



OCTOBER, 2019 Volume 72 No. 8

Official Publication of the Arizona Farm Bureau

A Conversation about Our Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center: George Ruyle

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Professor and range management specialist, George Ruyle holds the Marley Endowed Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE) at the University of Arizona. A big role, but we're keener on visiting with Ruyle about something important to Arizona ranchers. Beyond his range management expertise, Ruyle also serves as Co-Director of the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center, a unique partnership among the U. of A. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cooperative Extension and the James E. Rogers College of Law. As such, he works with natural resource managers and user groups in collaborative efforts to improve on-the-ground private and public resource management throughout Arizona and the West.

He's uniquely suited for these roles since Ruyle served as chair of the Ecology, Management and Restoration of Rangelands Program in SNRE for 16 years prior. He is a Fellow in the Society for Range Management, a Certified Range Management Professional and was a member of the National Research Council Board on Agriculture Committee on Rangeland Classification which produced *Rangeland Health: New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands*.

Additionally, Ruyle is currently a member of the Arizona Livestock Loss Board, the Heber Wild Horse Territory Working Group, the Altar Valley Science Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team.

With a few changes at the Center and now in a co-directorship model, Arizona Farm Bureau thought it might be time to get the latest news on what's going on with the Center.

Arizona Agriculture: Explain the background and purpose of the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center?

Ruyle: The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center (NRULPC or the Center) is a creative partnership of the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law and Cooperative Extension that grew out of grassroots discussions among Univer-

sity decision makers and leaders in the ranching industry and other areas of agriculture and natural resource economic uses. A strength of this partnership is the ability to take a multi-tiered approach to identifying and addressing legal and policy impediments, or obstacles, to productivity based on direct stakeholder/county extension agent requests for assistance.

This assistance may involve on-site environmental analysis, interpretation and development of agency rules, working with lawmakers, and encouraging and facilitating legislative solutions. Established in 2016 NRULPC strives to address otherwise unmet legal and policy needs of individuals and businesses that depend upon natural resources. In general, the Center's aims are to collaborate with stakeholders, mentor student clinicians and fellows, provide scholarly legal and policy analysis, and address the underrepresented law and policy needs of the natural resource community of Arizona and the West.

Arizona Agriculture: Since its inception, has the mission changed or expanded at all? If so, why or why not?

Ruyle: Originally, much of the Center's aim was to provide access to litigation services for those with little or no access to legal representation. John Lacy and I, as co-directors, have redefined the NRULPC role as collaborative problem solving through legal and policy analysis that supports management decisions rather than leading to litigation. This is primarily a philosophical emphasis tied to the mission of the University of Arizona as a Land Grant University. We work to improve the lives of citizens in the state through bringing the university to the people. This is really counter to a litigious approach to problems. Additionally, ours is an Extension-based approach to conservation rather than the compulsory-based approach. This approach is well-known by working ranchers and others that interact regularly with Extension.

Arizona Agriculture: Since NRULPC's inception, where has it come? What do you

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Beyond his range management expertise, Ruyle also serves as Co-Director with John Lacey of the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center. Originally, much of the Center's aim was to provide access to litigation services for those with little or no access to legal representation. Today, the Center's purpose has expanded.

Why USMCA is So Important to Agriculture

By Tyler Davis, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

Over the past several months, Arizona Farm Bureau has published articles on the benefits of international trade. These articles addressed the fact that international trade directly affects our agriculture members throughout the state. Proving a significant impact to all the state isn't hard to do considering agriculture is a huge part of Arizona's economy, bringing in over \$23.3 billion annually. Of that, \$1.7 billion is from exporting our agricultural goods outside the country.

Mexico is by far Arizona's best trade partner, followed closely by Canada and China is a solid third.

The United States created the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) twenty-five years ago. This trade agreement included the United States, Mexico, and Canada. At the time, NAFTA was revolutionary and thought to be a fair and balanced agreement between the three countries. This might be true for some sectors but over the years agriculture trade became less fair and in need of a change. In fact, NAFTA is outdated, not including current technology and the economic advances of today.

The Importance of Passing USMCA

In 2016 the three countries came together to initiate trade talks for what would now become known as the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA made changes to include the current technology advances as well as economic advances. Many updates and changes were made, especially to the agriculture sector. Over the last 25 years there have been unfair practices in Canada regarding the labeling and sale of U.S. products, such as dairy. This new trade agreement greatly improves all areas of agriculture, but mostly the poultry and dairy industries.

In 2017 the U.S. exported \$619 million of dairy products to Canada. Under the USMCA, Canada will offer new and fair tariff rate quotas exclusively for the United States. Canada will also offer more reasonable prices for U.S. milk and milk products. In 2017 the U.S. exported \$600 million worth of poultry products to Canada. Like dairy, Canada will offer new and fair tariff rate quotas exclusively for the United States. These are just a few beneficial changes made in the new agreement.

The USMCA is not only a much-needed advanced free trade agreement for our immediate neighbors but also will serve as a springboard for agreements to come. Currently, the United States is in trade talks with China; there is no doubt

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Time for Public Comment

Red Meat on the Food Runway

By **Stefanie Smallhouse**, Arizona Farm Bureau President



Stefanie Smallhouse

Ten years ago, Lady Gaga's choice of fashion at the Video Music Awards, literally a raw meat "dress," was all over the news. I've learned from my sister-in-law, a professional fashionista, that what is worn on the red carpet does not translate into what is worn on Main Street. I had always wondered about the crazy outfits you see models wearing in magazines, so I asked her, "Who would wear that crazy stuff anyway?" She explained that what you see on the runway that is crazy expensive and crazy looking is what the fashion designers use to set off the seasonal trends for the year. The main street designers just take elements of those designs and incorporate them into what "real" people will buy and wear this coming fall. So needless to say, when I saw Gaga's raw, flank steak dress and read it was in fact not a statement in protest of the meat industry, I didn't get my hopes up that this was a new market for our beef sales!

