

THE POST RIDER

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

Grizzly Bear Connectivity Panel Leaves Gap in Representing Land Owner's

By Maggie Nutter

"First we take the question as to whether bears should be there or not off the table." Was one of Gary Burnett's first comments as he introduced himself on the NCDE Panel Discussion on Connectivity.

My immediate thought was, "Hmm.... Many of us are not ready to take that debate off the table"

The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Sub-Committee of the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), met November 20, 2018 at the Double Tree Inn, Missoula. The room was full, as usual, with Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as, Vital Ground, Yellowstone to Yukon, Wildearth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, Government agency staff from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife and a smattering of private citizens, topped off with the media. Oh! and a couple livestock producers, Nina Baucus, representing the Board of Livestock, Trina Jo Bradley and I, Maggie Nutter, representing Marias River Livestock Association.

The Connectivity Panel Discussion and the comments by the NCDE Committee members following were very concerning. Below is my public comment during the allowed 3 minutes.

I am Maggie Nutter, a fourth-generation rancher in the Sweet Grass Hills of Northern Montana. The Panel discussion today was very concerning..... not only was it concerning, It made me angry. For over 100 years my family has been on our ranch. We have protected the land and been good stewards. We don't need your help to take care of the land.

It is more than just living on the land that is important to us. It is the freedom of the use of that land as we see fit.

You speak of voluntary Conservation easements and Land trusts, then you flip over to discussion of smart growth regulations. Regulations? Certainly, that is not promoting voluntary conservation any more.

You speak of using the Farm Bill to incentivize land owners to conserve wildlife habitat and increase tolerance for grizzly bears. Then you drift again to conversations of regulations. You encouraged the coordination and organization of NGOs to attack our Farm Bill..... no... to inject policy into our Farm Bill.

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It seems you want rancher owners to live like apartment renters. "You can live here but don't paint a wall or pound a nail to hang a picture."

For generations our family has had the freedom to roam and work our ranch without fear of predators. How can you compensate, not just me, but the generations to come for that loss of freedom?? Why are your bears more important than my freedom?

I don't want to keep my grandkids as prisoners in my home. I don't want live like Trina, whose daughter wants boards on her bedroom windows because she is afraid of bears. I don't want to live like Lisa Schmidt whose daughter is again afraid of outside because of bears. You can secure livestock and chickens with electric fences but that won't keep my family safe as they work on the ranch.

Today we heard of bear management ranging from aggressive bean bagging of bears in Glacier National Park in "no tolerance camping zones," to a grizzly being escorted in a kind and friendly way from the town of Choteau. How can I have confidence in bear management that varies so greatly??

I fear the use of incentives for habitat conservation slowly changing to ticket, fines, felony charges and jail time for non-compliance. What I heard today was way to much about managing people and very little about bear management and concern for human safety.

Annual Event Is Once Again A Success

Prime Rib and Rib Tickler

By Carrie Lerum

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, the Shelby Civic Center was where you could find good food, good music, and good people as the Marias River Livestock Association hosted the 7th Annual Prime Rib and Rib Tickler dinner.


Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to enjoy an excellent prime rib dinner with corn pudding, potatoes, roll and salad prepared by Dr. Dick Kinyon and his crew. The Blazing Saddles 4-H Club from Toole County did a great job of helping to serve food and the Coyote Club was on hand to serve refreshments.

Wendy Connelly introduced members of the Shelby and Valier FFA Chapters who were there to promote their FFA Breeding project. Their goals are to include more chapters in the project and ask area producers to donate a heifer to help with the task. The Chapter's goals are to help teach all who are interested how to properly feed, halter break, groom and show a heifer. They also are involved in learning about bloodlines, breeding and promotion of their animal. Then, during the Marias Fair they compete against other bred heifers while ultimately, they end up auctioning off the bred heifer during the rodeo on Friday night of the fair. Proceeds from the auction go towards continued education for each of the participating chapters. If you are interested in learning more about this venture, please contact the Valier or Shelby FFA Advisors.

