



From the President, Christy Hawk



As we have passed through Mid-Winter Convention, what an amazing group of CattleWomen, THANK YOU for making my maiden voyage a true success. We even got through the updates of the by-laws.

As we moved forward, a friend sent me an article about a CattleWomen group in another state. After 60 years, members

are leaving and they are disbanding. They began in 1966 with 44 ranch ladies who wanted to be more involved in the beef and ranching industry. Over the years, they launched multiple initiatives, such as visiting classrooms to read and teach about beef and its byproducts, setting up booths at county fairs, crafting brand quilts and napkins, selling coffee mugs, and establishing local scholarships.

Does this sound like 95% of our local groups? I find that we need to find the common ground whether we are 25 or 85 years old. For those that know me know I have a huge heart for those who came before us, those CattleWomen did not have what we have as far as modern communications. The CCW board

The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast, and you will miss all you are traveling for."

-Louis L'Amour

members drove to Denver once a month to meet, that's dedication to the group. They typed a card for every member not on a computer, with addresses, and land line phone numbers. NOT EMAILS. Now, we connect monthly over Zoom, keep in touch through email or text on our phones, and while communication has become simpler, it's worth asking if we're losing our focus.

After visiting several affiliates this past month, I found an inner peace. When the outside world seems somewhat unstable, I find being with these women brings back the reality of what we are meant to do. We are grounded, we all have the same common goal. I see me in those women who come to the meeting for the good of the organization. Sometimes the road we travel on is somewhat bumpy, we find ourselves sometimes fighting an internal battle instead of an external one. We only can do good if we are all fighting the same fight. At the end of the day, if we come together and join for the common cause, we will see better results.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

CCW wishes everyone a great NEW YEAR and a renewal of energy and hoping Mother Nature has a kind heart this year.

Contact Us! Like Us! Follow Us!

Email: ColoradoCattleWomen@gmail.com

Website: www.ColoradoCattleWomen.org

Facebook: [Colorado CattleWomen Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCattleWomenInc)

Big Changes at the National Western Stock Show

Submitted by Cindy Mangus, CCW NWSS Chair

Exciting things are happening at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS)! All livestock are moving into the new Livestock Center and barns, which opens up the entire lower level for education and interactive fun.

After many years of maintaining booths on both the main floor and upstairs, the Colorado Beef Council is consolidating into one larger, enhanced display on the lower level. This new space will be more accessible, spacious, and offer engaging experiences for visitors of all ages.

The Colorado Beef Council display will be part

of the CSU Ag Adventures area and overseen by CSU students. While beef industry volunteers are not required, they are warmly welcomed to join the display to share their knowledge and interact with the public. For those interested, a small budget is available through the CCW Beef Account to help cover travel expenses.

This exciting change will remain in place until the new Expo Hall is completed. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Cindy Mangus at clwhm55@gmail.com or 719-340-0853.

Ranch Raised Kids Project Continues Raising Support

We are finishing our second year of raising support for the Ranch Raised Kids project. The Ranch Raised Kids book will contain stunning photography and kid's personal stories of living and participating in working cattle ranches in Colorado. Their written stories demonstrate commitment to their families and land.

This project supports CCW's mission to educate, promote and protect the cattle industry in Colorado. CCW plans to give books to state and national policy makers demonstrating the importance of ranching and the entire agriculture industry in

