



# WYOMING AGRICULTURE

*Agriculture....Keeping Wyoming Strong*



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## New Legislation on Cattle Market Transparency Introduced

**By Michael Nepveux, AFBF Economist and Scott Bennett, AFBF, Director, Congressional Relations**

On Tuesday, March 2, U.S. Sens. Deb Fischer and Ron Wyden introduced the Cattle Market Transparency Act of 2021. The bill focuses on ensuring robust regionally negotiated cash trade and providing producers with more pricing information. This bill would work to establish regional mandatory minimum levels of negotiated trade, as well as mandate new reporting requirements and address confidentiality guidelines in Livestock Mandatory Reporting. The bill aligns with the goals set forth last year by the American Farm Bureau Federation's Cattle Market Working Group, as well as new cattle marketing policy passed by AFBF's voting delegates at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in January.

### Provisions in the Bill

The Cattle Market Transparency Act aims to improve price discovery by creating new reporting requirements and providing producers with additional infor-

mation going into negotiations by mandating the creation and maintenance of a library of marketing contracts offered by packers to producers. USDA already maintains a swine contract library, which has a catalog of the types of contracts offered by packers to swine producers for the purchase of swine (including swine that are purchased for future delivery). USDA's Swine Contract Library is intended to aid in the price discovery process and provide equal access to market information for all market participants. This legislation would provide cattle producers valuable information on certain contract provisions already utilized in the marketplace and position them to be better able to negotiate a more favorable contract with a packer.

The bill would also mandate daily reporting by packers on the number of cattle scheduled to be delivered for slaughter for the next 14 days. Similar to the contract library provision, this requirement already exists in the swine industry and has proven

valuable to producers. The aim of this provision is to aid producers in the industry by creating more accurate forecasts for estimated slaughter numbers, anticipating a

packer's future needs for animals, and as a result, better evaluating supply and demand conditions in the marketplace.

See **'Cattle Market Transparency'** page 7

## Wyoming Legislative Update

**By Kerin Clark**

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation continues to serve as your voice for agriculture during the Wyoming Legislative session. The month-long session is fast-paced so with the nature of a printed publication much changes in just one week. We will have another legislative update in the May 2021 issue of *Wyoming Agriculture*. We invite you to listen for our legislative radio update via the Northern Ag Network every Friday during the Legislature. If you miss it on your local radio, go to <https://www.wyfb.org/radio-programs/> the following Monday to hear the show.

"There have been a lot of tax options proposed this session," said Brett Moline, WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs. WyFB policy opposes tax increases while calling for spending and government efficiencies to be addressed.

According to Moline, one such bill still moving through the process, House Bill (HB) 174, deals with lo-

cal government sales and use taxes that could be imposed by referendum rather than a vote of the people. "In order to help fund education this bill would allow county commissioners to add an additional one percent sales tax that wouldn't go to a vote of the people," he explained. "This is in opposition to our policy in two ways. First, our members' policy is against tax increases. Second, if taxes are increased our member policy believes those who pay the taxes should vote on the proposed increase."

There have been several tax bills WyFB has opposed that are dead for the session. This includes the road usage tax which would have established a per mile fee charge for the use of public roads.

"Proponents wanted to make sure electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles paid their share but to institute the road user tax would have been burdensome on all those already paying fuel taxes," Moline explained. "Looking at

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Think spring and green grass! Breaking a trail to get cattle to the hay during the March snowstorm at the Sno-Shoe Ranch in Converse County. *Rachel Grant photo.*

WYOMING AGRICULTURE

label

# Bright Trade Outlook for U.S. Ag

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

As the economy here and abroad slowly begins to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, America's farmers and ranchers are ready to meet increased demand both in the United States and worldwide. There is no questioning our resilience in adapting to and meeting some of the greatest challenges we have seen. Time and again, U.S. agriculture leads the global marketplace because we can be relied on to grow the safe, sustainable products consumers want and need. American-grown means the highest quality to consumers worldwide, and now is the time to work together to build on our trade partnerships, open new markets and ensure American farmers can compete with other countries fairly.

When the Phase 1 trade agreement with China went into effect just over one year ago, we were on the brink of a global pandemic—none of us knowing how long it would take hold or how it would rattle economies. Still, China imported a record \$27.2 billion in U.S. agriculture products—nearly double what it imported in 2019. While that was more than \$6 billion off the goal set in the agreement, I would call that a success given the challenges in the

supply chain and export restrictions early on.

Overall, the outlook for U.S. agriculture exports is bright, according to the USDA. We are nearly halfway through the current fiscal year, and the latest USDA trade outlook, released last month, predicts a record \$157 billion in U.S. agriculture exports—that's a \$21 billion increase from the previous fiscal year. This is some much-needed good news for farmers and ranchers, and a hopeful sign of better days ahead.

