

Wyoming Agriculture

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

As our county meetings and district meetings are finishing up for the year, we want to invite everyone to the 107th Annual Meeting in Casper, WY on November 12-14, 2026. At the meeting, there will be great opportunities for members to network, share ideas, ask questions, and most importantly pass statewide policy to make their voices heard in Wyoming agriculture. In conjunction with the 250th anniversary celebration for the United States, this year's Annual Meeting theme is "Rooted in Freedom."

While our core content remains the same, we have reimagined this year's schedule to bring more intentionality to our programming. The meeting kicks off Thursday morning with our breakout sessions, followed by a Friday morning delegate orientation for voting delegates to review the resolutions format and receive resolutions packets with committee recommendations. This year, we will also have scheduled business sessions without planned speaker breaks.

WYFB ANNUAL MEETING ... Page 8



Pat Cullen, Platte County Farm Bureau Federation president at WyFB's 2025 Annual Meeting. *KADRA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO*

Because every Cowboy knows... Wyoming Needs Agriculture

Wyoming Needs Agriculture Event
- October 17 in Laramie

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will host its 12th annual Wyoming Needs Agriculture event on Saturday, October 17th in the Indoor Practice Facility from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. before the Wyoming Cowboys take on Northern Illinois at 1:30 p.m. in War Memorial Stadium.

This event connects Wyoming farmers and ranchers with consumers-giving them the opportunity to ask questions, learn where their food comes from, and understand how critical agriculture is to the state's economy, the country's food system, and to the place we call home.

The event will encompass a variety of activities for Wyoming Cowboy fans of all ages. The first 400 participating fans will receive a limited-edition "Wyoming Needs Agriculture" t-shirt!

The Wyoming Needs Agriculture event bridges the gap between consumers and farmers and ranchers while highlighting how agriculture feeds, fuels, and sustains consumers every day. ■



WyFB submits Grizzly Bear comments to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

BY COURTNEY BEENE AND
DARBY THAYER SIMS

"Our member driven policy supports and promotes the immediate delisting of grizzly bears, and management by states as a trophy animal. WyFB policies further support any legislative actions that any person may take a bear posing an imminent or perceived threat to livestock or pets. While not all aspects of this Proposed (4d) Rule change address these policies, WyFB encourages continued action toward delisting grizzly bears and returning the tasks of managing this species to State and Tribal authorities," said the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation in recent comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

General Definition Changes:

Regarding conservation strategy, WyFB supports adding the definition "...habitat and population

management mechanisms that will achieve and maintain demographic and habitat objectives..." as it properly aligns with the original intent of the ESA in three ways:

- Management is Conservation: In this definition, "Conservation" is legally defined to include active and deliberate intervention as a core piece of species recovery. WyFB appreciates that activities tied to scientific resource management could therefore legally be considered valid conservation methods. This is compliant with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, § 3(3) which defines "conserve" and "conservation" to include "all activities associated with scientific resources management" as a valid method to bring a species to recovery.

- Targeted Objectives: Management must actively achieve and maintain demographic and habitat objectives. This is in alignment with

GRIZZLY BEARS ... Page 2

Giving Agriculture a Voice

Over the past couple of weeks, Wyoming's county Farm Bureaus have been holding their resolutions meetings. These meetings encompass everything from great steak dinners and motivational guest speakers to opportunities to network and reconnect with old friends. Most importantly, they provide the opportunity for you to give your ideas a voice and create resolutions that matter to you, your communities, and to Wyoming agriculture.

Your idea, that is turned into a resolution, is what makes us a grassroots organization, and that is simply our biggest strength. You are the resilient farmers and ranchers feeding us, fueling us, and providing us fiber no matter the circumstances you are facing. This is what makes you the most apt to guide the decisions in agriculture; you are the ones in it every day facing those hard decisions. Your voice matters, your opinions matter, and your ideas matter.

From all of us at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, thank you. Thank you for taking time away from your farm or ranch,



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation members at their annual meeting at Mountain Mustang Vinyard in Lovell, WY. *CLARA NEVES PHOTO*

from your family, and from your busy schedules to attend and share your ideas at your county and district meetings. You continue to give agriculture a voice, and we are honored to serve you each day and help you enhance your voice to advocate for agriculture now and for future generations. ■

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www.wyfb.org



CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

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 Registration for Annual Meeting Deadline
- 9 Deadline for Member Memorial Presentation photos to the State Office
- 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
- 20-21 WyFB Legislative Meeting - Cheyenne, WY
- 28-30 WyFB YF&R Annual Conference – Evanston, WY

Visit wyfb.org
for event updates

Wyoming
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Wyoming agriculture, enhancing
Wyoming communities.

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It's Not Too Late
for a Farm Bill

Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President



Farmers are persistent, especially when it comes to our commitment to our families, our communities and our nation. We are not giving up on the farm bill because we know America's families are counting on us to be persistent in growing the food, fiber and fuel that keeps our country running. And that's why farmers are counting on Congress to finally and fully deliver a new farm bill this year.

It's Not Too Late to Protect
American-Grown Products

America's farmers and ranchers are ready to meet the growing demand for products grown and raised on our soil. But rising pressures continue to shrink the agricultural landscape of our country. Over the past decade, more than 200,000 family farms have gone out of business. From rising costs on the farm to shifting markets to the lack of a stable workforce, it's getting harder for the American farmer to hang on through the tough times. That's why the farm bill continues to be critical to the survival and success of our nation's farmers.

America needs farmers.
Farmers need a modernized
and complete farm bill.

We rely on the programs that help

us weather the storm, we improve our sustainability through conservation programs, and we drive into the future with innovative research. And that's just to name a few of the ways this legislation helps keep American-grown products in our local stores and on our tables. We appreciate the updates to risk management and some farm programs in H.R. 1 but recognize that there are a lot of farm bill programs left on the table that haven't been updated since 2018. Congress last passed a bipartisan farm bill in 2018 and has extended that bill three times since it first expired in 2023. The clock is ticking down with the last extension about to expire at the end of September.

It's Not Too Late to Come
Together for America's Farmers

The farm bill has a long history of bringing lawmakers together from both sides of the aisle to support America's farmers and ranchers and secure a safe, healthy food supply for America's families. Now is the time for Congress to do just that. Since the House passed its version of the farm bill, the ball is now in the Senate's court. This task will take persistence, but it is not impossible. And farmers and ranchers will persist in calling on our law-

makers to come together and get the job done. That's what brought farmers and ranchers from across the country to our nation's capital this mid-September, in fact. Farm Bureau members from 13 states took time from their farms and ranches to come in person to meet with U.S. senators on both sides of the aisle. Their message was simple but direct: America needs farmers. Farmers need a modernized and complete farm bill.

It's Not Too Late to Make Your
Voice Heard

Now is the time for every one of us to make our voices heard. You can still deliver your message straight to Washington even if you cannot make the trip here this fall. We all depend on the success of American agriculture, whether you farm every day, work in a rural community, or support your family in the city. I urge you to join in with the thousands of Farm Bureau members who have reached out to their lawmakers and called on them to deliver a farm bill. This is where the strength of Farm Bureau shines, when we speak up together with a united voice to strengthen our farms and rural communities. Be that voice for your farm, your family and your community today. ■

Strike Up a Conversation

Kerin Clark

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President



Each and every day we are given 1,440 minutes. It's our choice how we use those minutes. In one of my favorite time management trainings, we present that number with a dollar sign at the beginning and ask the question: If you were given \$1,440 today how would you spend the money? Most people quickly figure how they would spend that money without wasting a penny, but when it comes to the number in minutes, not necessarily every minute gets utilized.

There are a lot of minutes for audiobooks and music as I travel across the state for Farm Bureau meetings. In just one week of travel, I logged over 2,000 miles so had a lot of minutes in the vehicle. My daily song mix is made up of Christian worship music and classic country songs. With the recent passing of country music legend Dolly Parton, her greatest hits have been on repeat in my playlist. While not on the greatest hits list, her song "Better Get to Livin'" charted in the top 50 and is a great reminder to not waste one minute of the time we've been given.

Traveling across the state for county annual meetings and visiting with members is a highlight of Farm Bureau's policy development season. Conversations with members about their families, their farms and ranches and the issues that impact agriculture are rewarding and fruitful. The other fruitful conversations come from striking up a conversation with people we don't know.

One such conversation came in a hotel lobby when a couple of travelers noticed my Farm Bureau branded water bottle. They asked what I did for Farm Bureau and when I explained our organization represents Wyoming farmers and ranchers, they exclaimed how excited they were to ask me questions. They were visiting Wyoming from Minnesota and had so many questions about cattle, winter, drought, you name it. They came from a big city and were thirsty to know more. By the time we finished talking in the hotel lobby, they were well on their way with a better understanding of the importance of food pro-

duction in America. Those minutes in the hotel lobby were not on my planned schedule that day, however, they were a stark reminder to make the time to strike up a conversation with people.

