

Wyoming Agriculture

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'Ag Books for Kids' 2022 winners announced

BY KERIN CLARK

Gaining a deeper understanding and connection with agriculture is what our Ag Books for Kids program aims to provide for Wyoming elementary students," said Crook County rancher Raenell Taylor.

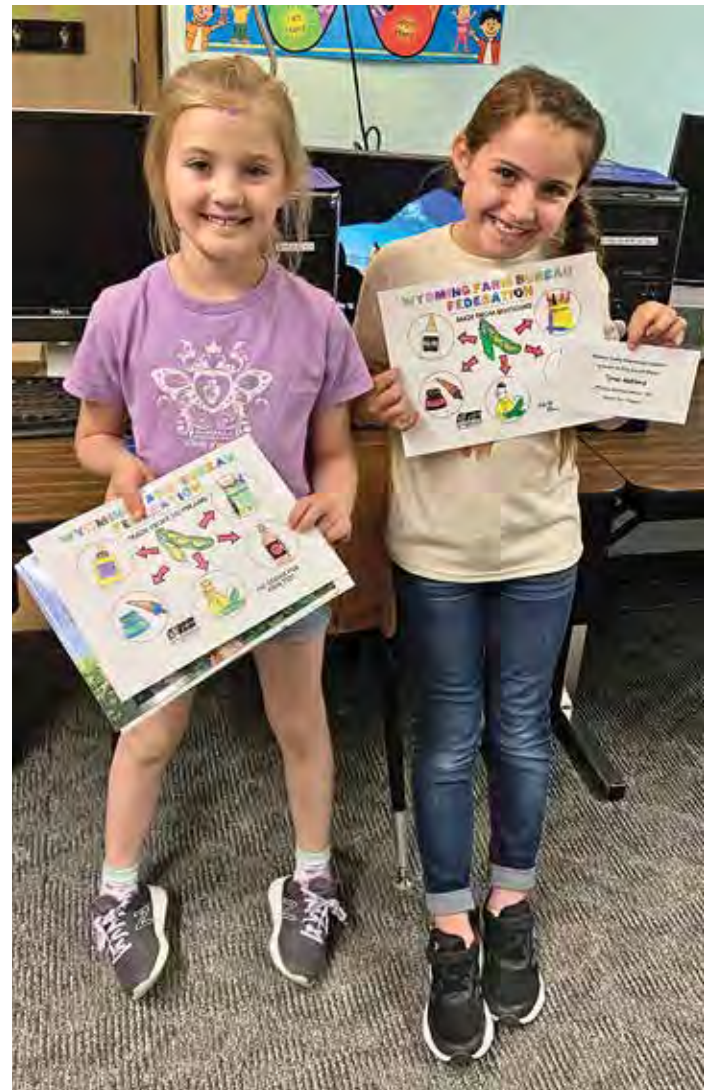
According to Taylor, who serves as the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Promotions Subcommittee Chair, educating elementary students about agriculture is key to our future in agriculture.

Over 10,000 agriculture books have been donated to Wyoming elementary schools through the 18-year span of the WyFB YF&R Committee "Ag Books for Kids" program. Contests are held each year associated with the book of the year to encourage students to learn even more about agriculture.

In 2022 county Farm Bureau Federations across the state donated 711 "My Family's Soybean Farm" books by Katie Olthoff to Wyoming elementary schools as part of the WyFB YF&R Committee "Ag Books for Kids" project. The students then had the opportunity to participate in a contest to show what they learned about agriculture. The contests included: coloring contest for kindergarten and first grade; poster contest for second and third grades; and a marketing ad contest for fourth and fifth grades.

"Our goal is to educate children about agriculture and how it relates to their life," Taylor concluded. "It's important for them to understand how agriculture plays a role in their everyday life because without agriculture there wouldn't be a future."

AG BOOKS ... Page 5



Smiles all the way around for these Niobrara County elementary students who won prizes in the "Ag Books for Kids" 2022 contests. State coloring contest winner Randus Martin proudly displays her prizes with schoolmate Tyree Hubbard who won a local prize for the coloring contest. LEXIE DOCKERY PHOTO.



State Coloring Contest Winner: Randus Martin, Niobrara County



State Poster Contest Winner: Haley Crago, Johnson County



State Marketing Ad Contest Winner: Taegan Wescott, Lincoln County



State Coloring Contest Runner-Up: Evelynn Carlson, Crook County



State Poster Contest Runner-Up: Jax Peppin, Johnson County



State Marketing Ad Contest Runner-Up: Avery Love, Park County

Outlook for 2023 ag land valuation increases

BY BRETT MOLINE

Not much good news is coming for the tax valuation of agricultural land. Preliminary estimates are that all three types of agricultural land (dry crop, irrigated, and range) will increase for the upcoming valuation year.

For the 2023 tax year, based on commodity prices and private land grazing fees, irrigated land will increase 15 percent, dry crop land will increase 26 percent and range land will increase 9 percent.

Agricultural land in Wyoming is assessed based on ability to pay. Other types of property are assessed based on market value.

A formula is used to determine ability to pay. Dry crop land value is based on the price of wheat, irrigated land value is based on the price of hay, and range land value is based on the private grazing lease rates. The values are also influenced by the long-term interest rates charged for loans on agricultural land.

The value of agricultural land is also based on usual production.

As prices for commodities go up, so do the values of agricultural land. If interest rates go down, the value of agricultural land goes up. Also, because the value of agricultural land is based on usual production, decreases in production will not cause the assessed value to decrease.

These values are preliminary and are calculated by the Wyoming Department of Revenue. ■

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

June
24 Carbon County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Time TBD)—Veteran's Island in Saratoga

August
9 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Candidate Forum at 6 p.m.—Niobrara County Fairgrounds Auditorium

September
19 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m.—Niobrara County Fairgrounds Meeting Room
20 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting

November
10-12 WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting-Casper

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates

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EPA needs to bring more
farmers to the table

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



In mid-May, the Environmental Protection Agency held its first stakeholder roundtable on its new Waters of the U.S. rule, and I sure hope it wasn't a sample of what's to come. The group lacked diversity of experience in agriculture, and few of the participants had any direct experience with the quagmire of Clean Water Act regulation. This was a missed opportunity for EPA, and we are urging them to seek out and listen to all viewpoints.

You have often heard me talk about the importance of agriculture having a seat at the table, and the administration has agreed that the farmer's voice is critical to this rulemaking process. But simply checking a box without hearing from farmers who can speak from experience will not do.

Water is the lifeblood of agriculture, and farmers across the country are taking proactive steps to protect water on and around our farms. We have been straightforward and consistent in our call for clear rules because we know how important it is to get regulations right, especially ones that impact the lives and livelihoods of so many. All farmers should be able to look out on their land and know what's regulated, so we can continue to protect our natural resources while growing a sustainable food supply.