As the Biden administration continues negotiations with our global partners and begins new conversations, expanding opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers and our rural communities must remain a top priority. I'm glad to say that all early signs show we agree on that priority. Last month, the administration presented President Biden's trade agenda for the year, which said the President would seek to expand our global market opportunities for farmers and ranchers and enforce global agriculture trade rules. At Farm Bureau, we look forward to working with the new United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to see those goals achieved for a stronger farm and rural economy.



Zippy Duvall

America's farmers and ranchers have repeatedly been unfairly targeted with tariffs and other trade barriers abroad. Your American Farm Bureau has worked for decades to level the playing field with fair trade deals to help our industry be the global leader it is today. And we will continue to work with this administration to ensure new trade agreements open markets still unfairly closed off to American farm and ranch products.

Often the barriers agriculture faces in trade have nothing to do with us. We're just caught in the crossfire. In early March, the U.S. put a four-month pause on tariffs on U.K. and European Union products as a sign of good faith as we work to resolve an escalating dispute on airplane parts that has put farmers on the frontlines of the skirmish. This is a hopeful development and perhaps the first step to forming a comprehensive trade agreement with the U.K. that is science-based and removes the non-tariff barriers to American agriculture.

The success of U.S. agricultural trade also depends on us holding trade partners accountable as we implement agreements. The new USTR will need to address quickly the implementation

of the USMCA, which came into effect on July 1, 2020. USMCA put into place new trading standards and strong enforcement mechanisms. While there is some friction regarding potatoes and biotech crops with Mexico and dairy products with Canada, the USTR can use the enforcement mechanisms in the agreement to resolve issues. As two of our largest trading partners, the strengthened partnership is paying off for farmers and ranchers. For example, exports of poultry and dairy products to Canada, which have been a sticking point between the U.S. and Canada for a long time, were up 5% in the last six months of 2020, compared to the last six months of 2019.

Building strong trade partnerships takes time, and America's farmers and ranchers understand that well. The strong outlook we're seeing for agriculture exports didn't happen overnight. We came to the table and worked with our nation's leaders to ensure agriculture remained a priority. I am confident that together we will build on that work, and that we will continue to provide the best food, fiber and renewable fuel for customers near and far.

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 2..... "Ag Books for Kids" county contest deadline
- 2..... Wyoming Legislature 2021 General Session scheduled adjournment date
- 20..... "Ag Books for Kids" district contest deadline

### June

- 1..... WyFB Membership Committee Meeting—Casper

### November

- 11-13 ... WyFB Annual Meeting--Cody



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



WYOMING  
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# CORRECTION FROM MARCH 2021 ARTICLE: Family Farm Exemption Remains

**March 15, 2021**—The U.S. Citizenship Act was introduced in the House and the Senate on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Act is President Biden’s immigration proposal.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the legislation addresses a broad range of immigration issues including provisions that will directly impact agriculture. In the March 2021 issue of *Wyoming Agriculture* we printed a summary from AFBF highlighting areas of interest for agriculture.

The newsnote incorrectly stated family farm exemptions were removed from minimum and maximum hour requirements. AFBF has updated the summary noting the family farm exemption *remains* to allow maximum and minimum

hour exceptions for any employee employed in agriculture who is the parent, spouse, or child, or other member of the employer’s immediate family.

Here is a summary of certain exemptions removed for agricultural work:

## Removing Certain Exemptions for Agricultural Work.

- Amends section 13 of the FLSA, to only allow maximum and minimum hour requirement exceptions to remain for any employee employed in agriculture who is the parent, spouse, or child, or other member of the employer’s immediate family.
- Exemptions for agricultural employees that fall under the following criteria are removed:
  - An employee is employed by an employer who did not, during any calendar quarter during the preceding calendar year use more than five hundred man-days of agricultural labor,
  - An employee is employed as a hand harvest laborer and is paid on a piece rate basis in an operation which has been, and is customarily and generally recognized as having been, paid on a piece rate basis in the region of employment, commutes daily from his permanent residence to the farm on which he is so employed, and has been employed in agriculture less than thirteen weeks during the preceding calendar year,
  - An employee is sixteen years of age or under and is employed as a hand harvest laborer, is paid on a piece rate basis in an operation which has been, and is customarily and generally recognized as having been, paid on a piece rate basis in the region of employment, is employed on the same farm as his parent or person standing in the place of his parent, and is paid at the same piece rate as employees over age sixteen are paid on the same farm.
  - An employee is principally engaged in the range production of livestock.

## Wyoming Legislative Update

From page 1

a licensing surcharge on these types of vehicles would be better to address the concern of electric and hybrid vehicles not paying their share of highway maintenance through fuel taxes.”

