



Wyoming Agriculture

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Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation sets policy for coming year

BY KERIN CLARK

Corner crossing trespass, aging irrigation infrastructure, social governance scores, and foreign ownership of land, water and minerals were among the many topics included in policies adopted at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB). Held Nov. 10-12, 2022 in Casper, Wyo., the meeting is an important step in the grassroots policy development process of the Farm Bureau Federation. The need for the protection of property rights resonated through the discussions as Farm Bureau Federation members developed policy.

WYFB POLICIES ... Page 7

Todd Fornstrom elected to seventh term as Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President

BY KERIN CLARK

Todd Fornstrom, of Laramie County, was elected to his seventh term as President of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) at the organization's 103rd Annual Meeting in Casper.

"Being trusted to be a representative for what I believe is the best agricultural organization in our country, if not the world, is an extreme honor," said Fornstrom. "I'm ready to continue working for our farmers and ranchers in Wyoming."


FORNSTROM ELECTED ... Page 15

WyFB 2023 Legislative Priorities

BY BRETT MOLINE

Each year Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) sends each state legislator a copy of WyFB's Legislative Priorities. These priorities are based on WyFB adopted policy and issues coming forward in the upcoming legislative session. At the end of our annual meeting, the priorities are updated to incorporate policy just adopted. A group of members including State Governmental Affairs committee members, other committee chairs, and members of the Board of Directors gather to update the Priorities which are then submitted to the WyFB Board for final approval.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ... Page 15



Upcoming Events

- WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Conference
January 20-21, 2023
Pinedale, Wyoming
- WyFB Legislative Meeting
February 22-23, 2023
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Save the Dates

Farm Bureau's strength through a three stranded cord

AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal addresses 103rd annual meeting

BY KERIN CLARK

"Challenges shape us, but they don't have to define us," said American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Vice President Scott VanderWal. "It is really up to us how we react to the challenges."

VanderWal spoke on November 11 at the 103rd WyFB Annual Meeting. A third-generation corn and soybean farmer and cattle feeder from Volga, South Dakota, VanderWal also serves as president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau.

"When we face challenges, we grow as people, as a family and as a Farm Bureau," VanderWal continued. "On behalf of AFBF President Duvall, I want to share how proud we are of how the Farm Bureau family takes care of each other and rises together to meet the challenges facing agriculture."

VICE PRESIDENT ... Page 11



American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Scott VanderWal addressed Farm Bureau members at the 103rd WyFB Annual Meeting. VanderWal emphasized Farm Bureau is a family and every member plays an important role in Farm Bureau's work to keep agriculture strong. This picture captures part of that Farm Bureau Federation family with the Fornstroms and the VanderWals: Laura Fornstrom with husband Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President, and VanderWal with wife Michelle. **KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.**

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members donated the equivalent of 8,235 meals to help Wyoming families in need

BY KERIN CLARK

Wyoming families facing hunger received a boost mid-November with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee "Harvest for All" project. The 20th annual fund drive and raffle to benefit the Food Bank of Wyoming raised \$2,745 which is the equivalent of 8,235 meals for Wyoming families.

During the state annual meeting Nov. 10-12 in Casper, county Farm Bureau Federations and Wyoming farmers and ranchers donated money to help the food bank in their work with hunger-relief programs across the state of Wyoming. A raffle for a livestock vaccine cooler and an impact wrench also raised funds for the Harvest for All project.

In addition to the fund drive, WyFB YF&R Committee members volunteered at the Food Bank of Wyoming in Casper. Eleven members participated on November 9 where they packed food boxes for the EverGreen Box™ program of the Food Bank of Wyoming. In just under one hour, these eleven volunteers packed 216 food boxes. According to the Food Bank of Wyoming, that amounted to a record three boxes per minute.

HARVEST FOR ALL ... Page 19



The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee is in its 20th year of the "Harvest for All" project. The project raises funds to help those facing hunger in Wyoming. Shown here are WyFB YF&R Committee members at the Food Bank of Wyoming after packing 216 boxes in under an hour. (l to r): Seth Allen, Niobrara County; Lane Hageman, Goshen County; Zach and Hannah Guild, Uinta County; Quade Palm, Carbon County; Cody Alps, Goshen County; Toni Swartz, Campbell County; and Tucker Hamilton, Weston County. Front row: Kerin Clark, WyFB; Raenell Taylor, Crook County; and Aletta Grauberger, Natrona County.

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

January 2023

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

February 2023

- 22-23 WyFB Legislative Meeting — Blue
Community Events Center at World
Headquarters in Cheyenne

March 2023

- 1 WyFB Scholarship Application
deadline
- 3-6 AFBF Fusion/YF&R Conference —
Jacksonville, Florida

April 2023

- 1 “Ag Books for Kids” county contest
deadline
- 17 “Ag Books for Kids” district contest
deadline

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates

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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.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Ken Hamilton

EDITOR
Kerin Clark
kclark@wyfb.org

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Some of the Best Stories
Start on the Farm

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Who doesn't love a good story? We all have been there, sitting on the edge of our seats eager to see if our favorite characters will come out OK. Stories aren't just entertaining; they also help us understand times and places we haven't seen firsthand. In my opinion, the best stories are true to life. That's why I love sharing stories from the farm.

The story of American agriculture is woven with the suspense of uncertainty and driven by the hardworking, innovative men and women who play the leading roles in growing the safe, sustainable food and products we all enjoy. These stories may not ever play out on the big screen, but they are the stories that matter to our families and communities. One of the best parts of my job is hearing and sharing these stories with folks who may have never stepped foot on a farm.

Whether in meetings on Capitol Hill, speeches on the road, my regular podcast, or columns like this one, my goal is to place the story of the American farmer front and center. What's more, our research shows that farm stories have an impact. Americans trust the men and women who grow their food. They trust you, farmers and ranchers, more than any other profession and more than the government to act in

their best interest and care for the environment. And for good reason—we are leading the world in producing the best and most sustainable agricultural products—from the food on our tables to the renewable fuel in our vehicles.

The American public is eager to hear more about the farm and ranch families they trust. Farm families like the Vollemans of Gustine, Texas. This family brought their dairy farming heritage all the way from Luxembourg to Central Texas. Like so many American farms, they have placed sustainability and animal welfare at the forefront of everything they do, from ensuring the best nutrition for their animals to establishing practices that reduce plastic waste and protect soil and water. They also take great pride in sharing their story with neighbors near and far with public dairy tours.

Just to the east of the Vollemans, you'll find Sheri Glazier of rural Oklahoma. Like many farmers, Sheri wears two hats. She and her husband raise cattle, wheat, sesame and hay, and Sheri is a registered dietitian. Also known as the Dirt Road Dietitian, Sheri has made it her mission to help folks take a practical approach to nutrition that includes everything from beans and beets to leafy greens and grains to—

you guessed it—beef. She uses her unique background and platform to engage with thousands of consumers on what goes into a well-balanced diet.

Many farm families, like mine, have been caring for the same land for generations, but a good number are the first generation to break soil. And some, like Chris and Laura Varhola, come to the farm from another career or a tour of service in the military. Veteran farmers like the Varholas of Michigan made the decision to continue their life of service by going back to the family farm. As Chris told me, “There has always been a natural transition between being a soldier and being a farmer.”

This is just a sampling of some of the stories I've had the privilege to share on my podcast, *Farmside Chat*, and that podcast is just a taste of the thousands of stories of the good work you all are doing every day. Let's keep sharing those stories—with our friends, with our neighbors, with our lawmakers. Your platform may be at your local school, on social media, or at the market. Every story makes a difference as we build on the trust the public has placed in us. We have a great story to tell, and there's an eager audience waiting to hear it. ■

Political Science
vs. Real Science

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



The days are long, but the years are short - a good way to describe how things go in my life. It seems almost impossible to believe that another year is heading for the rearview mirror and a new one will be upon us. I'm always proud of myself when during those first months of a new year I manage to put the date on my check and not have to write over it a couple of times to correct the year.

So, what can we expect from 2023? Well, there are a lot of variables, and trying to predict what will go from a non-problem to a big problem, like a 20-day weather forecast, is pretty hit or miss.

I'm willing to put my tree climbing shoes on and crawl out on that limb... I predict the nation's politicians will continue to promote the idea that we need to address global warming - also renamed climate change. For many of those who claim to be concerned about climate, they really are more anxious to use it as a cause to advance their favorite political agenda.

A good example of this is the recent focus on electric vehicles. Zero emission vehicles are how they are portrayed but most of us understand that is an incomplete picture. In an interesting TED talk,

Graham Conway pointed out the batteries in electric vehicles add twice the carbon emissions to build an electric vehicle as a conventional vehicle. Electric vehicles also have to get charged from the electric power grid, but 2/3 of the power generated in the world emits carbon. Electric vehicles, with the increased carbon created by building batteries, reach the breakeven point with conventional vehicles after being driven 80 or 90 thousand miles. In Mr. Conway's example, the average electric vehicle has a range of about 125 miles while the conventional vehicle can travel about 400 miles. If you were to add enough battery power to get the electric vehicle to go 400 miles, it would generate more carbon than the conventional vehicle.

So, why are we embarking on an accelerated effort to promote electric vehicles? If we are truly concerned about carbon emissions the electric vehicle isn't the answer and indeed will generate more carbon than conventional vehicles.

Another example comes to us from the recently completed global climate talks in Egypt. People traveled to this conference from all over the world generating huge amounts of carbon so they could talk

about how we need to reduce our carbon emissions. While urging the world to reduce their energy consumption their only solution to those countries that emit less carbon than the western countries is to buy those countries off with funds transferred from western countries. Nowhere in the news articles about this solution did I see an amount of wealth transfer we would need to provide. And in the end, once the wealth ran out, as it inevitably will, what will happen then?

Meanwhile back at the ranch, we are hearing warnings about blackouts which could occur during the winter months when the policies to eliminate those carbon emitting power generating systems reduce our electrical grid reliability.

According to an article in the *Cowboy State Daily*, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) estimates that by 2025 the Western Interconnection, which is the grid serving Wyoming and other states in the West, could see blackouts.

Will these warnings be taken seriously by our politicians? Will they continue to use political science to determine policies, or will they use real science? I predict the former. ■

Economic issues affecting agriculture

BY KERIN CLARK

Inflation and other economic issues are top of mind for both consumers of food and growers of food. Conversations around dinner tables in America are sure to include the different issues affecting food prices.

When it comes to the growers of food, who are also consumers, there are many economic issues affecting agriculture. According to American Farm Bureau Federation Senior Economist Veronica Nigh, economic issues affecting agriculture include inflation, Russia, weather and volatile markets. Nigh spoke November 11 to members at the 103rd Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting where she broke down these issues in detail.

"You all are used to dealing with issues that are out of your control like the

weather, Nigh told meeting attendees. "Recently, we've got a lot more headwinds going on with agriculture that are unrelated to things that we've had to think about for a while when it comes to economic issues."

Nigh placed issues impacting agriculture markets into three buckets. "First, interest rates and the value of the U.S. dollar are related to inflation. Second, geopolitical conflicts are related to global production and exports. Third, weather and labor are also something to keep an eye on," Nigh stated.

Inflation

"It is hard to escape what is going on in the inflation side," she said.

According to Nigh, looking at the 12 month change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) ending in October 2022 shows a

7.7% inflation on all items compared to October 2021. "A huge portion of that is in energy where we've seen a 17.6% increase year over year," she explained. "While that is certainly high, this summer energy markets were up 40% compared to the year before."

Looking at the food side, Nigh pointed to a 10.9% inflation in costs. "These prices are up at the grocery store, but the farmers and ranchers are not getting any of this increase," she said. "In fact, a lot of what we are seeing on the food side is impacted by the energy side; you all are facing incredibly high input costs and volatility in access to those inputs."

"Outside of food and energy inflation is 6.3%," she continued. "Over 50% of the increase in the CPI is related to food, energy and shelter."

