

WYOMING AGRICULTURE

Agriculture....Keeping Wyoming Strong

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A desire for one box that says ‘American Citizen’

By Kerin Clark

From a young age Leisl Carpenter has worked hard for everything she has in agriculture. “Having the mentality my whole life to not let anything get me down has helped me adapt what I’ve done over

the years and keep pushing forward,” Carpenter said.

It is this drive that led her to sue the federal government for discrimination. She is represented by the Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF). “Leisl

has struggled to keep her family ranch afloat during the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said MSLF attorney William E. Trachman. “But she is ineligible for the Biden administration debt relief program (the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) solely due to her race.”

According to MSLF, providing \$4 billion to forgive loans for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, but excluding white farmers and ranchers is a violation of the Constitution’s guarantee of Equal Protection, which is secured under the Fifth Amendment.



Tim, Leisl and Casen Carpenter work together on the Flying Heart Ranch that has been in Leisl’s family since 1894. Kerin Clark photo.

Farm Bureau engages in land valuation meeting

By Morgan Spiro

Wyoming’s Constitution requires that, “all taxable property shall be valued at its full value as defined by the legislature except agricultural and grazing lands which shall be valued according to the capability of the land to produce agricultural prod-

ucts under normal conditions.” Article 15 Section 11, subpart (b).

Due to this constitutional provision, the state of Wyoming annually assesses taxable land value for irrigated crop land, dry crop land, and range land. These values

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WYOMING AGRICULTURE

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Advocating for agriculture

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom (right) and his wife Laura (left) met with United States Senator Cynthia Lummis in Washington, D.C. to discuss agriculture issues. State Farm Bureau presidents gathered mid-July for the American Farm Bureau Federation Council of Presidents Meeting in Virginia.

Senator Lummis’ office staff photo.

“Making skin color the basis of a government benefit is not only unconstitutional, it is also morally wrong,” said Trachman. “One simply cannot achieve racial justice by means of racial discrimination.”

Carpenter is a sixth generation rancher on the Flying Heart Ranch west of Laramie, Wyo. Her mom, Desiree Stonum, moved back to the ranch when Leisl was an infant so she has been on the Flying Heart Ranch her whole life. She grew up spending a lot of time with her grandparents Gil and Ialene Engen.

“My mom worked so I was always with my grandparents,” she explained. “They taught me the ins and outs of ranching.”

“From haying, to riding, to cows, to water... I was with them all the time,” she continued. “Papa was the ditch rider, and he would take me to go check water. Sometimes we would stop at the donut

See ‘American Citizen’ page 13

Time to Harvest Ag Labor Reform That Works for All

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President



Zippy Duvall

“Now Hiring” signs keep cropping up all over farm country—especially in the last several months as the job market shifts with more businesses re-opening. Wherever you go, there are jobs to fill. I see these signs in my home state of Georgia and on farms I visit across the country. Every corner of farm country is impacted by our ongoing labor crisis, and it continues to be the leading concern I hear from farmers across the country. The crops, the soil and terrain might look different, but the story is the same: “We cannot find enough workers, and we don’t know how we’ll keep the farm going if we don’t have access to the help we need.”

It’s hard not to be frustrated by this long-standing challenge, especially when I hear directly from the men and women struggling to fill jobs on their farms. However, these workforce shortages are nothing

new for farmers and ranchers. Demand for H-2A visas has steadily increased over the last 10 years, as farmers struggle to find employees in the U.S. to fill open positions on their farms. In fact, applications for H-2A positions on farms have tripled in the last decade, but this doesn’t mean our guestworker program is working fine. The reality is farmers who currently use the program do so because they have no other options, and those engaged in year-round agriculture such as dairy or livestock production aren’t able to access the program due to outdated laws.

Our guestworker program has been broken for decades, with farmers caught in the political crossfire of this complex issue. But unlike so many challenges in agriculture that are beyond our control like weather and markets, this is a problem that can be solved. Like anything worth doing well, it might not be easy, but we can find a path

See ‘Ag Labor Reform’ page 8

Interpretations of private property

By Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President



Ken Hamilton

We’ve all been told to read the fine print, which most of us probably don’t do (especially when it relates to computer programs). However, if we’re going to be spending a large sum of money reading the fine print is important. Also important is knowing that your interpretation of words may not be the same as the other person’s interpretation. That’s why we end up using attorneys for issues because courts are in the business of interpreting the meaning of words and attorneys are in the business of interpreting what the court has said.

In everyday life we rely on similar backgrounds to provide a somewhat similar meaning for words. When you have a divergence in culture, common understanding of words can also diverge. For instance, when people in town tell you they are going to run to the grocery store they mean they’ll be gone for less than an hour. A person on the ranch on the other hand means they’ll likely be gone for several hours if not all day. This understanding of words

has caught me more than once. Having said that, I’m somewhat suspicious of some words which have been coming out of Washington, D.C.

Early on in the Biden Administration he issued his 30 x 30 plan which later got a name change to “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful.” As noted in a previous column of mine the plan was short on specifics and long on overarching ideas. In one of our meetings with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) it was stressed that they used the word “conserve” and not “preserve.” Both of these words have different meanings and outcomes. However, there is some overlap between the two.

