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Cattle Call

Volume 5, Issue 4

Early Fall 2010



Board of Directors: Tom Hendrix, Tom Hagans, John Reid, Wayne Rusher, Gerald Schreiber, Ron Rehfeld, Kimmi Lewis, Bill Bledsoe and Steve Jarmon.

CICA 5th Annual Convention Hosts Over 100

Geral and Jamie Smith of Trinchera, CO, hosted this year's CICA Annual Convention at their ranch on the Colorado/New Mexico state line. The convention began on Friday, July 23, with a driving tour of the land to be taken for the expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

About 80 people participated in the tour that began at Muddy Valley Ranch on Highway 109, south of La Junta, CO. By the time the group made the trek to Johnnie & Julie Mayhan's ranch more had joined the precession. Lunch was served at the Mayhan ranch by the Arkansas Valley Cattlewomen. A flat tire in the rain on a slick dirt road added a hint of drama and brought out the "neighbor" in people who had only known each other a few hours.

Saturday was cool and breezy on the Smith ranch. There had been enough

rain along the border that the range was dressed its best. Healthy deer and antelope grazing the pastures near the roads displayed the quality of stewardship local ranchers believe in.

"The dinner on Saturday night had 138 people there, our biggest one yet," said Lewis.

Susie McEntire, sister of country singer Reba McEntire, preformed after the dinner.

Several speakers addressed the crowd on Saturday. GB Oliver, III is the Executive Vice President of the Paragon Foundation, Alamogordo, NM, gave information on the kinds of information the foundation offers. See: www.paragonfoundation.org

Dan Martinez, a Director of the Paragon Foundation, Santa Fe, NM, gave ranchers ammunition in the war to hold their homes and businesses

— See: CONVENTION on page 3.

Rotten Apples, Politicians and Cow-Calf Producers

I ask friends, acquaintances, strangers, "Please help me remove the rotten apples from this cart?"

"Oh my gosh no! I can't!" They answer.

"Why?" I ask.

"I'll offend the rotten apples. I want the money they promised me for a coliseum with my name on it, big pension, tenure, food stamps, grants, baby recants and hair transplants!"

In real life we remove every rotten thing... except politicians.

We allow them to sit on the shelf beyond their "Use or freeze before" expiration date.

Recently I peeked in on a meet of cattle industry folks, Attorney General Eric Holder and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

My take? It was another federal placebo.

Saying lovely things, Holder smoothly anesthetized the audience to make the bitters go down.

Holder serves an administration that, not unlike previous administrations, wants to control us.

While federalizing industries, healthcare and education, they take land and water out of private ownership; all...perfect ways to control us.

Theirs is a psychological warfare that teaches America's urban populace to believe ag producers who own land and water should gladly gift it to groups like the Nature Conservancy.

So out in the open bold, blatant in your face, grand sweeping serious while executing their plan, they ruin any delectable fun we could have supposing them in a cigared czars smok'n conspiracy.

An example: Bureau of Land Management gifts National Academy of Sciences \$1.5 million to study why feral burro and horse numbers are increasing on federal and private lands.

Apparently everyone except BLM knows the birds and bees story.

For about fifty cents, I could fax that story to BLM. The savings of one million, four hundred and ninety nine thousand dollars and fifty cents could be used towards the reimbursement to ag producers, whose care of said critters cost them fifty times that.

But they won't do that.

Federal employees - like the global executor of

our private estates DOI Secretary Ken Salazar - need feral burros and horses; for they're one of many tools they use to take deeded land and water usage rights.

Secretary Vilsack appeared sincere in wanting to serve us; but quandaried as to who pays his salary and will spank him if he strays.

Another guy with the Justice Dept. asked the cattlemen and women if they accessed or used electronics... "like computers."

What I heard? "Do you dumb hicks know how to read?"

What I pictured? Him asking Vera Wang the same question.

Why Vera Wang?

Well, the cattle industry is similar to the garment industry. How?

Consider Vera as that cow-calf producer who draws up a design (genetics), finds the best fabric (bulls and cows) and factory (land and water), hires the best seamstresses (managers), and puts together an outfit she can get a terrific price on.

The differences? USDA and packers merge cow-calf producer designs with cheap imports.

As price receivers, cow-calf producers are paid whatever USDA and packers decide.

Cow-calf producers also loose money each time they have to stop work and travel to meetings.

