

# CCW

# News

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

Spring, 2024

## From the President, Kathleen Shoemaker



I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to spring and calving season. I don't think it gets much better than a pasture full of baby calves.

Our executive team has been busy with a few new projects. We established a \$150 grant using some of our beef promotion budget to help our local affiliates offset the cost of doing a Meat-In or Ag Day this year. More

information and the application are in this newsletter.

The Beef Ambassador committee is working to set program guidelines. The program provides an opportunity for youth, ages 14 - 24 years old to become spokespersons and future leaders for the beef industry. Our goal is to have this up and running by the summer. CCW is excited to implement this program for our future beef advocates.

We awarded two local clubs prize money for our Membership Drive contest. Congratulations to the 1st place winner Elbert County CattleWomen and the 2nd place winner Black Mesa CattleWomen. They did a great job recruiting new members and we had multiple affiliates who added new members.

We had a great meeting at the Mid-Winter convention in January. Even though the weather was brutal, we had a great turn out. It's always fun to see old friends

and meet new people who share the same passion for beef and agriculture. We were treated to two fabulous presentations by Olivia Wilrett and Dan Byers.

Olivia Wilrett is a Five Rivers market analyst. She discussed upcoming beef/cattle forecasts and illustrated the ebb and flow of the cattle market for the past few years.

Dan Byers is the executive director of the non-profit Beef Sticks for Back Packs program. He gave a very informative presentation about this essential program. The organization distributes high quality beef sticks with 9 grams of protein per serving into kids backpacks and snack bags for free, thanks to the support of Colorado State University, JBS, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding and many more sponsors. CSU students make the sticks using \$750,000 worth of equipment in the Global Innovation Food Lab.

We are awarding the Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship at the summer convention. If you are interested or know of a qualified applicant, you can find the application on our website at [coloradoCattleWomen.org](http://coloradoCattleWomen.org) under the "Programs & Partners" tab.

I hope you know you are the life-blood of this organization. I am so impressed with the CattleWomen of this state and the things you do. If there is anything we can do to help your organization, please contact me or one of our officers.

*"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."*

--Will Rogers

**Contact Us! Like Us! Follow Us!**

Email: [coloradoCattleWomen@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoCattleWomen@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ColoradoCattleWomen.org](http://www.ColoradoCattleWomen.org)

Facebook: Colorado CattleWomen Inc.

## Mid-Winter Meeting Overview

Submitted by Sudzy Benesch, CCW State Secretary

A wintry blast welcomed CCW CattleWomen to the mid-winter general membership meeting held at the Denver Marriott West in Golden on January 15. Present were seven board members, seven members and two guests. Minutes from the annual general membership meeting through the December meetings were available for members to peruse. A financial report showed a balance of \$43,304.24 in checking, \$30,489.58 in the money market and \$12,000 in the Heather Hays Stinnett memorial CCW Legacy scholarship fund. Sudzy Benesch shared that the beef ambassador committee was working on curriculum and

resources for the newly incited CCW Beef Ambassador program that will be distributed to all affiliates upon completion.

Joanie Shoemaker

reviewed the criteria for the Heather Hays Stinnet CCW Legacy scholarship and reminded everyone that the application deadline is April 1 with the first \$4,000 being awarded in June at the Colorado Cattlemen's Convention. Christy Hawk is sending all locals the Pearl Ann Adams Reimbursement Form which, if approved, will pay up to \$150 to help with costs for an Ag Day or Meat-In Event. Applications are due June 1.

Kathleen Shoemaker announced the winners of the membership drive: Elbert County (52% increase in membership), receiving \$250 and affiliate dues paid and Black Mesa (46% increase) earning \$150 from Jo Stanko's donation. Due to time constraints the quarter rep reports were in written form and available for review.

Cliff Polk, president of Rocky Mountain Financial Group emphasized that most U.S. businesses needed to file a report to comply with the Corporate Transparency Act which went into law January 1. He also discussed insurance options to stem financial gaps for ranchers. Jo Stanko, the regional assistant commissioner for the Colorado Department of Agriculture updated membership on five current issues; water policy, the 2021 FASFA Act, the Social Exchange Commission rule changes and the Colorado wolf introduction—all

of which negatively impact ranchers and agriculture.

Katie Kixmiller, ANCW Collegiate Beef Advocacy

Program co-director and

Brittley Bower, current

beef advocate, shared a

power point outlining the

program's goals and Brittley,

who recently attended the

Denver National Western

Stock Show, shared the many

promotional activities she

has been apart.

Julie Moore, the director of nutrition and

education of the Colorado

Beef Council and CCW

liaison, announced that

the current Colorado Beef

Council executive director,

Todd Inglee, will be the new brand commissioner of the

Colorado Department of Agriculture. She expressed

her appreciation for his past and continued leadership.

Julie shared that the Stock Show numbers were

down due to cold weather but that the Beef Council

booth was in a high traffic area and the panels were

effective in promoting beef nutrition, land stewardship, sustainability and animal welfare.

