

The official publication of the Utah Cattlemen's Association



Over the Labor Day weekend anthrax was discovered in Carbon County, Wyoming. It was first discovered in a dead moose. Now more than 80 head of cattle have died from the disease. The outbreak has been contained to a small area around Elk Mountain and is not expected to extend beyond that area. I attended a public meeting in Elk Mountain where we heard from health officials, wildlife personnel, the state veterinarian, the Wyoming Livestock Board, as well as an epidemiologist from the Center for

Disease Control. About 300 people from the local area attended the meeting. People wanted to know what risk this disease posed for their families and livestock. Anthrax is a disease sometimes associated with biological weapons, but not generally thought of as a livestock disease we need to worry about.

Anthrax is a bacterium that lives in soil and can remain dormant for long periods of time. Spores can survive dormant for decades and even longer. Wet conditions followed by drought are thought to contribute to disease outbreaks. Anthrax is found on all continents of the world including Antarctica. It is a very deadly disease with most wildlife dying within 24 hours of exposure. It is almost always fatal for livestock with death occurring one to seven days following exposure. The last reported fatal case in humans in the U.S. was in California in 1976. Wyoming has not had a recorded case of anthrax in wildlife since 1956. The last recorded livestock case was in 1970. Outbreaks are common in Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and north of the border in Canada. The spores that cause the disease become less active in cooler weather.

One message that was repeated many times during this meeting was to leave dead animals alone. When an animal infected with anthrax dies and the carcass is opened the bacteria begin to rapidly multiply.

This is also true of many other diseases that infect animals. It is good practice to avoid handling any animal that has an unexplained death. It is also important to watch the behavior of wildlife and livestock. Report suspicious deaths and unnatural behaviors. Early response is the key to limiting the spread of disease.

There was concern over what a quarantine would mean and how large of an area would be impacted. They determined that the area of quarantine would be relatively small; focused on the vicinity around Elk Mountain. There are a lot of yearlings and calves to be shipped out of the area this fall. An extended quarantine period and large coverage area would be costly to producers. There were a lot of concerned producers in the area.

I was impressed by the rapid response the state, USDA, and CDC had to the disease outbreak and recognized from this experience how important it is to have a plan of action. There are diseases far worse than anthrax that can have a much longer and more severe impact on the livestock industry.

The disease we hear the most about that has the potential to negatively affect our industry is Foot and Mouth Disease. The United States experienced its last outbreak of FMD in 1929.

Message Continues on Page 2

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 6-7	SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL MEETING - EPHRAIM, UT
NOV 9	LEACHMAN FALL HARVEST SALE
NOV 9	ROCKY MT. ANGUS - GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY ANGUS SALE
DEC 4	UTAH CATTLEMEN'S CLASSIC SALE
DEC 4-6	UTAH CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION WINTER CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW - SLC SHERATON HOTEL
DEC 6	YARDLEY FOCUS ON THE FEMALE SALE
JAN 3	UCA SEEDSTOCK AD COMMITMENT DEADLINE - SEE PAGE 5
FEB 4-6	CATTLE INDUSTRY CONVENTION SAN ANTONIO, TX

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President's Message Continued

The disease has most recently been active in Indonesia, but has been found in the United Kingdom, Japan, Korea, and China within the last 20 years. We rely on the USDA'S Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop systems and procedures to keep our livestock safe. In 2001 the FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom is estimated to have cost between \$12 and \$18 Billion.

Costs of a nationwide outbreak in the US are expected to exceed \$228 Billion. APHIS has a FMD Response plan in place and USDA continues to work to get a vaccine bank in case of an outbreak. The other key component is traceability. The ability to rapidly determine the animals that have been exposed, what areas need to be quarantined, and how long livestock movement must be suspended, and over what areas are fundamental to controlling the disease and limiting the cost born by producers.

Jeff Young - UCA President

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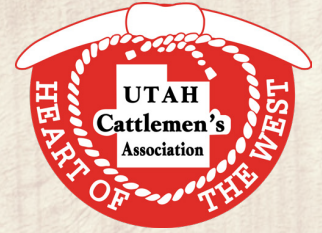
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\$132 UCA rate closes on November 12!

