



THE FAMILY MEETING

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OCA Summer Meeting Saturday, July 26 in Silver City



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In the last issue of the Cattlemen's Corner, I shared an article on the subject of ranch succession and/or estate planning. This article will expound on a very important element in the succession planning process; the family meeting.

The purpose of the family meeting is to share your vision of the future of your operation with your family members and to find out what their thoughts and concerns are. It is important that you describe exactly what your vision of the future entails with family members. For some, they might see the ranch as a priceless family heirloom that should be preserved and held together at all costs. Others may see it merely as a valuable asset that should be sold for the highest possible price and then the proceeds divided. Whatever the viewpoint, the family meeting can help begin those discussions.

One key to a successful family meeting is open communication. Don't be afraid to discuss your vision of the future with your children. Don't assume that they know what you are thinking or how you feel. Likewise, don't assume that you know what they are thinking and how they feel! Be open to ideas. If you can develop a common vision for the future of your operation, good things will happen.

The following are some guidelines for a successful family meeting:

- 1) Decide who should be invited to the meeting. Generally, all children would be invited. You will have to determine if their spouses should be or not. In some families, inclusion of spouses can increase potential conflict. In others, spouses are actively involved and should be included. You will have to decide what is best in your situation.
- 2) Prepare an agenda and circulate it to family members before the meeting. This will give family members time to think and prepare for the discussion.

- 3) Choose someone to lead the meeting and someone to take minutes. It is difficult to do both and minutes are important as a record of what was discussed.
- 4) Perhaps the first agenda item should be an agreement about meeting policies and acceptable behaviors. How will decisions be made?
- 5) Be clear about individual responsibilities. Assumption often creates misunderstandings.

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- 6) Select an appropriate site for the meeting. The site can be any place that works well for those involved. It is important that the sur-

MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT WEST NILE

Tyanne Freeburg, UI Extension Educator, Adams County

Summer is wonderful! There's so much to do during those few short months and the last thing anyone wants to be while the sun is shining outside is sick! But during the months of June thru September a pesky predator is buzzing around that could make your horses and pets and your family very sick. Since 1999 West Nile Virus has been a concern in the United States and most animals and people contract the disease thru the bite of an infected mosquito (the mosquito is infected by an infected bird). Although there is a vaccine available for horses, there is nothing available for humans or pets. And there is currently no evidence that cattle are susceptible to West Nile Virus.

People usually have symptoms of illness between 2-14 days from the initial bite. Seventy to eighty percent of infected humans will not develop symptoms. Those unfortunate people that do develop symptoms often have a fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, rash, diarrhea, and vomiting. They will recover and sometimes have fatigue for weeks or months after the initial symptoms. Less than one percent will show more severe symptoms including encephalitis or meningitis. In 2013 Southwestern Idaho had the vast majority of infections.

The best way to decrease your chances of a West Nile Virus infection is to lessen your exposure to mosquitos. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips:

- ⇒ Use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide longer-lasting protection.
- ⇒ Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk through dawn when many mosquitoes are most active.
- ⇒ Install or repair screens on windows and doors. If you have it, use your air conditioning.
- ⇒ Help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Empty standing water from containers such as flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, and birdbaths." (<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/genQuestions.html>)

Mosquitos only require standing water for 4-14 days to mature. By reducing vegetation around ditches and other man-made areas that hold water, the natural predators of mosquito larvae are able to hunt more effectively. Biological larvicide and insect-eating fish are an option for livestock watering ponds and flushing water from troughs weekly or treating with a biological larvicide can also help.

