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St. Cloud Times

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New grazing plan aims to make beef more affordable

Sen. Klobuchar coauthors RANCH Act

Alice Mannette
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar, D-MN, and Mike Rounds, R-SD, have introduced the bipartisan Rebuilding America's National Cow Herd (RANCH) Act. The RANCH Act will incentivize volun-

tary conversion of marginal cropland to grazing land and encourage cattle herd recovery. This legislation would create a new voluntary grazing land restoration program that would open up to 20 million new acres for grazing. At full enrollment of 20 million acres, the program established by the RANCH Act would

provide sufficient grazing land to support an estimated two million to four million additional beef cattle, according to information from Rounds. "With the U.S. cattle herd at its smallest size in over 70 years, many farmers and ranchers need new opportunities to stay afloat," said Klobuchar. "The bipartisan RANCH Act will help farmers looking to start a cow-calf herd

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Cattle graze in a field on June 2 in Quemado, Texas. A historic cattle shortage has driven wholesale beef prices to record highs, triggering a 17% surge in steak prices and a 19% increase in ground beef costs. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES



There has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that tracks the movements of vehicles and creates a searchable database for law enforcement agencies. COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER/COLUMBUS DISPATCH FILE

Flock cameras stir concerns across U.S.

Opponents worry about privacy, police misuse

N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

License plate readers have been shot at in Tennessee, hit with a truck in California, beaten with a baseball bat in Virginia, cut down with a saw in Texas and splattered with paint in New York. And they've been regularly blocked by a protester in Florida. There also has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that continues trying to track the movements of vehicles. People are raising privacy concerns as well as others about misuse, mistakes and road safety in city council meetings, lawsuits and a planned national week of action in late August. Chad Marlow, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union who focuses on privacy, surveillance



Flock cameras like this one on a utility pole in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, collect a vehicle's license plate, make, model and color, information that is searchable by law enforcement agencies. PAUL EDWARD PARKER/PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE

FBI inspects Swalwell's home, seizes computer

Noe Padilla and Aysha Bagchi
USA TODAY

FBI agents executed multiple search warrants against former Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-California, as part of a federal investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct, seizing multiple electronics. Federal agents executed a search warrant against Swalwell on Aug. 15, ultimately taking his iPhone, MacBook Pro, a charging cable and a wall adapter, according to court records. Although the warrant does not indicate where it was served, multiple news outlets reported that Swalwell was served after landing at San Francisco International Airport. An additional warrant was served on Aug. 16 targeting Swalwell's residence in Washington, DC, where agents seized additional evidence, according to The New York Times, CBS and NBC, among others. Court records show that the federal government is investigating Swalwell via federal code 18 U.S.C. § 242, which "makes it a crime for a person acting under color of any law to willfully deprive a person of a right or privilege protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States," according to the Justice Department, as well as other offenses. If Swalwell is found guilty of this offense, he could potentially face a range from life in prison to the death penalty, according to the Justice Department. Swalwell has not been charged with a crime in connection with the investigation. The FBI declined to comment to USA TODAY about the federal investigation. Swalwell ended his California gubernatorial bid and resigned from Congress in April after several women alleged he committed sexual assault and misconduct, which he denied. Democrat Aisha Wahab, a member of the California state Senate, was projected on Aug. 20 to win a special election to fill the seat, according to multiple media outlets. She defeated Democrat Melissa Hernandez, an

Swalwell

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