Contrarily, USDA employees are paid to generate meetings and compensated travel.

An accurate illustration of the U.S. Cattle Industry.

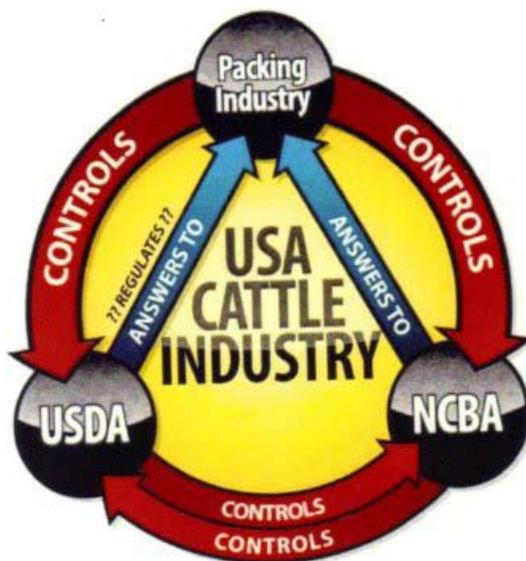
Agricultural producers spend more of their personal time and money than any other industry, protecting their livelihoods, land and water.

Why then, do they subject themselves to such abuse? Love of country, nature and providing good products to consumers.

All they ask for is "fair treatment." Something rotten apples don't know how to give.

Rotten apples aren't for fearing. They're for removing.

If you won't help remove them, then please don't vote.





Ron Busch of Walsenburg, CO., (left) takes his prize from Kelly Clodfelter, owner of Kelly's Guns in La Junta, CO.

Busch won the donation draw for the Henry Big Boy .44 Caliber Rifle offered by CICA. To offer a gun as a prize, a registered gun dealer must have control of the gun at all times. Clodfelter ordered, displayed, and filled out the paperwork on the rifle so CICA could offer it to their donation winner.

Busch was at the CICA Convention when his ticket was declared the winner. He drove to La Junta to pick up his new prize at Kelly's Guns and is looking forward to using it.

"I might try deer hunting with it for nostalgia sake," Busch said. "There's an old west saying that there's been more animals and people shot with a .44 than with any other calibre."

Kelly Clodfelter, owner of Kelly's Guns, was pleased to be part of the fundraiser. "Rural communities working together for a mutual cause, I am proud to be part of it," he said.

Second place was \$500 which went home with John Glenn of Fort Morgan, CO.

THANK YOU

Just wanted to let you know how much I, and many others that I talked to enjoyed the CICA tour. Having G.B. Oliver and Danny Martinez on the tour and at the convention was great. Those two men should be mandatory listening for everyone in the U.S.A. Their wealth of knowledge is tremendous. If we all took what they say and how to accomplish what they say we would get our country back again.

Thank you for putting on a great convention with great speakers with knowledge that can benefit everyone.

Mack Loudon
Not One More Acre!

Convention - from page 1

against attacks by environmental and governmental bureaucratic attacks. He recommends simply sending a letter requesting the wording and rules that gives that particular entity the right to take or demand what they are requiring. To date, this has been the most successful, and least expensive, method of preventing a takeover.

Mike Schultz, national COOL Committee Chairman for R-CALF USA, Brewster, KS, talked about the Country of Origin Labeling debate. For more info, visit: www.r-calfusa.com.

Dave Anderson with the Coalition for a Prosperous America, Colorado Springs, CO, introduced his group and discussed upcoming events which will give citizens a chance to question candidates and express opinions on trade, business, and economic issues. Visit: www.prosperousamerica.org.

Mike Callicrate, feedlot owner and Vice President of the Organization for Competitive Markets, St. Francis, KS, worked to help ranchers understand and identify marketing trends and opportunities, while warning of scams and regulations that often prevent a small direct-to-consumer business from surviving.

Jeremiah Karsten, from Durango, CO, spoke about his horseback adventure riding from Alaska to Mexico. It took two years and he rode many horses, buying, selling and trading as he went along. His most nerve-wracking moment was loping forward under the muzzles of border patrol agents as he sought to touch the fence on the Mexican/American border to symbolically complete his journey.

"I didn't think they'd shoot me, but I was wondering a little," he joked.

He is now working on a ranch in the Four Corners region, and thoroughly enjoying being a cowboy.



