



# 2015 Newsletter



## Educational Seminars/Workshops

- Several members attended listening sessions put on by WWF's Sustainable Ranching initiative. WWF received valuable input on how conservation organizations like WWF can best support ranching and explored ways to become allies in conserving grasslands for future generations.
- RSA in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy hosted a Low-Stress Livestock Handling clinic with Whit Hibbard as the clinician.



## Fostering and Developing Partnerships

- RSA is initially partnering in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program through Ducs Unlimited and other conservation partnerships providing landowners with options to improve and conserve their lands by improving livestock grazing infrastructure and through the use conservation easements.
- Several Government agencies and conservation groups came to meetings and updated RSA members on SGI, sage grouse subcommittee was formed under the CMR working group, bird monitoring (WWF), and an education workshop with TNC.

## General RSA Activities

- Sheila Walsh attended a nonprofit training seminar in Havre conducted by Montana Nonprofit Association.
- Perri Jacobs attended an Advocacy training in Spokane.
- RSA created a new function statement to better describe what we do: "The function of RSA is to sustain and protect our rural ranch and farm families."
- RSA hired an Executive Assistant, Kathy Bagley, due to a grant from the World Wildlife Fund.
- Leo Barthelmess and Perri Jacobs went to Great Falls and did a presentation at the Rotary Club on RSA and the rancher's roles in preserving the community.

## Thanks!!!

*Saying thank you never seems to be enough to tell those of you who give to us of our time, energy, and expertise how much you are valued. We are also appreciative of those who support RSA with monetary donations. All of you play a key role in our efforts to sustain, nurture and grow our ranching community. Best of luck to all of you in the coming year. Again thank you for your support.*

**We feed the world, preserve our prairie neighborhood, and nurture the next generation: This is conservation, done right!**