By Kerin Clark
O ur Agriculture. Our Future. Chart the course for our future in agriculture by attending the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) November 10-12, 2022 in Casper. For the 103rd year in a row, farmers and ranchers will gather to participate in the grassroots policy development process and make a difference for our future.

Farm Bureau’s grassroots policy development is the strength of the Federation. Voting delegates from the county Farm Bureau Federations participate in policy discussion, elect officers and ultimately chart the policy course for the coming year. Members also enjoy networking with other farmers and ranchers, seeing old friends and making new friends.

Foundation Seminar to kick-off meeting
The WyFB Foundation is hosting a speaker series for members the morning of Nov. 10 to kick-off annual meeting festivities. The series will tentatively begin at 8:00 am featuring farmers, ranchers and University of Wyoming professors presenting their latest agricultural technology information. See related article below.

Meeting schedule snapshot
The annual meeting begins Thursday, Nov. 10 at noon with a luncheon. WyFB’s four standing committees will meet Thursday afternoon to discuss resolutions pertaining to their areas and make recommendations. The committees include: Natural and Environmental Resources (NER), State Government Affairs (SGA), Agriculture Tax and General Issues. The committees consist of one representative per county (county committee chairs), the state chair and state vice-chair.

Following the afternoon committee meetings, several events will be offered. The WyFB FFR Collegiate Discussion Meet begins at Casper College at 4 p.m. An invitational guest speaker “Meet and Greet” will be held at 4:15 p.m. Rounding out the day will be a Trivia Night led by Northern Ag Network at Gruner Brothers Brewing.

With appreciation and thanks to America’s Veterans, we will begin the day on Friday, Nov. 11 with a county presidents meeting. The general and business sessions of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will begin at 8:30 am. Members will hear reports from the WyFB president and the executive vice president. Voting delegates will begin discussing the resolutions and determining what is in the best interest of farmers and ranchers.

Two guest speakers from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) will address the membership. AFBF Vice President Scott Vander Wal and AFBF Senior Economist Veronica Nigh will join the meeting and speak on national agriculture issues.

Innovations in agriculture technology focus of WyFB Foundation seminar November 10

By Kelly Carpenter
A griculture technology is paving the way for the industry as agriculturists work to produce enough food, fiber, and fuel for over 9 billion people by 2050. From virtual fences for livestock to applications of remote sensing, advances in agriculture are a key to improving efficiencies in agriculture. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation is making sure members are staying on top of these innovations. To accomplish this, the WyFB Foundation is honored to be hosting a speaker series for our members the morning of November 10 in Casper to kick-off annual meeting festivities. The series will tentatively begin at 8:00 am. We will have farmers and ranchers and University of Wyoming (UW) professors present their latest agricultural technology information.

We are honored to have several distinguished guests join us for the event. First, we’d like to welcome Dr. Fabian Nippen. He is an assistant professor of watershed hydrology in the UW Ecosystem Science and Management department. While his research is primarily focused on water movement throughout landscapes, he utilizes Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for snowpack monitoring, measuring vegetation volume in riparian areas, among many other things. With his expertise in UAV use, he has presented on agricultural applications of drone use and teaches a class on drone-based remote sensing at UW. The Foundation is pleased to have Dr. Nippen share his UAV knowledge with our members.

Next, Ramesh Sivanpillai is an associate professor and head of the UW Geographic Information Science Center. Dr. Sivanpillai teaches several Land Remote Satellite Sensing System (LandSat)-based remote sensing classes at UW that have wide-ranging applications. LandSat is a joint venture between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that provides satellite imagery of Earth for multiple uses. Specifically, Dr. Sivanpillai and his students utilize the reflected colors through the LandSat images to calculate the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to monitor crop health year after year. The Foundation is honored to have him present his recent Wyoming-based research for members at the speaker series.

Finally, the Foundation is pleased to welcome Monte Reed. Mr. Reed is a member of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA) and landowner in the Converse County area. He has been working with UW Ecosystem Science and Management professors along with other stakeholders by piloting the use of a virtual fencing program. Venice. With years of natural resource management under his belt, he’s sure to provide insight into the pros and cons of virtual fencing on a Wyoming ranch and what it might mean with wildlife interactions, neighboring government land, and more.

Be sure to mark your calendars, members! This speaker series will be thought provoking and leave you wondering where the next Wyoming agriculture technology innovations will lead us.