Three guest speakers then took the floor. Olivia Wilrett, the Five Rivers corporate market analyst, discussed upcoming forecasts in the cattle market. In 2023 the national cattle herd was liquidated by 5 million due to droughts and forage availability and predicted another smaller liquidation in 2024. Beef remains a staple on the consumer plate despite inflation, but the emphasis is on hamburger rather than specific cuts. Dan Byers, executive director of Beefsticks for Backpacks, stated the mission of his organization was to alleviate hunger for Colorado students who suffer from food insecurity. The non-profit distributes high quality sticks with 9 grams of protein per serving into kids backpacks for free across the state due to sponsorships including Colorado State University where students make the sticks in a state-of-the-art lab. Todd Inglee outlined the Beef Council activities

including consumer dashboard findings, farm tours, beef grants, NCBA YouTube advertising campaigns, billboard signage initiatives, TEAM BEEF running events and social media promotions and engagements. Kathleen thanked him for his many years of service and then adjourned the meeting.





## *In Remembrance of Terry Fankhauser*

*October 16, 1970 - January 29, 2024*

On Monday, January 29, 2024, we bid farewell to Terry Fankhauser, who devoted 22 years of service as the Executive Vice President to the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA). In the summer of 2022, Terry, alongside his wife, Hidi and their children, Emma, Tess, and Grant, returned to the family ranch in Madison, Kansas, established in 1906 by Terry's great-grandparents. Despite the change in scenery, Terry's unwavering commitment to the industry endured, and he continued to serve as a consultant for CCA.

His passion for the industry was reflected in his active participation in key programs and committees, including the Colorado Ag Council, NCBA Strategic Planning, American Heritage Alliance, Partners for Western Conservation, Colorado Range Management Initiative, Emeritus Director of CCALT, CSU Quality Assurance Initiative, and the Advisory Committee to CSU President. Terry was also a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, an Honorary Lifetime Member of CCA, and a member of the Kansas State University Alumni Association. He contributed to the Ft. Lupton First United Methodist Church, where he served on the SPRC Committee during his time in Colorado.

Terry was a devoted supporter of Colorado CattleWomen and will be remembered by us fondly. May Terry rest in peace, his legacy enduring through the lives he touched, and the unforgettable mark he left on the cattle industry and beyond.

## 2023 CattleWoman of the Year: Marsha Daughenbaugh

Marsha Daughenbaugh is a lifetime resident of Steamboat Springs who is passionate about our land, water, community, her family and BEEF in Routt County. As a member of Routt County CattleWomen (RCCW), she has served as president, secretary and Executive Committee. Marsha has helped organize the annual RCCW Poker Run and writes articles for local newspaper about the BEEF industry.

Since 1973 Marsha, along with her husband "Doc", has been the matriarch for the Rocking C Bar Ranch, a multi-generational cattle/hay ranch. She is actively involved in the Community Ag Alliance, RCCW, Historic Routt County, Lift-Up, United Way, Steamboat Art Museum, Yampa Valley Land Trust, Yampa Valley Community Foundation, Yes to Routt County's Water, Wildlife and Working Ranches (Treasurer), Brown Ranch Steering Committee and her church.

Marsha has a long history of community involvement that includes being a leader for 19 years with Routt Coun-

ty and Colorado 4-H. She has been a youth group leader for her church for 23 years and works closely with the Steamboat Springs Chamber of commerce and Economic Development boards. Her dedication has resulted in Marsha being awarded many honors including Colorado 4-H Leader of the Year 1991, Colorado Division of Wildlife Landowner of the Year 1995, Environment 2000 Shining Star Award 1997, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Farm Family of the Year 2017, Grand Marshall July 4th Parade 2009, Hazie Werner Award of Excellence 2013, USDA Administrators Award for Service to Agriculture 1991 and Yampa Valley Sustainability Council Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.



Marsha is not only an advocate for RCCW and the BEEF industry but also to sustaining our land, its resources and the hard-working ranchers of Routt County and Colorado. Colorado CattleWomen are thrilled to congratulate Marsha Daughenbaugh as our 2023 CattleWoman of the Year.

## 2023 Rookie of the Year: Barb Howe

Barb Howe, as a rookie, has single handedly rejuvenated and restarted Mile Hi CattleWomen. She started with a team of local friends and experienced CCW members to build the infrastructure of Mile Hi CattleWomen and then branched out to other women once the organization had some legs under it. She used her resources, borrowed expertise from seasoned CattleWomen and persists to make it happen.

Barb is a seasoned businesswoman who decided it was time to retire from her off-ranch job with an abundance of travel. Barb now dedicates time to the beef industry and a part time job with the Colorado Department of Agriculture working with the Colorado Proud program.

In addition to promotion, Barb cares about the education of the members. After hearing about the Masters of Beef Advocacy program she encouraged everyone to participate in the program and then organized "lunch and learns" for the members to discuss what they had learned. Although the Denver Metro area is possibly the most in

need of all areas of Colorado for beef promotion, it isn't the easiest to reach. As the president, Barb has encouraged members to look for activities where an impact can be made.

Barb cares about the greater community. Like other locals, Mile Hi CattleWomen spans across county lines.

She looks for events in the counties that members live – Jefferson, Park, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. She also organized a Food Truck event with part of the proceeds from the sales of the night going to the MHCW.

