

Rancher Roundtable with the Department of the Interior

BY DARBY THAYER

On July 22nd, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Natural and Environmental Resources Chairman and Carbon County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation President Kyle Berger and wife Stacy, WyFB YF&R Committee Member Laura Dockery, along with WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark attended a Rancher Roundtable with the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Doug Burgum.

Laura Dockery is a fifth-generation rancher on her family’s ranch near Jeffrey City, Wyoming on the Sweetwater River.

“It was an amazing experience talking to the Secretary of the Interior and the rest of the group. I was able to discuss issues my family and other permittee holders have on the 90,000-acre BLM allotment we graze our cattle on,” states Laura Dockery, YF&R Committee Member.

A couple of the items Dockery brought up during the roundtable were the overgrowth of sage brush that increases fire risk, expense sharing on improvements with other permittees on common allotments, multiple use, the impact feral horses have on the grass when they are

over-objective and the language around production-oriented livestock.

Dockery adds, “I am the next generation, and I want to stay in agriculture, I want to stay on the ranch, and I don’t want our grazing rights to be taken away. I know that no-one else is going to do it for me, and it is very important for me to learn the processes of how to talk about the proposed rule changes and how to advocate for my family and other ranchers.”

Kyle and Stacy Berger are both fifth generation ranchers, they currently run cattle on a forest service permit, along with other leases and private land on Kyle’s families ranch near Saratoga, Wyoming. The roundtable discussion on Forest Service permits was noted by DOI staff and shared with Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.

“As capable stewards of the land our goal is to manage our resources as responsibly as we can. This is our livelihood and we want to see the grazing practices we implement benefit our animals, strengthen the health of forests, help with wildfires, and leave the land in good shape for the next generation,” states Kyle Berger.

ROUNDTABLE ... Page 3



United States Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Fremont County Rancher Laura Dockery. KERIN CLARK PHOTO

Day of the American West 250th

BY DARBY THAYER

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum officially proclaimed July 23, 2026, as the Day of the American West—recognizing the people, cultures and traditions that shaped the region.

On July 23rd, the U.S. Department

of the Interior (DOI) hosted a celebratory event for the Day of the American West at the Wyoming Governor’s Mansion in Cheyenne, WY. The event was led by Karen Budd-Falen, DOI Associate Deputy Secretary and also coincided with American’s 250th anniversary.

AMERICAN WEST 250TH ... Page 3



Farm Bureau members gather at the Day of the American West. From Left to Right - Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President and wife Laura Fornstrom; Thad and Andrea Dockery, Fremont County; Laura Dockery, Fremont County; Quade Palm, Carbon County, Tucker, Annie, and Thaddeus Hamilton, Weston County; Stacy and Kyle Berger, Carbon County; Kerin Clark, WyFB and husband Jake Clark. JILL TREGEMBA PHOTO.

WyFB Policy Conference

BY DARBY THAYER

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members met for a Policy Conference on August 19th to hear presentations from speakers on topics of interest to Farm Bureau members as the fall resolution meetings begin the annual policy development process.

During the conference, WyFB members were able to ask questions and have conversations with Governor Mark Gordon; Jay Bragg, Texas Farm Bureau; Darin Westby, Director of Wyoming Department of Transportation; Flavie Audion PhD, Rangeland Specialist, University of Arizona; Rachel Grant, Converse County Farm Bureau Federation; Hank Hoversland, Executive Director of the Wyoming Taxpayers Association; and Jackie Byam, Wyoming State Conservationist with NRCS.

POLICY CONFERENCE ... Page 6



Governor Mark Gordon with Leanne Correll, a member of the Hot Springs County Farm Bureau Federation. DARBY THAYER PHOTO

Inside:

Historical Drought4
Ken Hamilton inducted to WY Ag HOF.....4
WyFB submits grazing comments to BLM.....5

WyFB Member Insert7-9
Grassroots policy development process.....10
State fair11

July cattle report.....15
Grizzly bear management to states comment.....15
County fairs in Wyoming.....16



Wyoming Agriculture

Volume 44, Issue No. 1
September 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/January issues,
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
Darby Thayer

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*



Visit us at:
wyfb.org
Follow us on:



USMCA Renewal Is an Opportunity to Strengthen Agriculture

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Strong markets are essential to a strong farm economy. And for America's farmers and ranchers, few markets matter more than our neighbors to the north and south. That's why the ongoing review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement is so important to agriculture.

In September, U.S. and Mexican officials will meet for another round of negotiations as part of the agreement's six-year review. These negotiations carry real consequences for farmers and ranchers. The decisions made at the table will help shape the future of agricultural trade across North America and determine whether America's farmers and ranchers have the certainty they need to compete and grow. At a time when farm families are facing the toughest economy in a generation, protecting and expanding access to reliable markets has never been more important.

Canada and Mexico Are Essential Markets for U.S. Agriculture

Canada and Mexico have long been America's closest agricultural trading partners. Together, they purchase nearly one-third of our agricultural exports. Every day,

trucks and railcars move American-grown food across our borders, supporting farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Last year alone, American farmers exported nearly \$31 billion in agricultural products to Mexico and nearly \$29 billion to Canada. Those numbers represent critical markets for the crops we grow and the livestock we raise, giving farmers and ranchers greater confidence to invest in their farms and plan for the future.

Strong trade relationships with Canada and Mexico help strengthen family farms, support rural communities, and keep American agriculture competitive around the world.

The benefits extend well beyond the farm gate. Every dollar in agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico generates roughly two dollars in economic activity here at home, supporting jobs in transportation, processing, manufacturing and the many other businesses that help move American-grown products to consumers.

USMCA Renewal Can Expand Agricultural Market Access

When USMCA took effect in 2020, it strengthened an already important trade

relationship between the United States, Canada and Mexico. The review now underway gives all three countries the opportunity to build on what has worked while addressing challenges that still exist.

Farm Bureau supports renewing USMCA because farmers need certainty, but we also believe this is an opportunity to strengthen the agreement. That includes improving market access for U.S. dairy products and creating meaningful protections against seasonal produce import surges that can disrupt markets for U.S. fruit and vegetable growers.

Farmers don't make decisions just one season at a time. They invest months and often years before a crop is harvested or livestock is marketed. Those decisions require confidence that markets will be there when it's time to sell.

As negotiations continue, Farm Bureau will keep advocating for an agreement that strengthens opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. Strong trade relationships with Canada and Mexico help strengthen family farms, support rural communities, and keep American agriculture competitive around the world. ■

The Foundation of Agriculture

Kerin Clark

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



"The ag community has laid the foundation for the culture of Wyoming. ...ag is the very foundation that underlies the strength of Wyoming." – *University of Wyoming President Shane Reeves said when speaking to WyFB members at the August 19th WyFB Policy Conference.*

Agriculture is the very foundation and heritage of our state. As we continue our work to strengthen Wyoming agriculture and enhance the communities we all call home, we are thankful for the members and volunteers of this member-driven, grassroots agricultural organization.

As fall nears, farmer and rancher members begin the annual policy development process that has been the strength of the organization since our founding in 1920. County Farm Bureau Federation resolutions and annual meetings are well underway. After the county meetings, the process continues to district meetings and then culminates at the 107th annual meeting in November. Check the calendar in this issue

or the events tab at our website to find your county and district meeting dates.