Registration
Pre-registration for the speaker seminar is requested by Oct. 31. Please email Brooke Roes at broes@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723 to register for the meeting. You may also contact your county Farm Bureau Federation president to learn more about attending the state annual meeting. 

WyFB 103rd Annual Meeting Nov. 10-12, 2022 in Casper

Scott Vander Wal
AFBF Vice President

Veronica Nigh
AFBF Senior Economist

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www.wyfb.org
The strength of Farm Bureau is on full display when we speak with our one united voice and come to the table to address the challenges we face at the local, state, and national level. And it’s our strength and unity that has made us such a trusted voice for agriculture in our nation’s capital. Farm Bureau has a long history of coming to the table with leaders and lawmakers, and I wanted to share these most recent examples of your Farm Bureau leaders advocating for agriculture on the federal stage.

This advocacy can take different forms, from phone calls and personal meetings to testifying before congressional committees. Whether I am in Washington or on the road, I am keeping in close contact with leaders and lawmakers on your behalf. In recent weeks I’ve spoken with House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders on issues such as livestock and the 2023 farm bill.

In September alone, congressional committees invited several of our state and national leaders to speak on behalf of farmers and ranchers across the country. First, ABFB Vice President and South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee a couple of weeks ago. He spoke in support of the Livestock Regulatory Protection Act of 2021 and shared how U.S. farmers and ranchers have led the way in promoting soil health, conserving water, enhancing wildlife, efficiently using nutrients, and caring for their animals. We have a great sustainability story to share, and your ABFB vice president did just that with lawmakers in Washington.

Arizona Farm Bureau President Stephanie Smallhouse testified mid-September before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands to address how regulation is impacting ranches like hers, throughout the West where ranchers are stewards of our public lands. President Smallhouse addressed how a proposed House bill would place Western ranchers, and their federal lands they help care for, at risk. She called on lawmakers to recognize how “livestock grazing is critical to managing and preventing invasive plant species, decreasing hazardous fuel loads, reducing trade barriers and hold our trade partners accountable for livestock grazing is critical to managing and preventing invasive plant species, decreasing hazardous fuel loads, and national leaders to speak on behalf of farmers and ranchers across the country. First, ABFB Vice President and South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee a couple of weeks ago. He spoke in support of the Livestock Regulatory Protection Act of 2021 and shared how U.S. farmers and ranchers have led the way in promoting soil health, conserving water, enhancing wildlife, efficiently using nutrients, and caring for their animals. We have a great sustainability story to share, and your ABFB vice president did just that with lawmakers in Washington.

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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.

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“We appreciate the September 21 ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals,” said American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall. “The revisions to the Endangered Species Act protected at risk animals while ensuring farmers could continue feeding America’s families. This ruling doesn’t bring an end to the debate about modernizing the ESA, but it sends an important message to the 9th Circuit lower courts that their job is to rule based on the law. They can no longer vacate a rule unless they determine it is unlawful.”

This is the second appellate ruling to favor AFBF in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the past month. In August, the Court overturned a lower court’s ruling that prohibited AFBF from defending the delisting of the gray wolf.
Continuing on the legacy with the NEXT generation

BY RAENELL TAYLOR, WyFB Y&F & R COMMITTEE MEMBER

Family ranching is important to the future of agriculture. As a 5th generation rancher myself, it’s important to have the next generation excited about coming back to the family ranch to continue on the legacy. We keep our children involved in every aspect of our ranch, from the kitchen table to making decisions to physically gathering and sorting cattle out in the pasture. Let me introduce you to our next generation.

Trayden Taylor is our 9-year-old, he is cowboy through and through. He loves to be on horseback any hour of any day, the younger the horse, the more excited he is to ride it. When asked what his favorite animal was, it was no surprise that he said horses! He also would rather be at home helping on the ranch over attending school, but he goes anyway.

Tatum Taylor is our freckled 6-year-old cowboy. He has the kindest heart and says that it’s fun to ranch the way we do because he gets to ride horses all the time. You can find him sneaking naps on the back of his horse between cattle gatherings.

Because we involve our children in all aspects of ranching, I interviewed both of them to give you a deeper look into the future of agriculture in our family.

When asked why agriculture is important, Trayden said, “If we didn’t have agriculture, we wouldn’t have food or clothes.” He continued saying with excitement, “Actually, we help feed the world with what we do!”

When Tatum was asked why agriculture is important, he insisted that “We would have nothing without agriculture. And we wouldn’t have horses either, life just wouldn’t be the same without horses.”

