

Wyoming Agriculture

VOL. 40, NO. 2

OCTOBER 2022

Published by Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation



WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting Nov. 10-12, 2022 in Casper

BY KERIN CLARK

Our Agriculture. Our Future. Chart the course for our future in agriculture by attending the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) November 10-12, 2022 in Casper. For the 103rd year in a row, farmers and ranchers will gather to participate in the grassroots policy development process and make a difference for our future.

Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development is the strength of the Federation. Voting delegates from the county Farm Bureau Federations participate in policy discussion, elect officers and ultimately chart the policy course for the coming year. Members also enjoy networking with other farmers and ranchers, seeing old friends and making new friends.

Foundation Seminar to kick-off meeting

The WyFB Foundation is hosting a speaker series for members the morning of Nov. 10 to kick-off annual meeting festivities. The series will tentatively begin at



8:00 am featuring farmers, ranchers and University of Wyoming professors presenting their latest agricultural technology information. See related article below.

Meeting schedule snapshot

The annual meeting begins Thursday, Nov. 10 at noon with a luncheon.

WyFB's four standing committees will meet Thursday afternoon to discuss resolutions pertaining to their areas and make recommendations. The committees include: Natural and Environmental Resources (NER), State Government Affairs (SGA), Agriculture Tax and General Issues. The committees consist of one representative per county (county committee chairs), the state chair and state vice-chair.

Following the afternoon committee meetings, several events will be offered. The WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet begins at Casper College at 4 p.m. An invitational guest speaker "Meet and Greet" will be held at 4:15 p.m. Rounding out the day will be a Trivia Night led by Northern Ag Network at Gruner Brothers Brewing.

With appreciation and thanks to America's Veterans, we will begin the day on Friday, Nov. 11 with a county president's meeting. The general and business sessions of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will begin at 8:30 am. Members will hear reports from the WyFB president and the executive vice president. Voting dele-



Scott VanderWal
AFBF Vice President



Veronica Nigh
AFBF Senior Economist

gates will begin discussing the resolutions and determining what is in the best interest of farmers and ranchers.

Two guest speakers from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) will address the membership. AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal and AFBF Senior Economist Veronica Nigh will join the meeting and speak on national agriculture issues.

ANNUAL MEETING ... Page 7

Innovations in agriculture technology focus of WyFB Foundation seminar November 10

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Agriculture technology is paving the way for the industry as agriculturists work to produce enough food, fiber, and fuel for over 9 billion people by 2050. From virtual fences for livestock to applications of remote sensing, advances in agriculture are a key to improving efficiencies in agriculture. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation is making sure members are staying on top of these innovations. To accomplish this, the WYFB Foundation is honored to be hosting a speaker series for our members the morning of November 10 in Casper to kick-off annual meeting festivities. The series will tentatively begin at 8:00 am. We will have farmers and ranchers and University of Wyoming (UW) professors present their latest agricultural technology information.

We are honored to have several distinguished guests join us for the event.

First, we'd like to welcome Dr. Fabian Nippgen. He is an assistant professor of watershed hydrology in the UW Ecosystem Science and Management department. While his research is primarily focused on water movement throughout landscapes, he utilizes Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for snowpack monitoring, measuring vegetation volume in riparian areas, among many other things. With his expertise in UAV use, he has presented on agricultural applications of drone use and teaches a class on drone-based remote sensing at UW. The Foundation is pleased to have Dr. Nippgen share his UAV knowledge with our members.

Next, Ramesh Sivanpillai is an associate professor and head of the UW Geographic Information Science Center. Dr. Sivanpillai teaches several Land Remote Sensing System (LandSat)-based remote sensing classes at UW that have

wide-ranging applications. LandSat is a joint venture between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that provides satellite imagery of Earth for multiple uses. Specifically, Dr. Sivanpillai and his students utilize the reflected colors through the LandSat images to calculate the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to monitor crop and rangeland health year-over-year. The Foundation is honored to have him present his recent Wyoming-based research for members at the speaker series.

Finally, the Foundation is pleased to welcome Monte Reed. Mr. Reed is a member of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA) and landowner in the Converse County area. He has been working with UW Ecosystem Science and Management professors along with other stakeholders

by piloting the use of a virtual fencing program, Vence. With years of natural resource management under his belt, he's sure to provide insight into the pros and cons of virtual fencing on a Wyoming ranch and what it might mean with wildlife interactions, neighboring government land, and more.

Be sure to mark your calendars, members! This speaker series will be thought provoking and leave you wondering where the next Wyoming agriculture technology innovations will lead us.

Registration

Pre-registration for the speaker seminar is requested by Oct. 31. Please email Brooke Roes at broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723 to register for the meeting. You may also contact your county Farm Bureau Federation president to learn more about attending the state annual meeting. ■

Inside:

Seat at the table 2
Member-CENTS feature 3
Next generation legacy 4

Regular and Collegiate Discussion Meets 5
Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife 5
Meet the volunteer 6
Constitutional amendments on ballot 8

Collegiate Farm Bureau 9
State Fair awards 12
County news 15

www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

October

- 3 Southwest District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m.—Library in Kemmerer
- 6 Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m.—Rendezvous Center Brand Room at the Goshen County Fairgrounds in Torrington
- 8 Northwest District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting—Fairgrounds in Worland
- 10 WyFB Awards Nomination Deadline
- 21 Park County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m.—Eagles in Powell
- 29 Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau Annual Dinner Banquet
- 31 Pre-registration Deadline for WyFB Annual Meeting

