

Wyoming Agriculture

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American Farm Bureau Establishes 2022 Policies

Jan. 11, 2022 — Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 103rd Convention adopted policies on Jan. 11 to guide the organization's work in 2022. Key topics ranged from milk pricing and beef market transparency to urban agriculture.

"Delegates from all 50 state Farm Bureaus and Puerto Rico came together to demonstrate the power of grassroots leadership," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "The policies set forth will guide Farm Bureau in its mission to advocate for farmers and ranchers and build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our entire nation and world."

Delegates also re-elected AFBF President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal for their fourth terms.

Long-standing frustration over imbalances in the meat industry led to calls for greater transparency in livestock markets.

As farmers' labor struggles continue, delegates approved additional policies that build on existing AFBF policies regarding the need for employee stabilization and reforms to the guest-worker program.

Delegates voted to bring more transparency to the federal milk pricing system. Several changes to policy include support for a more consistent format for milk checks and a review and audit of

the producer price differential on milk. Delegates also called for USDA to publish resources that show how each Federal Milk Marketing Order operates and differs by region.

Delegates updated policy on biofuels to include renewable diesel. The addition recognizes the innovation and potential that sustainable biofuels play in providing environmental benefits while creating opportunities for America's farmers.

As farmers and ranchers continue to increase their reliance on digital technologies, delegates voted to support raising the standard for federal broadband projects to be at least 100 Mbps for both uploads and downloads.

Recognizing the growth of urban agriculture and importance of ensuring the success of all forms of agriculture, delegates voted to create new policy to support its continuation and acknowledge its economic contributions.

AFBF thanks the more than 50 speakers and more than 4,000 registered attendees who helped make the 2022 Convention such a success. Registered attendees may view selected workshops and sessions on-demand on the convention website for the next 90 days.

Planning for the American Farm Bureau's 2023 Convention has already begun. Mark your calendar to meet us Jan. 6-11, 2023, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. ■



Grassroots policy development in action at the national level #AFBF22 Annual Convention. WyFB President Todd Fornstrom and WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill served as voting delegates at the national convention. Farm Bureau policy starts with an individual bringing an issue as a resolution at the county level! The strength of Farm Bureau comes from our grassroots members. (REBECCA COLNAR PHOTOS)

2022 Legislative Session Preview

BY BRETT MOLINE

The 2022 session is set to begin Feb. 14, 2022. This session is a budget session, so the budget will take a large share of the 20-day session. Also, this will be the first session following the latest census so redistricting legislative districts will be a hot topic. An interesting aspect of redistricting is each district must be within 5 percent of the average size of all districts.

Other bills will, of course, be heard at the 2022 session. WyFB will be taking an interest in the following bills that have already been filed. As always, WyFB's stance on a bill is dependent on our policy as developed by our members.

House Bill (HB) 2 would require written documentation from the state engineer or the state board of control on disposition of water rights when land is subdivided. This

bill is intended to help keep water rights records up to date. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 3 will clarify language concerning what parties have preference for state land leases, should a parcel become vacant of a lease. WyFB will monitor this bill.

HB 4 will provide that a livestock water right on federal land must have the grazing permittee's name on the right, along with the federal agency. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 5 deals with feral horse and burro management. This bill would allocate funding to reduce the number of feral horses and burros on non-federal lands, including tribal lands. This bill would also establish the cost of grazing these animals and send a bill to the federal government. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 6 would establish a \$95 million fund to fund water projects in Wyoming.

This funding would come from American Rescue Plan Act, or other similar federal programs. This funding could be used to work on aging water infrastructure. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 11 would include tribes into the contagious and infectious livestock diseases as currently funding is not available to perform this work on tribal lands and livestock. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 14 would increase the fuel tax on gasoline and diesel 15 cents over the next three years. WyFB will oppose this bill.

HB 17 would allow livestock grazing on land around veterans' facilities. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 19 would allow landowners to paint posts fluorescent pink or orange to designate the lands are private. The Game and Fish Commission and the Department of State Parks would be required to inform hunting,

fishing, and trapping license holders this painting is a method of marking private lands. WyFB will support this bill.

HB 23 would increase the revenue required to be considered agricultural land for taxation purposes from \$500 to \$5,000. WyFB will support this bill.

Senate File (SF) 8 would move weed and pest management on state lands from the Office of State Lands and Investment to the Department of Agriculture. WyFB will monitor this file.

SF 9 would establish a bonding mechanism to fund agricultural processing in Wyoming. WyFB will support this file.

These are the bills which have been filed as of Jan. 13, 2022. We expect at least 200 bills to be filed. To keep up to date on what bills have been filed, go to www.wyfb.org/legislative for a direct link to 2022 legislative bills. ■

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

February 2022

- 14 Wyoming Legislature
Budget Session
Convenes--Cheyenne
- 25-28 American Farm Bureau
Young Farmers &
Ranchers Conference—
Louisville, Ky.

March 2022

- 1 WyFB Scholarship
application deadline
- 1-2 WyFB Legislative
Meeting—Little America
Hotel in Cheyenne

April 2022

- 1 "Ag Books for Kids"
county contest deadline
- 19 "Ag Books for Kids"
district contest deadline

Visit wyfb.org
for calendar updates

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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.

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Farmers making their
voices heard on WOTUS

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Water is critical to our families and our farms. It breathes life into our crops and produces forage for animals on our rangelands. It is a priority for farmers and ranchers to ensure the water we rely on is clean because safe, clean water is critical to all life.

Farmers and ranchers are stepping up to partner with their communities to protect our water. Farmers have increased the use of buffer strips to prevent excess fertilizer from reaching waterways. They're using new technologies to filter water as it drains beneath our fields and continually work to beef up other clean water protections.

Last year, officials at the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers announced they would rewrite the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, continuing a nearly decade long back and forth that has left farmers and small business owners scratching their heads. In 2015, the WOTUS rule was rewritten and federal courts blocked its implementation in more than half of the states because it was a clear overreach by the federal government. In 2020, the rule became the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which provided clearer rules while ensuring clean water.

If you've ever had to deal with red tape from our federal government, you know that working through the stack of paperwork and fees that come

with applying for federal permits often requires lawyers and consultants. The 2015 rule would have prevented farmers from moving forward on climate smart farming practices and other advancements that ensure farms remain viable and vibrant.

Unfortunately, warning lights point to the Biden Administration heading down a similar path as the 2015 WOTUS rule. While EPA Administrator Regan committed to a robust dialogue about the potential effects of the new rule, the agency seems to be moving forward even as they ask stakeholders to set up regional meetings.

The EPA claims the new rule will have no impact on any of America's small businesses. That simply isn't true. The proposal the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have presented would significantly expand the land mass regulated by the federal government and lead to a costly labyrinth of permitting requirements that small businesses aren't equipped to navigate.

Although EPA has left me wondering about their sincerity in working with farmers, I'm grateful that the Small Business Administration seems to be genuinely listening. We worked with SBA to set up meetings where federal officials heard directly from property owners about potential impacts of a new rule. Early in January, the agency heard from

farmers and small businesses involved in agriculture. James Henderson, Colorado Farm Bureau vice president, joined the video call from a field he farms. He was standing in a grass waterway. James said he hadn't seen water flowing through it in years. But, under the proposed rule, EPA could classify it as a regulated ephemeral stream, which means it has flowing water only during and after it rains.

