



Wyoming Agriculture

VOL. 40, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2022

Published by Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation



AFBF President Duvall visits Wyoming

BY KERIN CLARK

“Getting out to meet with grassroots members helps me better understand the issues they are facing so I can share their stories with members of Congress and officials in the executive branch,” said American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall. “These visits are also a great opportunity for me to remind our members of the power their voices have when they engage with consumers and lawmakers at every level of government.”

AFBF President Duvall visited Wyoming mid-August to tour agriculture and meet directly with Farm Bureau members on their farms and ranches. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) President Todd Fornstrom led the tour that also included AFBF staff and WyFB staff.

“Having the American Farm Bureau President tour our farms and ranches in Wyoming is important,” Fornstrom said. “No other farm organization has the grassroots influence like AFBF and having our national leader see what we do here in Wyoming and carry our message back to D.C. is critical.”

The Wyoming tour included farming in Park County, the wool mill in Johnson County, ranching in Campbell County, and a Campbell County coal mine.

“Wyoming agriculture is diverse. I was able to see everything from seed production and row crops, to ranches and Wyoming-produced wool which has helped me see how farmers and ranchers here deal with water, the federal government, and urban expansion,” Duvall continued. “Farmers are facing a lot of challenges, but I heard excitement for the future and the next generation which just showed me that agriculture in Wyoming has a bright future ahead.”

Multiple generations of Wyoming farmers and ranchers enjoyed showcasing their work in agriculture on the tours. Wyoming agriculture traditions were proudly on display as a four-year old showed how he helps his dad irrigate their crops with siphon tubes and a nine-year-old proudly talked about calving with his mom and dad in Wyoming winters. Traditions in agriculture continued to shine when older generations shared about the work their family has done before them and the work they do in agriculture today on their farms and ranches.

WYOMING TOUR ... Page 14



A barley field at Shuler Farms in Park County mid-August. COLE STAUDT/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO.



Grassroots conversations. AFBF President Zippy Duvall visited Wyoming in mid-August for a tour of agriculture and a grassroots visit with Farm Bureau members. The tour kicked off in Park County with farm tours given by Park County Farm Bureau Federation Board Members. (l to r): Brian Asher, Park County FBF President; Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President; Zippy Duvall, AFBF President; Corey Forman, Park County FBF; Abby Shuler, Park County FBF; and Josh Cristofferson, Park County FBF. COLE STAUDT/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO.

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

- September**
- 8 Sheridan County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.— *Firewater Smokehouse Grill in Sheridan*
- 11 Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 3 p.m.— *Rabou Farms near Albin*
- 12 Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.— *Purple Sage Golf Course in Evanston*
- 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*
- 21 Platte County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.— *Vimbos in Wheatland*
- 22 Northeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m.— *The Ramada in Sheridan*
- 22 Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting
- 28 Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.— *Farson Community Center*
- 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 Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation Symposium at 8:15 a.m. — *Casper*
- 10-12 WYFB 103rd Annual Meeting — *Casper*

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates



Wyoming Agriculture

Volume 40, Issue No. 1
September 2022

USPS 10331 ISSN 1071-0272

Official publication of
the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

307-721-7719
www.wyfb.org

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

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

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

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A Changing Family Farm

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



As the sun came up over my farm the other day, it reflected off the wet grass and I heard the familiar chirping of the birds. My entire life, I've experienced mornings like this. For a long time, it was with my father as we were wrapping up the morning milking. After that, it was with my children as we added chickens to our farm. And now, I'm lucky enough to share that sunrise with my grandkids as our cow-calf operation benefits from a disciplined genetics program and we've accomplished green cover across virtually all our pasture land.

Like many others across America, my farm is a family farm. Generations have made a living on the land and I hope and pray our land continues to provide for many more generations to come. But my farm is not the same today as it was generations ago, and I'm sure it won't be the same generations from now.

There is no standard definition for what every family farm looks like other than that it is owned and run by, you guessed it, a family. Some farms have been in a family for well over 100 years. And some are in their first generation. But, no matter how long the land and business have been in the family, I'll bet my bank account they've all changed over time. One thing remains the same, though. These farms are critical to providing the food, fiber and fuel we all rely on.

In my travels, I've been fortunate to be able to learn about changes in many family operations firsthand. When I vis-

ited Oregon earlier this year, I was able to tour the Iverson family's farm. Their farm started in 1950 when Ross and Dorothy Iverson were married and purchased the farm together. They expanded and brought tulips to the farm as their six children grew older. Starting in the mid-80s, the family opened their tulip fields to the public, giving rise to their now annual tulip festival, attracting hundreds of thousands of people each year. But, the festival itself wasn't enough to sustain the growing family that wanted to be part of the farm. So over time, they've added other crops, pursued new technology, and adapted to meet consumer demands. After their family's experience with CBD in the final days of Ross's life in 2016, the family added hemp to their farm. Today, their farm supplies the nation's most reputable CBD companies.

In the middle of Connecticut, about halfway between New York City and Boston, I met Liz MacAllister and her son, Mark Gillman, who milk 45 cows twice a day. With that milk, they make artisan cheeses right there at Cato Corner Farm, which they sell direct to consumers in New York City, Boston and the surrounding communities. In the 1970s, Liz started raising goats, sheep, cows and chickens, but the money she was getting simply wasn't enough to support the farm. So, in 1997, she started making cheese so she could keep farming and make a living. Just two years later, Mark left his teaching job in Baltimore and returned to help

his mom make cheese. Today, Mark is the master cheesemaker and Liz manages the herd. Together, they've grown the farm and been honored as one of the best cheesemakers in the U.S. by Food and Wine Magazine.

We see this evolution in other family businesses in ag other than farms. In the southwest corner of Indiana, I recently met the Dewig family. They own and operate a small meat processing facility and grocery that's become an important part of the local community. Over 100 years ago, in 1916 the Dewig family started Dewig Meats. Since the second generation took over in 1962, they've continued to grow their facility and add more local products to their shelves alongside the meat they process from nearby farmers and their own farm. When I visited, the third and fourth generations were helping out and excited to be part of the business. They also shared their plans to pursue grant money as part of the USDA's efforts to expand our country's small and regional processing capacity. They hope the project can help them expand their business to serve even more neighbors and communities.

As our families grow and change, so do our farms and ag operations. The changes require adaptability, ingenuity and resilience, all of which are part of the DNA of farmers. Even as farms and farming change, one common thread binds us together: family farms are planting seeds for a sustainable and bright future as we stock America's pantries. ■

Take the brakes off the accelerators to move forward

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Growing up all of our vehicles had a clutch pedal, brake pedal, accelerator pedal and some had the starter pedal that got everything going. For those hard to start vehicles hitting the starter pedal while trying to get the accelerator pedal just right was kind of an art. Of course, those vehicles that had all those things on the floorboard also had a choke on the dash you had to work with as well. After you got the engine going, got it in gear and headed out, you were advised in strong language to keep your foot off the clutch while driving down the road. It was a given that you also kept your foot off the brake pedal unless you needed the vehicle to slow down or stop. This part was just self-evident.

