

## Wyoming leaders carry western voice to nation’s capital

BY CALLIE HANSON

**W**yoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom and Policy Advocacy Director Kelly Carpenter traveled to Washington, D.C., in mid-July to take part in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Council of Presidents meeting—a critical opportunity to ensure western voices are heard in national agricultural policy discussions.

The annual gathering brought state Farm Bureau presidents together with AFBF President Zippy Duvall and senior officials from across the federal government. But for Wyoming’s delegation, the week was about more than checking boxes. It was about making sure rural America—particularly the West—has a seat at the table.

“We may be a small state, but we have a strong voice,” said Fornstrom. “And we’re using it.”

The event, held just steps from the White House in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, featured briefings with high-ranking administration officials and senior agency staff. It offered a unique platform for Farm Bureau leaders to connect directly with decision-makers and elevate the everyday challenges facing farmers and ranchers in the West.

“When you’re in the room with the people writing the rules, that’s where your stories have real weight,” Carpenter said. “They can’t fix what they don’t know about, and that’s where we come in.”

That idea—speaking up so rural issues aren’t overlooked—became a theme of the week. When a state president raised a question specific to their region, agency officials encouraged others to do the same, reiterating that solutions begin with dialogue.

“One of the strongest messages from the administration was, ‘We can’t help if we don’t know,’” Carpenter said. “That’s a call to action for all of us. If we want change, we need to tell our stories.”

And while many of the federal issues discussed affect producers nationwide, Wyoming leaders made sure the western perspective was part of the conversation—from public lands and water to the complexities of wildlife management and private property rights.

“These are not just regulatory issues—they’re realities we live with every day,” said Carpenter. “If we’re not constantly reminding them how decisions play out in the West, they’ll never fully understand the impact.”

**WESTERN VOICES ... Page 7**



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom met with Associate Deputy Interior Secretary Karen Budd-Falen and other western Farm Bureau leaders to discuss key land management issues. WyFB appreciates Budd-Falen’s continued advocacy for Wyoming agriculture. *KELLY CARPENTER PHOTO*

## Logo rebrand, same commitment

**T**he Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) is returning to one logo to increase our branding consistency and uniformity. Last year we moved forward with utilizing two logos (the Indian Paintbrush and the “FB” bug) since the “FB” bug cannot be incorporated with another logo configuration making our previous Indian Paintbrush with the “FB” bug logo out of compliance with the FB Marks Use Manual. While our look is updated with the return to the “FB” logo, our dedication to Wyoming’s farmers and ranchers hasn’t changed. Thanks for being part of the Farm Bureau family as we continue to grow, advocate and serve. ■



Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation



## Wildfire mitigation plans: What Wyoming landowners need to know

BY CALLIE HANSON

**I**n an effort to reduce wildfire risk and manage liability, Wyoming lawmakers passed House Bill 0192 during the 2025 legislative session. The bill, signed into law as HEA 0058, took effect July 1 and requires all electric utilities in the state to file wildfire mitigation plans with the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

Under the new law, utilities must identify high-risk fire zones within their service areas and detail procedures for inspecting infrastructure, managing vegetation, shutting off power to prevent ignition and restoring service after an event.

The Public Service Commission is responsible for reviewing and approving the plans. According to the law, a plan must be found “reasonable, in the public interest, and appropriately balance implementation costs with wildfire risk.” Once approved, utilities must submit annual compliance reports and provide a full update to their plans every five years.

The law also includes a legal protection for utilities: if a company follows an

approved mitigation plan, it is presumed to have acted prudently in the event of a wildfire-related lawsuit. However, landowners may still bring legal action in cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or criminal behavior, or if the utility fails to follow its plan.

Additional provisions limit the types of damages that can be awarded and set a four-year window to file claims.

The Public Service Commission is authorized to develop regulations for implementing the law. Rulemaking authority took effect immediately, while utility compliance requirements began July 1.

As part of its longstanding commitment to protecting private property rights, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) is working to ensure members have access to timely, accurate information about how these plans are developed and how they can get involved. From public comment periods to legal protections, understanding these changes is key to safeguarding landowners’ interests.

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[www.wyfb.org](http://www.wyfb.org)  


## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 5-7 Select Water-Rock Springs
- 5-7 Joint Select Water Committee-TBD
- 8 Carbon County Resolutions Meeting-Rawlins
- 12 Joint Federal Natural Resources Management Committee-Buffalo
- 12-16 Wyoming State Fair-Douglas
- 14-15 Wyoming State Fair-Douglas
- 14-15 Joint Corporations-Casper
- 18-19 Joint Transportation-Casper
- 19 Joint Travel-Casper
- 21-22 Joint Revenue-Casper
- 26-27 Joint Agriculture Committee-Casper

### September

- 1 Uinta County Pie and Ice Cream Social-Evanston
- 13 Wyoming Needs Agriculture at UW Football Pregame-Laramie
- 13 Fremont County Annual Meeting-TBD
- 18 Crook County Annual Meeting-Devils Tower
- 20 Crook County Goat Roping-TBD
- 25 Sweetwater County Annual Meeting-Farson

### November

- 3-4 Joint Corporations-Cheyenne
- 4-6 Select Water-Casper
- 6 Joint Travel-Casper
- 13-15 WyFB 106th Annual Meeting-Gillette
- 18-19 Joint Revenue-Cheyenne

### October

- 10 Select Federal Natural Resources-Laramie
- 28-29 Joint Agriculture-Cheyenne
- 30 Joint Appropriations-Cheyenne

### December

- 1-5 Joint Appropriations-Cheyenne
- 8-12 Joint Appropriations-Cheyenne

### January

- 9-14 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention-Anaheim, CA

### February

- 9-14 Wyoming/Colorado Farm Bureau YF&R Conference-Cheyenne

**Visit [wyfb.org](http://wyfb.org) for event updates**

## A Step Toward Certainty

**Zippy Duvall**

*American Farm Bureau Federation President*



**F**arming is an uncertain business. Every year, farmers plant crops or raise animals not knowing how the weather will impact them or what the markets will be when it's time to harvest or sell their livestock. Farmers and ranchers received some certainty, however, with the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The bill, advanced through a process known as reconciliation, which allows for expedited consideration of budget-related policy, delivers updates to farm programs and makes permanent important tax provisions that will help farmers hold on in tough times and plan with greater confidence for the future.

