



Wyoming Agriculture

VOL. 43, NO. 8

JUNE 2026

Published by  Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation

Young farmers and ranchers bring Wyoming voices to Washington

BY CALLIE HANSON

For members of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee, a recent trip to Washington, D.C., provided an opportunity to discuss agricultural policy directly with federal leaders while gaining a firsthand look at how grassroots advocacy shapes conversations at the national level.

Throughout the trip, YF&R members met with agency officials, policymakers and agricultural advocates to discuss issues impacting Wyoming farmers and ranchers, including wildfire management, grazing access, federal lands and the future of agriculture policy.

In addition to meetings with federal agencies and administration officials, the group also spent time preparing for policy discussions with staff from the American Farm Bu-

reau Federation. Those conversations helped provide additional context on current policy priorities and gave YF&R members a better understanding of how Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process connects with advocacy efforts in Washington. Attendees heard from policy experts and lobbyists who shared insights on effective advocacy strategies and best practices for engaging with legislators and agency leaders. The sessions also highlighted the importance of the grassroots policy process and how issues raised at the county and state levels can ultimately shape national policy priorities.

Uinta County rancher and YF&R Committee Member Zack Guild said one of the group's conversations focused on forest management and the challenges ranchers face when operating on federal allotments.

YF&R IN WASHINGTON DC ... Page 6



WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher members attended Wyoming Wednesday while visiting Washington, D.C., connecting with Wyoming leaders and fellow Wyomingites visiting the nation's capital. COURTESY PHOTO

WyFB applauds Department of the Interior announcements on federal lands grazing rules

BY CALLIE HANSON

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) welcomed two federal lands actions announced mid May by the Department of the Interior (DOI), including proposed updates to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing regulations and the rescission of the Biden-era Conservation and Landscape Health rule.

The proposed grazing rule would update how rangeland health is assessed, provide additional flexibility for grazing permittees to adjust management practices and recognize that

land health outcomes are influenced by multiple uses and activities on federal lands. Separately, the Department of the Interior also announced plans to rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health rule finalized in 2024.

WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark said both actions represent a return to the focus on multiple-use and sustained yield principles established by Congress for the management of federal lands.

"We applaud the actions by the Department of Interior to return the Bureau of Land Management's grazing program regulations to Congress' intent of

multiple-use and sustained yield of the resources," Clark said. "Grazing is an important component of multiple-use and management of public lands."

DOI's proposed changes recognize the need for flexibility for permittees to work with BLM staff. "As we've seen with the weather so far this year, mother nature doesn't strictly follow the calendar," Clark stated. "Flexibility for permittees to work with BLM staff to determine when to graze, regardless of the calendar, is ensuring proper stewardship of the federal land resources."

GRAZING RULES CHANGE ... Page 5

Ag Books for Kids 2026 winners

BY CALLIE HANSON

Agriculture does more than fill our plates — it fuels our daily lives. From the clothes we wear to the books and school supplies children use in the classroom, agriculture touches nearly every part of everyday life. Helping young people understand those connections is an important part of building agricultural literacy for future generations.

That mission is at the heart of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee's "Ag Books for Kids" program. Since 2005, the program has helped place accurate, engaging agriculture books in elementary classrooms across Wyoming, giving students an opportunity to learn more about farming, ranching and the people who produce our food and fiber.

This year's featured book was *The Kindergarten Cowman* by Rachel Gabel. The story introduced students to agriculture through the eyes of a young

cowboy while highlighting the important role ranching plays in communities across the West.

"Ag Books for Kids is a great way for local communities to promote farming and ranching to young students," said Seth Allen, a rancher from Niobrara County. Allen chairs the Promotions Sub-Committee of the WyFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, which oversees the Ag Books for Kids program.

AG BOOKS FOR KIDS ... Page 8

WyFB awards scholarships

BY CALLIE HANSON

Investing in the next generation of leaders remains a key priority for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Each year, WyFB supports students pursuing higher education by awarding scholarships to outstanding young people who are active Farm Bureau members or the children of current Farm Bureau families.

In 2026, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation awarded \$5,500 in scholarships to nine students from across the state, helping support their educational goals and future careers. Those totals reflect only the scholarships awarded at the state level and do not include the tens of thousands of additional scholarship dollars awarded annually by county Farm Bureaus across Wyoming.

The organization's top award, the Livingston-King Scholarship, provides \$1,500 to one student each year. The scholarship honors the legacy of former WyFB Presidents Herbert D. Livingston and H.J. King, as well as Buddy and Norma Livingston, parents of former WyFB President Perry Livingston. Their long-time commitment to Wyoming agriculture and Farm Bureau leadership continues to inspire future generations of agricultural advocates and community leaders.

WYFB SCHOLARSHIPS ... Page 12

Inside:

Fertilizer prices for tough decisions..... page 2
Leadership..... page 2
Opportunities for engagement..... page 3

YF&R Spotlight..... page 4
WyFB welcomes Courtney Beene..... page 5

County News..... page 9
Market Intel..... page 14

www.wyfb.org



CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

June	
1	Membership Meeting - Casper
4-5	Joint Minerals Committee - Casper
11-12	Joint Ag Committee - Riverton
July	
13	Select Federal Natural Resources Committee - Lander
28-29	Joint Ag Committee - Casper
August	
11-15	Wyoming State Fair
19	WyFB Policy Conference - Laramie
27-28	Joint Minerals-Cheyenne
September	
9	Weston County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting - Newcastle
9	Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting
21-22	Joint Ag Committee - Sheridan
25	Natrona County Farm and Ranch Bureau Annual Meeting/Banquet
October	
5	Select Federal Natural Resources Committee - Casper
November	
12-14	Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting - Casper

Visit wyfb.org
for event updates



Wyoming Agriculture

Volume 43, Issue No. 9
June 2026

USPS 10331 ISSN 1071-0272

Official publication of the Wyoming
Farm Bureau Federation

307-721-7719
www.wyfb.org

Wyoming Agriculture is published monthly, except for combined July/August and December by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070. Periodicals postage paid at Laramie, WY and additional entry offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Wyoming Agriculture*, PO Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

MISSION: Strengthening Wyoming agriculture, enhancing Wyoming communities.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kerin Clark

EDITOR
Callie Hanson
chanson@wyfb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Fornstrom – *President*
Cole Coxbill – *Vice President*
Tucker Hamilton, *Director-at-Large*
Quade Palm, *Central District Director*
Thad Dockery, *Northwest District Director*
Matt Stroh, *Northeast District Director*
Kevin Baars, *Southeast District Director*
Justin Ellis, *Southwest District Director*
Hannah Guild, *YF&R State Chair*



Fertilizer prices forcing tough decisions

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Recently, I made a difficult decision that no farmer wants to make. I chose not to buy commercial fertilizer for my hay fields this year. It wasn't an easy call. Like so many farmers across the country, I've been looking at rising fertilizer costs and trying to make the numbers work. And this year, they just didn't.

That decision doesn't stay on paper. It shows up in the field. Spring is usually when we see our healthiest and most abundant hay crop. Without the commercial fertilizer we rely on, and facing extreme drought on top of that, I know we're going to come up short. I've turned to substitutes like chicken litter where I can, but it's not a full replacement.

That means lower yields, fewer bales of hay, and a more difficult road ahead when it comes time to feed my cattle through winter. And unfortunately, my story isn't unique, it's happening on farms across the country.

Fertilizer Prices Adding Pressure to the Farm Economy

To find out whether farmers have what they need for this growing season, our team went straight to the source. In just nine days, more than 5,700 farmers from every state and Puerto Rico responded to a Farm Bureau survey on fertilizer costs, and the results speak for themselves.

Seventy percent of farmers who responded to the survey say they won't be able to afford all the fertilizer they need

this year. Many are already making tough decisions by cutting back on fertilizer use or reducing planted acres altogether. When that happens, we risk lower yields and less food moving through the supply chain.

This struggle is driven by factors far beyond the farm gate. Global disruptions have tightened fertilizer supplies and driven up costs. At the same time, fuel prices continue to rise, further tightening our balance sheets.

Farmers are price-takers. We don't get to set what we earn, but no matter the returns, we still have bills to pay. And right now, those bills are getting harder to cover. It's no surprise that 94% of farmers from our survey say their financial situation has worsened or stayed the same compared to last year. Farm families have been facing tightening margins for years, and the pressure is only building.

Farm Bureau's Grassroots in Action

What gives me hope is the strength of our Farm Bureau family across our federation. They quickly came together to tell this story. Our staff at the national and state level stepped up to build the survey and get it out the door, and our grassroots responded, sharing real-time feedback from thousands of farmers across the country. Our team went to work, digging into the numbers to make sure we captured a clear and accurate picture of what farmers are

facing. Then we packaged it up for media and generated nearly 250 articles in 24 hours and more than 500 articles in a few days. That's the strength of our federation.

When farmers need a voice, we make sure it's heard. This survey is a direct result of that effort, and it's helping us deliver a clear message to policymakers about what's happening in the countryside.

Turning Farmers' Stories into Action

Now, we're taking these results to leaders in Congress and the administration. Farmers need reliable access to fertilizer and tools to manage rising costs. That means strengthening supply chains, ensuring products can move efficiently and providing support when global disruptions ripple through the farm economy.

That also means providing certainty for farmers and ranchers across the country by passing a new, modernized farm bill. Because when volatility like this sends farmers on a roller coaster ride, farm bill programs are the steadying force farmers rely on.

Decisions like the one I made on my farm shouldn't be the norm. Farmers are used to making tough calls, but we need policies that ensure we can keep producing the food, fiber and renewable fuel that American families rely on. With the strength of our grassroots behind us, we'll keep working to make sure agriculture's voice is heard. ■

Leadership

Kerin Clark

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Leadership. A word that carries significant responsibilities and rewards. As one of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation's core values, leadership brings energy to the work we do to meet our mission of "Strengthening Wyoming Agriculture, Enhancing Wyoming Communities." The value reads: Leadership. We believe leaders develop through opportunity, education, mentorship, and networking. We empower our members to embrace leadership opportunities in their communities and beyond.

The leaders at all levels of this grassroots organization contribute greatly to this mission. There are not enough words to thank Farm Bureau volunteers for the time, talent and dedication you give to this organization. Each and every one of you are appreciated and we see the good work you do in your communities, your state, and your country. Thank you. Thank you for serving in leadership roles. Thank you for embracing leadership opportunities.

Thank you for saying yes.

When the member-led strategic planning committee wrote our core values, they noted the Federation's support of developing leaders is a great benefit to members and highly valued. Supporting volunteers in their leadership commitments is important and is offered in many ways.

Opportunities. Opportunities for leadership development are available on all levels of the grassroots structure. Saying yes to serving in a leadership position is the first step.

Education. Education for leadership development comes in many forms. Continuing education is important. County Farm Bureau board trainings, a workshop at annual meeting, a trip to a national conference, a day at the state Capitol or a fly-in to Washington, D.C. are among the many options.