However, applying the brake while pushing on the accelerator doesn't seem to be a detail given much attention by some politicians. The lack of attention to this concept is evident with our current ener-

gy policy. We in Wyoming have been protesting the federal government's actions when it comes to not allowing federal oil and gas deposits to be developed. Meanwhile, over the years federal environmental policies have made building new refineries difficult if not impossible.

Recently, there was a Governor's task force which looked at the price of gasoline and diesel in Wyoming. Experts who testified pointed out the numerous brakes placed on our energy resources in this country. One thing which was pointed out is that we've not invested in a new refinery in this nation for 50 years. Meanwhile Congress and the Administration launched several new programs to "wean us off of fossil fuels" to address "climate change."

If I had a few billion dollars laying around, would I look to invest them in a refinery knowing full well that it would take a decade or more just to get it up and running under the best scenario?

Would I invest in an oil or gas company knowing that roadblocks are being put in the way for development of the resource? Would I invest knowing the requirements that could come down from the Securities and Exchange Commission requiring you to document the carbon footprint of your company?

Given the federal dollars flowing into all things green energy, I would probably look for one of those companies to dump my billions in instead of risking it on something that has the opposition of the regulatory state.

This isn't just happening to energy. Look at the regulations on the trucking industry. We know there are a bunch of regulations that truckers must try and keep up with all the while trying to make a business pay for the increased fuel costs. Meanwhile, we lament that we can't find truckers to carry products from one point to another.

ENERGY POLICY ... Page 13

Reap the benefits of involvement and membership

BY TIM PEXTON
 WYFB MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

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.

This declaration is the new mission statement for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation that was adopted by the board of directors last fall. There wasn't necessarily anything wrong with the old statement, this just adds more detail to what Farm Bureau does.

The overarching mission is the protection of private property rights. That has been the case since the beginning because it seems that an ever-expanding government and its regulations naturally erode private property rights. There is a need for constant vigilance to check or at least slow that erosion.

The American Farm Bureau and Wyoming Farm Bureau Federations accomplish this by advocating for

the industry through their lobbying efforts in Congress and in the legislature. They also research and provide extensive commentary and testimony on proposed legislation and subsequent rule making while making government leaders aware of citizens needs and concerns at all levels.



Tim Pexton

Part of what was added to the mission statement is near and dear to me. If you become involved at any level in Farm Bureau, whether that be attending county meetings, participating in discussions and helping in their program of work, or becoming a member of the Young Farmer & Rancher Committee or a standing committee at the county or state level, you will experience some personal development.

At the very least, you will learn something simply by hearing other viewpoints. Some of those viewpoints will be different from yours so you might learn to articulate your thoughts more effectively and maybe come to a compromise if needed. The importance of effective communication will be apparent and Farm Bureau involvement can improve those skills.

Perhaps the most important development will be the honing of your leadership skills. The ability to be a leader will last a lifetime and stand you in good stead for everything you do in life. It will help you be comfortable in taking the lead in civic and other community activities you may become involved with in the future.

Of course, all of this is a benefit to those outside of agriculture as well. So, to our associate member friends who are not active in agriculture, your membership helps support the fight for your private property rights as well. As a member you receive our newspaper, *Wyoming Agriculture*, where you can read and learn about what Farm Bureau is doing in the nation, state, and in your community.

Speaking of benefits, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation membership comes with many tangible, cost saving benefits as well, too many to list here. Check out the website at wyfb.org under the "Benefits" tab at the top. Utilizing just one of discounts available could pay for your membership.

The point of all this is.....Keep your membership up to date and reap the benefits! ■



Member-CENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Wyoming brand laws through my eyes

BY TONI SWARTZ, WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

I first became interested in becoming a Wyoming Brand Inspector in the spring of 2016. I saw the Wyoming Livestock Board was hiring a new inspector to replace Jack Streeter, once he retired. Jack was pretty much famous around northeastern Wyoming. He was the District Supervisor and had been our brand inspector for 44 years! There hasn't been one person I have talked to that didn't have a kind word and a good story to tell about ol' Jack.

I filled out the application but it turned out to be too late. They had already hired someone else. I was working for my dad on our family's ranch and thought I needed to add something else to my endless list of ranch chores! Then, two years later, another local brand inspector reached out to let me know there was going to be another position available and thought I would be a great fit for the job! I was a local, I grew up in this county and knew most of the backroads and people of our agriculture community. I studied Ag. Business in college and I was a young rancher myself with my growing herd of Black Angus cattle.

So, I sent in my application again. This time I got the job! In August 2018 I hit the dirt road with my wheels spinning. It has been an amazing journey of getting to know my community even better, learning all the tricks of the trade, and trying to help people in every way I can. It didn't

take me long to understand that no two inspections are the same. Almost every situation is unique and I was there to inform them on the correct and legal way, to do what they are wanting (even if I wasn't sure what that was yet!). I am continually learning new avenues within our Wyoming Statutes, and I hope this article will help shed a little light on what Wyoming's rules are concerning Brand Inspections.

I live in Campbell County and so am assigned to District 6, which consists of Campbell, Crook, and Weston Counties. This does not restrict me to only those areas; I may be called to work in other districts or a few out-of-state markets. My main role as a Brand Inspector is to determine livestock ownership, but I have other duties as well.

Brand Inspectors regularly assist Law Enforcement Officers with issues like livestock on the road, traffic accidents involving livestock, or clearing up issues with proper ownership and transportation. We provide public information (which I am hoping this helps with!) and any additional requests of the Wyoming Livestock Board. For example, this spring I was asked to assist the State Veterinarian with chicken flocks that had tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

We are also responsible for collecting Predator Fees, Beef Council Fees and Brand Inspection Fees. Predator Board Fees are set by each county's predator board and can be up to \$1.00/head on all sheep, cattle and goats. The producer



Toni Swartz

can designate the fee to any county they operate in. No predator fees are charged for out-of-state livestock coming into Wyoming for immediate slaughter, livestock going to a feedlot or on livestock shipped in-state with no change of ownership. Predator fees are only collected once every 12 months on an animal, regardless of ownership. Beef Council Fees, also called Beef Check-Off, are charged on all cattle and calves at the time change of ownership occurs and are \$1.00/head.

In April 2022 the Wyoming Livestock Board adopted new rules for Brand Inspection fees to reflect the raising prices of, well, everything. Those can be found on the Wyoming Livestock Board website or contact your local Brand Inspector.

Our most commonly used brand inspections in Wyoming are A Forms & B Forms. An A Form is a document used to allow the movement of livestock (ie. to pasture, to market, or to slaughter) or when a change of ownership occurs. B Forms are issued by Wyoming Livestock Auctions as title and clearance of purchased animals.

