things must come to an end and the time was right for me to move on.

What is next? My wife Jackie and I own and manage Torell Livestock & Custom A.I. and do ranch consulting. We sell semen for Accelerated Genetics, do custom A.I. work, and sell by private treaty A.I. sired Angus bulls from our herd of registered cows. We both share a passion for writing and will continue to do so collectively with Jackie continuing as my editor and equal partner. As a member of the Nevada Cattlemen’s Association I plan on devoting more time as an advocate for agriculture. Above all, we plan to slow down and enjoy the process.

That’s enough for this month. As always, if you would like to discuss this article or simply want to talk cows, do not hesitate to contact me at 775-385-7665 or rtbulls@frontier.com. Look in next month’s issue for another article of Cow Camp Chatter.
# Attention Horse Owners!!

**Date:** August 21, 2010  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Malheur Co. Extension Office  
710 SW 5th Ave., Ontario

This is an educational event that is open to all horse owners.  
Lunch will be provided  
Door Prize Drawings  
Everyone is encouraged to attend!

## Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Select Your Breeding Pairs - Conformation &amp; Genetic Selection</td>
<td>Dr. Dawn Marie Sherwood (OSU- Equine Ext. Spec.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine First Aid</td>
<td>Dr. Val Urick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine Nutrition - The Facts and Myths</td>
<td>Stephanie Falck (EOARC-Burns)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Got Worms? Managing Equine Parasites</td>
<td>Dr. Angie Allum (Vale Vet Clinic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Your Pasture for Horses</td>
<td>Anna-Marie Chamberlain (OSU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please call Anna-Marie at the Malheur County Extension Office 541-881-1417 to RSVP
The use of waste milk to feed calves is a common practice on many dairy farms, but it comes with risk. Along with the milk, calves may ingest pathogens that cause disease (mycoplasma, salmonella and Johne’s Disease, etc.)

To minimize the risk, pasteurize the waste milk. Mycobacterium paratuberculosis, the pathogen that causes Johne’s Disease, is not easily destroyed. However, researchers at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa and at other locations have shown that pasteurization can destroy it an other pathogens provided the milk is heated to the correct temperature and held for a specified time.

There are two general types of on-farm pasteurizers available. The first type is frequently referred to as a batch pasteurizer. Milk is put into this pasteurizer, heated to 150° F (65.5° C) and held for 30 minutes.

The second type is a commercial high-temperature, short-time pasteurizer or a HTST pasteurizer. When using a HTST pasteurizer, heat milk to 161° F (71.1° C) and hold for 15 seconds.

Since both types of pasteurizers have been shown to effectively destroy pathogens, either can be used. The critical point is to use the correct temperature and time for the type of pasteurizer chosen.

Because some of these same pathogens can be transferred in colostrums, there is interest in what happens to immunoglobulins if colostrums is pasteurized. In a recent study using the HTST pasteurizer, there was a 25 % reduction in immunoglobulins, thus consider alternative methods to protect calves from disease found in colostrums.

If you pasteurize colostrums, use the batch pasteurizer as the HTST tens to clog with colostrums.

For example, to control Johne’s Disease use only colostrums from cows that have recently been tested negative for Johne’s.

Commercial colostrums supplements or replacements can also be fed if insufficient colostrums is available.

Waste milk can be used for feeding calves, however pasteurize it first to reduce the risk associated with this cost saving practice.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/malheur
Ranchers Feeding Kids

As you may recall, the MCCA worked hard to arrange for retired cattle to be donated and utilized in the Jordan Valley School District hot lunch program. In conjunction with the donations, multiple agencies and groups partnered to provide the educational component of the program. Last year, five head were donated and the impacts were as follows:

1. Provided over 3,900 safe, local, healthy and nutritional beef meals to JV students
2. Saved the school district over $3,000.00
3. Increased beef on the lunch menu and allowed for greater variety in menu items and demonstrated how beef consumption is a part of a healthy lifestyle
4. Educated future consumers about the industry most critical to their community
5. Enhanced relationship between the school district, teachers and students with local ranchers and community members
6. Spread a positive beef message

I am excited to report that many positive things have come from this program. In fact, at least four additional Malheur County school districts have requested to become involved in this program for the 2010-2011 school year!! While we may not be able to provide all the beef needed by these school districts, we as local ranchers can make an impact.

Shortly, the MCCA will begin a campaign to bring donated beef into your local school district. If you would like to become involved, please don’t hesitate to contact the MCCA. Additional details will follow next month.

Beef Heifer Replacement Program

We would like to invite you to the Malheur County Fair, August 3-7th. On Wednesday the 4th, at 1:00pm the beef breeding classes will take place. We are excited to announce that 9 students will be exhibiting females they received through the Malheur County Beef Heifer Replacement Program. Three students will be showing cow-calf pairs and six students will have their yearling heifers on display.

An enormous thank you goes out to Morgan Johnsrud of Genex CRI, for all his help in seeing that the heifers were artificially inseminated with donated semen. The majority of the females were synchronized with a CIDR program and AI’d. Everyone is eager to see if the process took and look forward to the results arriving in the spring!

The MCCA is now accepting applications from students wishing to receive a donated heifer this fall. Applications are due September 1st. We are also looking for producers to participate in this program by donating a replacement quality female. Contact Anna-Marie or the Extension Office for more information.
Sponsored by the Malheur County Cattlemen’s Association, Malheur Extension Service & TVCC

2nd Annual

You Be The Judge!

Live Cattle Carcass Evaluation Contest

- Do you have an eye for evaluating fat cattle? Let’s put your skills to the test!
- Guest presenters will discuss carcass evaluation, yield grades, quality grades, dressing percentage, industry demand and how this information aids in management decisions.
- All entries will be compared with actual carcass data collected for each of the six steers.
- Come participate and test your ability to grade live cattle!

$5 entry fee
Adult and Youth divisions
Top three in each divisions split the money
Additional $50 in each division sponsored by MCCA
Everyone can enter once

Thursday
August 5th
7:30 pm

Following beef open class in the beef ring
An herbaceous perennial ranging from one to four feet tall, with a deep taproot, producing rhizomes in the second year. Rosettes are very similar in appearance to Dandelion in fact it is a close relative. The mature plants are dark green, with many sparsely leaved aerial branches, giving it a skeleton like appearance. A distinguishing characteristic is the presence of coarse, downward pointing brown hairs near the stem base. All parts of Rush skeletonweed contain white latex which can be very irritating. Small yellow flowers are found individually or in clusters of two to five. Each seed has a pappus, again similar to Dandelion, capable of carrying seeds on wind currents many miles. Rush skeletonweed also spreads by root shoots making cultivation a major source of spread once it is established. It is a very aggressive invader in rangelands and extremely damaging to production agriculture. Locally it has begun to show up in row crop and forage production areas.

Treatment options in crops are very limited or nonexistent and every effort should be made to keep it from getting established in croplands. The only effective method of control has been from the use of residual herbicides over multiple years, specifically Picloram (Tordon 22K). Best results have been achieved by applications in late fall before the ground is permanently frozen then into the following early spring. Aminopyralid (Milestone) has been increasingly used at bud stage with control results similar to Tordon, this of course stops seed production which fall treatments miss. There are several biological controls in use and they are widely distributed however their effectiveness is not satisfactory.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/malheur