November

- 8 General Election
- 10 Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation Symposium at 8:00 a.m.—Best Western Downtown in Casper
- 10-12 WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting—Best Western Downtown in Casper
- 11 WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet—Casper College in Casper

January 2023

- 6-11 American Farm Bureau Convention—San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 10 Wyoming Legislature General Session Convenes
- 20-21 WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Conference—Pinedale

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates

NOTICE

Annual Policyholders' Meeting

December 1, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.
Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
Farm Bureau Center, 931 Boulder Drive
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Wyoming
Agriculture

Volume 40, Issue No. 2
October 2022

USPS 10331 ISSN 1071-0272

Official publication of
the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
307-721-7719
www.wyfb.org

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

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

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

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Farm Bureau's
Seat at the Table

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



The strength of Farm Bureau is on full display when we speak with our one united voice and come to the table to address the challenges we face at the local, state and national level. And it's our strength and unity that has made us such a trusted voice for agriculture in our nation's capital. Farm Bureau has a long history of coming to the table with leaders and lawmakers, and I wanted to share these most recent examples of your Farm Bureau leaders advocating for agriculture on the national stage.

This advocacy can take different forms, from phone calls and personal meetings to testifying before congressional committees. Whether I am in Washington or on the road, I am keeping in close contact with leaders and lawmakers on your behalf. In recent weeks I've spoken with Secretary Vilsack about USDA climate programs, Chairman Gensler about the SEC climate rule, and EPA Administrator Regan about fertilizer restrictions, WOTUS and other topics. I also recently met with House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders on issues such as livestock and the 2023 farm bill.

In September alone, congressional committees invited several of our state and national leaders to speak on behalf of farmers and ranchers across the country. First, AFBF Vice President and South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee a couple of weeks ago. He spoke in support of the Livestock Regulatory Protection Act of 2021 and shared how U.S. farmers and ranchers have led the way in "pro-

moting soil health, conserving water, enhancing wildlife, efficiently using nutrients, and caring for their animals." We have a great sustainability story to share, and your AFBF vice president did just that with lawmakers in Washington.

Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse testified mid-September before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands to address how regulation is impacting ranches like hers, throughout the West, where ranchers are stewards of our public lands. President Smallhouse addressed how a proposed House bill would place Western ranches, and the public lands they help care for, at risk. She called on lawmakers to recognize how "livestock grazing is critical to managing and preventing invasive plant species, decreasing hazardous fuel loads to prevent wildfires, supporting wildlife habitats, and cultivating viable rural economies."

The sustainability of U.S. agriculture also depends on our ability to compete in global markets and get our farm products to those markets. Texas President Russell Boening testified before the House Ways and Means Committee mid-September on the importance of building a robust trade partnership with Taiwan, and across the Indo-Pacific region. He urged lawmakers to work with the Administration to reduce trade barriers and hold our trade partners accountable because "U.S. agricultural competitiveness is dependent on having a level playing field."

Finally, the health and sustainability of our agricultural communities depends

on bridging the digital divide. As I travel the country, I regularly hear how critical broadband connections are to our farms and rural communities. (And I've faced the challenges and frustrations of unreliable or slow internet on my own farm.) Missouri Farm Bureau President Garrett Hawkins shared these challenges with the House Agriculture Committee in September and discussed how Missouri Farm Bureau has brought together leaders, lawmakers and researchers to reach unserved and underserved communities in their state. As Pres. Hawkins told the committee, "Knowing where adequate broadband services do and do not exist is critical to crafting sound public policies related to broadband deployment in rural areas." Getting all Americans online requires partnership at the local, state and national level to identify gaps in service and to connect communities to resources.

Thank you, Presidents VanderWal, Smallhouse, Boening and Hawkins for carrying on our rich Farm Bureau tradition of advocacy! I am proud to work closely with these leaders as we serve you together. Bottom line, part of the strength of Farm Bureau is having many capable leaders and advocates to ensure all the bases are covered when it comes to advocating on behalf of farmers and ranchers. But please don't ever forget that one of the most effective components of advocacy is when you reach out directly to your local and state leaders to share your story. Advocacy at every level is part of our federation's effectiveness, and key to ensuring a bright future for agriculture. ■

Balancing Act: Public lands
grazing and recreation conflicts

BY JUSTIN WILLIAMS, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Reprinted with permission from The Wyoming Department of Agriculture Natural Resources & Policy Division Newsletter The Corner Post

Federal land grazing is an extremely important component to the success and viability of many Wyoming ranches. These lands are however, also important to other multiple uses, including timber, oil and gas development, renewable energy such as solar and wind, as well as recreation. Most livestock grazing permittees can attest to the significant increase in off-highway motor vehicles (OHVs), mountain bikes, hikers, backpackers, and campers in just the past few years.

This increase in recreational use on your federal grazing allotments has the potential to create a rise in conflicts and likely public scrutiny of your livestock grazing management. Some of the con-

flict we have seen or heard about here at the Wyoming Department of Agriculture include: cut fences, gates left open, vandalism to stock water tanks, offroad damage from OHV use, piles of garbage, fires, and livestock harassment or death just to name a few.

