Wyoming legislature 2023 wrap-up

BY BRETT MOLINE

The 2023 Wyoming Legislature wrapped up March 3 after 37 days of legislative work. Over 500 bills were filed by the House and Senate. This is about average for a general session. One thing that was unusual for this session was the number of freshmen. This year there were 27 new members of the House, with two of those having served before. The typical number is usually 15-20. This high number of freshmen meant many committees had a lot of new faces that had not heard the interim topics discussed. For example, of the nine members of the House Agriculture Committee, six were brand new freshmen, one member was new to the committee, and there were two hold-over members. This meant the committee had to be informed more quickly and the session went relatively smooth.

Several bills dealing with state school trust lands were passed into law. Management of state school trust lands have a management goal of obtaining the highest returns possible for funding the school system.

House Bill (HB) 16 dealt with increasing the dollar amount of improvements a lessee could make without getting approval from the state lands office. The amount was raised from $2,000 to $4,000. HB 21 outlined that whoever leases state trust lands must actually use that land. This bill was a cleanup from work done 15 years ago. A concern this bill addresses is a preservationist type group could out bid all other users and not use the land; this legislation specifies the lessee must actually use the land.

Other bills on this topic include grazing of non-owned livestock, lessee deferrals, notice of leases, and exchanges of land. By and large, these bills put into law what the state land board was sometimes, sometimes not, doing. Hopefully, these laws will improve the ways state trust lands are managed.

Regarding livestock disease and other pest programs, two bills were worked that dealt with including the tribes in programs operated in the state to reduce pest and livestock disease problems. One bill allows the tribes to participate in pest management programs and the other bill allows the tribes to participate in the state’s infectious livestock disease program. Reducing the chance of pests and diseases moving off the reservation is important to farmers and ranchers outside the reservation.

One disappointment is almost all bills which would have given property tax relief did not pass this session. Bills to reduce the percentage of assessment, to remove personal business property from the tax rolls, and to allow broad-based homestead exemptions all died. The only tax relief bills which passed are relief to homeowners whose income is less than 125% of the median of the county where the taxpayer lives and a proposed constitutional amendment which would separate out residential property from the “any other property” class. The any other class currently includes commercial, residential, and agriculture. The proposed amendment will be voted on in the next general election. WyFB has concerns that adding classes to our property tax system will make it harder to manage and could set some classes up for being targets when state revenues decline.

Another disappointment was the Governor vetoing a bill which would have placed a moratorium on the use of eminent domain for wind generated electricity collector lines. It’s ironic that in testimony it was indicated having the power of eminent domain was no big deal, it was never used. Then after the bill passed, we heard without the power of eminent domain some companies would not come to Wyoming.

Contact me at the office for more information on these bills and others in the session.

Wyoming Senator Tim Salazar presented with WyFB Distinguished Service Award

BY KERIN CLARK

Wyoming State Sen. Tim Salazar was awarded the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Distinguished Service Award for 2022. The award was presented to Sen. Salazar during the 2023 Wyoming Legislative Session. The award is given to those who have gone above and beyond in their service to agriculture.

“One of the greatest honors in my time as a Wyoming State Senator is receiving the Wyoming Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award,” said Todd Fornstrom, WyFB president.

Sen. Salazar has served in the Wyoming Senate since 2021 and served in the Wyoming House from 2017-2020. He served our country from 1989-2015 as an Army Infantry Officer and is now retired from the US Military. He and his wife Shannon have one son, Joshua. They call Riverton home.

Sen. Salazar’s 2022 Legislative Senate Committee assignments included: Education; Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources; Select Committee on Tribal Relations; Redistricting and Elections Task Force; and CSG West-Public Safety. In 2023, Sen. Salazar serves as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation wrote in their nomination form that Sen. Salazar is easy to get a hold of with any issue or concern and works to find answers and communicate with constituents. The nomination continued: “Tim has said numerous occasions he has contacted WyFB staff to see where Farm Bureau stands on a bill and then he votes accordingly. Tim said his values align with Farm Bureau and their policies.

“The success and health of our agriculture community is nothing less than the very survival and prosperity of Wyoming. Our farm businesses and food production are also Wyoming’s future,” Salazar said. “Not only is our Ag community directly a part of rural development; it also continues to play a key role in meeting consumer and business market demands in a world with interconnected economies.”

SALAZAR AWARDED...Page 9

Wyoming Sen. Tim Salazar (left) was honored with the 2022 WyFB Distinguished Service Award. WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs Brett Moline presented the award to Sen. Salazar during the 2023 Wyoming Legislative Session.
Cultivating leaders in agriculture

Zippy Duvall
American Farm Bureau Federation President

The Wyoming Legislature adjourned on Friday March 3. There were a couple of items that passed the body that concern me.

