



From the President, Christy Hawk



Attending the ANCW winter convention in Nashville has provided renewed motivation and clarity regarding the purpose behind our work. Congratulations to Casey Matzke, new ANCW President, and a big thank you to Nikki Weston, past president for all that you have done.

With spring and summer approaching, there are important dates to write down. CCW will celebrate its 85th anniversary on June 21; plans are underway. The first President, Edna Green of Golden, established the Colorado Stock Women's organization in 1941 with 72 charter members, holding their inaugural meeting in Alamosa. I wonder if she would believe we've kept this organization going, even though there are several name changes. With name changes in 1947 to Colorado Cowbellees to the present name Colorado Cattlewomen in 1987.

Cattlewomen from every corner of the state have given their time and energy as president over the past 85 years, with some serving multiple terms. The organization has continued to promote beef and

support the cattle industry, while also encouraging social bonds among families involved in farming and ranching. Even though wording of the mission varies, its meaning remains unchanged.

Many women have followed in the footsteps of Edna Green; these women invested the time and dedication to form this organization so many years ago. They lead the way for this organization to stay vibrant and continue to be an intricate part of the workings of the ranching community in the state of Colorado. Without these women's stories, we wouldn't understand the challenges ranch wives faced before modern conveniences. Their dedication and selflessness reflect the remarkable character of these women.

Take a moment and reflect on those women, our mission is not that different, these women climbed the same hills in a different time, the dedication from yesterday to today is the same.

Dates to remember: June 21 - CCW Board of Directors Meeting; June 22 - General membership meeting along with CCA in Loveland, Colorado; July 12-14 - ANCW/NCBA summer meeting in Denver, Gaylord Resort.

"The idea that nothing in life is given to you or fair is true, all you can worry about is what's on your plate for that day. Do the little things and focus on what you can control."

- Julian Edelman: Wide Receiver for the New England Patriots

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All New at the National Western Stock Show

Submitted by Julie Moore, Colorado Beef Council and Cindy Mangus, CCW NWSS Chair

The 2026 National Western Stock Show brought a fresh look and renewed energy to beef education and promotion. In a new, larger space, the Colorado Beef Council engaged more attendees than ever before, reflecting consumers' continued interest in learning where their food comes from.

After many years of maintaining booths on both the main floor and upstairs, the Colorado Beef Council consolidated into one larger, enhanced display on the lower level. As part of the CSU Ag Adventure area, the Council shared Colorado beef industry statistics, beef protein facts, and the powerful story of how ruminant animals upcycle nutrients. A visual display of the four-compartment stomach helped illustrate how cattle convert inedible materials into high-quality protein, while also supporting forest health and reducing food waste. Two Colorado CattleWomen groups and longtime beef industry volunteers noted that attendee engagement was stronger than ever in the new location.

New advertising opportunities further expanded beef's visibility across the National Western campus. Signage in the new show arena reinforced positive beef messaging, while burger imagery appeared in streaming content shown in the barns, arena, and live cattle show feeds. Radio spots featuring beef industry facts aired throughout January, encouraging listeners to visit the Colorado Beef Council exhibit and learn more about Colorado beef production.

Feedback consensus - Love the layout!

This exciting change will remain in place until the new Expo Hall is completed.





Colorado CattleWomen Legacy Scholarship



in memory of

Heather Hays Stinnett

CCW Scholarship Deadline Approaching

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.

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



Beef Ambassador Activities at NWSS

We were excited to have Beef Ambassador's involved with the National Western Stock Show in Denver this year.

Second-grader and beef ambassador, Paige Bigler, visited the Colorado Beef Council Booth. Other beef ambassadors who took in sights at the National Western Stock Show were Hesston VanDeusen, Mitchell VanDeusen, Sage Shy, Brylee Shy (Custer County FFA, president) and Alexis Grossardt (Custer County FFA vice-president).

CCW Beef Ambassadors Emmalyse and Easton Fisher listened intently to the Jr. AgVocate finalists at the National Western Stock Show on Thursday, January 22. They were accompanied by their mom Chandra who serves as the CCW southeastern quarter representative.