Mentorship. The guidance provided by experienced leaders to new leaders is unmatched in this organization. It is invaluable

to have experienced leaders share their knowledge while also embracing new ideas from new leaders.

Networking. This factor comes into play with all leadership development components. Visiting with like minded individuals to learn their leadership styles, gain ideas, brainstorm your ideas and enjoy fellowship with those in agriculture is vital to leadership success.

We are proud to support growth in leadership whatever stage you are in on your leadership journey. The impact of agricultural leadership is far-reaching for agriculture and this grassroots organization. Farm Bureau leaders also serve in other capacities making a difference for the communities in which they live.

Thank you to all of our volunteer leaders...past, present and future. The sky is the limit with opportunities to lead and make a difference for agriculture. Where might your leadership journey take you in the future? ■

Opportunities for engagement on federal lands issues

BY KELLY CARPENTER, POLICY ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Recently, the Department of Interior joined the U.S. Forest Service to hold a Grazing Roundtable in Riverton to exclusively listen to permittee interests and concerns. At this Roundtable, permittees had the opportunity to visit with DC-level grazing program employees that listened to concerns. This is unprecedented access to high-level agency officials who would like to improve their programs to help federal land ranchers. WyFB, along with other trade organizations, are hopeful this opportunity opens the door for more frequent direct communication between agency decision makers and permittees moving forward.

Leading to the next opportunity for engagement on policy issues, DOI released their proposal to clean up grazing administration regulations that have not been successfully amended in over 30 years. The primary reason for cleaning up the regulations is to provide a return to common-sense, collaborative landscape scale management that hasn't been present in the agency through.

Some items are clerical, while others would provide large-scale analysis to monitor and accurately assess changes to landscape health instead of defaulting to livestock use as a causal factor. The proposed changes in grazing administration are very much geared towards focusing grazing permits on production livestock per federal land mandates seen in the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The DOI wants to hear from all permittees whether or not these rules are workable and an improvement over current management conditions.

WyFB staff plans to visit with interested parties at the Policy Review Committee Meeting on June 1 in Casper as time allows. But in the meantime, please reach out to Kelly at 307-721-7728 with any questions or concerns. The comment period ends on July 13, 2026. For more information visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/12/2026-09387/revision-of-regulations-for-grazing-administration-exclusive-of-alaska>

Callie Hanson concludes tenure as Marketing & Communications Director

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) bids farewell to Marketing & Communications Director Callie Hanson. Hanson has contributed greatly to the organization's communications and branding through her work.

Hanson said her experience with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has taught her about the importance of having a unified voice for agriculture.

"Through my time at Farm Bureau I learned so much about the grassroots process and how small discussions can turn into real policy through the grassroots process," Hanson said.

"My experience with Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has been nothing short of fantastic," she continued. "This organization is truly driven from the ground up by great volunteers and it has been a pleasure working with them at every level of the process."

WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark said Hanson's contributions and skillsets made her a valued member of the team.

"It has been wonderful having Callie on our team," Clark said. "Her contributions to the organization are greatly appreciated. Callie is a strong writer and has a great perspective on communications."

Clark added Hanson has been instrumental in the Federation's logo re-branding this past year through logo transition, signage, ads and documents. A people person, Hanson enjoys visiting with farmers and ranchers and sharing their stories through photography and writing.

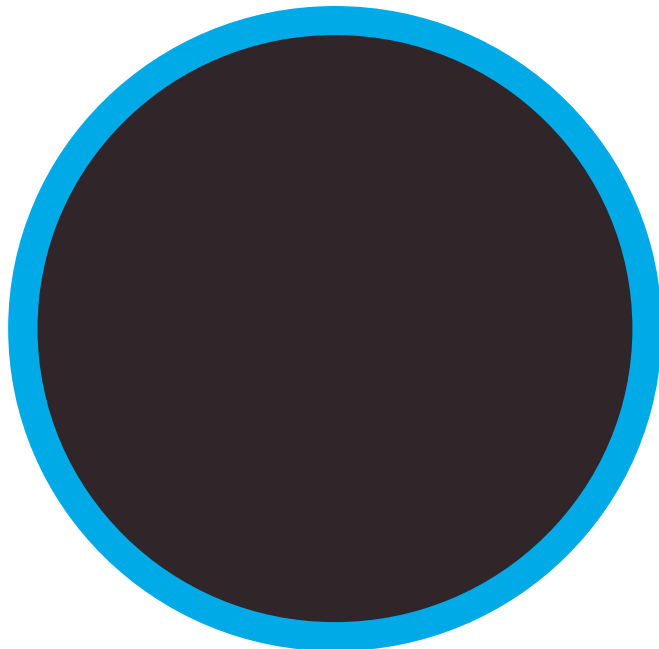
"My favorite part of WyFB is most definitely the people," Hanson said. "Farming and ranching in Wyoming is no easy task and being able to empower members to tell their stories and amplify their voices is something I will always hold near and dear to my heart."



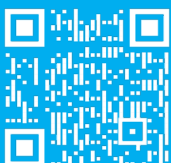
Callie Hanson

"We are happy for Callie as she enters this next season of life with her soon-to-be husband Brody," Clark concluded. "We will miss her in Wyoming."

Hanson's last day with Federation will be June 1. As Hanson moves onto her next chapter in Nebraska, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation thanks Callie for her dedication to strengthening Wyoming agriculture and enhancing Wyoming communities.



GOODBYE, FLIES. HELLO, BLUE.



Learn more from your local sales manager today!

Ralph Hinton • 970-966-4904 • rhinton@vitalix.com



Reflections from Washington, D.C.

BY CARSON AND ABBY ELLIS,
YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Have a problem with BLM, a forest grazing permit, or your water usage? As farmers and ranchers we often run into a lot of those problems with all the laws and regulations that govern the agencies who extend permits, leases, and rights. So, what do you do when you have a problem? What if it's a BIG problem? What if you could get your issue heard by the person on top? That's what the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer and Rancher Committee did on our recent trip to Washington D.C. Committee members from across the state traveled to Washington D.C. to relay your issues and our concerns to top agency leaders.

The WyFB YF&R Committee met Under Secretary Michael Boren of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to discuss forestry permits and problems our members are facing about moving cattle through fallen timber and heavy growth. Other issues were brought up in which Under Secretary Boren listened and acknowledged. Much was discussed, but the main message we wanted members to take away was the importance of Forest Service rangers building strong relationships with farmers and ranchers and working collaboratively to improve forest health for the benefit of all. Secretary Boren shared that ranchers work closely with neighboring operations across shared fence lines, and he hopes to foster that same spirit of cooperation be-



Carson and Abby Ellis are Uinta County ranchers and the at-large representatives on the YF&R Committee. CALLIE HANSON PHOTO



Bringing western issues to decision-makers at the capitol was a top priority for the trip. CALLIE HANSON PHOTO



Fellow Wyomingite and Associate Deputy Secretary Karen Budd-Falen discussed various issues with members while in D.C. CALLIE HANSON PHOTO



Wyoming Wednesday was a highlight and offered the opportunity to network with legislators and other Wyoming leaders. CALLIE HANSON PHOTO



RANCH SUCCESSION Navigate The Transition

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



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

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

Succession coordinators work with the family to identify:

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

tween the Forest Service and the agricultural community.

From the Department of the Interior, Associate Deputy Secretary Karen Budd-Falen graciously met and discussed with us about the Bureau of Land Management. She recognizes the extensive process to either purchase federal lands or conduct a land swap with private lands and federal lands. She spoke positively about the current administration.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik joined the meeting briefly and acknowledged that ravens pose just as significant of a challenge as crows. He also noted that several species currently listed as endangered have recovered to sustainable population levels and could continue to be effectively managed through responsible stewardship.

We then had the pleasure of meeting with Rep. Hageman and discussed the waters of the west. She gave an overview on the Colorado River Compact and the challenges being faced with it currently. She advocated for the continued use of flood irrigation as it allows our aquifers to be replenished stating we use the water at least three times through flood irrigation. As farmers and ranchers, we understand the importance of not only using water responsibly today, but also protecting the health of our aquifers for future generations.

A highlight of the YF&R Committee's trip was to participate in Wyoming Wednesday where the Wyoming delegation and others gathered together to discuss issues, share ideas, and build relationships. Watching seemingly ordinary people come together to defend Wyoming was extraordinary.

In between meeting with representatives, we got to be tourists! Our phones said we walked six miles one day! We saw the Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, and Washington monuments. We stared in awe at the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Emancipation Proclamation in the National Archives. We poured over Thomas Jefferson's library in the Library of Congress, and walked through the Capitol with respect for our founding fathers. In Arlington we walked in silence as we honored the fallen soldiers who died for our country. A feeling of respect, honor, and peace rested on our hearts as we looked at the endless rows of white headstones. All the while our patriotism grew bigger within us as we seemed to understand just a little bit better the sacrifices that were and are made for our freedom.

It was a fast and furious week as we met with many people, saw a lot of places, and learned much. Our biggest takeaway was gratitude for our beautiful country and the Constitution of the United States that allows us to be set apart from other countries and enjoy freedoms many unfortunately cannot. It is because of those freedoms that we can live the way we live and raise our children the way we do. Our way of life is precious to us and is being fought and advocated for by those representing us in Washington D.C. They do care about us and our state and want to hear from us. Your problems, concerns, and questions can reach the top through the American Farm Bureau Federation. ■

GRAZING RULES CHANGE... From Page 1

Clark said the proposed grazing rule acknowledges that land health is influenced by a variety of factors beyond livestock grazing alone.

"We welcome the rules noting that rangeland health should address all factors related to the resource," Clark said. "For decades, grazing permittees have carried the burden without consideration for the impacts of non-grazing factors including recreation, energy, feral horses and wildlife uses."

Clark also noted the importance of updating grazing regulations to support active stewardship of federal lands.

"Returning the grazing regulations back to original congressional intent will benefit the land as a whole," Clark said. "Ranchers are stewards of the land and re-

sources they utilize to raise livestock and contribute to the nation's food supply."

Regarding the rescission of the Conservation and Landscape Health rule, Clark said WyFB has opposed the rule since it was introduced in 2024.

"We are pleased with the Bureau of Land Management's announcement to rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health rule," Clark said. "Our organization requested a withdrawal of the rule when it was issued in May 2024 seeing it as detrimental to public land management. WyFB, along with the Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau, joined a lawsuit in 2024 seeking to overturn the rule."

Clark said the organization viewed the rule as conflicting with the multiple-use mandate established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

"This rule would have made 'non-use,' also described as conservation, as a use on BLM land," Clark said. "This would have been in contradiction to the multiple-use mandate given to the BLM by Congress through FLPMA. Multiple-use management provides for public lands to be utilized and stewarded through use."

"Grazing permittees contribute to the overall stewardship of the lands through stimulating plant growth, supporting wildlife, fire mitigation and improving the health of rangelands," Clark said.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall also applauded the updates.

