

NEWS & NOTES

Industry tidbits from around the country

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▶▶▶ Angus Media to provide real-time coverage of BIF Symposium

The 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention program will be hosted in person June 22-25 in Des Moines, Iowa. It will feature two and a half days of educational programming and a full day of tours. Angus Media will provide real-time coverage throughout the week.

Those interested in attending BIF should visit the website www.bifconference.com to register and view the agenda prior to the symposium. During and after the event, users can expect to find a variety of materials and resources capturing the highlights of BIF.

▶▶▶ Mike Huckabee to headline Cattle Raisers' Convention and Expo

The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association announced Mike Huckabee will give the keynote address at its Cattle Raisers' Convention and Expo, to be hosted July 23-25 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Huckabee was the 44th governor of Arkansas from 1996 until 2007, becoming one of the longest-serving governors in his state's history. Huckabee left a legacy of tax cuts, job creation, the reconstruction of his state's road system, K-16 education reform, and a nationally heralded and duplicated health initiative that focused on prevention. *Governing* magazine named him as one of its "Public Officials of the Year" for 2005, and *Time* magazine honored him as one of the five best governors in America.

Other highlights of the annual event will include more than 30 hours of educational programming, a CattleFax market outlook featuring Randy Blach, one of the

industry's largest trade shows, live demonstrations, networking opportunities, and the Cattle Raisers' Dinner and Dance with music by Jake Hooker and the Outsiders. Registration is open now at www.tscra.org.

▶▶▶ Angus University webinar educates on marketing opportunities

During the Angus University "Revolutionary Marketing" webinar hosted Feb. 16, Troy Marshall shared that cattlemen have invested in good genetics and offered that now is the time they can stand out in the marketplace. Commercial cattlemen can capture the value created by the exceptional management and genetics they put into their cattle. He also shared how the AngusLinkSM program can serve as a customer service tool that benefits commercial customers.

"We consider this a revolution in marketing because every other sector of the business understood the value of genetics and differentiating their product based on those specifications," says Marshall, director of commercial industry relations at the American Angus Association. "Here is an opportunity for the cow-calf producer to participate in value-based marketing."

To view this webinar, visit <http://bit.ly/auplaylist>.

▶▶▶ Farm Bureau launches resource to support Mental Health Month

In recognition of May as Mental Health Month, the American Farm Bureau Federation launched a comprehensive, easy-to-use online directory of resources for farmers, ranchers and their families who are experiencing stress and mental health challenges.

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▶▶▶ Angus Convention set for Nov. 6-8

The Angus Convention is headed for Fort Worth, Texas, this fall, and all beef enthusiasts are invited. This industry-leading convention is geared for everyone from commercial producers to breeders. Attendees can expect dynamic speakers, a quality trade show and diverse networking connections. Register by visiting www.angusconvention.com.



The directory, which is on the Farm State of Mind website at farmstateofmind.org, features listings for crisis hotlines and support lines, counseling services, training opportunities, podcasts, videos, published articles and other resources in every U.S. state and Puerto Rico. Listings for crisis support, counseling and behavioral health resources that are available nationwide are also included.

“For far too long, farmers and ranchers have been trying to cope with increasing levels of stress on their

own,” says AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Our Farm State of Mind campaign is encouraging conversations about stress and mental health in farming and ranching communities. It is so important to spread the word that no one has to go it alone.”

▶▶▶ **Biden administration outlines ‘America the Beautiful’ initiative**

The Biden-Harris administration outlined a vision for how the United States can work collaboratively to conserve and restore the lands, waters and wildlife that support and sustain the nation. The recommendations are contained in a report and outline a locally led and voluntary nationwide conservation goal to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

The report calls for a decade-long effort to support locally led and voluntary conservation and restoration efforts across public, private and tribal lands and waters to create jobs and strengthen the economy’s foundation; tackle the climate and nature crises; and address inequitable access to the outdoors.

The report, submitted to the National Climate Task Force, was developed by the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. It outlines eight principles that should guide the nationwide effort, including a pursuit of collaborative approaches; a commitment to supporting the voluntary conservation efforts of farmers, ranchers, and fishers; and honoring of tribal sovereignty and private property rights.

Based on feedback gathered in the administration’s first 100 days, the report identifies six priority areas for the administration’s early focus, investments, and collaboration:

- ▶ Creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities.
- ▶ Supporting tribally led conservation and restoration priorities.
- ▶ Expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors.
- ▶ Increasing access for outdoor recreation.
- ▶ Incentivizing and rewarding the voluntary conservation efforts of fishers, ranchers, farmers, and forest owners.
- ▶ Creating jobs by investing in restoration and resilience projects and initiatives, including the Civilian Climate Corps.