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

Colorado CattleWomen Attend ANCW Winter Convention in Nashville

Submitted by Christy Hawk

The American National CattleWomen winter convention in Nashville energized CCW CattleWomen, bringing together over 100 participants from across the United States at the Omni Hotel. On January 31, Denver experienced warm 50-degree temperatures, whereas Nashville was much colder at just 9 degrees.

On February 1, ANCW hosted NCBA President Buck Wehrbein, CEO Colin Woodall, and Senior VP of Government Affairs Ethan Lane. Each offered a fresh viewpoint on ranching's future.

Committee meetings were attended by all the Colorado CattleWomen: Golden Cowbelles, Beef Promotion, Membership, Ways & Means, Ag in the Classroom. Each provided updated ideas for action in our home state.

ANCW President-Elect, Casey Matzke, gave a demonstration on her signature grilling 101 and how she teaches students and adults the art of grilling.

Susie Magnuson, Past President of CCW and ANCW, attended the Past President's dinner.

On February 2, we attended an early Ag Wellness presentation by Josh Dallin, USU Bastian Agricultural Center Director, and Jake Hadfield, Extension Assistant Professor for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Special awards were presented to Connie Tabor of Oklahoma for CattleWoman of the Year, Leanna Spratling of Nevada for Promoter of the Year, and Laurie Munns of Utah for Educator of the Year.

After the meeting, Nikki Weston gave a farewell speech. Casey Matzke became President, Debbie Chute is now President-Elect, and Cheyenne Sparks took on the Vice President role. The evening was filled with a Presidential Reception and a Cowgirl Cotillion, enjoyed by all.



Pictured Left to Right: Susie Magnuson, Christy Hawk, Karen Smith, Leslee Lohrenz, JoAnn McEndree, Joanie Shoemaker, Kathleen Shoemaker.

CCW

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

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Color: Gemstone Teal
Regular: L (QTY: 1)
Item Cost: \$45.95

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Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

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

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

BLAST FROM THE Past

Colorado CattleWoman President Reflects on her Year of Service (1992-1993)

By CCW President Letter,
Linda Yoder

I had the privilege and honor to serve as CCW President in 1992-3. I learned more than I gave and enjoyed getting to know the ladies across the state and made many lifetime friends. I just hope that I was a service to the industry.

My focus for the year was education in the schools. I had been education chairman for CCW for several years and felt a real need to educate children, knowing they would be making the laws that govern us in a few years. The animal rights emotional agenda was already active in the schools, and there was a need to provide our story with truth on how we treat our animals and our way of life. We had several training workshops across the state on how to give classroom presentations. With the help of the Beef Council, we were able to present in the Denver schools. We used slide shows of individual ranches and finally Weld County produced a video to assist in our presentations. Many volunteers spent their time and effort for which I am grateful. I personally gave programs in Colorado Springs and Denver many times.

I did appreciate the officers who did their jobs, because I could not have done mine without them. Pres. Elect-Sheron Berry, Vice President- Dora Thomlinson, Sec.- Sue Hess, Treas.- Susie Magnuson, NE Rep.-Ann Kitts, NW Rep.-Verla Rossi, SE Rep.- Tres Johnson, SW Rep. Erma Pulver.

Activities for the year were varied. During the State Fair, we quit our booth in the Agriculture Building and



started giving cooking demonstrations in the Home Economics building. Under the direction of Pam Miller, chairman, she had our Colorado Cookoff Winner, Pat Donahue, showcase her dish that she would later make for the National Beef Cookoff to be held in Sacramento, CA. Members helped by handing out samples and literature and talking to the audience about the nutritional benefits of beef. We had a women's rodeo team participate in the CCA Ranch Rodeo at State Fair for the first time.

Stock Show Booth manned by many volunteers was under the direction of Ann Kitts. Literature was handed out and distributed about how to cook beef and what it was like to be a rancher. The following year, the booth was moved to the Children's Ranchland

where information reached more teachers and children. The Beef Council then set up a booth on how to cook and care for meat.

CCW was able to make and present Iris Riley with a scrap book which she did not receive when she was a Past President in 1985-6. The CCA office moved to the Aurora location and had its ribbon cutting ceremony. Wiley Bertherson was CCA President. Debbie Webster was elected CCW Rookie of the Year, and Jody Davis was honored as CattleWomen of the year.