The example James shared was powerful. That's how we'll make an impact as the Administration works to rewrite the WOTUS rule. We must help policymakers and the public understand the impact of irresponsible regulation, tying the hands of the very people stocking our pantries. And we must remain persistent in our effort to make sure regulations that keep our water clean also respect farmers, ranchers, and small business owners.

You can make your voice heard today by visiting fb.org/wotus. When I called on farmers and ranchers to respond to this action alert during our AFBF Convention, over 1,800 farmers and ranchers answered the call in less than 36 hours. I hope you'll answer the call, too, and tell the EPA why we need clear rules for clean water. We stand ready to engage in an honest and meaningful dialogue with policymakers and all stakeholders. That's the Farm Bureau way. ■

Supply chain issues
critical to agriculture

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Welcome to 2022! After the past couple of years, I think most people are scaling back their expectations for the coming year. We've been reminded that just because we think something will be the way we want, it doesn't mean it will necessarily happen that way.

One of the things which occurs right at the beginning of every year is the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Meeting. Last year's 2021 Annual Meeting was held virtually and considering we've never done it before, it went pretty well. Of course, most of the people who participated missed the face-to-face interaction that occurs at these meetings, so it was not a big surprise that there was a lot of impetus to hold this year's meeting in person. Atlanta, Ga. was the host, and for some of you who have been around for a while, you may remember the last Atlanta meeting saw winter hit the city and snow and rain on the delegate body. People who were in their hotels were stuck there. Peo-

ple who ran the hotels were stuck there too and food was starting to get in short supply before things opened up.

Perhaps this was a good practice round for the beginning of the COVID-19 issues. Supply chain issues were a big topic of discussion at this annual meeting with people talking about lack of parts, fertilizer prices and lack of supply and many other issues. Getting essential items in a timely basis is not something we've experienced for some time here in the U.S. One hears about these issues occurring in other countries in the world, but not in the U.S. The big question is whether this will be the new normal or if it is an anomaly.

AFBF had a lot of good programs during the meeting. One of the big efforts is gearing up for the WOTUS rewrite, and there were programs on the outlook for inflation in our future as well as economic outlooks for livestock and crops. President Biden sent prerecorded comments and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack addressed the audience and

stressed the efforts of this Administration to support agriculture through climate smart initiatives and some of the proposed programs in the Build Back Better initiative. The discussion on long term chances for inflation led to talk about the increased spending being proposed and how that might lend itself to inflationary pressures; so once again we have to wait and see what eventually occurs in Congress.

AFBF did provide an opportunity for members to join some of the programs through a virtual option, so hopefully some of you were able to do that, and I certainly encourage everyone to take advantage of that opportunity if they don't think they can spend the time to attend the in-person meeting.

All-in-all, 2022 does look to be providing agriculture with some challenges. Some of those challenges will need member involvement to help convey the message of how important agriculture is to the supply chain. ■

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Legislative Meeting March 1-2 in Cheyenne

BY KERIN CLARK

Legislative agriculture issues will be presented at the 2022 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Legislative Meeting. The meeting will be March 1-2 at the Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne. Held annually to coincide with the legislative session, the meeting provides Farm Bureau Federation members the opportunity to meet with their legislators one-on-one and hear about current issues.

The Legislative Meeting begins with registration at 11 a.m. and a noon luncheon to follow on Tuesday, March 1. If their schedules permit, the House Agriculture Committee Chair and the Senate Agriculture Committee Chair will address the

members during the noon luncheon. Wyoming State Engineer Brandon Gephardt will speak Tuesday afternoon.

Tuesday afternoon activities will also include state legislative briefings from WyFB lobbyists, remarks by WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, and membership awards.

Tuesday evening provides the one-on-one visits with the legislators and elected officials during a Legislative Mixer produced by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association. This event will be held off-site at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Multi-Purpose Building at Frontier Park.

A speaker's forum on Wednesday morning, March 2, will wrap-up the Leg-



islative Meeting. New Wyoming State Veterinarian Dr. Hallie Hasel will speak at 8 a.m. about animal diseases. At 9 a.m., Ryan Kudera with the Wyoming Business Council will talk about broadband efforts

in Wyoming. At 10:30 a.m., Dr. Ramesh Sivanpillai is tentatively scheduled to discuss the remote sensing work he is doing at the University of Wyoming.

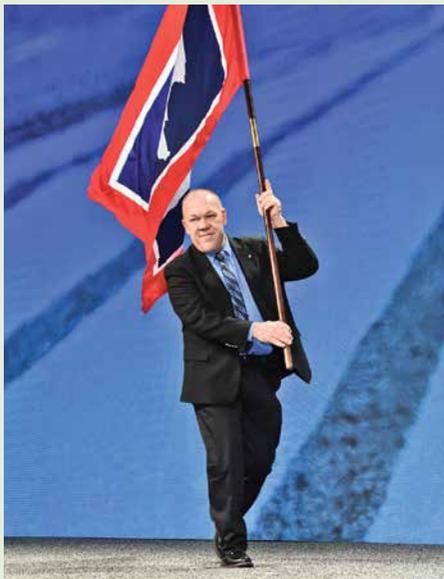
Check www.wyfb.org for an agenda as the meeting date gets closer.

Meeting registration

Register by Feb. 15 by emailing broes@wyfb.org or you may call 307.721.7723.

Hotel information

The room block deadline expired prior to this issue printing. Room reservations from this point forward will be based on availability. Call the Little America Hotel & Resort reservation line at 800.235.6396. ■



Opening Ceremonies

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom proudly displayed the Wyoming State Flag during the opening session of the 2022 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention. Fornstrom also serves as a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. (AFBF PHOTO)

2022 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention



AFBF Annual Convention

WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill; Sydnie Fornstrom; WyFB President Todd Fornstrom; and WyFB Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton at the 2022 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention.



RFD-TV Interview

The final stage in the grassroots policy development process occurs at the national convention. In addition to this business work, there are many educational, informational and networking workshops that take place. State presidents also spend time speaking with the media to share their state's agriculture story. Shown here is WyFB President Todd Fornstrom interviewing live on RFD-TV during the 2022 AFBF Annual Convention. (SYDNIIE FORNSTROM PHOTO)



Keynote Inspirational Speaker

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom with inspirational speaker Jim "Murph" Murphy, founder and chairman of Afterburner, at the 2022 AFBF Convention. Murphy has a unique and powerful mix of leadership skills in both the military and business worlds. Murph joined the U.S. Air Force where he learned to fly the F-15 fighter jet and went from farm boy to fighter pilot in just 16 months. He logged more than 1,200 hours as an instructor pilot in the F-15 and accumulated over 3,200 hours of flight time in other high-performance aircraft. As the 116th Fighter Wing's chief of training for the Georgia Air National Guard, Murph's job was to keep 42 combat-trained fighter pilots ready to deploy worldwide within 72 hours. As a flight leader, he flew missions to Central America, Asia, Central Europe and the Middle East. (AFBF PHOTO)



Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation recognized for outstanding member programs and achievement

Jan. 9, 2022 — The American Farm Bureau Federation presented awards to state Farm Bureaus at the organization's 103rd Convention Jan. 7-12, 2022, in Atlanta, Ga. The awards recognize excellence in implementation of outstanding member programs and membership achievement in 2021. The Awards of Excellence recognize state Farm Bureaus that demonstrated outstanding achievements in four program areas: Advocacy, Coalitions & Partnerships, Engagement & Outreach, and Leadership & Business Development. Wyoming was recognized with all four Awards of Excellence. ■

Why you should join WyFB's YF&R

BY ELIZABETH FOXWORTHY

In this industry, we are all extremely hard workers — I feel like that is a given. Something some of us are not good at is promoting ourselves, our product, and advocating for what we do in agriculture. With less than 2 percent of us actually in agriculture we need to find the time to put down the shovel and figure out how to market our products and allow our consumers to know what it is we are actually doing in our fields. This is where the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and the Young Farmer and Rancher (YF&R) program comes into play.