Discounted pre-registration closes on November 24.

Thursday, December 5

Trade Show

General Session

Committee & Women's Meetings

Banquet, Awards and Ball

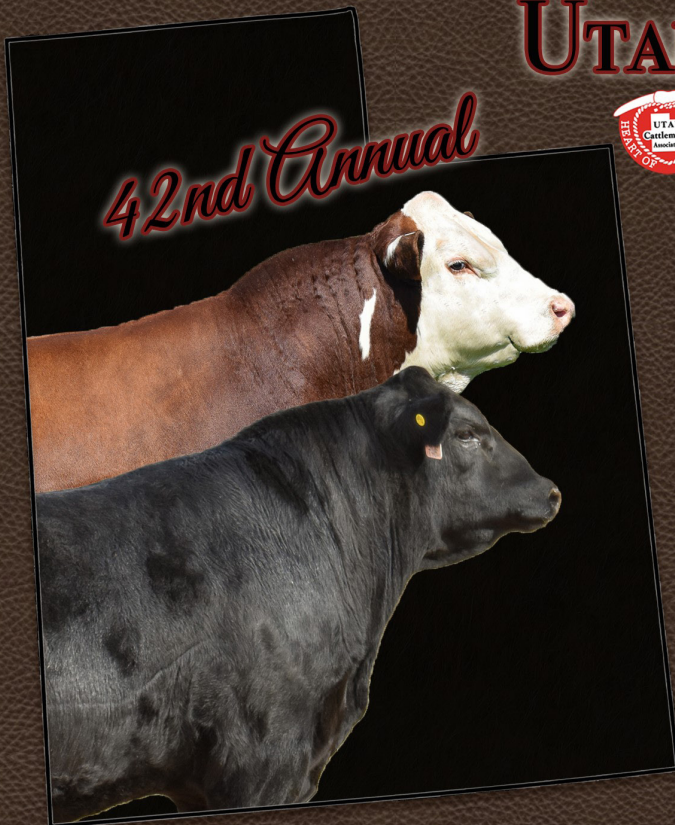
Friday, December 6

Marketing Breakfast

Committee Meetings

Business Meeting

Elections



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- 1/10/25 AD COPY DEADLINE
- 1/17/25 CAMERA READY DEADLINE



The Utah Cattlemen's Association is again collaborating to create a special edition for the upcoming spring season. This special 12th edition will include articles from industry leaders and is tailored for the Utah Cattleman. We have a production team in place to meet your needs! *Call today to reserve your space in this exciting edition!*

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VOLUME 12

FEBRUARY 2025

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SIZE	DIMENSIONS	RATE	MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT
1 Page	Trim - 8.25" x 10.75" Image - 7.75" x 10.25" Bleed - 8.5" x 11"	\$750	Members of the Utah Cattlemen's Association will receive a \$100 discount on all sizes of ads.
1/2 Page	7.5" x 4.75"	\$600	
1/4 Page	3.625" x 4.75"	\$400	

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Anthrax in Wyoming

Guidance for livestock owners

On September 4, 2024, Wyoming officials announced that anthrax had caused the death of a moose and approximately 50 to 60 cattle around Elk Mountain in Carbon County. This was the first case of anthrax in Wyoming since the 1970s.

Distribution and Outbreaks

Anthrax, also called *Bacillus anthracis*, is a naturally occurring bacteria in many parts of the western and midwestern United States. The map to the right shows areas of the US that could have anthrax spores in the environment. Anthrax forms hearty spores that can lay dormant in the environment for decades until weather and soil conditions allow the spores to become infectious. Livestock become infected by breathing in or eating spores in contaminated plants, soil, or water. These outbreaks are usually seen following heavy rains after a drought or during construction when the soil is disturbed. The last known cases in Utah were in 1975 in Tooele and Davis counties.