We hosted the Colorado Cook Off in Steamboat Springs with Jo Stanko as chairman. And the Teen Bash under the direction of Bernice Turcott. Amy Hackenthal from Aurora Schools was the winner of the Bash.

Volunteers from across the state helped with both cookoffs.

I attended many locals' meetings across the state, including the Western CCW Council. That was rewarding and inspiring to hear of all the events in which our members were involved. I attended Region V Meeting in Twin Falls, ID, ANCW Midyear Convention in Denver, and National ANCW Convention in Nashville; NCA Leadership Conference in Denver, a special meeting of CattleWomen in Dalhart, TX. I even shared the podium in Sterling with Tom Sutherland, a CSU Professor serving in Beirut. He was taken



captive for 6 years during the middle east crisis and talked about how he was sustained by his faith and family. As a speaker, his act was hard to follow.

I met many outstanding individuals, made new lifetime friends and am truly grateful for the experience. I am grateful to all those who helped and guided me throughout the year. I truly believe in the goals of the organization to educate, promote and protect our industry. And I pray that we will have our legacy of a desire for freedom and liberty passed on to our grandchildren in the ranching tradition.



QUARTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Northwest Quarter Member Spotlight— Barbara (Vaughn) Mease

For many members of the Colorado CattleWomen, supporting agriculture is more than an organization or a volunteer commitment, it is a way of life. Few people embody that spirit more fully than Barbara Mease, whose years of leadership, dedication, and heart have left a lasting impact on both the organization and the people around her.

Barbara's love for agriculture began long before her involvement with CattleWomen. She grew up on a farm in northeastern Colorado where hard work was simply part of everyday life. Everyday life meant feeding animals, helping in the fields, and working long days during wheat harvest. Those early experiences shaped not only her work ethic, but also a deep appreciation for the agricultural way of life and the communities that support it.

Her adventurous spirit eventually led her to northwest Colorado, where she built her life and raised her young family on leased land in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by the vast landscapes and challenges that come with ranching in the West. Over the years she witnessed many changes; shifting policies, changes in land ownership, and the constant uncertainties that come with working in agriculture. There were times when it would have been easy to walk away, but Barbara never did. Instead, she persevered, often doing whatever it took to keep the family operation going. At times that meant taking a second — or even a third — job in town just to help hold things together. Other times it meant gathering friends and neighbors to help with fall gathering, bringing people together through the power of community and a promise of one of her legendary meals.

Those meals became part of the tradition. Long before the day's work began, Barbara would be in the kitchen preparing enormous breakfasts that could feed a crew. After long days working in the elements, the table would once again fill with family, friends, and volunteers. It was around that table that stories were shared, laughter echoed, and bonds were strengthened. For her daughter, those gatherings became an education of their own. More often than not, cooking meant preparing food in large quantities, because there were always people gathered around the table. Barbara had a remarkable ability to turn just a few ingredients into a feast, and she always gave more than she had to her guests. Her hospitality became legendary among the many people who crossed paths with the family over the years.

While raising a family and navigating the challenges of ranch life, Barbara also dedicated countless hours to the Colorado CattleWomen. She served at the local level as well as on the State Committee for many years, becoming known as someone who could always be counted on to step in, keep records organized, and move projects forward. Her leadership eventually led her to serve as State President from 2007 to 2008, where she helped guide the organization and further its mission of promoting beef and supporting the cattle industry.

Some of her daughter's fondest memories of volunteering were alongside her mom at the annual Food & Gift Show in Denver at the Convention Center. Each November, CattleWomen members would proudly represent the beef industry at the beef booth, handing out samples, recipe books, pamphlets, and educational materials through the Colorado Beef Council. It was a hands-on way of sharing their story and helping consumers better understand the people behind the product.

Today, while Barbara may not currently be raising cattle herself, her passion for the beef industry runs just as deep as ever. She continues to believe strongly that agriculture needs advocates from every background, not just those who own land or livestock. Her message is simple: if you care about agriculture, there is always a place for you to contribute. Whether through organizations like Colorado CattleWomen, community outreach, or simply sharing the story of agriculture with others, Barbara encourages people to cultivate that passion and give back. After all, the strength of agriculture has always come from people working together.