For far too long, farmers have faced outdated safety net programs that no longer reflect the realities of our farm economy, and we continue to see the consolidation and loss of farmland. We lost 15,000 farms in 2024 alone, and we need modernized programs to ensure that more farmers are not faced with making the decision to close their doors.

### Certainty in Farm Programs

The farm programs outlined in the 2018 farm bill addressed the needs of farmers when it was passed, and we were thankful for the short-term relief Congress provided through the past two extensions of the

farm bill. But, since Congress last passed a farm bill, we have had a global pandemic, global unrest, high inflation and trade disputes. With rising expenses and falling farm income, our farm programs are outdated and have left many farmers unable to utilize the tools and safety nets crafted to protect them. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act secures a big win for farm programs with updated reference prices – ones that will adjust for inflation – as well as investments in conservation, research and trade. There are limits to what can be done in reconciliation, and we still need to finish the job with a farm bill reauthorization to provide the long-term certainty our farmers need, but the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is an important step forward.

The package that is now law provides certainty with tax reform, making improvements and making permanent tax provisions that were set to expire this year. Taxes can make or break a farmer's check book, and they rely on tax provisions designed to reduce small business tax burdens and promote investment to keep their farm running. If we didn't see tax reform passed this year, our farm families would have been hit with billions of dollars in taxes and many of them may not have been able to survive the cost. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act includes a per-

manent increase to the 199A deduction, a nearly tripled estate tax exemption, permanent lowered individual tax rates and a permanent bonus depreciation (expensing) extension. Farmers are always planning ahead – both for next season and the next generation – and having these critical tax provisions will help bring confidence when making future decisions.

### Certainty in Agriculture

This bill included a few other wins for our farmers and small business owners including the limiting of the 45Z tax credit to only biofuels produced by domestic feedstocks. Renewable fuels have been a major success story for our rural communities, and this legislative package will continue to strengthen that success.

The wins in farm programs and tax policy within the One Big Beautiful Bill Act all closely align with Farm Bureau's grassroots policy, and I want to say thank you to all our grassroots leaders who remained engaged and helped ensure the inclusion of our priorities. We still have much to accomplish ahead when it comes to the certainty our farmers need, but the reconciliation package is another example of how strong we are as the United Voice of Agriculture and shows that together we can get it done. ■



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## Bring the Solution

**Kerin Clark**

*Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President*



**N**ormal is a relative term. Normal compared to what? Normal compared to new traditions or normal compared to old traditions?

At our summer meeting of the Western Region State Farm Bureaus I was struck by a phrase one of the speakers kept using... "new normal." While that's certainly not a new phrase, it was the way he used it that grabbed my attention. As a former legislator and lifelong rancher, he shared time with us talking about policy development and agriculture succession planning. He recognized that as a generational agriculture family they had to adapt to the "new normal" all the time. From the way they irrigate to the way they grow their crops to the way they pass on the agriculture legacy, the new normal is always pivoting.

His message was inspiring and a reminder the new normal doesn't have to be intimidating, it can be exciting. The fear of the unknown can cause us to freeze in our tracks. Not acting on the unknown can also cause us to get stuck in our tracks and possibly slide back down the hill.

Food security is national security. With all the issues filling up our tracks, we must

constantly strive for the new normal to keep moving forward in our calling to grow food and care for the land. For example the scare tactics spreading across social media. Scare tactics are not new, however, the use of social media is a new normal we face. The old normal came in the form of books written with stories full of scare tactics. The books would be widely distributed in hopes the reader would join the author's crusade.

The same goes for the issues impacting food production. Over 100 years ago, our ancestors faced concerns similar to today. Those include, but certainly are not limited to, predators, water, property rights and countless other issues impacting the ability of farmers and ranchers to grow food thus impacting national security. The similarities in issues also contain differences in the new normal about how to address these issues for the time in which we live.

Like our ancestors before us, I'm confident this generation of agriculturalists will saddle up for solutions to keep agriculture strong. In fact, "Saddles to Solutions" is the theme of the 106th annual meeting of

the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. As we move into policy development season, Farm Bureau members will begin at the county level to discuss issues that are impacting their ability to produce food and care for the land. From the saddle to the meeting room, we encourage you to identify the problem and bring the solution in the form of a resolution. This is how change begins. A voting member brings an idea forward for discussion. The idea, in the form of a resolution, moves through the grassroots policy development process one step at a time. If approved by the voting delegates, the policy is placed in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy book. By this point, it has been vetted four different times by members.

If you've never saddled up for your county Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting, I invite you to take that step this year. Reach out to your county president or watch the calendar on this page for meeting details. For those of you who saddle up every year for solutions at your county annual meeting, thank you.

Remember, we are made for a time such as this. What are you going to do with the time you've been given? What solutions are you bringing to the table? ■



# Lawmakers discuss hunting licenses and vet tech licensure in interim committee meetings

BY CALLIE HANSON

As lawmakers prepare for the 2026 budget session, members of the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources (TRW) Committee and Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee considered a range of topics important to Wyoming's rural residents—many of which remain unresolved.

Among the subjects discussed at the Joint TRW interim committee meeting was the introduction of a new class of hunting and fishing licenses: nonresident native licenses. The proposed concept would allow individuals who previously lived in Wyoming—but have since established residency elsewhere—to purchase licenses under a new category.

"This idea is still just a concept, but it's generating a lot of discussion," said Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Policy Advocacy Director Brett Moline. "Lawmakers asked some good questions such as how many licenses would be available, what the pricing would be, and whether this would reduce Game and Fish Department revenue."

Because the idea remains preliminary and WyFB policy does not currently address nonresident native licenses, we are monitoring the discussion.

Meanwhile, a much more divisive A lengthy conversation centered around

landowner hunting licenses in both committees with no action taken. Currently, Wyoming landowners who receive big game tags from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department may use them themselves or transfer them to immediate family members. Selling the licenses, however, is prohibited.

"WyFB has long supported the right of landowners to sell those licenses," Moline said. "It's a way to recognize the habitat landowners provide."

Supporters of landowner tag license sales, including WyFB, maintain the change would not only reward landowners for wildlife stewardship, but also improve private land hunting access by reducing trespassing issues. Opponents, including some hunting and conservation groups, stated that expanding landowner tag sales could diminish the value of limited commissioner licenses and alter the draw system.