Carrie Sue Lerum introduced the current winners of the MRLA 4-H Beef Breeding Project contest who were in attendance. The purpose of these awards is to encourage knowledge and interest in a continuing breeding project that will serve to become the foundation of a current or future breeding herd. It is the goal of MRLA to encourage our youth to become the next generation of livestock producers. The first-year award is for a bred yearling heifer and the second-year award is for bringing that heifer back with a calf at her side. While confirmation, breeding capability and ability to handle the heifer is very important and will be part of the overall score for determining the award winner, the main component of the score is based on an interview. 4-ers are interviewed on their knowledge of their animals and the goals they have for a continued breeding program on their current ranch operation. Brett Stoltz from Valier, MT won Grand Champion Bred Heifer Project, and his brother Zach Stoltz won Reserve Champion Bred Heifer. Coulter Littrell from Cut Bank, MT won Grand Champion Cow/Calf pair and Shiloh Neal from Valier, MT won Reserve Champion Cow/Calf pair.

Another contest MRLA sponsors is the Lamb Promotion Contest with goals in mind of promoting the lamb and wool industry, educating consumers about the nutritious benefits of lamb and sharing tasty recipes, educating consumers on the versatility and sustainability of lamb and wool and encouraging 4-Hers to improve their public speaking skills.

Continued page 3



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Livestock Losses to Grizzlies and Wolves Continue to Climb

George Edwards (406) 444-5609 or via email at gedwards@mt.gov

Each year the Livestock Loss Board receives \$200,000 from state general fund to pay loss claims. Since 2011 we have accumulated a \$100,000 cushion in the fund. Last year and this year the increase in losses have started to erode our cushion. The Livestock Loss Board will hopefully have enough money to pay claims through the end of the state budget year ending June 30, 2019. This year the Board has already paid out \$197,943 on 236 head of livestock. Just since July 1st the Board has paid out \$150,936 in claims. Most of the death loss has been due to grizzly bears although wolf caused loss has also increased this year. **Last year 2/3 of the total claims were due to grizzly bear depredation.** Livestock loss statistics are provided on the website www.llb.mt.gov and livestock lost and county in which it occurred are also posted on the "Livestock Loss Board" Facebook page as individuals apply for the funds.

The Livestock Loss Board realizes that actual losses far exceed reported and confirmed losses. The Board would like to be able to cover additional livestock losses in the form of a multiplier payment, which would be paid in addition to payments for confirmed and probable loss. This is not possible at this time as the limited funding would not cover such a program.

The primary purpose of the board is to pay for livestock losses due to grizzly bears, wolves and mountain lions. If it is suspected your livestock loss is due to any of these three predators, call your local USDA Wildlife Services specialist. In Glacier, Toole, Liberty and Pondera Counties call Mike Hoggan (406) 289-0492. In Teton, Cascade and Choteau Counties call Kurt Miedtke (406) 799-1771. If you are unable to reach either of them, call Wildlife Services state office at (406) 657-6464 to request an investigation.

Per Montana law, claims made to the Livestock Loss Board may only be paid if USDA, Wildlife Services has performed an investigation. If Wildlife Services determines the loss is a confirmed or probable depredation by lion, wolf or grizzly, on the investigation form, the livestock owner must themselves send in the form with a claim to the Livestock Loss Board. Investigations performed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks or your local sheriff's office personnel, by law are not allowed as a substitute.

Doreen Gillespie, a Marias River Livestock Association member, is on the Livestock Loss Board. Gillespie brings a wealth of knowledge and representation for the Rocky Mountain Front area. The board consists of three livestock producers and two wildlife biologists. George Edwards is the sole employee for the board.

Prime Rib from pg 2

The Senior division winner was Sarah Thies from Cut Bank, MT. Delaney Clark from Shelby, MT was the Junior Division winner and her brother Dylan Clark was the Pre-Junior division winner.