One item that concerns me is a proposal to forward a Constitutional Amendment to the voters that would establish another class of property. Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJR3) will ask voters to approve four classes of property. If passed by the voters, this Constitutional Amendment would add one more property class to the Wyoming Constitution. The class proposed would establish residential real property as a class of property. Another part of the amendment would allow the Legislature to create a subclass of residential real property for owner occupied primary residences.

Currently, under the Constitution, the three classes are 1) minerals and mine products, 2) property used for industrial purposes as defined by the Legislature and 3) all other property, real and personal. Of course, the biggest part of that “all other” category is homeowners.

Some may remember when Wyoming’s property taxing system was found to be unconstitutional because it wasn’t uniform. Once the court found our system unconstitutional, the process to establish a constitutional assessment process began. Critical to this system was the establishment of classes of property that could use different systems. We in agriculture fought hard to get agricultural lands assessed based on the land’s ability to produce agricultural products. At the time there were two schools of thought; one to only have two classes and the other to have three classes. The big argument at the time was that once we started down the path of having multiple classes then it becomes easier and easier to just keep adding classes until the whole system is so complicated nobody can understand it. Another concern was once you started carving off different classes of property, then those property owners soon become fair game to pick off when it becomes necessary to raise some money. Our legislative body has been reluctant to raise taxes, even during the downturn, but we’ve seen in other states where legislators didn’t mind raising taxes on small groups of voters.

Wyoming Farm Bureau supported having three classes even though members recognized that a two-class system would be simpler. In 1998 voters amended our Constitution to establish three classes of property valuations. This necessitated the Legislature funding a statewide reappraisal method that would bring uniformity to the established classes. Since then, the State Board of Equalization and County Assessors have worked hard to stay within the Constitutional requirements of uniform valuation within those classes. However, in an effort to provide a mechanism for tax relief to property owners, SJ 3 was passed and signed by the Governor.

If you have questions about the development of your property, please contact your County Tax Assessor or the State Board of Equalization.
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.

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. 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.

Questions: email broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723.

The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation won the Gold Quota Award for the 2022 membership year. This award recognizes the county achieving the greatest percentage of quota for the 2022 membership year, including a new young Regular Member. The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation reached 103% of their 2022 total quota.

The Silver Quota Award recognizes the county having the greatest percentage of Regular Member quota for the 2022 membership year. The Sheridan County Farm Bureau Federation won the award for reaching 103% of their 2022 Regular Member quota.

While the Gold Quota and Silver Quota recognize membership numbers, the Outstanding Membership Secretary awards recognize the volunteers who work behind the scenes. County Farm Bureau Federation membership secretaries maintain an accurate record of the county's member database and assist in the collection and processing of member dues. Three membership secretaries are recognized each year. The award selections are based on performance, quality of transmittals, neatness, accuracy, membership acquisition and an outstanding effort towards reaching membership quota. The recipients are awarded a $100 cash prize. This year’s “Outstanding Membership Secretaries” are: Abby Raymer, Carbon County; Barb Erickson, Goshen County; and Denise Baars, Niobrara County.

The county with the greatest gain of Regular Members over the 2022 membership year is awarded WyFB Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton's Gold Club membership for the year. The Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation won this category and will receive the county's portion of Hamilton's Gold Club membership.

Congratulations to these award winners! We offer our appreciation to all the volunteers and county Farm Bureau Federations who unite as one voice to work together to keep agriculture strong through membership in the Federation.

Is your neighbor a member of the Farm Bureau Federation in Wyoming? If not, consider asking them to join today! Welcome them to the Farm Bureau Federation and share how each individual can make a difference through this member-driven grassroots organization.
It all began with our local Farm Bureau president asking Brent to be involved on the local level. Next thing we know Brent is on the state Farm Bureau committee of the Young Farmers and Ranchers and we are on our way to the National Fusion Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. Brent works as an agronomist and is a partner in a cow/calf ranch. Jenn works for a regional ag based company. We are engaged, with a wedding date set for Aug. 26. Farm Bureau reminds us of the family you always hope to marry into. They are warm, embracing, encouraging and one of your biggest supporters. We are truly blessed to be part of the Farm Bureau and the WyFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

The Fusion conference kicked off with American Ninja Warrior Alex Weber. Alex set the tone for the conference with his high energy and continuing determination. Before Alex even began his talk, he walked onto the stage and shared that we as farmers and ranchers are a true force of good upon the world. Alex then went on to encourage us to stack the deck in our favor, as we are our biggest champions. Alex also encouraged surrounding yourself with positive connections, “you are at your best when you need to be needed.” Finally, support your colleagues and build a network. You are and can be your own leader.