Barb participates in the Colorado CattleWomen meetings on a state level and attended the Region V meeting in Denver. She is eager to promote the beef industry and be a part of groups that do.

Barb is dedicated. In this first year she continues to find activities for Colorado CattleWomen are inspired by this story and are excited to present Barb Howe with the 2023 Rookie of the Year Award.



## Pearl Ann Adams Promotion Fund – Reimbursement Form

Pearl Ann was a lifetime member of the Colorado CattleWomen, Northeast CattleWomen and the Weld County CattleWomen. She helped her mother, Helen Budin, start the National Beef Cook-off in 1974 and chaired the Colorado Beef cook-off for two years. In 2006 she was recognized as “cattlewoman of the year” by the Colorado CattleWomen.

She was active in many organizations during her lifetime, from volunteering at the Sterling Regional Medical Center, to being an active member of the Logan County Historical Society. She sang in her church choir for a total of 60 years. Her unselfishness of volunteerism has led her family to graciously endow funds to keep her name alive amongst the Colorado CattleWomen.

In Pearl Ann's honor, any local CattleWomen group interested in requesting funds to cover expenses incurred from hosting an Agricultural-Farm-Beef Education Day or Meat-in day activity, will have the opportunity to submit a form for reimbursements of up to \$150. Please send

receipts along with your form. You can only apply for one activity. Examples of what the money can be used for include: advertising, condiments, supplies. Applications are due by June 1.

Find the Reimbursement Application Form and more detail on our website, [www.coloradoCattleWomen.org](http://www.coloradoCattleWomen.org) under the “Programs & Partners” tab.

If you are planning a meat-in event, don't forget to contact the CCW Beef Account for possible reimbursement of the beef. Your event is eligible for reimbursement if the beef is given away as a promotion and beef education is provided in conjunction with the activity. In addition, a receipt for the meat must be provided. For more information and to verify event criteria, please direct inquiries to [coloradoCattleWomen@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoCattleWomen@gmail.com).

For educational materials, beef stickers and promotional items, go to the Colorado Beef Council at [cobeef.com](http://cobeef.com) and use the online order form.

## More options and frigid ‘Stock Show weather’ embraced during the 16 days of the 118th NWSS

Submitted by Cindy Mangus, CCW NWSS Chair

With more days and options offered, the Colorado Beef Council and Colorado CattleWomen beef promotion booth experienced one of the quickest and most successful signups in several years. The full 16 days were initially offered to the CattleWomen and by January 3rd we had 22 of the 32 shifts filled with volunteers. Despite the weather, road conditions and family emergencies we had groups and individuals adjusting and covering.

Along with more days to choose from we offered participants a choice between the reimbursement of expenses or an honorarium payment of \$240.00 per group per shift. These changes and additions were well received and commented on.

A huge thank you to all who participated!



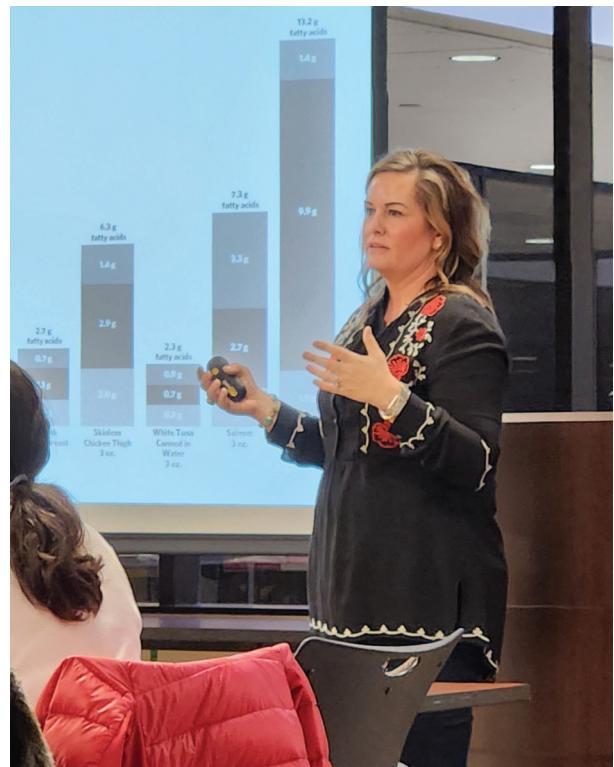
Lincoln County CattleWomen, Kelsey Pope and Shannon Borders volunteered on opening day of NWSS and handed out over 500 items to Stock Show attendees!