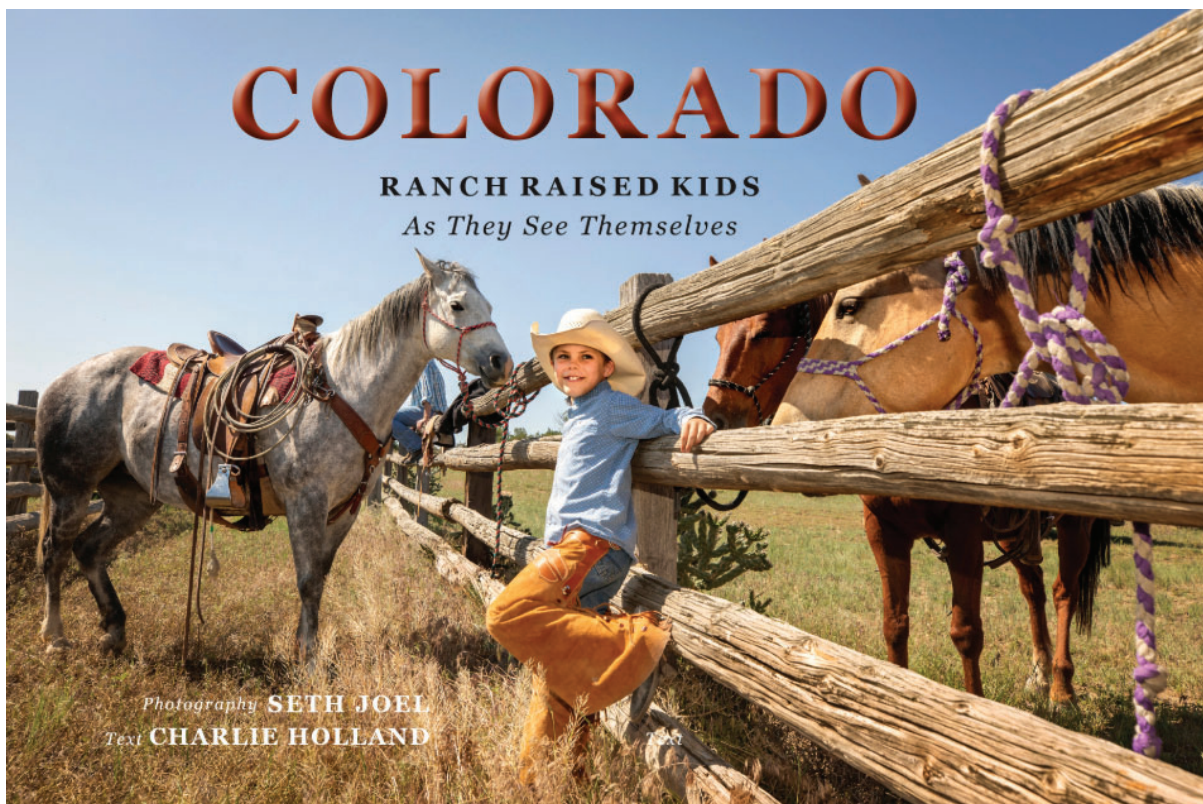
Colorado. CCW wants to distribute the book as broadly as possible by donating books to public libraries throughout the state.

A video with updated photos taken already

is available on our CCW website. We are continuing to find sponsors for this project, please share the QR code with anyone or talk to Joanie Shoemaker, jshoem8681@aol.com, about sponsorship opportunities.

Thank you to all of the sponsors we have so far. We are excited to see this project come to fruition in 2026!

*We appreciate
your support!*



Mid-Winter Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Joanie Shoemaker, CCW Secretary

Our mid-winter meeting was held on November 10, 2025, with 25 in attendance representing eleven local affiliates. President Christy Hawk presided over the meeting. The audit of the treasurer's book was completed by Lincoln County Cattle Women. They found the books in order and did not have any recommendations. The treasurer's report showed the following balances: checking was \$40,163.48, scholarship fund is \$9,500.00, ranch raised kids project at \$15,505.00 and money market fund at \$30,771.30.

Updates on committees were given by the Scholarship committee, Beef Ambassador program, and Ranch Raised Kids project. The scholarship will be given this year with the winner attending the Annual Meeting. The beef ambassador program continues to grow with 26 youth participating at this time. The Ranch Raised Kids project continues to move forward and a video with some of the Colorado pictures was shown. The executive committee developed a CCW brochure that was available for everyone to take, highlighting the work of CCW.

The proposed by-law amendments were presented and discussed. One change to the membership category was the addition of collegiate membership. Members in good standing are defined as members with current paid dues. Other changes were to clarify existing language, voting requirements or current executive board structure. Regional quarter representatives may be shared between two individuals. The updated by-laws will be sent electronically to members.

Guest speakers were Dr. John Matsushima who was featured in last year's Colorado Foundation or Agriculture book *Cattle, Corn, and Courage*. Many of the members had a family connection or enjoyed taking classes from him at Colorado State University. Kate Schulz, Dietitian for the Colorado Beef Council, provided great information

about the high school Sports Nutrition Game Plan that is being utilized as part of the activities with the CHSAA. Information is available on the Beef Council website.



Beef Ambassadors at Trunk or Treat

Hesston and Mitchell VanDeusen were the popular protein stop at the Westcliffe Trunk or Treat event. The boys passed out 450 beef sticks and other educational material.



Beef ambassador Ledger Larson of Fowler participated in Trunk or Treat passing out 300 beef sticks, stickers and beef recipes.

Beef Account Funds Reimbursement

Promoting and Educating about Beef?

As a CCW member or affiliate, if you're hosting an educational event, promoting beef at an event or doing ag education with beef — you may be eligible for reimbursement of beef used at your event.

Who's eligible

Your event **qualifies for reimbursement if:**

- The beef is given away as a **promotion** (not sold).
- Beef **education** is provided in conjunction with the giveaway (demonstrations, tastings with talking points, nutrition facts, cooking tips, etc.). There needs to be a face to face interaction with each sample. If giving out meat sticks there should be a promotional/educational item attached to the stick.
- A **receipt** for the meat is submitted.

How to apply / get more information

Please direct inquiries and reimbursement verifications to: Joanie Shoemaker- jshoem8681@aol.com and Sallie Miller- smiller@wigginstel.com. Also, contact Joanie and Sallie before your event if you are unsure if your event will qualify.

