



The Hamilton family has been in the sheep business for several generations. Pictured here are Doug's grandmother Eleanor and her brother. *HAMILTON FAMILY PHOTO*

Legacy on the line: Wyoming sheep ranchers struggle with labor, imports and market disruption

By **CALLIE HANSON**

Across the state of Wyoming, sheep have shaped both the land and livelihoods of ranch families for generations. But today, sheep ranchers say their industry is under siege—from rising labor costs and limited packing capacity to a market increasingly overwhelmed by foreign imports.

“Our family came to Uinta County in the early 1900s,” said Uinta County sheep rancher Vance Broadbent. “We’ve got Forest Service grazing records from 1905. I’m at least fourth generation, and sheep have always been part of our ranch.”

Doug Hamilton, who operates a fifth-generation sheep and cattle ranch with his family in the Big Horns, said the industry is unrecognizable from the one he grew up in. “When I was young, we had

two bands of sheep—about 1,000 in each,” he said. “Now we’re down to one band, but we still finish all our lambs here at the ranch. It’s a full circle ranch.”

One of the most pressing challenges facing Wyoming sheep ranchers is the cost of labor. Both Broadbent and Hamilton rely on the H-2A visa program to bring in experienced herders from Mexico and Peru.

“We’ve used the H-2A system since the 1990s,” Hamilton said. “It’s not cheap, and it’s never been more complicated than it is today.”

Broadbent agreed. “Every year the wages go up, but it’s not tied to anything in the industry,” he said. “We can’t raise our lamb prices to offset it. Some outfits are selling out because they just can’t keep up.”

SHEEP RANCHERS ... Page 5

Ranching case highlights tension between producers and federal agencies

By **CALLIE HANSON**

While the phrase “unprecedented” has saturated the news cycle since 2020, it seems to be the most fitting term to describe the case of Charles and Heather Maude of South Dakota and their recent criminal case involving the US Forest Service. The indictment involves an alleged encroachment on neighboring National Grasslands.

The summons, issued on June 24, 2024, alleges by December 2020 or earlier, the Maudes knowingly used about 25 acres of National Grasslands for cultivation and another 25 acres for grazing cattle—land managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—without authorization. The government claims the use exceeded \$1,000 in value and accuses the couple of aiding and abetting each other in violation of federal law under 18 U.S.C. §§ 641 and 2.

According to Heather’s parents Tom and Randi Hamilton, the indictment stems from an alleged encroachment of National Grasslands land of approximately 25 acres the Maude Family has managed for over 114 years.

“The parcels in question are adjacent to the Maude’s private land. Since the inception of the USFS, the acres in question have been included in the

grazing allotment, with the current management practices occurring, with zero notifications of issue or infraction,” Randi explained.

Randi noted the couple was shocked by the encounter with USFS Law Enforcement personnel given their willingness to seek administrative solutions with local USFS management.

MAUDE GRASSLAND CASE ... Page 5

Spinning into ag education at state FFA convention

Nearly 800 high school students had the chance to test their agricultural knowledge, learn about Farm Bureau and walk away with Wyoming-made treats during the 2025 Wyoming State FFA Convention.

The booth featured a colorful “Ag Trivia” wheel offering students a fun, hands-on way to engage with Wyoming agriculture. Each section of the wheel represented a different trivia question about the state’s ag industry—from livestock facts to crop production, and even the role of pollinators in Wyoming ecosystems.

“We wanted something to draw students in, start conversations, and make learning about ag fun,” WYFB Member Engagement Coordinator Alexis Lake said. “The trivia wheel gave us a way to do all three.”

Students lined up throughout the convention to spin the wheel and take a shot at answering questions. Those who participated walked away with locally produced snacks—meat sticks crafted by the University of Wyoming Meat Lab and honey candies sourced from right here in the state. ■



Members of the University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter visited with students at the Wyoming FFA convention. Students had the opportunity to spin the wheel and test their knowledge on Wyoming agriculture.