## Future Dietitians Learn about Beef

Submitted by Julie Moore, Colorado Beef Council

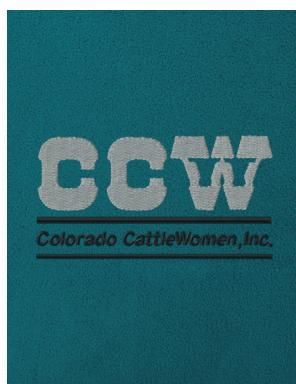
The Colorado Beef Council (CBC) recently hosted 18 dietetic interns from Metropolitan State University, Veterans Administration, and the Children's Hospital Colorado to learn how beef can be part of a healthy lifestyle. The interns came together for a collaborative training featuring topics such beef as a foundational food for health, a beef production panel including a cow/calf producer, a feedlot nutritionist and sustainability researcher, a beef cutting demonstration and a culinary tour and experience. "This was an exceptional opportunity to bring three Denver Metro dietetic intern programs together for a morning of learning," said Kate Schulz, consulting dietitian for CBC. "Being a dietitian myself, I realize the importance of engaging with interns and providing positive experiences around beef – realizing most of them have never visited a farm or ranch." Schulz added, "Most misperceptions about the industry can be corrected by sharing accurate information." Experiences like the one offered by CBC provide information about the nutritional benefits of beef that future dietitians can share with their clients. The Colorado Beef Council works to network and collaborate with medical professionals including registered dietitians, nurse practitioners, and physicians to educate how beef fits into a healthy and sustainable eating pattern that all can enjoy.



### Get your own CCW Logo Apparel!

Colorado CattleWomen has an opportunity for CCW members to purchase Land's End apparel with the CCW logo! Simply open up the website and you can choose from all kinds of clothing options with the CCW logo.

Happy Shopping!



WOMEN'S THERMACHECK 100 FLEECE JACKET



Color: Gemstone Teal

Regular: L (QTY: 1)

Item Cost: \$45.95

LOGO 1



LOGO # 1642338 [REQUIRED] [Edit](#)

\$6.95

Location: Chest Left Side

Logo 1 Fee: \$6.95

• Please Note: The above logo may not reflect the actual selected colors.

[+ ADD ANOTHER LOGO](#)

CANCEL

ADD TO BAG

To shop, go to: <https://business.landsend.com/store/ccw/>

## **Colorado CattleWomen Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship**

The Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship honors Colorado CattleWomen Past President Heather Stinnett. To be eligible for the \$4,000 scholarship, women must be a Colorado resident with at least 3.0 GPA, and must be a junior, senior or graduate student at an accredited 4-year university or college in an agriculture-related major.

Applications are due April 1, 2024 and scholarship will be awarded at the 2024 Colorado CattleWomen annual convention. For more details and application, go to the "Programs & Partners" tab on our website, [coloradoCattleWomen.org](http://coloradoCattleWomen.org).



## **Membership Drive Winners**

This year, our Colorado CattleWomen membership drive went from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, and we awarded the affiliate with the largest percentage of membership a \$250 cash prize as well as their CCW affiliate dues paid for the year.

Congratulations to Elbert County CattleWomen for winning! They increased their membership by 52.631%! Great job ladies!

We also have a second-place winner, thanks to a generous donation by Jo Stanko of \$150, and their CCW affiliate dues paid for the year. In second place with a 46.153% increase in Membership is Black Mesa CattleWomen!

Winners were officially announced at Mid-Winter Convention on January 15. Also, great job Weld County CattleWomen, Pikes Peak CattleWomen and Fremont County CattleWomen on being close behind in increasing membership! It's not too early to start inviting new members for 2024!

## **CCW Beef Ambassador Program**

Colorado CattleWomen are proud to announce the inception of their Beef Ambassador Program for Colorado youth interested in advocating for the cattle and beef industry.

High school and middle school students are invited to become beef ambassadors. These students will speak on behalf of the industry and share facts, educational information and personal stories about the cattle industry with other students and the public. Ambassadors will be provided with materials and coached by mentors to help them in this endeavor.

In addition, they will be encouraged to create social media content to be shared on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. (Check out the CCW Facebook page to see the post of our first beef ambassador, Olivia Rossi of Routt County).

The beef ambassador committee is currently working on suggested curriculum and a resource toolkit which lists activity ideas. The committee also is creating a student questionnaire to help beef advocates and is pursuing grants to realize the program's goals.

Being a beef ambassador allows students to jump start their agriculture careers, provides learning opportunities, builds an impressive resume and fosters leadership and life skills.

Watch for more information and the resource guide coming in March!

### **What are some things a Beef Ambassador might do?**

- Create and share social media content to depict the true nature of the cattle industry.
- Speak to school students and community groups.
- Read age-appropriate and fun agriculture books to elementary school children.
- Participate at the Colorado CattleWomen's booths at the Denver National Western Stock Show and the Colorado State Fair.
- Host a Trunk or Treat and give out beef sticks.
- Attend the Colorado Cattlemen's Annual Convention in June.
- Network with other beef ambassadors from across the state.
- Brainstorm and implement fun activities in their communities to promote beef and cattle.

## Honorary and Lifetime Members of CCW

Submitted by Debbi Anderson, CCW State Treasurer

I always have known about these special ladies that are the backbone of most of our local Cattlewomen's membership. They are the ones that have kept our groups from becoming extinct. They are the ones we want to honor with giving them the status of honorary membership. I thought they didn't have to pay the membership dues of \$25 to still be a Colorado CattleWomen member. But now that I have the task of keeping every local membership accurate, meaning number of members times the dues equals what the local pays the state, I thought I should send a note on the Honorary membership.

