



Wyoming Agriculture

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Second Judge sides with farmers by halting WOTUS rule

APRIL 12, 2023, WASHINGTON, D.C.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall calls a second U.S. District Court ruling to halt the 2023 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule a win for farmers. The April 12 ruling, out of North Dakota, stops implementation of the rule in 24 states, including Wyoming. The first ruling, out of Texas, halted the rule in two states.

“This ruling reinforces our belief that the current WOTUS Rule is a clear case of government overreach. AFBF proudly stood with the 24 states involved and more than a dozen other organizations in this challenge and in backing the first successful court challenge on behalf of farmers and ranchers who simply want clear rules.

“Two District Courts have now acknowledged the new rule likely oversteps EPA’s authority under the Clean Water Act. With the rule now on hold in more than half the country, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps should do the right thing by listening to our legitimate concerns and rewriting the rule to draw a bright line of jurisdiction.

“This isn’t just a philosophical dispute: farmers and ranchers in the remaining states are left with no clear way to determine where federal jurisdiction begins and ends on their own property. The rule creates a fuzzy, subjective assessment that’s unfair to landowners.

“Here’s the bottom line: clean water is important to all of us and farmers and ranchers certainly share the goal of caring for our natural resources – we depend on them for our livelihoods – all we’re asking for is a sensible rule that farmers can interpret without hiring a team of lawyers.”

The 24 states impacted by the April 12th ruling are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The first decision to halt the rule came from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas on March 20, 2023. It stopped implementation of the rule in Texas and Idaho. ■



SPRINGTIME IN WYOMING

Springtime in Wyoming for farmers and ranchers means the start of a new cycle of life. The diversity of landscapes, commodities and weather across the state makes Wyoming unique. This photo of spring planting in Park County was submitted by Park County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Josh Christofferson.

JOSH CHRISTOFFERSON PHOTO.

Legislative Interim Topics 2023

BY BRETT MOLINE

The Wyoming Legislative interim season is once again upon us. Each year, the Legislative Management Council sets the priorities for the next legislative session. These priorities are what each committee is to work on to develop legislation, if needed. The Council is made up of leadership from the House and the Senate.

The following topics, by committee, are those assigned interim topics in which the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) will take an active interest.

Appropriations

This committee will look at Environmental Social Governance (ESG) issues and determine if legislation is needed on this topic. This committee will review ESG policies of investment firms. WyFB policy is opposed to firms using ESG scores to rate other companies. This becomes important for the minerals industry to obtain financing. Some invest-

ment companies will not invest in other companies that are involved in natural resource production, like mining and agriculture.

Revenue

This committee will take a look at taxing electrical generation. This topic will include looking at a credit for taxes already assessed, and looking at equity among all generation types.

The Revenue Committee will examine property tax issues. This includes looking at property tax code, tax relief, and options for lowering property taxes.

Sales taxes will also be a topic of this committee. One topic is eliminating tax exemptions, but lowering the sales tax rate for those categories.

WyFB supports lowering tax burdens. WyFB will not support reducing or eliminating tax exemptions for agriculture. WyFB’s stance is the final product should be taxed, but not the inputs for the final product.

Agriculture, State and Public Lands, and Water Resources

This committee will specifically look at Colorado River Basin issues and get an update on aging infrastructure. WyFB is concerned changes in the Colorado River Compact could have negative impacts on Wyoming agriculture and other industries using Colorado River water. WyFB will keep abreast of developments in this issue.

This committee will look at issues dealing with eminent domain and the effects on private property rights. This committee will examine issues with exchange and sales of state lands.

WyFB policy supports consolidating public lands to improve management of these lands, rather than having small parcels that do not have access. Larger parcels are typically easier to manage.

Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions

This committee will look at how to improve elections and how they are run in Wyoming.

This committee will also examine electric utility issues in the state. This committee will have a focus on renewable forms of generation and how that affects the system.

WyFB policy supports using all sources of electricity, as long as the cost of production keeps electrical rates as low as possible.

Transportation

One issue this committee will work on is funding the state’s road system.

WyFB will oppose any increase in fuel taxes or implementing a toll system on Wyoming roads.

These are not all the topics interim committees will cover. These topics are ones which WyFB will for sure be involved in the discussions. Other committees and topics will be monitored to see what directions the topics go and if WyFB needs to be involved.

The position WyFB takes on these topics, as always, is dependent on the WyFB policies developed by its members. ■

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

- May**
9 Select Water Legislative Committee – Cheyenne
25-26 Joint Legislative Transportation Interim Committee Meeting – Douglas
30-31 Joint Legislative Corporations Interim Committee Meeting – Lander
- June**
1 WyFB Membership Committee Meeting –Hilton Garden Inn in Casper
1 WyFB Board Meeting-Hilton Garden Inn in Casper
5-6 Joint Legislative Agriculture Interim Committee Meeting-Torrington
12-13 Joint Legislative Travel Interim Committee Meeting-Evanston
14 Select Federal Natural Resources Management Legislative Committee Meeting –Rock Springs
- November**
9-11 WyFB 104th Annual Meeting – Cheyenne

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates



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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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New H-2A Wage Rule Set to Crush Family Farms

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



At the end of March, the Department of Labor's new formula for H-2A wages, the Adverse Effect Wage Rate or AEWR, took effect. Now farm families across the country, small farms especially, are taking a hard look at their balance sheets, and many may find it hard to stay afloat. Although the administration says it supports farmers, its agency's actions are having the opposite effect. The AEWR is long overdue for a fix, but this wasn't it.

DOL largely ignored input from across the agricultural community. Instead of addressing inconsistencies and fixing its flawed wage formula, they actually managed to make it even worse. Rather than bringing the consistency and fairness that we called for, the 2023 AEWR impacts small farmers disproportionately and is wildly unpredictable. What's more—it doesn't factor in the already competitive wages farmers pay to ensure we have enough hands to plant, tend and harvest crops, or care for animals.

The 2023 AEWR has some states facing wage increases well over 10%, outpacing inflation and jumping dramatically from previous years. Take Michigan for example. In 2022, H-2A wages increased 3.5%, but in 2023, the increase will be nearly 13%. Traveling to the Southeast, take a look at Florida's H-2A wages, which increased 6.5% in 2022. With the 2023 increase, Florida's farm wages are now increasing another 15.5%.

Keep in mind that those two examples are average increases. The 2023 AEWR increase gets even higher when you take into account that the new rule requires the adjusted wage to match the highest-skilled duty performed on the farm by a given worker. As farmers and ranchers know, we wear many hats on the farm and the same goes for our employees, especially on smaller farms. Let's say one of your employees is responsible for driving other employees to and from the farm every day. Well, under the new AEWR rule, that employee would be paid a higher "chauffeur rate," not only for the hours spent driving but also for every other task they complete on the farm, regardless of the level of skill involved. Depending on your state's wage rate, you could wind up paying that employee an extra 30% overall. Our economists have dug into the impact these changes could have on farms of all sizes in a recent Market Intel. If you're not already fired up, I guarantee you will be after seeing our analysis.

With farm wages running as high as 40% of farm operating costs, this new AEWR rule cannot stand. And at Farm Bureau, we are not just standing by and hoping for a better outcome. Getting reasonable H-2A reform that works for all has long been a priority across our organization, and stopping the 2023 AEWR is at the forefront of our efforts in Congress.

