



# Wyoming Agriculture

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## EPA threatens ranchers water rights across the nation

BY MIKKA ROGERS,  
COMMUNICATION INTERN

**T**he top line issue coming from agriculture is we need to be able to walk out on our front porch and be able to tell what a water of the United States is. We don't have the excess money to hire consultants and attorneys to tell us that our ditch is a ditch and not a river. The rules need to be clear, and you've heard that from everyone in the roundtable," said Todd Fornstrom Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President. Fornstrom was a panelist at a July 2 roundtable held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corp of Engineers. This was one of many roundtables held on this subject in the last several months and was hosted by the Wyoming County Commissioners Association along with the Montana and Idaho Association of Counties.

State Farm Bureau Presidents and the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) have been participating in regional roundtables this spring and summer sharing agriculture's voice regarding the proposed change to the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). State Farm Bureau Presidents participating included: Western Region Roundtable – Jamie Johanson, California; Southwest Region Roundtable – Carlyle Currier, Colorado and Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona; County Commissioners Roundtable– Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming; and Beven Lester, Nevada.

According to Fornstrom, the term "navigable" as a part of the Clean Water Act has been in question for years. "The Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) found a balance between regulatory clarity and transparency on the one hand, and the need for robust environmental protection of waters and wetlands on the other," Fornstrom stated. "The NWPR strengthened and preserved the states' role in regulating the waters and natural resources within their boundaries."

In August 2021, the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed to repeal the NWPR and return to pre-2015 regulations. With this new rule, the federal government's regulatory reach over private land use would expand.

During the WOTUS Roundtable, Fornstrom told agency staff that instead of more federal regulation, government groups should function as partners with state and local authorities on water. "Instead of expanding the rule the EPA should investigate becoming more of a resource for the states," Fornstrom stated. "Our states have and are continuing to do a good job taking care of drinking water in the 50 years of the Clean Water Act and they should be allowed to keep doing that good work."

In a June 29 radio feature with the Northern Ag Network's Brett McRae, Fornstrom expressed thoughts on the need for rule clarity.

"Farmers and ranchers in Wyoming need to have a clear understanding of the Waters of the U.S. rule," he said. "The WOTUS rule needs to be realistic and practical to their everyday lifestyle."

At the end of June, Courtney Briggs, AFBF Senior Director of Government Affairs, discussed via AFBF Newline, the effects of the EPA roundtables on the Waters of the U.S. rule. As the ten roundtables wrapped up, Briggs expressed concerns with officials excluding the farmer's voice.

"There's been some roundtables that have been very well balanced and have brought different perspectives to the table to talk about regional differences, but there certainly have been some that have been very one-sided. And those have been concerning because they have failed to bring to the table a mainstream agriculture representative," Briggs stated. "One of the biggest concerns is the agencies have stated that they are not going to use these roundtables as part of the regulatory process, and it really begs the question, what is the point of these roundtables?"

Looking directly into how this proposed rule impacts navigable water, AFBF President Zippy Duvall expressed his concerns in a May 2022 news statement. "The proposed rule would give the federal government the ability to regulate areas such as ditches, ephemeral drainages, or low spots on farmlands and pastures that

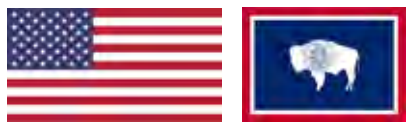
are not even wet most of the year and that do not connect to flowing waterways," Duvall stated. "This would subject ordinary farming activities to complex and burdensome regulations. Simple activities like moving dirt, plowing or building fences would require permits, and getting a federal permit can take months or even years and cost tens of hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"The rulemaking brings us further away from the clarity and predictability achieved by the Navigable Waters Protection Rule," stated Duvall. "This is important for farmers and ranchers because the penalties for non-compliance are significant. A simple misjudgment by a farmer in determining whether a low spot is or is not subject to the regulation can trigger substantial civil fines as well as criminal penalties."

All eyes are now on the Supreme Court as they get ready to hear the case Sackett v. EPA. This case challenges EPA's overreach of its Clean Water Act jurisdiction. According to Briggs, the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to hear this case will provide clarity and certainty. "We expect the agencies will release a finalized rule at some point this calendar year, but all attention is now turning to the Supreme Court, and they announced that they will hear oral arguments in Sackett v. EPA on Oct. 3.," Briggs stated. ■

### A message from Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom

SPECIAL  
ELECTION ISSUE:



WYOMING  
PRIMARY  
ELECTION

**V**ote. That's it, just vote. The end. Easy to say, but vote for which candidate, retain which judge, say yes to what amendment? All valid questions, but still not a reason to give up.

How much money we pay our city, county, state and federal governments for the services that are provided to the general public should be reason enough to spend some time researching who and what are on our election ballots.

Identifying your views and beliefs is a great way to start the process. What issues are important to you? Which candidate fits those beliefs? What kind of experience do the candidates have?

Have their beliefs changed overtime? How much knowledge of the issues do the candidates have? Are their values consistent? Is there any proof of their voting record? What do the candidates say about their opponents and is it accurate? Who is donating to their campaign? All good questions to ask and good place to start.

The task seems daunting, but the election season is long and you should have time to do the research. Remember every



Todd Fornstrom

decision that affects the condition of your street, and what gets taught in the local school all the way to how much money is spent on national defense is influenced by your vote. In this special election issue of *Wyoming Agriculture*, candidates on the national and state level have been provided the opportunity to share position statements with our members. Remember your vote may seem insignificant, but our representatives form the direction our country will move towards by the way we all vote. ■

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CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS

## August

- 3 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation "Tug of War" County Fair Contest at 6 p.m. – Fairgrounds in Torrington
- 9 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Candidate Forum at 6 p.m. – Niobrara County Fairgrounds Auditorium
- 16 Primary Election

## September

- 14 Carbon County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting
- 19 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Niobrara County Fairgrounds Meeting Room
- 20 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – Lincoln Center in Torrington
- 22 Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting

## October

- 3 Southwest District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. – Kemmerer
- 6 Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – Goshen County

## November

- 8 General Election
- 10-12 WyFB 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting-Casper

Visit [wyfb.org](http://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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Conserving threatened  
and endangered species

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



On each trip I take around the country, I'm not only impressed with the work farmers and ranchers are doing, but I'm also blown away by the beautiful landscapes and wildlife we encounter. Being surrounded by nature is part of why I love farming. And I know that's the case for most farmers and ranchers across the country.

While we work the land to produce food, fiber and fuel, we also recognize the important role our land plays in sustaining wildlife. For generations, farmers and ranchers have worked to do more with less. We've voluntarily placed 140 million acres of land in conservation programs, which helps provide wildlife habitat. Farmers want to be partners in conserving our natural resources and the wildlife that we share those resources with.

We especially want to be partners in conserving threatened and endangered species. When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, our representatives recognized that each species plays a role in maintaining a healthy and thriving environment. And while our society and the technology we use have changed a lot in the 50 years since the Endangered Species Act was passed, Congress hasn't passed significant updates to reflect the realities on the ground. Instead, government agen-

cies like the EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service have created confusing rules that give unelected bureaucrats the power to dictate what Americans do on their private property, and individual judges make sweeping decisions that have national impacts.

Endangered Species Act protections have brought some animals back from the brink of extinction, such as the bald eagle. But today, there are over 1600 listed species in the United States, with thousands of pages of complicated rules around these listings. That makes it very confusing for farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to determine what they can do on their land. The previous administration attempted to bring some clarity for landowners and other stakeholders by writing new rules to clarify what habitat really is and what protections apply to which types of listed species. But now the current administration wants to return to the old system of case-by-case decisions made by bureaucrats in Washington, and a single judge just repealed several of the clarifying rules. We simply cannot have this tug-of-war with regulations where farmers and ranchers are left guessing what's next.

Endangered Species Act regulations affect daily practices like crop protection

as well. EPA officials often put in place limitations on how pesticides can be used based on broad-sweeping species maps and without realistic assumptions of how a product is used. Despite what EPA officials might think, farmers use only the amount of pesticides we need to get the job done, which is often significantly less than the maximum amount allowed. We also need these products to utilize environmentally beneficial practices like no-till farming that prevent soil erosion and runoff. We are as careful and efficient as possible, for the safety of our families, communities and wildlife. Making decisions based on the best science available brings both clarity and certainty to landowners and other stakeholders.

Just as each species plays a role in a healthy environment, we all play a role in ensuring a healthy and safe future for our planet and the people we share it with. We also know that when we work together as partners, through voluntary agreements, and with ample opportunity for farmers to provide their perspective to inform each agency's decisions, we can achieve so much more. That's why we need the government to treat us as partners and focus on science and common sense. The survival of our nation's wildlife and our farms and ranches depends on it. ■

More land,  
less stewardship

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Well, that didn't take long! Wyoming Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation have had a policy advocating doing away with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for several years. LWCF has been in existence since legislation passed in 1964. The fund was created by Congress and according to the Land & Water Conservation Fund Coalition the purpose is to "conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nation."

The LWCF is paid for with a fee on offshore drilling, but the money must be appropriated by Congress. Up until 2020 Congress has been authorizing funding on a hit-or-miss basis but in 2020 that changed. Congress decided the funding needed to be made permanent to the tune of \$900 million every year. Prior to the permanent funding of the LWCF we were treated to a litany of items that needed to be addressed, generally in our national parks. We were told these items just couldn't get done because Congress

was reluctant to fund the program permanently.

The LWCF also shared the monies with states so those entities could use the dollars for similar efforts. The federal folks understood that if they shared the money with states, this would help build a strong support base to lobby Congress for a permanent funding and that's exactly what happened. With the current administration focusing on the perceived need for recreation and open spaces through the 30 X 30 initiative and Congress anxious to spend money, both on a local and national level, it was inevitable they would ignore the folks in agriculture who had concerns about the program. Indeed, there were efforts by some congressional representatives in the West to limit the purchase of private lands by the program to lands east of the Mississippi. These efforts were defeated, but mild assurances were made that we would not really use the money for land purchases much.

Ironically, just a little short of two years after permanent funding we learned

about the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) purchasing a 35,000-acre ranch in central Wyoming. Of course, the press releases from Interior played up access and conserving a unique landscape, even though that landscape had been doing just fine as a ranch up until 2022.

It now turns out the BLM may not have followed their own process in purchasing this ranch. Some things were not done which were required prior to the purchase. We will undoubtedly find out more processes were ignored in the rush to acquire more federal lands.

