



# Gila County Cattle Growers Association

## Board of Directors Annual Report

2014—2015

www.GCCGA.com

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## ACGA Conferences

The **Winter Convention** in Phoenix was well attended by GCCGA members. Bill Conway, Theresa Hicks, Frank & Tyler DalMolin, John & Pam Griffin, Jim Webb, John Fowler, Manny Ruiz and Chas Erickson who was the bartender for the dinner.

We met with the AZ Representatives & Senators; also met some of the interim directors for the State Lands & Department

of Agriculture. The wolf topic was one of the hottest topics discussed with the group also was the topic for the next day at the ACGA Board of Directors meeting. All the meetings were topped off by a 'Greet & Meet' with Representatives and Senators at the Polo Club.



**GCCGA Delegation:** John Griffin, Pam Griffin, Johnny Griffin, Jim Webb, John Fowler, Bill Conway, Frank DalMolin, Manny Ruiz, Tyler DalMolin, Therese Hicks, John Augustine. Also attending not shown: Jim Rasmussen. ACGA Winter Conference.



**Above:** Jim O'Haco, President ACGA; Bill Conway, President GCCGA; Dan, Bell, Past-President ACGA at ACGA Summer Conference.

The **Annual Summer** convention was held in Tucson at Ventana Canyon and it too was attended by many Gila County ranchers, Bill Conway, Therese Hicks, Frank & Tyler DalMolin, Mike Hemovich, John & the new AZ State Cowbelles President, Pam Griffin, John Fowler, Jim Rasmussen, Charlie Johnson and many of the spouses.

Great seminars were held throughout the week with many great speakers. Topics included the wildlife and adopt a ranch program. Cattlemen's college showed ways to handle livestock more efficiently and

included new sonogram for pregnancy testing. In the afternoon sessions, we heard from the Dean of Ag at U of A and Mark Killian the new AZ Dept of Ag Director. It finished with an awesome beef-cutting demo.

Many Ag policy meetings and informative meetings were held on many of our most pressing issues. Full information can be found in the Sept. issue of the AZ Catalog. A really first-class dinner and auction was held Friday night and a fun Luau and Dance on Saturday night. I recommend attending next year and joining the ACGA. See Bill Conway for information

**Below:** Mike and Diana Hemovich and Marilynn and Jim Rasmussen attend Cattlemen's College at the ACGA Summer Conference.



### USFS Quarterly Meetings:

**NEPA:** Bill Conway requested a copy of the current NEPA Schedule. USFS stated that some NEPAs may be completed with CEs if there are no major changes.

**MEXICAN GRAY WOLF:** Frank DalMolin reported on his experience in New Mexico stating that it is a huge problem for ranchers and no reparation has been paid.

**RIPARIAN TEEM:** Team visit will be in Fall 2015.

**TONTO TRAVEL PLAN:** The final design/signing should be in November 2015. Wording should allow permittees to access improvements not addressed in each AOI or AMP.

**RB FUNDS:** GCCGA is to devise a system for equitable distribution of funds.

**GRAZING PERMITS:** Jamie Wages is working to correct differences between permits and AOIs.

# President's Report



I would like to take this time to update the membership on the state of, and direction the GCCG will take this next year.

I began with some clear goals which are bearing fruit at this time. I believe we are a family with many likes, beliefs and traditions. Success comes from solidarity and as I have found out; we are very strong not only in our own county but in the state association as well. Thanks to the great prior leadership when Gila County Cattle Growers is mentioned the state leadership listens.

We have faced many tough decisions in the past year and together we are working through them. We have been able to bring our dues structure back to a manageable level for all members. I personally like to thank all of our larger ranches that helped bail us out financially with higher dues this past year. Also many thanks to our associate members for hanging in there with us as well.

One huge accomplishment was to bring our Spring Yearling sale back. This sale showed the county and state that we are back and are a force to be reckoned with. A great team of people came together to put on a highly successful sale. This was not only a boost to our local county economy but was very rewarding to the people who had cattle in the sale. We got great media coverage that showed that the cattle people are a very viable economic commodity to our entire county.

A very well attended wrap up meeting and hamburger fry was held in Greenback Valley Ranch. I feel this type of meeting proved to be very beneficial to our membership. I hope we can continue this kind of wrap up meeting where not only business is conducted but fellowship and relationships are formed by just getting together as a group. This to me will bring us a lot closer and stronger as an association.

A dinner, dance and auction will be held on Dec 5 of this year. Formerly the Salute to the Rancher Night with the Globe Chamber of Commerce will be sponsored by the GCCGA. This will be a sit down first class dinner (rib eye steaks and fixings) with cocktail hour before and followed by a dance with Moonshine Mafia playing. An auction both live and silent will be held during the dance. All people are encouraged to come and enjoy each other as we salute the ranchers of Gila County.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has made my first year as president go very smoothly and I look forward to the challenges that face us in the next year with many successes as well.

## GCCGA Responds to GC Assessor's Actions

January 6, 2015. One hundred GCCGA members, family and friends packed the room to address recent 'Ag' status tax notices received from Gila County Assessor, Deborah Hughes. Twelve ranchers addressed the assessor and assembly explaining problems they had encountered. In a follow-up meeting, **Bill Conway**, GCCGA President, offered a proposal to establish the real Ag values by bringing in an independent company to assess the Ag status tax in Gila County with the help of and **Patrick Bray**, ACGA Executive Director. At the time Ms. Hughes accepted the offer, but recanted later stating she was going to do the Ag status in house and that she felt fairly certain that the land values will not increase.

We as a group along with help from the ACGA will continue to monitor the Ag status designations in our county. We will update the membership as information becomes available.