Farm Bureau is calling on Congress to deliver a fair and reasonable solution to the 2023 AEWR—one that does not exchange one problem for another or enshrine a fundamentally flawed process into law. Thanks to efforts by the Georgia and North Carolina Farm Bureaus, a bill has already been introduced in the Senate to provide a stopgap. The bipartisan Farm Operations Support Act (S.874) led by Senators Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) would temporarily reset the AEWR at 2022 levels. The 2022 levels were not ideal, but this bill is critical to help our farms stay in production while we find a workable, permanent solution. We also have joined with nearly 600 farm organizations and agribusinesses to urge Congress to support a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. We need Congress and the administration to deliver certainty and fairness to the farm economy.

Farmers value our employees, and we are committed to paying competitive wages. On my family farm, some of my employees have been with me for decades and they are like family. I know that the same can be said on farms across the country. These new wage increases only make it harder for farmers to remain competitive. Our employees, our communities and our country are counting on us to keep our farms running through all seasons. We cannot afford a delay. ■

Food, Fiber, Fuel

Todd Fornstrom

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President



Last year Wyoming farmers saw less crop production, causing thousands and thousands of dollars to be lost in input expenses. Unfortunately, this may only get worse this year.

As more policies move towards producing alternative energy solutions, traditional energy production is losing federal support. As a result, countless farmers relying on energy products, like diesel and fertilizer, are at risk of delayed production and, even worse, losing their farms, as energy costs also continue to soar in comparison to recent years.

Without these vital energy products, agriculture's decline could also end up damaging our national GDP as well as consumers that rely on the availability of certain crops. With the nation's disrupted supply chain, labor shortages, and price hikes on fertilizers, farmers are struggling to meet the growing demand for everyday food items like wheat and eggs. Without a better solution, consumers, grocery stores,

and even restaurants will feel the heavy strain of energy inflation risking severe food insecurity for millions of Americans.

Federal and state lawmakers must take a thoughtful, measured approach and avoid moving away from natural gas. We are already seeing disruptions in electric reliability, which is difficult on farmers and ranchers and families alike. Policy makers must acknowledge food production is heavily dependent upon the petroleum industry with inputs not readily replaced from renewable energy sources. We support an all-the-above approach to our energy needs, including investments in technology which can bolster our energy and agricultural economies while also advancing renewable energy.

Wyoming is working hard on this front and has taken a leading position on carbon capture. In his State of the State address, Governor Mark Gordon referenced carbon capture six times and the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Devel-

opment Committee will make it a primary focus of their work during the interim. We look forward to learning more about the technology and how it can benefit core economic sectors in Wyoming, including agriculture.

Studies show that carbon capture is critical to decarbonizing larger-emitting but vital industries like mining, refining, and chemical processing. Industry is under attack, be it coal, natural gas or agriculture. We've all seen articles questioning the future of Wyoming's leading industries. It is essential that we collectively embrace technological advancements. This is especially true given the role industry plays in our everyday lives producing essential products from food, to pharmaceuticals, to cell phones.

Carbon capture technology can allow farmers and ranchers to continue to use essential natural gas and mining resources.

FOOD, FIBER, FUEL ... Page 5

USDA Eartags – A pricy solution in search of a problem

BY CONGRESSWOMAN HARRIET HAGEMAN
 In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), issued a proposed rule entitled “Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison.” This flawed rule equates to nothing less than a centralized mandate on America’s agriculture community, which must then bear the financial and logistical burdens associated with this ill-conceived and unnecessary regulation.

APHIS’s proposed rule would amend the existing animal disease traceability regulations adopted in 2013 to require that eartags be both visually and electronically readable to be recognized for use as official identification for the interstate movement of cattle and bison. As is typically the case with government overreach, there are at least two incorrect and

insupportable assumptions at the heart of this proposed rule. The first assumption is that there is a limited burden placed upon ranchers in the implementation of this new mandate. The second is that ranchers do not already have a robust incentive to protect their herd from disease. Ignoring concerns from the ranching community, USDA has barreled ahead in a manner that ignores the interests, expertise, and opposition of America’s ranchers, and to instead enforce mandates developed by D.C. bureaucrats who have never worked cows, taken care of livestock, or tried to make a living in a low-margin industry.

This proposed rule itself exposes its flaws, undermining the very purpose for this burdensome and expensive requirement: “The ability to trace animals accurately and rapidly does not prevent disease epidemics...” This rule does, however, place burdensome and unrealistic regula-

tions on cattle and bison producers, force undue stress on the animals, and carries a heavy price tag that will only grow as technology and requirements change.

The USDA’s additional “justifications” for this federal mandate are both far-fetched and contradictory. For example, the proposed rule relies on the notion that errors can occur when recording a non-EID tag on paper and entering it into a database. Surely typos are not a legitimate basis for major federal action and are an unfounded suggestion that ranchers are doing sloppy work. There is also no guarantee of protecting herd, rancher, and veterinarian data – opening the door to potential theft for those intending to discriminate, retaliate, or impose baseless liability claims against domestic cattle producers. Further, this proposed rule does not address the legitimate concerns establishing country of origin. If an animal is

born outside the United States, then raised domestically, is this animal tagged with a U.S. code when it reaches adulthood and has lost its official import tag?

When addressing concerns to the EID tag mandate, the USDA cited in response that “the official RFID tags are easily read visually and therefore could be used as they are currently using non-EID tags without the added expense of purchasing reading equipment.” This admission makes no sense in the context of the stated purpose for the rule in the first place as it implies that the old visual system, which APHIS claims is rife with human transcription errors, can continue to be used - just with the use of the new EID tags, which raises numerous questions as to why a \$26.1 million dollar price tag should be placed on the ranching community in the first place.

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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.

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

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Channel your passion to make an impact

BY ALETTA GRAUBERGER, WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE SECRETARY/CENTRAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Hi! I am Aletta, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher Committee Secretary. I was born and raised in Natrona County, and this is my home. My husband Ryan and I work for the City of Casper, and we enjoy working on my family's hay/feeder hog operation and helping with our local 4-H program.

My first memorable experience with the Farm Bureau Federation was when I was twelve. The county president at the time wanted to promote some of the local 4-H kids, so he presented them with their jackets. Although my family has always been federation members, I remember being so excited to have a jacket sponsored by another agriculture organization. It represented to me two like-minded organizations that can support each other.

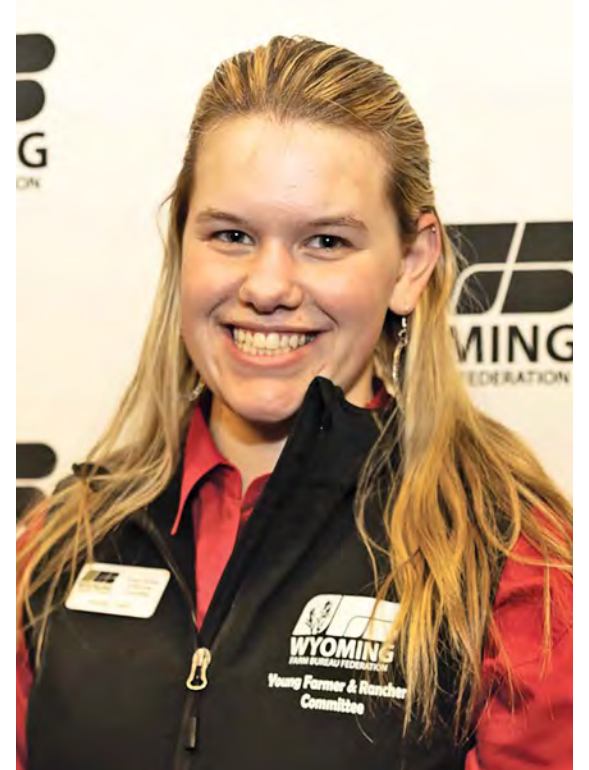
Now as I serve on the Natrona County Farm and Ranch Bureau board of directors, I have had the opportunity to give to other organizations. NCF&R Bureau supports the local Bred N' Fed program, which encourages Natrona County youth to raise and show calves born here in Natrona County. We donate money to allow the show committee to give away cash awards at each of the three series shows and for an overall placing award. This program not only supports 4-H members but FFA members too. We enjoy having each year's winners share their experience in the Bred N' Fed



Aletta and Ryan Grauberger

Program at our county's annual banquet with our regular membership.