Striking up a conversation can happen in a myriad of planned and unplanned platforms. Mid-October we will host our annual "Wyoming Needs Agriculture" event that provides opportunities for consumers and farmers and ranchers to strike up a conversation before a football game. We are also excited to be launching a Promotion and Engagement program this year which you can read more about in this issue. These planned platforms provide a great way to share agriculture's story.

Then, there are the conversations you have at the grocery store, in the airport, at your school and so forth that are impactful as well. No one tells the story better than those who live the life and produce the food.

Don't waste one minute...strike up that conversation. ■

GRIZZLY BEARS... From Page 1

the Endangered Species Act of 1973, § 4(f) that mandates the development and implementation of a Recovery Plan for listed species.

● Long-Term Framework: The definition change also ensures that populations of grizzly bears will be able to remain stable and intact even after it is eventually delisted. This is compliant with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, § 4(g) requiring the federal government, along with state agencies, to monitor recovered species for at least five years after they are delisted to ensure species recovery has been effective.

Deterrence as a definition is proposed to be included as “an intentional, nonlethal action to haze, disrupt, or annoy a grizzly bear,” therefore, the language “to promote human safety, prevent conflict or protect property” is noted as important in WyFB’s comments. As grizzly bear population expands beyond their demographic area due to overpopulation, they are pushed into human-occupied areas. Deterrence of grizzly bears, especially grizzly bears in proximity to human-occupied areas, is essential to protecting and preserving human life and safety.

Adding livestock to the definition allows for further management in depredation, deterrence and additional techniques determined by Federal, State and Tribal laws and regulations. According to WyFB comments, this could also allow flexibility for agents of the Service, acting within their official duties, to take a grizzly bear in conflict, which includes harm to livestock.

Management protections for livestock are already in place within Wyoming and actively followed through the state management plan by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The ambiguity of “livestock” not being mentioned in the Proposed (4d) Rule beyond a definition creates confusion for livestock owners for what they can do to actively protect their livestock. WyFB comments requested adding additional language that truly specifies the flexibility allowed to individuals within the Proposed (4d) Rule to protect livestock from grizzly bear presence and conflicts.

Management Plan:

WyFB especially appreciated the allowance of State and Tribal contributions to management programs and plans. This is supported by our member driven policy of re-

turning grizzly bear management back to the States. While Wyoming has their own state management plan for grizzly bears, allowing other states to develop a flexible plan is supported. Sister states Idaho and Montana struggle with flexibility in management of grizzly bears. Therefore, WyFB is supportive of this specific language.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

WyFB appreciates the focus of the definition of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supporting grizzly bear management given to states. WyFB believes the final rule should be more specific about the reasons for a FWS revocation of Tier status within an MOU. States should have a clear picture of the expectations and metrics to retain their Tier status from FWS. Terms within the Proposed (4d) Rule such as “depart significantly” and “substantial grizzly bear mortality” are open to various interpretations. WyFB requested more clarity about what MOUs contain and how they are obtained and maintained.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Adoptions:

WyFB supports the conflict reduction tools provided by the proposal. Our organization also supports clarification in the final rule that federal agencies providing permits for activities like grazing and forest management will not default to reductions or removal of these activities as conflicts arise. Instead, entities holding Tier 1 or 2 status should work in partnership with impacted farmers, ranchers, and foresters to address the issue in a localized way, supporting continued working lands activities.

WyFB appreciates the Tier 2 designations in defense of life and property and added deterrence measures for high-conflict bears. While WyFB policy advocates for the efficient removal of persistent problem bears, this Proposed (4d) Rule is an important, constructive step toward achieving that management standard.

Conclusion:

In 2025 alone, 46 grizzly bears were captured by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to prevent or resolve conflicts. Wildlife officials took 21 grizzly bears due to conflicts with livestock. This is a reality for agricultural producers and bear populations alike within and surrounding the Greater Yellow-

stone Ecosystem. Every year there is high mortality of grizzly bears due to overpopulation, yet management removals of bears due to livestock depredation have never been negative to the grizzly bear population. The population has continued to grow and expand beyond feasible levels for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Proposed changes to the 4(d)

Rule address this challenge directly by providing the practical, responsive flexibility required to avoid conflicts entirely, while supplying vital management tools when interactions are unavoidable. While the ultimate goal is the eventual delisting and return to state control of grizzly bears, WyFB applauds the Service for this step in the right direction. ■



Wyoming Secretary of State

2026 GENERAL ELECTION STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSED INITIATIVE PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE

Following is the ballot language of Proposed Initiative Proposition Number One as it will appear on the 2026 General Election ballot:

Shall a law be enacted:

Establishing a property tax exemption for qualified homeowners’ primary residence in the amount of fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value of the dwelling; AND

Defining “homeowner” and “primary residence”; providing that no more than one exemption shall apply to a single property or be claimed by a single owner per year; requiring a homeowner to be a resident of Wyoming for at least one year and to have occupied the primary residence for at least six months of the previous tax year to qualify; requiring an initial sworn claim to be filed with the county assessor by the fourth Monday in May; providing for continuing the exemption in subsequent years through annually confirming eligibility; providing a penalty for false claims; clarifying that the exemption applies to the residential structure; and specifying applicability?

Estimated Fiscal Impact:

Anticipated Revenue / (decrease)

Fiscal Year 2028 (\$92,614,266)

Fiscal Year 2029 (\$95,855,766)

The above estimate is based on residential property assessed value and property tax data from the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system provided by the Department of Revenue in 2023. The future fiscal impact estimates are derived by using the January 2023 Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) report, estimating annual growth of 3.5% for properties in the future years. This is an estimate of fiscal impact to the State of Wyoming only and does not include an estimate of any impact upon political subdivisions. The proposition references a beginning in 2025, but if passed in 2026 the earliest applicable tax year would be 2027, with impact to the state beginning in 2028. Fiscal impact will apply to each year so long as the exemption is in place. Future impacts depend on unpredictable economic conditions.

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

A complete copy of the text of the *People’s Initiative to Limit Property Tax in Wyoming through a Homeowner’s Property Exemption* is attached.

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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.



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: Ford



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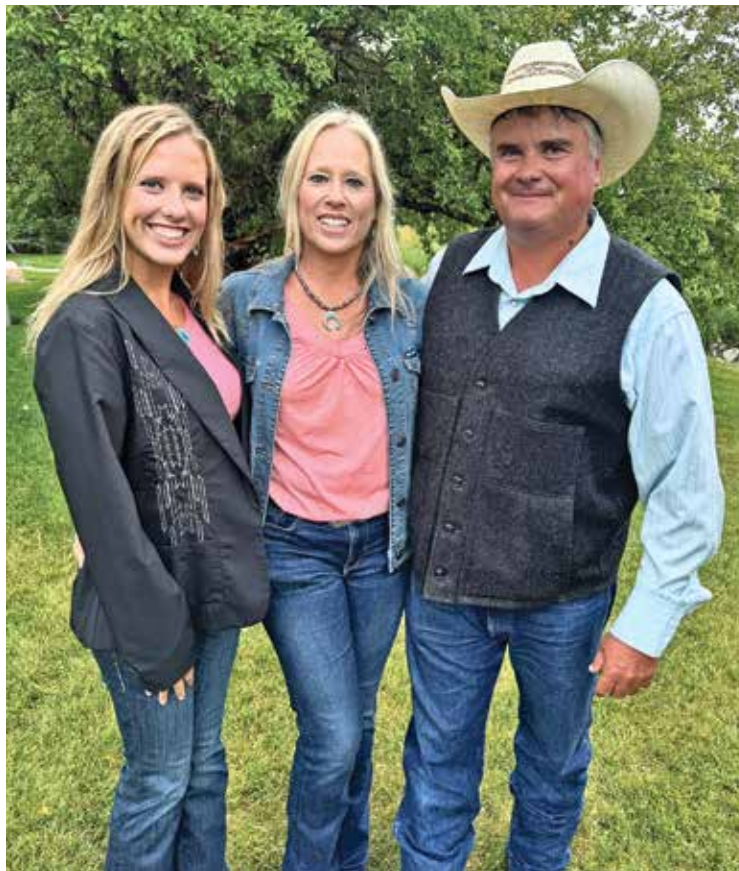
Talking Federal Lands

BY LAURA DOCKERY, WyFB YF&R NORTHWEST DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER

In July I got the opportunity to tell my story as a fifth - generation rancher to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. I specified how my family owns federal land permits and how decisions made at the federal level impact my livelihood. I attended a roundtable discussion in Cheyenne where they hosted the Secretary of Interior, other federal staff, and ranchers from across the state. The ranchers who attended also held BLM and/or Forest service leases and had the opportunity to tell their story, and their issues on federal lands.

Not only did I get to speak to the Secretary of Interior, but I also got to listen to the other ranchers at the discussion and hear about other problems that are going on in Wyoming. I never would have thought there were so many issues other permittees were facing across the state. At the discussion I got to learn more about grazing on National Forest Land, and the issues that come with grazing on it. I had never thought about how predators like bears, wolves, and Bald Eagles affect livestock. I got to hear just how bad predatory kills are during the roundtable discussion.