Mr. Jeff Flesch auctioned off a Martin Knife donated by Jody Martin of Shelby that was purchased by Charlotte Marshal of Oilmont, MT for \$500. The custom-made coffee table donated by Casey Buffington of Ledger, MT, was purchased by LeAnne Kavanagh of Cut Bank, MT \$475. The custom-made metal artwork in the shape of the state of Montana donated by Allison Custom Design of Fairfield, MT was purchased by Wes McAlpine of Sunburst, MT for \$200. Dr. Dick Kinyon donated 2 prepared prime ribs that were sold to Wendy Fauque of Sunburst, MT for \$450 and Julie Gernaat of Conrad for \$425. So a grand total of \$2,050 were raised for more MRLA youth activities.

The Bull Bucks Plus drawing was one of the highlights of the evening where every member who renewed their membership with MRLA was eligible to win the pot of \$1500 to be used toward the purchase of seed stock from the following participants: Apex Angus, Bobcat Angus, Connelly Angus, Diamond D Angus, Enneberg Angus, Flesch Angus, Gillespie Show Cattle, Hawks Angus, Holden Herefords, Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh, O'Hara Land and Cattle, Superior Livestock Auction, Tomsheck Angus, Timber Coulee Columbia and Turner Angus. The big winner was Jim Bjorkman from Oilmont, MT.

Cara Pascalar Ayres gave a knee slapping and toe tapping performance where she sang parodies of songs that she wrote about ranching, farm life, and working on the land. She even took the opportunities to spotlight some of the crowd to add personalization and comedy to her act.

It was a great way to celebrate another year completed with grain in the bins, calves sold, and a job well done with an evening with fantastic door prizes, delicious food and good times.

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Chores. They Do A Body Good

Did you ever read research and think.... "Didn't we already know that?"

Clip this article and show it to your kids.

Well here's the big scoop. Research seems to show that children who do chores, starting as young as 4 years of age, end up more independent and competent as adults!!

Harvard University Grant Glueck Study of Adult Development has followed groups of people, starting as children, over for over 80 years to see how their childhoods may affect their development into adults. One of the bits of information they found was that children who were expected to do chores starting at a young age most frequently grew into independent, happy adults.

This was also the information found in a paper published by the University of Minnesota which states. "Using measures of individual's success such as completion of education, getting started on a career path, IQ, relationships with family and friends, and not using drugs, and examining a child's involvement in household tasks at all three earlier time, Rossmann determined that the best predictor of young adults' success in their mid-20s was that they participated in household tasks when they were three or four. However, if they did not begin participating until they were 15 or 16, the participation backfired and those subjects were less "successful." The assumption is that responsibility learned via household tasks is best when learned young.... Involving children in household tasks at an early age helps them learn values and empathy as well as responsibility."

While Marias River Livestock Association (MRLA) cannot be in your home and help you to teach your children to do chores, we can offer a carrot in the form of the 4-H Youth Awards.

It has been exciting for the Board of MRLA to see the youth participation at the Marias Fair in the Beef Breeding Program and the Sheep Presentation Competition. We know that YOU the Parents are the moving force behind those outstanding kids, so we want to say Thank You!

Thank You! For raising up our Youth, the next generation of agriculture in a productive manner. Thank You! For helping them get all the supplies, feed, critters and knowledge together. We appreciate that hard work and all you do for this upcoming generation.

Also, Thank You! for supporting Marias River Livestock Association with your membership.

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

DATE _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

How would you like to receive the Post Rider Newsletter?

Hard copy in the US Mail Yes / No

E-mail Yes / No

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Marias River Livestock Association
Carrie Sue Lerum
PO Box 56
Galata, Mt 59444

Active Membership is per individual not per ranch or corporation.

This a new membership _____

This is a renewal _____

_____ 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

_____ Donations to be used in assisting representatives from Marias River Livestock Association to attend meetings such as Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Interagency Bison Meetings, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, and other meetings, hearings or events where the MRLA Board believes information should be gathered and livestock producer's perspective need represented. Please write in the amount of the donation to differentiate it from your membership dues _____

Marias River Livestock Association's Newest Directors

Glacier County Director

Born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Dennis Garcia worked on the family ranch near El Rito until going off to school. The family ranch consisted of cattle and alfalfa hay. Garcia attended High School New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, NM,. He returned to the ranch on weekends and whenever time allowed.