The topic of corner crossing also returned to the spotlight. In light of a federal court ruling out of Carbon County that found corner crossing—moving from one parcel of public land to another without touching private land—not to be illegal, legislators weighed potential changes to Wyoming law.

"This issue is complicated and still in flux," Moline explained. "Because the case is likely being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the TRW Committee chose not to act until the legal process plays out."

Corner crossing has been a hot-button issue across the West, where checkerboard land ownership patterns create conflicts between access advocates and private landowners. While the district court ruling favors public access, legal uncertainty remains.

Over in the Joint Agriculture Committee, lawmakers reviewed several proposals impacting landowners and farmers and ranchers.

One bill, aimed at establishing veterinary technician licensure, received support from WyFB, but ultimately failed to advance.

"The draft outlined what vet techs could and couldn't do, and we supported the clarity it offered," Moline said. The committee also addressed a growing concern in rural Wyoming—what happens to irrigation water rights when agricultural land is developed for housing. Known as "orphaned water rights," these situations arise when developers or new homeowners fail to notify irrigation districts of changes in land use, disrupting water delivery systems and impacting neighboring irrigators.

"If conveyance ditches are cut off by development, those downstream lose access to water they're legally entitled to," said Moline.

While no legislative action was taken, Moline said WyFB will continue to follow the issue.

In an educational session, Agriculture Committee members also received a comprehensive overview of eminent domain—an issue frequently raised by rural landowners during discussions of pipeline projects, transmission corridors and other infrastructure.

"There was no formal action, but we appreciated the committee taking time to learn more about the scope of eminent domain and what was addressed in the 2025 session," Moline said.

Finally, the Agriculture Committee revisited the landowner license topic, echoing the debate held in the TRW Committee.

"The same positions were expressed—landowners in support, and many outdoor groups in opposition," Moline said. "Again, no votes were taken, but the fact that this came up in two separate committees shows the momentum behind the idea."

WyFB's involvement in the interim committee process reflects its broader mission of advocating for Wyoming's farmers and ranchers year-round. Interim discussions are critical for shaping future legislation and building relationships to ensure the voice of agriculture is heard.

As the 2026 legislative session approaches, WyFB expects continued discussion on landowner rights, wildlife management and private property protection—all core issues for the state's ag community. ■

## WILDFIRE MITIGATION... From Page 1

According to John Burbridge, Secretary and Chief Counsel of the Wyoming Public Service Commission, which is charged with reviewing and approving wildfire mitigation plans, there are clear pathways for public involvement—but tight timelines make staying informed all the more important.

"Our role on this is to review proposed plans from the electric utilities that are hit by the legislation," Burbridge explained. "If the plans are sufficient after our review, we approve them. Then we periodically review those plans again, based on statutory timelines."

These plans are designed to reduce utility liability in the event a wildfire is caused by their equipment, but Burbridge emphasized the PSC does not play a role in legal determinations if a utility is sued. Instead, the goal is to create a clear framework to help mitigate risk and potentially influence insurance rates.

"One of the intended goals is that insurance companies will keep rates steady or possibly lower," he said. "I don't anticipate the rates will go down, but it may prevent them from going up as much."

Once a utility files its wildfire mitigation plan with the PSC, there is a window for public engagement—including formal comment submission, intervention requests, and the option to call for a hearing.

"When we get the plans, we issue public notices," Burbridge said. "That notice provides information on where the plan can be viewed—ideally on a dedicated wildfire mitigation page on our website—and outlines the process for comment."

Notices will also be published in local newspapers within the utility's certificated area. However, due to varying publication schedules, timing can fluctuate.

"We try to give about three weeks from the time the notice is issued for people to comment, request to intervene, or request a hearing," he added. "But we take public comments throughout

the proceeding—and if it goes to a hearing, we take comments there, too."

By statute, the PSC has just 120 days to process each plan once it's submitted. While extensions can be granted "for cause," the timeline places additional pressure on both the reviewing body and members of the public hoping to engage.

To help members stay ahead of deadlines, the PSC uses an email-based system called GOV Delivery. Any member of the public can subscribe to receive alerts when wildfire mitigation plans are filed.

"The downside is they'll get everything else we issue as well," Burbridge noted, "but it ensures they'll get notified directly when a wildfire mitigation notice is issued. We really try to do our best to get public participation on everything we do," he said.

Liability was another key concern, particularly whether utilities could still be sued if found responsible for starting a wildfire. While the plans are intended to help limit utility liability, they do not eliminate a landowner's ability to pursue legal action.

"It does not prevent people from engaging in a lawsuit," Burbridge said. "The statute does limit the kind of damages a person could receive, but beyond that, landowners would need to discuss specifics with their lawyers."

As of July 3, only one plan has been submitted, by High West Energy out of Pine Bluffs. A notice about that plan is expected to be published shortly.

For Farm Bureau members—many of whom have experienced devastating wildfire losses in recent years—the importance of staying informed cannot be overstated. While lightning strikes and natural disasters may be outside anyone's control, the wildfire mitigation plans represent a new layer of regulatory planning that could directly affect how electric utilities manage vegetation, maintain infrastructure, and interact with private lands.

Burbridge encouraged any interested member to follow up with the PSC, monitor notices and engage with upcoming plans. ■

## National news updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER,  
POLICY ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

### Federal Rules Rescinded or Suspended - Farmworker Protection and Roadless Rule

In late June, the US Department of Labor (DOL) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) rescinded two agency regulations that will have a positive impact on Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) member families.

The first rule, the Farmworker Protection Rule, was promulgated under the Biden Administration as a burdensome regulation for farms and ranches employing H2-A workers. This rule was lengthy, but in short, it expanded the list of necessities employers were required to provide—adding both cost and time spent on paperwork instead of farm work. The DOL rescinding this rule allows farmers and ranchers to maintain common-sense HR policies without sacrificing resources on superfluous items. Prior to the suspension of the rule, WyFB joined several western state Farm Bureaus in a letter to DOL requesting a withdrawal from this burdensome rule and asking the DOL to look for new ways to improve the guestworker program.

Another significant rule roll-

back was the rescission of the Clinton-era Roadless Rule by the USDA. The Roadless Rule restricted construction of new roads in millions of acres of USDA land. Additionally, the rule restricted road maintenance in many areas. This rule left millions of forested acres without access for adequate timber harvest or other fuels management. Not only will this bolster the American timber industry, but it will help with wildfire mitigation and management.

