

Wyoming 2025 Legislative Review

BY KELLY CARPENTER

On Jan.14, 2025, the 68th Wyoming Legislature convened in Cheyenne. This 40-day session is held every-other-year, alternating with a 20-day budget session. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) tracked a wide range of bills during the latest legislative session, including those on property taxes, general taxation, eminent domain and predators. Working from our grassroots, member-driven policy, WyFB provided testimony and advocated based on this policy.

This session saw an unprecedented event. No supplemental budget passed. Although many key spending items were passed within other legislation, the supplemental budget itself was not passed.

Property Tax Relief

As witnessed during the 2024 budget session, property tax relief bills continued

to be at the front line of discussion aimed at providing relief in 2025. Two notable legislative measures up for consideration included a 25% property tax cut and implementation of the Wyoming Constitutional Amendment A, which distinguishes owner-occupied residential real estate from other property classes. WyFB has steadfast policy against adding another class of property taxes.

WyFB was supportive of the 25% reduction in property taxes. This newly enacted law provides no “backfill” or alternative funding for local governments and special districts and remains in effect permanently, without a sunset date. Property owners will see relief in 2026 as this law begins during the 2025 tax year.

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Grassroots conversations with AFBF President Zippy Duvall
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Members and Collegiate Chapters enjoyed “Elevating Agriculture” at the AFBF FUSION Conference held March 7-10 in Denver, Colo. Grassroots conversations with agriculturalists from across the nation including Georgia Farmer and American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. WyFB YF&R Committee Members Abby and Carson Ellis and their daughters had the opportunity to visit one-on-one with AFBF President Duvall while at the conference. Read article on page 5 for more about the conference. LILLY STEWART PHOTO.

Wyoming Farm Bureau president reflects on Washington visit


BY CALLIE HANSON

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) President Todd Fornstrom recently traveled to the nation’s capital, where he attended a joint session of Congress and participated in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s (AFBF) Board of Directors meeting. This trip provided valuable opportunities to engage with lawmakers, discuss pressing agricultural issues and gain insight into the legislative process.

Fornstrom described his attendance of the joint session as a stroke of luck, as he was scheduled for several other meetings late in the day. He recalled the surprise of receiving a personal phone call from U.S. Sen. John Barrasso the night before his trip.

“I was laying on my couch getting ready to fly out the next morning, and my phone starts ringing. I’m thinking, ‘Who’s calling me this time of night? Some salesman?’” Fornstrom said. “So I answered, and then I recognized the voice on the other end. It was kind of cool to get a phone call from the senator himself.”

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WyFB President Todd Fornstrom joined United States Sen. John Barrasso at the recent joint session, where President Donald Trump addressed Congress.

SEN. BARRASSO’S OFFICE PHOTO.

Bighorn sheep reintroduction sparks concerns among Wyoming ranchers

BY CALLIE HANSON

As discussions continue about reintroducing bighorn sheep into additional parts of Wyoming, local ranchers worry about the long-term consequences for grazing rights and land management. While proponents argue the project could benefit the state’s wildlife and provide hunting opportunities, many ranchers fear it could lead to new federal restrictions that threaten their livelihoods.

Thad Dockery, a cow/calf rancher in Fremont County, says the move could trigger regulations affecting not just ranching but also oil, gas, and mining operations.

“Our grazing allotment is on BLM land, so we’re already subject to federal rule-making,” Dockery said. “Right now, the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for our area doesn’t address bighorn sheep, but once the state opens the management plan to introduce them, that changes everything.”

BIGHORN SHEEP ... Page 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 2025
11 "Ag Books for Kids" contests district deadline
- May 2025
30 WyFB Membership Committee Meeting-Hilton Garden Inn in Casper
- November 2025
13-15 WyFB 106th Annual Meeting-Gillette

Visit wyfb.org for event updates

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WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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Tax season in bloom, but key provisions about to wilt

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Tax Season Springing Up

Springtime brings planting, fresh blossoms, and, of course, taxes. For many farmers, spring is a season of planning and planting. A big part of planning wisely is understanding what tax provisions our farm businesses qualify for. But the challenge this spring is that many critical business provisions are set to expire by the end of the year. We have heard that lawmakers plan to make this a priority this year, and we need to hold them to it, for the future of our farms and our food supply. If key tax provisions are not renewed quickly this year, it will mean billions of dollars in tax increases for farm and ranch families.