When you email, include:

1. Event name, date and location
2. Brief description of the promotional activity and educational component
3. A scanned document/photo of the meat purchase receipt
4. Pictures from the event
5. Name, address, phone number for sending reimbursement
6. Contact name and phone/email for follow up

Need educational or promotional materials?

Order beef educational materials, stickers, and promotional items from the Colorado Beef Council. Visit cobeeff.com and use their online order form. If unsure of what to order, contact Julie Moore to discuss options, julie@cobeeff.org.

Colorado CattleWomen Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Local affiliation:

Do you need contact information for a local CattleWomen's group?
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 Kathleen Shoemaker, 1040 Lone Tree Circle, Canon City, CO 81212

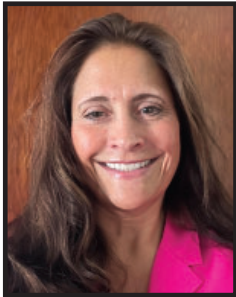
American National CattleWomen dues must be sent to:

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

CattleWoman of the Year and Rookie of the Year Nominees

We are honored to recognize the outstanding nominees submitted for the 2025 CattleWoman of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards. CCW President Christy Hawk assembled a selection committee to carefully review the nominations and select the winners. The committee included local members from each of the four quarters of the state, along with a local member serving as chair. To ensure fairness, no CCW executive members participated in the selection process.

CattleWoman of the Year Nominees



Barb Howe
Mile Hi CattleWomen



Dixie Boyer
Pikes Peak
CattleWomen



Felicia Casto
Mesa County
CattleWomen



Hallie Myhre
Routt County
CattleWomen



*Neta Benjamin-
Blake*
Elbert County
CattleWomen



Janie VanWinkle
Mesa County CattleWomen



Joetta Burns
Black Mesa CattleWomen



Karen Smith
Weld County
CattleWomen



Sara Shields
Custer County
Cattlewomen

2025 CattleWoman of the Year - Sara Shields, Custer County CattleWomen

Sara Shields is a third-generation rancher from Westcliffe, Colorado, whose family has operated the historic San Isabel Ranch since 1872. A graduate of Colorado State University with degrees in Equine Science and Beef Industry Leadership, Sara has dedicated her career to advancing Colorado agriculture through education, conservation, and youth development. She has worked with the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association, serves on the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust board, and has long supported events like the Colorado State Fair and National Western Stock Show. Sara helped launch the Colorado Beef Ambassador program to teach youth effective beef promotion skills and continues to mentor young producers while actively supporting her local community as a pastor's wife and member of the Custer County CattleWomen.

CCW Rookie of the Year Nominees



Albina Sanchez
Black Mesa
CattleWomen



Alisha Shy
Custer County
CattleWomen



*Courtney
McPherson*
Weld County
Cattlewomen



Elena Brookover
Mile Hi CattleWomen



Jodi Corliss
Weld County
CattleWomen



Megan Cassidy
Mesa County
CattleWomen



Meredith Halweg
Mile Hi CattleWomen



Mindy Kain
Weld County
CattleWomen



Patricia Wiles
Fremont County
CattleWomen



Sheryl Groves
Moffat County
CattleWomen



Tori Grafton
Weld County
CattleWomen



Haleigh Aurin
Routt County
CattleWomen

2025 Rookie of the Year – Megan Cassidy, Mesa County CattleWomen

Megan Cassidy is a dedicated member of the Mesa County CattleWomen and an emerging leader in Colorado agriculture. As chapter treasurer, she brought new organization to finances and launched the successful Spring Fling fundraiser, quickly becoming a key part of her local cattle community. Beyond CattleWomen, Megan serves as District 9 Representative for Colorado Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers, Vice President of her local co-op, and a former Grand Junction Chamber Board member. Known for her energy, professionalism, and ability to connect with others, Megan continues to strengthen beef promotion and agricultural advocacy across her community and state.

QUARTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Northeast Quarter Member Spotlight— Jean Croissant, Weld County Cattlewomen

Jean Croissant grew up on a dairy farm just east of Windsor, Colorado, where she raised and milked Jersey cows. Jean's fondest memories are of the calves and just being around the cattle. From Windsor, she went to Colorado State University and met her husband, Larry, through a mutual friend. 60 years later...3 kids and 5 grandchildren, they are still on the ranch and are watching their grandchildren get started ranching. It is clear that this family's love for the ranch life is strong and being carried on to the next generation.

