

WYOMING AGRICULTURE

Agriculture....Keeping Wyoming Strong

VOL. 38, No. 5

PUBLISHED BY THE WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

February 2021

Farm Bureau Establishes 2021 Policies Todd Fornstrom re-elected to AFBF Board of Directors

January 14, 2021--Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 102nd Annual Convention adopted policies on January 14 to guide the organization’s work in 2021. Key topics ranged from farm diversity to farm labor and dairy policy to live-

stock marketing. For the first time in AFBF history, delegates met and voted virtually due to COVID-19.

“Our Farm Bureau delegates showed that no challenge, not even a pandemic, will keep them from working to improve the lives of America’s farmers and ranchers,”

said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Their work not only sets policy for 2021, it will also serve as a guide for AFBF as we prepare to work with a new president and a new Congress to ensure we continue to lead the world in producing healthy and safe food, fiber and fuel.”

Recognizing the importance of broadening access to agriculture, delegates voted to encourage increased racial diversity in farming. This new policy calls for increased funding for USDA programs that make inheriting farms easier and
See ‘2021 Policies’ page 7

Find a Diamond, Be a Diamond --2021 Strengthening Our Roots WyFB YF&R Conference

By Kerin Clark

There were many diamonds to find at the 2021 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Conference held Jan. 15-16 in Douglas, Wyoming. Those diamonds included the chance to network with like-minded people, hear updates on agriculture issues, learn more about issues impacting Wyoming agriculture and have fun playing cards with new and old friends in agriculture.

Young farmers and ranchers from across Wyoming gathered to strengthen their roots in agriculture during the conference. Converse County Ranch-

er and former WyFB YF&R Committee Member Rachel Grant welcomed the group to Converse County. “Regardless of where you came from and regardless of your current position in agriculture in Wyoming, attending this conference is a stepping off point to say I want to do something for my roots, for my family,” Grant stated.

United States Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) spoke to the conference attendees. Senator Barrasso focused on policy issues for agriculture and Wyoming. He also recognized the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for
See ‘WyFB YF&R Conference’ page 5



Skyler Ellis is a 3rd generation participant at the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Conference! His grandparents, Justin and Kristi Ellis, were founding WyFB YF&R Committee Members back in 2002! Take his smile as proof...we have a lot of fun while advocating for agriculture through Farm Bureau! Kerin Clark photo.

2021 Wyoming Legislative Session

By Kerin Clark

With a unique schedule of virtual and in-person sessions, the 2021 Wyoming Legislature has kicked-off. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) will continue to serve as a voice for agriculture during the Legislative session whether they are meeting virtually or in-person. WyFB lobbyists will continue participating and testifying virtually, and in-person once able, to ensure Farm Bureau policy is addressed.

A look at the timeline

The 2021 Wyoming Legislative Session convened (virtually and in-person) on January 12 for one day with the swearing in of new legislators and assignments of bills to

committees. The session then adjourned until January 27. During adjournment three days of virtual committee meetings were held from January 19-21.

When the session reconvenes on January 27th the legislature will meet virtually via Zoom for eight days. Following a planned Feb. 5th adjournment, the session is scheduled to reconvene on March 1 and will be held in person if possible. The scheduled final adjournment date is April 2.

Tax and fee increase proposals

Challenges facing the budget are bringing many different bills forward to increase taxes and fees. “Farm Bureau will not be supporting

See ‘2021 Wyoming Legislative Session’ page 7

IN THIS ISSUE

- Calm is contagiousPage 2
- What role does the government play.....Page 2
- YF&R Spotlight: Ag Books for Kids.....Page 4
- County Farm Bureau Federation scholarships.....Page 9
- Cooking with the Modern RanchwifePage 12
- Intersection of Europe’s regulatory hypocrisyPage 14
- WyFB receives AFBF awards.....Page 16
- AFBF Market Intel reportsPage 16

www.wyfb.org

WYOMING AGRICULTURE

label

The Voice of Agriculture in Washington

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

As our nation's new leaders were sworn in January 20th and the 117th Congress is underway, they will need to hit the ground running to build on the work of strengthening U.S. agriculture. The American Farm Bureau stands ready to work with all our leaders on the pressing issues facing our farms, ranches and rural communities. Work on the farm never stops, and neither does Farm Bureau's advocacy work in Washington.



Zippy Duvall

As our nation continues to face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers and ranchers, their employees and their rural neighbors can't afford any lag time in the essential services we are counting on to keep our businesses running and our food supply secure. Federal agencies and congressional committees we work closely with will see a shift in leadership, but we can expect to see some familiar faces in those offices.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-See 'Voice of Agriculture' page 6

What role should the government play in keeping people safe?

By Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President

Article 1 Sec. 1 of the Wyoming Constitution says that, "All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness." The idea that one of government's main roles is to provide for the safety of its citizens is why we have police forces and laws against physically harming another person. While these types of laws, i.e., preventing one person from harming another, have been well accepted for centuries some of the current laws are facing more scrutiny.



Ken Hamilton

As people began settling in larger and larger communities the concept of safety was expanded. Those expansions have included issues like standards for building houses, requirements for government to provide clean water to its citizens, and after automobiles became ubiquitous came the necessity for speed limits and driver qualifications. Volunteer fire departments gave way to full time fire departments and traffic laws were established which, in the United States at least, required vehicles to not run over pedestrians.

The concept of what role govern- See 'Keeping people safe' page 3

Calm is contagious: AFBF 2021

By Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President

"Calm is contagious"--simple words from former Navy Seal Commander Rorke Denver. These are valuable words of wisdom from someone who knows a tough situation in times of high stress and particularly important for current times and the foreseeable future. Commander Denver talked about some simple but powerful strategies in his virtual address to this year's American Farm Bureau convention.



Todd Fornstrom

His message should resonate with farmers and ranchers. As a group of Americans that deal and even plan for natural disasters and hard times, keeping one's head is one of the basic necessities of daily life. When the rain comes relentlessly during spring planting farmers gear up and and wait for the opportunity to get in that muddy field and plant those seeds sometimes only to have the rain quit for a time and their crop dry up. Ranchers work tirelessly through those frozen nights to care for their livestock during calving or lambing and sometimes the next

summer Mother Nature holds off the moisture for the grass needed to grow those animals.

As farmers and ranchers, we prepare our equipment and put up extra hay for these times knowing they will come. It's hard not to get excited, but we know staying calm and keeping our heads will get us through.

We can take this phrase and put it to work in the coming days, weeks and months. Relax, take care of what is immediate and the things we can affect. Don't get excited about what is out of our control. Do the basic things right and it will make the more complex things easier.

If we can remain calm in these high-tension times everyone around us will be better off. There is a difference between raising the level of tension in the room and letting your peers know your stance on a subject.

This simple, straight forward tidbit is just one nugget of advice available for consumption from this year's American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention.

Calendar of Events

January

27 Wyoming Legislature Reconvenes virtually via Zoom for eight days

March

- 1 WyFB scholarship application deadline
- 1 Wyoming Legislature Reconvenes (tentatively in person)
- 1-6 Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week
- 11-13..AFBF Fusion/YF&R Virtual Conference
- 23 National Agriculture Day

April

- 2 "Ag Books for Kids" county contest deadline
- 2 Wyoming 2021 General Session Adjourns
- 20 "Ag Books for Kids" district contest deadline

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates



Wyoming Agriculture, ISSN 10710272, is the official publication of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070 and is published monthly, except for combined July/August and December/January issues. \$1.00 subscription rate is deducted from Farm Bureau membership dues. Paid subscriptions are available to Wyoming Farm Bureau members only. Periodicals postage paid at Torrington, Wyoming 82240. Postmaster send change of address to: Wyoming Agriculture, Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. The Wyoming Farm Bureau toll-free number is 1-800-442-8325. www.wyfb.org

EDITOR - KERIN CLARK
307.532.2002 • kclark@wyfb.org

WyFB Officers

- TODD FORNSTROM—President
- COLE COXBILL—Vice President
- KEN HAMILTON—Executive Vice President

- TIM PEXTON, Central District
- RAENELL TAYLOR, Northeast District
- THAD DOCKERY, Northwest District
- KEVIN BAARS, Southeast District
- JUSTIN ELLIS, Southwest District
- RACHEL GRANT, Director-at-Large
- CHELSEA BAARS, YF&R Chair

WyFB Welcomes Intern Morgan Spiro

By Kerin Clark

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) welcomes Morgan Spiro as an intern. She is a sophomore at the University of Wyoming (UW) studying Communications.