"Ranchers appreciate Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and President Trump for working to provide certainty to ranchers who use public

lands for livestock grazing, which is crucial to the success of farmers and ranchers in the Western United States. Modernizing decades-old grazing regulations will provide more flexibility for updated management practices and will help ranchers rebuild America's cattle herds. Ranchers care for the land they've been entrusted with, and responsible stewardship of public lands helps to reduce wildfires, control invasive species, and promote overall health benefits to the land.

"Rescinding the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule and updating grazing regulations recognizes the important balance our country has achieved on public lands. It ensures ranchers have critical access to rangelands, which ultimately supports the stability and availability of homegrown protein for America's families." ■

WyFB welcomes Courtney Beene

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) welcomes Courtney Beene to the team as Leadership and Policy Associate. Beene will begin with the Federation on June 1. In this position, Beene will support leadership programs including serving as the Young Farmer & Rancher Coordinator and a field services representative for designated county Farm Bureaus. Additionally, Beene will contribute to policy research and analysis with strategic processes and communications.

"I knew I wanted a career that could impact and support others from a young age," Beene said. "Farm Bureau is one of the rare organizations that prioritizes what the members want first and having a career in an organization like that is something that drew me toward this position."

"I am looking forward to getting to know the members better," she continued. "Each person has such a unique story about why they are involved in Farm Bureau and why they believe in the organization. Learning more about each member's background, drive, and passion for agriculture and rural communities in the state of Wyoming is something that I highly anticipate."

Beene grew up in Idaho and transferred to the University of Wyoming from the College of Southern Idaho in the fall of 2024. She graduated from the University of Wyoming (UW) in May 2026 with a degree in agricultural business and a certificate in agricultural leadership.

At UW, Beene was involved in the UW Collegiate Farm Bureau where she served as president of the chapter. Beene competed in the Collegiate Discussion Meet competition and attended multiple state and national YF&R conferences and Farm Bureau annual meetings. According to Beene, her family ties in Farm Bureau began when her parents met through the Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

She was extremely involved in and led many extra-curricular activities on campus including serving as a UW College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources ambassador. "My collegiate leadership activities developed a sense of purpose through helping others," she said.

In addition to her Farm Bureau involvement, Beene brings hands-on experi-



Courtney Beene

ence in policy research, communications and program coordination.

"Policy has been a passion of mine for a while," Beene said. "I first gained a look at the influence of Farm Bureau policies on the legislative process as an intern with Idaho Farm Bureau. Being able to see member-driven policy take shape and impact state legislators and bills being formed in committees showed to be the value of a grassroots organization and member interaction."

According to Beene, she is looking forward to adding to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as a team member. "This position combines my professional experience with what I love most; making a meaningful impact to the agriculture industry through serving farmers and ranchers across the state," Beene concluded.

"We are excited to welcome Courtney to our team," said Kerin Clark, WyFB Executive Vice President. "Courtney's commitment to serving others and advocating for agriculture will be a fantastic addition to the agricultural advocacy and leadership work we do for Wyoming farmers and ranchers. Courtney brings a balanced array of experiences and skillsets from her college career that will contribute greatly to the Federation." ■

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Ingredients:

- 2 (8oz) pkgs Mozzarella Pearls
- 1 (12 oz) pkg cherry or other small tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, roughly chopped
- 4 tbsp Bertolli Balsamic Glaze

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl place the mozzarella pearls. Break them up if needed.
2. Add the halved tomatoes and basil.
3. Drizzle the Balsamic Glaze over the salad. Mix to combine.
4. Use additional glaze to top the salad if desired.
5. Enjoy!

Caprese Salad
Recipe by Connie Werner

For more recipes visit www.modernranchwife.com

WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

The Weekly News Source for Ranchers, Farmers and the AgriBusiness Community

Receive a 6-week complimentary subscription to the Wyoming Livestock Roundup!

To receive your 6-week complimentary subscription, contact Andrea at 307.234.2700 or andrea@wylr.net.*

52 great issues per year plus all of our Special Editions!
1 year - \$60 • 2 years - \$90 (\$30 savings) • 3 years - \$130 (\$50 savings)
Online Subscriptions: 1 year - \$30

For your agriculture news on-the-go!

www.wylr.net • 800.967.1647 • 307.234.2700
P.O. Box 850 • Casper, WY 82602

*For new subscribers

YF&R IN WASHINGTON DC... *From Page 1*

“We had a meeting with Undersecretary Boren [Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment], and I was able to discuss with him some of the immediate response to forest fires, as well as multiple use within forests, as well as the grazing and timbering within the forest allotments,” Zack said.

Zack said discussions also covered improving forest management practices and removing barriers that impact agriculture and forest health.

“We were talking about how to manage firewood, the removal of deadfall and what roadblocks or hiccups are in the way of doing that in an efficient way that benefits grazing and timber sales,” he said. “We also discussed how to access those lands and how to make it easier for us to get our cows off of the forest.”

The meetings also highlighted the importance of communication and relationship-building between agricultural producers and federal agencies.

“One of the things brought up in our meeting, he asked several of us who our ranger was, and none of us knew who the ranger to our area is,” Zack said. “He was kind of surprised by that.”

He continued, “I think keeping the dialogue open and informing one another is an important part of how we should deal with things.”

Uinta County Rancher and YF&R At-Large Representative Carson Ellis said one of the biggest takeaways from the discussion was the reminder that producers and agency officials ultimately share many of the same goals.

“I really liked his point that we’re both neighbors,” Carson said. “We can get along, we can talk to each other. It’s a two-way street of you go to them, they come to you to be able to talk and get to know each other and build that relationship.”

As the trip continued, several YF&R members reflected on the impact of hearing directly from leaders in Washington and seeing how individual voices can influence policy conversations.

Goshen County YF&R member Cody Alps said one of the biggest takeaways from the group’s first day in Washington was realizing federal leaders genuinely want to hear from agricultural communities.

“The biggest takeaway was that the people we’re meeting with here in D.C. actually want to hear from us and hear our stories,” Alps said. “It’s important to share that with them.”

Zack echoed that sentiment, saying the trip reinforced the importance of collaboration between producers and agencies.

“One of my biggest takeaways is kind of echoing what Cody said – the people at the top want to work with us,” Zack said. “We can trust and work with people on the ground and utilize those agencies around us.”

Weston County YF&R member Morgan Stroh said the experience demonstrated how much influence individuals can have through grassroots advocacy.

“I think my biggest takeaway is that even as one vote, one person, you have a big voice,” Stroh said. “You have a lot you can do.”

A reoccurring sentiment among attendees was the feeling that leaders in



WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher members met with Karen Budd-Falen, Associate Deputy Director at the U.S. Department of the Interior, during their recent trip to Washington, D.C., to discuss agricultural policy and federal land issues. *CALLIE HANSON PHOTO*



WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher members met with Michael Boren, Under Secretary for natural resources and environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to discuss wildfire response, grazing access and forest management during their Washington, D.C. visit. *CALLIE HANSON PHOTO*

the administration enjoyed the visits and valued the thoughts and opinions of those with boots on the ground.

“I enjoyed our time in Washington, D.C., as we were able to meet folks that care about us,” Carson said. “That was one point they made – this administration enjoys hearing the voices of the people that they serve.”

Abby Ellis of Uinta County said she left encouraged by conversations about the role agriculture can play in shaping policy discussions.

For Uinta County rancher and Wyoming YF&R Chair Hannah Guild, the experience reinforced the importance of telling agriculture’s story directly.

“My biggest takeaway yesterday was our story matters and we need to tell it before someone tells it for us,” Hannah said.

The trip also included meetings with Wyoming leaders and congressional staff. YF&R members met with staff from the office of Senator John Barrasso as well as Representative Harriet Hageman to discuss issues important to Wyoming agriculture and share perspectives from their operations and communities back home.

The group also attended “Wyoming Wednesday,” a weekly gathering hosted by Wyoming’s congressional delegation that welcomes Wyoming residents visiting the nation’s capital. The event provided an opportunity for YF&R members to network with fellow Wyomingites, visit with state

leaders and continue conversations about agriculture, policy and the importance of ensuring rural voices are represented in Washington.

Beyond the policy discussions, Zack Guild said the experience highlighted the importance of Farm Bureau’s grassroots structure and the role members play in shaping policy from the local level to Washington, D.C.

“As a young Farm Bureau member starting in a grassroots organization, the impact you have as a member can go further than you think,” Zack said. “When I began in this journey as a Farm Bureau member, I didn’t really see much of my impact.”

He continued, “Being here in Washington, D.C., and getting to meet with some of these individuals and having them hear us out and seeing how the lobbyists interact with these people and get a firsthand view into how it goes from the grassroots all the way up – we really do make a difference in the efforts that we make and standing up for ourselves and standing up for what we believe in and fighting for agriculture.”

The trip gave Wyoming’s young agricultural leaders the opportunity to see how conversations that begin at the county and state level can reach national decision-makers, reinforcing the importance of grassroots advocacy and ensuring Wyoming agriculture continues to have a voice in Washington. ■

2026
PLATTE COUNTY FAIR

- ★ Ranch Rodeo
- ★ Chopped
- ★ Bingo
- ★ Car Show
- ★ Livestock Shows
- ★ Special Exhibits
- ★ Goat Roping
- ★ Magic Shows
- ★ Youth Night
- ★ Livestock Sale
- ★ Parade
- ★ Pig Wrestling
- ★ Street Dance

July 24 - Aug. 1
Wheatland, WY

Wyoming Livestock Board announces tag options for bangs vaccination and official identification

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD, MAY 18, 2026

Wyoming veterinarians and livestock producers have three options for official brucellosis calthood vaccination tags. Veterinarians may use one of three tags as identification when vaccinating heifer calves 4-12 months of age for brucellosis, known as official calthood vaccination (OCV) or Bangs vaccination. Each tag has specific advantages and disadvantages.

Official 840 electronic identification tags

- Official 840 electronic identification tags may be yellow, orange, or white
- Any color EID tag may be used for OCV of heifers
- Federally approved official identification
- May be purchased and applied by a producer or veterinarian (except orange EID tags labeled as OCV)
- May be used for interstate movement and regulatory testing (brucellosis, tuberculosis)

Wyoming yellow metal Bangs tag

- May be used as an OCV tag only in Wyoming
- Recognized as a brucellosis vaccination tag only in Wyoming
- Purchased and applied only by veterinarians beginning June 1, 2026
- Minimum purchase: 1,000 tags
- NOT official identification
- NOT allowed as identification for interstate movement
- NOT allowed as identification for regulatory testing (brucellosis, tuberculosis)
- NOT allowed as identification for adult brucellosis vaccination
- NOT allowed as identification for adult brucellosis booster vaccination

USDA orange metal brucellosis vaccination tag

- May be used for OCV purposes only
- Available only to veterinarians who currently have them in stock
- No longer available to order
- Not official USDA identification if applied after November 4, 2024
- Not approved for regulatory testing

For further information regarding all tag options, contact the Wyoming Livestock Board at 307.777.7515, or lsbforms-applications@wyo.gov. ■



Visit us at: wyfb.org

Follow us on:  

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are Hiring

- Policy Advocacy Director
- Marketing & Engagement Director

Apply Now!