In August, we hosted a Policy Conference at the Farm Bureau Center in Laramie with informational speakers and a report from the Policy Review Committee on their work this summer. Both the Conference and the Policy Review Committee were resources WyFB developed to meet a recommendation identified by the member-driven WyFB Strategic Planning Committee for policy development.

We appreciate the members who dedicated time to travel to Laramie in August to participate in the Policy Conference. The conference provided members the opportunity to hear informational presentations on a number of topics impacting policy discussions in Wyoming. Attending also provided the members the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters and visit with one another around the lunch table.

The Policy Review Committee presented their final (informational only) recommendation report at the conference. The

committee members from around the state met twice in-person and virtually this summer to review the policy book and make recommendations for counties to review during the policy development process. The recommendations are informational only; the committee had no authority to change policy.

Agriculture is the foundation of Wyoming. The County Farm Bureau Federations are the foundation of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. We will continue building on the strong foundation that began nearly 107 years ago here in Wyoming when the University of Wyoming Extension helped to organize and start the Farm Bureau Federation in Wyoming.

The communities each of us call home in Wyoming are stronger because of local involvement and support. The same is true for the County Farm Bureau Federations in Wyoming. Thank you for being a member of this organization and making a difference now and for future generations of Wyoming agriculture. ■

ROUNDTABLE... From Page 1

A couple of the concerns the Bergers provided insight to were the fire risk and the challenge of maintaining improvements with forest overgrowth and the limit of intensive grazing in the forest. Berger also shared the request to consider allowing permits to have longer terms to give the permittee the ability to plan for the future and give them the opportunity for more improvements that help the health of the grass and the land. Another item discussed was the ability to monitor the grass through boots on the ground practices and collaborating directly with the agency.

“Everyone took notes and was very intentional about asking us questions. We are so thankful to have an administration that serves us as farmers and ranchers. I am looking

forward to how we can all continue to work together in the future,” states Stacy Berger.

“Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was well-represented with Laura, Kyle, and Stacy sharing their ranching stories and discussing policy and on the ground implications for management of federal lands,” said Kerin Clark, WyFB Executive Vice President. “This roundtable provided a unique and impactful experience for a small group to discuss policy topics directly with Secretary Burgum. Advocating for agriculture comes at many levels and this one-on-one opportunity to sit around the table in Wyoming with the Secretary and DOI officials sharing individual stories and on the ground knowledge of managing the resource was significant in driving the conversation.” ■



DOI Associate Deputy Secretary Karen Budd-Falen and Carbon County Ranchers Stacy and Kyle Berger. KERIN CLARK PHOTO

AMERICAN WEST 250TH... From Page 1

Even during one of the busiest times of the year for Wyoming farmers and ranchers, WyFB members made time to attend this meaningful celebration. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the West’s heritage while ensuring Wyoming’s farmers and ranchers had a voice and were represented in conversations about the future of agriculture.

“We enjoyed the conversations with the Department of the Interior at the 250th celebration. After talking with the DOI we learned they care about us as producers and listened to our comments and asked for feedback,” said Thad Dockery, WyFB Northwest District Director and Wyoming rancher. “WyFB was very well represented with production agriculturists in ranching, and I believe we had the opportunity to make connections and have conversations that will give us the ability to continue this going forward. We feel that from these conversations, our voices will be heard.”

WyFB members talked one-on-one with DOI staff and asked practical questions about the proposed BLM grazing rules and gathered insight on how the BLM and DOI are looking at specific issues farmers and ranchers are facing. Members had intentional conversations and shared stories, issues, and concerns they have on their farms and ranches.

“Celebrating the American West and the Wyoming ranchers who shape our western heritage at the ‘Day of the American West’ reception was a great honor,” said Kerin Clark, WyFB Executive Vice President. “WyFB board members and a WyFB state committee chair connected with DOI officials to share their ranching stories and the issues that impact their everyday lives ranching in Wyoming. Those one-on-one conversations with agency officials were invaluable in continuing to drive the conversations about the important role ranchers play in stewarding federal lands.” ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	
2	Carbon County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 7:30 a.m. - Saratoga Hot Springs Resort in Saratoga
8	Converse County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. - Converse County Library in Douglas
8-9	Joint Travel Legislative Interim Committee - Jackson
9	Weston County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – Weston County Event Center in Newcastle at 4 p.m.
9	Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 5 p.m. - Buffalo
9	AFBF Farm 250 Photo Contest Deadline
10	Crook County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. - 77 Steakhouse in Hulett
10	Sheridan County Ranch & Farm Bureau Annual Meeting – The Ramada in Sheridan – Time TBD
10	Sheridan College Collegiate Farm Bureau Meeting at 4 pm in Mars Ag Center in Sheridan
10	Platte County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Wheatland
13	Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. - Mustang Mountain Winery in Lovell
13	Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 1 pm - City Park in Pine Bluffs
14	Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting at 6 p.m. - Evanston
14	Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. - Niobrara County Fairgrounds in Lusk
16	Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Meeting (Time & Location TBD)
17	Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 4:00 pm – Prairie Sky Venue in Gillette
17	Albany County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Altitude Chophouse & Brewery in Laramie
18	Park County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at 6 p.m.
19	Park County Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - The Commons in Powell at 6 p.m.
21-22	Joint Agriculture Legislative Interim Committee – Sheridan
23	Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – Farson Community Center in Farson
25	Natrona County Farm & Ranch Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Banquet - The Hangar in Bar Nunn at 5:30 p.m.
27	Northeast District Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
October	
3	WyFB Outstanding Membership Worker Award Nominations Due
3	Northwest District – Resolutions Meeting at 1 p.m. - Hot Springs County Library in Thermopolis
5	Southwest District – Resolutions Meeting at 10 a.m. - Library in Kemmerer
6	Southeast District - Resolutions Meeting at 10 a.m. - Goshen County
17	Wyoming Needs Agriculture Event – University of Wyoming IPF in Laramie
November	
3	General Election Day
12-14	WyFB 107th Annual Meeting- Ramkota Hotel in Casper
January 2027	
8-13	AFBF Annual Convention – Charlotte, NC
28-30	YF&R Annual Conference – Evanston, WY

Visit wyfb.org for event updates



Member-CENTS

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.

MBR ID: Enter Year & Time
Example: Year 2025, Term 9-10, Date 10/20/2025

RxGRP: FBPCWV

RABIN: 610709

NOTE: This program is available to members only. There are no cash back or other benefits. Use only for qualified purchases. See website for complete program details.

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.

FEATURED BENEFIT: Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

SAVE UP TO 20% OFF THE BEST AVAILABLE RATE

Historical Drought

BY SPENCER AXTELL
YOUNG FARMER AND RANCHER
COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

2026 will be a year to remember in the agricultural world. Record high cattle prices, low crop prices, high hay prices and a drought like no one has ever lived to see in some areas. As a cattle producer myself it is kind of bitter-sweet, I might never see cattle prices like this ever again, but there isn't enough feed and water for the cattle in my area (Hot Springs County). We have been lucky to not have to cut into the herd yet, but I know plenty of folks who have, just to make it through the summer. Now we are looking at extremely high hay prices if we can even find some, to be able to make it through the winter.

