

Wyoming farmers and ranchers gather at the Capitol

BY KERIN CLARK

Wyoming farmers and ranchers traveled to our capital city of Cheyenne Jan. 29-30 to participate in the 2025 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Legislative Meeting. The Wyoming Legislature convened on Jan. 14. WyFB works year-round to implement

policy developed by our members. Sharing the story of agriculture is an important component of policy advocacy. A day at the Capitol was a great opportunity for Farm Bureau Federation members to engage in agricultural conversations with one another, their local legislators, agency staff and elected officials.

The event kicked off Jan. 29 with a membership dinner and concluded the next day with a tour of the Capitol Dome. At the membership dinner, county Farm Bureau Federations were recognized for membership growth and a legislative update was presented by WyFB Policy Advocacy Directors Brett Moline and Kelly Carpenter.

Up next on the agenda was a day at the Capitol where members sat in on the House Agriculture Committee and Senate Agriculture Committee meetings, toured the Capitol building and were introduced in the gallery by both the House and Senate.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING ... Page 15

'Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week' is February 24-March 1

BY KERIN CLARK

The importance of reading and agriculture are highlighted when we celebrate "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week." Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon issued an official proclamation declaring the week of Feb. 24 through March 1, 2025 as "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week." While we recognize the value of reading and agriculture during this designated week it goes without saying that each of these are vital every day of the year.

Educating Wyoming elementary school children about agriculture and the

role Wyoming farmers and ranchers play in keeping Wyoming strong is critical. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer and Rancher (YF&R) Committee started the "Ag Books for Kids" project in 2005 with a goal of building the collection of accurate agriculture reading materials in our state's elementary schools. The first "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week" Governor's proclamation was issued in 2008 and has since been issued continually.

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY ... Page 16



Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (left) proclaimed the week of Feb. 24 as "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week." Gov. Gordon presented the formal proclamation at the Wyoming Capitol during the WyFB Legislative Meeting. WyFB YF&R State Chair Cody Alps and WyFB President Todd Fornstrom accepted the proclamation.

LILLY STEWART PHOTO.

American Farm Bureau establishes 2025 policies

Opposition to mandatory animal id strengthened

AFBF AND WYFB STAFF REPORTS

Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 106th Convention adopted policies Jan. 28 to guide the organization's work in 2025. Key topics ranged from labor to rural broadband to trade to animal id.

For the third year, delegates were polled at the beginning of the voting session regarding their farms. The results show 97% of those who cast votes operate family farms and nearly two-thirds represent small-to mid-size farms as defined by USDA.

"Farm Bureau demonstrated what truly makes it the voice of American agriculture," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Delegates from each state Farm Bureau and Puerto Rico directly addressed the challenges and opportunities facing farmers and ranchers."

AFBF 2025 POLICIES ... Page 8



WyFB President Fornstrom speaking to an amendment during the 2025 AFBF Voting Delegate Session. REBECCA COLNAR, MONTANA FARM BUREAU, PHOTO.

Stepping up at AFBF 2025 Convention

BY KERIN CLARK

"Could it be you?" A question American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall asked attendees at the 2025 AFBF Convention in January. "We need more courageous leaders who are ready to raise their hands. Maybe someone in the audience today is thinking about taking on a big role or leading a new project," Duvall said. "I know it's hard to juggle all the demands on your time, but it's worth it. The sense of accomplishment that comes with a job well done is awesome."

Duvall encouraged, motivated and challenged convention attendees with his inspiring keynote. "Having an impact - making a real difference - begins with you, at the local level," Duvall told the county leaders in the audience. "Whether you're giving back to your communities or helping farmers pick up the pieces from a storm, you are the heartbeat of the federation."

AFBF CONVENTION ... Page 14



American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall celebrated grassroots leaders as part of the organization's "Year of the County Farm Bureau President." At the 2025 Convention, President Duvall held a reception for county Farm Bureau presidents. In this photo, Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation President Kristi Ellis (left) and Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation President Laura Fornstrom met with President Duvall. AFBF PHOTO.

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CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

February 2025

15 Carbon County Ranch & Farm
Bureau Federation Cabin Fever
Cowboy Ball-Saratoga

24-March 1 – Wyoming Agricultural
Literacy Week

March 2025

1 WyFB Scholarship application
deadline

7-10 AFBF YF&R/Fusion Conference-
Denver, Colorado

7-9 AFBF YF&R Collegiate Discussion
Meet-Denver, Colorado

19 Recipe Swap: "Eyes on the
Horizon" hosted by the Converse
County Farm Bureau Federation at
10 a.m.-Douglas

28 "Ag Books for Kids" contests
county deadline

April 2025

11 "Ag Books for Kids" contests
district deadline

May 2025

30 WyFB Membership Committee
Meeting-Casper

Visit wyfb.org
for event updates

MEMBERS: Stay in the Loop!

Make sure to stay up-to-date with WyFB by signing up for notices. To sign up, please email your preferred email address and phone number to Brooke Settlemeyer at bsettlemeyer@wyfb.org.

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kerin Clark

EDITOR
Kerin Clark
kclark@wyfb.org

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Step Up, Drive Forward

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



We have officially wrapped up the 106th American Farm Bureau Convention in San Antonio, and I'm so thankful for another incredible week with our Farm Bureau family as we looked for ways to step up and drive forward.

The American Farm Bureau Convention is more than just an annual gathering, it's an opportunity to celebrate our success, strengthen relationships and set the course to ensure we continue to be the Voice of Agriculture. From the inspiring general sessions and insightful workshops to the engaging policy discussions and meaningful connections with fellow farmers, every moment was a reminder of what we can accomplish together.

Throughout the week, we hosted training opportunities and workshops to equip our members and help them take their leadership and advocacy skills to the next level. The list of programs ranged from farm bill and labor to rural mental health wellness and consumer engagement, ensuring that whatever our attendees were passionate about we had something tailored to their goals. We also celebrated the

creative and impactful programs from our local Farm Bureaus and cheered on our young leaders during competitive events such as the Discussion Meet and the Excellence in Ag presentations.

This year, we also took time to shine a spotlight on a foundational group within Farm Bureau – our county presidents. These leaders are the heartbeat of our organization, working tirelessly to engage their communities, lead in making Farm Bureau the premier organization in their area and grow membership. Throughout our convention, we celebrated their contributions through special programming and on the trade show floor.

Our trade show has always been the place to be, and this year was no exception. It is one of my favorite parts of convention, offering the chance to connect with our members and hear about incredible advancements taking place in agriculture. During the Final Four of our Ag Innovation Challenge, I witnessed the passion that is driving innovation forward. As I toured our 2024 County Activities of Excellence Award winning booths, I was re-

mindful how our organization is fostering leadership and successful public engagement that reaches beyond our fencerows.