After farming and ranching outside of Johnstown for several years, Jean and Larry decided to purchase a ranch near Briggsdale, CO, and establish their own registered Red Angus herd. Along with the seedstock operation, they also ran a feedlot. It was here that Jean got started in the Weld County CattleWomen in 1996. She has served as the President and Secretary of the WCCW over the years, and shared that her favorite part was the friendships she had with the other cattlemen. She also enjoyed the educational events they would do, such as educational booths at the Farm Show, and cooking for a variety of organizations in Weld County. These days, she continues to enjoy the friendships and loves seeing all the activities that the newer members of WCCW are doing.

Jean's favorite part of the ranching operation was the same as it was when she was a kid: the calves. She recalls nighttime calving checks with fondness, and that they would bring the first calf heifers close to the house so she could keep an eye on them as they paired up and became good cows.

The Croissant Red Angus ranch is well known in Colorado, and today, her daughter and son-in-law, Sallie and Kevin Miller, run the ranch and feedlot and keep the tradition of high-quality cattle going.

Learning more about Jean was a tremendous pleasure and honor. She embodies what Colorado CattleWomen are about, and her passion for the cattle industry is infectious and heart-warming!



Northwest Quarter Member Spotlight— Debbi Anderson, North Park CattleWomen

The North Park CattleWomen would like to reflect on the incredible contributions of Debbi, whose unwavering commitment and dedication have significantly shaped our chapter over the years.

Debbi's journey with the CCW Board began in the days before everything was computerized. She had a strong desire to be part of the National Beef Cook-Off committee during Mardie Hanson's tenure as chairman. Her involvement started in 1988, and she attended her first National Beef Cook-Off in Portland, Oregon, in 1989. It was during this event that she first encountered the issue of homelessness in downtown Portland. The Cook-Off subsequently moved to Washington in 1990 and then to Colorado in 1991. Having started in 1974, the Cook-Off concluded in 2010 due to evolving market trends.

Debbi took a step back from the board when her sons, Brian and Luke, completed high school, as she needed to focus on helping more on the ranch. However, her commitment to the CCW Board never wavered. She returned to the board in 2012 when Philip joined the CCA Board. Debbi held various positions, including Northwest Quarter Rep for many years, and was actively involved in Beef Promotion at the State Fair. Her most recent role was as treasurer, a position she resigned from in 2024 when significant changes on the ranch required her full attention once again.

Although Debbi took a hiatus from our local board between 2001 and 2012, her service has been instrumental in keeping our chapter thriving. She continued to serve multiple terms as our President when we struggled to find a replacement. Her steadfast dedication ensured that our board consistently supported our community through scholarships, sponsorships, and fellowship.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have Debbi as a North Park CattleWoman. Her unwavering duty and commitment have made a lasting impact on our organization, and we are deeply grateful for her service.





Southwest Quarter Member Spotlight— Teresa Calhoun, Delta CattleWomen

Teresa Calhoun joined Delta CattleWomen in 1979 when it was formerly called the “Delta Cowbelles”. She has held the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and now the Treasurer of the Delta CattleWomen. She was one of the first to help put together educational aids like the Food Power Tower and the Beef Byproducts board which the Delta CattleWomen still use to this day. She has been involved with numerous classroom presentations throughout the years, floats for Deltarado Days and other events in Delta County, as well as helping the Montrose CattleWomen with their booth at their Annual Water Festival for over 20 years. She has also been very involved with WCCC and served as President for two years and took over the Student Loan Fund for WCCC.

Teresa married her husband, Mike Calhoun, on April 24, 1970. She, her husband, and their three children always attended brandings in Escalante Canyon. They enjoyed their time spent at the Maupin cow camp which was owned by the Musser brothers on the

Uncompahgre where they spent countless hours cutting firewood for winter heat. Teresa helped her husband Mike during tax season at his CPA firm until the late 1990’s then helped him year-long until Mike retired. She shared his passion in restoring Ford Broncos. She has been an avid bowler for over 60 years, competing in multiple state and national tournaments.



Southeast Quarter Member Spotlight— Mindy Witt, Lincoln County CattleWomen

Mindy Witt lives in Flagler, Colorado with her husband Dave and their two children, Blakely and Colt. Deeply rooted in Eastern Colorado, Mindy recently concluded a 10-year career as a Loan Officer with Farm Credit of Southern Colorado and is beginning a new chapter this January as a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. In addition to her professional career, she enjoys staying connected to the cattle industry by occasionally putting together a pen of cattle to have on feed at a friend’s feedyard.

Although Mindy did not grow up directly involved in production agriculture, her connection to the ag world began early. Raised in Windsor, Colorado, she spent much of her youth around agriculture through her grandparents—one a cattle order-buyer and the other operating a small tree farm with livestock. Time spent at sale barns and on the farm left a lasting impression. “I always loved being around animals, and equipment. I loved the sounds, the smells, all of it. It always felt so fresh and wholesome,” Mindy shares. Those experiences led her to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business, ensuring she could build a career in rural America.

