

Marias River Livestock Association, 72 Sweetgrass Hills Rd, Sweet Grass MT 59484
www.MariasRiverLivestock.com E-mail nutter@northertel.net 406-937-2751

As the Ashes Settle a Spark of Hope Is Fanned

By Maggie Nutter

We can all imagine the emotional pain of losing our home, our barns, fences, hay stacks and cattle, but for some it has become a reality.

At the Marias River Livestock Board meeting on July 12, 2012 it was determined that we needed to find a way to help the ranchers and others in Montana that have lost so much to wildfires.

At the time of this writing over 350,000 acres of Montana have been burned. Homes have been lost. Many cattle and sheep have been lost. How can we help?

Marias River Livestock Association is collecting money at this time to be deposited in an account

Taking a Stand

Opinion by Maggie Nutter and Butch Gillespie

We are offended Governor Brian Schweitzer has requested the DOI (Department of the Interior) to assist in relocating to DOI lands Yellowstone bison that have been in the quarantine facility on Turner Green Ranch.

As we have listened to, gone to and participated in the MT FWP (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks) "Bison Scoping Meetings," we have been assured that we are being heard and there is no "prior plan in place". Perhaps the employees of the MT FWP did not have a prior plan but it seem obvious that Schweitzer did.

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set-up by Stockman Bank. If you wish to donate please make your checks out to "Ash Creek Rancher Relief Fund."

This fund will provide needed assistance to the Ranchers who have suffered losses from the fire.

Marias River Livestock Association is not in charge of dispersing the funds, but believes that the Stockman Bank and people in charge of the fund are reliable.

Also see *Big Sky has even Bigger Hearts* page 5

With the feedback at the Bison Scoping Meetings being strongly against Free Roaming Bison and with lawsuits in place against MT FWP, it seems Schweitzer decided to move forward on his own and request from Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, assistance in getting the bison relocated.

We do not believe this action represents the people of Montana's desires. We believe it is Schweitzer's private agenda.

Continue *A Stand* on page 4

Come To the Table

I had an elderly gentleman tell me the other day that even with all the social problems in the United States, we now live in one of the greatest times. He stated "You turn on the lights, have running water and refrigeration, can jump in the car and drive to town, prices are high but so are wages." In many ways he is so right. We forget to appreciate what we have and what others sacrificed, invented, and built so that we would have an easier and more convenient life. I have a great appreciation for what my great grandparents, grandparents and mom and dad did so that I could own and operate this ranch today. I hope to preserve this place for a next generation. It is summer. We have grass and just got some good rain. Our cows are moved out to summer pasture. Haying is in full swing for many.

It is how the season goes. It is full of tradition like Christmas or Thanksgiving. These are all things that I hope for my grandsons, nieces and nephews to experience and enjoy in the future. Yes, things change, but preserving the lifestyle and culture of our area is so important to me. Agriculture connects kids to the past and the ground. It gives them work ethic and a reality based outlook for the future. It is a great life and a great work to feed our fellow countrymen.

You are invited to come to the table and join Marias River Livestock Association as we work on the current issues that affect the ranching business and lifestyle.

Marias River Livestock Association President
Maggie Nutter



Be a Winner with Bull Bucks Program

By Maggie Nutter

Want a chance to be drawn for one of the Bull Bucks Vouchers? Join Marias River Livestock Association and you are eligible to be put in the drawing at the Annual Membership Meeting November 16, 2012 at the Elks Club in Shelby Montana.

How it works: Participating Registered Bull Breeders and Seed Stock Female Producers each contribute \$35 for the "POT." At the Annual Membership Meeting two lucky winners will be drawn from the current Marias River Livestock Association Membership to receive a Bull Bucks

Voucher. The Vouchers (each for ½ the Pot) are good towards the purchase of Registered Bulls or Seed Stock Females from the participating Breeders/Producers.

The amount of each Voucher will depend on the number of Breeders/Producers who participate in the program. The Vouchers are good only for cattle purchases from the participating Breeders/Producers and cannot be redeemed for cash. The Association keeps no money. All funds are placed in the POT for the members Vouchers.

Continue *Bull Bucks* on page 5

"The Vouchers (each for ½ the Pot) are good towards the purchase of Registered Bull or Seed Stock Female from the participating Breeders."

Get your calves in front of over 3000 buyers in one day.

Contact
Gary Buffington
(406) 456-3316
Ledger, MT
Area Representative for Northern Video

Jeff Habets Steps to the Plate

By Maggie Nutter

We are excited to announce that Jeff Habets has volunteered to step up and be the Youth Membership Chairman for Marias River Livestock Association.

Jeff will be serving two different groups: Youth (members under 18 years of age) and Young Producers, which are livestock producers or those involved in agriculture who are 18 to 40 years old.

Habets' goal is to make contact with the youth and let them know how important it is for them to be involved in agriculture and help keep them informed on ag-related educational events. He encourages all interested young people in learning more about livestock production and agriculture to become a member of the Association.



Jeff Habets ready to go to work and help young producers find ways to be involved in the leadership of the agriculture.