Of course, the cornerstone of our convention is the voting delegate session where the power of our grassroots membership is on full display. Our policies are shaped by the voices of our members, starting at the local level and rising to the national stage. This process ensures that we remain true to the current challenges facing America's farmers and ranchers, and I look forward to taking the priorities we set back to Washington for the year ahead. Thank you to everyone who took part in the policy process this year and thank you again to our delegates for having thoughtful discussion as we look to drive Farm Bureau forward.

As we leave San Antonio, I hope we will all carry the momentum of convention into the year ahead. We may have challenges ahead of us, but as I said in my speech, and as we have seen over the years, we can move mountains together. Let's all continue to step up and drive forward. ■

Be Ready

Kerin Clark

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



"Be ready so you don't have to get ready." A powerful reminder of the importance of preparation as we do the work we are called to do. Sometimes we have to go before we are ready with courage and faith to take action in our work. That said, being ready to take that leap is part of the process.

This past month was filled with incredible events and meetings for Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) members and staff. The Wyoming Legislature convened on Jan. 14, the WyFB YF&R Conference was Jan. 16-18, the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Convention was Jan. 24-28, and the WyFB Legislative Meeting Jan. 29-30. This list is just a fragment of the events this organization is ready for to advocate on your behalf. We are grateful for all of the members who make the time to be involved by attending these state and national meetings. There have also been local meetings, such as the Bighorn sheep reintroduction landowner meeting, for which we are grateful for the grassroots network of volunteers who speak up on issues impacting their family farms and ranches.

The meeting themes of "The Heart of Agriculture" from the WyFB YF&R Conference

and "Step Up, Drive Forward" from the AFBF Conference just so happened to both emphasize the importance of being ready.

Young farmers and ranchers and college students took the leap of faith to attend the YF&R conference showing they are ready to learn and grow as young farmers and ranchers. "The Heart of Agriculture" YF&R Conference had many powerful messages.

Being ready to embrace change and act on the answers right in front of you can be one of the hardest challenges we face in life. Keynote speaker Ron Rabou emphasized traditionalism can be our greatest asset as well as our greatest liability. He challenged attendees to recognize that change is a necessary element of life. Being ready to see the answers right in front of you and take action can bring greatness.

At the AFBF Convention, AFBF President Zippy Duvall challenged members to continue stepping up to drive the organization forward. He recognized the importance of the county Farm Bureau Federations across the nation. It is the county Farm Bureau Federations that drive the strength of this membership grassroots organization.

The culmination of the AFBF Convention was the voting delegate session where

resolutions that originated from individual farmers and ranchers across this nation were discussed and acted upon. This policy development process is what makes our organization ready to act on behalf of our members.

We don't have to get ready with a stance each time a policy issue surfaces because we are ready with a policy book to guide this great organization forward. From local landowner meetings to the state capital to our nation's capital, the Farm Bureau Federation remains ready and committed to implementing the policy created by our members.

At the AFBF Convention, keynote speaker Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney, founder of "Folds of Honor," shared his story of harnessing faith and fearlessness as an F-16 fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. His story is powerful and his statement of "Being ready so you don't have to get ready" was inspiring.

It is the chances we take and the choices we make that will prepare us to be ready to do the good work we are called to do for agriculture. As Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney said in his keynote address, let's go "Max perform' the day the Lord has made." ■

The Heart of Agriculture: Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference 2025

BY LILLY STEWART, WyFB INTERN

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) held their annual Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) conference Jan. 16-18 in Cody, Wyo. where nearly 60 individuals got to participate in the three-day conference. The Young Farmers and Ranchers agriculture program consists of men and women in the state of Wyoming between the ages of 18-35. It offers opportunities and helps with the enhancement of leadership development, legislative awareness, educational seminars, networking with other farmers and ranchers, competitive events, and involvement in the whole Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation YF&R program.

Over the three-day YF&R conference members experienced an assortment of speakers, tours, networking opportunities, and the state collegiate discussion meet. The two tours the group attended were with Y-Text ear tags and George Dairy.

At the headquarters for Y-Text, members and attendees got to see how plastic ear tags are made, what makes Y-Text different from their competitors, and got to hear about the company's efficiency in producing over a million ear tags a week including EID tags. "It was cool to go into the factory over there and think of ways we could utilize their services," said Abby Philleo, YF&R conference attendee. While half of the group toured the facility the other half had a Q&A with a company representative to hear more about the company's business development since the inception of Y-Text.

At George Dairy, the group had the opportunity to tour the full farm, from calf huts to the silage pit. The majority of attendees came from ranching backgrounds, including William Donald of Manville, Wyo., who lives on a cow-calf ranch. Reflecting on the experience, Donald shared, "Growing up in the beef production side of things, it was interesting to see how a dairy operation runs." For many it was an eye-opening chance to learn about a dairy farm in Wyoming.

Members also had a chance to sit down with industry professionals during a speed table talk session. They spoke one-on-one with WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark, a representative from United States Senator Lummis' office, WyFB YF&R committee members, and American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R committee members.

Keith Duren, Central Wyoming College instructor, says that it is an important event to come to and network. He says, "you start meeting people at places like this and all of a sudden, the world opens up to you."

"People are doing things you have never done or doing them in a way that you have never heard of, and it is just a whole new set of opportunities," Duren continued.

Throughout the weekend the conference had a plethora of speakers visiting to share their experiences, knowledge, and thought-provoking perspectives.

Ron Rabou captivated the audience with his story in agriculture and his diverse entrepreneurial ventures. He took you on a journey and made you rethink



Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau Members from left to right: Molly Lund, Cora Turner, William Donald, Aspen Gair, Kyla Pachner, Jacob Pesicka, Peyton Eckerling, Courtney Beene, Cassie Fenske, Tagg Mickelsen, Becka Nutting, Brand Terrell, Belle Loeffler, Cole Goertz, Megan Sagner, Klijah Day St. Clair. Students represented Sheridan College, the University of Wyoming and Central Wyoming College. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



WyFB Staff, WyFB Leadership, YF&R Committee and AFBF YF&R Committee Members Jason and Caitlin Keck. From left to right: Cody Alps, WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, Laura Dockery, Morgan Stroh, John Werner, Quade Palm, Seth Allen, Jason Keck, Caitlin Keck, Carson Ellis, and WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



Don Day from DayWeather joined in at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference to give his talk "It's Weather, Not Climate." KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

about how you perceived tradition and what success truly means.

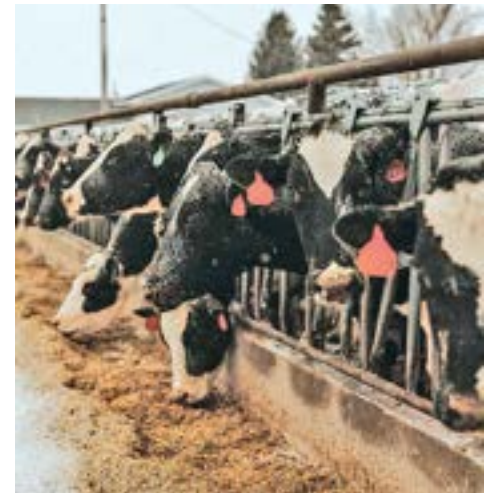
Courtney Briggs, American Farm Bureau Senior Director of Government Affairs, sparked the discussion on critical issues such as PFAS, WOTUS, and the Clean Water Act. Briggs provided attendees with valuable information and resources for further research.



