

Wyoming Agriculture

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WyFB sponsors Supreme Beef and Supreme Sheep winners at Wyoming State Fair

Youth are our future in agriculture and breeding programs are the foundation of livestock farms and ranches. Each year the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is proud to sponsor the Wyoming State Fair and various youth awards. As part of our sponsorship, WyFB sponsored the belt buckles for the Supreme Ewe, Supreme Ram, Supreme Beef Female and Supreme Bull and also provided \$100 add-on premium for each winner.

Additionally, WyFB provides \$100 prizes to the Grand Champion Market Beef, Grand Champion Market Swine, Grand Champion Market Lamb and Grand Champion Market Goat.



Addyson Perkins, of Big Horn County, won the Supreme Champion Ram at the 2023 Wyoming State Fair Youth Sheep Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Director of Public and Government Affairs Brett Moline (right) presented the awards. *MARY LOUISE WOOD, PARK COUNTY EXTENSION, PHOTO.*



Gabby Jordan, of Crook County, won the Supreme Champion Female at the 2023 Wyoming State Fair Youth Beef Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation National Affairs Associate Kelly Carpenter (right) presented the awards.

SHARE YOUR VOICE IN THE GRASSROOTS POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

GRASSROOTS MEANS YOU!

Attend your County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting!

CALENDAR INSIDE AND AT WYFB.ORG

Wyoming Needs Agriculture event Sept. 9 in Laramie

BY KERIN CLARK

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will host the 10th annual Wyoming Needs Agriculture event on Sept. 9 in Laramie. This event gives Cowboy fans of all ages the opportunity to interact with farmers and ranchers and learn more about agriculture.

The event will feature the fun “Ag Olympics” course and the “Field to Fork Family Feud” game. The first 400 participating fans will receive a Wyoming Cowboys/Wyoming Needs Agriculture t-shirt. The event will be held in the Indoor Practice Facility during pre-game festivities. The Cowboys play Portland State University on Sept. 9 with kick-off at 2 p.m.

Wyoming Cowboys are steeped in traditions; both the Cowboys on the football field and the Cowboys in the pasture working in agriculture. Agriculture is the heart of Wyoming. From the food we eat to the open spaces we enjoy to the economy to the people...Wyoming Needs Agriculture! ■



Wyoming Agriculture. Wyoming Football. Wyoming Traditions. Former University of Wyoming (UW) Football Player and Goshen County Rancher Skyler Miller and his wife Makenna talked all things agriculture in a recent video filming for the upcoming Wyoming Needs Agriculture event. UW Sports Broadcasters Keith Kelley (left) and Kevin McKinney (second from left) joined the Millers for a conversation about the importance of agriculture. Skyler also shared how growing up in agriculture applied to his success on the football field. The video will play on the scoreboard during the Sept. 9 UW Football game. *KERIN CLARK PHOTO.*

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

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SAVE THE DATE

WyFB 104th
Annual Meeting
November 9-11, 2023
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Wyoming
Agriculture

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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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Being a force
for good

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



One of the earliest lessons I learned from my dad was to see value in the things around me. Whether it be the value of a hard day's work on the farm, the value of contributing to the community or the value of friends and family. When we appreciate what we value most, we gain a better understanding of who we are. At Farm Bureau, I have found countless ways to put my values into action as we work to ensure a bright future for agriculture while also giving back to our communities.

Farm Bureau's member families see value in service, innovation and hard work to provide a safe and sustainable source of food, fiber and renewable fuel for families both at home and across the globe. We also work to ensure decisions by our elected leaders and others ensure a bright future for agriculture. And we serve our communities in a multitude of ways that range from alleviating hunger to sponsoring local sports teams. Our shared values help showcase who we are and demonstrate how we are better together—not just in Farm Bureau and agriculture but across our communities.

So, how do we help others see that value? Countless organizations are currently

at a standstill, struggling to grow membership, often because they cannot articulate how their values translate to stronger communities and improved lives. We can't take our values for granted when they are an important part of growing our membership. Highlighting our values isn't about showing off all the good we are doing but rather explaining the "why" that drives us.

Farm Bureau is well known and respected for our advocacy work to advance smart policies at every level—from county boards to Congress. But that's not all we do. We are helping our members become better leaders – sometimes elected leaders – and more effective liaisons with a public that has little understanding of agriculture and lot of questions. The heartbeat of Farm Bureau is our grassroots members who are committed to identifying how we can best serve and strengthen our communities. They also look out for one another, which is sometimes as simple as helping out on the farm if another member is ill and as intense as jumping into action when natural disasters or severe weather strike with vengeance. Talking about our commitment to strengthening

communities and improving lives will naturally draw-in new members.

