



Summer/Fall 2008

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Guadalupe County Livestock Producers Organization



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GCLPO Newsletter

When you read the title of this article you probably will ask yourself, "What newsletter? We have not received a newsletter in forever, it seems."

The guilt of not meeting one of our goals, which is printing a quarterly newsletter, has moved me to write the following: An honest reason for failing to put out our newsletter on time has been that GCLPO officers are like most other ranchers and farmers in the County — we are up to our armpits with work and it seems as though when I have a bit of time our other officers are busy and vice versa. Because of this reason, and because we know how important it is to have an organization newsletter, we are requesting input from our members. If you have ideas or suggestions for the GCLPO newsletter, you can email your contributions to either tenorio@plateautel.net or to williamortiz@starband.net. Your help in this matter will greatly be appreciated. We have scheduled a meeting to discuss calf sales and hay buying, and we can discuss the Newsletter more during this meeting.

How Did Your Summer Go?

By Max Tenorio

This summer has been hectic for almost every farmer and rancher I have talked to. The greatest concerns seem to be the high cost of fuel, the rising cost of feed and the uncertain beef market. That is not to mention the normal preoccupations that come with ranching and farming, things such as calving, putting out bulls, fences and well problems. The drought was another big concern early in the summer but it seems like lately almost everyone in Guadalupe County has gotten some moisture.

Being an optimist I am confident that Guadalupe County will get enough rain before the growing season is over to get our calves ready for market, and make enough grass for the winter. What worries me is the upcoming calf market. During the last month I have been talking to Mike Wolf of Canutillo Management, trying to get him to contract our calves. He indicated that he was interested in buying our calves this year but pricing uncertainties still persist. At present there is nothing we can do about the situation. I did mention to him that some of the Guadalupe County Livestock Producers are likely to sell their calves elsewhere, which he understood. I do think it is a good idea to make contact with any other potential buyers. If you know of any other buyer who is interested, please put him in contact with us.

NEXT MEETING
Oct 6, 2008
6:00 PM
Santa Rosa Middle School
Topics: Calf sales, hay purchasing, distribution of Vet bags

2008 Guadalupe County Fair Highlights

By Yolanda Tenorio

Guadalupe County can brag about another successful fair! Great weather and fun family activities seem to draw in the crowds. Over 20 teams from the surrounding ranches participated in the ranch rodeo. The livestock exhibitors and of course their animals were in peak performance. The Friday evening steer show saw familiar faces in the winner's circle with Gary Agar taking the Grand Champion and Lawrence Velasquez the Reserve Grand. The swine competition proved to be a tough one: Dustyn Sisneros took home the Grand and Lawrence Velasquez, Reserve Grand. In the lamb division Guy Cowden beat out sister Hannah for the Grand. Hannah Cowden claimed Reserve Grand. In the goat competition, Grand spot was claimed by Isaac Velasquez, while Abby Cowden claimed the Reserve Grand. The Livestock Judge was Tommy Thompson.

Junior Livestock Sale

4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors were indeed pleased to make one of the 23 sales slots in the Junior Livestock Sale. Auctioneer Shane Hall from Artesia, New Mexico took no time in getting the sale going promptly at 5PM. Top dollar was paid for all animals including a \$7,600 prize tag for a 2nd tall steer purchased by Mo Bravo from GEO. Unofficial sales total was \$78,190. 00 including add-on monies. Top buyer was Singleton Ranches represented by Alex Coron.

The Guadalupe Country Fair Board thanks all exhibitors, parents, buyers and visitors and lots of volunteers for another successful fair.

"Local Beef Marketing for East Central NM" Workshop

By Joan Ortiz

Martin and Margrit Honegger recently hosted a workshop at Pino Creek Ranch, which focused on gauging interest in promoting and marketing local beef. The Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance (SWGLA), of which Martin is President, sponsored the June 7th event, which was attended by about 25 interested parties. The workshop's goal was to assess interest in forming a cooperative effort with other local ranchers and interested parties so that economies of scale might be harnessed and profitability attained through group effort. Martin opened with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the purpose of the workshop. Possible avenues of entry into the venue of marketing local beef were discussed at length, with lively input from attendees. One suggestion was to approach local or regional restaurants as buyers, and another was to either open a store or to approach a retailer about selling the beef. Some areas of agreement were the following: (1) organic certification appeared to be too difficult and/or too expensive to aim for, especially with the strict feed requirement; (2) "local" and "natural" seemed to be the adjectives that could most reasonably be advertised, since "grass-fed" presently has USDA regulations which insist on 100% grass, and many ranchers felt the need to maintain an option to feed nutritional supplements; (3) it was agreed that a requirement for selling under such an arrangement would be no antibiotics or added hormones; (4) both grass-finished and grain-finished beef might be offered to different markets, or even to the same market, labeled accordingly; (5) butchering and processing could possibly present some obstacles; and (6) it was decided to limit the product to beef, at least initially. After the morning's discussion, a delicious lunch was served and enjoyed by all. The consensus by meeting's end was that, since this appeared to be a very complex and multi-faceted venture, more ideas and input would be needed, and that more research needed to be done regarding possible buyers. A committee was formed with the intent of meeting for further discussions, and a possible web site was proposed. E-mail addresses and phone numbers were gathered, and Martin Honegger sent a report to attendees. More information is available at the Guadalupe County Livestock Producers Organization (GCLPO) web site, at gclpo.org.

Newkirk Volunteer Fire Department

By Robert Hall

The small, growing community of Newkirk, New Mexico located on the eastern side of Guadalupe County can now rest easier. Through the un-tiring efforts of some local residents, the Guadalupe County Commission has agreed to fund a volunteer fire station.