Regarding livestock identification, HB 229, Livestock Identification Choice Act, would clarify that livestock producers can use any form of animal identification as outlined in federal law. This proposed legislation is in direct response to the United States Department of Agriculture’s RFID ear tag mandate that keeps making headlines. It is continuing to move through the legislative process.

“The bill would establish in Wyoming law that anything that has been available on a voluntary basis, in-

cluding branding, could be used as an identification method for livestock and bison,” Moline said. “It would give our Attorney General an ability to fight back against what the feds have tried to do before with identification requirements.”

WyFB supports Senate File 88, a bill to establish ownership of fossils and artifacts. “This bill would clarify that fossils and artifacts are not minerals and they belong to the surface owner,” Moline explained. “It is important to define who owns this property without having to go to court.”

To review all bills introduced for 2021 and their current status go to: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021>

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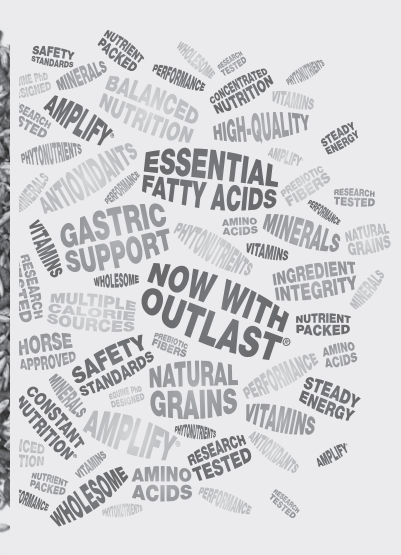


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# Young Farmer and Rancher News



## Growing up with Farm Bureau

**By Toni Swartz, WyFB YF&R Committee Member and Campbell County Rancher**

I grew up a Farm Bureau Kid. My dad, Troy Swartz, decided to switch to Farm Bureau Insurance in 1992 and they invited him to the Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation (CCFB) Annual Meeting. It was at his very first Farm Bureau meeting where he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors. He held the title of CCFB President off-and-on for about 8 years and has served as the Northeast District President since 2008. I will never forget the Farm Bureau summer barbecues out at Red Record's barn and the first time I got to go with my dad when they butchered the pig for the hog roast! I don't remember

a time when my dad wasn't serving on some sort of Farm Bureau Board or attending meetings and dragging me along.

Then in 2005, I won the CCFB Scholarship and went to the board meeting to talk with the board members about my plans and goals for the future. I always knew that agriculture and Farm Bureau would be a part of my life. Since then, Farm Bureau has provided many educational opportunities for me, a platform for my voice to be heard, and allowed me to travel and network with other agriculturalists from around the country and world!

I was elected to serve my first term on the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee in the



Toni Swartz and her daughter Rozlynn meeting with U.S. Senator John Barrasso at the 2021 WyFB YF&R Conference. *Courtesy photo.*

fall of 2012. I will admit I had no idea what that would lead me to! I started out working with the "Ag Books for Kids" program and after a few terms I switched to the Competitive Events Sub-Committee. I served one year as the YF&R Committee State Chair and was also the State Secretary for a few years. Along the way I have attended one American Farm Bureau

Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ and five AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers National Conferences in Virginia Beach, VA; Nashville, TN; Kansas City, MO; Pittsburg, PA, and Milwaukee, WI.

One year our state committee ventured out to Washington, D.C. where we toured the U.S. Capitol Building and were even able to sit in the Senate Chambers! Our group met with our Wyoming Senators and Representative, walked all the way around the White House, traveled to the top of the Washington Monument, and saw all the famous sites. We were welcomed to the U.S. Embassy of Japan and met with their Agriculture Ambassadors, attended the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, and toured George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, on the Potomac River. Talk about going back to your roots!

“Farm Bureau believes each individual has a voice and allows many opportunities for people to speak up for the change they want to see happen in our world.”  
—Toni Swartz, WyFB YF&R Committee Member



**Generation to Generation.** Northeast District Farm Bureau President and Campbell County Rancher Troy Swartz and granddaughter Rozlynn listen intently to resolutions discussion last fall at the district meeting. *Kerin Clark photo.*

where we toured the U.S. Capitol Building and were even able to sit in the Senate Chambers! Our group met with our Wyoming Senators and Representative, walked all the way around the White House, traveled to the top of the Washington Monument, and saw all the famous sites. We were welcomed to the U.S. Embassy of Japan and met with their Agriculture Ambassadors, attended the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, and toured George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, on the Potomac River. Talk about going back to your roots!

