

YOU do the Math!

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) continues to work every day, on every issue, for every rancher to help you stay in business and make a profit. Don't believe it? Fill out this worksheet and you'll see that your MSGA membership is well worth the investment in your future.

State Land Grazing Leases When Montana courts ruled that the lease renewal preference for existing leaseholders was unconstitutional MSGA led efforts to amend the regulations to restore that right. MSGA represents Montana ranchers before the board at every meeting of the State Land Board. Estimate the cost of obtaining private grazing if you lost your grazing lease on state lands. \$ _____

Endangered Species - MSGA continues to work for changes in the Endangered Species Act which has had huge impacts on ranchers. MSGA has aggressively pursued de-listing of wolves and has served on the sage grouse and prairie dog working groups to reduce likelihood that those species off of the endangered list. Estimate your cost to participate in six or more day-long working group meetings around the state to protect your interests. \$ _____

Worker's Compensation. MSGA member policyholders participating in the Montana Ag Safety Program can expect a four percent reduction on their premium. The average premium paid by Montana farmers and ranchers is \$4000 for a discount of \$160. Enter Your Premium Reduction Amount or \$160. \$ _____

Representation at the Montana Legislature - Once again MSGA represented livestock producers on many critical issues such as water rights, water quality, private property rights, public access, weed control and other issues during each and every day of the recent legislature. In the process, MSGA lobbyists monitored over 300 bills and worked to defeat many that would have had a negative impact on agriculture. Estimate the value of having effective representation looking out for you on these issues at the state legislature so you can stay on the ranch, or the cost of 10-20 trips to Helena during the session. (CAFO permit holders will save \$4500 during each five-year permit cycle due to SB 320) \$ _____

Drought Disaster Assistance - MSGA, working with our Congressional delegation and other groups, was successful in obtaining drought disaster assistance for Montana ranchers for losses in 2003 or 2004. Compensation for those who qualified exceeded \$40 per animal. Multiply the size of your herd by \$40 and enter here. \$ _____

MSGA Continuing Education Meetings and Seminars - MSGA holds educational seminars through events such as Gate-to-Plate, Chuteside Animal ID workshops, Cattlemen's College, Follow the Cattle Tours and Young Stockgrowers conferences throughout the year to provide our members with input from nationally-known experts and the latest research to keep members on the cutting edge of marketing, production and technology. Estimate the cost of obtaining this knowledge by attending continuing education seminars at your local university. \$ _____

STATE AGENCY REPRESENTATION - MSGA participates in monthly meeting of the State Land Board, Board of Environmental Review, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission to represent rancher interests. Estimate the cost of traveling to Helena to attend each of these meetings to protect your interests. \$ _____

MSGA Legal Representation - MSGA continues to fight for rancher's interests on issues of statewide significant such as stream access, endangered species, grazing rights, and open range laws. Estimate the cost of having to represent your ranch on these issues in the courtroom or to deal with the impacts of an unfavorable ruling. \$ _____

Industry Communication - The bi-monthly MSGA newsletter and legislative updates, semi-annual magazine and annual cattle directory provide members with current industry news and technical updates, upcoming events and marketing opportunities. Actual publication subscriptions cost. \$ _____