Before the ink was dry on the announcement of this purchase, Yellowstone National Park faced a significant flood event which did millions, if not billions, of dollars of damage to infrastructure within the Park. It seems to me that the \$900 million per year Congress permanently authorized would be well spent to try and rebuild the damage in our nation's first national park. Unfortunately, we've already spent the money on a ranch.

**LAND STEWARDSHIP ... Page 5**

# WyFB welcomes Kelly Carpenter

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) welcomes Kelly Carpenter as the National Affairs Associate. Carpenter began with WyFB July 5. She will focus on national affairs and federal lands issues for WyFB.

Carpenter is a fifth-generation member of a Carbon County ranch family that has been a part of the sheep, beef, and bison industries. She and her husband, Andrew, have a seven-year-old son, Walker.

"We run some steers on the place, but it's leased out to a top-notch cattle producer year-round," Carpenter said. "My husband and I are working on raising the sixth generation of the family with frequent trips to the ranch and the knowledge and appreciation for all things Wyoming agriculture."

Carpenter is honored to join the WyFB

staff and help continue advocacy work for agriculture through the Federation's unified grassroots effort. "My mother, aunt, and grandfather influenced my love of agriculture and agriculture policy," she said. "They always taught me the importance of being involved, and if you don't speak up, there isn't much we can do about the issues."

"Specifically, my grandfather was in the Wyoming Legislature, president or member of multiple producer groups in the state, and even helped spearhead one of the foremost private property rights cases of the area (Leo Sheep Co. v. the United States)," Carpenter continued. "This leadership I encountered, firsthand, was a main driver in wanting to help the agriculture industry and advocate for its people."

Carpenter earned her Doctor of Philoso-

phy degree from the University of Wyoming in Spring 2020 with a focus on climate resiliency in western range sheep operations. "My dissertation utilized large data sets of ewe production and climate data to model the possible influence that climate fluctuations could have on influencing ewe production metrics," she explained.

Regarding recent experience, Carpenter worked for an agriculture technology company for the past two years with a focus on business development for precision ag platforms.

"We are happy and fortunate to have Kelly join our team," said Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President. "With Kelly's background in agriculture we feel she will add to our effectiveness in representing Farm Bureau members." ■



Kelly Carpenter



## Member-CENTS

Visit [wyfb.org](http://wyfb.org) and click on the "Benefits" tab for a complete listing of value-added benefits.

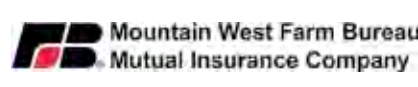
The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation believes constitutional government, the competitive enterprise system, property rights and individual freedom are necessary components for a strong agriculture, a strong Wyoming and a strong America. We are a centennial grassroots organization that cares about your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

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

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# A legacy to stand the tests of time

BY CODY ALPS,  
WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

Just about everyone that is involved in agriculture knows who Paul Harvey is and has at least a couple memories surrounding him. My memories are listening to him on the radio while riding around in my dad's pickup as a little kid. Even if we had things to do and places to be, we would always wait to hear the rest of the story.

Harvey's insights and words were so profound regardless of the topic at hand, but none stand truer to this day than his "So God Made a Farmer" speech. His use of vivid imagery showcases many of the qualities people in the field of agriculture must possess, and as an industry we now face challenges no one would have even imagined in 1978 when Harvey gave this speech. On the same token, when another forty-four years have passed, there will be a new set of hardships and adversities that we cannot currently imagine. Those of us involved in agriculture know that not everyone is cut out for working in our field because it is not for the faint of heart.

It's clear Harvey recognized the importance of farmers in his speech, and while we may already know that importance, it was recently proven on one of the largest scales possible. When the Covid-19 outbreak caused a worldwide panic, disruption across every aspect of society occurred. In response, the government

declared that some jobs were considered essential while others were considered non-essential. As agriculturalists we just kept our heads down and focused on our work. The world needed us more than ever before, and we weren't going to let a bunch of suits back east tell us who was and who wasn't essential. We still had animals to raise, crops to grow, and a world full of people that needed agriculture to stay strong.

As a third-generation agriculturalist that has taken on the task of continuing our family's farm and ranch, Harvey's words speak to me the most when he says, "Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So, God made a farmer." May we all carry on Paul Harvey's "So God Made a Farmer" as a standard to live up to, and as a tribute to our shared agriculture legacy to better serve the world in its ever-growing need for farmers. ■

*About the Author: Cody Alps lives in Yoder where he runs his family farm and ranch. They run a cow/calf ranch and raise primarily hay crops. Cody graduated from Eastern Wyoming College in 2018 with a Business Administration degree, and currently serves as an elected committee member of the southeast district for the WYFB YF&R.*



Cody Alps



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# Joby Young named AFBF executive vice president

JULY 11, 2022, WASHINGTON, D.C.

**J**oby Young officially joined the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) July 11 as its executive vice president. Young will serve as AFBF President Zippy Duvall's top advisor, lead AFBF operations across departments and work closely with state Farm Bureaus to achieve federation goals. It's a familiar role for Young who previously served in the same capacity at USDA and in Congress.

"I am excited to now be part of the Farm Bureau team," Young said. "Dale Moore has been an exemplary public servant and leader in the agriculture community. I'm thankful to enter this role with Dale's service as a guide and the tremendous resource of dedicated teammates both at AFBF and in the Farm Bureau network nationwide. I look forward to working alongside them in the days ahead to achieve great outcomes for America's farm families and rural communities."

Young is replacing Moore, who has served in leadership roles at AFBF for a decade, first as vice president of public policy and since 2018 as executive vice president. Moore is retiring after more than 40



Joby Young



years of working on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers.

Moore said, "It has been an honor and privilege beyond words to serve America's

farmers and ranchers for the past four decades. I am deeply grateful for the incredible opportunities I've had on Capitol Hill, at USDA and at AFBF to support ag-

riculture. Most of all, I cherish the many friendships this kid from rural Kansas has been blessed with throughout my time in D.C. I look forward to staying in touch as I open this new chapter of life focused on family."

Young previously served as Chief of Staff in a variety of USDA offices and mission areas, including the Office of Congressional Relations and Rural Development, before becoming the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and ultimately serving in that role for the entire department under the Secretary of Agriculture. He also served as a Chief of Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Young holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law and Bachelor of Arts degrees in history and communications from the University of Georgia.

"Joby is going to be a fantastic addition to our team at Farm Bureau," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "He has more than a decade of experience in food and agriculture policy, from the halls of Congress to the highest levels of the Executive Branch. The Farm Bureau family will be well-served by his strong leadership skills." ■

## LAND STEWARDSHIP... From Page 2

I suspect federal bureaucrats will use the damage in Yellowstone to get Congress to appropriate money directly to fix the damage, while merrily using the LWCF to

seek out opportunities to buy more private land.

Several years ago, while participating in a Wyoming Legislative Committee meeting I watched as an entity was exhorting the legislators to spend more

money on them. One member apparently had heard enough and asked the individual why he didn't prioritize the funding the entity was getting to take care of the important need they wanted the Legislature to fund.

That conversation keeps replaying itself in my mind as I watch the LWCF money being spent expanding federal lands while Interior laments the lack of funding to fix the infrastructure in Yellowstone National Park. ■

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# The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

## Meet the volunteer leader Tim Pexton

County: Converse  
Farm Bureau Leadership  
Positions:

- Converse County Farm Bureau Federation President
- WyFB Board of Directors/Central District Director
- WyFB Membership Committee Chair

**Wyoming Agriculture:** Describe your ranch and family background.

**Pexton:** My great grandfather homesteaded in the Douglas area. My grandfather put together this ranch over the years and gave or sold parts of it to his three sons back when that could be done. After the war my father took over this part of the ranch and added to it over the years. I live in the house I was born and raised in and have never lived anywhere else.

This is a cow/calf ranch with irrigated meadows for hay to feed through the winter. There is more summer pasture than I need so I rent pasture to two neighbors for 4 – 5 months of the summer/fall. In 2011 I sold the cows I had at the time to a young neighbor trying to get into the cattle business. Those cattle are still here. He pays



Tim and Dawn Pexton Family

me an annual lease and they run with a herd I have since put together. I have the best of both worlds, I sold cows and used the money to pay down debt, kept the cows here and get paid to feed them and have built up my herd again.

**Wyoming Agriculture:** Family, hobbies, background information.

**Pexton:** I married Dawn over 43 years ago. We have a son who is an optometrist

in Cheyenne with twin 7-year-old boys. We have a daughter who married a rancher/farmer near Enid, Oklahoma. They have an 11-year-old son and a 9-year-old daughter.

I attended the University of Wyoming but did not graduate. Over the years I have been involved in many non-profits and civic organizations. When I get involved, I generally stay for the long haul. I first became a Farm Bureau member at the age of 20 after coming home from college. After serving in leadership positions in my local Farm Bureau I realized I enjoyed being involved at that level and my second life/hobby was launched. I have been a professional meeting attendee for nearly 50 years. I have found that participating in meetings and serving in leadership positions is a necessary diversion from all the worries and challenges that come with dealing with the weather, government, and markets.

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

**Pexton:** Forty years ago there were local Farm Bureau groups with boards and elected leadership positions. My parents had served there before me and I had been attending meetings as long as I can remember. So, when the time came it was just natural that I should do my part and take on a leadership role. In the beginning that just meant organizing and running a meeting as well as completing the required activities throughout the year. As I got older, my involvement morphed into actual leadership and mentoring of other members. I am especially satisfied that I was able to pioneer and assist in the development of the WyFB Young Farmer and Rancher program.

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

**Pexton:** If I am going to be involved in an organization, I feel it is important to work your way up to leadership positions. As a rancher with no employees, my time is flexible, and I can decide to be away without impacting someone else's time. We are always behind in this business so taking time to attend a meeting doesn't make a lot of difference. Someone needs



Tim Pexton ranches south of Douglas near Esterbrook.

to fill the leadership slots because not all are in a position to do so. I enjoy it and am happy to participate as long as I'm able and the membership will let me.

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

**Pexton:** I can't think of any one specific policy that has directly impacted my ranch. It is more the process that makes a difference. Policies are generally adopted aimed at changing the way that government entities do business. The fact that Farm Bureau's policy process starts at the local level and works its way to state and national levels lends credibility to our organization. Political policy makers recognize that and respect it enough to listen when we "talk." That respect allows us to have a loud and effective voice when it comes to influencing governmental actions which in turn is positive for my ranch.

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

**Pexton:** The power of that grassroots policy making process along with our sizeable membership, which represents a large percentage of those in production agriculture, can and does sway policy decisions affecting us. You, as an individual, can influence that grassroots power by being involved in authoring resolutions and being part of the adoption process with committee work, discussion, and voting.