WYFB Young Farmer and Rancher Chair Cody Alps and UW Collegiate FB members Cassie Fenske and Aspen Gair. In addition to the wheel, students had the opportunity to try out beef sticks from the UW meat lab and honey candy made locally in Wyoming.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 2025
- 15 WyFB Foundation Charitable Contributions Application Deadline
 - 27-28 WyFB YF&R Committee Meeting – Lander
 - 30 WyFB Membership Committee Meeting-Hilton Garden Inn in Casper
 - 30 WyFB Board Meeting – Hilton Garden Inn in Casper
- November 2025
- 13-15 WyFB 106th Annual Meeting – Gillette

Visit wyfb.org for event updates

MEMBERS: Stay in the Loop!
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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kerin Clark

EDITOR
Callie Hanson
chanson@wyfb.org

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Agriculture, the Backbone of our Economy

Zippy Duvall
American Farm Bureau Federation President



Across the country, men and women in every region and every state are rising to grow the food, fiber and renewable fuel Americans depend on. Most of them have been working for hours before sunup this morning, and many will be working still as the sun dips below the horizon this evening. The days are long on the farm, and the work is hard. Farmers and ranchers don't shy away from a hard day's work, though. We know our nation is counting on us, not only to keep our food supply secure but also to help fuel our economy.

The latest Feeding the Economy report highlights the critical role U.S. agriculture plays across our economy. While fewer than 2% of Americans are farmers, 100% of Americans need a farmer, every day. Farmers are the key to a long supply chain, from tractor manufacturers upstream to grocery stores downstream. Today, this supply chain directly makes up more than one-seventh of the U.S. economy. In 2024, the direct and indirect economic impact of the agriculture supply chain totaled \$9.5 trillion, or one-third of the U.S. economy. To put that in terms of the global economy, if the U.S. agricultural supply chain were its own country, it would support the third largest economy in the world. Let that sink in for a minute. That is an American-grown success story.

Agriculture's economic value is fueling jobs too. In 2024, direct employment in the food and agriculture supply chain grew by more than 1 million jobs. Altogether, jobs directly in the food and agricultural supply chain make up 15% of employment in the U.S., for a total of more than 24 million jobs. When you add in all the jobs supported by agriculture, the yields nearly double. From scientists and researchers to engineers and truck drivers, farmers and ranchers and their supply chain support more than 47 million jobs in the U.S.

As farmers and ranchers know from hard, personal experience, yields are not guaranteed. One good season—or even one dozen good seasons—does not guarantee the next. We cannot take agriculture for granted. Most consumers got a glimpse of this truth with the empty grocery store shelves at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the egg shortage this year. But our memories can be short, and most folks do not understand the tremendous pressures farmers and ranchers are facing.

From inflation and rising labor costs to an outdated farm bill, many farmers are operating on razor thin margins, and some cannot hold on for a better season.

Farm bankruptcies were up 55% from 2023 to 2024, and more than 141,000 farms went out of business from 2017 to 2022, according to USDA's Census of Agriculture. I give these reminders not to be despairing but to remind us of how important it is that we remain committed to strengthening American agriculture. That's why Farm Bureau is actively engaging with lawmakers and leaders across Washington and across the country. From Capitol Hill to federal agencies, we are taking a seat at the table to address the challenges facing agriculture. We know Americans are counting on farmers, and farmers are counting on us.

Farmers and ranchers have been raising American-grown products for generations. And if we're going to keep agriculture strong to ensure a secure food supply and to help feed our economy, we need to ensure that farmers and ranchers have the tools they need. Farm Bureau is committed to being the leading Voice of Agriculture because we understand how high the stakes are for farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Our nation is stronger when farmers and ranchers have the resources, tools and freedom to do what we do best: feed our nation and our economy. ■

It takes Practice and a Mentor

Kerin Clark
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Spring is a time of new growth. This statement in agriculture makes us think of baby calves, planting crops, dragging meadows and all the things new life brings in the spring. I'm going to switch gears and talk about new growth that is also an important aspect of farming and ranching...leadership development.

Our mission focuses on protecting private property rights, strengthening agriculture and supporting farm and ranch families. Keeping agriculture strong in Wyoming and America is important for those who grow the food, it's important for those who consume the food and it's important for the security of our nation.

Advocacy, education and leadership development are the core components of the work we do to meet the mission of this grassroots organization. Leadership development is similar to developing our skills on the farm or ranch. It takes practice and it takes a mentor.

When it comes to ranching, my favorite place to be is horseback moving cattle. Learning the ropes as a young ranch kid took a lot of practice, otherwise known as time in the saddle, and mentorship from my mom and dad. I can still remember that feeling of accomplishment when I was

first turned loose to go clear part of a rugged section on my own.