Another great speaker was Hope Hart with Syngenta, her topic was “how to talk about GMOs with friends and family.” GMOs are such a tough topic in the world today. People are convinced GMOs are bad, but they are not educated enough about the topic to tell you why, they just think they are bad. Hope walked through what GMO means. Hope spoke regarding how it takes over 13 years of product testing and regulations to be approved. Hope continued to support how safe GMOs are. She said there has never been a proven case against GMOs. They are safe and continue to help farmers and ranchers to feed the world more efficiently. Hope also encouraged all members to buy “I heart GMOs” shirts and wear them to town, but only if you are feeling ready for a conversation, her favorite place to wear hers is to Whole Foods.

Another speaker favorite was our loved American Farm Bureau President, Zippy Duvall. Zippy brought an uplifting personal message, no matter how hard things get, you must persevere. You must start and should never be afraid to take chances. We are all busy but it is important to stay involved.

Florida Congresswoman Kat Cammack shared tips and tricks when meeting with our legislators. Our job is to continue to tell our stories. It’s the relationships we build with our representatives that gives their avocations credibility. Building these relationships locally, regionally, and nationally are the bridges we build that affect change. One tip is to make your message personal, talk about kids, favorite restaurants or ask questions they have probably not been asked. This makes you stand out. Our job is not done, we need to follow up. When entering an office, ask for a phone number, this is your key to following up. We are a resource that our representatives can use to help move that needle forward.

There were many more speakers, and more importantly networking and friendships that were made. Brent and I are so blessed to be a part of agriculture and welcomed into the Farm Bureau family.

Walking away from this conference it was powerful to see 1,000 young members in one room from across the nation. It was impressive to hear how the topics resonated across the different states compared to just hearing issues across our state. One consistent theme with the speakers was to stay positive and continue to tell your message. As we continue as leaders in our community and state, we will use the tips and tricks that Congresswoman Cammack shared.
Central Wyoming College Student Giana Biagioni and CWC Meat Science Instructor Amanda Winchester at the 2023 AFBF Fusion Conference.

Central Wyoming College Student Giana Biagioni (3rd from left) represented the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation in the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet.

Central Wyoming College Student Giana Biagioni (3rd from left) represented the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation in the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Collegiate Discussion Meet (CDM). The Collegiate Discussion Meet was held during AFBF’s FUSION Conference March 3-6 in Jacksonville, Fla. All competitors received a $100 scholarship courtesy of CHS Foundation in recognition of their efforts and making it to the national level.

“It was an honor to represent Wyoming at the national level,” Biagioni said. “It was a very exciting experience to meet other young farmers and ranchers and discuss current issues in agriculture.”

Biagioni grew up in Littleton, Mass. and is now studying Farm and Ranch Resource Management at CWC. She won the WyFB YF&R CDM in November 2022 earning an expense paid trip to the national competition.

The Collegiate Discussion Meet is designed to replicate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. Participants are judged on their ability to exchange ideas and information on a pre-determined agricultural topic and seek solutions. Thirty-three competitors participated in this year’s national competition.

“The national competition prepared me for my future educational endeavors by allowing me to defend and stand up for my ideas in a formal setting,” Biagioni said.

CWC Meats Science Instructor Amanda Winchester agreed. “The students learn how to public speak, prepare for a group meeting and relate to current agriculture issues,” said Winchester. “Not only does the discussion encourage the students to look at current issues, but also to find possible solutions. It teaches them to look beyond right now.”

Biagioni expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about discussing current agriculture issues with fellow college students. “I’ve learned that no matter how much thorough preparation you do that there is always someone who will know more than you, and that it is okay,” she continued. “Never take the chance to learn more from your peers for granted.”

“We are so proud of Giana and her representation of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation,” said Kelli Chouinard, WyFB YF&R state vice chair. “She worked so hard to prepare for the national Collegiate Discussion Meet, met and learned from industry leaders around the state, and competed like a champion.”

“As one of the youngest competitors, she amazed many spectators in the rooms,” Chouinard concluded. “We are excited to see how far she will go in the future with her college and future career.”

In addition to the national competition, Biagioni and Winchester participated in the 2023 AFBF FUSION Conference and tours. “I was able to learn new tactics to engage more students to be a part of collegiate Farm Bureau, and I look forward to applying those at my school,” Biagioni concluded.

“The breakout sessions allowed the students to find learning opportunities that fit their needs,” Winchester said. “I really liked the connection with others in the industry and the support from the WyFB YF&R Committee was the best. They were great mentors for Giana and supported her in every way.”

Winchester emphasized the importance of extracurricular activities like the Collegiate Discussion Meet provided by the Farm Bureau. “These experiences give the students’ knowledge beyond the classroom and help with exposure to other learning opportunities,” Winchester concluded.

Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon proclaimed the week of March 6 as “Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week.” The proclamation raised awareness of the importance of agricultural literacy that is promoted through the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee’s “Ag Book for Kids” project. The grassroots strength of the Farm Bureau Federation enables the “Ag Books for Kids” project to reach across the great state of Wyoming. Each year the county Farm Bureau Federations purchase nearly 800 books to donate to Wyoming elementary schools. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members and staff met with Gov. Gordon on March 1 for the formal proclamation signing. (1 to r): Ken Hamilton; Brett Molinie; Brooke Roes; WyFB President Todd Fornstrom; Governor Gordon; Wyatt Starks; Samantha Starks; Liana Fontano with Meta; Ramy and Deacon; Kelly Carpenter; and Kerin Clark.

For more information about BQA please contact us.

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Improve Public Image
Increase Marketability
Uphold Consumer Confidence

Wyoming Beef Council
507.777.7396
gary.gwin1@wyo.gov

For more information about BQA please contact us.
Wyoming Agriculture:
Describe your ranch and family background.
Stroh: Born and raised on a cow/calf ranch with some hay production. Currently employed as a manager of two ranches running yearlings as well as leasing some grass to run some of my own cows on the side.

Wyoming Agriculture:
Family, hobbies, background information.
Stroh: My wife, Melissa, and I have three children (Josiah 19, Morgan 17, and Calad 13). I have a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Frontier School of The Bible. Hobbies??? I love what I do...cows are my hobby.

Wyoming Agriculture:
How did you get involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?
Stroh: Initially, it was through the prodding of my father. From that point on it happened organically, I was in an organization I believed in and it came natural to fill in where there was a need.

Wyoming Agriculture:
Why do you make the time to be involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?
Stroh: I believe in what Farm Bureau stands for. We all need to find a place to be involved so that we can maintain the freedoms that we enjoy. With Farm Bureau we can, collectively, make a difference. Also the people of Farm Bureau are the best on the planet.

Wyoming Agriculture:
Describe some of the issues facing farmers and ranchers in your county/district state?
Stroh: Many of the issues that face us on the local level are the same throughout the state and nation. I believe that the products that Wyoming and American agriculture produce are the finest in the world. In light of that I believe that our products (specifically beef) deserve to be labeled as a product of the US to allow customers to see that US beef truly is the highest quality and safest product on the market.

Wyoming Agriculture:
Can you share an example of a policy that has had a positive impact on your farm or ranch?
Stroh: Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation’s policies on prairie dog management have had a definite impact on my operation. By standing up for our rights to control pests that destroy range land we have seen local, state, and federal agencies assist in control of prairie dogs.

Wyoming Agriculture:
What advice do you have on how individuals can make a difference for Wyoming agriculture through the Farm Bureau Federation?
Stroh: Attend at the county level. Farm Bureau is all about “grassroots”. By having your voice heard at the county level you have opened up the door to having your values represented at the district, state and national levels.

Wyoming Agriculture:
How important is each member of the Federation?
Stroh: Every member is crucial to having the most effective Farm Bureau Federation. Each member’s voice is a necessary part of representing the values that we in agriculture have. Each of us has our strengths and we can make a greater impact together, as a whole, than we can if even one member is not heard.
## National news updates

**By Kelly Carpenter**

### WOTUS CRA In US House

On March 9, 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives considered H.J. Resolution 27, a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval of the Biden WOTUS rule. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) defines this resolution as nullifying the rule titled Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States,” which was submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency on Jan. 18, 2023. The rule specifies which bodies of water fall under the scope of the Clean Water Act and defines this resolution as nullification 27, a Congressional Review Act resolution during the last week of February. The CRA successfully passed the US House on March 9. The Senate has yet to take any legislative action currently. Both chambers must pass the CRA to be considered by the president. Unfortunately, President Biden has commented on the CRA, mentioning that he plans to veto it should it make it to his desk for consideration.

### EID Comments

The WyFB submitted comments in opposition to this USDA proposed rule regarding the use of electronic identification tags for cattle and bison. As our policy states, we oppose mandatory government-run programs. Several issues that also stood out are the lack of data security, unaccounted-for costs associated with software infrastructure, among other things contained in the proposed rule. We’ll continue to monitor the rulemaking progress and encouraged the USDA to provide added clarification and assurances in the next steps.

### FDA Antibiotic Use In Livestock

Effective June 11, 2023, the US Food and Drug Administration will require drug manufacturers to change labels on antibiotics for all animals to require a veterinary prescription. All animal owners will be required to have a veterinary prescription to purchase antibiotics and will need to be purchased from a licensed pharmacy as they will no longer be available over the counter.

### Mexico Biotech Corn Dispute

Mexico first indicated through a decree in 2020 that it plans to stop importing genetically modified corn from the United States. As Mexico is one of our biggest export markets for corn, this could have immense negative impacts for US corn growers. During the week of March 6, 2023, the US Trade Representative’s office began action against Mexico regarding the decree that would stop US corn exports, under the authority of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. There is still a lot of time and steps to take prior to any actions being taken, but it is positive that the USTR Office is acting.