Besides the financial stress this drought has brought, it has brought lots of change in our operations, and I know it has for some of my neigh-

bors as well. For example, we had to change our grazing rotation for summer pastures due to loss of water. We also turned onto pasture two weeks early, and have been hauling water every day to 200 head to utilize the pasture they are in. On top of that we have decided to wean calves early and take them to a feedlot because we don't have the pasture to keep them until October like normal. We are hopeful for moisture this fall and winter to bring more grass in for the spring and to raise our ground water levels.

Amidst all the chaos of drought that has affected our state, fires that have affected our country. It is truly a year to remember, and one to look for the good where we can. My wife and I had our first baby girl on May 28th, which has been an amazing blessing. My sister is to have her first child by mid-September. So even in the depressing conditions life goes on and gives us something to be thankful for. ■



Ranching with the Axtell's in Hot Springs County.



Spencer and Hannah Axtell with their daughter.

SAVE *the* DATE Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference

Jan. 28-30, 2027 | Evanston, WY



Hamilton selected as WY Ag HOF inductee

Reprinted with permission from
the Wyoming Livestock Roundup

BY GRACE SKAVDAHL, WYLR

The Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame (HOF) has been honoring Wyoming's agricultural leaders since 1992, and this year, Ken Hamilton of Laramie, alongside Mark Eisele of Cheyenne, were recognized for a lifetime of dedication to the Cowboy State's agriculture industry during the Wyoming Agriculture HOF Picnic on Aug. 12, held in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.

A lifelong agriculturist, Hamilton grew up raising sheep and cattle on the Hamilton Ranch near Hyattville with his parents Merle and Eleanor and his brother Keith.

Following graduation from Manderson-Hyattville High School, Hamilton attended Northwest College in Powell. From 1980-81, he participated in an exchange program between the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and Agricultural Investments of Australia.

In 1982, he graduated from the University of Wyoming (UW) with a bachelor's degree in animal science. He was honored with the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CALSNR) Outstanding Alumni Award in 2015.

In 1983, Hamilton began working with Wyoming Farm Bureau (WyFB) as a research and field assistant, thus launching an impressive 41-year career with the organization.

Hamilton assumed the role of WyFB executive

vice president in 2004, serving as an agricultural advocate at both the state and national levels for two decades. He was honored with the WyFB Distinguished Service Award in 2018 and retired in 2024.

In a nomination letter, WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark highlights Hamilton's unwavering dedication to people and policy.

"Throughout his career, Ken represented farmers and ranchers through a variety of issues in the legislature," Clark writes. "Legislators called on him for an understanding of agriculture issues as his broad base of education, experience and interest proved to be a strong resource."

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom also expresses his respect for Hamilton in a letter of support highlighting his honesty, integrity, dedication and loyalty throughout his tenure.

"Hamilton dedicated his career to the agriculture industry in Wyoming," Fornstrom wrote. "His tenure for WyFB has been a testament to the way of life we in agriculture hold in high regard."

In addition to his exceptional accomplishments in ag advocacy, Hamilton's strengths as a mentor and leader have not gone unnoticed.

"Hamilton is a humble, quiet and effective leader who has given much of himself, his time and his knowledge for the betterment of Wyoming agriculture," comments Clark.

U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY) notes Hamilton has served as a mentor to her and many others, stating, "Hamilton has built a legacy of integrity,



Ken Hamilton received his award from Senators Cynthia Lummis and John Barrasso at the Wyoming Ag Hall of Fame event in August at the Wyoming State Fair. WYLR PHOTO

professionalism and dedication to our state. Our ag industry, now and for generations to come, is stronger because of him."

In retirement, Hamilton remains an active community member and ally for Wyoming's agricultural industry. He and his wife Kathy live in Laramie, where he serves on the Iverson Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. ■

WyFB submits BLM grazing comments

BY DARBY THAYER

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) submitted comments gathered from the Farm Bureau Federation policy book and WyFB members to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director, Steve Pearce on the proposed revisions to the regulations for grazing administration and land health standards on BLM lands.

“WyFB applauds and supports the Department of Interior for focusing on science-based land management and its recognition that flexible and outcome-based public lands grazing benefits both ranchers and the landscape. BLM is also appropriately viewing rangeland health as a function across all multiple uses and updating how land health evaluations are conducted. The return to the focus on multiple-use and sustained yield principles established by Congress is welcome,” said Kerin Clark, WyFB Executive Vice President.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) established a national policy with respect to environmental quality and requires federal agencies to integrate environmental considerations into planning and decision-making. As set forth in its Proposed Rule, “BLM intends to apply the categorical exclusion (CE) identified in the Department’s NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.210(i) to comply with NEPA.”

WyFB supports the determinations of when or where grazing will occur, the Animal Unit Month (AUM) levels and other parameters for grazing authorization will be made through the BLM’s planning and individual permitting decisions which will be subject to the NEPA process as appropriate. Performing a detailed analysis such as an Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Statement at this juncture would not further NEPA’s purposes because there is not sufficient information to inform agency officials of particularized potential impacts. WyFB also comments that conducting any further NEPA review would entail a time-consuming and unjustified waste of government resources unfocused on any particular action.

Updating and Modernizing Definitions

WyFB supports changes in the authorization of temporary changes in grazing use within the terms and conditions of permits and leases, including temporary non-use. This provides for additional flexibility outside of that already authorized, including temporary changes in livestock number, period of use, or both, that would not exceed specified active use but allow for adaptive use 21 days before or after dates in the permit to respond to conditions on the ground.

WyFB supports the BLM’s proposal “to revise the definition of interested public to make explicit that anyone wishing to participate in the management of livestock grazing on public lands must have a cognizable

interest in such management on the allotment or allotments for which they wish to participate” and agrees that a generalized interest would be insufficient. As explained by the BLM, this definition in no way limits any right to engage in a public process carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act and is intended to promote efficiency and timely decision-making.

The definition change to production-oriented livestock to make clear that grazing authorizations should be issued only for animals that are part of an operation providing output for various purposes such as meat, milk, fiber, or other products, along with animals that are relied upon to assist with the management of these types of operations is appreciated by WyFB.

WyFB supports amendments to the conditions for range improvements to address new NEPA implementation guidance. For example, range improvements are directed as part of the permit process, yet, due to NEPA analyses by the agency, can be significantly delayed. The permit could set forth what improvements are necessary or anticipated, and therefore any NEPA analysis could be done on the front end (and they should not be separately appealable if set forth in the permit). Similarly, routine maintenance should be expected as part of continuing use under a permit and not require any authorization or a new decision as part of a NEPA analysis. Our members have experienced the impact of the NEPA delays for maintenance of existing improvements. For example, a pipeline that went through the NEPA process and now

needs maintained but sits in limbo for multiple years while waiting on a new NEPA process should not require a new decision as part of the NEPA analysis.

Fundamentals of Land Health and Standards for Program Administration

WyFB supports the proposed new section of regulations to provide a framework for evaluation of land health across all uses of BLM-administered lands. WyFB supports removing the grazing lands-only approach to land health and notes this proposal is consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The recognition of all uses of public lands by having the land health standards apply to all uses of BLM lands and acknowledging that recreation, wildfire, invasive species, and other factors can affect rangeland health is appreciated.