Farm Bureau believes each individual has a voice and allows many opportunities for people to speak up for the change they want to see happen in our world. It opens up doors to countless resources and continuing educational topics and attending Farm Bureau conferences introduces you to so many

### Sharing about "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week"



A great opportunity to share about "Ag Books for Kids" and "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week" with News 13 television reporter Bobbee Russell! WyFB YF&R Committee Member Aletta Ziehl (left) and WyFB YF&R Coordinator Kerin Clark (right) were interviewed for a news feature on News 13 in Casper and Cheyenne on March 3 during "Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week." You can re-watch a clip of the interview on our Facebook page @wyomingfarmbureauafederationyoungfarmersandranchers.

WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Secretary Aletta Ziehl, of Natrona County, talked about "Ag Books for Kids" during a recent television interview. Ziehl shared how teachers and students can participate in classroom activities using the virtual book reading available at wyfb.org. "I love that farmers and ranchers are creative and don't take any time to slow down. We make adjustments and keep going," Ziehl said in reference to creating virtual options for this year's book and activity.



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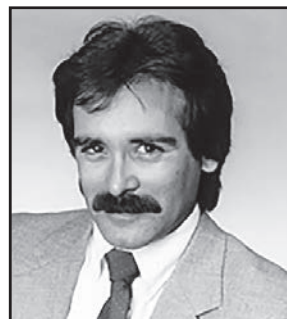
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# AFBF Applauds Introduction of Estate Tax Repeal Bills

**March 10, 2021**--The American Farm Bureau Federation is calling on Congress to remove

barriers to farm ownership. Bills aimed at eliminating the estate tax were introduced in the

Senate and House March 9. Both are supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and 25 cosponsors introduced S. 617 and Reps. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) and Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) introduced H.R. 1712, with 121 cosponsors. Both bills would allow for a complete repeal of the estate tax, which, according to AFBF analysis, threatens more than 74,000 family farms across the country and nearly half of all farmland.

"Farmers and ranchers already face unpredictable challenges beyond our control yet persevere to protect our nation's supply of food, fiber and renewable fuel. The tax code should encourage farm business growth, not add to uncertainty," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Eliminating the estate tax removes another barrier to entry for sons and daughters or other beginning farmers to

carry-on our agricultural legacy and make farming more accessible to all. We appreciate Senator Thune and Representatives Smith and Bishop for introducing their bills and look forward to working with them to get this important legislation passed."

If the estate tax is not eliminated, instead of spending money to improve their operations, farmers and ranchers, along with all small businesses, will be forced to continue to divert resources to pay for estate planning to account for a shifting and unpredictable tax code.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act temporarily doubles the estate tax exemption to \$11 million per person indexed for inflation through 2025. However, without congressional action, the estate tax exemption will revert to \$5.5 million per person in 2026, putting even more farms and ranches at risk.

## Growing up with Farm Bureau

From page 4

agriculturalists who are facing similar obstacles.

My dad says the reason he continues to be involved with Farm Bureau is the comradery, "Everyone seems to get along pretty well and my beliefs are their beliefs." I know how grateful I am to have served Farm Bureau alongside my dad, as well as many wonderful and intelligent people. I have made life-long acquaintances that I can always reach out to when I need advice!

Now, my daughter Rozlynn is a Farm Bureau kid! Tagging along with me to my meetings

and already learning so much! She even met U.S. Senator Barasso at our latest YF&R Leadership Conference! I hope she continues to love agriculture and follow in those footsteps many have laid before her.

*Toni Swartz is a Campbell County rancher who also serves as a brand inspector in Campbell County. She has served as a Northeast District representative on the WyFB YF&R Committee since 2013. Toni also serves as the secretary of the Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation.*

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# Cattle Market Transparency From page 1

## Background on Cattle Transactions

There are a variety of market transactions through which cattle are marketed in the U.S. Thankfully, due to Livestock Mandatory Reporting data, we are able to understand how these animals change hands and how these methods have evolved over time. There are four primary transaction types reported by USDA through LMR.

Negotiated purchases, often referred to as the “spot” or “cash” market, are purchases for which the price is determined through buyer and seller interaction on the day of sale. Forward contract purchases are agreements for the purchase of cattle executed in advance of slaughter; the base price is established in the agreement. With negotiated grid purchases, the base price is negotiated between buyer and seller and is known at the time the agreement is made but the final price is determined by applying a series of premiums and discounts based on carcass performance after slaughter. Formula purchases are the advance commitments of cattle for slaughter by any means other than negotiated, negotiated grid or forward contract. Importantly, formula pricing uses a pricing mechanism in which the price is often not known until a future date.

Over the past 15 years, we have seen a dramatic shift in the way cattle are marketed. In the mid-2000s, roughly 50% to 60% of cattle sold went through the negotiated market. Over time, this method of marketing fed cattle declined and has been replaced by formula transactions. The negotiated market has fallen from half or more of cattle transactions to roughly 20%. At the same time, formula transactions have increased from roughly 30% of transactions to 60% to 70%. Over the same period, we have seen a slight decline in negotiated grid transactions and a fluctuating volume of forward contract transactions.