G Forms are used for the movement of cattle and horses to a Certified Livestock Market, this includes St. Onge & Belle Fourche, South Dakota markets. Livestock do not need to be brand inspected on a G Form, they will be inspected once they arrive at the market. Sheep can only be

moved on a G Form to in-state livestock markets. If they leave the state, they need a full inspection.

L Forms, or Lifetimes, are good for as long as you own the animal. These are used for the movement of horses, cattle and sheep in-state and out-of-state for the lifetime of the livestock. Lifetimes do not transfer with change of ownership. An annual inspection, H Form, allows for the in-state movement of livestock for one year. This is not a title or proof of ownership and is only valid for the transportation of livestock.

Wyoming also offers Accustomed Range permits, which allow for the movement of livestock from one documented range to another. The In-State Movement permit allows the producer to move livestock from their home county to another county for a flat fee. If they wish to move within multiple counties, they must obtain separate permits. The Out-of-State Movement permit allows the producer to move livestock from Wyoming to another state, where they own or lease qualified range. This still requires a full brand inspection of livestock but is done at a reduced price. If the livestock do not return to Wyoming, the owner must pay the full amount of the inspection, plus any Predator and Beef Council fees.

BRAND LAWS ... Page 10

#WY BEEF?

Videos like this were featured in this year's #WYBeef digital ad campaign resulting in 903,315 YouTube Impressions, **442,918 YouTube Views** and 85, 117 Google Ads Search Impressions, **2,639 clicks to WYBeef.com.**

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Katie Blunn
Swim Coach & Life Sciences Professor
Cheyenne, WY

YF&R Committee elections this fall

This fall each District Farm Bureau (five total) will elect one position to the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) State Committee at their district meeting. In addition to the five district positions, an at large position is voted on at the WyFB annual meeting.

The objective of the Committee is to give young farmers and ranchers, serving as a committee within the organization structure, the opportunity to recommend programs and activities that will encourage participation of young farmers and ranchers in both the YF&R and total Farm Bureau program.

Young farmers and ranchers interested in serving on an energetic committee

dedicated to the success of agriculture across Wyoming are encouraged to consider running for a seat on the state YF&R Committee.

District committee members serve two-year terms and the at large position serves a one year term. Potential committee members must be between the ages of 18-35 (must not have reached 34th birthday by November 1 of the year in which election is held) and a regular Farm Bureau Federation member. Those interested should notify your county president to request an application and nomination form or contact Kerin Clark at 307.532.2002 or kclark@wyfb.org. Application and nomination forms are also available at: wyfb.org/yfr/ ■

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WYOMING
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COUNCIL

Drought and inputs putting strain on cattle producers

BY BERNT NELSON, AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION ECONOMIST

AUGUST 2, 2022

Cattle producers' biggest obstacles are higher input costs and drought conditions. This Market Intel dives into the current state of the cattle business and the direct implications for the sector in 2023, based on current prices, recent USDA reports, and this week's Crop Progress Report.

Drought

Drought conditions, particularly in the West and Southern Plains, are causing problems for farmers and ranchers. Conditions are worsening. Pasture and range land conditions rated poor to very poor were reduced from 49% to 50% in the last week for 48 states. However, pasture and rangeland rated very poor increased to 27%, up 2% from last week. **Figure 1** illustrates the change in pasture and rangeland conditions for selected states for the week ending July 31, 2022, compared to last week, last year, and July 2019. Eight states report-

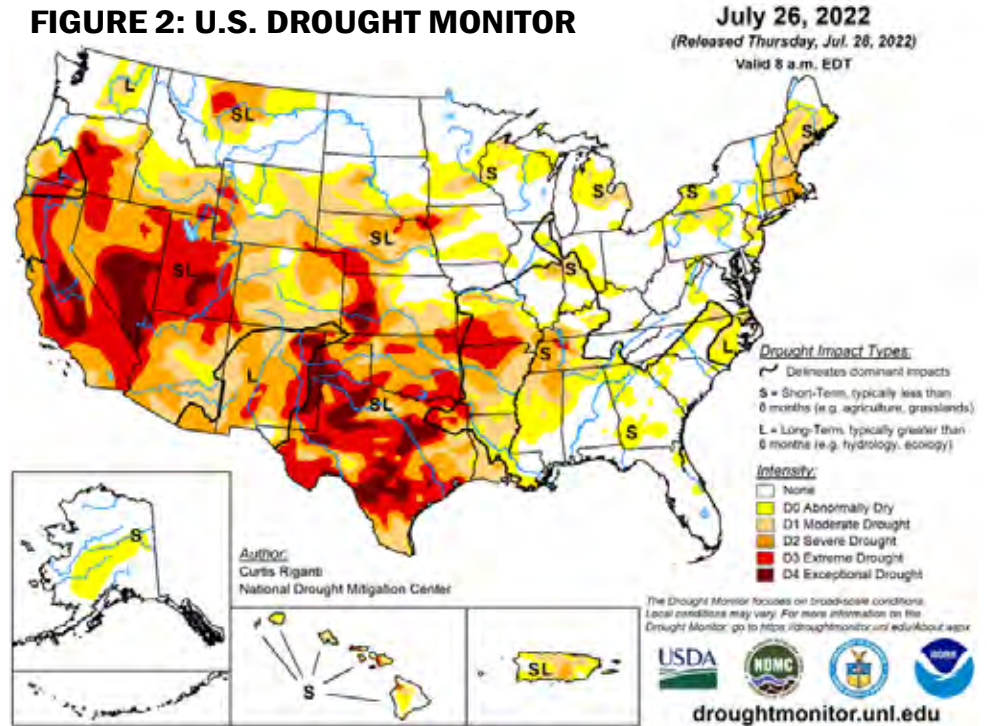
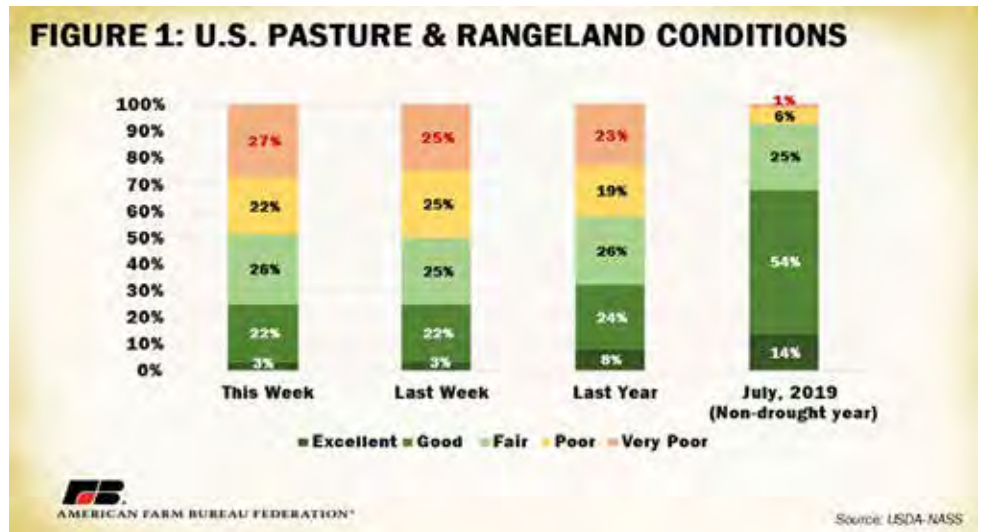
ed 50% or more pasture and rangeland as poor to very poor. Texas came in with 91% rated as poor or very poor, followed by Arkansas at 72%. The U.S. drought monitor in **Figure 2** illustrates the level of drought these regions are currently experiencing. Drought is one of the reasons that more heifers are entering the slaughter pipeline.