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### Breakfast Burritos

*By Connie Werner*

#### Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 leftover medium sized baked</td>
<td>1/2 tsp pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>potatoes, diced into bite size</td>
<td>1 tbsp pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pieces</td>
<td>2 lbs breakfast sausage, cooked, crumbled, and drain grease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp salt</td>
<td>18 eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp garlic powder</td>
<td>2 tbsp olive oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp onion powder</td>
<td>1/2 cup milk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16 large burrito shells</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Directions

1. Crack the 18 eggs and put in a large bowl. Add the milk, 1 tsp salt, and 1/2 tsp butter. Beat with a fork until well combined. Set aside.
2. In a large skillet heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the potatoes. Sprinkle the 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, pepper, and dried parsley over the potatoes. Saute the potatoes until browned. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Set aside.
3. In a large skillet add the butter. Once melted add the eggs. Using a spatula move around until the eggs are scrambled and cooked throughly. Remove from heat.
4. Begin building the burritos. Take a burrito shell and add egg, sausage, cheese, and potatoes on the bottom 1/3 of the shell. Roll up to form a burrito. Enjoy!
AFBF issues advisory committee meetings

**By Kerin Clark**

 grassroots Farm Bureau volunteers from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. late February to discuss policy issues and share their expertise on policy-related actions at the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Issues Advisory Committee (IAC) meetings.

The AFBF IACs are specialized groups of Farm Bureau voting members from around the nation who serve as a direct contact for the AFBF Board for the assigned issues of their committee. Committee members are nominated by their state Farm Bureau president and approved by the AFBF Board of Directors. There are ten specialized IAC committees. The committees meet once a year and may hold additional meetings via webinar or conference call as needed. AFBF provides an optional media training for all committee members prior to their daylong meeting.

Wyoming has three representatives on the 2023 AFBF IACs. Those representatives are: 1) Crook County Rancher Keith Haiar serves on the AFBF Federal Lands IAC; 2) Retired Wyoming State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan serves on the AFBF Animal Care IAC; and 3) Goshen County Farmer Cole Coxbill serves on the AFBF Environmental and Water Issues IAC.

Haiar appreciated the media training provided by AFBF prior to the committee meeting. “It was really good,” Haiar said. “One takeaway was to have soundbites you can build like blocks to have digestible bits of information.”

According to Haiar, he valued the opportunity to talk to and hear from AFBF staff that are doing the work on the Hill. “It was good to have a give and take between AFBF staff on what’s going on at the Capitol,” he explained. “It was nice to be able to talk directly to people who are shaping legislation.”

“I’m impressed with the AFBF staff and how they have the relationships and connections to keep a pulse on what is going on at the Capitol,” Haiar continued.

Haiar said he also appreciated networking with people from outside the state of Wyoming. “Another benefit of this meeting was to meet ranchers from around the country and hear of the different challenges they face,” he said. “One committee member was a rancher from Northern California and his allotments were all burnt out last summer; Utah and Nevada ranchers are dealing with wild horses and wolf issues; and folks from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan were well versed in forestry issues and good neighbor authority.”

The meetings also included guest speakers. According to Haiar, his committee had speakers from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and staffers from the US Senate Natural Resource Committee.

According to Logan, the Animal Care IAC had good topics and good speakers. They heard from the American Veterinary Medical Association, legislative updates from the House Ag Committee and Senate Ag Committee, and had a regulatory update from the Undersecretary of the USDA Marketing Regulatory Program.

Logan explained the main topic discussed by his committee was a potential bill that may propose listing Xylazine (Rompun) as a controlled substance. “It was unanimous in our committee to recommend AFBF oppose legislation to enable the Food and Drug Administration to regulate this drug,” Logan explained. “Xylazine is a sedative used typically for horses but also for cattle, sheep, dogs and even wildlife. Listing Xylazine could have major impacts to the ranching/livestock industry.”

Other topics discussed in the Animal Care IAC were the Animal Health Protection and Indemnity Act, livestock ID requirements and electronic certificates of vet inspection. Logan explained he discussed the Animal Health and Protection and Indemnity Act because there are several different programs for indemnity within the USDA.

“There is a different way of indemnifying animals that have to be removed from the herd if you are talking about brucellosis or TB or for poultry for HPAL,” he said. “I think there is a need to establish some updated better programs for indemnity in different species for disease issues and natural disaster.”

Logan said he enjoys serving on this committee. “I’m happy to still be involved in some way on animal care issues,” he concluded.

According to Coxbill, involvement on these national committees is fun and he finds it rewarding to be a part of the high-level conversations. “It is helpful to learn the whole process of the implementation part of a law,” Coxbill explained. “I’ve learned to be more detailed on resolutions and what we are asking to be done about an issue. So many times, the issue is with the rules that are developed because of a law, but those rules keep changing a lot so it’s not just the law to focus on.”