### Select Committee on Federal Natural Resource Management

On June 19, WyFB attended the Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee meeting in Pinedale. Topics included barriers to timber harvest and milling, the now-rescinded Roadless Rule, and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) by the Wyoming State Forester. Specifically relating to the Good Neighbor Authority, the State Forester expressed concerns with lack of funding for permanent FTEs in these GNA positions. The GNA positions are critical, because they serve as a conduit between federal government and state governments for forest management activities on federal lands. The Select committee voted to pursue a path forward on finding a funding mechanism for more FTEs under the GNA. ■



# Faith, Family, and a Few Goats

BY CARSON ELLIS

I grew up in the state of Wyoming, cattle ranching with my family as many of our Wyoming neighbors have. I met my wife Abby at college and visited her family in Nevada. Abby grew up on a large farm where four, sometimes five, crops of alfalfa are harvested a year; quite the difference from our one annual crop here in western Wyoming. Abby and I were married and two years later moved back to my hometown of Lyman. We both knew, from the time we were married, we wanted to raise our children on the land, working with plants and cattle the way we had each been raised.

Uniting our lives has been fun, as Abby and I take what we each love and combine it into our own family culture. Our two girls, Sarah Mae and Lark, have had their fair share of being bumped around in the tractor, bounced on a horse, and having a few naps in the feed truck. Lately, they've enjoyed feeding the "babies," with their aunts whenever they get the chance.

Yep, I mean goats. Six years ago my parents made the decision to buy 150 head of goats to diversify our income stream and better utilize pasture on the ranch. We quickly discovered the differences between goat and bovine. The first winter was less than ideal as the goats started kidding at least a month earlier than we had been told they would. This, along with the freezing temperatures and Wyoming wind, caused us to throw together additional shelter for the does and their kids, many of which died.

Although we had that large setback, my parents continued with the goat operation and have, through the past few years, learned much more about goats and better animal husbandry for them. Though goats will never be lost for surprises. Our daughter Sarah has formed a love of goats and taking care of them. It has been fun for us to see her grow in ways we did as children.

Besides my parents' goats, we have started our own personal herd of cows we run with my parents' herd. To watch Sarah slap her legs and say "hup cows!" makes our hearts beam with laughter and pride. Lark still squeals with excitement and rattles off baby gibberish when she sees them. Just as Sarah tells us she is going to ride her horse "all-by myself" we are grateful we can take on the responsibility and carry the dream of building something of our own for our little family.

Though it is fun, satisfactory, and sometimes nearly perfect, we know, from experience, farming/ranching isn't always easy or enjoyable. In fact, it's sometimes down-right hard to move cows, make meals, do chores, and fix the broken equipment while also trying to feed hungry kids, change dirty clothes, bathe babies, teach children good standards, and have a patient attitude while your kid stands there screaming for their sippy you accidentally left at the house that is now miles away.

And yet, we do it because to Abby and I, it's the best way we know to raise our children. Growing up, we each learned through experience agriculture promotes patience, perseverance, a good work-ethic, and dependance on God. These are the qualities we want our children to embody. That's why we continue in agriculture. That's why we support agriculture and family-oriented programs like the Farm Bureau Federation; because these programs help us reach the dreams we have for our family and protect Agriculture for future generations. ■



Lark's first big ride with Dad at a month old and Sarah riding with Abby, pushing cows back from the summer range



Sarah, riding her horse "all by herself"



Sarah and Lark feeding a bum kid



Lark (and Carson) holding down a calf



# Wolves and the west: The cost of coexistence

By DANIEL MUNCH, AFBF ECONOMIST

While the expansion of gray and Mexican gray wolf populations is often hailed as a conservation success, the consequences for ranching families can be gruesome, costly and complex - threatening the safety of ranch families and their pets and livestock, as well as the long-term survival of multigenerational ranches and the rural economies they anchor.

Focusing on the Mexican gray wolf, a recent University of Arizona study analyzes both direct livestock depredation and indirect effects such as stress-induced weight loss and elevated management costs based on 2024 cattle prices. Findings are based on survey responses from impacted ranchers, modeling of herd-level financial outcome and county-level livestock performance trends. In areas with wolf presence, even a moderate level of impact, such as 2% calf loss, 3.5% weight reduction and average management costs, can reduce annual ranch revenue by 28%.

While the study focuses on Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest, the core challenges it identifies, such as livestock depredation, herd stress and weight loss, increased management costs and difficulties accessing timely compensation, are not unique to that region. Ranchers across the Northern Rockies, Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes states report similar experiences as wolf populations have expanded. Because these economic stressors stem from common predator-prey dynam-

ics and livestock production systems, the study's findings provide a credible framework for estimating broader impacts. This Market Intel draws on that foundation to illustrate the tangible financial risks associated with predator recovery and highlight the need for responsive, producer-informed wildlife policy in all regions affected by wolf activity.

### Background

When the gray wolf was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1978, the species was nearly extinct in all lower 48 U.S. states except Minnesota (where they were classified as threatened). The species' steep decline was largely driven by federally supported predator control efforts and bounty programs aimed at eliminating wolves to reduce conflicts with livestock, pets and rural communities. Many ranching communities were established at the same time as government-backed removal, when wolf presence was minimal or nonexistent, shaping generations of land use and livestock management in their absence.

In 1982, Congress amended the Endangered Species Act to authorize the establishment of experimental populations of endangered or threatened species to aid in species recovery. After years of controversy, 66 gray wolves were ultimately released into central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996. A few years later, in 1998, the Mexican gray wolf, the smallest subspecies of gray wolf,

was reintroduced into the wild through a program centered in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, spanning rugged public lands across eastern Arizona and western New Mexico.

Most recently, after a state-wide ballot initiative supported the reintroduction of wolves in Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnered with Oregon wildlife officials to translocate 10 gray wolves from multiple Oregon packs and released them onto state-owned public lands in Grand and Summit counties. Today, gray wolf populations have grown beyond their original reintroduction levels and regions, reflecting the success of recovery efforts and intensifying their presence on Western rangelands.