ECONOMIC ISSUES ... Page 21



AFBF Senior Economist Veronica Nigh breaks down the economic issues affecting agriculture while speaking at the 103rd WyFB Annual Meeting. *KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/ KADRA CLARK PHOTO.*



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

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

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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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Central Wyoming College student Giana Biagioni wins Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Collegiate Discussion Meet

BY KERIN CLARK

Central Wyoming College (CWC) student Giana Biagioni (pronounced Bee-ah-joe-nee) discussed agriculture issues at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Collegiate Discussion Meet and earned \$300 cash and an expense-paid trip to Jacksonville, Florida. Biagioni competed Nov. 10 in Casper.

Competitors representing CWC, Sheridan College and Casper College entered the competition. The competition is designed to simulate Farm Bureau's policy development process in a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected. The competition provided a challenge to discuss real time agriculture issues of concern and determine a potential solution.

"This discussion style competition is a very effective way for students to civilly discuss current topics that are prevalent within the agriculture industry," Biagioni said. "As the students competing in these competitions are the future of agriculture this competition effectively gets us thinking about what we can do and how we can utilize Farm Bureau for our future success as a whole."

Biagioni says she is grateful for the opportunity provided through this competition. "It was great to share my ideas with my fellow agriculturalists and hear what they had to say in turn," she said. "Together, we generated multiple solutions that agriculture will benefit from in the future."



The "Final Four" Finalists in the 2022 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Collegiate Discussion Meet held in Casper mid-November. From left to right: Toni Swartz, WyFB YF&R Committee; Logan Lapica, Sheridan College; Kenneth Raymond, Sheridan College; Madison Henry, Casper College; Giana Biagioni, Central Wyoming College; and Quade Palm, WyFB YF&R Committee. *KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.*

Madison Henry, a Casper College student, was named the runner-up and was awarded a \$150 cash prize. From Idaho, Henry is majoring in animal science.

Rounding out the "Final Four" finalists were Logan Lapica, Sheridan College and Kenneth Raymond, Sheridan College. From North Dakota, Lapica is studying animal science and ag business. Kenneth Raymond, of Rawlins, is studying ag business.



Central Wyoming College's Giana Biagioni (left) won the 2022 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Collegiate Discussion Meet. She received her awards from WyFB YF&R Vice Chair Quade Palm. *KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.*

Contestants are given pre-determined topics. They are judged on their knowledge, speaking ability, ability to participate in a committee meeting and listen to others and air all points of view. All contestants competed in two rounds of competition. The top four advanced to the "Final Four" round.

The "Final Four" discussion topic was: "How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?"

Biagioni will represent the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation in the American Farm Bureau Federation Collegiate Discussion Meet March 3-6, 2023 in Jacksonville, Florida. From Littleton, Massachusetts, she is a freshman at CWC pursuing a degree in farm and ranch management.

"We had an amazing group of participants this year and the competition was tough," said Toni Swartz, outgoing WyFB YF&R Competitive Events Sub-Committee Chair. "I am excited to see how well Giana does on a national level."

Biagioni is looking forward to the national competition. "I am honored to represent Wyoming at the national competition in March," she concluded. "I am very excited to discuss the future of agriculture with other young minds." ■

Carbon County's Quade Palm elected WyFB YF&R State Chair

Quade Palm was elected as the next Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee State Chair. This position also holds a seat on the WyFB Board of Directors.

From Carbon County, Palm is a Central District representative on the WyFB YF&R Committee. Palm is a sixth generation Wyoming rancher. He works on his family's ranch near Medicine Bow. ■



Quade Palm

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MEL FEZLER
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Hageman and Swartz recognized for service on WyFB YF&R Committee

BY KERIN CLARK

Twenty years ago, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation started a Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) program within the organization. The purpose of the program 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 program and the Farm Bureau Federation.

District representative committee members serve a two-year term. Each district has one position open for election each year during the fall. The at-large position is a one-year term and is voted on at the state annual meeting. This year, the WyFB YF&R Committee recognized two retiring committee members.

Campbell County Rancher Toni Swartz served ten years on the committee from 2013-2022. During her time on the committee, Swartz served as WyFB YF&R State Chair, a position that holds a seat on the WyFB Board of Directors. During her time on the committee, Swartz was a devoted leader and contributor to all Farm Bureau and YF&R activities and events.

Swartz is grateful for the opportunities afforded her as a young leader through the YF&R Committee. “Serving on the YF&R Committee has allowed me to visit many states around the country and learn so much about how different agriculture is from place to place,” Swartz said. “I have attended national conferences in five different states and was even able to take a trip to Washington, D.C.”

“Along the way I have made many life-long friends,” she continued. “I have sat at the same table with different members of Wyoming’s Congressional Delegation through the years and had a discussion about what affects me as a young agriculturalist and knew that my voice was heard.”

Swartz emphasized the trainings and educational conferences have and will continue to benefit her life. “I am so grateful for the education I have been given through Farm Bureau,” she said. “It has helped me, and also our generational ranch, to learn different ways to think about things.”

“The YF&R Committee has allowed my voice to be heard and I hope that somewhere along the way I was able to make a difference,” Swartz concluded.

Goshen County Rancher Lane Hageman served on the committee from 2019-2022. During his time on the committee, Hageman was a great spokesman at conferences and events and a thoughtful contributor to committee work. Hageman is serving his second term as Director-at-Large on the WyFB Board of Directors.

Hageman said serving on the committee has meant a lot to him and been a great experience. “The knowledge that I have gained about the Federation, the connections I have made around the state, and the leadership skills I have learned are all very valuable,” Hageman said. “I have a lot to be thankful for and have a tremendous amount of respect for Kerin Clark for the work she puts in to this committee and Chelsea Baars for helping me to become involved.”

According to Hageman, the training involved with the YF&R program has helped him almost more than he can explain. “As a young rancher, the importance of confidence as well as articulation of what one believes in is ever so important,” he said. “Facts don’t lie, but we have to be able to present them. It doesn’t matter if it’s at a county commissioner meeting, a local school board meeting, or testifying in front of Congress, the presentation and precision of an argument is extremely important.”

“I believe the YF&R Committee has helped me begin to develop the skills to become a leader in this industry as well as a productive advocate,” Hageman concluded. “I want to thank those who have helped me to grow the last four years, and I look forward to my future with the Farm Bureau Federation.”

WyFB YF&R Committee members are given vast amounts of training on leadership qualities and issues briefing as well as honing other professional skills during their time on the committee. The committee members are a dedicated group of individuals who work hard to ensure the ideals of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation are upheld and continue to represent farmers and ranchers throughout Wyoming. ■



The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation thanked Goshen County Rancher Lane Hageman for his service on the WyFB YF&R Committee from 2019-2022. (l to r): WyFB President Todd Fornstrom; Hageman; WyFB YF&R Parliamentarian Tucker Hamilton; and WyFB Vice Chair Quade Palm. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation thanked Campbell County Rancher Toni Swartz for her service on the WyFB YF&R Committee from 2013-2022. (l to r): WyFB President Todd Fornstrom; Swartz; WyFB YF&R Parliamentarian Tucker Hamilton; and WyFB Vice Chair Quade Palm. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

WyFB YF&R County Involvement Program Recognition

BY KERIN CLARK

The Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation was recently recognized for achieving all four steps in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) County Involvement 4-Step Program.

Farm Bureau’s strength is in our grassroots involvement. The local level is where it all begins for the work we do for agriculture here in Wyoming and across the nation. The WyFB YF&R Committee appreciates the work county Farm Bureau Federations do to surface young leaders in our organization. The County Involvement 4-step program is a way to recognize the county Farm Bureau Federations for their work and encourage growth in county YF&R programs.

The four steps may be completed in any order.

- Step 1:** One new, regular YF&R member added
- Step 2:** Send one YF&R aged member to WyFB YF&R Conference and/or WyFB Annual Meeting
- Step 3:** Have one YF&R aged member actively involved on county level
- Step 4:** Hold one YF&R meet & greet and or/speaker activity each year

Niobrara County’s activities for Step 3 included “Ag Books for Kids” presentations in local schools, candidate forum, Ag Expo presenters and county fair booth setup. Niobrara County’s activity for Step 4 was a Rootbeer Float Social during the county fair.

Three county Farm Bureau Federations were recognized for achieving various levels of the 4-Step program. Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau achieved three steps; Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation achieved



Four county Farm Bureau Federations were recognized for their efforts to surface young members and leaders for the organization at the county level. WyFB YF&R Committee Member Raenell Taylor and WyFB YF&R Vice Chair Quade Palm congratulated the winning counties at the 103rd WyFB Annual Meeting. (l to r): Taylor; Ryan Fieldgrove, Johnson County; Samantha Starks, Albany County; Chelsea Baars, Niobrara County; Scott Kossert, Natrona County; and Palm. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

two steps and the Albany County Farm Bureau Federation achieved one step.

Program applications are due each year by November 1 and are available at wyfb.org; click on the “YF&R”

tab and then the “County YF&R Involvement” tab. Contact a WyFB YF&R Committee member with questions or for assistance in growing your YF&R program at the county level. ■

WyFB 2022 Leadership Award Presented to Don Pavack

BY KERIN CLARK

Former Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau President Don Pavack was awarded the 2022 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Leadership Award at the 103rd annual meeting of the organization. Presented November 11 in Casper, the award is given to those who have devoted much time to the betterment of agriculture in Wyoming through their leadership in the Farm Bureau Federation.

“Passionate about his beliefs and dedicated to standing up for those beliefs are two strong attributes of this year’s Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Leadership Award recipient,” said Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President.

Pavack retired as Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau president in 2018. When he became involved in the organization, he devoted his time to serving the county and seeking potential members he could encourage to get involved in the organization.

“He’s not afraid to speak his mind...Even if you don’t always agree with him, you have to respect the fact that he stands by his moral code,” wrote Chelsea Baars, Niobrara County FBF president, in her nomination. “Whether you need a friend, a helping hand, or someone to simply call it as it is—he’s the person you can count on.”

He is a talented knife craftsman, and his generous nature is evident by the personalized knives he has donated for nearly two decades for the WyFB Foundation’s yearly raffle. Members have enjoyed putting their name in the drawing for a famous “Don Pavack knife.”

According to Baars, Don’s perspective on life and strong opinions come from a thoughtful nature and a big heart that cares for friends and neighbors.

Pavack continues to support the organization and attend county and state annual meetings. He produces hay on his farm in Natrona County. Prior to moving to Wyoming many years ago, Pavack was in law enforcement in California.

Pavack was appreciative of the award and noted his involvement in the organization comes from his belief that it is important that agriculture sticks together and stands up for what is right. “Talk about humbling a person, I couldn’t believe it when my name was called,” Pavack stated. “I am very grateful to have received this award.”

“We show our appreciation with this award for Don’s leadership and service to agriculture through the Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau,” Fornstrom concluded. ■



Former Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau President Don Pavack (left) was awarded the 2022 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Leadership Award. WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill (middle) and WyFB President Todd Fornstrom (right) congratulated Pavack at the 103rd annual meeting of the organization. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

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

Virtual AFBF Convention registration available

The American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention will be held Jan. 6-11, 2023, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with AFBF President Duvall giving his annual address to Farm Bureau members during the opening general session on Sunday morning, Jan. 8.

For those not attending in-person, virtual registration options are available. Virtual-only registrants have access to convention keynote speeches, select workshops and Cultivation Center Stage presentations (town hall-style workshops covering a variety of topics). The virtual registration is \$25. Learn more and register at <https://annualconvention.fb.org>. ■

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship opportunities

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship deadline is March 1, 2023. 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. ■

WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION Save the Date!

Legislative Meeting

February 22-23, 2023

Cheyenne, Wyoming


WyFB Legislative Meeting Feb. 22-23

The 2023 Legislative Meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will be held at the Blue Community Events Center at World Headquarters in Cheyenne (2401 E. Pershing Blvd) on February 22-23.

