

# Business / Agriculture

## Cattlemen hear about LIP

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The Baker County Livestock Association (BCLA) held a regular meeting, on Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7 p.m., in the Sundridge Inn Restaurant's Blue Mountain Conference Room, which included among other topics, Livestock Indemnity Program and Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument discussions.

Attendance included BCLA President Drew Martin, BCLA Secretary Leticia Henderson, Baker County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Trent Luschen, Curt and Cheryl Martin, Myron and Dotti Miles, George Rollins, Ed Trindle, Ralph and Myrna Morgan, and Bert Siddoway.

Drew clinked his glass, signaling the start of the meeting, he thanked everyone for their attendance, and he said that he wants to acquire an updated list of BCLA members' current phone numbers and addresses, as well as to continue with the BCLA e-mail notices. Trindle asked Drew if he plans to stop sending those notices via regular mail, and Drew said no.

Drew said that Dotti had asked Henderson to act as Secretary, and Henderson, who is also Oregon State University Extension Service Livestock and Natural Resources Agent for Baker County, had accepted, and she read the minutes from the last BCLA meeting, held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 (that meeting was detailed in the Friday, January 27, 2017 issue of The Baker County Press). The minutes were approved, with a motion from Curt, and a second from Ralph.

Luschen discussed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), under the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill. "The Livestock Indemnity Program...helps livestock owners, who have livestock killed by a natural disaster..."

He said that there were a significant number of claims due to the wildfires last year, and this winter's weather, and he explained the process involved with filing claims for livestock loss, which includes providing documentation, that could include: a personal diary (red books, calendars, journals, etc.), listing births, deaths, unaccounted for animals, and the date of such event; a personal diary of a hired hand, cowboy, or herdsman, showing animal care; a calendar, listing births, deaths, unaccounted for animals, and the date livestock was turned out to pasture; pictures, with a date (this was emphasized by Luschen); brand inspection records; ear tag documentation or records; and other similar, reliable documents.

Luschen explained the different documents he provided to the group, including form CCC-854, Third Party Certification, form CCC-856, Livestock Beginning Inventory History For Open Range Livestock Operations Under The Livestock Indemnity Program, an Oregon Normal Mortality Rate Table, and Payment Rates for Eligible Livestock for Livestock Owners.



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press  
Curt Martin shows off an "Our Land, Our Voice" flyer.

Using this winter's harsh weather and the loss of calves as an example for using the program, Luschen noted that the normal mortality rate for calves under 400 pounds is 5%.

According to the mortality table, the normal mortality rate for beef calves in the 400-799 pound range, and 800-pound or more range is 3%, and the rate is 2%, for cows and bulls.

For dairy calves, the normal mortality rate is 5% for 400 pounds to 799 pounds, 3% for 800 pounds or more, and 4% for cows and bulls.

The payment rates for livestock owners are based on 75% of a fair market value, as determined by CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation). Luschen noted the drastic change in the payment rate for calves under 400 pounds, from \$757.59 in 2016, to \$471.22 in 2017.

Luschen also mentioned another program, the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), basically a "catch-all" program, which includes, among other benefits, assistance to purchase additional hay due to a natural disaster.

He said, "We really don't have all of the answers to it..." explaining that he had intended to elaborate further, but he didn't have extensive information regarding the program.

He encourages anyone who's had to purchase additional hay to contact his office, as he is working on obtaining additional information.

Cheryl asked Luschen whether there is assistance to address fencing issues due to snow, and, though he said that there hasn't been historically (there has been for fire), he would look into the possibility.

Drew said that representatives from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) had been scheduled to speak to the group during this meeting, regarding grazing permits and the effects of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision (BMFPR), but, for reasons unclear to him, they were not in attendance. He said that representatives from the USFS plan to attend the next regular BCLA meeting, on Thursday, March 16, which may possibly be held in the Richland/Halfway area, as that may present an opportunity for permit holders there to also attend.

Drew provided some handouts, which were copies of a Bill Summary Report, part of a legislative update process, compiled by Portland-based Tonkin Torp LLP attorney Rocky Dallum, Oregon Cattle-



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press  
Trent Luschen speaks about the Livestock Indemnity Program.

men's Association's (OCA) new Political Advocate.