### Direct Depredation

The most immediate and visible impact of wolf presence on rangelands is direct livestock loss from confirmed depredation. These incidents most commonly involve calves, but cows and more rarely, bulls, horses and dogs can also be affected. For ranchers, the loss of a calf represents a full loss in revenue, regardless of the animal's age or weight at the time of death. Whether the calf was 1 day old or nearly ready for market, the rancher loses its full market value, estimated at \$1,336 per head in 2024 (for a 525 lb. calf). Actual impacts may vary year to year depending on market prices.

The University of Arizona study modeled the one-year impact of calf losses due

to depredation. A 2% loss of calves could reduce a 367-head ranch's net income by 4%, or about \$5,195, for that year. At higher loss levels, such as 14% of calves, net income could fall by as much as 34%, or roughly \$42,599, in that same year.

When a cow is killed, the financial hit extends over multiple years: the operation not only loses that year's calf, but also future offspring, along with the revenue and herd stability that cow would have provided. Ranchers then have to more frequently retain replacement heifers or buy additional replacements. This means fewer animals are available for sale, working capital must be used to buy additional replacements and herd development is ultimately delayed. Excluding these long-term impacts, the revenue loss associated with the loss of a single cow was estimated at \$2,673.

Depredation rates vary significantly between ranches, influenced by factors such as landscape features, alternative prey availability (e.g., deer and elk), proximity to roads or human development and whether wolves have recently visited the area. Previous analysis has estimated an average wolf-related calf depredation rate of 1.9%, though actual rates can vary widely. Importantly, only a subset of ranches within counties known or believed to have wolf presence experience depredation. In the University of Arizona survey, 38% of respondents reported confirmed wolf depredation on their ranches.

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# GRAND STAND ENTERTAINMENT





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6:30 PM  
TICKETS: \$15 ADULT - \$8 YOUTH



**MON JUL 28**  
**WIND RIVER RODEO ROUNDUP**  
**PRCA MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT**  
7:30 PM  
TICKETS: \$20 ADULT - \$12 YOUTH



**TUES JUL 29**  
**WIND RIVER RODEO ROUNDUP**  
**PRCA TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK NIGHT**  
7:30 PM  
TICKETS: \$20 ADULT - \$12 YOUTH



**WED JUL 30**  
**KNIGHTS OF VALOUR**  
7:30 PM  
TICKETS: \$12 ADULT - \$8 YOUTH



**RETURNING FAVORITE!**



**THURS JUL 31**  
**RED NECK RELAY**  
7:30 PM  
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**WOLVES AND THE WEST...** From Page 5

For this broader analysis estimating total state-by-state losses attributed to wolves, we apply these assumptions to the number of beef calves estimated to be present in counties with wolf presence (as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Calf numbers were derived using 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture data, with calves estimated to make up approximately 15% of total cattle inventory in states with wolf populations. To avoid overstating exposure, each county's cattle inventory was adjusted to exclude dairy cows, which are generally less likely to graze on open rangeland.

The calculated value of calves lost under this scenario assuming each calf is valued at \$1,336. This generates a loss of 13,514 calves out of an inventory of 1.87 million calves valued at \$18 million in wolf-occupied counties. The states with the highest number of calf depredations under this scenario are Montana (\$3 million; ~2,307 calves) and Idaho (\$2.7 million; ~2,044 calves).

Keep in mind this method assumes static wolf presence at the county level. Wolves regularly traverse dozens of miles per day, crossing county and state borders, so county-level presence can vary widely year-to-year.

**Indirect Losses: Physiological Stress**

In addition to the loss of individual animals, the presence of wolves introduces chronic stress that can disrupt cattle health and productivity. Even without a direct attack, cattle sense predator cues, like scent, tracks or howling, which trig-

gers a survival response. As a result, cattle spend less time grazing and more time bunched together, alert and on the move. This reduces forage intake, slows weight gain and lowers overall body condition.

Stress can also suppress estrus cycles and reduce conception rates, especially in herds that have previously experienced depredation. Calves may wean at lower weights, lowering sale value. Importantly, these impacts often occur even on ranches that haven't experienced direct losses, highlighting how just the presence of wolves can erode ranch profitability over time. The University of Arizona found 58% of those surveyed had stress- or depredation-related wolf impacts on their operation (compared to just 38% reporting depredation).

The Arizona model found that a 3.5% reduction in average calf weaning weight (18.4 pounds) — a figure supported by published field research — can significantly reduce revenues across an entire herd. At the \$2.54 per pound value reference in their study (\$1,336/ 525 lb. average), a ranch operation that markets 80 head would lose out on \$3,738 in marketable weight value. Weight loss can be much higher in regions with elevated wolf activity. If that same ranch experienced a 10% reduction in weaning weight, the loss would exceed \$10,600 before even factoring in additional impacts like reduced conception rates. In total, over \$50 million in potential calf weight value was lost due to wolf presence, including \$8.6 million in Montana and \$7.6 million in Idaho alone.

**Increased Mitigation Costs**

Beyond lost livestock and reduced productivity, wolf presence forces ranch-

ers to change the way they manage their operations — often at a steep cost. In wolf-occupied areas, ranchers routinely implement additional strategies to deter predation, respond to attacks and monitor herds across expansive rangelands. These management efforts are both labor- and resource-intensive.

Preventative measures may include altering grazing rotations to avoid wolf-active areas, confining livestock during vulnerable periods, hauling feed and water to secure locations, and hiring range riders to maintain human presence near herds. Many producers also invest in tools such as trail cameras, turbo fladry (lines of fluttering flagging attached to electrified fencing used to deter wolves) and sometime access telemetry devices (like GPS collars) to track wolves and avoid conflict. These measures incur direct expenses in fuel, equipment, labor and supplemental feed, as well as indirect costs like deferred maintenance and lost time.

According to the University of Arizona study, ranchers reported an average cost of \$79 per cow for conflict avoidance measures and associated labor. Even before accounting for any depredation or stress-related weight loss, these management expenses alone reduced net returns for the average ranch by 19%. Through interviews and surveys, producers indicated they spent anywhere from several thousand dollars to over \$150,000 per year on these efforts. For our analysis, we convert the \$79 per cow figure to \$55.30 per calf based on their 70% calf crop assumption. We then apply this per-calf cost to estimate statewide wolf management expenses, using the study's finding that 58% of ranchers in wolf-occupied counties experience wolf-induced stressors. Based on these assumptions, ranchers nationwide spend over \$60 million each year on efforts to mitigate the impacts of gray wolves.