Hotel Reservations: A room block has been secured for the nights of February 21 and 22, 2023 at the Fairfield Inn and Suites and Towneplace Suites. The reservation deadline is January 22, 2023. Reservations made after January 22 are subject to availability. To make a room reservation

by phone, call the hotels below and refer to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for our group discount rate of \$129/night (plus taxes & fees).

- Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott Cheyenne Southwest Downtown (1820 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne)
• Hotel: 307.634.0401
- Towneplace Suites by Marriott (1710 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne)
• Hotel: 307.634.0400

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Innovations in Agriculture Technology focus of Foundation Seminar

BY KELLY CARPENTER

One of many events to kick off the 103rd Annual Meeting this year was the Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation Seminar Speaker Series. This year, three speakers were featured, two of which were from the University of Wyoming (UW) and the other was a cattle and sheep rancher located in northern Converse County. The title for this year's series was "Innovations in Agriculture Technology."

Nearly 40 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members were present for the series. Many attendees came to the presentations wondering how these breakthroughs in agricultural technology could be applied to their farms or ranches.

Virtual Fencing

Monte Reed, of Bill, Wyo., started the morning with his presentation on Vence, the virtual fencing company. Reed described his mixed cattle and sheep ranch, and how to set up virtual fencing in the wilds of East-Central Wyoming rangelands.

The driving force behind his desire to adopt the technology is to increase pasture utilization and maintain pasture borders without the exorbitant costs associated with traditional methods of fencing. As described by Reed, Vence requires collars for cattle, transmission towers, and a keen eye for detail in setting up virtual pasture borders.

There is training period for the cattle that Vence users should be aware is important. Cattle must learn to respect the boundaries of the electric fence for the technology to work effectively. For example, as a cow with a collar approaches a virtual boundary, a warning sound will be emitted from the collar. Once the cow attempts to cross the boundary a shock will be emitted. Reed mentioned this method generally works, although as we all know, there are still some unruly cattle that just won't cooperate with fences, no matter the type. In addition, sometimes there needs to be several virtual boundaries—nested within each other—constructed in order to train the herd.

None of these items mentioned by Reed are insurmountable by any means, but it is an absolute effort. Important to keep in mind also, that the technology comprising



WYOMING FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION AUCTION

Silent and live auctions were held at the WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting. All proceeds went to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation. Contributions to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation help support agriculture efforts in Wyoming. Visit the Foundation tab at wyfb.org to learn more.

TOTAL RAISED: \$3,150

A huge thank you to the County Farm Bureau Federations who donated items to the auction and the buyers who made this event a success!



the collars and the virtual boundaries is continuing to evolve. Reed reminded folks that the current implications with his setup may not always be applicable since the company is working to address pain points and improve the product.

Satellite Imagery

Dr. Ramesh Sivanpillai of the UW Geographical Information System Center presented on the 50th anniversary of the LandSat, joint NASA/USGS program, for farmers and ranchers interested in utilizing satellite imagery to monitor range and crop health. According to LandSat, it is the longest, continuous space-based record of Earth's land in existence thus helping to ensure continuity in its data.

Sivanpillai showed real-world examples of crop and rangeland health monitoring that his students had completed. He showed how they applied their images to solve their problems, whether that's unintentional runoff from a neighboring farm or noxious weed invasions in pastures. The presentation continued

with helpful information on the basics of utilizing the satellite imagery year-after-year for record-keeping. Sivanpillai also covered the breadth of information through the LandSat Explorer dashboard. The dashboard has vegetation, moisture data, and other things that are helpful in making range or crop management decisions based on the longstanding data. The robust data from the LandSat system, as mentioned by Sivanpillai, does have some key differences from utilization of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) that was covered by another UW researcher.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Dr. Fabian Nippgen, Assistant Professor of Hydrology in the UW Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, visited about UAVs. Although he was quick to point out that UAVs are typically higher in startup costs compared to the satellite imagery (which is free), the difference that was key is the resolution in images and immediate nature of the images. The

LandSat images are approximately 30-100 ft pixel resolution, but UAVS can be accurate down to several inches. If resolution is important, then UAVs are the clear choice for monitoring. Nippgen also contrasted that satellites only pass over every few days, whereas UAVs are immediate and precise right when you need the information. It is important to remember that if you're flying UAVs for a commercial purpose, for your company or related entities, you must have a UAV license through the Federal Aviation Administration. That too is a cost, but nominal. Between Dr. Sivanpillai and Dr. Nippgen, the benefits and difficulties encountered with implementing monitoring technology were thoroughly explored.

Our speakers proved that agricultural technologies aren't just for the tech savvy anymore. To access the full recordings of the seminar, please visit www.wyfb.org and click on the Foundation tab or contact kcarpenter@wyfb.org. ■

WYFB POLICIES... From Page 1

"County Farm Bureau Federation members start the policy development process at the local level discussing policy issues of concern to the members and their families," said Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President. "The annual meeting is the final step at the state level for the grassroots policy development process. Policies with national implications will proceed to the national convention for consideration."

Farm Bureau Federation members thoroughly discussed and emphasized the need for government agencies to prioritize and simplify land trades for landowners looking to establish contiguous blocks of private land thus improving access to public land.

"If the federal government would make it easier to conduct land trades we could avoid a lot of the issues we are currently dealing with as it relates to corner crossing," Hamilton explained.

"The whole issue is to make the private/federal land trade process easier and reduce the cost the federal government has to go through to get to the point where the land trades can happen and benefit both parties."

Irrigation water is vital to agriculture in Wyoming. Irrigation infrastructure was constructed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation decades ago and in many cases over 100 years ago. "Policy was passed that points out our members continued concern over aging irrigation infrastructure," Hamilton stated. "We certainly think there is more to be done to try and solve some of the problems."

The irrigation infrastructure policy calls for Congress and the State of Wyoming to explore the possible transfer of title, funding and policy in order to address the irrigation infrastructure needs. In addition to the possible transfer of title, voting delegates asked for state and federal funding sources to be explored to

offset the rehabilitation, replacement or repair costs.

Concerns for the economic, social and military security of the United States led to policy asking the Wyoming Legislature and the U.S. Congress to introduce legislation to prohibit foreign ownership of land, water and the mineral estate within the United States of America.

"Voting delegates voiced their concern and passed this policy in an effort to curb the foreign ownership of land, water and mineral estate in America," Hamilton stated.

Regarding the University of Wyoming (UW) Board of Trustees, voting delegates passed policy asking for the trustees to be elected by party and by region. "Our members feel like there needs to be a more direct representation of Wyoming's taxpaying citizens on the UW Board of Trustees," Hamilton said. "By directly electing trustees our members feel they would receive more representation."

Voting delegates expressed their opposition to the implementation of Environmental Social Governance (ESG) scores for banking. "Our members are very concerned about using nebulously defined criteria to drive social policy instead of relying on economic information for decision-making," Hamilton said.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has always stood on the principles of individual freedoms and constitutional government. "Our members strongly believe individual freedoms and constitutional government are vital," Hamilton concluded. ■

The mission of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is 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.

Hatfield, Mader and Rodriguez recognized as Outstanding Membership Workers by Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

BY KERIN CLARK

Dedication and passion for agriculture and the county Farm Bureau Federations in Wyoming are two leading drivers in membership work. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) annually recognizes those individuals who share the message of the Farm Bureau Federation and thus grow and retain membership.

The 2022 WyFB Outstanding Membership Worker awards were presented November 11 at the 103rd annual meeting in Casper to: 1) Agent: Justin Hatfield, Natrona and Converse Counties; 2) County Office Staff: Mandy Mader, Johnson County; and 3) Volunteer: Carmen Rodriguez, Johnson County.

Justin Hatfield is an agent with Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance with offices in Natrona and Converse counties. According to WyFB Membership Coordinator Brooke Roes, Hatfield continually works on membership acquisition and retention for the county Farm Bureau Federations in Natrona and Converse counties. Roes explained Hatfield and his staff have participated in Atlas training and regularly utilize Atlas to check on memberships. His eagerness to be more involved and advocate for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is apparent by his recent efforts, says Roes. "He regularly displays membership brochures in his office and sends out client letters that highlight the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation," she said.

Mandy Mader, of Johnson County, is the office manager in the Farm Bureau Insurance office of Nick Smith in Johnson County. According to Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Linda Lulias, Mader

never fails to offer membership to all applicants that pass through the office and has trained her staff to do the same. Lulias wrote in the nomination that Mader is a strong advocate for all Farm Bureau offers.

Volunteer Carmen Rodriguez serves in several roles for the Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation. She is the secretary/treasurer, membership chair and membership secretary.

Rodriguez's nomination notes she is a vital team player for Johnson County and works tirelessly to maintain membership rosters. Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Linda Lulias wrote that Carmen follows up on members who haven't renewed as well as encouraging new memberships. Lulias also stated "Carmen brings fresh ideas to the table to promote this organization and interact with the public."

"We appreciate the work Justin, Mandy and Carmen do to share Federation's work for agriculture and all of Wyoming," said WyFB President Todd Fornstrom. "Their dedication to sharing the rewards of membership in the Federation is appreciated."

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots advocacy organization founded in 1920. In 1948, members of the Federation saw a need for farmers and ranchers to have good insurance, so they formed an affiliated insurance company now known as Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company (MWFBMIC). MWFBMIC is a separate entity. Policyholders are not required to have a Federation membership or vice versa. However, membership in the Federation offers benefit discounts to MWFBMIC policyholders. ■



Natrona County's Justin Hatfield (left) was recognized as the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Outstanding Membership Worker in the Agent Category at the 103rd annual meeting of the organization. WyFB Membership Committee Chair Tim Pexton (right) congratulated Hatfield.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

Agent Recognition for Membership Acquisition

In the 2022 membership year, the Wyoming agency force for Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company acquired 841 new memberships for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Thank you to these agents and their staff who work hard at supporting Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation through their year-round membership acquisition.

Exemplary Category
Dave Craft, Sheridan County: 78

Outstanding Category
Lloyd Meineke, Sheridan County: 42
Frank Kelly, Big Horn County: 34
Tamey Peternal, Lincoln County: 34
Bridger Mackey, Uinta County: 34
Andrea Robinson, Crook County: 33
Pierre Etchemendy, Converse County: 32

Bobby Pickle, Natrona County: 31
David Gilliatt, Park County: 30
Nick Smith, Johnson County: 29
Grant Curry, Goshen County: 27
Garth Simkins, Laramie County: 25

Excellent Category
Joni Pennock, Sublette County: 23
Jack Swanson, Natrona County: 20
Sammi Hegwer, Fremont County: 20

Jeanna Kennedy, Park County: 20
Luke Hopkin, Park County: 20
Rick Hughes, Carbon County: 19
Kris Mull, Washakie County: 18
Justin Hegwer, Fremont County: 17
David Stauffer, Sweetwater County: 17
Sally Houx, Platte County: 17
Matt Thornton, Natrona County: 16
Sierra Booth, Lincoln County: 15
Justin Hatfield, Natrona County: 15

Lauren Stelling, Teton County: 14
Nathan Rayl, Laramie County: 14
Mark Whitt, Hot Springs County: 13
Justin Jeffers, Albany County: 13
Zack Jacobsen, Albany County: 13
Jason Bell, Laramie County: 13
Erin DeFries, Sheridan County: 12
Becky Pearson, Campbell County: 11

WyFB Membership Awards

BY KERIN CLARK

Membership in the Federation supports the Farm Bureau Federation's voice in the work we do to strengthen private property rights, strengthen agriculture and support farm and ranch families. Membership acquisition and retention is vital to the success of the Federation. WyFB annually recognizes county Farm Bureau Federations for membership work.

The esteemed Bronze Boot and Bronze Hat awards are traveling trophies that recognize membership success.