Barbara Mease's life is a testament to perseverance, service, and the power of community. Through every challenge, every meal shared around the table, and every volunteer hour given, she has helped strengthen not only an organization, but the agricultural community she loves. And in doing so, she has inspired the next generation to carry that legacy forward.

Northeast Quarter Member Spotlight— Hazel Gardner, Yuma County CattleWomen

Hazel Gardner has been a Yuma County Cattlewoman since the 1950s. The land and animals have been a major part of her life for 94 years (she turns 95 in April of this year, and she has no intention of changing that anytime soon!) She grew up in Yuma County and raised her family of 3 children there as well. Today, she lives within 3 miles of where she was raised, on her grandfather's ranch, which is registered as a Colorado Centennial ranch!

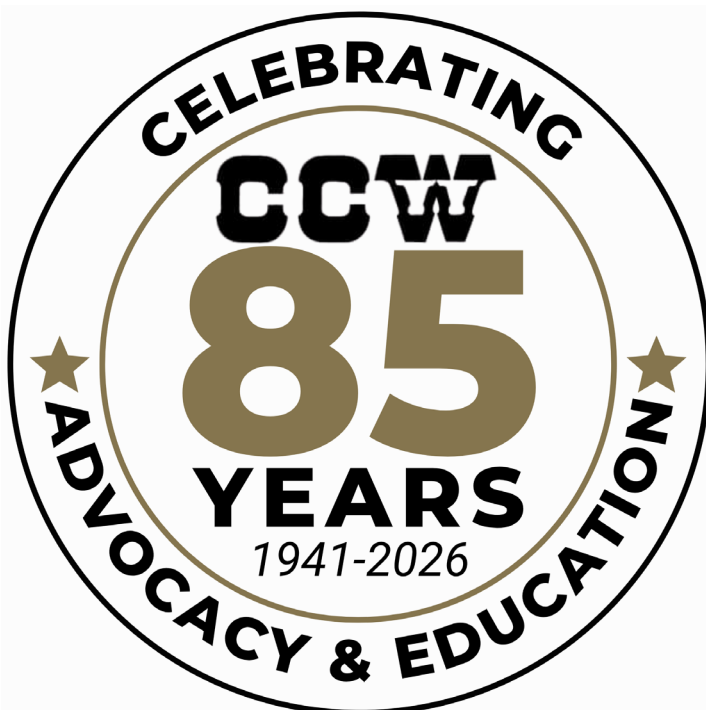
Hazel oversees a 1000-head cow/calf operation, known as HLC Land & Cattle. Hazel, her daughter-in-law, and her grandson manage and run the ranch and farm. They have a herd of Angus cattle, and she explained to me that they run around 25 bulls, which they buy from the Lucky 7 Ranch in Nebraska. As she manages the books, she has been watching the prices of cattle increase, and is amazed at what bulls, cows, and even calves are costing today. As a rancher, she is happy to see prices so high, but wonders how long they can last.

Hazel was a 4H leader 55 years, and served on the state board for 4H and the national board for the Extension Homemakers. She has always dedicated her time to serving the beef industry and agriculture as a whole. She joined the CattleWomen when Connie Newbanks and her friends and neighbors encouraged her to do so. She found that being a part of the CattleWomen helped her become acquainted with her entire county, and she was always learning something. Her fondest memories are of attending meetings that had speakers or tours where she was exposed to parts of agriculture that she was not familiar with. As much as she enjoyed the friendships of the other CattleWomen, she also looked forward to learning something new.

Hazel has been blessed with 8 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren all of which she speaks so fondly and proudly of. Her love of being outside and baby calves speaks to her passion for raising beef and being an integral part of Colorado agriculture. Yuma County is fortunate to have Hazel in their group to help their group stay strong in their support of the beef industry and provide new CattleWomen with a mentor and passionate advocate for women in agriculture. I count myself lucky to have met her and learned a bit about this incredible Cattlewoman.



Save the Date!



