

Wyoming Agriculture

VOL. 41, NO. 7

APRIL 2024

Published by Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation



Wyoming 2024 Legislative Review

BY KERIN CLARK

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) covers a wide range of issues at the Wyoming Legislature each year to represent member policy. The policy book developed by the members starting at the grassroots level is what drives the position WyFB takes on legislation.

The Wyoming Legislature convened the 2024 Budget Session on Feb. 12 and adjourned on March 8. The Budget Session is held every other year and is scheduled

as a 20-day session. In this session, any legislation not related to the budget must receive a 2/3 majority vote to be introduced.

While the budget is the main focus of the session, a myriad of bills were worked on by WyFB. Those bills included, but were not limited to, property taxes, state lands, wildlife, foreign property ownership, and eminent domain.

Regarding the state's budget, WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs Brett

Moline said most of the agencies that directly impact agriculture did not go through the budget cuts they have in the past. Moline explained WyFB remains concerned, however, that the funding for the State Board of Control needs transferred back to the State Engineer's Office rather than coming out of funds designated for Water Development projects.

Property tax relief

WyFB policy calls for no new taxes and no increase in taxes. Many variations of

property tax relief legislation were introduced. "Even though none of the proposals dealt with anything besides residential property, we supported the bills that were a cut in taxes," Moline explained.

Moline noted a positive solution from the discussions was a cap on the increase in residential housing property taxes which has now been signed into law. "The legislation calls for a cap of a four percent increase per year," Moline said.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ... Page 9

Farm Bureau applauds SEC for sparing farms from Wall Street rules

MARCH 7, 2024

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) responded to American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) concerns and affirmed that regulations intended for Wall Street should not extend to America's family farms. The SEC voted March 6 on its final climate disclosure rule and removed the Scope 3 reporting requirement, which would have required public companies to report the greenhouse gas emissions of their supply chain.

Since the rule was first proposed two years ago, AFBF led the charge for the removal of Scope 3. Farm Bureau members sent almost 20,000 messages to the SEC and Capitol Hill, sharing their perspectives of how Scope 3 reporting would affect their farms.

"AFBF thanks SEC Chair Gary Gensler and his staff for their diligence in researching the unin-

tended consequences of an overreaching Scope 3 requirement," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Farmers are committed to protecting the natural resources they've been entrusted with, and they continue to advance climate-smart agriculture, but they cannot afford to hire compliance officers just to handle SEC reporting requirements. This is especially true for small farms that would have likely been squeezed out of the supply chain."

"We certainly echo the comments of AFBF President Duvall. Farmers and ranchers should not be subjected to regulations intended for Wall Street," said Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President. "We certainly never felt the initial proposal was within the scope of the SEC's authority but instead was a back door effort to regulate a number of segments of our economy that they couldn't reach under their current rules."

SEC REPORTING ... Page 15



Spring time in Wyoming

PHOTO BY DIXIE ROTH, GOSHEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION MEMBER

Understanding the impact of agriculture in Wyoming is critical across multiple stakeholder groups

BY CALLIE HANSON

FOR WYOMING AGRICULTURE

It's no secret Wyoming is a state deeply ingrained in the agriculture industry. Understanding the direct and indirect impacts agriculture makes across the state is important for numerous stakeholders including those directly involved in the everyday production and those who may indirectly benefit from the operations of farmers and ranchers.

In a multi-part study initially requested by Sen. Cynthia Lummis, the

University of Wyoming (UW) Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics reported that economic activity related to agricultural production contributed \$2.526 billion to Wyoming's economy in 2021.

In a press release UW reported, "This total includes direct farm-gate sales from 11 agricultural industries as well as related business-to-business purchases and spending by agricultural households."

"Everyone recognizes that agriculture is big in Wyoming. Now we have a single

publication that allows us to support our comments concerning the importance of ag in Wyoming with economic data," Eric Webster, director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station noted in a press release related to the study. "I am extremely happy that the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station was able to provide the funding to support this project, which highlights the importance of agriculture across the state."

Roger Coupal, a professor in the UW Department of Agricultural and Applied

Economics, was also a part of the study and noted the goals of the study were heavily rooted in the need for a standard study of what the major portions of the agriculture industry look like and the impacts in each county.

"In the next phase of this study we hope to look at more county-level data to see what the true impact and public finance risk is of losing a farm and ranch. This data will be a complement to what this study has already established."

AG ECONOMIC STUDY ... Page 5

Inside:

SEC heard farmers2
Growing a climate for tomorrow2
National news updates.....3

AFBF YF&R Conference4
Meet the volunteer: Tucker Hamilton6
Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife.....7

County news8
Enter to win a \$250 gift card9

www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

April 2024

12 "Ag Books for Kids" contests district deadline

May 2024

15 WyFB Foundation Charitable Contributions Application Deadline

31 WyFB Membership Committee Meeting-Hilton Garden Inn in Casper

November 2024

7-9 WyFB 105th Annual Meeting-Ramkota Hotel in Casper

Visit wyfb.org
for calendar updates



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please complete the online survey (sent to WyFB members via email April 2) by April 16, 2024 for a chance to win a:



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT! YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Please reach out to WyFB (broes@wyfb.org) if you have questions or did not receive the survey via email.



Wyoming Agriculture

Volume 41, Issue No. 7
April 2024

USPS 10331 ISSN 1071-0272

Official publication of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

307-721-7719
www.wyfb.org

Wyoming Agriculture is published monthly, except for combined July/August and December/January issues, by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070. Periodicals postage paid at Laramie, WY and additional entry offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Wyoming Agriculture*, PO Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

MISSION: To represent the voices of Wyoming farmers and ranchers through grassroots policy development while focusing on protecting private property rights, strengthening agriculture, and supporting farm and ranch families through advocacy, education, and leadership development.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Ken Hamilton

EDITOR
Kerin Clark
kclark@wyfb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Todd Fornstrom - President
Cole Coxbill - Vice President
Lane Hageman, Director-at-Large
Tim Pexton, Central District Director
Thad Dockery, Northwest District Director
Raenell Taylor, Northeast District Director
Kevin Baars, Southeast District Director
Justin Ellis, Southwest District Director
Tucker Hamilton, YF&R State Chair

Wall Street regulators heard farmers loud and clear

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



The strength of Farm Bureau shines through when we speak with a united voice on behalf of our farms, ranches and rural communities. That strength was on full display in our engagement with the Securities and Exchange Commission over the last two years as we called on them to revise their proposed climate disclosure rule to remove the Scope 3 reporting requirement. We made our voices heard from the grassroots up, and the SEC took notice and changed course.

In early March, the SEC announced their final climate disclosure rule, which completely removed the Scope 3 reporting requirement. Make no mistake. That would not have happened if Farm Bureau members had not stepped up and made their voices heard.

Scope 3 reporting would have required public companies to report the greenhouse gas emissions across their supply chain—all the way back to the farm. This would have placed a heavy burden on family farms, who don't have teams of compliance officers just to handle SEC reporting requirements meant for Wall Street companies. With manufacturers forced to squeeze emissions data from their supply chain, many small farms would have been squeezed out of the market entirely.

That's why the American Farm Bureau immediately led the charge to remove Scope 3—and continued to advocate on this issue for two years. Farm Bureau members, leaders and staff rose to the challenge. Our grassroots members sent nearly 20,000

messages to the SEC and Capitol Hill, sharing how Scope 3 reporting would affect their farms.

Not long after these messages began flooding in, I got a call from SEC Chair Gary Gensler asking why he was getting all these emails from farmers. Mind you, before this, I had never spoken to the chair of the SEC for the simple reason that farmers and ranchers don't run publicly traded companies. As I explained to Chair Gensler, it doesn't make sense for our private farm businesses to be dragged into rules developed for Wall Street.

Thankfully, Chair Gensler listened, and his staff began researching how Scope 3 reporting requirements would affect farmers. But it was our grassroots voices that got their attention. Farm Bureau advocacy also led lawmakers and leaders, including Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Sens. Jon Tester, Tammy Baldwin and Kyrsten Sinema to speak out on the impacts Scope 3 would have on farms and rural communities.

The work is not quite done when it comes to Scope 3 reporting requirements, however. While the SEC was working on its rule, California rushed out with its own law requiring large companies doing business in the state to report on Scope 3 emissions. The American Farm Bureau, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others, has challenged the California law in court, and we are urging California to follow the SEC's lead and exclude farmers from regulations intended for big corporations by withdrawing the Scope 3 requirement.

While Farm Bureau strongly opposes Scope 3 reporting requirements, that doesn't mean we don't see the value in on-farm data collection. You have heard me talk often about how farmers and ranchers have a great sustainability story to tell. A big part of telling that story is having the data to show the amazing strides we have made across agriculture. That's why Farm Bureau has been active in supporting efforts to give farmers and ranchers the tools they need to collect sustainability data as they participate in voluntary, incentive-based programs. We are a founding member of the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium and a leader in Field to Market: organizations working to empower farmers when it comes to on-farm data collection.

While voluntary data gathering by farmers can boost sustainability efforts, Scope 3 reporting requirements would overburden farmers and squeeze small- and medium-sized family farms out of business. After losing more than 140,000 farms in the last five years, we simply cannot afford to lose more.

To the Farm Bureau family, thank you for stepping up and making your voices heard. As we saw last month, and we have seen many times over our history, we can make a difference, together. Let's keep showing up together, to keep our farms and rural communities strong.

To learn more about Farm Bureau's work on sustainability credits, please visit our new Sustainability Credits and Ecosystem Services Markets page at fb.org. ■

Growing a climate for tomorrow

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



"Growing a Climate for Tomorrow" can mean different things to different people. For farmers and ranchers, it means growing food to feed their families, people in the urban areas as well as those in other countries. Many of the farmers and ranchers growing food are doing so on land that has been in their family for several generations.

When you've worked the land for decades you have to learn a lot about your piece of ground. This is particularly true here in Wyoming. Climate and weather conditions can vary a lot from one part of your ranch or farm to another. In areas where livestock are raised on our high plains or deserts and then move to our high mountains, these farmers and ranchers have learned that nature can vary from one year to the next. They have also learned conditions will vary greatly from the desert regions to the mountain regions.