At UW, she is involved as an officer in the Collegiate Farm Bureau. Spiro has also served as the WyFB annual meeting parliamentarian the last two years. She is a Panhellenic Delegate (representative on the College Panhellenic Council) for her sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Spiro comes from California's Central Valley, having been involved with the local FFA, 4-H, and Farm Bureau. She served as a California Dairy Princess under the California Milk Advisory Board.

Spiro shares she is passionate about advocating for agriculture because it is the one thing that affects every person, every day.

"Ever since I was young, I have been surrounded by agriculture. My dad, a seasoned veterinarian, would pack me and my sister up for every emergency call and routine preg-check," Spiro explained. "Sure, I was raised in town, but I grew up somewhere between the dairies, peaches, and horse ranches."

"Every year, the Kings County Farm Bureau Federation would hold "Farm Day" for 3rd graders all over the county," she continued. "I remember my own Farm Day, and even still have the t-shirt somewhere! When I was finally old enough to present my own livestock projects, I remember the pure joy on the kid's faces while I told them about the history of Angus cattle and let them pet my old



Morgan Spiro

cow's pregnant belly."

According to Spiro, she is looking forward to learning about the policies that affect Wyoming farmers and ranchers and how the Farm Bureau gets involved to directly stimulate change.

"Working with the Farm Bureau opens up those opportunities to educate and inform the public, while also serving the providers of food, fiber, fuel, and flora who make our world spin every single day," Spiro stated. "I absolutely love Wyoming, being outside, and getting involved with the community in Laramie and the state."

"If there is one thing I have learned about Wyoming in my short time here, it's that the people have real grit," she said. "They like to see things get done and get them done well. Being a transplant to this beautiful state, I hope to have some of that grit and integrity rub off on me in all of the best ways. I am confident I will have the opportunity to foster personal and professional connections, applicable skills, and personal growth that will last a lifetime."

Keeping people safe

From page 2

ment should play in keeping people safe has expanded from those of even 50 years ago. Laws and regulations have been adopted which utilize the concept of safety as the fundamental reason for the law or regulation.

Pesticide regulations were established for a person's safety. Automobile standards have been developed which added costly automobile features because of safety. Most farmers and ranchers have vehicles sans padded dashboards and fuel tanks nestled behind the seats which were common 50 years ago. Now dashboards are made of softer materials, seat belts are required and cars utilizing air bag technology are standard.

In Wyoming there have been attempts to make it a primary offense for drivers to not wear a seatbelt. In any debate there are studies and statistics which seatbelt proponents say show the need for such a law. Opponents of such laws will agree that seatbelts may indeed provide protection, but they also argue that instituting such a law is government overreach. A few years ago, the Wyoming Legislature adopted a law making it illegal to text

and drive and some municipalities have adopted ordinances banning cell phones while driving.

These arguments are not new, nor will they go away, but one theme seems to be occurring with these laws and regulations. As society requires a government entity to move into the protection role, citizens seem to reduce their ability, or need, to think for themselves.

We have warning labels on ladders telling us to be careful. We have warning labels on coffee telling us it's hot. Meanwhile we have people who have stopped recognizing dangers if they don't see some type of warning sign.

What the long-term implication will be seems to be a society which stops thinking for themselves and defaults that process to some agency. In a downward spiral, people will do dumb things which will then result in another rule or regulation, which will then result in people using less common sense. Anytime we seek to pass a law or a regulation to protect someone from a self-evident ill we risk creating more and more people who stop thinking for themselves.

21st Century Equipment

5180 US Highway 26
Torrington, WY 82240



Developing Solutions, Delivering Success

(307) 532-7071

www.21stCenturyEquipment.com
tgass@21stCenturyEquip.com

Join Renew Log In

www.wyfb.org
Renew/Join Online

WITH JUST A CLICK OF A BUTTON YOU CAN SAVE A STAMP, SAVE TIME AND SUPPORT FARM BUREAU'S WORK TO KEEP AGRICULTURE STRONG!

Young Farmer and Rancher News



Ag Books for Kids important in sharing agriculture

By Raenell Taylor, WyFB YF&R Committee Member and Crook County Rancher

Believe it or not, but even in a strong agriculture state, like Wyoming, there are still a lot of children

who have never even heard of the word "agriculture" before. Because this is the case, the importance of educating children at an early age about agriculture, needs to be a top priority. These children are our future, the future of agriculture. It's vital that they know and understand what

their future would be like without agriculture. One of the best ways for us to share this knowledge with them, is to expose them to interesting agriculturally related books. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Ag

Books for Kids program is designed to place agriculturally related books into elementary schools throughout Wyoming. The purpose is to help educate these Kindergarten through 5th grade students about different aspects within the agricultural world.

“

“It's vital that they know and understand what their future would be like without agriculture. One of the best ways for us to share this knowledge with them, is to expose them to interesting agriculturally related books.”—Raenell Taylor, Crook County Rancher

Not only is our goal to educate the children about agriculture, but to also bring up conversation between the students and their parents about agriculture when they get home from school. What is the most common question a parent asks their children when they get home from school? “What did you learn at school today?”

Nine times out of ten, when a guest speaker comes into the classroom, it's brought up in conversa-

tion with the parents. That reach and connection about agriculture is something you can't even put a value on. “Guess what Dad? I met a Rancher today, did you know they help raise healthy protein in their pasture to put on our dinner plate?”

The 2021 Ag Books for Kids book is called “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains,” by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney. This book focuses on how incorporating both dairy and beef, good protein paired with dairy, in your diet, is very important in building healthy bodies. The realistic photos within this year's book help give a life like tour of life in agriculture.

We also pair a contest with the book as well for added excitement about agriculture. Kindergarten and 1st grade students get to creatively color a coloring page that corresponds with something about agriculture from the book. Second and 3rd grade students get to draw and color a picture of their favorite thing they learned about agriculture from the book. Fourth and 5th grade students get to create an advertisement that markets something they learned about agriculture from reading the book.

What we learn from these contests about what the children learn about agriculture or how they interpret things in agriculture is pretty interesting. How they color a cow; brown cow, black cow, or a black and white cow, sometimes even a colorful cow. Were they more interested in the livestock side or the implement side of agriculture, by drawing a picture focused more on animals or tractors. These contests give us insight to what interests them or how they are interpreting agriculture which helps make this fun for all.

To round out the Ag Books for Kids program, we also integrate an activity that can further connect the students to agriculture.



Raenell Taylor reading the 2021 Ag Books for Kids book of the year. Taylor is the WyFB YF&R Promotions Sub-Committee Chair. Courtesy photo.

This year's activity is a livestock ear tag identification activity, allowing the students to learn why and how we tag our livestock to identify who they are and their parents.

In a normal year, county Farm Bureau leaders go into the elementary classrooms and present the book, and present the activity and contests associated with the respective grades. However, with COVID presenting many challenges of getting into some schools, we have put together a virtual book reading option this year. Any Kindergarten through 5th grade class in Wyoming can access our virtual presentation by going to www.wyfb.org/education/ag-books-for-kids/

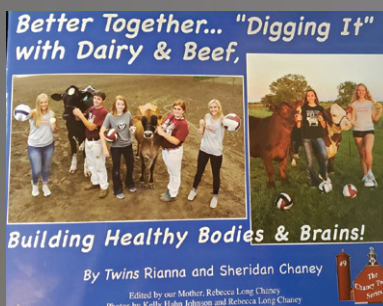
The contest entries deadline is April 2, 2021. Please encourage any elementary teachers you know to utilize this program in their classroom to help educate our future in agriculture because *Wyoming Needs Agriculture*.

Raenell Taylor and her husband Josh are members of the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation. They ranch near Hulett, Wy on her family's ranch with their two boys. She is passionate about sharing agriculture to children because they are the future of agriculture.

