Wyoming Agriculture

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Coal Seams in Sheridan County: from a County Resolution to National Policy

By Darby Thayer Sims

In 2024, the Remington Fire, which started from a coal seam, burned over 190,000 acres in northern Sheridan County, Wyoming.

A coal seam is a dark, banded layer of coal normally found underground, and Sheridan County has an abundance of coal as it lies within the northern edge of the Powder River Basin.

When a flame reached an exposed coal seam, the coal ignited and began to burn. The ground caved in over the forage and trees, igniting and spreading the fire, and this was the start of the Remington Fire.

The year following this devastating fire, Andy Edwards, Sheridan County Ranch & Farm Bureau Federation President and rancher brought a resolution to his county meeting regarding management of coal seam fires on state and federal land.

COAL SEAM FIRE *... Page 3*



The Remington Fire burning in 2024 in Sheridan County, Wyo. *PHOTO SOURCED FROM ANDY EDWARDS*

107th Annual Meeting Preview

A look into the speakers and workshops planned for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation 107th annual meeting in Casper November 12-14, 2026.

Speakers:

- Join Karen Budd-Falen, Associate Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Wyoming attorney, and rancher as the keynote speaker on Friday at 9:30 a.m.
- Join Shelby Hagenauer, AFBF Senior Director of Government Affairs, Thursday at 12 p.m. for an overview of federal policy affecting Western agriculture, including grazing and land management, water rights, and endangered species regulations. The presentation will also explore post election changes and what to expect from Congress and federal agencies in 2027
- Bernt Nelson, AFBF economist, will speak Friday at 4 p.m. about the economic trends, risks and opportunities shaping the future of Wyoming agriculture. From tight cattle supplies and New World screwworm to competition for rural resources from emerging industries, the presentation will explore how today's challenges compare to the past and what they mean for ranching, agriculture and rural America.

Workshops:

Thursday, November 12th – 10 a.m.

- **Agency Q&A:** The goal of the session is to provide an opportunity for open dialogue and questions between our members and agency representatives. In this workshop session, members will hear from the Bureau of Land Management regarding its new regulations, the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments regarding its current priorities and programs, and the U.S. Forest Service regarding its ongoing reorganization process.

107TH ANNUAL MEETING *... Page 5*



2026 Wyoming Needs Ag Tailgate. *DARBY THAYER SIMS PHOTO*

WY Needs Ag Tailgate Recap

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation hosted its 13th annual Wyoming Needs Agriculture event on Saturday, October 17th in the Indoor Practice Facility in Laramie, WY. This event helps bridge the gap between consumers and farmers and ranchers while highlighting how agriculture feeds, fuels, and sustains our communities every day. Over thirty WyFB members and board members from across the state, including Sheridan College's Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter spent their Saturday volunteering at this event.

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www.wyfb.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November
3 General Election Day
12 Applications Open for WyFB Promotion & Engagement Committee
12-14 WyFB 107th Annual Meeting- Western Heritage Hotel and Conference Center (formerly The Ramkota) in Casper
17 Washakie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – 6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds
17 Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting

December
10 County Royalty Grants Due

January 2027
8-13 AFBF Annual Convention – Charlotte, NC
15 Application Deadline for WyFB Promotion & Engagement Committee
20-21 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Legislative Meeting – Cheyenne, WY
28-30 YF&R Annual Conference – Evanston, WY

March 2027
12-15 AFBF FUSION Conference – New Oreleans, LA

Visit wyfb.org for event updates

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Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation

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Make Your Vote Count for Agriculture



Zippy Duvall
American Farm Bureau Federation President

On the farm, we make decisions every day that shape our families' futures—what to plant, when to invest in equipment and how to make the most of the natural resources entrusted to us. We weigh those decisions carefully because we know what is at stake. But decisions made well outside our fencerows—from Washington, D.C., to our state capitals—have a real impact on our businesses and communities as well. Voting gives us a say in who makes those decisions.

