

'It Starts With You' at the WyFB 104th Annual Meeting Nov. 9-11

By Kerin Clark

f 'It Starts With You' doesn't scream grassroots than I don't know what does," said Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) President Todd Fornstrom. "For over a hundred years the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has gathered as county federations to put forward member issues and agree to policy to move on to the national convention in the next few months."

The WyFB 104th Annual Meeting will be November 9-11, 2023 at the Little America in Cheyenne. For the 104th year in a row, "It Starts With You" when Wyoming farmers and ranchers gather to participate in the grassroots policy development process. The state annual meeting is the culmination of the statewide policy development process that begins at the local level and then proceeds to the district and state level. Issues with national relevance supported by the state voting delegates then advance to the national level.



The Farm Bureau Federation's grassroots strength begins at the county level when members discuss issues important to agriculture. Resolutions must be passed at both the county and district level before being considered by voting delegates at the state annual meeting.

"From county resolutions to state policy to national policy, all of the policy starts with our members," Fornstrom continued.

ANNUAL MEETING ... Page 15



Wyoming Agriculture in the Fall. Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation Member Jenna Larson shared this photo of fall farming in Wyoming. Wyoming farmers and ranchers care for the land and provide habitat for Wyoming's wildlife. *Jenna Larson Photo*.

WyFB called for withdrawal of BLM's Rock Springs RMP preferred alternative — BLM extended comment period, but did not grant withdrawal

By Kelly Carpenter

n August 18, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rock Springs Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision. As with typical NEPA process, four management alternatives have been identified. Typically, the alternative doesn't deviate much from current management or provides a compromise in the management

needs of the area. In the current case, the agency released the most prevalent preservation directed management.

Concerns of the plan range from surface disturbance of roads to subsurface restrictions and a reduction in the issuance of mineral leases. Specific to agriculture, there will be an approximately 7,600 AUM reduction in the southern part of Field Office management area and increased scrutiny of production practices regarding spatial-temporal

constraints of mineral and grazing. Also, the range con of the field office mentioned that riparian areas in grazing allotments are nearly the primary deciding factor to reduce AUMs by 20% per year until the resting protocol provides the results desired or closure of the entire allotment.

The dramatic reduction in land use from proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is also concerning. The restrictions with these designations could essentially allow for de facto wilderness areas that only allow for recreational walking and minimal resource use. Prescriptive management in the form of targeted management would be the most effective management that doesn't severely impact large areas of land. For example, Steamboat Mountain ACEC should be managed for targeted areas of interest, not simply increasing the size of the ACEC acreage by ten-fold.

BLM RMP ... Page 11

National farm income not always a good indication of Wyoming's economic climate

By Callie Hanson

hile national trends in the United States are heavily influenced by commodities, the majority of Wyoming farms are dominated by niche-type crops and contract pricing, which can cause lags in the realization of national trends at the state level.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a report on Aug. 31 predicting lower farm incomes than previously predicted. The February report estimated a 23% decline in farm income from \$183 billion in 2022, to \$141.3 bil-

lion. Adjusted for inflation, USDA estimated a 25% decrease in net farm income for 2023.

University of Wyoming Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Community Development Specialist Roger Coupal notes while Wyoming does tend to follow national trends in some instances, for others the state's unique combination of crops and livestock sets its own pace.

"It is hard to look at the last three years and try to decide what the trends will be because the last three years have been extremely abnormal," Coupal explains. "Between the COVID-19 pandemic and challenging weather patterns, the last three years are not a good indication of the trends of the state. It would be more beneficial to look at the years prior to 2019 to get an idea of where farm income is going."

Coupal cites upheaval in areas such as Ukraine and Africa as a supporting factor for U.S. and subsequently Wyoming wheat prices and indirectly on costs to livestock feed prices. On a per acre basis, sugar beets are the leading row crop in the state and Coupal is confident prices will stay strong.

"My expectation is that sugar beets will do pretty well. What drives this pricing is not so much the sugar, but the growing ethanol market and I do not see that changing."

"After a pretty wet and warm summer set many hay farmers up for success, we may see the price may go down, which isn't all bad news. With more abundant hay, livestock producers won't be forced out of state looking for the best deal to get their animals fed through the winter."

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AgriculturallySpeaking

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 4 Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m.-The Hangar in Bar Nunn
- 9 WyFB Foundation Symposium at 8 a.m.-Little America in Cheyenne
- 9-11 WyFB 104th Annual Meeting-Little America in Cheyenne
- 14 Washakie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.-Washakie County Fairgrounds

January 2024

19-24 American Farm Bureau Convention-Salt Lake City, Utah

February 2024

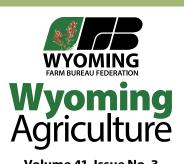
- 1-2 WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet-Laramie
- 2-3 WyFB YF&R Conference-Farm Bureau Center in Laramie
- 12 Wyoming Legislature Budget Session Convenes
- 15-16 WyFB Legislative Meeting-Cheyenne

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates

NOTICE

Annual Policyholders' Meeting

December 7, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company Farm Bureau Center, 931 Boulder Drive Laramie, Wyoming 82070



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

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Exploring new frontiers at the 2024 AFBF Convention



American Farm Bureau Federation President

Registration is now open for the 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention, and I am excited for all of us to explore new frontiers in agriculture in Salt Lake City from January 19-24.

As farmers and ranchers, we are always looking to the future, adapting to the demands of a changing and growing world, and embracing new technologies and innovations to be more productive and efficient each day. But we never lose sight of what matters most along the way: our commitment to grow the best products for our family and yours and to keep our air, soil and water healthy for the next generation. The 2024 AFBF Convention will provide the tools and inspiration to continue to drive us forward together as we gather experts, leaders and businesses who are helping blaze the trail to new frontiers in agriculture.

Now, I know fall is a busy season across farm country and Farm Bureau. From harvest to the holidays, there's barely a minute to catch your breath, let alone carve out time for much else. But I also know we can all attest to the importance

of gathering in our counties and states and as a national organization to explore new opportunities, take on challenges and set our policy goals for the next year. That's why our team at AFBF is always looking for ways to make each convention the best one yet—to help give you the tools you need to prepare your farm for the future as we keep reaching beyond our fencerows to strengthen agriculture and our great organization.