Geral and Jamie Smith accept a "Thank You" award from Region 6 Director, Wayne Rusher, at the 2010 CICA Convention held at the Smith Ranch near Trinchera.

From the President's Desk . . .

It was a true honor to be at the Geral and Jamie Smith Ranch for our Fifth Annual Convention the end of July. Thank you, Geral and Jamie for opening up your ranch to us.

The early morning rain and cool air reminded me of how beautiful the country is in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Geral had mentioned that he was sure worried about it being dry before the convention. We were glad to bring him some rain as well as good ranch people to visit with.

I'd like to thank Southern Colorado Livestock Association and my family for helping us to draw our largest crowd ever for this convention. My daughters and husband, Marty, worked endless hours for several weeks organizing and making the convention happen.

The delicious lunch on Saturday was provided by Rehfeld Ranch Raised Beef of Arapahoe, CO;

Mike Richardson of Kim, CO, and Mack and Toyleen Loudon of Branson, CO and it was very delicious. Abel Benavidez, the President of Southern Colorado Livestock Association, and the Smith's granddaughter, Bonnie Murphy, were in charge of the monster grill that Abel rented.

Due to the rain, the rented tent was unused. Steve Jarmon, CICA Director from Cortez mentioned that maybe we should buy a tent and set it up around people's ranches to make it rain. I thought that was a clever idea.

This year we tried something new with a tour before the convention. Johnnie and Julie Mayhan graciously welcomed us to their ranch near Chacuaco Creek where the Arkansas Valley CattleWomen served us lunch.

Once again, rain clouds formed and a cool breeze. Since I was the tour leader, I knew that the exodus back towards the pavement

needed to happen in a hurry. Johnnie mentioned that he received good rains for several days after that and his yearlings have had a good summer. Thank you, Johnnie and Julie for welcoming us and a huge thanks to the delicious meal provided by the CattleWomen. The homeade fudge made by Judy Karney was priceless.

We ended the convention this year at the historic old gym of Branson, Colorado. Once again, my girls did a great job in decorating and organizing.

Thank you, Branson School and community, especially Craig and and Lori Green, for welcoming us. It was a wonderful evening. Susie McEntire, a very talented and positive person, reminded us to be humble and thankful for each day. We'll remember it as a wonderful gathering of wonderful people.

Due to health reasons, I was unable to attend the GIPSA/DOJ meeting. Vice President Gerald Schreiber attended the meeting and

these were his comments: "I was really happy that I took the time to attend the USDA/DOJ workshop-listening session on competition or lack thereof in the beef market. This was a unique opportunity for beef producers to input to USDA/GIPSA and DOJ about the negative impacts of packer concentration, captive supply feeding and economic consequences to us as individual producers and our declining rural infrastructures.

"The crowd was large but the day went well and I think it was positive from our perspective as CICA and R-CALF members. We were able to input our concerns about our beef business. The panels provided good information to the government about our business. We still need to keep submitting comments to GIPSA as we saw firsthand that the other side is not going to sit idly by and let any change come to enforcement of P&S."

God Bless You!

Kimmi Lewis

Cattlemen Shocked and Appalled - Considering Litigation

The Organization for Competitive Markets is actively exploring litigation as the best option for addressing the recently disclosed misappropriation of beef checkoff funds by NCBA. During a routine compliance review of NCBA, ordered by the Cattlemen's Beef Board, strong evidence of mishandling of checkoff funds was uncovered. A one percent sampling by

the accounting firm Clifton Gunderson found a disturbing level of misuse of the checkoff funds.

OCM Board members were angered by these findings. Members of the organization have long viewed NCBA as an instrument of meat packers rather than the advocate for the interests of beef cattle producers it purports to be. At its regularly scheduled OCM board meeting

on August 19th, the vote was unanimous to actively pursue litigation to ensure a detailed and comprehensive audit of the entire fourteen years NCBA has been a contractor for the cattlemen's checkoff.

OCM President, Randy Stevenson said; "The law requires that all cattle producers pay the checkoff, regardless of how they feel about the NCBA or their use of these funds. By gov-

ernment mandate, checkoff funds are to be used to promote beef and not the interests of meat packers. Now we find that NCBA has not only failed in its fiduciary responsibility but has betrayed the trust of cattlemen who fund the program. We want a thorough investigation and complete audit, and every misappropriated dollar returned to the Cattlemen's Beef Board."