Wyoming Teachers & Students K-5th Grades



"Ag Books for Kids" 2021



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

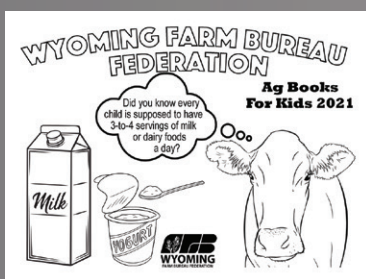
Step 2: Complete contests (details on website) by April 2, 2021

K-1: Coloring

2-3: Poster

4-5: Marketing Ad

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



Young Farmer and Rancher News



WyFB YF&R Conference From page 1

the work the organization does to advocate for agriculture.

South Dakota cattle rancher and BEEF Daily blogger Amanda Radke delivered a virtual keynote presentation on “Shifting our Mindset and Shaping New Opportunities.” Radke shared a message of optimism and

alleviate whatever concern the person has with agriculture and provide them with counter information to help them feel more confident in our product and us as farmers and ranchers.”

Radke challenged everyone to wear an agriculture advocacy hat in some shape. You may be able to help one person understand farming and ranching just a little better. You may be a diamond in someone’s day by sharing what you do in agriculture.

So, speaking of those diamonds, it was the next speaker that helped us all sit back, relax, laugh and cry a little while she shared her view of the joys and trials of ranching. Peggy DesEnfants revealed how her marriage to a rancher (43 years and counting) fine-tuned her wisdom and sense of humor. Her personality and innate ability to tell a story had the audience laughing and crying at the same time. Peggy’s willingness to share a time in her life when she couldn’t see the joy in everyday ranch and family life set the stage for us all to see the challenges we are facing as diamonds in our lives.

“Hunt for diamonds,” Peggy said. “Your situation might still be the same but when you see diamonds your life will change.”

According to Peggy, one day she realized that rather than seeing snow, work, misery and the hardships across the prairie she was supposed to look at things differently and that is when she saw what she calls “Diamonds on the Prairie.” The glistening of the snow was the vivid illustration she needed to live a joy filled life.

“We need to find some diamonds,” Peggy continued. “What does a diamond look like? It could be finding something to laugh about in your day or maybe wrap your crop in diamonds and start looking for diamonds in everything you do.”

In addition to looking for diamonds, Peggy challenged us to be the diamond that others may be looking to find.

“The world needs diamond hunters, and my hope is it can start with you and me,” she concluded. “People need hope and so let’s find diamonds and let’s be diamonds.”

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Director, Congressional Relations, Scott Bennett, spoke virtually about cell-based protein and other livestock issues. Bennett shared AFBF’s perspective on cell-based protein and the work he does as an AFBF lobbyist. Bennett explained that while cell-based protein is not available for



After a fabulous prime rib dinner, participants enjoyed fellowship and networking at the WyFB YF&R Conference. Shown here is one of the game tables (l to r): Chelsea Baars, WyFB YF&R State Chair; Cate Harris, Platte County; Cassie Watson-Wilson, Crook County; and Kirsten Innes, Campbell County. *Kerin Clark photo.*



Northern Ag Network’s Colter Brown interviews WyFB YF&R Committee Member Lane Hageman during the conference. *Kerin Clark photo.*

thoughts on shifting our mindsets during the face of uncertainties and the tasks of daily life.

“We need to learn to shift our mindset when something derails us and find a way to make lemonade out of lemons,” Radke said. Radke encouraged the audience to stay focused on family and agriculture goals.

Radke’s second virtual presentation focused on “Agriculture Advocacy.”

“Consumers ultimately decide what they will buy, our legislators ultimately decide what measures they might pass and the media is telling our stories and building a narrative that doesn’t represent us in agriculture,” Radke said. “So, we see this narrative building about who we are in agriculture and there are so few of us still involved directly in agriculture. We wear a lot of hats in agriculture and that one last hat we must wear to ensure our kids and grandkids stay in agriculture is being our own advocates for who we are and how we put food on the dinner table.”

Radke has learned she is far more successful advocating a counter story when she approaches the issue from how the other person sees the situation rather than just getting angry with their opposing view.

“At the end of the day we are all consumers,” Radke stated. “It helps to look at how the other person sees the situation and how their value systems have shaped their thoughts.”

Radke explained she gears her advocacy to six major value points. They are: animal welfare, environment, food safety, nutrition, taste preferences and budgets. “My goal as an advocate is to

public consumption yet, AFBF has worked to ensure the United States Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction in the inspection process in order to maintain the same standards as meat.

According to Bennett, he feels this product is a long way from reaching the mainstream consumer. He offered this advice on what he would tell a consumer if they thought they were going to consume a cell-based protein for a social cause. “There is nothing more sustainable, efficient and safe as our conventional meat production here in the United States,” Bennett stated. “For example, the cattle in Wyoming are grazing land that can’t be used for anything else.”

Bennett stated it is natural for people to worry about something. “Before this pandemic most people didn’t have something to worry about, so they worried about how the beef was raised or if hormones were added to chicken,” Bennett explained. “When the pandemic came, those words hit the back burner and the worry became just needing to get something in the freezer/fridge to feed their families and that is when they ran back to the meat case.”

Speaking of meat, Saturday morning’s panel discussed meat processing and marketing with WyFB President Todd Fornstrom and Henderson Meat Processing owners Logan and See ‘WyFB YF&R Conference’ page 8



The Voice of Agriculture

From page 2

Mich.), previous chair and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, will hold the gavel again, and Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) will serve as the ranking member. Both have worked with AFBF over the years, and we're eager to build on those relationships. On the House side, new chair—and a fellow Georgian—Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.), and ranking member, Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Pa.), are no strangers to Farm Bureau. These leaders have worked closely with their state Farm Bureaus in looking out for the needs of farmers and ranchers back home and are ready to bring that know-how to benefit all of American agriculture.

Over at USDA, Tom Vilsack has been nominated to return as Secretary of Agriculture, and we are confident he will be ready to lead from day one. After leading USDA for 8 years, Mr. Vilsack brings a deep knowledge of all

the ins and outs of running a federal agency and a solid working relationship with Farm Bureau and the Washington ag community.

The American Farm Bureau has a long history of taking a seat at the table on the top issues facing our farms and ranches. If it impacts your farm, we have your back here in Washington. From addressing farm workforce shortages through immigration reform to expanding markets with free trade agreements, your American Farm Bureau team is ready to build on the progress we've made and continue to take agriculture forward in the 21st century.

We know your farms, ranches and our rural economy depend on a strong infrastructure. Not only that, it's a matter of national security. We cannot get our products to market without a reliable system of roads, bridges, railways and waterways. Even with many folks remaining home this

past year, these rural routes have kept humming as we continue to move products from the farm to keep our food supply secure.

In these days where so many services, events and businesses have gone virtual, infrastructure funding must also include broadband. If the digital divide wasn't clear before the pandemic, there's no denying it over these last 10 months. Broadband isn't a luxury, it's a necessity to get essential services like healthcare and education and to help customers, colleagues, friends and family stay connected. Yet, 25% of rural Americans are still without reliable access to broadband.

While I know we'd all love to have this pandemic in the rear-view mirror, we're not there yet, but I am praying the day comes soon. We are seeing glimmers of hope with not one, but two, vaccines available. That is nothing short of a miracle and a reminder

of the great things our nation can accomplish when we work together. It will continue to take all of us working together to ensure we have the safety equipment and resources we need to continue to protect our employees and families in the days ahead. And we must prioritize getting the vaccine to those on the frontlines of our farms and across the food supply chain.

At the American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention in January, we focused on how we are Stronger Together. I hope that will continue to be the theme not only for our Farm Bureau family and across agriculture, but for our nation. It's time for us to put partisanship aside and move forward together as Americans. Our nation's leaders finish their oath of office with the words, "So help me God." May we echo that prayer, and work with our leaders to press on together in the strength God provides.



The soil on your farm or ranch is rich with nutrients and minerals...

AND underground pipelines.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG, in order to notify utility companies who will be affected by the excavation. The company will respond to your call and mark their facilities in your work area. This is a **FREE** service.