References

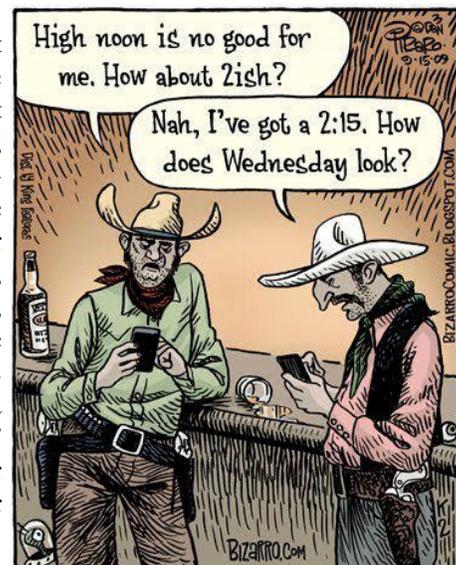
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Family Meeting . . . continued from page 1

- rounding environment be quiet enough (and without interruptions) in order to conduct the business of the meeting.
- 7) Request help if needed. Sometime difficult issues need to be discussed and a trained facilitator can help keep the discussion on track and allow all to be heard. Also, having an outside person present often helps everyone be on their best behavior.
 - 8) Live in the present. Sometimes family members are carrying the baggage of previous negative history together. Remind family members to put the past behind and begin to work together as adults.
 - 9) Connect as adults. It is important to note that although your children grew up together, they may not know each other very well as adults. If necessary, create an exercise or activity that will facilitate getting to know each other better.
 - 10) Consider having one or more of your advisors at the meeting. This might include your attorney or accountant. Oftentimes, they might be able to answer technical or legal questions that would be difficult for you.

The most important thing to remember about holding a family meeting is to actually schedule and hold one!

Don't wait for the perfect moment, the non-busy time (never happens), etc., etc., etc. There will always be a "good" excuse for it to never happen!



Good planning takes time and effort. The family meeting is an important part of the succession planning process. Remember that your efforts today can help ensure that the legacy of your operation can continue into the future for your family. ♦

IT'S NO BULL! PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME!

Rikki Ruiz, UI Extension Educator, Gem/Boise County

Preparation ensures a more efficient and successful breeding season. It's important to get your bulls conditioned prior to the start of breeding season so they can perform at their optimal ability. Bulls need to be fed to reach a body condition score of 5 to 6, they need to get enough exercise to develop physical endurance, have their vaccinations administered and overall general care and management to ensure soundness. It can take up to 48 days to increase the production of sperm cells, therefore making preparations an asset to keep your breeding cycle on target. The first step in getting prepared involves observing your bull herd. Start by checking and observing your bull's feet, legs, body condition, mouth, eyes, penis, and overall health.

Conducting a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) is a vital component of getting your bulls ready for breeding. The BSE examination usually includes; observing for physical issues, testicle palpation, measure of scrotal circumference, palpation of seminal vesicles, observations of penis while extended, and a classification of semen (both motility and morphology).

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The sperm motility is evaluated on-site. It's imperative that the normal temperature of the semen is kept during the examination. The sperm morphology is conducted in a lab using a slide and microscope.

While being prepared before breeding season is a vital component, it's additionally important to maintain a post season breeding management plan as well. Throughout the breeding season, it's common for a bull to lose at least one body condition score point.

This will need to be made up in the post breeding season with additional feed supplements to help him continue to grow to his full genetic potential. Vaccination is also a key factor. Bulls should receive a viral respiratory vaccine booster, (four or five way vaccination including; IBR, BVDV, PI3, BRSV). In addition to vaccinating, guarding against internal and external parasites with the use of ear tags, sprays or rubs, will increase the health of the bull.



Healthy bulls are important as well as observing and determining the number of bulls that you will need for the next season. Most bulls are typically sold in the fall; therefore it's essential to be proactive in looking ahead and replacing bulls or purchasing new ones and making your game plan.

Being a successful rancher requires a successful bull breeding program. This entails planning all year round and keeping in tune with the management of your bulls. As ranchers, we need to remember that bulls are the most important employees on the ranch. ♦



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

*July 26
Owyhee Cattlemen's Association
Summer Meeting in Silver City*

*August 4-9
Owyhee County Fair & Rodeo*

*August 9
Owyhee County
Junior Livestock Sale*