“The proposed updates to the decades-old grazing regulations would modernize grazing administration, provide additional flexibility for permittees to adjust management practices and recognize that land health outcomes are influenced by many uses and activities on federal lands. Public lands grazing permittees are an important component of multiple-use and management of public lands. The regulations, as proposed, will help with providing a predictable and flexible permitting process and a focus on direct collaboration with the permittees who have on-the-ground knowledge of the resource,” Clark concluded. ■



Farm Bureau Members Receive a
\$500 Exclusive Cash Reward^{1,2}
 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!

JACKSON
 JACKSON HOLE FORD
 307-201-5499
www.jacksonholeford.com

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

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

NEIGHBOR VS. NEIGHBOR



Is it time to have a discussion?

MEDIATION CAN HELP.

- Fencing
- Livestock trespass
- Weed control
- Leases
- Shared roads
- Irrigation ditches
- Access & easements
- And more!

CALL THE
WYOMING AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES MEDIATION PROGRAM
FOR MORE INFORMATION
888-996-9278
AGRICULTURE.WY.GOV/DIVISIONS/NRP/MEDIATION-PROGRAM



POLICY CONFERENCE... From Page 1

University of Wyoming President Shane Reeves and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Kelly Crane were also able to join members at lunch to discuss how the University of Wyoming and WyFB can collaborate and continue to work together to strengthen agriculture in Wyoming for generations to come.

Read more on WYDOT priority routes and resources; data centers; virtual fencing; joint interim committee working group on landowner wildlife habitat; and the taxes vs. services presentation below. ■



UW President Shane Reeves with UW alumni at the Policy Conference. UW PHOTO

WYDOT: Snow removal, safety, priority routes, and taxes

BY DARBY THAYER

Darin Westby, Director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), presented current topics regarding use of resources on roads and bridges, the Highway Department, and more that WYDOT administers across the state. WyFB members had questions about snow removal, taxes, high-priority routes, low-priority routes, and working with local governments.

"We need to move the needle, so the priority isn't just funding I-80, I-25, and I-90 routes. We want to make sure the low-priority routes are also being looked at," stated Westby. "Average annual daily traffic is so significant to where we choose the funding to go for road improvements, culverts, bridges, shoulders, and more."

Westby provided insight into a handful of questions from members regarding snow removal. He mentioned WYDOT uses snowplows and other resources across the state when they can and where they can, along with working with local government agencies for efficiency.

Westby explained how fuel tax increases impact WyDOT, for every cent increase in the state tax on gasoline or diesel, WYDOT receives an extra \$4.5 million per year for road and bridge work.

This one-cent increase is close to \$7 million across the state. The remainder of the funding goes to counties, cities and towns, and a small remainder goes to state parks. Wyoming's fuel tax is lower than other surrounding states such as Nebraska and



WYDOT Director Darin Westby presenting at the conference. DARBY THAYER PHOTO

Utah, therefore, those states are receiving more money than Wyoming for transportation going across the interstates and highways. Westby's goal is to get Wyoming's fair share of fuel tax.

"Our mission is to provide a safe and effective transportation system to the state of Wyoming and without an increase in stateside funding, we need to prioritize and focus what funding we do have on high priority, safety-oriented projects," Westby concluded. ■

Virtual fencing: an overview

BY COURTNEY BEENE

Members heard a presentation by Flavie Audoin with the University of Arizona about virtual fencing. Audoin is the Assistant Rangeland Management Specialist for Cooperative Extension in Plant-Herbivore Interactions and Targeted Grazing. Her research focus is centered on finding solutions for livestock producers raising animals on rangelands using virtual fence technology; specifically regarding targeted grazing to manage toxic and invasive plants; and wildland fuel reduction to prevent or

minimize the intensity of wildfires.

The presentation focused on information about virtual fencing companies and the pros and cons of virtual fencing. She gave examples about how she uses virtual fencing collars in research settings before diving into five different virtual fencing companies available in the United States. The five companies presented were Gallagher, Halter, No Fence, Vence and Monil. The presentation included the livestock type the collars were designed for, what type of power source they used, software usage, connectivity, herd and pasture size restrictions,

and a per-head cost breakdown.

Audoin stressed the importance of choosing a company. "The best system is not the cheapest or the one with the most features, it is the one that best fits your needs on your operation." She concluded her presentation by stating, "for public lands grazing, bringing permittees to the table is critical for successful virtual fence implementation."

For ranchers interested in learning more about the cost breakdown of virtual fencing and different companies: <https://rangelandsgateway.org/virtual-fence>. ■

Landowner wildlife habitat working group

BY DARBY THAYER

Converse County Farm Bureau Federation member Rachel Grant provided an update on her work on the Landowner and Sportsperson Heritage Roundtable group. This group was created as part of an interim topic from the

Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources legislative committee. Grant is representing the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation on this working group.

During the conference, Grant briefed members into the discussion in the working group in a couple of

areas regarding landowner tags, animal use days, minimum acreage, license/tag transferability, the value of tags and funding mechanisms. Grant reported that the group report will be presented at the next meeting of the legislative committee September 8-9. ■

Wyoming state tax structure

BY JUSTIN SCHILLING

With so much discussion and debate over the last few years regarding property taxes, a review of the state tax structure was presented by Wyoming Taxpayers Association Executive Director Hank Hoversland.

Hoversland described Wyoming's major state and local tax revenues as a three-legged stool held up by min-

eral severance taxes, sales and use taxes, and property taxes.

"When things are equal, it works," Hoversland said. "But when you have drastic cuts to one leg of the stool, like we have with property tax, then things get out of balance."

With recent legislative cuts to residential property tax, Wyoming residents paid lower property taxes than 39 other states in 2025. With a pro-

posed 50-percent exemption on the ballot in November, we could reasonably find ourselves as the only state without a state income tax in the bottom five.

Whether that's sustainable long term is hard to say according to Hoversland, but it would certainly lead to even greater dependence on tax revenue from extractive mineral industries to make up the difference. ■

Data center development

BY JUSTIN SCHILLING

Few topics in recent memory have been as polarizing in Wyoming, and across much of the country, as the rapid acceleration of data center development.

The booming industry has neighbors choosing sides and pleading their cases, often on social media platforms made possible by the very data centers they are debating.

Opponents lament the potential strain on the state's limited water resources, added costs for electrical grid improvements they fear will fall to consumers, and industrial sprawl on rural parcels long used for grazing or other agricultural pursuits.

Supporters welcome the industry's ongoing expansion in Wyoming, citing the need for economic development and better-paying jobs in career fields that could help curb the outmigration of Wyoming's youth. They also point to the millions in tax and philanthropic dollars these facilities could bring to local communities, along with increased demand for Wyoming coal and natural gas.

Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon was joined virtually by Texas Farm Bureau Associate Director of Commodity and Regulatory Activities Jay Bragg, as the two discussed the issue with attendees.

Bragg discussed regulatory efforts the Lone Star State had recently implemented, including a statewide pause on data center development while further study is completed to better understand potential risks to Texas' unique independent power grid.

He also outlined two policies pertaining to data center development that were added this year to the Texas Farm Bureau Federation Policy Book.

Gordon brought the broader discussion back to Wyoming, focusing on state-specific issues and efforts by his administration, including the executive order he signed on June 3 titled "Data Centers the Wyoming Way."

The order directs agencies across the Executive Branch to better collaborate on data center projects, to increase efficiencies and create greater regulatory certainty, all while also protecting community and environmental interests.