Fast forward several months and there was an announcement from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corp of Engineers that they were going to rescind the Waters of the U.S. Rule. The American Farm Bureau worked tirelessly to get a clear and common-sense rule which would protect water and protect private property. See ‘Private Property’ page 14

Calendar of Events

August

11..... 30 x 30 Event sponsored by the counties of the Southeast District at 6 p.m.—*Rendezvous Center at Goshen County Fairgrounds in Torrington*

15Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Picnic at 4 p.m.

September

13..... Crook County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting--TBA

15 Platte County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.—*Hilltop (Old Country Club) in Wheatland*

20 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m.—*Niobrara County Fairgrounds*

21..... Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting—*Lincoln Center in Torrington*

October

2 Northwest District Meeting (Tentative)--TBA

7 Southeast District Farm Bureau Meeting at 10 a.m.—*Fairgrounds in Lusk*

16..... Wyoming Needs Agriculture Event at University of Wyoming Football Pre-Game—*UW Indoor Practice Facility in Laramie*

November

11-13.... WyFB Annual Meeting--*Cody*



Visit wyfb.org
for calendar updates



WYOMING
AGRICULTURE

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Dr. Hallie Hasel new Wyoming State Veterinarian

July 9, 2021, Cheyenne--Dr. Hallie Hasel has been selected by the Wyoming Livestock Board to replace retiring State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan. Dr. Hasel has been the Assistant State Veterinarian for Field Operations for the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) since July of 2020.



Dr. Hallie Hasel

Previously, Dr. Hasel practiced veterinary medicine for 15 years in Kansas followed by a lengthy career with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, including as Director of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program on the Texas/Mexico border for 6 years. A graduate

of the University of Missouri, she is a foreign animal disease diagnostician and has extensive field and administrative experience in regulatory veterinary medicine.

As State Veterinarian, she will conduct the WLSB Brucellosis program, lead the Animal Health unit, and serve on the Administrative team of the agency. The WLSB will soon begin recruitment for a new field veterinarian to replace Dr. Hasel in that position. The agency is in good shape with an experienced veterinary and technical staff capable of serving the livestock industry.

Retirement of Wyoming State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan

June 10, 2021, Cheyenne--The Wyoming Livestock Board accepted the retirement of State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan on June 9, 2021.

Dr. Logan has served the Wyoming Livestock Board and producers of the state as State Veterinarian through two appointed terms, 1997-2004, and 2009 to present. He also served as Assistant State Veterinarian 2007-2009, and as a member of the Livestock Board 1993-1997.

A few of the honors received by Dr. Logan during his career include: National Assembly of State Animal Health

Officials Award, University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Agriculturist of the Year Award and Wyoming Stockgrowers Association Guardian of the Grasslands Award.

Dr. Logan has served many local, state and national organizations, including serving as Chairman of the Riverton Memorial Hospital Board, Wyoming Woolgrowers Association, and the American Sheep Industry Association.

The Wyoming Livestock Board would like to thank Dr. Jim Logan for upholding the agency mission state-



Dr. Jim Logan with his wife at the July 17 Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation picnic. Ken Hamilton photo.

ment "To represent and serve Wyoming's livestock industry through protecting livestock health and verifying livestock ownership." We thank Dr. Jim Logan and wish him all the best in his retirement.



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Young Farmer and Rancher News



Learn and grow with your talents

*By Kelli Hamilton Chouinard,
WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher
Committee Member (Northwest Dis-
trict Representative)*

Have you ever had a hair brain idea? Researched it? Consulted with all your people? Prayed about it? Made the pros and cons lists? Made the steps necessary to make that idea a reality? Then had it all blow up in your face....? Well, that all happened to me.

You see, I was a high school agriculture teacher in Florida, where I grew up in a large family focused on and around agriculture production. Allow me to back up some. Both of my parents are agriculture teachers and growing up, my siblings and I always said we would never be teachers. Though, I learned my lesson on “never say never.” After graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in Animal Sciences, I needed a job. So, a position came open and I applied. It is one of those beautiful blessings that God gives us, to realize our plans are nowhere near as wonderful as His plans. After teaching for 7 years, in 3 different schools, in 2 different countries, I wanted to get back to my roots and into the industry deeper than teaching about it. So, I did.

I went back to my roots through research, consulting with my people, praying about it, making the lists, and finally taking the steps necessary to pack up my things and move to Montana! Yes, you read that correctly. Montana. This is one of those “blew up in my face” moments. What I had expected and what was actually presented were nowhere near the same... Thankfully, lifelong friends of mine live in Powell, Wyoming. They offered me a room and all the love and support of a family. I unloaded my



stuff on a Saturday, went job searching on Monday, and was so blessed to start work on the following Tuesday.

Now, I will probably say this again, but God’s plans are ALWAYS better than our plans. Growing up, I was exposed to various aspects of agriculture production, and felt confident I could fit into most any job, as long as it was not teaching (that is a career for a special heart and soul, that was burned out of me in my short 7 years). Thanks to my parents, I was able to raise and show nearly all types of livestock, except llamas and goats. So, when I dropped off my resume at

one of the two dairies in the county, I thought to myself, “I have the knowledge and skill to do this, and it will be good work until I find my place elsewhere.” Little did I know, I had found my place there.