We as a committee work to promote agriculture with different programs we help organize; one of them being "Ag Books for Kids." We get together and pick out a book based on farming or ranching and with the work of the county Farm Bureau Federations, we deliver it and read to the elementary schools around our state. We also make a contest fitting for the grade they are in with a prize to the winner in each bracket. This is a way to get our youth involved and understand what it is we do. With us actually going into the classroom, it gives us a chance to interact and allow children to ask questions about where their food, clothes, and even the crayons they are using come from. This is just an example of one of the things we do to help promote agriculture.

I have always taken seriously who I vote for to represent us. However, in the back of my mind I wondered if they were actually voting for what they said they believed in. After joining the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) and serving on the WyFB YF&R Committee I'm completely more confident in this matter. This is what this Federation was built to do. We have people right in D.C. making sure the policies we as people in agriculture — the actual farmers and ranchers themselves — take the time to write. We need more of us doing this. This is what is going to keep our industry alive. If you have a concern about the invasive weeds in your pasture and making sure you can keep the right to spray them, you can write a policy that suits your exact issue and it will be taken and voted on within the Federation. If passed, the policy is put into the WyFB policy book that our representatives look at as a guide to know our positions when making and passing bills.

Every person on the WyFB YF&R Committee grew up in agriculture, and are still actively involved in agriculture in some way. We all have overloaded schedules with the work we do on a daily basis, and



Foxworthy kids helping on the farm. (COURTESY PHOTO)



The Foxworthy family values the opportunity for the next generation to grow up in agriculture. (COURTESY PHOTO)



Elizabeth and Tyler Foxworthy

some of us like me have young children on top of that. With WyFB YF&R they completely understand what it is to have children in this industry and get that they are also active members in your family's business. Your kids will not only be welcomed with open arms but will be encouraged to come to the meetings as well. Being a mom of three, this was a positive.

If you are a young member in agriculture reading this and feel like this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, do! Don't allow the feeling of being overworked already stop you or thinking someone else will do it. There aren't enough of us in this industry to feel that way. This is one steppingstone you can place to help ensure your way of life will make it another generation. For my husband and me, our end goal is to allow our children the option to carry on and not be forced out. This industry is a lifestyle past generations have fought hard to keep, let's do the same. ■

Elizabeth and her husband, Tyler, farm and ranch in Fremont County with their three kids. They serve on the WyFB YF&R Committee as Northwest District Representatives.



National YF&R Chairs

These three share the common title of serving/have served as National Young Farmer & Rancher Chair for the American Farm Bureau Federation! Wyoming's Cole Coxbill (left) now serves as the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Vice President and met up with the incoming national chair from Texas and the current chair from Oregon at #AFBF22 Annual Convention! (SYDNE FORNSTROM PHOTO)

Wyoming Teachers & Students K-5th Grades

"Ag Books for Kids" 2022




Step 1: Read this book donated by your county Farm Bureau Federation. A VIRTUAL reading by the book author is available at wyfb.org/education/ag-books-for-kids/

Step 2: Complete contests (details on website) by April 1, 2022

- K-1: Coloring
- 2-3: Poster
- 4-5: Marketing Ad



Questions: kclark@wyfb.org or 307-532-2002

OutStanding in Their Field



Laramie County FBF holds Meet and Greet

Policy development, family, networking, having a voice for agriculture and more come with involvement in the Federation. LCFBF County President Laura Fornstrom and her husband Todd, WyFB President, shared their "Why we make time to volunteer with Farm Bureau" at a Meet and Greet event hosted by the Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Dec. 28. (KERIN CLARK PHOTOS)



Ag Books planting seeds about agriculture

"Ag Books for Kids" 2022 books are already at work in the classrooms of Uinta County. Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation President Kristi Ellis regularly visits local elementary schools to provide agriculture lessons. She presented the 2022 book "My Soybean Farm" to kindergarten and first-grade classes and sent each student home with a soybean seed from a Wyoming farm. This photo shows one of the students and his soybean plant he is growing from the soybean seed given during the ag lesson.




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County Farm Bureau Federation Scholarships

Below is general (UNOFFICIAL) information on county Farm Bureau Federation scholarships. Please refer to the scholarship applications for complete rules and details. County Farm Bureau Federation contacts are available at www.wyfb.org under County Farm Bureaus or contact your county Farm Bureau office.

■ Albany: March 31 deadline; one \$1,500 scholarship; open to high school seniors and college students; available at county Farm Bureau office; county Extension office; and Rock River and Laramie High Schools. Farm Bureau member children preferred but not a requirement; Ag majors preferred, but not a requirement

■ Big Horn: April 13 deadline; up to four \$400 scholarships; available to high school seniors or any continuing students working for a degree in an Ag-related area; available at all county High Schools or by contacting Farm Bureau office in Greybull

■ Campbell: March 1 deadline; two \$2,500 scholarships; available at FB offices, schools and wyfb.org

■ Carbon: April 15 deadline; three regular \$400 scholarships open to all county seniors who meet requirements; and one member \$600 scholarship open to only members children who meet requirements. Preference is given to those pursuing an ag-related major. Applications are available at county FB offices, high schools, or contact Abby Raymer at 326.5423 or araymer@mwfb.com. You may drop off applications at 308 South 1st Street, Saratoga.

■ Converse: April 1 deadline; three \$1,000 scholarships; open to members' children for graduating seniors and college students. Available at either county Farm Bureau office; at Douglas and Glenrock High School Guidance offices; and at www.wyfb.org/converse

■ Crook: March 18 deadline; three merit-based scholarships of \$1,500, \$1,300, and \$800 for first, second, and third place respectively. Scholarship applications may be picked up at the Farm Bureau office at 109 N 3rd St, Sundance, Wyoming 82729 and also from the high school counselors or wyfb.org/crook

■ Fremont: June 1 deadline; Fremont County Farm Bureau offers one \$1,000 scholarship. In order to be eligible, the student must be a Fremont County High School senior whose parents are current paid Regular Farm Bu-

reau members. It is preferred that applicants are entering an Agriculture field. Applications will be reviewed by the Fremont County Farm Bureau Board and a recipient will be chosen. Please submit a letter of application about yourself and your future plans to: Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation-115 North 5th Street East., Riverton, WY 82501. Questions call 544-2296.

■ Goshen: April 1 deadline; at least one \$500 scholarship; open to high school seniors or continuing college students who meet the requirements which include Farm Bureau Federation regular membership by family or individual; preference given to applicants pursuing Ag-related degrees; and the Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to be awarded to a continuing college student having completed one or more years who meets the requirements which includes Farm Bureau Federation regular membership by family or individual and demonstrate an agriculture focused career path. Applications available at county FB office and online at wyfb.org/goshen

■ Hot Springs: April 9 deadline; one \$1,500 scholarship; may be divided into multiple scholarships at discretion of board; available to students pursuing ag-related course; preference to Farm Bureau families; available at Hot Springs County Farm Bureau office, at the HSCHS Counselors' office and from the HSCHS Ag Instructor.