Tax Code Should Help Family Businesses Blossom

Farmers and ranchers face a variety of pressures and unpredictable challenges from changing weather to fluctuating markets. According to the last USDA Census of Agriculture, America has lost 141,000 farms in a five-year period. To put that another way, that is roughly 77 farms per day going out of business. Low commodity prices, rising supply costs, inflation and outdated farm policy provisions threaten to destroy the dreams of

thousands more. The tax code shouldn't add to the uncertainty.

Family run businesses need a tax code that encourages investment and helps them remain economically sustainable in all seasons. While the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 made several key tax provisions permanent, farm businesses and rural Americans also rely on provisions that are about to expire, including:

- Reduced pass-through tax rates and expanded brackets
- 20% business income deduction, or 199A
- Unlimited bonus depreciation (expensing)
- Doubled estate tax exemption of \$11 million person/\$22 million couple and
- Increased Alternative Minimum Tax Threshold for individuals

In addition to these provisions, Farm Bureau also supports continuing an unlimited stepped-up basis for farm and ranch businesses, indexing capital gains for inflation, prohibiting the collection of capital gains at death, and permanently eliminating estate taxes

Tax Code Should Boost Economic Sustainability

Farm and ranch families want to plan not only for the next season, but also for the next generation. It is getting harder for young and beginning farmers to get their start or come back to the farm—especially when they don't know what kind of tax bill might be waiting for them. America needs the next generation ready and able to take up the mission of growing our nation's food, fiber and renewable fuel, especially as the average age of the American farmer nears retirement. Yet provisions that will expire this year, including lower individual income tax rates and a higher standard deduction, will increase tax liability by \$4.5 billion for all farm households. Our family farms—and the families across this country who are counting on us—deserve better.

At Farm Bureau, we are all hands-on deck to ensure Congress takes swift action to make these tax provisions permanent for our farm and ranch families. Together, let's keep holding our lawmakers to their word. They have promised to make tax reform a priority, and the season has come for them to get it done. ■

What's in a word

Kerin Clark

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



The definition of a word carries great power. When the definition isn't clearly stated the power of defining regulations is in the hands of executive branch agencies. This discretion often leads to interpretations that cause confusion and lack of clarity on what the law means.

This has been the case with the Clean Water Act (CWA) since its passage in 1972. Words and their definitions have continued to lead to different interpretations of the CWA in its 50+ years. Words such as: navigable – WOTUS – ephemeral – significant nexus – relatively permanent – adjacency. The power of one word can lead to federal government overreach.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation have worked for decades advocating for a clear and fair rule defining terms for regulating our nation's water. The definition of Waters of the United States, otherwise known as WOTUS, is important because it determines which waters are subject to federal regulations. The interpretation of WOTUS has changed as often as the administration has changed. The back and

forth has hung on the definition of "navigable waters." Congress defined navigable waters as "Waters of the United States" leaving the rest of the context to the regulatory agencies to determine what's in one word—navigable.

For years, Farm Bureau members have engaged in advocacy efforts to work for a clear rule with well-defined terms. From "Ditch the Rule" to the "Rubber Duckie" campaign, Wyoming farmers and ranchers have joined Farm Bureau members across the country to amplify their voice on this issue. These campaigns highlighted the illogicality of the federal government's attempt to expand federal jurisdiction to ephemeral features on private land (think ditch or low spot that only holds water after rain).

So, what's in a word(s) like "navigable" or "ephemeral feature" or "significant nexus?" A lot can be packed into these words based on the interpretation of federal agencies and the judicial system. A May 2023 Supreme Court decision in Sackett v. EPA addressed the federal overreach of the "significant nexus" term, however a lot of uncertainty has remained since this decision in how the agencies continue to implement the rule.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is pleased the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on March 12, 2025 they will revise the WOTUS definition and address the implementation of the WOTUS rule following the Sackett v. EPA rule. Protecting the nation's water is a priority for us all. Federal government overreach of private property is not the way to protect the nation's water.

Farmers and ranchers deserve a rule that provides clarity and enables landowners to protect the resources with which they've been entrusted while growing food for our country. They drink the water, they raise food, they care for the land and its resources and work to leave them in even better condition for the next generation.