A great example of what can happen when we align our values and work towards something bigger is Harvest for All. Together, our amazing Young Farmers and Ranchers program collaborated with county and state Farm Bureaus across the country to bring over 25 million pounds of food and \$1 million to local food banks in 2022. Recently, this awesome effort was honored with the Power of Associations Summit Award from the American Society of Association Executives. We truly are having an amazing impact when we work together, and we're getting better at communicating about it and the values behind it.

Farm Bureau truly is a family. I say that a lot because I have personally experienced the love and support of this family in good times, and in hard times. We come together, supporting and celebrating one another and working together to strengthen our farms and rural communities. Talking about the good work we're doing is a simple recipe for attracting new members. The more members we welcome to the family, the more impact we'll be able to have as a force for good. ■

National debt
a threat to U.S.

Ken Hamilton

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Talk about some news getting buried. Many of you may or may not have read about another financial rating company downgrading U.S. Treasury Bonds from triple A to double A plus. U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen immediately responded by saying the rating agency hadn't accounted for recent changes. Fitch Ratings, the company which issued the downgrade, has not changed its rating despite what I'm sure were some high-level discussions with Ms. Yellen. It should be noted this isn't the first time Treasury Bonds have been downgraded. 2011 saw S&P downgrade U.S. Treasury securities. That only leaves Moody's Investors Service as the lone entity which hasn't downgraded Treasury securities.

While some of the big brains in the economics world argue over the appropriateness of this change, many Americans continue to be concerned over how we as a society will service our debt. A downgrade raises the cost we taxpayers must pay to those who buy our debt. Given the size of our national debt, a small increase can have a large impact on our ability to pay back our obligations.

Whenever Congress and the President argue over how much to raise the debt ceiling, taxpayers should remind themselves of two issues. The debt ceiling

arguments revolve around whether the U.S. will default on their loans and how we are going to pay the loans back.

For quite a while, America has benefited from having a stable economy. That stability has made American debt an attractive and safe investment for private individuals and also other countries looking to park money in an investment which will pay it back. After all, with an economy the size of ours, it seems inconceivable that we would find ourselves in a position of default similar to many of the less stable economies around the world. Fitch's rating, however, reminds us that politicians cannot ignore economics.

At the same time our financial house is showing some cracks, our major economic challenger, China, is moving to try and make their currency the default currency for the world. China's economy is difficult to measure given the notorious "cooking of the books" the government does to ensure whoever is in power looks good. Analysts of China's economy have pointed out that much of what is going on in China is like America, in that the government is financing their expansion policies with debt. However, China has made inroads in a number of countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and even Europe with its "Belt and Road" initiative. This spending

by China in other countries is doing two things. The first is an effort to influence these countries towards the Chinese ideology. The second is to try and influence these countries to move away from a dollar standard.

Recent discussions about how successful the Chinese will be in receiving a return on their investment shows that many of these countries could be close to defaulting on the payback of their loans to China. How China will enforce the terms of their loans will be interesting, but you can be sure they will want something in exchange for loan forgiveness. What the impact will be on China's economy when or if these defaults occur may well determine whether the yuan makes inroads against the dollar.

What China does as these countries struggle to repay their loans will probably prove to be destabilizing, at least in the Asia Pacific region. One thing is clear...too much debt by any nation with economies the size of the U.S. or China will have far reaching impacts on global affairs as well as how their citizens live.

Sometime ago a military official declared global warming as a threat to the U.S. and the world. Perhaps it is time for people to recognize the national debt as a threat to the U.S. as well as the world. ■

Your membership is valued

By **TIM PEXTON, WYFB MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR**

This article has been produced at this time of year for decades in an effort to remind folks to remit their Farm Bureau membership dues when they received an invoice. Until a few years ago, that invoice was mailed in September to all members since everyone was up for renewal on Oct. 31, hence the timing of the membership article. It was generally followed in two to three weeks by a reminder notice. If dues had not been received after that, a phone call or, as last resort, a personal visit was used by county membership workers to convince the tardy member that it was worth every penny for them to continue their membership in Wyoming's premier agriculture organization.

The counties all had a membership quota set by the state Membership Committee as it is now with incentives such as the Bronze Boot and bragging rights for the county that was the first to reach

that quota and other milestones. This activity was all crammed into the period of mid-September and the Annual

Meeting in mid-November. It all worked very well. The bills went out, usually later than the printer promised, dues started rolling in, forms were filled out, enormous deposit slips were carefully printed, and checks for the State's share of the dues were sent to Laramie. There was excitement in the air, for some, as membership drives were planned and executed. Some years went better than others but generally all the counties came close to their quota goals. Wyoming Farm Bureau's membership numbers were fairly static

for many years as everything was working as it was designed.