Knowing how to deal with these challenges is something a person doesn't learn overnight. Certainly, those early Wyoming pioneers faced some daunting times in learning about all the "new" challenges they didn't have to face back from where they migrated. As time went by some couldn't learn fast enough and they were replaced by those who could. Today, those folks are still learning. Those who remain continue to raise crops and livestock that contribute to feeding our growing population.

Make no mistake, we must continually learn or we may experience food shortages. As the old saying goes, "when you have an abundance of food you have many problems, but when you have a shortage of food, you only have one problem."

Growing crops when there are water shortages can be difficult, yet many of our farmers and ranchers have adopted irrigation processes that grow more with less. In the early days of Wyoming, water was di-

verted from streams and rivers and used to raise food for Wyoming citizens and the surplus was sent to other areas in the U.S. that needed the food. As farmers learned which crops work best in our climate and as scientists developed new varieties that were better suited to a climate like Wyoming, farmers and ranchers became more efficient with their water. At the same time ranchers were identifying which cattle or sheep did better in the conditions they had on their ranches and raised livestock better adapted to the land. As these animals were becoming better adapted to their conditions more pounds of beef or lamb were raised on the same amount of forage.

Growing food in a climate like Wyoming requires dedication, education, and perseverance to make it to tomorrow. Wyoming farmers and ranchers have shown they are up to the challenge both yesterday, today and tomorrow. ■

National news updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Federal District Court Rules Corporate Transparency Act is Unconstitutional

As you might remember from a previous *Wyoming Agriculture* report, the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) came into effect on Jan. 1, 2024. This law requires most entities (think LLC, Corporations, etc.) to report their Beneficial Ownership Information to the federal government's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) by the end of 2024 or face criminal charges.

On March 1, 2024, District Court in Northern Alabama ruled that the CTA is unconstitutional in a lawsuit filed by the National Small Business Association against the government. This ruling only prevents the government from enforcing the CTA against the plaintiffs—not everyone. It is very likely the government will appeal the decision.

This lawsuit will probably not be the last, and we recommend you consult your company's legal counsel on proceeding with compliance of this regulation.

USDA Final Rule on Market Transparency Under the Packers and Stockyards Act

USDA recently finalized another rule that helps bring transparency and fairness for protein producers who raise livestock and poultry under contracts with large companies. With this rule there is additional clarity regarding retaliation and deceptive practices. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and American Farm Bureau Federation welcome efforts like this to level the playing field for all farmers and ranchers.

USDA Finalizes Rule on "Product of the USA" and "Made in the USA"

On March 11, the USDA announced its final rule on a voluntary measure that would allow for products to be labeled "Product of the USA" and "Made in the USA" if it meets criteria for meat, eggs, and poultry products. AFBF appreciates the agency's efforts on this rule and its flexibility to farmers and ranchers who choose to feature the state or region where their livestock was raised.

BLM Releases Greater Sage Grouse Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its much-anticipated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Resource Management Plan Amendments on March 14, 2024. The agency provided six alternatives that will be used going forward

in their analysis for a final management plan. There are hundreds of pages in the document, so more analysis is needed, but the preferred alternative that the BLM has identified does not propose additional restrictions of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in addition to the Wyoming identified core areas. This document is open for public comment until June 13, 2024. Stay tuned for more analysis on the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation website and upcoming *Wyoming Agriculture* issues. ■



It's up to us to keep the next generation of farmers SAFE

- Always use safety equipment, such as helmets, goggles and gloves, where necessary.
- Refer to warning labels and follow directions.
- Teach children about both the positive and dangerous aspects of livestock and farm animals.
- Remove the keys from all farm vehicles when not in use.

POWELL
HEART MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT
307-754-5169
www.heartmountainequipment.com

Member-CENTS

WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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.

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

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

FEATURED BENEFIT: Choice Hotels

SAVE UP TO 20% OFF AT PARTICIPATING CHOICE HOTELS



AFBF YF&R Conference 2024

BY CODY ALPS,
WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Growing leaders in the heartland; the theme of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Conference in Omaha, Nebraska could not have been a better fit for this year's conference. This conference built on top of both the AFBF Convention and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Conference which had relatable themes; new horizons and cultivating emerging leaders respectively. This year's YF&R Conference offered multiple opportunities for Farm Bureau members across the country. Over 900 young farmers and ranchers attended the conference.

YF&R conferences and events are always filled with opportunities regardless of whether it is a large national event, a statewide event, or even a small county event. However, the national YF&R conference offers unique opportunities. As the WYFB YF&R State Vice Chair I had the honor of attending many opportunities curated for State Chairs. This included leadership training, a networking reception, and even representing the state of Wyoming and our Farm Bureau organization on the national stage.

These unique opportunities that were presented to me are far outnumbered by all the opportunities presented at the conference. All members had the chance to network with members from other states, develop their leadership and personal skills, learn about issues that are facing the industry, and many more valuable experiences that come with attending the YF&R Conference. Out of the five members from Wyoming that attended, I was the only member that has attended a national Farm Bureau event before, and I can con-



Wyoming attendees at the 2024 AFBF YF&R Conference. Left to right: Angel Sparkman, Sheridan College; Becka Nutting, Sheridan College; Cody Alps, Goshen County; Hannah Klein and Spencer Axtell, Hot Springs County.



Cody Alps, WyFB YF&R Committee Vice Chair

fidently say the value of these conferences grows with each event you attend. Additionally, one of my favorite parts of the conference was sharing the enthusiasm and experience with the other members of our group who were attending a national event for the first time.

The general sessions were filled with phenomenal keynote speakers that delivered their message in a variety of ways. First up was Rick Rigsby. Rigsby delivered a motivational message in a highly energetic way that kept everyone thoroughly engaged. His mes-

sage was largely focused on what it takes to be successful. A few of the key points that he left us with were: You have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable; Executing the basics better than anyone else will set you up for success; and You have to have a growth mindset. In other words, being content with the status quo will not lead you to success. You have to push yourself out of your comfort zone and make it an everyday conscious effort to better yourself.

The other keynote speakers consisted of a discussion panel comprised of Farm Bureau members sharing their own stories of overcoming the impossible, and AFBF President Zippy Duvall addressed

the attendees in a townhall style keynote. When discussing major issues facing the ag industry, mental health has been at the forefront of that list. Members on the panel shared their own struggles with mental health, and how they overcame them. President Duvall's speech was a change of pace from most keynote speeches. He shared with us his background, and how he became involved in Farm Bureau and progressed to being the AFBF President. Afterwards, he answered many questions from members which displayed how down to earth he is, and how at the end of the day he is a Farm Bureau member just like the rest of us.

YF&R CONFERENCE ... Page 5

AFBF YF&R 2024 Conference

“Growing Leaders in the Heartland” at the 2024 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Conference. The conference was an incredible experience for Wyoming young farmers and ranchers to grow and learn with young farmers and ranchers from across the nation! ■



Closing Keynote and Town Hall Q&A with AFBF President Zippy Duvall. In this picture with AFBF President Duvall are Sheridan College Student Becka Nutting and Sheridan College Instructor Angel Sparkman.



WyFB YF&R Committee Members caught up with AFBF YF&R Committee Member Joel Currier from Colorado at the 2024 AFBF YF&R Conference. Currier was a keynote speaker at the WyFB YF&R Conference in February. Left to right: Cody Alps, Currier, Hannah Klein, and Spencer Axtell.



Wyoming is proud of Sheridan College student Becka Nutting for representing us well in the 2024 AFBF YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet. All national contestants received a \$100 scholarship from CHS Foundation.

AG ECONOMIC STUDY... *From Page 1*

Coupal noted the next phase of the study will ideally take place in Summer 2024 and will look at entrepreneurship issues in the agriculture sector and take a closer look at services that aren't always associated directly with agriculture like mine reclamation and value added operations.

"What we did here was look at marketable sales of primary agricultural industries in Wyoming and how they relate to row crop and livestock sectors. Agricultural producers inadvertently contribute to the economy outside of direct production by supporting businesses such as implement dealers and financial institutions.

Coupal explains there are two types of spending associated with agriculture producers.

"Some of these products like hay are locally consumed, while others are exported to surrounding communities and states. Regardless, these producers still need to purchase products from local im-

plement dealers like diesel or fertilizer and a lot of these businesses are family-owned and the money continues to go back into the local economy."

Coupal continues, "Farmers use income from the sale of products to go to local grocery stores and then they hire people who also purchase from these stores, which creates a long-term multiplier effect, which is how money recirculates within the economy."

The study concluded, "In 2021, for every dollar generated by agricultural production, local purchases supporting agricultural businesses generated an additional \$0.28 cents. Local spending by agricultural industry and ag supply-chain workers generated an additional \$0.20. In total, business-to-business ag supply chain purchases, such as feed and fencing, contributed an additional \$476 million to the state's economy. Household spending of agricultural industry labor income in local restaurants, retail stores and other establishments added another \$338 million."

This is not necessarily a new approach and has been done in the past but those studies did not include public finance impacts or include other public benefits agriculture provides from an economic standpoint.

Coupal noted that 50 percent of Wyoming is privately-owned land. Of that percentage, 93 percent is agricultural land.

"Agriculture land has a notable effect on individuals whether you live in a city or a small town. What happens on those operations can be felt across the economy," Coupal notes. "While energy has been the main industry in Wyoming for awhile, agriculture and tourism have competed for second in the private sector, with tourism formally reaching and maintaining second place over the past quarter century. However, a significant portion of tourism is dependent on private lands managed by agriculture."

One example Coupal noted is the popularity of tourism and recreation related to game animals and wildlife.

"About 50 percent of winter habitat for game like elk, pronghorn and mule deer are owned by private landowners such as ranchers and farmers. These people and these lands are significant because if something happened, this would have a negative effect on the tourism industry as well. The two industries are very complementary."

"Wyoming also has a lot of tourism based in fishing and hunting in which agriculture lands play a major part in the success of these industries," Coupal explains. "Most clean water occurs because land in agriculture can act as natural filtration. These landowners aren't necessarily paid for this service, it is essentially a support to the hunting and fishing industry, and their clientele and stakeholders."