## Gila County Bred & Fed

**Bill Conway** and **Wood Cline** present belt buckles to Gila County Bred & Fed winners Myles Randall, Payson Fair (*Far Right*) and Knut Haught, Globe Fair, (*Right*). Knut's steer was from Augustine JA Ranch.



To: Gila County Cattle Growers,  
As a leader and a parent I would like to thank you for your support for Gila County Bred & Fed Award. It is quite an honor to have our young people work for this award. Thank you again for your support.  
Sincerely,  
Loni Brown



Thank You

# 2014 ANNUAL STEAK FRY

**September 13, 2014** Gila County Cattle Growers Association held the Annual Steak Fry and meeting. Following a steak lunch, many issues affecting the cattle industry now and in the future were discussed including:



- John Coulee, Arizona Game & Fish Department reviewed the wolf issue and its status.
- Dr. Jim Sprinkle, Gila County Extension Director, U of A Extension Services, updated the group about the Reading the Range program; the funding situation and what we can expect in the future.
- Dr. Mitch McClaren, U of A College of Agriculture, gave a run down on the new 'Drought Project'.
- Letha Cline, GCCB President, and Linda Brake, Arizona State Cowbelles President, updated the group on state and local Cowbelles' activities.
- Dan Bell, ACGA President, gave an overview on a wide range of topics and issues at the State and local level.
- Dave Cook, Federal Lands Council, gave us his run down on the PLC and grant money that was handed out. Dave told us that Brenda Richards is the new PLC president from Idaho.
- Kerwin Dewbury, USFS, discussed monitoring on the Tonto, using the Pathway students and travel management. He also introduced Chandler Munday as the new Range Staff on the Tonto.
- Gregg Norton, USDA Farm Service Agency, told us for drought relief you needed to make an appointment by October 1, 2014.

Therese Hicks in closing gave her thought on the USDA mission and how we all in this together, how important it is to continue working together in the future. The 2014-2016 officers were presented. Bill Conway President, Woody Cline Vice President, Mike Hemovich Secretary and Frank DalMolin Treasurer.

## GLOBE-MIAMI REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



At the GMRCC's annual Salute to Ranching, November 21, 2014, **Therese Griffin Hicks** was awarded **Rancher of the Year**.

Ms. Hicks made history in Gila County as the first woman president of the Gila County Cattle Growers Association. Known from Gila County to the State and National associations for her first-hand knowledge of public lands and National Environmental Protection Act,, ranchers can depend on her to take up their fight on many issues including NEPA, wild life and Game and Fish.

**Congratulations, Therese!  
Job well done.**

## *Salute to Ranching*

**Wrangler of the Year** was awarded to **Elaine Hagen McBride**, a tireless contributor to our association for many years.

From routine record keeping to running the office for our annual sale, Elaine's talent and attention to details necessary to keep GCCGA compliant with the rules and regulations of a non-profit are evident in her commitment to seeing a job through regardless of how intense it can get ... and still smiling!



**Thank you, Elaine, for your commitment and hard work.**

# GCCGA 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Replacement and Stocker Sale



**YES! The Annual Sale is back. And it's a HUGE success!**

The 47th Annual Gila County Cattle Growers Association Stocker and Replacement Sale was held May 11, 2015 at the Burch Sale Yard near Globe, AZ. The largest sale of its kind in the state sold **1,488 head** of cattle from **31 ranches**, bringing in **\$2,148,150**. **15** buyers vied for the cattle driving prices this year **10 cents** over market, a tribute to the reputation and high quality of Gila County cattle. With an estimated economic impact of **\$15 million**, the sale also highlights the importance of agriculture in our communities and to the County. The auction itself is cooperatively run and manned by some **40-50 volunteers**.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Gila County Cattle Growers Association extend sincere thanks to the ranchers and their teams, who volunteered their time and resources to make this year's auction one of the best ever. We had an all-star crew sorting cattle, running the scales and keeping the books that made a \$2+ million day look like something they do every day, not just once a year.



**Left: Rodrigo Gaerbo and crew sort cattle for the sale.**

**Below: Mick Holder fixes troughs at Burch Yard in preparation for 2015 Annual Sale.**



**Above: Chas Erickson, Yard Master, surveys sale yard.**



**Left: Bain Grantham and Nathan Ellison man the ring Sale Day. 1,488 head of cattle sold bringing in \$2,148,150, an estimated \$15 million economic impact to Gila County.**

Good friends, great food and fresh air welcomed members and families to the 1st Annual Sale Wrap-up Meeting hosted by **Bill and Penny Conway** at Greenback Valley Ranch.



After taking care of business in the morning, the group was treated to a hearty BBQ lunch (including the world's best Dutch Oven Cobbler!) The afternoon



was spent in a relaxing atmosphere learning new opportunities in our ever-changing cattle industry.



*See you next year!*

## Market Report

Head	Weight	Average	High
11	300 - 400	\$321.33	\$326.00
67	400 - 500	\$287.75	\$308.00
286	500 - 600	\$269.02	\$287.50
260	600 - 700	\$243.49	\$259.00
166	700 - 800	\$212.61	\$226.00
75	800 - 900	\$191.01	\$206.50
7	900 - 1000	\$165.00	\$165.00
12	1000 - 1100	\$169.81	\$171.00

  

Head	Weight	Average	High
4	300 - 400	\$321.33	\$326.00
107	400 - 500	\$242.67	\$260.00
328	500 - 600	\$243.32	\$258.00
119	600 - 700	\$212.80	\$230.00
38	700 - 800	\$210.91	\$251.00
8	800 - 900	\$201.00	\$201.00

**Steers  
884**

**Heifers  
604**