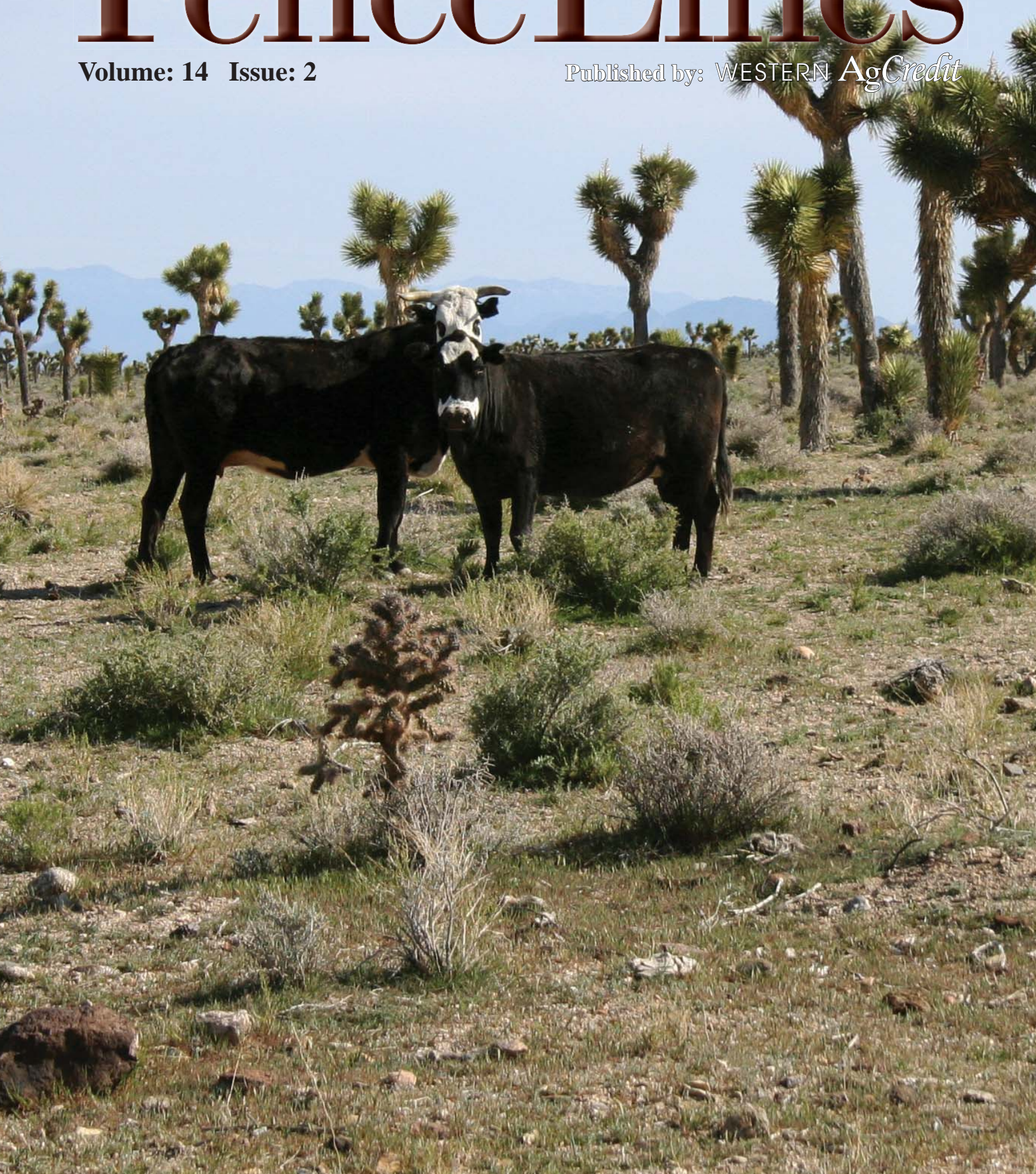


Fence Lines

Spring 2011

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FenceLines Spring 2011



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FenceLines is published for the reading enjoyment of customers and friends of Western AgCredit. Efforts are made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information printed. However, the Association assumes no liability for inadvertent or unintended errors or inaccuracies. Servicing the Intermountain West since 1917, customer service is our commitment.

Dear Western AgCredit Stockholders & Friends,



Based on the calendar, it's supposed to be spring, but looking out my window on April 21, 2011, it doesn't look or feel like spring. When we live in a desert we are supposed to be appreciative for moisture, but even in Utah we can get excess. Not only is the high moisture level delaying the spring planting and turning cattle out on the range, but it will also increase our range fire potential as we'll see a significant increase in both forage and cheatgrass.