Most federal agencies have recreation staff who can provide guidance in addition to your range staff and federal agency district manager. Livestock grazing permittees must document incidences with photos and dates. Cases where livestock are not in a designated pasture as a result of cut fences or gates left open, must be documented and reported to ensure administrative decisions such as trespass are not applied to the permittee. Damage to streams, meadows, and unapproved trails are crucial to report early on, again using photos to document. The agencies may need to use administrative actions to close the trail to reduce further damage.

Recently we worked on a US Forest Service Land Use Plan Revision where

recreation has increased significantly over the years and is triggering a "Need for Change." The Plan includes alternatives to increase the recreation areas, especially designated camping areas with additional facilities like outhouses, camper parking, and boat ramps. These designations are at the expense of livestock grazing Animal Unit Months (AUMS) by excluding current grazing and closing the area to future grazing. In a case such as this, livestock grazing permittees need to work very closely with their range staff to understand if their permits are proposed to change under a Land Use Plan Revision.

It is understandable livestock grazing permittees are frustrated with so many factors such as varying market costs, rising fuel, drought, wildfires, litigation by anti-grazing organizations, and now negative impacts by recreation. We recommend you continue to document, include pictures and written issues in your annual use report and allotment permit file. ■

Court ruling reinstates modernized endangered species rules

SEPT. 21, 2022, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Modernized Endangered Species Act regulations will be reinstated after the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled September 21 that a district court improperly vacated 2019 revisions. The appeals court determined a district court erred by reversing the regulations without determining whether they were actually unlawful.

“We appreciate the September 21 ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals,” said American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall. “The revisions to the Endangered Species Act protected at risk animals while ensuring farmers could continue feeding America’s families. This ruling doesn’t bring an end to the debate about modernizing the ESA, but it sends an important

message to the 9th Circuit lower courts that their job is to rule based on the law. They can no longer vacate a rule unless they determine it is unlawful.”

This is the second appellate ruling to favor AFBF in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the past month. In August, the Court overturned a lower court’s ruling that prohibited AFBF from defending the delisting of the gray wolf. ■



Member-CENTS

Visit wyfb.org and click on the “Benefits” tab for a complete listing of value-added benefits.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation believes constitutional government, the competitive enterprise system, property rights and individual freedom are necessary components for a strong agriculture, a strong Wyoming and a strong America. We are a centennial grassroots organization that cares about your future.

Whether you are a farmer, rancher or a consumer of food...membership is a good investment to secure stability of agriculture here in Wyoming. As a member, WyFB provides you with exclusive benefits as a way to say thank you. These benefits may pay your annual membership fee many times over.

Current members may access member benefits at www.wyfb.org and click on the “Benefits” tab.

You may also utilize the Farm Bureau Member Benefits app on your phone to access your benefits.

Questions: email broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723.

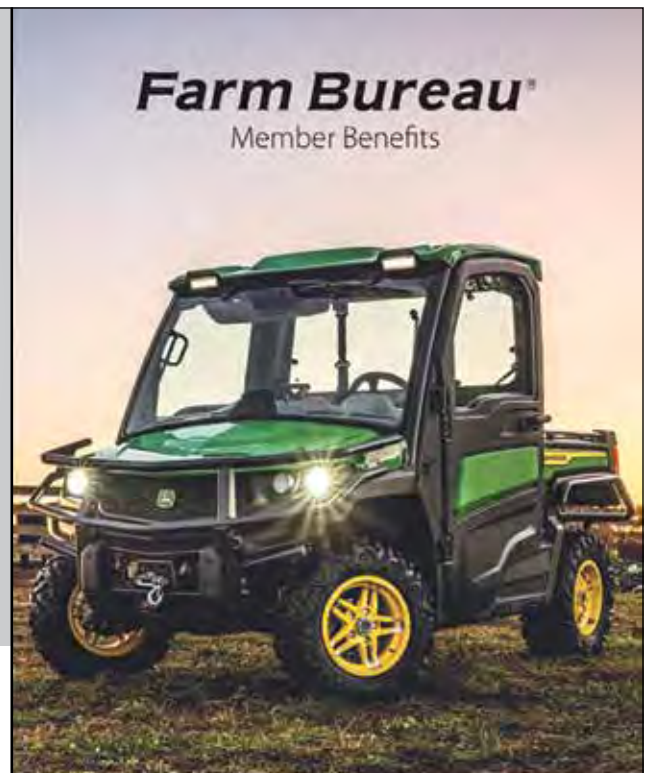


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Continuing on the legacy with the NEXT generation

BY RAENELL TAYLOR, WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

Family ranching is important to the future of agriculture. As a 5th generation rancher myself, it's important to have the next generation excited about coming back to the family ranch to continue on the legacy. We keep our children involved in every aspect of our ranch, from the kitchen table talking decisions to physically gathering and sorting cattle out in the pasture. Let me introduce you to our next generation.

Trayden Taylor is our 9-year-old, he is cowboy through and through. He loves to be on horseback any hour of any day, the younger the horse, the more excited he is to ride it. When asked what his favorite animal was, it was no surprise that he said horses! He also would rather be at home helping on the ranch over attending school, but he goes anyway.

Tatum Taylor is our freckled 6-year-old cowboy. He has the kindest heart and says that it's fun to ranch the way we do because he gets to ride horses all the time. You can find him sneaking naps on the back of his horse between cattle gatherings.

Because we involve our children in all aspects of ranching, I interviewed both of them to give you a deeper look into the future of agriculture in our family.