The county banquet is one of the highlights of my Farm Bureau calendar year because seeing 70 regular federation members gather to share stories, fellowship, and laughter is incredible. Our coun-



Aletta Grauberger, WyFB YF&R Committee Secretary

ty board of directors chose to bring in a guest speaker last year from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and this was such a great experience! This event is one night at a local restaurant. This night's impact on me made me realize that your positive effects could be limited to a four-hour event, but you never know whom you could serve in another positive way. Can you imagine how much more positivity and kindness this world would have if we all worked to create an encouraging experience for someone else?

I would never have imagined the fantastic opportunities that Farm Bureau has given me. My role as a member of the YF&R committee is to serve on the Promotions sub-committee. This sub-committee organizes the Ag Books for Kids program. Ag Books for Kids puts books about agriculture into classrooms across the state each year. Being a part of choosing the book each year and creating contests and activities to go with the book allow me to reach an audience that this world truly needs - the kindergarten through fifth graders. They will be the next generation to care for our planet. So how can we ex-


pect them to provide for us one day if they have yet to learn about agriculture?

Last November, our committee served the Wyoming community by volunteering at the Food Bank of Wyoming. We packed 216 boxes of food for the EverGreen Box program which provides a monthly delivery of food for older adults. We also teamed up with our fellow members and through a raffle raised funds for the Food Bank of Wyoming which were equivalent to 8,235 meals for Wyoming families facing hunger. Our committee of 11 (at the time) impacted those people who received those meals. Facilities like this are excellent ways for anyone to get involved without having any agriculture background/experience.

Each person has their passions and desires, and I encourage you to channel these to make your impact mean more to you. If young children aren't your thing, maybe a seat on your county Farm Bureau's board would be a better fit. Consider serving at your local food bank or homeless shelter. No matter what your niche is, I encourage you to find a way to positively impact someone this year using your knowledge or passion for agriculture. ■



Collegiate Farm Bureau Booth at Wyoming FFA Convention University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau Members Sydnie Fornstrom and Abbigale Havey at the 2023 Wyoming FFA State Convention Trade Show. What is YOUR FUTURE in agriculture leadership? Opportunities are endless! There are many opportunities for college students to get involved in agriculture leadership.




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National news updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

WOTUS CRA/ court cases

At the end of March, the US House and Senate both passed the WOTUS Congressional Review Act measure of disapproval for the rule in hopes of stopping implementation. However, at the beginning of April, President Biden vetoed this effort as expected. Although this is discouraging to farmers and ranchers, on April 12, the US District Court for the District of North Dakota enjoined (stopped) the 2023 WOTUS rule in over 20 states.

These injunctions were made in: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio,

Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

AEWR CRA

The new Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) methodology for H2-A workers as of 2023, indicates that significant wage increases on farmers and ranchers of all sizes using the guest worker program will happen under this rule that is currently in effect. There are potentially two legislative vehicles for stopping this rule as it stands that will be considered in the coming weeks. If the measure passes both chambers and is signed by the President, the rule will essentially become unenforceable.

BLM rule

At the end of March, the BLM released their recent proposed rule that would up-end public land management. This rule would propose substantive changes to its interpretation of the Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA). It is adding conservation- as defined by protection and restoration activities- on equal footing with other uses under the multiple-use doctrine contained in the nearly 50-year-old land management law.

This proposal would apply land-health standards to all the hundreds of millions of acres that it manages, create "conservation leases" which could be used as a mitigation avenue, and to create more Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The creation of 10- year (or longer) conservation leases is being proposed as an extension of their management responsibilities and are generally going to be made available to entities seeking to restore public lands as a mitigation measure for another one of their particular activities.

Regarding ACECs, the proposed rule seems to attempt to expand the use of this conservation tool in strengthening identification and implementation of these areas of non-use. AFBF has specific policy against the use of ACEC's because of the extreme conservation designation that these agreements often come with.

We remain concerned that this proposal could have far-reaching implications for our farming and ranching families in the state. Comments on the proposed rule are due June 20. ■

FOOD, FIBER, FUEL... From Page 2

Considering the Cowboy state's unique expertise in mining and extraction, there is great potential to use carbon capture technology to help increase domestic energy production while continuing to reduce emission impacts on the environment. By extracting crude oil, the state could also increase the production of fuel like diesel and ethanol as well as fertilizer for farming while capturing about 90% of carbon emissions. Commendable goals that warrant support from true conserva-

tionists, those of us who make a life and living from the land.

Let's give credit to Wyoming for working on solutions. If carbon capture can give Wyoming a seat at the table and ensure that all our farmers, ranchers, families, and communities have the resources they need, we should lend our support. The doomsday scenario playing out in the press is simply not realistic for civilization, let alone our rural communities and lifestyle. People need to eat and as we know, food isn't produced in a grocery store. ■



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WYOMING AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES MEDIATION PROGRAM

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The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader James Ramsay

County: Sweetwater
 Farm Bureau Leadership Position(s):

- Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation President
- Southwest District Alternate Director
- WyFB State and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe ranch background.

Ramsay: I am a 5th generation rancher who, along with my two brothers, operates a small cow calf ranch and put up some hay for ourselves.

Wyoming Agriculture: Education, Hobbies and Other Background.

Ramsay: I have a B.S. in geology from the University of Wyoming and I am currently employed at one of the trona mines located in Sweetwater County. When I am not working and can get away from the ranch, I spend most of my time riding motorcycles and traveling overseas.

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

Ramsay: My aunt and uncle had me buy a membership and then took me to the annual state convention and after that I was hooked.

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

Ramsay: I make time to be involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership because of all the opportunities for personal growth. I have met many interesting people and I have learned a lot. For example, I did not know anything about parliamentary procedure before joining Farm Bureau and now I am a state committee chairman.

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

Ramsay: Farm Bureau's policies regarding water development have made irrigation improvements much easier to get implemented. Living within the upper Colorado River watershed makes water development and conservation even more important.

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

Ramsay: The biggest thing that you can do to make an impact is to attend the meetings. The decisions are made by the people who show up. Becoming a board member or committee member is a surefire way to make your opinion heard.

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

Ramsay: Wild horse management is an issue of concern for many Sweetwater County ranchers.

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

Ramsay: Each member of the Federation is important because each member brings a unique perspective to the table. For example, when discussing policy at the annual Farm Bureau district and state meetings somebody always has a viewpoint or idea regarding a policy that I would have never thought of without the discussion. ■



James Ramsay, WyFB State and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair



James Ramsay packing calves



Replacing a backhoe engine on the ranch



James and his brothers haying

Ranch and Livestock Symposium in Albany County

The Albany County Farm Bureau Federation (ACFBF) hosted their inaugural Ranch and Livestock Symposium on April 22. Held at WyoTech in Laramie, the symposium was free to the community. Featured speakers ShayLe and Jimmy Stewart, of Big Country Genetics, discussed the cattle market and profitability. ShayLe is also a cattle market analyst for DTN and on Cattle Market News. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Director of Public and Governmental Affairs Brett Moline provided a legislative update. Attendees enjoyed great discussion, networking and food. ■



Members of the ACFBF Board of Directors with the Stewarts. L to r: Russ Austin; Sharleen Castle; John Wetstein; ShayLe and Jimmy Stewart; Kathy Austin, Samantha and Chris Starks. BROOKE ROES PHOTO.