Still, Gordon stated, it's a monumental task to thread the needle between unbridled growth and overly burdensome regulations. He's hopeful though that perhaps that answers might be found with the state's Industrial Siting Council.

"That's the framework that we point forward with our Executive Order," Gordon said. "It basically said you've built laws over the last several decades in industrial siting, and it's grown in terms of interpretation over the last few years to include wind and solar. But there were also some intentions put in there that are the ones that people are concerned about now. Like if you're in an industrial zone area, then you can exempt some of the permit requirements. You've all heard how much of that challenge we have. If we're moving too quickly, but then not moving quickly enough."

Gordon is hopeful that the legislature will take up the challenge this coming session, as he knows his Executive Order comes up short for some for those who would have liked to have seen him go farther.

"The Governor doesn't have that power," Gordon said. "I can't from whole cloth make new law. I can tell my agencies to go about doing the best job that they can, but I also asked them, as they go through this, to make some recommendations for how we can make it work better. Let's make sure we have those available for the legislative session."

He is bullish though on in-state power plants, consuming Wyoming resources, to generate the massive amounts of electricity needed to run all these data centers.

"Who pays our taxes?" Gordon asked. "It's oil, gas, and it's coal. It's all those industries, and we export 12 times the electricity from those resources than we use. We've exported to places like California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, that all say we don't like (fossil fuels). We want to do something else. You don't have any patches when we don't have (those revenues), but what if we can use more of that power within the state?"

With 26 operational data centers, five more under construction, and more than a dozen more in various stages of planning, Wyoming's data center debate is most definitely far from over. ■



MISSION, VISION, & CORE VALUES

MISSION

Strengthening Wyoming agriculture, enhancing Wyoming communities.

VISION

We envision a prosperous Wyoming with thriving agriculture, communities, and families.

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY	We believe <i>integrity</i> is our foundation. We strive to be trustworthy, authentic, and transparent. We hold ourselves accountable in every action and decision.
ADVOCACY	We believe in protecting private property rights, upholding constitutional government, and advancing a free market economy. With a commitment to individual freedom, we <i>advocate</i> through engagement in the legislative, regulatory, legal, and consumer arenas.
SERVICE	We believe in <i>service</i> through continuing education, servant leadership, and community engagement to strengthen the places we call home.
DEDICATION	We believe our <i>dedication</i> to agriculture is the foundation that inspires us to sacrifice time and energy to secure its values, lifestyle, and legacy. We are rooted in our heritage to guide our future.
FAMILY	We believe <i>family</i> is the foundation of a healthy society. The Farm Bureau family is a natural extension of that foundation, welcoming members of all ages. We protect agricultural legacies and lifestyles and develop opportunities for future generations.
LEADERSHIP	We believe leaders develop through opportunity, education, mentorship, and networking. We empower our members to embrace <i>leadership</i> opportunities in their communities and beyond.



MEMBERSHIP

How do your experiences make a difference for Wyoming Agriculture?

1. Share Your Idea

Bring a concern or opportunity from your farm or ranch to your county annual meeting. Share why the issue matters and how it impacts agriculture.

2. County Members Discuss & Vote

Members discuss the issue and vote on whether it should move forward as a county resolution. If approved, your idea becomes part of the policy process.

3. Delegates Continue the Process

Approved county resolutions move to the district level, where Farm Bureau delegates review and vote. Resolutions that pass continue on to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in November.

4. Members Create State Policy

At the state annual meeting in November, delegates from across Wyoming vote on resolutions. If approved by a majority vote, the resolution becomes official Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy and is added to the state policy book.

5. Your Voice Becomes Advocacy

Once adopted, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation’s policy team uses member-created policy to advocate with legislators, agencies, and decision-makers throughout the year.

6. National Policy Component

Policy recommendations with national significance move to the next step and are submitted to the American Farm Bureau Federation. There, voting delegates from across the country consider and vote on the policy recommendation for national policy.

County Farm Bureau Federation

Attend meetings, connect with fellow farmers and ranchers, serve on committees, and help shape the policies that guide Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation’s advocacy.

Your Voice

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy doesn’t come from the top down, it starts with our members voices. Your ideas are discussed, voted on, and turned into policy that guides our advocacy efforts.

Join or Renew Today

Visit: wyfb.org/join or scan the QR code:



A Note from WyFB President Todd Fornstrom

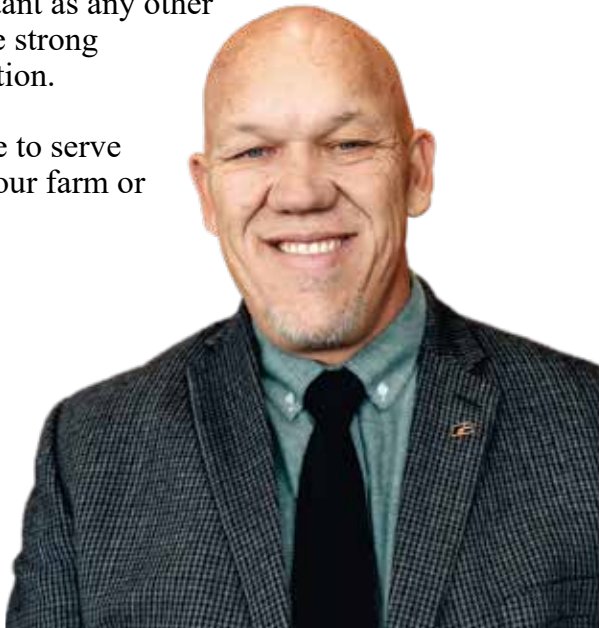
The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization led by volunteer farmers and ranchers who advocate each day to strengthen Wyoming agriculture and enhance the communities we call home.

I invite you to join or renew your membership and stand with me and my family in continued support of Wyoming farmers and ranchers. I became involved as a leader in the organization nearly 30 years ago. I believe in the grassroots work accomplished for farmers and ranchers and the rural way of life we value in Wyoming.

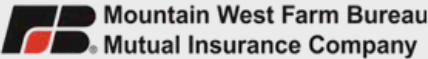
The organization provides all of us, as members, with the opportunity to be exposed to the development of regulations and policies and the people that have a say in those policies. Agriculture is just as important as any other industry in our country and the voices of our members are the most vital piece to keeping agriculture strong nationwide. Membership is about getting back to the basic values of life and being a part of the solution.

Agriculture is essential to everyone; it feeds us, fuels us, and sustains us every day. It is our privilege to serve Wyoming farmers and ranchers, and we look forward to continuing to serve you, your family, and your farm or ranch. Thank you for your support of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Sincerely,
Todd Fornstrom



Member Benefits & Partners

 Self serve kiosks, great selection of cars.	 Save up to 35% off Avis rentals.	 Save up to 35% off Budget rentals.	 Save 20% off Budget Truck rentals.
 Save up to \$800 on eligible Case IH Equipment.	 Save up to \$2,750 on Cat excavators, skid steers, and more.	 Save up to 20% off at participating hotels.	 Save 50% off admission tickets.
 Low rates on great selection of cars.	 Travel with confidence and great rates.	 Full service banking and team of professionals.	 Team of dedicated mortgage experts.
 \$500 Bonus Cash Reward on select purchases or leases.	 Exclusive member prices and free shipping.	 Identity Recovery - identity theft help line.	 Upgraded rewards membership & extra discounts.
 Discounted healthcare membership.	 Eligible members can receive premium discounts.	 Save up to 75% off on office, home, and school supplies.	 Prescription savings coupon through United Networks of America
 Offering 9 scholarships to members and/or their children yearly.	 Save up to 20% off best available rates.	 2 free ads per month, for 3 months, of up to 40 words.	