Enter Scott George. If you know him, you will understand when I say, he is a man of faith. He took a step out on a limb by offering me a working interview on branding and vet day at the dairy. This family farm is a blessing in my life. I am grateful for their support in my endeavor of personal growth in professional organizations.

Shortly after moving to Wyoming, it was a goal of mine to join the Farm Bureau and Cattlemen’s associations. Which brings me to today, as a member of the Wyoming Farm Bureau’s state Young Farmers and Ranchers committee, I am able to learn and grow and help others learn and grow.

Do you ever wonder about your gifts and talents? What about have you ever tried to “run away” from your talents? This is one of those times that my plans blew up in my face. I had decided that teaching in a classroom was NOT for me. So, I found a job

that was not in a classroom. Only to find out that I was still meant to be a teacher. No matter where or what I do, teaching is still a natural element of my being.

I encourage you to look for your God-given talents and find a way to utilize them. No matter what struggle may present, it will always be worth the efforts!!!

About the author: Newlywed Kelli Hamilton Chouinard works for George Farms in Cody where she plans to establish deeper roots with her new husband Shawn.



Land valuation meeting From page 1

are based on a rolling average and are evaluated each year on an income approach to value.

On July 7, a meeting was held with many agricultural organizations in the state alongside county assessors and hosted by the Department of Revenue in Cheyenne. This meeting held annually, but missed last year due to COVID restrictions, was attended by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB).

“Wyoming has for decades, assessed agricultural lands on its productive capability. This process was refined several years ago to prevent an agricultural property which can have significant scenic values from driving up assessed valuations for

the neighbors,” said Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President.

According to David Franck, the principal appraiser for the Wyoming Department of Revenue, all classifications of agricultural land could see an increase in taxable values for 2022. The following numbers are preliminary and will not be final until later in the year.

Irrigated land	+8.4%
Dry crop land	+7.4%
Rangeland	+4.1%

While the increased values are preliminary, it is a good assessment of where final land values will be at the end of the year. Below is a chart detailing historical land valuations:

YEAR	Irrigated Crop Land \$ Per Ton (All Hay)		Dry Crop Land \$ Per Bushel (All Wheat)		Rangeland \$ Rent Per AUM	
	Avg \$/Ton	5yr.Wt. Avg.	Avg \$/Ton	5yr.Wt. Avg.	Avg \$/Ton	5yr.Wt. Avg.
2016	\$119.00	\$136.67	\$3.22	\$4.79	\$21.50	\$20.51
2017	\$140.00	\$132.27	\$3.90	\$4.24	\$21.50	\$21.01
2018	\$167.00	\$141.40	\$4.75	\$4.21	\$22.00	\$21.50
2019	\$176.00	\$141.40	\$3.94	\$4.07	\$22.50	\$21.93
2020	\$168.00	\$162.93	\$4.55	\$4.25	\$22.50	\$22.20

“OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD” News from the County Farm Bureau Federations



Washakie County Farm Bureau Federation holds picnic



The Washakie County Farm Bureau Federation held their picnic in Worland on July 9. Shown at right is WyFB Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton visiting with members. *Morgan Spiro photo.*



The Washakie County FBF presented an appreciation plaque to Tom Allred. Allred served as the Farm Bureau insurance agent for 40 years and was recognized for his support of the county Farm Bureau Federation. *Morgan Spiro photo.*



WyFB Northwest District Director Thad Dockery visiting with Washakie County FBF President Angus Powell. *Morgan Spiro photo.*



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation News

Submitted by Mary Whaley, Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member



Cash Anderson (middle) receives his prize from Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Secretary, Mary Whaley for winning the Big Horn County “Ag Books for Kids” Coloring Contest. Mrs. Sarah Zellar is pictured at right.



FFA jackets were presented to members of the Paintrock FFA Chapter in Basin, Wyo. by Tim Beck, president, and Mike Whaley, vice president, of the Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation.



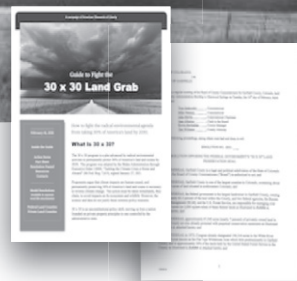
Crook County Farm Bureau Federation 2021 Scholarship Winners Announcement

Submitted by Diana Burian, Crook County Farm Bureau Federation

The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation has selected the winners for three

scholarships for 2021. This year’s winners are Dalton Butler, Joseph Kennah and Faith Honey Anderson.

See ‘Crook County’ page 15



You can download the guide online at: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>

What Is 30 x 30?

The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30% of America’s land and oceans by 2030. The program was adopted by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue that climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30% of America’s land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

Learn more about this agenda and what you can do to protect your land and community.