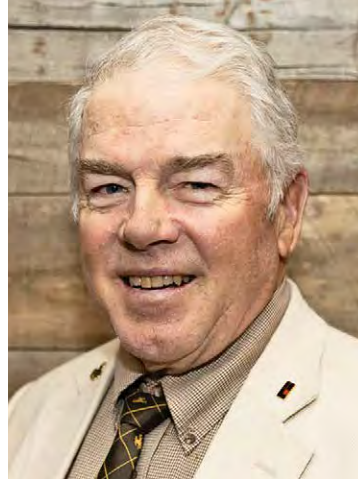
We are all trying very hard to keep that model in place and make it work in our changing world. Some counties still do very well in membership renewals and reach quota or very close each year. The use of the data base software program called Atlas has streamlined membership renewals and acquisition considerably but there still needs to be human contact, a membership drive, of some sort to bring in members who are willing but for whatever reason have let their membership lapse.

All of this is partially a little history but also to illustrate how much we value your membership in the

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. That translates into support which is very much appreciated and very much needed in this day of ever-increasing threats to our way of life and to our freedoms. Your membership is a statement for the freedom to live, work, play, and even to think as you wish without fear of punishment.

The dedicated lobbyists and support staff of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation spend all their time lobbying and educating legislators or helping you help yourself so we can all enjoy the fruits of our labor in peace and raise our family to do the same.

If all that isn't enough for you, there is a multitude of benefits tied to your membership that can offset the amount of the dues many times over. Please write the check or pay online when you receive the invoice from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and help keep us strong and able to meet the challenges being thrown our way. ■



TIM PEXTON



Member-CENTS

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

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

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.

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Different seasons of life

BY KAILEY BARLOW, WYFB YF&R COMMITTEE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Just a few years ago, I had no idea the many challenges mothers of young children face daily while ranching. Sure, I knew it was probably a little harder ranching with a young kid around, but I didn't realize how much my life was about to change. For those of you that don't know me, I used to spend almost every day helping on our family ranch. I loved to be out working with the cows, riding my horse and doing any other necessary ranch task.

Then I became a mom...
My days spent outside quickly changed to days (and nights) spent in a rocking chair, doing my best to take care of a needy newborn. I missed getting up to go feed cows every day. I missed my time outside. I even missed chopping water holes when it was -30 degrees! But I was in a new season of life. A season that I thought would only last six weeks or so. Silly me! Since a lot of mothers go back to work when their kids turn six weeks old, I thought it would be the same for me and ranching. Wrong! A year and a half later and I'm still not back to doing things like before.

I've faced the reality that it really won't ever be like it was before, but there are great times in all of these different seasons of life.

Last fall, my boy was still convinced he needed to nurse every three hours, which made it difficult to do much of anything that required a little time. But thankfully, he enjoyed being outside. So, whether it was in a stroller or one of those handy baby backpack carriers, he got to go do a lot of things with us. One of my favorite memories was preg-checking. I was able to take my colt that morning and ride him long enough to get cows in and sorted, while my mom took care of my little boy. Then I strapped him on to me and he helped me move cows up the alley the rest of the day.

This winter/spring I loved watching my little boy point to everything he wanted to go see and do at the ranch! He especially loved to go feed cows every morning and would take us by the hand and lead us all the way from the house to the tractor. I loved to hear him giggle the first time we let him ride a calf. He enjoyed playing in the snow, even in late April, when all of us were just ready for that white stuff to finally melt! He brought a smile to everyone's face, even on the hard days.

This summer, he has become fascinated with all types of equipment, tractors and trucks. Just last week, he rode around on my lap as we drove the semi through the field to get loaded with hay. He was pretty certain he was doing all of the driving and he sure was proud of himself! He's also becoming a great rider! He even had to show his older cousins from Kansas how to ride horses while they were here visiting this summer. It may all seem so little to us now, but I know we are teaching him so many great life lessons.

As all of you know, ranching can also be a dangerous job. Now, I always catch myself thinking about the risks of taking my boy along with me. Is it safe enough he can go with us, or should I try to find someone to watch him for the day? Is it something he'll enjoy or is he going to be bored and grumpy? How many snacks and diapers do I need to pack?

So, while things may not be like they were before, they aren't all that bad. Being a ranch mom comes with its own set of challenges, but it's wonderful to watch my son learn and grow in the greatest industry possible. After all, the world needs more cowboys. ■

About the author: Kailey is a busy mom, working as a fair manager, running her own cows, and helping with the family ranch when she can.



Bo and Kailey, at the end of June, on their BLM allotment, where there were still huge snow drifts. COURTESY PHOTO.



Bo, enjoying the straw pile, while Kailey shopped for bulls last fall. COURTESY PHOTO.