For more information, visit wyfb.org/membership/benefits.



Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife
Italian Sausage with Penne
 Recipe by Connie Werner

INGREDIENTS

- 1lb sweet or hot Italian sausage
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 3-4 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- ½ tsp fennel seed
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 5-7 cups chicken stock
- 1-2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tbsp parsley, plus garnish
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese and more for topping pasta
- salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large skillet, brown sausage and onion until done. Drain grease.
2. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
3. Stir in the tomato paste and red pepper flakes until well combined.
4. Then add the wine, chicken stock, and lemon juice. Bring to a boil.
5. Next add the penne and reduce heat to a simmer for 15-20 minutes until the pasta is cooked. Stir frequently. If the sauce gets too thick add in more chicken stock
6. Cook until the sauce has reduced by ½. Stir in the cream and Parmesan cheese. Allow to fully combine.
7. Serve with garlic toast. Enjoy!

For more recipes visit: www.modernranchwife.com

WyFB Supports State Fair

BY DARBY THAYER

The future of the agriculture industry is the youth, those who are eager to continue as the next generation

providing food, fuel, and fiber. WyFB values and recognizes the importance of not only investing in the youth, but also in the breeding programs that are

the foundation of livestock production in the state. Each year, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is a proud sponsor of the Wyoming State Fair, from Ram, Ewe,

Female, and Bull Breeding Program award sponsorships to add-on premiums, WyFB understands how important the next generation is to agriculture in Wyoming. ■



WyFB Marketing and Engagement Director Darby Thayer presents the Champion Breeding Beef Buckles at the Wyoming State Fair. COURTESY PHOTO



WyFB Membership and Outreach Director Brooke Settlemeyer presents the Champion Breeding Sheep buckles at the Wyoming State Fair. COURTESY PHOTO



Vitalix Kickstart Weaning — with Diamond V® Beef Shield and Zinpro® Availa® 4 — is tailor-made for cattle under stressful conditions and formulated specifically to reduce the impact of stress on cattle’s overall wellness and performance.

This product is Zinpro® Verified.

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

Wyoming Classifieds

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: John Deere - 467 Baler for Small Bales | \$6,500 | Located in Riverton, WY | Call 307-856-6209

FOR SALE: New Holland - 1036 Bale Wagon| \$12,500 | Located in Riverton, WY | Call 307-856-6209

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

New Members

ALBANY
Clare Snyder, Laramie; Anderson Wages, Laramie; Sara Steiner, Laramie; Byron & Allison Killpack (REG), Laramie; Beth Fly, Laramie ; Edward Sigel, Laramie; Elizabeth French, Laramie; Ronald Tenbenschel, Casa Grande, AZ; Brandon Swick, Laramie

BIG HORN
Todd & Catherin Herman, Lovell; Donald Wood, Manderson; Heritage Harvest Ranch (REG), Basin; Scott Yorgason, Greybull; Peyton Sorensen, Greybull; Clayton Saunders(REG), Basin; Dennetta & James Tyra (REG), Powell

CAMPBELL
Adam Lara, Rozet; Tammy & Glen Leisy, Riverton; Kathy Hanson, Buffalo; David Kiser (REG), Gillette; Kristyn Schultz, Wright

CARBON
Scott Thayer (REG), Rawlins; Randy & Debra Arnold (REG), Saratoga; Kagan Sims(REG), Rock River; James Johnson, Rawlins; Matthew Hanson, Saratoga

CONVERSE
Kevin Reinhart & Lynn Crawford, Glenrock; Del Bryan, Glenrock; Rachel Brurud, Glenrock; Michael Cronin, Glenrock

FREMONT
Patrick Solan, Riverton; Christine Bauersfeld(REG), Kinneer; Alexis Herbert, Kinneer; Larry Rudio, Riverton; Tyler & Rebecca Downing, Riverton; Amy & Jeremiah Fyler, Lander; Ben DeVries, Atlantic City; Olivia Maxwell, Lander; Konrad & Dana Schimmelman, Lander; Michael Poggis (REG), Riverton; Cody Arnoldt, Riverton; Evalina Burger- Vanderwalt, Greenwood Village, CO; Gregory & Traci Faxon (REG), Lander; Evan Lopez, Riverton; Kevin & Joyce Blankenship, Kinneer; Elizabeth Smith, Lander; Margaret Hamilton, Riverton; Pegan Ward, Lander; Kenneth Reed, Lander; Christopher Ryan, Thermopolis

GOSHEN
Terry Cline, LaGrange; Tom & Nina Grubbs, Lingle; Michael & Roxanne Jolovich (REG), Veteran; Jordan & Tia Farrell (REG), Torrington; Frank Stellpflug, Torrington; Mathew Makinen, LaGrange; Wendy Carson Wurdeman(REG), Torrington; Cody & Katie Redding, Wheatland; Nathan Muilenburg, Torrington

HOT SPRINGS
Brandon Deromedi, Thermopolis; Clayton & Amy Culbreath, Thermopolis

JOHNSON
Jim & Cata Peterson (REG), Buffalo; Jack Marton (REG), Buffalo; Brent Sabotka, Buffalo; Michelle Campos, Buffalo; Patrick McGivney(REG), Kaycee; Zach Taylor, Kaycee; Lynn Miller, Buffalo; Freya Butterfield, Buffalo; Amber Eggers, Buffalo; Anita Leischner, Buffalo; Andy Stevens, Buffalo; Fidelity Services, LLC (REG), Tabor, IA; Luke Gay, Buffalo; Quint & Amy Gonzales, Buffalo

Sessions, Afton; Drew Bowlds, Alpine; Frank Childester, Alpine; Tyler Jones, Afton; Donald Hoagland, Grover; Samantha VanHuysen, Alpine; Kaitlyn Wilde, Thayne; Bruce & Brenda Dana, Bedford; Reed Pebbles, Thayne

NATRONA
Ellen Holden, Casper; Robert & KATHERINE Cook, Casper; Ty Falcon, Casper; William Howe, Casper; Brandon Roth, Casper; Gregory & Stephanie Lindley, Casper; Dwayne Ryan, Casper; Barbara Balerio, Casper; Roxanne Heinze, Casper; Jerry Anderson, Casper; Bryan & Sarag Maxwell, Casper; Patrick & Amanda Lewallen, Casper; Clayton & Kallie Roberts, Casper; Gary & Peri Lathrop, Casper

NIOBRARA
Kelly & Karen Alexander (REG), Jay Em; Kevin & Julie Gaukel (REG), Manville

PARK
Josh Friesen, Cody; Alfred Schultz (REG), Cody; James & Lynn Sessions, Meeteetese; Chelsea Kistler, Powell; Kory Schuebel, Cody; Heidi Gustafson, Powell; Damon & Cassandra Riel, Powell; John & Elizabeth Fabrizio, Cody; Richard & Mary Sauve, Wapiti; Dave Wadman (Reg), Powell; Joel & Kathryn Schaefer (REG), Ralston; Crystal & David Light, Powell