Our workshops will span four tracks-public policy, rural development, member engagement and consumer engagementand give you insights on the policies and perspectives affecting your farms, ranches, and agribusinesses for the next year and beyond. A few of the topics we'll explore include a farm bill update, 2024 elections analysis, insights into livestock, crop and dairy markets, social media trends, and membership growth strategies. Attendees will also have opportunities to learn about local agriculture with plenty of farm and food tour options. Just to preview a few ... tours include a chocolate factory, a salt mine, an elk farm, an artisanal cheese plant, a brine shrimp cooperative, and the Utah State University Animal Science Farm.

We will also hear from entertaining and inspiring keynotes and enjoy our hallmark events and competitions that the Farm Bureau family looks forward to every year. We will celebrate the work of our Ag Foundation at the Flapjack Fundraiser, cultivate the next generation of leaders with YF&R competitions, and spur on the next generation of innovative businesses with the Ag Innovation Challenge. And of course, we'll name a new Farm Dog of the Year. You can check out our convention website for more on these events and the latest updates, and to secure your spot in Salt Lake City.

Exploring new frontiers is no small task: it takes perseverance and vision as we all work together. But modern agriculture is proof positive of what we can achieve as we safely and sustainably grow the food, fiber and fuel we all depend on. I hope you will join us at the 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention as we look forward together and chart new frontiers in agriculture.

Food production in perspective



Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President
always a hig month What makes America successful with turning

ovember is always a big month for Farm Bureau. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting is the culmination of our policy process where representatives from the county Farm Bureaus meet to discuss proposals adopted at district Farm Bureau meetings.

The Annual Meeting also is an opportunity to visit with fellow farmers and ranchers who spend their time actually producing the food and fiber necessary for the other 98% of our fellow Americans. We also like to recognize our veterans who have contributed so much to our country throughout our history.

We in agriculture recognize the disproportionate number of farmers and ranchers who make up the ranks of our military and also recognize that, like agriculture, people serving in the military are a significant minority of our total population. Recent figures I've seen show that the numbers actively serving in the military are less than 1% of the adult population. That's less than the number engaged in agriculture.

What makes America successful with these small numbers protecting our lifestyle and feeding our population is the adaptation of technology to do this better with less people.

Our military spends billions and billions of dollars training people, developing state of the art military equipment and educating their leadership cadre.

Agriculture – not so much. Of course, we have programs to help educate ranchers and farmers like what the WyFB Foundation provides. Land grant institutions such as the University of Wyoming do research that provides information to make producers better and more efficient and large corporations also have significant research budgets that work to better understand our agricultural processes. Let's face it though, a new tractor just doesn't have the same allure as a hyper sonic aircraft.

Some of this helps contribute to the lack of knowledge most Americans have about how we grow food. Occasionally I'll read an article about someone who is

turning a building roof top into a garden. The article will gush about how amazing this is. While it's great that vacant spaces are being used to grow food, the articles very seldom put the production on the new roof top garden into the proper perspective. The last article I read bragged about producing thousands of pounds of produce. These stories need to use context in order for Americans to fully appreciate the size of food production in our country.

I certainly hope that people don't get the impression that we can eliminate food production from our farms and ranches and go to growing our food on roof tops. Even with every roof top producing food in America, it is unlikely there would be enough to sustain our 330 million people more than a few days without our fields and rangelands growing food for the other 350 or 360 days a year. At the very least, our policy makers should understand this, but when you look at some of the recent policies coming out of Washington, D.C. I'm not sure they do.



Agriculture, food system 'at an inflection point'

By Charlie Arnot FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE/FB.ORG

ecember 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy." This memorable quote from President Franklin Roosevelt memorialized the bombing of Pearl Harbor and marked the United States' entry into World War II. Prior to the surprise attack in Hawaii on that Sunday morning some 82 years ago, the U.S. had avoided active participation in the conflict. We were happy to serve as the "armory to the allies," but nationalistic sentiment was strong and the scars from World War I were still raw. Public sentiment was divided, and we lacked the political will to

enter another global conflict - until Pearl Harbor was attacked. The bombing of a U.S. military base fueled the fire of patriotism and the United States responded with full force, ultimately prevailing with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945.

Dec. 7, 1941, also fundamentally changed the trajectory of agriculture in the United States. The moment Pearl Harbor was bombed, food security became national security. Victory gardens and ration books that limited the amount of sugar, meat, coffee, butter, canned goods and more became common as our national resources were redirected and targeted to winning the war.

Agriculture was called upon to increase productivity and output as never before. Farmers answered the call by increasing production of core commodities like corn, wheat and cotton by more than 400% in the last eight decades. In the 1950s the mechanization expertise that was used to defeat our military enemies was deployed in agriculture, dramatically reducing the demand for labor and once again increasing productivity and efficiency.

The focus on improving throughput year over year became the driving force for agriculture in the United States over the past 82 years and the results have been remarkable. Today, U.S. farmers produce food, fuel and fiber with remarkable efficiency, increasing output and limiting or reducing inputs year over year.

There is no question that consumers in the U.S. and around the world benefitted from the singular focus on productivity and throughput. What U.S. farmers accomplished over the last eight decades is truly impressive. But today, engaged consumers, investors, policy makers and other key stakeholders have new priorities. They want agriculture to place an equal focus on issues like animal welfare, climate change, health and nutrition, food safety, ethical business practices and the fair and equitable treatment of workers.

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Member-CENTS

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he 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.

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

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

You may also utilize the Farm Bureau Member Benefits app on your phone to access your benefits. Questions: email broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723.





Budget































Collegiate Discussion Meet a great opportunity

BY HANNAH GUILD, WYFB YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER COMMITTEE MEMBER

y name is Hannah Guild, I live in southwest Wyoming with my husband and our son. I was raised in northern Utah on a ranch and showed steers at the county fair. This is where I learned of the importance of agriculture and saw the hard work that goes into it; therefore I developed a deep appreciation for agriculture and for all those involved.