■ Johnson: April 1 deadline; a minimum of two \$500 scholarships; open to children of Farm Bureau members (graduating seniors or college students); scholarships for students continuing education (2+ years in school) in the amount of \$750; available at county FB offices and schools and at www.wyfb.org/johnson-county

■ Laramie: offering three scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500; \$1,000; and \$500. Open to graduating seniors whose parents are regular Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation members. The applications are due to the county Farm Bureau by May 1. Applications available at www.wyfb.org/laramie-county. Additionally, offering continuing education scholarships of \$500 throughout the year.

■ Lincoln: March 5 deadline; three \$500 scholarships; seniors who are children of Farm Bureau members; available at Farm Bureau Insurance and School Counselor Offices

■ Niobrara: April 1 deadline; two \$500 scholarships; available to children of Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation members; graduating seniors and college students are eligible; available at the county FB office

■ Park: April 1 deadline; one \$650 scholarship. Must attend a Wyoming College or University; preference will be given to Northwest College. Renewable if grades are kept above 2.5 semester average. Open to any Park County Farm Bureau Federation Member or children of members. Application available at all Park County high schools and the Cody and Powell Farm Bureau offices.

■ Platte: April 1 deadline; amount varies; available at schools; open to children of Platte County Farm Bureau members who are first year students or continuing education students

■ Sheridan: March 1 deadline; two to three \$1,000 scholarships depending upon number of applications; available at county FB offices and schools

■ Sublette: March 1 deadline. two \$500 scholarships for seniors; one for each high school (Big Piney and Pinedale). Given to children of FB members; preference is given to those seeking agriculture major. Applications available at high schools

■ Sweetwater: T S Taliaferro Scholarship. March 15 deadline; one \$500 scholarship; open to children of Farm Bureau regular members; available at schools and county Farm Bureau offices

■ Uinta: April 15 deadline; return to either county FB office; one \$500 scholarship; available at county FB offices, schools or contact Kristi Ellis at 307.782.7659

■ Washakie: April 1 deadline; amount varies, generally three \$500 scholarships; FB member children preferred but not a requirement; ag majors preferred, but not a requirement. Applications available at the high school and the County Farm Bureau office.

■ Weston: May 1 deadline; three \$750 scholarships; applicant parents or applicant must be current members of Weston County Farm Bureau. Applicant must have graduated in Weston County, hold a High School or equivalent degree, or be in a graduating class at the time of application, or be a resident (six months or more) of Weston County. ■

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship opportunities

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship deadline is March 1, 2022. Nine college scholarships are offered each year. Scholarships are available for high school graduates and for those students who are continuing their college ed-

ucation. Applications are available at www.wyfb.org; click on the education tab. Applications are also available at county Farm Bureau offices. For questions, contact Diane "Dee" Brewer at 307.721.7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org. ■

Farm Bureau seeks revision to Cattle Transparency Act

Jan. 21, 2022 — The American Farm Bureau Federation announced Jan. 21 its support of the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2021, with the exception of the bill's establishment of mandatory minimums for negotiated purchases.

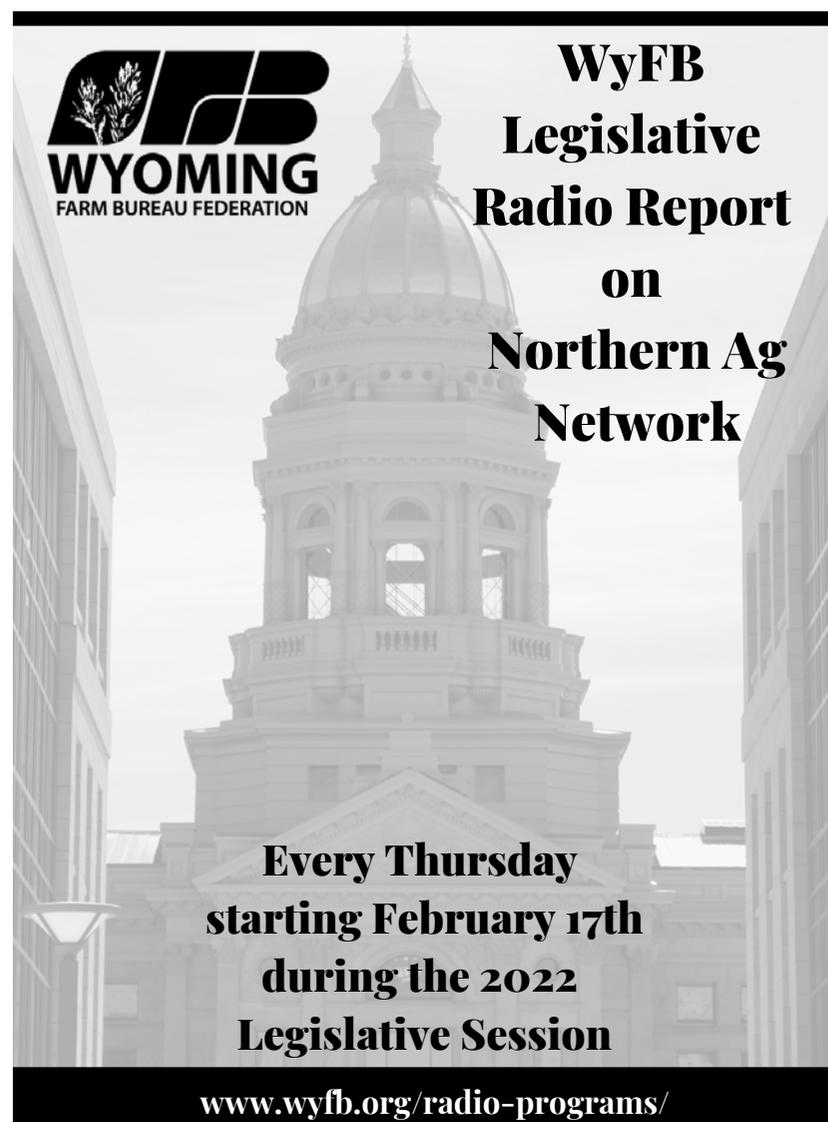
AFBF delegates voted early January in Atlanta to revise 2022 Farm Bureau policy. While Farm Bureau supports robust negotiated sales, delegates voted to oppose government mandates that force livestock processing facilities to purchase a set percentage of their live animal supply via cash bids.

"AFBF appreciates the hard work that has been done on both sides of the issue to address the pressing needs facing America's cattle industry," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency

Act takes positive steps toward ensuring fairness for America's farmers and ranchers as they work to feed this country's families.

"We support the majority of this legislation, but we cannot support mandatory cash sales. We are committed to working with the sponsors of the bill to make revisions to ensure it aligns with the priorities outlined by our membership."