Mindy has been a member of Lincoln County CattleWomen since 2021 and joined to connect with like-minded women. Two of her favorite yearly projects are: the annual “Eat Beef” banners displayed along Highway 40/287 during Meat-In Day and the fair, and handing out beef slider sandwiches during the County Fair Parade. These efforts promote the beef industry in a visible, positive way to both local residents and the many travelers passing through Lincoln County.

During her time at Farm Credit, Mindy found the greatest reward in serving farming and ranching families, especially when working with multiple generations. Looking ahead, she is excited to continue serving Eastern Colorado through Edward Jones, helping fill a much-needed role in financial advising for rural communities.

That same heart for service extends beyond her career and into her community involvement. Mindy currently serves with the Arriba-Flagler Booster Club and on the school’s strategic planning committee. She has also served with the Hugo Volunteer Fire Protection District, held leadership roles with Lincoln County Farm Bureau, and volunteered throughout the county.

Through all she does, Mindy hopes to pass on “a strong work ethic, a spirit of volunteerism, and always valuing honesty and integrity” to the next generation.





Colorado Cattle Women Legacy Scholarship



in memory of

Heather Hays Stinnett

Colorado CattleWomen 2026 Scholarship Announced

The Colorado CattleWomen (CCW) announce the 2026 CattleWomen Legacy Scholarship. The Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship honors Colorado CattleWomen Past President Heather Hays Stinnett and will be awarded to a woman pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Heather was a staunch advocate for the beef industry and a proud fifth generation Coloradoan who traced her cattle industry heritage to early Colorado statehood and ranches homesteaded by ancestors on both sides of her family. Heather’s agricultural credentials include serving as Colorado FFA Reporter, judging livestock at Seward Community College and graduating from Oklahoma State University with degrees in Animal Science and Agricultural Communications. She and her family owned a feed store, raised commercial cattle, and operated a custom grazing enterprise. Heather served as the President of the CCW from 2017 to 2019. She then served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the American National Cattlewomen in 2019.

Applications are being accepted for the scholarship until April 15, 2026 and the scholarship will be awarded in June at the 2026 Colorado CattleWomen annual meeting in Loveland. Women who are a Colorado resident, and will be a college Junior, a college Senior, or a college Graduate student at an accredited 4-year university or college in Fall 2026, majoring in agriculture or an agricultural related major aspiring to work in or advocate for the beef industry are encouraged to apply.

More information on the Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship and past recipients can be found on the Colorado CattleWomen’s website. Contact email: coloradocattlewomen@gmail.com

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 IQT: 11
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 President Reflects on an Accomplished Year (1999–2000)

**By Connie Newbanks,
Colorado State President**

The 1999–2000 year was one filled with energy, travel, and collaboration as I had the privilege of serving as Colorado CattleWomen State President. I was fortunate to work with an exceptional team of officers: President-Elect Margaret Christiansen, Vice President Lynne Cody, Secretary Vonnie Cummings, Treasurer Carol Dodo, and Directors Erma Pulver, Mary Kay Monger, and Betty Owens. Their dedication and positive spirit made every project possible.

One of my goals was to support as many local CattleWomen groups as I could. Throughout the year, I traveled across Colorado—visiting Montrose, Akron, La Junta, Breckenridge, Westcliffe, Crested Butte, Calhan, Denver, Fort Collins, Cañon City, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Gunnison. These visits strengthened our statewide connections and helped highlight the important work being done in every corner of our state.

A major focus during my presidency was developing a joint venture with Colorado grocery stores and the Colorado Beef Council. We worked to improve the retail meat case by introducing color-coded labeling on meat packages, recommended cooking methods, and clear shelf organization. This system helped shoppers quickly understand cooking times and techniques for each cut of beef. The design was ultimately approved by both the Colorado Beef Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, marking a significant step forward in consumer education.

Our state activities kept us busy as well. We assisted with the Beef Cooks Demonstration at the Colorado State Fair, participated in the Taste of Colorado, sponsored a finalist in the 1999 National Beef Cook-Off, and attended the National Western Stock Show in Denver. At the stock show, we distributed educational materials, shared recipes, and answered consumer questions at our Colorado Beef Council booth.

Representing Colorado beyond state lines was also an important part of the year. I attended regional 5 meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Regional 4 meeting in Clayton, New Mexico, helping ensure our state voice was heard and our programs remained connected to regional efforts.

A memorable highlight was hosting both the State Cattlemen and State CattleWomen in my hometown of Eckley, Colorado. We met at the Eckley Community Center, followed by a steak fry at the Kitzmiller Grazing Association headquarters, where we welcomed about 60 guests for an evening of fellowship and good beef.

Looking back, the year was full, fast-paced, and incredibly rewarding. I am grateful for the support of the officers, our local chapters, and the many volunteers who helped advance the mission of Colorado CattleWomen. Together, we strengthened consumer education, supported beef promotion, and showcased the dedication of ranching families across Colorado.