Nailing down the exact value of agriculture can be difficult due to the indirect effects of agriculture across other sectors such as tourism. As the Wyoming economy continues to grow and diversify, it's important to recognize the critical role agriculture plays across the board. ■

YF&R CONFERENCE... *From Page 4*

Along with the general sessions, keynote speakers, and networking, there were many breakout sessions and tours offered at the YF&R Conference in Omaha. These breakout sessions covered a variety of topics ranging from current policies that are affecting the industry, personal

development, how to build and encourage membership growth, and many more. The tours offered covered a wide variety of insights into the ag industry around Omaha. I toured the CLAAS assembly plant where they assemble Lexion combines for customers all over the United States and Canada.

When the location for the 2024 AFBF YF&R Conference was announced, I'll

admit Omaha, Neb., did not sound as appealing as the year before in Jacksonville, Fla. However, I knew the conference would be incredible and well worth attending. Despite not being near a beach, and doubling as a tropical getaway, Omaha made for a great conference location. I look forward to bringing my experiences back to our state Farm Bureau, the state YF&R Committee, and

my own operation. Next year's conference will be held in Denver, Colo., March 7-10, 2025, and I highly encourage you to attend the AFBF YF&R Conference in 2025. ■

From Goshen County, Cody Alps has represented the Southeast District on the WyF-BYF&R committee since 2021, and currently serves as the WyFB YF&R Vice Chair.



LEADING THE WAY IN REPRODUCTIVE NUTRITION.

Reproductive efficiency is directly linked to herd profitability and fundamental for your beef enterprise. By using Vitalix Breed Back tubs, you can ensure your herd receives the essential nutrition for a productive breeding season.

Learn more from your local sales manager today!
Ralph Hinton • 970-966-4904 • rhinton@vitalix.com



The people of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader: Tucker Hamilton

County: Weston

Leadership Positions:

- Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair
- Weston County Natural Resource District Board Member

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe ranch background.

Hamilton: Fourth generation owner/operator of a commercial cattle ranch in Northeast Wyoming. We raise Angus and Angus/Hereford crosses. We raise hay to feed our cattle through the winter. We have been expanding into more farming in the last five years with no-till strategies to try and revitalize some old meadows and get them back into alfalfa production.

Wyoming Agriculture: Family, education, hobbies.

Hamilton: I spent eight years in college and ended up with two Bachelors of Science degrees, one in Agricultural Business and the other in Animal Science, and one Masters of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. After I graduated, I worked as a grain buyer in Nebraska before returning to the ranch. My wife Annie and I have been married for just over one year and we work together with my parents Monte and Francie Hamilton to operate the ranch. I have one sister, Brittany, who is married to a cowboy and manager, and they recently moved to Arizona. As for hobbies, cows are kind of my hobby, and my work.

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

Hamilton: My immediate and extended family have been involved with the Farm Bureau Federation for several generations with some members traveling to Cheyenne once a year to help lobby at the legislature for important agricultural issues. My involvement truly began when I was elected to the Young Farmers and Ranchers committee as a member at large. I have been on the committee for four years and was elected chairman this year.

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

Hamilton: I have always answered "because I think it is important to be involved" without really having a good understanding why. With my involvement with Farm Bureau Federation and other organizations, I have started to form an understanding of my why.

Our culture and civilization are supported, and thrive, from personal capital. Most of the public boards and offices in a community rely on people who voluntarily donate their time and effort, and commit themselves, to make every part of our civilization and community function. This goes for museum boards, city councils, county commissioners, zoning boards, senior service boards, hospital boards, or legislators. A few of them are compensated or paid but that is usually a pittance when it comes to their responsibilities and the scrutiny they receive from the public eye. Without these people, their functions would be replaced by state or federally run entities, and our freedoms would become severely limited, our taxes would be outrageous, and our government would become more bloated than it already is. We have a responsibility to serve and lead.

I donate my time and effort to the Farm Bureau Federation because I believe they are a strong voice for maintaining and protecting the rights and freedoms of agricultural producers in Wyoming and the United States and I can contribute to that by being involved and becoming a leader.

Wyoming Agriculture: Can you share an example of a policy that has a positive impact on your farm or ranch?

Hamilton: I feel an important part of what Farm Bureau Federation does is prevent those who don't know about agriculture from making rules for those that do. The Federation is constantly acting as a shield and putting a stop to things that would have negative effects on agricultural operations, and the operators don't feel the full effects of policies that would

TUCKER HAMILTON ... Page 7



Tucker and Annie branding.



Tucker and Annie during calving season.



Annie and Tucker Hamilton at the Wyoming Capitol for the Governor's proclamation signing for "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week."



WyFB YF&R State Chair Tucker Hamilton speaking at the 2024 WyFB YF&R Conference.



Weston County Rancher Tucker Hamilton.

TUCKER HAMILTON ... From Page 6

otherwise change their operations. An example is that Farm Bureau Federation has been a huge proponent in fighting against the overarching control of the government through the Waters of the United States that would affect producers' abilities to things as simple as watering their livestock. They have also been a proponent for keeping public lands as multiple use and fighting against the recent efforts to make "non-use" or "preservation" one of those multiple uses. Farm Bureau Federation is essential in filtering the rules the bureaucrats in the executive branch make and keeping them from being too detrimental to agriculture. Without the Federation as a shield, life would be a lot different.

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

Hamilton: Become a member of the federation, go to meetings, introduce resolutions for things you see are issues that need addressed, go to the annual meeting, advocate for yourselves and agriculture, lobby at committee meetings at the legislature. Just do it! If you don't, Farm Bureau Federation's voice will grow softer, and someday someone might show up at your door and tell you your federal lease is suspended and there is nothing you can do about it. By then, it will be far too late to fix it. You getting involved at the county level gives Farm Bureau

Federation more strength. They are a grass-roots organization and depend on your input to operate and make the right decisions.

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

Hamilton: Maintaining our private property rights is a big one. The elk overpopulation and their impact on forage and crops is an issue many in my county and district are dealing with as well as Eastern Wyoming. A brand-new issue we are watching is the development of a Rare Earth Elements mine in Crook County and its logistical infrastructure. Prairie dog infestation and their negative impacts on ecosystems and rangeland is a major issue for my District. Our BLM Resource Management Plan is due to renew in the next year and we are very worried we will get the same one as Rock Springs despite the public opposition.


Wyoming Agriculture: How important is each member of the Federation?

Hamilton: Crucially important! Every. Single. Member. Farm Bureau cannot function without member involvement at first the county level, then the state level. Members are responsible for all of Farm Bureau Federation policies, the foundations, that are used to support or fight against rules, regulations, or legislation that is introduced. The Federation also depends on membership dues to support the few employees they have and function efficiently. ■

Cooking With the Modern Ranch Wife

Mom's Creamy Potato Soup

Recipe by Connie Werner and Jane Brooks



Ingredients:

- 6 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery ribs, diced
- 2 (14.5 oz) cans cream of chicken soup
- 20-25 ounces chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups half and half or cream

Instructions:

- Combine potatoes, onions, carrots, celery, cream of chicken soup, broth, basil, salt, and pepper in a large pot.
- Cook on low until the potatoes are tender.
- Stir together flour and half and half until smooth. Add to the soup and stir until combined.
- Cover and cook 30 more minutes or until heated through. If too thick add more chicken broth.
- Serve with bread bowls or rolls. Enjoy!

For more recipes visit: www.modernranchwife.com



Happy 60th Anniversary

Garie & Karen Henry!

Please help us celebrate Garie & Karen Henry at their 60th Anniversary Open House.

Saturday May 25, 2024
6-8 p.m.

American Legion Hall
100 County Road 224
Fort Bridger, Wyoming

Please join our family for cake, visiting and sharing stories about Garie & Karen.

If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card their address is P.O. Box 70, Robertson, WY 82944.



Receive a \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward*



FORD SUPER DUTY

Farm Bureau Members Receive \$500* toward an Eligible New F-150® Lightning®, Super Duty®, F-150, Ranger® or Maverick®






FORD F-150 LIGHTNING
FORD F-150
FORD RANGER
FORD MAVERICK

Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau today for complete offer details!

JACKSON
JACKSON HOLE FORD
307-201-5499
www.jacksonholeford.com

WHEATLAND
LARAMIE PEAK MOTORS
800-564-2355
www.laramiepeakmotors.com



*Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2023/2024/2025 Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150, Super Duty or F-150 Lightning. This incentive is not available on Ranger Raptor®, F-150 Raptor, F-650® and F-750® Super Duty. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 2, 2025. See your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #32286.

What you see:



What we see:



Purina® Omolene® Feeds, now with Outlast® Supplement. The textured feed you're used to has changed for the better. Keep your horse performing with confidence with the same nutritious fuel sources, now with Outlast® Supplement for gastric support and proper pH. Talk to your local Purina retailer, or visit purinamills.com/omolene

CASPER
NOLAND FEED
307-237-8926
www.nolandfeed.com

WHEATLAND
WHEATLAND COUNTRY STORE
307-322-3922

© 2019 Purina Animal Nutrition LLC. All rights reserved. Feed shown is Omolene® 200 Horse Feed. Other feeds may vary.





Johnson County News

SUBMITTED BY CARMEN RODRIGUEZ

Johnson County students learned more about agriculture through the "Ag Books for Kids" program in March. Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Carmen Rodriguez read with 85 kids. According to Rodriguez, after reading they made butter with fresh cream and they all got the opportunity to try fresh cow's milk. ■



The Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation (NCFBF) worked with Niobrara County Commissioners to recognize agriculture literacy on the local level. Tom Marshik and Kevin Baars were present at the Niobrara County Commissioner's meeting for the Ag Literacy Proclamation signing in February. All three commissioners are Farm Bureau members. Left to right: Marshik, Baars, Pat Wade, John Midkiff. Front row: Elaine Griffith.



Niobrara County News

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN BAARS



The NCFBF made a donation to the local SkillsUSA chapter to kick start their jacket fund. They are doing exciting things fostering real life skills.