Speaker ShayLe Stewart discussing the cattle market and the impact of the drought. CHRIS STARKS PHOTO.

*Cooking with the
Modern Ranch Wife*

SKILLET PIZZA

Recipe by Connie Werner Source: Allrecipes.com and Chef Rider



INGREDIENTS:

CRUST:

- 1 cup warm water
- 1 package active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt

TOPPINGS:

pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions, olives, mozzarella cheese, pizza sauce

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 425°
2. In a large bowl mix yeast, water, and sugar. Let sit for 10 minutes.
3. Add flour, oil and salt. Mix until smooth. Let rest 5-10 minutes.
4. Knead dough for a few minutes.
5. Drizzle olive oil into a well seasoned 12 inch cast iron skillet. Stretch dough until it covers the bottom of the skillet.
6. Bake for 3-4 minutes. Remove from oven and add your favorite sauce and toppings.
7. Return to oven and cook until the cheese is melted and edges are browned.
8. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes.
9. Enjoy!

■ FOR MORE RECIPES VISIT: www.modernranchwife.com

Farm Bureau Gold, Silver and Century Club 2022 Member Recognition

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots membership organization that cares about your future. We believe 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.

The Farm Bureau Federation is organized, controlled and financed by members who pay annual dues. Each voice added to the united Farm Bureau voice helps keep agriculture strong. Gold Club, Silver Club, and Century Club memberships are available to Farm Bureau Federation members, associate and regular, who want to increase their level of support. In addition to the standard member benefits, members in these three tiers receive a weekly legislative update during the Wyoming Legislature and annual recognition in *Wyoming Agriculture*.

We thank all members for supporting the work of the Federation.

GOLD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Agriculture is one of the economic keystones for Wyoming and membership supports the farmers and ranchers who help keep our state strong. By becoming a Gold Club Member for only \$1.37 per day you show the greatest level of membership support for your county, state and national Farm Bureau Federation as well as your Wyoming neighbors who work the land.

Gold Club Members

- Denise & Kevin Baars, Lusk
- John Cullen, Saratoga
- Todd Fornstrom/ Premium Hay Products, LLC, Pine Bluffs
- Kathy & Ken Hamilton, Laramie
- Melissa & Matthew Stroh, Newcastle

SILVER CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The two percent of our population that grow food for the rest of us face daunting issues. Issues affecting agriculture include regulatory pressures, private property rights and access to important tools to keep growing food for our country. Your contribution of only 69¢ per day supports an organization that supports you and works to keep agriculture strong in Wyoming.

Silver Club Members

- Boner Bros Partnership, Douglas
- Sammie & Cole Coxbill, Torrington
- Joni & Robert Pennock, Pinedale
- Julie & Ron Rabou/ Rabou Farms Inc, Albin

CENTURY CLUB MEMBERSHIP

For over a century the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has united to keep agriculture strong and support the production of food. Increase your level of support for this centennial organization by joining or upgrading to a Century Club membership for only 27¢ per day.

Century Club Members

Albany

Holly & Steve Beumee/ Bear Creek Cattle Co, Rock River; Barbara Bourret*, Cheyenne; Sharleen & William Castle, Bosler; Julie & Chris Devine, Laramie; John Dougherty, Laramie; Laurie & Randy Dunn/ Bath Brothers Ranch, Laramie; Brian Fawcett/ Lost Springs Ranch, Laramie; Ronda & Ron Harding, Laramie; Patricia & Zachary Jacobson, Laramie; Leanne Roehl & Donny Kaneshiro, Laramie; Judy & Brett Moline, Laramie; Suzy Noecker, Laramie; Alice & Carl Shaffer*, Rock River; David Speiser/Biddick Ranch, Buffalo; Samantha & Chris Starks, Laramie; First Interstate Bank, Laramie

Big Horn

Tim & Lorilyn Beck, Lovell; Marylou & Lin Doyle/ Doyle Ranches Inc, Hyattville; David Flitner*, Boca Ratan, FL; Jim Geesey, Laramie; Eleanor Hamilton/ Hamilton Ranch Inc, Hyattville; Linda & Keith Hamilton/ Hamilton Ranch Inc*, Hyattville; Patricia & Jeffery Ingram, Greybull; Todd Jones, Hyattville; Frank Kelly/ Kelly Brothers, Greybull; Dorene & Walter Mayland, Basin; Melanie & Kavin Stockert, Greybull; David Tate, Hyattville; Zachary Tippetts, Lovell; Paul & Troy Wambeke, Cowley; Mary Whaley, Greybull

Campbell

James & Kyle Bell/ Riata Ranch LLC, Gillette; Brian Collins/ Collins Ranch, Gillette; Renee & Tom Davis/ Davis Land & Livestock, Gillette; Leroy Dike, Gillette; Darci & Marty Edwards, Gillette; Beryl & Darel Geer, Gillette; Amanda & Lexington Geer*, Gillette; Gwendolyn & Gerald Geis, Gillette; Kevin Geis/ 4G Land LLC, Gillette; Matt Avery & Marty Graham/ T Milliron Livestock LLC, Rozet; Wanda & John Groves/ Groves Ranch LLC, Gillette; Stephanie & Kerry Hayden/ Carr Draw LLC*, Gillette; Mary & Kevin Hunter, Moorcroft; Mary & Donald Joslyn, Gillette; Patricia Litton/ Isenberger Land LLC, Gillette; Verna & Jon Mahle, Gillette; Joel Ohman*, Gillette; Becky & Cody Moorcroft, Gillette; Audrey & Matthew Reno, Gillette; Jeanie & Ronald Schlautmann, Gillette; Mary & Marion Scott, Gillette; Julie & Michael Smith, Gillette; Merna Swanson, Gillette; Toni Swartz*, Gillette; Mary & Troy Swartz, Gillette; Ohman's Incorporated, Gillette

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Doris & Jerry Sober/ El Shaddai*, Douglas; Alice Vollman*, Douglas; John Sullivan, Douglas; Robert Vollman, Douglas; Roni & Brady Vollman, Douglas; Connie & John Werner/ JP Werner & Sons Inc, Douglas; Wagonhound L&L, Douglas

Crook

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Tena & Elden Baldwin*, Torrington; Nicole & Dan Bleak, Laramie; Diane & Shawn Booth/ Cherry Creek Ranch, Veteran; Kaitlin & Jake Buckhaults, Hawk Springs; Annie & Joe Campbell, Jay Em; Kerin & Jake Clark, Yoder; Debbie Curry, Torrington; Loretta & Art Davis/ Davis Livestock Inc, Torrington; Patricia & John Ellis, Torrington; Barb & Wayne Erickson, Torrington; Brandy & Kevin Evans/Evans Cattle Co, LaGrange; Tami & Edward Greenwald/Greenwald Farms Inc, Lingle; Dinelle & Dewey Hageman, Jay Em; Mary & Hugh Hageman, Fort Laramie; Kelli & Brett Hageman, Fort Laramie; Lane Hageman, Fort Laramie; Renae & Shawn P. Hall, Goodyear, AZ; Lynette Malm-Hunter & Kent Hunter, Yoder; Gayle & David Johnson/ Round House Farm & Ranch, LaGrange; Linda & Jerry Keeran, Torrington; Kody & Tyler McClun, Veteran; Carol & Donald McDowell, Fort Laramie; Christine & Paul Miller/ Miller Cattle & Feedyards, Torrington; Linda Nichol, Lingle; Chrissy & Blake Ochsner, Torrington; Lori & Steve Schafer, Veteran; Cheri & Corey Steinmetz, Lingle; Charles Sylvester, La Salle, CO; Dennis Thaler, LaGrange; Lois Van Mark*, Torrington; Janet & Rod Wagner, Lingle; Debra & Byron Yeik, Veteran; Z&W Mill, Torrington; Pinnacle Bank, Torrington; Points West Community Bank, Torrington