When it comes to leadership, my favorite place to be is with people doing meaningful work to keep agriculture strong. Same is true here as a young ranch kid, leadership lessons took a lot of practice and mentorship. I was definitely more comfortable with cattle than with people when I started my leadership journey. Learning the ropes of leadership took mentorship from leaders who were willing to invest their time to help me grow as an agriculture advocate.

It takes practice and it takes a mentor for us to grow in agriculture and in leadership advocacy. This practice and mentorship can come in many different forms and from many different people. In June 2002, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) established a Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) program to help young farmers and ranchers grow in both agriculture and leadership. I was honored to be tasked with developing the program. Practice and mentorship have been key to developing a strong program to serve our members.

Practice and mentorship have also been key to developing young leaders to be strong advocates for agriculture. A key piece to the growth in leadership development for young farmers and ranchers has been the support,

mentorship and welcoming embrace into the organization that they've been given from experienced leaders.

When it comes to farming and ranching, it is so important to learn from those who have been there doing the work and it is important to bring new ideas. When it comes to agricultural leadership, the same is true. Learning from one another while feeling empowered to bring new ideas keeps agriculture strong and keeps our organization strong.

Many of our organization's leaders have participated in the WyFB YF&R program. One example would be this year's WyFB Board of Directors where seven of the nine members have participated in the WyFB YF&R program. While we can see the stories of leadership growth there are also those opportunities to grow personally and professionally for your ranch or farm.

It takes practice, otherwise known as involvement, and it takes a mentor. If you are already involved in this process, thank you for your leadership and commitment to keeping agriculture strong. If you are wondering how you can be involved in this process, the simple answer is to just say yes to the opportunity. The members of this organization embrace the opportunity to help one another as we work together to keep agriculture strong. ■

FinCEN removes beneficial ownership reporting requirements for U.S. companies and U.S. persons, sets new deadlines for foreign companies

AFBF AND WYFB STAFF REPORT

Consistent with the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s March 2, 2025 announcement, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is issuing an interim final rule removing the requirement for U.S. companies and U.S. persons to report beneficial ownership information (BOI) to FinCEN under the Corporate Transparency Act.

In that interim final rule, FinCEN revises the definition of “reporting company” in its implementing regulations to mean only those entities that formed under the law of a foreign country and that have registered to do business in any U.S. State or Tribal jurisdiction by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or similar office (formerly known as “foreign reporting companies”). FinCEN also exempts entities previously known as “domestic reporting companies” from BOI reporting requirements.

Thus, through this interim final rule, all entities created in the United States — including those previously known as “domestic reporting companies” — and their beneficial owners will be exempt from the requirement to report BOI to FinCEN. Foreign entities

that meet the new definition of a “reporting company” and do not qualify for an exemption from the reporting requirements must report their BOI to FinCEN under new deadlines, detailed below. These foreign entities, however, will not be required to report any U.S. persons as beneficial owners, and U.S. persons will not be required to report BOI with respect to any such entity for which they are a beneficial owner.

Upon the publication of the interim final rule, the following deadlines apply for foreign entities that are reporting companies:

- Reporting companies registered to do business in the United States before the date of publication of the IFR must file BOI reports no later than 30 days from that date.
- Reporting companies registered to do business in the United States on or after the date of publication of the IFR have 30 calendar days to file an initial BOI report after receiving notice that their registration is effective.

FinCEN is accepting comments on this interim final rule and intends to finalize the rule this year.

For more information, see Interim Final Rule: Questions and Answers. ■



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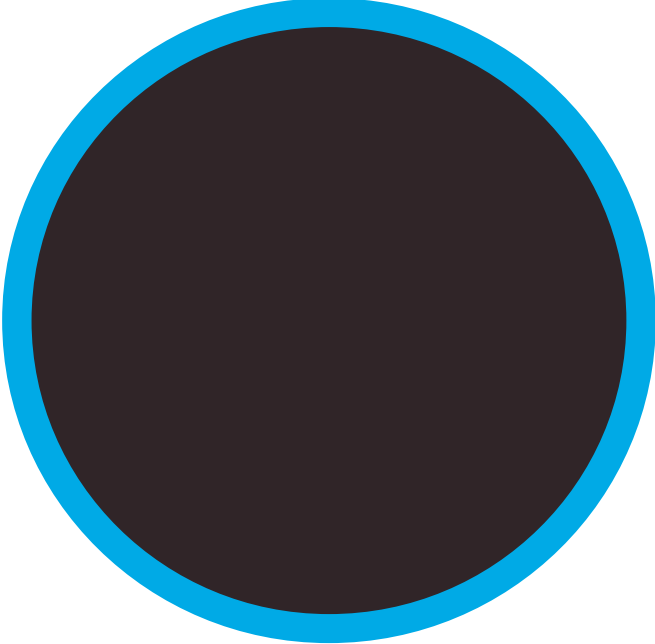
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Navigating working family relationships