How does the honorary membership get paid? Does the state give them a free membership? No, it is up to the local organizations to pay for that special honorary membership because it's a local membership. Maybe this hasn't been communicated to our treasurers. But in your defense, because I've been there, most officers are recruited, really talked into taking the job! Am, I right? Anyway, now that I understand the situation, I may be contacting you as the treasurer, to get our records straight. If you are the local that has the best treasurer and she knows her stuff, Congratulations!! For the rest of you, I apologize that I wasn't on the ball until now. If you ever have any questions, please call or text me. Debbi Anderson, 970-873-8414.

If you don't have any honorary members, now may be the time to look at your membership. Maybe you would like to honor one such wonderful CattleWoman that deserves recognition for past leadership, or someone who is always there to help out, or maybe someone's grandmother who could use the local to pay her dues. She would be a voting

member of CCW because her dues are paid by her local. CCW Lifetime Membership is a nomination by the local affiliate to the state where one member is awarded this honor per year. Once a member is a lifetime member, they do not pay annual dues. A nomination letter can be emailed to coloradocattlewomen@gmail.com and are due May 1. Additionally, ANCW has a lifetime membership for \$1000.

Junior or Student (Collegiate) memberships are \$10. As of now, CCW doesn't have an active junior membership program. There is the Junior CCA which has volunteers that are advisors and do activities with the youth at conventions. They have a fundraiser that most everyone knows about. They have items that are silent auctioned and also sell tickets for a chance to win one specific item. The deck of cards and a star on your name badge, should bring back what the Jr. CCA does. (This sentence doesn't mean anything to the CCW members who haven't been to convention)

Congratulations to Elbert County for winning the membership drive contest. They won \$250. That's like getting 10 free memberships. And thanks to Jo Stanko for donating in honor of her mom to help give a second place award to Black Mesa of \$150 plus their affiliate due was refunded to them for a total of \$200. That's 8 free memberships. Congratulations ladies!! Again, if you need any help or questions answered, give me a call. 970-873-8414. If you haven't sent in your membership dues, now is when they are due.

Debbi Anderson, Treasurer Colorado CattleWomen, 23557 State Hwy 125, Walden, CO 80480

## Inglee departs Colorado Beef Council



After over a decade of service, the Colorado Beef Council (CBC) announced the departure of its Executive Director, Todd Inglee, who has been selected to serve as the State Brand Commissioner for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Inglee will replace outgoing Colorado Brand Commissioner Chris Whitney, who retired after 12 years in the position. Inglee will continue to serve the Colorado beef industry by directly impacting policy and practice in the state. His new position will allow him to continue his commitment to the industry while scaling his impact beyond marketing and education. "Todd has played a significant role in the success of Colorado's beef industry over the past eleven years. We will miss him greatly, and are grateful for his contributions to our industry. We know he will continue to make an impact on the livestock industry in his new role," said John Scanga, Colorado Beef Council board Chair.

## Ag in the Classroom Update

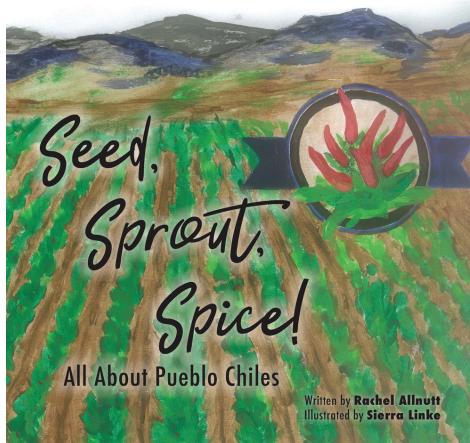
Submitted by Sallie Miller, CCW Past President and Ag in the Classroom Board member

The 2024 Literacy Project has really taken off this year with over 1,000 classrooms signed up – more than double the reach from previous years. “Seed, Sprout, Spice! All About Pueblo Chiles,” is the name of the book and it focuses on Pueblo Chiles - a unique chile pepper variety vital to Colorado agriculture.

Even more exciting to you is that the project focus for 2025 is Cows & Corn! The book is being written by Rachel Gabel and features the story of Dr. John Matsushima and the invention of steam flaked corn to be used for cattle in a feedlot. Projected activities may include receiving an ear of corn and a bag of steam-flaked corn, making flaked corn in the classroom, and a beef stick for tasting.

The National Center for Agricultural Literacy (NCAL) is starting to work on writing lessons on predators and livestock production that are age appropriate for classrooms. Once completed, these lessons will be available on the Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum Matrix, which can be found online at CoAgClassroom.org.

Speaking of websites, last December Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom launched a new website with



the new domain name of CoAgClassroom.org. Check out the new site and be sure to follow CoAgClassroom on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Registrations for the Summer AgriCULTURE Institutes are now open. Two courses will be held in 2024: July 8-12 in Fort Morgan and July 16-18 in the San Luis Valley.

Finally, as the programs and student reach of Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom grows, so does the need for financial support. Please consider making a donation from your local organization as well as

individually. To donate, use the secure donation page on their website or use Venmo by searching for Colorado Foundation for Agriculture @CoAITC under charities. You may also simply mail a check to 10343 Federal Blvd Unit J Box 224, Westminster, CO 80260.