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

EVENT DETAILS

Wyoming / Nebraska 2024

Wheatland Off Range Corral, Wheatland, WY

April 19 & May 17

June 21 & July 19

August 16 & Sept 20

Oct 18

Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility, Rock Springs, WY

April 27

Wyoming Honor Farm Adoptions, Riverton, WY

May 17-18 & Sept 13-14

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch Day & Adoptions, Lander, WY

June 1 & Sept 7

Deerwood Open Ranch Days, Centennial, WY

June 8 & Sept 28

3rd Annual Spring Mustang Rendezvous, Torrington, WY

June 8

Cheyenne Frontier Days @ Lions Park, Cheyenne, WY

July 19-July 28

Mustang & Burro Days, Wheatland, WY

Aug 24-25

Mantle Ranch, Wheatland, WY

To make an adoption appointment, please call (815) 566-1233 or (307) 331-1311.

Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility, Rock Springs, WY

To make an adoption appointment for Thursday or Friday after April 27th. Please call (307) 352-0292.



ADOPTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Interested in giving a good home to an untrained wild horse or burro? Ask how you can earn up to **\$1,000** when you do!

\$125 Minimum fee



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program

BLM.gov/WHB • (866) 468-7826 •



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW... From Page 1

“Taxes still will likely increase, but this cap will help moderate some of those areas that saw a 25% or 50% increase in taxes.”

The two-year sunset date on some of the property tax bills limits the relief. “If state funding isn’t available to backfill other government needs like counties, cities and other districts, then after the two-year relief the property taxes would jump right back up,” he said.

“Those homeowners who are 65 years and older and have paid taxes for 25 years in Wyoming will receive substantial help on property taxes for a limited period with the additional funding into the homestead exemption,” Moline explained.

WyFB opposed the legislation that would have reduced residential property taxes and raised sales taxes by 2%. “While homeowners would have received a tax reduction, those that don’t own homes and those who do were going to see a sales tax increase,” Moline said. “The concern of increasing taxes and losing business to a neighboring state with no sales tax would have made a large problem even larger.” This legislation failed.

Gov. Gordon vetoed legislation which would have exempted 25% of a primary residence from property taxes with a maximum exemption of \$200,000.

Moline explained that multiple short-term measures were taken during the session. “This is an issue that will be ongoing in the interim,” Moline said. “We will have to wait for rules to come out for the next tax year to know what the process will be for the property tax relief.”

Taxes

A bill that would have put a registration fee on electric vehicles as a surcharge of \$200 per vehicle did not receive enough votes for introduction. WyFB policy supported this legislation. “The surcharge per vehicle was an estimation of what they would have paid for fuel taxes for maintenance of Wyoming roads,” Moline said.

State Lands

WyFB supported two bills that are now law regarding state land lease renewals and payments. The first bill extended the grace period for renewing state trust land grazing permits 30 days past the expiration date. The second bill specified that lease payments are considered received based on the postmark date. “We felt it was important to get these procedures into statutes for consistency and transparency on every lease to address issues our members have been experiencing with lease renewals,” Moline said.

Wildlife

WyFB supported a bill related to forage compensation in areas where the game population is above the objective set by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). “This bill passed the House and made it through committee in the Senate but unfortunately was never heard on the Senate floor,” Moline said. “This bill would have encouraged the Game and Fish Department to work on wildlife numbers before they get to almost three times the objective number.”

Another wildlife bill related to the introduction of bighorn sheep. The legislation passed and will require the WGFD to remove or relocate bighorn sheep from the Sweetwater Rocks if the bighorn sheep cause any changes in federal actions. “WyFB opposed this bill because of the potential of harm to local permittees in the area,” Moline explained. “This is an issue that can’t be fixed at the state level. It needs federal resolution.”

“While the state has input, the federal agencies control the land and have the final decision,” he continued. “And as we’ve seen in many instances local input is taken, but not heeded.”

Foreign property ownership

Multiple bills were introduced to prohibit foreign property ownership in Wyoming. WyFB policy supported these bills. Two bills were not considered for introduction. Those bills would have prohibited foreign ownership of agricultural lands in Wyoming and foreign ownership of all land and other interests in Wyoming.

The other bill that would have outlawed foreign ownership of any critical infrastructure failed in the House Appropriations Committee.

The fourth bill was a Senate Joint resolution to amend the Wyoming Constitution to prohibit foreign adversaries, as defined by the legislature, from owning any property in Wyoming. This resolution failed third reading in the Senate.

“One of the problems is most of the bills were unconstitutional,” Moline explained. “The question surfaced if the focus against foreign ownership needs narrowed to adversarial countries and if the Wyoming Constitution needs amended to allow for this type of legislation.”

Water

Legislation passed dealing with amendments to water exchange statutes. “Most of this legislation was clean-up language,” Moline explained. “We made sure that it is outlined in statute that all other users are made whole.”

Legislation related to temporary change in use failed in the House Agriculture Committee. The bill would have increased temporary water rights from 2-5 years.

Eminent domain

According to Moline, the eminent domain legislation did not get introduced but will hopefully be discussed during the interim. “Alternative energy with windmills and solar units have subtle differences between these two projects and everything else,” he said. “While the landowner who leases the land gets the benefits, the surrounding neighbors have to deal with the implications of the collection lines that run through their property.”

“Last year we supported a bill that put a 10-year moratorium on it to find a way to better work the process and then the Governor vetoed the bill,” he continued. “This year the legislation we supported would have limited the power of eminent domain for collector lines to only public utilities and only if 85% of the land used for the lines was under contract.”

Sage Grouse plans


WyFB supported a bill that passed to require notice be made to landowners before recommendations are made on sage grouse plans. “That is typically done but the ball was dropped recently,” Moline said. “We feel strongly that statutes need to reflect that affected landowners be notified of recommendations made by Sage Grouse Implementation Teams and we were pleased this was signed into law.”

Wyoming PRIME Act

Governor Gordon vetoed a bill passed by the legislature that would have allowed individuals to cut and sell uninspected meat in an unregulated facility if the federal regulations were changed to allow the same. WyFB supported this legislation. “WyFB policy supports food freedom, but we don’t want to run the risk of losing our state inspected plants,” Moline explained. “We supported this concept with the appreciation that until this can be done through federal rules the Wyoming law would not have gone into effect.”

Interim topics


The Legislative Management Council has an April 1 deadline for interim topics. Watch the next issue of *Wyoming Agriculture* for details. ■




#WY BEEF
CHECKOFF

Did You Know?

Beef Quality Assurance Certificates are industry-recognized credentials for students enrolled in Career and Technical Education classes in Wyoming’s secondary and post-secondary programs. Over 6,000 students participated in CTE programs last year.





WYOMING BEEF COUNCIL

Wyoming Beef Council
307.777.7396
gary.gwin1@wyo.gov



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please complete the online survey
(sent to WyFB members via email April 2)
by April 16, 2024 for a chance to win a:



**WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

Please reach out to WyFB (broes@wyfb.org) if you have questions or did not receive the survey via email.



Wyoming Classifieds

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.

TO SUBMIT ADS, send your ad along with your name, phone number and member number or member county to kclark@wyfb.org or mail to WyFB, ATTN: Classifieds, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

LIVESTOCK

MINIATURE FAINTING GOATS available. Buckling (1), doeling (1), and wethers (2) available. All born April 2023. All dam raised. Burlington, WY. Please call for pricing. 307.762.3402

20 COMING 2-YEAR OLD LIMOUSIN AND LIM-FLEX BULLS. All are Black and Polled. Great dispositions and balanced EPD's to compliment any program. Add vigor, growth and maternal traits to your cow herd. We market our bulls Private Treaty. We invite you to the ranch to take a look at our offering and have a cup of coffee with us. Please contact us at 307-856-4268 or 307-709-4200 to inquire directly, or find us on Facebook. Thank you for your interest in Stoll Limousin.

EQUIPMENT

ANDERSON ROCK PICKER. 540 PTO, gear box to duel shaft to chain drive, pin hitch, 3 hydraulic connections, 56 inch wide pick-up, 4 rollers with 13 teeth each, 7.5 inch call teeth by 3.4 inch thick, manual hopper lock, hydraulic operated dump. Pictures available. Text or call 307-899-9070. Located in Cody, Wyo.

2019 JD TRACTOR 5055 E, 2 wheel drive. Canopy Hardware Kit fender extensions put on. Loader prep package. Two remotes. Power shuttle. 380 hours. Kept in the shed when not being used. It is very nice and clean. Asking \$31,000. Call for pictures. 308/641-2362. Located near Torrington, Wyo.

MISCELLANEOUS

GATED IRRIGATION PIPE 12" approx. 86 lengths - 3 navigators excellent condition well kept almost new condition. \$160.00 per length (or best offer) in Riverton, WY. Call Bob at 435-671-0386.

HAY

GRASS HAY FOR SALE. Certified weed free, small bales, high altitude grown, barn stored, no rain. Encampment Wyoming area. 307-340-0551 text or call.

1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD CUT ALFALFA HAY available. 3 x 4 bales, approx 3700 bales available. Burlington, WY. Please call for pricing and details on each cut. 307.762.3402

CUSTOM HAYING

CUSTOM HAY SERVICES OFFERED. We are looking for acres of hay that farmers need put up in 3x4 bales around Lyman, Neb. and Huntley, Wyo. area. We will swath, rake, bale and stack hay. Call Dan Hill at 308-641-2362 or 308-641-2500.