He earned his high school diploma from NMMI in May 2005, then returned to NMMI for two more years of junior college. In May 2007, Garcia graduated from NMMI with Associates of Arts Degree and went on to New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM, where he majored in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Economics and graduated with his Bachelors of Science Degree in December 2009.

In 2015, Dennis Garcia came to Glacier County Montana and began to attend Marias River Livestock Association meetings to inform area ranchers of available assistance programs from FSA and answer producer questions. Throughout his time in Montana, Dennis has met numerous ranchers from the area spanning from Duck Lake, to Dupuyer to the Sweet Grass Hills. He has gladly helped some folks sort, brand, vaccinate, pre-condition, ship etc. because he just flat out loves working cows!

Dennis looks at the opportunity to serve as a director as one to learn more as well as be an advocate. Dennis is most concerned with trade, state and federal regulations that impact livestock growers, and consumer knowledge and education and how those topics are major challenges in ranching today. He recognizes that succession of operations is a growing concern, however, through good planning and determination, the future of agriculture will be bright.

At Large Director

Clayton Gernaat was born and raised west of Conrad, where he graduated from Conrad High School in 2002. He attended MSU Bozeman, where he received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education. After graduating from MSU in 2007, he spent 10 years teaching Agricultural Education and shop, as well as advising the FFA program, most recently in Simms.

In 2017, he moved home to help his parents, Darryl and Julie Gernaat, with the farm and ranch work. He is married to Myki (formerly Schmidt, of Missoula) and they have 2 daughters, Aden, who is 4, and Greta, who is 1.

He is looking forward to working with the Marias River Livestock Association to advance knowledge and opportunities for our members. His agriculture passions include range management, weed identification and control and working with cattle. In Gernaat's opinion, some of the biggest hurdles that agriculture faces are maintaining trade with foreign nations, specifically for Montana beef, and the need for replacements for Glyphosate as we move towards a likely ban of the chemical.

Gernaat also feels that the most promising aspect of agriculture in Montana is our ability to make our products value added through useful and intense marketing. In addition to Marias River Livestock Association, he is a member of the Conrad FFA Alumni and will also be the head wrestling coach in Valier this year.



(photo by Ashley Willaims)
Dennis Garcia, enjoys helping friends move cows and helping out on the neighboring ranches.



Clayton Gernaat, teacher, coach and Marias River Livestock Association Director at Large.

Bull Buck Winners

During the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler event, Saturday, November 10th, we drew the winner of the Bull Bucks Plus voucher worth \$1500. Jim Bjorkman, co-owner of Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh (www.kickinghorseranch.com), was the lucky winner. However, since Jim is also a sponsor of the Bull Bucks Plus program, he chose to donate the voucher back and let someone else have a chance at winning!

On Wednesday, November 16, Carrie and Dean Lerum went on Facebook live and drew the new winner for the \$1500 voucher toward the purchase of bulls, cows or sheep from the Bull Bucks Plus Sponsors, which are listed here on this page.

Dean Lerum drew the lucky second chance winner --- **Zeb Engstrom** of Whitlash, Montana.

How Bull Bucks Plus Works

Each seed stock producer who wishes to participate in 2019 puts a generous \$100 into the "Pot." During the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler a name is drawn from Marias River Livestock Association's current active members and whoever wins gets the BULL BUCK PLUS certificate.

When the winner purchases an animal from one of the participating producers, they use the certificate to get the specified discount. Marias River Livestock Association then sends a check to the participating producer for the amount of the certificate. This year's BULL BUCKS PLUS is worth **\$1500**.