The report includes a list of, and summary for bills introduced during the State Legislature Session, which are ranked according to OCA and BCLA interest and concern priority.

Drew introduced this update also during the last BCLA meeting, and he expressed praise for this service, which will continue.

Curt displayed an "Our Land, Our Voice" fact sheet, which showcased the efforts of the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition (OSBC), Gallatin Public Affairs, OCA, BCLA, and others, over the course of the last year, in reaching a singular goal: "No Monument Without A Vote Of Congress," an effort primarily prompted by the real possibility that then President Barack Obama would designate 2.5 million acres, mostly in Malheur County, the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, before he left office.

Curt said, "That's a huge victory..." in speaking about derailing the monument designation. "It was really impressive, how a mobilized crew can get a lot of things accomplished...I think they (the OSBC) raised \$484,000 in the state..."

He mentioned the BCLA meeting, on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, during which Ysabel Bilbao of Gallatin, and Elias Eiguren, Steve Russell, and Mark Joyce of OSBC gave a presentation, detailing the efforts.

During that meeting, BCLA pledged \$10,000 toward the effort (the meeting was covered in the Friday, March 18, 2016 issue of *The Baker County Press*).

Curt attended a meeting recently regarding the process over the last year, and he said, "I just wanted to compliment the BCLA,

because it was a huge, sacrificial gift, and they recognized BCLA there, by saying that our donation, which was very hard-earned dollars, through all those years...was, at that point in time, their biggest, single donation that they got, and they were very appreciative of it..."

Curt detailed Gallatin's campaign, which included a massive social media following, and he said that they were always one step ahead of the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), and other groups supporting the monument designation. "It is truly an encouraging and inspiring win, for our side of the coin...Everybody needs to feel very good about that...They mentioned the fact that every state of the Union contributed money to their cause--every state..."

Curt said that the fight became so politically controversial, so "radioactive," that Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and Governor Kate Brown especially, tended to avoid the subject. "That's really huge," Curt said.

Drew said earlier, partly in honor of Beef Month, he had discussed recognizing community restaurants and others for their sales of locally-produced beef, and one idea is to place a significantly-sized ad in local media, in order to show cattlemen's and cattlemen's appreciation.

Henderson mentioned a Baker County sage-grouse population meeting, which will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6 p.m., at the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service building, 2600 East Street.

She said that representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be there, among others, and there will be an opportunity for the public to provide comments.

## — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, February 17, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay.

### Tons Price Range Wtd Avg

Alfalfa — Large Square Good	285	100.00-100.00	100.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Good	25	165.00-165.00	165.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Large Square Utility	300	45.00-45.00	45.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

## — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, February 15, 2017  
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1762

### Steer Calves

300-400# Bulk	149.00 - 176.00	Top 178.00
400-500# Bulk	134.00-164.00	Top 169.00
500-600# Bulk	126.00-149.00	Top 151.50

### Heifer Calves

300-400# Bulk	122.00-131.00	Top 135.00
400-500# Bulk	116.00-140.00	Top 145.00
500-600# Bulk	113.00-130.00	Top 130.25

### Yearling Steers

600-700# Bulk	114.00-130.00	Top 130.75
700-800# Bulk	115.00-123.00	Top 125.50
800-900# Bulk	112.00-121.00	Top 121.50
900-1,000# Bulk	102.00-111.00	Top 113.75

### Yearling Heifers

600-700# Bulk	106.00-123.50	Top 124.00
700-800# Bulk	102.00-116.00	Top 117.00
800-900# Bulk	96.00-112.00	Top 114.00
900-1,000# Bulk	N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	32.00 TO 47.00
Butcher Cows	48.00 TO 58.00
Butcher Bulls	52.00 TO 71.00
Pairs Young	1300.00 TO 1500.00
Hfretts	63.00-86.50
Stock Cows Young -	900.00 TO 1300.00

ProducersLivestock.com  
541-473-3136

## — LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,  
Andersen Forestry Consulting

## — PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,239.10

Silver: \$18.03

Platinum: \$1004.93

Palladium: \$769.50

Bloomberg.com

## — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$378.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$465.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1,033.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$252.75 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.46/cwt/USD

Canola: \$523.50 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$116.08/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$125.10/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$67.75/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com