August 11, 2021

**@ 6:00 pm
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Goshen County Fairgrounds
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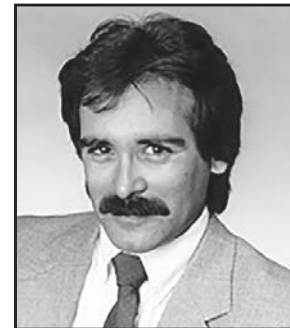
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How the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan impacts Wyoming

By Morgan Spiro

In 1922, the first interstate water compact in the West was signed between seven states. The states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming were involved in negotiating the Colorado River Compact (compact). Frank C. Emerson, who went on to become governor of Wyoming, signed the compact on behalf of the state. It should be noted this compact doesn't affect water rights with a pre-1922 date. In addition to allocating water among the seven states, the compact allocates a process to provide water to the U.S. and Mexico. It wasn't until the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944 that the quantity of water necessary for Mexico was formalized.

The Colorado River Compact has defined water law alongside various court decisions and adjustments. Because of these legal ramifications, the Colorado River Basin is one of the most regulated in the country.

The compact divides the river basin into two sections, the Upper and the Lower. The compact splits the Upper and Lower Basins at "Lee Ferry" which is located one mile below the mouth of the Paria River located in southern Utah and northern Arizona. Under the compact the Colorado River system, apportioned in perpetuity to the Upper Basin and to the Lower Basin 7,500,000 acre-feet of water per annum. However, the compact requires that the Upper Division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of 10 consecutive years.

Wyoming being the northernmost state in the compact shares an obligation to ensure the Lower Basin is delivered a certain amount of water every year. According to the Bureau of Reclamation's 2012 study, nearly 40 million Americans rely on the Colorado River for daily water whether they realize it or not.

Nearly a quarter of all Wyoming water flows into the Colorado River via its many tributaries leaving our state. The other document which helps manage the river is the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact ratified by Congress in 1949. This compact provides for the equitable apportionment of the Upper Colorado Rivers System between the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

This compact allocated to Wyoming 14 percent as their share of the water from the Upper Basin States. Of the other states in the Upper Basin, Colorado must supply 51.75 percent, New Mexico 11.25 percent and Utah 23 percent. Growing concerns about the water levels have sparked discussion regarding obligations to Lower Basin states.

On May 13, the Wyoming Water Development Commission and the Select Water Committee of the Wyoming Legislature met to discuss interim topics. One of those topics was the Colorado River system and the potential impact for Wyoming and the other Upper Basin States. Focusing on prevention efforts, a presentation by Steve Wolf of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office and Chris Brown with the Wyoming Attorney General's Office outlined the current hydrology, as well as predicted future hydrology. Figures were presented from the United States Geological Survey as well as the Bureau of Reclamation.

Steve Wolf reviewed water forecasts for the Upper Colorado and pointed out to the Committee that the water supply went from the seventh worst on record to the third worst in one month. The main message was that soil moisture was very low so snow melt wasn't running into the system but was instead absorbed by the soil. "It's a bad year and every week it keeps getting worse," Wolf told the Committee.

Wolf also discussed the Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan which was part of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan that was signed by Congress in 2019.

The Plan consists of three parts: 1) Augmentation; 2) Demand Management Storage Agreement; and 3) Drought Response Operations Agreement. Augmentation consists of efforts throughout the Upper Basin states to increase water production in the Basin. For Wyoming, augmentation has been cloud seeding programs in the Upper Green. The Demand Management Storage Agreement, according to Wolf, is one possible tool that could be used to compensate those who opt to use less water.

"It would be voluntary, it would be temporary, and it would be compensated," Wolf said.

It is an idea that is simply being investigated to see if it is feasible, accord-

ing to Wolf's presentation. Wolf went on to explain that demand management is a voluntary program, but curtailment would be a mandatory program. He explained the need to "iron out" certain issues with the plan. The idea came from stakeholder meetings facilitated by the University of Wyoming Extension. UW Extension plans to release a formal report on the plan in the near future.

Chris Brown explained the Drought Response Operations part of the Contingency Plan. Brown explained one of the functions of Lake Powell from an Upper Basin perspective is as a "savings account."

"Under the 1922 Compact, the Upper Basin states have an obligation to not deplete the flow of the Colorado River at Lee

Ferry below 75-million-acre-feet over a ten-year running average," Brown said. "It's helpful to capture the high flows in order to release them in periods of low flows."

According to Brown, the purpose of the Drought Response Operations Plan is to bolster or prop up the amount of water stored in Lake Powell as much as possible. This process then begins if the Lake Powell elevations are projected within two years to drop to or below the identified "target elevation."

To do this, up-stream reservoirs will begin to release water to prop up that elevation. This trigger elevation is above the minimum power pool necessary for electrical generation. Once the minimum pool

See 'Drought Contingency Plan' page 12

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Ag Labor Reform From page 2

forward. That is why the American Farm Bureau is working closely with the Senate to bring forward a bipartisan solution that finally resolves our agricultural labor crisis.

No one questioned agriculture being an essential industry last spring and summer as store shelves emptied. But keeping our farms and ranches running is critical in all seasons to protect our nation's food supply. It makes no sense to recognize agriculture is essential but then fail to recognize agriculture's workforce is essential. Food only makes it to your dinner table when we have the help we need to raise and harvest it.

Farmers need a guest worker program that allows them to hire workers for both seasonal and year-round farm work, while keeping their businesses economically viable. We need an agricultural guestworker

program that provides enough flexibility and access for all of agriculture.