“The networking and friendship building is also a huge asset to me as a committee member,” Coxbill concluded.
Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation accepting requests for charitable contributions

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation (WyFB Foundation) is accepting requests for 2023 Charitable Contributions. WyFB Foundation is able to make charitable contributions each year thanks to a program offered by FBI 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;
  - 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 and click on the calendar date of May 15, 2023, for request proposal requirements.

Charitable Contribution requests must be submitted in hard copy format and postmarked by May 15, 2023, or received in the WyFB state office by May 15, 2023. 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.
MISSION STATEMENT: 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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The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation sponsored their annual county wide FFA Creed and Speech Competition Feb. 21, at Sundance High School. Congratulations to all the participants for a great job representing your chapters.

Creed Speaking contestants recited the FFA Creed and answered questions from the judges. First place went to Madeline Fleenor, second place to Jaylin Mills, both of Bearlodge-Sundance FFA, and third place to Camry Ruonavaara from Whitcomb-Moorcroft FFA.

Prepared Public Speaking contestants are scored in three areas, a manuscript, 6-8 minute presentation, and response to questions, on an agricultural related topic of their choosing. Cayna Ruonavaara, Whitcomb-Moorcroft FFA, placed first with a presentation on embryo transfer.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking contestants chose a topic from three randomly selected topics, then were given 30 minutes to research and prepare a 4-6 minute speech. First place was awarded to Lindsey Fosheim speaking about drought, and second place went to Curtis Hanzlik, speaking on the effectiveness of videos. Both contestants were from Bearlodge-Sundance FFA.

The high school contestants moved to the next level of competition in their respective contests at the district level.

This was the first year for junior high students to compete and Kimber Robinson, Whitcomb-Moorcroft FFA, placed first in Creed Speaking.

Judges for the contest were Crook County Farm Bureau Federation County Officers Keith Haiar, treasurer and Zeta Nuckolls Anderson, secretary, along with Royce Robinson and Cassie Pickrel.

Crook County Farm Bureau Federation sponsors speech contest

Ranch & Livestock Symposium
Saturday April 22, 2023
1:30pm-4:00pm
WyoTech, 1767 Venture Drive, Laramie, WY 82070

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Join us as livestock market analyst ShayLe Stewart and husband Jimmy Stewart, of Big Country Genetics, discuss "The Current Cattle Market And What It Means For Your Bottom Line and Profitability In 2023".

FFA members help with ag books for kids in Crook County

The Whitcomb FFA Officers in Moorcroft read the 2023 Ag Book for Kids book to students in Kindergarten and First Grade at Moorcroft Elementary School. In this picture, Evan Jones is shown reading “Popcorn Country” by Cris Peterson to a classroom. Thanks to Kailee Gill, Hailey Fenner, Kyan Meek, Valerie Burch and Evan Jones for reading as part of the “Ag Books for Kids” program.
It’s your future. Let’s protect it.
Together we’ll create a plan to protect what matters most to you.

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Over-the-counter livestock antibiotics will require prescription after June 11

AgriLife Extension experts answer frequently asked questions to prepare livestock owners

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Don’t wait. Get to know your local veterinarian now and establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship if you expect to treat livestock in the future, as over-the-counter livestock antibiotics will soon require a prescription.

That is the advice of a team of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts trying to help livestock owners who are used to going to the local feed store to buy some of their antibiotics and administer them themselves.

All of that will change on June 11, when these medically important antimicrobial drugs will require veterinary oversight.

The following experts answer some frequently asked questions to let livestock owners know what to expect:

- Tom Hairgrove, DVM, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension cattle veterinary specialist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.
- Joe Paschal, Ph.D., former AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, now representing industry as the executive vice president of the American Brahman Breeders Association, Corpus Christi.
- Billy Zanolini, Ph.D., assistant professor and 4-H and youth development specialist, Bryan-College Station.

What is the new rule?

The Food and Drug Administration recommends manufacturers of medically important antimicrobial drugs that continue to be available over the counter and are approved for use in animals, both companion and food-producing, regardless of delivery mechanism, to voluntarily bring these products under veterinary oversight or prescription marketing status.

By June 11, labels of the remaining over-the-counter antibiotics for livestock use will be required to read: “Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian,” and the purchaser must have a prescription or drug order to buy it.

How does this differ from the Veterinary Feed Directive and why are the two confused?

Over-the-counter antibiotics used in animal feed were moved to Veterinary Feed Directive, VFD, in 2017, allowing closer veterinarian oversight of antimicrobial use in animal feeds. All over-the-counter antibiotics placed in the drinking water were moved to prescription status at the same time. This new rule concerns the few antibiotics that remained available over the counter in the form of injectables, intramammary tubes and boluses.

What does medically important mean?

Medically important drugs are essential to human medicine and also used to treat animals.

What antibiotics does this affect?