No one digs more dirt than America's Farmers and Ranchers. No matter if you're deep tilling, drain tiling, ditch cleaning or moving heavy loads. Understanding what's below ground will help you **DIG SAFELY**.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG, EVERY TIME!!!!



www.commongroundalliance.com
www.call811.com



www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness



What partners with
the United States
Meat Export
Federation and
Japanese influencers
to host live cooking
seminars that reach
over 50,000 Japanese
consumers?

Your Dollar Does.



See more from the Wyoming Beef
Council annual report at
wybeef.com.

2021 Policies From page 1

increases funding to promote diverse farmland ownership.

Delegates updated labor policy, emphasizing the importance of reforming the H-2A program by expanding the program to provide visa workers for both seasonal and year-round employment. An expanded program would address workforce shortages and extend the program to operations that do not currently qualify to employ guest workers, like dairy farms.

The Holcomb plant fire and the COVID-19 pandemic caused meat prices to skyrocket while the price paid to farmers dropped. AFBF delegates voted to provide stability in markets by supporting efforts to increase negotiated sales in fed cattle markets. Delegates also called for increased transparency in livestock pricing.

Milk price volatility was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in financial damages to dairy farmers in excess of \$2.5 billion. Delegates updated dairy policy to call for re-examining the 2018 farm bill's modification to the milk price formula, improving equity in USDA's Federal Milk Marketing Order revenue sharing pools, and reaffirmed their support for allowing dairy farmers the opportunity to cast an individual and confidential ballot during milk order referendums.

There are new policies on crop insurance. Delegates called on the Risk Management Agency to improve hurricane protection coverage, including but not limited to, providing protection against both hurricane-force winds and excessive precipitation. Delegates also supported modifying specialty crop insurance to minimize food waste.

Beyond policy changes, delegates also elected members to serve on the AFBF board of directors and national program committees.

Fourteen state Farm Bureau presidents were re-elected to two-year terms to represent their



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom and WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill during the virtual voting delegate session of the American Farm Bureau. Shown on screen are AFBF President Zippy Duvall and AFBF Vice President Scott Vanderwal. *Ken Hamilton photo.*

regions on the AFBF board of directors and five were elected to the board for the first time.

Midwest Region

Richard Felts, Kansas
Rich Guebert Jr., Illinois
Craig Hill, Iowa
Kevin Krentz,* Wisconsin
Randy Kron, Indiana
Mark McHargue,* Nebraska
Kevin Paap, Minnesota

Northeast Region

David Fisher, New York
Joseph Tisbert,* Vermont

Southern Region

Jeff Aiken, Tennessee
Russell Boening, Texas
Shawn Harding, North Carolina
Jim Harper, Louisiana
Tom McCall,* Georgia
Mike McCormick, Mississippi
Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma

Western Region

Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming
Jamie Johansson,* California
Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona

**Denotes state Farm Bureau president elected to the board for the first time.*

AFBF thanks the more than 50 speakers and 8,200 attendees who helped make the 2021 Virtual Convention such a success. Registered attendees may view workshops and sessions on-demand on the convention website for the next 90 days. For those who did not attend the convention, select sessions and workshops can be found on the AFBF webpage.

Planning for the American Farm Bureau's 2022 Annual Convention and Trade Show has already begun. Mark your calendar to meet us January 7-12, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia.

2021 Wyoming Legislative Session

From page 1

tax increases or fee increase bills," said Brett Moline, WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs. "We (Wyoming) are so reliant on the mineral industry that the legislature is looking at other tax revenues, but according to WyFB policy there is not a tax or fee increase we can support."

"Our members feel the state needs to look at making cuts before we look at increasing any taxes or fees," he continued.

Agriculture issues

Invasive species control and meat packing facilities are two hot issues for agriculture. According to Moline, Farm Bureau will support legislation for additional funds to fight invasive species. "Medusahead is a concern in Sheridan County right now," he explained. "The weed can be spread by birds and wildlife so we want to get on it early so we don't end up with a larger problem across the state."

Regarding meat packing facilities, Moline explained there may

be legislation to support small and mid-size meat processors. "We're looking at having legislation that will help facilitate getting more meat packing facilities in Wyoming to capitalize on the desire to buy local which is such a hot topic right now," Moline said. "While we recognize getting the facility up and running is a challenge to address, we also understand that a labor force to work once the facility is open is still a large problem for the packing facilities."

No WyFB legislative meeting

Due to the virtual schedule and timing, the WyFB Legislative Meeting will not be held in 2021. WyFB will miss meeting with our members in-person during the Legislative session. "We encourage our members to still reach out to your legislators and explain how WyFB establishes policy that the lobbyists adhere to," Moline concluded. "Legislators hearing from the people they represent is very effective."

Circle D Corporation

- Flatbed Trailers
- Low Profile Equipment Trailers
- Flatbeds For Pickups & 1 Ton Trucks
- Livestock Trailers
- Horse & Stock Combo Trailers
- Multipurpose Trailers



"American Made Since 1987"

Hillsboro, KS 67063

Call for a dealer near you!

800-526-0939

www.circle-dtrailers.com

WyFB YF&R Conference

From page 5

Kesly Ellis. Labor, the demand for local beef, facility expansion and many more issues facing the meat processing industry were discussed. The pandemic increased the demand for local meat and thus the demand for processing appointments. The Ellis' pointed out the additional challenge is determining if this will be the new normal of needing more capacity to process meat or if the demand will return to pre-pandemic where they were busy nine months out of the year rather than 12 months.

Cheryl Schwartzkopf, Converse County Weed and Pest Supervisor, transitioned our focus to taking care of the pastures and meadows livestock utilize. She shared her insight of "Ranching Out Invasive Species" with visuals and tips on how to manage and attack invasive species before they take over your land. The participants were able to ask specific weed questions and get guidance on how to persevere in the fight against invasive species.

Learning more about Farm Bureau's policy development process and WyFB YF&R opportunities were the focus of the WyFB YF&R Com-

mittee led breakout sessions.

The interactive policy development session led by WyFB YF&R State Chair Chelsea Baars found participants picking a topic and learning how to write a resolution and participate in Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development.

The WyFB YF&R programs session was led by WyFB YF&R Subcommittee Chairs Raenell Taylor and Ariel Guild. Taylor and Guild shared programs like "Ag Books for Kids" and the competitive events such as the discussion meet. A mock Discussion Meet followed the breakout sessions.

The conference concluded with a tour of Back Country Super Cubs where we learned how the planes are built for flying at speeds as low as 20 mph.

Meals, card games and networking breaks provided great opportunities for fellowship with our fellow agriculturalists. As Peggy taught us on the opening day, we looked for and found many diamonds during the conference to take back and apply to our lives as we "Strengthen Our Roots" in agriculture.



The 2021 WyFB YF&R Committee. Front row (l to r): Aletta Ziehl, Natrona County; Kailey Barlow, Sublette County; Chelsea Baars, Niobrara County; Kelli Hamilton, Park County; Toni Swartz, Campbell County. Back row (l to r): Raenell and Josh Taylor, Crook County; Tucker Hamilton, Weston County; Quade Palm, Carbon County; Lane Hageman, Goshen County; and Caleb and Ariel Guild, Uinta County. Not pictured: Tyler and Elizabeth Foxworthy, Fremont County. *Kerin Clark photo.*



A group photo at the conclusion of the "Strengthening our Roots" conference. *Kerin Clark, WyFB YF&R Coordinator; Tucker Hamilton; Kailey Barlow, WyFB YF&R Conference Sub-Committee Chair; Lane Hageman; Quade Palm; Aletta Ziehl; Kelli Hamilton; Raenell and Josh Taylor; Chelsea Baars; Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President; and Elizabeth Foxworthy. Morgan Spiro photo.*



Some of the tour participants look up to the manufacturing deck for a photo by one of the Back Country Super Cubs planes during the conference tour. *Kerin Clark photo.*



Thank you to the YF&R Conference sponsors

Platinum



Farm Credit Services of America

Gold



Silver



First State Bank
Your First Choice in Banking.
Division of Glacier Bank

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company



CLARK & ASSOCIATES
LAND BROKERS, LLC



Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
Pierre Etchemendy, Agent | Douglas & Lusk, WY