Cattle Numbers

The inventory of all cattle and calves in the United States on July 1 was down 2% from a year ago, to 98.8 million head. Cattle inventory at the beginning of the year was also down 2%, to 93.8 million head. This shows that U.S. cattle numbers are on the decline.

On July 1, 2022, cattle on feed totaled 11.3 million head, slightly above July 1, 2021. Placements were 1.63 million head, 2% below this time in 2021. Marketings of fed cattle (the number sold for slaughter) in June 2022 were 2.06 million head, 2% above 2021. Steers and steer calves were down 1% from 2021, accounting for 61% of the total inventory.

DROUGHT AND INPUTS ... Page 13



Hearing Testing for All Ages

(Help for noise-caused loss resulting from farming machinery)

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(Farmers and ranchers are susceptible to fine corral dust build up)

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The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader Kevin Baars

- County: Niobrara
Farm Bureau Leadership
Position(s):
- WyFB Board of Directors/Southeast District Director;
 - Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation board member and membership co-chair;
 - WyFB Membership Committee Vice Chair;
 - Served as founding Chair of WyFB YF&R Committee in 2002-2003.

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe your ranch background.

Baars: I was raised on my family's ranch in southern Niobrara County, where we live and ranch today. My grandparents, Fritz & Dorthea, homesteaded here in 1911, and my dad, Harry, was born on the place in 1915.

Wyoming Agriculture: Family, hobbies, background information.

Baars: My wife, Denise, and I run a cow/calf, yearling ranch and put-up irrigated hay south of Lusk with the help of our daughter, Chelsea, and son, Kerby. I went to school in Lusk, then WyoTech for Automotive Technology. After working in the automotive industry six years, my wife and I moved back to the ranch to be close to my dad. I enjoy trap shooting and fixing things, which is a full-time job on the ranch.

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

Baars: Terry Browder approached me about being on the local Farm Bureau board. I told him I didn't know much about insurance, but I'd give it some thought. He politely explained the difference between the Federation and Farm Bureau Insurance. After discussing it with my wife, and her encouraging me to get involved, I decided to go ahead and try it. That was in 1997, and I'm still here.

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

Baars: If you aren't being a part of the solution, you are just a part of the problem. Farm Bureau is a great organization that is not just talk but takes action. I know that by being a part of this organization, I am making a difference – not just for me and my family, but for everyone in agriculture.

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

Baars: There are several that, I'm sure, have had an impact, but the one that comes to mind is the removal of sales tax on farm equipment. Our policy supported that legislation, so our lobbyists were able to help push for the passage when it came through (probably 20 years ago). Obviously, that has saved us, and everyone else in agriculture, quite a bit of money over the years.



The Baars Family: Kerby, Denise, Chelsea and Kevin



The Baars Ranch in Niobrara County



Hay and Sunshine in Niobrara County



Cattle ranching in Niobrara County

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

Baars: First of all, come to a county annual meeting. Learn what the county and state organizations are doing. If you have an issue that needs attention, bring forth a resolution to your county meeting – that's where all of our policy starts. Maybe you just have an idea for a resolution. There are lots of us willing to help you work through the process.

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

Baars: Obviously the drought is a problem, along with fertilizer and fuel prices. We can't do anything about the drought, but fertilizer and fuel prices do not have to be this high. They are policy decisions that could be fixed, if those in leadership wanted to change.

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

Baars: Membership matters! Whether simply paying your dues, or being active in policymaking, or on the board, membership matters. When our organization submits comments or lobbies the legislature, the number of members they have standing behind them makes a difference. Our members make us the largest ag organization in Wyoming, and that gives us an important voice. ■

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Pumpkin Cake

Ingredients

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 white cake mix | 1/4 cup water | 1/2 tsp each of |
| 1 (15oz) can of pumpkin | 3/4 cup sugar | nutmeg, all spice, and |
| 1/2 cup oil | 4 eggs | ground cloves |
| | | 1 tsp cinnamon |

Directions

1. Heat the oven to 350°. Spray a Bundt or 9x13 inch pan with cooking spray to coat.
2. Combine all ingredients and mix well.
3. Pour into prepared baking dish.
4. Bake Bundt-45 minutes, 9x13-55 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.



Innovations in agriculture technology focus of WyFB Foundation seminar November 10

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Agriculture technology is paving the way for the industry as agriculturists work to produce enough food, fiber, and fuel for over 9 billion people by 2050. From virtual fences for livestock to applications of remote sensing, advances in agriculture are a key to improving efficiencies in agriculture. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation is making sure members are staying on top of these innovations. To accomplish this, the WYFB Foundation is honored to be hosting a speaker series for our members the morning of November 10 in Casper to kick-off annual meeting festivities. The series will tentatively begin at 8:15 am. We will have farmers and ranchers and University of Wyoming (UW) professors present their latest agricultural technology information.

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

Next, Ramesh Sivanpillai is an associate professor and head of the UW Geographic Information Science Center. Dr. Sivanpillai teaches several Land Remote Satellite Sensing System (LandSat)- based remote sensing classes at UW that have wide-ranging applications. LandSat is a joint venture between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that provides satellite imagery of Earth for multiple uses. Specifically, Dr. Sivanpillai and his students utilize the reflected colors through the LandSat images to calculate the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to monitor crop and rangeland health year-over-year. The Foundation is honored to have him present his recent Wyoming-based research for members at the speaker series.

Finally, the Foundation is pleased to welcome Monte Reed. Mr. Reed is a member of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA) and landowner in the Converse County area. He has been working with UW Ecosystem Science and Management professors along with other stakeholders by piloting the use of a virtual fencing program, Vence. With years of natural resource management under his belt, he's sure to provide insight into the pros and cons of virtual fencing on a Wyoming ranch and what it might mean with wildlife interactions, neighboring government land, and more.

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

Watch for registration information in future issues of *Wyoming Agriculture* and at www.wyfb.org. ■



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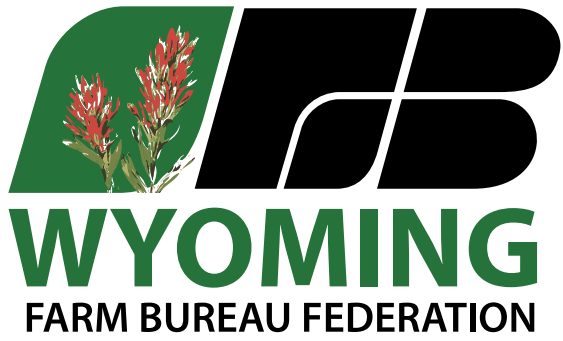
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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

By joining your county Farm Bureau Federation, you are adding your voice to strengthen agriculture in Wyoming and America. Not sure of the next steps for involvement?