When asked why agriculture is important, Trayden said, "If we didn't have agriculture, we wouldn't have food or clothes." He continued saying with excitement, "Actually, we help feed the world with what we do!"

When Tatum was asked why agriculture is important, he insisted that "We would have nothing without agriculture. And we wouldn't have horses either, life just wouldn't be the same without horses."

In true Taylor fashion, Trayden and Tatum understand the importance of what we do in agriculture and where we would be without it. Not all kids have this understanding. If we want there to be a future in this industry, we have to share the importance of agriculture with everyone and where we would truly be without it.

Both Trayden and Tatum want to be ranchers when they grow up and have plans to return back to the family ranch, "Just like you, Mom," said Tatum. Trayden did mention, "I'll go to college, first, of course though!"

Carrying on our ranching legacy is very important to our family. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm from both of our children, at such a young age, that they intend on coming back to the ranch. We know they will be the future on this place and if we keep them included in our day-to-day ranching decisions, we have no doubt it will help make for a smooth transition in the future.

We have a lot of kitchen table talks about what our next step is on the ranch, Trayden and Tatum are always welcome and encouraged to take a seat at the table with us. Since we transitioned previously from cow/calf and sheep year-round, we are now more flexible on what it is we decide to invest in each year. So, when the question was asked to Trayden, how do we decide what animal we bring in on the ranch each year, he quickly said, "it's based on the markets, if it's cheap, you buy it, if it's not, you don't!"

While Trayden's answer might make some chuckle, honestly, it's pretty spot on to the truth. Each year we base our figures off of the markets and prices, we set a budget amount of what we want and will spend or pay for an animal and if we can't buy it for that, then we don't. It's important to us that we stick to our set budget and numbers to instill good financial decisions. And it's an even bigger bonus that our children see the importance of this as well.



Raenell, Josh, Tatum and Trayden Taylor



Tatum Taylor's favorite place to nap



Tatum and Trayden Taylor helping with ranch work

What you see: 

What we see: 



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When we aren't gathered at the kitchen table, we are out working on the ranch. We sure know how to get a day's work done, but we also know how to have fun and make some family memories too. When asked what their favorite thing to do on the ranch was, Tatum said, "Of course it's not fencing!"

As mentioned already, Tatum has a huge love for horses, so it was no surprise when he said, "I love riding my horse on the ranch, even if it is near a fence line."

Trayden also loves to be horseback on the ranch but has the complete opposite feelings about fencing. He said, "I love fencing, especially when I get to drive the skid steer."

Hopefully Trayden feels the same way about fencing as he gets older. These are all memories we will look back on and say, "do you remember when..."

Everything we do on our ranch, we do as a family. That's the kind of legacy we want to continue. If we include our children in everything we do now, hopefully they will continue on with that same legacy for future generations. ■

Raenell Taylor ranches in Crook County with her husband Josh and sons Trayden and Tatum. She currently serves on the WyFB YF&R Committee and as the Northeast District Director on the WyFB Board of Directors. She is also a former state chair of the WyFB YF&R Committee.

Regular YF&R and Collegiate Discussion Meet competitions in November

Competitions in Casper

Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18-35 and college students in Wyoming are invited to participate in the 2022 Discussion Meet competitions. There are two different competitions that will be held during the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Annual Meeting in Casper in November.

The first competition is the Regular WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Discussion Meet; Farm Bureau regular members between the ages of 18-35 are eligible. The second competition is the WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet; any student attending a Wyoming college is eligible.

Being an advocate for agriculture is important and should be a part of everyone's business plan. Develop your leadership and advocacy skills and meet other young farmers and ranchers from around the state and around the nation by participating in the YF&R Discussion Meet competitions.

Regular YF&R Discussion Meet

This competition will be held at the WyFB Annual Meeting; day pending number of entries.

The state winner receives a \$500 cash prize and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Jan. 6-11 Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Collegiate YF&R Discussion Meet

This competition will be held Thursday evening, November 10. Any Wyoming college student with an interest in agriculture is eligible to participate. A major in agriculture is not required for competition. The state winner receives a \$300 cash prize and an expense paid trip to the AFBF national competition March 3-6 in Jacksonville, Florida to compete for college scholarships.

More information

Topics and rules are available at wyfb.org. Regular Discussion Meet applications and Collegiate Discussion Meet applications must be postmarked by Oct. 24, 2022. Contact WyFB YF&R Coordinator Kerin Clark at 307.532.2002 or kclark@wyfb.org with questions. ■

YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1. How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?

2. Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the "fence rows" on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?

3. Climate has become a major topic among business leaders, policymakers and consumers. As an industry that depends on the weather, what role do we as farmers and ranchers play in shaping climate initiatives to benefit society overall as well as our own farms and ranches?

4. Advancements in autonomous equipment and drone technology offer solutions to challenges farmers and ranchers have faced for years. How can Farm Bureau improve access to, and help farmers and ranchers deploy, these emerging technologies on their operations?

5. Many external influences are causing supply chain disruption for agricultural goods. How can Farm Bureau reduce the impact of external influences through policy development and programming?