County Farm Bureau Federation Scholarships

- **Albany:** March 31 deadline; One \$1,500 scholarship; open to high school seniors and college students; available at county Farm Bureau office; county Extension office; and Rock River and Laramie High Schools. Farm Bureau member children preferred but not a requirement; Ag majors preferred, but not a requirement
- **Big Horn:** April 13 deadline; Up to four \$400 scholarships; available to high school seniors or any continuing students working for a degree in an Ag-related area; available at all county High Schools or by contacting Farm Bureau office in Greybull
- **Campbell:** March 1 deadline; Two \$2,500 scholarships; available at FB offices, schools and wyfb.org
- **Carbon:** April 15 deadline -- Up to five regular \$300 scholarships open to all county seniors who meet requirements; and one member \$300 scholarship open to only members children who meet requirements. Applications available at county FB offices, high schools or contact Kyle Berger at 760.8018
- **Converse:** April 1 deadline; Three \$1,000 scholarships; open to members' children for graduating seniors and college students. Available at either county Farm Bureau office; at Douglas and Glenrock High School Guidance offices; and at www.wyfb.org/converse
- **Crook:** March 19 deadline; Three merit-based scholarships of \$1500, \$1300, and \$800 for first, second, and third place respectively. Scholarship applications may be picked up at the Farm Bureau office at 109 N 3rd St, Sundance, Wyoming 82729 and also from the high school counselors or wyfb.org/crook
- **Fremont:** Fremont County Farm Bureau offers one \$1,000 scholarship. In order to be eligible, the student must be a Fremont County High School senior whose parents are current paid Farm Bureau members. It is preferred that applicants are entering an Agriculture field. Applications will be reviewed by the Fremont County Farm Bureau Board and a recipient will be chosen. Please submit a letter of application about yourself and your future plans to: Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation-115 North 5th Street East., Riverton, WY 82501. Questions call 544-2296. Deadline June 1st.
- **Goshen:** April 1 deadline; at least one \$500 scholarship; open to high school seniors or continuing college students who meet the requirements which include Farm Bureau Federation regular membership by family or individual; preference given to applicants pursuing Ag-related degrees; and new this year, the **Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$500 to be awarded to a continuing college student having completed one or more years who meets the requirements which includes Farm Bureau Federation regular membership by family or individual and demonstrate an agriculture focused career path. Applications available at county FB office and online at wyfb.org/goshen
- **Hot Springs:** April 9 deadline; One \$1,500 scholarship; may be divided into multiple scholarships at discretion of board; available to students pursuing ag-related course; preference to Farm Bureau families; available at Hot Springs County Farm Bureau office, at the HSCHS Counselors' office and from the HSCHS Ag Instructor.
- **Johnson:** April 1 deadline; A minimum of two \$500 scholarships; open to children of Farm Bureau members (graduating seniors or college students); available at county FB offices and schools and at www.wyfb.org/johnson
- **Laramie:** Offering 3 scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500; \$1,000; and \$500. Open to graduating seniors whose parents are regular Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation members. The applications are due to the county Farm Bureau by May 1. Applications available at www.wyfb.org/laramie. Additionally, offering continuing education scholarships of \$500 throughout the year.
- **Lincoln:** March 5 deadline; Three \$500 scholarships; seniors who are children of Farm Bureau members; available at Farm Bureau Insurance and School Counselor Offices
- **Niobrara:** April 1 deadline; Two \$500 scholarships; available to children of Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation members; graduating seniors and college students are eligible; available at the county FB office
- **Park:** April 1 deadline. One \$650 scholarship. Must attend a Wyoming College or University; preference will be given to Northwest College. Renewable if grades are kept above 2.5 semester average. Open to any Park County Farm Bureau Federation Member or children of members. Application available at all Park County high schools as well as the financial aid office at NW College and the Powell Farm Bureau office
- **Platte:** April 1 deadline; Amount varies; available at schools; open to children of Platte County Farm Bureau members who are first year students or continuing education students
- **Sheridan:** March 1 deadline; 2-3 \$1,000 scholarships depending upon number of applications; available at county FB offices and schools
- **Sublette:** March 1 deadline. Two \$500 scholarships for seniors; one for each high school (Big Piney and Pinedale). Given to children of FB members; preference is given to those seeking agriculture major. Applications available at high schools
- **Sweetwater:** T S Taliaferro Scholarship. March 15 deadline; One \$500 scholarship; open to children of Farm Bureau regular members; available at schools and county Farm Bureau offices
- **Uinta:** April 15 deadline; return to either county FB office; One \$500 scholarship; available at county FB offices, schools or contact Kristi Ellis at 307.782.7659
- **Washakie:** April 1 deadline; Amount varies, generally three \$500 scholarships; FB member children preferred but not a requirement; Ag majors preferred, but not a requirement. Applications available at the high school and the County Farm Bureau office.
- **Weston:** May 1 deadline; Three \$750 scholarships; applicant parents or applicant must be current members of Weston County Farm Bureau. Applicant must have graduated in Weston County, hold a High School or equivalent degree, or be in a graduating class at the time of application, or be a resident (6 months or more) of Weston County.



Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship opportunities

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship deadline is **March 1, 2021**. Nine college scholarships are offered each year. Scholarships are available for high school graduates and for those students who are continuing their

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

FBNews

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Farm Bureau members...you can now sign-up to receive
FBNews, the official e-newsletter of the
American Farm Bureau Federation.

Visit fb.org to subscribe via your e-mail address.

Wyoming Classifieds

NOTICE

CLASSIFIED POLICY:

1) Wyoming Farm Bureau members are entitled to free classified advertising in this publication for the purpose of selling items they grow or make themselves, selling used machinery or household items, for posting wanted advertising. Real estate sales not included. Each member family is entitled to two (2) free ads per month, for 3 months, of up to 40 words each. Member ads will be accepted by e-mail to kclark@wyfb.org or by mail to WyFB, ATTN: CLASSIFIEDS, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. Please include member's name and county.

2) Non-Wyoming Farm Bureau members and WyFB members acting as agents or dealers of products produced outside the member's family may purchase commercial classified advertising at \$0.50 per word, at a minimum of \$5.00 per ad. Discounts: 5% for 4 to 9 insertions, 10% for 10 or more insertions. Commercial ads must be submitted in writing, and an agreement regarding payment must be made between Farm Bureau and the advertiser.

DEADLINE:



Ads should be received (via mail or email)

by the 3rd Thursday of the month in order to appear in the next month's issue. Advertisers are asked to check your ad and report any errors. Paid ads must be mailed, typed or neatly printed, together with any payment due, to *Wyoming Agriculture*, Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. Free ads must be resubmitted by mail or e-mail after running three months. Ads for which there is payment due will run according to agreement between Wyoming Farm Bureau and the advertiser. Advance payment is preferred for first-time advertisers.

NOTE:

The appearance of any ad in *Wyoming Agriculture* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the product or service offered. The advertiser is liable for content of the advertisement and any claims arising therefrom against this publication. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with its publication's standards.

BRANDS

BRAND FOR SALE- KOBAR.  \$2000.00, Fire iron available. 100-year-old brand. Call 307-754-4455 leave message. 

BRAND FOR SALE- Back sheep.  \$1,500. 307-272-5619.