Youth membership is \$10 and 5 hours a year of volunteer service approved by the Youth Membership Chairperson.

Continue *Habets Steps to the Plate* on page 4

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

NAME _____

RANCH NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

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

 Charter Member \$100

Voluntary higher due available this year to Active and Youth Members who join between March 2012 and November 2013 and wish to be recognized as Charter Members from now on.

 Charter Associate Member \$100

Voluntary higher due available this year to non-voting Associate Members who join between March 2012 and November 2013 and wish to be recognized as Charter Associate Members from now on.

 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

A Stand from page 1

We feel that these two quotes from a [New York Times Article](#) printed May 31, 2012 display his disrespect for livestock producers and the people of Montana's desires:

"Montana's governor, Brian Schweitzer, contends that the collective behind the lawsuit just wants 'the cheap grass.' 'The most vocal opponents are the who's who of public grazers,' Governor Schweitzer said."

"For Mr. Schweitzer, bringing back the buffalo has become something of a mission. 'A hundred years from now, no one is going to know who the governor of Montana was who brought the buffalo back,' he said. 'But when they hoist me down into my place on the prairie, with the tall grass blowing and the bison walking over my grave, I'll know.'"

"The Young Producers are the ones that should be fighting the hardest for the future of agriculture. It's going to affect us the most."



Stay on Guard

In the past few years, nine different cattle herds and two domestic bison herds located near Yellowstone National Park have tested positive for Brucellosis. The DNA tests point to Elk as the carrier in these cases. There has been a growing population of Brucellosis infected Elk and ranchers need to be ready for the issues that are coming. The Livestock industry has worked hard and spent millions of dollars to eradicate brucellosis from our cattle herds. We need to continue to guard against this serious threat. See more under Current Issues on www.MariasRiverLivestock.com

Habets Steps to the Plate from page 3

Habets' passion is to work with the Young Producer Group. "There are so many great events geared towards this group being offered. We just need to make them aware of the events and how the events can help the Young Producer getting started to make his/her operation successful. They also help keep us aware of the current issues." Jeff Habets believes, "The Young Producers are the ones that should be fighting the hardest for the future of agriculture. It's going to affect us the most."

If you are interested in information on membership or the "Young Agriculture Leadership Conference" October 5-7 in Great Falls Montana, give Jeff a call and he'll be glad to help you out. Jeff Habets 406-450-1976

Bull Bucks from page 2

Currently Participating Breeder/Producers are listed here. For more details go to

www.MariasRiverLivestock.com

Hawks Angus– Adrian & Janet Hawks 432–5355

Turner Angus– Paul Turner 337–3800

Flesch Angus–Jeff Flesch 337–3402 John Flesch 450–1080

Curry Cattle Inc. – Gene Curry 279–3561

Gillespie Show Cattle– Butch & Doreen Gillespie 337–2943 or 949–4453

Diemert Ranch Herefords– Ace & Tara Diemert 432–3412

Diamond D Angus– Mark DeBoo 279–3633



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The Big Sky Has Even Bigger Hearts

By Maggie Nutter

The hearts of the people of Montana are as big as the sky. When others hurt we seek to give.

Sometimes it is hard to know what to do which leaves a feeling of helplessness. We have many ways to help those who have suffered wildfire loss this summer.

Hay and Pasture listing– If you have hay for sale or donation, or pasture for lease, Mary Rumph, Powder River County Extension Agent, and her staff will take the information and pass it on to the Livestock Producers affected by the fires. Contact them at 436–2424 or mrumph@montana.edu

To offer pasture, hay or Trucking, call Montana Disaster and Emergency Services in Helena at 406–324–4777 or call Chuck Lee in Baker at 406–778–7121.

Hay and Pasture can also be listed – at these websites. These are state and nation wide listings.

www.hayexchange.com,

www.haybarn.com,

http://services.agr.mt.gov/Hay_List/

Hay Hotline 406–444–2402

American Red Cross of Montana accepts credit card donations at 800–272–6668, online at

To donate \$10 for fire victim relief

by cell phone to the

American Red Cross Relief

Text REDCROSS to 90999

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Association**

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Motto

**Honoring the Past
Protecting the Future**

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www.montanaredcross.org, or by mail to: 1300 28th
Street S., Great Falls, MT 59405.

Salvation Army checks for fire relief should be made out
to "Disaster Relief for Wildfires" and mailed to Salvation
Army Billings, P.O. Box 1903, Billings, MT 59103.
Donations may be made online at
www.imsalvationarmy.org or by phone at 800-SAL-ARMY

Ash Creek Rancher Relief Fund, Stockman Bank, Box 250,
Mile City MT 59301 or take to any local branch

Ash Creek Fire Relief Fund, First State Bank, Box 379,
Forsyth, MT 59327

Roundup Fire Relief Fund, First Security Bank of
Roundup, P.O. Box 100, Roundup, MT 59072 has been
established to assisted Musselshell County fire victims

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.MariasRiverLivestock.com

to get your area's Directors
Contact information



Send to:

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