Young Farmer & Rancher Conference

Save the Date February 2-3, 2024 Laramie, Wyoming

Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts formed

In the fall of 2022 Irrigation District Board Members and Staff discussed forming an association of irrigation districts to share information for the betterment of the districts, share solutions on common issues and lobby the state and federal governments.

In March 2023, over 20 stakeholders from across Wyoming convened in Casper to discuss the es-

tablissement of an association. The outcome was clear-Wyoming's water rights require strong representation at both state and federal levels.

As a result, the Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID) was officially established in July 2023, complete with a board of directors, a mission statement and bylaws.

WAID invites anyone with water rights – individuals and districts – to join as either voting or non-voting members. Businesses affiliated with this cause are also welcome to join.

WAID's inaugural annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 8-9 at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper.

For further details, email waid.wyoming@gmail.com or call 307-439-3597. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 9 Wyoming Needs Agriculture Event - Laramie
- 10 Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5 p.m. - Farm Bureau Office in Pine Bluffs
- 12 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 6 p.m.
- 12 County YF&R Connect Video Conference with WyFB YF&R at 7 p.m.
- 12 Lincoln County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.—Afton Civic Center in Afton
- 13 Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 12 p.m. - The Malt in Saratoga

- 13 Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 5 p.m. - Farm Bureau Office in Buffalo
- 14 Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Railyard in Gillette
- 14 Weston County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5 p.m. - Pizza Barn in Newcastle
- 18 Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. - Heritage Barn in Lyman
- 19 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. - Lincoln Center in Torrington
- 20 Sheridan County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. Sheridan
- 20 Platte County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. - Moose Lodge in Wheatland

- 21 Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting for Regular and Century Club Members at 6 p.m. – Burlington Fire Hall (RSVP 307-217-1359 or 307-272-5600)
- 21 Crook County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – 77 Steakhouse in Hulett
- 25 Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Niobrara County Fairgrounds in Lusk
- 27 Central District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 9 a.m. – Elk Mountain Hotel in Elk Mountain
- 27 Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. – Farson Community Center
- 28 Northeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. – Bozeman Trail Steakhouse in Buffalo

- 29 Park County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. – Commons in Downtown Powell

October

- 2 Southwest District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. – Library in Kemmerer
- 5 Southeast District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. – Platte Valley Bank Meeting Room in Wheatland
- 14 Northwest District Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 11 a.m. – Location TBD

November

- 9-11 WyFB 104th Annual Meeting – Cheyenne

February 2024

- 2-3 WyFB YF&R Conference – Farm Bureau Center in Laramie

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates



FARM SUCCESSION

Navigate The Transition

Succession coordinators work with families and



operations to navigate the transition of the ag operation to the next generation. The coordinators work in tandem with attorneys and accountants to make sure that the succession plan is feasible.

Succession coordinators are available as a service of the Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program.

For more information, contact Lucy Pauley at 307-777-8788 or email lucy.pauley@wyo.gov.

Succession coordinators work with the family to identify:

- Where is the operation now?
- Where do you want it to be?
- How do you get there?



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The people of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader Quade Palm

County: Carbon
Farm Bureau Federation Leadership
Position(s):

- Carbon County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation Vice President
- WyFB YF&R Committee Chair

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe ranch background.

Palm: My family has been ranching in Wyoming for six generations, raising sheep, then cattle. My family has been on the same ranch since 1981 where my parents and I currently raise cow-calf pairs.

Wyoming Agriculture: Education, Hobbies and Other Background.

Palm: I was fortunate, as many ranchers are, to grow up working along with my parents, Burt and Kay Lynn, and my older brother Justin. I was heavily involved in athletics and FFA in high school. At the end of my senior year, I was elected President of the Wyoming FFA Association. With that opportunity, I was able to travel the state and work with a lot of younger members in the organization, it was an incredible opportunity. I attended school at Casper College, then the University of Wyoming, graduating with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Ag Business. After I graduated, I moved to Northern Colorado and worked for Wickstrom Inc, a family farm and feedlot operation for a year, before returning home. In my free time I enjoy going to concerts, working in the shop on my collection of old vehicles, and in the winter, maybe going snowmobiling when time and weather permit. I also spend time serving on the board of the Medicine Bow Conservation District as the treasurer and I am currently participating in the Wyoming LEAD Program.

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

Palm: Kyle Berger contacted me before Annual Meeting in 2019, encouraging me to run for a YF&R position. I was elected to the WyFB YF&R At-Large position and the ball kept rolling from there. I have a hard time saying no, so now I'm WyFB YF&R Chair.