I want to mention some good news about the Association, but then I want to pull my soap box out again and talk about an issues that need to be addressed on a National level. The Association just completed its first quarter of the year operations, and the performance has been exceptional. Our credit quality remains high, loan delinquencies are low and the earnings are strong. Our volume of new loans is slightly below plan, but the level is strengthening. Director Neil Capener resigned his position on the Board in February so he could dedicate more time to other commitments. We will miss Neil and LuAnn (his much younger wife) for their guidance and friendship. The Board appointed Ted Andrew from Trenton to complete Neil's term. Ted and his wife Kayleen operate a dairy. We appreciate Ted's willingness to be a Board Member and represent the Stockholders from region one. And yes, LuAnn Capener does owe me for the previous comment about being "much" younger than Neil.

Here comes the soap box. There are many topics that the soap box could be used on such as immigration, EPA regulations, the Farm Bill, turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, etc., but for this issue, I'd like to discuss an event that happened last week: Standard & Poor affirmed the credit rating of the United States of America AAA/A-1, but revised the outlook to "Negative." Standard & Poor has stated that the leadership of the United States has done less than the leadership of Germany, UK and France to deal with our fiscal issues. It is unfortunate, but it appears the United States will have to incur a severe financial meltdown before the partisan Congress and Administration will gain the courage to do what needs to be done to put our country back on stable footing. Things must be real

bad if Standard & Poor identified the problem, because they're the same company that totally missed forecasting the implosion of the housing industry a couple of years ago.

Neither the budgets being proposed by President Obama or Representative Ryan will accomplish what needs to be done in order to save our economy. The Ryan alternative is more fiscally responsible than the President's, but neither makes sufficient cuts in mandatory spending, nor increases in revenue to get our fiscal woes addressed in a reasonable timeframe. I try to be very careful in not over-reacting to our current situation, but our Country is in real trouble. We continue to print money to pay debts that we can't afford. Our lack of fiscal discipline has resulted in the devaluation of our dollar, which is hurting our long-term viability. We are seeing gold trading at \$1500/oz, silver is \$46/oz, the price of oil continues to increase, even though OPEC is cutting production, and the cycle continues. We have to make the decisions to get our fiscal house in order NOW, or we are jeopardizing our financial outlook for generations. The bitter political partisanship has to stop and we need everyone to work together. We are truly running out of time.

Board Chairman Myrin, Vice Chairman Nielson and I will be in Washington, DC in May, meeting with our Congressional Delegation. We intend on discussing our Country's fiscal situation as well as some of the other topics I mentioned at the start of this letter. We sincerely appreciate everyone's business and support. We will do our best to make sure our voice is heard and that our members of Congress understand that their actions (and in many cases inaction) are having material effects on the people back home who are trying to plant crops and turn their cattle out on the summer range.

Together in Agriculture,

Richard Weathered
President

Director Neil Capener Retires from Board of Directors



On February 2, 2011, Director Neil Capener retired from the Western AgCredit Board of Directors. At the time of his retirement, Neil was the longest continuous serving Director on the Board, having served the Association for 19 years.

Director Capener's insights, leadership and willingness to serve will be missed, but we wish him the best in his future endeavors as he retires to spend more time with his family, managing his dairy operation and fulfilling responsibilities with his church. We would like to thank Neil for his dedicated service to the Association. Director Capener's wife, LuAnn, who always kept meetings and trips exciting with her positive outlook and sense of humor will also be missed.

Ted Andrew, a dairy farmer from Trenton, UT was selected by the Board of Directors to serve as interim Director.

Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees

Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, Utah Cattlemen's Association and Western AgCredit, seeks nominations for the 2011 Leopold Conservation Award in Utah.

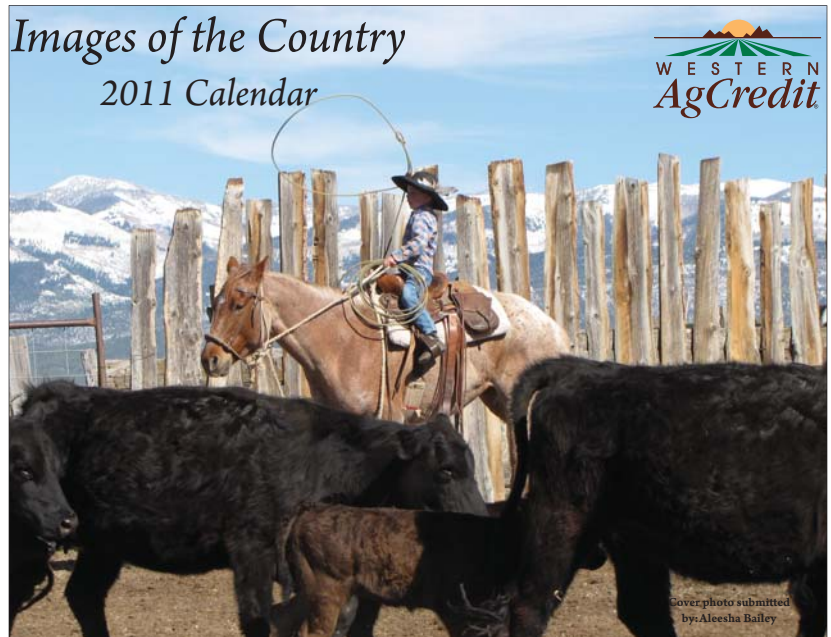
The Award, which is comprised of \$10,000 and an Aldo Leopold crystal, recognizes Utah farmers and ranchers who demonstrate outstanding stewardship and sustainable management of natural resources. The Leopold Conservation Award is presented in honor of renowned conservationist and author Aldo Leopold who called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The nomination deadline is August 1, 2011. For more information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

Photo Contest for the 2012 Calendar!