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Quick & Easy Salsa

Source: *The Pioneer Woman*

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 can (28oz) whole tomatoes or 2 cans (15oz) diced tomatoes with juice | 1-2 tbsp sugar, to taste |
| 2 cans (10oz) Rotel Original | 1/4 tsp salt |
| 1 small onion, quartered | 1/2 tsp Cumin |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 1 bunch of fresh Cilantro about 1/2-1 cup |
| 1-2 jalapeños, stem removed, cut in half | 1/2 whole lime |
| | Tortilla Chips |

Directions

1. In a food processor blend tomatoes, cilantro, and jalapeños until finely chopped.
2. Pour into a large bowl.
3. Next add the Rotel, onion, garlic, sugar, salt, cumin, and lime juice to the food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add to the bowl.
4. Mix well. Taste and then adjust cumin, sugar, and lime until reaches desired flavor.
6. Chill for 1 hour. Enjoy



For more recipes, visit www.modernranchwife.com

The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader Thad Dockery

County: Fremont
 Farm Bureau Leadership
 Position(s):
 ● Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors/Northwest District Director

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe your ranch and family background.

Dockery: My wife (Andrea), two daughters (Laura and Rylee) and I have a cow/calf/yearling ranch in Fremont County. The ranch sits along the Sweetwater River. It is a family owned and operated ranch where our daughters are the 5th generation. We purchased the ranch from my in-laws in 2015.

Wyoming Agriculture: Family, hobbies, background information.

Dockery: I was born and raised in Hot Springs County and grew up on our family ranch on Mud Creek. Besides helping my parents on the ranch, I broke horses for neighbors. Upon graduation I went to work for a neighboring ranch. While I did not attend formal college, I attended the school of hard knocks. I had the money to go to college or buy cows. Since my passion is ranching, it wasn't a hard choice. While ranching is my job and livelihood, it is also my hobby.

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

Dockery: In 2001, Andrea and I attended an Annual Banquet in Fremont County. We were of the belief it was solely insurance. Upon visiting with Dave and Darlene Vaughan, they explained what the Farm Bureau Federation was and invited us to attend their monthly meetings. A few years later I became Vice President and then President for Fremont County Farm



The Dockery Family: Thad, Andrea, Laura and Rylee



Wintertime on the Sweetwater



Ranching in Fremont County with Thad Dockery



Getting ready for dinner on the Fall Beef Roundup 2022

Bureau Federation. The Vaughans had also invited us to go to an annual state meeting in November. It was there that I truly realized what the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was all about. It was there I also understood the importance of each member and that every member has a voice in our grassroots agriculture organization. The county level is the perfect place for any Farm Bureau member to get involved. Being involved in this process helped me also understand the value of all the levels of the Federation.

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

Dockery: Being involved in the Farm Bureau Federation leadership from county to state requires a commitment of time. I believe this time is well spent and an excellent invest-

ment in agriculture, and for the future of agriculture. I believe if agriculture sits idly by the rules will soon become detrimental to agriculture.

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

Dockery: I was once asked to name a Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy that has the greatest impact on my life. It is not one policy, but it is all of the policy that pertains to federal lands. It is extremely important to me because it directly effects my family and our way of life. Our family ranch is surrounded by federal land, and we summer graze our cattle on the lands. What I appreciate about Farm Bureau policy is that I have been able to directly affect the writing of the policy to help protect our way of life. ■

National Agriculture News Updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Mid-term election season is upon us. Those elected to represent us in our nation's capital will certainly impact how we are able to run our farms and ranches, among so many other aspects of our lives. As we slowly move towards the general election this November, I'd like to provide a short update of some national issues that may be coming down the pipeline.

The first issue that may be at the forefront of everyone's mind would be the 2023 Farm Bill, which might be more accurate if renamed the Food and Farm Bill. Topics will include but not be limited to risk management tools for farmers, nutri-

tion assistance for low-income families, conservation programs, and investment in agricultural research. Some items up for consideration will be whether crop insurance should be expanded to include more specialty crops or evaluating options for improving access to rural broadband. There will certainly be many topics that will be evaluated during the consideration of the bill,

Next, some areas of concern include "PFAS" and Endangered Species Act (ESA) related issues. Regarding Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing these substances also known as "forever chemicals" be des-

ignated as hazardous materials under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). These chemicals are ubiquitous and found in everything from biosolids, some field treatments, and ground water supplies. Therefore, if these substances are found in farm fields, the field will be treated as a superfund site with the liability of clean-up being placed on the farmer or rancher. AFBF policy states the liability should not be placed on the farmer or rancher that may have these on their field, as they may be there unbeknownst to them.

Lastly, there has been a lot of movement in ESA petitions that could impact

Wyoming. Two species in the Northwestern corner of Wyoming, the gray wolf and the Yellowstone National Park (YNP) bison are in their 12-month finding phase of species assessment. As of September 14, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the Federal Register notice for the petition to list the tri-colored bat. The comment period is open until November 14. This species would impact particularly Eastern Wyoming.

Please reach out if you'd like more information than this high-level overview of national affairs issues. Happy fall! ■

Kelly Carpenter is the WyFB National Affairs Associate. She may be reached at kcarpenter@wyfb.org or 307-721-7728.

ANNUAL MEETING... From Page 1

After a day of business work, Friday evening's banquet is a time to celebrate our farmers and ranchers. The Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Awards will be presented. The evening will conclude with music entertainment by Tris Munsick.

Resolutions consideration, elections, and a WyFB YF&R report conclude the meeting on Saturday.

Foundation Fundraiser

Also new this year, the WyFB Foundation will be holding a silent and live auc-

tion at the awards banquet on Friday, Nov. 11. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Foundation. Make sure to come and enjoy this new event with us!