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

Palm: I enjoy working with people and I like to feel like I'm making a difference. I was involved in the periphery of the formation of the Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter at UW in 2018 at the very end of my senior year, then didn't have much to do with it until I was invited to Annual Meeting in 2019. There I was elected to the At-Large position on the YF&R Committee, but moreover, really came to enjoy the resolution process. Understanding the true grassroots nature of the organization really made me appreciate the impact we can have on a national level due to the importance of everyday working people. Developing relationships with other people from around the state with common goals and differing perspectives makes it easy to prioritize Farm Bureau.

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

Palm: It's hard to pick a single specific Farm Bureau policy. In my mind, even if you don't agree with every single line in our policy book, there is an overarching protection of personal rights and freedoms which serves to protect each and every one of us.

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

Palm: Farm Bureau empowers each of us to make a difference. For many people, making a change is as easy as speaking up. For others, it comes in the form of carrying that message. I would encourage everyone, not just those in the ag industry, to think of their problems. Mention it to a few people and you'll learn you're not the only one facing that. Today it might be your discussion over morning coffee, tomorrow it could be written into the American Farm Bureau Policy Book, next week it could be a stance taken



WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee State Chair Quade Palm.



Branding season with Quade Palm. COURTESY PHOTO.



Feeding cattle on the ranch. QUADE PALM PHOTO.



Ranching in Carbon County with the Palms. QUADE PALM PHOTO.

by an entire organization in a committee meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. You never know if you never try.

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

Palm: I think an issue we are all facing but is especially scrutinized in Carbon County is the topic of Corner Crossing. Without a full dissertation on the topic, I am interested to see how landowners and sportsmen alike are treated this coming fall, and I hope the Game and Fish can keep things equitable and fair with both parties. I'm also interested to see how the state legislature handles this in the future and how Farm Bureau will stand on this intersection of personal freedoms and private property rights. Another issue is the ever-increasing property taxes and assessments due to the huge influx of folks moving to the county. When these folks come to Wyoming, they

are able to offer and pay much more than the seller is asking. Because properties have been sold for so much, the properties around them are being assessed at a higher value, therefore increasing the taxes of someone who has lived there a long time. Another issue is sky rocketing grocery prices, parts, fuel and general repair. What we are getting for our cattle we sell is not covering the nearly double, if not triple, prices for everything we use or need.

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

Palm: In Farm Bureau, every member is truly equal. Whether you spend your time addressing the room from the stage in the front, or if your view is of the back of everyone's heads as you sit opposite the stage, your words carry equal weight. Without the members, there is no organization, and our organization is strongest when you're a member. ■

*Cooking with the
Modern Ranch Wife*

Bread Pudding with Vanilla Cream Sauce

Recipe by Connie Werner
Source: Paula Deen & Gail Coble



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups sugar
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 8 cups stale bread cut into cubes
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

FOR SAUCE:

- 1 1/4 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp all purpose flour
- 1 pinch cinnamon
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 13x9 inch baking dish.
2. Mix together sugar, eggs, milk, vanilla and pour over cubed bread and pour into prepared dish,
3. In a small bowl combine brown sugar, butter, and pecans. Sprinkle over the top of the bread
4. Bake for 35-45 minutes or until middle is set and it is golden brown.

FOR THE SAUCE:

Whisk together milk, brown sugar, butter, egg, flour, cinnamon and salt in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat until sauce is thickened, 10-12 minutes. Stir in the vanilla.

■ FOR MORE RECIPES VISIT: www.modernranchwife.com

National news updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Farm Bill

In July, WyFB staff attended the Farm Bill Roundtable in Casper hosted by Senators Barrasso, Lummis, and Senate Ag Committee Ranking Member Senator John Boozman (R-AR). The morning event gathered agriculture and nutrition services stakeholders from around the state. These groups shared their priorities with the Senators for what they'd appreciate for inclusion into the next Farm Bill. WyFB staff represented member policy positions. It was well attended and appreciated to have time with federal decision-makers.

That said, the 2023 Farm Bill has been a topic of discussion among policymakers, agricultural experts, and farmers across the country. This major legislation, which sets the policies and funding for agricultural programs, has the potential to greatly impact Wyoming farmers and ranchers. Let's explore the key provisions of the 2023 Farm Bill and analyze how it could affect the agricultural community in Wyoming.

1. Conservation Programs:

The 2023 Farm Bill includes several provisions aimed at improving conservation efforts in agriculture. These programs provide financial incentives to farmers and ranchers for adopting practices that promote soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity. In Wyoming, where farmers and ranchers face unique environmental challenges, such as drought, these conservation programs can play a crucial role in preserving the state's natural resources and ensuring the long-term sustainability of agricultural practices.