We hope you're enjoying your 2011 Western AgCredit Calendar featuring pictures submitted by our customers. Now is the time to start taking pictures to submit for the 2012 calendar!

Thirteen agriculture related photos will be selected for the calendar, and winners will each get a \$50 gift certificate to Cabela's for their submission. There are no limits on submissions, so enter as many photos as you would like. **The submission deadline is June 15, 2011!**

High-quality digital photos are preferred, but other formats will be accepted. Submissions will not be returned. By submitting your photos, you give Western AgCredit the right to use photos for additional marketing purposes. Please include a brief description of the photo including location and names of individuals, if present. Entries can be emailed to Sarah at sjb@westernagcredit.com, or mailed to her at PO Box 95850, South Jordan, UT 84095.



Cover of this year's Western AgCredit calendar.

Rules to Remember When Purchasing Water Rights

By Jeffry R. Gittins

As an attorney whose practice focuses primarily on Utah water law, I often receive phone calls and questions about water rights. The most common questions I receive are about title to water rights: How is a water right properly conveyed? How do I know if the water right I am buying is valid? Is there paperwork I need to fill out with the Utah Division of Water Rights? The purpose of this article is to provide five general rules to remember when purchasing a water right (or land that includes a water right) in Utah.

1. Research Title to the Water Right

Before purchasing a water right, you should research the true ownership of the water right. In other words, does the seller really have title to the water right that they are trying to sell you? A printout from the Division of Water Rights' database or a copy of the deed the seller received from a prior owner are not sufficient to establish ownership. Title research must be done in the records at the county recorder's office and at the Division of Water Rights. If proper title research is not done, you run the risk of paying the seller for something that he/she does not own.

2. Consider Purchasing Water Right Title Insurance

When purchasing land, people almost always buy title insurance. However, people don't generally think of buying title insurance for water rights. Water right title insurance is now available in Utah, and may be an option to consider if you are spending a lot of money to purchase water rights and/or want some assurance regarding the title to the water rights.

3. Research the Status of the Water Right

You should research the water right's status and history. In other words, is the water right a valid, recognized water right that will allow you to use it in the manner represented to you? There are a lot of potential issues that a water right may have that can only be discovered by a thorough review of the documentation, maps, decrees, etc. on file with the Division of Water Rights.

4. Have the Water Right Conveyed by Deed

The proper way to convey a water right is by deed. As a buyer, you should request that the deed be a warranty deed rather than a quit-claim deed. If you are purchasing land and the water right, both can be conveyed in the same deed, but the deed should clearly state the water right that is being transferred. I prefer to use language such as: "Together with Water Right No. 33-1452, as identified of record with the Utah Division of Water Rights, including all change applications and other applications pertaining thereto." You may also use the Water Rights Deed Addendum form, which is available on the Division of Water Rights' website. The deed must be recorded with the County Recorder's Office in the county where the water is diverted and the county where the water is used (which are generally the same).

5. File a Report of Conveyance

After the deed has been conveyed, you need to update the title with the Utah Division of Water Rights by filing a Report of Conveyance. The Division maintains a database of all water rights and associated information, which includes the name(s) of the owner(s) of each water right. Any notices or correspondence that affect a water right will be sent to the owner of record on the Division's database. The Division does not, however, actively monitor any transfers of water rights; rather, the Division relies on each water right owner to file a Report of Conveyance to notify the Division when ownership transfers.

Water rights are a valuable asset and a vital resource in most farming operations. Unfortunately, however, people purchasing water rights oftentimes do not spend the time necessary to research and evaluate the water rights prior to the purchase. Following the five steps outlined in this article can go a long way in ensuring that you get what you pay for in your next water rights purchase.

Jeffry R. Gittins is an attorney with Smith Hartvigsen, PLLC. He can be contacted at 801-413-1600.



Introducing Director Ted Andrew

*Ted and Kayleen
Andrew at their dairy
farm in Trenton, UT.*

In March, Ted Andrew, a dairy farmer from Trenton, UT, became the newest member of the Western AgCredit Board of Directors when he was selected by the Board to fill the seat vacated by Neil Capener's retirement.

As a dairy producer, Ted represents an important segment of Western AgCredit's portfolio. He plans to be a voice on the Board for the dairymen in regards to their financing needs as well as on important topics that impact dairy operations such as immigration, environmental issues and pricing.

As a third generation dairyman, Ted comes from a rich history of successful dairy farming. Ted's grandfather was the first to start dairying in Trenton. In the late 1940s, Ted's father purchased four

heifers from his grandfather and started his own dairy operation at their current location. After leasing the facilities and managing the farm for several years, Ted purchased the operation from his father in 1997. Through the years, the operation has grown from its four heifer beginning to a 600 cow operation.