Farmers pay competitive wages for an honest day's work, but the reality is most domestic workers are not interested in farm jobs. Farm work is hard and often transitory. I regularly hear, "Well, if farmers would just pay more, they would get the workers they need." In fact, farm wages have increased disproportionately to farmers' share of the food dollar. For example, the Adverse Effect Wage Rate, the rate used to set wages for the H-2A program, has increased 20% nationally over the last five years. Meanwhile revenues for fruits and nuts only increased 1% and revenues for vegetables and melons declined by 5% in that same time. With margins so slim, farmers are finding it more and more dif-

ficult to remain viable.

Farmers are also deeply concerned about the future of our current employees. On family farms like mine, employees become like family. We must ensure the stability of our current workforce. Our broken immigration system has led to an increased rate of undocumented workers in agriculture and other industries. No one can turn back time, but we can give these hard workers the opportunity to make things right and gain legal status while continuing their important work in agriculture. It would be senseless and crippling to our food system to embrace an enforcement only approach to immigration without fixing the guestworker program and providing a path forward for undocumented workers and their families.

We cannot afford as an industry or as a nation to put off finally achieving meaningful immigration reform. If farmers can't fill the jobs on their farms, those "Now Hiring" signs will slowly change to "For Sale" signs as production moves out of the U.S.

We have seen great achievements for our farms and our nation when our leaders come across the aisle and work in a bipartisan fashion. But it is also critical that any legislation from the Senate doesn't create more problems for farmers down the road. It's time for lawmakers to come to the table and find a real solution that finally gets this right for the security of our food supply, the jobs depending on our industry, and the sustainability of our farms and ranches.

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Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

French Dip Sandwiches

Recipe by Connie Werner

This is a great recipe for brandings or large gatherings. It is easily adjusted for smaller or larger groups depending on how many you have to feed. This recipe also freezes well.

The Ingredients

- 8-10lb rump roast sliced thick
- 5-6 pkgs Au jus seasoning, such as McCormicks
- 3-4 large cartons of Beef Stock
- french rolls or buns
- toppings- cheese, sautéed onions and peppers, horseradish, BBQ sauce, etc

Directions

- Pour the beef broth into a large roaster oven set to 275 degrees. (It can be set at a higher or lower temperature depending on when you need it ready.)
- Add a layer of sliced beef and a packet of seasoning.
- Keep layering till all the meat and the seasoning is used.
- Cook 5-6 hours or until desired tenderness.

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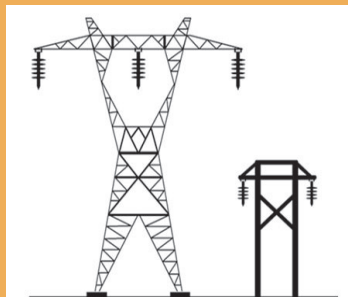
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New Members

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Springs; Haley & Troy Seilbach, Rock Springs; Tiffany & Christopher Sellers (REG), Farson

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Obituaries

Ada Hancock**Apr 28, 1932 - May 3, 2021**

Ada Hancock, 89, of Pavillion passed away at her home, surrounded by her family, on Monday, May 3, 2021. A memorial service was held May 29, 2021, at the Sunnyside Nazarene Church in Kinnear.

Ada Mae Ward was born on April 28, 1932 in Felt, ID to Charles Heber and Nancy Carolina (Decker) Ward. Ada was raised in Badger Creek, ID going to a one room school until 5th grade when the family moved to Parker, ID.

On June 4, 1949 she married William S. Hancock in Lander, WY and they made their home in Fremont County, WY on various ranches that employed William until they built their own in the later 1970's. They had two sons and had been married for 63 ½ years until William passed away in 2012. She was a devoted ranch wife who provided any role that needed filled to help her husband on the ranch. After William's



Ada Hancock

passing she continued to be an intricate role in the family ranch up until her death.

Ada was a fantastic cook who could keep a meal warm for hours for a hungry crew. There are many people around the country who ate at her table. She was also an avid seamstress who provided homemade clothes for her family all through her life. In her spare time she enjoyed needlepoint and rock hunting.

She is survived by her son Calvin Hancock of Riverton, WY; granddaughter Angela McCann and husband Tyler; of Pavillion, WY; and two great granddaughters, Annabella and Arianna McCann of Pavillion, WY.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, William Hancock; son David Hancock; parents; and eight siblings.

Memorials may be made to P.A.W.S. in care of Davis Funeral Home, 2203 West Main Street, Riverton, WY 82501.

Drought Contingency Plan From page 7

is reached, then electricity cannot continue to be generated and the revenue from that generation can't be used for many important programs upstream like salinity control or endangered fish programs.

"That trigger got hit in January," Brown said. "If water levels continue to fall below the target elevation, then the Upper Basin states have to put together a plan to release water from certain upstream reservoirs to bolster the elevation levels in Lake Powell."

Brown reminded the Committee that all of the reservoirs that would be used for augmentation into Lake Powell are federal facilities, and the Bureau of Reclamation already has the authority to release waters from these reservoirs to augment water levels in Lake Powell. He went on to say that one of the primary reasons the Upper Basin states negotiated the agreement was to continue to have a seat at the table when these decisions are being made.