The Bronze Boot award is given to the first county to reach membership quota as well as sign one new regular member who is between the ages of 18-35. Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation won this traveling trophy for the second year in a row in 2022. For reaching this membership goal, they were also awarded Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company CEO Jim Geesey's Life membership dividend for the membership year.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS... Page 9



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation was the first county to reach membership quota and acquire one new Regular member under the age of 35. WyFB President Todd Fornstrom (right) presented the Bronze Boot membership award to Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation President Tim Beck.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom (right) presented the Bronze Hat membership award to Park County Farm Bureau Federation President Brian Asher for having the greatest increase in Century Club memberships.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS... From Page 8

The Park County Farm Bureau Federation had the greatest increase in Century Club members from the previous year earning them the traveling Bronze Hat award.

MWFB VP Memberships Awarded to Counties

Specific membership achievements are recognized by awarding the Century Club memberships of Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company (MWFBMIC) vice presidents to the winning county Farm Bureau Federation. In 1948, members of the Federation saw a need for farmers and ranchers to have good insurance, so they formed an affiliated insurance company now known as MWFBMIC. WyFB appreciates the support of MWFBMIC in sharing the message of Federation's work for agriculture.

Goshen County won Dan Bleak's (MWFBMIC Vice President of Analytics & Development) Century Club membership for having the most Century Club members.

Sheridan County won Erick Arens' (MWFBMIC Vice President of Sales & Marketing) Century Club membership for being the county with the MWFB agents who signed the most new members.

Fremont County won Jeff Suloff's (MWFBMIC Vice President of Claims) Century Club membership for have the most new Regular members.

Platte County won Jamie Terry's (MWFBMIC Vice President of Organizational Development) Century Club membership for retaining the greatest percentage of all members from the previous year.

Membership strengthens the work we do for agriculture and rural Wyoming. Thank you to all the volunteers and our affiliated insurance company for the work you do to share Federation's message through membership acquisition and attention. ■

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company Vice President of Sales & Marketing Erick Arens (right) presented membership awards to county Farm Bureau Federations at the annual meeting.

PHOTOS BY KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK.



Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation President Joe Campbell received a membership award from Arens.



Outgoing Sheridan County FBF President David Garber received a membership award from Arens.



Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation President Andrea Dockery received a membership award from Arens.



Platte County FBF President Dick Dovey received a membership award from Arens.

<p>Nottingham Trail Ranch Big Horn, WY • \$2,300,000</p> <p>NEW RANCH LISTING</p>  <p>This undeveloped land is a blank canvas for building your dream home. The land boasts Bighorn Mountain views and breathtaking panoramas of Little Goose Creek Valley. Valuable adjudicated water rights make irrigation, hunting, riding, or all-around recreational enjoyment possible.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 160±</p> 	<p>First Water Creek Mountain Retreat Arminto, WY • \$425,000</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>At the headwaters of the Powder River, FWCMR is surrounded by BLM land with access to thousands of acres of hunting, exploration and other recreation opportunities. It has what we all want: live water, privacy, trees, diverse topography with timbered hillsides, ridges, open grassy slopes and beautiful views to the east towards Casper.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 160±</p> 
<p>BB Brooks Ranch Casper, WY • \$10,400,000</p> <p>NEW RANCH LISTING Exciting Development Potential</p>  <p>This property presents a great opportunity for an investment minded ranch owner. The BB Brooks Ranch is one of the largest privately owned land holdings adjacent to Casper and lies directly in the path of what would be a potential expansion area for Casper in the future.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 5,200± Total Acres: 5,700±</p> 	<p>Lower Clear Creek Ranch Leiter, WY • \$3,495,000</p> <p>SOLD!</p>  <p>This mid-sized ranch offers over 2,400 acres of grazing, recreation, and agricultural opportunities. It offers nearly 5 miles of Clear Creek flowing through it and 5.93 cfs of adjudicated water rights. This ranch has great hunting, abundant grass, water and beautiful views.</p> <p>Deeded Acres: 2,121± Total Acres: 2,385±</p> <p>JOHN & GALEN CHASE</p> 

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Let's get to know you...office intern Sydnie Fornstrom

BY KERIN CLARK

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is thankful for office intern Sydnie Fornstrom and all she does for the organization. Sydnie has been working in the WyFB office since the Fall of 2020. Sydnie is a junior at the University of Wyoming (UW) majoring in accounting with a minor in agribusiness and human resources management.

Her main focus of work in the office is assisting the Membership Coordinator with memberships.

Sydnie has also assisted with annual meeting preparations and has worked at the annual meeting the last couple of years. She is always willing to work on any project in the office that needs an extra hand.

"I enjoy working at the WyFB Office because of the atmosphere," Fornstrom said. "When I go into work, I have the feeling of being in a community and it really helps me get comfortable with my coworkers."

Sydnie is the daughter of Todd and Laura Fornstrom from Pine

Bluffs. "Since I was young I have been involved in Farm Bureau and I wanted to continue doing that through my college years," she said. "Helping out at the office gives me that opportunity."

"I have been really blessed with this opportunity to not only help out with Farm Bureau but to also grow as a person," Fornstrom stated. "I have become a more independent and confident person."

"I hope to continue helping out in the future no matter what career path I go down," she continued.

At UW, Sydnie is involved with the UW Collegiate Farm Bureau and serves as the chapter treasurer. She is also the vice president of the UW Club Volleyball Team. Next summer she plans to participate in a study abroad course in Japan for a month.

Sydnie shared her hobbies are listening to music, going on walks or hikes outside, traveling, playing board games with her family or friends and trying out new activities and foods. ■



Sydnie Fornstrom

National News Update

BY KELLY CARPENTER

The chill of winter is upon us. With little relief in sight for input costs or frigid weather, we turn our attention to national news.

USDA AMS Market Fairness PSA rulemaking

In September, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) released a proposed rule — two of three regarding the Packers and Stockyards Act, with the third forthcoming in 2023 — regarding inclusivity and market fairness. This proposed rule will aim to tackle undue prej-

udices, disadvantages against "market vulnerable individuals", prohibits unjust discrimination and adverse actions that interfere with lawful communications, assertion of rights, participation, as well as prohibits deceptive practices, regulated entities employing pretexts, omissions of material fact, contract performance, or termination, and finally requires recordkeeping to support USDA monitoring, evaluation, and enforcement of compliance with aspects of this rule.

The items as summarized above certainly seem like something that could be agreed upon considering the

recent focus on collusion upstream in the cattle supply chain. However, there are many nuances of the proposed rule that American Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation would like to examine before making informed decisions on their respective stances. That is why we supported efforts in the federal legislative branch to extend the comment period. Those efforts were successful and now we've been given an additional six weeks or January 17, 2023, to extensively analyze the rule and put forward the best comments possible.

Railstrike averted

As transportation needs in US agriculture heat up post-harvest, the rail labor unions have been busy with negotiations. For yet another time this fall rail labor unions were discussing sick leave and other compensation in negotiations with railroad companies. Several provisions of these negotiations were voted on in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. However, after passing in the House and Senate on December 1, 2022, HJ Res 100, the main resolution to intervene in the dispute, was sent to the Office of President Biden to be signed into law. This measure effectively averted a rail strike that would have had devastating, far-reaching impacts on the US economy. ■

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WyFB announces new member benefit: KonnectMD

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by providing nationwide, 24/7 access to virtual urgent care, primary care, and behavioral health treatments. Even if you have insurance, you can use KonnectMD to save thousands

by avoiding copays and deductibles for traditional healthcare needs.

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is impossible to predict. When the unexpected happens, you can rest assured knowing that KonnectMD will be there.

WyFB members must log in to receive 15% off.

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

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

VICE PRESIDENT... From Page 1

VanderWal said there are many pressing policy issues on the top of his mind and that of all of agriculture. "The rising cost of everything in our lives with inflation is such a challenge, especially supply costs to keep producing food, fuel and fiber for the nation that depends on us so greatly," he said.

"We all know firsthand how this affects our farms and ranches, and each of us is impacted differently," he continued.

VanderWal emphasized how global fears of food shortages and increased food insecurity with the ongoing war in Ukraine reminds us just how interdependent we are on each other. "With Russian and Ukrainian exports unavailable or hard to come by we're seeing a strain on global stocks and commodities and input prices increasing," he said. "The strained supply issues we've been dealing with only make implementing solutions even more difficult."

VanderWal noted AFBF worked closely on the Ocean Shipping Reform Act that was just signed into law. "We hope this will help address shipping challenges that are contributing to the supply issues," he said.

VanderWal highlighted several of AFBF's top priorities for the coming year as the Farm Bill, labor and international trade.

"The Farm Bill is not only important to agriculture but also to national security," VanderWal said. "As we work on policies to combat inflation, we must be mindful that Congress needs to pass a new Farm Bill by September 2023."

According to VanderWal, AFBF organized a Farm Bill Working Group to be prepared to hit the ground running to represent Farm Bureau policy.

"The 2023 Farm Bill priorities have been approved by the AFBF Board," VanderWal explained. "They are: 1) Work to protect current Farm Bill funding including risk management programs of which crop insurance is a part and work to improve livestock risk management for livestock producers; 2) Urge lawmakers to have a unified Farm Bill which includes nutrition and farm programs; and 3) Ensure USDA has adequate staffing capacity to help farmers and ranchers understand government programs."

Regarding labor, VanderWal said it is necessary to find an effective solution to the farm labor crisis we are facing in America. "It (labor) is the greatest limiting factor not only in agriculture but any other industry in the U.S. right now," he said. "This is an issue that can easily be derailed politically."

"Reform of the guestworker program and immigration system is long overdue and it is time to find a solution that modernizes the guestworker program and meets the demand for year-round and seasonal farm labor," he continued. "We also need to ensure costs don't drive farmers out of business."

"We aren't letting political holdups on Capitol Hill hold us back on working for you and representing policy," VanderWal exclaimed. "AFBF is ensuring regulatory agencies clearly understand the negative



AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal speaks to WyFB members.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

implications of proposed rules to change H-2A wage rates. We won't rest until we have a solution that works for all of U.S. agriculture."

International trade is also a top priority for AFBF. "Developments in world markets, including tight supplies for food, underscore what we've been saying for years - we need as many markets as possible for our agriculture products," VanderWal said. "We know we can compete, and we feel this Administration overall has been too slow on international trade; we've been asking questions and not getting answers."

"We work hard to implement our member-driven policies with every Congress," he said. "We will work to build relationships with whoever is in the House and Senate. It is a constant education process to help them understand what American agriculture is all about and what things we need to continue to be successful in producing food."

"We have a lot on our plate at the county, state and national level, but I know if we continue to work together we can help our members be more successful and help our communities thrive and survive," he continued. "We know this won't be easy, but we are up to the challenge like never before."

VanderWal said the silver lining in the pandemic is that AFBF's profile was elevated as we all learned how to communicate differently. "As we've gotten better at building our network we've become a larger target for our critics," he said. "Our success with Food Ag Climate Alliance (FACA) setting the direction of climate policy in Washington gets under the skin of some people."

"Through FACA and our own lobbying we have driven the discussion to make sure any solutions are market oriented, voluntary and make economic sense," VanderWal continued. "We are going to stay involved in this conversation and stand up for our policies. This makes it even more important we stand lockstep and speak with a united voice as a Farm Bureau family engaging with neighbors, leaders and even our critics."

that there is a great future for agriculture. The need for our products and what we do in agriculture will never go away; the need for food is something we all have in common."

VanderWal pointed out every level of volunteer plays an important role in Farm Bureau's work. "Because of you, our grassroots members, we are having a tremendous impact on communities across America and sending powerful messages to our leaders in Washington, D.C.," he said.

"Ecclesiastes 4:12 says a cord of three strands is not quickly broken," VanderWal continued. "When our county, state and national Farm Bureaus tie ourselves together in that three stranded cord we are at our strongest and will not easily be broken. We truly each play a role in our success of agriculture and our rural communities. That's the challenge of it but also the beauty of it."

"As we work to promote and defend agriculture, we are working to preserve our national security and our freedom," VanderWal concluded. "The health of American agriculture and our ability to feed ourselves is a national security issue and in turn a freedom issue. Thank you for all you do for this amazing Farm Bureau family." ■

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WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting

November 10-12, 2022 in Casper

Stories by Kerin Clark. Photos by Kadra Marie Photography/Kadra Clark.