An astute manager, Ted has made several major decisions that have directed the growth of his operation and helped secure its success.

These decisions are made with efficiency in mind. "We try to focus our decisions around efficiencies on purchases," said Ted.

This includes maximizing usage of equipment and facilities. For instance, recognizing the acreage they ran wasn't large enough to

provide anywhere near the amount of feed needed, Ted decided to lease his ground in favor of focusing on the cows and not continuing to purchase costly machinery to farm. "We were buying about 90% of our feed, and I just couldn't see myself investing in equipment to harvest the other 10%," said Ted.

This decision has also helped Ted better manage the time demands of his operation and focus on the cows. "Spring comes around, and you get stressed out wondering how you're going to take care of cows and run the ground," said Ted. "Now we're even keel all year round just taking care of the cows."

Ted has been a Western AgCredit customer since the mid 1980s, and he values the relationship he has had with his loan officers. "With Western

Ag, I totally trust them for business decisions, and I always have,” said Ted. “If I feel they are at ease with it, I feel a lot better about making that decision.”

Today, Ted and his wife Kayleen work side-by-side to make the dairy successful. “I couldn’t do things without her anymore,” said Ted.

Daily herd health management is an important part of Ted and Kayleen’s workday. Each of their cows wear an ankle pedometer that also identifies them when they come into the barn to be milked. The monitoring system in the barn tracks their milk production and the conductivity of the milk (which indirectly measures red blood cell count) and uploads this information, along with the distance each cow walks, to a computer.

By reviewing this data daily, they can determine if a cow is getting sick by tracking their typical production and movement and flagging a cow when there is a change, since a change in pattern indicates a potential health concern.

The Andrews follow-up by accessing the cows that deviate from their typical behavior and treating them as needed. This system allows

for early detection, which leads to early treatment, higher recovery rates and ultimately a healthier herd.

One of Kayleen’s major responsibilities is taking care of the calves. The Andrews feed their calves their hospital milk, which they pasteurize before feeding. Since they invested in a pasteurizer, they have noticed an increase in the health of their calves.

Ted and Kayleen have five children, all of whom have worked on the farm at one point or another. Their oldest daughter, Rachel, is married to Nate Jones. They have two sons and live in Elwood, UT. Their second daughter, Heidi, is married to Clayton McMurdie and they live in the Salt Lake area. Their youngest daughter, Kamilyn, is married to Erik Paul and they too live in the Salt Lake area. Their sons, Courtney and Brandon, are the youngest and both work on the farm. Courtney graduated from the Herdsman Program at USU and now works on the farm full-time and plans to take it over. Brandon works on the farm part-time and is studying agriculture at USU.

Although Ted studied business at USU, the Andrews are avid BYU

fans. This is easy to spot when you visit their farm and see the large white silo with big blue letters that read “BYU COUGARS.” They enjoy spending family time together supporting BYU athletics, including attending games as a family.

In addition to managing the dairy, Ted is a member of the Trenton town council, the fire board and is active in his church. He has also been very involved in Scouting and received the Silver Beaver award.

Ted looks forward to learning more about the Association, especially the business end of things. He hopes to use the skills learned there to better manage his operation. “I look forward to working with the Board as a unit. I hope I have something to add to that too,” said Ted.

For Ted, managing through the ups and downs of the dairy business is second nature, and he lives by this philosophy, “If we are careful enough managing when the times are good, then we can take care of ourselves when the times are bad.”

Western AgCredit is pleased to have Ted on the Board of Directors, and we look forward to his leadership and insight.



Ted showing a monitor in his dairy barn.



Kayleen by the pasturizer they use for the hospital milk they feed their calves.



The Andrew Family.

Sagebrush, Joshua Trees & Beef Cows

Steve and Glenda Medlin of Tikaboo Valley, NV own and operate D/4 Enterprises, a successful cattle ranch, in their unique desertscape section of the world.

Down in the Tikaboo Valley in southern Nevada by Area 51 is a cattle ranch. Known as D/4 Enterprises, Steve and Glenda Medlin established this successful beef operation in an area some would consider unproductive, even desolate, over 38 years ago.