EPA's proposed WOTUS rule instead casts uncertainty over farmers and ranchers across the country and threatens the progress we have made to responsibly manage water and natural resources.

Let's recap how the proposed rule reaches beyond the protection of shared, navigable waters. It would give the federal government the ability to regulate areas such as ditches, ephemeral drainages, or low spots on farmlands and pastures that are not even wet most of the year and that do not connect to flowing waterways. This would subject ordinary farming activities to complex and burdensome regulations. Simple activities like moving dirt, plowing or building fences would require permits, and getting a federal permit can take months or even years and cost tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. A farmer shouldn't need a team of lawyers to grow crops and raise animals, but these unclear and overbroad regulations could lead to large civil fines as well as criminal charges.

Farmers, ranchers and all landowners deserve clear rules and a system that respects voluntary conservation efforts. Practices like no till and conservation tillage that reduce soil erosion and keep nutrients in the soil are becoming common practice, now being used on more than half of the corn, cotton, soybean

and wheat planted across the nation. That's more than 200 million acres. The use of cover crops—another important tool in protecting water and promoting soil health—also continues to grow, increasing 50% between 2012 and 2017, according to the last USDA Census of Agriculture. And farmers use several other tools and techniques to protect waterways and reduce runoff, such as buffer strips, protective zones between fields and waterways; strip cropping, growing alternating strips of erosion-resistant crops; and terraces, using slopes to help filter water and reduce erosion. We will continue to hold the administration to their commitment to bring farmers to the table and to treat us as partners in our sustainability efforts.

It is no secret that Farm Bureau was extremely disappointed in EPA's decision to repeal the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which brought much needed clarity to farmers. But if the EPA is going to continue forward, they must ensure that the process truly offers the opportunity for meaningful engagement and feedback from all stakeholders. Future roundtables must present the perspective of active farmers and be better organized and managed. Otherwise, EPA is doing nothing more than muddying the waters in this rulemaking. ■

Say-do gap in cutting
transportation emissions

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



People may be getting tired of me writing about the disconnect between people who are concerned, if not downright panicked, over the thought we are going to fry ourselves because of our carbon emissions.

The environmental community hardly misses an opportunity when some new study comes out about livestock grazing that uses terms like "could" or "may" or "possibly" to change the discourse to "will." They then move to discussing the need to solve the problem by eliminating meat from the diet. In past columns, I've pointed out the fallacies in their thinking based on scientific information and good old common sense, but that doesn't stop those groups from trying to convince people that if they give up beef even one day a week, the world will heal, and things will be better.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is tasked with reporting the U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to the United Nations. The latest report for 2020 con-

tinues to report agriculture's emissions are 10.6 percent of total U.S. emissions which hasn't changed a lot during their reporting to the U.N. Please note, this is total emissions for agriculture, not just livestock. The report shows the following sources which make up the rest of the contributions: transportation is 27.2%; electricity generation is 24.8%; industry is 23.8%; and commercial and residential is 13.2% combined.

Given that transportation is the big contributor, one would think that source would be where people would look to solve the problem. Let's look at what is happening though. In the recent presidential election, my county of Albany had a majority of voters who voted for President Biden. I would assume that some of those who supported President Biden did so because of his strong stance on addressing greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, here in Laramie, our city streets have wide biking paths and walking paths around the town. Given my desk

job, I try to walk around when I can and one of my bicycle/walking paths is along one of the busiest streets in Laramie.

One day I decided to conduct an unscientific census while walking. It was a nice day so I thought there would be few excuses for someone to not ride or walk if they were concerned about CO2 emissions. My census showed there were over 100 vehicles to 1 pedestrian and 0 bicyclists. By the way, the one pedestrian was me. There were no bicyclists or other pedestrians on this path.

I then decided to do another unscientific census. Our office is located on the same street as the Laramie High School. Given Greta Thunberg's angry exhortations about how we are ruining our world for her generation, surely the high schoolers would be trying to do their part to reduce CO2. As the number of CO2 emitting vehicles going past the office to the high school demonstrates, Greta's message is being ignored by her generation too.

SAY-DO GAP ... Page 3

SAY-DO GAP... From Page 2

Why? Why would the good citizens in Laramie not take advantage of the fresh air, exercise and bicycle paths we've paid for to reduce their CO2 emissions? Why wouldn't the students at the high school not also seek to combat what some politicians have labeled as an existential threat to mankind? It's not because of a lack of bicycle paths. And while there are some days that it's pretty fresh in the open air in Laramie, surely in order to cut our CO2 emissions we would not let that stop us from walking or riding bicycles, would we? Indeed, it appears that like many other things that people do, there is a significant "say-do" gap.

Given these observations, it would appear that groups who are pointing at the 10.6 percent greenhouse gas emissions of agriculture while ignoring their 27.2 percent transportation emissions are hoping they can get people to focus on agriculture. That way people can keep driving their cars, blame others and ignore the fact that they are doing very little themselves to address their emissions. ■

WyFB welcomes communications intern Mikka Rogers

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) welcomes Mikka Rogers as a communications intern. From Beulah, Rogers graduated from Casper College with an associate of science degree in agriculture communications. She will be a senior this fall at Iowa State University studying agricultural communications with a minor in event management.

An honors student, she prioritizes her activities around the cattle industry. Raised on a pioneer ranch in Crook County, she knows the value of hard work and the importance of advocating for agriculture.

Rogers is co-manager of T3 Angus LLC in Beulah where they raise high quality Angus cattle to market across the country. She is an active volunteer for local shows including the local Youth Angus Show. She volunteers her

time to help younger kids with their 4-H and FFA projects as well as helping out with all species at county fair.

"Traveling around the country these past couple of years with show cattle and other experiences related to the cattle industry has allowed me to network myself, and gain lifelong connections to elevate my future career," Rogers said.

Rogers finds great value in internship opportunities. "Each internship I've served has a unique approach to communications," she said. "The WyFB internship is a great opportunity that will allow me to become exposed to various opportunities through media and communication procedures and gain different outlooks on various topics from professionals within the federation."

"I'm looking forward to working with WyFB members across Wyoming; gain-

ing connections, telling their story, and understanding what makes them unique to Wyoming agriculture," Rogers said.

"Being born and raised on a pioneer ranch in the northeast corner of Wyoming, I have developed a deep understanding of Wyoming's rich tradition in agriculture," Rogers continued. "Growing up, constantly being involved in agriculture through showing cattle across the country and being actively involved in the local FFA chapter and state junior Angus association I have witnessed firsthand the power agriculture portrays not only on an individual but also a community."