My husband Zack and I have been involved with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) for two years now and have really enjoyed meeting other advocates for agriculture across the state. One of the things that the WyFB YF&R has done that is really neat is the annual Collegiate Discussion Meet where college students from across the state compete against one another discussing modern issues that we face in agriculture along with other agriculture related topics.

The discussion meet is meant to simulate a committee meeting where Farm Bureau policy is discussed and reviewed. Topics are given out beforehand so that the participants can prepare and educate themselves for the discussion. They are judged on their knowledge of the topic along with their ability to work respectfully with others to come to a solution. Participants learn many valuable lessons and meet many other like-minded individuals from across the state and possibly even the nation, where the winner has the opportunity to compete at the national level at the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Convention.

The competition has been held at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in recent years but has recently been changed and will be held at the WyFB Young Farmer and Rancher Conference held in February in Laramie. I see the value in this for every college student whether they are studying agriculture and involved in it or not. Being in a setting where the main point is to collaborate with everyone's individual efforts in becoming informed of the policies and the topics, can carry over many times in life when you are expected to work with others to improve policy and resolve issues.



Zack and Hannah Guild represent the Southwest District on the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. courtesy Photo.

Another great value in the Collegiate Discussion Meet is it is a great start and practice for a future of advocating for agriculture and the farming and ranching communities. Along with this, you will have opportunities to connect and build relationships with others from other colleges

around the state. These relationships can benefit you for many years if you continue to collaborate and get new ideas from each other on how to best run your operations and support agriculture throughout communities and the state of Wyoming.

WyFB YF&R Committee at large position voted on at annual meeting

n Nov. 11 at the WyFB Annual Meeting, an at large position for the WyFB YF&R Committee will be voted on by state voting delegates. The at large position is a one-year term.

The objective of the Committee is to give young farmers and ranchers, serv-

ing as a committee within the federation structure, the opportunity to recommend programs and activities that will encourage participation of young farmers and ranchers in both the YF&R and total Farm Bureau program. This is an energetic committee dedicated to the success of

young farmers and ranchers and agriculture across Wyoming.

Potential committee members must be between the ages of 18-35 and a regular Farm Bureau member. Those interested should notify your county president to request an application and nomination form or contact Kerin Clark at 307.534.6175 or kclark@wyfb.org. Application forms are also available at wyfb.org (Click on "Get Involved/YF&R/Committee." Forms submitted will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee at annual meeting.





Registration open for 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention

he 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention will be held Jan. 19-24, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"New Frontiers" is the theme of AFBF's 105th consecutive convention, a "can't miss" event that offers attendees unique insights on the policies and perspectives that will affect farms, ranches and agribusinesses in 2024 and beyond.

"This is your opportunity to join the Farm Bureau family as we explore new frontiers in agriculture, develop professional skills and help set the agenda in Washington," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "I look forward to seeing you in January in Salt Lake City as we gather together with a common purpose to kick off another year of feeding, clothing and fueling our great nation."

A broad array of educational and inspiring workshops will be available to attendees interested in honing their leadership skills, expanding business proficiency and gleaning insights from industry visionaries with expertise in food production-related policies and trends. A vibrant trade show with exhibitors showcasing cutting edge inno-



vations in agricultural technology, tools and services is also sure to capture the attention of attendees.

Workshops will be offered in four tracks – public policy, rural development, member engagement and consumer engagement. Workshop topics include Farm Bill Update; Who's Up Next? A 2024 Elections Analysis; Livestock Markets; Crop Markets; Dairy Market Issues; As Seen on Social Media: Farm to Fork in Action; and The Next Big Thing in Growing Farm Bureau Membership.

Numerous optional ag and food-related day tours are available for attendees who wish to explore the great state of Utah. Attendees can also sign up to visit a chocolate factory, see where the 2002 Olympic Games took place, visit a salt mine or learn about lavender farming. Details about additional tours will be posted when available.

Members may register for the Convention and tours at annualconvention. fb.org. A room block for the convention has been reserved at the DoubleTree Suites by the state Farm Bureau Office. Please reach out to Brooke at broes@ wyfb.org or 307-721-7723 by December 1, 2023 to secure a room.





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The people of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leaders **Kyle and Stacy Berger**

County: Carbon

Farm Bureau Federation Leadership Position(s):

- Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation President (Kyle) and Treasurer (Stacy).
- Kyle also serves as the Central District Vice-President.
- In the past, we have also served on the Albany County board as well as Chairs of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee.

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe ranch and family background. **Berger:** I grew up on a ranch in Saratoga and Stacy grew up on a ranch outside of Laramie. Stacy and I are both 5th generation Wyoming Ranchers.

We live on my family's ranch in Saratoga. We have six children. Our oldest son, Kaden, is in college at the University of Wyoming. Bayla (12) is our oldest daughter. She enjoys playing her violin, writing poetry and training horses. Bryndal (10) is our youngest daughter. She is learning to play the keyboard and mandolin and is a skilled writer and rider. Bexton (7) is a compassionate person who cares deeply about others. He likes to play the drums, ride horses and rope. Braycen (5) has a lot of energy, is super creative and loves to tease his brothers and sisters. Bastian (1) has just mastered walking, he has some strong opinions and it will be fun to see what kind of person God has created him to be as he grows.

Wyoming Agriculture: Education, Hobbies and Other Background.

Berger: Education is extremely important to us so we educate our children at home and disciple them in the Lord. Stacy spends a good part of each day teaching each of our children. I teach when I bring them with me and when I am home. I try to be supportive in any way that I can. Our children don't miss many educational opportunities on the ranch. We are also able to stop any lesson at any time and address the issues involving character.

We are involved in part time ministry and play music. If we are not doing these things, we are usually working with show steers, horses, camping or fishing.

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

Berger: Soon after we got married, the Albany County Farm Bureau Federation sent us to Scottsdale to a National American Farm Bureau YF&R conference. That conference really helped us to see the importance of the Federation and we were ready to be active and involved. We were also given a chair position on the county board along with resources to develop programs for educating other young people about Farm Bureau, YF&R and policy.