My family has grazing rights on a large BLM permit which is called the Big Pastures. It encompasses 90,000 acres and a total of five permittees run on this allotment. Over time I have learned ways that the BLM could improve the big pasture, and during the roundtable meeting I brought these issues up. I brought up how "The BLM could be more helpful in shouldering the responsibility of requiring all permittees in a common allotment to pay their fair share of the utilities and maintenance." When it comes to improvements in the allotment, there isn't much support from the BLM. I also stated that "The inability to control sagebrush has allowed it to get decadent and so thick that it creates a fire hazard, which the live sagebrush will burn hotter than dead sagebrush and it has the possibility of sterilizing the ground and destroys the forage base." I also brought up the issue of establishing a Big Horn sheep herd in the Sweetwater Rocks. I explained "if the Game and Fish release Big Horn sheep out there under federal law the BLM would be required to open the Resource management plan, and place additional restrictions on the current permitted use. The concerns of the permittees about species are addressed on an equal priority with State and Federal officials. We would like to make sure that any rule change about the status of wildlife will not affect established multiple use." I then brought up how "Bison need to be designated livestock, because if someone turns them out on federal land, they must be managed like livestock and not let roam free like wildlife".



Laura with her parents Andrea and Thad Dockery at the 250th Celebration of the American West in July at the Governor's Mansion. KERIN CLARK PHOTO



United States Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Laura shaking hands at the Rancher Roundtable discussion on July 22nd. KERIN CLARK PHOTO

This was such a great opportunity to meet with all the federal staff. Not only to be able to represent my family's ranch but also our grazing allotment. I am so thankful that I was asked to go and speak, I not only



Laura branding at her family's ranch in Fremont County. LAURA DOCKERY PHOTO



Laura attending the Rancher Roundtable discussion on July 22nd. KERIN CLARK PHOTO

had a great time, but I learned so much. I understand that someone must always be standing up for our grazing permits, and I am so fortunate to be learning how this works. ■

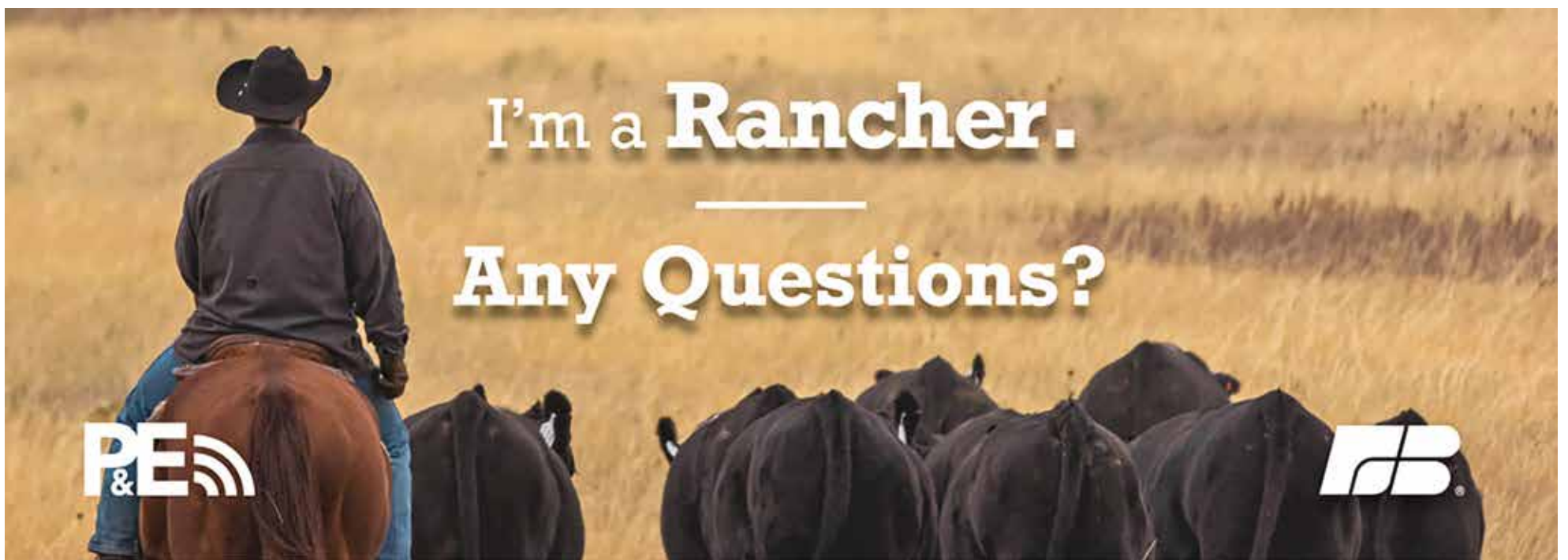
SAVE *the* DATE

Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference

Jan. 28-30, 2027 | Evanston, WY

Wyoming
Farm Bureau Federation





WyFB announces introduction of the Promotion and Engagement (P&E) Program

BY COURTNEY BEENE

At the August Board of Directors meeting, the proposal for a Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Promotion and Engagement (P&E) Program was passed by unanimous consent. The proposal, created through months of research and years of ideas and desires, outlines program directives, activities, and implementation timelines.

Establishing this program will support Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation's leadership pipeline by creating opportunities for members of all ages and agricultural backgrounds to develop communication skills, represent Wyoming agriculture and support county and state Farm Bureau initiatives. County level P&E programs will further encourage grassroots participation while providing local leadership and community engagement pipelines.

Through county-led P&E activities and initiatives, Wyoming citizens can engage with farmers and ranchers and learn about the value of Wyoming and American agriculture.

P&E will serve to strengthen Wyoming agriculture and enhance Wyoming communities through farmers and ranchers engaging with consumers. These two directives are found in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation mission statement. The goal of the program is to create a pathway for members with a strong passion for promotion and engagement to interact with consumers and positively tell the story of agriculture.

This proposal helps Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members expand member engagement, develop future leaders, and strengthen grassroots advocacy in the organization. P&E activities, including

their "Ask a Farmer" & "Ask a Rancher" discussions, give consumers a meaningful contribution into how food and fiber is produced on the farm and ranch before it ends up at the grocery store. Through empowering farmers and ranchers to share their story with consumers, the knowledge gap from field to fork is closed.

Implementation of the state program will begin with the formation of a six-member committee, with a designated state staff coordinator, Courtney Beene to the program. The role of the committee will be to provide and implement consumer engagement and outreach activities and encourage counties to establish local programs. Applications for the inaugural committee will open following the November 2026 Annual Meeting and close January 15th 2027. The inaugural committee will fulfill duties pertaining to

introducing, promoting, and growing the WyFB P&E program. The Promotion & Engagement Committee will:

- Develop and implement an annual Program of Work that supports the committee's mission.
- Plan and carry out Promotion and Engagement activities annually as described in the Program of Work.
- Promote Farm Bureau membership engagement and participation.
- Serve as ambassadors for Wyoming agriculture and WyFB through consumer outreach and member engagement.
- Support county Farm Bureau outreach efforts and consumer engagement.
- Assist with statewide agricultural education, advocacy, and promotional initiatives. ■

For more information, please contact Courtney Beene - cbeene@wyfb.org

Connecting the next generation to agriculture



Chad Spackman on his family's cow-calf operation in Uinta County, Wyoming. *DARBY THAYER SIMS PHOTO*

BY DARBY THAYER SIMS

The annual Ag Pen Pals program is kicking off for the second year, allowing students across the state of Wyoming to ask farmers and ranchers how their food is raised, what a day on a farm or ranch looks like, and how to care for livestock, crops, and the changing seasons in Wyoming agriculture.

Last year, in the Bridger Valley, a group of kindergarten students wrote Uinta County rancher, Chad Spackman a letter, he wrote one back, and then the class requested for Chad to join them in their classroom. Chad visited with the class about production agriculture, his family's cow-calf operation, and answered any and all of the questions the students had.

Out of curiosity and excitement from the students, this one in-person conversation quickly led to a fieldtrip. A couple of weeks later, this kindergarten class, plus the other kindergarten classes in Urie Elementary School from around Lyman, Wyoming took a trip to the Spackman Ranch.

"They saw the cows and calves, horses

and colts, they got to crawl over my equipment, they just had a blast, and at the end of the day we got to feed the class with beef we grew right here on the place," stated Spackman.

Spackman is looking forward to being an Ag Pen Pal again this year with students in Uinta County.

"I just had a lot of fun with it. If one kid remembers something from the letters, or the visit, then they go home and share it with their family. In my book, this is making a lot of progress and helps deepen the understanding of how food ends up in the grocery store for the kids and for their parents."

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is excited to assist and pair up farmers and ranchers with teachers and classrooms from across the state who are interested in helping inspire the youth about where their food, fiber, and fuel come from.

The program officially starts February 1, to learn more, or to sign-up (farmers/ranchers and teachers), please reach out to Courtney Beene - cbeene@wyfb.org ■

WyFB Statement on Proclamation on Beef Imports

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President Todd Fornstrom commented on the presidential proclamation issued August 26 by President Trump that allows beef imports to increase by more than 660 million pounds – over a 90-day period.