These Farm Bureau Federation members from South Dakota and Wyoming share the common bond of having served on the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. From left to right: Michelle and Scott VanderWal, South Dakota; Kristi and Justin Ellis, Wyoming; and Cole Coxbill, Wyoming. The VanderWals served from 1992-1994 with Scott serving as second vice chairman. Scott is now the AFBF Vice President and South Dakota Farm Bureau President. The Ellis' served from 2005-2007. Justin now serves on the WyFB Board as the Southwest District Director and Kristi serves as the Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation President. Cole and his wife, Sammie, served from 2015-2016 with Cole serving as the national chairman. Cole now serves as the WyFB Vice President.



Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon joined the 103rd Annual Meeting for lunch. He spoke about the direction of the state and how important agriculture is to the state of Wyoming. "My primary motivation as your Governor is to get our nation focusing back on independence, energy independence and agricultural independence, and making sure that we understand our future is ours to make," the Governor told the audience. The Governor addressed issues including water, irrigation infrastructure, energy, predator control, grizzly bear delisting, invasive species control, market branding, the state budget and more. "Wyoming is on a very good footing right now," he concluded. "We will have to work hard over the next few years to make sure we don't overspend and that we have capacity in our barrel if things start to happen down the road that make times a little bit more challenging."



County Farm Bureau Federation presidents play an important role in this grassroots organization. Three county presidents retired this year and were recognized for their service. WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill (right) presented the retiring gifts. **Left Photo:** David Garber, Sheridan County (1986-2022); **Center Photo:** Abby Shuler, Park County (2019-2022); **Right Photo:** Kathy Austin, Albany County (2020-2022).



The broadcast team at Northern Ag Network (NAN) presented the noon market reports and conducted live interviews with several people in the lunch audience. Shown here NAN broadcaster Colter Brown interviewed WyFB Director of Public and Government Affairs Brett Moline. Tune in to your radio during the legislative session to hear WyFB legislative updates from Moline on Northern Ag Network.



Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director Doug Miyamoto addressed the voting delegates at the annual meeting. Director Miyamoto addressed state budget and agriculture regulations.



UW Collegiate Farm Bureau President and WyFB Intern Abbi Havey served as the 2022 Annual Meeting Parliamentarian. Thank you, Abbi!



A chorus of farmers and ranchers singing a Patriotic Medley opened the Veterans Day luncheon. Led by talented Farm Bureau Federation members from Carbon and Albany counties, the members sang to honor and thank America's Veterans. Thank you to **(Left Photo)** Bayla and Stacy Berger, Carbon County; and **(Right Photo)** Samantha Starks, Albany County; and Bryndal Berger, Carbon County, for the musical performance to honor America and America's Veterans! We were proud to recognize and thank the Veterans in the room at annual meeting on November 11, 2022.



Northern Ag Network's Andy Schwab hosted a Taproom Ag Trivia at Gruner Brothers Brewing in Casper. Members enjoyed time together competing on teams to try to be the best at ag trivia, Wyoming trivia and song recognition. The winning team proudly gathered for a photo with Schwab (right). From left to right: Laura Fornstrom, Quade Palm, Katelyn Olson, Cole Coxbill, and Schwab.



After a day of business work, the Friday evening banquet was a time to celebrate friendships in agriculture and enjoy fellowship. Members enjoyed dancing with a music performance by Tris Munsick.

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 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.

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New UW Extension publications estimate economic impact of removing federal grazing

LARAMIE, WYO.—NOV. 14, 2022

A new series of publications from the University of Wyoming Extension examines the economic impacts of eliminating livestock grazing on federal land in Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon.

While some groups advocate for the removal of all federal grazing, UW Professor Emeritus David Taylor and colleagues John Tanaka and Kristie Maczko found that such changes would have lasting repercussions for ranchers and rural communities.

Using economic models, they estimated the potential losses associated with the removal of federal grazing from cattle ranches in the three-state region.

The study culminated in a series of four reports detailing the economic impacts on each state and the region overall. In all cases, the removal of federal grazing resulted in significant economic losses.

This has implications for communities across the West. "It is not just a one state issue," Taylor comments. "Sixteen states in the West have significant amounts of federal grazing and would be affected by changes in that grazing use."

In addition to estimating direct economic impacts to ranchers, the study analyzes secondary economic impacts to feed stores, veterinarians and bulk fuel dealers. It is important not to overlook the impacts on surrounding communities, says Taylor.

Particularly in the most rural areas, the models revealed how much the removal of federal grazing could affect not only the livelihoods of producers but also those who depend indirectly on the ranching community.

Cumulative effects over longer time horizons were also considered. Due to the 10-year life span of federal grazing permits, removal of federal grazing would affect more than the profits associated with a single year of production. Furthermore, if the 10-year permits were continually renewed, economic losses would compound over time.

Actual economic impacts could be substantially greater than predicted if some of the impacted ranches were unable to remain in production, the authors note.

To view the new publications and download free copies, visit bit.ly/federal-grazing-removal. ■

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Pecan Tarts

By Connie Werner (Source: Allrecipes.com and Sandy Greathouse)

Ingredients

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 cup unsalted butter, softened | 4 eggs | 1/4 cup melted butter |
| 6 oz cream cheese, softened | 3 cups packed light brown sugar | 1 tsp vanilla extract |
| 2 cups flour | 1 1/4 cups chopped pecans | pinch salt |
| | | powdered sugar |

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease two twelve cup muffin pans with cooking spray.
2. Beat together butter and cream cheese in a bowl with an electric mixer at medium speed until fluffy. Reduce speed to low; add flour and mix well. Portion into 24 balls.
3. Put one ball into each muffin spot in the pan. Use your fingers to shape dough up the sides to form a tart shell in each muffin.
4. Stir together eggs, brown sugar, pecans, melted butter, vanilla, and salt in a bowl. Fill each tart shell with approximately 1-2 tbsp of filling. Do not over fill.
5. Bake until tarts are lightly browned, about 25 minutes. Cool in pans on a wire rack.
6. Dust with powdered sugar just before serving. Can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for 4 days or in the freezer for 1 month.



For more recipes, visit www.modernranchwife.com

FORNSTROM ELECTED... From Page 1

Fornstrom and his family farm in Laramie County. He and his wife, Laura, have four children. Fornstrom runs Premium Hay Products, an alfalfa pellet mill, and runs a trucking business and custom combining business. Fornstrom also works with his father farming near Pine Bluffs. The diversified farm consists of irrigated corn, wheat, alfalfa, and dry beans.

Voting delegates elected Cole Coxbill, of Goshen County, to his seventh term as WyFB Vice President. Coxbill and his wife, Sammie, have three children. They run a trucking business, commercial row crop spraying business, raise cattle and farm.

"The strength of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation comes from the individual member, and this is where the power of the grassroots federation shines," Coxbill stated. "It's an honor and privilege to serve the membership of this great organization and be their representative as we work to keep agriculture strong."

Lane Hageman, of Goshen County, was elected to his second term as the Director-At-Large. Hageman lives and works on his family's cow/calf ranch in southeastern Wyoming. Hageman is also a Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member.

"We really need to unite, stand up for and defend agriculture from the blatant attacks that we see every day," Hageman said. "I believe in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and our mission to protect agriculture. I am proud to be a part of the organization."



Todd Fornstrom

In addition to the three statewide elections, five District Directors and the Young Farmer & Rancher Committee State Chair serve on the state board.

The Young Farmer & Rancher Committee elected Carbon County Rancher Quade Palm as state YF&R Chair.

Rounding out the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors are District Directors Raenell Taylor, Northeast District Director; Kevin Baars, Southeast District Director; Tim Pexton, Central District Director; Thad Dockery, Northwest District Director; and Justin Ellis, Southwest District Director. ■

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES... From Page 1

For the 2023 Legislative Priorities, several policies adopted at the 2022 annual meeting were added. Strengthening criminal trespass laws, including legislation to prohibit corner crossing, was added. Also added was WyFB policy calling for University of Wyoming Board of Trustees to be elected. Currently, UW Board of Trustees are appointed by the Governor.

Two priorities were added dealing with water. WyFB supports transferring title of irrigation infrastructure from the Bureau of Reclamation to local irrigation districts. This is import-

ant so local districts can qualify for funding to repair or replace irrigation infrastructure. Policy opposing separating hydrogen from water was also added to the priorities.

Another addition to the Priorities was supporting changing landowner coupons from a per head harvested to a payment based on what type of wildlife was harvested. Also added was WyFB opposition to the use of environmental, social and governance scores.

The Priorities also include WyFB policies on opposing increasing taxes, supporting private property rights, etc. The entire WyFB Legislative Priorities list can be found on the WyFB website. ■



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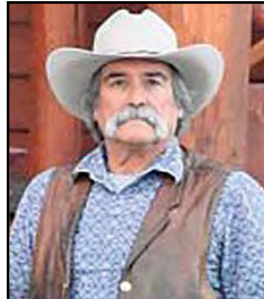
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Big Horn County wins CAE Award

BY KERIN CLARK

The innovative, action-oriented programs developed by county Farm Bureau Federations are a huge part of the overall success of the Farm Bureau Federation. County Activities of Excellence Awards are designed to celebrate unique volunteer-driven programming at the local level. Congratulations to this year's winner—the BIG HORN COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION with their project titled "Ag Topics Roundtable Forum."

The goal of the Ag Topics Roundtable Forum was to educate the public on agriculture issues. The county Farm Bureau Federation chose to sponsor an event during their county fair to draw a larger crowd and showcase the work of Farm Bureau.

Five issues were identified to discuss in the forum. They were: the

30x30 proposal; the Endangered Species Act; the Clean Water Act; the price of fuel and fertilizer and conservation easements. The county board invited six speakers to address these issues based on their knowledge of the issues.

The focus of the forum was on agriculture and was well attended. With the event being held outside at the county fairgrounds during the fair many people attended and passers-by stopped to hear the speakers. The event received local news coverage. Awareness of Farm Bureau and the work done for agriculture was raised in the community as is evident by conversations community members have had with the county Farm Bureau Federation board members.

Congratulations to the Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation for their OutSTANDING program work! ■



WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill (right) congratulated Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation President Tim Beck for winning the 2022 WyFB County Activities of Excellence Award. KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

Labor challenges increase farm economy pressures

DECEMBER 7, 2022, AFBF

Labor demands continue to tax the bottom lines of farmers and ranchers, with rising wage rates and record usage of the H-2A visa program. Meaningful reforms to the federal government's guest worker program must be a priority for Congress by the end of the year.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, along with more than 350 other food and farm organizations that are part of the Ag Workforce Coalition, sent a letter urging the Senate to pass legislation to address the nation's agricultural workforce challenges before the end of the 117th Congress. The House of Representatives has passed a farm labor reform bill, but the legislation needs improvements to adequately address pressing needs facing agriculture.

"Without immediate action by the Senate, the federal government's outdated policies and broken immigration system are forcing many farmers to consider whether they can continue in labor-intensive agriculture," the groups say in the letter. "The country cannot afford for the Senate to miss this opportunity to provide stability to both farmers and farmworkers."

Recent analysis from AFBF economists indicates that costs associated with farm labor will add to the ever-expanding list of factors straining the farm economy in 2023. In fact, a recent AFBF Market Intel, "Examining the 2023 AEWR," states some farmers and ranchers could see an increase in farm labor costs of up to \$2 per hour for each employee.

"Unlike in 2021, every farm labor region and state experienced a higher average wage rate in 2022 and will subsequently have a higher Adverse Effect Wage Rate in 2023," Senior Economist Veronica Nigh explains in the Market Intel. "The Appalachian II region (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) had the smallest increase in terms of dollar per hour and percentage, with a 37 cents per hour or 2.7% increase. Florida had the largest percentage increase – 15.5%. The Lake region (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) had the largest increase in dollar terms – \$1.97 per hour. Once again in 2022, California had the highest overall wage rate at \$18.65 per hour."