Prescription-only items will include injectable tylosin, injectable and intramammary penicillin, injectable and oral oxytetracycline, sulfadimethoxine and sulfamethazine, gentamicin, cephalin and cephaparin benzathine intramammary tubes.

How and where can these items be purchased after the rule goes into effect?

Individuals with veterinary-client-patient relationships, VCPR, may purchase antibiotics directly from their veterinarian or from a distributor with the vet’s prescription.

What constitutes a VCPR?

Three requirements must be met:

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian’s instructions.

2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the animal’s medical condition. This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by examining the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept.

3. The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged emergency coverage and follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

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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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Inflation and the Banks

BY ROGER CRYAN, AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION CHIEF ECONOMIST

MARCH 17, 2023, AFBF MARKET INTEL

Mid-March, two banks were in the process of collapsing, and state and federal regulators took them over.

On Sunday (March 12), the Federal Reserve Bank announced more liberal lending to all banks to help them weather the decline in the prices of bonds they hold as bank reserves.

On Monday (March 13), President Biden announced an unprecedented bailout for the depositors of two collapsed banks.

On Tuesday (March 14), the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that consumer prices in February were 0.0% higher than a year ago, the lowest year-over-year inflation rate since September 2021, but still higher than any month before that, going back to before the “core inflation” (inflation minus food and energy – whose prices matter but move more erratically than other prices) was 5.5%, also the highest since (December) 2021 and also higher than any other month in over 30 years. February’s month-over-month core inflation of 0.5% is higher than any of the last four months.

How are these related?

The inflation of 2021 and 2022, as we have come to realize it over the massive amount of new money created by the Federal Reserve Bank (“the Fed”) in 2020 and 2021. The Fed lent trillions of dollars to banks at near-zero interest rates and purchased trillions of dollars in government-backed securities.

This recent modest slowing of inflation is the beginning of the price response, with a similar lag, to the Fed’s tightening of the money supply, by selling some of those securities and by aggressively raising the interest rates of instruments closely tied to Fed actions.

That is, the Fed has followed an unprecedented 40% increase in the money supply in just 2 years with a 25% decline in the money supply in the 9 months ending in December, which is already unprecedented in the 50+ years since the dollar stopped being tied to the value of gold, and the largest decline in the money supply since 1937, when tight money policy reignited the Great Depression.

The good news is that this dramatic reversal of money supply growth should be sufficient to push inflation over the next 6 to 12 months, given the actions that have already been taken and the time required to see their full effect: just as inflation took 12 months to show up after the Fed’s expansionary policies began, so does its contractionary effort take 12 months and more to be fully felt in the inflation rate.

The bad news is that the Fed no longer believes that the money supply is significant to inflation, but believes that it must lower the economy until inflation is reaches the Fed’s target of 2%. The result is that the Fed continues to raise interest rates with the specific intent of slowing the economy. With that immediate return of inflation to (or toward) the 2% target is likely to stop them.

Based on statements by the Fed’s chairman, Jerome Powell, next week’s (March 21-22) meeting of the Fed’s Open Market Committee was expected to bring another aggressive rate increase of one-half percent, which would have brought the effective rate the Fed charges banks to over 5%, after sitting at near zero for much of the last decade.

The only reason that this rate increase may be a quarter percent increase is because the Fed seems shaken by the banking crisis that their rate increases have triggered since the Chair’s earlier statement.

Two banks, the Silicon Valley Bank in California and Signature Bank in New York, were closed and taken over by regulators last week. Banks generally have been squeezed by rising Fed interest rates and depositor withdrawals to spend down balances built up during the peak of the Covid pandemic, when the government was sending out big checks to people who had nothing to spend them on.

In the case of Silicon Valley Bank, the rising interest rates caused the short-term value of bonds they held to go down, and the bank became arguably insolvent, in the sense that they couldn’t sell those bonds for enough to cover withdrawals, and the instant communication of that yêu ng their high-tech startup customers led to a very fast run on deposits, accelerated by digital banking which allows millions to be moved to another bank with a phone app. Signature Bank had been heavily involved in cryptocurrency banking, in addition to traditional banking, had a similar run apparently based in part on depositor panic caused by the troubles of Silicon Valley Bank.

The government response included two major actions, in addition to taking over the two banks. First, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which normally insures bank deposits up to $250,000, guaranteed all deposits in these two banks, as much as 90% of whose deposits were over that limit and 60% of whose deposits were over that limit.

Second, the Fed opened up a new facility for banks to borrow at a slightly lower rate against the long-term value of bonds whose short-term value has been cut by the higher interest rate the Fed has imposed on the economy.

So what does this all have to do with inflation?

Good question.

We have established, I hope, that today’s slow-down is caused by the Fed’s aggressive expansion of the money supply in 2020 and 2021.

That inflation has created price instability and uncertainty in the economy that has made many investment decisions riskier than they were if inflation had remained low and stable.