In true Taylor fashion, Trayden and Tatum understand the importance of what we do in agriculture and where we would be without it. Not all kids have this understanding. If we want there to be a future in this industry, we have to share the importance of agriculture with everyone and where we would truly be without it.

Both Trayden and Tatum want to be ranchers when they grow up and have plans to return back to the family ranch, “Just like you, Mom,” said Tatum. Trayden also mentions, “I’ll go to college, first, of course then!”

Carrying on our ranching legacy is very important to our family. It’s exciting to see the enthusiasm from both of our children, at such a young age, that they intend on coming back to the ranch. We know they will be the future on this place and if we keep them included in our day-to-day ranching decisions, we have no doubt it will help make for a smooth transition in the future.

We have a lot of kitchen table talks about what our next step is on the ranch, Trayden and Tatum are always welcome and encouraged to take a seat at the table with us. Since we transitioned previously from cow-calf and sheep year-round, we are now more flexible on what it is we decide to invest in each year. So, when the question was asked to Trayden, how do we decide what animal we bring in on the ranch each year, he quickly said, “It’s based on the markets, if it’s cheap, you buy it, if it’s not, you don’t!”

While Trayden’s answer might make some chuckle, honestly, it’s pretty spot on to the truth. Each year we base our figures off of the markets and prices, we set a budget amount of what we want and will spend or pay for an animal and if we can’t buy it for that, then we don’t. It’s important to us that we stick to our set budget and numbers to instill good financial decisions. And it’s an even bigger bonus that our children see the importance of this as well.

When we aren’t gathered at the kitchen table, we are out working on the ranch. We sure know how to get a day’s work done, but we also know how to have fun and make some family memories too. When asked what their favorite thing to do on the ranch was, Tatum said, “Of course it’s not fencing!”

As mentioned already, Trayden has a huge love for horses, so it was no surprise when he said, “I love riding my horse on the ranch, even if it is near a fence line.”

Trayden also loves to be horseback on the ranch but has the complete opposite feelings about fencing. He said, “I love fencing, especially when I get to drive the skid steer.”

Hopefully Trayden feels the same way about fencing as he gets older. These are all memories we will look back on and say, “do you remember when…”

Everything we do on our ranch, we do as a family. That’s the kind of legacy we want to continue. If we include our children in everything we do now, hopefully they will continue on with that same legacy for future generations.

Raenell Taylor ranches in Crook County with her husband Josh and sons Trayden and Tatum. She currently serves on the WyFB Y&F & R Committee and as the Northeast District Director on the WyFB Board of Directors. She is also a former state chair of the WyFB Y&F & R Committee.

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Raenell, Josh, Tatum and Trayden Taylor
Competitions in Casper

Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18-35 and college students in Wyoming are invited to participate in the 2022 Discussion Meet competitions. There are two different competitions that will be held during the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Annual Meeting in Casper in November.

The first competition is the Regular WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Discussion Meet; Farm Bureau regular members between the ages of 18-35 are eligible. The second competition is the WyFB YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet; any student attending a Wyoming college is eligible.

Being an advocate for agriculture is important and should be a part of everyone’s business plan. Develop your leadership and advocacy skills and meet other young farmers and ranchers from around the state and around the nation by participating in the YF&R Discussion Meet competitions.

Quick & Easy Salsa

Ingredients

- 1 can (28oz) whole tomatoes or 2 cans (15oz) diced tomatoes with juice
- 2 cans (10oz) Rotel Original
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-2 jalapeños, stem removed, cut in half
- 1-2 tbsp sugar, to taste
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp Cumin
- 1 bunch of fresh Cilantro about 1/2-1 cup
- 1/2 whole lime
- Tortilla Chips

Directions

1. In a food processor blend tomatoes, cilantro, and jalapeños until finely chopped.
2. Pour into a large bowl.
3. Next add the Rotel, onion, garlic, sugar, salt, cumin, and lime juice to the food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add to the bowl.
4. Mix well. Taste and then adjust cumin, sugar, and lime until reaches desired flavor.
5. Chill for 1 hour. Enjoy

For more recipes, visit www.modernranchwife.com

Regular YF&R Discussion Meet

This competition will be held at the WyFB Annual Meeting; day pending number of entries. The state winner receives a $500 cash prize and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Jan. 6-11 Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Collegiate YF&R Discussion Meet

This competition will be held Thursday evening, November 10. Any Wyoming college student with an interest in agriculture is eligible to participate. A major in agriculture is not required for competition. The state winner receives a $300 cash prize and an expense paid trip to the AFBF national competition March 3-6 in Jacksonville, Florida to compete for college scholarships.

YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1. How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?
2. Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the “fence rows” on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?
3. Climate has become a major topic among business leaders, policymakers, and consumers. As an industry that depends on the weather, what role do we as farmers and ranchers play in shaping climate initiatives to benefit society overall as well as our own farms and ranches?
4. Advancements in autonomous equipment and drone technology offer solutions to challenges farmers and ranchers have faced for years. How can Farm Bureau improve access to, and help farmers and ranchers deploy, these emerging technologies on their operations?
5. Many external influences are causing supply chain disruption for agricultural goods. How can Farm Bureau reduce the impact of external influences through policy development and programming?
The People of the Farm Bureau Federation

Meet the volunteer leader
Thad Dockery

County: Fremont
Farm Bureau Leadership Position(s):
- Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors/Northwest District Director

Wyoming Agriculture: Describe your ranch and family background.
Dockery: My wife (Andrea), two daughters (Laura and Rylee) and I have a cow/calf/yearling ranch in Fremont County. The ranch sits along the Sweetwater River. It is a family owned and operated ranch where our daughters are the 5th generation. We purchased the ranch from my in-laws in 2015.

Wyoming Agriculture: Family, hobbies, background information.
Dockery: I was born and raised in Hot Springs County and grew up on our family ranch on Mud Creek. Besides helping my parents on the ranch, I broke horses for neighbors. Upon graduation I went to work for a neighboring ranch. While I did not attend formal college, I attended the school of hard knocks. I had the money to go to college or buy cows. Since my passion is ranching, it wasn’t a hard choice. While ranching is my job and livelihood, it is also my hobby.

Wyoming Agriculture: How did you get involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?
Dockery: In 2001, Andrea and I attended an Annual Banquet in Fremont County. We were of the belief it was solely insurance. Upon visiting with Dave and Darlene Vaughan, they explained what the Farm Bureau Federation was and invited us to attend their monthly meetings. A few years later I became Vice President and then President for Fremont County Farm Bureau Federation. The Vaughans had also invited us to go to an annual state meeting in November. It was there that I truly realized what the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was all about. It was there I also understood the importance of each member and that every member has a voice in our grassroots agriculture organization. The county level is the perfect place for any Farm Bureau member to get involved. Being involved in this process helped me also understand the value of all the levels of the Federation.

Wyoming Agriculture: Why do you make the time to be involved in Farm Bureau Federation leadership?
Dockery: Being involved in the Farm Bureau Federation leadership from county to state requires a commitment of time. I believe this time is well spent and an excellent investment in agriculture, and for the future of agriculture. I believe if agriculture sits idly by the rules will soon become detrimental to agriculture.

Wyoming Agriculture: Can you share an example of a policy that has had a positive impact on your farm or ranch?
Dockery: I was once asked to name a Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy that has the greatest impact on my life. It is not one policy, but it is all of the policy that pertains to federal lands. It is extremely important to me because it directly affects my family and our way of life. Our family ranch is surrounded by federal land, and we summer graze our cattle on the lands. What I appreciate about Farm Bureau policy is that I have been able to directly affect the writing of the policy to help protect our way of life.

The Dockery Family: Thad, Andrea, Laura and Rylee

Ranching in Fremont County with Thad Dockery

Getting ready for dinner on the Fall Beef Roundup 2022

Wintertime on the Sweetwater
National Agriculture News Updates

BY KELLY CARPENTER

Mid-term election season is upon us. Those elected to represent us in our nation's capital will certainly impact how we are able to run our farms and ranches, among so many other aspects of our lives. As we slowly move towards the general election this November, I'd like to provide a short update of some national issues that may be coming down the pipeline.

The first issue that may be at the forefront of everyone’s mind would be the 2023 Farm Bill, which might be more accurate if renamed the Food and Farm Bill. Topics will include but not be limited to the 2023 Farm Bill, which might be more accurate if renamed the Food and Farm Bill.

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2022 General Election Ballot Issues

Source: Wyoming Secretary of State website
Wyoming voters will consider two Constitutional Amendments on the General Election ballot November 8. Here is the text of each amendment as per the Wyoming Secretary of State website.