This book was authored by North Park CattleWoman Rachel Allnutt, illustrated by her sister Sierra Linke and published by their cousin McCall Knecht.

If you have any questions about Ag in the Classroom, please feel free to contact me at smiller@wigginstel.com.

## Colorado CattleWomen Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

May we send communication via email, including the quarterly newsletter and any upcoming information? (circle one) Yes  No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local affiliation:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need contact information for a local CattleWomen's group?

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

Amount included with application: Colorado CattleWomen

\$25 for Colorado CattleWomen annual membership due

\$10 for Student Colorado CattleWomen (high school/college) annual membership due

*Membership year is January - December. If dues are received after July 1 they will be applied to the following year. Dues for the Colorado CattleWomen include liability insurance coverage for the member.*

Colorado CattleWomen dues should be made payable to CCW and mailed to:

Treasurer Debbi Anderson; 23557 Hwy 125, Walden, CO 80480

American National CattleWomen dues must be sent to: [REDACTED]

ANCW c/o Jill Worthington; 16799 Prairie Circle, El Reno, OK 73036 or pay online at ANCW.org

# QUARTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

## Northwest Quarter Member Spotlight—Arloa Gerber



At 80 years young, Arloa Gerber is one of the longest standing members of Moffat County CattleWomen. She first joined in the mid 1960's when the group was called Cowbelles. Her grandmother and mother-in-law were both members. She was there for the switch from Cowbelles to CattleWomen. She has been involved in agriculture since she was very young. Her grandparents were raised on ranches and her grandpa was a cattle buyer. In 1963 she married Erv Gerber. His family was and still is very involved in agriculture. She first joined CattleWomen/Cowbelles because it was the thing to do at the time, but soon realized it was a good social outreach for a rancher's wife. Erv's family had cows, sheep, lots of chickens, hogs and potatoes. They had 14 kids in the family so they raised almost everything they ate. The operation now consists of Arloa, Erv, their two sons, Darrell and Wade and two grandsons Tyler and Kearn. Arloa and Erv have turned a lot of the operation over to the kids but are still very

involved in the day to day. They still do most of the feeding in the winter and a lot of miscellaneous stuff during the year. They raise Herefords and sell the calves as weanlings. The family has worked outside the ranch jobs to make ends meet but would be lost without the ranch in their lives. Arloa is a huge part of our chapter and we appreciate what she does for us.

## Southwest Quarter Member Spotlight— Joylene Higgins, Ann Neely and Mary Ellen McComb

The Southwest Cowbelles/CattleWomen are proud to celebrate 70 years as an organization. The organization originated in the Mancos area with 48 charter members. Descendants of the first charter members are still involved. As we learn from and respect those members across the state that have given their time and efforts to meeting the mission of these organizations, Colorado CattleWomen wants to recognize those members who take their dedication to the Beef industry and set the bar high for those who follow.

### **Joylene Higgins**

Joylene has been a member of Southwest Cowbelles/CattleWomen since 2004. She is always willing to share her knowledge of the BEEF industry and takes pride in everything she does. At 91, you will find her at the Montezuma County Fair, helping anyway possible. In 2014 she was named Southwestern Cowbelle of the Year. She is an asset to the CattleWomen of Southwest.



### **Ann Neely**

Lifetime member Ann Neely has been a member of the Southwest Cowbelles/CattleWomen since 1979. Ann has been instrumental in the designs and creation of the quilts that are auctioned off each year. Recently turning 95 has not stopped her hard work and dedication to the Cowbelles organization. Ann is appreciated for her hard work and support that she gives to the Southwest CattleWomen.



### **Mary Ellen McComb**

Mary Ellen has been a member of the Southwest Cowbelles/CattleWomen since 1964 and over the years has served as President and Treasurer. You will find her on numerous committees. In 2001, she was Southwestern Cowbelle of the year, and in 2008 Mary Ellen was the CCW Cattlewoman of the Year. She is the glue that has held the Southwest Cowbelles/CattleWomen together.



# QUARTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

## Northeast Quarter Member Spotlight—Connie Newbanks

In 1971, when Yuma County CattleWomen organized (as Yuma County CowBelles), Connie Newbanks served as a director and then as the 4th president of YCCW. She has maintained that membership throughout the years; her dedication to educating consumers, encouraging membership, and supporting many projects, both county and state-wide has been a constant. Her cheerful and friendly personality has won many friends and strengthened her influence. Several years after Connie was appointed to the Colorado CattleWomen Board of Directors, she was elected state president in 1999 and continued to serve as a state board member for several years.

Connie grew up near Eckley, CO, and married local rancher John Newbanks; the couple, along with their 3 daughters, has participated whole-heartedly in the agricultural community as beef producers and spokespersons for the industry. From county fairs to the New York Stock Exchange, Connie has explained beef production and advocated beef's nutritional value. At the same time, she was an integral part of the ranching operation, a 4-H leader, a helping hand for community needs, and a friend to many. Yuma County CattleWomen are proud to salute Connie for her knowledge and leadership.