Past winners

2012 Jason Samsal & Dakoda Simmes used at Hawks Angus

2013 Lance McDowell used at Hawks Angus

2014 Kenny Berthelote used at Tomsheck Angus

2015 Jeff Habets used at Flesch Angus

2016 John Hasquet used at Flesch Angus

2017 Wes McAlpine used at Apex Angus

2018 Zeb Engstrom

BULL BUCKS PLUS 2018-2019

Apex Angus– Sale March 5, 2019 at 1:00pm
www.apexangus.com

Bobcat Angus– Sale Jan 26, 2019 at 12:30 Western Livestock Auction www.bobcatangus.com

Connelly Angus– Feb 26, 2019
www.connellyangus.com

Diamond D Angus www.diamonddangus.com

Enneberg Angus Ranch 845-4901 Private Treaty

Flesch Angus– Sale March 8, 2019
www.fleschangus.com

Gillespie Show Cattle– 337-2941 or 949-4453
www.gillespieshowcattle.com

Hawks Angus– Private Treaty 432-5355
www.hawksangus.com

Holden Hereford– Sale March 11, 2019
www.holdenherfords.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh Sale March 21, 2019
www.kickinghorseranch.com

O'Hara Land and Cattle– April 2019
www.oharalandandcattle.com

Superior Livestock Video Auction– Steve Reverts
450-4586

Tomsheck Angus– bulls and bred heifers by Private Treaty 937-3726

Timber Coulee Columbia– 937-2775

Turner Angus– Sale April 2019 434-2823
www.TurnerAngus.com

Save The Date

Dec 5—Board of Livestock will host meeting via conference call discussion budget and items for the upcoming Legislative Session. Call Donna Wilhem prior to the call to get number and access code at 406-444-9321

Dec 8—Montana Cattlemen's Association Conference, Lewistown, MT

Dec 10—Montana FWP Commissioners Meeting, Helena

Dec 11 & 12—Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meeting. For information www.igbconline.org

Dec 11- 13—Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings MT

Jan 9— 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Cropping Seminar, Glacier County Library, Cut Bank RSVP to glacier@montana.edu by Jan 7

Jan 10—8:30 am to 3:30 pm Cropping Seminar, Pondera Shooting Sports Club, Conrad Please RSVP to Adriane at adriane.good@montana.edu or 271-4054 by Jan 4

Jan 12— 10:00 AM Calvin' Fever seminar for ladies in ranching who want to feel more confident during that late-night time of year. Lutheran Church, Shelby, Call Kari Lewis for registration info (406) 873-2239

Jan 17 -19—MAGI SHOW, Great Falls, MT
www.magiemt.com

Jan 25 & 26—Montana's Next Generation Conference. Sign up now as you don't want to miss the 2019 Conference. Friday's speakers are hot!! Go to www.mtnextgen.com to register and learn more.

Feb 1-3--Montana Farmers Union Women's Conference, Fairmont Hot Springs. bit.ly/MTFarmWomen (link is case sensitive)

Montana's Next Generation Conference

Fri. Jan 25th & Sat. Jan 26th

The 2019 Friday topics have been changed up a little and are not focused on succession. The morning starts off with Scott Shearer presenting "U.S. Trade and what it means to you." We all know world trade affects our bottom-line and Scott Shearer has the experience and knowledge to help us understand a little bit better.

"Scott Shearer has extensive trade and agricultural policy expertise. Having served as co-chairman of the Agricultural Coalition for U.S. - China Trade and co-chairman of the Agricultural Coalition for Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), Scott was instrumental in the successful passage of China permanent normal trade relations, TPA, and the U.S. - Australia Free Trade Agreement. In 1999, Scott was named a private sector member of the U.S. delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Seattle. Prior to joining the firm in 2003, Scott was Director of National Relations for Farmland Industries, Inc. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, directing the agency's legislative efforts including the 1996 Farm Bill, trade policy, USDA reorganization, crop insurance reform, food safety and nutrition."

The afternoon speaker is Matt Roberts – "The Six Hats of Agriculture" and "Making Sense of Today's Agriculture Picture." "Roberts is a nationally-renowned expert and speaker on the grain and energy markets. He has been quoted and interviewed by many major media outlets. Roberts received a B.A. in Economics from William Jewell College in Missouri, and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State university. Prior to graduate school Roberts worked as a commodity and energy derivatives broker in Vienna, Austria and as a market research consultant to the pharmaceutical industry in North Carolina."



Contact Information

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**Marias River Livestock
Association**

PO BOX 56
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