## Regional Minimum Negotiated Trade

It is also important to understand that types of transactions vary by market regionally. Negotiated trade is more common in certain states, such as Nebraska, which have seen its negotiated

percentage range from 30% to 60% in recent years. Other states typically have very little negotiated trade. In Texas and Oklahoma, for example, negotiated trade accounts for only 5% to 8% of cattle transactions. These regional variations contrast with the national percentage of negotiated trade, which falls around 20% to 23%. As a result of the differences in agricultural practices between regions, it is important that any attempts to federally mandate a specific level of negotiated trade take into account regional differences; a “one-size-fits-all” approach will not work across all regions of the country.

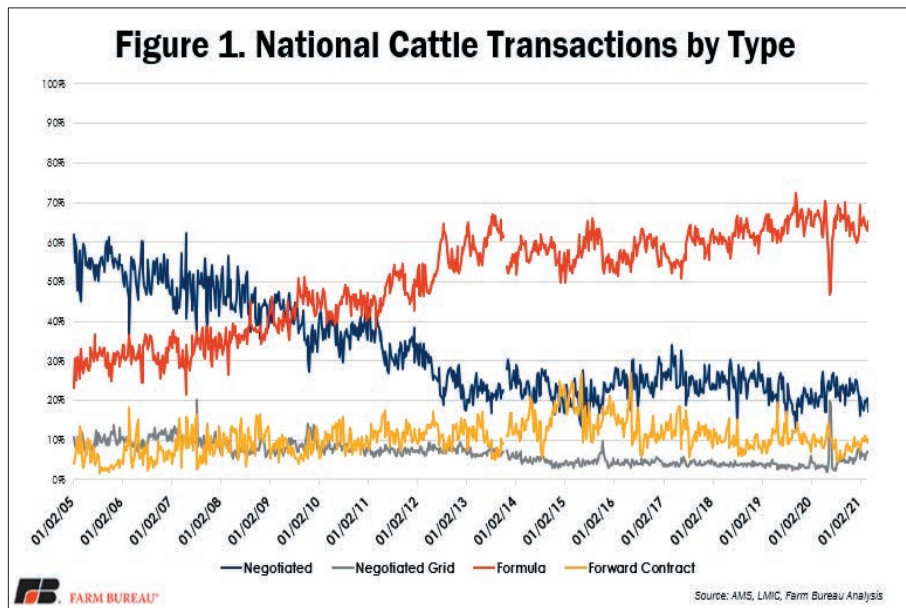
AFBF policy (updated in January 2021) supports:

“Increasing the share of negotiated sales in fed cattle markets with a central focus on providing price transparency. Any government effort to increase the amount of negotiated sales should be respectful of regional differences. Any marketing requirements should be reviewed or sunset to allow for a thorough cost-benefit analysis”

The Cattle Market Transparency Act would require the Secretary to establish “regional mandatory minimums for the purpose of enhancing price discovery and transparency for cattle market participants.” In developing these thresholds, the bill directs the Secretary to consider the number of packers in the reporting region, the availability of cattle in the reporting region, preexisting contractual arrangements of packers in the reporting region and the number of pricing transactions in the reporting region. The bill would mandate that the initial requirement for the regional mandatory minimums be greater than the three-year average percentage of the negotiated and negotiated grid purchases for the individual regions. These requirements would be subject to a review every two years under consultation with USDA’s Office of the Chief Economist. The bill would also require that within three years of enactment, USDA conduct a data-driven cost-benefit analysis regarding the operation and effect of the regional mandatory minimums.

## Summary

The Cattle Market Transpar-



ency Act would work to establish regional mandatory minimum levels of negotiated trade, as well as require new reporting requirements and address confidentiality guidelines in Livestock Mandato-

ry Reporting. The bill aligns with the goals set forth by last year’s AFBF Cattle Market Working Group, as well as new cattle marketing policy passed at AFBF’s Convention in January.



# Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

by Connie Werner

## Southern Seven Layer Salad

### The Ingredients

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup salad dressing, such as Miracle Whip
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 head ice berg lettuce, chopped
- 8 oz swiss cheese, shredded
- 1 bag (10oz) frozen peas, thawed
- 1/2 cup purple onion, diced
- 6 hard cooked eggs, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups ham, diced
- 1 1/2 cups bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 large cucumber, seeded and chopped

### Directions

- Mix together the mayo, salad dressing, milk, dry mustard, salt, and pepper. Set aside
- In a large dish layer 1/2 the lettuce, cheese, peas, onion, eggs, ham, bacon, and cucumber. Then spread 1/2 the dressing. Repeat layers
- Cover and Chill for 8 hours. Enjoy

# Wyoming Classifieds

## NOTICE

### CLASSIFIED POLICY:

1) Wyoming Farm Bureau members are entitled to free classified advertising in this publication for the purpose of selling items they grow or make themselves, selling used machinery or household items, for posting wanted advertising. Real estate sales not included. Each member family is entitled to two (2) free ads per month, for 3 months, of up to 40 words each. Member ads will be accepted by e-mail to [kclark@wyfb.org](mailto:kclark@wyfb.org) or by mail to WyFB, ATTN: CLASSIFIEDS, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. Please include member's name and county.