Hot Springs

Ellen & Jack Baird, Thermopolis; Virginia & John Baird, Thermopolis; Barbara Campbell, Thermopolis; Cindy & James Collins, Thermopolis; Fred & Leanne Correll, Thermopolis; Cindy & David Denton,

Farm Bureau Gold, Silver and Century Club 2022 Member Recognition

CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS ... From Page 8

Thermopolis; Carol Dockery, Thermopolis; Katherine & Joe Gloyd*, Wilmington, DE; Sash & Nick Moline, Thermopolis; John Roden, Thermopolis; Carol & Ray Shaffer, Thermopolis; Kathy & Wedg Taylor, Thermopolis; Ginger & Paul Ward, Thermopolis; Pepper & Mark Whitt, Thermopolis; Terry & James Wilson, Thermopolis

Johnson

Michelle & Bill Burke, Buffalo; Tracie & John Curuchet, Kaycee; Helen & Thomas Jones*, Buffalo; Linda & Tom Lulias, Buffalo; Amy Gonzales & Lori Lutterman/ V Bar F Cattle Co, Buffalo; Don & Pete Meike/ Meike Ranch Inc*, Kaycee; Sally & Wallace Ramsbottom, Buffalo; William Ramsbottom, Buffalo; Crystal & Nick Smith, Buffalo; Raei & Troy Stone, Banner; First Northern Bank, Buffalo

Laramie

Kristopher Aaron, Cheyenne; Rodney Anderson, Pine Bluffs; Jeffrey Appleman, Burns; Sammy & Warren Ayala*, Sheridan; Arnold Bautista, Pine Bluffs; Chastity & Jason Bell, Fort Collins; Beth Boreczky, Cheyenne; Dennis Bruns, Pine Bluffs; Becky & John Culek, Pine Bluffs; Donna & James Dolan, Cheyenne; Jonathan Downing, Cheyenne; Kent Drake, Cheyenne; Leonard Fornstrom, Pine Bluffs; Jackelyn & Russell Fornstrom*, Pine Bluffs; Laura & Todd Fornstrom, Pine Bluffs; Justin & Mark Fornstrom/ Lodgepole Valley Potatoes, Pine Bluffs; Kevin Hefley/ Airtime Aerial LLC, Pine Bluffs; Norman Holmes/ R BAR H Ranch Inc, Cheyenne; Nikki Malcom & David Kilpatrick*, Cheyenne; Katlyn & Ryan Klinginsmith, Pine Bluffs; Marla Knigge, Pine Bluffs; Kathy McKinzie, Cheyenne; Taylen & Shawn Mollett, Cheyenne; James Roberts, Cheyenne; Lorraine & Gary Smith, Carpenter; Wendy & Joshua Tangeman, Pine Bluffs; Marius Wilson/ Quarter Circle Lonetree Ranch*, Cheyenne; Barbara & Roy Young, Burns; Ferguson Ranch, Inc., Cheyenne

Lincoln

Barbara & Ronald Crook, Freedom; Michelle & Shane Crook, Freedom; Kelly & Iris Jaspersen*, Afton; Bradford Merritt, Thayne; Terry & Ellis Nelson, Layton; Tamey & Steven Peternal, Kemmerer; Donna & Gordon White, Thayne

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Terry Allbright/ True Value Hardware, Lusk; Chelsea Baars, Lusk; Kim & Shawn Bruegger, Manville; Rona Bruegger, Lost

Spring; Mary & Charles Engebretsen, Lost Springs; Jeb Hanson, Lusk; Donna Harvey, Lance Creek; Catherine & Bradley James, Torrington; Dana & Dwight Krein, Lusk; Katie & Travis Krein, Lusk; Katherine & James Kruse, Lusk; Tom Marshik, Lusk; Lexie & Thomas Painter, Lusk; Rhonda Pfister/ Jack Pfister Ranch, Lusk; Jessie & Jordan Reed, Newcastle; Alicia & Rich Robertson, Crawford, NE; Sara & John Sampers, Lusk; Carmen & Jimmy Shane, Lusk; Joann & Patrick Wade, Lusk; Carson Wurdeman/ Wurdeman Brothers, Lusk; Lola & Melvin ZumBrunnen, Lusk; Robb Brothers, Lusk

Park

Ron Arnall, Powell; Nancy & Max Baker, Powell; Arthur & Shirley Bales, Cody; Debbie & Steve Christiansen/ Macris Farms, Powell; Jojean Dehony/ Jojean Dehony Limited Partnership, Cody; Corey Forman/ Big Country Farms, Powell; Toni & Larry French, Powell; Dorothy & Gary Fulton*, Powell; Shelby & David Gilliatt, Powell; Linda Herman/ Larsen Ranch Co, Meeteetse; Kurt Hopkin, Wapiti; Carrie & Fred Hopkin/ Shoshone Valley Crop & Seed*, Powell; Katie & Garrett Horton, Basin; Emily Hummel, Cody; Stephen Jones, Meeteetse; Jeanna & Robert Kennedy, Cody; Leslie & Vayda McNeil, Cody; Joy & Joe McNeil*, Cody; Kathy & Joe Reed*, Cody; Beth & Paul Rodriguez/ Rodriguez Farms, Powell; Wendy & Regan Smith, Powell; Cathy & Brett Whitlock, Cody; Bull Creek Farms LLC, Cody; L Gary & Betty Lee Lundvall Liv Trust, Cody

Platte

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Sublette

Barbara & Norman Pape/ Pape Ranches Inc, Daniel; Terrie & Robert Springman*, Big Piney

Sweetwater

Peggy & Marvin Applequist*, Farson; Shirley & Ralph DeLambert/ DeLambert LLC, Eden; Kim & Clint DeLambert, Farson; Jean Dickinson/ Vermillion Ranch, Rock Springs; Patrick Erramouspe/ E2 Electrical Contractor Inc., Rock Springs; Stephen Griffin, Farson; Valinda & Steven Harns, Farson; Carolyn & Christopher Harns, Farson; Mary Hay/ Bar X Sheep Company, Rock Springs; Lynn & Keith Hay, Rock Springs; Cameron Hokanson,

Rock Springs; Gail & Scott Johnson, Farson; Seth Jones, Farson; James Mines, Farson; Teresa & Ronald Noble, Farson; Trudy Moon-Slagowski & Steve Slagowski, Farson; Dona & David Stauffer, Rock Springs; Mary A Thoman*, Kemmerer; Susan & Richard Thoman, Kemmerer; Roxanne & Andy Tomich, Pinedale; Steven Tomich, Rock Springs; Kristy Wardell & Mike Freimuth, Kemmerer; HNK Ranch LLC, Green River