As of July 1, 2008, Newkirk is a fire patrol under the Perch Lake Station. There are plans for a wildland fire brush truck to be stationed in Newkirk during the fire season, usually March to October. Next year there are plans for a station building and a tanker truck if we can get more than twelve firefighters as members. The County Fire Marshall, Levi Chavez, is also considering a rescue truck for medical calls if we can generate enough interest. Having a station in Newkirk will significantly reduce response times for fire and medical emergencies in the area.

Anyone in the Cuervo, Newkirk area interested in joining the department or anyone wanting more information can call Captain Robert Hall at 575-512-6025.

(As a follow-up note on this article, which was written several weeks ago, a training meeting was held on September 17th at the Newkirk gas station. It was well-attended, and attendees learned how to use the foam from the brush truck. The brush truck is currently housed in Newkirk, and local sign-ups are hoping that future plans for a permanent fire station will materialize in the future.)

New Mexico Livestock Board TB Situation Report September 15, 2008

The USDA has set out its interstate requirements under the MAA status. Sexually intact cattle 6 months and older will require a negative TB test and official ID, with the following exceptions:

Cattle going directly to slaughter

Cattle going to feed yards to be fed and slaughtered

Cattle going to other destinations prior to the feed yards, but nevertheless declared to be in the "feeder chain"

Receiving states will have their own testing and ID requirements which may be more restrictive than the federal rules. Certain states have already placed stringent requirements on New Mexico cattle. It is extremely important that destination states be contacted by you and/or your veterinarian prior to planning your shipments. State animal health authority contact information can be found on the NMLB website:

www.nmlbonline.com .

This is a fluid situation, subject to change on very short notice. The New Mexico Livestock Board is pursuing approval of an application to establish "split state status" by way of an MAA zone consisting of Curry and Roosevelt counties. Most of the confined, therefore high risk, operations in New Mexico are in that proposed zone. This will restore the TB -free status for the balance of the state. Although not all

the elements are yet resolved, the USDA is working closely and well with NMLB to attempt to achieve the MAA zone within the next few months.

Regarding official ID:

The New Mexico Livestock Board has had official ID laws, regulations, and policies almost since its beginning in 1887 - the registered brand.

- The federal government, as well as some states, require individual identification of livestock. New Mexico does not, with the exception of specific policies directed at dairy cattle and certain high-risk cattle entering the state.

The New Mexico Livestock Board does not enforce the animal or premise ID requirements of the federal government or other states. The agency does make available information and assistance concerning those requirements to our clients, the New Mexico livestock producers and marketers.

The New Mexico Livestock Board cannot override the interstate requirements of the federal government, nor the entry requirements of other states; therefore, it is essential that sufficient and accurate information be available to the cattle industry in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Livestock Board is available to brief livestock groups anywhere in the state regarding these and any other issues.

State Wants Split Status for Cattle

<http://www.abqjournal.com/news/state/16115455state09-16-08.htm>

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New Mexico's congressional delegation sent a letter Monday asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expedite approval of the state's application for split-state status for bovine tuberculosis.

The USDA decided last week to end New Mexico's

status as a bovine tuberculosis-free state because two infected herds had been found in New Mexico's accredited free zone and the state no longer met federal requirements.

The delegation said the USDA decision was excessive and could cost ranching and dairy operations unnecessary tests. Split-state status, they say, would cover the small areas where the infected herds were found while the rest of the state would be a TB-free zone.

The delegation is pushing for split-state status to be approved within 60 days.

Vet Bags for GCLPO Members

Vet bags have been made available for GCLPO Members through the Office of Homeland Security, Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center. New Mexico State University Extension Agent Gino Lujan delivered bags for all 4-H and FFA members, and then he requested additional bags for GCLPO members. This kit is valued at \$175.00 and has veterinarian supplies such as syringes, eyewash, animal liniment, blood stop, gauze and wraps, ointment, Epsom salt, and other first aid

supplies. Equimed supplies are in a ready-to-go canvas duffle bag. We thank Gino and NMSU Extension Service for providing these bags for our members. A DVD sponsored by AGRO-GUARD with detailed instructions on animal first aid is also provided for use with the kits. The kits will be distributed to GCLPO members at the meeting on October 6th. The number of bags requested was for the present GCLPO membership, so only presently-paid-up members (as of 9/20/08) may receive a vet bag.

Hay For 2008-09

Last month we contacted Caldron Farms, the outfit out of Colorado from whom some GCLPO members purchased hay last winter, to inquire about this year's prices. Like everything else (except cattle prices), hay prices have gone up. The following are the prices they quoted us: one-year-old grass hay for \$150 a ton, two-year-old grass hay for \$60 a ton, New meadow grass hay for \$120 a ton, stripped alfalfa hay for \$150 a ton, new oat hay for \$150 a ton and new Italian rye grass for \$60 a ton. Delivery cost per semi load is

\$2 per running mile; this would amount to about \$800 for every load of approximately forty 1300-pound bales. Hopefully you made lots of grass and won't be in need of very much hay, but if you do, this is another option to consider.

If you need hay let us know with plenty of time so that we can begin getting enough orders to complete a load or as many as needed.

Apple Glazed Brisket

(Recipe provided by Linda Lujan, to whom it was given several years ago by the late Karen McKenzie)

Large brisket
(optional-1 onion, 2 lg cloves garlic, 10 whole cloves)
1 jar 10 oz apple jelly
1/3 c. dry white wine
3 T spicy brown mustard
3 T minced green onion
1 1/2 tsp salt

3/4 cracked black pepper
3/4 t. curry powder
3/4 t. parsley

Marinate overnight. Roast using preferred method. 275 °-325° for at least 6 hours, or until tender. Glaze the last 1 hour.

GCLPO

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Guadalupe Livestock Producers Organization

We're on the web

www.gclpo.org

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 2008. 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