Laurie Brown (left) and Mahonri Brown (right) from Big Horn County intently taking notes while listening to one of the speakers that came to the Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

On Saturday morning, Steve Paisley, with University of Wyoming Extension, kicked off the day with an informative session on the importance of nutrition and proper management of cattle heading into calving season.

Robbie Alexander, with Farm Credit Services of America, had the crowd in stitches with his humorous take on building balance



Tours of George Dairy and Y-Text were full of great information, networking with industry pros and learning more about agriculture in Wyoming. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

sheets, leaving the attendees laughing and armed with knowledge long after his talk.

Caitlin and Jason Keck, all the way from Minnesota, wrapped up the conference recounting their experiences of taking risks and pursuing their dreams. The Kecks are members of the AFBF YF&R National Committee.

Members had an overwhelming consensus that the conference was such a valuable use of their time, and they will be returning in 2026. It is a great opportunity for people to learn from one another. The 2025 conference was supported by funding from the Plank Stewardship Initiative.

During an interview with Duren, he mentioned "as an industry... we feel like lone wolves out there, and we should not have to. We should be able to have people we can lean on from time to time."

Fortunately, this is exactly what we are tackling with having organizations like the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and embedded within it the Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

Stay tuned and get excited about what WyFB has in store for you all in 2026. Keep your eyes on all our social media and in the newspaper for dates, location, and details!

Sheridan College student wins WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet

BY LILLY STEWART, WyFB INTERN

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee recently hosted the collegiate discussion meet where students from Sheridan College, University of Wyoming, and Central Wyoming College came together to discuss critical agricultural issues. The discussion meet is designed to replicate a committee meeting where participants explore ag topics they are given and ways to address them. Participants are scored on their exchange of ideas and information on the topic. The goal is to be a productive thinker rather than to persuade your fellow competitors. It is an exercise for productive problem solving.

Becka Nutting, president and coach of the Sheridan College Collegiate Farm Bureau, put it best “This is not a debate, you cannot go in there head on and stubborn. That’s not what we are doing.”

“We are talking with our competitors and those that are sitting at the table with us,” Nutting continued.

This year’s final four had to discuss the topic: “Farmers and Ranchers are reliant on multiple energy sources to run equipment, heat livestock barns, and power storage and maintenance facilities. How can Farm Bureau work with energy companies, local governments, and rural communities to increase domestic energy production, minimize loss of agricultural land and protect private property rights.”

The finalists Megan Sagner, Courtney Beene, Belle Loeffler, and Tagg Mickelsen engaged in a thoughtful discussion, weaving in personal stories about eminent domain, discussing Wyoming House Bill 91, and exploring the ideas of collaborating with energy companies that need to access private land and what compensation could look like for the landowners.

Sagner was the winner of the competition. Sagner won a \$1,000 cash scholarship and a trip to the national competition March 7-9, 2025, in Denver, Colo. Runner up was Courtney Beene from the University of Wyoming, taking home a \$150 cash scholarship. The other two finalists that earned spots in the final round through hard work and determination were Tagg Mickelsen and Belle Loeffler.

During an interview Sagner mentioned growing up on a sixth-generation cattle ranch in Chugwater, Wyo. and hopes to bring back skills from school to help expand the family’s cow calf operation by adding on a feedlot. According to Sagner she is “going to school to pursue a career in veterinary medicine or ruminant nutrition.”

Her passion for agriculture was a driving force to get involved and to prepare for the discussion meet. Sagner emphasized it is a goal and priority of hers “to gain knowledge to bring back to our operation to better it, but then to also be a voice and spokesperson for agriculture and agricultural producers.”

When asked why students should participate in the discussion meet Sagner responded, “we are the next generation



Megan Sagner: Winner of the Collegiate Discussion Meet representing Sheridan College. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



The finalists in the 2025 WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet were Courtney Beene, University of Wyoming; Belle Loeffler, Sheridan College; Megan Sagner, Sheridan College; and Tagg Mickelsen, Sheridan College. At far right is WyFB YF&R Committee Member John Werner congratulating the finalists. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



Round one of the discussion meet featuring Megan Sagner (left) and Klijah Day St. Clair (right). KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

of agriculture... through the discussion meet we were not only able to discuss with peers but afterwards talk with different professionals within the industry and gain more knowledge.”

Sagner admitted the event pushed her out of her comfort zone, but stressed how vital it is to take advantage of such opportunities. “If you get into the real world and you sit in one of these committee meetings or are on a board, you have the background and knowledge of how to discuss and work with your peers,” she noted.


Angel Sparkman, Sagner’s advisor at Sheridan College, added the “preparation work and being able to talk in that manner with fellow members of your team and go through those discussion points; it makes a huge difference in your communication style.”

“We all know that we have to advocate for ag,” Sparkman continued. “If we are not going to tell our own story, someone else is going to tell it for us.”

These programs offered by the WyFB YF&R are extremely important. Sparkman mentioned it is exciting to watch her students develop throughout the competition. “They develop an understanding that the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization and that it starts with just one person,” she said.

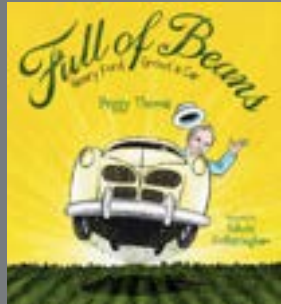
Sagner is looking forward to competing at the national competition in Denver, Colo. and is diving deep into preparation work. She is taking the initiative to tag up with her advisor and staff at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for guidance and insight to guarantee a successful meet. The competition gives students a real-world opportunity to understand what the Farm Bureau Federation does and bringing up issues can lead to results at the national level. ■

Wyoming Teachers & Students K-5th Grades

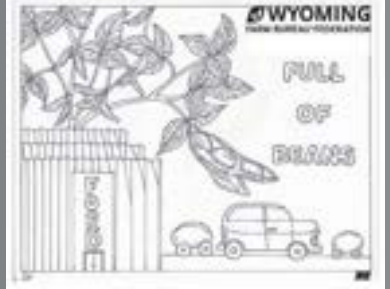


WYOMING
FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

"Ag Books for Kids" 2025



Step 1: Read this book donated by your county Farm Bureau Federation.



Step 2: Complete contests (details at wyfb.org) by March 28, 2025

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

Questions: www.wyfb.org (Get Involved/Education tab) or kclark@wyfb.org

Voicing concerns about Bighorn sheep reintroduction

BY LAURA DOCKERY,
WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ranching isn't for everyone, the people that choose to take on the challenge of being a rancher must have heart and grit. When I talk about ranching, I mean the people that work in the scorching heat of summer and the freezing winters to care for their livestock. The ranchers that are out in negative degree weather, trying to warm and give mouth to mouth to a calf because that is their livelihood, that is their job.