Teton

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Uinta

Farrell Alleman, Lyman; Sandra & Gary Barker, Evanston; Nancy & Brent Barker, Evanston; Patsy & Vearl Bird, Fort Bridger; Vance Broadbent/ JRB LLC, Evanston; Janice & Joe Brown, Evanston; Dana & Steve Catlin, Robertson; Gayle & Dennis Cornelison, Evanston; Vicki & Dennis Covolo*, Mountain View; Kristi & Justin Ellis, Lyman; Karen & Garie Henry*, Robertson; Garie Henry/ Henry Ranch, Robertson; Dawn & Stuart Hickman, Robertson; Van Johnson, Evanston; Helen & Carl Larson/ Larson Livestock Inc*, Lyman; Margaret & Leonard Lester, Evanston; Denise & Dana Lester, Evanston; Melanie & Stephen Moscinski, Evanston; Judy Myers, Evanston; Judy

Myers, Evanston; Mark Powers, Lyman; Michael Sims/ Sims Ranch, Evanston; Angela & Justin Sweep, Lyman

Washakie

Sarah & Aaron Anderson/ Anderson Ranch Inc., Ten Sleep; Robert Brubaker, Ten Sleep; Rebecca & Senator Ed Cooper/ Cooper Land & Livestock LLC, Ten Sleep; Tad DeBolt/ Big Horn Federal, Worland; Michelle & Douglas Hamilton*, Worland; Beth & James Hefenieder, Worland; Lisa & Richard McKamey/ McKamey Properties LLC, Worland; Hugh Miller, Worland; Donna Mills/ R M Ranch Company, Ten Sleep; Dakota & Kristopher Mull, Worland; Roxillee & Angus Powell, Worland; Lauree & Chris Schmeltzer, Worland; Karen & Michael Vigil, Manderson; Pinnacle Bank, Worland

Weston

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**LIFE MEMBER: While we no longer offer the lifetime membership program, we continue to recognize those who are life members of the Federation.*



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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.

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New Members

ALBANY

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CAMPBELL

Vermona & James Petersen, Gillette; Joshua Rose, Pinedale

CARBON

Granit Ready, Dixon; Gail & James Lee, Encampment; John Ryan, Encampment; Shirley & Joseph Lansing, Elk Mountain; Amy & Justin Bentsen, Rawlins; Lisa & Richard Lorenz, Encampment

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CROOK

Carl Kuemmerle (REG), Upton; Darlene & Jason Coder, Sundance; Monte Neiman, Hulett; Jenna & Morgan Ellsbury (REG), Sundance; Barbara & Terry Goodvin (REG), Hulett

FREMONT

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Barbara Love, Thermopolis; Teresa & Donald Fields, Thermopolis; Glen Kumm (REG), Worland; Janice & Ronnie Gladson, Thermopolis; John B Roden Jr. (REG), Thermopolis; Mark Sexton, Thermopolis; Spring Longwell, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

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PLATTE

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Katelin Taylor (REG), Big Piney

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Shannon & Doug Soderstrom, Worland; Jennifer Ray, Worland; Amy & Jeremy Pittsley, Thermopolis

WESTON

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Obituary



Shirley Dawn Lilley

August 29, 1932 – March 17, 2023

Shirley Dawn (Wright) Lilley, 90, of Laramie, peacefully passed from her earthly home and went to be with her Lord on Friday, March 17, 2023. She was born August 29, 1932 in Cheyenne, WY to Alan (Curly) and Nina Wright. Her father was a bricklayer by trade, but also a very skilled horseman who trained horses for his family and others. In High School, Shirley helped with the training. She said, "He took the buck out, I put the miles on." The family moved to Laramie where she graduated Laramie High School in 1950. She attended the University of Wyoming for a year, where she was on the rodeo team, becoming an accomplished rodeo cowgirl. In 1952, Shirley and Frank Lilley were married. That year, they moved to the 57,000 acre Chimney Rock Ranch in Albany County, where they spent the next 35 years, their entire married life together, as ranch managers and raising their three children Clay, Carol, and Julie. Shirley never shied away from any of the work cattle and children require. Fencing (often in rough country on foot or horseback), haying, cooking, bookkeeping, checking windmills and water, all between checking, doctoring, and moving cattle prior to gathering, sorting and shipping 5,000 head with 50 different brands in the fall, were the things she did while raising her kids and supporting her husband. Dick Johnson, a neighboring rancher, said that Shirley was the best cowhand that he had ever known.

Shirley grew up deeply involved in ranching and agriculture and passed that love onto her 3 children, 12 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. She and her brother Floyd were also involved in rodeo, and Shirley won the All-Around Cowgirl at both Wyoming and CSU (then Colorado A&M) rodeos in 1950. She also won Barrel Racing at the Laramie Jubilee Days rodeo in 1960, something she is especially proud of since she prepared for that win with three small children at home. When Shirley met Frank, they were a great couple, and when they married, they found out they were a great team also. Shirley and Frank raised three very well-rounded children, operated Chimney Rock Ranch, and later worked as public servants. With Shirley's continuous support, Frank served as Albany

County as County Commissioner for many years until his death in 1987. Shirley was then appointed to finish his term and was re-elected for another term. She also enjoyed serving as an election judge for nearly 50 years and as a bailiff for nearly 10 years.

Shirley's 74 years of involvement in Laramie Jubilee Days began in 1949 when she was named Lady-In-Waiting, then in 1951, Shirley served as Laramie Jubilee Days Queen. Shirley helped with kids' events in the LJD rodeos during the 1960's. In 1976, she started the Kids' Horse Show and continued to the present time. She also was instrumental in the Team Penning each year for as long as it was held. Shirley was also awarded a Gold Card from the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association for years of volunteering at Laramie Jubilee Days. For many years, she had been involved with the royalty committee, and helped to research, compile, and print Jubilee's Golden Years of Royalty, a history of the first fifty years of Jubilee Days Queens. She also helped Kerin Castle contact past Queens for the Silver Queen Book. In 2000, Shirley was given the honor of LJD Parade Marshall, as well as an Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Because of Shirley's extensive involvement and many years of volunteering in the community of Albany County, she received the 2004 Community Service Award, which is given by the Laramie Lions Club and the Laramie Boomerang. Her community impact and accomplishments are almost too numerous to mention, but here is a short list with some of the highlights: Charter member of the Albany County Cow-Belles, member of the Wyoming and American Cattle Women Associations, Ag in the Classroom Board member, Treasurer of the Cow-Belles Scholarship Committee, Co-Chair of the Ag Expo Committee for many years and continued helping every year, Ag Service Award, 1996 Ranch Woman of the Year, Steer-A-Year Donor for 10 years, member of the Friends of Albany County Public Health, and member and Treasurer of Friends of Community Recreation for 30 years, which brought about the Laramie Recreation Center.

She was passionate about history and cherished spending time with her best friends,

Dicksie May and the late Rita Parker and Bertha Ward, working on preserving and documenting ranch and family histories for the Albany County Ranch History Project.

Even through all of her activities, this wonderful woman found time for her family. Shirley raised three kids and helped raise 12 Grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Every grandchild or great-grandchild has enjoyed her cheers from the sidelines and grandstands in whatever activities they were involved in. She has accumulated tons of cookie dough, doughnuts, and magazines for various fundraisers for all the clubs they were in and is a source of love and wisdom in each of their endeavors. She saw to it that each grandkid would be able to attend the University of Wyoming and supported all of them in whatever they chose to do after.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Frank P. Lilley; parents, Nina and Curly Wright; father and mother-in-law; Charles and Julie Lilley; brother and sister-in-law, Floyd and Maxine Wright; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Charles Lilley Jr. and Katherine Lilley, and sister-in-law, Donice Lilley.