New Members

ALBANY

Tyler Lawson/ Lawson Distributing LLC (REG), Laramie; Joshua Baker, Laramie; Michael White (REG), Laramie; Andrea & Matthew Grosinger, Laramie; Kristy & Greg Schabron, Laramie; Gordon Haug, Laramie; Timothy Rumans, Laramie; Blake Lanham, Laramie; James Jackson, Laramie

BIG HORN

Brenda & James Seckman (REG), Powell; Jep & Jeff Miller, Greybull; Eric Walker/ E Triangle Ranch (REG), Burlington; Clarence Duncan, Basin; Connie & Todd Werbelow (REG), Greybull; Constantino Mendez/ Mendez Brothers (REG), Basin; Tom Olmstead (REG), Basin

CAMPBELL

Colleen & Bobby Harris (REG), Highmore, SD; Brenda & Greg Michelena (REG), Clearmont; Brenda Robidoux, Wright; Scott Hungerford, Gillette; Courtney Randall, Gillette; Julie & Larry McCann, Gillette; Jade & Cinnamon Lenhart (REG), Weston; Billie & Steven Young (REG), Gillette; Sara & Joseph Meeks, Alpine; Kathryn & Jack Elbersen, Upton; Krysten & Levi Lee, Gillette; Beth & Aaron Ganskow, Cheyenne; Samantha & Serna Aspyn, Gillette; Talon Tharp, Gillette

CARBON

Kerry Schinkel, Rawlins; Niki & Justin Ready (REG), Dixon; Donna & Freddie Kunkel, Bairoil; Marnie & Greg Garner, Rawlins; Tonya & Lonnie Porter, Sinclair; Tami & Chuck McVey, Saratoga; Kyle & Jeffrey Walton, Rawlins; Alice & Kenneth Swanson, Saratoga; Heather & Jeffrey Mincy, Saratoga; Wilder Judith, Encampment; Jessie & Charles Drake, Encampment; Pepper & Randal Six, Laramie; Kasandra & Jared Ramsey (REG), Rawlins; Mark Jones, Saratoga; Cheryl & Roland Bowen (REG), Elk Mountain; Debra Salisbury, Encampment

CONVERSE

Eric Gremm (REG), Douglas; Elizabeth & Ryan Ostrander, Douglas; Jessica & Tyler Halverson, Douglas; Veronica & Guillermo Moreno, Glenrock; Marissa & Jeffrey Sims (REG), Douglas; Konnor Ross, Douglas; Michael Cronin, Glenrock; Douglas Siebken, Douglas

CROOK

Joe Gantz (REG), Alva; Chris Tomford (REG), Sundance; Betty & Doug West (REG), Moorcroft; Barbara & Lindell Crawford, Sundance; M. Doug Reynolds (REG), Rozet; Joyce Wiley-Rucki, Moorcroft; James Palus, Hulett; John Grieves (REG), Upton; Wilma Droegemueller, Sundance; Shondah Otwell (REG), Moorcroft; Suzanne Ballou, Hulett

FREMONT

Angelina & Hector Rico, Riverton; Sherry & Johnny Key (REG), Garrison; Dawn Thorson-Johnson & Carl Thorson, Riverton; Kay Keen, Riverton; Patricia & Dave Pince (REG), Riverton; Lynn & Dennis Pince (REG), Shoshoni; Matthew Parra & Jordyn Gripon, Riverton; Bradley Kreis, Lander; Penny & Clint Sauer, Lander; Donald Hundley, Lander; Serene & Justin Nordwick, Kinneer; Faye & Michael Hill (REG), Riverton; Suzanne & Robert Erickson (REG), Pavillion; Cheryl Christensen (REG), Riverton; Jack Scarlett (REG), Lander; Valerie & Schuyler Leseberg, Riverton

GOSHEN

Pam & Jerry Reichert (REG), Torrington; Nancey Marlatt (REG), Yoder; Kristen & Wade Hunter, Torrington; Mark McMahon (REG), Torrington; Dean Dick (REG), Veteran; Lu & Gary Vaughan (REG), Fort Laramie; Kelli & Brad Shannon (REG), Torrington; Leann & Matthew Mattis, Torrington; Tyler Kimzey (REG), Pine Bluffs

HOT SPRINGS

Barbara & Marvin Nielsen (REG), Thermopolis; Christina Kissel, Thermopolis; Terry Jackman, Thermopolis; Meagan & Travis Kelly, Thermopolis; Jean & Sheldon Skelton (REG), Thermopolis; Thomas Christensen (REG), Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Chad Ketcham, Buffalo; Chancy & Kelly Winsor, Kaycee; Ian Welles (REG), Buffalo; Sullivan Properties LLC (REG), Buffalo; Rhiannon Fowler, Buffalo; Josh Johnson, Buffalo; Ashlea & Pete Bassett, Clearmont; Sandra & Virgil Harrell, Buffalo; Doug Cash (REG), Kaycee; Sherryl & Daniel Fraker (REG), Kaycee; McKenzie Harlan (REG), Kaycee; First Northern Bank (REG), Buffalo; Lois Vogl, Buffal; Jacki & Danny Powell, Buffalo; Brian Engstrom, Buffalo; Jonna Safraneck, Buffalo; Mikayla & Jory Zurcher, Buffalo; Robert Leresche (REG), Sheridan; Virginia & Junior Curuchet, Kaycee



WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

The Weekly News Source for Ranchers, Farmers and the AgriBusiness Community

Receive a 6-week complimentary subscription to the Wyoming Livestock Roundup!

To receive your 6-week complimentary subscription, contact Andrea at 307.234.2700 or andrea@wylr.net.

52 great issues per year plus all of our Special Editions!
1 year - \$60 • 2 years - \$90 (\$30 savings) • 3 years - \$130 (\$50 savings)
Online Subscriptions: 1 year - \$30

For your agriculture news on-the-go!

www.wylr.net • 800.967.1647 • 307.234.2700
P.O. Box 850 • Casper, WY 82602

*For new subscribers

NEW MEMBERS ... From Page 10

LARAMIE

Meredith & Oliver Allen, Cheyenne; Sarah Reichert, Cheyenne; Catherine & Donald Loetscher, Cheyenne; Craig Wright, Cheyenne; Sandy & Julian Romero, Cheyenne; Annette Holland (REG), Cheyenne; Lawrence Schmelzle, Cheyenne; Heather Huckfeldt, Cheyenne; Dennis Korneychuk, Pine Bluffs; Elizabeth Woolridge, Pine Bluffs; Gustafson Farms LLC (REG), Carpenter; Monte Lerwick/ Homestead Acres Ag LLC (REG), Albin; Val Skidmore, Cheyenne; Craig Prine, Cheyenne; Kelhi Stack, Cheyenne; Becky Eisenbeisz, Cheyenne; Gloria & Kerry Merrill, Cheyenne; Susan & Andrew Kelly, Cheyenne; Mary Cole, Cheyenne; Heather & Patrick Goodwine, Carpenter; Robert Roof (REG), Carpenter; Kaci & Devin Collins, Cheyenne; Rob Morris, Cheyenne; Barbara Gilbert, Laramie; Betsy & Bernard Phelan, Cheyenne; Gary Maier, Cheyenne; Thora & Joseph Pino, Cheyenne; Jerry Harding/ Harding Ranch Inc (REG), Meriden; Brock Beavers (REG), Burns; Tagr Holmes, Cheyenne; Jerry Broick, Cheyenne; Charlene Holtzclaw, Cheyenne

LINCOLN

Annis & Joseph Nicotera, Littlefield, AZ; Lee Hansen, Thayne; Jeffrey Holt, Etna; Kevan Larsen, Thayne; Scott Hacking, Kemmerer; Timothy Vrska (REG), Afton; Patricia Judge, Thayne; Jayce Wolfley, Thayne; Roland Lewis/ Roland Lewis Ranch LLC (REG), Kemmerer; Jennifer & Jordan Willis, Cokeville; Andre Williams, Bedford; Melody Leseberg, Alpine; Shannon Caywood, Alpine; Matthew Teichert/ Teichert Bros (REG), Cokeville; Timothy Teichert, Cokeville

NATRONA

Dale Foertsch, Evansville; Jen Gray & Raymond Miller (REG), Casper; Elizabeth Hodnett, Casper; Pam & Gary Pike, Bar Nunn; Martha & Scott Weischedel, Sheridan; Tom Ohl, Casper; WW Land & Livestock (REG), Casper; Teresa & Roland Grannan, Casper; Karla Gallegos & James Schwartz (REG), Evansville; Heather & Jesse Hershman, Casper; Gail Hagerott, Casper; Justin Smith, Casper; Francine & Enrico Foss, Casper; Noland Feed (REG), Casper

PARK

Kay & Fred Thomas (REG), Meeteetse; Brittany & Nathan Robertson, Ralston; Alana & Robert Whitaker, Les Honfi, Cody; Christopher Baumann, Powell; Edward Saunders, Cody; Kevin Purdy, Powell; Michael Dawes, Powell; Scott Keister, Powell; Steven Jones, Powell; Judy & Floyd Smallwood, Cody; Karen Jones, Cody; Rob Paterson, Powell; Bert Miller, Cody; Dan Hunter, Cody; Dean McCoy, Powell; Tasha Bjornestad, Powell; Marilyn Farwell/Farwell Farms Inc (REG), Powell

PLATTE

Jan Hyche (REG), Wheatland; Marian & Louis Vigil, Wheatland; Stephen Shockley (REG), Wheatland; Vaughn LLC, Chugwater

SHERIDAN

Diao 7 Bar Ranch LLP (REG), Alva; Alex Laudenslager, Sheridan; Kelli Anderson & Seth Ulvestad, Cheyenne; Michele & Bart Brennan, Sheridan; Erica & David Cote, Sheridan; Laura Irwin, Sheridan; Beverly & Anthony Bates (REG), Clearmont; Kandy Sanders/ Deer Track Ranch LLC (REG), Gillette; Julia Willis, Dayton; Kersten Mueller, Sheridan; Paula Leuschen/ West Pass Ranch (REG), Parkman; Robert Beckman, Sheridan; Rodger Senff, Sheridan; Candice & Scott Johnson (REG), Sheridan; Megan Roland (REG), Sheridan; Dean Sellars, Sheridan; Ardath & John Lunbeck, Story; Matthew Adkins, Sheridan; Derek Holwell, Sheridan; Amy & Herb Roose, Sheridan; Corina & Jimmy Simmons, Sheridan; Ramona Phillips, Banner; Sharon Waldron-Sullenger, Story; Adam Barber, Sheridan; Blake Vigil, Sheridan; Brush Creek Landing LLC (REG), Sheridan; Laura & Chris Galloway, Big Horn; D

Naugle, Sheridan; Jason Ricchio, Story; Sheila & Jerry Blackburn, Big Horn; Vickie & John Sikes, Sheridan; Julie & Nathan Boyd, Sheridan; Laura Foran, Sheridan; Rebecca Syler, Sheridan; Sree Pankaj, Sheridan; Stacey Staben, Sheridan; Thorman Sholey, Sheridan