Visit us online at
www.wyfb.org

WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

The Weekly News Source for Wyoming's Ranchers, Farmers and AgriBusiness Community

Receive a 6-week complimentary subscription to the *Wyoming Livestock Roundup!*

To receive your 6-week complimentary subscription, contact Andrea at 307.234.2700 or andrea@wylr.net.*

52 great issues per year plus all of our Special Editions!
1 year - \$50 • 2 years - \$75 (\$25 savings) • 3 years - \$110 (\$40 savings)
Online Subscriptions: 1 year - \$30

For your agriculture news on-the-go!

www.wylr.net • 800.967.1647 • 307.234.2700
P.O. Box 850 • Casper, WY 82602

*For new subscribers

New Members

**Note: (REG) denotes new "Regular" membership

ALBANY

Amil Anderson, Laramie; Eric & Kara Holt, Laramie; Erin Radosevich, Laramie; Betty Wade, Encampment; Silvyta Wear/ Wooden Shoe Ranch, Laramie

BIG HORN

Peter Brown, Greybull; Steve & Christin Ebright, Greybull; Austin & Alisha Layne, Lovell; Steve & Becky Martens (REG), Sundance; Coleen & Glen Scheeler, Cowley; Randy Waddell, Greybull

CARBON

Larry Vyvey; Saratoga

CONVERSE

Keely & Kyle Haar, Douglas; Tanner Miller, Douglas; Elizabeth Smith, Glenrock

CROOK

CJ & Kay Hodson (REG), Moorcroft

GOSHEN

Antonio Cabrera, Torrington; Brandt Herbst (REG), Torrington; Brandon & Jamie McFarlin, Fort Laramie

HOT SPRINGS

Timothy Ramsey (REG), Thermopolis; Melody & Samuel Weiss, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Larry & Julie Bagby, Sheridan; Carol & Timothy McGuire, Dayton; JW & Joey Moore (REG), Sundance; Harold Reimler/ Reimler Family Trust, Buffalo; Nathan Wuttke, Buffalo; Jannie Yates, Buffalo

LARAMIE

Rebecca & Rico Alvarado, Cheyenne; Joe Bechtel, Cheyenne; Tana & Jeffrey Blass, Carpenter; Beverly & Ronald Blunn, Cheyenne; Tashina & Bradley Bounds, Cheyenne; Kyle Breeden & Catherine Costello, Carpenter; Kelly & Aron Chambers, Cheyenne; Jess Davison, Cheyenne; Denise & Stuart Flynn, Cheyenne; Robert Green/ Double Rucker Ranch, Granite Canon; Kevin Hefley/ Airtime Aerial LLC (REG), Pine Bluffs; Robert Joy, Cheyenne; Patricia

Joyce, Cheyenne; Judith & Robert Kissel, Cheyenne; Judith & Marion Loomis, Cheyenne; Suzanne & Taner Norton, Cheyenne; Dawn & Frank Thompson, Cheyenne; Linda Trucco, Cheyenne; Natalie & Kenneth Vernon, Cheyenne

LINCOLN

Danny Coryell, Casper; Tara Gunyan, Reliance; Tammy LaFave, Diamondville; Tyler & Allyson Lux, Rock Springs; Stacey & David Neilson, Kemmerer; Kaden Robinson, Afton

NATRONA

Susan Asbell Martin & Richard Martin (REG), Casper; Tina & Russell Barnes, Casper; Kyle Below, Casper; Cassan & Patrick Beverage, Casper; Jim Birkle, Evansville; Daniel Casados, Casper; Patricia Dameron, Casper, Nicole & Van Harris, Casper; Joel Hennings, Casper; Genae & Davian Herbig, Bar Nunn; Holli & Kelsey Knight (REG), Casper; Heather Waterman & Taylor Motensen, Casper; Chastidy Raines, Evansville; Josh Wheeler, Casper

PARK

Kee Bubbenmoyer, Allentown; Katie & West Hernandez, Powell; Christine & Rock Hull, Powell; Lydia & Dave McCracken (REG), Powell; Megan & Tony Rutherford, Cody; Forrest Wichern, Cody

SHERIDAN

Vicky & John Holgerson, Sheridan; Kathy McCarthy & Gary Stewart, Sheridan; Seth Phillips, Sheridan; Susan & Tyson Schilz (REG), Sheridan

SWEETWATER

Janelle & Peni Kinikini, Rock Springs

UINTA

Marissa & Dalton Hereford, Rock Springs; Newt Iorg (REG), Mountain View; Jennifer & Cornelis Valkenburg, Mountain View

WESTON

Patricia & Robert Hudspeth, Upton



LEADING THE
WAY FOR
agriculture

www.wyfb.org

Obituaries

GENE HARDY

February 19, 1930 ~ December 18, 2020

Funeral liturgy for Glenn Eugene "Gene" Hardy, 90, was held December 23, 2020 at the Saint James Catholic Church in Douglas, Wyoming with Father Lucas Kazimiro Simango as the Celebrant. Interment is in the Douglas Park Cemetery with military honors accorded by Samuel Mares American Legion Post #8 and Wyoming Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors.



Glenn Eugene
"Gene" Hardy

Gene Hardy was born in Douglas, Wyoming on Wednesday, February 19, 1930 and passed quietly in Casper, Wyoming at the Wyoming Medical Center on Friday, December 18, 2020 from a short and sudden illness. He was surrounded by his family and supported by all the well wishes of his many friends.

Gene was born to Marion Glenn "Mick" and Grace Virginia (Elbourne) Hardy of Bear Creek, Wyoming in

1930 and spent most of his upbringing on the ranch five miles northeast of Bear Creek or 45 miles northwest of Douglas. He rode his horse four miles to the North Point School, at a neighboring ranch, for the first few years of school before being farmed out for a short time to a family in Douglas, so he could attend school in town. He used to laugh at the fact that he was a little too wild for the family from town!

It wasn't long before his folks bought a house in town in order for him to further his education. Gene graduated valedictorian of his class and received a full scholarship to play football at the University of Wyoming. However, football and schooling weren't to be for Gene. A horse wreck and injury inflicted upon his dad kept Gene at the family ranch to keep it going. A stint in the United States Army, serving his time in Germany and then the

National Guard was something that Gene shared many memories and stories of. Gene was a fierce patriot and was proud to be an American.

When Gene returned from the Army, he began a seven-year courtship with his future wife, Joy Ann Falkenburg, of Douglas. Joy was from a ranching family herself, south of town, and was at the time nursing in Denver, Colorado. After their marriage, Joy moved to the Hardy Ranch and she and Gene began their life together raising their daughter, Michelle. As with most ranches, there was a generational change and the ranch continued to grow. Gene was truly proud of the family ranch and was known to have what would be considered a reputable herd of cattle and flock of sheep. If there was a livestock sale, you could count on the Hardy Ranch buying the top of the sale. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the ranch and Gene was truly proud of the fact that it had continued to the next generation.

Gene was to get more involved with what was to be his true love, Ag politics. Gene had always been proud of being involved as much as possible with the community such as Jaycees, American Legion, Moose Lodge, Farm Bureau, and local politics. However, when he became involved with Wyoming Stock Growers and Wyoming Wool Growers, he found his true calling. For the rest of his life, Gene was to be an industry leader in the movement of Wyoming Agriculture in all aspects. He became known as a staunch supporter of ranchers, farmers, veterinary medicine, the brand program, and his favorite, the predator program.

Gene served as vice-president of the Wyoming Stock Growers, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers, president of the Wyoming State Animal Damage Management Board, as well as multiple committees and chairman positions. He served on the Wyoming Board of Agriculture and the Wyoming Livestock Board, serving on many committees within them as well. Gene was voted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2012. He was influential as a lobbyist to a great number of politicians that he had met while serving in all these positions and served the Ag community well as a champion for them all.

While serving on the State Predator Board, he and the board fought long and hard against the federal government for the rights of the state of Wyoming to have control of the wolves within the state. To the very last day, he was still on the phone with officials trying to maintain the control that had been so fiercely fought for to acquire.

As a director on the board of the National High School Rodeo Association, Gene could be found at nearly all the high school rodeos within the state along with running the timer in the barrel racing event at the National High School Rodeo finals. He was glad to be helping the kids and was always there for them when needed.

An avid pilot, Gene was always eager to help someone out when they had lost something and needed to find it with an airplane: people, livestock, an occasional dog or just checking the ranch. He was a member of the Flying Farmers and won many trophies at various fly-ins with his great piloting skills. Gene could almost always be found in his plane. He could sit and mesmerize a crowd for hours with some of the hair-raising stories of how he survived with any one of his many airplanes.

As with all folks that grow up and live their entire life in the same area, Gene was a great historian. He could sit at a gathering of any sort and tell the history of the area and keep everyone in the room on the edge of their seat. He could tell you about your grandparents and then their parents as well. He had a great memory and was vivid in his descriptions as the story was told and if you closed your eyes it was as if you were there.

Of all his accomplishments, he was most proud of his family. The fact that no one is perfect never crossed his mind as he would fondly reminisce of the people in his life.

He is survived by his daughter, Michelle Musselman and her husband, Shaun and their children, Hardy and Haley. His many nephews, nieces, in-laws, and friends were thought of and talked about regularly.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joy, on December 27, 2003; father, Mick, on May 12, 1967; and mother, Grace, on September 21, 2003.