Red meat is again on the runway, but not in the same way. We are seeing imposters trotted out every couple of months. We are living in a time when food is treated as an experience and become an avenue to express one's politics, religion, economic standing and opinions of social responsibility. Contrast Gaga's extravagant raw meat fashion statement with when Memphis Meats made its 2016 global roll out of its cell-based, meatball lab creations at \$18,000 per pound. Although they have big investors from Gates to Tyson Foods, they are a long way from disrupting the traditional livestock industry and entering the main stream. Who would eat that creepy stuff anyway?

Fast forward to 2019 and now we are seeing a spinoff of sorts in plant protein alternative products paraded out month to month. Kentucky Fried Chicken recently partnered with Beyond Meat and debuted a plant based fried chicken, while the Impossible Burger is selling out everywhere from Burger King to high-end restaurants. Del Taco sold 2 million of its meatless tacos 2 months after the launch, and they now have meatless burritos. There are so many new food products in the plant-based protein line that a new trade association, Plant Based Foods Association, is boasting the market has grown 11% over the past year and the total plant-based market value is \$4.5 billion.

The plant based Impossible Burger is the sexy new fashion line for what was once known as the humble Veggie Burger when I was growing up. The difference is that a veggie burger tastes and feels like a dry loofa sponge and these new products are meant to feel, taste and look like meat. I believe the "ick" factor and price point associated with lab meat will be of little consequence given that the efforts to affect a paradigm shift in the American diet has already begun with plants. The Veggie Burger was meant to appeal to vegans and niche markets, while these new plant-based meat alternatives are meant to appeal to a much broader audience for reasons which go beyond animal rights but focus on the environment and nutrition. According to Nestle, the world's largest food company, 87% of Americans, both vegans and meat-eaters are incorporating plant-based protein into their diets, with two-thirds of them doing so one or more times a week. Marketing for these products is not about turning the world into vegans, which would be improbable, it's about subtly changing the way people think about food production and how their lunch choices might impact the environment.

As with other gimmicks we have seen in the grocery aisle to sell product through misleading labels, food companies will likely use similar tactics to promote all these new products. Packaging might appeal to those perpetuated myths about "factory farming" and the "carbon footprint." History tells us that as competition increases among food giants like Nestle, Tyson, Con Agra, Kellogg, Hormel and Kroger affordability will not limit the market share.

The beef burger still morphs the plant burger by 6.4 billion to 228 million sold, but many predict traditional beef demand will be cut in half by 2050. So, the question among livestock producers is whether this is just a trendy, short lived fad on the food runway, or will peas, soybeans, beets and potatoes be as disruptive to the demand curve for beef and poultry as almonds and soy were to dairy products? How do we defend ourselves when "us against them" is really "us against us?" To survive in farming and ranching is to diversify and put our skills to work growing or raising whatever the market dictates. Sometimes that means we are growing competing products. The truth is that none of us are safe from the ire of Greenpeace and anti-agriculture activists and we all depend upon each other to keep agriculture strong.

Let us promote the nutritional benefits of everything we grow, highlight the vast array of choices American agriculture has provided, brag on our environmental stewardship and advocate for truth in labeling so we can all stand on our own merits.



From Lady Gaga's Meat Dress in 2010 to today's Impossible Burger, the question among livestock producers is whether this is just a trendy, short lived fad on the food runway, or will peas, soybeans, beets and potatoes be as disruptive to the demand curve for beef and poultry as almonds and soy were to dairy products?

The Void Between Rhetoric and Reality

By **Philip Bashaw**, Arizona Farm Bureau CEO



Philip Bashaw

Your entire team at Arizona Farm Bureau spends a lot of time thinking about trends among our members, our consumers and certainly in politics. And over the last several weeks in particular, I have been spending significant time going over the 2018 election results. An interesting statistic from the PEW Research center jumped out at me. For the first time during the 2018 elections, the younger generations, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z outvoted the baby boomers and older generations. Not by a lot, mind you, but this was an inversion in the electorate we cannot overlook.

Roughly 30 million more members of the younger generation voted in 2018 than did in 2014; 30 million more voters over a four-year span.

For good or bad there is a shift happening as these younger generations become a larger and more important part of the electorate and by extension our economy.

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Arizona Agriculture is published 9 months, plus two special editions annually, (ISSN 0274-7014) by the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation...

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Periodicals postage paid in Higley, Arizona and additional mailing offices.

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feel the Policy Center has produced for constituents?

Ruyle: Current major issues faced by agriculture and natural resource industries include labor shortages, water use policies, and food safety. Additionally, the myriad regulations farmers and ranchers must navigate is staggering whether on private or public lands. However, the potential for other issues to emerge over the years is considerable. In a recent national survey conducted for the Extension arm of USDA, broadly defined critical natural resource issues were identified by a variety of stakeholder groups. Included were issues relevant to ecosystem services (related to land productivity), invasive species, water and wetlands, wildfire, and wildlife habitat and management. Cross-cutting all these issues were concerns about climate adaptation, restoration, and land conversion and fragmentation. Facets of these issues were crucial to improving livelihoods and to the ability of stakeholders to maintain the health and productivity of the country's natural resources.

Arizona Agriculture: Share with readers about current projects in play that the Center is working on behalf of key stakeholders?