CCW

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

Fueling Colorado's Youth Athletes Through the Sports Nutrition Game Plan

At the November CCW meeting, Kate Schulz, RD, LMNT, shared an overview of the partnership between the Colorado Beef Council and CHSAA, highlighting beef's role in sports nutrition through the Sports Nutrition Game Plan. This resource provides parents, schools, teams, and community groups with simple, credible tools to help students fuel their bodies for performance and overall health.

Schulz has already connected with many athletic directors and coaches at summer conferences, but personal connections continue to play an important role in expanding the program's reach. Those with connections to coaches, teachers, or parent groups are encouraged to explore the Sports Nutrition Game Plan and share the resource within their communities. Even small efforts can help young athletes feel more confident in their nutrition choices.

The Colorado Beef Council is also seeking student athletes to feature on its social media platforms to highlight how they use the Sports Nutrition Game Plan in their daily routines. If you know a student athlete who may be interested in participating, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you! Contact Kate at kate@cobeeff.com



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Black Mesa CattleWomen Fall Activities

Submitted by Stephanie Campbell, Secretary

In August, we tried out a new idea. It was a bit of a learning curve as this was the first time, but the participants enjoyed our Bingo Fundraiser and were very appreciative. The Paonia American Legion Post did the calling and we hosted with desserts, door prizes and a swag sale table.

As the school year began, we donated our two book barns, filled with agricultural books, to the local elementary school libraries. We also donated an electric skillet, measuring spoons and cups to their cooking class. The schools were excited to receive them. After that we organized two beef cook offs with multiple teams competing at the elementary school and had great participation from the students. The Elks Lodge joined us to present a \$2,000 donation, which one of our members wrote the grant for, to the cooking department in order to help keep that school program going.

We were privileged to cater a prime rib dinner for the local Elk's fancy Charity Ball Fundraiser evening and were excited to donate the funds earned to CCW President Christy Hawk's travel expense



account. At the end of September, our valley hosts a Harvest Festival which includes tours of one of our cattlemen's farm and winery. We accepted her invitation for the second year in a row to host a Beef and Wine Pairing booth where folks could come learn about beef and experience tasty roast beef paired with the farm's darkest red table wine.

As we got deeper into fall and early winter, we donated multiple gift baskets to local charity auctions. For Halloween, we partnered with the local Elks Lodge's Trunk or Treat event in town and decorated a Haunted Cattle Pot for kids to tour. The kids that participated received beef bags stuffed with beef by-product giveaways, including gummy bears. A couple of our members had gatherings for significant life events which we helped cater. In November, we had the privilege of hosting the Western Colorado CattleWomen's Council meeting

and we are in the process of choosing new nominees for next year's board.

Gunnison Valley CattleWomen Hosts Night of Lights Display

Submitted by Lucy Waldo

Gunnison Valley CattleWomen hosted a display at the community Night of Lights that draws hundreds of people to our downtown every December. We handed out beef sticks, recipes, and other information about beef and ranching. We are also promoting our popular Holiday Beef Giveaway where lucky winners will each receive \$50 worth of local beef. We collected food donations for the Gunnison Food Pantry and added a cash donation of \$250. Our members recently enjoyed a holiday party at LaDonna McLain's home and were pleased to welcome CCW President Christy Hawk to the meeting.



Lincoln County CattleWomen Fall Outreach

Submitted by Chandra Fisher

The Lincoln County CattleWomen have enjoyed an active and rewarding fall season as they continued their mission of educating, promoting, and protecting the cattle industry.

This fall, members spent time reading to local classrooms, helping connect students with agriculture and ranching through education and outreach. The organization also took an important step in supporting youth by establishing a sponsorship for Lincoln County Fair Royalty beginning in 2026.

In honor of Colorado's upcoming 150th birthday, member Kelsey created quilt blocks representing the Lincoln County CattleWomen. These blocks will be included in a traveling quilt exhibit that will circulate throughout the state next year as part of the anniversary celebration.

The CattleWomen were also present at Limon High School's Health, Safety, and Career Day on October 22, where they hosted a booth and visited with students about agriculture, beef nutrition, and career opportunities within the cattle industry.

Community events remained a highlight of the season. Members participated in Limon's Trunk or Treat on October 31, where they passed out beef sticks to over 300 kids. Fundraising efforts included the group's Signature Smoked Roast Beef by the Pound sale, and on December 6, the CattleWomen hosted a roping dummy booth at Limon's Hometown Christmas event.

LCCW held their final meeting of the year on December 9, where officers were elected. Members are looking forward to another year of sharing their mission and supporting their community.