Former State Engineer Pat Tyrell discussed the 2007 Interim Guidelines and explained those guidelines are set to expire by 2026. The interim guidelines were intended to manage the river within the legal constraints; try to avoid litigation; avoid the risk of curtailment in the Upper Basin; and minimize the risk of shortages in the Lower Basin.

Because the 2007 guidelines will expire in five years, the efforts to renegotiate new guidelines have begun. Tyrell pointed out the modeling used in this effort will show a "watertight future" for the Basin. Tyrell said the records that were used to apportion the Colorado River for the 1922 Compact were, in hindsight, a fairly wet period.

"Since that time, we've lost 2-3 million-acre feet a year in the annual yield of the river – maybe more," Tyrell explained.

This history provides a backdrop for discussions on the post-2026 river operations.

Hearley Dockham**Jan 20, 1942 - May 13, 2021**

Hearley Dockham, 79, of Pavillion passed away at Sage West – Riverton Hospital on May 13th, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. A funeral service was held May 18, 2021, at the Pavillion Rodeo Arena.

Hearley Robert Dockham was born on January 20, 1942 in Jackson, WY to Billy Robert and Eileen Mae (Fronk) Dockham. He grew up on the family ranch in Bondurant and attended grade school there. He spent his first two years of high school at Pinedale High and the last 2 years at Jackson-Wilson High School where he matriculated with the class of 1959. While in high school he served as the manager of the Jackson-Wilson ski team. He then went to the University of Wyoming where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. While at the University of Wyoming he was member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. During his college years he took 6 months off to go to Scotland as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange Program which sparked his later interest in raising sheep.

On June 27, 1965 he married Joyce Holgerson in Pine Bluffs, WY. They would have celebrated their 56th anniversary this June. Together they raised their children Dan, born in 1967, Dorothy born



Hearley Dockham

in 1969, and Jenny, born in 1974.

In 1970 he and Joyce moved to Pavillion. In 1971 they moved to their current residence on West Pavillion Road and started their own ranch. While he was establishing his ranch, he worked for Midvale Irrigation as a ditch rider for several years.

Once the ranch was established Hearley became very active in the communities all around Fremont County. He served one term on the school board for Wind River School District, was an active 4-H leader for many years, served on the Pavillion Recreation Board and was instrumental in getting the rodeo arena and the recreation center built. He also served as the treasurer for the Cougar Athletic Club for many years. He joined the High Plains Power Board of Directors in 1996 when it was still RVEA and continued to serve until his death.

Hearley's family always came first. He never missed an activity any of the kids were involved in from 4-H to sports. He volunteered many times to drive the school bus for the Wind River Ski Club on their adventures to Jackson Hole. His love for the community was such that he continued to follow the sporting events at Wind River even after his kids had graduated going to many basketball games and wrestling events. He loved his sheep and his dog a close second to the family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Eileen Dockham.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Dockham; his sister Sharon Nethercott (Neal); his son Dan (Missi); Dorothy Richard (Jay), his daughter Jenny Kennedy (Thadeus). He is also survived by his 5 grand children, Ella Dockham, Lilly Dockham, Billy Dockham, Hailey Richard and Jackson Richard and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pavillion Rec Center or Cougar Athletic Club in care of Davis Funeral Home, 2203 West Main Street, Riverton, WY 82501.

Editor's Note: *In a July 16 news release Governor Mark Gordon announced the convening of a Colorado River Working Group that will meet regularly to discuss important Colorado River matters and monitor potential impacts to Wyoming. The release reads: The action comes in response to drought conditions in the Colorado, Green and Little Snake River basins that have led the Bureau of Reclamation to announce drawdowns from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in order to maintain minimum levels at Lake Powell. At this time no restrictions on Wyoming water users are proposed. See full release at wyfb.org.*

American Citizen

From page 1

shop, and I would sit with him as he would chat with his friends.”

Once Leisl started school she looked forward to the days she would miss school to help with the three-day cattle drive in the spring to summer pasture and again in the fall to bring them home.

“We would spend long hours in the saddle, but I always looked forward to it,” she recalled.

In 2006, Leisl’s grandparents sold all their cows; the only cows remaining on the ranch were her five 4-H and FFA projects. “I bought my first cow when I was 10-years-old,” she explained. “I grew my herd through the Supreme Cow program at county fair.”

According to Leisl, they kept those five cows, leased out the ranch, and she and her grandpa continued haying together. Fast forward to 2008 when she and her husband Tim started dating at the age of 16.

“Tim started helping us hay and became Papa’s righthand man,” she said. “Papa loved him and taught him things he never taught me, but I’m not sure I could have captured them the same way. Tim is very mechanical and thinks outside the box. I’ve always admired that about him.”

“Papa took Tim under his wings,” Carpenter said. “At the time it didn’t feel like it, but they were grooming us to take over the ranch as we were not working for a paycheck but just for lunch.”

Tim grew up in town and didn’t have an emotional connection to the ranch. “He didn’t work for money; he did it to help us,” she explained. “We didn’t have the ability to hire help, so my mom gave him a tank of gas now and then.”

According to Leisl, during high school Tim would drive to the ranch (35-minute drive) just to have coffee with her Papa. “Papa and Tim really took care of each other and had a special connection,” she said.

