

Guadalupe County Livestock Producers Organization



Next GCLPO Meeting, January 17, 2010 at the City Hall 6:30 PM

“The Answer my Friend is Blowing in the Wind”

Points of interest:

- The Answer my Friends is Blowing in the Wind
- Autumn 2009
- GCLPO Meeting
- GCLPO Elections
- County bred steer

As I finished writing the first article of our Fall Newsletter, Autumn 2009, I was left feeling a bit depressed to say the least. But then I got to thinking about some of the other things that I did this summer that I felt were worth my time and I felt a sense of relief and hope for the future of ranchers in New Mexico. Since 2001 I have been involved with wind developers, land leases and contracts. These last two or three years I have been very fortunate to develop a great working relationship, and great friendship with another rancher who basically has the same ideologies as I do, and together we have devoted many days to traveling, learning about wind and solar developers, and land lease contracts.

This last two years Mr. Don Thompson and I have attended renewable energy related meetings and seminars in Tucumcari, Fort Sumner, Corona, Santa Rosa, Grady and Santa Fe. As a matter of fact we have made it a practice to attend every RETA (New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority) monthly meeting in Santa Fe. It has been a tremendous education which in turn has filled us with inspiration because we can clearly see that “The answer my friend is blowing in the wind”, and it is just a matter of time before we harness the wind and we will be farming the ranch. Ranching will be a lucrative business. We are sure that soon we will reap the good country living that our forefathers dreamed of.

During all these meetings and gatherings that we have participated in, we have had the opportunity to meet the most wonderful bunch of people. Ranchers who have come to the realization that the best way to get the best deal from the green energy developers is by ranchers uniting and sharing the value of our commodity, knowing what to demand from developers and the process to get to the point of signing a good contract. Talking about uniting, there is a group of ranchers in Eastern New Mexico who have taken the bull by the horns. They have formed an organization, CRELA, Coalition of Renewable Energy Landowners Association. An organization made up of landowners associations. Currently CRELA is twenty-two landowner organizations strong, and it represents approximately 200,000 acres of private land in the eastern part of our state. In an organization of this nature one will find knowledge of all sorts. And of course they are represented by legal representation with experience in conventional and in green energy.

I would think that CRELA makes it very difficult for speculators and dishonest developers to infiltrate and treat its members dishonestly.

See Page 3 for more information on CRELA

Autumn 2009

Another summer went past us, as did the rain for some ranchers. Other ranchers got lucky by the end of the summer. The rain for the lucky ones came late but in time to make grass. Spotty probably best describes this summer's monsoons – some got it, others didn't. Well, that is just one other thing that is beyond our control.

What about the calf prices for the fall of 2009? The spotty rain situation in Guadalupe County impede our GCLPO organization from pooling our calves together and selling to a designated buyer, as we have done in the past. There were some interested buyers this year, but we were unable to get enough producers to commit to sell to a designated buyer because those GCLPO ranchers who did not have rain were taking their calves off the cows early. Some of the few who did have rain were planning on holding on to their calves until the price got better. Well, the fact is that whether you got rain or not, the price never got better. As a matter of fact the calf prices have oscillated up and down, but the downs have dominated. The beef on the hoof prices are almost as bad as they were in the late nineties.

I have been reading, and have talked to many ranchers over the past year and a half or so trying to understand why the drastic drop in calf prices. The following are some of the hypotheses:

- 1) The shortage of corn. Corn was for the most part being used to make ethanol fuel.
- 2) The mad-cow scare. The general public cut back on their consumption of beef – they were scared.
- 3) The flooding of the beef market with dairy cattle. The price of milk went down the tube and therefore dairy farms had to slaughter much of their livestock and sell it as beef.
- 4) The bad economy. People were cutting back on prime cuts and buying only hamburger and other of the least expensive cuts
- 5) And most recently the outbreak of E-coli on the hamburger.

Like the saying goes, excuses are a dime a dozen, and this is ever so true for the ranching industry. The fact remains that ranching is not a very lucrative business, it never has been, and sadly it is not a business that we can in good conscience influence our youth to enter. If this practice continues much longer, coupled with the attacks from the vegetarians and the carbon phobia that has gained momentum recently, I believe that in the not so far future we will see our country go hungry. I don't know if our country will ever have politicians in Washington who care or understand ranching enough to remedy the problem before it is too late.