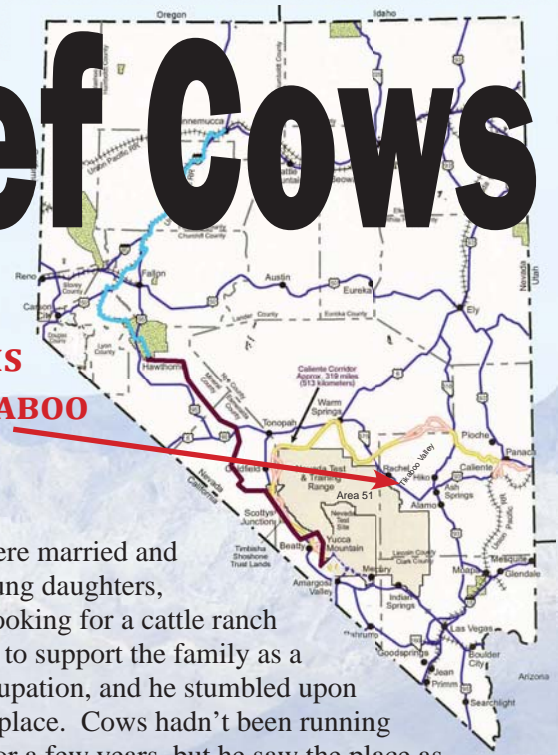
Both native residents of Arizona, that is where the Medlins met and married. At the time, Steve worked construction and roped. They met at a rodeo, and after a short engagement, the couple married. According to Glenda, “We got married at 10:00 one morning and by 1:00 we were in Boulder City at a rodeo.”

Steve and Glenda both grew up on cattle ranches, and Steve had two small ranches in Arizona during the early years of their marriage that he’d manage in addition to working construction.



Glenda and Steve Medlin in front of one of the Joshua trees that dot the valley around their home.

WHERE IS THE TIKABOO VALLEY?



After they were married and had three young daughters, Steve went looking for a cattle ranch large enough to support the family as a full-time occupation, and he stumbled upon their current place. Cows hadn’t been running on the land for a few years, but he saw the place as the opportunity he was looking for, and he was able to purchase the permits and start his own cattle business.

When the Medlins acquired the BLM lease, the only structure on the entire place was a large water tank, and the nearest neighbors were over 25 miles away. “The first time we came out here, I thought for sure he was moving me to hell, but it turned out alright,” said Glenda. “I said, ‘What are we going to live in?’ He said, ‘Oh we’ll find something.’”

That is just what they did. The Medlins brought in a trailer for their home and placed it not too far from the original water tank. They’ve added onto their house since then, but the original structure is still part of their current home, and they still have the memories of their early days on the ranch. “When the kids were all going to school and growing up, we had three Coleman lanterns, and that was our electricity. We got ready for school with the Coleman lanterns and they did their homework with them,” said Glenda.

Unlike their early days in the Tikaboo Valley, today the Medlins have modern day comforts including running water, electricity and telephone service. However, all of these things take a great deal of work to acquire and maintain. They currently use solar power for the majority of their energy needs. They also have a diesel generator which they use for a few hours in the evenings when the sun goes down. Soon they hope to get power through a new line coming through near their place.

With the exception of Steve’s hired man and his family, their nearest neighbors are still over 25 miles away, and

to purchase supplies they travel to Cedar City, UT or Las Vegas, NV. “If we go to town, it takes us three hours in any direction we go,” said Glenda.

This being said, supplies are planned for and they don’t make a lot of runs to town. “When we go to town, we get it. If we run out, we do without,” said Glenda.

For food supplies, they use a lot of canned goods, butcher their own meat and grow a garden. At times, they’ve even had a milk cow so they could have a constant supply of fresh milk.

Due to the arid nature of the area, it takes a lot of ground to raise cattle. “It’s 30 miles long and 30 miles wide, and there’s cattle on all of it,” said Steve regarding the size of the place. They run just under 500 head.

Water is the lifeblood of the operation and a main focus in day-to-day chores. Steve, with the help of his grandson Bubba that works on the ranch weekends and when he’s out of school, spend a great deal of time traveling the place checking on the 70+ watering spots that dot the property, each spaced about three miles apart. According to Steve, “There are many reservoirs that depend upon rainfall. Bubba and I also haul water, and there are pipelines, springs and wells.”

It is a year-round operation, and the cattle are managed by the watering spots. This leaves them free to roam the available acreage at will. But like any good cowman, Steve knows his herd. “He can tell you where they live, where they water, where they fed last and if they had a calf,” said Glenda.

The area is prone to extreme temperatures, which adds to the water management issue. It can get up to 105 degrees in the summer, and the temperature dips below freezing in



One of the 70+ watering spots Steve has on his place.

the winter. The ranch extends from 3,500 feet above sea level to 10,000 feet above sea level, and with the changing altitude, forage changes too. Down in the valley where they live, the range is dotted with sagebrush and Joshua trees of all shapes and sizes. In the mountains, the foliage is dense with trees, making it difficult at times to find the cattle.

So what do their cows eat? “Grass, brush, sagebrush. There’s a lot of brush they eat on, white sage, Mormon tea, shadscale. A lot of cheatgrass in the summer time, a lot of ricegrass,” said Steve. Steve knows the range well. He can identify the different types of vegetation, and he knows which ones make good forage, as well as the ones the cows will not eat.

Predators and drought are also factors that play a role in the success of the ranch. Steve can identify cows that didn’t get away from the coyotes soon enough because they are missing part of their tails, and those are the lucky ones. Although all the forage is native to arid climates, in particularly dry years, the land will not provide the necessary feed for the animals, and Steve will have to move his herd, sometimes several hundred miles, to a different location for grazing.