Ruyle: I list below examples of Programming in the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center and the Natural Resource Use and Management Law Clinic

1. Revision of NEPA for Ranchers guidebook
2. Developed Handbook for Federal Appeals of Grazing Decisions
3. Commented on Coronado National Forest BA for Grazing Program and Endangered Species
4. Commented on FS Stateline Range Allotments NEPA
5. Developed memos for Prescribed Burning Liability for Private Landowners, Arizona Open Range Law, and Regulations on Animal Feeding Operations
6. WOTUS permit requirements for Federal Waters analysis

Additionally, the Center has as a primary goal of Securing U.S. Forest Service Grazing Permits in Arizona. Approaches to meet this goal include:

1. FS NEPA Reform
2. Identifying Vacant Allotments in Arizona
3. Monitoring Implementation
4. Conflict Management for Allotments
5. Immersion Experience for Land Management Agency Staff

Arizona Agriculture: Explain in more detail how the Policy Center Benefits the Natural Resource Community?

Ruyle: Because the work the NRULPC does is based on direct requests from stakeholders, it's expected that legal and regulatory aspects of these types of issues will be a focus for the Center. For instance, to date issues of importance to landowners in Arizona have included environmental regulations (NEPA and ESA specifically), prescribed fire regulation, and water rights.

In setting priorities, the Center will assess critical timeframes as well as the general applicability and benefit to landowners in the state and throughout the country. Thus, while each landowner in the state will not be served by every project, each project should serve a collective interest beyond the immediate problem. The focus for selecting projects is to eliminate social barriers that interfere with landowner ability to use the land efficiently and effectively both in terms of economic and environmental benefits.

Arizona Agriculture: Is the program generating interest for law students and if so, what does this mean for the future?

Ruyle: There are several levels of educational opportunities for undergraduate and law students and executive training for those not enrolled at the U of A. The undergraduate class the center offers is ACBS/Law 411, "An introduction to Agri-

cultural Law and Policy for the Modern-Day Natural Resource User." The class exposes students to complex natural resource law and policy matters in real time by incorporating natural resource experts into classroom exercises, promoting active learning and leadership on timely and relevant topics. The overall purpose is to promote law as a career option to students working on degrees associated with natural resource use.

Current Projects of the Center - Online Training

- Course on Developing Public Lands Under National Environmental Policy Act
- Course on Public Land Use
 1. Available to students in the Clinic, students in CALS and as executive training
- Video postings of lectures and interviews on current topics
 1. Colorado River conservation
 2. Waters of the United States

Natural Resource Use & Management Clinic

• Offering a public interest law clinic staffed by law students, with assistance from CALS, on matters involving the regulation and use of natural resources.

- Priyanka (Priya) Sundareshan, Esq., Director of the Clinic
- Clinic objectives

Provide students with practical experience in the intersection of law, policy, and science governing natural resource use and management.

Students work with faculty in CALS, the Global Mining Law Center, and other scientific and public health departments at the U of A, and natural resource use communities in Arizona including agriculture, grazing, forestry, mining, and tribal nations.

Current projects include:

- Waters of the United States project
- Watershed restoration/land improvement project
- Hot topics blog
- Administrative Appeals Handbook
- NEPA Handbook
- Guest teaching in rangeland management course

Arizona Agriculture: How is funding for the Policy Center coming? This might certainly be an opportunity to request donations from readers.

Ruyle: Our desired level of funding is approximately \$400,000 per year. Since its inception the Center has operated on about half this amount provided in partnership by U of A CALS Cooperative Extension and the College of Law. We have recently secured a major grant and several smaller donations and have submitted several proposals to other foundations. University funding may sunset as soon as July 2020.

Arizona Agriculture: What are your predictions for Arizona agriculture's future, certainly for ranching?

Ruyle: I am confident that Arizona agriculture will survive and thrive well into the future. But it will need to change and adapt to numerous challenges, including water availability, weather patterns, land use and vegetation changes and societal shifts in a whole host of areas.

Range livestock production will continue but will be as closely tied to ecosystem services and maintaining open space as it is beef production. Everyone will need to work together to insure this future. 🐄

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that the USMCA will serve as a baseline. As of 2017, Arizona exported \$1,191 million agricultural products to China. These products include: citrus, tree nuts, beef, alfalfa, dates, and especially cotton. Arizona exports 70% of its cotton, of that, 20% is sent to China.

Even though the talks seem to be off to a rocky start both economies depend heavily on one another. The most recent bump in the road came when the Trump Administration was under the impression that China was not holding up its end of the bargain when it came to the promises that were made. In reaction to the promises seemingly not kept the administration announced that it would place a 10% tariff on \$300 million worth of imports from China. In response, China devalued the Chinese yuan to its lowest level in over a decade (one Chinese yuan = seven U.S. dollars). China also ordered state-owned companies to halt purchases of U.S. agriculture products. The administration believes that the devaluing of currency by China can be considered currency manipulation and is internationally illegal.

Many experts believe that these are just negotiating tactics by both sides. Trade talks continue between the two countries and the U.S. holds firm. The tactics may have proven to be effective. China has recently softened its stance on the current "trade war" and offered to meet the U.S. halfway. The Trump administration came out and stated that it would like to meet with the Chinese officials in person. Things change quickly in the world of trade and the best solution is always a mutually beneficial one for all parties, also known as "win-win" amongst negotiators.

International markets are tricky and unpredictable. However, they are made more stable by free trade agreements and mutual understanding. It is imperative the U.S. follow Mexico's lead and ratify the USMCA. Canada will follow shortly thereafter as it is already in process within the Canadian government. The ratification of the USMCA will prove to the world that the U.S. is open for business and ready to commit to more agreements overseas. We call on Congress to move this trade agreement forward. 🐄

Just Imagine if the Years of Drought Weren't so Financially Devastating!

By Jill Browning Wilson, Generational rancher in Gila County and Farm Bureau Financial Services Agent

Arizona cattle ranchers finally have a Federal Crop plan that works for them. PRF, or Pasture, Rangeland, Forage program, is the insurance all your ranching neighbors are talking about, and everyone is trying to sell to you. The value of this coverage is that you're protected when you need it most.

