



# Cattle Call

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## **CICA DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

A successful day was had at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. With the combined efforts of Lobbyist Travis Stovall and Representative Kimmi Lewis, CICA members and board were able to speak with 18 Representatives, Democrat and Republican alike.

There were several hot topics, including the HB 19-1032 Sex Education bill, but CICA's priority that day was to discuss several of Representative Lewis' latest bills, HB 19-1078 and HB 19-1102. The *Landowner Consent Listing National Register* (HB 19-1078) bill, or "Landowner Consent" bill as it's more commonly known, is intended to increase transparency and clarify landowner consent when a property is listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

More specifically, the Landowner Consent bill requires the applicant (whomever is nominating the land to be listed on the National Register) to get written and notarized consent from all landowners of the property mentioned in the application. Testimony was given on February 11, and as of March 5, this bill had passed the House and been introduced to the Senate for voting.

The second, and most talked-about bill, was HB 19-1102, commonly known as Misbranding Meat. This bill concerns the labeling of lab-grown protein, and the fact that it should not be called "meat". As Rep. Lewis stated, "Meat should come from something with four legs, not from a petri dish." HB 19-1102 would require any protein that was lab-cultured to be labeled as such, and not labeled as "meat". Even the dictionary states that one definition of meat is "the flesh of animals as used for food" (dictionary.com).

This bill has two intentions: transparency for consumers and maintaining the interests of livestock (specifically beef) producers. Consumers have a right to know what they are feeding their families, whether it be real meat from the flesh of an animal, or whether it be lab-cultured protein from a petri dish.

The second intention of the bill focuses on supporting the livelihood of livestock producers. It is not fair that their protein product should compete against another protein product which was produced in such a way as to deserve the name "lab experiment".

While some representatives (mostly Democrats) politely heard CICA out on why there should be a distinction between meat and lab-cultured protein, there were several who hinted that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) was already working on policies/definitions concerning this very issue. Those representatives very obviously did not want to deal with it on a State level, but simply wanted to wait for the USDA to address the issue, and then follow whatever policies the USDA set in place. In the Editor's opinion, it was all very interesting, as it seemed that only the Democrats knew that the USDA was in the process of addressing these labeling concerns, but none of the Republicans knew. Makes you wonder where(who) the Democrats get their information from. That being said, there were one or two Democrats who did buy in with us.

Unfortunately, as of March 1, this bill has been postponed indefinitely (killed) in the Colorado House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee. Instead, "a resolution is being considered that encourages the USDA to act quickly to address this issue"(Colorado Land, Water and Food Alliance).

CICA also received a visit from Steve Lohr who was representing Big Game Forever, which is a supporter of the Stop the Wolf Coalition(Coalition). The Coalition has learned that the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project ([rockymountainwolfproject.org](http://rockymountainwolfproject.org)) is planning to introduce legislation in 2020 to re-introduce wolves into Colorado, with the help of the Ted Turner Endangered Species Fund.

There are many good reasons (some of which you readers will already know) why wolves should NOT be re-introduced into Colorado.

1. The Director of Colorado Parks & Wildlife says that Colorado already has wolves that have migrated from Yellowstone and New Mexico. There have been dozens of sightings in the last several years.
2. Wolves are a threat to livestock and cause devastating losses. Wolves can and do kill for fun and do not eat everything that they kill.
3. Wolves are a threat to pets. With Colorado's Front Range population exploding, and over 6 million people living in Colorado, threat to pets has dramatically increased.
4. Threats to Colorado's wildlife has increased, especially for Elk. CPW has a 5-year game unit Management Plan where Elk hunting units are concerned, and they are expecting to lose 30% of the herd to predation by wolves if there is a re-introduction.
5. The most important reason why wolves should not be re-introduced is because of disease. Wolves are disease vectors for rabies, canine distemper and parvo virus, mange and tape worms that cause Hydatid disease. Hydatid disease (*Echinococcus granulosus*) lives in tape worm eggs, which survive very well in wolf intestines, and thus the feces; and can not only infect other animals, but people as well. If a person is out hiking and steps on wolf feces and disturbs it, those eggs can disperse into the atmosphere and be inhaled by the person. This disease causes cysts to grow on the lungs, liver and brain. There have been over 300

reported cases of this disease in humans in Alaska since 1950. Unfortunately, it did not occur to the "powers that be" to test the wolves for this disease when they were re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995-1996. It is now estimated that 2/3 of the Idaho wolf population is carrying Hydatid disease, and there has been at least one confirmed case of a human being infected with *Echinococcus granulosus* in that state since the re-introduction occurred. (www.stopthewolf.org)

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## **SONNENBERG BLASTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

Senator Jerry Sonnenberg has been less than impressed with the newly-formed Department of Conservation Easements' progress in complying with a bill that was passed in Colorado's 2018 General Assembly.

The bill, known as HB 1291, was intended to correct some key issues in Colorado's conservation easement program. As reported in an article written by Jeff Rice for Journal-Advocate, the bill established a working group within the department; a group which was to "...find an appraisal method that was consistent across the state to establish a baseline property value for agricultural property...recommend a process for petitioning the courts to extinguish conservation easements when such easements were proven to be impossible or impractical...come up with a method to make whole landowners whose tax credits had been retroactively denied, forcing some to pay huge sums back to the state and, in some cases, sell their farms and ranches," and last but not least, "...develop a written warning to landowners of the possible consequences of extinguishing their conservation easements(www.journal-advocate.com)."