BY ZACK GUILD

WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

My name is Zack Guild. My family owns a ranch in Southwest Wyoming where we run a cow/calf operation. My wife and I moved back to the ranch four years ago after living in Arizona and Utah. My brother, father, and grandfather are all full time on the ranch where we work together on a daily basis. I also have many siblings, nieces, nephews, in-laws and extended family that stay involved with the ranch.

Something I have been able to observe having been raised in this lifestyle, and now coming back to it, has been the unique relationships a family business puts on people. There is something about working together every day that can put a certain strain as well as a certain sweetness to those relationships. I'm sure we can all look back and find a memory, however recent, of hot-headed disputes, frustrations regarding a myriad of things, or personal grudges held quietly. Whatever it may be, the blended family and work relationship can be a challenge. It can also offer the opportunity to nurture beautiful and lasting relationships with those people we hold closest.

Some of my earliest memories are of loading up in the hay truck with dad and mom and trying my best to drive in a straight line and not take out too many fences in the process. I cherish the learning moments shared as I worked with my grandpa. The ties built with my siblings laid the groundwork for the closeness I share with each of them. While my family is far from perfect, something I have never questioned is the love and loyalty I feel from each and every one of my family members. However, too many times we allow the frustrations, greed and resentment to work its way into our relationships and slowly eat at the bedrock of those relationships. It saddens me to look around and see families torn apart when faced with the burdens placed on their relationships.

I credit a large part of my family's ability to stay so close to my father's foresight. Planning for the future can be quite scary for some people and having an open dialogue about what the future holds can be daunting. I believe knowing what to expect from a young age helped all of my family adapt to change. Communication can be so vital for relationships, and we communicate in so many ways. Too many times our actions or words are communicating that we care more about a certain outcome than a certain individual. Prioritizing relationships we value over objects or outcomes is key in preserving those cherished ties. I understand how hard it can be to apologize when you feel you are in the right, or allowing a certain project to be done a certain way when you feel it would be better done another way. While at times it may be necessary to speak up and be firm, too many times we are immovable with things that are almost inconsequential.

There is nothing more important to me than the relationship I share with, first and foremost my wife and child, but also all other familial relationships. This lifestyle can present such a sweet opportunity to nurture and grow those relationships into something beautiful. If we can keep a wider perspective and focus on the bigger picture rather than the small moment in front of us.

Mathew 22: 36-39 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." While it is definitely easier said than done, loving those around us like ourselves and striving to preserve those important relationships can make the work/family relationships so much sweeter, deeper and lasting. ■



Family First, Always

Zack Guild and his young son carry on generations of tradition in southwest Wyoming. "This lifestyle can present such a sweet opportunity to nurture and grow those relationships into something beautiful," Guild said. HANNAH GUILD PHOTO.

Working Side by Side

The Guild family has weathered the ups and downs of ranch life together. "There's a certain strain and a certain sweetness," Zack Guild said of working with family. "But love and loyalty have always held us together." HANNAH GUILD PHOTO.

SHEEP RANCHERS... From Page 1

Hamilton said international imports are hitting ranchers hard. “Imports are up 30% this year. It’s gotten to the point it could be considered dumping,” he said. “We’re price takers—not price makers—and that’s tough when you’ve worked all year to produce a quality product.”

He recalled better times when lambs were bringing \$2 per pound. “Now I’m being told my fat lambs are worth \$1.55. It doesn’t pencil out.”

According to Dave Salmonsens, Senior Director, Government Affairs at the American Farm Bureau Federation, recent tariffs may help balance the scales—though the long-term impact remains unclear.