Visit wyfb.org for more information!



Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation



WHERE THE WILL TO WIN MEETS THE SUPPORT TO SUCCEED.

Give your horse the winning edge with performance-proven, research-backed supplements.



WHEATLAND WHEATLAND COUNTRY STORE
307-322-3922

©2025 Purina Animal Nutrition LLC. All rights reserved.



Member-CENTS

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation believes constitutional government, the competitive enterprise system, property rights and individual freedom are necessary components for a strong agriculture, a strong Wyoming and a strong America. We are a centennial grassroots organization that cares about your future. Whether you are a farmer, rancher or a consumer of food...membership is a good investment to secure stability of agriculture here in Wyoming. As a member, WyFB provides you with exclusive benefits as a way to say thank you. These benefits may pay your annual membership fee many times over.

Visit wyfb.org and click on the **“Membership/Benefits”** tab for a complete listing of value-added benefits.

Current members may access member benefits at www.wyfb.org and click on the “Membership/Benefits” tab.

You may also utilize the Farm Bureau Member Benefits app on your phone to access your benefits.

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
























FEATURED BENEFIT: John Deere



Must be a valid Farm Bureau member for at least 30 days. The membership must be purchased by member directly. A valid customer email address is required; Dealership employee or state Farm Bureau email addresses cannot be used.



AG BOOKS

FOR KIDS... From Page 1

“Introducing the value of agriculture early on helps shape a positive view for the next generation,” Allen said. “It’s been exciting to see the growth of the program and how students at all grade levels are engaging in conversations about agriculture.”

Most Americans today are several generations removed from the farm. With less than two percent of the population actively involved in farming or ranching, programs like “Ag Books for Kids” help bridge the gap between consumers and the families who raise food, fiber and fuel.

In the last 22 years, more than 12,000 agriculture books have been donated to Wyoming elementary schools through the program. In 2025, county Farm Bureau Federations across the state donated 689 copies of *The Kindergarten Cowman* to Wyoming classrooms.

Contests are also held in conjunction with the book of the year to encourage students to further engage with agriculture topics. The contests included a coloring contest for kindergarten and first grade students, a poster contest for second and third grade students and a short story contest for fourth and fifth grade students.

State contest winners receive a \$50 gift card and an agriculture-themed book, while state runner-ups receive a \$25 gift card and an agriculture book. All district winners are also recognized with an agriculture book.

Young Farmer and Rancher State Chair Hannah Guild noted the importance of the program and how it helps the youth of the state learn more about agriculture. “I believe that teaching the youth directly strengthens agriculture through knowledge and understanding,” she said.

“Ag books for kids is an important program because of how it helps to educate the youth of our state on agriculture,” Guild said. “So many people grow up never understanding where their food comes from or what a large role agriculture plays in their lives. When people don’t understand things they can have misconceptions and misunderstandings when they get older.”

Now in its 22nd year, the “Ag Books for Kids” program remains one of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee’s longest-running outreach efforts. The grassroots support of coun-

ty Farm Bureau Federations, which donate books and help share agriculture’s story in local classrooms, continues to play a major role in the program’s success.

The program’s purpose is to build collections of agriculture-focused reading materials in Wyoming elementary schools while helping students better understand agriculture and its importance to their everyday lives. ■



Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest Winner:
Hazel Covington, Uinta County



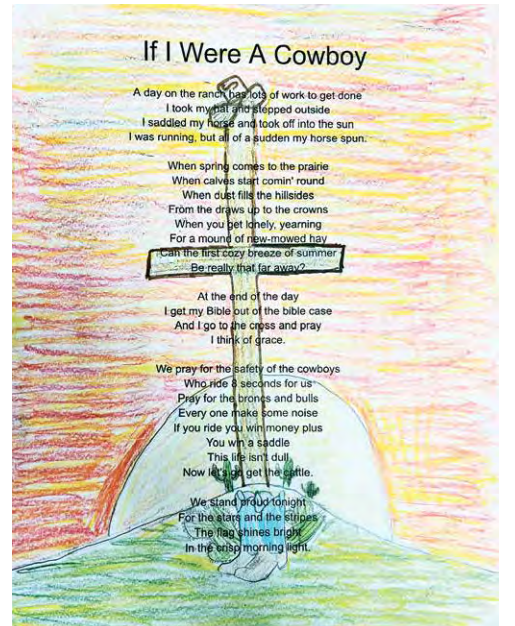
Ag Books for Kids State Poster Contest Winner:
Kinsley, Uinta County



Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest Runner-Up:
Wyla Lang, Niobrara County



Ag Books for Kids State Poster Contest Runner-Up:
Berkley Hodge, Niobrara County



Ag Books for Kids State Short Story Contest Winner:
Tyree Hubbard, Niobrara County

When the Cow Jumped the Fence
By: Aspyn

It started on October 3 2025. “We are going to brand the cows after school” I said to Easton in an excited voice. “I can not wait,” he said. 7 hours later, it was 3:00pm my mom picked us up. We went to tunnel hill. Where cows were in a pen so we can brand them and the calves. We had 2 vets there so they could help us give the cows shots. We also need to put new ear tags on too. We started to brand the cows and we watched but we stood out of the way so we did not get run over when they let the cows go. My mom, dad and my great uncle had to push the cows up the alleyway to get them in the shoot. We had 35 cows, 16 mama’s cows, 10 calves, 7 heifers and 2 bulls. When we got to the last mama’s cow one was very ansi. With all the cows we had to be very careful because any wrong move we could get hurt so we kids sat on the fence out of the way. The cow wanted to get out of the pen so it did not get branded and get pushed in the small space. Then she started to get worked up. When it was H16 turn. She turned and did not want anything to do with this and 3 seconds later she was leaping over the fence. She bent the fence when she was trying. My dad ran and got on patches the horse. Then my dad yelled “Aspyn get the gate.” So I ran as fast as I could. I could feel my heart beating very fast. As I was running my mom was slowing down cars so the cow does not get hit. When I got to the gate my dad galloped on patches and he had to try to get the cow back up to the fence. When he got the cow going in the right direction we had to open the gate so the cow could get in. The vet that was helping us hold the gate so we did not get hurt because that cow was not happy. It was ripping up the ground. When we got the cow we were happy. When we finished branding the cows. When we were very happy that no one got hurt. From this story I learned that branding will not always go as planned.

This is a true story. If you go down tunnel hill look at the pen you will see the fence that got bent by the cow. There will be a fence that is on the spot that was bent and it is the closest fence to the road. Her ear tag number was H16.

Ag Books for Kids State Short Story Contest Runner-up:
Aspyn Manselle, Sheridan County

Young Farmer & Rancher Committee 2026 ‘Ag Books for Kids’ contests

STATE WINNERS

Coloring Contest:
State Winner: Hazel Covington, Uinta County (Southwest District)
State Runner-up: Wyla Lang, Niobrara County (Southeast District)

Poster Contest:
State Winner: Kinsley, Uinta County (Southwest District)
State Runner-up: Berkley Hodge, Niobrara County (Southeast District)

Short Story Contest:
State Winner: Tyree Hubbard, Niobrara County (Southeast District)
State Runner-up: Aspyn Manselle, Sheridan County (Northeast District)

DISTRICT WINNERS

Northwest District
Coloring: Charlee Lyman (Washakie County), Jack Horton (Big Horn County), Ashley Madrigal (Park County)

Poster: Joy Reekers (Park County), Brecklyn Whiting (Big Horn County), Bo Edgeinton (Fremont County)
Short Story: Ella Reekers, Kane Park and Claire McDonald (all Park County)

Northeast District
Coloring: Iniya Lee (Sheridan County), Micah Trandahl (Weston County), Christalina (Johnson County)

Poster: Shayne Wagner (Crook County), Livvy Grubb (Sheridan County), Vaydalyn Coleman (Crook County)
Short Story: Cora Bland (Sheridan County), Jaden Wagner (Crook County), Aspyn Manselle (Sheridan County)

Southwest District
Coloring: Hazel Covington and Hadley Downey (Uinta County)
Poster: Nova Madsen and Kinsley (Uinta County)
Short Story: Naomi Panzarini (Uinta County)

Southeast District
Coloring: Canyon Wheeler (Laramie County), Kida (Goshen County), Wyla Lang (Niobrara County)
Poster: Amy Kate Hanson and Berkley Hodge (Niobrara County), Monte Duffy (Goshen County)
Short Story: William Duffy and Abigail Smith (Goshen County), Tyree Hubbard (Niobrara County)

Central District
Coloring: Karson (Converse County), Charlotte Chapman and Natalie (Albany County)
Poster: Drew and Thorsen (Converse County), Analise (Natrona County)
Short Story: Millo and Drew (Natrona County)



Farm Bureau Insurance and Financial Services Agent Frank Kelly discusses session planning with members in Johnson County. BROOKE SETTELMAYER PHOTO

Succession planning event draws community members in Buffalo

The Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation hosted a succession planning event on May 8, 2026, at the Johnson County Library in Buffalo, drawing 18 attendees from the community.

The event featured Frank Kelly, a Farm Bureau insurance and financial services agent in Greybull, who shared insights and guidance on planning for the future of agricultural operations.

With 38 years of experience, Kelly discussed strategies to help farm and ranch families navigate ownership transitions and protect the future of their operations.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about succession planning and ask questions related to ensuring a smooth transition for family farms and ranches. ■



Johnson County Farm Bureau leadership pictured with Kelly. BROOKE SETTELMAYER PHOTO



With 38 years of experience, Frank Kelly shared invaluable insight with attendees. BROOKE SETTELMAYER PHOTO

Nominate the 2027 Farm Dog of the Year
 Grand Prize: \$5k and a Year's Supply of Purina Dog Food
 FB.Org/FarmDog

HIT THE ROAD WITH FIRST CHOICE Ford

- Exceptional Selection and Quality Vehicles
- Expert Team Dedicated to Your Satisfaction
- Serving Our Community with Pride
- Comprehensive Service and Support

1264 Dewar Dr, Rock Springs, WY (307) 667-1093
 Visit First Choice Ford TODAY
 Treat every customer like family

Wyoming Classifieds

REAL ESTATE

LOOKING TO LEASE A RANCH FOR APPROXIMATELY 150-200 HEAD OF COWS. Prefer area in Johnson and Sheridan counties. Call 307-290-1643.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: COMPOSTING TOILET: Intended for use in remote off-grid cabins. Operates on 12 volt solar and/or battery power. Excellent condition. Includes 3" vent pipe with turbine vent, composting mix and compost accelerator. Weight about 75 lbs. Cost \$1700 new. Asking \$1200 or best offer. Located near Riverton, WY. Call or text (307) 850-8419.