This federal crop insurance policy pays you when you don't get enough rain to produce the forage you need for grazing! It's as simple as that. Now every ranch and rancher are different, and your policy needs to be tailored exactly to fit your ranch. With the right guidance and a knowledgeable agent this is a remarkable insurance product.

How would it feel if, in light calf years due to lack of rain and forage production you could still make improvements to your ranch or buy some much needed hay or protein? What if you didn't



This federal crop insurance policy pays you when you don't get enough rain to produce the forage you need for grazing.

worry so much about a huge loss at sale time. What if you had a financial cushion especially designed for years like this?

The good news is you still have some time to visit with a trusted agent to review your ranch and see if this policy makes sense for your operation. As a federal crop policy, you can only sign up 1 time a year, **November 15th** is the deadline for the following calendar year. Now, there are many variables with this policy and although it is a federal crop program your premium can vary significantly depending on your choices, so choose wisely!

Some people are skeptical because this is new to ranchers, while American farmers throughout the United States have had similar safety nets for years. Your agent should take the time to ex-

The Void

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Coming from the younger generation, I am somewhat familiar with how they spent their formative years. We grew up with computers everywhere. We have always been connected: first through pagers, then cell phones, then social media, then smart phones. And as this technology has become more available and made our lives and businesses more efficient, many of us are now dependent on it. After all, these younger generations never knew life without it. And for better or worse, it has changed how we interact with the world and each other.

Another cultural phenomenon Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z saw, and participated in, is the rise of reality TV. I am sure many of you spent Thursday nights watching CBS' Survivor, or voted for that week's American Idol favorite, or maybe even waited anxiously to see what new shenanigans the Kardashians would get into next. These younger generations grew up watching so-called reality shows. What started out as entertaining contests led to more and more outrageous story lines and people doing and saying crazier things to garner attention. These shows started becoming more scripted and contrived to generate friction and drama than anything resembling reality.

So as the younger generation begins to become a more important part of the American electorate and our economy, it's really no wonder that our political atmosphere and mainstream media has begun to look more and more like reality TV.

And our current President, a former reality TV star himself, knows how to use these tools to his advantage.

No matter what you think of the President, you must give him credit for his ability to absolutely monopolize the news cycle using relatively modern tools like social media. In today's world, the stock market can – and often does – move based upon a tweet from the President. He also knows how to draw out equally bombastic statements from his opponents. There are sitting members of Congress that will make equally charged and calculated comments in reaction to the President, simply to get their own exposure.

Our news outlets are not immune to this new normal either. A recent report stated that two thirds of Americans get their news from social media. Of those, 57% say they feel the news they get from social media to be largely inaccurate. We are increasingly skeptical of the information we are receiving, and we have a difficult time filtering out what is real and what is contrived or slanted. Sounds a lot like some reality TV shows.

So where does that leave us? Between sensationalized rhetoric and a lack of trusted news sources to cut through the noise, it's easy to get frustrated and feel like our nation is hopelessly divided, destined for nothing but gridlock.

But here is the thing about reality TV. For every minute of footage that winds up on the air, there are hours and hours of footage that is not shown. And for every person in front of the camera there are dozens behind the camera to make the whole production work. Behind them are producers, writers, editors, sales teams, advertising reps, managers and thousands of others who make sure the whole process works and the show is a success.

Our own government and elected bodies reflect this as well. For every tweet about cow farts killing the planet, taunts at North Korean dictators and the "he said, she said" of various high-level discussions, there are thousands of serious and intelligent people doing exceptional work behind the scenes.

If we need proof of this, we need look no further than some of the big wins we have

produced for agriculture over the last several years. At the federal level, thanks to our partnerships with American Farm Bureau, we successfully beat back what could have been a disastrous WOTUS rule, implemented the most comprehensive tax reform package since the 1980s, and Congress passed a Farm Bill that was much improved.

At the state level, agriculture had one of the best legislative sessions we have seen in a long time. Just a couple of the major accomplishments this session:

- Saving our members millions of dollars every year by eliminating state sales tax on crop protection chemicals and fertilizers
- Mitigating the loss of water to agriculture due to DCP while protecting water rights for other producers in the state
- And paving the way for ag producers to diversify their operations into agritourism and education programs.

The point is, there are good things happening for agriculture despite the rhetoric we hear and see on the surface. And you have an army of serious, talented and dedicated individuals at work every day helping to make it happen. Your team at Arizona Farm Bureau work every day with professionals at our state and national affiliates, agencies at all levels, schools, think tanks, attorneys, political analysts – the list goes on and on.

Granted, no matter how hard we work behind the scenes, this rhetoric does create challenges for us. As the complicated issues that face our nation become bigger, tougher and harder to work through, the general public is becoming more and more reliant on snippets of information, sound bites and bombastic talking points to develop positions. Issues with direct impacts on agriculture like food safety, immigration and trade can get caught up in the "show" and become political bargaining chips which result in real impacts to our producers. And the problem with rhetoric is that it does not leave much room for a nuanced conversation around complex issues.

That is why it is so important for groups like Arizona Farm Bureau to remain strong and active in the process. Farm Bureau, along with our sister ag groups, step in and fill the void between the rhetoric and reality.