According to Rogers, she is thankful for all the opportunities agriculture has provided for her and feels it is time to give back to agriculture. "Though I may be a young advocate, I'm excited to learn through new experiences and take those experiences for future endeavors," she concluded. ■



Mikka Rogers



Member-CENTS

Visit wyfb.org and click on the "Benefits" tab for a complete listing of value-added benefits.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation believes constitutional government, the competitive enterprise system, property rights and individual freedom are necessary components for a strong agriculture, a strong Wyoming and a strong America. We are a centennial grassroots organization that cares about your future.

Whether you are a farmer, rancher or a consumer of food...membership is a good investment to secure stability of agriculture here in Wyoming. As a member, WyFB provides you with exclusive benefits as a way to say thank you. These benefits may pay your annual membership fee many times over.

Current members may access member benefits at www.wyfb.org and click on the "Benefits" tab.

You may also utilize the Farm Bureau Member Benefits app on your phone to access your benefits.

Questions: email broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723.



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Horseshoes instead of Circles

BY KELLI CHOUINARD,
WyFB YF&R STATE CHAIR

This past February I was blessed to attend the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) conference in Louisville, Ky. State YF&R chairs had an opportunity to participate in a workshop before the conference started. Rachel Kagay was the presenter on how to introduce speakers or guests in any situation.

We reviewed what's needed in an introduction of a speaker: who they are, where they're from, why are they there and what are their credentials for speaking to this group. But we also discussed how to do it when in a more social situation. Think on it, how many times do we go somewhere and you're standing in a circle with a group of people and someone comes up to join your circle? How many times have you been that person trying to join in? Through practice and application, we learned more about our counterparts from other states while introducing THEM to the group (versus the normal stand up and say your personal information).

As we were wrapping up, Rachel said something that has continued to stay with me. "Be a horseshoe and not a circle." When someone joins your circle, do you make room for them to join and introduce them to the others? Or do you stand there as awkward as they are trying to figure out what to do?

Another aspect of the national conference was a social evening held at Churchill

Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. In their gift shop I saw some of the neatest bedazzled horseshoes. (Cue the light bulb!)

One of the best parts of going to these sorts of conferences and meetings is being able to take things back to your home networks and communities. When the WyFB YF&R Committee met in May, I wanted to share something that would help them to connect to the conference as well. So, I paired up the bedazzled horseshoes and the lesson from Rachel Kagay to create some homemade bedazzled horseshoes for each member of our committee.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that takes input from farmers and ranchers. If we can be horseshoes instead of circles, imagine how much bigger our outreach can be. ■



"Be horseshoes instead of circles" is the theme WyFB YF&R State Chair Kelli Chouinard shared with the WyFB YF&R Committee at their spring meeting. Here are a few of Chouinard's creations she made for fellow state committee members. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Kelli Chouinard, WyFB YF&R State Chair, shares one of her bedazzled horseshoes she created to share a learning experience from the AFBF YF&R Conference.

KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



WyFB YF&R Committee spring meeting

The WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee met early May in Gillette for their annual spring meeting. Business, fellowship and training sessions were all a part of the meeting. One of the benefits of be-

longing to Farm Bureau is the leadership development provided to volunteers. American Farm Bureau's Elise Cruce joined the spring meeting to present two great workshops to the committee. From left to right: Tucker

Hamilton, Weston County; Cody Alps, Goshen County; Raenell Taylor, Crook County; Cruce; Kelli Chouinard, Park County; Toni Swartz, Campbell County; and Aletta Ziehl, Natrona County. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Secretary/Treasurer Mary Whaley presented the 2022 “Ag Books for Kids” awards in Big Horn County. In this photo are students from Laura Erwin Elementary. From left to right: coloring contest winners Violet Wood and Madelyn Olsen and poster contest winner, in both the county and Northwest District, Hudsyn Hopkin. Not pictured is Maddox Kestner, coloring contest winner in both county and NW District. *COURTESY PHOTO.*



County Farm Bureau Federation Volunteers around Wyoming have been making award presentations for the 2022 “Ag Books for Kids” contests. Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation President Chelsea Baars is shown here with Gianna Pavone, a local poster contest winner. *LEXIE DOCKERY PHOTO.*

AG BOOKS ... From Page 1

2022 Contest Winners

Students from across Wyoming were recently recognized for their participation in the 2022 WyFB “Ag Books for Kids” contests. We appreciate all the teachers and students who participated in the contests. We would also like to thank the county Farm Bureau Federations and YF&R Committee volunteers.

County winners were forwarded to the district where three winners were selected. District winners all received a copy of “My Family’s Soybean Farm” and were forwarded to the state contest.

Coloring Contest

Randus Martin, an outgoing first grader from Mrs. Bruegger’s class at Lusk Elementary in Niobrara County, was the state winner of the coloring contest. Martin received a \$50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “My Family’s Soybean Farm.” The book was signed by the Honorable Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon.

Evelynn Carlson, of Crook County, was the state runner-up. She received a \$25 gift card and an agriculture book. She completed first grade with Mrs. Courtney at Sundance Elementary.

Poster Contest

Haley Crago, of Johnson County, won the state poster contest. Crago received a \$50 gift card and an agriculture book titled “My Family’s Soybean Farm.” The book was signed by the Honorable Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon.

Receiving a \$25 gift card and a copy of “My Family’s Soybean Farm” for the state runner-up was Jax Peppin of Johnson County.

Crago and Peppin both completed their contest entries in Mr. Zurcher’s art class as third graders at Cloud Peak Elementary in Buffalo.

2022 ‘Ag Books for Kids’ state and district winners

Coloring Contest:

State Winner: Randus Martin, Niobrara County (Southeast District)

State Runner-up: Evelynn Carlson, Crook County (Northeast District)

Poster Contest:

State Winner: Haley Crago, Johnson County (Northeast District)

State Runner-up: Jax Peppin, Johnson County (Northeast District)

Marketing Ad Contest:

State Winner: Taegan Wescott, Lincoln County (Southwest District)

State Runner-up: Avery Love, Park County (Northwest District)

2022 “Ag Books for Kids” District Winners

Southwest District Winners

Coloring Contest:

- Piper Boogaard, Lincoln County
- Lydia Spencer, Lincoln County
- Jaeslyne Pacheco, Sweetwater County

Marketing Ad Contest

Etna Elementary fifth grader Taegan Wescott won the marketing ad contest. Wescott, of Lincoln County, received a \$50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “My Family’s Soybean Farm.” The book was signed by the Honorable Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon.