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

**Pexton:** Issues facing agriculture seem to ebb and flow depending on which party is in control at the time. That has become more of a roller coaster recently with one party making sweeping changes that the other party completely reverses when they are in power. The basic issues like environmental regulations, threats to private property rights, and government spending are always there and require constant vigilance.

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

**Pexton:** Almost everything I have talked about here starts with one member at the local or county level. Each member after that leverages the impact of the policies they develop and follow to the point it is significant enough to influence decisions made at the state and national level. When we can state that WyFB represents over 2,000 farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, policy makers will listen. ■

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# Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

## Creamy Ranch Pasta Salad

BY: CONNIE WERNER

### Ingredients

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 box of Cellentani or other medium sized pasta | 1 bottle of Ranch Dressing            | Vegetables: Cucumber, Bell Pepper, Onion, Tomatoes, etc. |
| 1 (1oz) packet Ranch Seasoning Mix              | 1/2 -3/4 cup Shredded Parmesan Cheese | Salt and Pepper  |

### Directions

1. Cook the Pasta according to the package directions.
2. In a large bowl add the chopped vegetables.
3. To the bowl, add the ranch seasoning and stir well.
4. Drain the pasta and run under cold water until chilled
5. Pour the pasta into the bowl and stir in the cheese. Add enough dressing to coat. Stir until well combined.
6. Let sit for 1-2 hours. Season with salt and pepper to taste. You may need to add more dressing if it is dry.
7. Enjoy!



**For more recipes, visit**  
**[www.modernranchwife.com](http://www.modernranchwife.com)**

# STILL FOCUSED ON AG

- Sat., July 30** Youth Horse Show - Showmanship, Halter, English & Programmed Ride
- Sun., July 31** Youth Horse Show - Performance & Timed Events
- Mon., Aug. 1** Supreme Cow Contest
- Wed., Aug. 3** Youth Market / Breeding Meat Goat Show  
Rabbit Show  
Ultrasound Contest (to assess Market Beef carcass)  
Youth Dairy Cattle & Dairy Goat Show  
Youth Jr. Llama & Alpaca Show
- Thur., Aug. 4** Youth Sheep Show  
Youth Poultry Show
- Fri., Aug. 5** Youth Beef Show
- Sat., Aug. 6** Youth Swine Show  
Round Robin Showmanship
- Sun., Aug. 7** Youth Livestock Sale



2022 CAMPBELL COUNTY FAIR  
**JULY 29 - AUG. 7, 2022**

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*Photos from past fairs courtesy of Campbell County Rockpile Museum, Used with Permission*

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# AFBF COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS 2022



## State Farm Bureau presidents meet in D.C.

Each year in July state Farm Bureau presidents gather in Washington, D.C. for the American Farm Bureau Federation Council of Presidents Meeting. The meeting provides an opportunity for state presidents to receive issues updates, network


and share Farm Bureau's voice in our Nation's Capital. Shown here Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom stands outside the United States Department of Interior building in Washington D.C. prior to a visit with agency staff. ■



## Welcome new AFBF EVP


Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom welcomes Joby Young during the July American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. Young began his role as AFBF Executive Vice President on July 11. Fornstrom serves on the AFBF Board of Directors. Prior to the board meeting, state presidents gathered in D.C. for the Council of Presidents meeting. ■

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# Farm Bureau®



## American Farm Bureau® Convention San Juan, Puerto Rico ~ January 6–11, 2023

### American Farm Bureau Convention 2023 in Puerto Rico

**W**hile it may seem far away, we invite you to start making your plans for the 2023 American Farm Bureau Convention. We are leaving the mainland and heading to San Juan, Puerto Rico—for the first time—in January. If you haven't been to Puerto Rico, this is the

perfect time to make your visit. Join us January 6-11, 2023 at the American Farm Bureau Convention.

If you want the inside scoop when it comes to policies and perspectives that will affect your farm or agribusiness in 2023, don't miss the 104th consecutive American Farm Bureau

Convention. This year's convention theme, "Mi Familia" reminds us of why we do what we do. We farm to feed our families and families across the country and around the world. Many of you farm and ranch with our family members, and want the farm to continue on with your children and grandchildren. And it

doesn't matter what you farm, how many acres you have, or where you come from, if you want to be part of the Farm Bureau family, we welcome you with open arms and many opportunities to grow as advocates and leaders.

Learn more about #AFBF23 at <https://annualconvention.fb.org/> ■

## FREMONT COUNTY FAIR

"GOIN' HOG WILD!"  
All events start at 7:30 pm

**SAT** JUL 30 - HOG N' MUD WRESTLING  
PLAINS FLOOR & WINDOW COVERING

**SUN** JUL 31 - FREMONT FAMILY DAY  
FREMONT COUNTY PREVENTION PROGRAM  
12:00 pm - Free Lunch, Car Racing, Family Fun, Laser Tag  
7:30 pm Arena Fun - Weiner Dog Races

**WED** AUG 3 - RANCH RODEO  
NON-TYPICAL SERVICES & LOGISTICS  
Bar Code 307 Concert to follow

**THU** AUG 4 - TIMMY CHALLENGE - BULL RIDING  
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK

**FRI** AUG 5 - MONSTER TRUCK INSANITY TOUR  
WIND RIVER HOTEL & CASINO  
REMAX/ALL STAR REALTORS

**SAT** AUG 6 - FIGURE 8 RACES  
BAILEY ENTERPRISES



**MON THRU SAT** AUG 1-6 - FREE IN CONCERT

Free in concert at the Fairgrounds  
SUTHERLAND'S FREE STAGE  
featuring Cale Moon (Aug. 1-4)



featuring Jared Rogerson (Aug. 5-6)



Monday, Aug. 1  
Wind River Rodeo Round Up -  
PRCA Ram Rodeo  
"Military Appreciation Night" &  
Tuesday, Aug. 2  
Wind River Rodeo Round Up -  
PRCA Ram Rodeo  
"Tough Enough to Wear  
Pink Night"  
(Tickets available at the Fair Office)

Tickets available online at [www.fremontcountyfair.org](http://www.fremontcountyfair.org)

# Wyoming Primary Election

**Editor's Note:** All candidates for Wyoming United States Representative, Wyoming Governor and Wyoming State-Wide Office were provided the opportunity to answer specific questions important to agriculture. Those candidates (in alphabetical order) who replied have their responses printed as received in this special election issue.

**Candidates for Wyoming's United States Representative were asked to submit a position statement (no more than 600 words) addressing the following issues:**

**1.** Soon after taking office President Biden proposed an ambitious plan to conserve 30% of the nation's land and water by 2030 or 30X30. The administration has not provided many plan details making landowners and federal land users concerned this proposal could have impacts on their livelihoods. What would you do to mitigate or change potential adverse impacts of this proposal?

**2.** The Biden Administration moved to immediately revoke rules adopted by the

previous administration on the definition of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). Agriculture has consistently suggested that much of the regulatory efforts affecting agriculture could best be done at a state level. Under the Obama Administration, rules would have greatly expanded the role of the federal government in regulating WOTUS. Congress has not been able to clarify what level of involvement states should have in regulation of water quality. Various efforts to declare all waters as waters of the U.S. have been rejected and efforts to

reduce waters that are waters of the U.S. have been similarly stymied. What would you do in Congress to further clarify the role between the federal government and states?

**3.** For several years people have discussed the need to make changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). What would you propose to amend the ESA?

**4.** Other issues you want to address and/or background information.

## CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

### Robyn M. Belinskey, Republican

**1.** Wyoming is already in compliance with state and federal laws regarding the conservation of land and water in stewardship of our natural resources. There is no need for federal interference.

**2.** Advocate for Wyoming's ability to control our own Water Quality Standards without federal interference.

**3.** Allow Wyoming to manage our own endangered species without federal government dominance. Managing from a DC office does not replace local stewardship.

**4.** Wyoming is about lands, whether forest, farming or mining. We have resources here to be self sufficient to not be reliant on other countries for minerals, food or lumber. ■

### Liz Cheney, Republican

**1.** 30X30 has the makings of a dangerous federal land grab. This is concerning, especially since nearly half of Wyoming is federally owned. Both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have demonstrated an inability to manage that land as it is. The federal government should not increase their ability to control our natural resources. I've introduced HR 5042 to prevent 30X30, or any future similar efforts, from having the force or effect of law.

Federal ownership of land has not and will not ever be equivalent to conservation. The best way to achieve conservation is to work to ensure full multiple use of our federal lands and protect private property owners from onerous federal overreach.

**2.** I have fought against the deeply flawed WOTUS rule since it was first introduced, and introduced House Resolution 318 to force the Biden Administration to keep the Navigable Waters Protection Rule in place. I signed on to the Sacket v EPA lawsuit to support efforts to prevent the EPA from claiming ludicrous jurisdictional boundaries, such as within developed subdivisions as they did with the Sacket family's property. I also joined a letter to the current Administration emphasizing the importance of pausing rulemaking efforts until this Supreme Court case has been decided.

**3.** The ESA has been weaponized. It's now used to repeatedly usurp both private property rights and

state's rights. To pushback on this, I've introduced and supported these bills:

- Managing Predators Act to permanently delist the Grey Wolf from and give their management authority over to the states.

- Grizzly Bear State Management Act requiring it's delisting.

- List Act requiring agencies to delist species once recovery goals have been met, remove species who were erroneously listed and bar those who submit fraudulent information.

- Listing Reform Act requires economic effects of listing actions.

- Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat Act limits critical habitat to areas that are occupied by the species.

- Interagency Cooperation/Section 7 Consultation Regulation Act to ensure timely decisions.

- Withdrawal of Blanket 4(d) Rule preventing FWS from extending 'endangered' species protections to 'threatened' species.

**4.** There are many crises facing our federal lands. We must return to commonsense management practices and allow forest managers to mitigate imminent fire threats. I am a member of the House Wildfire Caucus and have supported several bills that would combat these threats and assist wildland firefighters.

We must remove all barriers that prevent effective land management. Key among these is the deeply flawed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I have introduced and cosponsored the following legislation that would reform this broken process:

- Unshackle Act which contains 5 stand-alone NEPA bills that puts deadlines on reviews and establishes penalties; requires sound science to be used; implements economic feasibility requirements; prohibits climate change from being a basis for decisions.

- NEPA Legal Reform Act requires proof of actual harm to block NEPA actions, sets a statute of limitations and limits fees that can be paid to environmental attorneys.

- Recognition of Local Interests in NEPA Decision Making prevents venue shopping to get NEPA cases in front of judges with known biases.

- NEPA State Assignment Act allows States to conduct environmental reviews.