Some of the most competitive races in the nation are in farm country, so rural voters will have a major influence on the outcome of the midterm election. I farm and I vote because I want agriculture's voice to be heard. I hope you will join me.

iFarmiVote Makes it Easy to Vote

Harvest makes for a busy fall. Between bringing in crops, caring for livestock and keeping equipment running, there is plenty competing for our attention. But making a plan to vote deserves a place on our to-do lists.

Farm Bureau's iFarmiVote resources can help you check your voter registration, find your polling location, learn about absentee voting, and get to know the candidates. Take a few minutes now to decide how you will cast your ballot and encourage your family and neighbors to do the same.

Every election matters. The people we elect at every level of government make decisions that affect our businesses, our schools and the communities we call home. We need leaders who understand agriculture and are willing to listen to the people who grow our nation's food, fiber and fuel.

As you learn about the candidates, ask how they will support farmers and ranchers. Tell them what you are experiencing on your farm. You can explain what it means to make another planting decision when the numbers are not working, or what happens when a job on the farm goes unfilled at the busiest time of year. Those conversations help connect policy debates to the families affected by them. They also lay the groundwork for relationships that need to continue long after the ballots are counted.

"We need leaders who understand agriculture and are willing to listen to the people who grow our nation's food, fiber and fuel."

Congress Must Act on the Issues Facing Agriculture

While we prepare to vote, the lawmakers serving today still have important business to finish. The challenges facing agriculture cannot wait until a new Congress takes office.

That starts with getting a strong, bipartisan farm bill across the finish line before the end of the year. After three extensions, the farm bill expired again in September, disrupting access to critical programs like the Conservation Reserve Program. The House has passed its farm bill, and the Senate Agriculture Committee has advanced its version. Congress must act and get a final bill to the president's desk. Farmers and ranchers need certainty and a farm bill that reflects today's economy.

Reliable markets are an important part of that picture. Delivering permanent, year-round E15 would strengthen demand for American-grown crops while giving consumers another choice at the pump. The House has passed a bill to allow year-round E15, and it is included in the Senate Agriculture Committee's farm bill. Congress needs to finish the job by the end of the year and provide lasting certainty for farmers.

Farmers also need to know they will have enough workers to get the job done. Crops cannot wait to be harvested, and animals need care every day. The Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act gives Congress an opportunity to make the H-2A program more workable and move toward a solution that works for all of agriculture.

These improvements would help farmers plan for the future. Getting to that future, however, means navigating the financial pressures we face today. With high production costs, persistently high inflation, and low commodity prices continuing to squeeze farm families, Congress must also deliver timely economic assistance this year to help farmers keep operating and prepare for another season.

Farm Bureau will keep pressing these priorities, and your voice strengthens that work. I encourage you to reach out to your lawmakers and explain why action matters to your farm and rural community.

Our responsibility does not end when we cast a ballot. Make your plan to vote, stay involved and keep telling your story. Together, we can help ensure the people making decisions that impact agriculture understand what is needed to keep our nation's food supply safe and secure. ■

Rooted in Freedom



Kerin Clark
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President

Rooted in Freedom. Significant and powerful words. Words that define the very meaning of the work we do at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Our core value of advocacy states "We believe in protecting private property rights, upholding constitutional government, and advancing a free market economy. With a commitment to individual freedom, we advocate through engagement in the legislative, regulatory, legal, and consumer arenas."

Rooted in Freedom. The strength of the grassroots policy development process comes from you, the member, as you help bring solutions to the issues impacting your farm or ranch. Farm Bureau policy is developed through the resolutions process that is vetted three times before making its way to the state voting delegate floor where it is vetted for a fourth time. As the roots grow throughout the process, members have the opportunity to study, voice their opinions, and ultimately chart the course of the organization through the policy process.

Rooted in Freedom. With the celebration of America's 250th anniversary this year, we recognize and honor those who have come before us to lay the foundation of independence and those who have fought for our independence. Patriotism runs deep in this organization. We are thankful for the freedoms we have here in America and must never forget what it took to get there as a country or quit fighting for the protection of those freedoms.