Poster Contest:

- Olivia Mavy, Lincoln County
- Graham Sivertson, Sweetwater County

Marketing Ad Contest:

- Madison Hodder, Sweetwater County
- Taegan Wescott, Lincoln County
- Bree Long, Sweetwater County

Northeast District Winners

Coloring Contest:

- Evelynn Carlson, Crook County
- Audrey Crawford, Crook County
- Morgan McCoy, Johnson County

Poster Contest:

- Haley Crago, Johnson County
- Jax Peppin, Johnson County
- Layn Harless, Crook County

Marketing Ad Contest:

- Addison Adams, Crook County
- Kaleb Mills, Crook County
- Mya Stoudt, Weston County

Northwest District Winners

Coloring Contest:

- Brady Sandlian, Fremont County
- Kendall Keister, Park County
- Maddox Kestler, Big Horn County

Poster Contest:

- Troi Johnson, Fremont County
- Hunter Merrill, Fremont County
- Hudsyn Hopkin, Big Horn County

Marketing Ad Contest:

- Avery Love, Park County
- Anni, Fremont County
- Sawyer Tate, Fremont County

Southeast District Winners

Coloring Contest:

- Carson Tremain, Goshen County
- Randus Martin, Niobrara County
- Jude Petry, Laramie County

Poster Contest:

- Addie Lytle, Niobrara County
- Aarnav Patel, Laramie County
- Paul Kruse, Niobrara County

Marketing Ad Contest:

- Diya Mathias, Goshen County
- Annie Tremain, Goshen County
- Jordan Dosch, Platte County

Central District: No entries

Avery Love, of Park County, was the state runner-up. Love received a \$25 gift card and an agriculture book.

In its 18th year, the “Ag Books for Kids” program is a project of the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. Throughout the years, 10,176 books have been donated to elementary schools by the county Farm Bureau Federations. The

grassroots efforts of the county Farm Bureau Federations who donate the books and help educate about agriculture contributes greatly to the program’s success. The program’s purpose is to build the collection of agriculture reading materials in Wyoming elementary schools and educate children about agriculture and its importance to us all. ■

The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader Justin Ellis

County: Uinta
Farm Bureau Leadership Positions:
● WyFB Board of Directors/
Southwest District Director

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe your ranch and family background.

Ellis: Our family runs a cow-calf ranch in Lyman, Wyo. I grew up developing a love for ranching and agriculture in the sandhills of Nebraska. I studied ag business and animal science and received my bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 1996. My wife Kristi and I have five children and two grandsons. Our two oldest sons, Logan and Carson, are married, our third son, Monte, is a junior in high school and our two daughters, Joni and Layni, are in middle school. Logan and his wife Kelsey own and operate a custom meat processing business in the Bridger Valley. Carson and his wife Abby are students at BYU-Idaho where they are both majoring in agriculture. Our children have all helped in our ranching endeavors and have learned the value of hard work.




Justin Ellis branding with his grandson Skyler.



Ellis fishing with his daughter Layni.



Kristi and Justin Ellis, Uinta County




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Wyoming Agriculture: How did you get involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?

Ellis: We became involved in Farm Bureau shortly after moving to the Bridger Valley in 1997. Our county president at the time said that the county needed a vice president and asked if I would consider running. Since that time, Kristi and I have served as county presidents and district directors and on the state and national Young Farmer & Rancher committees.

Wyoming Agriculture: Why do you make the time to be involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?

Ellis: Being involved in Farm Bureau has given me the opportunity to serve and to be involved in our community and to be aware of the challenges facing agriculture. We have valued the leadership training we have received in Farm Bureau and met so many great people in our state and across the country.

Wyoming Agriculture: What are some of the issues facing farmers and ranchers in your county/district/state?

Ellis: One issue that is affecting everyone is the drought we are experiencing here in the West. Coupled with high inflation, this

will have an effect on food prices and make it hard for not only farmers and ranchers but also consumers.

Wyoming Agriculture: What advice do you have on how individuals can make a difference for Wyoming agriculture through the Farm Bureau Federation?

Ellis: The policies of Farm Bureau have helped keep government overreach and regulations as minimal as possible so that our ranch and others can keep functioning. Regulations are a burden put on ranching families and as we have seen recently, input costs are higher than ever with some not readily available. Farm Bureau is an organization that has a broad network of counties in each state to join as one voice for agriculture. I have heard many of our elected representatives ask the question "what is Farm Bureau's stance on this?" when they need to make a decision in law making. This means that we in agriculture have been heard, but we still need more people to be involved. Being involved may take time, but taking time to preserve our way of life is crucial. ■

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Taco Salad

BY: CONNIE WERNER

Ingredients

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 head of lettuce, chopped | 1 lb ground beef cooked, drained, and cooled | 1 bag of taco flavored Doritos, crushed |
| 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese | 1 can kidney beans | 1 cup mayonnaise |
| | 1 small onion, diced | 1 small jar taco sauce, to taste |

Directions

1. In a large bowl, add the chopped lettuce, onion, beans, cheese, and cooled ground beef.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the mayonnaise and taco sauce. Add enough sauce to your liking.
3. Pour the sauce over the salad mixture and toss until well coated.
4. Add the crushed chips right before serving.

Source: Dawna Werner, Becky Emery, and Karen Rankin



Source: www.allrecipes.com

For more recipes, visit www.modernranchwife.com

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CHAINSAW - Men's Event • AXE CHOPPING - Men's Event • AXE THROW/POLE THROW -
Men and Women Compete - Kids Tool • POWER SAW LOG BUCKING - Small Saws up to 72cc
• SMALL CLASS MODIFIED CHAINSAW - Saws under 72cc - Men's Event

Non-Point Events

POWER SAW LOG BUCKING - Open Class - Anything goes - Entry Fee: \$10 per day - Jackpot
MAD LOGGERS CHAINSAW THROW - Entry Fee: \$10 per day - Jackpot
MOM AND POP RACE - Entry Fee: \$20 per day per couple - Jackpot

WRA Rodeo

Co-Sanctioned by CPRA

Saturday, June 18, and Sunday, June 19, beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day. WRA Sanctioned. Local and WRA enter online at www.wyomingrodeoassociation.org
All around Rodeo Belt Buckle sponsored by White Dog Liquors
\$10,000 added purse for Rodeo events.
For more information about rodeo events, call Jerry Kraft at 307-327-5374.

Parade Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.

See the Cheyenne Trotters Equestrian Team at the Parade & Rodeo

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Saturday, June 18, 7 a.m., Fire House
Melodrama Friday & Saturday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at Opera House
Barbeque Sponsored by: A Bar A Ranch, and River Ridge Cabins
Lunch served all afternoon both days beginning at 11:30 a.m., separate charge.

Kid's Events!

Produced in cooperation with Carbon County Visitors Council

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The Livingston-King Scholarship, valued at \$1,500, is given in honor of former presidents of the Wyoming

Farm Bureau Federation, Herbert D. Livingston and H.J. King, as well as Buddy and Norma Livingston, the parents of former WyFB President Perry Livingston.

Additionally, five Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarships and three Continuing Education Scholarships are awarded at \$500 each. The Continuing Education Scholarship recipients must be an entering

college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship applications are due March 1 each year and are available at local county Farm Bureau offices or online at www.wyfb.org.

We are proud to honor these outstanding individuals with college scholarships to play a small part in helping them achieve their goals.