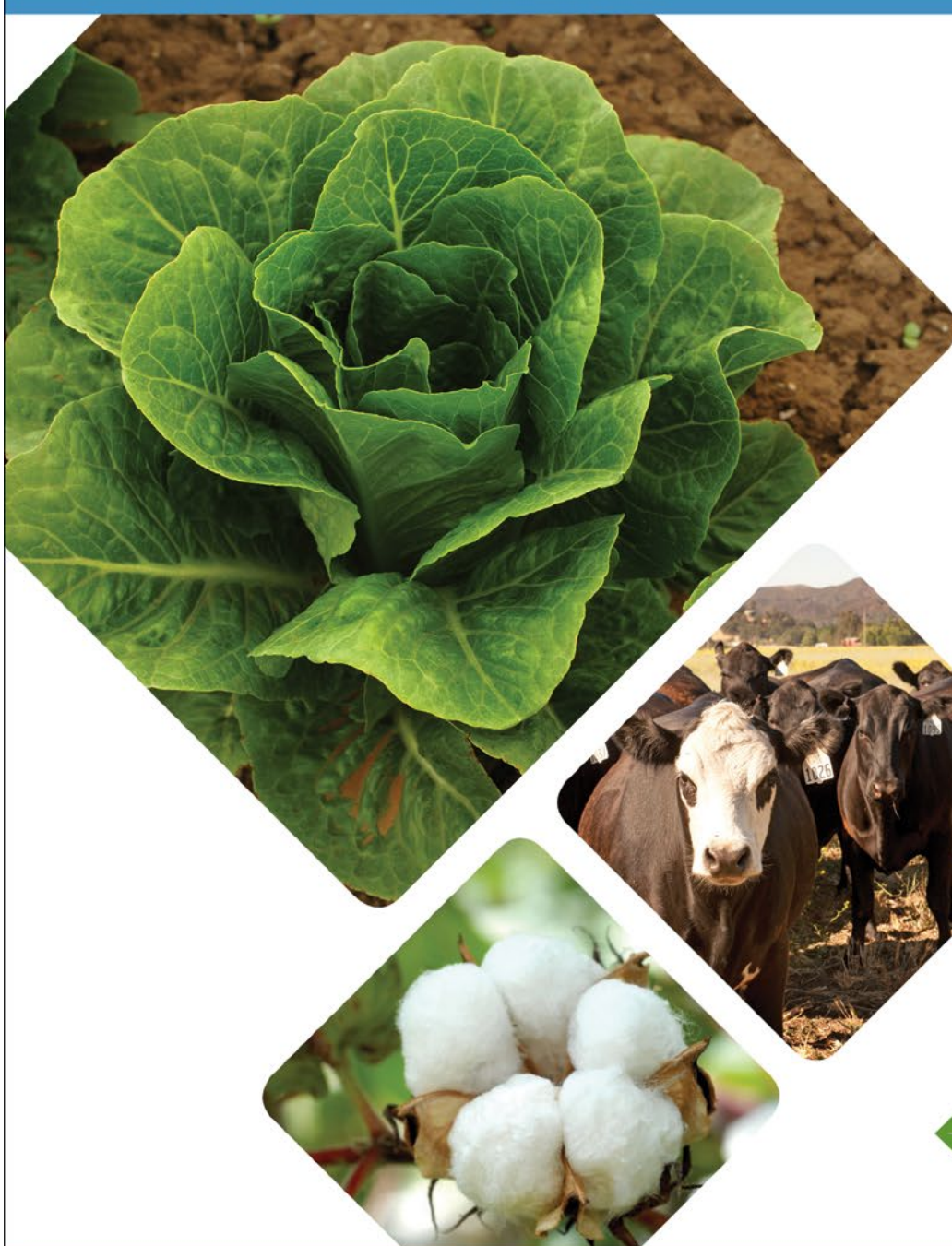
Though our advocacy campaigns, we help connect our elected officials to the reality of our industry, providing them with the facts they need to make informed decisions on difficult issues.

We provide accurate information to the general public about the industry they rely upon three times a day and address the misconceptions that are spread through sound bite and snippets. We also provide accurate information to our members and provide an inside track on policies and rules that have the potential to impact your operations.

Lastly, we educate the next generation of consumers, so they know where their food comes from and appreciate their access to the most abundant and safest food supply the world has ever known.

Through advocacy, communication and education, our Farm Bureau ACEs, we are empowering our members to speak for the agriculture industry and provide a trusted and credible source of information.

So, while the drama and intrigue of Reality TV Politics may be exhausting, discouraging, and frustrating, Farm Bureau members can rest assured: the true reality is far brighter, more intelligent, and gives us more reasons to be optimistic about the future of our industry. 🐾



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Our Diversity of Issues Kept Us Moving During the Fall D.C. Trip

By Tyler Davis, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

In September, Arizona Farm Bureau had its bi-annual Washington DC fly-into meet with congressional offices, The Department of Interior, The U.S. Agriculture Department, and The U.S. Forest Service. The trip was a tremendous success and proved valuable to our members. The issues discussed were timely and of importance for our members: Feral Horse and Burro Management; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rules change; the Upper Gila River Alliance; Labor; and Trade.

Feral horses and burros are a chronic problem plaguing almost all the western states. Arizona is no stranger to these struggles as well. Arizona can support a population of 26,715 feral horses and burros. Currently, the state is experiencing a growing population of 64,000 feral horses and burros. These wild animals decimate the landscape and spread viruses and disease to local livestock. The cost of maintaining these massive herds is roughly \$71.8 million. The burden of which falls on the taxpayer. Federal agencies need the authorization to remove animals exceeding the range's carrying capacity to restore a natural ecological balance and protect the range from deterioration cause by overpopulation.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was designed to ensure that the federal government consider the environmental impacts of major federal actions. NEPA set fourth a general framework for accomplishing this goal. However, the rules were very convoluted, and many lawsuits had to take place in order to interpret the NEPA provisions. Recently, the US Forest Service enacted efforts to update the NEPA regulations through the rule making process. The AZFB applauds this effort to improve and simplify the process for all federal agencies. During the DC trip the AZFB expressed this approval and thanked the US Forest Service for its efforts.