So, what's in a word? As we've seen with the myriad of WOTUS rule interpretations it can mean federal government overreach that doesn't uphold the purpose of the Clean Water Act. We appreciate the EPA taking the steps to correct this issue by providing clarity to the rule, defining the word to follow the law and following the Supreme Court rulings that have addressed these interpretations. ■

From Wyoming to wine country: A rancher's perspective on California agriculture

BY QUADE PALM

WyFB YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBER

I had the opportunity to travel to California in early March to visit some friends from college. My trip differed somewhat from what most people would expect a spring trip to California to entail. My friend's family owns a couple ranches in Sonoma County, and it is among the most beautiful country I've had the opportunity to visit.

Despite most people's immediate thought of beaches and metropolises, California produces 11.5% of the total agricultural production of the United States. Wyoming, vast and empty, produces 0.4%, according to the 2023 USDA Census. Keeping those numbers in mind, agriculture accounts for just over 2% of each state's total GDP—a similarity I didn't expect. However, the similarities largely end there. Beyond the numbers, what I appreciate most about agriculture are the stories, the families, and the shared challenges we all face.

I met Crawford Cooley and his now wife Lily in college at the University of Wyoming (UW), where he and I were in the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity together. Crawford is 7th generation in Petaluma, Calif. Crawford came to UW to obtain his degree in Ag Business and Range Management, with the intention of returning home to operate his family's ranches.

This is hardly a unique situation for a ranch kid in Wyoming, or any other state, for that matter. Upon graduation and return home, life has looked a bit different, and though the family still owns their properties, family turmoil has placed Crawford in the business of selling ranches, not running them. His wife Lily works as a certified vet tech at the Petaluma Equine Hospital.

The Cooley family's two ranches are the Rancho Olampoli, an old Spanish land grant near Petaluma, and the Cooley Ranch in the rugged mountains above Healdsburg and Lake Sonoma. The 2,500 acre ranch near Petaluma was purchased in the 1950s primarily for raising and training horses along with 275 head of dairy cows.

Boundary fences run along old, stacked stone walls surrounding portions of the ranch, and from the top of one hill, Petaluma can be seen north, to the left, Sonoma ahead to the east, and the San Francisco Bay to the south. Today, this ranch is leased by a neighbor to graze 125 Hereford pairs.

My favorite place, though, both in terms of setting and operation, is the nearly 20,000 acre Cooley Ranch north of Healdsburg, Calif., just above Lake Sonoma. Crawford's great Grandfather, Arthur Cooley, a lawyer, purchased the initial 4,000 acres in 1910. His intent was to fish what is now one of the most genetically pure (and now protected) strain of Steelhead in the U.S. Crawford's grandfather, Arthur Crawford Cooley (AC), a graduate of Stanford and a venture capitalist, accumulated the remainder of the land from neighbors selling out and moving to claim better money opportunities in the booming California cities, anywhere from 1950 to 1991.

The elder Crawford decided running sheep was the best way to utilize the rugged, steep, brushy terrain, and over time, he built a herd of 9,000 head. As the years progressed, sheep evolved to cattle. Now grazing leases for 1,150 head help support the ranch. Their grazing season runs from October to May, about the opposite of Wyoming.



WyFB YF&R Committee member Quade Palm recently visited ranches near Petaluma, Calif., where beef cattle ranching and wine combine to keep family operations intact. *QUADE PALM PHOTO*



While California is most known for extensive vineyards, WyFBYF&R Committee member Quade Palm was able to experience wine country, as well as his UW classmate's extensive family ranching operation. *QUADE PALM PHOTO*

In 2000, AC entered the ranch into a conservation easement with the Sonoma Land Trust and Ag and Open Space Foundation. These easements limited logging of old-growth redwood and red oak trees, as well as the construction of additional homes, which would prevent the property from being developed into subdivisions. Most importantly, the easement ensured the land would be preserved for future generations rather than sold off for profit.

Today, the ranch is entirely self-sufficient. And in true California fashion, it includes wine. In 2009, vineyards for Rodney Strong Winery and Rowen Wines were planted on 225 acres, with the first production in 2013. Cabernet Sauvignon is the primary variety, with each acre yielding up to four tons of grapes—enough to produce approximately 160 gallons or 780 bottles of wine. In 2024, the Cooley Ranch produced 810 tons of grapes, making it one of the winery's top growing partners. Rodney Strong Winery produces about 830,000 cases of wine annually and boasts the highest vineyard in the area, sitting at 2,040 feet above sea level.