## Southeast Quarter Member Spotlight—Mindy Witt



As a “rookie”, Mindy Witt has far exceeded what it takes to be a CattleWoman in representing our mission and beyond. Mindy has been a member of Lincoln County CattleWomen (LCCW) for two years, stepping up into the Treasurer leadership role in her second year. She has taken this role seriously and is meticulous in managing the organization’s funds while also being involved in beef promotion and education. Mindy did not grow-up on a farm or ranch, but was exposed to agriculture through her grandparents in Weld County. Since moving to Limon for her job and marrying her husband, she has gotten even more involved in agriculture. Her husband, Dave, has a family business supporting farmers and ranchers, and together, they have begun feeding out cattle and selling direct-to-consumer beef.

In her full-time job as lender with Farm Credit of Southern Colorado, Mindy won the Farm Credit of Southern Colorado President’s award in 2020, and has been named a top producer several times in the past several years. In addition, Mindy is a champion within the organization for the Young, Beginning and Small farmer program, their health and

wellness programs, community outreach, and even their branch holiday festivities and decorating competitions.

Mindy is very involved in the communities of Limon and Hugo, as well as volunteering for other county organizations as well. She volunteers for the Hugo Fire Department and is the social media coordinator for Hugo Fire in addition to her boots on the ground duties. Dave and Mindy have two children, Blakely and Colt. Their family has been a great asset to our community and we are excited to feature her!



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### Mile Hi CattleWomen Promote Beef on the Front Range

Submitted by Barb Howe

The Mile Hi CattleWomen have been busy this year looking at ways they can promote beef and agriculture along the front range of Colorado. The areas we advocate in are primarily urban and the residents are very far removed from their food source. The more information we can provide the better! In January, Elena Brookover, Mikaela Vettors and Barb Howe visited Douglas County High School and talked about our Ag career paths with the FFA classes! We also visited AgNext at Colorado State University to learn more about the research being done to understand and improve methane emissions from beef cattle. Elizabeth Woodward, Anna Miller, Mikaela Vettors and Barb Howe went to Fort Collins to meet Dr Sara Place and see firsthand the work being done. The tour took place at the AgNext research facility at ARDEC, and we were able to see the animals under study and see exactly how they are capturing methane emissions from these animals. The AgNext team is doing ground breaking work, in the largest facility of its kind in the USA, and data is starting to come in! The understanding of beef cattle's impact on greenhouse gas levels is often mis-represented and exaggerated by groups that may not fully understand the beneficial impacts of beef cattle production. These research projects will help the misunderstandings and help all of us better understand what we can each be doing to be as sustainable as possible.

Would you like more information? Go to [www.agnext.colostate.edu](http://www.agnext.colostate.edu) or contact Barb Howe [milehicoCattleWomen@gmail.com](mailto:milehicoCattleWomen@gmail.com).



### Custer County CattleWomen Beef Micro Loan

Submitted by Teri Munson, Vice President



The Custer County CattleWomen are proud to announce this year's Beef Micro Loan recipient, Alexis Grossardt. Alexis is a Sophomore at Custer County High School in Westcliffe, CO and this is her first beef project with FFA. Alexis is the treasurer of her 4-H Club, and Parliamentarian in her FFA Chapter. Alexis has a strong passion for agriculture and we are excited to see how they compete at the Custer County Fair in July.

The Beef Micro Loan was started by the Custer County CattleWomen in the early 2000s to help support local kids with an interest in promoting the beef industry and showing steers. Pictured is Alexis Grossardt with her 2024 Custer County Fair project, Girthannual. We wish them all the best!

## Gunnison Valley CattleWomen Sponsor Beef Giveaways and Education

Submitted by Lucy Waldo



Gunnison Valley CattleWomen sponsored our annual Holiday Beef Give-Away in December. Six winners were chosen from hundreds of entries that were collected at local businesses. The lucky winners each received \$50 worth of local ground beef. Attached photo shows CattleWomen Carolyn Taramarcaz and Bonnie Irby presenting a bag of beef to winner, Jack Cullinan. Gunnison Valley CattleWomen is co-sponsoring a Women's Calving Clinic with CSU Extension and Gunnison Farm Bureau on February 26. We are also planning our annual AgVenture Day for May, when more than 400 local children will enjoy activities focused on agriculture.

## The Middle Park Cowbelles: Empowering Local Ranchers and Building Community

Submitted by Sydney Pryor, Vice President

Located in Grand County, Colorado, the Middle Park Cowbelles advocate for local ranchers and beef enthusiasts. This chapter is comprised of passionate CattleWomen who participate in community engagement activities that weave together tradition, camaraderie, and service.

Throughout 2023, the Middle Park Cowbelles participated in different annual events held in Middle Park, such as Kremmling Days hosting the cow pie bingo, and the Middle Park Fair, notably continuing to sponsor the Catch-a-Calf event. Both events give our chapter the ability to advocate, educate, and provide a platform for aspiring young ranchers to showcase their skills and passion for agriculture. In 2023, we were happy to announce our Catch-A-Calf participant was Carly Wood. She placed in her class, allowing her to sell her steer at the sale, and also won Champion Rate of Gain.