“This decision is disappointing. We urge the President to consider the impacts it will have on American consumers and American beef producers and reverse this decision. Increased beef imports will not reduce the price the consumer pays at the retail counter and disrupts the American beef market.”

Inflation on food has been a long-term issue. Consumers continue to see this every week in the grocery store. Inflation is a long-term situation and increasing imports isn’t going to help the price of beef at the retail counter. This decision is a blow to the focus on rebuilding American beef herds. Cattle production is impacted by many different components including drought and consolidation in the packing industry and is necessary to maintain a strong domestic food supply.” ■



DARBY THAYER SIMS PHOTO

Slow and steady wins the race

BY MATT STROH, WYFB NORTHEAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR & VICE CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

“**S**low and steady wins the race” is the lesson of the tale of the tortoise and the hare. This concept was put to the test by Dave Brailsford who was the

coach of the British Cycling Team. When Mr. Brailsford first took the job with the British Cycling Team in 2003, the team was terrible! So terrible that top bicycle makers asked the team not to use their products for fear that it would reflect poorly on the brand. However, after an intense study of



Matt Stroh

“ This should help remove the burden of continually trying to find new ideas to implement... we don’t need to reinvent the wheel; we can invest our time and energy into small improvements that make a big difference over time.”

– Matt Stroh

Back to the British Cycling Team, their 1% gains, paid off, within one year of the changes the team won 2 Olympic gold medals, the best performance they experienced in nearly 100 years. Changes as small as properly washing their hands or the type of pillow they slept on, initially seemed insignificant, but each small improvement added to the overall performance and the success of the cycling team. Coach Brailsford didn’t take anything for granted; any improvement in any area was worth pursuit.

A 1% increase in our performance when it comes to membership may seem insignificant, or possibly not even worth our time, but if we continually strive to make those gains, we may see the reward of increased membership. This should help remove the burden of continually trying to find new ideas to implement...we don’t need to reinvent the wheel; we can invest our time and energy into small improvements that make a big difference over time.

Finally, we should recognize those who contribute to our membership through their outstanding volunteer service. Whether the volunteer contributes to a large event that engages many potential members, or the quiet behind-the-scenes volunteer who makes the “slow and steady” contribution, they all deserve recognition. These volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Without them, we cannot exist. ■

areas that the cycling team could improve, even if only a 1% improvement, the tide of the team’s achievement began to turn. A 1% change wasn’t much, but several 1% changes started to accumulate and led to a significant increase in performance.

This time of year, we spend a little more time thinking about and working on membership, to increase numbers and participation. Our minds automatically move towards “what events or benefits can we offer that may entice the potential member to join?” These events are necessary and profitable toward our goal but cannot complete the task on their own. Innovation is what keeps an organization infused with vitality but, we cannot overlook the “slow and steady” methods which serve the foundation we should build upon.

At the county level we need to look at past promotional efforts that worked to build membership, then try to improve upon that foundation. The “old methods” may seem outdated and ineffective but with a little updating and a small margin of improvement we may find they’re still effective today. Sharing our experience with Farm Bureau is usually one of the most effective tools to draw new members in. A 1% improvement in the presentation of our story could yield a far greater dividend.

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WyFB prepares for major changes ahead of 2027 Legislative Session

BY JUSTIN SCHILLING

The 69th Wyoming Legislature is scheduled to convene in Cheyenne on Jan. 12, 2027, for its 40-day general session. With significant turnover coming in both the legislative and executive branches, Wyoming policymakers will enter the session facing a dramatically changed political landscape.

More than half of the incoming members of the Wyoming House of Representatives will be serving their first terms, while the Senate is also expected to welcome several new lawmakers. Both chambers will elect new leadership before assigning committee memberships, setting the stage for a reshaped legislative process.

The changes extend beyond the Legislature. Wyoming voters will also usher in a new gubernatorial administration, along with new leadership in the offices of secretary of state and superintendent of public instruction. Together, these transitions are expected to bring a fresh set of priorities from the executive branch.

In anticipation of these shifts, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Policy Team plans to conduct outreach and educational efforts between Election Day and the start of the legislative session. The organization will meet with newly elected officials to highlight the importance of agriculture to Wyoming's economy and communities while establishing the Federation as a reliable resource on agricultural policy issues.

Interim Committees Advance Key Agricultural Issues

Throughout the 2026 interim, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has actively monitored and testified on legislation and policy proposals under consideration by legislative committees. Several issues important to agriculture and rural communities have advanced during the process.

Joint Agriculture Committee

The Joint Agriculture completed its three scheduled interim meetings, concluding its work for the year on September 22 in Sheridan.

Farm Bureau testified in support of legislation to expand flexibility within the Food Freedom Act, as well as a bill that would allow non-veterinarians to pregnancy check livestock for profit.

The Food Freedom Act bill, which would allow producer-retailer locations under certain conditions, passed committee and will move on to the General Session in January. The pregnancy check bill was unsuccessful, failing on a 5-8 vote.

Farm Bureau also supported a bill that seeks to ensure that water rights will not become orphaned when property is subdivided. The bill passed committee, and we will continue to support its progress when it is formally introduced in January.

We also monitored proposed legislation to make current Wyoming livestock fencing statutes applicable to federal lands. The proposal faced significant challenges, including concerns about potential conflicts with the federal Supremacy Clause and questions about whether the bill's underlying objectives were already addressed under existing state law. In its final vote of the interim, the committee rejected the legislation on a tie vote.

Joint Transportation Committee

The Joint Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee reviewed legislation proposing amendments to the Wyoming Underground Facilities Notification Act. Farm Bureau worked alongside bill sponsor Rep. Lloyd Larsen, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to help develop the proposal. The resulting frame-

work seeks to balance the property rights and operational needs of farmers and ranchers with increased certainty and safety for underground infrastructure operators.

Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee

The Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee convened the Landowner and Sportsman Heritage Roundtable, a working group composed of agricultural organizations, sportsmen's groups, and leaders from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The group is exploring solutions to several longstanding issues affecting landowners and hunters.

Representing Farm Bureau at the roundtable, Converse County Vice President Rachel Grant is advocating for Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy related to landowner contributions to wildlife habitat.

Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee

The Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee considered legislation that would allow third-party power generators to provide electricity to as many as four high-energy-demand facilities through dedicated off-grid power plants.

Farm Bureau supported the proposal, citing concerns over Rocky Mountain Power's proposed 37.7% rate increase for agricultural irrigators as well as reports of service reliability issues. The organization argued that increased competition

in the energy market could incentivize utilities to improve both service quality and affordability.

Joint Revenue Committee

The Joint Revenue Committee discussed a proposal that would increase property tax rates on privately owned agricultural land occupied by wind turbines or solar facilities. The concept would have raised the tax rate from the agricultural assessment rate of 9.5% to the industrial rate of 11.5%. However, the idea gained little support within the committee, and no legislation was drafted.

Select Water Committee

The Select Water Committee focused on streamlining administrative procedures for smaller water projects managed by the Wyoming Water Development Office. The proposed changes would reduce the amount of legislative oversight required for certain projects, allowing funding and approvals to move more quickly.

Farm Bureau testified in support of the effort, emphasizing the benefits for county conservation districts seeking resources for irrigation systems and livestock water infrastructure. Because the changes could be implemented administratively, the committee unanimously directed the Wyoming Water Development Office to proceed without requiring additional legislation or rulemaking.

As Wyoming prepares for a new legislative session and a wave of new elected officials, Farm Bureau will remain focused on ensuring agriculture has a strong voice in policymaking and that rural priorities continue to receive attention in Cheyenne. ■

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

MOM'S APPLE PIE BARS

Recipe by Connie Werner and Jane Brooks



DIRECTIONS

- Mix together flour, softened butter, salt, egg yolk + milk to equal 2/3 cup liquid. Roll out half of dough onto a flour/sugar sprinkled surface to fit bar pan. Spray pan with cooking spray. Put dough in pan. Sprinkle with corn flakes or other dry cereal.
- Mix together apples, 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon and pour over cereal layer.
- Roll out remaining dough; lay over apples and seal edges. Beat egg white till fluffy, brush on crust, cut slits in top. Bake at 375 degrees for 45-50 minutes.
- Drizzle with frosting while still warm. Frosting: Combine 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 tbs melted butter, and 2-3 tbs milk.
- Store covered in the fridge. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

2 ½ cups all purpose flour
1 cup butter, softened
1tsp salt
1 egg, divided
About ¾ cup milk
1-2 cups corn flakes or other dry cereal, crushed
8 cups apples, sliced
1 cup sugar
1tsp cinnamon
Frosting:
1 cup powdered sugar
1tbsp melted butter
2-3 tbs milk

For more recipes visit www.modernranchwife.com



WYOMING AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES MEDIATION PROGRAM

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.



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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?