Signs in Livestock

Sudden death is the most common sign of infection in livestock. Other signs include weakness, staggering, fever, difficulty breathing, and bloody diarrhea. In animals that die, blood at body openings is common. Carcasses bloat and decompose rapidly. The carcasses may not go through rigor mortis (the stiffening seen after death). Anthrax is not spread from one live animal to another. Vaccination can be used to prevent the disease, but because cases are so rare, the vaccine is usually only used in areas with recent outbreaks.

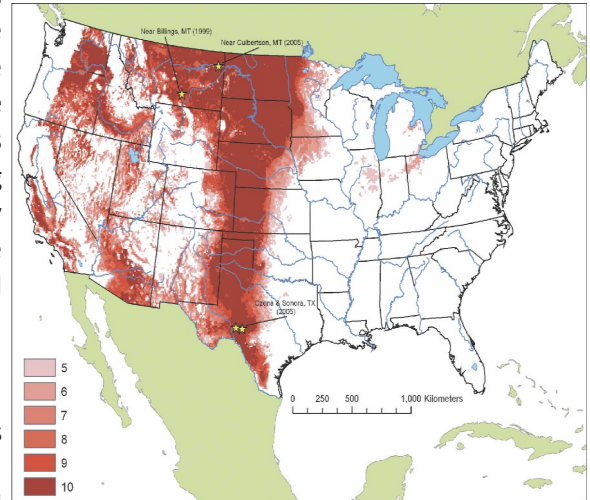
Risk to People and Other Animals

Anyone who comes across dead livestock or wildlife that they suspect have died from anthrax should avoid touching or opening the carcasses. Opening the carcass will release hundreds to thousands of infectious spores into the environment. These spores can infect people through cuts or skin wounds, by ingestion, or by inhalation. If you suspect anthrax and are submitting samples to a laboratory, notify them ahead of time so laboratory staff can take appropriate precautions. More information on human anthrax can be found on the Utah Department of Health and Human Services website at <https://epi.utah.gov/anthrax/>.

Hunters should avoid harvesting sick wildlife and should report sick or dead wildlife to their regional Division of Wildlife Resources office. While rare, dogs and other carnivores can become infected by eating contaminated carcasses.

Reporting

Anthrax in livestock is a reportable disease in Utah. Any livestock owner, veterinarian, or laboratory that suspects anthrax in a domestic animal must report it to the State Veterinarian's office at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. This reporting allows UDAF and the Division of Wildlife Resources to monitor livestock and wildlife in the area and to notify nearby herds of the risk.



Map from Blackburn, J, et al, Modeling the geographic distribution of *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax disease, for the contiguous United States using predictive ecological niche modeling, *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 2007. 77:1103.



Where the Beef Industry Meets!

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The advertisement features a stylized illustration of a cowboy on a horse and a cow in a landscape. The text is prominently displayed in various fonts and colors, including red, white, and black. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn are also present.

Farms and Ranches Required to File Ownership Information with U.S. Treasury

Many farms and ranches will be required to file “beneficial ownership” information with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a division of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2021, Congress passed a law called the Corporate Transparency Act that requires businesses to report the identity of their owners with the goal of reducing financial crime. Unfortunately, many small businesses like farms and ranches are required to comply with this requirement.

Who Must File

Any producer whose farm or ranch employs 20 employees or less, is a corporation, limited liability company (LLC), partnership, or was formed as another type of entity by filing a document with the secretary of state or similar state office is re-

quired to file a Beneficial Ownership Report with FinCEN.

When to File

Companies that were registered before January 1, 2024, have until January 1, 2025, to file their report. Any companies created between January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025, have 90 days from their creation or registration with the state to submit this report to FinCEN. Additionally, any updates or corrections to beneficial ownership information must be submitted within 30 days.

Where to File

To comply with the Corporate Transparency Act, you must fill out a form online at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>. The form will require your name, date of birth, residential or business address, and a unique identifying

number like your driver’s license or passport number.

Producers are encouraged to consult with their attorneys to determine if the CTA applies. Penalties for non-compliance can include a \$500 per late day fine, up to \$10,000 in fines, or even prison sentences for refusing to comply with the law.

Resources: For more information, visit <https://www.fincen.gov/boi> or review FinCEN’s Small Entity Compliance Guide at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi/small-entity-compliance-guide>.