This data is important to farmers and ranchers who access the H-2A visa program, which saw its highest-ever utilization rate in 2022.

"It is also worth noting that in addition to strong growth in the number of certified positions in fiscal year 2022, there was also a 15% increase in the number of H-2A applications filed. This suggests that the universe of operations that are utilizing the program is also growing, rather than the growth coming strictly from existing operations," Nigh explains in "Another Year of Explosive H-2A Growth".

With rising input costs across the board, but not necessarily rising prices for their products, farmers and ranchers will yet again have to grapple with how to make ends meet in 2023, but Congress can help ease the burden by passing meaningful farm labor reform before the end of 2022. ■

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Wyoming Ag Land Valuation 2023

BY MIKKA ROGERS

The Agricultural Land Valuation procedure is critical to any Wyoming farmer or rancher's land value. In an interview with *Wyoming Agriculture* this fall, the Wyoming Department of Revenue took a deeper look at the factors used to determine land values.

The 2023 Wyoming Agricultural Land Valuation Study, conducted by David Franck, Wyoming Department of Revenue Principal Appraiser, states, "Wyoming agricultural land is valued according to its capability to produce forage or crops."

Agriculture land is divided into three categories: Irrigated Crop Land, Dry Crop Land, and Range Land. In each category, one commodity is used to measure productivity. As stated in the study, the valuation of agricultural lands is based on the income approach involving capitalizing the net operating income the landowner receives from the three categories of agricultural land.

The Wyoming Department of Revenue 2023 Ag Land Valuation Study details how irrigated cropland, dry cropland, and range land values are determined. According to the study, "The landlord's income is extracted from the gross income. Expenses are the costs that the landlord typically pays for such as water costs and irrigation system maintenance. Dry crop land expenses include herbicide, insecticide and

nitrogen fertilizer. The expenses are subtracted from the landlord's share of the 5-year weighted commodity price resulting in the adjusted net operating income per ton/bushel."

The study continues to explain how values are determined. "An additional deduction is made from adjusted gross income per ton/bushel. This deduction accounts for the loss in annual production due to necessary management practices," writes the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue continues to explain irrigated cropland has a loss in production during the seed year the first year of the hay stand. The study continues, "This is assuming the stand is replanted every 6 years. Dry crop land has a loss in production due to 50% of the acreage being a summer fallow (non-production) each year. The production loss deduction is subtracted from the adjusted gross income per ton/bushel to reach a net income per ton/bushel."

Regarding range land, the 2023 Ag Land Valuation study states, "Range land is valued basically the same way as irrigated and dry crop land, with a few minor differences. In the valuation of range land, there is not a tenant-landlord arrangement. All of the rental income charged for grazing is treated as cash rent paid to the landlord. Expenses are deducted from the gross rental income. Expenses

are the costs that the owner typically pays for stock water and fence maintenance. The expenses subtracted from the gross income results in a net income per AUM."

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) determines the commodity prices used in the 2023 study. Annual reports create estimated prices based on feedback received from farmers and ranchers. Each report consists of the average price of hay, wheat, and grazing on private and owned range land. Franck encourages farmers and ranchers to take the NASS surveys seriously each year. "It becomes very important producers participate in the NASS surveys," Franck states. "The more data received, they can provide more accurate values."

Annual prices are generated through data received by the NASS and then converted into a 5-year weighted average. The study explains the process: "The current year's prices are multiplied by a factor of 5. The previous years' prices are multiplied by factors of 4, 3, 2, and 1, respectively. This total is divided by 15 to achieve the 5-year weighted average."

Franck explained how the 5-year average works. "The Department uses a 5-year weighted average to help eliminate some of the wild swings that would result from using only one year of data while still remaining relatively close to current market conditions," he said.

"Ag land inputs are a double-ended sword," Franck continued. "It's great the producers are getting high prices for their commodities, but then they have to pay the tax value."

Wyoming Department of Revenue Director Brenda Henson believes the Ag Land Valuation process is solid. "In recent years, GIS technology at the agency and that used by assessors to automate the determination of land use and productivity have made the process more efficient," Henson explained, "The greater challenge is on the county assessor as they must gather sufficient information from the property owner to determine if the land qualifies for agricultural classification as stated in the Wyoming statute."

Henson encourages producers and organizations to participate in the public meeting held by the Department of Revenue each year. She explained that though some components of the valuation process, such as soils and land resource area, do not change, commodity prices and cap rates do.

Irrigated, dry crops and range land values have increased for the current year's commodity price, with each 5-year weighted average increasing. These values can be found on the 2023 Ag Land Valuation Study document published by the Wyoming Department of Revenue. ■



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HARVEST FOR ALL... From Page 1

Campbell County rancher Toni Swartz is the immediate past chair of the sub-committee that oversees the “Harvest for All” project. “Seeing our group of Young Farmers and Ranchers working together to fill boxes and move them down the assembly line reminded me of working cattle down an alley and out a chute,” Swartz said. “Both require a community of people helping people. That’s probably why we were so quick and able to work well together!”

Food Bank of Wyoming Director of Development Jill Stillwagon shared their appreciation for the group’s help and also noted the boxes per minute set a new record. “Food Bank of Wyoming was pleased to host the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher committee on November 9 while visiting Casper,” Stillwagon said. “The Young Farmer and Rancher committee helped pack 216 food boxes for the EverGreen Box™ program, which provides a monthly delivery of food for older adults.”

Regarding the fund drive, Swartz noted the total donation of funds from county Farm Bureau Federations and individual members did not surprise her. “We are the people who have made it our lives work to feed the world,” she continued. “Whether that be through donations to food banks or raising the best quality food we can. We believe that no one should go hungry and are willing to provide what we can to help those facing hunger.”

The WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee is in its 20th year of joining with the American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Committee in what is called a “Harvest for All.” Throughout the program’s twenty-year span, the WyFB YF&R Committee has partnered with Farm Bureau members to raise 6,044 pounds of food, \$33,864 in cash donations and 91 hours of volunteer time to help those facing hunger in Wyoming.

“For the last 20 years, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has partnered with Food Bank of Wyoming by giving their time and donations to provide meals to Wyoming communities facing hunger,” Stillwagon concluded. “Incredibly grateful for their continued partnership as we work together to nourish Wyoming neighbors.” ■

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is the state’s largest general agriculture organization. Members work together from the grassroots to develop agricultural policy, programs and services to enhance the rural lifestyle of Wyoming. On the web, www.wyfb.org.

Food Bank of Wyoming is the largest hunger-relief organization in Wyoming and provides food and essentials directly to people facing hunger through more than 150 Hunger Relief Partners across the state. We’ve put the power of community to work for our neighbors in need. We serve as the Wyoming Distribution Center of Food Bank of the Rockies, which is a proud member of the Feeding America network. Everything we do is fueled by the support of our community, volunteers and donors, and every dollar raised in Wyoming stays in Wyoming. For more information, visit wyomingfoodbank.org.



The WyFB YF&R Committee rolled up their sleeves to serve others after their business meeting during the WyFB Annual Meeting in Casper. The WyFB YF&R “Harvest for All” is a community service project. In the 20th year, the project gives farmers and ranchers the opportunity to volunteer and donate to help those facing hunger in Wyoming. The committee members lined up in an assembly line and packed three boxes per minute at the Food Bank of Wyoming. Shown in this photo Aletta Grauberger and Cody Alps get ready to load food in the boxes being assembled by Tucker Hamilton and Lane Hageman. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*



WyFB YF&R Harvest for All Sub-Committee Chair Toni Swartz and WyFB YF&R Vice Chair Quade Palm (newly elected YF&R State Chair) packing and labeling boxes at the Food Bank of Wyoming. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*

Wyoming Pork Producers Council

<p>Peyton Munroe</p> <p>Peyton Munroe is the daughter of Lisle and Estella Munroe from Encampment, Wyoming. She is currently a senior at Encampment High School. She is planning to pursue a degree in ag business, animal science, and nutrition. She also hopes to judge at a junior college and eventually transfer to a university to continue her education and college judging. Peyton is involved in National Honor Society, encampment e-club, FCCLA, FFA, volleyball, basketball, track, and student council. She has shown hogs for eleven years competitively on national and state levels. Congratulations Peyton Munroe!</p>	<p>Conor Christensen</p> <p>Conor Christensen is the son of Damein and Heidi Christensen from Riverton, Wyoming. He is currently a freshman at Casper College. Conor is pursuing a degree in general ag. He is also a part of the Casper College Livestock Judging Team and currently serves as a 2022-2023 Wyoming FFA State Sentinel. Conor is involved in 4-H honors club, 4-H, and FFA. He has shown a total of 25 market hogs on state and county levels. Congratulations Conor Christensen!</p>	<p>Kassidy Brooks</p> <p>Kassidy Brooks is the daughter of Cory and Amber Brooks, from Casper, Wyoming. She is currently a sophomore at Casper College. She is pursuing an associate’s degree in animal science and ag business. She is on the livestock judging team for Casper College and a past Wyoming FFA State Officer. Kassidy is a part of ag club, livestock judging, and student senate at Casper College. Through 4-H and FFA she has shown pigs for ten years and has been very competitive at the county and state level. Congratulations Kassidy Brooks!</p>	<p>Dalton Butler</p> <p>Dalton is the son of JR and Bobbi Butler, from Hulett, Wyoming. He is currently a sophomore at Casper College. He is pursuing degrees in range/management, aviation, private pilot’s license, business, aviation management and maintenance. In highschool he was involved in athletics, band, student council, agricultural boards, 4-H, and FFA. With his brothers, Dalton owns Butler Brothers Livestock, where they own 50 head of breeding sheep and host a prospect lamb sale every year. Through 4-H and FFA he showed sheep and pigs. He has had a lot of success and he hopes to help his kids raise and show pigs in the future. Congratulations Dalton Butler!</p>
<p>Kodi Christensen</p> <p>Kodi Christensen is the daughter of Damein and Heidi Christensen from Riverton, Wyoming. She is currently a junior at University of Wyoming. Kodi is pursuing a degree in elementary education and special education. She is a past Wyoming FFA State Reporter. Kodi was involved in 4-H honors club, 4-H, and FFA. She has shown market hogs for eleven years at state and county levels. Congratulations Kodi Christensen!</p>	<p>Elizabeth Lungren</p> <p>Elizabeth Lungren is the daughter of Luke and Gabriel Lungren from Worland, Wyoming. She is currently a junior at University of Wyoming. She is pursuing a degree in animal science. Elizabeth is involved in Wyoming Collegiate Cattle Association, Wyoming Cattle Women’s Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, University of Wyoming Food Science Club, and Acres Student Farm at the University of Wyoming. She has shown hogs for four years competitively on national and state levels. Congratulations Elizabeth Lungren!</p>	<p>Paul Bridges</p> <p>Paul Bridges is the son of Joe Bridges and Sally Begger, of Powell, Wyoming. He is currently attending Northwest College. He is pursuing an associate’s degree in ag education. Throughout his time in 4-H and FFA, he was very competitive in the swine barn. After a couple years of showing, he and his family decided to hold onto a few gilts and build their own breeding program. Now their operation (307 Genetics) is prosperous. They sell to exhibitors all over the state of Wyoming and surrounding states. Congratulations Paul!</p>	<p>Contact Jeremy Burkett for all questions and concerns Dr. Jeremy Burkett, Wyoming Pork Producers State Executive Director, Casper College 125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601 jburkett@caspercollege.edu 307-630-6267</p>





Getting Started in Ag: Comparing Tillage Systems

Wyoming comes with a unique set of challenges. Our growing seasons can be tough and are often short; weather extremes can be intense; precipitation can be hard to come by; and the wind can be brutal. Discovering what options are available or which work best can be tough, especially for those just getting started in agriculture.

The type of tillage system selected and how well it is implemented can mean the difference between success and failure. Our past articles have offered insights into various forms of risk management, including production risk, financial risk, human risk, and more. Have you ever considered that adopting the correct tillage system could act as a form of risk management?