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by the 10th of each month to appear in the next issue. Members may place two (2) complimentary ads, up to 40 words each, per issue. Real estate sales not included. Complimentary ads will run for

three issues unless requested otherwise. Non-members may submit an ad at a minimum rate of \$5 per ad (50 cents per word). The appearance of any ad in *Wyoming Agriculture* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the product or service offered.

TO SUBMIT ADS, send your ad along with your name, phone number and member number or member county to chanson@wyfb.org or mail to WyFB, ATTN: Classifieds, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073.

New Members

ALBANY

Jessica & Trevor Kern, Laramie; Charlene Mullen, Laramie; Christopher Bowen, Laramie; Christine & Clayton E Wald, Laramie; David Taylor, Laramie; Marilyn & Tom Bryan, Sheridan; Ashely & Marty Mckinney, Laramie; Seth Sheets, Laramie; Terena & Gary Main, Laramie; Carson Schilt (REG), Laramie; Linda & John Nunn (REG), Laramie; Ethan Smith, Laramie; Laura Huebner, Laramie

BIG HORN

Vangi & William Hackney, Lovell; Katie & Richard Walker, Lovell; Timothy Scott, Basin; Cole Hartman, Greybull; Leri & Paul Roland, Cowley; Katrina & Leif Udem (REG), Lovell; Douglas Greene, Byron; Wendy Graves, Deaver; Glenn & Coleen Scheeler, Cowley; Joshua Moore, Big Horn; Patricia Tolar, Lovell; Kenneth Brewer, Basin; Jared Mickelson, Lovell; Carol McMillen, Lovell; Walker Williams, Greybull; Christopher Durney, Powell; Lane Herman, Cody

CAMPBELL

Guy & Cady Erb (REG), Rozet; Courtney Randall, Gillette; Eric Miles, Gillette; Hayden Felion, Gillette; Joseph Messner, Moorcroft; Dalton Thurman, Gillette; William A Chasteen, Gillette

CARBON

Anthony Anderson, Medicine Bow; Trevor Vorn, Encampment; North Fork Gulch LLC (REG), Encampment; Richard & Amy Feldmann, Dixon; Courtney Conroy, Rawlins; Domingo Gonzales, Rawlins; John Manbeck, Dixon; Sharon Allen, Rawlins; Sandra & Larry Weickum, Rawlins; Jeanette & Steven Howell, Rawlins

CONVERSE

Stetson Weber (REG), Casper; Kristi & Ron Hayes, Douglas; Tyler Bryson (REG), Douglas; Troy Hubbard (REG), Douglas; Veronica & Guillermo Moreno, Glenrock

CROOK

Beth & Kennedy Kimsey (REG), Moorcroft; Albert Neiman/JH Ranch LLLP (REG), Hulett; Ty & Jennifer Krell, Sundance; Winter & Jeff Carter (REG), Rozet; Cassie Pickrel (REG), Moorcroft; Thomas Scott, Sundance; Robert Latham, Sundance; Dalton Butler (REG), Hulett

FREMONT

Dana & James Good, Riverton; Kaden Chamley, Dubois; Sarah & Jeston Karn, Dubois; Josh Williams (REG), Lander; Erin Mortenson (REG), Lander; Samuel R Linden Living Trust (REG), Riverton

GOSHEN

Darlene & Marvin Fales, Torrington; Lance Griggs (REG), Torrington; Katie Donner, Torrington; Mary Robbins (REG), Torrington; Linda Ellis, Lingle; Megan & Kelly Bowers, Torrington; Ellen Otto (REG), Yoder; Rod Miller/PL Ranch INC (REG), Torrington; Mary Rodriguez, Torrington; Duane Sylvester (REG), Lingle

HOT SPRINGS

Bev Dalley, Riverton; Chris & Nicole Davis, Meeteetse; John Dunham, Thermopolis; Robert Van Maarth, Thermopolis

JOHNSON

Amy Helvik, Buffalo; Judi & Lonnie Holmes, Buffalo; Shelly & Michael Link, Buffalo; Nancy Jenkins, Buffalo; William Schilling, Buffalo; Robert Bennett (REG), Kaycee; Berva Brock, Banner; John Pehringer, Buffalo; Norma Jean Gatlin, Story; Adam & Claudia Todd (REG), Buffalo; Judy & Kevin Lund (REG), Kaycee

LARAMIE

Bambi & Jeff Robb (REG), Cheyenne; Andrea & Shane L Allen (REG), Cheyenne; Brandie & Allen Burki, Cheyenne; Willima & Jennifer Newcomb, Laramie; Julian & Rayne Romero, Cheyenne; Marla Muirbrook, Cheyenne; Shelly & Mervin Breazeale, Cheyenne; Tana & Jeffrey L Blass, Carpenter; John Kaiser, Cheyenne; Neal Walsh, Cheyenne; Daphne & Mark Ramey, Cheyenne; Val Skidmore, Cheyenne

LINCOLN

Scott Dayton/3D Ranch LLC (REG), Cokeville; Kasey & Joe C Mackey (REG), Burns; Adam Calkins, Kemmerer; Dominick & Kathy Bettas, Kemmerer; Candice Sanderson, Thayne; Robyn & Daniel Christensen, Kemmerer; Daren Child, Bedford; Sarah & David Hooks, Kemmerer; Dee Dee & David Waldner, Kemmerer; Mckenzee & Jeremiah Ellis, Kemmerer; Kamiah Staley, Afton; Michael MacDonald, Kemmerer; Paula Holeman, Auburn; Willie Bagley (REG), Auburn; Karmen & Mike Hobby, Alpine; Jeri Hurley, Alpine; Dale Kirkland, Smoot; Tina & Robert Robinson, Kemmerer; Robbie Ray, Diamondville; Terry Titensor, Thayne

NATRONA

Justin Whitson, Casper; Bridgette Geis/Geis Land and Livestock, LLC (REG), Buffalo; Bridgette Geis/Lost Canyon Ranch, LLC (REG), Buffalo; Linda Hein, Casper; David Hulshizer, Casper; Jim Eck, Casper; Kyle Johnson, Evansville; Michael Cook, Mills; Karen Cummins (REG), Casper; Ronna Boril, Casper; Dorothy Curtis, Casper; John Mathews, Casper; Isaac Rush, Bar Nunn; Evelyn Lucero, Evansville; Sandra Nickerson, Casper; Lori Baken, Casper; Jean & Stephen Wright, Evansville; ken phillips, Casper; Adam Simanton, Casper; Brant Marshall, Casper; Brian Mooney, Casper; Karl Dudley, Evansville; Laura Arbeloa Castiella, Casper; Rachel & David Chadderdon, Casper; Quintin & Amanda Matthews, Casper; Alice Northey, Casper; Louis Kistler, Casper; Yvonne Wasserburger (REG), Casper

PARK

James Lewis, Powell; Kelly Hunt, Cody; Marynell Oechsner, Powell; Marty Horner, Cody; Nroma Jean Henry, Cody; Ivy Schneider, Powell; Jeffrey Umphlett, Cody; Kristina & Keith Norleen, Cody; Darcy & Patrick Street, Powell; Peter Souder, Powell; Lyle Bjornestad/Bjornestad Farms (REG), Powell; Whitney Craiglow, Meeteetse; Richard Danforth, Cody; Melissa Etchebehere, Powell; David & Marion Morrison (REG), Powell; Debra Graves, Powell; Mary & Vincent Kalkowski, Cody

PLATTE

Robert Robley/RLT LLC, Wheatland; Abby Huston (REG), Wheatland; Graves Ranch Inc (REG), Wheatland; Ace Thurston, Wheatland

SHERIDAN

Kaelee & Clifford Saner, Sheridan; D.S. Lees, Sheridan; Linda Vanatta, Ranchester; Samuel Western, Sheridan; Megan Weir (REG), Sheridan; Nikki Ulug, Sheridan; Anthony Vidick, Sheridan; Ellen & Michael Leibrich, Sheridan; Andy Harkins, Parkman; Brooke Shippy, Sheridan; Janella & Carl Stark, Sheridan; Chad Franklin, Sheridan; Chrysteen Bluemel, Dayton; Gary Harnish, Ranchester; Jason Ricchio, Story; Kelly & Josh Walton, Sheridan; Lori & Mike Moreland, Sheridan; Lucinda Jann, Dayton; Carol & Michael Fordyce, Sheridan; Misty Fields, Sheridan; Robert Boyle, Sheridan; Ronald Destefano, Sheridan; Clint & Tonia Hand, Sheridan; William Hartford, Sheridan; William Mogen, Sheridan; Fred Mueller (REG), Sheridan; Catherine & Paul Kukowski (REG), WYarno; Trenton Adams (REG), Sheridan; Brittney Ames, Sheridan; Deborah Reed, Sheridan; Adam Henderson, Big Piney; Michael Shearin, Sheridan; Braden Herbst (REG), Ranchester; Terry Candrian, Sheridan; Peggy & John Steir, Sheridan; Donna & Terrence Mines (REG), Banner; Lori McMullen, Sheridan; Tammy Roadifer, Sheridan; Kimberly Lamb, Sheridan

NEW MEMBERS ... Page 11



Farm Bureau Members Receive a **\$500 Exclusive Cash Reward**¹² on an Eligible New¹ Ford Truck or Ford Blue Advantage[™] Certified Used² Vehicle.

The Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward¹ is now compatible with AXZD-Plans.



Ford F-150[®]

Visit [FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau](https://www.fordrecognizesu.com/farmbureau) today for complete offer details!



SCOTTSBLUFF
TRANSWEST FORD
308-635-3701
www.twford.com

WHEATLAND
LARAMIE PEAK MOTORS
800-564-2355
www.laramiepeakmotors.com

¹ Available on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2025/2026/2027MY Ford Maverick[®], Ranger[®], F-150, Super Duty[®] or F-150 Lightning[®]. Not available on any other Ford or Lincoln vehicles, or F-150 Raptor[®], F-150 Raptor R[™], Ranger Raptor or F-650[®] and F-750[®] Super Duty. Vehicle eligibility may change at any time. Available to U.S. residents only. Place a new retail order or take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/04/27. Limit of five purchases/leases per household during the program offer (PGM# 32900). Offer subject to dealer participation. May not be used/combined with most other Ford private offers. See an authorized Ford Dealer or go to <https://www.fordrecognizesu.com>, for complete details and eligibility (PGM# 32900).

² Available on the purchase of an eligible certified used 2021-2027MY Ford Blue Advantage Gold, EV (F-150 Lightning only), or Blue Certified, Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150, Super Duty or F-150 Lightning with under 80,000 miles. Not available on any other Ford or Lincoln vehicles, or F-150 Raptor, F-150 Raptor R, Ranger Raptor or F-650 and F-750 Super Duty. Vehicle eligibility may change at any time. Available to U.S. residents only. This offer is not eligible for customers purchasing a vehicle in the state of Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Take delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/4/2027. Limit of five purchases per household during the program offer (PGM# 32902). Offer subject to dealer participation. May not be used/combined with most other Ford private offers. See an authorized Ford Dealer or go to <https://www.fordrecognizesu.com>, for complete details and eligibility (PGM# 32902).