This information is not professional advice. You should always consult with a tax professional and/or attorney for advice as to whether this Transparency Act applies to you.



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Utah Cattlewomen's Association



From Kamille Dotson: Three of us beef ambassadors had the chance to attend the Stockmanship and Stewardship Event. This was such a great opportunity to learn about how to properly graze animals on your land, which to me was the most interesting. We talked deeply about how much of each nutrient you need in your land to have it grow at the correct rate.

In the clinic they also had the opportunity to get BQA certified. Many people in attendance said it has a big impact on how you run your operation. I really couldn't agree more. We talked about the proper cleaning procedures and how you should always have a plan to stick to. These two things were only parts of the BQA certification that stuck out to me but that have a long lasting impact on how you run your operation. I am very grateful for this opportunity to be able to deepen my learning in the cattle industry and to be able to meet some amazing people along the way.

From Ellie Johnson:

Attending the Stockman & Stewardship event in Richfield was a knowledge-enriching experience. We had the opportunity to attend insightful lectures, observe live cattle handling demonstrations, and deepen our understanding of BQA.

The live cattle working workshop was particularly valuable, as it showcased BQA certification skills in real-time. I also appreciated the chance to discuss cattle management and industry challenges with fellow producers. Producers from

across the nation attended, hearing their take on issues and the state of the cattle industry in different areas was interesting.

From Carly Christensen:

I was grateful for the opportunity to connect with stockmen from across the country at the Stockmanship and Stewardship in Richfield, Utah. The event kicked off with a delicious lunch provided by the Utah Beef Council, where I had the opportunity to help serve and engage with attendees about the flavorful beef dishes in the line up.

In addition to meeting many new people, I gained valuable insights from the cattle handling demonstrations, which emphasized effective cattle handling practices. The BQA training rotations were especially valuable, not only enhancing my own knowledge, but also reinforcing consumer confidence in the quality and safety of the beef they purchase. Continuing education through events like this is always a worthwhile investment, as the knowledge gained strengthens our industry.



Utah Cattlemen's Association

"Working For You and Your Operation Since 1890"

UCA has been working for cattle and beef producers in the state of Utah since 1890. We are grassroots driven. Every day we work for cattlemen in the state of Utah. Our success depends upon you, our members.

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UCA actively advocates for the interests of cattlemen at the local, state, and national levels. We encourage cattle-friendly legislation and fight actions that harm the cattle industry.

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UCA Membership Application

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Ranch Name _____

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<i>Cow/Calf Producers</i>	
Cattle Owned:	Dues
0 to 50 head.....	\$100
51 to 100 head.....	\$130
101 to 200 head....	\$160
201 to 300 head....	\$190
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401 to 500 head....	\$250
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Over 1000 head....	\$125 + .30/hd
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National Dues...	\$213

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<i>Cow/Calf Producers</i>	
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0 to 100 head.....	\$170
101 to 250 head.....	\$340
251 to 500 head.....	\$510
501 to 750 head.....	\$736
751 to 1000 head.....	\$1,020
1001 to 1250 head.....	\$1,304
1251 to 1500 head.....	\$1,586
1501 to 1750 head.....	\$1,870
1751 to 2000 head.....	\$2,154
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State Dues: _____

National Dues: _____

TOTAL: _____

Summer/Fall Beef Promotion Events Give Utahns a Taste of Quality Beef



Funded by the Beef Checkoff.



The Utah Beef Council has been busy promoting beef at many events over the last few months. In August, board members and staff participated in the military appreciation barbecue at Hill Air Force Base. Service members and their families were served grilled Tri-Tip Roast sandwiches and 100% beef hot dogs.

The national Stockmanship & Stewardship Event was held in Richfield, Utah in August. This was a well-attended event that provided an opportunity to share with beef producers what programs are taking place in the state that are funded by the Beef Checkoff.



Additionally, a tradeshow lunch was provided to attendees featuring smoked brisket tacos, beef sausage, and smashburger sliders. With the help of board members and beef ambassadors a delicious lunch was provided featuring delicious beef dishes.