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act is sponsored by Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), and cosponsored by 14 other senators from both sides of the aisle. The legislation would also equip farmers with more information by establishing a cattle contract library, updating mandatory price reporting and increasing fines for companies that violate the Packers and Stockyards Act. ■



WyFB
Legislative
Radio Report
on
Northern Ag
Network

Every Thursday
starting February 17th
during the 2022
Legislative Session

www.wyfb.org/radio-programs/



Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Cinnamon Rolls

Recipe by Connie Werner

source: www.jocooks.com

INGREDIENTS

Dough:

- 2 1/4 tsps active dry yeast
- 1 cup milk, lukewarm
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups all-purpose flour

Filling:

- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3 tbsp cinnamon
- 1/3 cup butter, softened

Icing:

- 6 tbsp butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup cream cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Dissolve the yeast in the warm milk with 1 tsp of sugar in a large bowl. Let it sit for 5 minutes. In a mixer, add the remaining sugar, butter, salt, eggs, and flour and mix until combined. Pour the yeast mixture over the flour and using the dough hook attachment, mix until the dough comes clean on the side of the bowl.
2. Place the dough into an oiled bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.
3. Combine the brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.
4. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray or butter. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface, until it measures approximately 16 inches long by 12 inches wide and 1/4 inch thick.
5. Spread the butter evenly over the dough and then sprinkle with sugar mixture.
6. Starting from the long edge roll the dough down to the bottom edge and pinch to secure. Cut the dough into 1.5 inch slices and place in the greased baking dish. Cover with a towel and let rise for at least 30 minutes or until doubled.
7. Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown.
8. While rolls are baking, combine all the icing ingredients in a mixer and mix until smooth.
9. When the rolls are baked and have cooled for 10 minutes spread icing onto them.
10. Enjoy.



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Beginning Farmers & Ranchers



Getting Started in Ag: Which Business Structure is Best?

Bruce and Becky Johnson* are excited. They have just agreed to purchase a farm in the area where Becky grew up after working and saving for twenty years. They plan to raise club cattle and sell alfalfa hay. While both have experience in the day-to-day operations of what they plan to do, they have little knowledge on how to establish the structure of their new business. They are very concerned about protecting what they have worked so hard to purchase, as well as an interest in setting up a manageable business that can be passed down to their children.

There are many aspects to consider when establishing a new agricultural business: ownership, taxes, liability, and estate planning concerns should all be carefully studied when deciding on a business structure. Putting in considerable time to plan and consult with trusted advisors will go a long way towards achieving long term goals and stability. There are many alternative forms of business structure to think about.

Sole proprietorship

A sole proprietorship is the most simple and common business organization used in production agriculture. Under this structure, all assets, such as land, machinery and livestock, are owned by a single individual (or couple in our example). This individual is also responsible for all debt and liabilities associated with the business. The business itself is either operated under the name of the owner or a trade name; there is no separate entity formed.

Simplicity is one of the main advantages of a sole proprietorship. No formal paperwork is required to form one in most states and the sole proprietorship can be dissolved by selling the assets and paying down any liabilities. There are no special tax considerations under this form of business, as the owner files individually for both business and personal tax liabilities. The business can generally be passed to heirs as part of an estate plan without special steps. The main disadvantages of a sole proprietorship come in the form of business liability and protection. The owner, as the guarantor of the business, is at legal risk along with all business assets for any and all obligations assumed by the business.

General and limited partnerships

Partnerships are generally formed when two or more parties come together and agree to own and operate a business. A general partnership is similar to the sole proprietorship: owners have full say over the business management and are responsible for debts and obligations. General partnerships can be as complex as desired by the parties involved. This could be two equal partners simply sharing profit and management or a multi-layered structure with a managing partner and other unequal partners. There are generally no entity level tax considerations under a general partnership, as partners are taxed at the individual level like a sole proprietorship.

General partnerships, if formally organized, limited partnerships and limited liability limited partnership are considered separate entities for both legal and taxation purposes. Parties involved are classified as either general or limited partners. Managers and general partners usually receive a larger share of any profits since they assume a higher level of personal responsibility. Limited partners contribute to a capital account defining level of ownership and are generally liable for debts and obligations up to that level.

One of the most important points to consider when forming a partnership is the agreement itself. Most states require no written agreement to form a partnership. However, it is vital to put time and forethought into drafting a written agreement outlining expectations, duties and profit allocations for each party involved. The main disadvantage of general and, to a lesser extent, limited partnerships is the level of personal liability. From an estate planning perspective, partnerships require more careful planning, depending on the structure and wishes of all the parties involved.

Risk Concepts from RightRisk.org

- Detailed overview of the most common business structures used in agriculture
- Includes a chart summarizing the options and tradeoffs between various organizational structures
- View at: RightRisk.org/RiskConcepts



Sole Proprietorship

Historically, farms and ranches were operated as sole proprietorships. The land, machinery, livestock, and other assets were owned and used by an individual or couple. Likewise, the individual (or husband and wife) farmer/rancher was personally responsible for all debts and financial obligations owed by the business. The farmer or rancher was the business, and the business was the farmer or rancher.

There are a number of organizational structures that may better meet the needs of today's farm/ranch business. A few of the more common business entities used by farmers and ranchers include sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company (LLC), and corporation. Each U.S. state recognizes most legal entities, while the U.S. Internal Revenue Code recognizes all business forms except LLCs. Each organizational structure has its strengths and weaknesses. Before a decision is made as to the legal entity under which to operate, a person – or person and his or her family and other partners – need to determine the goals of and needs for the business and its assets.

The sole proprietorship is the simplest business form under which one can operate a business. The sole proprietorship is not a legal entity. It simply refers to a person who owns the business and is personally responsible for its debts. A sole proprietorship can operate under the name of its owner or it can do business under a fictitious name. The fictitious name is simply a trade name—it does not create a legal entity separate from the sole proprietor owner.

Formation

One of the great features of a sole proprietorship is the simplicity of formation. Little more than buying and selling goods or services is needed. In fact, no formal filing or event is required to form a sole proprietorship. A sole proprietorship, generally, has

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J. Tranel-Colorado State University, J. Parsons-University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and J. Hewlett-University of Wyoming.



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Figure 1 Risk Concepts: Sole Proprietorship

Corporations

A corporation is a business entity formed by submitting articles of incorporation within a given state. There are two main types of corporations, C-Corporation (C-Corp) and sub-chapter S-Corporation (S-Corp). C-Corp ownership is defined by shareholders who own equity shares in the company backed by cash, property, or services. S-Corps, so named because of the relationship to subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code, differ from C-Corps mainly in that they are taxed at the individual shareholder level and limit personal liability to shareholders.

The C-Corp structure can be one of the more complicated types of business organization. Management is generally under the authority of a board of directors, elected by shareholders, who decide the day-to-day operations and flow of any profits back to shareholders. The complexity of a C-Corp generally depends on an

operation's size and scope and is defined in the articles of incorporation. In addition, there may be different classes of stock, reflecting differing levels of liability. One of the biggest advantages of a C-Corp is the limit on personal liability, as compared to partnerships and sole proprietorships. C-Corp income is taxed at the business level and any distributions of earnings or dividends to shareholders are taxed a second time at the individual level. Generally, shareholders cannot be held personally liable for debts and liabilities of the corporation itself, unless it is determined that the corporation was used for fraud or other illegal activity. C-Corp shareholders may sell their shares at any time to anyone, making this an important estate planning consideration. The termination of a C-Corp is generally defined by the rules of the state where it is formed and can take considerable time.