Evaluating alternative approaches and choosing the tillage system that best fits the conditions on your operation can go a long way toward increasing profitability. Note that every farming operation is unique, with different soil types, crops, and goals; we are not endorsing any particular tillage system over another. What works for one situation may not be an option for another for a variety of reasons. Our goal here is to outline and compare features of various tillage systems and how effective each may be in different applications.



Tillage Costs

Tillage and the associated machinery cost is often the largest expense for most Wyoming farms. These costs have risen sharply, particularly over the last two years. Fuel and other input costs have also increased significantly. Add the skyrocketing cost of equipment (both new and used) and it becomes clear that maintaining profitability is much more challenging. Unfortunately, this inflationary, high-cost environment is projected to persist into the foreseeable future. For this reason, it is vital that you examine every tillage activity in your operation.

From major soil preparation down to every minor cultivating pass, make sure that what you are doing is effective from an economic standpoint. Improving the efficiency of your tillage system can also help cut down on fertilizer use, another major expense for most farms. Every tillage pass you can eliminate, while maintaining the same result, is money in your pocket.

Tillage and Soil Health

A growing body of research shows that the more you cut down on major tillage, the more overall soil health improves in the long term. Simply put, the more living plant material in the soil and the less disturbance, the more organic matter and the accompanying soil nutrients increase. Water-holding capacity also increases with these beneficial nutrients and soil structure improvements. In a dry state like Wyoming, soil moisture is often crucial; to be successful, we must manage for soil moisture as well as crop nutrients. This is especially true in a non-irrigated setting.

RightRisk ANALYTICS

- Risk Scenario Planning
- Machine Risk Calculator
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- Enterprise Risk Analyzer
- RD Financial
- Multi-Temporal Risk Analysis
- Risk Navigator Toolbox

Machine Risk Calculator

Machinery costs are a major portion of total farm production costs. The Machine Risk Calculator is designed to help producers estimate the costs of machinery ownership and operation as well as assist in assessing the sensitivity of these costs to uncertainty in future input factors.

Launch

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Support

Machine Risk Calculator from RightRisk.org

- Allows users to estimate machinery and equipment costs on a comprehensive basis
- Includes custom rates for many machinery activities in WY
- Free to download and use

Cover crops are a growing part of this equation, as they have been shown to provide more benefits than fallowed ground. Erosion is always a concern in Wyoming, and focusing on soil health should be a major focus of every farm, regardless of the tillage system used. Yearly soil testing and the services of a certified crop advisor can

point out what deficiencies should be addressed, as well as help monitor progress.

Conventional Tillage Systems

Conventional tillage systems are still the most commonly used. This approach requires tilling the soil for all seedbed preparation and weed control. It typically

involves some major primary tillage, such as a moldboard plow, sub-soiler, or chisel plow. Additional follow-up passes including roller-harrows, disking, and cultivating are often also a part of these systems. In row crop settings, especially those that are irrigated, some form of chemical weed control is also used.

The main advantage of a conventional tillage system is that it is a simple way to prepare the seedbed and provide initial weed management, when completed properly and on a timely basis. Follow-up work, such as cultivation in row crops, can provide weed control if performed in a timely manner, i.e. not letting the weeds get too tall. These types of tools are often also the most common and easy to obtain.

The primary disadvantages are in the cost of both the field operations and the equipment. Primary tillage tends to be one of the most fuel-intensive tillage systems, due to the horsepower required. This system is also the most prone to soil erosion due to wind, water, and irrigation.

Reduced-Till and Strip-Till Systems

Also called minimum-till, these systems are geared towards reducing the number of tillage passes as much as possible. This usually implies as little major tilling, such as plowing or ripping, as possible. Seedbed preparation is focused on minimal soil disturbance and leaving as much crop residue as possible. This helps reduce erosion potential and saves soil organic matter.

TILLAGE SYSTEMS... *From Page 20*

Strip-till refers to a system in which only a narrow strip is cultivated where the seed will be placed, leaving residue on the surface. Machines used in this type of system combine several types of tillage and can also place fertilizer all in one pass, saving soil moisture, fuel, and time.

The main disadvantage is that this system requires more specialized management and machinery. Geographic Positioning System (GPS) guidance and a planter or drill designed to handle increased crop residue is almost always required in these types of systems. Increased herbicide use to control weeds, because crop residue can make mechanical cultivation difficult, is often necessary as well.

No-Till Systems

No-till systems are systems where there is zero tillage. Crops are planted with planters and drills set up to handle a lot of crop residue. This approach offers both the best way to increase soil health and decrease erosion, while simultaneously offering the biggest management challenge.

When zero tillage is the goal, it often takes a comprehensive approach to managing cropping rotations, weed manage-



ment, and irrigation to reach the objective. Weed management is accomplished through herbicide applications and crop

rotations. There are significantly fewer fuel and fertilizer inputs under no-till compared with conventional tillage. No-

till farming also reduces the amount of water (both irrigation and precipitation) necessary to raise a crop, when properly implemented. The surface residue and increased organic matter help to increase the soil water holding capacity.

The primary challenge of no-till farming is that the benefits are long-term in nature. Soil structure and organic matter take substantial time to regenerate, and there may be a reduced yield for a period of years until the soil structure has been restored.

For More Information

We have presented a broad overview of alternative tillage systems. Each farm has different goals and needs when it comes to tillage; there is no single solution that is best, though some options may fit your situation better than others. For more information on tillage systems, visit GrowinG-WY.org > Resources > Toolbox. ■

James Sedman is a consultant to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources, and John Hewlett is a farm and ranch management specialist in the department. Hewlett may be reached at (307) 766-2166 or hewlett@uwyo.edu.

ECONOMIC ISSUES... *From Page 3*

Nigh next looked to a breakdown of month over month inflation this year. She noted February, March and April had some calmness. "Then in May and June we saw over 1% increase month over month," Nigh said. "Normally when we look at inflation we are looking at 2% in an entire year. So, looking at over 1% in just a single month is pretty dramatic inflation."

Nigh noted in March 2022 the Biden Administration began talking about releasing strategic petroleum reserves trying to bring some normalcy to the petroleum market. According to Nigh, inflation has started to calm a little month over month since July. "Now is that long term or is that a result of the petroleum reserves coming out and temporarily calming the gas and diesel markets? They can't do that forever," she explained.

According to Nigh, increased money supply and Congressional spending got us to this point. "Congress thought it was a demand issue back in March and April 2020 when unemployment was at 17%," Nigh explained. "They decided to put money out as a pandemic stimulus in the amount of \$5 trillion."

Nigh explained the Federal Reserve saw a massive 42% increase in the money supply in 22 months. "This is the biggest increase we've ever seen in money supply; as we looked at increases in inflation one would have hoped, and expected, the Federal Reserve would find ways to decrease that money supply," she explained. "Instead, the Federal Reserve said they had to do it on the interest rate side to get control of inflation."

"Raising interest rates are hitting those borrowing for business and will choke off demand," Nigh continued. "As long as we have this huge glut of money supply - something only the Federal Reserve can make massive changes to - we aren't going to see a lot of quick success in decreasing inflation."

"We would prefer to see slower or no more increases in interest rates but instead they start working on the money supply side," she continued. "Unfortunately, additional increases in interest rates aren't going anywhere anytime soon."

According to Nigh, that's not only a problem for those who run businesses and consumers with mortgages, but also has global impacts. "You have an investor in Japan with a lot of extra money they bring to the U.S. where they can get a higher rate of return because we keep increasing interest rates, and that has a tendency to just exacerbate the problem," she explained.

"We've seen a massive increase in the U.S. Dollar Index, which is the U.S. dollar compared to a basket of other currencies," Nigh explained. "This makes us a lot less competitive globally as our exports become more expensive. We can't continue to have this level of U.S. dollars relative to competitor currencies and stay competitive long term."

Geopolitical Conflicts

The second bucket of economic issues Nigh discussed was geopolitical conflicts which impact global production and exports.

"Russia is having a big impact on things that impact you every day," Nigh stated. "As long as Russia is invading Ukraine in the way they are currently, we will continue to see a lot of volatility in energy markets, the corn and wheat markets and all of those co-products of energy we all depend on - gas, diesel, fertilizer."

"The global situation caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted markets in such a way that people globally were behaving as if there was a shortage in corn and wheat which isn't what happened," she continued.

Nigh pointed out there are around 180 countries in the world and just about 55 of the giant global market countries, including the U.S., put formal sanctions on Russia as a result of their actions in Ukraine. "This created a bifurcated market; those who will trade with Russia and those who won't," Nigh commented. "There are also a lot not on the list - like China, Brazil, Argentina - that are big users of energy."

"While we were struggling to get fertilizer here in America, Brazilians just in October turned away shipments of fertilizer from Russia because they had enough,"

she continued. "Folks hoped that the sanctions would starve the Russian government of money to help end the crisis, but because there is this bifurcation in the market they actually had record exports of oil and fertilizer this year."

Nigh noted Russia is the second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia; producing two million barrels per day. "We've seen incredible volatility with March-June prices at \$110-\$125/barrel," she said. "November was much more moderate at \$95/barrel but relative to the past several years that is significantly elevated."

"The energy market will be elevated as long as Russia is in Ukraine," she continued.

With gas and diesel prices off the charts, Nigh noted there is a significant correlation between February 24 and elevated prices. Typically, gas and diesel prices have trended close together, but we are now seeing a huge spread in the prices.

Nigh explained that while the U.S. only imported 3% of oil from Russia, we imported 20% of petroleum products from Russia. "That's a large amount of the refined products needed for diesel production," she explained. "We also haven't seen any refineries built in the U.S. in 50 years; in contrast we've seen some shut down during the pandemic and not come back online."

Nigh says with these components and the seasonality of diesel and gas price spikes we will continue to see high diesel prices for at least the next six months. "While supplies are tight and diesel stocks are down about 10% in the Rocky Mountains, you are not as bad as the East Coast which is down almost 50% on stocks," she said.

When it comes to natural gas, Russia is the second largest producer of dry natural gas behind the U.S. Nigh explained Russia supplies 40% of Europe's natural gas which impacts the cost of producing fertilizer. "Fertilizer markets are global," Nigh said. "When it got to the point where European fertilizer producers could not charge enough to recover the natural gas costs, they just quit producing fertilizer temporarily."

"Global corn and wheat exports were kicked down the road this year, but who knows what next year will look like," she said. "This discussion about global food security and a really tight global market for corn and wheat therefore high prices for you all is going to continue to cause a lot of market problems."

"With a tight global market for corn and weather that is keeping us in a continual drought cycle it seems we are continuing, and USDA is expecting, we will be on the downward side of the current cattle cycle that started more or less in 2014," Nigh stated. "USDA's numbers for beginning of 2022 put cattle inventory about 92 million head and they are expecting that to be down in 2023."

Weather

The third bucket of economic issues impacting agriculture is weather. "You all started with pasture and rangeland conditions in May that were pretty bad; Wyoming was at 42% very poor or poor condition; the average in the U.S. was 50% very poor or poor condition," Nigh said. "When you get to the beginning of November, Wyoming was at 46% very poor or poor. This level has a tendency to encourage folks to sell heifers and cows which will continue to constrict beef inventory for a number of years to come."

Nigh cited an Iowa State University study that showed feed costs to finish yearling steers in October 2022 is at 28% compared to an average of 16% in 2014-2020.

"Meanwhile prices haven't increased that much on the live weight," she said. "Monthly heifer slaughter is well above last year and certainly well above the five-year average as folks are looking at increased feed costs and deteriorating or continuing poor rangeland and pasture conditions due to drought."

"As we are all facing inflation we are going to start seeing, unfortunately, consumers are going to make tradeoffs moving away from higher costs of beef to other meat and poultry products," Nigh concluded. "High inflation and challenges on the supply side will drive decisions." ■

Obituary



Sen. Gerald Eugene Geis

August 31, 1933 – November 2, 2022

Gerald “Jerry” Geis left his walking sticks and leg braces behind as he walked into the arms of Jesus on November 2, 2022, in Loveland, Colorado. He was lovingly surrounded by his family.