Importantly, these costs are often incurred even when wolves are not actively present in a given season. The mere threat of predation, and the uncertainty it creates, forces ranchers to implement precautionary strategies year-round, consuming labor and resources regardless of actual wolf activity.

These growing management burdens add another layer of economic strain to ranching in wolf-occupied regions, costs that, while harder to quantify than a dead calf, accumulate quickly and erode the long-term sustainability of the operation.

**Putting it All Together**

All combined, on a ranch experiencing a modest 2% calf depredation and 3.5% weight loss that also spends the average reported amount on conflict avoidance, annual ranch revenues are reduced by 28% (\$34,642).

The University of Arizona study also didn't just look at one year, it projected what repeated losses from wolves would do to a ranch's profitability over 30 years. Even a moderate level of impact: losing 2% of calves and 3.5% lower weights would reduce the ranch's net present value by over \$191,000. In plain terms, that's a 45% drop in the ranch's long-term earning po-

tential. The study estimates that, without wolf impacts, the ranch would generate about \$420,000 in long-term profits (in today's dollars). With average wolf-related losses, that shrinks to \$228,000.

While a single year's loss might seem manageable, the effects compound over time; smaller calf crops mean fewer replacements and fewer animals to sell, while lower weights reduce revenue year after year. These cumulative impacts ripple through herd management and finances, steadily eroding profitability and increasing the odds that the operation may not be financially sustainable in the long run.

**Compensation Gaps and Conclusions**

While many states and federal agencies offer compensation for confirmed livestock losses due to wolves, ranchers report persistent challenges in accessing these programs. Verifying a depredation requires finding the carcass quickly, often in remote or rugged terrain, and meeting strict evidence thresholds that can be hard to satisfy, especially when scavengers disturb remains. In the University of Arizona study, 55% of surveyed ranchers said they had experienced at least one wolf depredation that went uncompensated.

Additionally, when depredation does occur, the process of locating carcasses, coordinating investigations and filing paperwork for compensation (if available) can require six to 10 hours per incident — resources often uncompensated and undervalued. For some ranchers, the effort and uncertainty involved in confirming a depredation make compensation programs not worth pursuing at all.

Even when compensation is granted, it typically only covers the market value of the animal lost. USDA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), one of the primary federal tools available to livestock producers, only reimburses 75% of the fair market value of qualifying animals lost to federally protected predators like wolves. It does not account for the additional costs ranchers bear: lost future production, veterinary expenses for injured animals, stress-related weight loss or the thousands of dollars spent annually on prevention and mitigation. As a result, ranchers are often left absorbing the bulk of the financial impact of policies shaped far beyond their fenceposts.

That's the heart of the issue. For many ranching families, the return of wolves is not just a wildlife management question, it's a daily reality shaped by decisions made in distant urban centers, often by voters and officials who will never have to look into the eyes of a mother cow searching for her calf. Ranchers are the ones bearing the real-world costs of policies shaped far from the range. And they're doing so while continuing to care for livestock, steward the land and feed a growing world.

If predator recovery efforts are to be economically sustainable, they must be accompanied by policies that recognize the people on the front lines: those whose livelihoods now depend not only on their animals, but on a system that values and supports the cost of coexistence. ■

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U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins met with state Farm Bureau presidents during their D.C. visit, emphasizing the importance of farmer-led solutions and open dialogue with rural America. AFBF PHOTO

WESTERN VOICES... From Page 1

Fornstrom said the face-to-face meetings with agency staff and congressional offices are where western states can push back on one-size-fits-all approaches. “Too often, policy is developed with different regions or circumstances in mind, and it doesn’t translate well to our way of life,” he said. “That’s why it’s so important to be in D.C.—having those face-to-face conversations makes a difference.” Wyoming’s delegation met with members of the state’s congressional offices to reinforce that point and continue building relationships that reflect the state’s agricultural priorities. While U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict, her staff met with Farm Bureau leaders to talk through key issues.

“We tag-teamed the visits, and it worked really well,” Carpenter said. “It’s critical they hear from both staff and elected leaders—especially when it comes to complex western challenges.” Throughout the week, western-specific concerns surfaced in conversations about land use, voluntary conservation programs, permitting timelines, and the ongoing pressure facing working lands. Carpenter said her biggest takeaway was how crucial it is for farmers and ranchers to stay involved and share their stories early and often. “These programs can take years to unfold, but farmers and ranchers are already doing the work,” she said. “We need policies that recognize that sooner and support what’s already happening on the ground.”

WESTERN VOICES... Page 15



State Farm Bureau presidents from across the West gathered in Washington, D.C., to bring a united voice to national policy discussions. AFBF President Zippy Duvall joined the group as they met with agency officials and members of Congress to share the western perspective on agriculture. AFBF PHOTO



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NEW MEMBERS ... Page 9




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UINTA

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WESTON

Diane & Thomas Kovar, Newcastle; Bryan Mcvay, Newcastle; Judith & Juidth Schappaugh, Upton; Todd Roseborough, Newcastle; Suzan & John Gibson, Newcastle; Daniel Hart, Upton; Kathy Townsend, Newcastle; Daniel Keierleber, Newcastle; Scott Gross, Newcastle; Rita Vilhauer, Newcastle; Delane Haynes/Delane Haynes Trucking LLC, Osage ■

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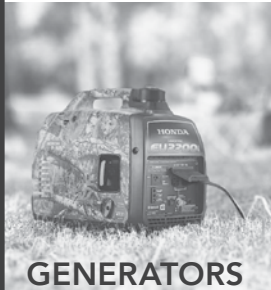
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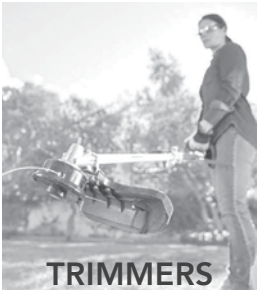





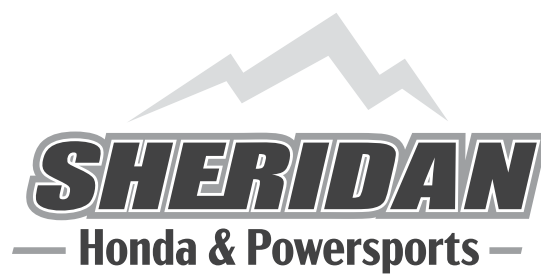
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# Farm Bureau applauds final passage of One Big Beautiful Bill