Constitutional Amendment A
Following is the ballot language of Constitutional Amendment A as it will appear on the 2022 General Election ballot:

The Wyoming Constitution allows the state to invest state funds in equities such as the stock of corporations, but does not allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities. The adoption of this amendment would allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities to the extent and in the manner the legislature may allow by law. Any law authorizing the investment of specified political subdivision funds in equities would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Constitutional Amendment B
Following is the ballot language of Constitutional Amendment B as it will appear on the 2022 General Election ballot:

Currently, the Wyoming Constitution requires Wyoming Supreme Court justices and district court judges to retire upon reaching the age of seventy (70). This amendment increases the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and district court judges from age seventy (70) to age seventy-five (75).

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Comments on the “PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022” concerning government entities investing in stocks and equities. Is allowing government entities to invest money in stocks and bonds the best way? The money that government uses for operation is most likely tax money of some sort or another. Government is not a “for profit” organization. Government is a service entity to be used in a conservative way. Government is funded by tax money levied on the people it serves. If the government entity (the State, County, Municipality, School District, special district or any other political subdivision) has enough excess money that its administrative board thinks there is a way to raise more money for the entity by investing the excess, the entity should be evaluated to see what services are being neglected and where it can cut spending. This excess money should be left in the taxpayer’s pockets. This would create more money in the private sector, which will put more money in private enterprise, which builds tax base, therefore bringing in more tax money!!! Wouldn’t this be better than governmental investments? I believe the taxpayers of the state of Wyoming should vote down this “PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION to be voted on at the General Election Nov. 8, 2022”. PLEASE VOTE NO ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

Sincerely,
Garie Henry Robertson, Wyoming

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Katie Blunn
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Cheyenne, WY

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DUE BY MONDAY, OCT. 10, 2022

Obtnomations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Distinguished Service and Farm Bureau Leadership Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 10. These awards recognize those individuals/couples who have devoted much time to the betterment of agriculture in Wyoming and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

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

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

Award nominations may be made by any county Farm Bureau. Please note:
● Only one nomination per award may be made by the county.
● Award judging done by the Administrative Advisory Committee of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.
● The committee is not limited to considering only nominations from participating county Farm Bureaus but may make an independent selection.

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org, by clicking on the specific day of Oct. 10 under the “calendar of events.”

The awards will be presented at the WyFB Annual Meeting on Nov. 11 during the evening banquet. Contact Dee Brewer at 307-721-7719 or dbrewer1@wyfb.org for more details.

Outstanding Membership Worker Award nominations

DUE BY MONDAY, OCT. 10, 2022

Otnomations for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Outstanding Membership Worker Awards are due in the state office no later than Oct. 10. This award recognizes those hard workers in the state for their outstanding dedication and effort in recruiting Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members. There are three categories:

1. Volunteer
2. Agent
3. County Office Staff

The nomination award form is available at wyfb.org by clicking on the specific day of Oct. 10 under the “calendar of events.”

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

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I admit, our yard has gone wild since my husband and I became working parents. The awful “Creeping Charlie” weed from our neighbor’s lawn is, yes, creeping into our lawn after the 2020 derecho knocked down the trees that separated our yards.

We also have weedy spots in the lawn where my husband, who likes to tinker with motors, has parked his boats and vehicles and killed the grass underneath.

And new this year, my neighbor is feeding corn to the squirrels. Now we have cornstalks popping up all over our yard.

However, I tried to make an effort this summer. I mulched and placed a layer of newspapers underneath the flower garden to keep weeds from sprouting.

Yet weeds still pop up through the cracks in the sidewalk. Tree seedlings grow along the sides of the house and garage. And did I mention, there’s so much corn! Growing in our yard! Everywhere!

So, I decided enough is enough. Because I can’t hire a herd of goats to chew the weeds, I sprayed a pesticide.

As much as I would love to have a chemical-free yard, the reality is I don’t have a lot of options. And it isn’t just about how my lawn looks. Weeds can damage our sidewalks and our home’s foundation and porches.

Just like homeowners, farmers know that weeds can damage healthy crops and soil if left unchecked.

Without crop protection products, U.S. farmers would lose an average of 52% of their corn crop and 49% of their soybean crop, according to the Weed Science Society of America.

Farmers work to control weeds year-round to prevent crop loss and to protect the environment. They use a variety of weed prevention strategies – including seed selection, precision agriculture technology and pesticides – to protect their crops.

Throughout the growing season, farmers work with agronomists to scout fields to detect any problems.