Jerry was born to Nicholas Eugene and Hazel Irene (Harvard) Geis in a three-room log cabin near Ten Sleep, Wyoming, on August 31, 1933. Those early years were pretty adventurous for the Geis kids. With Homer and Neil already working, Harold often had to babysit Jerry, Jane and Lyle. Once Harold started working, the younger three were often referred to as the 3 Musketeers. Hunk (Jerry), Sis (Jane), and Bug (Lyle) got into their share of mischief over the years, but that only solidified a life-long bond that became even stronger over the years. His family moved to Worland, Wyoming, in 1944, where he attended Worland schools. Jerry was involved in the FFA, serving on the livestock judging team, as chapter treasurer, and playing on the FFA basketball team. His involvement with FFA was the highlight of his high school career; he loved reminiscing about Pappy Lowe and all of his friends. He graduated from Washakie County High School in 1951.

Jerry married Irma Lee (Lungren) Geis on November 3, 1956. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Cheryl, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two granddogs. In the summer of 2021, Jerry moved to Loveland, Colorado to be close to his daughters.

At age 14, Jerry began working in the family livestock trucking business. Working with the livestock community and driving throughout the state of Wyoming inspired his love and respect for Wyoming and her citizens. Jerry eventually owned the business and operated it until 1991. He was a member of the Wyoming Truckers Association for over 20 years. After the sale of his trucking business, Jerry worked for McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company until retirement.

Jerry loved his family. His daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews all have memories of spending time with him on Upper Nowood, riding horseback, hunting grasshoppers, fishing in Deep Creek, and helping during cattle branding. When each of his grandkids turned eleven years old, he taught them to drive on those red-dirt mountain roads. For family birthday celebrations, Jerry provided his specialty: homemade ice cream. While the finished product was praiseworthy, the real treasure came with assisting him in the process of making the ice cream. Everyone vied for the opportunity to taste the ice cream fresh off the dasher. He enjoyed having his family

as passengers in his truck when he hauled livestock. Irma would pack lunches and fill thermoses with coffee and hot chocolate and they’d all head out to load, then unload sheep or cattle. Liz and Cheryl usually brought their Barbie dolls to play with in the sleeper bed of his truck. His grandchildren enjoyed riding on the middle hump in the truck cab while Grandpa navigated the roads of Wyoming. During his time as a State Senator, he loved having his family visit, showing them around the Capitol Building, introducing them to his legislative colleagues, and inviting them to watch the proceedings from the floor of the Senate chamber. He taught Cheryl and Liz to play pinochle when they were young and carried on that tradition, teaching grandkids, sons-in-law, extended family and friends to play the game. That, along with playing dominos, were favorite pastimes with grandkids. After Irma died, he took over making her popcorn crunch, baking cookies, and creating crock pot dinners to share with family. He enjoyed following the Wyoming Cowboys, Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos, UNC Chapel Hill basketball, and televised college women’s softball. Jerry and Dorothy Scheurman, his sister-in-law and close friend, had a standing date to watch Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune together. Every morning, he read aloud the Daily Bread devotional. Growing up, Jerry and his sister, Jane, did everything together; she even played a part in the beginning of Jerry and Irma’s romance. Jerry, Jane, and their younger brother, Lyle, who Jerry described as his “little brother with a big heart,” were close comrades, taking care of each other as youngsters and again, later in life.

Jerry loved the State of Wyoming. He enjoyed working with the wide variety of people he met through his vocational, political, and personal connections. His public service career touched six decades which began when he won as a write-in candidate for the Worland City Council. He served on the Council from 1967-1975. Local civic leaders recruited him to run for the state senate and he was elected in November 1974. During his career as a state senator, Jerry chaired the Revenue Committee and the Ways and Means (Appropriations) Committee, he served as vice president of the Senate, Majority Floor Leader and in 1984 - 1986, he served as president of the Wyoming State Senate. During his second tenure in the Senate, he served on the Education Committee and was the longtime Chair of the Agriculture, State and Public Land, and Water Resource Committee. Throughout his service as a state senator,

Jerry was a contributing member of the National Conference of State Legislators, representing Wyoming at conferences in Alaska, Texas, Tennessee, Washington, California, Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, Colorado, and the District of Columbia.

One of Jerry’s greatest legislative accomplishments was helping establish the Wyoming Water Commission which then developed vital water systems throughout the state of Wyoming. Of politics, he often stated, “When the elections are over, it doesn’t matter whether you are Republican or Democrat. We all need to work together;” and “If you can’t say it in five minutes or less, you probably shouldn’t say it.”

In 2005 Senator Geis was inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame for his demonstrated commitment as a “true friend to Wyoming agriculture.” He enjoyed advising the American Legion Girl State from 2003-2011. In 2016, Governor Mead asked Jerry to serve on the Wyoming Water Development Commission, calling him the “Water Guru,” due to Jerry’s extensive knowledge of Wyoming’s waterways. In 2021, Jerry was inducted into Washakie County School District #1 Hall of Fame. He recently served on the advisory board of the Worland Senior Center where he loved playing pinochle, connecting with friends, and promoting membership and attendance. He faithfully attended Zion Church in Worland.

Jerry never met a stranger, he had a ready smile, an infectious laugh, and chose to recognize the best in those around him. Jerry will be dearly missed by his family, community, and friends throughout the state.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Irma, his parents, his brothers Timothy, Homer, Neil, and Sidney Harold. He is survived by his sister Jane (Jim) O’Connor, brother Lyle (Marge) Geis, his daughters Elizabeth (Mike) Pike of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Cheryl (Rod) Murray of Loveland, Colorado, his grandchildren Levi Pike, Sam Pike, Taylor Scott, and Eric Scott, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for Jerry was November 20 at the Worland Middle School Auditorium. Donations in Jerry’s memory may be made with checks payable (memo: Jerry Geis) to Zion Church ZEST Fund, 1500 Circle Rd, Worland, WY 82401, or the Chief Washakie FFA Chapter, Worland High School, Chief Washakie FFA, 801 S 17th, Worland, WY 82401. Go to bohlenderfuneralchapel.com to share memories with the family. ■

Top-10 list of things snow plow operators want drivers to know

With winter weather here, we take a look back at this top ten list released by the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WyDOT) last February.

In a February 2022 statement, WyDOT reminded folks plow drivers are on the roads when the conditions are at their worst, and they're also out between storm treating trouble spots. According to the statement, operators have been seeing an increase in plow strikes over the last few winters.

According to the WyDOT, here is the list of the Top-10 things that snow plow drivers believe Wyoming motorists — both tourists and residents — should know as they encounter plows on their travels:

1. Give plows room to work. WYDOT's plow trucks have amber and blue flashing lights mounted on top of the cab, on the back of the sanders and a light on the wing plow. Snow plows are huge machines capable of moving tons of snow every minute. Like all vehicles, plows have blind spots; for safety, avoid following too closely.

2. Avoid passing a plow truck when it's plowing snow. The safest driving surface is at least four car lengths behind the plow. If you must pass, don't pass into the plume of snow being moved.

3. Snow plows typically plow and sand roads at speeds below the posted speed limit. Plows often operate at speeds of 45 mph or less, depending on road conditions, including snow levels, drifting and ice. Plows work in small sections at a time and regularly pull out of traffic to turn around or replenish salt/sand. Please drive patiently.

4. Watch for tow plows. Some parts of the state use tow plows, which are large pieces of equipment that help plow operators plow both driving and passing lane simultaneously; avoid passing until it is safe to do so. Plows also operate large wing plows on the shoulders of the highways, never use the emergency lane/highway shoulder to pass.

5. The plow truck often creates a snow cloud when working. Keep a close watch, as plows often stir up their own whiteout conditions while working, and the flashing lights may not be visible. Wait for visibility to improve before passing, especially on two-lane highways.

6. Different storms and temperatures require different methods to fight snow and ice. WYDOT trucks spread sand, anti-icing and de-icing chemicals each storm as needed and as temperatures allow. Salt is ineffective in sub-zero tem-

peratures and strong winds. Avoid following too closely when salt and sand are being applied.

7. Even after roads are plowed and treated, slippery conditions can persist. Be especially careful in areas such as intersections, on/off-ramps, bridges and shady areas. These areas may be wet during the day and icy at night. Blowing and drifting snow can also create slick driving conditions for drivers, including slush, ice and drifted snow.

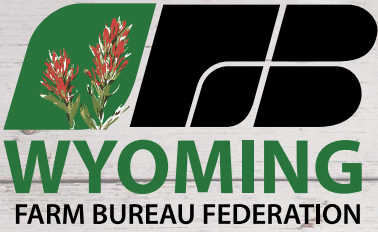
8. Be patient with road conditions and road-plowing efforts. Remember that road conditions change depending on temperature, wind speeds and other factors. Even on treated roads, avoid using cruise control and drive according to conditions.

9. Limit distractions and focus on driving. Avoid cell phone use and other distractions that prevent you from paying

attention to what's happening on the roadway. Wyoming's weather can change in a matter of miles.

10. Know before you go. It's wise to do some homework before heading for work, driving to an out-of-town appointment, or departing for a bigger town on a shopping outing. You can monitor WYDOT road conditions at www.wyroad.info or calling 1-888-WYO-ROAD or 511 Notify by dialing 511. This system can also be enabled to deliver road alerts as text messages or e-mails on routes that the user identifies. Go to www.wyroad.info and choose the 511 Notify icon to set-up your account. Sometimes road conditions are challenging and other drivers are unpredictable, so staying home or rescheduling an appointment might be great alternatives to driving during a snow event.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our plow drivers safe. ■



WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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.



A good story sticks with you.
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As you close the books on this year, you know your choices are shaping your financial future. That's especially true with the current economic climate; market volatility and high inflation have made the stakes of your decisions even higher. Let us help you make the best decisions for you and your family.

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Wyoming's United States Senators receive Friend of Farm Bureau Award

BY KERIN CLARK

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) presented the "Friend of Farm Bureau" award to United States Senator John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and United States Senator Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., for the 114th Congress for their support of America's farmers and ranchers and food security for consumers.

This award, presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), is given at the end of each Congress to lawmakers who have supported Farm Bureau's position on policy issues as demonstrated by their voting records. The individual voting records on Farm Bureau priority issues in 2022 included legislation pertaining to food security and safety, regulatory reform, technology and trade. The AFBF Board of Directors, on which WyFB President Todd Fornstrom serves, established these priority issues.

Senator Barrasso and Senator Lummis were nominated by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and approved by the AFBF Board of Directors.

Senator Barrasso accepted his award while speaking at the 103rd WyFB Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Casper. Senator Lummis delivered video remarks on Nov. 12 and her award was accepted by her staff member Jackie King.

"Our Wyoming delegation is very supportive of agriculture," said Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President. "We always appreciate the work they do for Wyoming agriculture and rural Wyoming."

"They connect with us frequently and understand the issues on which we are working," he continued.

According to Fornstrom, we often take for granted how accessible Wyoming's Congressional Delegation is to their constituents. "Whether you see them in Wyoming or walk into their offices in Washington, D.C., it is more than just talking issues," Fornstrom concluded. "They know who you are, they know your family, and they care about how issues impact us all here in the state." ■



United States Senator John Barrasso (left) accepts the Friend of Farm Bureau award from Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom at the 103rd annual meeting of the organization held mid-November in Casper.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.



United States Senator Cynthia Lummis staff member Jackie King (right) accepted the Friend of Farm Bureau award, on behalf of Senator Lummis, from Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom at the 103rd annual meeting of the organization held mid-November in Casper.

KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/KADRA CLARK PHOTO.

Merry Christmas

and best wishes for a great 2023 from the WYFB staff!



Front row: Ken, Kelly, Brooke, Brett
Back row: Sydnie, Abbi, Dee, Kerin
Not pictured: Mikka