

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of expired permits will be reduced, thereby giving ranchers increased certainty that they may continue grazing and their operations will remain viable. Among other provisions to reduce the NEPA burden, the bill also proposes to codify longstanding appropriations language that would allow grazing to continue under existing terms and conditions while the NEPA backlog is being addressed.

“We greatly appreciate the leadership of Rep. Labrador and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Hastings for their leadership on this important issue,” Van Liew said. “Ranchers can no longer afford the incredible regulatory and litigious environment created by excessive application of NEPA. If we lose ranchers, we lose the stewards of the land, job providers in the West, and a crucial part of American livestock production. Like last year, we look forward to passage through the House this session.”

During the committee’s consideration of the bill, two amendments were offered. An amendment by Labrador, which passed, would exempt range improvements from excessive and unnecessary environmental review and clarify the intent of Congress with regard to who may appeal agency grazing decisions. Van Liew said the amendment will prevent radical environmental groups from abusing the current appeals system, and further reduce the NEPA burden. He said this amendment is especially important at a time when wildfire has ravaged hundreds of miles of fence and many range improvements crucial to the proper care of livestock and the range.

An amendment introduced by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), which would have imposed an arbitrary 74% increase of the federal lands grazing fee on ranchers, failed. The amendment’s alleged purpose was to “offset the increased cost of administering the livestock grazing program.” However, Van Liew asserted that this fee increase would likely decrease revenue to the government by forcing ranchers out of business. He added that the “increased cost” Grijalva mentions is due to overregulation and predatory litigation by radical anti-grazing groups.

— Source: *Public Lands Council*.

AVMA report proposes revamping the association’s governance structure

The Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has made available to membership a detailed report that examines the association’s current governance structure and makes recommendations for a proposed system

Breeders throw birthday bash for Earl Marshall

The Botna Valley Angus and Denison Angus associations will host a 100-Year Anniversary Celebration to honor Earl Marshall, dubbed “the king of sires.” Born Sept. 4, 1913, the legendary Earl Marshall is in the majority of the pedigrees in the American Angus Herd Book.

Festivities will begin at 9 a.m. with recognition of Iowa’s pioneer breeders. Several Iowa herds have been in existence for 100 years or more.

The man who bred Earl Marshall, W.A. McHenry, a Civil War veteran, will be honored with a performance by Civil War re-enactors. The day’s events will include tours of the McHenry House, the beautifully restored mansion built by W.A. and Mary McHenry in 1885, and more.

The Man, The Bull, The Legacy, a history book featuring the story of Earl Marshall and the history of Angus cattle in America, will be introduced and will be for sale.

The event will take place at Denison, Iowa, in the heart of Earl Marshall country. A female sale featuring Earl Marshall breeding will precede the event, beginning at 6 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Crawford County Fairgrounds at Denison.

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that will be more nimble and provide for greater member involvement in association activities. The report by the Task Force on Governance and Member Participation is the result of more than a year of extensive internal and external research on issues facing the association and other similar professional organizations across the United States. It took into consideration hundreds of comments made by AVMA members.

The Task Force, formed by the AVMA Executive Board as a result of a House of Delegates resolution at its 2011 regular annual session, was charged with reviewing and evaluating the association’s governance system and determining if the current system is optimal to meet the future needs of the membership, association and profession. Using AVMA’s *20/20 Vision Commission Report* as the basis for the creation of an evolved organizational structure and governance process, the task force sought to propose a governance model that will:

- ▶ be more responsive to membership needs;
- ▶ provide better value on investment;
- ▶ serve members and the profession more efficiently and effectively;
- ▶ be nimble enough to meet future governance challenges; and
- ▶ provide volunteer opportunities that are rewarding.

In its newly released report, the task force outlines a revamped governance structure for the AVMA that includes:

- ▶ **A board of directors**, which will act as one body with management responsibility, policy authority and fiduciary duty, in conjunction with Illinois state law.
- ▶ **Advisory councils**, which will support AVMA’s core strategic areas, including economics and practice, animal welfare and ethics, education, governmental and

external relations, scientific activities, and membership and governance.

- ▶ **A volunteer resources committee** (VRC), which will be responsible for identifying and recruiting the best candidates for various volunteer leadership positions.
- ▶ **A veterinary issues forum** (VIF), which will bring together key stakeholders, including state and allied veterinary associations, to solicit feedback and identify strategic issues where AVMA can strengthen and enhance the future of the veterinary profession.

“Reflecting on AVMA’s rich 150-year history, I can’t help but be amazed at the number of advances in global veterinary medicine, technology, communication, business operations, and human capital over this time,” said AVMA President Douglas Aspros. “It’s because of AVMA’s ability to adapt to those changes that that has allowed us to remain one of the world’s leading veterinary associations. Now, we face another pivotal fork-in-the-road where we must decide whether to embrace a new governance structure, one that can evolve with society and the changing face and needs of our members. I applaud the Task Force for developing a deep understanding of the challenges facing professional associations today and thank them for their dedication in proposing a model that will ensure AVMA can continue leading in the future.”

“At AVMA, I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the number of members who are actively seeking ways to get more involved in their association. Whether it is through conducting research to help inform future policy, engaging with stakeholders and others in-person and online to discuss current issues, or serving in working groups or in leadership positions — there is just no way

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