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

Berger: Each of us who have spent a life as a rancher or farmer understands that the knowledge gained comes through years of experience. It is difficult to trust someone else to do what we have learned. It takes years to even trust children who have apprenticed on our ranches. So to think that a government "expert" could do it better is, at best, laughable!

Don't get me wrong, we know that everything around us is constantly changing so we must adapt, we must find new technologies and strategies to meet this ever changing environment. We do need help. There are many companies and some agencies that are helpful and we work together to become more efficient and more productive.

One of the things that we must fight continually is over-regulation by the government. Some regulation is necessary for food safety but much regulation that affects Agriculture is not. In the heart of man is the idea "If I just had enough power, I would have the power to do good." Politicians are trained to speak and persuade. When many of them come together and have this mindset it becomes dangerous. That isn't the design for the government in America but it is what we are continuing to see.

As agricultural producers, we work hard. We work long hours. We volunteer and we help people. We are often tired. We work to raise food for people because it is an absolute necessity. Like Nehemiah in the Bible, we often feel like we are working with one hand and fighting with the other. We are involved in Farm Bureau because it gives us a platform to fight for what we believe is sound policy. It allows us to be heard. It gives us a voice.



Stacy, holding Bastian, and Kyle Berger with Bayla, Bryndal, Braycen and Bexton.



Bexton and Braycen fishing.



Stacy, with Bryndal at her side, presenting at an ag expo.

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

Berger: We value our members because they help us to keep fighting for sound policy. Memberships ensure the organization will continue to operate. Members help us to know that we have support and a reason to keep working hard, a reason to keep fighting.

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



Horseback is a favorite place to be for the Bergers. L to r: Kyle and Bastian, Bayla, Bryndal, Braycen and Bexton.



Kaden and Kyle competing together in a ranch rodeo



Bryndal and Bayla working on the ranch.

Berger: To those who seek to make a difference in Wyoming Agriculture through Farm Bureau, I would say; find one need in your community that has not been met and figure out a way to meet it. This may be agriculture support, something social for people living in rural areas, a way to help get producers' stories out there to connect with consumers or simply seeing something at county fair that would help out the youth. Don't try to do something big, just fill one need and do it well.





Chicken Gnocchi Soup

Recipe by Connie Werner

Source: www.lecremedelacrumb.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 3-4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cooked and diced
- 1 stalk of celery, chopped
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 cups chicken broth or watkins chicken soup base
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 6 ounces potato gnocchi
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup fresh roughly chopped spinach

DIRECTIONS:

- In a soup pot heat olive oil.
 Add celery, onions, garlic, and carrots. Saute for 2-3 minutes until onions are translucent.
- Add chicken, broth, salt, pepper, and thyme. Bring to a boil, then gently stir in gnocchi and boil for 3-4 minutes. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook for an additional 10 minutes.
- Stir in heavy cream and spinach. Cook for 1-2 minutes until spinach is tender. Adjust salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

■ FOR MORE RECIPES VISIT: www.modernranchwife.com









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Little America Hotel & Resort Cheyenne, Wyoming **Agenda (Tentative)**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

YF&R Committee Meeting 11:15 am 12:15 pm YF&R Committee Lunch

Board of Directors' Executive Session-Fairfield Inn and Suites 5:00 pm

(1820 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne WY)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:00 am Standing Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs Breakfast

Breakfast buffet is provided.

8:00 am Board of Directors' Meeting

WyFB Foundation "Water in Wyoming" Seminar 8:00 am

- ◆ "How Interstate Compacts & Court Decrees Affect Wyoming Law"
- Chris Brown, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Wyoming Attorney General's Office
- "Wyoming Water Law Fundamentals & Structure"
- Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer◆ "Water Development" Wyoming Water Development **Commission Staff**

11:00 am Registration

12:00 pm Noon Luncheon for registered attendees

 Presentation of Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Agent and VP awards

Standing Committee Meetings 1:30 pm

- #1 General Issues Matt Stroh, Chair
- #2 State Government Affairs James Ramsay, Chair
 #3 Agricultural Tax Andrea Dockery, Chair
- #4 Natural/Environmental Resources Tim Beck, Chair
- * Credentials and Nominating Committee meetings held after completion of Standing Committee meetings

Century, Silver & Gold Club Social (Invitation Only Event) 4:15 pm

- WyFB County Presidents, Vice Presidents, Century Club Members, Gold Club Members, Silver Club Members and Lifetime Members are invited to meet guest speakers
- Light Hors d'oeuvres served

Taproom Trivia Night– Westby Edge Brewing Company 7:00 pm

- (714 W 20TH ST, Cheyenne WY) Presented by: WyFB Staff
- Open to the public

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Breakfast on own

- Complimentary breakfast is provided for attendees staying at TownePlace Suites.
- * Guests staying at Little America are welcome to eat onsite at Hathaway's Restaurant.

6:45 am County Presidents & Vice Presidents Breakfast Meeting * Breakfast buffet provided.

General Session with President Todd Fornstrom Presiding 8:30 am Delegates assemble by county

> • National Anthem: Stacy Berger & Family (Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation); Samantha Starks (Albany County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation)

• Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Quade Palm, WyFB YF&R Chair

- Welcome: Kevin Baars, Southeast District Director
- Introduction of President: Lane Hageman, Director-at-Large
- President's Address: Todd Fornstrom, President
- Executive Vice President's Report: Ken Hamilton, **Executive Vice President**
- Insurance Company Report: Jim Geesey, CEO, Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Ins. Co.

Guest Speaker: Jessica Cabrera, Managing Director of Member 9:30 am Engagement, American Farm Bureau Federation

"Cultivating Grassroots, Leadership and Engagement" Morning Break

10:15 am 10:45 am

General Session cont.

- Appointment of Parliamentarian by President Fornstrom
- Credentials Committee Report Presented by Committee Chair
- Official Seating of the Delegates
- Approval of Agenda
- Election of Election Chairperson and (3) Election Clerks Kristi Ellis
- Explanation of Voting Methods on Resolutions and Revisions **President Fornstrom**
- Preliminary Nominating Committee Report and List of Candidates by Committee Chair

Farm Bureau Member Memorial Presentation 11:45 am Noon Luncheon for Registered Attendees 12:00 pm

• WyFB Foundation Silent Auction will be open during lunch

General Session cont.