Ranchers have earned the right to play a major role in what they want to happen on lands they care for and utilize. I'm from Jeffrey City and right now there's been talk about the reintroduction of Bighorn sheep to the Sweetwater Rocks near Jeffrey City that could impact many ranchers in the area including my family's ranch. The reintroduction proposal came from two ranches in the area that have absentee ownership. These ranches want the Bighorn sheep for hunting and sport purposes. We local ranchers view the proposal in a different way. The consensus of the local ranchers impacted is we do not see the benefit of the reintroduction and even think it may hurt our livelihood.

I attended a recent meeting in Jeffrey City, hosted by the Fremont County Farm Bureau and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, to make sure all stakeholders were on the same page with available information. Area landowners were able to express their opposition to the reintroduction effort. The discussion was a great way for landowners in opposition to the proposal to voice their concerns and advocate their position to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), legislators, and members of other industry groups.

Bighorn sheep were introduced to the Sweetwater Rocks in the 1980s and 1990s, but soon died off. So now there's talk about another reintroduction, and of course at first glance having Bighorn sheep around would be fun to see, but we need to look at the long-term effects of having Bighorn sheep. The ranchers along the Sweetwater River are concerned that the reintroduction of Bighorn sheep will harm our federal grazing permits. Federal law and the grazing regulations require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to make accommodations for "sensitive species." Bighorn sheep are "sensitive species." With this designation, federal agencies can reduce or eliminate grazing if they determine that the sheep need more forage and/or more protection.

A second concern is opening up the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP), all grazing in the Lander resource area is controlled by this plan. The Lander RMP does not have anything specific about Bighorn sheep. The RMP is not scheduled to be considered for another 15 years, so this would have to be a major amendment to the plan if they want to add Bighorn sheep. At the meeting there was hopeful talk that there would be federal law protection for the ranchers and no harm would come to a grazing permit. However, there is not much hope, if any, of changing the grazing regulations to provide that level of protection for local ranchers.

An additional concern that ranchers have is the potential harm to domestic sheep interacting with Bighorn sheep and transmitting disease, such as pneumonia and blue tongue. If the Bighorn sheep get sick from interacting with domestic sheep, the BLM can eliminate the domestic sheep from grazing on federal land.

Ranchers are saying no to reintroduction because there is no real protection if the Bighorn sheep are reintroduced. If the Bighorn sheep are reintroduced it opens a whole world of potential major outcomes for the livestock producers along the Sweetwater River. If the BLM decides the Bighorn sheep need more protection or more forage, they can change the dates when ranchers can turn their livestock out, or they can reduce grazing permits, and much more. The ranchers along the Sweetwater have poured their heart and soul into their ranches. There are many challenges to ranching and this federal lands issue is one that we are speaking up about because we love what we do and it is important to speak up for our livelihood. ■



Fremont County Rancher Laura Dockery serves as a member of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee representing the Northwest District.



Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship opportunities

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship deadline is March 1, 2025. Nine scholarships totaling

\$5,500 are offered each year. Scholarships are available for high school graduates and continuing education students

enrolled in qualifying college or trade programs. Applications are available on our website (www.wyfb.org/Get Involved/Edu-

cation) or at county Farm Bureau offices. For questions, contact Diane "Dee" Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org. ■

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 at the "Get Involved" tab.

Albany

Deadline March 31, 2025

Up to four scholarships (\$1,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$500) open to high school seniors and students at any post-secondary facility in the state of Wyoming. Must be an Albany County High School or Home School graduate. Application available online at wyfb.org or at county Farm Bureau office, county Extension office and Rock River and Laramie high schools. Farm Bureau Federation member children preferred but not a requirement.

Big Horn

Deadline March 30, 2025

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

Deadline March 1, 2025

Two \$2,500 scholarships; available at county Farm Bureau offices, schools and wyfb.org. Additionally, an agriculture scholarship will be offered. No deadline or set amount. Contact the Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation Board.

Carbon

Deadline April 15, 2025

Two or more scholarships to members of a value of \$750 or more and no less than two \$500 cash scholarships to members/non-members. Available for graduating seniors or continuing education in college or trade school. Preference to members or children of members and individuals pursuing agriculture-related fields. Applications are available at the local schools and at wyfb.org (Tabs: Get Involved/County Farm Bureau Federations) on the Carbon County page. Carbon County Scholarships are awarded based on the revenue of the Cabin Fever Cowboy Ball each year. Scholarship applications are given to a scholarship selection committee and a matrix that was created by the Federation Board, help the committee to decide scholarship recipients and amount of scholarships. In 2023, \$9,000 was awarded to students. In 2024, \$11,000 was awarded to students who are doing some kind of continuing education.

Converse

Deadline March 1, 2025

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 wyfb.org (Tabs: Get Involved/County Farm Bureau Federations) on the Converse County page.

Crook

Deadline March 30, 2025

We will be awarding at most three merit based scholarships of \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 for the first, second and third place individuals, respectively. Applicants must be either a graduating senior from an accredited Crook County high school, home school, virtual school, or have a certificate of high school graduation/diploma or a current college student. Applicant or applicant's parents/guardians must be current Crook County Farm Bureau Federation members, paid by March 1st. 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 at wyfb.org.

Fremont

Deadline June 1, 2025

Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation offers scholarships. In order to be eligible, the student must be a Fremont County High School senior whose parents are current paid Regular Farm Bureau Federation members. It is preferred that applicants are entering an Agriculture field. This can be used for those entering college or a vocational institute. Applications will be reviewed by the Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation 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

Deadline April 1, 2025

At least one \$500 Goshen County FBF scholarship open to 1) high school seniors who are continuing their education through a college or a trade school; and 2) continuing college students. Must meet the requirements which include a Farm Bureau Federation regular membership by family or individual; preference given to applicants pursuing Ag-related degrees. 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 (Tabs: Get Involved/County Farm Bureau Federations) on the Goshen County page.

Hot Springs

Deadline April 7, 2025

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 Federation families; available at Hot Springs County Farm Bureau office, at the HSCHS Counselors' office and from the HSCHS Ag Instructor.

Johnson

Deadline April 1, 2025

A minimum of two \$500 scholarships; open to children of Farm Bureau Federation members (graduating seniors or college stu-

dents); scholarships for students continuing education (2+ years in school) in the amount of \$750 (students age 24 and above must have their own active membership); available at county FB offices and schools and at wyfb.org (Tabs: Get Involved/County Farm Bureau Federations) on the Johnson County page.