“Starting April 5, all goods imports into the U.S.—excluding Canada and Mexico—are subject to a new 10% tariff,” Salmonsens said. “That includes lamb from Australia and New Zealand. The goal is to encourage trade partners to lower tariffs on U.S. exports in return.”

However, Salmonsens cautioned the effects won’t be immediate. “There may be a lag because of exemptions for goods already in transit,” he explained. “But eventually, the 10% tariff will apply across the board unless new deals are made.”

MAUDE GRASSLAND CASE... From Page 1

In a letter to former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Sen. Michael Rounds (R-SD) pointed out the fence line had been repeatedly acknowledged by the Forest Service over the nearly 60-year course of the grazing lease in the area.

“If the border was inaccurately established, the USFS’ own documentation failed to correct the issues 70 years ago when the fence was constructed,” Rounds wrote. “The issue was also present 60 years ago when the Maudes obtained their first grazing lease. And it has persisted each time the USFS renewed their agreement with the Maude family, most recently in 2024.”

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom penned a letter of support to USFS Chief Tom Schultz, outlining concerns over the abuse of power by the USFS. WyFB policy opposes the abuse of power and over reach of any enforcement or investigative department of any US Executive Branch Agency, including USFS. WyFB also supports strict consequence of permanent ban of federal employment of any individual found guilty of abusing power and to be held responsible for any financial cost incurred.

“We’re deeply concerned the federal government chose to criminally indict Charles and Heather Maude—each individually—for something that should’ve been handled administratively,” Fornstrom said. “It’s critical for agencies to work with long-time permittees to resolve conflicts without dragging them into the judicial system. There need to be clear, efficient, and appropriate avenues to remedy situations like this.”

Beyond the legal implications, the indictment unsettled close family and neighbors, sparking fresh anxiety about their proximity to federal lands and the future of long-held grazing permits.

The Hamiltons noted the Maudes are well known in their community, with Charles serving as the volunteer firefighter chief and Heather serving on the local farmers’ market board.

“They work multiple jobs to be able to raise their two kids, ages seven and nine, on Charles’ family farm and ranch. As far as I know, they have never had an

Hamilton said another blow came during the pandemic when the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative—a critical piece of infrastructure for independent ranchers—was pushed out of business.

“It was the perfect fit for our ranch,” he said. “When we lost it, we didn’t know how we’d stay in the sheep business.”

Without local options, ranchers are now hauling lambs more than 1,000 miles to plants in San Angelo, Texas; Dixon, Calif.; or Detroit. “I’ve lost as much as 16 cents per pound just on freight,” Hamilton said. “It’s rare we don’t lose at least one lamb on a long haul. It’s hard on the animals.”

Hamilton also raises concerns about the wool market. “Wool is a great product, but we can’t get it from the ranch to the consumer. Overregulation is making it hard to process domestically.”

He and his wife have tried going direct to apparel companies but hit roadblocks. “We had one buyer back out because we use sheep paint to brand our animals. It’s a federal land issue—we can’t just not brand—but they worried the dye wouldn’t scour out in processing.”

Despite consumer enthusiasm for natural fibers, Hamilton said the supply chain remains the weak link. “Everyone says they love wool and lamb. So why



Despite economic challenges, global competition, and policy uncertainty, Wyoming families continue to carry on a tradition built around sheep. VANCE BROADBENT PHOTO

General Timeline of Events

May 1, 2024
Charles and Heather Maude met with U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Julie Wheeler and Agent Lunders to discuss a fence line issue. They proposed a potential land trade, pending a formal survey to clarify the property line. Ranger Wheeler outlined three possible resolution paths—all requiring a survey—and said a decision should be reached by early July. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for mid-June.

May 6, 2024
Agent Lunders conducted a land survey with a field crew, without involving the Maudes. Survey stakes were placed, but the Maudes never received the results. When they contacted Ranger Wheeler, she stated that no resolution plans had been made and referred to the matter as “unauthorized use” rather than a “potential land boundary issue,” a shift in language from earlier discussions.

June 10, 2024
Sen. Mike Rounds’ office expressed interest in attending the follow-up meeting, prompting the Maudes to request a date change. Ranger Wheeler cited scheduling conflicts and ceased responding to further attempts at communication.