Rooted in Freedom. Our roots run deep in our agriculture heritage and guide our future. The 107th annual meeting is where members will convene to develop policy to strengthen agriculture and the communities we all call home. We have a strong line-up of workshops and speakers as well. The annual meeting is also a time to recognize and celebrate the strong roots in membership, leadership, and legacy. See you soon. ■



Cattle and the land in Sheridan County after the Remington Fire. *PHOTO SOURCED FROM ANDY EDWARDS.*



An active coal seam in northern Sheridan County. *DARBY THAYER SIMS PHOTO*

***COAL SEAM FIRE**... From Page 1*

This resolution was passed at the county level, then passed at the district level, and finally was passed at the state meeting in November 2025 to officially become Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy.

The policy in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation policy book reads as: "Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation supports all state, and federal land management agencies to do all things to safely extinguish or contain coal seam fires on their respective lands and be responsible for any surface fires started from coal seams fires on state and federal land."

Since this policy had national implications, in January 2026 it was taken to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual convention, where it was passed and added to the AFBF policy book.

The national policy reads as: "We support all federal land management agencies using any practical, accepted prevention methods and ways to mitigate the damage due to coal seam fires and being responsible for any surface fires started from coal seam fires on federal land."

Now, a resolution that started in a Wyoming community because of a situation impacting Wyoming ranchers has become policy with national implications. But what does this mean on the ground?

Since the Remington Fire, there are more coal seams burning in Sheridan County. The fire has helped bring attention to the problem, including a committee being formed and a BLM range conservationist going to see the coal seams firsthand.

"Following the fire, our county was able to bring that resolution to the district meeting, and it continued through the processes. Eventually, it became state policy and national policy. Since the fire, there has been a committee put together and we've had a BLM range-con out to see the coal seams, and I believe he got a better understanding of what they are," states Edwards

Edwards explains that the number of exposed coal seams in the area has increased since the Remington Fire.

"I think between a couple of neighbors and I in this area, there used to be 2-4 coal seams exposed. Now, we have over 30 coal seams exposed. They just sit here and kind of smoke."

For ranchers, the ongoing burning coal seams create challenges, especially when the seams are located on BLM-permitted land.

"Since some of the coal seams are on our BLM permit, we can't dig perimeter lines around them, but on private land, the landowner is able to dig the perimeter lines, so the coal seam has less fuel, if it happens to take off."

The Remington Fire brought attention to an issue that continues to affect Sheridan County ranchers. Through the Farm Bureau policy process, a local concern reached state and national levels, helping bring attention to the coal seams that started the Remington Fire and those now exposed following the Remington Fire. ■

Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation

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- County Support & Development

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Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation

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

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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 bsettelmeyer@wyfb.org or call 307-721-7723.

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Our time as Committee Members in WyFB YF&R

By Hannah Guild YF&R State Chair and husband Zach Guild Southwest District YF&R Committee Member

The time has flown by these past four years as we have had the opportunity to be members of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers committee. This experience has taught us so much, taken us to many different places, and introduced us to many different individuals as well as ideas. When we were first introduced to Farm Bureau we really had no idea what we were getting ourselves into, with the only prior experience being the insurance side. Now over these years we have seen so much growth in ourselves through leadership opportunities and being pushed out of our comfort zone. We have been able to participate in advocating for agriculture and teaching others about what we do. Also, we have seen new technologies and learned from the experiences of others as well as getting to see how a grassroots organization operates.

Being on the committee in the WyFB YF&R has stretched us to step out of our comfort zones. As we began serving on the committee as well as simply participating in the grassroots organization we have been able to put ourselves in positions we would not find ourselves in normally. From being able to speak on various ag related issues in Washington DC with our states representatives, to reviewing Wyoming Farm Bureau policy at the annual meeting and voting as we see fit. We have seen personal growth in our communication and leadership skills as you articulate your opinion to others and step out and voice your feelings on various topics.