She is survived by her children, Clay (Marianne) Lilley of Laramie, Carol (Larry) Pancost of Stoneham, CO, Julie (Roger) Lorenzi of Laramie; her grandchildren, Kirby (Dixie) Berger, Kyle (Stacy) Berger, Hadley (Emilee) Berger, Oscar (Stefanny) Lilley, Eli Lilley, Amanda (Patrick) Lewallen, Abbey Robbins-Lilley, Trey Lorenzi, and Jori (Jordan) Steele; her great-grandchildren, Kaden, Bayla, Bryndal, Bexton, Braycen, and Bastian Berger; Burris, Neacy, and Thayne Berger; Althea, Cannon, and Tank Lilley; Cooper and Lincoln Lewallen; Roan Steele; Kinlee Shoemaker; Tres Miller; her brother-in-law, Roy Lilley; her nephew Eldon (Eileen) Wright and grand-niece Frannie Wright. She is survived by many more family and friends.

Memorial services were held Monday, March 27, 2023 at the Albany County Fairgrounds. Memorial donations may be made to the Albany County CowBelle Scholarship mailed to P.O. Box 2157, Laramie, WY 82073 or the Laramie Special Olympics mailed to "Special Olympics Wyoming- TEAM LARAMIE" 239 West 1st St, Casper, WY 82601. ■

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It is obvious that, while the implementation of this rule would provide an outsized benefit to large corporations with the resources and infrastructure to comply, it would not provide similar benefits to the smaller and mid-sized operations. The additional consolidation of power and influence in the hands of a few, at the expense of small and independent farmers and ranchers, is a threat to our entire food supply.

Our livestock producers have implemented the world's most innovative and advanced practices in relation to animal welfare, animal husbandry, and precision herd health management, while also producing high quality and affordable food. Those facts alone belie the claim that "rapid and accurate recordkeeping for this volume of animals and movement is not achievable without electronic systems."

It is apparent that the proposed RFID program would invite limitless incremental regulation from other agencies as is evidenced by the Securities and Exchange Commission's so-called E.S.G. requirements and the Food and Drug Agency's rules for antibiotic usage (being just two examples of how regulatory mandates beget more and more regulatory mandates, all of which are designed to put the independent and small producer out of business). It will be just one more situation where "government is always trying to fix its last solution."

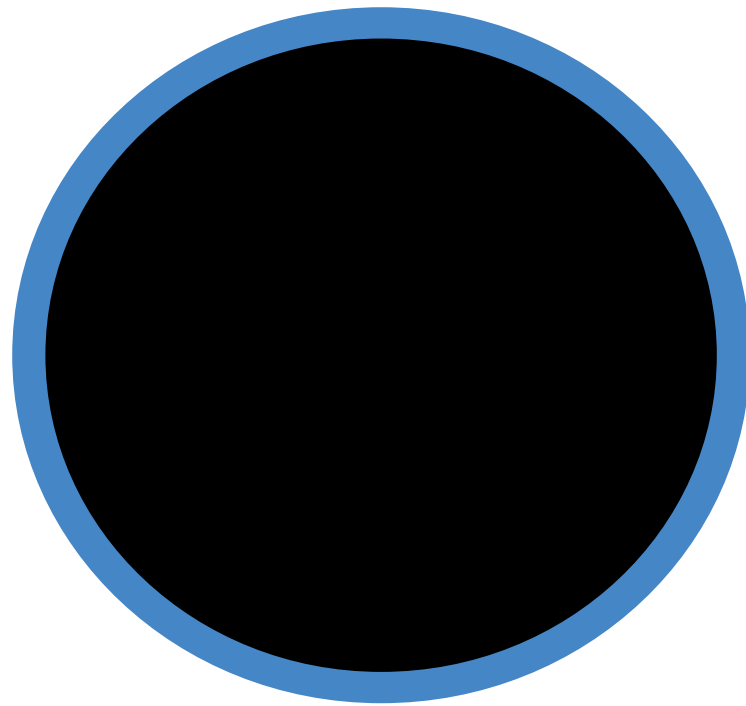
Implementation of the proposed rule also constitutes a violation of the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The State of Wyoming, for example, has codified into state law a range of identification options that work well for our livestock producers. States' rights matter.

Our family-owned livestock operations, and independent cattle producers are constantly under threat from market volatility, weather, skyrocketing expenses, and natural predators. It is not the role of regulatory agencies to act as an unnatural predator, attacking their very livelihoods and way of life. The proposed rule is unnecessary, overbearing, and disregards the farmers and ranchers who have repeatedly expressed concerns about the ramifications of implementing this latest mandate.

I urge the agency to cease its willful and unreasonable disregard of the concerns expressed by our farmers and ranchers who can't afford to bear the brunt of this newly proposed rule and have no interest in implementing APHIS's agenda to further the interests of the packers at the expense of the producers.

Across the federal government in 2022, agencies finalized more than 260 rules with estimated economic impacts totaling \$117.1 billion and 86.2 million new annual hours of paperwork burden. As if that was not costly enough, the administration also proposed 311 rules that, if finalized as is, would add another \$191.2 billion. Americans simply can't afford all the government they get – and its time to get government out of the way. This could not be more true than in the context of raising livestock – leave it to the professionals to decide how to manage their herds and keep the bureaucrats out of it. ■

Harriet Hageman is serving her first term as Wyoming's at-large member in the U.S. House of Representatives. She serves on the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, and the Committee on Natural Resources.



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Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation accepting requests for charitable contributions

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation (WyFB Foundation) is accepting requests for 2023 Charitable Contributions. WyFB Foundation is able to make charitable contributions each year thanks to a program offered by FBL Financial Group, Inc.

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

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

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

- Be a health organization that promotes practices or educational programs beneficial to Farm Bureau.

Visit wyfb.org and click on the calendar date of May 15, 2023, for request proposal requirements.

Charitable Contribution requests must be submitted in hard copy format and postmarked by May 15, 2023, or received in the WyFB state office by May 15, 2023.

Requests can be mailed to:

Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation
Attn: Dee Brewer, Office Manager
PO Box 1348
Laramie WY 82073

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

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

Wall Street rules should not extend to family farms

APRIL 17, 2023, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wall Street rules intended for publicly traded companies should not extend to family farms. That is the message the American Farm Bureau Federation and six other agricultural groups sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC proposed a rule to require public companies to report on Scope 3 emissions, which are the result of activities not owned or controlled by a publicly traded company but contribute to its value chain. Public companies that produce goods from agricultural products would need to report

emissions from the relevant agricultural operations. The farm groups’ concern is that the rule will burden family farmers and ranchers and drive further consolidation in agriculture—all for no real environmental benefit.

In a letter sent April 17 to the SEC, the organizations stated, “This tracking will be extremely expensive, invasive, and burdensome for farmers and ranchers, at the cost of improved production practices that generate actual environmental gains. Family farms, particularly smaller ones, will be hardest hit, with the rule driving greater consolidation and fewer family

farms. The easiest path for registrants will be to source their inputs from larger corporate operations with greater resources and more sophisticated data-gathering and reporting systems. Alternatively, registrants may simply vertically integrate their supply chains, leading to further consolidation.”

In the letter, the organizations ask the SEC to recognize it wouldn’t be appropriate to subject farmers to Scope 3 reporting requirements, and to draft a rule that specifies that companies cannot compel farmers and ranchers to provide emissions information.

“While farmers and ranchers play a vital role in America’s supply chain, 98% of farms are family owned and 90% of those are small,” the letter continues. “This means that a considerable part of the agriculture industry does not fall within the SEC’s direct regulation of disclosure information, which extends to regulating public companies (registrants and issuers).”