WYFB ANNUAL MEETING... From Page 1

We are looking forward to seeing all of you there, please contact your County President to get registered by October 9th!

Tentative Schedule:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 9:00 am Registration Opens – Hotel Entrance
- 9:00 am Trade Show Opens – Terrace
- 9:15 am Standing Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs Meeting – Teton Room
- 10:00 am Credentials Committee Meeting – Seminoe
- 10:00 am Nominating Committee Meeting – Natrona
- 10:00 am Workshops Session #1
 - Policy Advocacy / Legislative Preview – Central Ballroom
 - AFBF P&E – Wyoming Theatre
 - Agency Q&A – Remington’s Restaurant
- 11:00 am Workshops Session #2
 - County Presidents & Vice Presidents Meeting– Central Ballroom
 - Succession Planning – Remington’s Restaurant
 - WyFB YF&R Mock Discussion Meet – Wyoming Theatre
- 12:00 pm “Rooted in Membership: Champions of Growth” Noon Luncheon – South Ballroom
 - Presentation of Membership and Agent Awards
 - Guest Speaker: Shelby Hagenauer, Senior Director, Government Affairs, American Farm Bureau Federation
- 2:00 pm Resolutions Committee Meetings
 - #1 General Issues: Toni Swartz, Chair – Central Ballroom
 - #2 State Government Affairs: James Ramsay, Chair – Wyoming Theatre
 - #3 Agricultural Tax: Bill Jennings, Chair – Remington’s Restaurant
 - #4 Natural & Environmental Resources: Kyle Berger, Chair – Teton Room
- 4:30 pm Service Project – Food Bank of Wyoming (252 Blackmore Rd, Evansville, WY 82636)

- 6:00 pm Trade Show Closes – Terrace
- 7:00 pm Taproom Trivia Night – Gruner Brothers Brewing (1301 Wilkins Circle, Casper, WY 82601)
 - Trivia Presented by Northern Ag Network
 - Open to the Public

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 7:45 am Delegate Orientation – South Ballroom
 - Explanation of Voting Methods on Resolutions and Revisions
 - Committee (NER, Ag Tax, GI, SGA) Resolutions Reports Distributed
- 8:00 am Trade Show Opens – Terrace
- 8:30 am General Session Opens – “Rooted in Freedom” - President Todd Fornstrom, Presiding – Wyoming Theatre
 - Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
 - National Anthem
 - Welcome
 - Introduction of President
 - President’s Address: Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President
 - Executive Vice President’s Report: Kerin Clark, Executive Vice President
 - Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company Report: Todd Argall, President & CEO
- 9:30 am Guest Speaker
- 10:30 am Morning Break – Terrace
- 10:45 am Delegate Check-In at Credentials Table – Wyoming Theatre Entrance
 - * Delegates Assemble by County
- 11:00 am Voting Delegate Business Session – Wyoming Theatre
 - Announcements
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - Financial Report
 - Parliamentarian Appointment
 - Credentials Committee Report
 - Election of Election Chair and Clerks
 - Policy Resolutions
- 12:00 pm “Rooted in Service: Celebrating Leaders” Noon Luncheon – South Ballroom

- Retiring County Presidents, Retiring Board Members
 - County Idea Share
 - * WyFB Foundation Silent Auction Will Be Open During Lunch
- 1:30 pm Voting Delegate Business Session cont.
 - Policy Resolutions
- 3:30 pm Ice Cream Social – Terrace
- 4:00 pm Trade Show Closes – Terrace
- 4:00 pm Guest Speaker: Bernt Nelson, Economist, American Farm Bureau Federation
- 5:00 pm General Session Recesses for the Evening
- 5:15 pm Cash Bar Opens – South & Central Ballrooms
 - WyFB Foundation Silent Auction Reopens
- 5:15 pm WyFB Foundation Cornhole Tournament – Terrace
- 6:00 pm “Rooted in Impact: Honoring Legacy” Dinner– South & Central Ballrooms
 - WyFB Foundation Silent Auction Closes Prior to Dinner
 - Member Memorial Slideshow
 - Distinguished Service and Leadership Awards
- 7:45 pm WyFB Foundation Cornhole Tournament Semi-Finals & Finals– Terrace
- 8:00 pm Entertainment – South & Central Ballrooms

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 7:30 am Election Chair and Clerks Meet w/Advisor – Natrona Room
- 8:00 am General Session Reconvenes – Wyoming Theatre
 - Veterans Day Recognition
 - WyFB YF&R Report
- 8:45 am Business Session Reconvenes – Wyoming Theatre
 - Roll Call of Delegates
 - Credentials and Nominating Committee Reports
 - Resolutions
 - Elections of Officers, Election Chair Presiding
 - ✓ ELECTION FORMAT – Repeated for the Offices of President; Vice President; Director-at-Large; and YF&R Committee Representative-at-Large
 - Nominations from the Floor
 - Candidates Address Delegates
 - Election of Officers
 - Approval of Format for Resolutions at 2027 Annual Meeting
- 11:00 am Luncheon – South Ballroom
- 12:00 pm General Session Reconvenes (if necessary)
- Adjourn Thank you for attending!

CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT

November 13 | 5:15 PM

2 PEOPLE PER TEAM
\$60 PER TEAM
MAX OF 16 TEAMS
5 ROUNDS TOTAL

SIGN UP:

Sign ups encouraged before October 9th!

ROOTED IN
Freedom

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

Due
October
9th:

Registration for annual meeting: contact your county president or bsettelmeyer@wyfb.org.

Member memorial submission: contact/submit to dthayer@wyfb.org.

Hotel reservation deadline: Western Heritage Hotel and Conference Center in Casper, WY.

107th Annual Meeting

VENDOR FAIR

November 12 - November 13

Showcase your Wyoming business at the WyFB Annual Meeting!

Vendors may include:

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10 ft x 10 ft

- Member \$50
- Non-member \$100

10 ft x 20 ft

- Member \$100
- Non-member \$150

Reserve your Booth

Contact Darby Thayer
307-721-7711 or
dthayer@wyfb.org

ROOTED IN
Freedom

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

New WOTUS Rule provides certainty for farmers and ranchers

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (Army Corps) proposed Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

“Farmers share the goal of protecting the nation’s natural resources and we’re pleased the EPA and Army Corps put forward a new Waters of the U.S. rule. It respects farmers’ ability to responsibly use their land while ensuring regulations align with the framework established by the Supreme Court’s Sackett ruling.

“The new WOTUS rule provides a clear understanding of federal jurisdiction, which is critical for farmers who may face severe penalties or even jail time for unknowingly violating the law. While we’re still reviewing the details of the final rule, we’re hopeful that it will prove durable and bring an end to the regulatory back and forth farmers have endured during the past decade. America’s families deserve clean water and clear rules, as do the farmers who work to grow the food those families rely on.” ■



DARBY THAYER SIMS PHOTO

Outstanding Membership Worker Award nominations due

Nominations are open for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Outstanding Membership Worker (OMW) Awards.

The OMW Award recognizes individuals

across three categories - volunteer, agent, and county office staff – who have exhibited outstanding service in membership.

Nominations can be made by a county Farm Bureau member or the county Farm

Bureau federation. Award selection is conducted by the WyFB Outstanding Membership Worker Award Committee, which may also make an independent selection outside of received nominations.

The OMW Award nomination deadline is Saturday, October 3. The nomination form is available at wyfb.org. Click the “Events” tab and click on WyFB Outstanding Membership Worker Award. ■







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Carcass Contest at Fremont County Fair

BY DARBY THAYER SIMS

This year, at the Fremont County Fair, the Fremont County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation added a Carcass Contest to give Fremont County 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to see the grade and quality of the beef they are raising. The contest provided a free opportunity to receive real-time technical data and grade ratings on the carcasses of their animals.

“Elizabeth Foxworthy and I took this idea to our county Farm Bureau meeting and proposed the sponsorship and to fully run this contest at Fremont County’s fair. Then, Elizabeth took the proposal to the fair board, and they approved us to hold the contest following the county beef weigh in.” states Andrea Dockery, Fremont County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation President.

Almost 50 beef market animals were entered into the contest, and it was a free opportunity for all 4-H or FFA members who wanted to participate. The prizes for the winners of the contest consisted of the top five best carcass animals receiving \$100 and a banner for their respective placing. The champion and reserve champion each received buckles!



Eric Geving visiting with Rylee Dockery about her steer before he starts the ultrasound.

“We had great participation for our first year and a lot of positive feedback. It was a great learning and educational opportunity for the children and parents to learn the quality of meat that is under the hide of their animal. We look forward to continuing this on for years to come,” added Dockery. ■

Geving ultra-sounding the market animal with the participant watching as WyFB YF&R Committee Member Laura Dockery and Fremont County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation President Andrea Dockery wrote down data.



Fremont County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation members Elizabeth Foxworthy and Shelly Martin helping read the tag number for the market animal, with Bill Jennings also helping.