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### DEADLINE:

Ads should be received (via mail or email) by the 3rd Thursday of the month in order to appear in the next month's issue. Advertisers are asked to check your ad and report any errors. Paid ads must be mailed, typed or neatly printed, together with any payment due, to *Wyoming Ag-*

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### NOTE:

The appearance of any ad in *Wyoming Agriculture* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the product or service offered. The advertiser is liable for content of the advertisement and any claims arising therefrom against this publication. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with its publication's standards.

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**\*\*Note: (REG) denotes new "Regular" membership**

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## CAMPBELL

Toni & Joshua Diede, Moorcroft; Monica & Travis Gladson (REG), Rozet; Amber & Sean Kaplan, Hulett; Colette Komara, Gillette; Barb & Joe Lahr, Gillette; Tori & Donny Scantling(REG), Gillette; Heather & Justin Taylor, Moorcroft

## CARBON

Carol & Ronald Bach, Sinclair; Christina & Billy Linn, Rawlins; Michael & Susan McAllister, Hanna; Brian Wyza, Rawlins; Jack Creek Land & Cattle(REG), Saratoga

## CONVERSE

Kandice & Trevor Campbell, Glenrock; John Carey, Douglas; Erica & T.J. Marshik(REG), Douglas; Colleen Rippeh, Glenrock; Pete Taylor, Douglas; Connie & Henry Woehl(REG), Douglas

## CROOK

Ronald Fink, Moorcroft; Carol Jordan(REG), Sundance; Michelle Kreisler, Hulett; Sue & Dave Weidner(REG), Aladdin

## FREMONT

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## GOSHEN

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Linda Reed & Bart Bader(REG), Thermopolis

## JOHNSON

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## LINCOLN

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## NATRONA

Laura Addison, Casper; Jessica & STEVEN Asire, Casper; Joyce & W.N. Barnard(REG), Casper; Trevor Bevan, Casper; Paula & Scott Edberg, Casper; Gail Frazier, Casper; Justin Harshman, Casper; Barbara & Steven Jacobs, Casper; Mike Jump, Casper; Vernon Madsen, Casper; Jennifer & Mead Martens, Cheyenne; Brian Miller, Casper; Tonya & Benton Street, Evansville

## PARK

Vickie & Robert Blevins, Powell; Gloria Colon & Christopher Richter, Powell; Carla & Roger Flinn, Cody; Jolene & Michael Grau, Powell; Lorraine & Johnny Griffith, Powell; John Hamilton, Cody; Gary Kellogg, Powell; Kenneth Kowlak, Cody; Keela & Brock Meier, Lovell; Allan Sinclair, Cody; Tina Bloxham & Shiloh Wallingford(REG), Cody; Beverly Bartles-Winters & Stanley Winters, Cody

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## SUBLETTE

Olivia & Tanner Butner, Daniel; Kim Grazin & Nicholas George, Big Piney; Stephanie Lund, Boulder; Ann McNerney, Pinedale

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## TETON

Janet & Buol Heslin, Alta; Kathleen & John Williams, Jackson

## UINTA

Larence Beck, Lyman; Chelsea Bowns, Evanston; Coy Mahaney, Evanston; Aaron Martin (REG), Fort Bridger; Cherylyn & Thayne Peterson(REG), Lyman; Caleb Vercimak(REG), Robertson

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# Presents Ag Books

*Submitted by Eilish Hanson*

In February members of the Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation board presented Ag Books for Kids to students in grades K-5 at

Lusk as well as Lance Creek.

We went through this year's Ag Books for Kids: Better Together... "Digging It" with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies and Brains,

then had each student design an "ear tag" to take home, and are excited to see the results of each grade's color-

ing contest. It was such a rewarding experience to help teach our local youth about agriculture!



Chelsea Baars, Niobrara County FBF President and WyFB YF&R State Chair, reads to a local classroom as part of the WyFB "Ag Books for Kids" program. *Courtesy photo.*

Lexie Dockery, Niobrara County FBF Board member, reads to a local classroom as part of the WyFB "Ag Books for Kids" program. *Courtesy photo.*



# Hosts FFA Creed and Speech

*Submitted by Keith Haiar, CCFBF Board Member*

The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation (CCFBF) hosted the FFA Creed and Speech competition Feb 17th at the Sundance High School Auditorium. The contest was for the three FFA chapters in Crook County. Winner of the Speech contest was Nate Schommer. There were eight students who recited the creed. The Creed winners were 1st - Aspen Jones, 2nd - Lindsey Fosheim, and 3rd - Anya Moody. Crook County Farm Bureau Federation provided cash prizes to the winners and judged the competition.



