

# My Fellow Americans:

What a great summer! That's the word on the street – and in the coffee shops and at the barns that I've been lucky enough to visit these last few weeks as I chatted with landowners, brokers, and industry experts.

There's no denying that all sorts of obstacles exist: in some of the Western states, there hasn't been enough rain; in some of the Southern states, there's been too much rain; and, in the Midwest and many other areas, questions and concerns about the price of productive ag land are the order of the day. How high can farmland values really go? How long will they stay in the stratosphere? As always, these problems will sort themselves out in due time. That's the story of land.

Back at the ranch, our team of researchers is busy updating the Magazine's signature study: **The Land Report 100**. I'm astonished at the new and intriguing details that routinely emerge at our weekly reviews, and I know you will be too when all of it is presented in the 2013 Land Report 100. Stay tuned!

All the Best,

Eric O'Keefe, Editor & Broker

# LAND REPORT TOP TEN

America's Leading Investment Quality Rural Land Listings

1. Homer's Pond: \$118 million

- 2. Broken O Ranch (Texas): \$81 million
- 3. Rancho Dos Pueblos: \$79 million
- 4. Four Peaks Ranch: \$75 million
- 5. Walton Ranch: \$68.7 million
- 6. Rana Creek Ranch: \$59.95 million
- 7. Big Creek Ranch: \$59.9 million
- 8. Sagg Pond Estate: \$59 million
- 9. Rockpile Ranch: \$54.5 million
- 10. Winding Stair Ranch: \$51.3 million

P.S. I invite you to subscribe to *The Land Report* HERE.

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#### AUGUST 2013





UNITED STATES

#### **Federal Policy**

### BLM ADVISORY BOARD TO REVIEW WILD-

HORSE POLICY. Federal regulators want to hear from all stakeholders and interested parties with regard to our nation's wild horses. Per the Dept. of the Interior, it is the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management to establish policies pertaining to wild horses on federal lands. An important consideration is the land's capacity to support these animals. Next month, the bureau's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet in Arlington right across the Potomac from D.C. at the Key Bridge Marriott. Among the topics to be discussed are issues relating to the management, protection, and control of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. To learn more about how you can sign up to attend or submit comments, read more HERE.



USDA

#### 2013 Corn Crop

#### **2013 CORN HARVEST SET TO BE A RECORD-BREAKER.** The Dept. of Agriculture is projecting that farmers will harvest a record corn crop of 13.8 billion bushels this fall, up 28 percent from last year and 5 percent larger than

the previous record crop. Corn prices are trading at nearly three-year lows, a major issue in farming communities across the nation. Along with the huge bumper crop, farmers are on track for strong production numbers; USDA forecasts corn yields at a projected 154.4 bushels an acre. Read more **HERE**.



SALE

#### **Utah Ranchland**

#### MAJESTIC ZION CANYON TREES

**RANCH SOLD.** St. George.com reports that the Trees Ranch sold for \$25 million to Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. Spread out across 2,066 acres in scenic Southern Utah, the property borders Zion National Park.

The iconic holding was meticulously assembled parcel by parcel by visionary conservationist owners, said Ken Mirr of Mirr Ranch Group in Denver, which represented the seller. Trees Ranch is filled with brilliantly colored sandstone cliffs, monoliths, Anasazi ruins, and a network of small rivers. Mule deer and wild turkeys coexist in the canyons and fields while bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and condors dot the uplands. Read more **HERE**.



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AUCTION

# Alaska Farmland

ALASKA'S LARGEST ORGANIC FARM GOES ON THE BLOCK. On Sept. 17, 1,134acre Ebbesson Farms will be auctioned in Fairbanks by United Country – Theurer Auction/Realty. The farm was pieced together by the retired director of the University

of Alaska Medical Department, Sven Ebbesson, who emigrated to the U.S. from Sweden. "Not only is this land ideal for growing hay, potatoes, carrots, and other vegetables, but it gives its owner access to some amazing wildlife. Since Alaska does not place property tax on land designated 'agricultural,' the income potential of this property is enormous," says Auctioneer Curt Marshall. Read more **HERE**.



#### Iowa Prairie

**LIVE AUCTION SET FOR 348 ACRES.** On Sept. 10, United Country – Trophy Properties will host bidders at Osceola's Lakeside Casino, about 30 minutes south of Des Moines. The property includes a 105-acre lake with wildlife-friendly wetlands, 40 acres of prairie,

and 35 pre-developed lots. Offered in seven separate tracts or any combination, the auctioneer is working conjunction with United Country – Birdsong Auction & Real Estate Group. Read more **HERE**.



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