



Torrance County

Board of County Commissioners

HONORING MACKLEE CAIN

NEW MEXICO CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

2022 HERITAGE BUCKLE CONTEST WINNER

WHEREAS, agriculture is the practice of cultivating natural resources to sustain human life and provide economic gain; it combines the creativity, imagination, and skills involved in planting crops and raising animals with modern production methods and new technologies; and

WHEREAS, two million farms and ranches dot America's rural landscape, and 98% are operated by families; 86% of U.S. agricultural products are produced on family farms and ranches; farm and ranch families comprise less than 2% of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to nearly 23,800 family farms and ranches, encompassing more than 49 million acres of farmland and rangeland; many of these farms and ranches have been in the same family for generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Torrance County had 716 farms and ranches, encompassing 1,561,057 acres; again, many of these farms and ranches have been in the same family for generations; and

WHEREAS, the United States agriculture sector contributed roughly \$1.264 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product "GDP"; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, agriculture represents well over \$3 billion dollars in revenue each year, helping pay for schools and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the value of products sold in 2017 from farms and ranches in Torrance County was \$45,893,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Torrance County farmers harvested 3,400 acres of hay (alfalfa), producing 17,800 tons, as well as other hay crops from an additional 2,500 acres, producing 6,100 additional tons; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Torrance County ranches had 33,500 cattle and calves and 1,500 sheep and lambs; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., 21.1 million full-and-part-time jobs are related to agricultural and food sectors – 10.5% of total U.S. employment; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, agriculture provides more than 149,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, food rose to 12.4% of U.S. households' expenditures; this percentage remains the lowest rate in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association "NMCGA" has served as a voice of the beef industry in New Mexico since 1914; this non-profit trade association's mission is to advance and protect the cattle industry of New Mexico, work toward solutions of cattle industry

problems, promote the well-being of the industry, provide an official united voice on issues of importance to the cattle producers and feeders, and to create and maintain an economic climate that will provide members of the Association the opportunity to obtain optimum return on their investments within the free enterprise system; and

***WHEREAS**, NMCGA has a motto of “Honoring our Past. Protecting our Future.”; with that future in mind, the Association’s leadership created the Annual NMCGA Heritage Buckle Contest; this contest is for students between the ages of nine and 15 years old; contestants must write a 200-to-500-word essay explaining, “How would you like to continue your family’s agricultural heritage to better your community?”; and*

***WHEREAS**, an NMCGA Heritage Buckle Contest winner is selected in each of the 33 New Mexico Counties; County winners are automatically advanced to the overall state contest for a chance at a \$1,000 scholarship; and*

***WHEREAS**, in the 2022 contest, Torrance County resident Macklee Cain submitted her essay and was selected as Torrance County’s winner; Ms. Cain advanced to the statewide competition and was selected as the overall state contest winner, awarding her the \$1,000 scholarship; and*

***WHEREAS**, Ms. Cain, in her essay, represented Torrance County agriculture and generational ranching goals with poetic eloquence; she provided residents of Torrance County and the State of New Mexico a glimpse into the future of agriculture when she wrote, “I will build on the legacy of agriculture in New Mexico by being an Ambassador for the ranching industry. The legacy of New Mexico agriculture is very personal to me. It is also my legacy. I have some very big shoes to fill in the ranching industry. I am a fifth-generation rancher, and I am proud that my family helps feed America.”; and*

***WHEREAS**, in her essay, Ms. Cain further states, “When I grow up, I hope to have a very big ranch and have a big herd of cattle; I will spend all of my day outside. I love everything about ranching (except building fence), and I will do all I can to make sure my passion for New Mexico agriculture is contagious. Building New Mexico agriculture means a lot to my dad and to my ancestors. I love this industry and will do my part to protect it.”; and*

***WHEREAS**, women make up 36% of the total number of U.S. farm and ranch operators; 56% of all farms and ranches have at least one female decision-maker; the Cain family ranch is intentionally doing their part to raise that percentage rate in the near future; and*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County, New Mexico, do hereby:*

- *Respect the common spirit across America’s agricultural community – a respect for tradition, a drive to innovate, and a commitment to never give up – even when times are tough;*
- *Celebrate all farmers, farmworkers, ranchers, foresters and other agricultural workers who do so much to make our nation strong, fuel our economy, and steward our lands;*
- *Recognize New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association for intentionally including the next generation of ranchers in the Association’s mission and objectives;*
- *Appreciate other organizations that support youth in agriculture, such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America “FFA”; and*
- *Encourage residents of Torrance County to join us in recognizing the unique and irreplaceable value local farmers and ranchers and other agricultural stewards contribute to the healthy maintenance of America’s food supply; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County, New Mexico, do hereby:*

- Commend Torrance County resident, fifth-grader Macklee Cain's passion for the ranching industry and her goal to be an Ambassador who educates people on how ranchers meticulously take care of animals and land within their trust, through rain, snow, weekends and holidays; and
- Honor Ms. Cain, for representing Torrance County and her family with excellence and the carrying on of agricultural traditions, and for her commitment...her legacy...to generational ranching with a goal to help feed America.

*Signed and Sealed in the Torrance County Seat,
Estancia, New Mexico,
on March 22, 2023.*



Ryan Schwebach, Chair
District 2

Kevin McCall, Vice Chair
District 1

Linda Jaramillo, Torrance County Clerk

Samuel D. Schropp, Member
District 3