Shown in the photo are Crook County Farm Bureau Federation Members with the FFA members. L to r: Hugh Thompson, CCFBF; Keith Haiar, CCFBF; Nate Schommer; Keaton Mills; Lindsey Fosheim; Aspen Jones; Joslyn Von; Mallory Jones; Rebekah Anderson; Anya Moody; Natalie Harrison; Diana Burian, CCFBF; and Frank Hawken, CCFBF. *Courtesy photo.*



# Holds spring meeting

The Hot Springs County Farm Bureau Federation held their annual spring membership meeting on March 20. Shown here is Paul Ward, county FB president, speaking to members. *Ken Hamilton photo.*



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# Obituary

## Carl Obe Dockery

September 19, 1936-March 2, 2021

Carl Obe Dockery, 84, passed away on March 2nd, 2021. Carl was born on September 19th, 1936 in Thermopolis, Wyoming to Clifford and Edna (Ready) Dockery. After high school, Carl worked on the Arapahoe ranch with his father, and he then went on to work with the Pitchfork at Meetee-tse, George Woods on No Wood River at Ten Sleep, Spratts at Lost Cabin, Antler Ranch, Montana, Kennedy and Brown north of Sheridan, Powder River at Arvada, Paul Axtell east of Thermopolis, and Landis Weber West of Thermopolis.

Ranching wasn't Carl's only love- He married Carol (Ireland) Dockery, on May 20th, 1959 and they shared over 62 beautiful years together. His dream to own

and operate his own place came to life in 1968, when he bought the ranch on Mud Creek Road and spent the remainder of his life creating his legacy with his wife at his side.

Carl was also a member of many different organizations and had many hobbies. He was part of the Hot Springs County Farm Bureau, where he sat as Vice President. He was also a founding member of the Hot Springs County Natural Resources Planning Board, and the Kiwanis Thermopolis chapter. He was inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2017, and also a member of the Hot Springs County Historical Society, the Pioneer Association, and most importantly the Church of Christ-Thermopolis. He enjoyed stream-fishing,



Carl Obe Dockery

hunting, and spending time with family and friends.

Carl is survived by his wife Carol (Ireland) Dockery of Thermopolis; brother William (Marlene) of Lusk, brother-in-law Frank Rhodes of Thermopolis, 4 children, Pam (Jack) Bailey of Gillette, Claudette (Kenneth) Wilcox of West Fork, Arkansas, Billee (Dockery) Mayfield of Thermopolis, and Thad (Andrea) Dockery of Sweet Water River; along with 7 grandchildren, and 4

great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Barbra June Dockery, father, Clifford Dockery, mother Edna (Ready) Dockery, brother Robert (Bob) Dockery, son-in-law Roy Mayfield, and sister Colleen (Dockery) Rhodes.

Services were held at the Hot Springs County Fair Building on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Carl was a friend to many, a light for Christ to all, a true cowboy, one of a kind.



## Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance Members Testify on Opportunities to Tackle Climate Change

**March 11, 2021**--Four witnesses representing the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance's (FACA) founding organizations and co-chairs – American Farm Bureau Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and National Farmers Union – testified March 11 in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on the agriculture, food and forestry sectors' role in delivering climate solutions.

Farmers, ranchers and forest owners are both on the frontlines of climate impacts and offer innovative, natural solutions through increased carbon sequestration in trees and soils and reduced GHG emissions.

In accordance with FACA's guiding principles, the four representatives stressed to lawmakers that federal climate policy must be built upon voluntary, incentive-based programs and market-driven opportunities, promote resilience and adaptation in rural communities, and be grounded in

scientific evidence. In addition, solutions proposed by Congress and the Biden administration must be strongly bipartisan and accommodate the diverse needs of producers and landowners, regardless of size, geographic region or commodity.

"Throughout my lifetime of farming, I constantly have sought out ways to reduce my environmental impact — it is good for the environment, it is good for my farm and it is the right thing to do. I believe the timing is right for all industries, including agriculture, to come together and find solutions that will sustain our way of life for generations to come," said John Reifsteck, an Illinois grain farmer and the chairman of GROWMARK Inc. testifying on behalf of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC).

National Farmers Union (NFU) member Clay Pope said, "FACA sets a new, higher floor for federal policy discussions around agriculture and climate change, and gives clear, farmer-backed direction to policymakers."