The Wyoming GrowinG Internship Program offering practical on farm/ranch experience to beginning farmers and ranchers is now accepting applications. Hosts and interns interested to participate in 2022 should check the online application forms and other materials available under the Hosts or Interns tabs at: GrowinG-WY.org



Risk Concepts

Organizational Structures for Farm and Ranch Businesses

	Sole Proprietor	C Corporation	S Corporation	General Partnership	Limited Partnership	Limited Liability Partnership	Limited Liability Company
General Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to form Not a legal entity, simply refers to person who owns the business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liability is limited for shareholders Equity owners are called shareholders May offer more than one class of shares Earnings paid to shareholders are called distributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An otherwise ordinary corporation taxed under subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code No entity-level taxation, tax liability flows to shareholders Liability is limited for shareholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to form Freedom to vary levels of management authority, profit sharing, and debt responsibility No entity-level taxation, tax liability flows to partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An otherwise ordinary general partnership with two classes of partners: general partners and limited partners Liability is limited for limited partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An otherwise ordinary general partnership where all partners enjoy limited liability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility in how the business is structured and operated All members enjoy limited liability
Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal filing is required Buying or selling goods and services may establish a sole proprietorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created when articles are filed with appropriate state officials Directors are named Ownership shares are issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created when articles are filed with appropriate state officials Directors are named Ownership shares are issued Number of shareholders is limited to no more than 75 May offer only one class of shares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No requirement to file an agreement Best if documented by written agreement Agreement to share profits may demonstrate partnership exists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed by filing a certificate of limited partnership with appropriate state officials Partnership agreement need not be in writing Statutes must be followed to avoid designation as a general partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created by a general partnership filing an application with the appropriate state officials Document will generally identify the name of the LLP, the registered agent, and the names of the general partners Must be renewed, often annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created when organizational document is filed with appropriate state officials Document will generally identify the name of the LLC, the registered agent, and address of the registered office
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole proprietors typically conduct business in their own name Sole proprietors can, and often do, commingle personal and business property and funds Need not observe formalities such as voting and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management authority is usually exercised by or under the authority of the board of directors Directors are generally required to hold meetings at least annually Directors are usually elected by the shareholders Rights to share in net profits depend on stock held by each shareholder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management authority is usually exercised by or under the authority of the board of directors Directors are generally required to hold meetings at least annually Directors are usually elected by the shareholders Rights to share in net profits depend on stock held by each shareholder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership agreements should describe: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> management rights how profits and losses will be shared Partners hold a capital account in accordance with the value they have contributed Partners each have a: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> duty of loyalty duty of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of a limited partnership is vested in the general partners Limited partners do not hold management authority Partners hold a capital account in accordance with the value they have contributed Distributions that would render a limited partnership insolvent are forbidden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of a limited liability partnership is vested in the general partners Only one class of partners (general partners) Unless specified, general partners share equally in the profits and losses of the business Partners hold a capital account in accordance with the value they have contributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be managed by the members or by a manager Member-management means that all members share responsibility for the day-to-day operations and have the power to bind the company to ordinary business contracts Have a streamlined organizational structure, without officers or boards of directors.

RRRC-20191107.001
 J. Hewlett-University of Wyoming, J. Tranel-Colorado State University, and J. Parsons-University of Nebraska-Lincoln. © All Rights Reserved. RightRisk.org, November 2019.

Figure 2 Risk Concepts: Organizational Structures for Farm and Ranch Businesses

RISK CONCEPTS ... From Page 8

S- Corporations are governed by different IRS rules than C- Corps and can be more complicated than C- Corps. They can have a maximum of 75 shareholders, who may only be individuals, with certain exceptions for trusts, estates, and tax-exempt corporations. The main advantage of an S- Corp is from a tax perspective: there is no entity level taxation, any income or losses flow through to individual shareholders. An S- Corp stockholder's liability is usually limited to the level of their investment in the business and not the overall debts and liabilities incurred by the business.

Limited Liability Companies

Limited liability companies (LLCs) are legal entities recognized by State statute but not by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). LLCs combine many features of the sole proprietorship with those of a general partnership and limited liability partnerships. There are three aspects of the LLC that are enticing for new businesses: 1. It can be taxed as a partnership, as a corporation (if the election is granted by the IRS), or as a disregarded entity if there is only a single member; 2. It is an extremely flexible form of business both in terms of options when creating the business and options for how it is to operate; and 3. It offers all members limited liability.

Summary

Clearly, the Johnsons have many options and tradeoffs to consider for organizing their farm business. Risk Concepts is a series of publications compiled by the RightRisk team and made available at RightRisk.org. The series offers a separate, four-page bulletin covering each of the most common forms of business organization. A summary chart compares and contrasts the alternatives to provide an overview of the choices involved, Figure 2. The Johnsons should carefully consider their long-term goals for the business, as well as consult with trusted professionals about the tax, accounting, legal, and other implications as they form a plan that best fits their operation.

* The Johnson's operation is a case study example created to demonstrate RightRisk tools and their

application. No identification with actual persons (living or deceased), places, or agricultural operation is intended nor should be inferred.

James Sedman is a consultant to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and John Hewlett is a farm and ranch management specialist in the department. Hewlett may be reached at (307) 766-2166 or hewlett@uwyo.edu.

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AFBF applauds Supreme Court decision to hear Clean Water Act case

WASHINGTON, January 24, 2022 – American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented January 24 on the U.S. Supreme Court decision to hear Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, which challenges EPA's overreach of its Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

"AFBF is pleased that the Supreme Court has agreed to take up the important issue of what constitutes 'Waters of the U.S.' under the Clean Water Act. Farmers and ranchers share the goal of protecting the resources they're entrusted with, but they shouldn't need a team of lawyers to farm their land," Duvall stated. "We hope this case will bring more clarity to water regulations."

"In light of the Supreme Court decision, we call on EPA to push pause on its plan to write a new WOTUS rule until it has more guidance on which waters fall under federal jurisdiction," Duvall concluded. "For the past 10 years, Farm Bureau has led the charge on elevating the issue of government overreach in water regulations. The goal is simple, clean water and clear rules." ■

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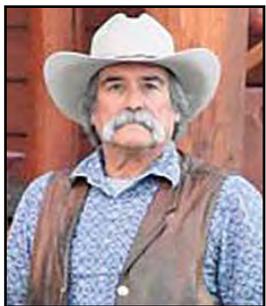
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Growing beginning farmers & ranchers in Wyoming

January 14, 2022—The GrowinG Internship Program is now accepting applications for 2022. This program is part of a broader project offering education and practical experience to beginning farmers and ranchers across Wyoming.

Goals of the internship program are to provide hands-on internships at working farms and ranches to Wyoming's beginning farmers and ranchers each year in cooperation with state producer organizations and

educational institutions. Applications to become involved are now being accepted from potential interns and site hosts.

The program will fund around 10 internships per year with stipends of roughly \$4,500 per internship. Eligible individuals will be 18 years or older who identify as someone who is ready to begin farming or has been involved in farming/ranching for less than 10 years.

GrowinG interns that are also degree-seeking students are encouraged to seek academic credit for participating in the GrowinG Internship Program.

Interns selected to participate will spend about 90 days on a host farm or ranch assisting with daily activities, learning from the manager and others. Successful candidates will work with the site host to establish start and end dates once an award has been made. Taking part in at least one agricultural educational event within the time frame of the internship is also expected.

Operators selected to host interns agree to provide room and board for the internship experience. Hosts will work with the intern to provide educational and

safe learning experiences for the intern, keeping in mind their learning objectives where possible.

Online application forms are available at GrowinG-WY.org. Separate tabs provide links to the intern and host application materials. The site also offers background information on the overall project, as well as valuable links to a collection of helpful resources and materials.

Deadline for applications is February 28. For more information, contact the GrowinG Internship Program at information@GrowinG-WY.org or GrowinG-WY.org. ■

Obituaries



Chad Gardner Dana

November 5, 1953 – December 7, 2021 (age 68)

Former Lincoln County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Chad Dana, of Thayne, passed away December 7, 2021. Arrangements entrusted to Schwab Mortuary.