The Upper Gila River Alliance was created in reaction to the ongoing series of litigation by the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The Tribe has asked the courts to shut off many of the wells used by the farming community. Without the access to groundwater farmers in the area are not able to grow crops. In this region, agriculture is the main source of income and a driving factor in the counties. Ultimately, Graham County has a large impact on the state's agriculture economy. The ask of the farmers and irrigation district is to come to an agreement outside the courthouse. They would like to meet with the tribe one on one and offer the already built and funded water pipeline that is completed up until the reservation boundary. This pipeline offers high quality water to

a community that often runs out of water in the summer. The farmers and the irrigation districts can provide quality water at the press of a button. The litigation needs to end.

For decades farmers and ranchers have struggled with finding the adequate number of skilled workers for their operations. Guest workers are often considered "unskilled workers" doing the grunt work of the agriculture operation. This cannot be further from the truth. The training and experience held by these workers rivals anyone in any other "skilled" profession. The work is hard, long, and takes a vast amount of training to perfect. The current H-2A Program does not lend itself to maintaining a steady workforce; forcing many agriculture producers to have to retrain workers every few months. Also, the housing provision alone is enough to put any farmer or rancher out of business. The convoluted and hard to follow rules force the operation owner to hire a lawyer just to be able to hire the smallest number of employees. These are just a few of the challenges faced in the industry in regard to the H-2A program. Thankfully, reform is underway. Changes in the housing policy, certification process,

worker transfers, wage rate, and an efficiency portal are just a few. AZFB has been fighting this battle for years and is hopeful with these new changes.

Finally, we discussed trade. It has been almost a year since the US Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) was signed by the three neighboring countries. Mexico has already ratified the USMCA in their congress and Canada is currently in the works. It is imperative, with the current trade climate, that the US Congress take action and ratify the agreement as soon as possible. This agreement is believed to be the springboard to future trade agreements to come. It is important to show the world that the United States is open for business and is capable is being united and coming to an agreement. If we cannot ratify a free trade agreement with our neighbors, then what is to tell the rest of the world that we can commit to one with them?

The AZFB Washington D.C. trips are always a very productive and learning experience for our members. The issues and stories get told through personal accounts – and we have some fun along the way. Arizona Farm Bureau thanks the 2019 National Government Affair Committee as well as the additional members for briefly putting their lives on hold and attending these events. Nothing is more moving than a personal story told that is coupled with a prominent issue. 📷



The power of these regular Washington D.C. trips is most notably reflected in the personal stories Arizona Farm Bureau member leaders share with their U.S. Congressional delegation.

Getting the Most out of Farm Bureau's Annual Convention

Delegates Carry the Ultimate Power in Farm Bureau

Staff Reports

You campaigned or received encouragement from your County Farm Bureau president and earned the coveted slot of being a delegate representing your county at the Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Convention this coming November 13, 14 and 15. Or, maybe you didn't attend your county Farm Bureau meeting, but leadership decided to elect you as a delegate. Either way, delegates are sitting atop a golden opportunity to influence agriculture's most important and hot topics while having a good time, learning a lot and visiting with fellow farmers and ranchers throughout Arizona.

In preparation for the meeting and exercising your vote, it's a good idea to visit with your County President or Policy Development Chair to learn which policies your county has submitted for consideration at the state level and key policies that other counties have submitted. This is often discussed at your county's October board meeting, so you'll want to attend this month's scheduled county board meetings.

Of course, if you were in the thick of your county's policy development you already know

Delegates from Arizona's County Farm Bureaus discuss and vote on policies that lead Farm Bureau's work on key issues impacting agriculture. Delegates should be prepared to weigh in on proposed policies.

what policy issues are most important to your county. The value of being involved in such discussion is by the time you make it to the state's November Annual Meeting is that you've been able to establish and have an informed opinion about the issues.

Thursday, November the 14th is a full day of working on resolutions, as well as hearing from some great speakers. All Farm Bureau policies start at the county level and are discussed, amended and approved by delegates elected by the grassroots members. Working together during the resolutions session, your county delegates will be able to influence the final language to be adopted as state policy or sent on to American Farm Bureau. This may mean convincing delegates from other counties to support your policy positions.

The day ends with an elegant awards banquet recognizing people who have made their mark on agriculture and Farm Bureau. Great music and dancing will finish off Thursday night. Friday has a great line-up of political and informational speakers that you won't want to miss.

So be sure to get registered, including your hotel, and prepared to fully participate in the Annual Convention. You'll go home to the farm or ranch reinvigorated with new knowledge and new friendships. And you'll have made a mark on the industry that you love and want to see prosper in our country – agriculture. 📷

Trich or Treat

Comment Period Now Open for Proposed Rulemaking on Bovine Trichomoniasis

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

The Arizona Department of Agriculture has released a notice of proposed rulemaking on Bovine Trichomoniasis. Many Farm Bureau members will remember the years of debate that led up to this long-awaited rule regarding testing and disposal of infected bulls.

The proposed rule, which can be found at <https://agriculture.az.gov/animals/trich>, will require that bulls who change possession for breeding purposes be tested for Trich by an accredited veterinarian. If a bull tests positive, it must be quarantined or sent directly to slaughter. Upon a positive test, the State Vet's office must, to the best of their ability, notify producers in the region that there has been a positive test. Trespassing bulls may be tested upon the request of the herd owner that finds the bull, provided the herd owner is willing to pay for the test.

This proposed rule is open for public comment until **October 15, 2019**.

Two Ways to Comment

1) In-Person

Public comments can be made in-person at the official hearing at the Department of Agriculture: **October 15, 2019**, Arizona Department of Agriculture, 1688 W. Adams Street, Room 206, 10:00 am

2) Written Comments

If you can't attend the hearing, written comments can be sent or emailed any time before October 15 to Chris McCormack, Director of the Animal Services Division at 1688 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Or email at cmccormack@azda.gov.