In 2023, the Middle Park Cowbelles continued giving back to the community. We offered the Middle Park Cowbelles Scholarship, which



provides opportunities for local youth to pursue their academic aspirations. We were proud to announce Annika Stewart received the \$500.00 scholarship. Annika is currently attending the Colorado School of Mines, where she is working on a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Aerospace Engineering. Moreover, we have continued our yearly contributions to initiatives like Wreaths Across America and our local food bank.

Fundraising remains pivotal to our chapter's operations, and we have continued our sales on wild rags and look forward to planning a goat roping event during the Junior Rodeo at the 2024 Middle Park Fair.

As the chapter progresses into 2024 and beyond, our resolve to support local ranchers and beef advocates remains steadfast. Through advocacy, outreach, and community involvement, we seek to amplify the voices of those who tirelessly work to sustain Grand County's rich agricultural heritage and positive beef initiatives.



## Black Mesa CattleWomen Starting the Year Strong

Submitted by Bree Pearce, BMCW Secretary

The BMCW wrapped up a fantastic 2023 and have started the New Year out strong here in the North Fork Valley. 2023 was such a productive and inspirational year. The BMCW instituted a local membership drive resulting in 18 new members, a 46.153% increase! This placed us second in the statewide recruitment contest! BMCW continued our involvement within the local schools, hosting the first quarter Beef Cook-off competition at the local K-8 and making donations to other various student events. We have continued to be involved in community events such as the Hotchkiss Elks Truck or Treat on Halloween. We enjoyed our beef promotion by handing out beef jerky, toothbrushes and toothpaste!

We were honored to have two of our long-time



members, Lila Linman and Christy Hawk, be featured in the fall issue of Range Magazine. On Nov. 14, we had the opportunity to host a Western Colorado CattleWomen Council Meeting,

where we had 40+ members in attendance. It was such a fun meeting and a great chance to visit with other inspirational CattleWomen!

In December, we provided our annual assistance to

the Delta County Livestock Association Banquet. Thanks to member and art teacher, Jamie Roerber, we have been able to involve the local high school art class with decorating for the event. Getting the students involved in community events is something that we always enjoy. Jamie earned our CattleWomen of the year award for her added participation in many various events throughout this year.

To wrap up 2023 we celebrated with our annual Christmas party and gift exchange. We unanimously agreed to implement a new Lifetime Membership Award within our local chapter. Individuals who have been members for 20+ years and are over the age of 80, will now have their yearly dues comped by the chapter. We were honored to award Barbara Botti, Dee Burns, Shirley Cotten, Lila Linman, Leota Rhoades and Willa Sorensen this achievement.

Jumping into 2024, we have a lot of new ideas on the horizon and fresh minds joining the conversation. We are very excited about new opportunities and are looking forward to sharing our success stories with you!



## Pikes Peak CattleWomen Donate FFA Auction Baskets

Submitted by CJ Lucero, President

The Pikes Peak CattleWomen have been busy. We are donating a basket to the Miami Yoder FFA auction and to the Falcon FFA auction. They will be very similar and hope they help raise good money for both programs. In the buckets, we included: 4 various-sized soup bowls with brands and cattle on them, 50 PPCW napkins, 1 Rada bread knife, 1 Rada soup ladle, 1 beef stew packet, 1 pot roast seasoning packet, 1 Chili seasoning packet, Heart health cookbook, beef council wooden spoon, magnet bag clip, Highland cow and a loaf of homemade sourdough bread.



## **Southwestern Cowbelles/CattleWomen Brand Napkins, Calendar and Annual Meeting**

*Submitted by Bunny McComb*

The past three months have found SWC/C busy. Year long projects have come together and are finished. The brand napkin and brand shopping bag were a major accomplishment. 134 brands were featured on each project. Both items were pre-sold so once they arrived, they were packaged and sent out for delivery. Remaining items will be sold at our booths at fairs.



The calendar is a popular item that both businesses and community members look forward to. Area brand owners are featured in the calendar as well as historical pictures and BEEF recipes. This year, to celebrate our 70th anniversary, our three 90-year-old members were each featured on a page in the calendar.

The SW Colorado Livestock annual meeting was held on Feb. 10, 2024. SWC/C served a BEEF luncheon to 120 livestock association members. That night the 70th anniversary Brand Quilt and beef bundles were raffled off. 3,000 tickets were sold for this raffle. Most important, the SW

Cowbelles/CattleWoman of the year was awarded to member Lanea Donahoo at the evening banquet. Lanea is an outstanding recipient of this award. She is single and runs her own grass-fed beef operation selling meat directly to customers. The past year she processed 45 plus head of beef. She also runs an Airbnb on her property for an additional revenue stream. We are proud to have her as member of our organization.



## **Rio Blanco CattleWomen Promote Beef**

*Submitted by Kathy Nelson*

In December, we hosted the second Beef Cook off at the high school with 2 classes of 35 students. The students were cooking for their semester final and had more time to prepare their dishes. Each student received a custom-made tumbler and a beef stick for participating and this time they used sirloin provided through the beef grant. We had a Book Barn book shelf made and donated it to the public library to house agriculture themed books. We attended the local craft fair and sold napkins and handed out promotional items to shoppers. Those purchasing napkins received a beef stick and cutting board. We wrapped up our year with a Christmas luncheon and gift exchange and celebrated our year's successes.



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