Join Colorado CattleWomen at the CCA/CCW's 159th "Under the Big Top" Annual Convention, set for June 22-24, 2026 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland Conference Center, Loveland, Colorado.

This convention is especially proud as our organization celebrates our 85th anniversary, marking more than eight decades of dedication to supporting ranching families and promoting the beef industry across the state. Plan to come help us celebrate!

CCW meetings are free to attend, but please register with CCA for meals and other meetings. A room block is reserved until June 1. Registration information is on our website under Upcoming Events.

Southeast Quarter Member Spotlight— Christe Coleman, Custer County

Christe Coleman grew up in rural Custer County on her family's multi-generational hay and cattle ranch. Agriculture was not just part of her life. It shaped her childhood, her work ethic, and the values she carries today. Some of her favorite memories are moving cattle, branding days, and long summer days in the hayfields. She remembers how proud she felt each time she graduated to running a bigger tractor during haying season. That responsibility meant something.

Christe was active in 4-H starting at eight years old, showing pigs, lambs, and horses. She earned her 10-year 4-H pin her senior year of high school. She also participated in rodeo and gymkhana events. Her childhood was 100% immersed in agriculture!

After graduation, she moved to the Denver area, where she attended college, got married, and lived in the city for fifteen years. Even during that time, she stayed connected to home, visiting the ranch often and keeping horses so she could continue riding. In 2005, she moved back to Westcliffe because it was always home, and she wanted her children to have the same opportunities and exposure to agriculture that she had growing up.

The Custer County CattleWomen (CCW) organization has been part of Christe's life for as long as she can remember. Her grandmother and mother were members back when it was known as the Cowbelles. She likely attended meetings before she could walk. Today, she treasures a CCW tablecloth her grandmother made with local brands from the 1950s or 60s, along with her Cowbell earrings. With aunts, sisters, and cousins all involved over the years, CCW has always felt like family.

Christe has seen the organization grow from a supportive role within the ranch home to women leading beef industry initiatives and education efforts. She is proud to be part of a group of strong women who are passionate about preserving agriculture and promoting the future of the beef industry.

Today, she and her husband are building a small herd of registered Hereford cattle while growing and selling high-altitude grass hay. Professionally, she serves as an Emergency Manager for the State of Colorado, where her work often intersects with agriculture through wildfires, drought, and livestock disease impacts. She also serves on the Colorado AgSecure Working Group.

For Christe, agriculture is a culture, a way of life, a tradition, and the future. Though her children are now adults exploring their own paths, they carry their ranch roots with them wherever they go.



CCW

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

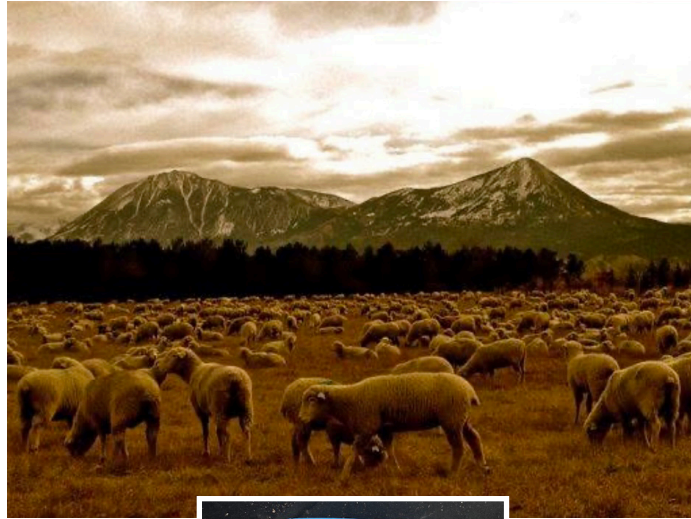
Black Mesa CattleWomen Elect Officers, Hold Mental & Emotional Health Training

Submitted by Monita Todd, Secretary

December found the Black Mesa CattleWomen decorating along with Delta CattleWomen for the Delta County Livestock Association annual banquet. Awards were given to Joetta Burns 2025 CattleWoman of the Year and Albina Sanchez 2025 Rookie of the Year.