He will be sorely missed, as all of the old guard are and the torch will be passed down to the next generation to fill the shoes of the greatest generation. The shoes are big ones to fill and the trek is a long and arduous one to take. But, to respect and honor the generation before, reflections of where we come from is the first order. People leave us far too soon and Gene was no exception to the rule. He will be sorely missed by all of those that he touched.

Gene, God be with you.

A Gene and Joy Hardy Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at the Converse County Bank, P.O. Box 689, Douglas, Wyoming 82633. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.gormanfh.com

Jack Bill Van Mark July 4, 1930 ~ December 23, 2020

Funeral services for JACK B. VAN MARK, 90, were held January 7, 2021 at North Hills Baptist Church in Lingle, Wyoming with Pastor David Anderson officiating. Burial followed in the Valley View Cemetery in Torrington. Jack died December 23, 2020 in the family home where he was born south of Torrington. Memorials may be given to Valley Christian School. Arrangements are by the Colyer Funeral Home and condolences may be sent to www.colyerfuneralhome.com.



Jack Bill Van Mark

Jack was born July 4, 1930 to Willie and Fern (Hill) Van Mark. He graduated from Torrington High School in 1948. He attended two years at Eastern Wyoming Community College and then was drafted into the military during the Korean Conflict. He was stationed for two years at Camp Roberts in California. Once honorably discharged from the military he returned home and married Hanna June Benzel of Huntley, Wyoming. The newlyweds moved to Laramie where Jack attended the University of Wyoming

and majored in Geology. Jack and Hanna had four daughters, Lois Ann Van Mark, Ruth Hanna Van Mark, Debra June Wendtland (Anthony T. Wendtland) and Jacklyn Kay Van Mark. Jack was a Wyoming House Member for Goshen County from 1961 to 1965. Between 1972 and 1990 he held various positions with the federal government which caused the family to split their time between Wyoming and the Washington D.C. area. In 1990 he retired from federal employment and moved back to the farm for good. Of his many accomplishments, he was most proud of his two grandchildren; Kit Jackson Wendtland and Taylor Charles Wendtland.

Jack was active in his church, the Republican Party, and various agricultural organizations. He remained a committed supporter of Valley Christian School.

Jack is survived by his four daughters and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Hanna; and a sister Nora Pittman.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2021 Virtual AFBF FUSION Conference

January 26, 2021-- AFBF's Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership and Young Farmers & Ranchers committees are planning the first-ever virtual AFBF FUSION Conference, slated for mid-March. This reimagined event, with the theme "Where Agriculture Converges," will begin the evening of Thursday, March 11, and conclude the evening of Saturday, March 13. Pre-conference events will include state chair training and the opening rounds of the Collegiate Discussion Meet. Information on how to register and other details will be released in the next few weeks. Check the calendar at wyfb.org as the dates get closer or read about it in the March issue of *Wyoming Agriculture*.



Century Club Membership Challenge Drawing

In celebration of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Centennial year, the WyFB Membership Committee held a drawing last November from all Century Club members for 2020. The winner received a piece of WyFB Centennial apparel. Jim Gibbs, of Sheridan County, was the drawing winner.

The Century Club Membership level is for both associate and regular members who wish to increase their level of support to help Farm Bureau conduct its programs and activities. One of the additional benefits is a weekly legislative update about important agriculture issues during the Wyoming Legislature.

Thank you to Mr. Jim Gibbs



and all the Century Club members across the state for your additional support for the Federation!

Get a great deal on dealing with winter.



The New LX Series Climate-controlled cab available 24.8-30.8 HP

Kubota Together we do more.

Handle snow with ease with the versatile, comfortable, high-quality LX Series. Optional climate-controlled cab. Choice of rear mount snow blowers or Land Pride® performance-matched front and rear snow blades. Visit us today.

\$0 DOWN 0% APR 60 MONTHS
PLUS
SAVE UP TO \$900

VISIT US TODAY FOR THIS LIMITED-TIME OFFER

POWELL
HEART MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT
307-754-5169
www.heartmountainequipment.com

SHERIDAN
HEARTLAND KUBOTA LLC
307-672-8011
www.heartlandkubota.com

KubotaUSA.com

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2021. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of new Kubota LX Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., subject to credit approval. Example: 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. Customer instant rebates of \$400 are available on qualifying finance or \$900 on cash purchases of LX2610SU equipment. Additional instant rebate of \$500 is available with purchase of one new qualifying implements. Some exceptions apply. Offers expire 3/31/21. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your Dealer or KubotaUSA.com.

Cooking with the Modern Ranchwife

A Recipe by Connie Werner

Mandy's Shepard's Pie

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 small bag frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can tomato soup
- 5-8 medium potatoes, cubed
- cream or milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

1. Brown the ground beef and onion. Drain and season with salt and pepper.
2. Add the mixed vegetables and can of Tomato Soup. Cook on low until combined and warmed through.
3. Pour into a casserole or other oven safe dish.
4. Mash the potatoes using milk or cream and season with salt and pepper. Drop by large spoonfuls on top of the ground beef mixture. Then spread together sealing edges of the pan.
5. Top with cheddar cheese.
6. Bake at 350° until hot and bubbly.

SOURCE: MANDY HARR

It's your future. Let's protect it.[®]

Together we'll create a plan to protect what matters most to you.



BUFFALO
NICK SMITH
307-684-1300



CASPER
BOBBY PICKLE
307-234-5515



CHEYENNE
JASON BELL
307-632-9008



GILLETTE
BECKY PEARSON
307-682-4454



GREYBULL
ELLARY KELLY
307-765-4621



JACKSON
LAUREN STELTING
307-733-3813



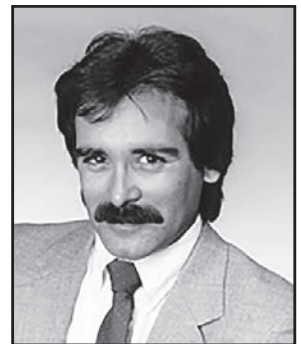
KEMMERER
TAMEY PETERAL
307-877-5582



LANDER
CORI SLINGERLAND
307-332-3295



LANDER
JAKE HUHNKE
307-332-3295



NEWCASTLE
CLYDE BAYNE
ALSO CROP INSURANCE
307-746-4471



PINEDALE
JONI PENNOCK
307-367-2141



RAWLINS
TAMMY MORTENSEN
307-328-0094



SHERIDAN
ERIN DEFRIES
307-674-7600



SUNDANCE
ANDREA ROBINSON
307-283-3582



TORRINGTON
GRANT CURRY
307-532-3610



USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

(Washington, D.C., January 15, 2021) –The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program. Producers who are now eligible and those who need to modify existing applications due to these updates can contact USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26. Some of these changes are being made to align with the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021

while others are discretionary changes being made in response to ongoing evaluation of CFAP.

Expanded Eligibility for CFAP 2

Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds.

Producers of pullets and turf-grass sod also now are eligible for CFAP payments. The commodities were not explicitly included in the initial CFAP 2 rule. Pay-

ments are based on eligible sales, and the payment calculation in the updated rule includes crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) payments.

Updated Payment Calculations for CFAP 2

Similarly, FSA adjusted the payment calculation to use the producer's eligible 2019 calendar year sales, and 2019 crop insurance indemnities, NAP, and WHIP+ payments, multiplied by the applicable payment rate for all sales commodities, which include specialty crops, aquaculture, to-

See **USDA Offers Additional Assistance'** page 15

bacco, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture, for CFAP 2. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

Additionally, FSA adjusted the payment calculation for certain row crops for CFAP 2, specifically those for which a producer had crop insurance coverage but not an available 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. FSA is now using 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield to calculate payments when an APH is not avail-

The Intersection of Agricultural Innovation and the Development of COVID-19 Vaccines in Europe's Regulatory Hypocrisy

By *Graham Brookes*

January 6, 2021, AFBF Focus on Agriculture Series--The recent announcement that Astra-Zeneca had developed the third coronavirus vaccine to show promise was welcomed news. It uses a harmless virus that has been genetically modified to include coronavirus genes, which when injected into human cells makes coronavirus proteins that stimulate the immune system to fight any future coronavirus infections. That follows on from two other vaccines, which also use GM advances, called mRNA vaccines.