Not only did the Department's Executive Director, Mark Weston, NOT convene the working group after the bill was signed into law in May, he didn't even have the working group put together a written report of recommendations. Instead, he decided to have his department send out surveys asking for written comments. On top of all that, not all applicable stakeholders got a questionnaire to fill out. Alan and Julie Gentz are two such stakeholders. Why they were not given a questionnaire, even after being personally recommended to the working group by Senate President Kevin Grantham, is unclear.

After a series of email correspondence with Weston, in which Sonnenberg upbraided Weston for his department's lack of trustworthiness and willingness to do this job correctly, Sonnenberg informed Weston that he would put together his own working group and submit his own report by the deadline date of December 1, 2018. Sonnenberg, who is/was the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, also asked Weston and his working group to appear before the Senate Ag Committee on December 19, 2018 to report any progress they have achieved in complying with HB 1291.

# Calendar and Events Page

- SAVE THE DATE

-2019 Annual Convention to be held July 19th-20th in Cortez

-SAVE THE DATE

-Dues will increase from \$50 to \$60/year in July 2019

## Monthly Board Meetings

-Board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month. If any of our members have issues or concerns that they want to be addressed, they should contact their District Representative. The DR will be more than happy to discuss these concerns at the next board meeting.

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*In an effort to keep in touch with our members as well as educate the public and our policymakers, we recently renovated and expanded our web site. The address is the same: [www.coloica.com](http://www.coloica.com) . CICA is also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/coloica](http://www.facebook.com/coloica) . AND we are excited about a totally new and improved email system which we just implemented. If you would like to receive our email communications and they aren't currently making it to your inbox, contact Sarah at [sarahbledsoe@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbledsoe@gmail.com). If you are not getting a hard copy of the newsletter and would like one, just call or text Andee at 719-469-1552. Having just listed our latest communication efforts all involving technology, just know that we still prefer sitting down over a cup of coffee with our members, discussing issues, proposing solutions and just getting to know one another.*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Members,

It doesn't seem possible that it is already the 1st of March but that means we are getting closer to the end of the 72nd general session at the capitol. This year has been frustrating for rural Coloradoans at the capitol as our rights keep getting attacked. We are fortunate to have elected officials like Kimmi Lewis, Jerry Sonnenberg and Rod Pelton to stand up for rural Coloradoans and our livelihood.

CICA held their annual legislative day on February 13th. The day was very successful thanks to our lobbyist Travis Stovall getting over 15 elected officials to our meeting. It was great for these elected officials to hear the issues of rural Colorado. Steve Lohr from Big Game Forever gave us an update on the talks of the wolf re-introduction into Colorado. The day ended with meeting our Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg and it was a great opportunity to educate Kate on what CICA is about.

House Bill 19-1102 Nonanimal and Lab-grown Meat Misbranding was a major focus of CICA this legislative session. This would have given Colorado consumers the ability to make sure they were buying meat produced from animals and not something grown in a lab. This bill died in committee on March 1st. I hope to see this bill again next year as it seems on the federal level it cannot be decided if the Federal Drug Administration or United States Department of Agriculture will oversee regulations on lab produced protein.

The CICA 14th Annual Convention will be July 19 and 20 in Cortez, Colorado. This year will include a tour of the Ute Mountain Farm. Confirmed speakers include Norman MacLeod to talk about the wolf re-introduction in Colorado and Tom DeWeese. Please watch our website and Facebook page for convention updates. I encourage you to invite family, friends or neighbors to our convention so they can learn what CICA is about. I wish all of you a successful spring and a wet spring.

Cody Jolly, CICA President

## **Missouri Enacts Meat Labeling Fine**

Missouri legislators recently passed a law that would make it illegal to label "fake" meat as "real" meat. The law states that if someone uses the word "meat" to describe a food product that's "not derived from harvested production livestock or poultry", that person could receive a \$2,000 fine and spend up to a year in jail([www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)).

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### **HOW TO LEAVE A COMMENT IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER**

There was a fine article published in the March 2019 Working Ranch magazine that talked about how people can leave comments on federal rules that are in the works. As the article states, "By statute, government agencies are required to take public opinion in to consideration when they are implementing a rule or regulation. All of these rules and regulations are posted to the Federal Register, which is a database of all the federal agencies' decisions"(Working Ranch Magazine, March 2019).

The statute mentioned above requires the government to have a public comment period on whatever rule it is they are considering introducing to the legislature. The comment periods can be anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, and there must be at least one comment period for each new rule in the making. The agency must take into consideration the comments made by the people, and will use those comments to adjust or make changes to the rule they are working on.

In order to see current rules that are open for comment, please go to [www.federalregister.gov/](http://www.federalregister.gov/) and you can browse the current issues or use the "search documents" box on the top right corner of the webpage. "After selecting an issue to leave a comment on, on the right hand side of the page, there is a link to leave a comment or you can mail or email a comment to the agency in authority"(Working Ranch Magazine, March 2019).

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**If any of our members have suggestions for article topics, or suggestions about the newsletter as a whole, please contact the Newsletter Editor. Thank you!**

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