Mesa County CattleWoman Appointed to Cattlemen's Beef Board

Submitted by Bernadette Fuoco



Angelina Kelleghan, member of the Mesa County CattleWomen from Loma, Colorado was recently appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, usually referred to as the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB). A Colorado native, Angelina attended Colorado State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and a Masters of Agriculture in Integrated Resource Management. Today, she and her husband, Joe, run a small commercial herd of Gelbvieh cross cows in western Colorado. She is a member of Farm Bureau, NCBA, and her local and state cattlemen's associations, and holds leadership roles in the Mesa County Farm Bureau and Colorado Plateau Horseman's Hall of Fame. Angelina believes producers must stay educated about beef in order to share information with consumers and next-gen producers.

Mile Hi CattleWomen Reach Urban Consumers

Submitted by Barb Howe

The Mile Hi CattleWomen have been busy this fall, aiming to represent Colorado's beef industry in an urban setting. In September, members of MHCW volunteered their time to assist the Hispanic Restaurant Association in a Community Table event. Based in Littleton, this event promoted cultural inclusion while serving meals to those in the surrounding areas. A mile-long table was built down Main Street for community members to gather and enjoy conversation and a meal. Mile Hi Cattlewomen and the Hispanic Restaurant Association have a unique relationship, supporting each other's causes through community events and outreach.

October was also busy for MHCW, the group put on their second annual fundraiser with assistance from local FFA Chapters and the Hispanic Restaurant Association. The fundraiser drew in rodeo royalty, business personnel, and people from all over the Denver metro area. MHCW was able to raise money to support the Ranch Raised Kid's mission to create a book focused on Colorado kids. The Executive Director

of Cherokee Ranch, James Holmes, spoke about the deep history of their Colorado ranch and shared their excitement for the future of Colorado agriculture. Also in October, members of the MHCW officer team attended the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation's Legends of Agriculture dinner, supporting their cause to make agriculture accessible to everyone. CALF presented an award to a deserving couple, marking this their 27 anniversary of doing so.

Rounding out the fall, MHCW members also attended the first meeting of the Eastern Colorado CattleWomen's Council in conjunction with multiple other cattlemen groups from the eastern plains. A group of more than 20 women met to make connections, and create plans for the future of the ECC Council, including preparing for future quarterly meetings. The MHCW also celebrated a year end dinner full of laughs in Morrison, where the group was able to reflect over the events of the past year and get excited about the upcoming new year.

Pikes Peak CattleWomen Donate Beef for Holidays

Submitted by Dixie Boyer

Pikes Peak CattleWomen have a long history of donating beef to senior citizens during the holiday season. Silver Key in Colorado Springs distributes the meat to their clients. PPCW are pleased to have the Pikes Peak Cattlemen join us this year with a generous donation which allows us to brighten 296 senior citizens' holiday with a gift of one pound of delicious, nutritious BEEF! During the labeling, we added a beef educational flyer to each package. Farmers State Bank provided a space for us to prepare for delivery. Woolsey's Food Center in Calhan has processed our beef order for the last three years. Thanks to all involved in this project.

Other PPCW activities this fall were displaying our beef byproducts boards at the Calhan FFA Ag Day September 26 and the Falcon FFA Farm Day November 19. We visited with students and gave out beef bags with educational activities. We attended a vendor fair November 22 and displayed our wild rags, napkins, and other products we sell as well as visited with community members.



Pikes Peak CattleWomen members - Janice Chess, CJ Lucero, Dixie Boyer, Sandra Tanner

Rio Blanco CattleWomen Rewarding Season

Submitted by Kathy Nelson

It has been a busy and rewarding season for the Rio Blanco CattleWomen, and we are excited to share a few highlights from our recent activities and community outreach.

We are still selling our Rio Blanco CattleWomen brand totes and aprons, with Christmas delivery available—a great way to support our organization while sharing our brands during the holiday season.

This fall, members hosted an educational booth at the Sheepdog Trials, visiting with attendees and sharing information about beef production and agriculture in



our area. Community support has remained a strong focus, and we were honored to recognize our local volunteer firefighters and EMS with handwritten thank-you notes and Chamber Bucks in appreciation for their tireless efforts protecting ranches and agricultural land during this year's wildfires.

We also made several meaningful donations, including contributions to the

memorial of a long-time local rancher, the Ranch Raised Kids project, and brand totes and napkins for the Meeker Chamber of Commerce shopping drawings to encourage buying local.

Community engagement continued in fun ways as well—members handed out over 450 beef sticks during the local Halloween parade, helping promote beef to families throughout the community.

In November, we hosted a “Friendsgiving” potluck as part of our membership drive. The event was a great success, and we are thrilled to welcome 15 new members to the Rio Blanco Cattlewomen.

We wrapped up the season with our annual Beef Cook-Off at Meeker High School, working alongside the culinary arts class. The instructor participates in the beef grant program each year and is always eager to help promote beef, making this a valuable and enjoyable educational experience for students and members alike.