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on final passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. “Farm Bureau applauds the House and Senate for passing legislation that will bring certainty to America’s farmers and ranchers. Modernizing important farm safety net programs and making permanent critical tax provisions could be the difference between staying in

business or shutting down the family farm. “More than half of farmers are losing money, so an increase in reference prices is desperately needed, and tax tools will help farmers and ranchers plan for the next season and the next generation. “Lawmakers took a big step toward ensuring America’s farmers and ranchers can continue to keep pantries filled for America’s families.” ■



*Cooking With the Modern Ranch Wife*

**Teriyaki Beef Kabobs**

Recipe by Connie Werner

**Ingredients:**


- 2 -sirloin steaks cut into 2 inch cubes (approximately 2-3 pds)
- 1 (10oz) bottle of LaChoy Teriyaki Sauce and Marinade
- 2 tbsp soy sauce

- 2 tsp minced garlic
- salt and pepper to taste
- skewers
- green peppers, red peppers, onion, mushrooms, cherry tomatoes
- pineapple chunks

**Instructions:**

1. Combine the glaze, marinade, soy sauce, minced garlic, salt and pepper.
2. Pour over the cubed steak and toss to combine.
3. Cover and refridgerate for 5-6 hours or overnight. Rotate occasoinally to ensure all meat is getting marinated.
4. Place bamboo skewers in water for at least 15 minutes before using.
5. Cut vegetables into large chunks.
6. Begin layering skewers with meat, veggies, and pineapple
7. Cook on a smoker or grill until meat is cooked to your liking and vegetables are tender.
8. Enjoy!

For More Recipes visit: [www.modernranchwife.com](http://www.modernranchwife.com)



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# Summer meetings mark the start of grassroots policy

BY CALLIE HANSON

Farm Bureau members in Carbon and Albany counties gathered in late June for their annual county meetings, with events showcasing strong local leadership, support for youth programs and discussions on ag policy. In Laramie, the Albany County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation hosted their annual meeting June 27 at the Eppson Center for Seniors. Around 45 members attended the event, which featured scholarship presentations, officer elections and a presentation highlighting the recent successes of local FFA chapters. Jesse Garson received the county's Top Hand Award for outstanding service, and three local students were honored with scholarships. Members of the Snowy Range FFA Chapter shared plans for their upcoming trip to the National FFA Convention, drawing applause for their enthusiasm and preparation.

SUMMER MEETINGS ... Page 13



The future of the Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation is bright, with strong engagement from members of all ages.



Carbon County President Kyle Berger prepares for the meeting with help from his youngest son.

Meteorologist Don Day spoke to Carbon County Farm Bureau members about weather patterns and shifting climate policy in Wyoming.



The newly elected Carbon County Ranch and Farm Bureau board includes Quade Palm, Amanda Knotwell, Hillary Proctor, Kyle and Stacy Berger, and Samantha and Chris Starks.

## 2025 WyFB Annual Meeting Vendor Fair

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SUMMER MEETINGS... From Page 12

During the business portion of the meeting, members approved all proposed resolutions and elected new officers to begin serving in November 2025. John Weinstein was elected president, Todd Christensen vice president, and new board members include Heather Alexander, Jack Corson, Candy Hayes and Thaddeus Christensen.

Dr. Derek Scasta, University of Wyoming Extension range specialist, delivered a presentation titled "Is Bigger Better When It Comes to Cow Size?" Scasta emphasized the role of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) in herd management and argued that more moderate cow sizes are often better suited to Wyoming's rangelands.

In Saratoga, the Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation held their annual meeting June 24 at the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort, with a similar turnout of around 45 members. All current officers were re-elected: Kyle Berger as president, Quade Palm as vice president, and Stacy Berger as secretary/treasurer.

Attendees heard a keynote from meteorologist Don Day, who returned with his ever-popular presentation, "It's Weather, Not Climate." Day touched on federal climate policy shifts, including the recent executive order restoring "Gold Standard Science" and moving away from outdated climate modeling. After the meeting, members were able to mingle and compete in a corn hole tournament.

In addition, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee met May 27-28 in Lander. The two-day meeting focused on pro-



Jesse Garson received the Top Hand Award from the Albany County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation. The award was presented by retiring board member Sharleen Castle.



University of Wyoming Extension Rangeland Management Specialist Derek Scasta gave a presentation on cow size considerations for Wyoming's rangeland environment.



Garson, nominated by several neighbors and family members, was recognized for her dedication to agriculture and community.

gram planning, outreach efforts and leadership development.

The committee approved plans for a new Pen Pal program connecting farmers and ranchers with elementary classrooms and worked on details for the 2026 leadership conference—a joint event with Colorado Farm Bureau. Members also reviewed the 2026 Ag Books for Kids selection, Kindergarten Cowman, and proposed updates to youth contest formats.

The meeting concluded with a Strengths-Finder workshop led by American Farm Bureau Federation's Maegan Meredith and a team-building hike in Sinks Canyon.

These meetings offered more than reports and updates—they marked the starting point for grassroots policy work in each county. Creating space for members to share ideas and set priorities, this process remains the foundation of Farm Bureau's strength across Wyoming. ■



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# County Farm Bureaus promote safety among all ages

BY LILLY STEWART

Through its annual County Activities of Excellence Awards, the American Farm Bureau Federation celebrates county Farm Bureaus for their unique, volunteer-driven programming. The following counties were recognized for their programs and activities in 2023 and 2024. The programs featured here focused on safety.

Crawford, Marion, Morrow and Richland County (Ohio) Farm Bureaus partnered to bring a nationally recognized manure pit safety simulator in for four training sessions for first responders and farmers to help keep ag workers and their families safe. The free training featured a

one-of-a-kind manure pit rescue simulator which gave participants the opportunity to work through different scenarios in various roles. A trained and experienced industry professional provided instruction on the procedures for safely entering a manure pit to perform rescue operations in low-oxygen situations. More than 150 people from 30 fire departments received the specialized training.

Dekalb County (Missouri) Farm Bureau participated in an elementary school's field day to teach over 250 kids from kindergarten to sixth grade about chemical and grain bin safety. The county Farm Bureau used a Farm Bureau-provided grain bin model as a visual representation of

the dangers that come with grain bins. They also had an activity where the students guess if the fluid in the bottle was a popular drink or a chemical that could be dangerous to consume.