New officers were elected for the 2026 term during the December meeting, which also included an ugly sweater contest as part of the Christmas festivities. The newly appointed officers are Joetta Burns as President, Karmen Clark as Vice-President, Monita Todd as Secretary, and Bree Pearce as Historian. Albina Sanchez will remain in her role as Treasurer.

A new member packet has been provided to all new members containing information about the unit's history and mission, Stephanie Campbell was instrumental in the development of the packets. Each new member is paired with a long-term member to support their integration into the Black Mesa CattleWomen.



Nineteen students competed in four groups at the December Beef-Cook off at Hotchkiss K8. The group making Cheeseburger sliders won top prize.

In February, a COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) well-being event was held, emphasizing mental and emotional health, as well as training. This initiative is designed to assist individuals in vulnerable situations by promoting wellness prior to

the onset of crisis.

A donation of a beef bundle was delivered to Crawford Fire Department and Firework fundraiser for their annual Wine and Cheese Fundraiser. The beef bundle is part of the silent auction, and one was also donated to North Fork Senior Connection for their senior meal fundraiser.

New books for both Paonia and Hotchkiss were delivered to add to the Black Mesa Book barn that we purchased last year.

Custer County CattleWomen Micro-Loan

Submitted by Teri Munson

The Custer County CattleWomen are proud to announce this year's micro-loan recipient, Aiden Lyons.

Aiden is 15 years old and a sophomore at Custer County High School. This is Aiden's first year as a member of the Custer County FFA and showing a steer. Aiden and her steer Crusher will be participating in this year's Custer County Fair, July 17th, 2026.

The Custer County CattleWomen annually award a \$5,000 micro-loan to local 4H and FFA kids to help with their first steer project. We wish Aiden and Crusher the best of luck at this year's county fair!



Eastern Colorado CattleWomen's Council Meeting Recap

Submitted by Barb Howe

The Eastern Colorado CattleWomen's Council held its recent meeting on February 28, hosted by the Mile Hi CattleWomen at CALF's Lowell Ranch near Castle Rock, Colorado. Members from Yuma, Fremont, Custer, Elbert, Lincoln and Northern Colorado CattleWomen came together for a productive session. The meeting featured a presentation by David Dunblazier from USDA Wildlife Services, who shared valuable insights on wildlife management.

Our next meeting will be in the Spring, and hosted by Yuma County CattleWomen!

For more information about CALF, visit thecalf.org.



Montrose CattleWomen Support Youth and Literacy

The Montrose CattleWomen have had a meaningful and productive winter season centered on leadership, youth engagement, and agricultural advocacy. We were honored to host the Western Colorado CattleWomen Council (WCCC) quarterly meeting in Montrose, welcoming nearly 40 CattleWomen from across the western slope. It was a strong reminder of the power of collaboration and the shared commitment we have to protecting and promoting agriculture in Colorado.

Supporting youth remains a cornerstone of our mission. Scholarship applications have been distributed to local high schools, and we eagerly anticipate reviewing this year's applicants. Investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders is one of the most important ways we can secure the future of our industry.



Our members continue to make progress on the Montrose CattleWomen Literacy Roundup program, working to promote agricultural



literacy and connect children with accurate information about beef production and ranching. Additionally, volunteers participated in the Olathe FFA Safety and Career Day, supporting students as they explored opportunities within agriculture and related industries.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to cook for approximately 800 attendees at Ag Heritage Days in March.

The Montrose CattleWomen remain committed to advocacy, education, and

service — and we look forward to a strong and impactful spring season.



Northern Colorado CattleWomen Off to a Strong Start in 2026

Submitted by Tori Grafton

The Northern Colorado CattleWomen have had a busy and exciting start to 2026! Our organization continues to grow, and the energy and enthusiasm within our group have set the tone for a successful year ahead.

At our December meeting, we elected our 2026 officers. Serving are Tori Grafton, President; Nicole Uthmann, Vice President; Haley Eichman, Secretary; Sallie Miller, Treasurer; and Cathi Baker, Co-Treasurer. We are grateful for their willingness to lead and serve our organization and community.