Arizona Farm Bureau's current Trich policy was adopted in 2018. It can be found on page 90 of the AZFB Policy Book, which can be accessed at www.azfb.org under the "Public Policy" section. 📷

Delegate to the November Annual Meeting? Register online!



Go to azfb.org and look for the article about Arizona Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting on the "Home" page. Select the link and you'll be able to now register seamlessly online.

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plain and educate you on how this program works and to make sure it's right for you. After you have had time to get comfortable, you can decide what, if any, is enough PRF coverage for you.

What you need to know:

- PRF policy is an RMA/USDA program and part of the Farm Bill.
- There are many variables and each choice can have very different outcomes.
- There are some criteria to meet before sign-up date, so try not to wait till November to start the conversation.

You have 3 options:

1. Do nothing!
2. Talk to all your neighbors and sit on the fence!
3. **Call a trusted agent soon! But Note:**

There are many different agents rushing to sell this "RAIN" insurance. Many are reputable some not so much. If you believe this might be valuable for your ranch *please consider Farm Bureau and its partner Rain & Hail with 99 years of stability, size (largest crop insurer in the nation) and longevity as a trusted and respected partner in Agriculture.* Also, please consider myself, Ag-Wise and Federal Crop Certified Agent in Globe, Arizona. I help train agents for Farm Bureau throughout the West. Our team would be honored to provide education and guidance for you, *The goal is to protect you when you need it most!*

Testimonials from Ranchers

1. *"If I had not had the rainfall insurance program to help pay for more feed and to keep them in a feedlot for several months, I would very likely have had my ranch for sale right now."*
2. *"Although we have downsized our herd, it has been very helpful for providing hay, tubs and block to supplement to our remaining cattle during these tough times."*
3. *"It will help to compensate some for the low cattle prices in the southwest."*
4. *"It helps us to make much needed improvements and repairs to the corrals where we have been feeding and processing our cattle"*
5. *"The cattle we sold this spring were light in weight and this money helped a bunch when it came to all we had to spend to keep the cattle we have"*
6. *"By having the insurance money, we have been able to hold on to our cows until it rains. Thank you so much for your help."* 🐾

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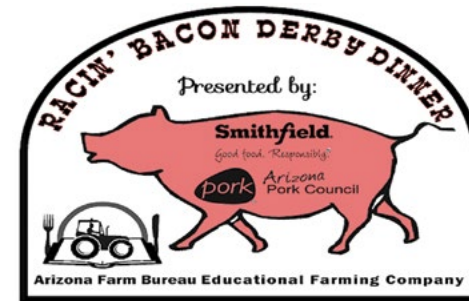
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Bring Your Derby Hats and Get Ready for Some Pig Racing!

By **Tori Summey**, Arizona Farm Bureau Ag Education Manager

We're putting the "FUN" back in fundraising with the **2nd Annual Racin' Bacon Derby Dinner** to benefit agricultural education in Arizona! Smithfield Foods and the Arizona Pork Council have teamed up to present a night of fun, pig racing, and derby hat wearing on October 12th, 2019. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person and tables can be reserved for \$500 (includes 8 tickets). All proceeds will support *The Arizona Farm Bureau's Educational Farming Company* (Educational Foundation) and its mission to promote youth development in agriculture, bring Agricultural Education to Arizona's classrooms, and inform the public about farming and ranching.



For ticket purchases please call Paula Jensen at (480) 635-3605. Advanced ticket purchases are required as this event is sure to sell out fast!

All attendees will have the opportunity to place a bet on their favorite pig, participate in a Derby Hat Contest, eat a delicious meal of pulled pork while enjoying local drinks and desserts, and go home with an array of goodies! There will also be both Silent and Live Auctions with exclusive items only available at the event! No matter your interests, we are sure to have something you'll enjoy. Looking for passes to go on a family outing or plan a party? Want to get your stretch on with some Goat Yoga? You don't want to miss this! Are

you a foodie lover with an appetite for local wine and treats? Rodeo enthusiast? Gun aficionado? We have it all!

Meet us for the event on the South Lawn at Arizona Farm Bureau (325 S. Higley Road in Gilbert, AZ) from 4:30 to 8 p.m. The attire is Sunday Casual and don't forget your Derby Hat! Prizes will be awarded for the best homemade and store-bought Derby Hats! For ticket purchases please call Paula Jensen at (480) 635-3605 or visit azfb.org. Advanced ticket purchases are required and must be purchased by October 9th.

Want additional information? Email katieaikins@azfb.org to find out more about these exciting festivities. 🐾

Ag in the Classroom Goes Hollywood

If you have not yet "liked" *AZFB AITC* on Instagram and Facebook, you better hot foot on over and give it a click! A new series of videos is educating students and consumers about a wide variety of topics in a very real way.

"These two to four-minute videos are meant to engage the consumer and help them



Katie Aikins (L) and Tori Summey

with many of their burning questions," says Director of Education, Katie Aikins. "Things like, how do I pick a watermelon? What the heck is a dragon fruit? How do I pick and cook sweet corn? How can I shell an egg? There are plenty of fun ways to do this by the way."

Do you have a burning food question? Aikins and Summey take requests! If you are wondering how to pick something the next time you are at the produce section

or how to cut it once you are home, shoot them a request in the comments to any video or by emailing Katie Aikins at katieaikins@azfb.org. 🐾

New Agriculture Air Inspector for the Department of Environmental Quality

A key to the success of the PM10 Agricultural Best Management Practices Program is the strong working relationship between the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA), Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and industry. This relationship allows for a balanced approach between regulations and compliance assistance.

Agricultural Air Quality Compliance Staff have always had a good working affiliation with the agricultural industry. With the retirement of Compliance Officer Emily Bonanni, ADEQ has hired Madeline Greenbaum to assist current Compliance Officer Luke Messer.