One important lesson that we have been able to witness firsthand has been that when you don't stand up and tell your story others will tell it for you. Being in YF&R has given us the opportunity to share our lived experiences and be able to tell our story. This organization has given a louder voice to those whose words may otherwise fall on deaf ears. Through the grassroots policy creation members can bring current issues in front of our representatives who can look to Farm Bureau for guidance in many ag related issues. We had the amazing opportunity to visit Washington DC with YF&R and be able to speak with Wyoming's representation in Washington on various ag related issues. It was eye opening to see just how much of a difference one voice can make.

One program that the YF&R has pushed for years has been the Ag Books program where the committee chooses a book to be given to libraries and schools across the state. These books teach about agriculture and give young kids the ability to learn correct information about what happens in agriculture. Being able to try and educate others in the public about what agriculture truly stands for has been a gratifying part of our experience. We have also been able to educate ourselves over the years on many different up and coming technologies, theories and practices in the agriculture world. As we have attended different Farm Bureau conventions over the years we have sat through conversations ranging from virtual fencing to suicide awareness for farmers and ranchers, to estate planning. We always look forward to being able to speak to others in the agriculture community about their solutions to shared problems and networking. We have grown so much and gained so many lifelong friendships throughout this experience. The people we have been able to meet has truly been the greatest gift our time in the YF&R has given us. We have been able to foster relationships with like-minded individuals across the state and even the country and gained many lifelong friends We have thoroughly enjoyed our time in Farm Bureau and are excited for the years to come. ■



From left to right: Southwest District YF&R Committee members Zach and Hannah Guild, Alexis Lake, Northeast District YF&R Committee member Morgan Stroh, U.S. House Representative Harriet Hageman, At-large YF&R representative committee members Abby and Carson Ellis, Southeast District YF&R Committee member Cody Alps, and WyFB Executive Vice President Kerin Clark.



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Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

2027 YF&R CONFERENCE

WHERE TRADITION MEETS *tomorrow*

JANUARY 28-30 | EVANSTON, WY

WyFB News Note: 2027 Wyoming Agricultural Land Valuation Study

Background

Wyoming agricultural land is valued based on its capability to produce forage or crops, and for the purpose of the 2027 Wyoming Agricultural Land Valuation Study, the land is categorized into irrigated crop land, dry crop land, and range land.

Land Production Values for 2027

Agricultural land valuations are based on the income approach to value, which estimates land value by capitalizing expected net operating income. All valuations factor in management for the applicable type of land and the practices included, but not limited to water costs, fence maintenance, landlord income, operating expenses, and pesticide/herbicide applications, again, this is based on the type of categorized land.

These factors are incorporated into the estimated net operating income used to determine agricultural land values. Below are the net income figures for each category for 2027:

- For irrigated crop land: net income per ton of hay is $29.77.
- Dry crop land: net income per bushel of wheat is $0.66.
- Ranch land: net income per AUM is $23.25.

Recap

Dry crop and irrigated land values are expected to decrease for the 2027 tax year due to a decline in the five-year weighted average commodity price and an increase in the weighted average cap rate. Irrigated land values will be 11.3% lower than in 2026, while dry crop land values will decrease by 13.7%. Range land values will decrease by 2.7% from 2026 due to an increase in the five-year weighted average cap rate. ■

Applications open Nov. 12 for WyFB Promotion & Engagement Committee

The Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement (P&E) program empowers farmers and ranchers to share their stories with consumers, helping bridge the gap between field and fork. Consumers want to hear directly from farmers and ranchers and gain a better understanding of how their food is grown. P&E provides Farm Bureau members with the tools, training and resources to make connections and share agriculture with the public.

P&E is designed for Farm Bureau members who are enthusiastic about promoting awareness and understanding of agriculture. Through training opportunities, effective engagement tools and grassroots involvement, the program helps volunteers confidently connect with consumers, tell agriculture story and build greater transparency and understanding around where food comes from.