In January, NCCW hosted our very first Beef & Brews fundraising event — and it was a tremendous success! We sold 62 tickets and were thrilled not only with the financial support raised, but also with the increased awareness of NCCW's programs and the growth in membership interest. The event created meaningful connections and highlighted our mission of promoting beef and educating consumers about cattle production. Due to its success, we are already making plans to host Beef & Brews again next year.

At our February meeting, we voted to establish a Media Committee to help strengthen our online presence and improve communication within our community. We are excited about the opportunities this will create to better share our story and outreach efforts.

Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our members, we have also made the decision to increase the amount of our scholarship award this year. Supporting students and investing in the future of agriculture remains a priority for our organization.



Rio Blanco CattleWomen Winter Update

Submitted by Kathy Nelson

The Rio Blanco CattleWomen have enjoyed a quieter winter season while continuing to promote beef and support our local youth and community.

In January, we hosted a beef bundle giveaway during the county high school basketball games between Meeker and Rangely. We distributed free tickets to attendees for the drawings and were pleased to give away three locally-sourced beef bundles. During the games, members also shared Cooking with Kids booklets and encouraged families to enroll in the Beef Council's Sports Nutrition Game Plan program. In addition, one of our members prepared and delivered goodie bags to the girls' basketball team that included information about the sports nutrition program, homemade beef jerky, and other snacks. The nutrition resources were also shared directly with the team's coach.



In February, our members prepared and served a chili dinner for the FFA Quiz Bowl Tournament, which was well received by participants and guests. At our February meeting, we finalized our annual schedule outlining upcoming promotions and educational events for the year ahead.

We are also looking forward to hosting the Western Colorado CattleWomen's Council in May and are excited to welcome fellow members from across the region.

Routt County CattleWomen Participate in Ag Roundtable

Submitted by Hayleigh Aurin



The Routt County CattleWomen have enjoyed a pleasant winter in NW Colorado. We had a great winter social gathering that included a white elephant gift exchange. Members and their families gathered, celebrated, and walked away with great gifts just in time for the holidays. In addition to that, a few women designed and created Christmas decorations that were auctioned off in a local fundraiser. They paired antique cooking tools with traditional Christmas decorations for a fun, cute wreath and tree set. Recently, several of our members were included in a local discussion to address the continued changing culture of our valley. This round-table type discussion served as a starting point to bring together different agriculture entities in the community and form a united front to represent ag to the greater community. We look forward to working together and offering the increasingly diverse community information and perspective on local agriculture. Going into spring we plan to continue long standing events including

catering the local State of the River meeting as well as serving our local veterans on Memorial Day. Local third grade students will take a field trip to various members' ranches to spend the day as a rancher learning about where their food comes from and ag production. In addition, we are excited to once again put on the second All Women's Ranch Rodeo taking place June 27th. We greatly appreciate the community support we experienced last year and are excited for what is in store this year!



Western Colorado CattleWomen Council

Submitted by Marlyse Cunningham

The regular quarterly meeting of the Western Colorado CattleWomen Council, composed of ten CattleWomen/CowBelles units on Colorado's Western Slope, was hosted by the Montrose CattleWomen on February 10, 2026 at the Montrose Events Center. Following the business portion of the meeting, which included legislative updates, public lands updates, and a report by CCW President, Cristy Hawk, a delicious lasagna lunch and scrumptious desserts prepared by the Montrose CW were served. Montrose CW President, Debi Harmon, then introduced the program, an overview of the Montrose CattleWomen's Literacy Roundup project spearheaded by educators, Lisa Franks and Rebecca Johns. Rebecca created easy-to-implement lessons grounded in meeting the Colorado school district standards and introducing agriculture through reading and writing activities. The lessons are built around ag-themed books or short texts. There is currently one lesson plan for each grade level, first through fifth grade with more being developed that are being tested in a Montrose Elementary School, with hopes for expanding their use throughout the district and being implemented by other Colorado CowBelle/CattleWomen units. For more information, contact the Montrose CattleWomen. Our next meeting will be May 12, hosted by the Rio Blanco CattleWomen. We would encourage any other Western Slope CattleWomen/CowBelle units that are not currently members to join us for some great networking opportunities.



CCW

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc.

C/O KATHLEEN SHOEMAKER

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