Guest Speaker: Courtney Briggs, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs, American Farm Bureau Federation

◆ "Federal Environmental Policy Discussion" 2:15 pm Ice Cream Social 2:45 pm General Session cont. 5:00 pm **General Session Recesses** 6:00 pm Cash Bar

 WyFB Foundation Silent Auction Reopens Dinner & Award Presentations for Registered Attendees 6:30 pm WyFB Foundation Live Auction: Mark McNamee, Auctioneer 7:45 pm 8:15 pm Music by BJ Jamison

Entertainment sponsored by: Southeast District Counties

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Breakfast on own

1:30 pm

8:00 am General Session Reconvenes

- Veterans Day Recognition
- Credentials Committee Report
- YF&R Report
- Final Credentials Committee Report by Chair to Determine **Voting Ballot Numbers**
- Final Nominating Committee Report by Chair
- Election of Officers, Election Chair presiding
 - ELECTION FORMAT Repeated for the offices of President; Vice President; Director-at-Large; and YF&R Committee Representative-at-Large
 - Nominations from Floor
 - Candidates Address Delegates
 - Election of Officers
- Approval of Format for Resolutions at 2024 Annual Meeting

Noon Luncheon for Registered Attendees 12:00 pm General Session Reconvenes (if necessary) 1:00 pm

Thank you for attending! Adjourn * SGA Committee will meet with the NER, GI, and Ag Tax committee chairs after

the General Session adjourns to prepare 2024 Legislative and WyFB priority

* YF&R Committee will meet after the General Session adjourns



ATTENTION: County Farm Bureau Federation voting delegates to State Annual Meeting

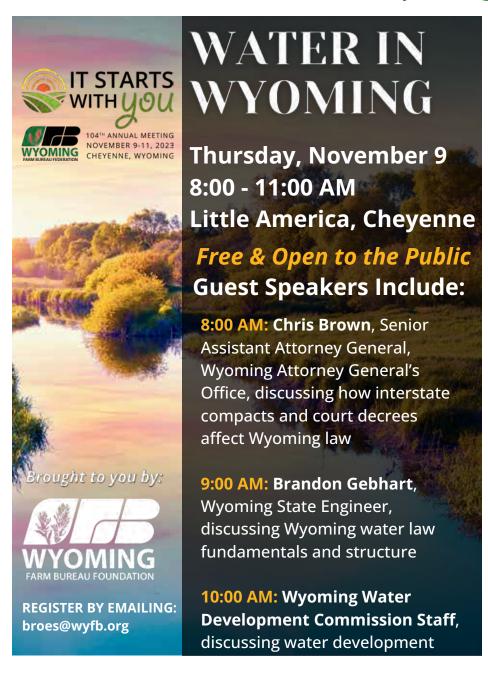
recommendations

Proposed resolutions from the districts were emailed and mailed to the county secretaries prior to annual meeting for distribution to county voting delegates. Delegates are encouraged to review and research the proposed resolutions prior to the state annual meeting. Please remember to bring your resolutions copies with you to annual meeting.

diet!

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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.

TO SUBMIT ADS, send your ad along with your name, phone number and member number or member county to kclark@wyfb.org or mail to WyFB, ATTN: Classifieds, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

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New Members

ALBANY

Lee Killian, Laramie; Tammy Mack, Laramie; Robert Needhammer, Laramie; Jacquie Lahr, Laramie; Matthew Shelby, Laramie; Debra Matthew, Laramie; Kay Dersham/ Dersham Land & Cattle LLC (REG), Pine Bluffs

BIG HORN

Christopher Green, Greybull; Harry Herren (REG), Greybull; Robert Peterson, Greybull; Rik Mettes Living Trust (Reg), Cowley; Susan Kraus (REG), Lovell

CAMPBELL

Kristin & Calvin Wolf (REG), Hulett; Monica & William Hunt, Pinedale; Steve Conzelman, Gillette; Ella Marie Coleman, Gillette; Marcus Murschel, Gillette; Arthur Oliver, Gillette; Sheila Larsen, Gillette; Jaimie Tarver/ Tarver Ranch LLC (REG), Gillette; Tarver Heart X Ranch Partnership (REG), Gillette; Bob Tarver/ Trail Creek Grazing (Reg), Gillette; Robert Tarver (REG), Gillette; Miranda & Mike Leisy (REG), Gillette; James Sherman, Gillette; Rachel & Steve Dutton, Gillette; Laura & Simon LeBlanc, Gillette

CARBON

Jessica & Hank Morris, Saratoga; Julie & William Kaewert (REG), Longmont, CO; Tanya & Clay Evans (REG), Baggs; James Forrest, Rawlins

CONVERSE

Brooke Roes & Jeremy Settelmeyer (REG), Douglas; Joyce Wilfong, Glenrock; Donna & John Flynn, Glenrock; Robert Cornick, Douglas; Maddie Tillard, Sheridan; James Schell, Glenrock; Terry & Ron Burton, Douglas; Evelyn Holbrook, Glenrock; Cally Martinez, Casper

CROOK

Karen Bennett, Sundance; DeSarae Rosenlund, Moorcroft; Natasha & James Gilbert (REG), Sundance; Randy Cornella, Sundance; Kitty Yelland, Moorcroft; Brian Park (REG), Alzada, MT; Laurel & Donald Zimmerschied (REG), Moorcroft; Kurt Wolch, Moorcroft

FREMONT

Justin Schneir (REG), Lander; Shawna Prather, Riverton; Jay Rodewald (REG), Mitch LeClair (REG), Shoshoni; Perry Lane, Riverton; Deonna Bouska, Dubois; Kenneth Shimek, Riverton; Christine Gilbertson, Lander; Cully Goehring, Lander; Donald Pedlar, Lander; Therese & James Woodruff, Lander; Chera & Jock Campbell (REG), Shoshoni, Nicholas Gallinger (REG), Lander

GOSHEN

Diane & Steven Foster (REG), Fort Laramie

HOT SPRINGS

Reginald Reid/ Reid Dragon Family Trust, Thermopolis; Ruth Wallingford, Casper; Elizabeth & Lucas Whitt, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Stephen Garcia, Buffalo; Troy Nygren, Buffalo