Five different hunting leases round out the income stream for the ranch. Together, these three endeavors cover yearly expenses for the ranch, and have allowed the generations to pursue livelihoods off the ranch.

During my stay, I took the opportunity to enjoy both places, as I have before, and of course taste and buy some wine, a hard activity to come by in the Cowboy State. My favorite thing about this trip though was the Sonoma and Marin County Cattlemen's dinner held one of my final nights there. Over 500 local ranchers and ag supporters turned out for the corned beef and cabbage dinner and auction and raised over \$71,000 for scholarships for local youth.

It was the perfect reminder even though our locations and occupations may differ slightly, agriculturalists always turn out for one another. One more reason to cherish the connections we've made and remember the true value of organizations like Farm Bureau and the members they're comprised of. ■

American Farm Bureau Fusion Conference 2025

By LILLY STEWART, WyFB INTERN

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) attended the 2025 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Fusion conference March 7-10 in Denver. Fusion was a joint conference for all three American Farm Bureau program areas: Promotion and Engagement, Women's Leadership and Young Farmers and Ranchers. Attendees engaged with inspiring keynote speakers, participated in breakout sessions, power hours, and fireside chats and attended banquet events. WyFB had almost 30 people to represent the great state of Wyoming. The group included WyFB Young Farmer and Rancher committee members, Collegiate Farm Bureau Members and WyFB staff members.

Alexis Lake, WyFB Member Engagement Coordinator, jumped right into her first week with WyFB on the road at the conference.

"It was the best onboarding experience I could have had," Lake commented. She went on to say, "I love the feeling of coming to work and it meaning something. It was great to see the end goal and talk with other coordinators and get ideas to bring back to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers."

Megan Sagner, the WyFB Champion Collegiate Discussion winner, had two excellent discussions while competing against students from across the country. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is incredibly proud of Sagner and her achievements at both the state and national levels. Each national contestant received a \$100 scholarship from the CHS Foundation and a leather plaque.

As the 6th generation on her family's cow/calf ranch, she has always been very involved with agriculture. Sagner said, "It is important to take advantage of opportunities to advocate for ourselves and this industry, and YF&R events are a great way to do this." Sagner found the discussion meet to be an impactful experience, noting she was able to make valuable connections with other competitors from neighboring states and beyond.

WyFB YF&R committee members enjoyed the plethora of opportunities available to them during the conference. Following the conference, John Werner of Converse County said, "It was a really cool opportunity, you get to meet all kinds of people and attend all kinds of breakout rooms." He also talked about how it was nice that it was "up to you" on how to use and plan your day.

Werner found an excellent opportunity and took away some new tools for his toolbox after listening to keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin. He said, "I got a book from Temple Grandin about building corrals, so I am going to take it back and use it."

Students representing their collegiate Farm Bureau chapters from Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming received valuable knowledge from attending the conference. Courtney Beene, President of the Collegiate Farm Bureau at the University of Wyoming said, "It was very encouraging and helpful to talk to other collegiate members and see how they navigated their Farm Bureau chapters (in other states)." Beene saw the "Make America Healthy Again" movement as an exciting opportunity for agriculturalists to take the lead with their unique leverage.

Sagner noted she found a lot of value in sessions about farm credit and building credit for ranches. She said, "The high cost to start in agriculture is an extreme barrier, so it was interesting learning about opportunities to build credit and work with Farm Bureau to help get started."

The group from Wyoming had their fair share of sites to see while at the conference. Members attended the food bank to volunteer, JBS, Harmony Feeds, Pike's Peak, Lockheed Martin, microbreweries, wineries, and the Denver Zoo. The WyFB YF&R crew experienced a whirlwind of adventure, from taking in city views at 14,000 feet to exploring a feedlot with Temple Grandin-designed chutes for sheep. They even rode multiple escalators- an unexpected highlight. The trip left them with unforgettable memories.

Mark your calendars for 2026! Colorado and Wyoming Farm Bureaus are teaming up for a joint conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We look forward to seeing many of you there—stay tuned for more details. ■



Sheridan College Advisor Angel Sparkman and Sheridan College Student Megan Sagner at the 2025 AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet competition in Denver. Sagner represented Wyoming in the national competition. At the state level, Sagner won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. At the national level, all competitors received a \$100 scholarship from CHS Foundation. LILLY STEWART PHOTO.