Aden J. Scheer

Livingston Family and H.J. King Memorial Scholarship

Aden J. Scheer, of Farson, is the recipient of the \$1,500 Livingston Family/H.J. King Memorial Scholarship. Aden will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming in the fall and plans on studying pre-veterinary medicine. Her parents are Gentian and Darin Scheer.

Aden's family have been involved in the Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for several generations. Her grandparents, the Harns and Applequists, ranch near Farson and have been active Farm Bureau members. Her grandfather, Marvin Applequist, also worked for WyFB.

Aden has been very active throughout her high school career in a wide range of clubs and varsity athletics, as well as community and church activities. She has held leadership positions within the organizations she participated in, lettered in three varsity sports, and received awards showcasing her hard work and dedication. Aden aspires to become a large animal veterinarian in Wyoming after completing veterinary school.

Her recommenders describe her as a strong leader who leads by example, a kind person who exudes confidence, and someone who maintains positive and encouraging behavior even through tough times. Aden is known for her high standards and her relentless drive to achieve her goals. She is also described as creative, undaunted, and accomplished.



Aden J. Scheer

Kale D. Benton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Kale D. Benton, of Buffalo, will be a freshman at Casper College in the fall where he intends to pursue a degree in animal science. His parents are Tyler and Jackie Benton. Jackie served on the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee from 2003-09. He later served as the secretary of the Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation.

Kale has been an active student throughout his high school career, staying involved through club participation. Kale has served his 4-H and FFA clubs through different leadership positions and has achieved several varsity letters through his involvement in soccer and cross country. He is also a musician and member of the Bison Marching Band and the Bison Jazz Ensemble.



Kale D. Benton

Individual stories by Lillian Power, WyFB Spring Intern

His recommenders describe him as a self-motivated and dedicated leader. He is referred to as a dependable and committed person with immense passion; he prides himself on his work while maintaining great composure, even during difficult times.

Laura L. Dockery

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Laura L. Dockery, of Lander, will be a freshman at Eastern Wyoming College in the fall where she will be pursuing her veterinary technician certification. Her parents are Thad and Andrea Dockery. Laura and her family have been heavily involved in the Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for several generations. Laura has attended every Fremont County FBF Annual Meeting and every WyFB Annual Meeting since she was born. Laura became a regular member herself when she turned 18.

Throughout high school, Laura has participated in student council and been a member of the National Honor Society. She has also been active in the community through 4-H, where she held leadership positions, and FFA, where she participated in a number of team competitions.

Laura's recommenders describe her as a diligent, hard-working individual who dedicates her time to the projects and passions in her life. Laura is said to be a strong leader within her community who is not afraid to go against the crowd while continuing to be a team player. She is described as an honest and positive woman who will no doubt be a high-impact individual wherever life takes her.



Laura L. Dockery

Trevor L. Rasmuson

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Trevor L. Rasmuson, of Buffalo, will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming in the fall. Trevor will be pursuing a degree in biology and plans to attend medical school in the future. His parents are Curtis and Jennifer Rasmuson.

Trevor has been an active member within his community where he has helped with several different nonprofit organizations, while also maintaining active involvement at school. Trevor has been a member of several different clubs and organizations while



Trevor L. Rasmuson

attending Buffalo High School. He has served on student council throughout high school and has held many responsibilities through his role as his class president the last three years as well as the student body president his senior year.

Trevor's recommenders describe him as a contagious spirit with a hard-work attitude. He is admired for his leadership within his clubs and participation on campus and his drive and determination to succeed. Trevor is described as a quality individual with a strong moral code who likes to work collaboratively with others. He is kind and considerate while staying motivated in everything he does.

Kami L. Tangeman

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Kami L. Tangeman, of Pine Bluffs, will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming in the fall pursuing a degree in business. Her parents are Joshua and Wendy Tangeman. The Tangeman family have been active members with Farm Bureau for many years at the county level. Kami has been dedicated to their county involvement and helps each year with the preparation for the Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.

Kami has maintained a very active involvement at Pine Bluffs High School, participating in many clubs and organizations. Kami played on her school's volleyball team and competed in both indoor and outdoor track. Outside of her school involvement, Kami has been an active member within her community and has served in the local Pheasants Forever youth chapter as the president, while also acting as a representative on the National Youth Leadership Council for Pheasants Forever. She also was the founder of her schools Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter.

Kami's recommenders describe her as a well-rounded individual who works hard and leads by example. Kami is said to be a very detail-oriented person, who is self-motivated and dependable. She is described as a smart, respectable young woman who possesses exceptional communication skills.

Dally M. Wilkins

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Dally M. Wilkins, of Lingle, will be a freshman at Casper College in the fall and plans to transition to the University of Wyoming after earning her associate degree. Dally plans to pursue both a degree in animal science and agricultural business. Her parents are Andy and Heather Wilkins. The Wilkins family have been members of the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation for many years.



Kami L. Tangeman

WYFB SCHOLARSHIPS ... From Page 8



Dally M. Wilkins

During her senior year at Lingle-Ft. Laramie High School, she served as the student body president, class president, and president of her FFA chapter. On top of her leadership roles, Dally played several sports throughout high school, has been competitive in both 4-H and FFA, participated in community service efforts and been involved with the senior tech tutoring.

Dally's recommenders describe her as a strong and positive leader. She is humble and kind and always leads by example.

She is described as a respectful, hardworking, disciplined young woman who expresses empathy and enthusiasm. Dally is said to be very dependable and responsible, manages commitments very well and always gives her best. Dally has been praised for her dedication and honesty in all that she does.

Dalton Butler
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship

Dalton J. Butler, of Hulett, is studying aviation, range management and wildlife management at Casper College. His parents are J.R. and Bobbi Butler.

Dalton's initial Farm Bureau involvement started with his



Dalton Butler

participation in the Ag Books for Kids coloring contest while in elementary school. The Butler family has been long-time Farm Bureau members and regularly support Wyoming agriculture.

Dalton and his brother operate the Butler Brothers Livestock company where they maintain an award-winning flock of sheep while also attending college. Dalton will be a junior at Casper College this coming fall. While attending Casper College, he has been recognized on the President's Honor Roll for the past three semesters.

His recommenders describe him as an involved and bright individual who strives for perfection while helping others. He is known for his determination and precision while maintaining a positive attitude and thoughtfulness for others.

Sydney J. Fornstrom
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship

Sydney J. Fornstrom, of Pine Bluffs, is studying accounting and human resource management at the University of Wyoming. Her parents are Todd and Laura Fornstrom.

As a third-generation Fornstrom family member of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Sydney looks forward to the years to come. She has worked as an intern at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation where she dedicated her time to membership renewals and state convention preparation. Both of



Sydney J. Fornstrom

her parents have been involved in Farm Bureau the past 30 years and have served in a variety of leadership positions at the county, state and national levels. Her dad, Todd, is serving his sixth term as president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Sydney, who has been very involved on campus through the Women in Business organization and club volleyball, has held a job and maintained her GPA standing throughout her college career. Sydney will be a junior in the fall.