LARAMIE

Bo Stipe, Cheyenne; Carolyn & David Odell, Cheyenne; Kenneth Nelson, Cheyenne; Dora & John Hart, Aberdeen, MS; Elizabeth & Alexander Bowler, Chevenne; Jackie Thatcher, Cheyenne; Trisha & Tyler Kimzey (REG), Horse Creek; Chris & David Hall, Cheyenne; Steven Austin; Cheyenne; Lois & Marvin Powell, Cheyenne; John Stephens, Cheyenne; Glen Williams, Cheyenne; Jerra Davis. Cheyenne; Tammy Bourne, Chevenne: Keelee & Jesse Abevta, Chevenne: Katie & William Weber (REG), Cheyenne; Stacy Nichols-Dabel, Cheyenne; Jody Callahan, Cheyenne; Michelle & Lloyd Martinez, Cheyenne; Maria & Robert Cowley, Cheyenne; Sheri & Mike Olson (Reg), Cheyenne

LINCOLN

WYOMING

Geoff Kuzmich, Bedford; Melissa Franklin, Thayne; Heather Clements, Cokeville; Matthew Booth, Afton; Ramona & Alan Rae (Reg), Afton; Alice & David Palkow, Cabot, AR; Stephen Judge, Alpine; Lou Ann Bletsch, Thayne; Calvin Rawe, Alpine; Mary Stupi, Alpine; Julie Amos, La Barge; Crystal Fredrickson, Thayne; Steven Carter (REG), Bedford, Mark Summers, Alpine, James Shondel, Belleville, NJ

NATRONA

Perry Gilbert, Casper; David Arnold, Casper; Chelsey & Dustin Rhoades, Casper

PARK

Reese Karst (REG), Powell; Joseph Higgs (REG), Cody; Maryann & John Mcgee, Cody; Carol Helzer, Cody; Gary Cabe, Cody; Kerry & Todd Frost, Cody; Joan & James Hoffman, Cody; Margaret & Lloyd Snyder, Powell; Marianne & Gary Ventling, Cody

PLATTE

Kim & Jason Goertz (REG), Wheatland; Kenneth Pasley, Wheatland

SHERIDAN

Cory Reeves, Sheridan; Kendl Coffey, Sheridan; Bruce Garber, Sheridan; Dennis Hanson (REG), Sheridan; Justin Hoeft, Sheridan; David Wang, Sheridan; Shirley Kadrmas, Sheridan; Ronald Destefano, Sheridan; Bobbie & Ronald Spahn, Big Horn; Gerald Aust, Sheridan; Leah Roush, Sheridan; Rebecca Adsit, Sheridan; Kathryn Hier, Sheridan; Michelle & Jason Miller, Sheridan; Elaina Winters, Story; Deborah Paterakis, Sheridan; Casey Owings, Ranchester; Janna Parrott, Sheridan; Max Mclain, Sheridan; Lily Bliss, Big Horn; Lynn & John Masters (REG), Dayton

SUBLETTE

Lance McMillen (REG), Pinedale; Sena Watson, Pinedale; Chelsie Martin, Pinedale

SWEETWATER

Matthew McFadden, Green River; Ross Slagowski (REG), Rock Springs; Mary Ann & Steve Mines (REG), Farson; Beau Ramsay (REG), Rock Springs; Brian Roberts, Rock Springs; Moses Urrutia, Rock Springs; Laura Frampton, Green River; Ralynne & Joseph Tomich (REG), Farson; Shawnee & Michael Tomich (REG), Rock Springs; Donna Thurmon, Rock Springs

TETON

Sheryl Garling, Casper; NSC Holdings (REG), Jackson; Sonia Diaz, Jackson; Melissa Robinson, Jackson; Mark McCallum, Bryn Mawr, PA



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FARM INCOME... From Page 1

On the cattle side, Coupal predicts upswings will continue as droughts plague different parts of the country. Though southwest Wyoming is considered to be a part of the greater western states drought.

Longtime Wyoming Farm Bureau member, producer, and market professional Garrett Horton explained that due to the nature of the majority of Wyoming's crops, local producers may not see the impact as strongly in 2023 as they will going into 2024 and following years.

"I wouldn't call Wyoming crops niche, but a lot of our producers are growing non-commodity crops that are priced out pretty far in advance with contracts," Horton explains. "So a dip in prices may take a couple of years to catch up to these contracts."

"A lot of crop prices are locked in before we even plant so as far as income being down on the farming side this year on the income side it should be pretty close to last year except for commodities like corn and alfalfa." Horton notes contract crops are likely to come down next year as these contracts will lag behind the broader agriculture economy in the nation.

"In my opinion, the biggest impact on Wyoming right now is input cost. Fertilizer and fuel were down at the beginning of the year, but now we have seen fuel skyrocket back up. Labor continues to be tight. In a lot of cases you can't find help and when you do it is almost unaffordable. Outside the primary inputs, supplies, parts, all the odds and ends it takes to operate a farm/ranch continue to eat more and more of the bottom line. For example, I recently had to buy a couple of cattle waterers and they were over \$2,000 a piece."

On the livestock side, especially with cattle, Horton predicts cattle will do very well as calves have trended \$500-600 more per head than last year. On the sheep side, Horton described the market as "topsy-turvy" since COVID.

"Sheep saw virtually no market, followed by record high prices and back to lows all in the time since. Currently, prices have gotten better, but they are still struggling with the market with just so few players left."

For sheep producers, input costs can be even more complex as many of these operations rely on H2A labor.

"Sheep margins are getting killed by inputs because a lot of them rely on H2A labor and the rules surrounding this program continue to get more complicated and more expensive. Not to mention, the paperwork is just insane."

Another major hurdle for farm income is increasing interest rates.

"One piece of the puzzle that is affecting everyone is interest rates. For most of my career in agriculture, interest rates have been historically low and they have jumped nearly three percent," he explains. "Interest plays a huge role in the decisions people make now more than ever. With rates this high, producers have to figure out how they will cover that cost on a per head or per acre basis."

