



University of Idaho

Michael Parrella, dean of the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, at Rinker Rock Creek Ranch near Hailey, Idaho.

THE DEAN

Michael Parrella makes things happen for agriculture at the University of Idaho



University of Idaho
CALS Dean Michael Parrella on the Moscow campus.

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

MOSCOW, Idaho — Michael Parrella, whose contagious enthusiasm helps drive a growing lineup of major projects at the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, wants to see them become reality before he thinks about retiring.

There's work left to do at CALS, he said, adding that he thoroughly enjoys working with the ag industry, the university and state Legislature in figuring out how best to design and fund projects that will benefit ag and the state's economy.

Agribusiness, including food production and processing, last year generated \$26 billion in sales, or 18% of Idaho's total economic output, according to the university.

The secret to Parrella's success? "You have to be there," Parrella, 69, said during an interview on the university's main campus in Moscow. "You have to be present and you have to engage with stakeholders. You need to be able to communicate with them and show you are committed to helping them. It's building trust and following through."

He moved to UI in February 2016 from the University of California-Davis, where he was associate dean of

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MICHAEL PARELLA

Occupation: Dean, University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, since Feb. 1, 2016.

Age: 69

Education: B.S., animal science, Rutgers, 1974; M.S., 1977, Ph.D., 1980, in entomology at Virginia Tech.

Previous jobs: Entomology and nematology department chair, 2011-15 and 1991-99, University

of California-Davis; associate dean for agricultural programs, UC-Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, 2000-10; entomology and plant sciences professor (including floriculture and nursery), UC-Davis; entomology professor, UC-Riverside.

Family: Wife, Deborah, three adult children.

Hometown: Rahway, N.J. Lives in Princeton, Idaho.

Agriculture braces for mandatory vaccinations

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Farm groups are awaiting details on how the U.S. Labor Department will carry out President Joe Biden's plan to force employers with more than 100 workers to ensure all are vaccinated or tested regularly for COVID.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will issue an emergency rule, but no timeline has been set. Unvaccinated



President Joe Biden

employees will have to produce a negative test at least weekly, according to the White House, which provided few other details, including whether the 100-worker

mandate will count seasonal as well as year-round employees.

Washington Growers League executive director Mike Gempler

said he was surprised by the mandate. "It's an extraordinary time with extraordinary problems, so I think people have to take steps they normally wouldn't think of," he said.

"I feel like we're going backward instead of forward, so someone has to do something," Gempler said. "I really see vaccinations as our way out of it."

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee have required vaccinations for state

employees. Their mandates have drawn lawsuits in both states. Republican governors in at least five states vowed to sue the Biden administration over mandating vaccinations in the private sector.

Biden congratulated his administration — "America is in better shape than it was seven months ago when I took office" — and blamed a "tough stretch" with COVID on the unvaccinated.

"Many of us are frustrated with the nearly 80 million Americans

who are still not vaccinated, even though the vaccine is safe, effective and free," he said.

Washington State Dairy Federation executive director Dan Wood said a vaccination rule may put agricultural employers in the position of enforcing a policy that doesn't fit some circumstances.

"Are you going to terminate an unvaccinated employee who works alone in a tractor?" he

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Cattle mutilations: One researcher's theory on what's happening

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN
Capital Press

In the wake of recent cattle mutilations across the West, ranchers are asking who — or what — is responsible.

According to FBI records, thousands of killings and apparent mutilations of cattle have happened since the 1970s. In each case, a cow or bull is found dead with body parts such as eyes, tongues and genitals missing.

Ranchers and detectives have speculated widely about what's



Nick Nation

happening, theorizing aliens, cult members, pranksters or even the CIA could be responsible.

The Capital Press sat down for an interview with retired award-winning Canadian veterinary pathologist Nick Nation, who has researched the issue.

In Alberta, Nation has analyzed the carcasses of mutilated cattle and, more recently, dismem-

bered house cats. In both cases, he's come to the same conclusion: scavenger animals, primarily coyotes, are responsible.

The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

CP: You started researching the issue of cattle mutilation in the 1980s. At the time, you came to the conclusion that scavengers were responsible for body part removal. Do you still believe that?

Nation: Yes. I'm still convinced coyotes and occasionally some other species, you know,

birds, skunks, even mice, will do damage to these carcasses. It's the bizarre nature of the appearance of the animal that gets people concerned that there may be some nefarious activity going on.

CP: Wouldn't coyotes leave obvious bite marks? We hear from ranchers and detectives that the wounds usually look clean-cut.

Nation: That's common in coyote predation, and it's also a feature on the cats we've done a

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