2. Crop Insurance:

Crop insurance is a vital tool for Wyoming farmers, providing protection against crop losses due to natural disasters, pests, or other unforeseen events. The 2023 Farm Bill strengthens crop insurance options by expanding coverage for specialty crops, establishing new risk management programs, and improving the accessibility and affordability of insurance policies. These measures can offer a safety net to Wyoming farmers, especially those who face weather-related challenges that can severely impact their livelihoods.

3. Livestock Production:

Ranching is an integral part of Wyoming's agricultural landscape, and the 2023 Farm Bill recognizes the importance of supporting the livestock industry. The bill includes provisions to improve risk management tools for ranchers, create initiatives for disease prevention and control, and invest in research and development of sustainable livestock production practices. These measures can enhance the resilience of Wyoming ranchers and ensure the long-term viability of the state's livestock industry.

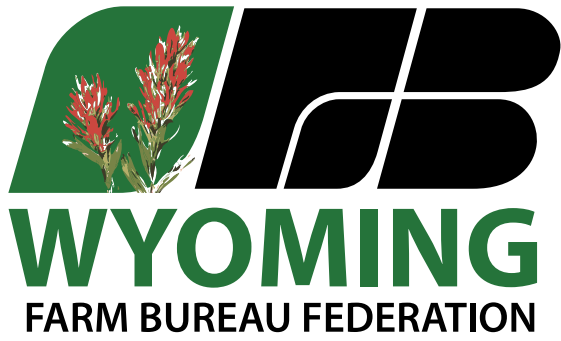
4. Rural Development:

The Farm Bill not only focuses on specific agricultural programs but also addresses broader rural development initiatives. This includes funding for infrastructure projects, rural broadband expansion, and support for rural businesses. For Wyoming farmers and ranchers who often face challenges related to connectivity and access to markets, these rural development provisions can facilitate economic growth, diversification, and increased opportunities for agricultural producers.

In conclusion, the 2023 Farm Bill has the potential to provide support to Wyoming's agricultural industry. From conservation programs to livestock production support and rural development initiatives, this legislation aims to address the challenges faced by farmers and ranchers in the state. By understanding the provisions of the bill and actively engaging in these programs, Wyoming farmers and ranchers can leverage these opportunities to improve their livelihoods and contribute to a sustainable and thriving agricultural sector in the years to come.

House Ag Appropriations

Prior to the August recess, Rep. Harriet Hageman submitted several amendments to the FY 24 House Ag Appropriations bill. One amendment, #78, with cosponsors Reps. Curtis (R-UT), Boebert (R-CO) and Massie (R-KY) intends to prohibit funding from the proposed EID cattle and bison rule by the USDA APHIS. ■



We support agriculture

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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

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

WYFB MISSION: The primary goals of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation are to represent the voices of Wyoming farmers and ranchers through grassroots policy development while focusing on protecting private property rights, strengthening agriculture, and supporting farm and ranch families through advocacy, education, and leadership development.

Advocacy

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

Education

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

Leadership Development

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

A NOTE FROM WYFB PRESIDENT TODD FORNSTROM:

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

It pays to be a member!

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



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WyFB awards \$5,500 in scholarships each year



Members are entitled to free classified advertising in *Wyoming Agriculture* for the purpose of selling items they grow or make themselves, selling used machinery or household items, and for posting wanted items

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



Wyoming Classifieds

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by the 10th of each month to appear in the next issue. Members may place two (2) complimentary ads, up to 40 words each, per issue. Real estate sales not included. Complimentary ads will run for three issues unless requested otherwise. Non-members may submit an ad at a minimum rate of \$5 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

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Bill DeYoung, Laramie; Troy Glick, Laramie; Rylan Harding (REG), Laramie; Robert Harding (REG), Eli Pierson/FNBO (REG), Laramie

BIG HORN

Robin Allen (REG), Burlington; Mark Johnson (REG), Lovell; Rebecca Lewis, Basin; Marvin Rageth (REG), Byron; Christine & Lawrence Snyder, Basin; Bobby Werner, Basin; Justin Wright, Greybull

CAMPBELL

Sarah & Craig Edwards (REG), Gillette; Jordan & Chancy Miller (REG), Moorcroft; Kalysta Petticrew, Gillette; Weston Reynolds, Gillette; Deborah & Robert Welch, Gillette

CARBON

Gabrielle Lightfoot & Timothy Boylan, Saratoga; Karen Kurtak & Nicholas Taylor, Encampment

CONVERSE

Chelsea Green, Casper; Melissa & Dustin Holkan, Douglas

CROOK

Rebecca Vandiver, Pine Haven

FREMONT

Victor Albrandt, Riverton; Damein Christensen (REG), Riverton; Matthew Dighton (REG), Lander; Jason Glantz, Dubois; Bryce Hankins (REG), Crowheart; Kristina Hayes, Lander; William (Dub) Lloyd, Hermanville, MS; Steven Lucas, Hudson; Ivor McPhie,