Coupal regretfully notes he and many of his colleagues predict interest rates will go up before they come down again.

"We get a sense that interest rates will have to go up some because of recent government borrowing and still even COVID-19. International stability can also affect interest rates and we are seeing a lot of that right now."

As producers stare down the barrel of continued uncertain times, one thing Horton notes they can do is lean on working capital.

"This is your first line of defense financially in a downturn. Fortunately, a lot of producers have built some cash reserves coming off good years. Unfortunately, rather than re-investing that into their operations in the form of expansion, improvements, or upgrading that worn out piece of equipment they need to keep it set aside. That rainy day fund they can tap when revenue falls below break-evens. Without this financial cushion continued operations will become less and less financially feasible in the downturns."

BLM RMP... From Page 1

The preferred alternative almost doubles the number of ACEC designations, as well as triples the total number acres for these special designated areas. There is no question that natural resources need to be managed carefully and wisely, but we cannot do so at the expense of our state's cornerstone industries in the process. This increase in ACEC's will also require an increase in BLM staffing for adequate enforcement of such large swaths of land protection. The triple in acreage under ACEC protective measures should honor

prior and existing rights for the agricultural community, among other users of federal lands.

The ACEC portion alone of the RMP is enough to ask for a withdrawal of the preferred alternative so that stakeholders can head back to the existing process to negotiate starting from a middle-of-theroad solution.

Another concern is the use of outdated wildlife science that's cited in the plan. Our local Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) agents have publicly stated that the studies cited are out of date and shouldn't be used in the document. Also,

there are certain groups pushing the agency to roll out this alternative as the preferred choice for upcoming management.

Overall, the preferred alternative chosen by the BLM could be a problematic sign of what's to come. One can't help but draw parallels between the 30x30 initiative, BLM Conservation and Land Health Rule (still in development) and other preservation efforts to this plan of non-use on federal lands. The onslaught of rules around the preservationist agenda is troubling, but together we can provide a united voice during the comment period.

The WyFB requested a complete withdrawal of the preferred alternative and will continue to be involved in the commenting process. Although the BLM did not grant a withdrawal of the preferred alternative, on October 19, the agency extended the comment period by 60 days, resulting in the comment deadline of January 17, 2024. To comment, please visit the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation website Action Alert page for information. (https://www.wyfb.org/Article/Draft-Resources-Management-Plans-and-Environmental-Impact-Statement-for-Rock-Springs-RMP-Revision)



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County News



Park County Farm **Bureau Federation** Member Scott George with WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs Brett Moline at the Park County annual meeting. BROOKE ROES PHOTO.





WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Members Brent & Jennifer Horton and Shawn & Kelli Chouinard at the Park County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in September.



The Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation presented their 2023 "VIP Award" to Shelly and Dwight Krein. Board member Kevin Baars (left) is shown with the Kreins at the county annual meeting held in September. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.





Chelsea (Baars) Hunter was recognized for her years of service as the county president at the Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in September. She served as county president from 2019-2023. The board presented a custom cutting board made by the local Skills USA Chapter. Front row (Í to r): Lexie Painter, Chelsea Hunter, and Denise Baars. Back row (I to r): Travis Krein, John Sampers, Kevin Baars, and Tom Marshik. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

Rocky Mountain CCA Program



Wyoming FFA's National Officer Candidate Bree Coxbill visited with WyFB YF&R Committee Members Seth Allen and Cody Alps at the Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in October. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.



The resolutions process starts with one member bringing a resolution to the local county meeting and the next step is the district meeting. Resolutions discussion at the Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. From left to right: James Kruse, Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation President; Kevin Baars, Southeast District Director; and Patt Cullen, Platte County Farm Bureau Federation President. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.





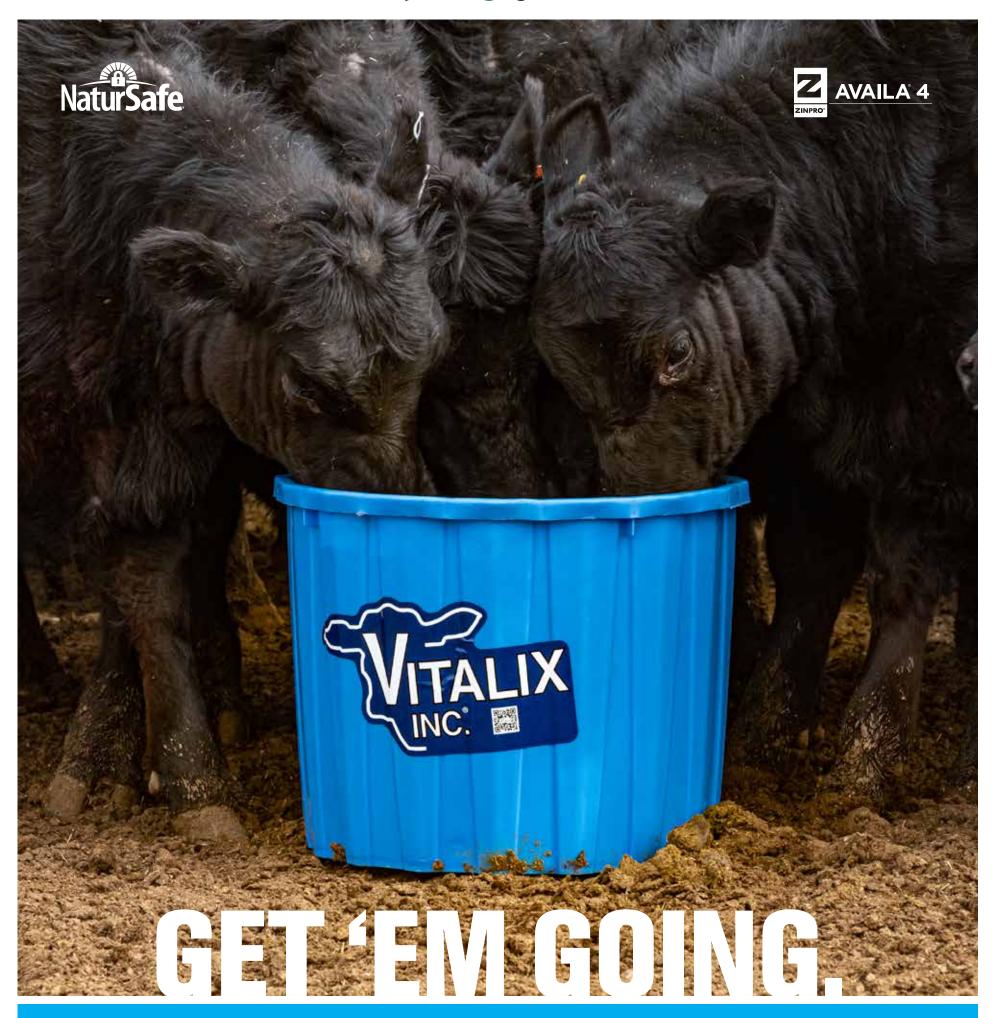
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TRUE BLUE