Contact your county president to see how you can volunteer and/or participate in county, state and national meetings. Contact information at: wyfb.org/about/county-fb/

WYFB MISSION: The primary goals of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation are 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.

Advocacy

We work diligently to protect property rights; minimize taxes and government spending; limit unnecessary regulations; and make government leaders aware of citizen needs at a local, state and national level. We are a grassroots membership organization that cares about your future. We unite as one voice to work together to keep agriculture strong.

Education

We engage with food system stakeholders as well as advocate for farmers and ranchers. We support agriculture through outreach efforts including, but not limited to, the "Ag Books for Kids" elementary school program, "Wyoming Needs Agriculture" event, and sharing the many unique stories of Wyoming farmers and ranchers.

Leadership Development


















Leadership opportunities are available at all levels of our grassroots organization. Members are encouraged to get involved at policy development meetings, annual meetings, legislative meetings, picnics, Young Farmer & Rancher events, leadership development contests and more. Strengthening leadership skills for agriculture and providing training resources for volunteer leaders is a priority.

A NOTE FROM WYFB PRESIDENT TODD FORNSTROM:

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization led by volunteer farmers and ranchers. The Federation works every day to preserve the agricultural way of life that makes Wyoming strong and thus enhances the lives of Wyomingites. Thank you for your membership. We invite you to renew your membership and join me and my family in continued support of Wyoming farmers and ranchers. I became involved as a leader in the organization nearly 30 years ago. I believe in the grassroots work accomplished for farmers and ranchers and the rural way of life we value in Wyoming. The organization provides me as a farmer the opportunity to be exposed to the development of regulations and policies and the people that have a say in those policies. Membership is important to me. It is a must. It is a part of my business. Membership in the organization is about getting back to the basic values of life and being a part of the solution as we work to keep agriculture strong in Wyoming and America. A strong agriculture is vital to each of our family's security and the security of our country. Thanks again for your support of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

It Pays to be a Member!

To access member benefits, visit wyfb.org and click the Benefits tab.

	Save up to 30% off vehicle rentals
	Save up to 30% off vehicle rentals
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	Save up to \$500 on eligible CASE IH equipment
	Save up to \$5,000 on CAT excavators, skid steers, wheel loaders and more
	Save up to 20% off at participating hotels
	Save 50% off admission tickets
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	Get exclusive prices on select products and supplies
	Save up to \$1,400 off qualifying equipment
	Policyholders with Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance - our affiliate insurance carrier - may be eligible to receive a discount on their premiums as members of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
	Save up to 75% off office, home and school supplies
	Receive savings up to 80% when purchasing prescription drugs through United Networks of America
	WyFB awards \$5,500 in scholarships each year
	Save up to 20% off the Best Available Rate
	Members are entitled to free classified advertising in Wyoming Agriculture for the purpose of selling items they grow or make themselves, selling used machinery or household items, and for posting wanted items
	Sign up for the nation's first FREE generic medication program

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is dedicated to the principles upon which our nation was built: constitutional government, the competitive enterprise system, private property rights and individual freedom. We believe it is the right of citizens to organize and speak through one voice, using the principle of uniting to get things done on the basis of majority decision after discussion and debate. Belonging makes a difference!



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 or mail to WyFB, ATTN: Classifieds, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

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FOR SALE : 5 - ELECTRIC IRRIGATION PUMP MOTORS. U.S. Electrical Motors brand. 2 @ 100HP 3PH/480V - 1785 RPM. 2 @ 60HP 3PH/480V - 1770 RPM. 1 @ 30HP 3PH/240-480V - 1750 RPM. 2 - Jockey Pumps included with purchase if wanted. Call Scott @ (206) 495-7163 for further information. Located in Casper - Delivery not included. \$5000/ Each or O.B.O.

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New Members

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BIG HORN

Richard Russell/Rafter T, LLC (REG), Basin; Travis Willis (REG), Deaver; Sandy House & Marlin Jones (REG), Burlington; Juli Harrison (REG), Basin; Heritage Hill Farms (REG), Burlington; Joshua Paumer (REG), Lovell; Adam Potter, Basin

CAMPBELL

Cindy & Bill Mankin (REG), Gillette; John Cosner (REG), Gillette; Michele & Dustin Beck, Gillette; Tammy & Glen Leisy, Riverton; Chelsea & Steven Gerber, Gillette; Robert Balo, Gillette; Sally & Paul Suchor, Gillette

CARBON

Marcia & Jerry Donnan, Saratoga; Brent Kelly, Elk Mountain

CONVERSE

Sharissa & Cody Negri (REG), Douglas; Tione & James Willox (REG), Douglas; Debra & Delmar Wilkison, Douglas; Erin & James Dona, Glenrock

CROOK

Jules & Kolby Wickwire (REG), Aladdin; Kimberly & Harold Matz (REG), Sundance; Teresa Johnson, Hulett; Bridget & Gannon Johnson (REG), Belle Fourche, SD

FREMONT

Karen & Greg Fuechsel (REG), Riverton; Nancy & Stacey Sorensen (REG), Riverton; Tom Jerrard (REG), Riverton; Jean Mermoud (REG), Crowheart; Amy & Joel Jensen, Dubois; Rhonda Hernandez, Riverton; Joan Winchester-Jones, Riverton

GOSHEN

Cindy & Mike Block (REG), Guernsey

HOT SPRINGS

Tatum Epperson, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Victoria Graves (REG), Buffalo; Deborah & Casey Tippetts, Buffalo; Morgan & Jamie Irish, Buffalo; Allison & Samuel Joyce, Buffalo

LARAMIE

Shelley & Todd Nalder, Cheyenne; Leann Hartman, Cheyenne; Dennis Bruns (REG), Pine Bluffs; Lori & Jack Lyman, Cheyenne; Diana & Raymond Martin, Cheyenne; Debra & Robert Cook, Cheyenne; Lindsey & Josiah Stutheit, Cheyenne; Camille & Marc Aumiller, Cheyenne; Jean Thompson & Michael Desmond, Cheyenne; Cathy & Dennis Tytor, Cheyenne; Debra & William Hibbard, Cheyenne

LINCOLN

Garth Biebinger, Kemmerer; Kira & Jason Trautvein, Afton; Kathy & Peter Dugan, Newport Beach, CA

NATRONA

Chelsea & Luke Eddington, Casper; Heather Knighton & Patches Hallock, Casper; Brad Hogencamp, Casper; Holly Shepperson, Casper; Brittany & Greyson Buckingham, Casper; Colista Strand, Casper