TIMELINE:
2027: Launch Year

- Applications open November 12, 2026
- Applications close January 15, 2027 and inaugural state committee members are selected
- Hold the first organizational meeting and elect officers
- Develop the first annual Program of Work
- Attend the AFBF FUSION Conference
- Conduct P&E-focused consumer engagement and outreach activities
- Begin building county participation and statewide outreach
- Pursue formal AFBF state program recognition

Wyoming Farm Bureau® Federation
PROMOTION & ENGAGEMENT™
COMMUNICATE. COLLABORATE. INFLUENCE.

2028: Expanding the Program

- Continue expanding county participation and statewide outreach
- Develop the second annual Program of Work
- Attend AFBF Target Engagement Training
- Conduct P&E-focused consumer engagement and outreach activities
- Open applications for new committee members in summer 2028

For applications and questions, contact Courtney Brokaw – cbrokaw@wyfb.org. ■

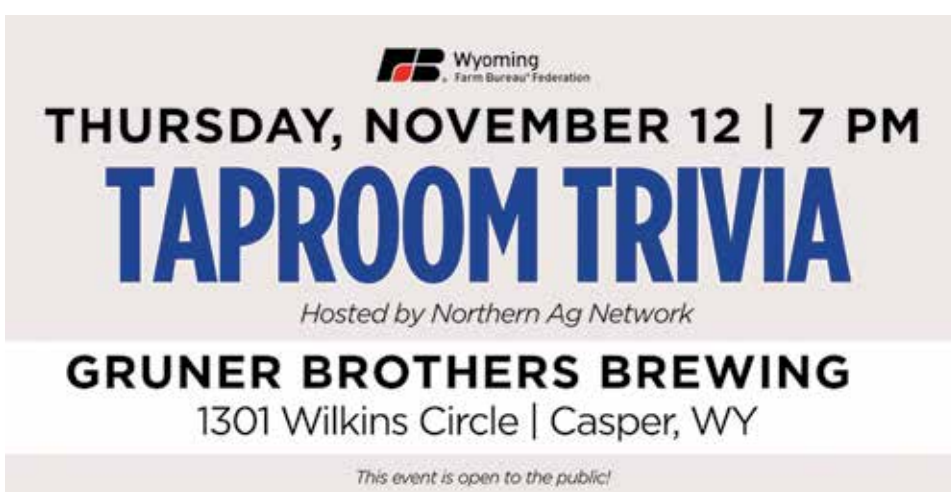
***107TH ANNUAL MEETING**... From Page 1*

- Meghan Brown is the representative with the Bureau of Land Management. Since June 2026, Meghan has served as the Rangeland Implementation Lead for the Bureau of Land Management, where she guides policies related to rangeland health and grazing regulations. Her role is to help ensure consistent implementation across BLM while engaging with partners on topics such as cooperative monitoring and grazing practices.
- Victoria Thacker serves as the Grazing and Agricultural Leasing Program Manager at the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI). Since joining the agency in February 2023, Victoria has led the grazing team in administering approximately 3.4 million surface acres of state trust land leases across Wyoming. Her team oversees critical program functions, including lease renewals, annual rentals, lease assignments, sublease applications, improvement applications, and vacant land lease advertisements.
- The Forest Service Representative will be a personnel member speaking on the behalf of the reorganization of the Forest Service in the state of Wyoming. While currently in a halt from a workers union lawsuit, the plans for a reorganization in the Forest Service would include state offices, including a Wyoming office in Cheyenne, and a network of other service centers.

- **Promotion and Engagement Program Preview:** The Power of Influencing: Nate Schlief, North Dakota Farm Bureau Federation member and AFBF Promotion and Engagement Committee member will lead this workshop with a demonstration on how influence extends beyond social media. He will also discuss how members can connect with consumers to promote agriculture across Wyoming and the nation. Schlief and his wife live in Thompson, ND, his wife is a loan manager with the USDA, and he manages a team of five product support specialists for RDO Equipment, a John Deere dealership. Schlief also operates a small hay business, he has been involved with North Dakota Farm Bureau since 2011 and he began on his first term with the AFBF P&E Committee in 2023.

Thursday, November 12th – 11 a.m.