PLATTE
Almanzo Erb, Glendo; Benjamin Marquez, Wheatland

SHERIDAN
George Constantineau, Sheridan; Alexandra Oakes, Sheridan; Alex & Christine Varah, Sheridan; Kevin Jacobs, Sheridan; Virginia & Borden Ball, Sheridan; Claire Gerber & David Brock, Sheridan; Gordon & Nancy Reno (REG), Big Horn; Tyson Shatto, Sheridan; David Williams, Sheridan; Kari Warner, Sheridan; Kayla Martinez, Sheridan; Michael Fauber, Sheridan; Mike McCafferty (REG), Sheridan; Rick Harrison (REG), Woodland, CA; Justin & Carissa Watson, Sheridan; Ashley & Zach Rogers, Big Horn; Sandra Prunty, Sheridan; Douglas Wigstrand, Sheridan; Mark Hendrickson, Sheridan; Kalei Johnson, Sheridan; Duane Evans, Sheridan; Wayland Cato(REG), Charlotte, NC; Shantel Moore(REG), Gillette; Chris & Sara Hansen, Sheridan; Cody Rea(REG), Banner; Cheryl Barker(REG), Sheridan; Shannon Cline, Sheridan

SUBLETTE
Daniel Tolson, Bondurant

LARAMIE
Chandler Carroll, Cheyenne ; Dexter Waddle, Cheyenne; Dale Abbott, Cheyenne; Marcella & Carl Pacheco, Cheyenne ; Kevin & Karla Oligschlaeger, Cheyenne ; Cody Metzler, Cheyenne ; Chris & Amy Newnum, Cheyenne ; Eugene & Corine Barbour, Cheyenne ; Cynthia Zelt, Cheyenne ; Allan Beach, Cheyenne ; Kevin Finney, Carpenter ; Ryan Choate, Cheyenne ; Jason & Courtney Walde, Cheyenne ; Leticia & Victor Gomez, Laramie ; Kenneth Sattler, Cheyenne ; Kenneth Masters, Cheyenne ; Richard Collier, Cheyenne ; John Winslow (REG), Hillsdale ; Brian Erickson, Burns ; Peter Van Court, Cheyenne ; Lori Janas, Cheyenne ; Jennifer & Samuel Buchanan, Pine Bluffs ; Darlene & Lawrence Buchanan, Wheatland ; Michael Sandidge, Cheyenne

LINCOLN
Riley Olsen, Afton; Lila Wheatley, Etna; Michael Perretta, Star Valley Ranch; Blake & Shirley Kindschuh, Kemmerer; Melissa Franklin, Thayne; Todd Ireland, Alpine; KATE Ivie, Thayne; Arlen & Jolene Hatch, Evanston; David & Julie Rich, Afton; Caleb Ellis, Kemmerer; Jackie Leseberg, Bedford; Joan McCloud, Kemmerer; Christina Parlin, Afton; Robert Thompson, Alpine; Tauna Mendenhall, Afton; Zachery Lindsay, Kemmerer; Caleb Roberts, Grover; Ashlee Morlock, Kemmerer; Henrick Laursen, Alpine; Nancy Cranney, Afton; Henry Jones, Afton; Bobbie & Josh Jones, Kemmerer; Allan & Carol Harwood, Diamondville; Roy & Annette Fadroski, Thayne; Benjamin Taylor, Alpine; Eric Tjai, Etna; Megan



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



It is the little things: Governor Gordon stands with Steele Huffaker, and dad Chevy, Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation members at the WyFB Policy Conference after Governor Gordon gifts Steele a Governor’s Challenge Coin! *KERIN CLARK PHOTO*

LEADING
THE WAY FOR
agriculture



Wyoming
Farm Bureau Federation
www.wyfb.org



WHERE THE WILL
TO WIN MEETS THE
SUPPORT TO SUCCEED.

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



CASPER
NOLAND FEED
307-237-8926
www.nolandfeed.com

©2025 Purina Animal Nutrition LLC. All rights reserved.

NEW MEMBERS... From Page 12

SWEETWATER

Brendon Ellison, Green River; May Poundstone, Rock Springs; Linda Eaton, Rock Springs; Teresa Eaton, Rock Springs; Cameron Downs, Rock Springs; Wyatt & Sarah Potter, Green River; Michael Green, Rock Springs; Amber Herwaldt, Green River; Kaden Wright, Rock Springs; Neil McLaren, Rock Springs; Carol Gardiner (REG), Green River; Layne Joseph, Rock Springs; Gwendy & Jodi Deal, Rock Springs; Taylor Howell, Rock Springs; Judi Collins, Rock Springs; Jose Iturrio, Rock Springs; Seth Harris, Green River; HNK Ranch, LLC (REG), Green River; Kevin & Teri Foster, Rock Springs; Jacob & Holly Troester, Rock Springs; Kathy Kauss, Reliance

TETON

Daniel Hennessey, Jackson; Rod & Betty Rossman, Jackson; Teresa Miller, Jackson; Aimee Racette, Jackson; Scott Kuhnle, Jackson; Tommy & Kristin Thompson, Jackson; Michael & Marla Peters, Wilson; Charles Sands, Wilson

UINTA

Blake Overy, Evanston; Kay Peden, Lyman; Brandee Robertson, Evanston; Christie & Craig Lester, Evanston; Edward Barnes, Evanston; Brenda & Ryan Berger, Evanston; Michael & Barbara Radosevich, Lyman; Annetta Cantlin, Fort Bridger; Kathryn & Dan Knox, Evanston; Lynda Sidwell, Mountain View; Dallas & Joni Sill, Lyman; Alan Petelinsek (REG), Evanston; John Cottam, Mountain View; Jason & Michelle Peden, Lyman

WASHAKIE

Bart & Jan Brinkerhoff, Powell; Christina Camilleri, Worland; Jacob Burris, Worland; Marilyn Voyles, Worland; Benjamin & Janet Hofmann, Worland; Michael & Elizabeth Siegfried, Worland; Roger & Condly Hart, Cody; Nancy Martinson, Worland; Robert & Connie Sweeney, Ten Sleep

WESTON

William Koch(REG), Newcastle; Dean Kettley (REG), Newcastle; Daniel Bau(REG), Osage

BE THE
HERO
THEY ALREADY BELIEVE
YOU ARE.

Protect them
with
Life Insurance



The people who count on you don’t need you to have superpowers, just a plan for their future. Life insurance helps shield your loved ones from financial uncertainty, protecting the life and dreams you’ve built.

Coverage may be available for **as little as a dollar a day**, so whether you’re looking for a first policy or need to add more coverage, we can help.

Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.