Collegiate Farm Bureau students from the University of Wyoming (UW) and Sheridan College (SC) elevating their agriculture experience at the 2025 AFBF FUSION Conference in Denver. Front Row: Kyla Pachner, UW; Peyton Eckerling, UW; Sam Davis, UW; Aspen Gair, UW; Courtney Beene, UW; Cora Turner, SC; Megan Sagner, SC; Cassie Fenske, UW; Belle Loeffler, SC; and Becca Nutting, SC. Back row: John Werner, WyFB YF&R Committee; Tagg Mickelsen, SC; Jacob Pesicka, SC; Cole Goertz, SC; Brand Terrell, SC; Angel Sparkman, Sheridan College Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter Advisor; and WyFB YF&R State Chair Cody Alps. LILLY STEWART PHOTO.



Thumbs up and full of excitement that Wyoming and Colorado Farm Bureaus are joining together for a February 2026 Joint Young Farmer & Rancher Conference in Cheyenne. Farm Bureau members and staff from Wyoming and Colorado joined together for a state dinner during the AFBF FUSION Conference. Left to right: WyFB YF&R Coordinator Alexis Lake; Austin McCue, CSU Collegiate Member; John Werner, WyFB YF&R; Jace Pfost, CSU Collegiate Member; and Brand Terrell, Sheridan College Collegiate Member. LILLY STEWART PHOTO.



Colorado tours took this group of Sheridan College students to the top of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, Colo. Back row: Tagg Mickelsen, Jacob Pesicka, Cole Goertz, Cora Turner and Luke Durfee. Middle Row: Belle Loeffler and Becca Nutting. Front row and photographer: Brand Terrell.



Elevating agriculture at the 2025 AFBF FUSION Conference with WyFB Staff and the WyFB YF&R Committee. Left to right: Kerin Clark, WyFB Executive Vice President; Carson and Abby Ellis and Family, Uinta County; Zack and Hannah Guild, Uinta County; John Werner, Converse County; Cody Alps, WyFB YF&R State Chair; Seth Allen, Niobrara County; Laura Dockery, Fremont County; Alexis Lake, WyFB Member Engagement Coordinator/ YF&R Coordinator; and Lilly Stewart, WyFB Intern. ABBY DURHEIM, NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU PHOTO.

WASHINGTON VISIT... From Page 1

During his visit, Fornstrom met with the Wyoming delegation to discuss key agricultural concerns such as trade policies, federal regulations, and other economic challenges facing farmers and ranchers.

One of the highlights of his trip was attending the Senate's traditional pre-joint session dinner. The event, held before all joint sessions of Congress and the President's address, provided Fornstrom with an opportunity to interact with lawmakers in a more informal setting.

"It's kind of surreal to sit down and look around the room and see people that you see on the news all the time," he said. "But they're just normal people. It's an interesting experience to see the human side of these individuals who make big decisions that impact our industry."

Fornstrom's primary purpose for being in Washington was to attend the AFBF Board of Directors meeting, held the morning after the joint session. The board, which meets four times a year, gathers to discuss policy issues, litigation updates and reports from various committees. These meetings are critical in shaping the

organization's policy direction and ensuring the voices of AFBF members are heard at the national level.

"The board meets at the annual convention, then again in March, July, October and November," Fornstrom explained. "The March and October meetings include committee meetings in addition to the full board meeting, which usually takes most of the day."

During the meeting, the board received updates from AFBF's executive leadership, including reports from Executive Vice President Joby Young and updates from the Women's Leadership Committee, litigation teams, and policy development groups. These reports provided insight into ongoing legal battles affecting agriculture, regulatory changes, and advocacy efforts at the federal level.

"The president gives a report, the executive vice president gives his report, and we hear from several key committees," Fornstrom said. "There's also a litigation report, a policy development report, and updates on any special projects we're working on, such as awards and outreach initiatives. It's a comprehensive overview of what's happening in the organization

and across the country."

One of the primary issues discussed during the board meeting was trade policy, a topic that had also been prominent during the joint session of Congress. With ongoing tariff disputes and trade negotiations affecting agricultural exports, Fornstrom said there was considerable discussion about how these policies are impacting farmers and ranchers.

"The majority of the discussion revolved around trade, especially since that joint session was the night before," he said. "There was a lot of talk about tariffs."