ANNUAL MEETING... From Page 1

WyFB's four standing committees meet Thursday afternoon to discuss resolutions pertaining to their areas and make recommendations. The committees include: Natural and Environmental Resources (NER), State Government Affairs (SGA), Agriculture Tax (AG TAX) and General Issues (GI). The resolutions are then considered and discussed by the voting delegates during the general session.

Water in Wyoming Foundation Seminar

The WyFB Foundation is hosting a "Water in Wyoming" seminar the morning of Nov. 9 from 8-11 a.m. The first speaker will be Chris Brown, Senior Assistant Attorney General with the Wyoming Attorney General's Office. Brown will discuss how interstate compacts and court decrees affect Wyoming law. The second speaker will be Wyoming State Engineer Brandon Gebhart. He will discuss Wyoming water law fundamentals and structure. The third speaker will be a staff member from the Wyoming Water Development Commission to discuss water development in Wyoming.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Attendees are requested to register by emailing broes@wyfb.org.

Century, Silver & Gold Club Social

County Presidents, County Vice Presidents, Gold Club Members, Silver Club Members, Century Club Members and Life Members are invited to visit one-on-one with guest speakers at a social on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 4:15 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. This is an invitation only event with tickets provided at registration.

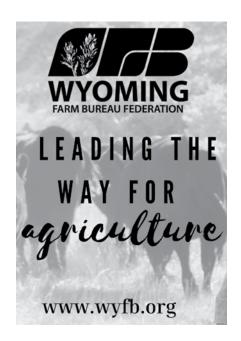
Taproom Trivia Night

A fun trivia event for members and the general public will be presented by WyFB Staff on Nov. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Westby Edge Brewing Company.

Speakers

Members will hear reports from WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, WyFB Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton, and Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company CEO Jim Geesey to start the general session on Friday, Nov. 10.

Jessica Cabrera, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Managing Director of Member Engagement, will speak at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 10. Her high energy presentation titled "Cultivating Grassroots, Leadership and Engagement" will provide insight into how to increase engagement through grassroots leadership.





Jessica Cabrera, AFBF Managing Director, Member Engagement



Courtney Briggs, AFBF Senior Director of Government Affairs

"Farm Bureau is only effective when members are engaged and leading at the grassroots level," Cabrera said. "We will look at ways to succeed as mission-driven leaders who increase engagement by implementing five easy-to-remember grassroots leadership practices."

AFBF Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Courtney Briggs will discuss federal environmental policy at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 10. Briggs will discuss environmental policy issues such as Waters of the United States, emerging PFAS regulations and conservation issues.

Entertainment, Reports and Elections

Friday evening's banquet is a time to celebrate our farmers and ranchers and present awards. To conclude the banquet, the Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Counties (Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara and Platte) are excited to present to members music entertainment by BJ Jamison.

With appreciation and thanks to America's Veterans, Saturday Nov. 11 will include resolutions consideration, elections, and a WyFB YF&R report.

Foundation Auction

The WyFB Foundation will hold the second annual silent and live auction at the awards banquet on Friday, Nov. 10. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Foundation.

'Harvest for All' Fundraiser

The WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) 20th annual "Harvest for All" fund drive will take place at annual meeting. Monetary donations (we are unable to accept food donations) will benefit the Food Bank of Wyoming. Please bring your monetary donations to the registration desk at annual meeting. Additionally, the WyFB YF&R Committee will hold their annual playing card raffle so plan to buy your playing card raffle chances from any WyFB YF&R Committee member during annual meeting.

Agenda

The agenda is on page 8 and available at www.wyfb.org. Pre-registration has closed. Contact Brooke Roes at broes@wyfb.org or 307-721-7723.

"It Starts With You" so plan to join your fellow Farm Bureau Federation members to chart the course to keep agriculture strong at the 104th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.



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FOCUS ON AG... From Page 3

Historically consumers were focused on three drivers for purchase — taste, price, and convenience. Many of today's shoppers are considering multiple drivers for purchase, including impact on the environment, treatment of animals, the relationship between food and health and much more.

And the pressure to focus on more than productivity is not limited to shoppers. Capital providers, policymakers and NGOs are weighing in on a variety of issues that

impact how food is grown. Larry Fink is chairman and CEO of Blackrock, one of the largest private equity firms in the world. His focus on climate has increased in his annual letter to shareholders and business leaders over the past three years.

2020: "Climate risk is investment risk."

2021: "Transition to Net Zero: The climate transition presents an historic investment opportunity."

2022: "The transition to a net-zero world is the shared responsibility of every citizen, corporation and government."

Agriculture and the food system are at an inflection point. Stakeholders who buy commodities, capital providers who make financing available and engaged consumers who purchase food are demanding more from agriculture.

As with any change, these new priorities create opportunity and risk. America's farmers are resilient and innovative, and they will find creative ways to address these emerging priorities. The progress to date is impressive!

To ensure a truly sustainable food system, we need a broader conversation, with

stakeholders across the food system about how to equitably distribute the cost and value of addressing climate change, animal welfare and other relevant priorities. Given the resources to find and implement solutions, America's farmers will respond, just as they did after Dec. 7, 1941.

Charlie Arnot is CEO of The Center for Food Integrity, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to building consumer trust and confidence in today's food system. This column was originally published by FarmWeek Now as an opinion piece.