SUBLETTE

Stuart Thompson (REG), Pinedale; Dan Jr. Schmid (REG), La Barge; Penny & Rodney Orr, Pinedale; Kathryn & Floyd Briggs (REG), Pinedale; Rafter Double R Ranch LLC (REG), Daniel

SWEETWATER

Meriam & Jack McMurry (REG), Farson; Jordan Bertagnole, Laramie; Robert Slagowski (REG), Manila; Jeskika Nacey, Rock Springs; Cody Stafford, Rock Springs; Wendy & Ronnie Giles, Rock Springs; Amanda & Mark Huffstetler (REG), Farson; Travis Toomer, Rock Springs

TETON

Mindy Kim-Miller, Jackson; Ward Hutchins, Wilson; Linda & Harold Williams, Wilson; Kain Morehead, Gillette

UINTA

Bruce Benedict (REG), Mountain View; Tanya & William Bertagnolli, Evanston; Carl Kreinbrink, Evanston; Janet Maxfield (REG), Mountain View; Susan & David O'Connell, Evanston; Marlene & James Bechaver, Evanston; Brad Fearn (REG), Evanston; Candice & Todd Rollins (REG), Lyman; Sherwin Barney, Mountain View; Kimberly Marshall, Lyman; Angela & Justin Sweep (REG), Lyman; Cari Covolo (REG), Mountain View; Cheryl & John Eyre (REG), Lyman

WESTON

Myla & Justin Mills (REG), Upton; Tami & Robert Thaler, Newcastle; Newcastle; Margaret Beverly, Newcastle; Kara & Tony Lenardson, Newcastle

Retain Moisture and Get Rid of Compaction

by PAUL SCHNEIDER JR., AG-USA

Is there anything that farmers can do to retain moisture while at the same time get rid of compaction? Yes! Here is a good way to do just that.

Put fungi to work

When I traveled to Albertville, Alabama to attend the South Poll Cattle Association meeting there, one of the speakers stated that it's best to have a ratio of 50% bacteria to 50% fungi in the soil.

In fact, fungi are key to helping us get rid of compaction and to highly structuring the soil. Structuring the soil magnifies it's ability to retain moisture.

The bad news is, fungi don't normally do well in farm land; they do better in wooded areas, where trees constantly sequester sugars to feed them. So, how can we get fungi to thrive where we farm?

Here are some key points of how to do this.

- Remove toxins and salts that inhibit beneficial fungi.
- Bring nutrient balance to the soil.
- Empower the plant to sequester large amounts of sugars in order to feed mycorrhizal fungi.

MycorrPlus is a product designed to do all of these things, and more. It is a biostimulant that can:

- Help empower microbes to gobble up toxins.
- Help flush salts from the root zone.

- Help balance soil nutrients.
- Help maximize the amount of sugars sequestered by the plant.

In short, MycorrPlus (my-core-plus) can help create a friendly environment in the soil where mycorrhizal fungi and a host of other beneficial microbes can feel at home.

Sequester more carbon, retain more moisture

Aerobic microbes require oxygen and moisture to thrive. With the right help, they will build incredible structure into the soil, one where oxygen circulates freely and moisture is stored efficiently. Because this is the same environment needed by plants, plants love to form a partnership with mycorrhizae.

Can our microbes aerate the soil? Yes! As plants sequester sugars to feed the microbes, the microbes use the residues of these sugars as gums and glues to bind soil particles together, creating air compartments about 1/4" to 3/8" in size (see picture above).

As soil is highly structured, rain will soak deeply into the soil instead of just waterlogging the surface, making it possible for a farmer to more quickly get back into the field.

In the picture, in the soil on the left, can you see the small air pockets?

- ◇ The soil on the left is what soil can look like when it has been highly structured by MycorrPlus. It is aerated and crumbly.
- In the soil on the right, the dirt is tight and clumped together.



◇ In highly structured soil, when it rains, water soaks down into the air pockets and is stored until it is needed.

- In tight soil, the top 6" or so of the soil becomes waterlogged and you will see water standing in the field. When the water evaporates, it leaves the soil dry and hard.

◇ In the highly structured soil, the microbes have created a moist, oxygen-rich environment where they feel right at home.

- In the soil on the right, aerobic microbes don't have enough air to survive, and anaerobic bacteria dominate the soil.

Plants like to feed the aerobic bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi, because plants have a lot to gain from doing so. MycorrPlus is amazing. By helping switch on carbon sequestration which feeds mycorrhizal fungi and other microbes, the soil will act like a sponge, soaking in rain and irrigation water.

Call toll-free **888-588-3139** and request a free information packet!

Or go to www.AG-USA.net

MycorrPlus™

Like a center pivot for dryland farmers!

Reduces the need for LIME and other fertilizers

MycorrPlus is a liquid bio-stimulant that helps remove compaction by highly structuring the soil. It creates something like an aerobic net in the soil that retains nutrients and moisture. It contains concentrated sea minerals, 20 strains of aerobic bacteria, 4 strains mycorrhizal fungi, fish, kelp, humic acids and molasses. \$22.50 to \$45/acre.



For a wealth of information, visit: www.AG-USA.net, or call 888-588-3139 Mon. - Sat. from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. MST and request a free information packet. Organic? Use MycorrPlus-O.

AG-USA, LLC, PO Box 73019, Newnan, GA 30271 info@ag-usa.net

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

Together we'll create a plan to protect what matters most to you.



Nick Smith*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Buffalo
307-684-1300



Jason Bell*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Cheyenne
307-632-9008



Justin Hatfield
Agent
Douglas
307-358-3606



Becky Pearson*
Agent
Gillette
307-682-4454



Justin Hatfield
Agent
Glenrock
307-436-8402



Ellary Kelly*
Agent
Greybull
307-765-4621



Lauren Stelling*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Jackson
307-733-3813



Tamey Peternal*
Agent
Kemmerer
307-877-5582



Jake Huhnke*
Agent
Lander
307-332-3295



Justin Jeffers*
Agent
Laramie
307-742-4847



Tyler Mitchell
Agent
Laramie
307-742-4847



Zack Jacobsen*
Agent
Laramie
307-742-4847



Holly Borton*
Agent
Newcastle
307-746-4471



Jak Tanner
Agent
Pinedale
307-367-2141



Sammi Hegwer*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Riverton
307-856-9091



Andrea Robinson*
Agent
Sundance
307-283-3582



Grant Curry*
Agent
Torrington
307-532-3610



Kris Mull*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Worland
307-347-3583



Auto | Home | Life | Business | Farm & Ranch | Annuities | fbfs.com

*Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC. Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Laramie, WY. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**/West Des Moines, IA. Individual must be a registered representative of FBL Marketing Services, LLC to discuss securities products. Individual must be an investment adviser representative with FBL Wealth Management, LLC to discuss advisory services. Individual must be licensed with issuing company to offer insurance products. *Affiliates. **Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. M199 (1-24)

Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation accepting requests for charitable contributions

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation (WyFB Foundation) is accepting requests for 2024 Charitable Contributions. WyFB Foundation is able to make charitable contributions each year thanks to a program offered by FBL Financial Group, Inc.

“Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation is happy to continue the tradition of offering financial assistance to Wyoming’s ag-oriented organizations through our charitable contributions fund,” said WyFB President, Todd Fornstrom. “We hope the funds will be a resource that

benefits agriculture in the State of Wyoming.”

Requests will be considered for organizations that meet the following criteria:

- The organization must be classified as 501 (c) (3) by the IRS.
- The organization must:
 - Serve Farm Bureau members; or
 - Be an industry educational organization that provides direct or indirect benefit to Farm Bureau; or
 - Be a health organization

that promotes practices or educational programs beneficial to Farm Bureau.

Visit wyfb.org and click on the event tab for the date of May 15, 2024, for request proposal requirements.

Charitable Contribution requests must be submitted in hard copy format and postmarked by May 15, 2024, or received in the WyFB state office by May 15, 2024. Requests can be mailed to:

Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation
Attn: Dee Brewer, Office Manager

PO Box 1348
Laramie WY 82073

For questions, contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is the state’s largest general agriculture organization. As a grassroots advocacy organization, our members work together to develop agricultural policy, programs, and services to enhance the rural lifestyle of Wyoming. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation supports these efforts. ■

Census of Agriculture reveals rich data

BY ROGER CRYAN,
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
CHIEF ECONOMIST

In mid-February a window opened on agriculture that is revealed just once every five years.

The United States Census of Agriculture may be the world’s most detailed picture of a nation’s farm sector, providing almost incredible detail on farming and farmers at the national, state and county level, but still assuring confidentiality to the participating farmers.

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service collects and reports this information just twice a decade, and the rich data collected is pored over, analyzed and put to heavy use for the next five years.

This detail is invaluable for farmers, for the businesses they supply and the businesses that supply them, for those who study farming, for those who make farm policy and, ultimately, for all of us who depend on farm production for our food, fiber and renewable fuel.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE ... Page 16

can-am

THE CAN-AM DEFENDER LINEUP IS GROWING
NEW HD7 LOW HP PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE

SHERIDAN
SHERIDAN POWERSPORTS
307-672-3492
www.sheridanpowersports.com

©2023 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the USA, products are distributed by BRP US Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. BRP reserves the right to discontinue or change specifications, prices, designs, features, models or equipment without incurring obligation. Some models shown may include optional equipment. Product performance may vary depending on external factors. BRP recommends that all SxS drivers take a training course. See your dealer. SxSs can be hazardous to operate. Never exceed the SxS's passenger capacity. All SxS models are meant to be used by drivers of age 16 and older. Read the operator's guide. Follow all instructional and safety material and observe applicable laws and regulations. SxSs are for off-road use only; never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. For your safety, the operator and passenger(s) must wear a helmet, eye protection and applicable protective clothing. Always remember that riding, alcohol and drugs don't mix. Never engage in stunt driving. Avoid excessive speed and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Always ride responsibly and safely. See your authorized BRP dealer for details and visit www.can-am.brp.com. Printed in the USA.