Classifieds

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7521 Menaul Boulevard Northeast, Albuquerque, NM
(505) 884-6262
kandsservice.com

Abe's K & S Service Center in Albuquerque, NM. We specialize in small gas engines service, chain saw repair, chain replacement (buy 2 get one free). We have been proudly serving the Albuquerque, NM area since 1971.

Thinking of you

Our thoughts and prayers go the families of:

Mr. Antonio Gallegos
Mrs. Gilberta Maestas
Mr. Remigio Cordova

Get well wishes to

Mr. Alfredo Flores

GCLPO MEETING

On Wednesday Dec. 2nd, GCLPO held a meeting. The meeting was very informal but none-the-less very informative. CRELA (Coalition of Renewable Energy Landowners Association) members had offered to come and talk to us about their organization, and we accepted their offer. CRELA's President, Mr. Paul Stout, and Mr. Elmer White, a member of CRELA, came to give the presentation.

Mr. Stout gave us a very good definition of what CRELA represents and what it hopes to accomplish. He mentioned that it is an organization with the main objective of handling the political aspects between the landowners and politics at the State and National level. Mr. Don Thompson and I have met CRELA representatives at the RETA (New Mexico Transmission Authority) monthly meetings several times. Mr. Stout also informed us that last summer he and Mr. White made a trip to Washington to talk to politicians about renewable energy.

Other interesting points that Mr. Stout and Mr. White pointed out were the power in numbers, and the abundance of knowledge that can be shared by its members. Also, CRELA members can serve as a center of non-legal counsel regarding things to look out for on renewable energy contracts.

In the final analysis, CRELA's main reason for being here was recruiting GCLPO to join their association. CRELA's membership dues are a \$250.00 one-time fee. As your president I would recommend that you, the members, contact each other before our next meeting and discuss it. During our next meeting we will have a discussion and then we will put it up for a vote.

GCLPO Elections

It has been 3 years and is time to elect new officers for your GCLPO organization. The positions are currently held by:

President - Max Tenorio

Vice-President - Bill Ortiz

Secretary/Treasurer - Yolanda Tenorio

Web Site Manager - Joan Ortiz (volunteer position)

It is time for the current officers to pass the reins on to some new blood that will lead GCLPO on to that fantastic ride to the sunset.

If you would like to run or want to nominate a member for any of the above positions please attend the January 17th meeting at the City Hall (Old Middle School) at 6:30 PM. You can use the North entrance, next to Wells Fargo Bank.

During the past three years your current officers have tried to keep the membership informed about important issues that affect local producers.

How to bring back the county bred steer or heifer to Guadalupe county fair?

We would like to challenge the GCLPO membership to find a way to promote the County-Bred Steer at the Guadalupe County fair. I have thought of a way that would be beneficial to the producer and the exhibitor. The producer could sell the steer for a down payment of \$300 with the balance paid if the animal makes the sale. If the animal does not make the sale the exhibitor has the option of paying the balance to the producer or selling the animal back for \$.50 a pound on the weight gained. Either way the producer promotes his livestock, the exhibitor has an animal to show, and our county fair has an increase in steers or heifers.

GCLPO

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Email: info@gclpo.org

Organized for the future

**We're on the web
www.gclpo.org**

**Feliz Navidad Y
Prospero Ano Nuevo**



Dues are Due

The GCLPO staff is strictly a volunteer organization. None of the members charge for their time or services. The GCLPO would like to encourage all area producers to participate in special fund-raising events to help promote our area youth in agricultural endeavors.

If you would like to become an official member and be put on the quarterly newsletter mailing list, we would appreciate a \$20 annual donation. This would help with newsletter postage and printing, and would also finance the GCLPO web site to post newsletters, free classified ads, schedules of events, special promotions, etc. (The web site costs are minimal since we are maintaining the site ourselves.)

We would encourage all Guadalupe County Livestock Producers to become members. If you know of any producers that might like to become members, please have them contact us by phone, mail, or e-mail.

Your renewed membership will be active until December 2010. We would encourage all of you to recruit at least one new member. Remember that there are many benefits if you are a member of GCLPO. You can sell your calves in the fall at the contracted price with the rest of the members, advertise on the newsletter and website at no cost, purchase hay and other items at a co-op price, and be kept abreast of any new developments that will affect you, the producer.

Please send your \$20 donation to GCLPO, P.O. Box 119, Santa Rosa, NM 88435.

Newsletter organizers: Max Tenorio, Bill Ortiz

Proof readers and constructive critics: Yolanda Tenorio, Joan Ortiz