September brings the end of summer and the beginning of the Utah State Fair. For nearly 40 years cattlemen and women have promoted high quality beef at the annual Beef Feast on the last Friday of the fair. Fair attendees have the chance to try an aged Tenderloin Steak sandwich with all the fixings and meet local cattle producers.



Many people have mentioned they come to the fair just to get one of these sandwiches. We also had Chef Bryan Woolley join us for some live noon news segments during the event. The line formed very early and 1,200 steak sandwiches were cooked and served by 2:30 pm. We were grateful to have board members along with other ag industry partners from USU, UDAF, and other businesses come join us at the grill.



The cattlemen also put on the annual Utah Beef Cookoff and beef ambassadors provided beef cooking demonstrations at the state fair. The cookoff is sponsored by the Beef Checkoff. People love to see new ideas and watch the live demonstrations. This is a great event that helps keep beef top of mind for consumers and lets them hear from ranchers about beef production.



The Utah Ag Day Barbecue is one other great promotion that takes place each fall. Utah State University alumni and students join Utah ag producers at a tailgating barbecue before the football game.



This year 1,400 beef Top Sirloin kabobs were served from Utah beef producers. Attendees were also able to spin a prize wheel for beef swag and learn more about beef production from our local producers.

These events take a lot of work and helpers to make happen. We would be happy to have you come and join us in the future at any one of them. Please reach out to the beef council office for more information on these programs or any of our other checkoff programs taking place throughout the state at 801-355-0063.



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A Time of Reckoning

By Dr. David Secrist, PhD - Beef Extension Specialist Utah State University



Fall is upon us and soon the majority of cow/calf producers in Utah will have all the cows back home. Now it's time to reconcile the past year and put the finishing touches on next year's plan. Many meaningful production metrics will be gathered over the next month or so. How many calves will you wean and what will they weigh? What was your death loss over the summer? Finally, you will determine how many of your cows are pregnant.

Preg-checking time can be a little unnerving as you hear "bred" or "open" called out. Hopefully, the pen holding the opens is pretty small and not very crowded! We all know that reproduction is the key to success on the ranch and by fall, there is nothing you can do but sit back and wait for your report card. Your pregnancy rate also has a huge impact on the financial prospects for next year.

There is a lot that goes in to having a smile on your face when preg-checking is done in the fall. It really starts just as soon as the calves come off the cow when you evaluate her body condition to understand your starting point. We won't dig into that too deeply in this article but, the "big picture" question that every cattleman should answer is, "Do my cows and management plan best fit my environment?"

Over the last several decades, the cattle industry has been telling ranchers to improve the growth

characteristics and carcass quality of the cattle they produce. While these characteristics are important to improve the efficiency of production and quality of the beef we produce, they may not be at the top of the list for cow/calf producer's profitability. Getting a cow bred early in the breeding season and weaning a healthy calf tops my list. That is closely followed by the cost of getting those two things done on a consistent basis.

