

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

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Nebraska landowners prepare to fight 30x30 program

Marcia Hora

Nearly 400 people gathered in Valentine, Tuesday, March 9, to learn how the Biden administration's changes on climate change will impact Nebraska communities, your land, and local government.

Margaret Byfield with American Stewards of Liberty, was on hand at the Valentine High School auditorium to discuss the executive order recently signed by President Biden and how the 30 x 30 program embedded within that order, will impact private land owners, state and local governments, and federal land use decisions.

In short, the 30 x 30 program is an aggressive push to set aside 30% of the land and water in the United States under permanent protection by 2030.

It will cancel state and local government on decision making and ignores existing federal laws that would otherwise provide a meaningful process for land acquisition and protection decisions that may cause devastating and irreversible harm to local communities.

Nebraska is 97% privately owned and the 30 x 30 program will likely affect private landowners the most.

The event was organized by Cherry County Commissioner, Tanya Storer, who wanted the community to learn about the program and how it could impact landowners in the state.

Priorities of the executive order include establishing the path for 30 x 30 within 18 months, which is the foundation for achieving the

longterm goal of permanently protecting 50 percent of the nation by 2050, expanding the ESA, changing the focus of federal land management laws to prioritize conservation over multiple use and sustained yield, and fully funding private land conservation, including those that support conservation easements in perpetuity.

Using the USGS Gap Analysis data, they identify which states fall below the 30% threshold of conserved areas and which areas are high target areas for species conservation. They convey these targets through maps and graphs, making it easy to see where this group is headed.

The CAP Report concludes its blueprint by listing eight key principles to reverse the erosion of species and biodiversity they claim is occurring worldwide. Number eight of the order states "protecting 30 percent of lands and waters is not the last 30 percent. Approximately 60 percent of U.S. lands in the lower 48 states are in a natural condition. Therefore, even if the United States succeeds in protecting 30 percent of its lands and waters by 2030, there will still be ample room for the country's development footprint to grow and for additional conservation gains beyond 2030. In fact, if the United States achieves 30x30, the country will be well positioned to pursue a longer-term goal of conserving half of all its lands and waters."

This new Federal land grab is a serious threat to private property owners and what 30 percent of the land will states and private landowners be



KENDRA CUTLER - THOMAS COUNTY HERALD

A vast amount of Nebraska's farmland, rangeland and wetlands are in danger of being taken by government over-reach if the Biden Administration is allowed to get their way.

forced to hand over.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts joined 16 other state governors, including Govs. Mark Gordon of Wyoming, Kristi Noem of South Dakota, Doug Burgum of North Dakota, Greg Gianforte of Montana, and Brad Little of Idaho, in a February 22 letter to Biden warning against potential federal overreach.

Ricketts stated, "Nebraska's farmers and ranchers are our state's original conservationists. They work day in and day out to cultivate the land and manage water they've known for generations in a way that helps grow our state."

He went on to say that Nebraskans should be on the lookout in their communities for attempts by federal agencies and their partners to regulate land and water use and we are already seeing big changes in how the federal government is approaching energy, climate and conservation issues.

Byfield is the executive director of American Stewards of Liberty. She said she will continue to give presentations to educate and mobilize landowners and county government officials to fight back against federal overreach.

Byfield said the Biden Executive Order on cli-

mate change is scant on details and there is no constitutional or statutory authority referenced in the Executive Order because the federal government does not have it.

Currently one-third of the United States is permanently protected (12 percent land and 23 percent ocean) and there is no reasoning behind putting 30 percent into preservation to help "cure" climate change.

Byfield said the first step in fighting private landowner takeover is to contact county government and make local elected officials aware of the 30x30 agenda.

A resolution has been

developed that can be passed by local government and it is a good place to start and it is a good tool to educate not only leaders, but the community.

More information about the 30x30 program and what's coming, go to <https://americanstewards.us>

American Stewards of Liberty is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting private property rights, defending the use of our land, and restoring local control. They have achieved important victories for property rights in America over the last 20 years.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Set For April 3 In Thedford



The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Thedford Service Club will be Saturday April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. CDT on the Thomas County Courthouse lawn. Participants need to be there and ready to go by 1:45 pm. Everyone should meet on the street side of the Thomas County Library. Age groups will be divided up there and sent to their area to gather Easter Eggs. We have made arrangements like previous years to move the Easter Egg hunt indoors in case of in-

clement weather.

All donations to the Easter Egg hunt are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can be dropped off with Michelle McIntosh at the Country Salon or placed on the Service Club account at Ewoldt's Grocery. Candy donations can be dropped off with Michelle McIntosh at the Country Salon

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Michelle McIntosh at 645-2585 or Kevin Hood at 645-2504.

Central Sandhills Area Extension Office Planning For Upcoming Activities

N Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
NEBRASKA EXTENSION IN THE CENTRAL SANDHILLS

A few updates from your Nebraska Extension office serving Blaine, Grant, Hooker and Thomas counties.

County fair season is upon us. The Central Sandhills Area county fairs will begin in July

and run through the second week of August. County fair 4-H events will be held July 20-22 for Thomas County, July 27-29 for Blaine County, August 3-8 for Hooker County, and August 12-14 for Grant County youth.

Blaine and Thomas County will host their pre-fair clothing and sewing judging on July 8.

Additional pre-fair events will be sewing and clothing judging in Hooker County on July 23, and on August 4 for Grant County. 4-H fair dates, events, and times are determined by each local governing county 4-H Council.

Youth must be enrolled in 4-H by June 15 to be eligible to exhibit as a 4-H member at any Nebraska county fair or the Nebraska State Fair. Youth may enroll at ne.4honline.com through June 15.

Central Sandhills Area county fair entries are due to the Extension Office by July 1.

Those with questions about enrolling in 4-H are encouraged to call the Central Sandhills Area Ex-

tension Office at 308-645-2267.

Private Pesticide Training will be held April 14 in Thedford or On-line: A private pesticide applicator is anyone who uses restricted use pesticide (RUP) for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities on their own property, or on property they rent. Private applicators are generally ranchers who do their own spraying. If you still need to recertify or get certified for the first time, you can do this on-line at pested.unl.edu or on April 14, 1:00 P.M. CT at the Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford. You MUST PREREGISTER by Friday, April 9 to guarantee training materials. Cost for the training is

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Leon Gift Memorial Roping Set for April 3 in Broken Bow

A Leon Gift Memorial Roping has been scheduled for Saturday, April 3, in the barn at the Custer County Fairgrounds, Broken Bow. The first roping of the day will be for 16-year-olds and under. Enter at 10:00 a.m. and rope at 11:00 a.m.

The "Pick One and Draw 2" will start at 1:00 p.m. Ropers enter twice for four head, progressive on 1.70% payback on both ropings.

Karla and Tom Knott and Ira Spanel are sponsoring the memorial roping. Nothing could be more fitting as Leon loved

to rope and roped competitively for several years in many places.

"We have got to have part of it be a draw pot, as I remember how much fun those were when we roped at the Holly Fuchs arena," Spanel said.

The more they discussed the roping, they were convinced it was a great way to get high school rodeo kids ready for competition. Leon thoroughly enjoyed helping kids with their roping skills.

Everyone is welcome to come have a good time and enjoy the day.

Annual Thedford Alumni Banquet

June 19, 2021

Watch For More Info In Upcoming Issues