I'm also working to protect our livestock industry by introducing and cosponsoring: the Expanding Markets for State Inspected Meat, Butcher Block Act, USA Beef Act, Cattle Contract Library Act, Scrapie's Importation Rule, PPP Flexibility for Farmers and Ranchers, Death Tax Repeal Act, and Stepped-Up Basis Protection.

Working with the Wyoming Farm Bureau has been an honor. I look forward to continuing to defend your rights and livelihoods. ■

CANDIDATES FOR **US REPRESENTATIVE** CONTINUED ON **PAGE 11**

**VOTE • AUGUST 16 // VOTE • AUGUST 16 // VOTE • AUGUST 16**

CANDIDATES FOR **US REPRESENTATIVE** CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 10**

# Harriet M. Hageman, Republican

**1.** On January 27, 2021 President Biden issued Executive Order 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.” On page 9 is Section 216 with the heading, “Conserving Our Nation’s Lands and Waters,” the goal of which is to develop a plan to “conserve at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030” (the “30x30” program), the ultimate objective is to move on to the “50x50” program.

Although Biden’s 30x30 program and related report entitled “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful,” provide a litany of feel-good platitudes, the reality is that the 30x30 program will be quite destructive.

The 30x30 program is bad policy and will ultimately destroy our standard of living by increasing the cost of housing, food and energy, forcing us to import more of all of the resources we need.

If I am elected to Congress, I will introduce a “no net gain” bill to block any expansion of federal land ownership. I will push legislation to prohibit the use of any federal funds to implement the 30x30 plan in any state where the federal government owns more than 10% of the surface estate. I will also work with Wyoming officials and others to identify federal lands that could be transferred to the State for management, using an incremental approach that would ensure

public access, with the revenue generated being retained by the State.

**2.** Congress must fix the Clean Water Act (CWA) by narrowly defining what are the “navigable Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS), thereby taking this political football out of the hands of unelected bureaucrats and pursuing an effective and common-sense approach to addressing water quality. I will work with stakeholders to introduce much-needed certainty and stability into the long-standing confusion that has been created by the EPA and the Courts. I will also seek to curtail the reach and authority of the EPA, returning the responsibility for managing our water resources to the States where it belongs. Our Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is made-up of professionals who understand our watersheds, industries, hydrology, soils, vegetation, weather patterns, farming operations, and ranching community. It is long past time that we implemented and enforced the actual intent of the Clean Water Act by ensuring that EPA’s involvement is limited.

**3.** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been abused by both the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and radical environmentalists who seek to prevent us from managing and using our property and natural resources.

Congress must retake its rightful legislative authority and pass meaningful amendments to the ESA, including defining “critical habitat,” “range,” “endangered” and “threatened.” Because much of the current agenda for ESA compliance and enforcement is to control land use, the ESA is ultimately used to punish landowners when an endangered or threatened species is found on their property. It is both counterintuitive and counterproductive to disincentivize species protection and recovery by restricting land and water use whenever such species is identified in a particular area. Livestock producers should be compensated for their real losses whenever a protected predator moves onto their property and kills their animals.

**4.** I was raised on a ranch near Fort Laramie. I went to Casper College on a Livestock Judging Scholarship, and UW where I received both my Bachelors’ Degree and my law degree. I have dedicated most of my legal career to protecting our farmers, ranchers, and resource providers. I was inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2011 and have been honored as the Casper College Alumni of the Year.

In Congress I will do everything in my power to protect Wyoming and my country. I will be your voice. ■

<p><b>Candidates for Wyoming’s Governor were asked to submit a position statement (no more than 500 words) addressing the following issues:</b></p>	<p><b>1.</b> Discuss Endangered Species Act reform and what you see as a possible solution to the problems facing farmers and ranchers in relation to the ESA.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> The federal government plays a large role in management of Wyoming’s resources (I.E. wild horses, wolves, grizzly bears, water). How would you, as Governor, influence federal policy issues?</p>	<p><b>3.</b> If elected, what are two top issues you hope to address during your term?</p>
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# CANDIDATES FOR WYOMING GOVERNOR

## Mark Gordon, Republican

**1.** The Endangered Species Act is broken and in need of reform. Those living and working in Wyoming know this Act is not doing what it was supposed to in recovering species. Instead, it has become a tool for radical environmentalists to interfere with private property rights, intelligent development and land use, and responsible management of wildlife resources. Too much energy is spent protecting animals that by all reasonable measures are recovered, as is the case with grizzly bears.

Wyoming’s management of wolves continues to prove state-led wildlife management is correct and successful. I am working to delist grizzly bears again by putting forward a responsible plan that meets recovery targets. I am also supporting Senator Barrasso’s efforts to reform the Act and make it work for Wyoming. As a rancher myself, in a Sage Grouse Core Area, I understand how important it is that the state manage its wildlife resources.

**2.** I fight hard every day to protect Wyoming from bad federal policies. The vast amount of federal land in

Wyoming makes this a more challenging relationship. I have taken every necessary legal action to defend Wyoming from federal overreach. That means more than thirty active lawsuits related to federal policies harming our economy or increasing the federal estate.

I have worked with the Legislature to ensure the Federal Natural Resource Policy Account is well funded and accessible to counties and conservation districts which enables them to participate in federal processes from forest plan revisions to RMPs. Wyoming must remain engaged with federal agencies because if you’re not at the table you’re on the menu.

**3.** Our two most pressing issues are Federal overreach which inhibits Wyoming’s economy and quality of life, and our paramount need to protect Wyoming’s water.

I have been fighting Biden’s disastrous policies from day one. Biden’s blundering energy plans have decreased domestic production, increased fuel prices, and spurred inflation. I am leading 26 Republican Governors in promoting an all-of-the-above energy plan

to restore America’s energy independence. It’s important because the added costs of operations for farmers, ranchers, businesses and, in turn, consumers, has gone through the roof. As a rancher myself, I am feeling the costs in our farming, for transportation, and for the cost of feed. Recognizing the urgency, I have convened a working group, which includes representatives of agriculture and transportation, to review and suggest any and all options that can help.

I am also adamantly opposed to the federal government interfering with or tying up more land in Wyoming and believe the importance of water to the future of our state can never be stressed enough. My efforts to help repair the Goshen Irrigation District among others have pioneered new funding mechanisms for irrigators who need to refurbish aging infrastructure. Furthermore, I expanded the legal capacities of the state and our State Engineer’s Office to assure Wyoming is well armed for the battles we will inevitably face for the control of Wyoming’s water. It is our water and our rights must always be protected. ■

CANDIDATES FOR **WYOMING GOVERNOR** CONTINUED ON **PAGE 12**

CANDIDATES FOR **WYOMING GOVERNOR** CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 11**

## Rex Rammell, Republican

The Endangered Species Act has been weaponized by radical environmentalists to control land use policies in America. The spotted owl was used to destroy the timber industry in the Northwest, sage grouse has been used to try and destroy the fossil fuel industry on our high deserts, and grizzly bears and wolves have been used to control forest policies, including grazing. Radical environmentalists want land use policies to end and have made significant progress using the ESA to do it.

Since Joe Biden became president an all out assault on public land use has become evident. If we do not stop them they will turn the West into one big nature preserve from Alaska to Mexico for all to see, but none to use.

The solution to the problem lies within the United States Constitution. The Tenth Amendment states that all powers not given to the federal government in the Constitution belong to the states. One can search the Constitution from front to back and find no power for any land management authority, including endangered species, except over Washington D.C., military bases, and other needful buildings.

I believe we are at a point in history where a 2nd American Revolution is about to take place. America is sitting on a powder keg and if Rex Rammell is the next governor of Wyoming the fuse will be lit. I have promised people all over Wyoming that if I am the next governor I will sign an Executive Order on Day 1 ordering the state police to walk all federal land managers out of their offices. The BLM, The Forest Service, The Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and others...Gone!

Wyoming will finally become sovereign over all its land and resources and on equal footing with the original thirteen states as guaranteed by the Constitution. The ESA and all other Acts meant to control Wyoming will end. Wyoming will then be in control of all our natural resources and the billions and billions of dollars that come with them.

This will also solve my number 2 issue which is property tax reform. With the extra billion the feds have historically taken from Wyoming we can manage the land and then offset property taxes at the local level. I believe there will be enough money to eliminate all property taxes on primary residences. Government will be funded off land use taxes, instead of property taxes. With some other government reforms the main tax will be sales tax, which is the most fair tax. ■

**Candidates for Wyoming State-Wide Office were asked to submit a position statement (no more than 300 words) addressing the following issues:**

**1.** As a member of the state land board, what is your position on agriculture leases of state land? Are there impacts from other uses, such as mineral or wind development, that you feel may affect agriculture use and how would you address those potential impacts?

**2.** What aspects of your office could impact agriculture policy and how would you address those impacts?

**3.** Please provide some background information.

## CANDIDATES FOR WYOMING SECRETARY OF STATE

### Chuck Gray, Republican

I'm running to bring conservative leadership to the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State serves as the Lieutenant Governor of Wyoming, oversees elections, manages business filings, and sits on a number of boards including the SLIB board. These are pivotal roles, so we need someone with a proven conservative track record.

During my service in the State Legislature over the past six years, I'm the only SOS candidate with a proven conservative record and a proven record regarding election integrity. I was the lead sponsor of the voter ID bill, which passed in the 2021 session.

I'm always 100% pro-life and always 100% pro-2nd Amendment. I was the lead sponsor of the 2017 ultrasound bill, the first pro-life bill in almost 30 years in Wyoming.

As a member of the State Land board, I will ensure that every state land decision is handled with a Wyoming First approach. I've been very concerned about cases of state leases being awarded to big-money interests rather than to Wyoming families who have been part of our state's successes for generations. I fully support the Agriculture Committee's investigation into a particularly problematic case of this in Converse

County that I've looked into personally. I fully support agricultural leases on state lands and have continuously opposed efforts to increase grazing fees as a state legislator.

I support full transparency from government and will advocate for that as a member of the State Land board. I'm the only candidate who has already been doing this by calling for recorded votes in the legislature to make sure politicians are accountable to voters who deserve to know exactly what the government is doing. Government transparency is pivotal and I will make sure it happens as your SOS. ■

## CANDIDATE FOR WYOMING STATE AUDITOR

### Kristi Racines, Republican

**1.** The strength and value that farming and ranching adds to our state cannot be understated. Time and again, ag producers have proven to be excellent stewards of our state lands producing food and clothing for our nation, caring for wildlife habitat, and contributing and reinvesting in our economy. The partnership between agricultural lessees and the state land board is critical, and I will continue to preserve and foster this relationship. Effective and responsible multiple use of our lands is a must but always with an eye to minimize and mitigate any adverse impact to existing agricultural operations.