See 'Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance' page 12

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# Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation accepting requests for charitable contributions

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is accepting requests for 2021 charitable contributions. Each year, the organization is able to make charitable contributions thanks to a program offered by FBL Financial Group, Inc.

“Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation 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 will benefit agriculture within the State of Wyoming.”

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

- The organization must be classified as 501 (c) (3) by the IRS.

- The organization must serve Farm Bureau members or residents of communities where Farm Bureau is an employer or:

- Be an industry educational organization that provides direct or indirect benefit to Farm Bureau.

- Be a health organization that promotes practices or educational programs beneficial to Farm Bureau.

Visit [wyfb.org](http://wyfb.org) and click on the calendar date of May

15 for request proposal requirements. Charitable Contribution requests must be submitted in hard copy format and postmarked by May 15 or received in the Wyoming Farm Bureau state office by May 15, 2021.

Mail hard copy requests to: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Attn: Dee Brewer, PO Box 1348, Laramie WY 82073. For questions, call (307) 721.7719 or email [dbrewer1@wyfb.org](mailto: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.



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# Food and Agriculture

## Climate Alliance

From page 10

The sixth-generation farmer and rancher from Loyal, Oklahoma, added that “Congress must heed these recommendations and quickly act upon them. America’s family farmers and ranchers are already feeling the effects of climate change on their land — there is no time to waste.”

“Policy which addresses proactive measures to influence climate conditions cannot be one-size-fits-all,” said Stefanie Smallhouse, president of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation and member of the American Farm Bureau board of directors. “Just as I have highlighted the unique needs of Arizona’s farmers and ranchers in the West, all regions of the U.S. can explain ways in which any given climate policy may or may not work for the landscape, industry and ecology present in that region.”

“The potential for farmers, ranchers and forestland owners to contribute to the climate change solution is well-documented. My family has seen it in our operation and see opportunities for it to happen on a far larger scale,” said Cori Wittman Stitt, a member of Environmental Defense Fund’s farmer advisory group and a partner in a diversified crop, cattle and timber operation in northern Idaho. “Farmers need Congress to act quickly to advance voluntary policies that maximize measurable net carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions, while increasing the resilience of the land.”

FACA members developed more than 40 joint recommendations to guide the development of federal climate policy. Download the recommendations and see a full list of member organizations at [agclimatealliance.com](http://agclimatealliance.com).

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*Market Intel, produced by the Farm Bureau economic analysis team, provides market and policy insight and analysis for our farmer and rancher members nationwide, as well as policymakers on Capitol Hill. Visit [fb.org/market-intel](http://fb.org/market-intel) to view the market and policy analysis and policy insight published frequently.*

*Here is an excerpt of a recent Market Intel article:*

### Sustainability Markets, Part 1: Agricultural Ecosystem Credit Markets – The Primer

**March 2, 2021--**This Market Intel article is the first in a five-part series highlighting agricultural ecosystem credit markets and the opportunities and challenges they present farmers, as well as the policy levers and many other factors involved.

This article provides a primer on agriculture ecosystem credit markets. With so many emerging ideas and platforms, it’s important to explore how these markets are developing and operating, as well as who is behind them and why.

It seems like almost every month companies of various sizes across many industries are announcing new sustainability commitments, along with sustainability programs and markets that farmers and ranchers can participate in. Advancements in technology and increased capital have provided farmers more opportunities to generate additional revenue from participation in these markets. But with so many options and so many potential partners, it may be difficult for farmers to get all the information they need before signing a contract.

It’s important to note that these credit markets are constantly evolving, and many are still under development or being refined in pilot stages. Information provided here should be used as background information only; there is much more to explore, company-by-company and asset-by-asset, before making any decisions.

Regardless of the stage of development, there are a few common themes throughout all ecosystem credit markets; chief among them is they are all voluntary, incentive-based markets that connect buyers and sellers of ecosystem services credits. Typically, farmers are the sellers. They get paid for using animal and land management techniques proven to meet certain ecosystem benefit criteria. The most common target for these practices is carbon sequestration. Some common practices include cover crops, livestock grazing, crop rotation, no-till/strip-till, anaerobic digesters, nutrient management, buffer strips, tree establishment, etc. As outlined in a contract, participating farmers opt into some version of data monitoring and measurement procedures. Once enrolled, farmers and ranchers will typically be paid based on measured outcomes, either on a per-acre basis or by asset generated.

Once an ecosystem asset is quantified and verified, it can be made available for purchase via the market. Credit buyers, like corporations looking to meet sustainability goals and compliance standards, can purchase those credits.

The American Farm Bureau has been very vocal about the markets remaining voluntary and economically viable for farmers and ranchers. Also a priority is that they go sensibly hand-in-hand with climate-smart practices in place on the farm.

*To read the rest of the article: visit [fb.org/market-intel](http://fb.org/market-intel)*