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Knowns and unknowns on the Presidential Beef Proclamation

BY JOHN NEWTON, PH.D. AFBF VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

In late August, President Trump issued a proclamation temporarily expanding the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for lean beef trimmings by 300,000 metric tons - equivalent to more than 660 million pounds of beef. This move effectively suspends the 26.4% tariff on out-of-quota beef imports and opens the door to a substantial surge of imported beef over the coming months - at the same time hundreds of thousands of ranchers are marketing their calves into the fall selling window. Beef imports to the U.S. through the first half of 2026 are record high at more than 1.1 million metric tons, and up 12% over prior year levels.

The Unbalanced Rancher and Importer Tradeoff

The additional 300,000 metric tons are allocated across four specific tariff lines: fresh or chilled certified-organic lean beef trimmings, fresh or chilled lean beef trimmings classified as "other," and their frozen counterparts. According to USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), through the first half of 2026, beef imports under these tariff lines have totaled more than \$3 billion on just over 370 thousand metric tons - with an average import value of nearly \$8,200 per metric ton or \$3.71 per pound. Importantly, by raising the TRQ for the 300,000 metric tons, the out-of-quota tariff rate of 26.4% is effectively waived. With an estimated current market value of \$2.5 billion for 300,000 metric tons of beef trimmings, the waived tariff amount equates to nearly \$650 million in waived tariffs for foreign-sourced beef - at the expense of hard-working American ranchers who are now selling calves at prices that are \$300 to \$400 below prices just two months ago.

Crop Insurance Picks Up the Tab Too

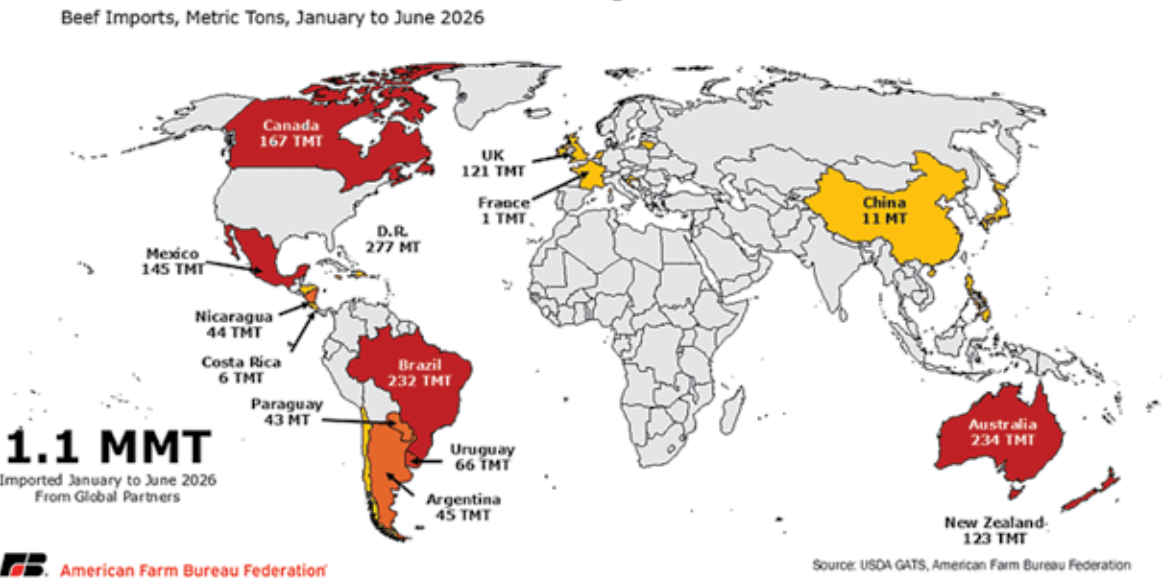
While importers receive millions in tariff relief and ranchers see their bottom line erode, taxpayers are stepping up through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). USDA's FCIC provides crop insurance coverage on hundreds of millions of acres of crops, specialty crops, pasture, hogs and milk each year, but also on millions of feeder and fed cattle through the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program. LRP, first made available in 2003, provides actuarially sound risk management coverage against the decline in market price for feeder and fed cattle and has grown in popularity among ranchers since 2018's Bipartisan Budget Act increased its availability to ranchers. According to the most recent data from Bozic LLC, ranchers paid over \$1 billion in premiums for LRP feeder and fed cattle coverage during reinsurance year 2026, which included sales through June 2026. In mid-May, when news of a beef import plan began to take shape, feeder and fed cattle prices were about 15% to 20% higher than today and projected indemnities totaled just over \$120 million, with an average loss ratio of 13%.

Now that the presidential proclamation has been incorporated into market price expectations, projected LRP indemnities have increased sharply. As of Sept.1, projected LRP indemnities and fed cattle indemnities for RY2026 had climbed to a combined \$624 million - an increase of over 400% for each plan of insurance and a loss ratio approaching 60%. Much of that indemnity burden falls on the FCIC. For FCIC and ranchers, the losses are likely to continue to mount as cattle prices face downward price pressure. Importantly, the losses are not driven by traditional market risk factors such as a decline in demand, or increases in supply, but instead the price declines are largely driven by federal intervention efforts to manipulate and artificially lower prices by incentivizing imports. For ranchers that purchased a LRP plan of insurance, indemnities will provide some risk management support, but it does not restore the confidence needed to rebuild America's beef cow herd given the ongoing federal efforts to lower cattle and beef prices.

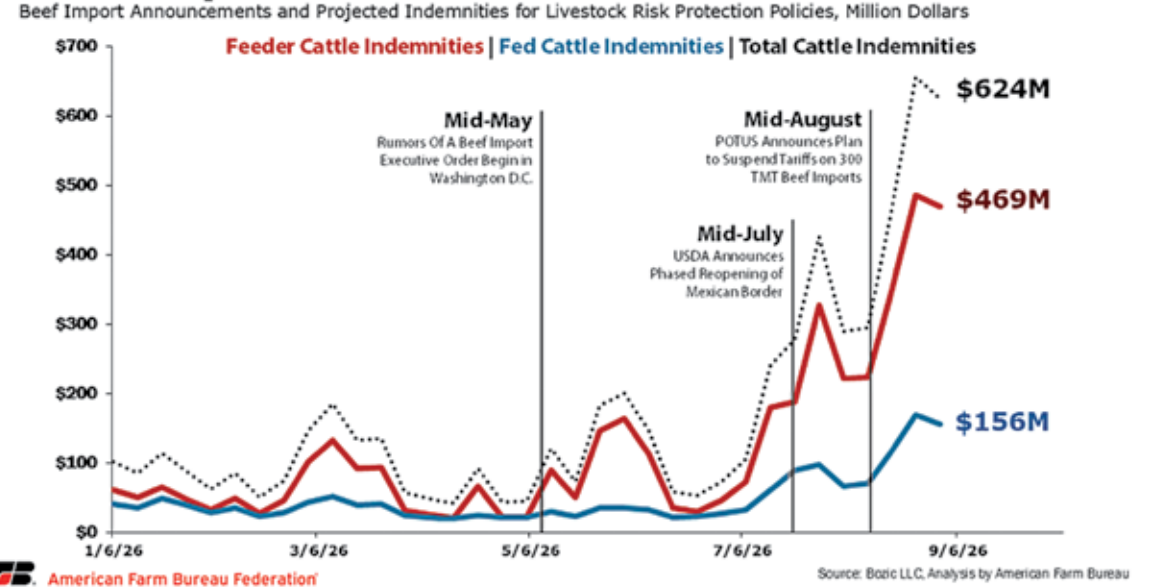
An Unknown Experiment

While the administration's rationale centers on lower consumer prices of ground beef - there is no economic evidence that the price for ground beef at the retail or food service levels will see any price relief due to additional imports. In fact, the economic evidence suggests the opposite. Data from USDA's FAS on beef imports and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on retail ground beef prices shows a positive relationship between beef prices and imports over the last quarter century - as beef prices rise, imports follow. Additionally, nothing in the proclamation compels grocery stores or food service providers to lower prices. There's no enforcement tool to ensure the \$650 million in tariff relief will materialize lower consumer prices. Every link in the supply chain, e.g., importers, processors, distributors, retailers or food service providers, will independently decide how much of the cost savings from eliminated tariffs to pass through to consumers versus absorbing it as (profit) margin.