William (Bill) Laycock

March 17, 1930 – December 27, 2021

Born March 17, 1930, in Fort Collins. He was raised on a ranch northeast of Cheyenne and in Laramie. He attended Laramie High School and University of Wyoming (UW) for his B.S. and M.S. degrees under the Army ROTC program.

While attending UW, he met Charlotte Pulscher at a Square Dance. He was leaving for the Korean War (where he served as a Lieutenant) in a few weeks, and they were engaged within six months while he was away. They were married on June 19, 1955, in Laramie shortly after his discharge from the Army. They moved to New Jersey after the wedding where Bill received his PhD from Rutgers University. During their

marriage, they lived in New Jersey, Idaho, Utah, New Zealand, Colorado and eventually settled back in Laramie.

With his education in Range Management, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service and USDA before retiring early from the government. He then became Head of the Range Department at UW. It was during this time that he started a rangeland consulting business, consulting on many rangeland projects in the mountains out West and in Argentina. He was also an external examiner for three years for the University of Nairobi's Range Department, traveling to Africa to ensure exam integrity at the University. He was well regarded in the Range Management

field and received many awards and served on many government boards.

Besides his family and work, his other passions were rodeo and travel. Bill attended the National Finals Rodeo with Charlotte for over 30 years and attended countless Little Britches, high school and college rodeos through the years. In addition, he was a rodeo announcer, advisor for several rodeo college programs (including UW) and served on the college rodeo board (NIRA). Bill and Charlotte also traveled frequently including faraway places like Kenya, Switzerland, Ireland, England, France, Nova Scotia, Australia, Greece and Antarctica.

He is survived by son Cody Laycock (Rhett), grandsons Bill and Shane Laycock, and daughter Donice Wendeln (Tim).

The funeral will be held at Montgomery-Stryker in Laramie at the end of April (date TBD). For those that wish to donate in his memory, please send donations to the Cathedral Home for Children, 4989 N 3rd St., Laramie, WY 82072 (800-676-1909). ■



John Gordon Preis

October 7, 1940 – January 1, 2022

John Preis, 81, passed peacefully at his home on New Year's Day 2022 to go be with our Lord and savior. Having dealt with heart failure the past few years, John never had a diminished spirit and will always be remembered for the joy and laughter he brought into a room.

John was born on October 7, 1940, in Greybull, Wyo., to John Adam Preis and Geneva Merle Shoemaker. He graduated from Greybull High School in 1959, where he asked one of his friends who the prettiest girl in school was, to which he responded Nancy Ella Ewen. John and Nancy were later married on August 4, 1963, and were blessed with their first son Gordon in 1966 and their second son Jerold in 1968.

John was a man of many talents and

donned many hats. After graduating from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, John returned to Greybull where he worked at Big Horn Federal, managed Big Horn Lanes bowling alley, prepared taxes with Bill Shelledy, and owned H&R Block before retiring in 2017. Above all, his favorite profession was working on the farm where he raised not only crops and cattle, but also kids. Most of his nephews did at least one tour of duty on the farm for John during their summer vacations, plus many of the boys' childhood friends as well.

He was avidly involved in the community as a Farm Bureau board member, a Big Horn County District #3 School board member, participant in the Greybull Rotary Club, Kiwanis, and was an

enumerator at Wyo Ag Statistics Service.

Most of all John loved singing, both in the community choir and at church. John's family was among those who founded the Zion Lutheran Church in Emblem. Every Sunday you would hear John before you saw him, either laughing or singing loudly, sharing his joy and love for Jesus with all he encountered.

Preceded in death by his parents, J Adam and Geneva Preis; brother Paul Preis and brother-in-laws Dewey Parrott and Harold Meier; uncles Walt Preis and Oscar Shoemaker; aunts Fern Preis and Helen Turner; and cousins Patty Preis and Paul Hanselmann.

John is survived by his wife Nancy; sons Gordon (Karen) Preis of Emblem and Jerold (Jenn) Preis of Burlington; sisters Joan Meier of Lander and Janet Parrott of Denver; grandchildren Amanda (Lance) Taylor, Jess (Claire) Preis, Logan Phillips, and Alexandria Preis; great-grandchildren Morgan, Baylie, and Levi Taylor; and countless nieces and nephews.

Arrangements entrusted to Atwood Family Funeral Directors. His service was held January 8 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Emblem. ■

College of Agriculture & Natural Resources launches new Ranch Management & Ag Leadership Program

Information from Wyoming ranchers and other agricultural sectors molded a new ranch management and leadership program being launched this winter in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming.

The Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership (RMAL) program has two approaches, one to meet the needs of students and another to meet the needs of community members already engaged in ranch management and agriculture.

Much of the community-based, non-formal learning opportunities in this program will involve UW Extension.

"I am very supportive of this program that has been developed based upon clearly defined needs from stakeholders and with their support and ideas," said Barb Rasco, dean of the college, and who is co-teaching the for-credit course. RMAL information and registration is at <http://www.uwyo.edu/uwag/rmal>.

Program Interim Director Kelly Crane said the RMAL development flipped the usual process of creating an academic program. Most programs start by convening a campus committee and developing a curriculum based on existing courses and faculty expertise. The initial effort in developing this program was listening to people across the state and region.

"We want the curriculum and educational experiences in RMAL to reflect the

specific needs for the future workforce in ranch, natural resource, and agricultural management," said Crane.

College personnel heard from ranchers, ag business leaders, elected officials and ranch managers at a May 2018 summit convened by former UW President Lori Nichols at a ranch near Douglas. Another summit was held this fall in northern Wyoming.

"We asked that group what their workforce needs were for students coming out of our college and were we meeting their needs," said Crane, who is the director of UW Extension.

What was heard was the college trains really good rangeland managers, agribusiness professionals and animal scientists.

"But their perspective is what was needed, where students who could integrate all the disciplines of agriculture with a blend of soft skills, interpersonal communication, understanding of public policy and the ability to interact with diverse audiences," he said. "We thought this was an opportunity to develop an integrated program in our college that really meets all those needs."

College personnel spent the last year and a half traveling the state listening to workforce needs in addition to those received at the summits.

A gift from Farm Credit Services of America, plus a state match from the Wy-

oming Legislature, provided about \$3 million to start the effort.

To encourage interaction between UW students and leaders in the fields of ranch management and agriculture, RMAL is offering an on-campus course that will be live streamed with five different educational events held throughout Wyoming this winter.

Four three-hour workshops will be held this winter/spring in Sheridan, Riverton, Evanston and Laramie. These sessions are open to the public and can be attended in person or via Zoom.

"We hope our students on campus benefit from this opportunity to interact with real issues and real people addressing natural resource, agricultural and leadership challenges in Wyoming," said Crane.

Topics include rangeland ecosystems, beef production, managing through winter and new developments in technology, said Rasco.

Crane said the college's aspirations for the program has resonated with ranchers and federal agencies.

"The needs for the workforce and for the kinds of students we turn out in natural resources have really evolved," said Crane. "They're embroiled in public policy and public lands issues. We still hope science provides the answers for everything, right? But it doesn't."

The issues are complex, and students

need professional networks to work with complex issues, he said.

"We've had several people say this is exactly what needs to happen," said Crane. "Recent alumni say they wish this program was here when they went to school."