June 24, 2024
Without prior warning or further discussion, Agent Lunders served Charles Maude with felony indictments for both Charles and Heather, charging them individually with “Theft of Government Property.”

issue with the USFS before this, and they always work to get along with any neighbor,” according to Randi.

“Heather and Charles are fighting—not just for them, but for their kids and for anybody else that might have to go through this,” Randi said. “A lot of people have been through this before and the government drags out the case until they’re out of money, out of time and they break in spirit. So they sell. They give up.”

The toll of the criminal indictment has been heavy, as many neighbors question whether they will find themselves in the crosshairs next.

“Their actions are destroying our daughter and her family in all regards—their production, their business and their ability to care for their kids,” Tom said. “It has a heavy toll on anybody that knows them, because everybody’s scared.” ■

can’t we sell it? There’s a choke point in the middle we need to fix.”

Hamilton stressed that sheep contribute more than meat and fiber—they’re land managers too.

“Sheep aren’t detrimental to the land. They’re quiet, they do their job, and they do it right,” he said. “In California, they’re used to graze noxious weeds. That’s land management. We need sheep for more than wool and meat.”

Salmonsens said the broader trade environment is in flux, but there may be future opportunities through the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and USDA export programs.

“There’s ongoing review of USMCA and potential openings for more product movement between North American countries,” he said. “We also have USDA’s Market Access and Foreign Market Development programs. They’re designed to promote U.S. ag products abroad—including lamb and wool.”

Salmonsens noted that some countries, like the U.K., have recently gained access to export lamb to the U.S., though the volume remains low. “Australia and New Zealand are the big players, but market growth and better transparency here at home are just as important.”

Despite the uphill climb, Hamilton hasn’t given up. “We work 24/7 out here. We appreciate that people are finally asking questions,” he said. “But we need help. It’s hard to watch a product you believe in get undercut year after year.” ■

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The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots membership organization that cares about your future. We believe 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.

The Farm Bureau Federation is organized, controlled and financed by members who pay annual dues. Each voice added to the united Farm Bureau voice helps keep agriculture strong. Gold Club, Silver Club, and Century Club memberships are available to Farm Bureau Federation members, associate and regular, who want to increase their level of support. In addition to the standard member benefits, members in these three tiers receive a weekly legislative update during the Wyoming Legislature and annual recognition in *Wyoming Agriculture*.

We thank all members for supporting the work of the Federation.

GOLD CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

Agriculture is one of the economic keystones for Wyoming and membership supports the farmers and ranchers who help keep our state strong. By becoming a Gold Club Member for only \$1.37 per day, you show the greatest level of membership support for your county, state and national Farm Bureau Federation as well as your Wyoming neighbors who work the land.

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For over a century, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has united to keep agriculture strong and support the production of food. Increase your level of support for this centennial organization by joining or upgrading to a Century Club membership for only 27¢ per day.

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Dennis Horton/ Horton Farms, Riverton; Pat & Stanley Horton, Riverton; Malissa & Bill Jennings, Riverton; Thomas Jones, Lander; Leanne & Donny Kaneshiro, Laramie; Sherry & Johnny Key; Garrison; Steven Kutzer, Riverton; Steven Lucas, Hudson; Alice Nicholas, Lander; Rep. Pepper Ottman, Riverton; Vickie & Jerry Overy/ Overy Ranch*, Willcox, AZ; Janet Philp, Thermopolis; Elizabeth Philp & Jerry Dilts, Shoshoni; Learnn & Shane Sanderson/ Woolery Ranch, Kinnear; Patricia & WN Spratt/ RW Spratt & Sons Inc, Lysite; Faye & Jerald Yonker, Dubois

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CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS ... Page 7

LARAMIE (CONT.) ... From Page 6

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Washakie

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May 30-31

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June 07 & Sept 06

4th Annual Spring Mustang Rendezvous, Torrington WY

June 07

Deerwood Open Ranch Days, Centennial WY

June 14 & Sept 27

Cheyenne Frontier Days @ Lions Park, Cheyenne WY

July 22-July 26

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Obituary



Leslie Eathorne

December 11, 1942 – March 7, 2025

Leslie Eathorne, 82, passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior on Friday, March 7, 2025 at the Douglas Care Center in Douglas, Wyo. with her loving husband, Frank, at her bedside. Leslie Lane (Kilgore) Eathorne was born in Bloomington, Ill. on Friday, Dec. 11, 1942 the daughter of William R. and Mary Helen (Prichett) Kilgore. She grew up with six