Laurel County (Kentucky) Farm Bureau worked with the local fire department to better equip the department for grain bin rescues. On top of researching high-quality and reliable equipment, Laurel County Farm Bureau worked with the fire department to enhance rescue training and find funding to support the equipment upgrades, meeting a significant need in the community by supplying the only grain rescue equipment within a 200-mile radius.

**County Activities of Excellence**

Applications are now open for the 2025 County Activities of Excellence. Up to 24 counties will display their winning activities at the 2026 American Farm Bureau Convention in Anaheim, California, in January. County award winners receive up to four free registrations to the Annual Convention (cost of travel and housing not included) and a \$4,500 stipend to apply toward the cost of travel and exhibition. ■

*Lilly Stewart is a summer 2025 intern in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Communications and Executive departments. She is a rising senior in agricultural business at the University of Wyoming.*

# Tim Tebow to keynote 2026 American Farm Bureau Convention

Tim Tebow – two-time national champion, Heisman Trophy winner, College Football Hall of Fame inductee, first-round NFL draft pick and former professional baseball player – will address attendees as closing general session keynote speaker during the 2026 American Farm Bureau Convention on Monday, Jan. 12.

Tebow is a five-time New York Times best-selling author, speaker and college football analyst but is most passionate about his work with the Tim Tebow Foundation, with its mission to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need. The foundation is currently fighting for some of the most vulnerable people around the world in more than 90 countries.

“Farmers, ranchers and professional athletes share a commitment to teamwork, passion and optimism,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “We look forward to hearing Tim Tebow’s inspiring message as we prepare for another year of producing the food, fiber and renewable fuel that we all rely on.”

The theme of AFBF’s 107th convention, which will be held Jan. 9-14, 2026, in Anaheim, California, is “Imagine. Grow. Lead.” Duvall will give his annual address to Farm Bureau members during the opening general session on Sunday morning, Jan. 11.

A full lineup of engaging workshops will be available at convention. Workshops will be offered in four tracks – pub-

lic policy, rural development, member engagement and consumer engagement. A vibrant trade show with exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge innovations in agricultural technology, tools and services is also sure to capture the attention of attendees.

**Farm Bureau Convention Registration**

Members may register for the American Farm Bureau Convention and tours through their state Farm Bureau office beginning Oct. 1. Registration is also available through AFBF. The official event hashtag is #AFBF26 and the event website is <https://annualconvention.fb.org/>. ■



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WESTERN VOICES... From Page 7

Even issues that weren't center stage—like wildlife management or water rights—were acknowledged by agency staff as ongoing concerns that deserve more attention. Carpenter noted that while some staff are still new in their roles, simply hearing them reference western topics shows progress.

"It's the same issues we've been working on for years," she said. "But hearing federal staff acknowledge them shows our voices are starting to resonate."

One particularly encouraging moment came when Health and Human Services appointee Calley Means stayed long after a policy session to visit directly with farmers and ranchers.

"He had a crowd around him the whole time," Carpenter said. "That kind of access is rare—and it shows they're trying to listen."

For both Fornstrom and Carpenter, the trip reaffirmed the importance of participation, both in Washington and at home.

"If you're not in the room, you're not part of the conversation," Fornstrom said. "That's true whether it's the White House or your county Farm Bureau meeting."

As county annual meetings get underway across Wyoming this fall, both leaders encouraged members to stay engaged, share local issues, and be part of the policy process.

"Our grassroots members are the backbone of what we do," said Carpenter. "They're the ones living these challenges. Our job is to make sure their voices make it to the people writing the rules."

That mission—elevating western voices in national conversations—remains central to Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts. And while the road is long, Wyoming's leaders say they're committed to staying in the room and speaking up.

"Western agriculture has unique challenges, but we also have unique strengths," Fornstrom said. "When we show up and share our story, we can shape the outcome." ■



U.S. Department of the Interior Administrator Lee Zeldin addressed Farm Bureau leaders, highlighting efforts to improve permitting processes and bring more predictability to western land management. AFBF PHOTO



**September 13, 2025**  
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# Wyoming Cowboy fans—mark your calendars for Sept. 13!

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will host the 11th annual Wyoming Needs Agriculture event in Laramie, giving fans of all ages the chance to connect with farmers and ranchers and explore the vital role agriculture plays in our state.

Join the fun with activities like the fan-favorite "Ag Olympics" course and the "Field to Fork Family Feud" game. The first 400 participating fans will receive a special edition Wyoming Cowboys/Wyoming Needs Agriculture T-shirt.

The event will be held in the Indoor Practice Facility during pre-game festivities ahead of the Cowboys' matchup against University of Utah, with kickoff at 6 p.m.

Just like the Cowboys on the gridiron, the Cowboys in the pasture are built on hard work, grit and tradition. Agriculture is more than an industry in Wyoming—it's a way of life that feeds families, fuels our economy and preserves the open spaces we all cherish. That's why Wyoming Needs Agriculture. ■

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# Trump administration announces expedited congressionally mandated disaster assistance for farmers

**FROM USDA**  
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced that agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for \$16 billion in assistance through the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP).  
To expedite the implementation of SDRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering assistance in two stages. This first stage is open to producers with eligible crop losses that received assistance under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during 2023 and 2024. Stage One sign up will start in person at FSA county offices on July 10 and pre-filled applications are being mailed to producers today, July 9. SDRP Stage Two signups for eligible shallow or uncovered losses will begin in early fall.  
"American farmers are no stranger to natural disasters that cause losses that leave no region or crop unscathed. Under President Trump's leadership, USDA has worked around the clock to deliver this relief directly to our farmers," said Secre-

tary Rollins. "We are taking swift action to ensure farmers will have the resources they need to continue to produce the safest, most reliable, and most abundant food supply in the world."  
This announcement follows Secretary Rollins' comprehensive plan to deliver the total amount of Congressionally appropriated \$30 billion in disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers this year. These programs will complement the forthcoming state block grants that USDA is working with 14 different states to develop. This expeditious timeline is in direct contrast to the Biden Administration's USDA where disaster relief programs took an average of 13 months—and in one case 19 months—to reach farmers and ranchers. ■

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