“Steve is very range conscience. If there is a drought, Steve will incur additional trucking and grazing costs rather than overgraze and ruin his rangeland. He has managed his operation incredibly well considering the harsh environment, and remained viable even during times of drought,” said Daren Lovell, the Medlins loan officer.

In addition to the three daughters that moved with the Medlins to the Tickaboo Valley when they were children, the Medlins have ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. It’s clear from the pictures that smile back from every wall of their living room that family is important to Steve and Glenda.

(continued on next page)



Steve with the water tank that was the only structure on the place when they purchased the BLM lease.

When Steve gave up construction to ranch full-time, he still kept up with his roping, and has been fairly successful over the years, he has even taken home two trailers. Roping is a sport he enjoys doing with his family. Originally a header, Steve switched to the heeler when he started team roping with his daughters. Depending on fuel prices and the ability to get away from the ranch, Steve still ropes.

Another interesting aspect of the Medlins operation is its proximity to Area 51, which is used by the Air Force for testing and training. According to the Medlins, the Air Force have proven to be good neighbors. Although Area 51 existed when the Medlins purchased their BLM permits, they moved there long before alien rumors made the area a mecca for those seeking extraterrestrial experiences.

Around the time that rumors of aliens filled the area, the peaceful solitude they enjoyed was disrupted by people meeting at the Medlins mailbox and watching for signs of extraterrestrial life rising from the southwest mountains of the Tikaboo Valley.

The Medlins mailbox, which is located a few miles from their home, became the gathering spot for large groups of alien watchers observing the night sky. The mailbox became a landmark, which led to its fame. Their mailbox can be seen in movies such as Independence Day and pictures of it can be found all over the web. It also became a place where visitors would leave their mark and a depository for letters from those trying to communicate with aliens.



Steve and Glenda Medlin with their granddaughter, JuliAnn, in front of one of the trailers Steve won roping.

Although not the draw that it once was, you still travel the Extraterrestrial Highway to get to their place, and you can stay at the Little A'LE'INN in nearby Rachel.

Aliens or not, the rugged desertscape of the remote Tikaboo Valley holds a beauty all its own, an untamed beauty that the Medlins have harnessed just enough to build a life around doing what they love.



The Medlin's famous mailbox.



Above: Extraterrestrial Hwy Sign Below: Little A'LE'INN sign

Man vs. Machine

Don't Lose The Battle

Contributer: A.J. Ferguson
VP of Farm Safety- Utah Farm Bureau

Around the farm, spring means an increase in the use of machinery. Since machinery is attributed to causing the largest percent of severe farm accidents, it is important to take safety precautions to avoid potentially fatal incidents. Failure to recognize hazards and careless operation are common factors in equipment-related injuries and fatalities. It is important to ensure that all guards and shields are kept in place. Make it a rule to always disengage power before attempting to adjust, repair, or unclog equipment, and be extra cautious around the areas listed below that carry increased safety concerns.

Shear points: Shear points are created when the edges of two objects move toward or next to each other closely enough to cut relatively soft material. Examples include sickle bars, forage harvester heads, and grain augers.

Pinch points: Pinch points are created when two objects move together, with at least one of them moving in a circle. Examples include belt and chain drives, feed rolls and gear drives.

Wrap points: Any exposed, rotating machine component is a potential wrap point. Injuries usually occur when loose clothing or long hair catch on and wrap around rotating shafts or protruding shaft ends.

Crush points: Crush points are created when two objects move toward each other when one object moves toward a stationary object. Avoid getting into a position that could lead to body parts being crushed.

Free-wheeling parts: The heavier a revolving part, the longer it will continue to rotate after power is shut off. Allow time for blades, flywheels and various other rotating components to come to rest before attempting to clean or adjust a machine. This may require waiting for a minute or more.

Pull-in points: Injuries occur when someone tries to remove plant material which has become stuck in feed rolls or other parts while a machine is operating. Once the material is freed, it can pull a person into the machine faster than they can react to let go!

Thrown objects: Bystanders or animals in the path of stones, sticks and other debris thrown by machinery can be seriously injured. Guards and deflectors should be used to reduce the hazard, if possible.

Springs: Springs may harbor potentially dangerous stored energy. Always release spring tension (if possible) before dismantling equipment. Position yourself away from the direction of spring travel.

Hydraulic systems: Hydraulic systems store considerable energy at extremely high pressure. Attached equipment should be lowered or blocked before maintenance procedures are carried out. Never check for leaks with your hands-use a piece of cardboard. A fine jet of hydraulic fluid can readily pierce the skin.

Detailed information about machinery safety is presented in the owner's manual. Review this material before starting to work with a machine. It is the responsibility of machinery operators to recognize hazards and take the necessary steps to protect themselves and others. With a little added caution and employee training, you can ensure a safe spring for you and all that work on your operation.