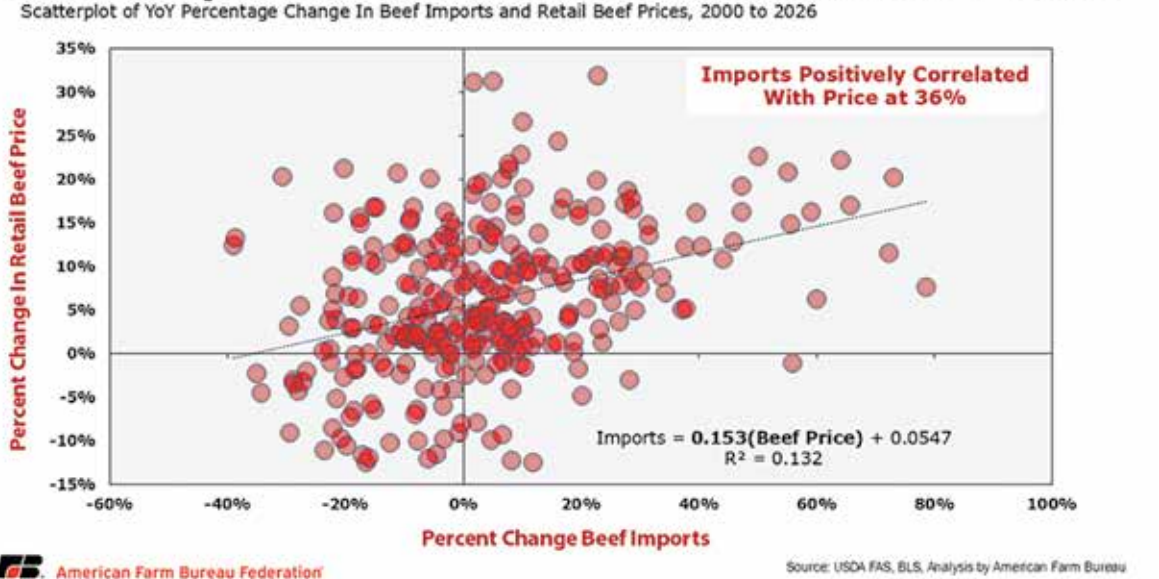
Where Does The U.S. Import Beef From?



Beef Import Timeline & Livestock Insurance



Beef Imports Do Not Lower Consumer Prices



From a supply chain perspective, before reaching consumers, imported beef must move through several steps along the supply chain including but not limited to export processing and booking at the foreign packing plant, transportation to the U.S. (unless it is in a bonded warehouse on U.S. shores), clearance through Customs and Border Protection, USDA food safety inspections, and distribution to processors for blending. Then, because groceries and restaurants lock in pricing and promotional cycles months in advance, menu boards, price tags and circulars are typically finalized well before the product physically arrives, adding one more lag

before any cost change can potentially reach the consumer. What is known is there has already been an impact on ranchers and their bottom lines - eroding their confidence in rebuilding America's beef cow herd. What is also known is importers are likely to see reduced tariff levies of approximately \$650 million, and insurance providers and USDA's FCIC are on the hook for millions more in crop insurance indemnities. Finally, it's also known that as beef prices rise, imports follow - indicating that these additional imports are highly unlikely to lower consumer beef prices. ■

Wyoming Classifieds

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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
Jannice Alvaney, Centennial; Stacey & Jason Smallwood, Laramie; Jennifer Tanner, Laramie; Candace Ryder, Laramie; Vance Backer, Laramie; Wyatt & Tara Springsteen, Laramie

BIG HORN
Monica Miller, Lovell; Elaine Abraham, Lovell; Kristopher Brimhall, Cowley; Cevin & Gail Gordon, Basin; Camaron Ward, Deaver; Leonard Leonhardt, Lovell; Ted & Charlene Seely (REG), Lander; Boyd Van Fleet (REG), Greybull; Cleve Wilson, Lovell; Lane Friedly (REG), Deaver; Robin Kelly, Cody; Warren Liebers (REG), Greybull

CAMPBELL
Galen Kretchman(REG), Gillette; Blake Edwards(REG), Gillette; Darren Barton(REG), Gillette; Leland & Bonnie Rubesh, Gillette; Wyatte Anderson (REG), Gillette; James & Christine Frey, Banner; Slash Open Box Ranch LLC (REG), Gillette; Greg & Debra Johnson, Gillette

CARBON
Shade Brokaw (REG), Jeffery Brown, Rawlins; Raymond Wenner, Saratoga

CONVERSE
Greg Saul Jr. Glenrock; Brenda & Rebecca Barker, Casper

CROOK
Ernest & Denise Brewer, Sundance; Donna Lange, Sundance; William Wilhelm (REG), Sundance

FREMONT
Daniel & Angela BENNETT, Riverton; Kenneth & Mildred Rhoads, Lander; Shane OOTEN, Lander; Peter Hedglin, Riverton; Roberta Cassity, Riverton; Alicia Aldrich, Lander; Carol Coates, Lander; Cheryl Essen, Lander; Sonya Heil, Lander; Stephen & Suzanne Antoniadis (REG), Lander; Leif & Lindsay Gasch (REG), Lander; Brenda Leonhardt, Kinneer; Robert & Wendy Power, Rawlins; Billy Hovendick (REG), Lander; Eldon Jennings(REG), Riverton;

Tyler & Chelsey Patik, Pavillion Roy & Melody Cain, Riverton; Kim Wilbert, Riverton; Shane & Tammy Green, Lander; Johnny & Leanne Linnell (REG), Riverton; Nathan & Roxanna Hindman, Crowheart; Robert Griesen, Riverton; Lee Larsen (REG), Dubois; Rhet Foster, Lander; Debbie Barry (REG), Lander; Andrea Billingsley, Dubois

GOSHEN
Robert Peterson, Torrington; Cathleen Daiss, Lander; North Platte River Ranch LLC (REG), Fort Laramie; Amanda Trout, Torrington

HOT SPRINGS
Dan Blair, Thermopolis; Corey Johnston, Thermopolis; James Colvin, Thermopolis; Anthony Barnett(REG), Thermopolis; Douglas & Vicki Nichols, Thermopolis; Tony SoRelle, Thermopolis; Priscilla Haddis, Thermopolis; Laura Kessler, Associate, Thermopolis

JOHNSON
Shane & Christine Hampshire

(REG), Leiter ; Lavonne Morrow, Buffalo ; Ben & Tracie Kirven, Buffalo ; Shane & Heidi Greet, Kaycee; Kevin & Shari Ketelhut, Riverton; Mark Klasinski, Buffalo ; Thomas Yarbrough, Kaycee ; Paula Jensen, Buffalo ; Brice & Dana George, Basin

LARAMIE
Luke Michaud, Pine Bluffs ; Toni Lopez, Cheyenne ; MARSHALL & Jan Streeter, Cheyenne; Scott & Marge Highland, Cheyenne; Larry & Carol Pelletier, Cheyenne; KARLA Gilmore, Cheyenne ; Carol Engelbrecht, Cheyenne ; Robert & Judith Kissel, Cheyenne ; Grace Hodges (REG), Cheyenne ; Mark Bishop, Cheyenne ; Kathleen Peterson, Cheyenne ; Lorraine Quarberg, Cheyenne ; Joseph & Thora Pino, Cheyenne ; MARK & Franny Haukap, Pine Bluffs ; Lee Sexton, Cheyenne ; Vance & Brenda Bergquist, Laramie ; Nathan Weber, Cheyenne ; Matthew & Paula McClure, Cheyenne ; Justin Terfehr, Laramie

NEW MEMBERS ... Page 13



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NEW MEMBERS... From Page 12

LINCOLN

Megan Perry(REG), Bedford; Matt & Lisa Jackson, Kemmerer; Scott McCue, Kemmerer; Shane & Abbie Bollinder, Sidney, MT; Steven Carter(REG), Bedford; Steven & Teri Dzida(REG), Etna; Aarika Walker, Kemmerer; Bobby Genini, Afton; Sheri & Chris Paulson, Diamondville; Gregory Perry, Afton; William Lawrence, Kemmerer; Matt Clark (REG), Afton; Tanner Pallesen(REG), Kemmerer; Melissa Butler, Etna; Bailie Magee, Kemmerer; Brock Harderlie, Afton; Cody Harkins, Auburn; Gabriel Bejarano, Afton; Jeremiah Rawson, Kemmerer; WYRR LLC, Evanston; Catherine Theule, Kemmerer; Kelvin Moss (REG), Bedford; Kortnie Thomas, Afton; Taylor Hiller, Etna; Lucas Peavler, Afton; Christopher Towles, Alpine; Cody Baker, Kemmerer; Dennis Suter, Bedford; Kim Rinderknecht, Afton; Nicole Miles, Afton; Jay & Page Lee(REG), Afton; Seth Nield(REG), Afton; Gary & Phyllis Schooler, Afton; Greg Kirkland, Hillsboro, OR; Dalton Stoddard, Kemmerer; Stephen Smith, Afton; Dustin Child(REG), Afton; Alana Horton, Alpine

NATRONA

Arnie Sybrant, Casper; Shawn Wagner, Casper; Patricia Butler, Casper; Megan Record, Casper; Christopher & Megan Valasek, Mills; Sean Gentry, Mills; Cindy Burgess, Casper; Matt & Carolynn Heaton, Casper; Daryl Beck, Casper; Daniel Schmidt, Casper; James Rivera, Casper; Brian & Patricia Rohrbeck, Casper; Jennifer & Aaron Limmer, Casper; Ron Byers, Evansville; Carl Plumley, Casper; Danielle Artaz, Casper; Roberta Stratton, Casper; Ashlyn & Tayson Hoerster, Casper; Gary Zobel, Casper; Tim & Pauline Crow, Casper; Charity & Shane Harkins, Casper