Her recommenders describe her as an active and involved individual who demonstrates great leadership skills. She is also described as driven and dependable.

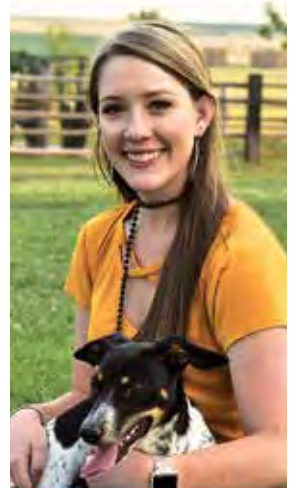
Emily Keiter

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship

Emily Keiter, of Burns, is studying agricultural education and animal and veterinary science at the University of Wyoming. Her parents are Dave and Lisa Keiter. Her family have been regular members of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for over 20 years, and she holds her own regular membership as well.

Emily will be a senior in the fall and aspires to be an agricultural educator. She has continued to excel in her education while attending UW with a dedication to her studies while also being involved with clubs and organizations on campus. She also teaches Sunday School.

Her recommenders describe her as a dedicated, determined, and talented woman who demonstrates strong leadership skills. ■



Emily Keiter



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CAMPBELL

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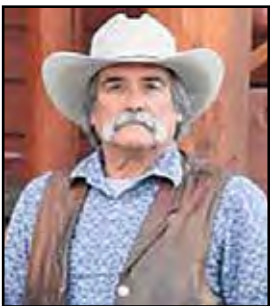
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Obituaries



Anthony Dante 'Tony' Testolin

November 13, 1931 ~ April 5, 2022

A Rosary Vigil for Anthony Dante "Tony" Testolin, 90, was held May 6, 2022, at Mary Queen of Heaven in Chugwater, Wyo. The memorial service was May 7, 2022, at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Wheatland, Wyo., with Father Hiep Ngyuen as the celebrant.

Lifelong Platte County, Wyo., resident, restaurant proprietor, community investor, and rancher, Tony Testolin passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Tony was born in Hartville on Friday, Nov. 13, 1931, to Dante and Celestina (Balzan) Testolin. He grew up in Hartville, Wyo., working in the family grocery and ranching businesses, graduating from Sunrise High School in 1949.

In 1955, he married Nancy Louise Berg and the couple welcomed four children, three daughters - Debbie, Tina, Gina - and one son, Tony R. From 1949 to 1964, Tony worked in the family grocery business, at the Sunrise mine, and co-owned the Venice Bar in Hartville. He also continued his lifelong passion for ranching by developing the original family homestead (1913) north of Hartville.

Alongside Nancy, the couple established Crazy Tony's Bar and Restaurant in Guernsey, Wyo., in 1964. Crazy Tony's became widely known for homemade Italian dinners and the "Crazy Tony's Jug," which made frequent appearances at ranch brandings and as a staple at the Old Timer's Rodeo in Guernsey.

In 1972, Tony married Nedalyn D. (Wilhelm) Testolin and combined families to include Nedalyn's two daughters, Lael and Conilee. The couple continued operating Crazy Tony's Bar and Restaurant and established their home on the 31 Bar Ranch southwest of Wheatland. In that home, the family prospered and grew to include 31 grand and great-grandchildren.

Tony had a passion for children and his community. He was an avid supporter of the Catholic church, helping establish Saint Anthony's Church in Hartville and Guernsey, and supporting Mary Queen of Heaven in Chugwater. He was an original investor and board member of the Oregon Trail Bank and an advocate of Saint Joseph's Children's Home in Torrington, Wyo.

Tony is survived by his blended family of five children: daughters, Tina Testolin of Golden, Color., and Gina (Regi) Ketcham of Temple, Texas; son, Tony Testolin of Littleton, Color.; Lael (JR) Good of Wheatland and Conilee (Dave) Swantek of Cheyenne; son-in-law, Tim Karlberg of Wheatland; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren, all of whom he cherished.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Nedalyn; and daughter, Deborah Karlberg.

Serving as honorary pallbearers were Doug Kafka, Jimmy Read, Randy Hunter, Jack Finnerty, Juan Reyes, and Mickey Vanelli.

To honor Tony's passion for children and education, please consider a donation to Saint Joseph's Children's Home, P.O. box 1117, Torrington, Wyoming 82240 or <https://45735.thankyou4caring.org/pages/st-josephs-childrens-home>

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.gormanfh.com or to the family of Tony Testolin at P.O. Box 682, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201. ■



Wilma Lois Baldwin

July 8, 1931 - May 4, 2022

Services for Wilma Lois Baldwin, 90, of Torrington, Wyo., were held May 11, 2022, at Our Savior Lutheran Church of Torrington with interment at Valley View Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home, and friends may send their condolences to the family at www.colyerfuneralhome.com. Memorials may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church and the Prairie Center Fire Department in Wilma's name.

Wilma went to be with the Lord May 4, 2022. She was born July 8, 1931, in Keeline, Wyo., the daughter of Leo C. Heins and Hedwich [Miller] Heins. She

grew up on the family ranch south of Keeline and graduated from Manville High School. She married Edward Baldwin from Van Tassell WY on Sept. 8, 1950, and the couple purchased the Anton Fisher Homestead. Ed ranched with Wilma at his side, raising their family in the Prairie Center community. Wilma and Ed retired in 2002, moving into Torrington. The couple loved to travel and enjoyed displaying and sharing their antiques. Wilma once counted over 100 teapots in her collection and especially enjoyed musical instruments. She loved to gather family history and gave area

cattle ranch tours. Through the years, she worked very hard serving her Lord Jesus, family and community.

Wilma was a member of the Burge Club, American Legion Auxiliary Post #1, Goshen Cattlewomen and past president of the Wyoming Cattlewomen, Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation and Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Wilma is survived by: four children: daughter Barbara (Wayne) Erickson, daughter Lorraine (Ed) Brummell, son Elden (Tena) Baldwin and son Bruce Baldwin, all of Torrington; eight grandchildren: Jeff (Kim) McKinney of Wheatridge, Color., Jody (Micah) Connor of Federal Heights, Color., Eddie (Jennifer) Brummell of Torrington, Joe (Missy) Brummell of Sheridan, Mont., Erin (Jeff) Hinton of Sheridan, Jason (Shannon) Baldwin of Torrington, Scott Baldwin and Michael Baldwin; eleven great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Hedwich Heins; brother, Allen Heins; sister, Alma Gaukel; granddaughter, Brittany Baldwin; and step-grandson, David Erickson. ■

SEC proposed climate rule could intensify farm and ranch consolidation

MAY 9, 2022, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC) proposed rule to require climate disclosures by public companies could severely impact family farms and ranches and intensify the already concerning rate of consolidation in agriculture. American Farm Bureau Federation economists discuss potential impacts of "The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors" proposed rule in a May 6, 2022, Market Intel report at fb.org.