To help measure and track progress toward the nation’s first conservation goal, the report calls for the

▶▶▶ **Association employee to speak at 2021 Cattle U & Trade Show**

After a year of uncertainty and being forced to host a virtual event in 2020, *High Plains Journal’s* (HPJ) Cattle U & Trade Show will be back as an in-person event at the United Wireless Arena in Dodge City, Kan., July 29-30. In its third year, Cattle

U will continue to follow its two-day format with keynote speakers, panelists, breakout education sessions and the trade show.

The American Angus Association’s Troy Marshall will serve as an educational breakout session speaker. Marshall,



Troy Marshall

director of commercial industry relations for the Association, is set to speak on the feeder-cattle market’s revolution and how cattle producers can capitalize on additional value for their cattle, enroll in various marketing programs and ultimately differentiate their cattle from the herd.

To learn more about the speakers, trade show or to register, visit www.cattleu.net. Preregistration is \$100 per person, and on-site registration is \$125 per person. HPJ subscribers receive a \$25 discount on preregistration and on-site registration pricing. Updated information will be communicated via the Cattle U website, and HPJ in print and online at www.hpj.com.

To ensure the safety of guests and exhibitors, event management will be complying with all local and state pandemic precautions. For more information, visit www.cattleu.net.

establishment of an interagency working group, led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with other land and ocean management agencies.

The working group will develop the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, a tool that will better reflect the voluntary contributions of farmers, ranchers, forest owners and private landowners; the contributions of fishery management councils; and other existing conservation designations on lands and waters across federal, state, local, tribal and private lands and waters across the nation.

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall commented on the *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful* report, also known as 30x30:

“AFBF appreciates that the report acknowledges concerns we have raised and recognizes the oversized contributions of farmers and ranchers to conservation while feeding the world,” said Duvall. “That recognition must carry through implementation. The report is a philosophical document that emphasizes important principles such as incentive-based voluntary conservation, protecting personal and property rights, and continued ranching on public lands, but it lacks specifics. I had several positive conversations with Secretary Vilsack about 30x30, and we will work with him and his colleagues to ensure the details live up to promises made to protect American agriculture.”

For more information about how 30x30 affects American agriculture and property rights, visit <http://bit.ly/ABB30x30>.

▶▶▶ Study shows stepped-up basis repeal would be detrimental

The Family Business Estate Tax Coalition (FBETC) released an EY study quantifying the effects a repeal of stepped-up basis would have on family businesses.

“Simply put, the repeal of stepped-up basis would have catastrophic impacts on the ability of farmers and ranchers to transfer their operations to the next generation,” said Danielle Beck, senior executive director of government affairs for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA).

The study found family-owned businesses and the local economies they support would be hit hardest by a repeal.

▶▶▶ USDA awards \$15 million in grants to expand wood product use

The USDA awarded more than \$15 million to fund grant proposals to develop and expand the use of wood products, strengthen emerging wood energy markets and protect community forests on May 7. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the announcement in Colorado while visiting prescribed



fire and wildfire recovery areas adjacent to the Roosevelt National Forest Northern Colorado Front Range landscape.

The grant funding, delivered through USDA Forest Service

programs, will support 60 projects that cover a diverse range of activities from the development of affordable housing to expanding markets for mass timber, biochar, wood energy and other emerging wood products. The grants also include funds to help tribes, local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations permanently conserve working forests that benefit communities.

“To manage wildfire and address climate, we need to manage our forests. Today’s investments underpin USDA’s commitment to address the climate crisis with a market-based approach that begins to move us toward a clean energy economy, led by production of renewable fuel and energy and biobased products grown and manufactured here in the U.S.,” says Vilsack. “The American Jobs Plan and USDA’s budget request for 2022 make sure the Forest Service can prioritize forest management and restoration.”

To reveal the effects stepped-up basis repeal would have on family-owned farms and ranches, EY developed a case study based on a theoretical family-owned cow-calf operation. In the scenario — one where the stepped-up basis is no longer a tool for family-owned business to utilize when generational transfer occurs — gains are taxed at death and would result in an immediate one-time tax liability equivalent to 280% of the farm’s annual income.

Access the full report at <http://bit.ly/FCMG-NN-step>. |