Western Colorado CattleWomen Council

Submitted by Marlyse Cunningham

The postponed quarterly meeting of the Western Colorado CattleWomen Council, composed of ten CattleWomen/CowBelles units on Colorado's Western Slope was hosted by the Black Mesa CattleWomen on November 18, 2025 at the Maloney House in Hotchkiss, Colorado. Following an informative business meeting and a tasty soup lunch prepared by the BMCW, the seven units represented listened to a presentation and viewed photos by local historians, Tom McLeod and Larry Knott on their families' history as homesteaders on Black Mesa. After adjournment, hostess gifts of handmade potholders and a kitchen tool were provided for all attendees and three door prizes were awarded, all to lucky Plateau Valley CW. Our next meeting will be February 10, 2026 hosted by the Montrose CattleWomen. We would love to see any other Western Slope CattleWomen/CowBelles units who are not currently members of WCCC to join us for some great networking opportunities. Annual dues are \$1 per member of your unit plus a \$2 affiliation fee.



Southeast Colorado CattleWomen Honor and Celebrate

Submitted by Tiffany Ringer

The Southeast Colorado CattleWomen are grateful for the tremendous support shown throughout the year. As we bring 2025 to a close, we are honored to recognize two remarkable Lifetime Members whose dedication has strengthened our organization and our community: JoAnn McEndree and Virgie Robb.



JoAnn became a member at a very young age and has remained a steadfast supporter of the Cattlewomen for decades. Her continued involvement—attending CCW, ANCW, and Region V meetings—demonstrates her unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of our organization.

A long-time active Fremont County CattleWoman, Virgie Robb moved to Southeast Colorado in 1996 and immediately became active in our group. She has generously devoted her time and talent across numerous committees and



yearbook efforts, while also championing educational opportunities through our scholarship program. Her work has made a meaningful impact on youth and agriculture throughout Southeast Colorado.

Both JoAnn and Virgie exemplify the dedication, passion, and community spirit that define the Southeast Colorado Cattlewomen.

We are deeply appreciative of their lasting contributions and celebrate their achievements with heartfelt congratulations.



December Meeting Highlights

During our December 5th meeting at Tavern 1301 in Lamar, officers were elected for the upcoming year. Pictured below are the 2026 officers:

Patti Robb, President
Debbie Davis, Vice President
JoAnn McEndree, Treasurer
Brenda Fickenscher, Secretary

Members also enjoyed a lively white-elephant gift exchange—a fun opportunity to celebrate one another and reflect on a meaningful year.

CCW

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

Weld County CattleWomen Rebrand as Northern Colorado CattleWomen

Submitted by Lisa Herickhoff

Weld County CattleWomen has rebranded! We are now including the neighboring counties in our name and in our outreach efforts. We are Northern Colorado CattleWomen. Our year-long effort to effectively define our group, our mission and our trajectory are completed with this final step. It's an exciting time to be part of our group. To maintain continuity in our 70 year history and to remain tied to the past while moving forward, we created the Northern Colorado CattleWomen name as a DBA.

In October, we participated in a Truck or Treat which was a complete success! We packaged Beef Bags with little bouncing balls, beef sticks, and lots of information



Beef, It's MORE Than What's For Dinner!

on our wonderful product at our October meeting then handed them out the weekend prior to Halloween. The kids (and their parents) seemed to love the bags, the great information about beef, and the fellowship with our lovely members.

In November, we were honored to host the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Colorado CattleWomen at the Buckle Club on the Stampede Grounds in Greeley. We had Dr. Ryan Rhoades (CSU extension

specialist) speak to us about the economic pitfalls of raising cattle. He demonstrated that controlling fixed costs is a key to success underscored by a full understanding of our herd's input costs. We look forward to the next quarterly meeting.

At our December meeting, we celebrated Christmas with a lovely brunch and mug-exchange. It was a great morning!

Please join us Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 5 pm immediately following Beef Day at the Farm Show for our major fundraising event, Beef and Brews. We will be pairing beef dishes with specially selected Wiley Roots craft beer. Advanced tickets are \$30 a person or \$50 for a couple. There will also be wild rags, t-shirts, and more ways for you to support us. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code in the flyer or by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beef-brews-tickets-1800336367539> or contact Megan Buxman, buxmanmegan@gmail.com. If you can't come, please help us advertise this great event! It would make a good Christmas gift!

Our group has continued to grow and thrive in 2025. We've formed precious friendships and have laid a path for growth, impact and success well into the future.

BEEF & BREWS
Fundraiser Event

Northern Colorado CattleWomen
at Wiley Roots Brewing Co
27TH JAN 2025
@5PM

50 TICKETS AVAILABLE

Wiley Roots beer and curated beef pairings
by Chef Ben Fusco



CCW

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

C/O KATHLEEN SHOEMAKER

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