Individual eligibility for all product promotions is subject to underwriting review and approval. Estimated premium payment is for 20-year Income Guard Term Life Plan; Standard; 30-year-old Male or Female; Non-Smoker. Amount is for demonstrative purposes only. Contact your Farm Bureau agent for a quote on your actual monthly premium payment. Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Laramie, WY. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. LI221 (7-26)

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



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)

July Cattle Report Signals Stabilizing Cattle Herd

BY BERNT NELSON, AFBF ECONOMIST
WRITTEN ON JULY 27, 2026

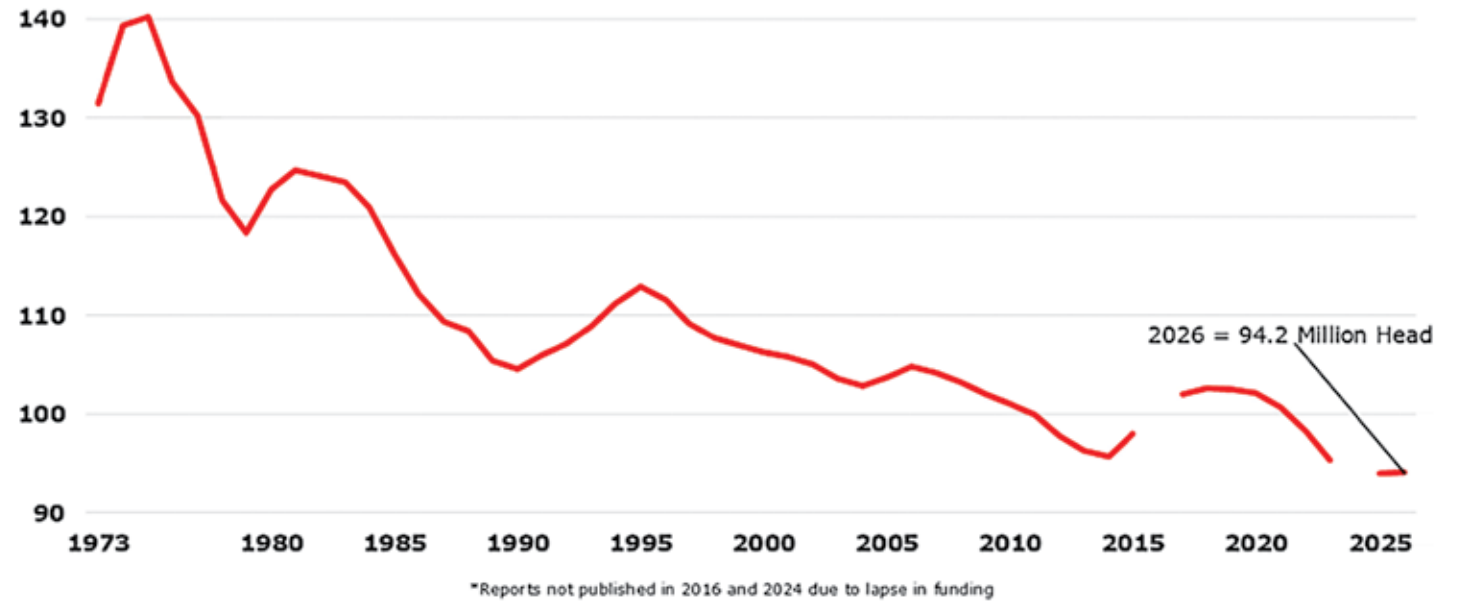
July Cattle Inventory

According to the July Cattle Inventory report, the inventory of all cattle and calves in the United States totaled 94.2 million head on July 1, 2026, up 200,000 head, or less than 1%, from 94.0 million head on July 1, 2025. This marks the first increase in the July cattle inventory since 2018.

Despite the slight increase in total inventory, indicators of herd expansion remain mixed. All cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 38.1 million head, unchanged from a year ago. Within that total, beef cows were estimated at 28.5 million head, down 200,000 head, or 1%, from 2025 and the smallest July inventory on record (the data goes back to 1973). In contrast, milk cows were estimated at 9.65 million head, up 200,000 head, or 2%, from last year.

One of the most closely watched measures in the report is the inventory of beef replacement heifers weighing more than 500 pounds, which was estimated at 3.8 million head, up 100,000 head, or 3%, from 2025. This increase represents the first meaningful sign of heifer retention and potential herd rebuilding in nearly a decade. Meanwhile, other heifers totaled 7.3 million head, down 100,000 head, or 1%, from last year. These animals remain a potential source of future breeding stock.

July Cattle Inventory Indicates Stabilization in Cattle Herd
Inventory of All U.S. Cattle and Calves, Million Head, Annual, 1973 Through 2026.



American Farm Bureau Federation

Sources: USDA NASS, Analysis By American Farm Bureau Federation

The report also estimated the 2026 calf crop at 32.5 million head, down 2% from 2025 and the smallest calf crop on record. This marks the ninth consecutive year of decline and remains a major constraint on future herd growth. These calves represent the pool of animals available either for breeding or for placement into feedlots in 2027 and 2028. As

long as calf numbers continue to decline, producers face limitations in expanding the herd, regardless of retention decisions. Overall, the report suggests stabilization rather than expansion of the U.S. cattle herd. The increase in beef replacement heifers is an encouraging sign and contributed to the modest rise in total cattle

inventory. However, that gain was largely offset by a smaller beef cow herd, while growth in milk cow numbers accounted for much of the increase in total cattle inventory. A sustained increase in both the calf crop and total cattle inventory would provide a clearer indication that a broader expansion phase has begun. ■

WyFB statement: Grizzly bear management to states

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation commented on the U.S. Department of Interior's July 14th announcement of a revised proposal to return management of grizzly bears to the states:

"The original intent of the ESA is to promote species recovery and delisting, not to impose permanent protected status for animals that are thriving," said Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Kerin Clark. "Grizzly bear numbers in Wyoming have remained well above the numbers established for a re-

covered population."

"The proposed rule is an important step towards state-led management where boots-on-the-ground experience can objectively manage grizzly bears," Clark said. "Wildlife management decisions should be based on local science and not national politics."

"The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to see a practical, science-based proposal to manage the species that impacts landowners and communities across Wyoming," Clark concluded. ■

Your Next Great Experience Starts Here

Built for your day-to-day!

CAT Compact
Announces Its Grand Opening
Join us on
October 2, 2026 in
Cheyenne, WY

Cat CompactSM is designed around your work, your pace, and your goals.

We've got reliable machines and responsive service to help you handle whatever the day brings, so you can stay focused on getting the job done.

Stop by on October 2nd as we celebrate the Grand Opening of our Cheyenne store!

3608 East Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 775-7500

Wyoming MACHINERY COMPANY

DURABILITY REDEFINED.

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.

C-SALES

Your Dealer for Best Pricing on Vermeer Equipment!

307-359-3080
or
307-358-3891

IN STOCK!
605N Baler
R2300 Twin Rake

County Fairs around Wyoming

During a busy county fair season, WyFB members and counties sponsored awards, volunteered their time, staffed booths and more--all with the common goal of supporting the youth of Wyoming agriculture. ■

The Carbon County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation proudly donated the belt buckles awarded to Senior Goat, Senior Swine, Senior Beef, and Senior Horse Showman.



Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation provides kettle corn at their fair sale, sponsors a cooler giveaway for livestock buyers, and provides add-on contributions to the sale animals of their members' children.



Laramie County Farm Bureau Federation proudly sponsors the buckles for the "Born and Raised" shows, recognizing local youth and celebrating livestock born and raised in Laramie County.



Albany County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation Board Member Heather Alexander pictured with her family at the Albany County Fair. Alexander volunteers her time every year to give back to the youth and agriculture in her community.



The Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation board decided to have a booth at their county fair—educating the shoppers of the trade show about Farm Bureau and agriculture within their community.

★ ★ SAVE THE DATE ★ ★



ROOTED IN
Freedom

107th Annual Meeting
November 12-14, 2026
Ramkota in Casper, WY