Customer Scholarship Winners

Western AgCredit would like to congratulate Kelton Price, McCall Smith and Carson Chew, this year's \$1500 Customer Scholarship recipients. Applicants were evaluated on their academic performance, service, leadership, involvement in agriculture and their response to an essay. This year's essay question was: "What are the pros and cons of the U.S. Government subsidizing renewable energy such as ethanol produced from corn?" Below is information on the winners as well as an excerpt from their essays.

Kelton Price



Hometown: **Kingston, UT**
Parents: **Harold and Melanee Anderson**
Family Farm: **Nuel Anderson**

Kelton has been actively involved in high school sports including baseball, basketball, wrestling, cross country and track. He is a region champion wrestler, and his baseball and basketball teams were First-Team All-State. Kelton served as his junior class activities chairman and he has been on the teen fair board for six years. He is active in scouting and church activities. He also works closely with his father to run their ranch, something he's been doing since a young age. After graduation, Kelton plans on attending Dixie State University majoring in pre-veterinary. He ultimately wants to become a vet then return to Piute County and establish a practice there.

Essay excerpt: *"One of the best proponents for using ethanol is that it is a renewable resource. Corn crops can be planted and harvested every six months, making it relatively easy to obtain the corn needed... On the other side of the spectrum, it could cost more on the East and West Coast to transport the fuel from the Corn Belt. Ethanol also contains less energy per gallon than regular gasoline. This means that the actual miles per gallon can vary depending on the ethanol concentration and the model of your vehicle. Unfortunately, ethanol requires quite a bit of energy to create. In fact, it requires almost as much energy to make it as it produces."*

McCall Smith



Hometown: **Santa Clara, UT**
Parents: **Bartley and Megan Smith**
Family Ranch: **Bartley Smith Family Limited Partnership**

McCall has served as student body government president, captain and publicity officer of her high school drill team and layout and design editor of her yearbook. She has also participated in choir, cross country, FFA, the National Honor Society, FCCLA, FBLA and student council. She has been involved in a variety of service projects benefiting various individuals and organizations. In addition to holding outside jobs, she is involved in the family ranching operation. She has also raised steers that she has exhibited at the Dixie Junior Livestock Show. This fall, McCall plans to attend Brigham Young University to pursue a degree in dietetics.

Essay excerpt: *"While nature's resources are reasonably used to support life, we as consumers must understand how using natural resources - especially those involving energy production - affects the environment and economy. In efforts to build a wider base of energy dependency, they may also come with their own list of consequences... Demand for both food and fuel is expected to double by mid-century, so in reality depleting corn crops for ethanol could be creating other problems. The truth is many plants could be used for fuel. Rudolph Diesel first powered his motor with soybean and peanut oil, so why not try another biofuel that wouldn't deplete a direct food source?"*

Carson Chew



Hometown: Jensen, UT
Parents: Scott and Tamara Chew
Family Ranch: Chew Ranch & Chew Livestock

Carson is active in the FFA where he participated on the Ag Mechanics Team. He has completed his 300 hour welding certification and is scheduled to complete his 600 hour certification this year. Carson has participated in Uintah County Farm Field Days. In addition to his community and school involvement, Carson spends a great deal of time working on the ranch. His responsibilities include mowing hay, raking and baling, and animal care, including herding, vaccinating, branding, shearing, sorting and transporting. After graduation, Carson plans to pursue a bachelor's degree at Utah State University and then return to the family ranch.

Essay excerpt: *“When I first heard about subsidies, I was instantly sold on the idea that they were absolutely wonderful. I didn’t think about how they would be bad. However, after a little research, I feel that the cons completely outweigh the pros. With the government subsidizing alternate fuel research and production, more people spend time looking for another type of fuel. This is no doubt a good thing. However, it can be detrimental. Some of the alternate energy sources are not effective, and yet the government continues to pour money into this “money pit.” I say that because the money spent on technology such as wind energy, solar energy, and ethanol production is spent with very little return, if any at all. It costs a lot to start and maintain these types of energies, but they just don’t deliver a good return.”*

Caden Burrell Receives Western AgCredit’s FFA Scholarship



Caden Burrell of the Gunnison FFA Chapter was awarded the 2011 \$1000 FFA Scholarship sponsored by Western AgCredit at the annual FFA Convention on March 10, 2011 in Logan, UT.

Caden is the son of Jesse and Lisa Burrell. As a junior, Caden served as the president of the Gunnison FFA Chapter. As a senior, Caden was elected as student body president of Gunnison Valley High School. In addition to these positions, Caden has held various other student leadership positions and participated in baseball, tennis, speech and drama.