**2.** The most important intersection between ag policy and the State Auditor is the land board, where I will continue to work to create an environment in which farmers and ranchers can succeed. This means upholding private property rights, limiting taxes and regulations, effectively utilizing our farm loan program, and ensuring a consistent and open dialogue between producers and elected officials on all levels. The Auditor is not a lawmaker, but as Wyoming's chief accountant, is responsible for keeping the books of the state. Even though this "back office" work may not have an obvious impact on ag policy, it plays a critical role in keeping Wyoming's government small, efficient,

and transparent. Safeguarding Wyoming's financial assets – every dollar – is serious business and it requires a skilled and conservative elected official.

**3.** I'm a 4th generation Wyoming native born in Casper and raised in Fremont County, the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of ranchers. I'm a UW grad in accounting and I am licensed as a CPA. When I was elected, I brought extensive public and private experience as an auditor and CFO to the office. My husband and I reside in Laramie County, where we are raising our two children. ■

CANDIDATES FOR  
**WYOMING STATE TREASURER**

**Curt Meier, Republican**

**1.** The SLIB has a clear duty to manage resources to the benefit of the beneficiaries. I believe we need to have a long-term view, and should look to sustain and increase returns from existing uses while providing reasonable opportunities for growth. Multiple use of school sections - minerals, livestock, industrial, residential, recreational, conservation, wind, solar - all have a role to play. We must consider the money derived from an ag lease, but should also consider the total benefit that a healthy livestock industry offers to the state and its communities.

**2.** The SLIB board has some interesting topics before it, and I provide a voice for small rural communities. The SLIB also has positive impacts on agriculture through young producer loans and other ag loans. The state's investments are up \$5 billion in the first 3 years of my term and we have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to the state each year. The positive impact that has on the state's overall financial health provides more opportunities to support agriculture and every other facet of Wyoming's economy.

**3.** I have served as your State Treasurer for the last 3 1/2 years, and I live in LaGrange, Wyoming with my

wife of 41 years, Charlene, a retired school teacher. I've been part of the family's agriculture operation there my entire life. I also had 24 years of service in the Legislature, including two committee chairs, 8 years on Appropriations Committee and 10 years on the retirement Board. Under my leadership as State Treasurer, Wyoming now has the #1 rated sovereign wealth fund in the United States. We also earned a nomination for "turn around fund of the year" by Institutional Investor Publication. Our office continues to break records each year for the number of checks issued and dollars distributed to Wyoming citizens through the Unclaimed Property Division. ■

CANDIDATES FOR WYOMING  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

**Megan Degenfelder, Republican**

**1.** The State Land Board manages around 4.2 million acres of state land, allocated by the federal government to support public schools. With only five members on the board, it is important they have an understanding of land management and balancing multiple-use in order to maximize both revenue and stewardship. In addition to the fiduciary responsibility to maximize revenue, the board must also maintain these lands for the use of future generations to come. Coming from a 6-generation Wyoming agriculture family and working in the mineral industry, I understand the importance of balancing uses of state land.

**2.** I believe providing access to agriculture education for students is incredibly important, and one of my campaign platforms is stronger partnership with Wyoming industry. I'm a strong supporter of career technical education and will advocate for appropriate funding for these programs. I also serve as vice chairman of the WY Agriculture in the Classroom and am extremely passionate about its mission. I will use my role as Superintendent to educate districts of opportunities to incorporate this industry-based curriculum.

**3.** I come from a 6th generation Wyoming ranching family. I attended public schools, graduated from the

University of Wyoming and hold a master's degree in economics. I've built a career in the private sector and in education. In both the coal and oil and gas industries, I've spent years in regulatory and government affairs to fight back against the federal government and harmful regulations. In education, I served under previous Superintendent Balow in the cabinet level position of Chief Policy Officer. I made budget reductions, consolidated staff and worked with the Legislature to update the state's educational "basket of goods" for the first time in 20 years. I am an outdoorswoman and volunteer in my community, including WY Agriculture in the Classroom. ■

**Thomas Kelly, Republican**

**1.** Wyoming law states that agricultural leases must benefit the state land trust beneficiaries, but it also provides different standards for land leased for minerals. With that differentiation under state statute, I would support leasing of land for agricultural use or mineral development within the requirements of law.

Research shows wind turbines have a positive effect on agricultural land, although again, determination of

how land is leased and used would be determined by state statute applied to a case-by-case basis.

**2.** The Wyoming Department of Agriculture takes the lead on such policy as prescribed by the legislature. As a member of the SLIB, I would keep my role within the statutory confines to promote lucrative use of leased lands.

**3.** I'm the department chair for the Department of Political and Military Science at American Military University. I have a Ph.D. in American Government and an MA in Education. I've been an educator for 30 years including ten years as a public-school teacher. I'm a small-government, liberty-oriented, Republican who values as little government intervention into private industry as possible. ■

**VOTE • AUGUST 16**

## Wyoming Classifieds

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by the 10th of each month to appear in the next issue. Members may place two (2) complimentary ads, up to 40 words each, per issue. Real estate sales not included. Complimentary ads will run for three issues unless requested otherwise. Non-members may submit an ad at a minimum rate of \$5.00 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](mailto:kclark@wyfb.org) or mail to WyFB, ATTN: Classifieds, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

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## New Members

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## BIG HORN

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## CAMPBELL

Stephanie & John Crawford, Gillette; Donna & Thomas Webb, Gillette; Matthew Herbst, Rozet; Steve Fichter, Gillette; Colleen & Ronald Watson, Gillette; Stan Mosher, Moorcroft; McKenzie & Layne Heaton, Gillette; Desiree & Dave Summers, Gillette

## CARBON

Jacquelyn & Chet Harvey (REG), Savery; Janet & John Cogswell, Saratoga; Robert Lowrance, Rawlins; Lori & Rodney Bennett, Saratoga; Christal & Russell Moon (REG), Baggs; Beverly & Jack Moore, Saratoga; Amy & Joe Johnston, Saratoga; Ron Kauffman, Saratoga; Lisa & Steve Hockley, Saratoga; Amber & Robbie Collins, Rawlins; Ronald Hawkins, Saratoga; Debra & Jack Riker (REG), Encampment; Bryan Annan, Johnstown, CO

## CONVERSE

Blake Egner, Douglas; ULC Stone Ranch (REG), North Salt Lake, UT; Joe Higgins, Douglas; Lindsay & John Stearns, Douglas; Ann & Mike Franz, Acton, CA; Bridget Overturf, Douglas; Chadwick Leclair, Douglas; John Terry,

Douglas; Rick Hamar, Glendo; Scott McWilliams, Glenrock; Robert Downs (REG), Douglas; Tori Kenkel, Douglas; Margorie & Wayne Porter, Douglas; Anita McCormick, Douglas; Mark Coy (REG), Douglas

## CROOK

Heidi & Brian Mills (REG), Sundance; Laurie & Roy Capp (REG), Devils Tower, WY; Linda Hatch (REG), Cedar Park, TX; Terry & Mark Huseby, Hulett; Kelli & Paul Baker (REG), Moorcroft; Snook Land & Livestock LLC (REG), Sundance; Donna Richards, Sundance; Toni Kornemann, Rozet; Kari & Kelsy Urroz, Sundance

## FREMONT

Rep. Pepper Ottman, Riverton; Linda Nichols (REG), Riverton; Nancy Zupence (REG), Fort Washakie; Erin Mortenson (REG), Lander; Robyn & Kevin Ashe, Pavillion; Julie & Ray Buller, Riverton; Shay Horton (REG), Riverton; Cindy & Alan Brown, Lander; Lewis Diehl/ Lews Service Center, Riverton; Brian Williams (REG), Riverton; Michelle & Michael Mazur, Lander; Kelli Dahn & Dan Grafton, Bend, OR; Chelsey & Tyler Patik, Pavillion; Tara & Brett Berg (REG), Lander; Margaret & Phillip Allen (REG), Lander; Steven Smerud, Riverton

## GOSHEN

Nicole & Tom McIntosh, Scottsbluff, NE; Diane & Steven Foster (REG), Fort Laramie; Patty & Henry Schaneman, Torrington; Elaine & Byron Rohn, Torrington; Leslie & Mike Cain (REG), Fort Laramie; Suzanne & Michael Tietjen, Torrington; Willy Ducheneaux, Veteran

## HOT SPRINGS

Ruth & Donnie Jackman, Thermopolis; Leona & Patrick Kelly (REG), San Jose, CA; Pinnacle Bank, Thermopolis; Beau Fallon & Wyatt Haight (REG), Thermopolis; Brett Klein, Thermopolis

## JOHNSON

Lucinda & John Young, Kaycee; Dallas Shaw, Buffalo; Monica & Aaron Money, Buffalo; Susan & James Romine, Rocklin, CA; Faustyna Staebler, Buffalo; David Huber, Buffalo; Collin Rodriguez, Sundance; Bonnie Klasinski, Buffalo; Laura & Ryan Anderson, Buffalo; Dan Schiffer (REG), Sheridan

## LARAMIE

Kathy & Kenneth Zubrod, Cheyenne; Amber Eggleston, Cheyenne; Joann Odendahl, Cheyenne; Jane & Darrell Moran, Chugwater; Stacy & John Broda,

Cheyenne; Mary & Robert Levenhagen, Cheyenne; Tabitha & Mark Schutter, Cheyenne; Michelle & Scott Homar, Cheyenne; Leticia & Victor Gomez, Laramie; Pat Wagner, Cheyenne; Tyler, Ellenbecker, Cheyenne; Louis Smith, Carpenter; Karen & James Mackey, Cheyenne; Tavin Blakesley, Cheyenne; Arnold Bautista (REG), Pine Bluffs; Taylor Riedel, Cheyenne; Stephen Yurgilevich, Cheyenne; Orlanda Zander, Cheyenne; Regina Wolf, Cheyenne; Abigail & Allen McDaniel, Cheyenne; Lieve & Mark Worthington, Cheyenne; Jay Lagge, Cheyenne; Janet & Federico Gamboa, Cheyenne; Danielle & William Simmons, Cheyenne; Marla Knigge (REG), Pine Bluffs, Diana & Vincent Molinaro, Cheyenne

## LINCOLN

John Starcevich, Etna; Garrett Lamborn (Reg), Diamondville; Nathan Hovey, Alpine; Laura & Robert Valentine, Afton; Alan Mohn (REG), Cokeville; Trevor Eva, Etna; Jennifer & Mitch Nield, Afton; Nancy & Scott Ellis, Diamondville; McKay & Seth Haderlie (REG), Afton; Janet & Robert Balsler, Alpine; Nanette & Kenneth Cook (REG), Cokeville; Jessica & Jacob Lozier, Kemmerer; Jill & Zachary Boylen, Kemmerer