In 2009, Leisl was so sick she home-schooled while the doctors were figuring out how to get her healthy again, but she was determined to maintain her spot at the top of her class. “I had an amino acid deficiency my whole life, but it got so bad I could barely walk and would also black out,” she explained.

Then in December of 2009 her grandparents passed away of natural causes within 24 hours of each other. Ialene suffered a massive stroke and was flown to a Denver hospital. Leisl and her cousin Libby were taking their Papa to be with Ialene and Leisl will never forget her grandpa’s last words of wisdom.

“He told me ‘You hold on to Tim and always forgive him.’,” she recalled. “Those words of advice are something I’ve held on to forever. It is so cool that he knew to tell me.”

Gil died of a broken heart and Ialene passed away less than 24 hours later. The love those two shared for the Lord, each other, for family and for agriculture was undeniable. Leisl was only 18.

Still, she tried to get herself well and maintain her grades in order to graduate the next spring. In typical Leisl fashion, she didn’t let anything get her down. She was able to walk across the Laramie High School graduation stage as the Valedictorian of a class of 250 some students.

Leisl’s mom had taken over the ranch and hard conversations were necessary with Leisl and her brother Gus about what to do with the ranch. Leisl had heard from a friend about the loan program through Farm Service Agency (FSA), so at 18 years old she started the process to figure out how to keep the ranch. She bought 160 acres from the ranch to pay off the ranch loan and took ownership of the ranch.

According to Leisl, the unknowns of the ranch future, the length of the loan process, and figuring out how to make everything work financially were very scary. “With the threat of foreclosure looming we didn’t have any extra time,” she explained. “We cleaned out everything we had in savings and sold everything and were left with literally just our few cows and loan payments so Tim and I learned how to make a dollar.”

She and Tim married when they were 20 years old and began running the Flying Heart Ranch. “By doing that we took over everything, but we also had nothing,” she said.

“We put ourselves out there doing everything we could,” she continued. “Tim cut meat, I bought a tractor and mom bought a baler and we made do and start-

ed custom haying. We survived the first year, barely, but figured if we can survive the first year we can figure it out.”

The Carpenters continued to find ways to make money they could put in savings and towards working systems like corrals and haying equipment that needed replaced. They worked hard to grow their cow herd so they wouldn’t lose their forest allotment.

The drought years of 2012 and 2013 were a tough time to start fertilizing the hay meadows. “We had no water at our well in 2012 but sold what hay we could and then in 2013 we rolled the dice and put some fertilizer down, and it made a dramatic difference in our hay crop,” she explained.

Growing their cattle herd presented its own challenges. In 2016, when calf prices plummeted, they started to keep yearlings and market their beef directly to consumers. “Our meat is USDA inspected, and we offer both grass-fed and corn finished beef,” Carpenter explained.

Tim and Leisl’s son Casen was born in October 2019. Two weeks following Casen’s birth Tim had a hernia and could not lift anything for three months. At two weeks post-partum, Leisl jumped right back into ranch work taking Casen with her in the front pack and then later in the backpack. “I realized I could do my normal chores with him, and it was really cool having him out with me,” she said.

“Learning to chop ice with a baby is hard, but you develop some very good thigh muscles,” she chuckled. “I also learned how to rope a calf to doctor on the 4-wheeler, rather than a horse, with Casen on my back.”

In 2020, the market uncertainty intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic providing new challenges to continuing the ranch. 2020 also brought challenges



Tim, Leisl and Casen Carpenter. The Carpenters are members of the Albany County Farm Bureau Federation. *Courtesy photo*



Leisl grew up spending a lot of time on the ranch with her grandparents Gil and Ialene Engen. *Kerin Clark photo circa late 1990s.*

of sickness running through the calves, manufacturing delays in vaccines due to COVID and the Mullen Fire.

Leisl says they were blessed to not lose any cattle to the fire but did have to sell down their herd because of the burned ground on their allotment. She noted the COVID restrictions made it challenging to care for their cattle. “You couldn’t go to incident command like usual and that made communication tough and then the cows almost died,” she said.

“2021 has been better with the exception of selling cattle down with the drought,” she said. “We are fortunate to have moisture in our area. I know there are many people across the state and even down the road that do not have this moisture.”

Each year has presented challenges, but hard work and being willing to adapt has helped the Carpenters meet or exceed every goal they’ve set. “If we didn’t have the money, then we didn’t do it,” she said. “It hasn’t been easy, but we’ve worked

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American Citizen

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hard to grow our ranch within means.”

The Carpenters are thankful for the people who took risks on them as young kids and believed in their goals. “Failure was not an option for us, so we worked hard,” she said.

“Most of the country doesn’t understand how hard it is for people to start in agriculture or for people in generations of agriculture,” Carpenter said. “They don’t understand how many hours were put into that steak they buy at the meat counter.”

In March 2021 when the American Rescue Plan Act passed Carpenter did a skim read but didn’t think about it until a week later when she received

an FSA publication. “I was reading about the debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers,” Carpenter explained. “I don’t agree with putting our country into more debt, but if the government is going to do this program, they can’t just cherry pick who gets relief and discriminate.”