Additionally, a knife raffle will be held again this year for a Don Pavack custom knife.

"Harvest for All" Fundraiser

The WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) nineteenth annual "Harvest for All" fund drive will take place at annual meeting. Monetary donations (we are unable to accept food donations) will benefit the Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies, a credentialed Feeding America Harvest

affiliate serving Wyoming communities. Please bring your monetary donations to the registration desk at annual meeting. Additionally, the WyFB YF&R Committee will hold their annual playing card raffle so plan to buy your playing card raffle chances from any WyFB YF&R Committee member during annual meeting.

Hotel Reservations

A room block has been secured at the Best Western Downtown Casper. To make a reservation, call the Best Western at 307.439.2074. To receive the group discount rate of \$93/night (plus taxes and fees), refer to "Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation" and

group code 0122 to be eligible. The reservation deadline is October 26. After that date, reservations will be subject to availability.

Registration

Pre-registration forms are requested by October 31. Please email Brooke Roes at broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723 to register for the meeting. You may also contact your county Farm Bureau Federation president to learn more about attending the state annual meeting.

The meeting agenda will be printed in the November issue of *Wyoming Agriculture*. The agenda will also be available as the meeting gets closer at www.wyfb.org. ■

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2022 General Election Ballot Issues

SOURCE: WYOMING SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE
Wyoming voters will consider two Constitutional Amendments on the General Election ballot November 8. Here is the text of each amendment as per the Wyoming Secretary of State website.

Constitutional Amendment A
Following is the ballot language of Constitutional Amendment A as it will appear on the 2022 General Election ballot:

The Wyoming Constitution allows the state to invest state funds in equities such as the stock of corporations, but does not allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities. The adoption of this amendment would allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities to the extent and in the manner the legislature may allow by law. Any law authorizing the investment of specified political subdivision funds in equities would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Constitutional Amendment B
Following is the ballot language of Constitutional Amendment B as it will appear on the 2022 General Election ballot:

Currently, the Wyoming Constitution requires Wyoming Supreme Court justices and district court judges to retire upon reaching the age of seventy (70). This amendment increases the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and district court judges from age seventy (70) to age seventy-five (75). ■



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

Comments on the "PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022" concerning government entities investing in stocks and equities.

Is allowing government entities to invest money in stocks and bonds the best way? The money that government uses for operation is most likely tax money of some sort or another. Government is not a "for profit" organization, Government is a service entity to be used in a conservative way, Government is funded by tax money levied on the people it serves.

If the government entity (the State, County, Municipality, School District, special district or any other political subdivision) has enough excess money that its administrative board thinks there

is a way to raise more money for the entity by investing the excess, the entity should be evaluated to see what services are being neglected and where it can cut spending.

This excess money should be left in the taxpayer's pockets. This would create more money in the private sector, which will put more money in private enterprise, which builds tax base, therefore bringing in more tax money!!! Wouldn't this be better than governmental investments?

I believe the taxpayers of the state of Wyoming should vote down this "PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION to be voted on at the General Election Nov. 8, 2022".

PLEASE VOTE NO ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

Sincerely,
Garie Henry Robertson, Wyoming



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Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Award nominations

DUE BY MONDAY,
OCT. 10, 2022

Nominations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 10. These awards recognize those individuals/couples who have devoted much time

to the betterment of agriculture in Wyoming and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Distinguished Service Award nominees must be active in Farm Bureau and/or other areas that relate directly to agricultural interests.

Farm Bureau Leadership Award nominees must be an agricultural operator and active on a statewide basis.

Award nominations may be made by any county Farm Bureau. Please note:

- Only one nomination per award may be made by the county.
- Award judging done by the Administrative Advisory Committee of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.
- The committee is not limited to considering only nominations from participating county Farm Bureaus but may make an independent selection.

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org, by clicking on the specific day of Oct.10 under the "calendar of events."

The awards will be presented at the WyFB Annual Meeting on Nov. 11 during the evening banquet. Contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org for more details. ■

Outstanding Membership Worker Award nominations

DUE BY MONDAY, OCT. 10, 2022

Nominations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Outstanding Membership Worker Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 10. This award recognizes those hard workers in the state for their outstanding dedication and effort in recruiting Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members. There are three categories:

1. Volunteer
2. Agent
3. County Office Staff

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org by clicking on the specific day of Oct. 10 under the "calendar of events."

The awards will be presented at the WyFB Annual Meeting. Contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org for more details. ■



University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau

About Collegiate Farm Bureau

Collegiate Farm Bureau is a program which exists to support college students engaged in agriculture, enhance each member's education, and develop future agriculture leaders. CFB offers opportunities for students in professional development, personal growth and agricultural advocacy.