The meeting also featured a visit from US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, who spoke with board members for about 30 minutes. According to Fornstrom, Rollins sought input from AFBF representatives on how policy decisions were affecting farmers and ranchers at the grassroots level.

"It was refreshing to have someone in a leadership position actually ask us, 'How are things going? Tell us how what we're doing is affecting you,'" Fornstrom said. "We often see top-down decisions being made without much consideration for how they affect everyday farms and ranches,

so it was encouraging to have that kind of conversation."

With tariffs being a major concern, Fornstrom noted much of the uncertainty surrounding their impact remains unresolved. Fornstrom is cautiously optimistic, but acknowledged the unpredictable nature of trade negotiations.

"You don't know how the tariffs are going to affect each other," he said. "We hope any tariffs are short-lived and focused where they need to be."

Fornstrom emphasized while trade negotiations can be complex, the goal remains to secure fair trade agreements that support American agriculture and create opportunities for growth in the sector. "Farmers and ranchers are resilient, but we need stable policies that allow us to plan for the future with confidence," he said.

Reflecting on the joint session of Congress, Fornstrom said it was an eye-opening experience to witness the proceedings firsthand. He noted that political divisions are not a new phenomenon.

"I can only imagine what it was like 100 years ago to sit in that gallery and watch the president give a speech on how things are," he said. "People think things are divided now, but I think they've been divided for decades. It's just a question of how much is out in the open."

Despite the political tensions in Washington, Fornstrom described his trip as a valuable experience and appreciated the opportunity to engage with policymakers on issues that matter to Wyoming's agricultural community.

"It was a good experience overall," he said. "It's always important to have these conversations and make sure our voices are heard. Our industry faces challenges, but the more we engage, the more we can influence the policies that shape our future." ■

BIGHORN SHEEP... From Page 1

The push to reintroduce bighorn sheep into the Sweetwater Rocks began several years ago when two absentee-owned ranches with local managers approached the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission about conducting a feasibility study.

However, the effort has been met with resistance from area ranchers, who fear it could open the door to grazing reductions.

WyFB Policy Advocacy Directors Brett Moline and Kelly Carpenter, shared Farm Bureau's concerns about the impact on working ranches.

Kelly Carpenter noted concerns over land management go beyond just grazing.

"There's a lot of BLM land in the area, and with other recent federal efforts, ranchers are concerned that opening up land-use plans to accommodate bighorn sheep could lead to a net loss for ranching," Carpenter said.

Moline explained the Wyoming Legislature passed Senate File 118 in 2024. The law was designed to protect federal grazing rights by ensuring bighorn sheep would be removed if they interfere with federal grazing allotments. This protection only exists until Jan. 1, 2026. "Potentially affected permit holders want federal assurance livestock grazing will not be affected by bighorn sheep introduction before the bighorn sheep are introduced," Moline said. "This assurance will have to be enacted through federal law."

While the future of the project remains uncertain, local ranchers continue to push for stronger protections to ensure their livelihoods aren't impacted by reintroduction plans that could impact federal grazing. ■



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UDAF and Wyoming Livestock Board announce brand agreement

TAYLORSVILLE, UTAH
The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Wyoming Livestock Board have agreed to allow brands on cattle to be used as official identification for cattle moving between Utah and Wyoming. This is in response to the changes in official identification requirements by the USDA.

“We have a large number of cattle that move between Utah and Wyoming each year,” said Leann Hunting, UDAF Animal Industry Director. “This agreement has been made to lessen the burden placed on the many livestock producers who move cattle between our two states.”

Under federal law, official identification is required for dairy cattle, cattle going to a show, exhibition, rodeo, or recreational event, or sexually intact beef cattle over 18 months of age. Official identification aids state animal health officials in tracing exposed animals if disease outbreaks occur.

Under federal law, brands can only be used as the sole means of identification if:

- The brand is registered with the state
- There is an agreement (like this

one) between the state of origin and state of destination

- The animals are accompanied by a brand inspection certificate

Cattle that require official identification and that are being transported to states without this brand agreement are required to be identified with one of the following official forms of identification:

- An official individual identification tag such as an “840” RFID tag or metal tag placed prior to Nov. 5, 2024
- A registration tattoo, if accepted by the state of destination, or

- A group/lot identification number when allowed

This agreement does not change the import requirements for Utah or Wyoming. Producers should check the import requirements for Utah and Wyoming before making any such movements.