NIOBRARA

Loren Heth (REG), Lusk; Hunter Dockery, Lusk

PARK

Brandon & Ramonda Harrison, Cody; Edwin Heimer, Cody; Jordan & Sarah Bear, Powell; Marty & Lauren King, Powell; Troy Phillips, Powell; Mark & Amy Law, Cody; Gregory Demple, Cody; Tait & Christeena Murdock, Powell; Cody Easum (REG), Powell; Ethel Eden(REG), Powell; Logan Petersen, Powell; Rusell & Charise Rose, Powell; David & Christine Norris, Powell; Nicole Forsberg, Powell; Denton Davis, Powell; Barbara Seliga, Powell; John Copeland, Cody; Brett McCoy, Powell; Michael Wright, Powell

PLATTE

George & Tonya Stevenson(REG), Wheatland

SHERIDAN

John & Brandi, Clifton, Sheridan; James Fitzgerald, Palmer Lake, CO; Adam Gable, Sheridan; Daniel Roberts, Sheridan; Danny Hagemann, Sheridan; David & Riley Cook, Sheridan; Janis Devore, Sheridan; Lucy Boswell, Sheridan; Gail & Paul Carlson, Sheridan; Barbara & Peter Fagan, Big Horn; Justin Stroup, Sheridan; John Tucker, Sheridan; Joseph & Mary Tanner, Sheridan; Heather & Patrick Wile, Sheridan; Robert Rader, Sheridan; Colin Peldo, Sheridan; John & Patricia Stewart, Sheridan; Jonni Lahn, Sheridan; Krystle & Lawrence Baumgartner, Navarre, FL; Oscar &

Camile Rucki(REG), Sheridan; Andrew & Amber Edwards (REG), Sheridan; Melissa Watt, Sheridan; Rodney & Audrey Brown, Sheridan; Scott & Sandra Nicholson, Banner; Christine Taylor, Sheridan; Jay Goldhammer, Sheridan; Karen Kjeldgaard, Ranchester; Paula Lenz, Sheridan; Natasha Dotson, Sheridan; Randy Bochman, Wyarno; Timothy & Carrie Pender, Sheridan; Chris & Martha McCool (REG), Sheridan; Josh Barker, Ranchester; Jessica Culligan, Sheridan; Stan Mosher, Sheridan; Sharon Walters- Ritz & Kenneth Ritz, Sheridan; Colamann Braley, Sheridan; Lyle & Kelley Bonnet, Sheridan; Brett & Cherain Richmond, Cody; Dean & Deana Cole, Sheridan; Michael Giorgis, Sheridan; Mel Winslow, Sheridan; William Doenz(REG), Sheridan; Donna Konzak, Sheridan; Glenn & Joey Sheeley, Dayton; Jessica Storey, Sheridan; Todd & Jerilea Phillips (REG), Sheridan; Jonathan & Sally Seidel, Big Horn; Joe Fox (REG), Sheridan; Patrick Hamilton, Sheridan; Matthew & Rebecca Thomas, Sheridan; Cynthia Mohseni, Sheridan

SUBLETTE

Mark Milleg Trust (REG), Big Piner; Nick & Jennie Taylor, Big Piney; Kade Williams, Boulder; Dawnita Griffith, Pinedale

SWEETWATER

Eric Nielsen & Anne Reyman, Green River; Taylor Frint, Green River; Paul Aguirre, Green River; Adam Bear, Rock Springs; Gavin Lebo, Rock Springs; Mysty Haight, Rock Springs; Andrew Hill, Rock Springs; Peni & Janelle Kinikini, Rock Springs; Shane & Nicole Patterson, Rock Springs; Derek Yarbrough, Farson

TETON

Denise Shive, Jackson; Josh & Melisa Wilson, Alpine; Jason Hanold/ The Elk Refuge Ranch(REG), Jackson; Tyler Lucero, Alpine; David Kirkpatrick, Jackson; Dan Bess(REG), Jackson; Chance Stevie, Cora; Rolf Belden & Cindy King, Star Valley Ranch; Pete Hoffman, Jackson

UINTA

Cody Moore, Evanston; James Johnson, Evanston; Nathan & Kristie

Lester (REG), Evanston; Amanda Lonsway, Evanston; Michael Tooley, Evanston; Orrin & NATALIE Martin, Evanston; Sandi Weiss, Sheridan; Kandice Nixon, Lyman; Clint Mair, Lyman; Kade Loger, Lyman; Andrea Osborne (REG), Fort Bridger; Dustin Miller, Evanston

WASHAKIE

James & Phyllis Roseberry (REG), Lander; David Mischke, Worland; Leslie Moore, Worland; Eulers Farm Trust(REG), Scottsbluff, NE; Dan Blair, Thermopolis; Daniel Turgeon, Ten Sleep; Ryan Baumeister, Worland; Thomas & Corby Peterson, Worland; Jurn & Amy Wagner, Worland; Sandra & Marvin Wake, Worland; Jo Deveraux, Worland

WESTON

Taren Olson (REG), Osage; George Klein, Newcastle; Morgan Donner, Upton; Jessica Sacrison(REG), Newcastle; Sara Loebe, Osage; Teigen Marchant, Newcastle; Vera Huber (REG), Newcastle; Diane Kane, Newcastle ■



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Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho is pleased to announce that it has received all required regulatory approvals and finalized its acquisition of Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company. The acquisition significantly expands the company's regional presence and strengthens its ability to protect and serve members and policyholders across Idaho, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

With the regulatory process complete, Mountain West and its affiliates, 360 Insurance Company and Mountain West Captive Re Company, join Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho and its affiliates, Western Community Insurance Company, Farm Insurance Brokerage Company, and Farm Bureau Finance Company.

Together, the affiliated companies, supported by approximately 250 agents and 450 employees, serve more than 130,000 members, generate over \$800 million in annualized premium, and hold \$1.2 billion in assets. The organization's increased scale and broader geographic risk profile will help support long-term financial strength and stability in an evolving insurance marketplace.

“This is a defining moment for our organizations and the people we serve,” said Todd Argall, President and CEO of Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho. “With regulatory approval complete, we are now positioned to move forward as a stronger, more resilient organization. By combining our shared strengths and values, we are ensuring that we can continue to deliver on our promises to the communities we serve for decades to come.”

The acquisition is intended to enhance financial strength and operational capabilities while preserving the local, personalized service that has defined both organizations for generations. Collectively, the companies bring more than 155 years of experience serving policyholders throughout the region.

Mountain West will continue operating under its existing brands in Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado. Policyholders will continue working with their trusted local agents, now supported by the resources and capabilities of the broader organization.

"Insurance is ultimately about being there when policyholders need us most," said Matt Dorsey, Chairman of the Board, IFB Mutual Insurance Holding Company. "This acquisition gives our companies and local agents greater resources to provide dependable coverage, responsive service, and support tailored to the communities they know and serve."

The Laramie, Wyoming, office will remain a key operational hub, working alongside teams throughout the organization's regional footprint to support agents and policyholders. The companies remain deeply committed to the communities they serve, with a continued focus on providing reliable coverage, personalized service, and long-term value.

About Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company

Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Company has been serving communities across Wyoming since 1948. The company was founded by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation to provide insurance for agricultural producers in Wyoming and is headquartered in Laramie, Wyoming. In 1958, a partnership was formed to do the same for Montana's agricultural community. In 2011, the company expanded its footprint to Colorado through its subsidiary, 360 Insurance.

True to its roots, Mountain West continues to be the number one writer of farm and ranch insurance in both Wyoming and Montana.

Mountain West proudly serves clients across Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado through nearly 100 local agents. The company leverages decades of experience and a dedicated team of employees and field staff to deliver personalized service and protect members and insureds when they need it most.

Mountain West is part of the Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho organization and continues to operate under the Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance brand.

About Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho

Founded in 1947, Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho protects families, farms, and businesses through a network of local agents and offices across Idaho. The company also serves policyholders in Washington through its affiliate, Western Community Insurance Company.

Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Idaho maintains an A (Excellent) Financial Strength Rating from AM Best and has been named to Ward's 50® for three consecutive years. The company has also earned top-five recognition on the Best Places to Work in Idaho list.

For more information, visit: www.idahofarmbureauinsurance.com and www.westerncommunityinsurancecompany.com ■

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County FB Meetings



Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation's meeting.



Big Horn County Farm Bureau Federation's meeting with WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, WyFB Executive VP Kerin Clark, Mustang Mountain Vineyard owners Nicolle Laffin and Nancey Blair, WyFB Northwest District Director Thad Dockery, and Big Horn County President Tim Beck.



WyFB President Todd Fornstrom at Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation's meeting.



Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation President Lane Hageman and WyFB Policy Advocacy Director Justin Schilling.



Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation's Secretary Kim DesEnfants and WyFB Leadership and Policy Associate Courtney Beene.



Sheridan Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter's first meeting of the year where over 25 college students attended to join the chapter or learn about Farm Bureau.



Albany County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation's meeting.



Uinta County Farm Bureau Federation's meeting.

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