Laramie

Deadline April 30, 2025

Offering 3 scholarships in the amounts of \$500-\$1,500. Open to all Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation members. The applications are due to the county Farm Bureau Federation by April 30. Applications available at and at wyfb.org (Tabs: Get Involved/County Farm Bureau Federations) on the Laramie County page.

Lincoln

Deadline March 25, 2025

Three \$500 scholarships; children of Farm Bureau Federation members in college or graduating seniors with seniors receiving first pick; available at Farm Bureau Insurance and School Counselor Offices

Niobrara

Deadline April 1, 2025

Two \$1,000 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

Deadline April 1, 2025

Two \$750 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships. 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

Deadline April 1, 2025

Amount varies; available at schools; open to children of Platte County Farm Bureau Federation members who are first year students or continuing education students

Sheridan

Deadline April 1, 2025

2-3 \$2,000 scholarships depending upon number of applications; must be a Sheridan County graduate and parents must hold a federation membership; available at county FB offices and schools

Sublette

Deadline March 1, 2025

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

Deadline March 15, 2025

TS Taliaferro Scholarship. One \$1,000 scholarship; open to children of Farm Bureau Federation regular members; available at schools and county Farm Bureau offices

Uinta

Deadline April 15, 2025

Return to either county FB office; One \$500 scholarship; available at county FB offices, schools or contact Kristi Ellis at 307.782.7659

Washakie

Deadline April 1, 2025

Amount varies, generally three \$500 scholarships; FBF 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

Deadline May 1, 2025

Three \$750 scholarships; applicant parents or applicant must be current members of Weston County Farm Bureau Federation. 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 (6 months or more) of Weston County. ■

National

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Membership growth and Awards of Excellence recognized by AFBF

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) exceeded the 2024 membership goal of 9,494 members. Thank you to all of our members across the state for your support in the work we do for agriculture and rural Wyoming. In celebration of membership growth and success, the American Farm Bureau Federation presents state Farm Bureaus with a commemorative membership growth pin that is American made, 24K gold-plated with a precious ruby stone. WyFB President Todd Fornstrom received the membership pin on behalf of WyFB from AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal last December in Washington, D.C.

WyFB also earned the state Farm Bureau Awards of Excellence in all four categories. The AFBF Awards of Excellence recognized state Farm Bureaus that demonstrated outstanding achievements in four program areas: Advocacy, Coalitions & Partnerships, Engagement & Outreach and Leadership & Business Development.

At the December resolutions meeting in D.C., Fornstrom attended meetings with colleagues from across the nation to review proposed policies submitted from all fifty states and Puerto Rico for the 2025 AFBF Annual Convention that took place in January. ■



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION PHOTO.

AFBF 2025 POLICIES... From Page 1

The policies they set give us a roadmap to work with the new administration and Congress to address the needs of rural America. It includes the passage of a new farm bill, enacting regulatory reform, and creating new markets for the men and women who are dedicated to keeping America's pantries stocked."

"Carrying our members' policy discussion to the national level is an honor and an important responsibility," said Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom. "The grassroots policy development process is strong and the discussions that come from individual farmers and ranchers enable us to come together as an organization for the good of agriculture."

"Sitting on the delegate floor for the nation's largest agriculture organization is inspiring," Fornstrom continued. "As voting delegates we are able to share Wyoming's policy stances and work with the voting delegates from across the nation to secure strong policy for the organization."

Delegates strengthened and emphasized policy in opposition to a federal mandatory animal identification system. "AFBF policy favors continued use of legally recognized traditional meth-

“Sitting on the delegate floor for the nation’s largest agriculture organization is inspiring. As voting delegates we are able to share Wyoming’s policy stances and work with the voting delegates from across the nation to secure strong policy for the organization.”

Todd Fornstrom

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President

ods of permanent identification of livestock for individual ownership," Fornstrom explained.

"Wyoming has long supported retaining traditional methods of livestock identification with the option for voluntary, market driven solutions," Fornstrom continued. "We are acutely aware of the

necessity to protect our cattle from disease. We have accomplished this with local and state solutions."

Regarding private property rights, delegates approved policy in opposition to outside control of ecosystem services on private property. The policy expressed the opposition to the use of "Natural Capital Accounting" methods in ecosystem services valuation. Additional policy addressed opposition to private industry (including non-governmental organizations) using monetary contributions to influence United States Department of Agriculture programs.

"Outside control of ecosystem services on private property would impact our ability to produce food," Fornstrom stated. "It is important that property rights are protected from outside sources using monetary contributions to dictate conservation practices on private property."

Delegates also adopted policy supporting the development and sale of domestically sourced sustainable aviation fuel, including expanding the list of acceptable conservation practices for feedstock eligibility.

They strengthened policy on alternative energy production, including increasing the responsibility of energy companies to manage land used for development, and

prioritizing energy production on land not suitable for agriculture.

Recognizing the challenges of maintaining a strong agriculture workforce, delegates voted to stabilize labor costs to avoid drastic swings that put the economic sustainability of farms at risk. They also recommended the AFBF board study potential alternatives to the current Adverse Effect Wage Rate methodology used for the H-2A program.

On trade, delegates added policy in support of a United States—Mexico—Canada Agreement review process to encourage new opportunities while protecting U.S. agriculture from unfair competition.

Policy on rural broadband was revised to support requiring companies that win broadband loans or grants to quickly complete projects in underserved rural areas. Delegates also directed AFBF to press more forcefully for reform of the current requirements for small-scale meat, dairy and value-added processing facilities.

AFBF appreciates the more than 80 speakers and nearly 5,000 registered attendees who helped make the 2025 Convention such a success. Planning for the American Farm Bureau's 2026 Convention has already begun. Mark your calendar to meet us Jan. 9-14, 2026, in Anaheim, California. ■



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Legislative meeting 2025 membership awards

The Gold Quota Award recognizes the county achieving the greatest percentage of quota for the 2024 membership year, including a new young Regular member. Any county winning the trophy three consecutive years may keep it permanently. The 2024 recipient goes to Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation. They reached 136% of their 2024 total quota.

The Silver Quota Award recognizes the county having the greatest percentage of Regular member quota for the 2024 membership year. The 2024 recipient goes to Sheridan County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation. They reached 152% of their 2024 total Regular member quota. Any county winning the trophy three consecutive years may keep it permanently. Sheridan County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation has done so after receiving the award this year.

The Outstanding Membership Secretary award is presented to three secretaries based on performance, quality of transmittals, neatness, accuracy, membership acquisition and outstanding effort toward reaching quota goal. Each recipient will receive a check for \$100.