Lander; Kaden Sanderson, Dubois; Jonathon Sullivan (REG), Dubois; Curtis Tronolone (REG), Lander

HOT SPRINGS

Jane & Ed Brungardt, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Wade Taylor (REG), Buffalo

LARAMIE

Jamie Montano, Cheyenne; Justin Roadifer, Cheyenne; Patricia & Gary Stensgaard, Cheyenne; Betty Hohnholt, Cheyenne; Vickie & Stephen Langlais, Cheyenne; Dale Abbott, Cheyenne; Diana Dean, Cheyenne; Spencer Straub, Cheyenne; Gabriella Denbow, Laramie

LINCOLN

Jason Despain, Kemmerer; Brittany & Dane Hepworth, Afton; Nikole Scaffide, Alpine; Kimberly Schrieber, Freedom; Trevor Steiner, Kemmerer

NATRONA

Alan Hill, Casper; Brant Marshall, Casper; David McGoonan, Casper

NIOBRARA

Terry Allbright/ True Value Hardware, Lusk; Kim & Shawn Bruegger (REG), Manville

PARK

Nicole Davis, Meeteetse; Taylor & Jacob MaGill, Evanston; Dustin Nickelson, Powell; Melinda & Joshua Westerhold, Powell; Joby Young, Alexandria, VA

SHERIDAN

Dixie & Wayne Adsit, Banner; Mason Anderson, Ranchester; Leslie & Troy Carter, Sheridan; Cameo Galloway, Sheridan; Carol Harkias/ Harkias Trust, Sheridan; Vicki & Corey Jost (REG), Sheridan; Karen & Robert Kelly, Sheridan; Andrea Kramer; Sheridan; Lorren Lane, Dayton; Philip Ostrowski (REG), Sheridan; Brandon Payne, Sheridan; Ann & Travis Perkins, Sheridan; Stacy Preston, Sheridan; Mac Rayfield, Sheridan; Beverly Stahl, Ranchester; William Trumbull, Sheridan; Kevin Willey, Sheridan

SWEETWATER

Tanya Clark, Rock Springs; Jeramie Foote, Rock Springs; Seth Harris, Rock Springs; Jodie Garner, Rock Springs; Clay Allen Jr, Farson; Lillian Edd, Rock Springs; Sheri Griffin, Rock Springs; Heather & Allen Hatcher, Green River; Jacob Cobia, Rock Springs; Neil McLaren, Rock Springs; Stephanie Killpack, Rock Springs; Slade Pitt, Rock Springs; Owen Bieber, Rock Springs; Alisha Lloyd, Rock Springs; MAY Poundstone, Rock Springs; Donald Porter, Rock Springs

TETON

Josh Beck (REG), Jackson; Aspen Johnson, Jackson; Trevor Johnson, Alpine

UINTA

Dustin Condos (REG), Lyman; Donald Ferrin, Lyman

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Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Award nominations due by Oct. 9

Nominations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 9. These awards recognize those individuals/couples who have devoted much time to the betterment of agriculture in Wyoming and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

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

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

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

- Only one nomination per award may be made by the county.
- Award judging done by the Administrative Advisory Committee of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

The committee is not limited to considering only nominations from participating county Farm Bureau Federations but may make an independent selection.

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org, click on the "Get Involved" tab and then select "Events" and scroll to the award deadline link.

The awards will be presented at the WyFB Annual Meeting on Nov. 10 during the evening banquet. Contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org for more details. ■

Outstanding Membership Worker Award nominations due by Oct. 9

Nominations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Outstanding Membership Worker Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 9. This award recognizes those hard workers in the state for their outstanding dedication and effort in recruiting Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members. There are three categories:

1. Volunteer
2. Agent
3. County Office Staff

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org, click on the "Get Involved" tab and then select "Events" and scroll to the award deadline link.

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

Wyoming pesticide certification and training standards

BY SLADE FRANKLIN, WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Late July the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Wyoming's Certification and Training plan for Wyoming pesticide applicators. This has been a multi-year process with a significant amount of back and forth between the Department of Agriculture and the EPA. The process was started in 2019 and took 4 years of editing and re-evaluation to get to a point where both agencies could agree on the final draft plan.

Wyoming, along with the other states were required to update the plan when the EPA updated federal standards in 2017. EPA updated their existing regu-

lations concerning the certification of applicators for restricted use pesticides (RUPs), including an improved rule for determining competency of certified applicators of RUPs, increased protection for noncertified applicators using RUPs under direct supervision, and establishing minimum age requirements. This was the first major update to the federal and state standards since the adoption of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 1974.