If producers or veterinarians have any questions about the requirements under this agreement or other identification requirements, please contact the office of the State Veterinarian at state-vet@utah.gov for Utah or lsbforms-applications@wyo.gov for Wyoming. ■

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Rocky Mountain CCA Program

Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation accepting requests for charitable contributions

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation (WyFB Foundation) is accepting requests for 2025 Charitable Contributions. WyFB Foundation is able to make charitable contributions each year thanks to a program offered by FBL Financial Group, Inc.

“Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation is happy to continue the tradition of offering financial assistance to Wyoming’s ag-oriented organizations through our charitable contributions fund,” said WyFB President, Todd Fornstrom. “We hope the funds will be a resource that benefits agriculture in the State of Wyoming.”

Requests will be considered for organizations that meet the following criteria:

- The organization must be classified as 501 (c) (3) by the IRS.
- The organization must:
 - Serve Farm Bureau members; or
 - Be an industry educational organization that provides direct or indirect benefit to Farm Bureau; or
 - Be a health organization that promotes practices or educational programs beneficial to Farm Bureau.

Visit wyfb.org and click on the calendar date of May 15, 2025, for the request proposal requirements.


Charitable Contribution requests must be submitted in hard copy format and postmarked by May 15, 2025, or received in the WyFB state office by May 15, 2025. Requests can be mailed to:

Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation
Attn: Dee Brewer, Office Manager
PO Box 1348
Laramie, WY, 82073

For questions, contact Dee Brewer at 307- 721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is the state’s largest general agriculture organization. As a grassroots advocacy organization, our members work together to develop agricultural policy, programs, and services to enhance the rural lifestyle of Wyoming. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation supports these efforts.

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Crook County Farm Bureau Federation Sponsors County FFA Speech Contest

SUBMITTED BY CASSIE PICKREL, CROOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation sponsored the county FFA speech contest Feb. 20 at the Sundance High School auditorium. Between the Bearlodge FFA Chapter and the Whitcomb FFA Chapter, there were 10 total participants from grades 6th through 12th that competed in the creed, prepared and extemporaneous categories of competition. The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation provided four of their members as a judging panel where each student participated in the hopes to advance to the district competition held next week.

The federation provided donuts for all who attended the event and presented each winner with a Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation cap and cash prize. The federation would like to congratulate all who participated in the event and thank both agricultural teachers from Sundance High School and Moorcroft High School, Mr. Brian Kennah and Ms. Megan Lovitt.

The winners of each contest are as follows:

Creed Speaking Contest

1st place – Trinity Boyer

2nd place – Sophie Lamb

3rd place – Morning Barnum

Extemporaneous Speaking Contest

1st place – Holden Ayer

Prepared Speaking Contest

1st place – Kimber Robinson

2nd place – Nadia Harding

3rd place – Craig Robinson



All participants and judges - (L to R) Royce Robinson, Cassie Pickrel, Kimber Robinson, Nadia Harding, Craig Robinson, Maggie Morrison, Naomi Anderson, Trinity Boyer, Sophie Lamb, Holden Ayer, Izzy Fisk, Morning Barnum, Tyler Pickrel and Ty Krell



Creed Winners (L to R) - Cassie Pickrel- Secretary of CCFBF, Trinity Boyer 1st, Sophie Lamb 2nd and Morning Barnum 3rd



Extemporaneous Winners (L to R) - Cassie Pickrel, Holden Ayer 1st



Prepared Winners (L to R) - Cassie Pickrel, Kimber Robinson 1st, Nadia Harding 2nd and Craig Robinson 3rd



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Wyoming Beef Council 307-777-7396 gary.gwin1@wyo.gov



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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.

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- Where do you want it to be?
- How do you get there?