This year's recipients are: Francie Hamilton, Weston County, Kathy Trumbull, Goshen County and Denise Baars, Niobrara County. ■



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation President Tim Beck accepts the Gold Quota Award from WyFB Membership Committee Chair Kevin Baars and WyFB Membership Committee Vice Chair Matt Stroh. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



WyFB Membership Committee Vice Chair Matt Stroh (left) and WyFB Membership Committee Chair Kevin Baars (right) congratulate Andy Greer with the Sheridan County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation for winning the Silver Quota award. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Cooking With The Modern Ranch Wife

POPPYSEED CHICKEN

Recipe by Jane Brooks and Connie Werner

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C) and grease a 9x13 inch pan.
2. In a large bowl, combine onions, celery, sour cream, and cream of chicken soup.
3. Begin layering into the pan. Add half the chicken, spread half the soup mixture over the chicken. Spread to seal edges. Sprinkle with half the poppy seeds. For the final layer sprinkle about 1/2 a sleeve of Ritz crackers over the top.
4. Repeat layers.
5. Cover and bake for 30-45 minutes or until hot and bubbly.
6. Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp poppyseeds
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 16oz container of sour cream
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 3-4 chicken breasts, cooked and chopped
- Ritz crackers about 1-2 sleeves

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

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

THE 47th ANNUAL NORTHWEST WYOMING ANGUS ASSOCIATION BULL SALE, Riverton Livestock Auction, Tuesday March 25 at 1:00 P.M. Genetics from Davidson Angus, Hoggs Angus, Obsidian Angus, JOH Angus, Walker Angus, 50 Bulls including 4 Two Year Olds, All have been BVD, PAP, and Semen tested, To receive a catalog or more information contact any Breeder or Fred Thomas 307-868-2595. Bulls will be in for viewing Monday afternoon the 24, and live auction on sale day at Cattleusa.com.

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New Members

ALBANY

Rhannon Mercil, Laramie; Deborah & Eric Wiltse, Laramie; Nancy & Steven Stutzman, Laramie; Janet Lyon, Laramie; Jonathon Gean, Laramie; Barbara & Glenn Johnson (REG), Laramie; Mywra & Gene Otte, Laramie; Luke Hawkins, Laramie; Donald Turner, Laramie; Mary Bower, Laramie; Gary Sanchez, Laramie

BIG HORN

Derek Gibbons, Manderson; Emory Naylor, Basin; Pam & Dave Seratt, Greybull; Michale Coble (REG), Burlington; Matthew Bitton (REG), Cowley; Lorraine & Martin Dobson (REG), Burlington; Tenika Eardley, Greybull; Wade McFarlane, Deaver; Carl Cauffman (REG), Burlington; Frank Forshee (REG), Hyattville

CAMPBELL

Tonya & Karl Bertagnole, Wright; Kathi & Dennis Pittman, Gillette; Lisa & James Semler, Gillette; William Miller, Gillette; Asela & Felix Godinez, Gillette; Steve Brazelton, Gillette; Joseph Fischer, Gillette; Crystal & Douglas Ninas, Gillette; Clinton Jones, Rozet; Patricia & Cody Harper, Wright; Cynthia & Paul Casey, Gillette; Barbara Sowerwine (REG), Hulett; Courtney Drum, Gillette; Lori & Daniel Manitz, Gillette

CARBON

Sean Rietveld, Cheyenne; James Grainger, Sheridan; Michelle Sidun, Rawlins; Dale

Baker, Saratoga; Dawn & Ross Falisi, Williston, FL; Alan Conley, Rawlins; Leann Langenderfer, Rawlins; Cami Conley, Rawlins; Beth & Steven Tofte, Casper; Ronnie Lasco, Rawlins; Barbara & Wynn Condict (REG), Saratoga; Laura Bucholz (REG), Saratoga; Hillery Ingleby & Trevor Ingraham, Saratoga; Kathleen Johnson/Swanson & Johnson LLC (REG), Rawlins; Bonnie & Dale Wolaver, Encampment; Sabrina & Robert Symns, Saratoga; Jennifer & Thomas Skidgel, Rawlins

CONVERSE

Adam Caldwell, Glenrock; Mike Cushman (REG), Glenrock; Meghan & Harrison True, Douglas; Hunter Wortham, Douglas; Robert Wallis/ Wallis Land, Douglas; Casey Toner (REG), Glenrock; Katelynn Addeleman, Douglas

CROOK

Dead Tree Point, LLC (REG), Spearfish, SD; David Wolfskill (REG), Hulett; Twylia Waugh, Hulett; Bailey Ellenson (REG), Rozet; Michael Brunner, Sundance; Cassie Pickrel (REG), Moorcroft

FREMONT

Erica & Robert Thoman, Riverton; Matthew Fowler (REG), Lander; Clark Lucas, Lander; John Angst, Dubois; Patricia O'Neal (REG), Crowheart; Chenille Kuegeler, Riverton; Sharon & Shayne Bracken, Riverton; Sue & Charles Krebs, Lander; Thomas Rangitsch (REG), Lander; Brenda Stringham, Riverton; Daniel Jarvis (REG), Shoshoni; Misty Corlett (REG), Riverton; Tara & Michael Bargas, Riverton; Kathleen Mosbrucker, Lander; Robert Foster/ Deep Creek Ranch (REG), Riverton; Mark Short, Riverton; Jennifer Phillips (REG), Lander; Ben Van Huele/Quien Sabe Ranch LLC (REG), Thermopolis; Sharon & John Birbari, Lander; ViDell Shadden, Riverton; William Arnold, Riverton; Deborah & Kurt Devish, Riverton; Owen Speak, Riverton; Nancy & Garrott Smith, Lander; Megan Sims, Riverton; Janice Jarvis, Riverton

GOSHEN

Rex & Kathy Trumbull (REG), Torrington; Miranda & Paul Zielke (REG), Garrett; Teresa & James House (REG), Yoder; Austin Rutt, Torrington; Katie & Cody Redding, Wheatland; Clint Jessen (REG), Pine Bluffs, Colby Thurston (REG), Lance Creek; Kelly Francis (REG), Torrington

HOT SPRINGS

Janice & Bob Turner, Thermopolis; Dave Patterson, Thermopolis; Michael Effle (REG), Pavillion; Thomas Todd, Thermopolis; Wehrman Dawn, Thermopolis; Abby & Chase Mead, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Lorraine & Richard Behrend, Buffalo; Camp Comfort (REG), Buffalo; Steve Mosser (REG), Buffalo; Jac Weinheimer, Buffalo; Blue Creek Ranch (REG), Kaycee; Terry Barnes, Buffalo; Susan Kuiper, Buffalo; Barbara & Ramon Espinosa, Kaycee; Connie Peyrot, Buffalo; Judi & Ronald Christensen (REG), Kaycee; Stefanie & Roberto Garcia (REG), Kaycee; Renee & Bill Joy, Buffalo; Teresa & Charles Flanders, Sheridan; James Purdy (REG), Buffalo