Contact Chapter Advisor to get involved and learn more

UW Collegiate Farm Bureau Advisor- Leticia Henderson
307-766-1994
lvarelas@uwyo.edu

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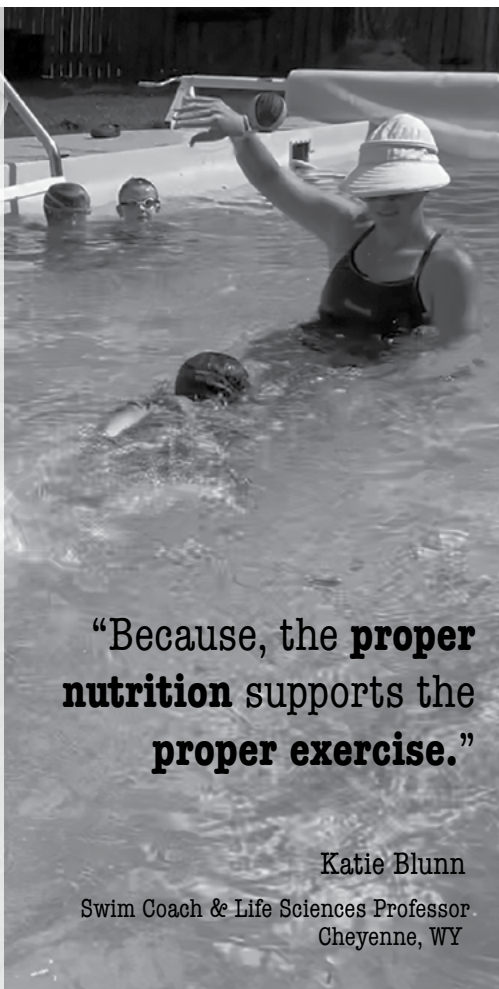



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ALL CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by the 10th of each month to appear in the next issue. Members may place two (2) complimentary ads, up to 40 words each, per issue. Real estate sales not included. Complimentary ads will run for three issues unless requested otherwise. Non-members may submit an ad at a minimum rate of \$5.00 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.

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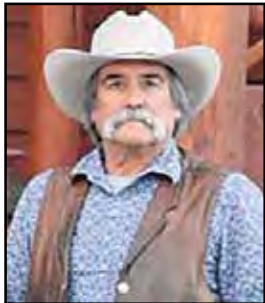
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WyFB sponsors Supreme Beef and Supreme Sheep winners at Wyoming State Fair



Elizabeth Jordan, of Hulett, won the Supreme Champion Female at the 2022 Wyoming State Fair Youth Beef Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) National Affairs Associate Kelly Carpenter and WyFB Director of Public and Government Affairs Brett Moline presented the awards. *KAYLEE KERBS/ALTITUDE ADVANTAGE PHOTO.*



Cooper Miller, of Newcastle, won the Supreme Champion Bull at the 2022 Wyoming State Fair Youth Beef Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) National Affairs Associate Kelly Carpenter and WyFB Director of Public and Government Affairs Brett Moline presented the awards. *KAYLEE KERBS/ALTITUDE ADVANTAGE PHOTO.*

Youth are our future in agriculture and breeding programs are the foundation of livestock farms and ranches. Each year the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is proud to sponsor the Wyoming State Fair and various youth awards. As part of our sponsorship, WyFB sponsored the belt buckles for the Supreme Ewe, Supreme Ram, Supreme Beef Female and Supreme Bull and also provided \$100 add-on premium for each winner.

Additionally, WyFB provides \$100 prizes to the Grand Champion Market Beef, Grand Champion Market Swine, Grand Champion Market Lamb and Grand Champion Market Goat. ■



Lillian Patterson, of Mountain View, won the Supreme Champion Ewe at the 2022 Wyoming State Fair Youth Sheep Show. *KAYLEE KERBS/ALTITUDE ADVANTAGE PHOTO.*




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My yard isn't organic and that's OK

BY TERESA BJORK

I admit, our yard has gone wild since my husband and I became working parents.

The awful "Creeping Charlie" weed from our neighbor's lawn is, yes, creeping into our lawn after the 2020 derecho knocked down the trees that separated our yards.

We also have weedy spots in the lawn where my husband, who likes to tinker with motors, has parked his boats and vehicles and killed the grass underneath.

And new this year, my neighbor is feeding corn to the squirrels. Now we have cornstalks popping up ALL OVER our yard.

However, I tried to make an effort this summer. I mulched and placed a layer of newspapers underneath the flower garden to keep weeds from sprouting.

Yet weeds still pop up through the cracks in the sidewalk. Tree seedlings grow along the sides of the house and garage. And did I mention, there's so much corn! Growing in our yard! Everywhere!

So, I decided enough is enough. Because I can't hire a herd of goats to chew the weeds, I sprayed a pesticide.

As much as I would love to have a chemical-free yard, the reality is I don't have a lot of options.

And it isn't just about how my lawn looks. Weeds can damage our sidewalks and our home's foundation and porches.

Just like homeowners, farmers know that weeds can damage healthy crops and soil if left unchecked.

Without crop protection products, U.S. farmers would lose an average of 52% of their corn crop and 49% of their soybean crop, according to the Weed Science Society of America.

Farmers work to control weeds year-round to prevent crop loss and to protect the environment. They use a variety of weed prevention strategies – including seed selection, precision agriculture technology and pesticides – to protect their crops.

Throughout the growing season, farmers work with agronomists to scout fields to detect any problems.

If pests start to threaten the crop, beyond what experts consider an economic threshold, then crop protection products may be necessary.

Farmers use application equipment

with row shut-offs so they only apply as needed to specific sections in the field.

The newest precision technology also uses smart cameras and machine-learning to identify emerging weeds as the equipment moves through the fields, so applications are targeted only to the weeds.

When you see an applicator working a field, over 75% of what's applied to the crop is actually water, experts say.