## NATRONA

Brian King, Casper; Laurali & Mark Nutt, Casper; Kathleen & William Jones, Casper; Jackie King, Evansville; Will Whitlock, Casper; Stephanie & Gregory Lindley, Casper; Patricia Tunnell & David Nye, Casper; Stephanie & Mason Smith, Casper; Jennifer & Randy George, Casper; Craig Ulch, Bar Nunn; Pam & Ronald Slack, Casper; Judy Meyer, Casper; Neal Ruebush, Casper; Laura & Charlie Butler, Casper; Katey & Tom Covert, Casper; Lori & Keith Stetson, Casper; Peggy & William Scott (REG), Casper; Kim & Derek Jones, Casper; Yvonne Trabling, Laramie; Karen Schooley, Casper; Jeannette Hollinger, Mills; Andrea & Mitchell Roark, Casper; Margaret & Jeff Thomas, Casper; John Lang/ Smart Home Development LLC (REG), Casper; Wendy & Halden McCroskey, Casper; Bernadino Madsen, Casper; Phyllis Menzel, Casper; Barbara & Mike Wright, Casper

## NIOBRARA

Jessie & Jordan Reed (REG), Newcastle; Carson Wurdeman/ Wurdeman Brothers (REG), Lusk; Rona Bruegger (REG), Lost Springs

**NEW MEMBERS ... Page 20**



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## Meet Harriet:

Harriet is 4th generation Wyomingite who was raised on her family ranch outside Fort Laramie where Harriet learned the value of hard work, honesty, and accountability.

Harriet is a practicing attorney. She attended Casper College on a livestock judging scholarship and earned her B.S. in Business Management and her Law degree from the University of Wyoming.

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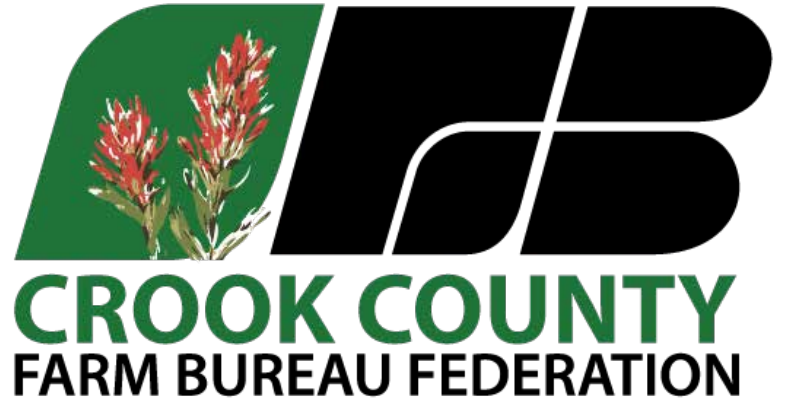
# Crook County Farm Bureau Federation 2022 scholarship winners announcement

**SUBMITTED BY DIANA BURIAN**

The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation has selected the winners for three scholarships for 2022. This year's winners are Faith Honey Anderson, Dalton Butler, and Brook Hofland.

In 1st Place, Faith Honey Anderson was selected to receive a \$1500 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2022-2023 school year. Faith Honey was the

National Honor Society chapter President, and the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America chapter President and National Vice President, she served in the 4-H State Honors Club and State Leadership team. She is an "A" Honor Roll student. Faith Honey is currently attending Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, studying Communications. Faith Honey is the daughter of Gary and Zeta Anderson of Devils Tower, Wyoming.



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In 2nd Place, Dalton Butler was selected to receive a \$1300 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2022-2023 school year. In high school Dalton played football, wrestling, track, and served as team captain earning All-Conference honors for each. He also played trombone in the jazz band at Hulett High School, participated in all aspects of FFA, helps run a sheep livestock business with his brothers, and is a straight A student. Dalton is currently attending Casper College studying Aviation and Agricultural Business. Dalton is the son of JR and Bobbi Butler of Hulett, Wyoming.

The 3rd Place winner is Brook Hofland, selected to receive an \$800 scholarship from Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2022-2023 school year. Brook has played volleyball for Sundance High School, winning two state championships, and also plays basketball and was awarded All-State in track and field. She is the senior class president and student council vice president. She also serves in Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Brook will be studying Elementary Education at Sheridan College this fall. Brook is the daughter of Lance Hofland of Beulah, Wyoming.

Congratulations to these very deserving recipients! ■

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### Carbon County Picnic

Carbon County held their annual picnic in the beautiful valleys of Saratoga, Wyoming, Friday, June 24th. It was a family, friendly evening of learning, dinner and entertainment. Keynote speaker, Mackenzie Johnston with Cattle News Central, spoke about food shortages as "Unprecedented Times in the Cattle Industry." BROOKE ROES PHOTO



### Platte County News

Platte County Farm Bureau Federation President Dick Dovey (right) congratulates Woodrow Brow, Wheatland, for receiving a 2022 scholarship. SUBMITTED BY SANDY DOVEY



A beautiful day and great time had by all at the annual Albany County Farm Bureau Federation member picnic June 26!

### Albany County holds picnic; Presents top hand award



Congratulations to Tanner Page for being selected as the 2022 Albany County Farm Bureau Federation Top Hand! From left to right: John Wetstein; Chris Starks; Tanner Page; Steve Beumee; and Russ Austin.

## Republican State Treasurer Curt Meier has

# Good News for Wyoming

Since I took office in 2019, our team has done some really good work for Wyoming.

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- We've beaten benchmark returns two years in a row.

- We've provided hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to Wyoming each year.

- We've modernized the office's accounting and administrative functions.

- We've returned an unprecedented

amount of funds to a record number of people through our Unclaimed Property Division.

- We've ensured that fiscal accountability, transparency and conservative free-market values are always the cornerstones of our operation.

Wyoming now has the #1 rated sovereign wealth fund in the United States, and I'm proud of what my team has done for the people of Wyoming.

We can't wait to show you what we can do in our second term!



More Good News at [www.curtmeierwyoming.com](http://www.curtmeierwyoming.com)



Thank You for your vote on August 16

Paid for by Committee to Elect Curt Meier

# Wyoming Farm Bureau Policy in action

BY BRETT MOLINE

**W**WyFB has policy to support having veterinary technicians in Wyoming. The topic of vet techs was suggested as an interim topic for the Wyoming Legislature Joint Agriculture Committee. This subject was discussed at the committee meeting in May.

This topic had been broached several years ago and the bill died at the legislature. Some legislators considered the bill

a fencing bill (fencing people in or out of the profession) and the bill died.

At the May meeting the discussion was interesting, to say the least. Some legislators seemed against the idea, not wanting any further governmental intervention into the industry. Part of the discussion was trying to determine exactly what the possible duties of a vet tech would be, and what duties could not be performed by a vet tech.

It was determined that to facilitate having vet techs in Wyoming, the Veterinarian Medical Practice Act would have to be amended. Amending this act is serious business and several questions were raised: Does the Agriculture industry want/need this classification to facilitate more persons working in the large animal medical world in Wyoming? Do the Wyoming Veterinarians want this classification? What changes are needed should

the different groups decide this classification is needed/wanted?

To help answer these questions, the vet tech association and the vet association will work together. To make the changes could take up to three years to get the wording right, something the industry and affected farms and ranchers are able to agree on. WyFB will be involved in the discussion to see if our policy can be put into effect. ■

## Growers Frustrated Again with EPA Decision

Neonic BEs are Overly Conservative, Inflate Affected Species Numbers

JUNE 17, 2022, WASHINGTON, D.C.

**G**rowers are again expressing frustration over the Endangered Species Act biological evaluations released by EPA. As with the draft BEs last August, the final BEs are overly conservative and in some instances fail to use important data. As a result, grower groups—including the American Soybean Association and American Farm Bureau Federation—are concerned the BEs drastically overstate the impact of the pesticides on endangered species and their habitats.

The BEs for several neonicotinoid pesticides, including imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and clothianidin, do not incorporate scientific and commercial data that could have provided a more realistic picture of the potential impact of the chemistries on species. For example, nearly all applications of neonicotinoids in soybeans are made as seed treatments, using a minuscule amount of pesticide buried underground where it is far less likely to impact species or habitat. However, the final BEs assume growers exclusively make foliar spray and soil applications using many times more active ingredient than is reflected by real-world USDA and market survey data. The BEs also continue to assume a species will be adversely affected if only one individual

in a species is impacted, which greatly inflates effects assessments.

Despite the groups pointing out these shortcomings in draft BE public comments, EPA doubled down on using inappropriate and overly cautious assumptions in its final BEs, which leads to significant overestimations on the impact on species.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said, “For generations, farmers and ranchers have taken care of our natural resources and taken significant steps to protect natural habitats and wildlife. We take our responsibility to be good stewards of the land seriously. Farmers use pesticides precisely and also utilize technologies to minimize impact, which has allowed us to produce more food with fewer resources. But EPA’s

flawed overestimation of farm pesticide use could lead to lower yields as farmers lose access to important crop protection tools.”

Brad Doyle, soy farmer from Arkansas and president of the American Soybean Association, expressed, “Growers have time and again pointed EPA to real-world data to improve their endangered species assessments, which the agency has again chosen to disregard. It’s frustrating because conservative assumptions inflate the number of species EPA claims are likely to be adversely affected, which in turn creates more work for the agencies. By law, EPA must formally consult on every species it determines may be affected, even if the agency could rule out many species by using better data.” ■

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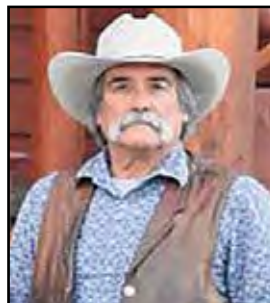
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## Obituary



# Kathleen Marie Moore

March 19, 1927 – June 28, 2022

**K**athleen Marie Moore, 95, passed away at her home on the Plumbago Canyon Ranch north of Laramie June 28, 2022. Kathleen was born March 19, 1927 to Edward and Marie Scherrer. Her grandparents, William and Maria Radichal, were the original homesteaders of the family ranch in 1887. Many of Kathleen's values were deeply ingrained in her as she spent summers on the ranch with them and, in fact, her childhood revolved around her entire family...parents, brother, cousin, grandparents, aunts and uncles. As a young lady, her job was to drive the hay stacker team of horses, or sometimes rake the hay, but always, she was elected to go to the house and fix the dinner. She was known for her cooking. She graduated from Laramie High School and attended the University of Wyoming.