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Joseph Martinez (REG), Lusk

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Brandon Anderson, Powell; Marina & Christopher Jones (REG), Cody; Mary Abarca, Powell; Stacey & Phillip Sapp, Powell; Encarnacion Gonzales, Byron; Lois & Stanley Connett, Meeteetse; Carter Reed, Cody

PLATTE

Marcus Andersson, Wheatland; Peter Anderson, Wheatland; Samantha Hish & JJ Nolan, Wheatland

SHERIDAN

Keene Donley, Sheridan; Christopher Wilson, Sheridan; Carlene Coffin, Sheridan; Jordan Aibel, Sheridan; Robert Marosok, Sheridan; Nathan Morris, Sheridan; Colton Bates, Sheridan; Chandyce & Ryan Baumgartner, Sheridan; Cindi & Jon Butler, Big Horn; Pamela & John Sample (REG), Sheridan; Sandra Markley, Sheridan; Titus Brown, Sheridan; Kristen Hahn/ Goose Valley Farrier Service (REG), Sheridan

SUBLETTE

Ronald Orcutt, Pinedale; Bonnie & Dundra Hunter, Big Piney

SWEETWATER

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BRAND LAWS... From Page 4

There is one other form, called a D Form, that is an inspection used for the movement of livestock hides or pelts. It is a flat fee per form not per hide.

I spoke with a few of my co-workers to discuss some of the disconnects we face as Brand Inspectors. The first issue that came up was people trading and moving livestock on a private bill of sale. We see this most often with horses. Any movement or change of ownership needs to have a brand inspection done immediately. Secondly, people believe that if livestock is not branded, it does not need a brand inspection. It does. Next, we discussed livestock movements from county to county without inspections. This is especially important in designated Brucellosis areas, but is still a requirement throughout the whole state. Another issue we currently face is the number of out of state people

moving in and bringing livestock without a knowledge of our brand laws. My best advice would be to have them contact their local Brand Inspector and ask about the best way to handle their needs.

Along my travels I hear it all the time, Wyoming's brand laws are tough. The rules are strict and they can sometimes be seen as inconvenient. Law Enforcement Officers all across the state are cracking down and as easily and often as livestock are moved now days, I am glad we have good Brand Laws in place.

Visit the Wyoming Livestock Board website at wlsb.state.wy.us ■

Toni Swartz is a Campbell County rancher who also serves as a brand inspector in Campbell County. She has served as a Northeast District representative on the WyFB YF&R Committee since 2013. Toni also serves as the secretary of the Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation.

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National Agriculture News Updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Proposed revisions to certain organophosphate use

On November 18, 2021, several environmental NGO's filed a petition to revoke tolerances and cancel registrations for certain organophosphate uses. Per www.regulations.gov, the summary of the petition requests the EPA to revoke all tolerances and cancel registrations for food uses of several organophosphate pesticides including: Acephate, Densulide,

Chlorethoxyfos, Chlorpyrifos-methyl, Diazinon, Dichlorvos, Dicrotophos, Dimethoate, Ethoprop, Malathion, Naled, Phorate, Phosmet, Terbufos, and Tribufos. Among the request to revoke tolerances the petition request additional protections for risk exposure to OPs by farm workers, and updating risk assessments, among other related measures. The comment period for this petition closes on September 25, 2022. If you or someone you know will be impacted by this proposed change, comments can be

submitted via the following link: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0490-0001>.

Legal challenge to federal pesticide spraying program

The Center for Biological Diversity and Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation filed a lawsuit against USDA APHIS on May 31, 2022, in the U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon that could impact the ability of farmers and ranchers to curtail grasshopper and Mormon cricket popula-

tions. These organizations are citing that APHIS failed to properly consider harms to endangered species caused by insecticide spraying over millions of acres across the western US. This legal challenge could impact land management in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The WyFB and other agricultural groups in the state are monitoring the situation. ■

Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Award nominations

DUE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

The awards will be presented at the WyFB Annual Meeting on Nov. 12 during the evening banquet. Contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org for more details. ■

Outstanding Membership Worker Award nominations

DUE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

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

1. Volunteer
2. Agent
3. County Office Staff

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

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

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What it means to be part of a Mutual Insurance Company

BY JEFF SULLOFF, MWFBMIC VICE PRESIDENT OF CLAIMS

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company is nearing its 75th year of protecting our Farm Bureau member-clients in Wyoming and Montana. We want to take just a few minutes to thank you for placing your trust in us and to share with you what it means to be part of a mutual insurance company.

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiary company, 360 Insurance which provides property and casualty insurance products in Colorado, employs just over 200 people in our three-state territory. In addition, we have close to 115 independent contractor agents and those agents have more than 250 employees who all represent the local presence of Mountain West in communities across our region. Mountain West has over 80,000 individual policy holders and writes over \$200 million in premium each year. Collectively, these premiums indemnify our member-clients when they suffer a loss.

Mountain West is a mutual insurance company, which means there are no stockholders, and all policyholders are members of the company. Like most

of the first insurers in the United States who got their start as a mutual company, Mountain West was created by farmers and property owners with common interests looking to share risk within a large group.

Each member contributes a sum of money in the form of premiums that provides them financial protection in an amount greater than they may be able to afford if they were not insured and backed by their fellow members. Premium collected that is not used to pay operational expense and claims is then placed into a common fund, referred to as Policyholder Security Funds. Policyholder Security Funds protect each member and the company in the event of higher-than-expected claims, such as in widespread catastrophic weather event.

As a mutual insurer, all operational costs, the cost to pay claims, defend our policyholders in lawsuits against them, and defend lawsuits brought against the company are essentially shared by all members. In other words, our ability to meet our obligations paying covered losses and the amount you pay in premium depends upon the company's ability to achieve fair and reasonable settlements and manage operational costs. The deterioration of surplus has many negative consequences, including a decreased ability to safely grow the company. Mountain West, and mutual insurers in general, are focused on long-term ways to meet the

needs of their policyholders who also influence the company's direction and product offerings.

The Benefits of Mutual Insurance Companies

There are many reasons to choose Mountain West over other insurers. Mountain West as a mutual insurer offers our policyholders some notable advantages.

● **Reasonable Premiums:** This is the first, and perhaps most significant, benefit of being part of a mutual insurance company. As a mutual owner of the company, you will share in its success. If the company meets or exceeds its financial goals for the year, premium adjustments will generally be less volatile than when the collective group of owners suffer greater losses.

● **Input.** Another reason to choose a mutual insurer is that as an owner/member of the company, you have a voice in how the company is run. Mountain West is governed by a board of directors, which is made up of Farm Bureau members who are also policyholders. The board members represent the policyholders and work to ensure the company is operating in their best interests. In contrast, the board of a stock insurance company is chosen by outside investors and is committed to meeting the financial goals of these outside investors whose interests may or may not align with those of the policyholders.