HAY TOOLS LINEUP

0% APR | UP TO 48^{MOS}
— PLUS —
\$2,500* LOYALTY CASH REWARD

POWELL
HEART MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT
307-754-5169
www.heartmountainequipment.com

SHERIDAN
HEARTLAND KUBOTA LLC
307-672-8011
www.heartlandkubota.com



KubotaUSA.com



*© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2024. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of new Kubota BV and DMC series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 48 monthly payments of \$20.83 per \$1,000 financed. *\$2500 Loyalty cash reward on each new BV purchased is available to retail customers who have purchased new Kubota serialized based units from 2014 or newer. Loyalty discount excludes National Accounts and cannot be combined with Competitive or High Profile discounts. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 06/30/24. Terms subject to change. Your Kubota Limited warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state. Kubota Tractor Corporation does not authorize any person to create for KTC any obligation or liability other than that stated in the limited warranty. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety and product and incentive offer information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the Owner's Warranty Information Guide for the Kubota limited warranty on all products. Visit KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers for more information.

EDUCATION • EXPERIENCE • EXPERTISE • COMMITMENT

Better Ask...

Is your agronomist or agri-sales professional a Certified Crop Adviser?

Learn more or find a CCA near you:

certifiedcropadviser.org

Rocky Mountain CCA Program



Getting started in ag: Risk Management tools from RightRisk analytics

If you are new to production agriculture or just getting started, you may have not considered the many ways risk and uncertainty make their appearance in your operation. Risk management encompasses a wide variety of topics and issues when applied to commercial agriculture. Any time a large portion of your income depends on factors outside your control, such as weather and market forces, the potential for success hinges on your ability to manage these and other risks. Agricultural producers frequently overlook the importance of strategic thinking and fail to formulate a comprehensive risk management strategy. This oversight leaves them vulnerable to the uncertainties associated with fluctuating prices, poor yields, and rising expenses.

The RightRisk Analytics toolbox can help producers tackle much of the inherent variability of their business through risk management planning. These tools cover a range of risk management planning topics, from partial and enterprise budgeting to financial analysis and long-term whole farm budgeting.

RightRisk Analytics offers new and beginning producers a wide range of options for risk management education.

One of the biggest challenges these tools are designed to address is the “best guess” problem associated with risk management planning. When planning and budgeting, values such as prices, yields, or estimated costs are often assumed to be set or unchanging, though they are really only a best guess. The planning, analysis and outcomes most likely would be different if those values changed. The tools in the RightRisk Analytics toolbox are designed to deal with this uncertainty by allowing for analysis based on a wide range of variables.

Risk Scenario Planning Tool

The Risk Scenario Planner Tool (RSP) is a tool designed to help managers take a wide range of values into consideration when making budget projections or production decisions, following a partial budget approach. The RSP tool can help users quantify the risk values associated with a particular decision or management change and provides results showing a probability distribution for the variables entered.

To get started, users enter their information into a partial budget divided into added returns, added costs, reduced costs, and reduced returns. The RSP tool allows the user to select up to two variables, such as price and yield, to account for uncertainty by entering a most likely, maximum, and minimum value for each. The software then generates a probability curve based on 1,000 potential outcomes over a range of possible results.

Enterprise Risk Analyzer Tool

The Enterprise Risk Analyzer (ERA) is an enterprise budgeting tool that allows users to enter income and expense information for their entire business and then use the tool

to allocate this information over each enterprise in the operation. The tool can be used to assess the profitability of each enterprise on its own, as well as comparing it to other enterprises in terms of profitability and capital allocation. The ERA tool also provides breakeven price and yield analysis. Finally, it can be used to identify the largest expense categories for each enterprise, offering managers the chance to make improvements.

Multi-Temporal Risk Analysis Tool

The Multi-Temporal Risk Analyzer (MTRA) tool is a comprehensive tool for assessing and accounting for uncertainty associated with major decisions over the longer term. In production agriculture, most major decisions are long term in nature, whether investing in machinery and equipment, changing cropping practices or production methods, or adding a new enterprise. Often risk is not properly accounted for in these decisions; it tends to be dealt with by conservatively adjusting the rate of return or interest rate following a time value of money viewpoint. This approach can leave significant aspects of risk, such as changes in costs and inflows over time, unaccounted for. Simply plugging in a lower rate of return may not give an accurate picture of how the decision or change plays out over long haul.

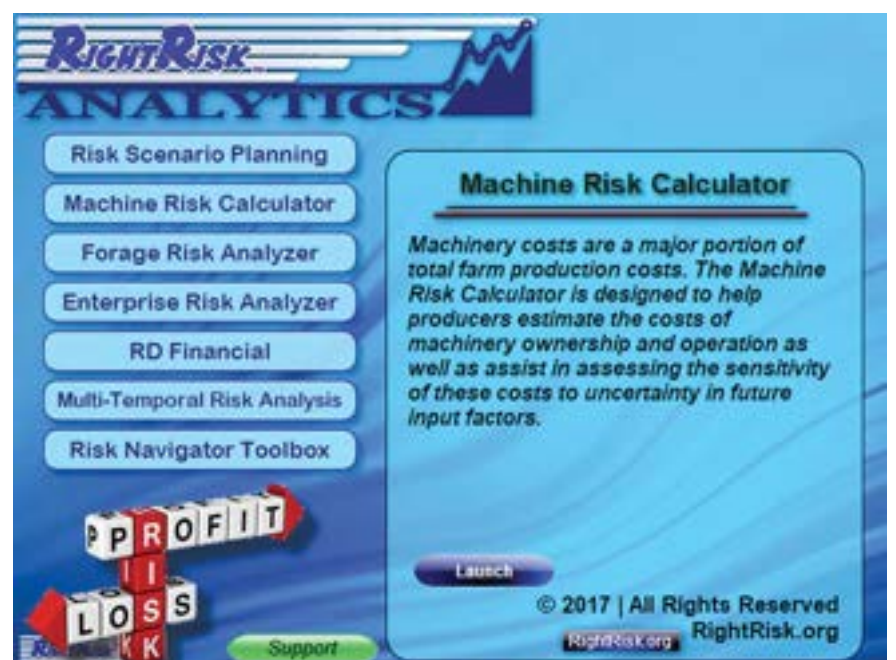
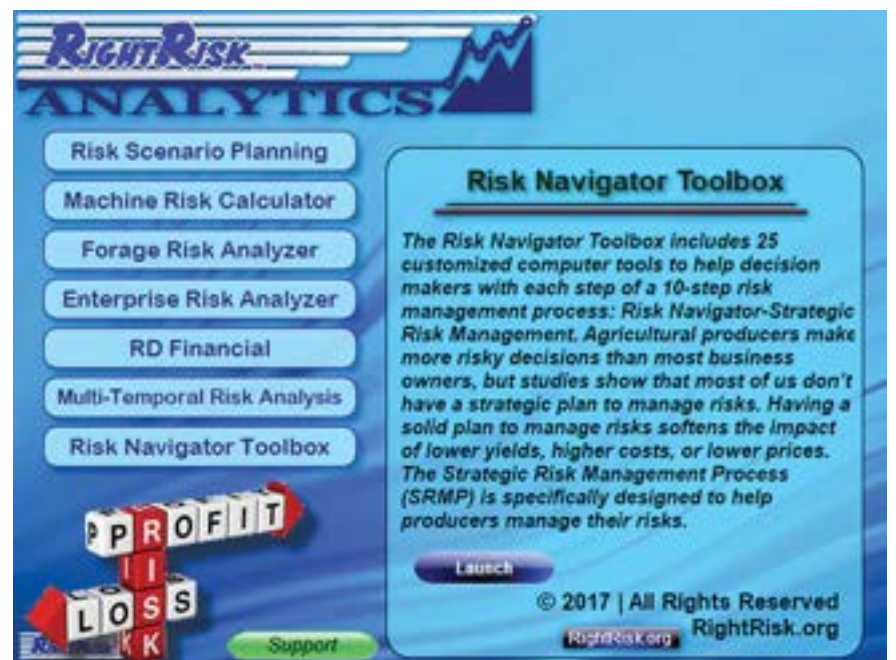
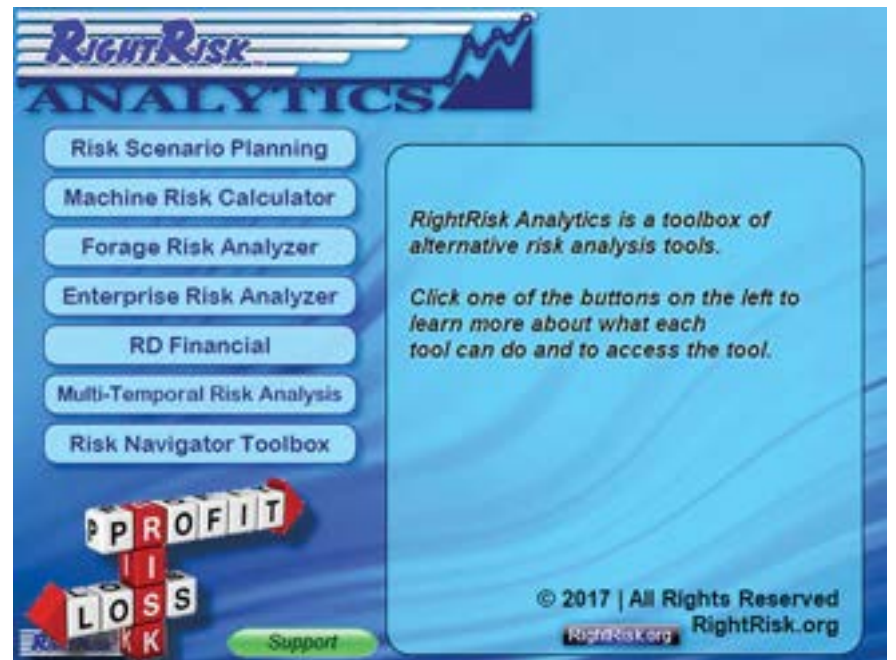
The MTRA tool follows a partial budget framework that allows a producer to enter inflows and outflows but also accounts for the time value of money. Users can turn on or off each of the partial budget income and expense items over a 20-year period. MTRA allows the user to incorporate risk around any potential inflows or outflows by entering their estimated maximum, minimum, and most likely values for each. This allows the user to adequately reflect long-term expectations for the budgeted events.