Nominations open for 2027 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest

FROM AFBF

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2027 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, which comes with cash prizes and bragging rights. This is the ninth year of the contest, supported by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year’s worth of Purina Pro Plan dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in January 2027.

The 2027 Farm Dog of the Year will also be featured in a professionally produced video. The profile of 2026 Farm Dog of the Year Max can be viewed here. Since its in-

ception, the contest has provided a link to the farm for pet-loving Americans who vote for their favorite farm dog online.

“Farm dogs are often important partners in our daily work as well as wonderful companions for farm families,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “As we saw with our 2026 winner, Max, these loyal companions go above and beyond to look after both the land and the farm families they work alongside.”

Rounding up livestock, chasing off predators, opening gates, fetching or carrying tools/buckets and greeting visitors are among the many tasks performed by farm dogs.

Scientific research from a collaboration between Mayo Clinic and Purina reveals that interacting with pets can provide health benefits. For example, spending just 20 minutes with a dog in-

creased a hormone that helps moderate stress. This was also associated with a decrease in heart rate and an increase in a self-reported sense of well-being.

“We are honored to continue supporting the hard-working, devoted farm dogs featured in the American Farm Bureau’s Farm Dog of the Year contest,” said Jack Scott, vice president of sustainable sourcing at Purina. “Purina proudly uses nutritious ingredients sourced from American farms to make our pet food, and we remain committed to supporting American farmers who have fed generations of people and pets.”

Desired attributes for the Farm Dog of the Year include helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and obedience.

Farm dog owners must be Farm Bureau members to enter their dogs in the competition. Not yet a Farm Bureau member but

interested in nominating your farm dog? Visit fb.org/join to learn about becoming a member.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available at fb.org. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, at least one still photo and a video clip (optional), must be received by July 11, 2026, for consideration. The Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The People’s Choice Pup, a popular social media element of the Farm Dog of the Year competition, returns for 2027. Profiles of several dogs nominated for the contest will be shared beginning in September, with the public invited to vote. Bragging rights and a \$2,500 cash prize from Purina will be awarded to the People’s Choice Pup. ■

NEW MEMBERS... From Page 10

SUBLETTE

Loring Brown, La Barge; Mary Kay Jensen (REG), Boulder; Michael Pompy (REG), Big Piney

SWEETWATER

Hunter Hewitt, Kemmerer; Pete Gomez, Rock Springs; Tina & Jim Ford (REG), Daniel; Corinne & Michael Callas, Rock Springs; Jesse Savola, Reliance; Kim & Carl Overson, Green River; Jose Quezada, Rock Springs; Melinda Wright, Rock Springs; Vanessa Hendricks, Rock Springs; Chandler Pauling, Cheyenne; Debbie & John Eversole, Rock Springs; Lynn & Troy Clark, Rock Springs; Chance Hofer, Laramie; Benjamin Johnson, Rock Springs; Ben Cilensek, Rock Springs; Kyle Smith/S3 Livestock Llc (REG), Farson; Tabitha & Preston Randall, Rock Springs; Jennifer Robb, Lander; GZ Livestock (REG), Farson; Steve Herron, Rock Springs; Phyllis & Joseph John Arambel, Rock Springs; Jordan Bertagnole, Casper

TETON

Cathy & Carlton Loewer, Jackson; Grace Turner, Moose; Kathryn Bernasek, Jackson; Ingrid Watsabaugh, Jackson; Fir Creek LLC, Moran; Jason King/King Inc (REG), Dripping Springs, TX; Tote Turner, Jackson; Mark Nowlin, Jackson; Nancy Taylor, Wilson; Sonja & Stevens Sharkey, Jackson; Michael Halloran, Jackson; Louise Deland, Jackson; Libby & Peter Wood, Wilson

UINTA

Sylvia & Ronald Moore (REG), Evanston; Karinda Guest, Fort Bridger; Cristofer Periman, Evanston; Haylee & Brian Lonsway, Evanston; Weston Hurdsman, Lyman; Floyd Trussell, Lyman; Tiny & Darin O’Brien, Fort Bridger; Rusty Bluemel (REG), Lyman; Hanni Cluny, Evanston; Donald Bond, Mountain View; Jamie & Mickie Allman, Mountain View; Erik Youngberg, Lyman; Trevor Martin, Evanston

WASHAKIE

Justine Madden, Worland; Nathan & Kristen Decker, Worland; Russell Hohnhorst, Worland

WESTON

Brendan Klueckman, Newcastle; Richard Ratts, Newcastle; Laura O’Connor (REG), Upton; Barbara & Carl Lenardson, Newcastle; Les Curtis, Craig, CO; Jeffery & Michelle Gemmet, Newcastle



Is your retirement puzzle complete?

Having just one way to save – and one source of income – may not be enough to fulfill your vision for what retirement looks like. We can help fill the gaps with options that provide opportunities for low-risk growth and steady, reliable retirement income you won’t outlive.

**Let’s find the perfect fit for you.
Contact your Farm Bureau agent to get started.**



Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. A161 (5-26)

WYFB SCHOLARSHIPS... From Page 1

In addition to the Livingston-King Scholarship, WyFB awarded five Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarships and two Continuing Education Scholarships valued at \$500 each. The Continuing Education Scholarships are designated for students entering their sophomore, junior, senior or graduate year of college.

The future of Wyoming agriculture and rural communities depends on passionate, driven young people who are willing to lead, serve and advocate for the industries and communities they care about. Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is proud to support these students as they pursue their education and work toward making a difference in rural America.

As part of the application process, students were asked to respond to the question: "What career path do you plan to take with your chosen course of study, and how will it affect rural America?" Portions of their responses are highlighted in the profiles that follow.

Payton Helton

Livingston Family and H.J. King Memorial Scholarship

Payton Helton is the 2026 recipient of the Livingston Family and H.J. King Memorial Scholarship. The Shoshoni High School senior will receive \$1,500 to use towards her education. Helton is the daughter of Traci Helton and the late Justin Helton.



Payton Helton

Helton has been heavily involved in FFA since 7th grade and has served as the chapter president

for three years. She competed in livestock judging, public speaking, agri-science, marketing plan, and employment skills. Her agri-science project advanced to nationals and was ranked 4th in the nation. Helton was also an active member of the Tri-Valley 4-H Club, where she served as the president.

Helton aspires to pursue a career in agriculture education, with plans to attend Casper College before enrolling at a four-year university. She hopes her studies help her develop the skills necessary to become an effective agriculture educator.

"I hope to not only educate but inspire young students by sharing real-world experiences and encouraging involvement," she said in her application. "I strive to share the way of life and positively impact students and ensure success in the industry."

Tylynn McDonald

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Riverton High School senior Tylynn McDonald is the daughter of Eric and Cindy McDonald and a recipient of the \$500 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship. McDonald plans to attend the University of Wyoming in the fall to pursue a degree in international studies and later attend law school.



Tylynn McDonald

McDonald has been a highly involved leader in her school, with three years as a class

representative. She also serves as the National Honor society vice president of tutoring and the CAN Club secretary/treasurer. She played four years of varsity golf and served as both the girl's basketball and volleyball manager.

In her essay, she acknowledges the role the global market plays on rural communities and hopes to help strengthen rural economies through international trade. She noted isolated areas often lack representation in the global market and she hopes to highlight rural communities and their potential on a broader scale.

"Helping producers navigate trade guidelines and develop infrastructures that prepare rural businesses for the global market are just two examples of support I could offer rural communities."

Reagan Eardley

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Mountain View senior Reagan Eardley is the recipient of a \$500 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship. Eardley will graduate from Mountain View High School and plans to attend Casper College and study Agriculture Communications. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Kayce Eardley.



Reagan Eardley

Eardley has served six years

as the president of Smiths Fork Stockmen 4-H club and concurrently serves as the president of the Jim Bridger FFA chapter. Additionally, she has served her classmates as class president all four years of high school.

Eardley is also an active member of the Mountain View track team, National Honor Society, Student Sportsmanship Committee, and her church group. In her free time she enjoys participating in bible studies and competing in team sorting jackpots on her horse Woodrow.

"With a degree in agriculture communications, I plan to become a social media manager and spokesperson for an agricultural company," she explained in her application. "I would love to use my passion for advocating for agriculture and fill social media with more credible and positive information supporting agriculture."

Kruze Forshee

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship

Kruze Forshee is the son of Frank and Adrienne Forshee of Ten Sleep. Following his graduation from Ten Sleep Schools, he plans to attend Sheridan College to study Agriculture Business and eventually return home to the family ranch.



Kruze Forshee

An active leader in his school and community, Forshee has served terms as sentinel, vice president and president of his FFA chapter in addition to serving as his class president since 2023. Forshee found great success in the

agriculture mechanics realm, taking home first place with his agriculture mechanics team at the 2026 Wyoming FFA Convention following two third place finishes in 2024 and 2025. Additionally, he was named CTE Student of the year and was on the dean's list for the Northwest College CDL program.

Forshee spent much of his free time serving his community through service projects and the Big-Little program. Through this program, Forshee was able to mentor elementary students.

In his application, Forshee noted his career path is rooted in agriculture and a commitment to rural communities. "I plan to use my Ag Business degree from Sheridan College to return home and grow our family ranch," he said. "I want to bridge modern agriculture practices with the traditions of our ranch, improving efficiency and sustainability whole honoring the values our family and community hold dear."

Natalee

Herbst Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship



Natalee Herbst

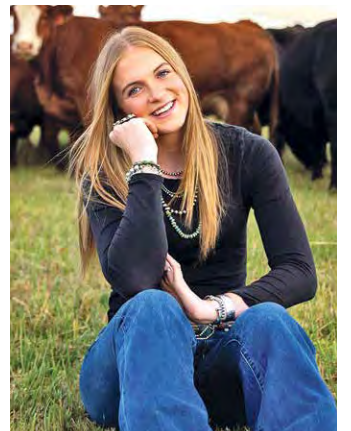
Sheridan High School senior Natalee Herbst looks forward to pursuing her dream of being a veterinarian at Casper College. The Sheridan High School senior has been a four-year member of the FFA and active 4-H member for 8 years. She is the daughter of Jessica James and Zach Herbst.

Her passion for veterinary medicine can be seen through her extensive work at several vet clinics around Sheridan. In addition to her work at the vet clinic, she has also worked in a dental office. She has led several clinics for 4-H students to teach them about beef and swine production.

In her application, she noted the important role veterinarians play in rural communities. "Overall being a veterinarian helps support the economy, food safety, and the well-being of rural communities."

Riley

Lake Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship



Riley Lake

Riley Lake is the daughter of Ruth and Scott Lake. The Laramie High School senior looks forward to pursuing pre-medical studies at the University of Wyoming with hopes of attending medical school in the future.

Throughout high school Lake found much success in FFA events, most notably livestock judging where she was a member of the state champion team in 2025. In addition, she has had several state and national top 10 individual finishes in judging. Lake is also a decorated basketball player, serving as the co-captain in 2025.