The proposed rule requires extensive requirements for public companies to report on Scope 3 emissions, which are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by an organization but contribute to its value chain. While farmers and ranchers would not be required to report directly to the SEC, they provide almost every raw product that goes into the supply chain. AFBF economists anticipate reporting requirements for farms "could create several substantial costs and

liabilities, such as reporting obligations, technical challenges, significant financial and operational disruption and the risk of financially crippling legal liabilities."

"Farmers have never been subjected to regulations intended for Wall Street," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "This proposed rule is an example of overreach by the SEC, whose primary purpose is to protect investors from unscrupulous business practices. Unlike large corporations currently regulated by the SEC,

farmers don't have a team of compliance officers or attorneys dedicated to handling SEC compliance issues. This proposal could keep small farms from doing business with public companies at a time when all farms are needed to ensure food security here and abroad. We urge the SEC to avoid enacting regulations that will keep farmers and ranchers from focusing on growing the food, fuel and fiber this country needs."

SEC PROPOSAL ... Page 15

Obituaries



Alice Anna (Leeling) Vollman

April 2, 1928 ~ May 15, 2022

Funeral services for Alice Vollman, 94, were held May 23, 2022, at the First Baptist Church in Douglas, Wyo., with Pastor Bill Williamson officiating. Interment was in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Alice Vollman passed away peacefully Sunday, May 15, 2022, at her home near Douglas, Wyo. Alice was born to Joseph Clarence "Joe" and Rachel Cora (Towl) Leeling in Hat Creek, Wyo., on Monday, April 2, 1928. She was the fifth of eight children.

Her family moved to Manville, Wyo., when she was in third grade where she finished school and graduated in 1946. After graduating from high school, Alice spent a year in California living with her aunt Alice, working at JC Penney's. She returned to Wyoming because her sweetheart Bill lived there.

Alice met William R. "Bill" Vollman at a dance at the La Prele Hall in 1945 while he was home on leave from the United States Navy. The two of them enjoyed dancing throughout their life. Alice and Bill were married on June 29, 1947, in Douglas. They lived at the family ranch with Bill's parents until they were able to build their own home.

Bill and Alice had three children: Vicki,

Robert, and Lori. In 1968, Vicki and Bill's mother died in a car accident. Alice was a true ranch wife, cooking for the crew and helping do the work to keep the ranch running. She also drove school bus during the week. Alice taught herself to sew and became a master seamstress, making clothing and beautiful quilts for family and friends.

Alice and Bill took a Dale Carnegie course together and Alice found her voice. She served as secretary for Crime Stoppers and made quilts to be carried by law enforcement to help children suffering from trauma. She served as vice president of the Wyoming Pioneer Association and recruited many new members. She helped organize the Northwest Farm Bureau, served as secretary for the Converse County Farm Bureau, was involved in the La Prele Homemakers and participated in a sorority in Glenrock.

Alice lost Bill in April 2021 after more than 73 years of marriage.

Alice was preceded in death by her father, Joe Leeling, on March 17, 1951; mother, Rachel Leeling Schuricht, on Jan. 27, 1990; her daughter, Vicki Pickinpaugh,

on March 28, 1968; husband, Bill Vollman, on April 21, 2021; and siblings, Jim Leeling on Nov. 12, 2020, Sam Leeling on June 18, 1992, Vera Strachan on June 12, 2021, Frances Dickau-Mitchell on Dec. 9, 2018, Bernita Kiever on May 5, 2016, and Eileen Allsup on May 18, 2013.

She is survived by her son, Robert (Sherry) Vollman of Douglas; daughter, Lori (Darrel) Brown of DeKalb, Mo.; grandsons, Brady (Roni) and Jared (Mandy) Vollman, both of Douglas, and Aaron (Rachel) Brown and Eric (Katie) Brown both of DeKalb; great-grandchildren Joslyn, Cadence, Lauryn, and Zander Vollman, all of Douglas, and Hunter, Shelby, Erin and Dodge Brown, all of DeKalb; sister, Virginia Linneman of Gillette, Wyo.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers were Travis Dickau, Jess Dickau, Ed Fink, Greg Kruse, George Pyle, and Dennis Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Wyoming Pioneer Association, P.O. Box 1545, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 would be appreciated by the family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.gormanfh.com. ■



GIVE A GOOD HOME TO A **Wild Horse or Burro** Wild Horse & Burro Events

EVENT DETAILS

Wheatland Off Range Corral, Wheatland WY

June 3 & June 17
July 1 & July 15
August 5 & Sept 2
Oct. 7 & Oct. 21

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch Day & Adoptions, Lander WY

June 4 & Sept. 3

Deerwood Open Ranch Days, Centennial WY

June 11 & Sept. 24

Cheyenne Frontier Days @ Lions Park, Cheyenne WY

July 22-July 30

TIP Challenge and Adoption @ WY State Fair, Douglas WY

Aug. 19

Wyoming State Fair Mustang Days, Douglas WY

Aug. 20

WY Honor Farm Adoptions, Riverton WY

Sept. 9-10

Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island NE

Sept. 13-15

Mantle Ranch Adoption, Wheatland WY

Sept. 17

Appointment can be made prior to this event. Please call Steve Mantle at (307) 331-2225 for more information.

Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility, Rock Springs WY

To make an adoption appointment for Thursday or Friday, please call Kathi Fine at (307) 352-0292 for more information.

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Why are we talking about mental health all the time now?

BY JESSICA CABRERA, AFBF

Isn't it interesting how things change over time? And how certain issues become mainstream?

We used to play outside from morning to night, day after day, without a second thought, and now as many as 60 million people in the U.S. are affected by seasonal allergies and struggle to participate in normal daily activities outdoors. My son is allergic to grass! How did that happen?

We used to eat PB&J sandwiches and peanut butter crackers without a thought, but now I ask the person sitting beside me on an airplane if it's okay for me to eat peanut M&M's (my guilty travel pleasure!) because I don't want to unintentionally instigate an anaphylaxis attack while flying at over 30,000 feet.

And anyone over the age of 40 can attest that "screen time" was not a thing when we were growing up. Now, handheld electronics offer access to our primary source of information – the internet. I'll admit, I would be in serious trouble if I didn't have GPS (don't judge me!). How did technology become so ubiquitous so fast?

What about mental health? No one talked about mental health wellness when I was growing up. I can remember one of my dad's best friends dying by suicide when I was little, and even after that it wasn't talked about. It was taboo, and I don't think people around me even knew how to articulate the issue. But now, the topic of mental health is discussed in the workplace, in schools, among friends and in the media. Why the change?