The MTRA tool is capable of generating several different graphical outputs over an extended period, allowing the user to extensively analyze risk probabilities, as well as enter an interest rate in both cash and present value analysis tables.

Risk Navigator Toolbox

The Strategic Risk Management Process (SRMP) and Risk Navigator Toolbox are specifically intended to help producers develop a sound risk management plan. The SRMP is a 10-step process divided into three different areas: strategic, tactical, and operational. The process is circular in nature because effective risk management planning requires nearly continuous evaluation and adaptation.

The Risk Navigator Toolbox contains 25 risk analysis tools encompassing all points on the SRMP. Producers are able to assess their own risk preferences, plan for their operation, and see estimated results without risking actual money.



RISK MANAGEMENT ... From Page 14

Machine Risk Calculator

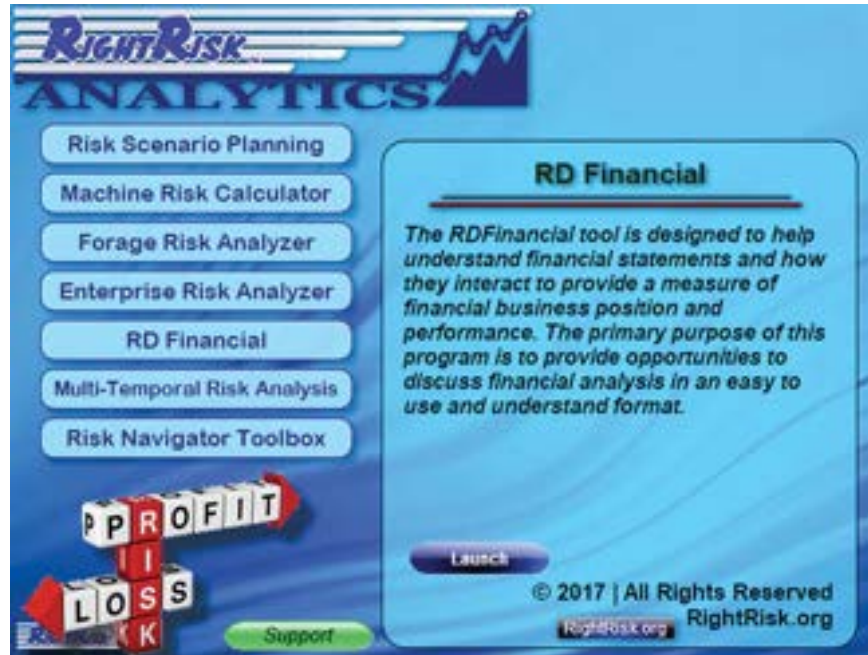
The Machine Risk Calculator (MRC) is designed to evaluate total machinery costs, as well as estimate and project the risk sensitivity of these costs to future changes in input factors. The tool uses a comprehensive list of related expenses, including expected life values, repairs and depreciation, housing, insurance, taxes, and annual use, to calculate an overall cost.

The MRC allows users to evaluate costs for powered equipment (tractors, windrowers, etc.) and up to three different implements as well as vehicles, powered irrigation equipment, non-powered irrigation equipment, and actual field operation costs. The user enters information for their particular machine and the MRC generates results showing annual costs and average operating costs based on the data entered.

The results show the risk sensitivity of the particular machine or field activity to future uncertainty of selected input variables—in other words, the probability of a selected cost per acre falling at or lower than a selected value. The user can either enter their own machinery data or utilize tables showing ranges of reported rates and information for the selected activities.

Forage Risk Analyzer Tool

The Forage Risk Analyzer (FRA) tool can help assess the full value of a forage resource, whether owned or in a leased/rental arrangement. The FRA allows the user to select one or more types of land, such as native range, meadows, or cropland, to use in the analysis. The tool then calculates an allocation summary and



performs net return and risk analysis based on the information submitted.

Estimating the value of a forage lease can be difficult. The FRA tool can help all parties in a lease agreement understand the value each party brings to

the table and arrive at a fair and equitable lease. The FRA tool is divided into six resource categories to fully account for all the factors in the lease arrangement.

RD Financial

The RD Financial tool is designed to show the interaction of the financial statements, as well as changing financial ratios, on a farm or ranch's business performance.

The tool uses a step-by-step approach that allows the user to enter their own data or modify an example farm's data. The tool generates an income statement, cash-flow statement, balance sheet, and owner equity statement from the information entered. It also produces a set of financial ratios and lender/borrower credit scoring reports for in-depth financial analysis.

For More Information

To begin using the Risk Analytics Toolbox, visit RightRisk.org and select Risk Management Tools from the Resources tab. Each tool includes a detailed user guide with examples designed to provide new and perhaps different ways to examine risk for better-informed decisions in agricultural operations. ■

SEC REPORTING... From Page 1

“Over the past two years, our members have made their voices heard on this issue and several lawmakers and leaders really stepped up,” Duvall continued. “We thank all those who stood with farmers, including Senators Jon Tester, Tammy Baldwin and Kyrsten Sinema, as well as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, all of whom listened to the concerns of America’s farm families and recognized the impact Scope 3 would have had on rural America.”

American Farm Bureau recognizes the value of data collection and has actively contributed to responsible approaches to such efforts, including as a founding member of the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium and a leader in Field to Market. Both organizations work to empower farmers when it comes to on-farm data collection. The proposed Scope 3 requirement, however, would have imposed additional burdens on farmers, who provide almost every raw product that goes into the food supply chain. The onerous reporting requirements could have disqualified small, family-owned farms from doing business with public companies, putting those farms at risk of going out of business.

Now that the SEC has thoughtfully evaluated the issue, AFBF urges California to follow the SEC's lead by withdrawing its Scope 3 reporting requirement for any company doing business in the state. Farm Bureau, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others, recently challenged that state law and its national ramifications. ■



I know I need **life insurance**,
but I **don't think I can afford it.**

You're not alone. Many people overestimate the price, but **life insurance can cost as little as a dollar a day.**¹ When it comes to coverage, there are options to fit your needs and budget.

Contact your Farm Bureau agent to learn more.



¹Individual eligibility for all product promotions is subject to underwriting review and approval. Estimated premium payment is for 20-year Income Guard Term Life Plan; Standard; 30-year-old male or female; non-smoker. Amount is for demonstrative purposes only. Contact your Farm Bureau agent for a quote on your actual monthly premium payment. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. U201 (2-24)



WYOMING AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES MEDIATION PROGRAM

FARM SUCCESSION

Navigate The Transition

Succession coordinators work with families and



operations to navigate the transition of the ag operation to the next generation. The coordinators work in tandem with attorneys and accountants to make sure that the succession plan is feasible.

Succession coordinators are available as a service of the Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program.

For more information, contact Lucy Pauley at 307-777-8788 or email lucy.pauley@wyo.gov.

Succession coordinators work with the family to identify:

- Where is the operation now?
- Where do you want it to be?
- How do you get there?

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE ... From Page 13

Detail on acres devoted to a wide variety of crops, down to the county level, is priceless for those seeking supplies of farm products and seeking to supply farmers, as well to the analysis of market supply and food policy. Addressing hunger, after all, begins on the farm.

Knowing where production is helps forecast the impact of this season's weather – and the coming decades' climate – on farm production and rural prosperity. Along with detail on land use practices, this identifies where existing conservation practice is working and where new practices can help sustain land-healthy production for the years to come. And new data on the use of precision agriculture provides insight into how technology and conservation work together on our farms and ranches.

Detail on operators' age and demographics is critical for policy makers planning for the future of local agriculture, working on rural development issues, or working on farm policy that supports farmers' productive capacity, such as the farm bill currently being debated.

Detail on farm labor and hiring practices for farms identified by their primary commodity supports our understanding of labor needs and can better define future policy, if it is to support the wide range of farm goods that this country can supply.

Similar commodity-specific detail on farm costs, including custom work, supplies, and equipment, helps us understand the upstream needs of farmers; while the detail on marketing practices can show us their downstream needs and opportunities.

And if this detail seems, perhaps, a little too detailed, know that confidentiality is

an article of faith to the men and women of NASS. The missing data, marked by the letter "d" for "disclosure," in many county and state tables are our reassurance that your individual data will not be revealed among the otherwise rich detail contained in the Ag Census. Just ask your state agricultural statistics office, and they will tell you – from memory – about the statutes protecting your data when you offer it for any and all of NASS' statistical collections.

The work done for the Ag Census is also the foundation for all other NASS surveys. It provides them with a clear picture of where the farms are and how they can build survey samples that are more truly representative of agriculture in each state and across the country.

The Farm Bureau team, along with farmers and analysts and advocates across the nation and the world, will be using this latest Ag Census for the next five years to inform our relationships and our decisions.

The world's need for what farmers do and grow isn't shrinking. In fact, the world keeps finding new and bigger needs for farmers to supply food, feed, fuel, industrial inputs and, lately, environmental services.

And yet, every Ag Census finds less farmland (20 million acres less in 2022 than in 2017) and fewer farmers (142,000 fewer) in the United States.

So let's use the same rich Ag Census data to do something about these losses, and to promote and support vibrant, diverse, productive and sustainable farming and ranching in every state.

In a nutshell, the Ag Census provides enormous value for understanding who is farming and how we can help meet their needs as they meet so many of ours. ■

Ranching in the West

2024 Seminar Series

RANCHING IN THE WEST SEMINAR SERIES OFFERS REAL-WORLD EDUCATION, PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING, & INDUSTRY NETWORKING

LEARN MORE & REGISTER
UWYO.EDU/UWAG/RMAL



2024 Seminar Topics
In-person and online options

Ranching Collaboratively: Mastering Public Land Partnerships
Monday, February 12, 2024
Casper College

Energy Innovations: Exploring the Influence of Energy Innovations
Monday, March 18, 2024
Gillette College

Leading the Field: Family-Run Businesses, Industry, and Community Leadership
Monday, April 1, 2024
Northwest College

Navigating Western Waters: Addressing Water Challenges in the Western Region
Monday, April 22, 2024