Growing up in Wyoming, Lake understands the importance of rural medical care. In her application she stated, "There is an abundance of great medical care in this country, however the problem lies in that a majority of this care is concentrated in larger cities. Rural America lacks good doctors. I hope to be the change and open my own practice in rural Wyoming."

WYFB SCHOLARSHIPS... From Page 12

Mikayla Alexander Continuing Education Scholarship

Mikayla Alexander, of McFadden, is the recipient of a \$500 continuing education scholarship. Alexander is pursuing a degree in Animal Science/Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership at University of Wyoming. She is the daughter of Ryon and Heather Alexander.

Alexander is highly involved at University of Wyoming where she is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau and the ranch horse team.

In her essay, Alexander noted she hopes to continue to be a voice for agriculture.

“The future of agriculture depends on my generation to keep educating others, fighting for our rights and beliefs, and promoting the industry,” she wrote. “Honesty, integrity and compassion are all morals people in agriculture are known for. I want to make sure I live up to that.”



Mikayla Alexander

Klacie Groene Continuing Education Scholarship

Torrington-native Klacie Groene is a junior at University of Wyoming where she currently studies Agricultural Communications. She is the daughter of Jason and Kelly Groene.

Groene is highly involved at UW, where she is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow, and a Wyoming Beef Ambassador. She is also an intern with the Wyoming Pork Producers Council.

In her essay, she stressed the importance of being able to connect producers, communities, and consumers. “Strong communications ensures farmers, ranchers and businesses are understood and supported. Effective communications strengthens community pride, preserves rural traditions and helps bridge the gap between rural and urban audiences and consumers.”



Klacie Groene



MASSEY FERGUSON



MF 4700 SERIES // 70-100 HP
DAIRY FARMS // HAY OPERATIONS // LOADER WORK

The Massey Ferguson® 4700 Series was built from years of insight from farmers, contractors, operators and dealers around the world. The result? A purpose-built, heavy-duty tractor with the lift capacity and power to handle larger jobs without skipping a beat. Engineered for smart, ergonomic, long-lasting operation, the MF 4700 Series delivers on Massey Ferguson's promise of straightforward and dependable equipment solutions.

BORN TO **FARM**

COVOLO
AUTO & FARM SERVICE
SALES AND SERVICE

80 Rees Rd • Mountain View, WY
(307) 786-2277 • www.covoloservice.com • covolowg@gmail.com





Crook County Fair

July 25th - Aug 1st, 2026 Sundance, Wyoming

Growing Skills, Raising Stock, Shaping the Next 250 Years

Youth Rodeo/Youth Horse Show

Saturday, July 25th 9:00AM

Team Roping

Saturday, July 25th TBA

Ranch Rodeo

Tuesday, July 28th

Calcutta - 6:00 pm

Rodeo - 6:30 pm

Adventure Zone & Warrior's Playground

Wednesday through Saturday

July 29th - August 1st

12:00 to 7:00 pm

Story Time with Miss Tonia

Wednesday & Thursday

July 29 & 30 10:30 am

Youth Rough Stock Rodeo

Thursday, July 30th 5:30 pm

Bike Relay

Saturday, August 1st 8:30 am

Fair Parade

Saturday, August 1st 10:00 am

Buyer & Community BBQ

Saturday, August 1st 12:00 pm

Junior Livestock Sale

Saturday, August 1st 2:00 pm

Yard Game Extravaganza


Saturday, August 1st 7:30 PM

schedule of events subject to change visit

www.crookcofair.com

for most updated and complete schedule

Find A Pig!



Search the fairgrounds for small 3D-printed pigs and bring any you find to the fair office between noon and 1 PM from July 29-31 to claim a prize.

Free WI-FI
courtesy of



RANGE™
at the 2026
Crook County Fair

Relaxing beef import quotas sends mixed signals to ranchers

BY DANNY MUNCH, AFBF ECONOMIST
FROM AFBF ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
MAY 12, 2026

The United States cattle industry is navigating one of the tightest supply environments in decades. The domestic cattle herd remains near multi-decade lows following years of drought, elevated feed and operating costs, herd liquidation and ongoing disruptions tied to New World screwworm restrictions along the southern border. At the same time, beef imports have already hit records. During the first quarter of 2026, the U.S. imported 562,000 metric tons of beef and beef products valued at nearly \$4.5 billion, up 18% from the same period last year and 122% higher than five years ago.

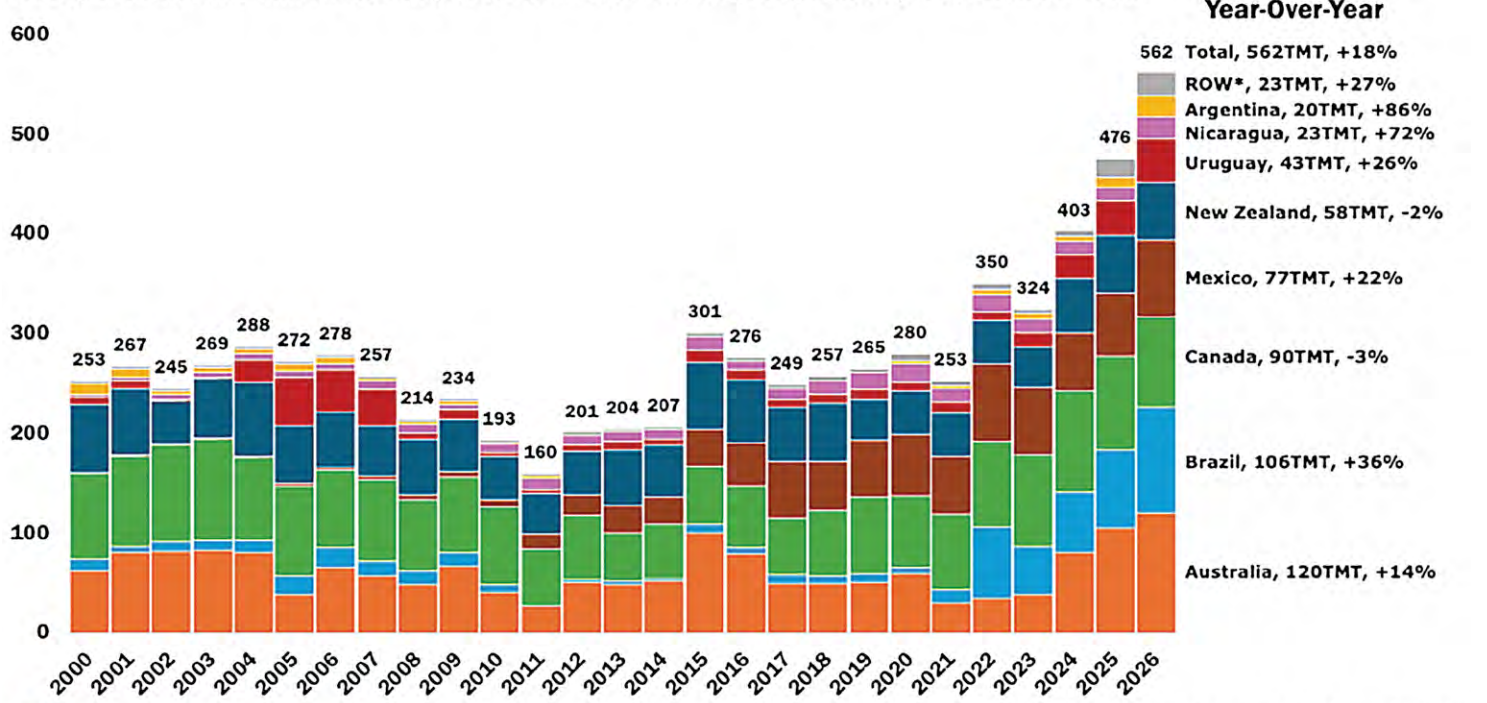
Against that backdrop, the administration is reportedly considering a 200-day suspension of quantitative limits under the U.S. beef tariff-rate quota system, temporarily allowing eligible trading partners to ship unlimited volumes of beef into the U.S. market at lower in-quota tariff rates. While such a policy may modestly supplement short-term imported beef availability, it does not address the underlying factors constraining U.S. cattle production. More importantly, encouraging additional imports risks weakening incentives for ranchers to retain heifers and rebuild domestic cattle inventories over the long run. (Figure 1)

Imports Are Already Running Ahead of Implied TRQ Pace

Tariff-rate quotas allow specified volumes of imported beef to enter the United

U.S. Beef Imports Already Record High

Fresh, frozen, and chilled beef imports, Thousand metric tons, January-March 2000-2026



American Farm Bureau Federation

Source: USDA FAS. Analysis by American Farm Bureau Federation
ROW* = Rest of World

FIGURE 1

States at substantially lower tariff rates before higher over-quota tariffs apply. Under the current WTO beef TRQ framework, imports entering under quota generally face a tariff of just 4.4 cents per kilogram, while imports above quota face a 26.4% tariff. For beef valued around \$7

per kilogram, that difference can exceed \$1.80 per kilogram in tariff costs. As a result, suspending quantitative TRQ limits would significantly reduce the effective tariff burden on additional imported beef volumes entering the U.S. market.

Several major exporters already compete aggressively within the current quota system. Countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay and Argentina receive country-specific allocations, while other exporters, including Brazil and Nicaragua, compete within the pooled "Other Countries" quota category. Although imports above quota remain permissible, the substantially higher tariff structure currently serves as an economic constraint on additional low-cost imported product entering the U.S. market. (Figure 2)

The current debate is not occurring in a low-import environment. Existing import volumes are already running ahead of the implied quarterly pace of several annual TRQ structures. During the first quarter of 2026, imports from Australia reached roughly 120,000 metric tons compared to an implied quarterly TRQ pace of approximately 95,000 metric tons, while imports from New Zealand totaled roughly 57,000 metric tons against an implied pace near 53,000 metric tons. Imports from Uruguay also exceeded their implied quarterly pace, while pooled "Other Countries" exporters such as Brazil and Nicaragua shipped roughly 153,000 metric tons compared to an implied quarterly pace of just 13,000 metric tons under the shared quota structure. (Figure 3)

Import composition also shapes the likely market impact of additional TRQ liberalization. A large share of U.S. beef imports consists of boneless lean beef and trimmings used primarily for ground beef blending rather than the premium muscle cuts commonly produced through the U.S. grain-fed beef system. As a result, additional imported products may have a greater influence on ground beef supplies than on prices for steaks, roasts and many other retail beef cuts.

Domestic Herd Expansion Remains Constrained

Persistent drought and weak snowpack conditions across much of the Western U.S. continue to constrain the ability of ranchers to rebuild the domestic cattle herd. In many Western states, snowmelt supplies a substantial share of annual water availability, supporting pasture, forage and hay production critical to cow-calf operations. However, 2026 snowpack levels across major Western basins remain well below historical averages, limiting runoff potential and increasing uncertainty around grazing conditions and feed availability.