Believe it or not, May was established as Mental Health Month in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives. It's not a new idea that mental health is essential for a person's overall health, so this topic is not new to the scene. But why has the topic become so popular?

People are dying.

I'm sorry to be so blunt, but that's what it comes down to. We are losing our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, classmates and teammates to suicide, and we want it to stop. It doesn't discriminate. It can affect anyone, and most of the time it is doing its damage in the shadows.

This is especially true in the agriculture community. The suicide rate among farmers and ranchers during the farm crisis of the 1980s increased dramatically, which called attention to this issue among farm communities. Fast forward nearly 40 years and reports indicate that farmers die by suicide at a rate of two to five times higher than the national average. This is a crippling comparison, and it deserves attention!

I posit that mental health is being talked about so much now because we've learned that giving a voice to this issue saves lives. Too many people are struggling, and too many have lost their lives. As the years pass, more and more of us have a personal connection to someone who has died by suicide, and we are tired of it. We have to do something!

The American Farm Bureau's Farm State of Mind campaign is our way of letting farmers and ranchers know that it is OK to not be OK, they are not alone, and there are resources to help. It is how we work to equip family members, friends, neighbors and those who work in the agriculture industry with the information and training they need to recognize warning

signs and to boldly start a conversation. Through this campaign, farmers and ranchers are able to tell their stories of struggle, victory and advocacy. No farmer should feel that they have to handle the troubles of this world alone. We are stronger together.

Our most recent research poll results indicate that farmers and people in rural areas are more comfortable talking about stress and mental health challenges with others than they were in 2019. In an industry that prides itself on pulling yourself up by your bootstraps and never letting anyone know that you are hurting, this is a sign of progress. The stressors have not lessened, and the challenges persist, but it is time for farmers and ranchers to know that it's OK to not be OK and that getting help is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength.

So, let's keep talking about it! Embrace the change. It's making a difference. Little by little, this will save lives.

Jessica Cabrera is managing director of member engagement at the American Farm Bureau Federation, and is the program lead for the Farm State of Mind campaign. ■

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SEC PROPOSAL ... From Page 12

AFBF economists expect the proposed SEC rule to impact farmers and ranchers through:

- Increased costs due to compliance concerns. Farmers could be required to track and disclose information on day-to-day activities;
- Potentially requiring private and personally identifiable data. Unlike public companies and corporations, farmers work and raise families in their place of business;
- Consolidation, as small farms lack the resources to comply with burdensome reporting requirements;
- Increased liability because the timeline given to comply with Scope 3 emissions is unattainable.

“This proposal could keep small farms from doing business with public companies at a time when all farms are needed to ensure food security here and abroad.”

Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

The SEC proposed rule is 510 pages long, with 1,068 technical footnotes and 750 direct questions. The SEC initially only gave farmers 39 days for review, with public comments originally due May 20. AFBF, among others, requested an extension of the public comment period. On May 9, 2022, the SEC announced the extension of the public comment period until June 17, 2022. The rule suggests that an individual farm could face significant costs in monitoring and reporting and asks for additional information in comments; but even the most basic analysis will require additional time.

“AFBF appreciates the SEC extending the comment period for its proposed climate-reporting rule. We asked for the extension because America’s farmers and ranchers need time to fully understand the consequences of this 510-page proposal,” President Duvall stated.

The SEC’s primary purpose is to enforce the law against market manipulation and fraud. However, this rule moves well beyond its traditional regulatory authority by mandating climate change reporting requirements that will not only regulate publicly traded companies, but will impact every company in the value chain. More importantly, this rule could require public companies to force farmers and ranchers to report personal information and business-related data, raising serious privacy concerns. In this capacity, the SEC would be granted unprecedented jurisdiction over America’s farms and ranches, potentially creating onerous compliance requirements for even small farms and ranches with few or no employees.

Farmers and ranchers have been on the forefront of climate mitigation efforts from the very beginning, working on conservation stewardship efforts and decreasing their greenhouse gas emissions through voluntary efforts. This rule could undermine that progress and force mandates that could eliminate many farms and ranches. ■

SCOPE 1, SCOPE 2 & SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Scope 1 Emissions

Direct Emissions

GHG emissions directly from operations that are owned or controlled by the reporting company

Scope 2 Emissions

Indirect Emissions

Indirect GHG emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heating, or cooling consumed by the reporting company

Scope 3 Emissions

Indirect Emissions

All indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions



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Read the full report at fb.org/marketintel/ Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to submit comments by June 17 via the AFBF Action Alert available at this link.

Market Intel, produced by the Farm Bureau economic analysis team, provides market and policy insight and analysis for our farmer and rancher members nationwide, as well as policymakers on Capitol Hill. Visit fb.org/marketintel to view the market and policy analysis and policy insight published frequently.

Here is an excerpt of a May 2022 Market Intel article that expands on details regarding the SEC proposed climate rule.

Impact on Agriculture

The SEC has a three-part mission of protecting investors, maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitating capital formation. To accomplish this mission, the SEC requires companies to disclose important financial information with an accurate picture of the company's present and potential performance. The SEC's proposed climate rule is said to only apply to registrants with the SEC, meaning a company that goes public with offerings.

There are an estimated 63,485 companies listed on the SEC website with some sort of registrant reporting requirements, with industries ranging from life sciences to energy and transportation, real estate and construction, manufacturing, technology, trade and services,

finance, structured finance and international corporate finance.

Looking further into the companies that are registered with the SEC, each company is classified with a specific industry title and assigned a standard industrial classification (SIC) code that indicates the company's type of business. Notably, none of the registrants listed on the SEC's website has an SIC code corresponding to agricultural production. That is, for the SIC codes titled "Agricultural Production-Crops," "Agricultural Production-Livestock & Animal Specialties," "Agricultural Services," "Forestry," and "Fishing, Hunting and Trapping," there are no reporting companies that disclose to the SEC. However, all five of these industries produce most of the raw products used by publicly traded

companies and is, therefore, part of the value chain of that publicly traded company (i.e., Scope 3). For agriculture, food and forestry manufacturing alone, there are nearly 2,400 companies registered with the SEC that would be subject to reporting Scope 3 emissions from its farm suppliers.

There are several potential impacts to farmers and ranchers that could result from being included in a public company's Scope 3 emissions value chain.

Overreach Past Congress

As mentioned above, farmers and ranchers already comply with expansive legislative and regulatory directives that exist at the local, state and federal levels. The SEC's proposed rule seeks to further extend regulatory burdens on farmers and ranchers, all while lacking appropriate statutory authority. In fact, Congress has been very clear that agencies may not require mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock.

The SEC has exceeded its area of regulatory authority and is seeking to regulate industries that have never been under the SEC's jurisdiction in an apparent attempt to regulate climate activities. ■

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