Greenbaum grew up in the dairy state of Wisconsin and has called Arizona home for five years now. A graduate of Arizona State University with a master's degree in Earth and Environmental Studies and a Minor in Sustainability, Greenbaum is currently working on completing a Master's Degree in Environmental and Resources Management.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality look forward to a continued partnership to provide compliance assistance for your members. If you would like more information or have any questions call Rusty Van Leuven at 602-542-3484 or email at rvanleuven@azda.gov. 🐾



Madeline Greenbaum

One Arizona Apple Grower Continues to Grow their Market

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

October is “Apple Month” and Arizona farmers are harvesting at lightning speed. Well, our one commercial grower of USDA certified organic apples is moving rapidly to meet demand and get the harvest done.

“We’ve been USDA certified organic since 1989,” says Lance Eggers of Briggs & Eggers. “We can pack 1,000 boxes a day at the height of the season. We produce a quality product and are focused on maintaining a reputation of a real good, high quality grower and packer.”



Lance Eggers of Briggs and Eggers reads a shipment of freshly picked Arizona apples to be distributed throughout the United States.

They’ll be harvesting through the end of November. Members of Arizona Farm Bureau, Briggs & Eggers now have approximately 460 acres of apple orchards. They were currently picking 500 tons of apples for the harvest just a few months ago, but once all the trees are producing, they’ll ship anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 tons of apples to Florida and New York on the East Coast and San Francisco and San Diego on the west coast and everywhere in between.

You can find them in all the specialty organic markets under the Covilli label and watch for the “grown and packed by Briggs and Eggers” to find out they grew in our bright Arizona sun.

According to Robert E. Call, U. of A. retired extension agent who covered Cochise and Graham counties as a horticulture educator, “Apples are actually one of the most difficult crops to grow,” he says. “To be productive and truly grow them right you have to do 63 different production steps to properly care for the trees.”

While Briggs & Eggers, farming in the Willcox area, is Arizona’s only commercial apple producer, our smaller U-pick apple farms also help us get to our Arizona apples. Plus, Briggs & Eggers is on Fill Your Plate because it sells some roadside stand apples. Briggs and Eggers also ship all over the United States and is the only grower of Pink Ladies during the fall period in Arizona because of the state’s four-week jump on the harvest season.

Eggers also said he sees “a bright future for apples in Arizona and one of the reasons we’re tied in with a national distributor and co-pack for them.” He adds, “We see a good market for our organic apples and a lot of opportunity to grow our market.”

We also have the well-known Apple Annie’s, also Farm Bureau members, that Arizona families have come to love and make part of their fall family trek to the farm.

The best news? Arizona apples have some unique qualities that Arizona apple growers can be proud of.

1. Arizona apples are sweeter overall than just about any other state because they love the sun. Our 300+plus days of sun produce some very sweet fruit.
2. This includes the Granny Smith Apple that most people think is sour and tart. The Arizona Granny Smith apple has a sweet tartness to it that’s like none other.
3. Because of our climate, our apple harvests get a 3 to 4 week jump on the market.
4. We grow a variety of apples: Delicious, Gala, Fuji, Pink Lady, Sundowner and Granny Smith

Arizona’s climate has always been a key component to our state’s success in agriculture. As we celebrate Arizona Farm Bureau’s centennial in the coming years and the state’s 5 “C’s” we hope to continue celebrating climate and agriculture into the future. Our Arizona apples certainly do!

More Fun Facts about Apples

1. Apples are a member of the rose family, just like pears and plums. They can range in size from as small as a cherry to as big as a grapefruit.
2. The crabapple is the only apple native to North America.
3. An apple tree can live for more than 100 years.

4. 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the United States, but only 100 varieties are grown commercially in 36 states in America. They grow in all 50 states. It’s estimated that 7,500 varieties of apples are grown throughout the world.
5. Apples come in all shades of red, green, and yellow.
6. A standard-size apple tree starts bearing fruit to 10 years after it’s planted. A dwarf tree starts bearing in 3 to 5 years. Most apple blossoms are pink when they open, but gradually transition to white.
7. Apple trees can be grown farther north than other fruit trees because they bloom late in spring, minimizing the chance of frost damage.
8. 25 percent of an apple’s volume is air; that’s why they float.
9. Most apples are still picked by hand in the fall.
10. Americans eat more apples per capita than almost any other fruit fresh and processed combined (with the possible exception of the tomato, which is a fruit). In fact, the average person eats 65 apples each year.
11. Two pounds of apples make one 9-inch pie.
12. Apple blossom is the state flower of Michigan.
13. Apples are fat, sodium, and cholesterol free. They contain high levels of boron, which increases mental alertness. And, apples also contain malic acid, a chemical used in teeth whitening products, which helps dissolve stains.
14. A medium apple is about 80 calories.

15. Apples are a great source of the fiber pectin. One apple has five grams of fiber.
16. The pilgrims planted the first United States apple trees in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
17. The science of apple growing is called pomology.
18. Apple trees take four to five years to produce their first fruit.
19. Apple varieties range in size from a little larger than a cherry to as large as a grapefruit.
20. Apples are propagated by two methods: grafting or budding.
21. The apple tree originated in an area between the Caspian and the Black Sea.
22. Apples were the favorite fruit of ancient Greeks and Romans.
23. Apples harvested from an average tree can fill 20 boxes that weigh 42 pounds each.
24. The largest apple picked weighed three pounds.
25. Europeans eat about 46 pounds of apples annually.
26. The average size of a United States orchard is 50 acres.
27. Many growers use dwarf apple trees.
28. Charred apples have been found in prehistoric dwellings in Switzerland.
29. Some apple trees will grow over 40 feet high and live over 100 years.

Go to Fill Your Plate for recipes with apples and to read more articles about health, nutrition and the food Arizona agriculture produces. 🍏

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