LARAMIE

Stephen Egan, Cheyenne; Daryn Kramer, Cheyenne; Franny & Mark Haukap, Pine Bluffs; Mandolyn & Barry Wallace, Cheyenne; Kathy & Vince Thrush, Carpenter; Carol & Jose Vasquez, Cheyenne; Margaret Bibbey, Cheyenne; Brenda & Danny Hatanelas, Cheyenne; Konstantinos Anastopoulos, Cheyenne; Linda Trucco, Cheyenne; Bette & Ron Lerwick (REG), Albin; Phyllis & Ted Simola (REG), Cheyenne; Hunter Gustafson, Cheyenne; Gary Lyon (REG), Burns; Stephen Tolson, Cheyenne; Mary Kay & Nick Lumbereraz, Cheyenne; Lorrie & Billy Ward, Cheyenne; Michael Wiggam (REG), Cheyenne; Cathie Tabor, Cheyenne; Loris & John Lundberg, Cheyenne; Jerad Houser, Cheyenne; Evan Murdoch, Burns; Brian Hall, Cheyenne; Frances & Clyde Caster (REG), Chugwater; Rhonda & Charles Sanderson, Burns; Lori Janas, Cheyenne

NEW MEMBERS ... Page 11

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NATRONA

Raymond Martinez (REG), Casper; Etta Brasmer, Casper; Stephanie & Mason Smith; Michael Bledsoe, Casper; Antelope Springs Ranch Co (REG), Midwest; Matthew Green (REG), Mills; Griffith Family Living Trust, Casper; Sarah Sulzen, Casper; Roxy Chamberlain (REG), Casper; George Spiva, Casper; Kristin Camp, Casper; Heidi & Paul Wilhelm, Casper; Randy Wesnitzer, Casper; Garrett Wesnitzer, Casper; Chad Gordon, Bar Nunn; Chase Goudie, Casper; Paul Brutsman, Casper; Garrett Goostree (REG), Casper; Cheryl Jones, Casper

NIOBRARA

Mary & Brett Roetman (REG), Lusk; Betty Flowers, Lusk; Tom Dunlap/ Double 6 LLC(Reg), Keeline; Julie & Kevin Gaukel (REG), Manville; Jamie & Wade Phipps (REG), Lusk

PARK

William Metzler, Powell; Douglas Loyning (REG), Powell; Jon David, Powell; Kelly Triplett, Ralston; Bertie & Mike Eastman, Powell; Dennis Joy, Powell; Facundo Rodriguez, Powell; Phyllis & Earl Claudson (REG), Cody; Leslie Dean Johnson (REG), Cody; Jacque & Ryan Zurcher (REG), Powell; Robert & Keith McVicar (REG), Cody; Andrew Severinsen, Powell; Doug Barber, Cody; Pam Hoffman, Cody; Bret Faber (REG), Powell; Naomi & Dennis Siegfried, Cody; Sydney & Kanin Asay (REG), Powell; Wyatt Petersen, Powell; Thomas Churchill (REG), Powell; Jared Parsons, Cody; John Kellersman, Powell; Julia Barringer, Cody; Linda Murray (REG), Powell; Shadra Guindon, Cody

PLATTE

Allison & Jason Halvorsen, Wheatland; Karen McGuire, Wheatland

SHERIDAN

Tyrell Legerski (REG), Ranchester; Charlie Linhart, Sheridan; Ginette Aasby, Sheridan; Janie Munroe, Sheridan; Judith Knode, Sheridan; Mark Williams, Sheridan; Cedar & Cody Wright, Sheridan; Joseph Arcarese, Sheridan; Nancy Randazzo, Sheridan; Pauline Fisk & Randy Barney (REG),

Wyarno; Walter Taylor (REG), Sheridan; Colleen & Timothy Goss, Sheridan; Heather & Matthew Westcott, Sheridan; Pamela Belus (REG), Banner; Shelby & Austin Cowen, Sheridan; Bernadeane Roth, Sheridan; Paul Schwartz, Big Horn; Gina & Rocky Melger, Dayton; Curt Griffith, Sheridan; Patricia & John Stewart, Sheridan; Laney Klemke, Sheridan; Megan Perkins, Sheridan; Gabriel Clark (REG), Sheridan; Clifton Murray (REG), Robertson; Joey Sheeley, Dayton; Michael Kmetz, Sheridan; Cindy & James Wolfe, Sheridan; AC Ranch (REG), Sheridan; Riki Davidson (Reg), Sheridan; Marion Niedringhaus & Douglas Reitinger (REG), Sheridan; Michael Helvey (REG), Sheridan; Stephanie Stutzman (REG), Banner; James Bocek, Sheridan; Frances & Jack Hansen (REG), Sheridan; Daniel Katz, Sheridan; William Heide, Sheridan; Natalie Anderson, Big Horn; Lacie Schwend, Dayton; Taylor & Greg Green, Sheridan

SUBLETTE

Frosty Hittle/ Hittle Land & Livestock (REG), Boulder; Ryan Tollison, Daniel; Milford Lockwood (REG), Big Piney

SWEETWATER

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Rosemarie & Richard Hughes, Rock Springs; Margaret & Roger Jones, Farson; David Tarr- Sanchez, Rock Springs; Nathan Spruell, Green River; Chase Rasmussen, Rock Springs

TETON

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UINTA

Matthew Tillery, Lyman; Brecia & Jason Hansen, Lyman; Ty Lester (REG), Evanston; Terrell Lance (REG), Mountain View; Deena & Bill Poulton (REG), McKinnon; Bregeeta Hislop, Evanston; Gary Bluemel, Lyman; Jesse Overy (REG), Fort Bridger; James Eyre (REG), Lyman; Annette & Richard France (REG), Lyman; Lyndee Johnson, Mountain View; Mary & Jeff Bybee, Evanston; Weston Hurdsmann, Lymna; Lucy & Greg Brose, Evanston

WASHAKIE

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BIG HORN COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Big Horn County News

PHOTOS AND CAPTION SUBMITTED BY MARY WHALEY

The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation hosted a goat roping event Jan. 4 as an outreach event to community members. We had good participation and the crowd had a ball. Prior to the event, BHCFFB County President Tim Beck talked about Farm Bureau and how it works for agriculture representing farmers and ranchers. We were able to reach a lot of people with our message and look forward to future events. ■



Converse County News

Women's Gathering: Recipe Swap

Converse County Farm Bureau's Eyes on the Horizon Series along with Blend Coffee present a Women's Recipe Swap.

Bring a copy of your favorite recipe that feeds a crowd and in return get a free coffee.

Date: March 19th
Time: 10am-12pm
Location: Blend Coffee
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AFBF CONVENTION... From Page 1

Duvall also provided a recap of some of the landmark achievements made possible by engaged grassroots members, including sending more than 50,000 messages to Congress and federal agencies. These advocacy efforts led to victories such as the Securities and Exchange Commission reversing course on an overreaching disclosure regulation and leading the charge on ensuring Congress provided financial protection for farmers and ranchers in the year-end spending package.

"That's a record during my time as president. And I'm really proud of your engagement," Duvall said. "Let's build on that, because we will need everyone to step up in 2025."