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

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Greg Tripp, Rozet; Sarah & Jeremy Reynolds, Gillette; Adam Lara, Gillette; David Smolik, Gillette; Rhonda & Patrick Ranum, Rozet; Ronna & Orville Carson (REG), Recluse; Peter Reno/Reno F & Sons Inc (REG), Gillette; Nathaniel Melgosa (REG), Gillette

CARBON

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CROOK

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Leann & Shane Sanderson (REG), Kinneer; Bobbie Heck/Stranden LLC (REG), Kinneer; Danen Barquin, Riverton; Steve Anderson, Lander; Jedidiah Hernandez, Riverton; Ann & Brady Bowthorpe, Riverton; Timothy Shooks, Riverton; Steve Osborn, Lander; American Wilderness Botanicals, Lander; Faye Dale, Riverton; Rodger Campbell, Lander; Jennifer Lewis (REG), Meeteetse; Jamie Denevan, Lander; Richard Lex (REG), Lander; Mitch LeClair (REG), Shoshoni; Scott Crabbs, Alpine

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NEW MEMBERS... From Page 10

PLATTE
Gary Ricley, Wheatland

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Marj Graham & Craig Smith (REG), Worland; Wrena & Ward Barnett, Sheridan; Donna & Thomas Elisius, Big Horn; Lisa & Jerome Smith, Sheridan; Dale Hansen/ Hansen Livestock, Banner; Melissa Albrecht, Sheridan; Daniel Hickman, Sheridan; Jennifer Armstrong, Wyarro; Mike Smith, Newcastle; Ralph Rowland, Sheridan; Randy Hughes, Story; Aaron Mullinax, Sheridan; Stuart Olson, Sheridan; Joe Frake (REG), Sheridan; Carla Schlecht, Ranchester; Bridgette Baker, Holly Springs, NC; Jenelle & Brandon Kysar, Sheridan; Kolton Anderson, Sheridan; Margaret Martin, Sheridan; Nicholas Delange, Buffalo; Diana & Brian Roetering, Buffalo; Donald Distler, Sheridan; Josh Brink, Story; Leslie Richards, Sheridan; Adam Kane, Sheridan; Mary Sorenson, Banner; Tama & Dan Walter, Ranchester; Michelle Syring, Sheridan; Moniqua Mueller, Sheridan; Pamela & Phillip Treu, Sheridan; Rebecca Newman, Sheridan; Troy Parsons, Story; Caleb French (REG), Sheridan; Abby & Jacob Board, Sheridan; Robert Trussell, Sheridan; Tammie Bock, Sheridan

SUBLETTE
Kelli & Sean Hansen, Pinedale; Taylor Woods, Pinedale; Sandralee & Bradford Bousman (REG), Boulder; Justin Wright, Cora; Robert Kladianos, Pinedale; Sandra & Jeff Skinner, Big Piney

SWEETWATER
Thomas Andrews, Rock Springs; Damion Olson, Green River; Sharlene & Gregory Muller, Rock Springs; Aimee & Joe White, Rock Springs

TETON
James Brungardt, Jackson; Virginia & Ken Mahood (REG), Jackson; Chase Beninga, Jackson; Christine & John Turner, Moose; Simon Jones, Jackson; Stephen Melcer, Jackson; Coleman Burnham/ Red Rim Ranch LLC, Sheridan; Lea Bonnacaze & Ian Levenson, Jackson

UINTA
Kingfisher Bend Ranch LLC (REG), Evanston; Rebecca & Kirby Lamb, Evanston; Cindy & Chris Schwitzer (REG), Evanston; Mackala Hicks, Evanston; Hana & Tom Norris (REG), Lonetree; David Matthews, Evanston; Jason Hergert & Chris Jensen, Evanston; Cindy & David Bolen, Lonetree

WASHAKIE
Debrah & Charles Swick, Worland; Carol & George Sheaff, Worland

WESTON
Lynn Bohlman, Newcastle; Cynthia & Andrew Wolfe, Newcastle; Brian McElhaney (REG), Lusk; Lonnie & Ty Farella, Newcastle; David Tysdal/Triple T Land & Livestock (REG), Newcastle; Jared Hanson, Newcastle; Jerry Childs (REG), Osage; Kristina Fulk, Newcastle

Collegiate Farm Bureaus take ‘Ag Books for Kids’ to the Classroom



Sheridan College Collegiate Farm Bureau students Jacob Pesicka, Cora Turner and Brand Terrell reading the 2025 “Ag Books for Kids” book “Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car” by Peggy Thomas to a local classroom. Smiles like this make the “Ag Books for Kids” program so much fun. COURTESY PHOTO.

University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau members read the “Ag Books for Kids” book with local elementary schools and conducted a hands-on activity with the classroom. UW Student Kyla Pachner helping a student make stress balls filled with soybeans. COURTESY PHOTO.



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