● **Outcomes.** One unique advantage offered by Mountain West is that having an ownership stake in the company can incentivize better performance among the policyholders. Guided by their policyholder-led board of directors, Mountain West has strong risk management programs with appropriate underwriting requirements. Both of which help reduce the likelihood or the severity of claims. The fewer claims the company must pay out, the higher the potential profits and the more stable premiums will be. Instead of the success of your insurer being an abstract concept, it can have a concrete impact on your bottom line.

● **Focus.** Finally, as noted previously, Mountain West was established by Farm Bureau Members who share a common interest. As a result, the company has a focused approach to its product offerings to support its owner/members. Mountain West's unique relationship with the Wyoming and Montana Farm Bureaus provides financial assistance to each organization through significant royalty payments each year. Additionally, Mountain West and its agents act as a membership team providing significant membership growth for each organization year after year.

Thank you for your trust and ownership in YOUR insurance Company

We appreciate you choosing Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to help you protect what's most important to you. ■

DROUGHT AND INPUTS... From Page 5

The more interesting story comes from heifers on feed. Heifers and heifer calves on feed were 4.45 million head, up 3% from 2021. **Figure 3** illustrates the increase in heifer and heifer calves on feed compared to the five-year moving average.

The rise in the number of heifers entering feed lots is very important, because these females are the reproductive engine responsible for replacing the cattle inventory that is lost to slaughter, death and other disappearance. When drought causes pasture conditions to decline, heifers that would typically be kept for replacements are instead being placed into feed lots. More heifers being slaughtered means fewer heifers available to produce calves. Fewer calves mean a smaller cattle supply in 2023.

Inputs

Rising input costs are another reason inventory numbers are continuing to fall. From the inputs used to make fertilizer to the inputs used to produce beef, costs are up and cutting into the bottom line. Farmers are having to make decisions about

how to handle increased input costs at the same time as drought conditions.

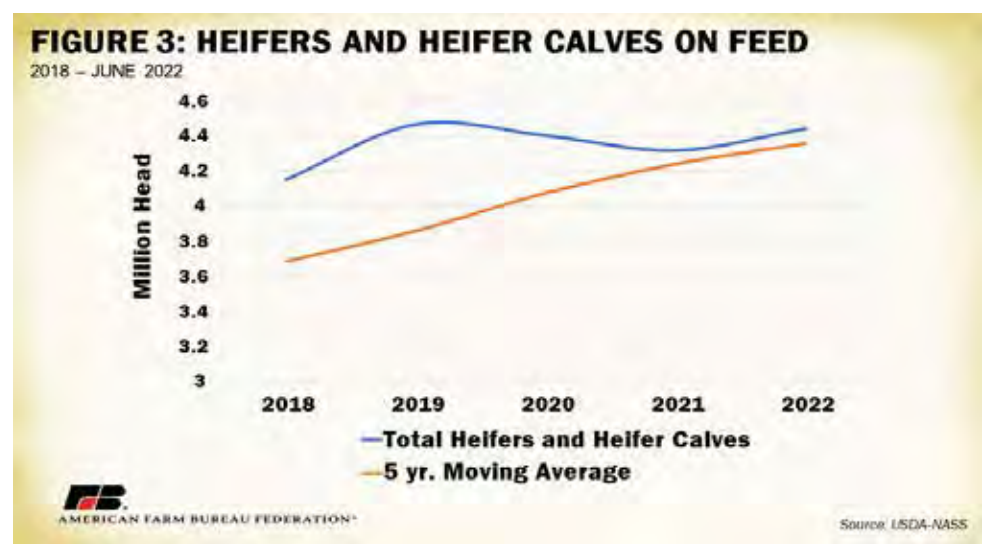
Beef Prices & Cold Storage

On the consumer side, many are asking if tighter cattle supplies will mean paying more for beef at the grocery store. There is some delay from the time supply changes occur to when the consumer sees a change in retail prices. It takes 18-22 months from the time a calf is born until it reaches market weight. The animal is then processed and hung at 38 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 10 days before it is processed into what is called boxed beef. Boxed beef either enters the retail market or enters cold storage.

Total red meat in cold storage dropped 1% between May and June 2022, but is 24% higher than this time in 2021. Total pounds of beef in cold storage dropped 2% between May and June but was 29% higher than this time in 2021. Please see our other Market Intel for more information on cold storage.

Summary & Conclusions

Drought and higher input costs are causing cattle producers to feel the



pinch. Cattle producers are marketing their cattle and taking what they can get while they can get it. More importantly, the growing number of heifers being removed from pasture and placed on feed is reducing the breeding herd responsible for creating next year's calves. More heifers entering the slaughter pipeline now

not only means a smaller cattle inventory for 2022, but a smaller calf crop for 2023 and beyond. Tighter cattle supplies should help bring higher cattle prices in 2023. While tighter cattle supplies may elevate beef prices at the grocery store, high red meat and beef supplies in cold storage should help temper prices. ■

ENERGY POLICY... From Page 2

And closer to home, we hear concerns about food availability while government agencies restrict vital pesticides that are needed to ensure farmers can grow foods in a safe efficient manner. Let's not even

think about what will happen in Arizona and California when water shortages take water from agriculture for urban use. Will the politicians look to develop more storage, or maybe reconsider some of the practices that diverts water to some protected species?

Unfortunately, I'm not optimistic those policies which are "brakes" on production will be repealed. So, more money will be spent trying to get the nation to go faster while a whole host of regulations and policies are slamming on the brakes.

Our leaders need to recognize that in order to build this country and make everyone's life better, those policies that have been put in place over the decades and are serving as brakes should be reviewed, repealed or reworked so we don't spend money pushing on the accelerator while at the same time stomping on the brake. ■



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom and AFBF President Zippy Duvall touring farms in Park County. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Heart Mountain made a beautiful backdrop for this Park County farm tour group photo. (l to r): Ken Hamilton, WyFB; Shelby Hagenauer, AFBF; Brooke Roes, WyFB; Mike Forman, Park County; Wyatt Fornstrom, Laramie County; Corey Forman, Park County; WyFB President Todd Fornstrom; Chad Block and kids (kneeling), Park County; AFBF President Zippy Duvall and wife Jennifer; Josh Cristofferson and kids, Park County; Brian Asher, Park County; Abby Shuler, Park County; and Kerin Clark, WyFB. COLE STAUDT/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO.



AFBF President Duvall looks at grass seed with Park County Farmer Corey Forman. COLE STAUDT/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO.

WYOMING TOUR... From Page 1

“It was an honor to have President Duvall here representing us and having an understanding of the struggles that we face in agriculture every day,” said Lex Geer, Campbell County Rancher and Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation President. “It is just amazing to have someone that lives clear across the country supporting, caring and fighting for us all in agriculture so we can stay prosperous in our work that we do.”

“We were pleased to showcase the diversity of Park County agriculture to President Duvall and to the state Farm Bureau staff as

well,” said Abby Shuler, Park County Farmer and Park County Farm Bureau Federation Board member.

The tour stops also included great barbeques and picnics with county Farm Bureau Federation board members in Park, Johnson and Campbell counties.