"These are fantastic results," UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson enthused, as politicians across Europe queued up to praise the breakthroughs and to re-assure citizens of the robust, science-based regulatory approval systems that are in place to ensure their safety as the vaccines are fast-tracked through the approval process. This is the right thing to do.

However, isn't this stance inconsistent and hypocritical? These vaccines use the very same techniques of genetic modification or gene editing that many European politicians have spent the last 25 years preventing their citizens and farmers from having access to for the production and consumption of food, feed and fibre crops and which some environmental advocacy groups have opposed un-

equivocally.

If these politicians and advocacy groups were being consistent with their past behaviour, they would be campaigning against their approval.

Robust science-based regulatory frameworks for GMOs have been in place since the 1990s and over 4,300 such science-based regulatory assessments have been conducted in 70 countries by 2019 (ISAAA, 2019). These have facilitated the widespread adoption of GM crops, largely outside Europe.

To date, there has been no credible evidence of negative impact on human health, there is a broad consensus amongst the vast majority of scientists and regulators that these products are safe to consume and there is now a substantial body of evidence that GM crop technology has made important contributions to improving global food security, to reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture and to helping to cut global greenhouse gas emissions (eg, Brookes and Barfoot, 2020).

Despite all this, most European politicians have continued to apply a non-science and non-evidence based approach to regulating these technologies, largely denying European farmers and citizens access to the benefits referred to above. As a result, 18 Member States have banned GM crop cultivation for non-scientific reasons, approv-

als for the importation and use of GM crops and their derivatives are often subject to long delays, causing disruption to supply chains of raw materials and the European GMO regulatory approval system has been acknowledged as failing to operate as intended (European Commission, 2015) and has been ruled to be mal-administered (European Ombudsman, 2016).

Moving forward, if Europe is to be consistent in the way scientific developments in medicine and agriculture are regulated, the main choices are:

- Apply the same rigorous and solely science-based approval approach currently being applied to covid-19 vaccines to the regulation of crop and livestock innovations derived from the same technologies, or;

- Apply the current non-science and non-evidence based approval approach applied to crop innovations that use GM or GE techniques to covid-19 vaccines. If this approach is instituted, the "best case scenario" for Europe is its citizens might get access to the vaccines in about five years' time, or possibly not at all.

Let's hope that European politicians take the opportunity that the tremendous development of GM/GE derived covid-19 vaccines offers to re-set, re-boot and revise the regulatory approval systems for these technologies so that we

can all benefit from their potential in all sectors, including agriculture and food production.

Graham Brookes is an agricultural economist with PG Economics, UK. He has more than 30 years experience of analyzing the impact of technology use in agriculture and has authored many papers in peer reviewed journals on the impact of GM crop technology.

References

- Brookes G and Barfoot P (2020) *GM crop technology use 1996-2018: farm income and production impacts*, *GM Crops & Food*, 11:4, 242-261, DOI:10.1080/21645698.2020.1779574
- Brookes G and Barfoot P (2020) *Environmental impacts of genetically modified (GM) crop use 1996-2018: impacts on pesticide use and carbon emissions*, *GM Crops & Food*, 11:4, 215-241, DOI: DOI:10.1080/21645698.2020.1773198
- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) 2018. *Ruling on case C-528/16 of 25 July 2018*. <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-07/cp180111en.pdf>
- European Commission (2015). *Reviewing the decision-making process for GMOs*, Com 2015, 176 final. <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2015/EN/1-2015-176-EN-F1-1.PDF>
- European Ombudsman (2016). *Case 1582/2014/php*. <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/63025>
- ISAAA (2019) *Biotech crops continue to help meet the challenges of increased population and climate change*. ISAAA Brief 54.

USDA Offers Additional Assistance From page 14

able rather than 85%, which was in the original CFAP 2 calculations. This calculation change is only for producers with crop insurance coverage who grow barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton and wheat. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

CFAP 1 'Top-up' Payments for Swine

FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to

help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic. Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive a "top-up" payment of \$17 per head in-

creasing the total CFAP1 inventory payment to \$34 per head.

More Information

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so between Jan.

19 and Feb. 26, 2021, by contacting their local USDA Service Center. New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.

To learn more about this additional assistance, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

"Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week" is March 1-6

By Kerin Clark

The week of March 1, 2021 has been declared "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week" by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon. Educating Wyoming school children about agriculture is the goal of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer and Rancher (YF&R) Committee "Ag Books for Kids" project. 2021 marks the seventeenth year of the project. The WyFB YF&R Committee organizes the project and the county Farm Bureaus across the state donate agriculture books each year to Wyoming elementary school libraries.

The "Wyoming Agriculture Literacy Week" proclamation reads in part: "Literacy is a top priority for school children and non-fiction books are an important tool in teaching children about the world around them."

If you are a Wyoming teacher or student in kindergarten through 5th grade or if you know someone in that category...see page 4 for more details on the book, contests and the virtual book reading link. We encourage you to read agriculture books to your classroom throughout the year, but especially during the week of March 1st... "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week!"



I don't want to leave my family to cover:

- Mortgage debt
- Monthly expenses
- Funeral costs
- Kids' college tuition

I know you say I need life insurance, but do I really?

Yes! While the reasons for having life insurance vary from person to person, coverage is a smart move no matter what stage of life you're in.

Talk to your agent about the many ways life insurance can help protect you and your loved ones.



It's your future. Let's protect it.®

MarketIntel

For the Latest Agricultural Market Intelligence

 AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION® www.fb.org/marketintel

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 to view the market and policy analysis and policy insight published frequently.

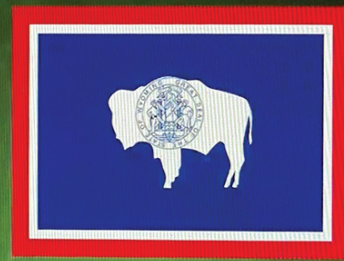
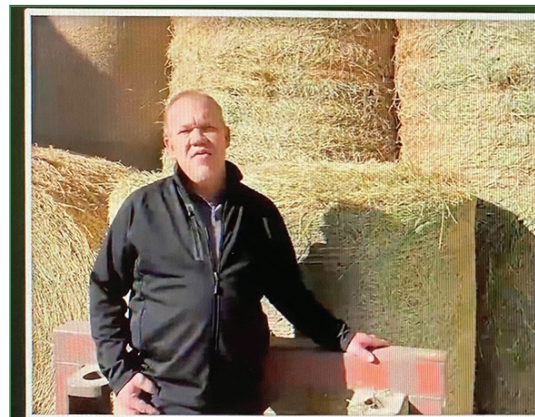
Here is a summary of a recent Market Intel article:

On January 15, USDA announced additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. This new assistance will include expanded eligibility for certain commodities and producers established in the recently passed relief package, as well as updated payments for producers who were eligible under previous iterations of the program. Producers have from January 19 through February 26 to submit new applications or modify existing applications if they have participated in the program already.

WyFB receives AFBF awards of excellence

January 10, 2021--The American Farm Bureau Federation presented awards to state Farm Bureaus at the organization's Virtual Convention held Jan. 10-13. The awards recognize excellence in implementation of outstanding member programs and membership achievement in 2020.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation received Awards of Excellence in the categories of: Engagement & Outreach; and Leadership & Business Development.



Wyoming

President Todd Fornstrom

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom virtually accepting the two AFBF Awards of Excellence during the 2021 AFBF Virtual Convention.

THE CHASE BROTHERS TEAM

2021

Happy New Year!

BIG GRASS RANCH - Antelope Creek Ranch - Sumatra, MT

29,480± Deeded Acres • 41,993± Total Acres • \$14,000,000



EXPERIENCED, PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION



GALEN CHASE

TRACY A. BOYLE

KIRK LOHOF

JOHN CHASE

• Proud Supporters of WFB •

Chase Brothers specializes in :

Working Ranches • Recreational Ranches • Raw Land • Replacement Properties • Buyer Services

We can help with replacement property needs as well.

1-844-WYO-LAND INFO@CHASEBROTHERSLLC.COM CHASEBROTHERSLLC.COM