"We have a lot of (crop protection) products nowadays that we use only ounces per acre or fractions of an ounce per acre," explains Meaghan Anderson, weed scientist and central Iowa field agronomist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

In my own yard, I was cautious when applying pesticides. I followed the safety

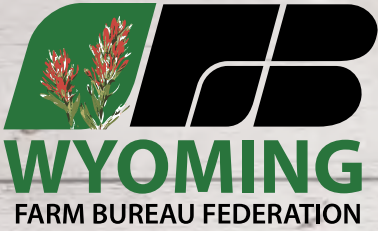
instructions on the label and only applied where needed.

Across the nation, farmers and their employees attend regular training and certification sessions to learn about proper pesticide handling and application.

Farmers are continually working to improve, learn and adopt new technology to grow healthy, safe crops while minimizing their environmental impact.

For more information on how to use pesticides safely in your home and garden, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office. ■

Teresa Bjork is consumer content manager at Iowa Farm Bureau. This column was originally published on the Iowa Farm Bureau Farm Fresh blog and is republished with permission.



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Obituary

Deborah Francis

November 7, 1950 – June 16, 2022

Deborah Ann (Cole) Francis passed away June 16, 2022. She was born November 7, 1950 in Pasco, Washington to Dan and Gwen Cole. Debbie grew up in Powder River, Wy, where she and her two sisters Millie and Nancy shared their childhood together. In 1969, Debbie graduated from Natrona County High School. She married Butch Francis in 1973, and they spent the early years of their marriage traveling for work throughout Wyoming and Montana. They settled in Mills, Wy and their son JD was born in 1977.

Debbie and Butch worked together to operate a truck hauling business for many years until retiring from trucking in 2012. They enjoyed spending time together and seeing the country.

Debbie loved to be outdoors. She enjoyed hunting, gardening and cooking. But most of all she loved her family. She embraced her roles as a wife, mother, sister and possibly her most favorite role as "Auntie Deb".

Debbie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Butch, son JD, of Salt Lake City, sister Millie (Keith) Robinett, of Powder River, sister Nancy (Clair) Bennion, of Powell, niece Darcie (Pat) Holscher, of Casper, nephew Chris (Theresa) Robinett, of Powder River, nephew Dan Robinett, of Powder River, nephew Curt (Lizzie) Bennion, of Casper, nephew Cole (Amanda) Bennion, of Powell, as well as numerous great nieces and nephews.

Debbie's quick wit and honest humor was enjoyed by all who knew her. A private family event in her memory will be held at a later date. ■



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Wyoming Agriculture
2. Publication Number: 1071-0272
3. Filing Date: 09/21/2022
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly (July/August and December/January combined)
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 10
6. Annual Subscription Price: NA
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070
10. Owner: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, a non-profit organization
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders: None
12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

13. Publication Title: Wyoming Agriculture
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/01/2022
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Total Paid Distribution 10257, Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution 315, Total Distribution 10572, Copies not Distributed 30, Total 10602, Percent Paid 97%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation: Total Paid Electronic Copies 0, Total Paid Print Copies 10257, Total Print Distribution 10572, Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) 97%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required.
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Media and Member Relations Director, Date: 09/21/2022



Goshen County presents Heart of Agriculture Award

The Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation joined with the Goshen County CattleWomen to present the Goshen County "Heart of Agriculture" award. The award was presented at the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. The 2022 recipient Trudy Smith was congratulated by Goshen County CattleWomen President Marlisa Hall (center) and Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Tami Greenwald (right.) *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*



Johnson County participates in county fair livestock sale

The Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation gave kettle corn to the buyers at the Junior Livestock Sale at the Johnson County Fair. The Federation also contributed an add-on to each sale animal that was sold by a youth belonging to a Farm Bureau member family. It was a great opportunity for the Farm Bureau and a huge success! *CARMEN RODRIGUEZ PHOTO.*



Annual Meeting Traditions

It's a tradition that is going on 103 years strong...that of farmers and ranchers gathering to discuss current agriculture issues and develop Farm Bureau Federation policy. The Farm Bureau Federation's grassroots policy development truly begins at the grassroots with resolutions discussion at the county level. Attending your county Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting is an important part of your membership in Farm Bureau. Following county and district meetings, the policy development process at the state level culminates November 10-12 at the WyFB Annual Meeting in Casper. See page 1 for more information. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*



Niobrara County presents VIP Award to Jeb Hanson

Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Kevin Baars presented the VIP award to Jeb Hanson during the county annual meeting to thank him for his years of service to agriculture and the Farm Bureau Federation. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*

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WyFB merchandise online store open through Oct. 17

Here's your chance to order Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation branded apparel and caps! Go to www.wyfb.org and click on the online store link found on the home page.

There's a wide variety of items and colors from which to choose for both men and women so be sure to scroll through and check out all the options. Please note the merchandise will not be ready for shipping until mid-November as all orders are made once the store closes Oct. 17. ■

WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

ONLINE STORE
ORDERS CLOSE OCTOBER 17, 2022
FIND LINK AT WYFB.ORG

VISIT ONLINE STORE FOR ITEM* AVAILABILITY!

*Items pictured here are examples.

WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION PRESENTS TO MEMBERS

THIS IS A PRIVATE SHOW FOR REGISTERED ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDEES

TRIS MUNSICK

BEST WESTERN DOWNTOWN CASPER

— NOVEMBER 11 AT 8:15 PM —