Kathleen married Charles Castle in 1943. To this union, four children were born: William (Bill), Larry, Charleen and Elaine. They later divorced. She married Pat Ryan and they later divorced.

Kathleen married Tom D. Moore on December 3, 1972. Together they formed a partnership to be in the cattle business. Kathleen and Tom loved to dance as well as travel together. In later years, they would enjoy photographic books and visualize the described scenery and experience.

Kathleen valued studying the Bible as a guide for life. Family was important to Kathleen, and she was important to her family. She loved to throw a good party to celebrate birthdays, Christmas,

grandchildren and just about anything else that should be celebrated. Every detail was tended to including the food, the atmosphere, the company and making memories. The pictures were always put in a scrapbook and journaled with love.

Kathleen loved the land and valued the traits of her pioneer ranching family. A treasure for her family is a book she wrote called "The Road Home." She put to paper many of the great stories of the generations that have come before us to work the land. Along with the written stories, she loved to verbally tell the stories of ranching and family times.

She was a member of the Albany County Farm Bureau and a charter member of the Albany County Cow-Belles (ACCB). She served as ACCB county president among many other volunteer activities. An important contribution of her time and talent, and a project she valued, was her work on the "Cow-Belles Ring School Bells" book to document rural education in Albany County.

An excerpt from her poem "The Road Home" reads: "On that road home stand trees with leaves of gold, like familiar memories, a joy to behold. The blue sky reminds us that God up above is there to give us His benevolent love. Have faith in tomorrow, follow your dreams, nothing is impossible, as it sometimes seems. Take care of each other, make memories of your own, and we'll all see each other on that long Road Home."

Kathleen is survived by her husband of 49 years Tom D. Moore, Bosler; son William

"Bill" Castle (Sharleen), Bosler; son Larry Castle; daughter Charleen Wallen (John Erickson), Laramie; daughter Elaine (Joseph) Springer, Orcas Island, WA. She is also survived by step-daughters Teri Collier, Ft. Collins, CO; and Tina (Jerry) Gustafson, Gillette. She is survived by six grandchildren: Cody (Marcia) Castle, Laramie; Kerin (Jake) Clark, Yoder; Julie (Chris) Devine, Laramie; Caleb Castle, Salt Lake City, UT; Heidi Kalak, Ft. Collins, CO; Natalie (Ethan) Richter, Laramie. Her 11 great-grandchildren are: Macey Castle; Kadra and Kyler Clark, Yoder; Jackson and Weston Devine, Laramie; Traian, Bianca and Stella Kalak, Ft. Collins, CO; and Simon, Cora, Ruby and Rosa Richter, Laramie. She is also survived by five step-grandchildren: Justin Eggleston; Danielle (Augustine) Sanchez; Desiree (Evan) Bazemore; Douglas (Tiffany) Johnson; and Crysten Johnson. Her two step-great grandchildren are: Theo Sanchez and Alphonse Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Marie Scherrer; her brother Billy Scherrer; and step-son Todd Moore.

Memorial services were July 5 in Laramie with burial at the Scherrer family plot at Greenhill Cemetery. A reception followed at the Albany County Fairgrounds Activities Building with a meal hosted by the Albany County CattleWomen.

Memorials may be made to the Albany County Cow-Belles (ACCB) Scholarship Fund in Kathleen Moore's name. Please make checks payable to "ACCB Scholarship" and mail to Albany County Cow-Belles Scholarship, C/O Shirley Lilley, 2017 East Grand Avenue #6, Laramie, WY 82070. ■

## NEW MEMBERS... From Page 14

### PARK

Cindy Fair & John Wolfe (REG), Powell; Deni Hirsh & Ronald South, Cody; Virginia DeLeon, Powell; L Gary & Betty Lee Lundvall Liv Trust (REG), Cody; Luz Myrium Wipf, Powell; Ladaun & Curtis Ryan, Cody; Mark Phillips (REG), Cody; Philip Mcvey, Wapiti; Noemi Marquez, Powell; Sondra & Vern Browning, Cody; Catheryn & Randolph Selby, Wapiti; Marion Smith Ingram, Cody; Lauren & Abram Graham, Powell; Shannon & Michale Sand, Powell; Steven Hultgren, Powell; Sarah Ringer (REG), Cody

### PLATTE

Rachelle & Roy Knott, Wheatland; Ann & Michael Koenig, Wheatland; Ace Thurston, Wheatland; Jamie Sisson, Wheatland; Rothschild Livestock CO, Fort Collins, CO

### SHERIDAN

Michael & James Allison (REG), WYarno; Robert Waurio, Sheridan;

Deanne & John Meyer, Sheridan; Candice & Jason Busch, Sheridan; Darrin Goyn, Sheridan; Judith & Darrin Stallman, Sheridan; Lindsey Martinez, Sheridan; Jon Podgornik, Sheridan; Cora & Jeremy Roerig, Sheridan; Gary Bradley, Sheridan; Nose Knows Scouting, Dayton; Tyler McKinley, Sheridan; Leslie Belus(REG), Sheridan; Bonnie & Shane Barney (REG), Sheridan; Elizabeth & Kenneth Branscum, Sheridan; Jessica & Jacob Townsend, Sheridan; Florence Snyder, Sheridan; Emily Van Hoosier, Sheridan; Laura & Joseph McColley, Sheridan; Erin & David Nickerson, Big Horn; Christine Shepard, Sheridan; Bev Burton, Story; Rebecca & Kenneth Higgs, Sheridan; Donald Grevesen, Sheridan; Megan & Joshua Ponciano, Sheridan; Paige & Doug Sanders, Sheridan; Brooke Shippy, Sheridan; Beverly & Dennis Reher, Big Horn; Tanit & Brandon Bulanek, Sheridan; Norman Marshall, Dayton; Kim Ryan, Sheridan; Misty & Brent Padgett, Sheridan; Brandy & Chad Bradshaw, Sheridan; Tammy & Scott McDougall, Sheridan; Kelli Macha, Sheridan; Linda

Frey, Sheridan; Carol & Jim Bass, Dayton; Andy Edmundson, Sheridan; Morgan Dufort, Sheridan; Jacque & Scott Friedrich, Sheridan; Theresa & David Harrington, Sheridan; Michael Schumacher, Rancheater; Lori & Mike Moreland, Sheridan

### SUBLETTE

Jessica Cassell, Big Piney; Lance Mcmillen, Big Piney; Laurel Christensen, Pinedale; Josh Wilson, Pinedale; Karen & Tim Forrester, Big Piney

### SWEETWATER

Leanne & Robert Chesnovar (REG), Rock Springs; Niki & Justin Ready (REG), Rock Springs; Ken McKay, Rock Springs; Julee & Dale Dreben, Rock Springs; Sheri & Matthew Rackley, Green River; Kathleen & Brian Rushin, Rock Springs; HNK Ranch, LLC (REG), Green River; Christopher Hurst, Rock Springs; Dillon Rodenbaugh, Rock Springs; Suzette & Bradley Bruderer, Rock Springs

### TETON

Kendra & Ryan Butler, Wilson; Lisa & Michael Lane, Camas, WA; Kathryn Dahlgren, Jackson; Kimberly & Sean Casserly, Jackson; Tracy & Eric Logan, Jackson; Cindy Dwyer & Dale Staten, Jackson; Martina Flowers & Nathaniel Patridge, Jackson

### UINTA

RS Land & Livestock LLC (REG), Paradise, UT; Terry Allred, Lyman; Katherine & Preston Vercimak, Lyman; Amiee Major, Mountain View; Lance Kudlock (REG), Mountain View; Casey Lamoreaux, Fort Bridger, Kayleigh & Dillon Bleumel, Lyman; Colleen Platts, Lyman

### WASHAKIE

Nicole & Joshua Hellyer, Worland; Doris Scalia, Worland; Kenna & Brian Lamb, Worland; Pamela & Malcom Nelson, Worland; Dan Scheuerman, Worland

### WESTON

Leah & Steve Anderson, Newcastle ■



AFBF's Austin Large visits with WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill at the June Membership Committee meeting. MIKKA ROGERS PHOTO.



County Farm Bureau Federation members gathered in June to discuss membership in the federation. Grassroots involvement is the strength of the Farm Bureau Federation. MIKKA ROGERS PHOTO.

# 2022 WyFB membership committee meeting

BY MIKKA ROGERS,  
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Over 40 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members gathered in Casper on June 1st to discuss membership analytics, with special guest Austin Large, Director, Membership, and Organizational Development

at the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, D.C. Large brought new insight into marketing membership and recruiting members. WyFB Membership Committee participants gained great benefits with Large's visit and are excited to bring new ideas to their respective counties. The WyFB Membership Com-

mittee also set quota and membership award goals for the coming year.

"As a grassroots organization, meaningful membership work depends on everyone involved in Farm Bureau. It was an honor to work with county and state leaders of the Wyoming Farm Bureau during the annual membership

meeting," Large said. "It's clear that this group is committed to working hard to grow membership to ensure that Farm Bureau can continue to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world." ■

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**Wild Horse & Burro Events**

**EVENT DETAILS**

Wyoming/Nebraska 2022

<p><b>Wheatland Off Range Corral, Wheatland, WY</b> July 15 Aug. 5 &amp; Sept. 2 Oct. 7 &amp; Oct. 21</p> <p><b>Cheyenne Frontier Days @ Lions Park, Cheyenne, WY</b> July 22-July 30 (live auction on July 30th)</p> <p><b>TIP Challenge and Adoption @ WY State Fair, Douglas, WY</b> Aug. 19</p> <p><b>Wyoming State Fair Mustang Days, Douglas, WY</b> Aug. 20</p> <p><b>Wind River Wild Horse Ranch Day &amp; Adoptions, Lander, WY</b> Sept. 3</p>	<p><b>WY Honor Farm Adoptions, Riverton, WY</b> Sept. 9-10</p> <p><b>Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island, NE</b> Sept. 13-15</p> <p><b>Mantle Ranch Adoption, Wheatland, WY</b> Sept. 17</p> <p>Appointments can be made prior to this event. Please call Steve Mantle at (307) 331-2225 for more information.</p> <p><b>Deerwood Open Ranch Days, Centennial, WY</b> Sept. 24</p> <p><b>Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility, Rock Springs, WY</b> To make an adoption appointment for Thursday or Friday, please call Kathi Fine at (307) 352-0292 for more information.</p>
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<p><b>ADOPTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM</b></p>	<p>Interested in giving a good home to an untrained wild horse or burro? Ask how you can earn up to <b>\$1,000</b> when you do!</p>	<p><b>\$125</b></p> <p>Minimum fee for trained and AIP animals</p>	<p><b>\$25</b></p> <p>Adoption/sale fee for untrained animals</p>
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Market Intel, produced by the Farm Bureau economic analysis team, provides market and policy insight and analysis for our farmer and rancher members nationwide, as well as policymakers on Capitol Hill. Visit [fb.org/marketintel](http://fb.org/marketintel) to view the market and policy analysis and policy insight published frequently.