Drought conditions have also expanded well beyond the West. According to analysis highlighted by Oklahoma State University Extension, more than 79% of the beef cow herd across the 26 largest cattle-producing states is currently affected by drought conditions, representing over 70% of the total U.S. beef cow herd. As forage conditions tighten, producers face higher feed, hay and water costs, making herd expansion financially risky even amid strong cattle prices. While early signs of heifer retention have emerged, Oklahoma State notes that continued drought could interrupt those rebuilding efforts and further delay meaningful herd expansion.

Beef Market Does Not Need Mixed Signals

Additional import liberalization sends a conflicting market signal. Rather than reinforcing the long-term economic incentives needed for domestic herd rebuilding, further expanding imported beef access signals to producers that future supply shortfalls may increasingly be addressed through foreign product rather than domestic production recovery. That uncertainty can discourage heifer retention and long-term investment at precisely the moment ranchers are weighing whether conditions justify rebuilding the U.S. cattle herd.

BEEF IMPORTS ... Page 15

LOCATIONS IN:

CASPER 5300 W. Old Yellowstone Highway	CHEYENNE 7819 Hutchins Drive	GILLETTE 5505 Mohan Road	ROCK SPRINGS 1940 Elk Street
--	--	------------------------------------	--

WYOMINGCAT.COM

0% FOR 60 MONTHS*

NOW WITH ANNUAL PAYMENTS

OUR 0% FINANCING PROGRAM FOR AG CUSTOMERS INCLUDE:

- Delay your payment for a full year with a down payment or trade-in
- OR
- Make your first payment upfront with no down payment or trade required

DON'T WAIT! Call today to claim your offer: 307-261-4411

Wyoming MACHINERY COMPANY **CAT**

*Terms and conditions apply, see dealer for details.
©2023 Caterpillar. All Rights Reserved. CAT, CATERILLAR, LET'S DO THE WORK, their respective logos, "Caterpillar Corporate Yellow," the "Power Edge" and Cat "Modern Hex" trade dress, and all corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission.

BEEF IMPORTS... From Page 14

Announcements related to expanded imported beef access have also contributed to heightened volatility in both cash and futures cattle markets. In October 2025, the announcement increasing Argentina's beef tariff-rate quota access from 20,000 metric tons to 100,000 metric tons triggered a sharp market response, with cash cattle prices falling nearly 13% over the following month before eventually recovering. Several CME cattle contracts experienced multiple daily limit price movements during that period, creating additional challenges for farmers and ranchers using risk management tools such as futures hedging or Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance. LRP coverage is unavailable on days when certain CME cattle contracts trade at daily price limits, temporarily limiting producers' ability to manage downside market risk during periods of elevated volatility.

At the same time, consumer demand for beef has remained historically strong despite record-high retail prices. Under normal market conditions, sustained increases in beef prices would encourage consumers to shift toward lower-cost protein alternatives such as pork or chicken. Instead, beef demand has remained resilient and has become a key source of support for cattle prices during the current period of historically tight domestic supplies.

Conclusion

The current cattle market reflects years of drought, herd liquidation, elevated production costs and biological constraints that cannot be resolved through short-term import policy changes alone. Beef imports are already running at record levels, and additional TRQ liberalization would further lower barriers for imported product entering the U.S. market during a period when ranchers are weighing whether conditions support long-term herd rebuilding. While temporary import expansion may modestly supplement certain beef supplies, particularly for ground beef blending, it risks sending mixed signals to domestic producers at a critical stage in the cattle cycle. Long-term resiliency in the U.S. beef supply will ultimately depend on the economic confidence and ability of American ranchers to rebuild the domestic herd. ■

U.S. Beef Tariff-Rate Quotas (TRQs) — 2026			
Country / Region	Normal Annual TRQ	Temporary 2026 Additional Access	Effective 2026 Access
Australia	378,214 MT	—	378,214 MT
New Zealand	213,402 MT	—	213,402 MT
Argentina	20,000 MT	+80,000 MT	100,000 MT
Uruguay	20,000 MT	—	20,000 MT
United Kingdom	13,000 MT	—	13,000 MT
Other Countries/Areas	52,005 MT	—	52,005 MT
Canada	No limit	—	No limit
Mexico	No limit	—	No limit

* Argentina's additional 80,000 MT (lean beef trimmings only) was added via Presidential Proclamation, Feb. 6, 2026, in four quarterly tranches of 20,000 MT each.

FIGURE 2

Quarter One Beef Imports Already Outpacing Implied TRQ Levels

Fresh, frozen, and chilled beef imports, Thousand metric tons, January-March 2026, Implied Quarterly TRQ Pace

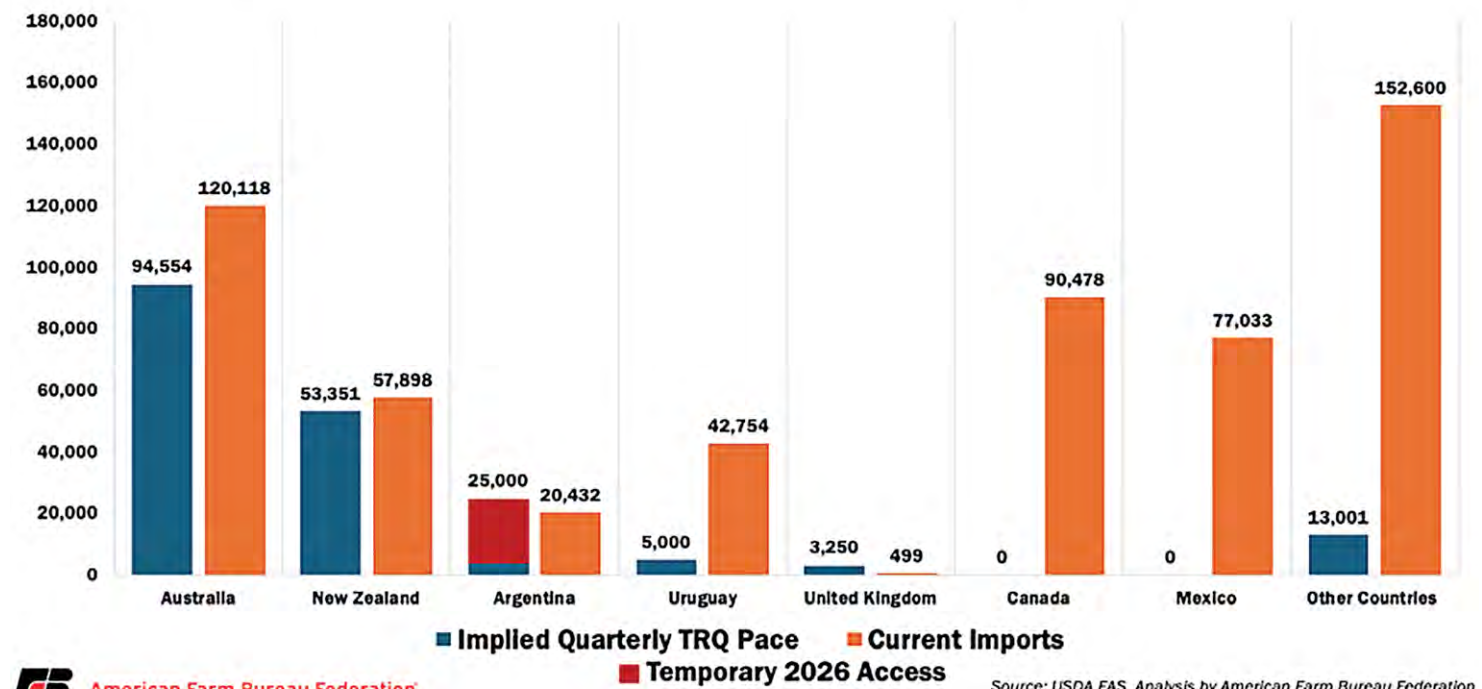


FIGURE 3

Rise to the Challenge
 Compete for \$100K
 Applications Due June 5, 2026

FARM BUREAU INNOVATION CHALLENGE
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FARM CREDIT

DURABILITY REDEFINED.

C-SALES
 Your Dealer for Best Pricing on Vermeer Equipment!
307-359-3080
 or
307-358-3891

IN STOCK!
 605N Baler
 R2300 Twin Rake

The Vermeer N-series balers bring heavy-duty components for strength and durability in the field when you need it most. Smart features like the available automatic pickup clutch and Auto Lube system help extend machine life. Plus, they're backed by the best distribution network in the industry.

Vermeer Corporation reserves the right to make changes in engineering, design and specifications; add improvements; or discontinue manufacturing or distribution at any time without notice or obligation. Equipment shown is for illustrative purposes only and may display optional accessories or components specific to their global region. Please contact your local Vermeer dealer for more information on machine specifications. Vermeer and the Vermeer logo are trademarks of Vermeer Manufacturing Company in the U.S. and/or other countries. © 2018 Vermeer Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

Together we'll create a plan to protect what matters most to you.



Dallas Turnbow
Agent
Afton
307-885-3276



Sierra Booth
Agent
Alpine
307-654-3815



Nick Smith*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Buffalo
307-684-1300



Jack Swanson*
Agent
Casper
307-234-5515



Jason Bell*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Cheyenne
307-632-9008



Joshua Tangeman*
Agent
Cheyenne
387-632-1194



Seth Tangeman*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Cheyenne
387-632-1194



Lauren Stelling*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Cody
307-587-5000



Justin Hatfield
Agent
Douglas
307-358-3606



Becky Pearson*
Agent
Gillette
307-682-4454



Mike Smith*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Gillette
307-682-3836



Justin Hatfield
Agent
Glenrock
307-436-8402



Ellary Kelly*
Agent
Greybull
307-765-4621



Jackson Ayala*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Jackson
307-733-3813



Tamey Peternal*
Agent
Kemmerer
307-877-5582



Jake Huhnke*
Agent
Lander
307-332-3295



Justin Jeffers*
Agent
Laramie
307-742-4847



Zack Jacobsen*
Agent
Laramie
307-742-4847



Holly Borton*
Agent
Newcastle
307-746-4471



Seth Tangeman*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Pine Bluffs
307-632-1194



Jak Tanner
Agent
Pinedale
307-367-2141



Shelby Labuda
Agent
Rawlins
307-328-0094



Brigett Bunker
Agent
Riverton
307-463-4299



Andrea Robinson*
Agent
Sundance
307-283-3582



Grant Curry*
Agent
Torrington
307-532-3610



Joshua Tangeman*
Agent
Wheatland
307-632-1194



Kris Mull*
Agent, Financial Advisor
Worland
307-347-3583



Auto | Home | Life | Business | Farm & Ranch | Annuities | fbfs.com

Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, + 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC. Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company/Laramie, WY. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**West Des Moines, IA. Individual must be a registered representative of FBL Marketing Services, LLC to discuss securities products. Individual must be an investment adviser representative with FBL Wealth Management, LLC to discuss advisory services. Individual must be licensed with issuing company to offer insurance products. *Affiliates. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. M199 (12-25)