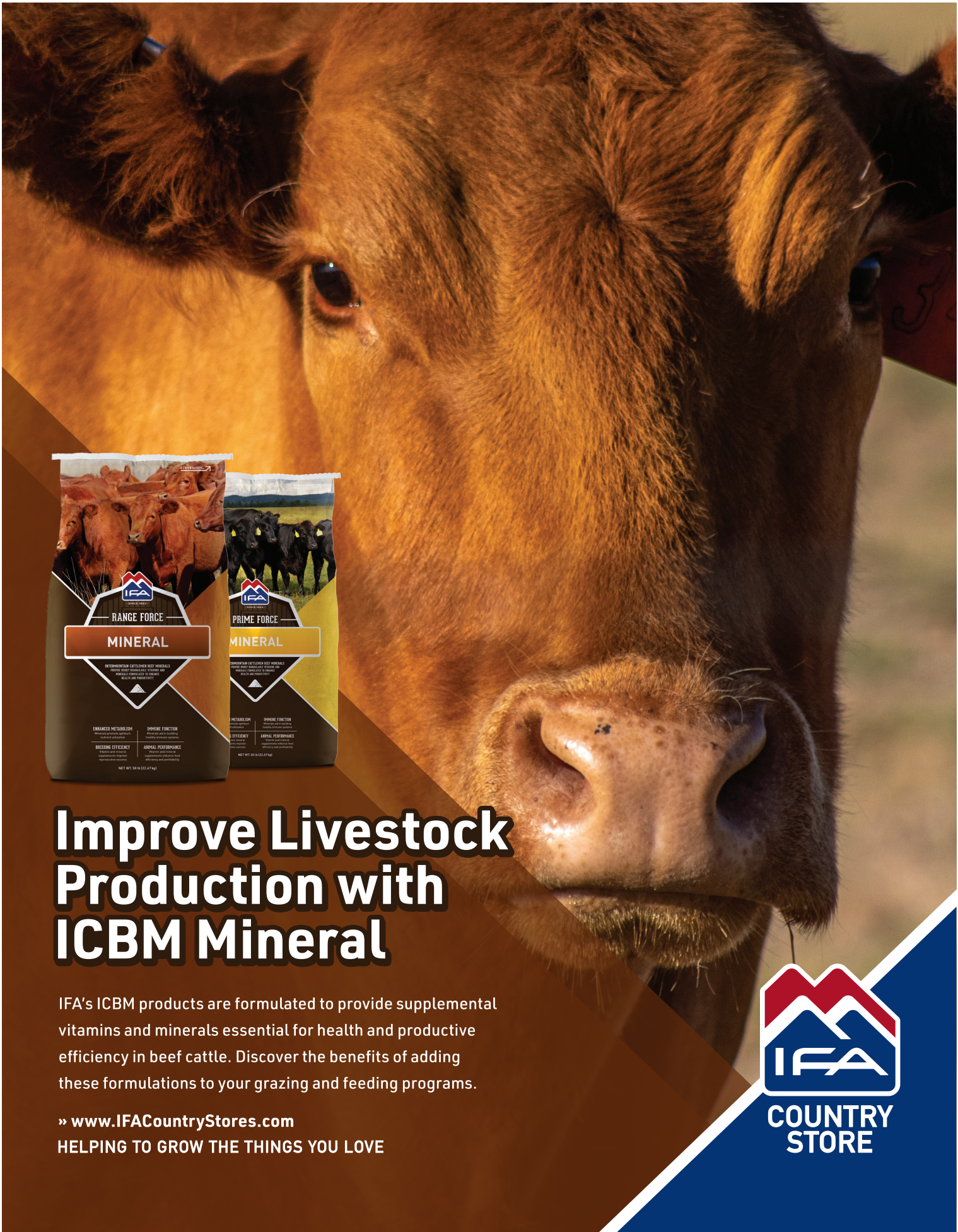
Bulls that will produce heavily muscled feedlot steers with a 1,000-pound carcass, grading prime after 200 days in the feedlot, are not likely to give you a cow that fits your low-rainfall environment. A 1,200-pound cow will eat over 9% more forage than a 1,100-pound cow. University of Nebraska research data suggests that the 1,100-pound cow will wean a calf at 42% of her body weight. The 1,200-pound cow will wean 40% of her body weight. Doing the math, the smaller cow will net a 7.2% higher return to the ranch than the larger cow. Simply put, you can run more cows with the same forage base with a smaller cow.

Your cows must breed within 85 days after calving to maintain a 12-month calving interval. A reasonable rule of thumb is that your calves are gaining 1.8 pounds per day of age. In other words, for every day your cows are not bred past 85 days post-calving, her calf will be 1.8 pounds lighter. In today's market that is costing the ranch \$4.50 per cow, per day.

I realize that I opened a can of worms with this topic and a deeper dive is definitely in order. However, I challenge each of you to think about why you do what you do. What are the drivers in your genetic selection? How big should your cows be to optimize your resources? Are you monitoring cow body condition to give your cows the best chance to breed early, and what is it costing you to do it? And finally, why do you calve when you do?

Answering these questions is at the center of successful ranching. Digging into these details will make for some pretty interesting discussions in the future!





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