The RMAL has three planned aspects. An undergraduate program will offer an integrated bachelor's degree in ranch management and an ag leadership that focuses on ag business, rangeland management, animal science and leadership skills.

The second part is an RMAL institute for a select group of students. Up to 20 may be chosen to attend.

"Individuals accepted to the RMAL institute will get more intensive training, more expectations for internships and networking with professionals and more experiential learning opportunities," said Crane.

RMAL institute graduates may obtain a master's degree in ranch management or a certificate in ranch management and ag leadership. Details of the RMAL program continue to develop.

"We are just initiating the program development stage on campus," said Crane. "Many of the details regarding curriculum, degrees, program names, and timelines will reflect our future conversations with UW faculty and administrators."

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Too many to count: Factors driving fertilizer prices higher and higher

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

Here is the summary of a recent Market Intel article:

December 13, 2021—U.S. agriculture production costs are increasingly important to the near- and long-term viability of U.S. farms. Fertilizer prices are the issue top of mind for farmers heading into 2022 since fertilizer costs account for approximately 15% of total cash costs in the U.S. All major crop production nutrients have experienced increased prices when compared to September

2020: ammonia has increased over 210%; liquid nitrogen has increased over 159%; urea is up 155%; MAP has increased 125%; DAP is up over 100%; and potash has risen above 134%.

While this information helps to understand the factors causing one of the farmers' biggest concerns, it does not alleviate the rising input costs that are out of their control. Many farmers feel these rising input prices are tak-



ing away all the momentum provided by the higher commodity prices that were going to help them break even or be just above the bottom line. ■

Agriculture and green industry groups reaffirm glyphosate safety and public benefits

January 10, 2022—Groups representing agricultural growers, retailers, landscaping, and golf course professionals responded with strong support for continued access to glyphosate following January 10th oral arguments in litigation regarding the registration of glyphosate. The 10 groups, cited below, are all parties in the case supporting glyphosate's continued registration. Glyphosate remains one of the safest, most effective tools growers, landscapers, golf course professionals and other users have to manage economically-damaging weeds and maintain important conservation practices.

The groups remind the Court that nearly every pesticide regulatory body in the world that has studied glyphosate—including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency itself—has found that the herbicide is non-carcinogenic and can be used safely. As one of the most widely-studied chemistries in the world, the body of scientific literature on glyphosate is robust and in strong consensus regarding its safety. The groups strongly agree with EPA's finding that, when used according to the label, glyphosate does not pose a risk of concern to human health.

Glyphosate is an essential tool for agricultural, landscaping, recreational, and other professionals around the world that must contend with weeds. In agriculture, weeds left unchecked can rob up to half of a farmer's crop yield. In landscaping and recreational purposes, weeds can destroy important infrastructure and ruin greenspaces. Further, many important

conservation practices are supported by glyphosate, such as reductions in field tillage, which cuts greenhouse gas emissions, conserves water, and improves soil health. In addition, creating wildlife habitat and watershed buffers can be enhanced by having access to safe and effective herbicides like glyphosate. The groups look forward to continuing their

support for continued access to glyphosate as the case progresses.

Signing onto this statement in support of continued, safe use of glyphosate as a land management tool are:

- American Soybean Association
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Sugarbeet Growers Association

- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
- National Association of Landscape Professionals
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Cotton Council
- National Sorghum Producers ■

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The third part has been created from discussions around the state, said Crane.

"And that is to deliver community-based, professional development educational opportunities for existing ag producers, ranchers, ranch managers and natural resource managers," he said. "That's where extension comes in because that's our job."

The public option and student option have a required one-day leadership session scheduled in Casper.

"One of the really resounding messages we get when we talk to people who hire our graduates is they need what is termed 'soft skills' – interpersonal communication, writing and public speaking skills" said Crane.

"It's not just about training how people manage ranches," he said. "We hope we grow our next generation of leaders in ag business and in federal and state agencies, as well as ranchers."

For more information about the program, contact Pepper Jo Six, College of Ag & Natural Resources, Director of Development, at (307) 766-4133 or pepperjo@uwyo.edu. ■

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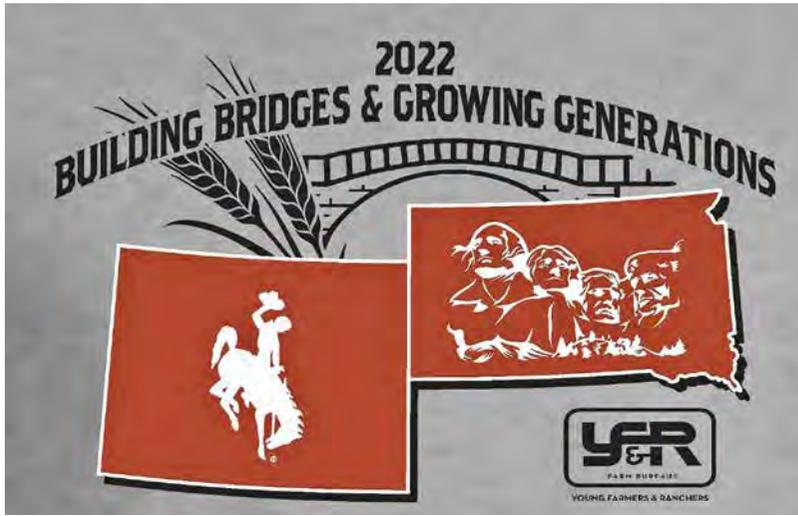
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Building Bridges & Growing Generations

The WyFB YF&R Committee thanks all who shared their knowledge, came to learn and grow, and the staff, committees, and sponsors who worked together to make the 2022 Farm and Ranch Conference a success. Held January 21-22 in Deadwood, S.D., the conference was jam-packed with knowledgeable farm and ranch speakers, networking opportunities and a whole lot of fun for the over 100 attendees.



Tours and Networking

The conference kicked off with tours and networking. Participants toured the McNenny Fish Hatchery and Spearfish Brewing Company Friday morning.



Networking and Painting

During one of the morning sessions, Sip and Paint, participants created the Northern Lights on canvas. Shown here are some of the participants and the final product.



Grassroots of Healthy Political Engagement

“Congressional testimony goes beyond literally testifying before Congress. It is serving on a local board, talking to a lady in the grocery store, and reaching out to your neighbor to explain the issues you are facing on your operation,” said Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation president, during the “Grassroots of Healthy Political Engagement” Testifying before Congress Panel Discussion at the 2022 joint Farm and Ranch Conference. The engagement panel discussion was moderated by SDFB YF&R Chair Bryan Moes (left) and featured Randy Dwyer, American Farm Bureau Federation director, advocacy and grassroots development; Fornstrom; and Scott VanderWal, South Dakota Farm Bureau president and AFBF vice president. (HEATHER MAUDE PHOTO.)



Grassroots of Healthy Family Relationships

The keynote speaker at the 2022 Farm and Ranch Conference Elaine Froese (center) with the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee in Deadwood, S.D. Froese’s keynote afternoon workshop was attended by nearly 150 people. The WyFB YF&R Committee joined with the SDFB YF&R Committee to plan and implement the 2022 Farm and Ranch Conference. Front row: Aletta Ziehl, Natrona County; Raenell Taylor, Crook County; Froese; Kelli Chouinard, Park County; and Toni Swartz, Campbell County. Back row: Quade Palm, Carbon County; Cody Alps, Goshen County; Lane Hageman, Goshen County; Shawn Chouinard, Park County; and Tucker Hamilton, Weston County.