The authority to implement certification and licensing programs is delegated to the states. Therefore the Department of Agriculture had to update its standards in order to comply with the new federal standards. Wyoming does

not have regulatory primacy with EPA, but we are delegated the applicator licensing authority.

Initially the deadline for states to update their individual plans was set for March 4, 2020, but due to COVID and the difficulty of reviewing and approving all state plans the deadline was pushed back to Nov. 4, 2023. Wyoming submitted its final version of the plan in May of this year and on June 23rd the department received the final approval.

The approved plan will require the department to update Chapter 28 Applicator Certification Rules and Regulations through the Secretary of State's rulemaking process. Changes to this Chapter will include commercial applicator category

changes; age requirements for licensing; and defining examination standards. Additionally, a new Chapter of rules will be submitted through the rulemaking process that addresses recordkeeping and license reciprocity.

The Department has just over 700 days to complete the rulemaking process based on the implementation timeline approved by the EPA. Licensed applicators will be slowly certified or re-certified under the new standards after the final publication of the rules and as their existing licenses are about to expire. Full implementation of the state plan could take until 2030 to accommodate existing private and commercial licensees. ■



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Breakfast at the Hot Springs County Fair

Hot Springs County Farm Bureau Federation served breakfast at their county fair. Celebrating and supporting agriculture. (L to R): Nick Moline and daughter Meadow; Paul Ward; Doug Wallingford; and Ray Shaffer. *Brooke Roes photo.* ■



Ice cream at the fair

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ASHER, PARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION PRESIDENT

We gave out over 400 ice cream cups to attendants of the youth livestock sale at the Park County Fair. It was extremely hot that day and was greatly appreciated by all. Thanks to Kelli Chouinard for organizing the ice cream event. ■



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Big Horn County at the fair

SUBMITTED BY MARY WHALEY

The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation sponsors the Round Robin at the county fair. Board members took photo with some of this year's winners.

In the first photo, Keith Hamilton and Tim Beck are with Wyatt Harrison, Reserve Sr. 4-H Round Robin winner and Weston Harrison, Reserve Jr. 4-H Round Robin winner.

In the second photo, Keith Hamilton and Tim Beck with Payton Bischoff, Reserve Round Robin winner, FFA. ■



Fremont County scholarships awarded at picnic

SUBMITTED BY TRACI HELTON

Each year we get the opportunity to give out scholarships to our local graduating youth in Fremont County at our annual county picnic. Parents of the graduates must be regular members to qualify, as well as go through the application process.

This year the Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation had the honor of awarding three deserving seniors our scholarship. Those students were Hailey Donelson, Elie Walters and Charmayne Dewey (not pictured). Congratulations ladies you all were well deserving students and we cannot wait to see what your future holds!

Pictured with the scholarship recipients are county president Andrea Dockery and county treasurer Bill Jennings. Photos by Malissa Jennings. ■



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Mountain West Farm Bureau celebrates 75-year anniversary

SUBMITTED BY THE MWFB 75TH PLANNING COMMITTEE

MWFB was organized in 1948 by members of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Local farmers and ranchers throughout Wyoming invested funds to start the company.

The company started in a small office in downtown Laramie, then moved to several locations around town before finally moving into their current location at 931 Boulder Drive in June of 2003.

Through the years other lines of insurance were added including Homeowners, Farm & Ranch and Commercial.

In 1958 The Montana Farm Bureau Federation recognized a good thing and asked the company to provide these services to their members.

From these very humble beginnings Mountain West has grown to be a multi-million-dollar company that now

provides 170 jobs in their home office in Laramie and 84 claims adjustor jobs spread throughout Wyoming and Montana. As well as 95 insurance agents spread throughout Wyoming and Montana.

Mountain West initially handled everything from premiums to financial statements in a manual process; however, over the years they transitioned into a Legacy System and just recently moved to a Policy Administration System allowing the processes to be more automated and online. This same project also has automated claims reporting and handling.

Mountain West is currently the No. 1 writer of Farm and Ranch insurance in both Wyoming and Montana. The company prides itself on providing quality products, exceptional customer service, as well as local service to their customers. The company Motto is "Earn Trust Every Day." ■



Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

WyFB sponsors Supreme Beef and Supreme Sheep winners at Wyoming State Fair



Josey Mayers, of Converse County, won the Supreme Champion Bull at the 2023 Wyoming State Fair Youth Beef Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation National Affairs Associate Kelly Carpenter (second from right) presented the awards.



Molly Oakley, of Campbell County, won the Supreme Champion Ewe at the 2023 Wyoming State Fair Youth Sheep Show. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Director of Public and Government Affairs Brett Moline (right) presented the awards. MARY LOUISE WOOD, PARK COUNTY EXTENSION, PHOTO.



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