Here is a summary of a June 2022 Market Intel article discussing rising fuel costs.

## High fuel prices squeeze farms and ranches

JUNE 28, 2022

**R**ising fuel prices are putting growing pressure on farmers and ranchers as they grapple with increased costs of growing food and fiber. USDA estimates show that the cost of fuel, lube and electricity is expected to increase 34% in 2022 compared to 2021. American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyze the factors contributing to rising fuel prices in the latest Market Intel.

The war in Ukraine has reduced availability of global crude oil and U.S. domestic production is down while demand is increasing

in the United States and abroad. Diesel prices rose to \$5.718 per gallon in June, up \$2.432 per gallon, or 74%, compared to \$3.286 per gallon in June 2021. The current high price of diesel is more than two times the price paid before 2020.

“While some farmers are seeing increases in commodity prices, their gains are being eaten up by higher expenses,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Many farmers and ranchers are concerned they won’t be able to break even, much less make a profit. It’s not just on-farm costs taking a toll. High diesel

and gasoline prices, among other increased costs, all affect the food supply chain, starting at the farm and continuing to the grocery store, which means all families are ultimately paying more to put food on their tables.”

Prices could potentially begin to decline, but the U.S. must increase domestic production and expand refining capacity. Farmers and ranchers will also be watching the weather as hurricane season ramps up. Severe weather could impact production if refineries or offshore sites are hit by storms. ■

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# Rail order delays, empty exports and equipment shortages – transportation disruptions persist

BY DANIEL MUNCH, AFBF ECONOMIST  
JULY 11, 2022

*Editor's Note: This article has been condensed. Please visit [www.fb.org/marketintel](http://www.fb.org/marketintel) to read the full article and view graphics/numbers.*

Market access is vital to the operation of any business, including farms and ranches across the United States. The complex system of highways, rail lines, rivers and flight paths crisscrossing the nation, and ocean ports dotted along the coasts allow inputs to reach producers and goods to reach customers – when these systems function effectively and efficiently. Over the past several years, starting with the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated by global geopolitical rifts, supply chain fluidity has plummeted, with heavy disruptions across freight delivery. Previous Market Intels have outlined many of the factors complicating the ability of farmers and ranchers to cost-effectively utilize rail systems and ocean ports to market their products. In this Market Intel, we provide a mid-year status update on these vital transportation systems.

Total grain rail cars loaded and billed dipped slightly in the second quarter of 2022 from 381,000 cars in quarter one to 373,000 cars in quarter two. This 8,000-car difference is half the decline from quarter two 2021, a year ago, when 391,000 grain cars were loaded and billed across all carriers. In other words, railroads loaded and billed fewer grain cars than last quarter and this time last year.

A look at cumulative weekly unfilled grain car orders, a metric that tracks grain cars not effectively loaded and billed, reveals these declines are not due to reduced demand from shippers. As a reminder, each railroad reports its definition of “unfilled order” slightly differently but generally it is the number of cars a shipper (such as a grain elevator) ordered but did not receive. For example, if a grain elevator ordered 10 cars from a railroad and received seven, that would leave three unfilled orders. Though railroad companies report the number of these unfilled orders to the Surface Transportation Board weekly, the dataset does not distinguish between rail cars still undelivered between weeks or new undelivered grain cars. This means grain cars that are still undelivered over one week are counted again in the following week’s report until successful delivery.

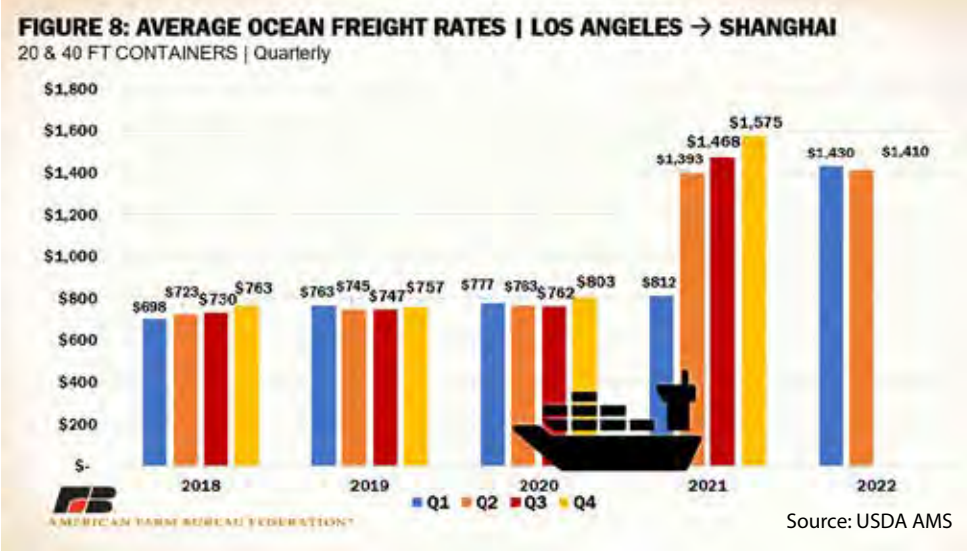
Of these 204,000 cumulative unfilled grain car orders one or more days overdue, nearly 70% or 140,000 were also 11 or more days overdue – a 348% increase from the second quarter last year and 82% increase from last quarter. Most order delays are lasting 11 days or more, putting grain mills or livestock operations reliant on a steady stream of raw materials and feed in limbo. As expected, the bulk of unfilled grain car orders have been concentrated in grain-heavy regions of the Upper Midwest and Central Plains with North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas all having over 20,000 cumulative weekly unfilled orders across quarter two 2022.

One area that further reveals the impacts of unfilled orders on shippers is the secondary rail market where shippers bid against each other for contracts that could

increase the chance of getting delayed product successfully moved. Last quarter, bidders faced a near 500% increase in secondary railcar auction bids from the prior four-year average (between BNSF and UP). This quarter, bidders faced even higher auction offers – up 552% from the prior quarter two four-year average (from \$124 to \$801). Continued inflated rates in these auctions act as proxy for railway efficiency when shippers are forced to bid for a shrinking number of successfully loaded and billed contracts, as reflected in heightened unfilled order metrics.

On a marginally higher note, secondary market bids for shuttle service have cooled for deliveries to be made in August from highs for deliveries made in April.

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Shippers with flexibility in moving product may participate into the secondary market to take advantage of high bids for existing contracts, further contributing to delivery uncertainty.

Considering other service quality metrics, rail speeds continue to decline, with the average speed of grain and ethanol lower than other goods. As part of their submission to the Surface Transportation Board, railroads provide data on the average speed of their trains (in miles per hour), broken out by commodity/type such as automotive, coal, crude oil, ethanol, grain, intermodal, manifest, etc. In early 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic initially dropped demand for goods, rail speeds reached 26 mph for all goods and 25 mph for grains and ethanol – with less pressure on railways, fluidity was high. More recently, the average speed for all goods has dropped to 22 mph (-14%) from quarter two 2020 and 21 mph (-15%) for ethanol and grains. With 140,000 miles of railways in the U.S., even minor drops in average rail speeds compound downstream service efficiency. Slowed and delayed service contributes to increased rates of unfilled orders across the country.

Low container and equipment inventories have stalled operational capacity across all segments of the transportation system. More recently, discussion of the availability container chassis, the trailer frames specifically designed to carry a range of container types over railways and highways, has reached center stage. Even if a surplus of containers existed, chassis are essential to transport them. Chassis are also limiting the ocean port side of the equation where turnover of chassis

between customers has been slowed to a pinch point. Further, the price for a chassis has reportedly tripled, from an average of about \$7,000 to over \$21,000 each.

Currently, there are very few containers, container chassis and ships produced domestically, with the bulk of manufacturing taking place in China. According to the Federal Maritime Commission, a very small number of large Chinese firms control 95% of global maritime container inventory production, 85% of global intermodal chassis production and 40% of the global commercial ship order book. Relying on firms in a single foreign nation for production of equipment essential to the movement of goods such as food and fuel has its own national security implications in addition to general supply constraints.

Speaking of the ocean freight network, large quantities of exports continue to move overseas without first being filled with U.S. product. Some ocean carriers consider it more efficient to ship empty containers rather than wait for export goods to be loaded, which has led to a significant decline in the number of containers available to agricultural exporters. Carriers are also incentivized to return containers abroad as soon as possible to take advantage of freight rates that remain much higher for routes from Asia to North America than North America to Asia. In quarter one of 2022, 70% of exported containers from California were empty – the fifth consecutive quarter with empties over 65% of exports. At Georgia and Virginia ports, empty export containers remain at nearly 50% of export container volume – well above prior-year rates. Notably, as the volume of imports processed has increased under a period of high demand for international goods, that capacity has not been reflected in increases

in loaded exports. Port operators and carriers have argued stacks of empty containers go unclaimed for extended periods of time – a possible result of compounding trucking delays.

Ocean freight rates for U.S. exporters remains at heightened levels, further pressuring bottom lines for producers reliant on foreign markets for revenue. Figure 8 (see page 23) displays average ocean rates for 20- and 40- foot containers moving from Los Angeles to Shanghai, China. The compounding impact of widespread price increases for inputs like fertilizer and fuel combined with general inflationary pressures and record transportation costs continue to whittle away at margins.

Labor and crew availability continue to handicap all aspects of the economy. Uncertainty surrounding ongoing negotiations between the International Longshore Warehouse Union and Pacific Maritime Association has placed further tension on the future of port efficiency. Fragile relationships between worker

unions and freight operators jeopardize an already weakened labor supply.

**Conclusion**

Disruptions present at each step of the supply chain intensify frustration for producers and customers alike. Both railways and ocean ports play an essential role in cost-effectively and reliably moving agricultural goods to their destination. Service disruptions, delays and heightened costs for shippers persist well into the second quarter of this year across ocean ports and railways. Legislation such as the Ocean Shipping Reform Act should assist in the much-needed movement of U.S. agricultural goods. New guidance released by the Federal Maritime Commission requires carrier invoices to report additional contract specifications related to detention and demurrage rules, applicable rates and “free time” which is the given amount of time for container pickup. This change, however, remains one small piece of a larger puzzle of possible creative solutions. ■

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