Carpenter reached out to Wyoming’s Congressional Delegation to express her frustration. “They all told me they voted no, but when nothing was done, I decided to reach out to several legal firms,” she explained. She chose to be represented by Mountain States Legal Foundation.

“I want this to be about everybody,” she explained.

“I always worry about what I’m doing and how it will affect my family,” she continued. “If this lawsuit can help somebody and everyone can be treated equal it is all worth it.”

Carpenter said putting herself out in the public eye has been nerve wracking as she has never wanted to be in the public eye. “I did a lot of reflecting on how I could change somebody’s future, not just my future or my son’s future,” Carpenter commented.

“I’m thankful that God made me to be able to deal with pressure and criticism and be confident in who I am,” Carpenter stated.

For Carpenter, thoughts of government spending are a challenge for her, but she feels if the government is going to spend taxpayer money it should help all Americans.

“I’m wading head deep into a battle over non-discrimination,” she continued. “I know it is what is right, our government can’t just pick and choose who to help.”

“I wish the government would quit putting us all into boxes and instead have one box that says ‘American Citizen’,”



Leisl has never let hard work or a challenge get in her way of making things work on their Wyoming ranch. Her son Casen started learning and watching this work ethic at an early age from his Mom’s back. *Courtesy photo.*

Carpenter concluded. “If we only have one box to check we can’t be discriminated against.”

Private Property

From page 2

property owners from facing enormous fines should they inadvertently run afoul of the definition of what is a water of the U.S.

There haven’t been any details on rescinding the rule except some pronouncements from the agencies that under the current rule there were a lot of water bodies which were not regulated. What they meant to say was that these water bodies were not regulated by them. We know that at least in Wyoming our state statutes are broader than the federal statutes which gives our Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) a broader scope for regulating water quality.

When you compare these two actions you begin to wonder if we in agriculture have a different interpretation than the Biden Administration of private property. I’m concerned that some interpret private property to mean the ability for me to own

and pay taxes, but un-named bureaucrats can tell me how to manage my property.

Some people think this intrusion into how private property is run is a perfectly legitimate role for government. People in this camp don’t deny private property but will insist that landowners are not capable of running that property, so government bureaucrats should provide that management expertise.

For most landowners this isn’t what they think private property is all about. Owning the piece of ground and being able to utilize that piece of ground for an economic purpose based on the property owner’s best judgement, not an un-elected official’s views, is what landowners think of when you say “private property.”

As we learn more about both of these issues, we’ll see just how different our perception of private property is with Washington, D.C.’s.



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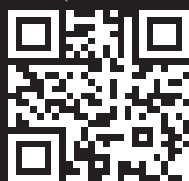
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Crook County

From page 5

In 1st Place, Dalton Butler was selected to receive a \$1500 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2021-2022 school year. In high school Dalton played football, wrestling, track, and served as team captain earning All-Conference honors for each. He also played trombone in the jazz band at Hulett High School, participated in all aspects of FFA, helps run a sheep livestock business with his brothers, and is a straight A student. Dalton is currently attending Casper College studying Aviation and Agricultural Business. Dalton is the son of JR and Bobbi Butler of Hulett, Wyoming.



Dalton Butler

In 2nd Place, Joseph Kennah was selected to receive a \$1300 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2021-2022 school year. Joseph was President of the Devils Tower FFA chapter, selected to be on the 6-man All State football team, served as vice president of the student body and as a voting member of the Wyoming All Student Council. Joseph will be attending the University of Wyoming to study Rangeland Management. Joseph is the son of Brian and Lila Kennah of Hulett, Wyoming.



Joseph Kennah

In 3rd Place, Faith Honey Anderson was selected to receive an \$800 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2021-2022 school year. Faith Honey was the National Honor Society chapter President, and the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America chapter President and National Vice President, she served in the 4-H State Honors Club and State Leadership team. She is an "A" Honor Roll student and will graduate high school one year early. Faith Honey will be attending Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida to study social work and communication. Faith Honey is the daughter of Gary and Zeta Anderson of Devils Tower, Wyoming.



Faith Honey
Anderson

Congratulations to these very deserving recipients!



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WyFB Membership Committee Meeting held June 1

Photos and story by Kerin Clark

Wyoming farmers and ranchers took a day out of their work schedules on June 1 to gather for the annual WyFB Membership Committee Meeting. Membership quota, reports and a workshop training on membership recruiting were on the agenda.

If you aren't yet a member of Farm Bureau, we encourage you to join us. We believe in individual freedoms, property rights, constitutional government and the competitive enterprise system. The fellowship with other farmers and ranchers is a definite bonus!



Goshen County rancher Jake Buckhaults visits with Campbell County rancher Lex Geer on why he takes the time to volunteer with the Farm Bureau Federation in Goshen County.



Meetings are full of business of course, but having fun and enjoying company of fellow farmers and ranchers is sure an added bonus. Fremont County rancher Thad Dockery enjoys a good laugh with Goshen County farmer Cole Coxbill.



Sharing why we believe membership in Farm Bureau is important to us all. Shown here Uinta County rancher Kristi Ellis visits with Converse County rancher Rachel Grant during a membership recruitment training session called "But, how do you explain Farm Bureau!?"

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