

# A Symbiotic Relationship

## How the Allied Industry Council is benefitting you

I have been with the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) nearly three years and it has been an enjoyable and fascinating ride, to say the least. I've been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to not only meet, but also to work with some extremely dedicated and talented folks along the way.

One thing that I immediately noticed after joining the CCA staff and that I have gained much appreciation for is the symbiotic aspects across the CCA membership. You may recall the process of symbiosis from your high school or college biology classes. Mutual symbiotic relationships are those in which all parties benefit. At CCA, each class of membership benefits from the others.

As director of finance for CCA I do just what one would assume, oversee all fiscal responsibilities, investments, membership recordkeeping and financial reporting. What some of you may not realize is that I am also the staff liaison or contact for five different committees that support CCA's operation, including the Allied Industry Council (Allied) – a group from which we all benefit.

Allied is made up of individuals or businesses that offer inputs and/or services that are directly related to the production of beef cattle, such as pharmaceutical, identification, supplement and feed companies, banks, sale yards and veterinarians. There are also many other professionals whose livelihoods rely on beef producers and are members of this group.

Allied's mission is to assist CCA in their promotion of the economic and general well being of the state's cattle producers, but they have their irons in many other fires as well. Allied fundraises so they can sponsor and give back to the many commendable issues we face every day.

Currently there are nearly 80 members of the council and many of them have been longstanding members since Allied was formed in the early '80s.

For the past few years, Allied has partnered with CCA's Livestock Memorial Research Fund (LMRF) to offer the second place cash prize in their annual trailer raffle. Money raised from this fundraising raffle goes to University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine to help fund a vaccine for foothill abortion. During CCA's involvement with this ongoing research, significant breakthroughs have been made and a viable vaccine is on the horizon.

Again this year, Allied has also teamed up with other CCA affiliates in support of the roughly \$17,000 in scholarships that will be presented to Young Cattlemen's Committee members who are pursuing careers in agriculture. Allied has continually been an open-handed donor since CCA began the scholarship program. Anyone interested in applying for scholarships can find the application and information at [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org). The scholarship deadline is Monday, May 24.

Scholarships have been awarded in the past to individuals that are now active Allied members, staff in the CCA office and numerous dues paying members of the association producing steaks for your plate.

As individuals, Allied members and other association sponsors support functions such as the upcoming CCA Feeder Council Meeting, May 13-14 at the Coronado Island Marriott, Coronado; the CCA/CCW Midyear Meeting, June 16-17 at the Lake Natoma Inn, Folsom; and the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA/CCW Convention, Nov. 17-19 at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, Nev.



If you or your business derive your income from cattle ranching or those that support family ranching, consider joining the Allied Industry Council today.

Without the support from Allied members, CCA's events and voice would not be as strong. As a cattle producer or affiliate of the industry, I encourage you to support these hardworking folks, who give back to the organization and work to keep cattlemen in business.

If you have any questions, would like to purchase LMRF raffle tickets or become a member of the Allied Industry Council, contact me in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or e-mail [megan@calcattlemen.org](mailto:megan@calcattlemen.org).



### CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION STAFF

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
Matt Byrne

**DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**  
Dawn Clover

**DIRECTOR OF RANGELAND CONSERVATION**  
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**MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS COORDINATOR**  
Chaley Paulson

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