siblings and was known as independent, a socialite, and the nurturer of her family. She attended schools in the Tampa, Fla. area and graduated from Robinson High School with the Class of 1961. She then earned a degree from Tampa Business College, which led her to a job at Charter Mortgage Company, and then the infamous Don CeSar Hotel on St. Pete Beach, Fla. working in the Bureau

of Fisheries office. She met her future husband, Frank Eathorne, in the Tampa, Fla.- area while he was stationed at MacDill Air Force Base. They were married on Sept. 25, 1965. She is survived by her husband, sister, three children, nine grandkids and one great grandson who each had a special place in her heart . . . her legacy lives on. A few of her favorite things were family dinners, time with grandkids, Christmas, sewing, gardening, baking and teaching Sunday school. She modeled loving the Lord with all her heart and showing it in her service to others. She will be remembered as a devoted wife, loving sister, selfless mother and a grandma like no other. She will forever be in our hearts. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at the Frontier Baptist Church, 2345 East Richards Street, Douglas, Wyo. with Pastor Tim Ricker officiating with a luncheon to follow. A private family interment will be in the Douglas Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Dry Creek Sunday School in care of Dave Pellatz, 671 Steinle Road, Douglas, Wyo. 82633; Compassion International, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80921-3668 or www.compassion.com, and a charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated by the family. The Gorman Funeral Homes-Converse Chapel of Douglas, Wyo. is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.gormanfh.com



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ALL CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by the 10th of each month to appear in the next issue. Members may place two (2) complimentary ads, up to 40 words each, per issue. Real estate sales not included. Complimentary ads will run for three issues unless requested otherwise. Non-members may submit an ad at a minimum rate of \$5 per ad (50 cents per word). The appearance of any ad in *Wyoming Agriculture* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the product or service offered.

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Gillette; Janice & James Gormly, Gillette; Ward Hoblit/ Hoblit Ranch LLC (REG), Buffalo; Lathem Hodges, Gillette; Julie & Jeremy Caylor, Gillette; Whitney & Holden Jelinek, Gillette

CARBON

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NEW MEMBERS ... Page 11



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Changes to interim committee process shift responsibility to chairs

BY BRETT MOLINE

In previous years, Wyoming's interim committee process followed a structured path. Citizens or groups submitted topic suggestions to legislators, who then presented them to their respective committees. Committee chairmen would prioritize the proposals and submit them to the Management Council—a body made up of House and Senate leadership. From there, the Council selected the final topics for interim work, with each committee typically holding three, two-day meetings to develop draft legislation ahead of the next session.

This year, however, marks a notable shift in that process. In an effort to save time and money, the Management Council reduced the number of interim meeting

days from six to four. More significantly, the Council opted not to prioritize interim topics. Instead, responsibility now falls to each committee chairman. When a topic could fall under the jurisdiction of more than one committee, it will be up to the respective chairs to determine which committee will take the lead.

The new approach gives committee chairmen more autonomy—but also more responsibility—when it comes to managing legislative priorities.

At this point, it remains unclear which topics will be assigned to which committees during the interim. If this new system remains in place, lawmakers hope it will allow for a clearer picture of interim priorities by the end of next year's legislative session. ■

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Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

RUM CAKE

Recipe by Connie Werner, Jane Brooks, and Martha Cline Richardson

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 pkg butter recipe golden cake mix
- 1 (3.5oz) pkg vanilla instant pudding mix
- 3/4 cup rum, divided
- 3/4 cup water, divided
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter

DIRECTIONS

1. Grease and flour a bundt pan. Sprinkle the pecans evenly over the bottom of the bundt pan.
2. Place cake mix and pudding mix into a large mixing bowl. Add ½ cup of rum, 1/2 cup water, and eggs. Mix for 2 minutes.
3. Pour batter into pan and bake at 325 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
4. While the cake is baking prepare the hot rum glaze. Mix sugar, butter, ¼ cup rum and ¼ cup water. Boil for 2-3 minutes. Set aside.
5. Remove the cake from the oven. Let it Stand for 10 minutes.
6. Invert onto a serving platter. Brush the top and sides with glaze. Allow to absorb and repeat. Enjoy!

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Newcastle
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