If pests start to threaten the crop, beyond what experts consider an economic threshold, then crop protection products may be necessary.

Farmers use application equipment with row shut-offs so they only apply as needed to specific sections in the field.

The newest precision technology also uses smart cameras and machine-learning to identify emerging weeds as the equipment moves through the fields, so applications are targeted only to the weeds.

When you see an applicator working a field, over 75% of what’s applied to the crop is actually water, experts say.

“We have a lot of (crop protection) products nowadays that we use only ounces per acre or fractions of an ounce per acre,” explains Meghan Anderson, weed scientist and central Iowa field agronomist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

In my own yard, I was cautious when applying pesticides. I followed the safety instructions on the label and only applied where needed.

Across the nation, farmers and their employees attend regular training and certification sessions to learn about proper pesticide handling and application.

Farmers are continually working to improve, learn and adopt new technology to grow healthy, safe crops while minimizing their environmental impact.

For more information on how to use pesticides safely in your home and garden, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

Teresa Bjork is consumer content manager at Iowa Farm Bureau. This column was originally published on the Iowa Farm Bureau Farm Fresh blog and is republished with permission.
Deborah Francis
November 7, 1950 – June 16, 2022

Deborah Ann (Cole) Francis passed away June 16, 2022. She was born November 7, 1950 in Pasco, Washington to Dan and Gwen Cole. Debbie grew up in Powder River, Wy, where she and her two sisters Millie and Nancy shared their childhood together. In 1969, Debbie graduated from Natrona County High School. She married Butch Francis in 1973, and they spent the early years of their marriage traveling for work throughout Wyoming and Montana. They settled in Mills, Wy and their son JD was born in 1977.

Debbie and Butch worked together to operate a truck hauling business for many years until retiring from trucking in 2012. They enjoyed spending time together and seeing the country.

Debbie loved to be outdoors. She enjoyed hunting, gardening and cooking. But most of all she loved her family. She embraced her roles as a wife, mother, sister and possibly her most favorite role as “Auntie Deb”.

Debbie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Butch, son JD, of Salt Lake City, sister Millie (Keith) Robinett, of Powder River, sister Nancy (Claire) Bennion, of Powell, niece Darcie (Pat) Holscher, of Casper, nephew Chris (Theresa) Robinett, of Powder River, nephew Dan Robinett, of Powder River, nephew Curt (Lizzie) Bennion, of Casper, nephew Cole (Amanda) Bennion, of Powell, as well as numerous great nieces and nephews.

Debbie's quick wit and honest humor was enjoyed by all who knew her. A private family event in her memory will be held at a later date.

Wyoming Agriculture
November 7, 1950 – June 16, 2022

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Goshen County presents Heart of Agriculture Award

The Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation joined with the Goshen County CattleWomem to present the Goshen County “Heart of Agriculture” award. The award was presented at the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. The 2022 recipient Trudy Smith was congratulated by Goshen County CattleWomeen President Marlisa Hall (center) and Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Tami Greenwald (right.) KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

Niobrara County presents VIP Award to Jeb Hanson

Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Kevin Baars presented the VIP award to Jeb Hanson during the county annual meeting to thank him for his years of service to agriculture and the Farm Bureau Federation. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

Johnson County participates in county fair livestock sale

The Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation gave kettle corn to the buyers at the Junior Livestock Sale at the Johnson County Fair. The Federation also contributed an add-on to each sale animal that was sold by a youth belonging to a Farm Bureau member family. It was a great opportunity for the Farm Bureau and a huge success! CARMEN RODRIGUEZ PHOTO.

Annual Meeting Traditions

It’s a tradition that is going on 103 years strong...that of farmers and ranchers gathering to discuss current agriculture issues and develop Farm Bureau Federation policy. The Farm Bureau Federation’s grassroots policy development truly begins at the grassroots with resolutions discussion at the county level. Attending your county Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting is an important part of your membership in Farm Bureau. Following county and district meetings, the policy development process at the state level culminates November 10-12 at the WyFB Annual Meeting in Casper. See page 1 for more information. KERIN CLARK PHOTO.

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WyFB merchandise online store open through Oct. 17

Here’s your chance to order Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation branded apparel and caps! Go to www.wyfb.org and click on the online store link found on the home page.

There’s a wide variety of items and colors from which to choose for both men and women so be sure to scroll through and check out all the options. Please note the merchandise will not be ready for shipping until mid-November as all orders are made once the store closes Oct. 17.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation presents to members

Tris Munsick

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