The Fed has addressed inflation, not by returning to a steady and stable growth in the money supply, but by using monetary policy to beat the economy over the head until the economy slows down, based on their belief that this is the best way to control prices. (As we’ve said before, this is like swinging the anvil on the hammer, rather than the other way around.) In the past, the Fed would raise interest rates reluctantly as a way to slow growth in the money supply (especially before selling off bonds was understood as a good alternative); now, the Fed is raising interest rates explicitly to slow demand in the economy.

That intention of slowing the economy also creates risk and uncertainty in the economy, including banks: no-one knows what the Fed will do. (One possibility is that the Fed keeps raising rates to over 6%, until inflation reduction that is already in the pipeline shows up in another 6 to 8 months.) For the nearly forty years though 2019, by contrast, Fed policy had been remarkably stable and predictable, to the benefit of the entire economy.

As mentioned above, the Fed’s interest rate increases have created pressures on banks by depressing the current market value of some of the relatively conservative assets they hold, ironically, to meet regulatory requirements.

The good news in the short run, for farmers and depositors, is that the government’s quick action should shore up otherwise healthy banks across the country, including your community bank. The message from agricultural lenders at community banks is that, while interest rates are higher and so is credit more expensive, access to credit may slow expansion of production, and that caution in borrowing is probably prudent.

Community banks also tend to avoid the risky businesses like crypto-currency and high-risk startups, and they welcome depositors visits to the bank and scrutiny of their annual reports for reassurance.

And the government seems to have guaranteed all deposits in all banks, so that shouldn’t be a concern for depositors either.

It is whether that is a good long-term policy for the financial system is probably something we will be talking and thinking about for some time. The FDIC relies on healthy banks to pay into a pool, and that pool to guarantee deposits. Insuring all deposits could mean responsible banks will be paying more for the action of irresponsible (and unlucky) banks, and doing so in an economic environment made more risky by the Fed’s new approach to its job.
What’s your advice to livestock owners without a VCPR?

Producers who already have a VCPR in place and purchase their animal health products through their veterinary office or through other distributors under an existing prescription system will likely notice little change. However, this may have significant impacts on how the livestock owners can access antibiotic therapy for their animals, so contact your local veterinarian as soon as possible.

Why shouldn’t I go ahead and stock up on antibiotics now?

Do not stock up on these products to avoid needing a prescription once this change takes effect. Animal health products are expensive, have expiration dates and are sensitive to storage time and conditions.

Are there any specific instructions that should be given to livestock show exhibitors?

Livestock exhibitors, like all producers in animal agriculture, are responsible for understanding animal treatment regulations. For junior shows, students complete the "Quality Counts" quality-assurance curriculum that stresses the importance of VCPR.

What health/medical items can livestock owners continue to purchase over the counter?

Most vaccines, dewormers, injectable and oral nutritional supplements, ionophores, probiotics and topical nonantibiotic treatments will not require a veterinary prescription. However, there are some exceptions. Always read the label.

AFBF signs Right to Repair MOU with Case IH and New Holland

March 9, 2023, Washington, D.C. – The American Farm Bureau Federation and CNH Industrial brands, Case IH and New Holland, signed a memorandum of understanding March 9 that provides farmers and ranchers the right to repair their own farm equipment. The MOU follows a similar agreement AFBF entered into with John Deere earlier this year.

“Our members urged us to find a private sector-solution that gives them access to repair their own equipment and I’m pleased months of discussions have again paid off,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Farmers and ranchers are more dependent on technology than ever before, so it’s critical they have access to the tools to keep things running on the farm so the food supply chain keeps running, too.”

“Our understanding the work our customers do is time-sensitive and critical for a safe and abundant food and fiber supply,” said Sally Johnson, vice president, New Holland Agriculture North America. “This agreement is the next step in delivering on New Holland’s promise to better serve our customers, and in a way that helps them safely and effectively manage and maintain their equipment uptime.”

“This agreement underscores CNH Industrial’s commitment to empowering our customers by providing them with resources and tools that allow them to safely self-repair their equipment in a timely matter,” said Kurt Coffey, vice president, Case IH North America. “We know that agricultural equipment is one of the most significant investments for the American farmer. As a farmer, Farm Bureau member myself and brand leader, this MOU is a positive step forward in continuing to put the customer at the center of everything Case IH does.”

The MOU sets a framework for farmers and independent repair facilities in all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico to access CNH Industrial brand manuals, tools, product guides and information to self-diagnose and self-repair machines, as well as support from CNH Industrial brands to directly purchase diagnostic tools and order products and parts.

The MOU respects intellectual property rights and recognizes the need to ensure safety controls and emissions systems are not altered. CNH Industrial and AFBF will meet semiannually to review the agreement and address ongoing concerns.

The AFBF board of directors unanimously approved the MOU with CNH Industrial brands Case IH and New Holland.