Signing onto the letter were AFBF, Agricultural Retailers Association, American Soybean Association, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Pork Producers Council, and North American Meat Institute. ■


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Nominations open for 2024 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year Contest

APRIL 6, 2023, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2024 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, which comes with cash prizes and bragging rights. This is the sixth year of the contest, supported by Purina, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers in producing nutritious food for families and their pets across America.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year's worth of Purina Pro Plan dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, in January 2024. Up to three regional runners-up* will each win \$1,000 in prize money.

The 2024 Farm Dog of the Year will also be featured in a professionally produced video. The profile of 2023 Farm Dog of the Year Tough can be viewed at <https://www.fb.org/land/fdoty>. The contest has proven to provide a link to the farm for pet-loving Americans who vote for their favorite farm dog online.

“Through this popular contest, we're able to provide a glimpse into daily life on the farm or ranch for people who may not have the opportunity to experience it for themselves,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Farm dogs play an important, dual role. They help lighten the workload for their families and also provide playful companionship.” Rounding up livestock, chasing off predators and greeting visitors are among the many tasks performed by farm dogs.

“At Purina, we believe people and pets are better together, and we know that is especially true on farms. Farm dogs are not only a vital member of the team, but also a constant companion to the family,” said Nicole Postin,

senior specialist of sustainable sourcing at Purina. “Purina has a long history of sourcing nutritious, sustainable ingredients from American farms to make our pet food, and we appreciate the hard work and dedication of farmers to take care of the land while feeding generations of people and pets.”

Desired attributes for the Farm Dog of the Year include helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and obedience.

Farm dog owners must be Farm Bureau members to enter their dogs in the competition. Prospective applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit fb.org/join to learn about becoming a member.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available at

<https://www.fb.org/land/fdoty>. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, at least one still photo and a video clip (optional), must be received by July 14, 2023, for consideration. The Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The fourth annual social media contest, People's Choice Pup, was a popular element of last year's Farm Dog of the Year competition and will return for 2024. Profiles of several dogs nominated for the contest will be shared beginning in October, with the public invited to vote. Bragging rights and a \$1,000 cash prize from Purina will be awarded to the People's Choice Pup. ■

Western Weed Action Plan

BY SLADE FRANKLIN, WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Western Weed Action Plan (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16tSwwrWQ3P2AqNHLZPxD-QLmzwKz-5vm-c/view>) provides western states and federal policy leaders a path forward for mitigating the impacts of invasive species on the sage-brush biome and other critical wildlife habitat. The plan was written and published in 2019 utilizing knowledge and expertise from state and federal agencies, university researchers and land practitioners through-out the west. The objective of the plan was to identify “action items” and “sub-action items” partners need to address in order to create consistently successful landscape scale programs through-out the western states for invasive species mitigation in the sage brush biome.

The concepts and ideas included in the plan were based on a three-day summit of over 200 land management professionals in 2015. During that meeting attendees had honest discussions about the short-comings of current efforts and realistic needs to move forward. At the conclusion of the meeting a working group of volunteers took the information produced from the summit and compressed it into the final plan. The efforts of this small group took over two years due to the significant amount of information and ideas that came out of the summit.

When the final draft was complete, it was presented to several organizations for review and support. Some of the organizations that have supported the plan include: North American State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA);

WESTERN WEED PLAN ... Page 16



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Are we being 'Planned' off our BLM lands

BY KAREN BUDD-FALEN, BUDD-FALEN LAW OFFICES

Remember the huge backlash in 2017 over the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Planning 2.0 regulations?" One of the major concerns was that the BLM could use those planning rules to eliminate all use by creating ambiguous standards for multiple use that were left to absolute agency discretion. There was so much outcry that Congress passed a bill (under the Congressional Review Act), which the President signed, repealing the BLM Planning 2.0 regulations.

Rather than learning its lesson, the BLM is at it again. While the BLM claims the 2023 proposed planning regulations are needed for "conservation and landscape health," the proposed rules are no more than a thinly veiled elimination of economic use on BLM lands. While no one who relies on the use of the BLM lands wants to see environmental degradation, the proposed rules do nothing more than:

1. Create a whole new "multiple use" called "conservation use" which has no basis in statute (can you say "major questions doctrine" which the Supreme Court has used to strike down agency regulations that are outside their statutory authority);

2. Allow radical environmental groups to nominate and acquire "conservation leases" on BLM multiple use lands for purposes like "restoring public lands," "providing mitigation for a 'particular action'" or ensuring "resilient public lands" (whatever that means);

3. Eliminate valid existing rights that are not "compatible" with a conservation lease. Instead, the proposed rule states that the only use guaranteed on a conservation lease is "casual use," which is defined as a non-economic use;

4. Require the BLM to take the "precautionary approach" when authorizing land uses that may impair "ecosystem resilience." Given the proposed planning rule is based, in part, on Biden's 30 x 30 and cli-

mate change Executive Orders (EO), doesn't everything impair "ecosystem resilience" and contribute to climate change? Remember that Biden's 30 x 30 EO opines that only land in its "natural state" meets the 30 x 30 requirements. Since this administration believes that ecosystem resilience is necessary to defeat climate change and only land in its natural state will meet the country's climate goals, I am assuming that the protection of the natural state means no use of multiple use lands;

5. Extort money from those who are wealthy enough to pay "third party mitigation fund holders." This seems like another easy way to send funds to radical environmentalist organizations with little to no public review;

6. Further slow down the permitting process for activities on BLM lands. Currently every metric shows that the BLM is woefully behind on completing term grazing permit renewals because of the monitoring and paperwork that has to

be completed including completion of the Fundamentals of Land Health. Now imagine the backlog the BLM will have for its permit review, even for valid existing rights, as every use on the BLM lands has to go through a Fundamentals of Land Health review prior to authorization. Use of multiple use lands won't stop because of concern over legitimate environmental harm; it will stop because the BLM simply does not have the money, manpower or time to complete the analysis (which appears to be the goal anyway).

The proposed rules also don't mention any of the other statutes mandating use of BLM lands such as the Taylor Grazing Act, the Mineral Leasing Act and the 1872 Mining Law. While there is a long way to go before these proposed planning regulations are completed, looking at my crystal ball, I see a Congressional Review Act battle all over again. I just hope it will not be too late to save the family rancher who relies on the use of his grazing permit for his livelihood. ■

WESTERN WEED PLAN... From Page 15

Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS); North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA); Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Associations (WAFWA); Western Governor's Association (WGA) and the Public Lands Council (PLC). This represents a diverse group of agriculture and wildlife professionals. Additionally, the document has been supported by many of the federal agencies. Recently

the US – Forest Service has identified the Western Weed Action Plan as one of its priorities for allocating a portion of their \$100 million Bipartisan Infrastructure funds during fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

To maintain the document and keep it updated, the Western Weed Coordinating Committee (WWCC) has volunteered to house the document and appointed an oversight committee. The committee is currently made up of state agricultural agency leads, federal program coordina-

tors and Non-Government Organizational partners. The committee recently developed an annual survey for state and federal agencies to complete to help gauge successes and failures of implementing the plan, while identifying new and upcoming "action items" that were not in the original version. The survey will help the WWCC to continually update the plan as needed and maintain it as a living document.

Habitat loss due to invasive species is an ongoing fight for Wyoming and other

western states. Invasive annual grass driven wildfires by converting sage brush biome fire cycles from every 15 years to every 5 years, and has also impacted big game migration corridors. With the advancement of management tools through research and development and utilizing priorities identified in the Western Weed Action Plan, states like Wyoming can start making long-term, landscape scale management decisions that are beneficial to our state's natural resources. ■

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