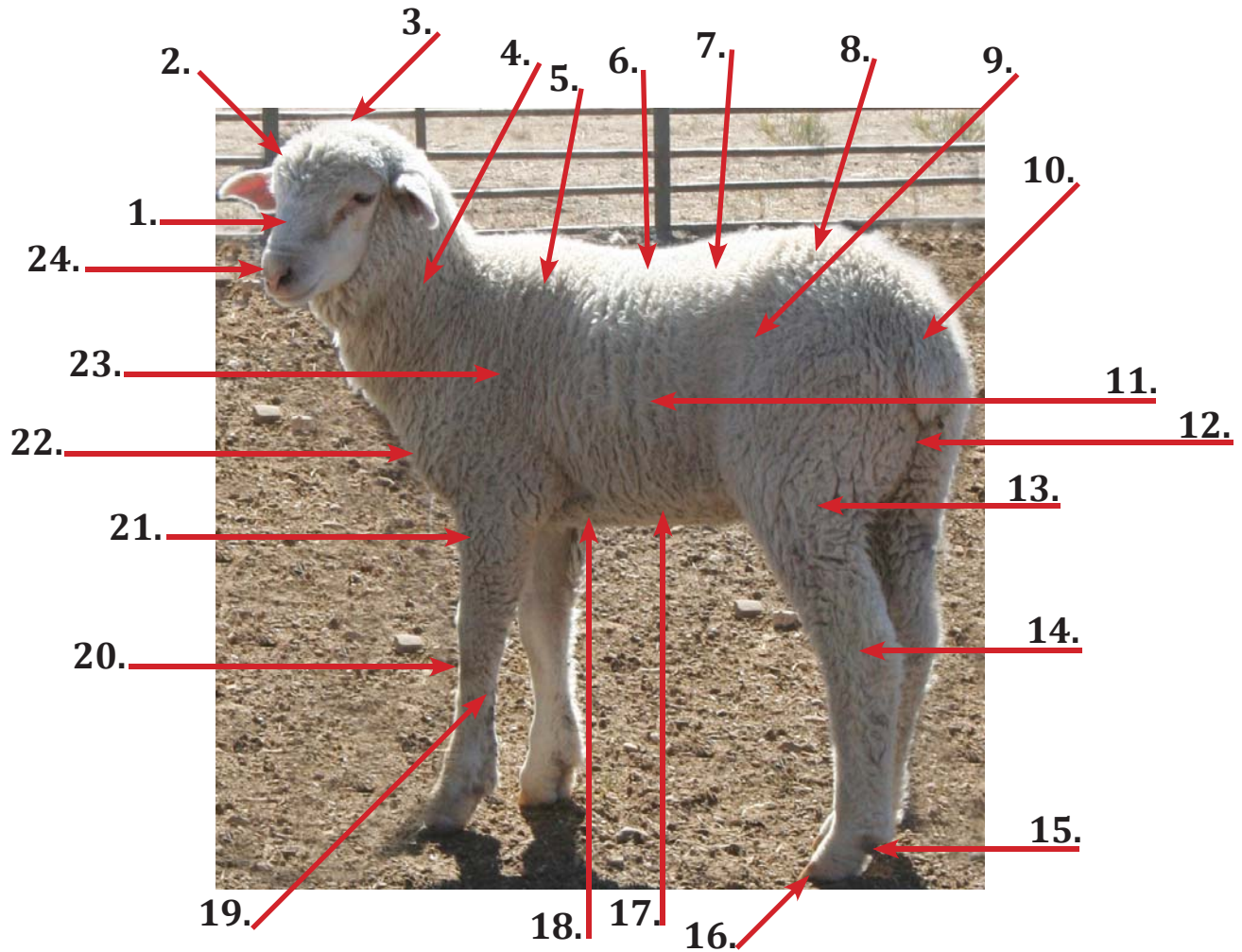
For his Supervised Agriculture Experience, Caden has worked in agriculture sales and done an ag communications project. After graduation, Caden plans to pursue a degree in pharmacy and serve a mission for his church.

About Western AgCredit Scholarships

As part of Western AgCredit’s commitment to the future of agriculture, Western AgCredit sponsors various scholarships to help educate future leaders that will be committed to the agriculture industry. Deadlines for most scholarships sponsored by Western AgCredit are between January and March. Watch for scholarship details in the Winter edition of FenceLines. You can also email Sarah Buttars at sjb@westernagcredit.com for more information.

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Laughing Pen

“When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization.”

- Daniel Webster

Farm Kid in the Marines

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the

best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6' and 130 pounds and he's 6'8' and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto it and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice

Dayvorce

A farmer walked into an attorney's office wanting to file for a divorce. The attorney asked, "May I help you?"

The farmer said, "Yea, I want to get one of those dayvorses."

The attorney said, "Well do you have any grounds?"

The farmer said, "Yea, I got about 140 acres." The attorney said, "No, you don't understand, do you have a case?"

The farmer said, "No, I don't have a Case, but I have a John Deere."

The attorney said, "No you don't understand, I mean do you have a grudge?"

The farmer said, "Yea I got a grudge, that's where I park my John Deere."

The attorney said, "No sir, I mean do you have a suit?"

The farmer said, "Yes sir, I got a suit. I wear it to church on Sundays."

The exasperated attorney said, "Well sir, does your wife beat you up or anything?"

The farmer said, "No sir, we both get up about 4:30."

Finally, the attorney says, "Okay, let me put it this way. WHY DO YOU WANT A DIVORCE?"

And the farmer says, "Well, I can never have a meaningful conversation with her."



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