“Our county Farm Bureaus showed President Duvall just how important they are to carrying the message of agriculture in their local communities as well as the state level,” said Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President.

The grassroots leaders welcomed the opportunity to visit with the national organization’s president and staff.

“One highlight that stuck out to me was our conversation with President Duvall over dinner,” said Bill Burke, Johnson County Rancher and Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation President. “We discussed issues we both face, a lot were the same, just at different times of the year.”

“We tried to make the visit to Johnson County unique by sharing a part of our history, but still with ties to agriculture,” Burke continued. “The time at the Mountain Meadow Wool Mill was extremely informative and showed another side of the sheep industry that most people don’t get to see.”

WYOMING TOUR ... Page 16

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Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation supports youth and county fair

The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation (BHCFFB) supports youth in agriculture. During the Big Horn County Fair, board members served pie and water to fairgoers all while sharing the message that the organization is "Advocating for agricultural policies with a conservative voice in county, state and federal government." The BHCFFB also hosted an Agriculture Issues Forum during the fair. *KEN HAMILTON PHOTO.*



Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation hosts Candidate Forum

The Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation hosted a candidate forum on August 9th. Roughly 250 people were in attendance. The forum included 26 statewide and local candidates. *SUBMITTED BY CHELSEA BAARS, NCFBF PRESIDENT*

MSLF update on Leisl Carpenter v. Vilsack and Ducheneaux

DENVER, COLORADO AUGUST 19, 2022
On August 19, 2022 President Joe Biden signed the \$739 billion spending bill that passed Congress on a party-line basis. While the country continues to analyze the myriad provisions of the bill, there is at least one section that Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF) is pleased to see—the repeal of a debt relief plan the Foundation calls brazenly racist. MSLF represents three clients—Leisl Carpenter in Wyoming, Sara Rogers in Colorado, and Robert Holman in Tennessee—in litigation that targeted a Biden Administration COVID-19 debt relief program. The expansive American Recovery Plan Act, passed in March of 2021, authorized payments of 120% of Farm Service Agency loan debt. However, the program excluded farmers or ranchers if they were white, and made payments only to other racial groups.

MSLF and its clients sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture for violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. Leisl Carpenter, one of MSLF's clients in this case, wrote in an op-ed last year, "You can't fight past discrimination with more discrimination." The Foundation argued that racial classifications are inherently suspect, and nearly always unconstitutional.

In partnership with the Southeastern Legal Foundation, MSLF was able to halt the program in the courts last July, and class action litigation has proceeded in another matter in Texas. The bill signed by President Biden this week indicates the Administration will no longer continue its failed efforts in court and has eliminated the program altogether.

MSLF cites its clients and attorneys for the program's termination. President and CEO Cristen Wohlgemuth said, "Leisl, Sara, and Robert were brave enough to stand up to government-sponsored racism. MSLF fought hard to force the Biden Administration to give up on this unconstitutional discrimination, and I'm proud of both our clients and our team. This is a victory for equality." ■



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WYOMING TOUR... From Page 14

AFBF staff members Shelby Hagenauer (Senior Director, Government Affairs) and Cole Staudt (Communications Manager) also participated in the Wyoming agriculture tour.

“One of the policy issues I focus on is western water, and so I appreciated talking to farmers who rely on irrigation and visiting the Willwood diversion dam, which was originally built almost 100 years ago,” Hagenauer stated. “American Farm Bureau has been advocating for improvements to western water infrastructure, and now that Congress has provided unprecedented levels of funding we will work with our members and the government to focus efforts on getting shovels in the ground as quickly as possible.”

WyFB thanks the members and guests who took the time to provide tours and meet with the tour delegation. President Duvall has made a commitment to visit every state and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was pleased to host him here in Wyoming.

“President Duvall’s visit showed him Wyoming agriculture firsthand to help give him an important picture of our issues,” Hamilton continued. “WyFB President Fornstrom certainly provides that perspective to him in meetings, but it’s one thing to hear about a state’s issues and another to be on the ground and see firsthand.”

“This was President Duvall’s second visit to our state,” Hamilton concluded. “He was able to see a wide variety of agriculture, from the irrigated agriculture which relies on storage water to our rangeland agriculture in the more private land areas of our state.” ■

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom (left) and AFBF President Zippy Duvall (right) on a ranch tour in Campbell County with Lex Geer and son Perry (center).

KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Mountain Meadow Wool Mill Founder Karen Hostetler (second from left) details the knitting process at the Mill. (l to r): Wyatt Fornstrom; Hostetler; Jennifer and Zippy Duvall. The Mill tour included a look at each step in the process of turning wool into a product of yarn or in this case a beautifully knitted American Flag wool masterpiece. COLE STAUDT/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO.



Wyoming Agriculture Tour dinner stop at the TA Ranch in Johnson County with Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation members. (Front l to r): Michelle Burke; Zippy and Jennifer Duvall. (Back l to r): Bill Burke; Sally and Wally Ramsbottom; and Ryan Fieldgrove. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



Campbell County FBF board members and families following dinner with AFBF President Duvall. (l to r): Toni Swartz; Mary Jo Joslyn; Matt Avery; Macy, Perry, Amanda and Lex Geer; Kevin and Jana Collins; Wyatt Fornstrom; Todd Fornstrom; Ken Hamilton; Zippy and Jennifer Duvall; Troy and Mary Swartz. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

<p>BB Brooks Ranch Casper, WY • \$10,400,000</p> <p>NEW RANCH LISTING Exciting Development Potential</p> 	<p>Bordering Casper city limits with access to Interstate 25, this ranch with expansive views over the city of Casper, offers the land investor a great commercial and residential development opportunity in tax friendly Wyoming.</p> <p>Total Acres: 5,600±</p>	<p>Divide Ranch Wheatland, WY • \$2,356,200</p> <p>NEW RANCH LISTING UNDER CONTRACT</p> 	<p>The Divide Ranch is a new cattle and sheep ranch for sale just north of Wheatland WY at Dwyer Junction. This ranch has high plains scenic landscapes for your visual enjoyment and great grass, water and fences for livestock enterprises.</p> <p>Total Acres: 2,142±</p>
<p>N. Fork Shell Creek Recreation Ranch Buffalo, WY • \$4,000,000</p> <p>NEW IMPROVED PRICE!</p> 	<p>Private grazing and recreation ranch land nestled in the shadow of the coveted Bighorn Mountain foothills. The North Fork Shell Creek Ranch is completely surrounded by public land with no public roads anywhere to be seen.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 640± Total Acres: 1,760±</p>	<p>Lower Clear Creek Ranch Leiter, WY • \$3,495,000</p> <p>NEW LISTING & ALREADY UNDER CONTRACT</p> 	<p>This mid-sized ranch offers nearly 2,400 acres of grazing, recreation and agricultural opportunities for an enterprising new owner. Clear Creek runs through the ranch for nearly 5 miles, with water rights and irrigation.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 2,121± Total Acres: 2,385±</p>

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