The AFBF Convention featured motivational keynote addresses, educational workshops and presentations as well as award presentations. Workshops covered a variety of topics including policy topics, advocacy in the courts, food supply chain, ag innovation, member engagement and empowering individuals to engage in public service. The convention concluded with the important work of setting policy at the voting delegate session to guide the work of the organization.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) had 31 attendees at this year's convention in San Antonio, Texas. Networking, inspiration, knowledge and Farm Bureau family were common themes mentioned for convention takeaways.

Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau Secretary Stephanie Kossert expressed gratitude to be part of the Farm Bureau community. Kossert shared her thoughts on the keynote speakers. "We had the incredible opportunity to hear Lt. Col. Dan Rooney and Eric Boyles speak," she said. "Lt. Col. Rooney's passion for service and the impact of Folds of Honor is truly inspiring. His message about perseverance, sacrifice, and making a difference hit home. And Eric Boyles shared powerful insights that reminded us why leadership and resilience matter in today's world."

According to Kossert, one of the best parts of the convention experience was the fellowship. "Connecting with fellow farmers, industry leaders, and passionate advocates for agriculture has been truly rewarding," she said. "The energy, shared values, and commitment to our industry make this event so special."

WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the national convention. "It is always refreshing getting together," Coxbill said. "The Farm Bureau family is an extended family of agriculture across the nation."

Coxbill noted he said "yes" many years ago when asked to get involved in the organization. "Just say yes to getting involved," he continued. "It is a rewarding and great opportunity."

The term "Farm Bureau Family" is a term you hear a lot of people use when explaining their experience. With nearly 5,000 people in attendance at the 2025 Convention, you could hear a pin drop in the room when attendees joined together to pray and say the Pledge of Allegiance



Wyoming at the 2025 American Farm Bureau Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Standing (L to R) Scott and Stephanie Kossert and Wyatt, Baylee and Liam, Natrona County; Sally Humpherys (Randy not pictured), Lincoln County; Bryan and Saydi Nichols, Lincoln County; Melissa, Morgan and Matt Stroh, Weston County; Leanne and Fred Correll, Hot Springs County; Todd and Laura Fornstrom, Laramie County; Justin, Kristi, Joni and Layni Ellis, Uinta County; Jed and LaNita Heap, Lincoln County; Katlyn Klinginsmith, Laramie County; Destiny Edwards, Guest; Cody Alps, Goshen County. Kneeling (L to R): Connor, Cole and Carlee Coxbill, Goshen County; Kerin and Jake Clark, Albany County. *KARI BARBIC/AFBF PHOTO.*



Sharing outstanding ideas from county Farm Bureau Federations across the nation was the highlight of the 2025 Leadership Luncheon at the AFBF Convention. Shown here are Wyoming attendees enjoying conversation and idea sharing at the luncheon. (L to R): Morgan, Melissa and Matt Stroh, Weston County; Katlyn Klinginsmith, Laramie County; Jed and LaNita Heap, Lincoln County; and Randy and Sally Humpherys, Lincoln County. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*



WyFB Director-at-Large and Weston County Rancher Matt Stroh interviews with Northern Ag Network's Colter Brown at the 2025 AFBF Convention. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*

in the opening general session. The same goes for the voting delegate session room filled with nearly 500 people praying together and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in unison to start the business session.

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom emphasized the significance of the American Farm Bureau to keep agriculture strong. "The importance of the American Farm Bureau is putting us on the national stage," Fornstrom said. "We are the center for a lot of issues whether it be water, endangered species, federal lands, labor or any other agriculture issues. We are working the front lines for America's farmers and ranchers."

"It is an honor to represent our members' policy voice in this final step of the grassroots policy development process," Fornstrom concluded. ■



During tours of the Capitol Building, members were split into groups and then observed the Legislature in action. One tour group stopped in the Rotunda for a photo. This group includes WyFB members, staff and University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau members. *LILLY STEWART PHOTO.*



House Agriculture Committee Chair Representative John Winter and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Tim French provided committee updates at the Capitol during the WyFB Legislative Luncheon. *LILLY STEWART PHOTO.*



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, Senator Eric Barlow and WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill inside the Wyoming Capitol Dome during the WyFB Legislative Meeting. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*

LEGISLATIVE MEETING... From Page 1

The onsite legislative luncheon hosted by WyFB for all Wyoming legislators, elected officials and agency directors offered an opportunity to visit one-on-one about topics important to Wyoming. After lunch, Senator Tim French and Representative John Winter, chairs of the Senate Agriculture Committee and House Agriculture Committee, respectively, spoke to members and took questions on legislation impacting agriculture.

Following Senator French and Representative Winter, Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon addressed our membership and signed a proclamation recognizing February 24 as “Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week.”

The finale bonus to the meeting came when Senator Eric Barlow offered WyFB members an opportunity to tour the Capitol Dome. This unique experience offered a historical perspective of the building as well as a view of the capital city from the top of the Wyoming Capitol. ■



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A day at the Wyoming Capitol as part of the WyFB Legislative Meeting Jan. 30 included a meeting with Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon. Gov. Gordon delivered remarks on issues impacting Wyoming, took questions and then presented a proclamation recognizing “Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week.” *GOVERNOR’S OFFICE PHOTO.*

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY... From Page 1

“Having the governor recognize agriculture literacy through our ag books for kids program highlights the importance of agriculture here in Wyoming,” said Todd Fornstrom, WyFB president. “As a farmer, it makes me proud to know our work is on center stage for our Wyoming leaders.”

“Providing accurate agriculture books for Wyoming students to read in their schools is an important step in helping them know where food comes from and how it is produced,” Fornstrom continued.

The proclamation reads in part: “Wyoming is rich in agricultural history, and farming and ranching are an important part of Wyoming’s economy, contributing nearly two billion dollars annually; and many aspects of our daily lives, including the food we eat, clothes we wear, and medicine we depend on, are made possible because of agriculture; and literacy is a top priority for school children and non-fiction books are an important tool in teaching children about the world around them.”

The grassroots strength of the Farm Bureau Federation enables the “Ag Books for Kids” project to reach across our great

state. This year the county Farm Bureau Federations purchased 734 books to donate to Wyoming elementary schools.

Wyoming students and teachers are encouraged to visit their school’s elementary library to check out the 2025 book “Full of Beans” by Peggy Thomas. Three contests are offered for Wyoming students to encourage use of the book and provide application opportunities for what is learned. The 2025 contests are: Coloring Contest for kindergarten and first graders; Poster Contest for second and third graders; and a Marketing Ad Contest for fourth and fifth graders. Contest rules/details are

available at wyfb.org. The county contest deadline is March 28, 2025.

Farmer and rancher volunteer members often conduct classroom book readings and activities to give students an opportunity to meet an actual farmer or rancher and learn directly from them about the food they grow.

Just as our policy development process begins at the grassroots level, so does the strength of the “Ag Books for Kids” program. Thank you to all the county Farm Bureau Federation volunteer members who give their time to share agriculture with Wyoming students. ■



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