- **County President's and Vice Presidents Meeting:** This year's Presidents' and Vice Presidents' Meeting will include a preview of the county board member handbooks, updates to membership brochures, an overview of available resources and royalty grant information, and a presentation from Chanel Mikel, Director of Fundraising for Mountain States Legal Foundation.
- **YF&R Discussion Meet:** The WyFB YF&R Committee will host a Mock Discussion Meet to introduce participants to the competition format and help build confidence in their communication, leadership, and advocacy skills. The workshop will begin with an overview of the competition, including its format, expectations, and helpful tips. Committee members will then participate in a mock discussion using Question #1 from the 2027 AFBF Discussion Meet Questions. Following the demonstration, participants will reflect on the discussion and explore strategies such as active listening, respectful disagreement, constructive feedback, and collaborative problem solving. These skills can be applied to Farm Bureau activities, agricultural policy discussions, and advocating for the future of Wyoming agriculture.
- **Succession Planning:** Frank Kelly, Mountain West Insurance Agent and Registered Representative will be hosting a succession planning breakdown. Kelly has over 39 years of experience with Farm Bureau and serves the Greybull, Wyoming area. The session will dive into the process of setting up an estate and business plan for the overarching goal to have one cohesive plan with your assets. ■





Adding to the Generational Wheel

By Darby Thayer Sims

Paul and Laura Foster, along with their kids own and operate Verona Cattle LLC, a successful commercial cow-calf, yearling, and heifer development operation 20 miles east of Sheridan, WY. As beef producers, they have pride in creating quality animals that contribute to feeding the world, and, through that, they're also productive growers of grass while using the available resources to their advantage.

"On our operation, we maximize the profits by optimizing the resources, not the other way around," Paul Foster states.

In 2019, Paul and Laura started leasing the Golden Willow Ranch from Laura's parents, Paul and Catherine Kukowski.

"My in-laws deserve all the credit for everything they've done to make this ranch productive, successful, and everything it is today. They invented the wheel, we are just adding a little new rubber," Foster states.

When the Kukowski's wanted to retire, they sought to find the best way to keep the resources and land productive, while continuing to the next generation and finding a long-term situation that worked for everyone. Laura and Paul were able to start leasing the Golden Willow Ranch after planning and solidifying a way for all four parties to feel comfortable.

"Sitting down and ironing everything out with the bankers, creating bills of sales, and everything else really gave Laura and I the freedom and opportunity to operate, along with gave my in-laws the comfortability with the future of their ranch," Paul adds.



Paul and Laura Foster and their kids on the ranch. *PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL FOSTER.*



Paul and Laura's feedlot in Otto, Wyo. *PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL FOSTER*



Cows and calves on the ranch in September of 2026. *COURTNEY BROKAW PHOTO*

Operating on the Opportunity

Intensive Grazing and Increase of Carrying Capacity

Since the lease started in 2019, the Fosters have implemented intensive and non-intensive grazing practices depending on the area, land, and water capabilities. Since 1992, the meadows haven't been hayed, just grazed, keeping the nutrients in the soil, and using their cattle to maximize the production.

"We will put about 500 yearling heifers on nine acres for two days, this has helped us to increase the stocking rates, and in about four years, we've increased 3,500 pounds to the acre to 5,100 pounds," Foster states.

They've also seen a large increase in the days of grazing they're able to obtain in certain areas. In a 640-acre to an 800-acre pasture, Paul and Laura used to move 600 pairs every 15 days, they've been able to increase this to 20 days on the same amount of pasture with the same number of cattle due to the herd impact in the soil, creating less bare ground and a bigger area that the grass will grow.

"It really is about using what resources you've been given. Parts of the ranch are a lot more productive in terms of grass and water than other parts. Laura and I really believe in managing based on this. In one area we can run 600 pairs on 640 acres for almost three weeks, and on one side of the ranch, we have a couple hundred pairs for the entire summer," Paul adds.

Along with intensive grazing, the Fosters are currently the largest continuous track spraying for the annual grasses in Sheridan County. They've seen a very large increase in production of their grass with anywhere from a 250 to 300 increase in pounds to the acre.

Beef Production

When Paul and Laura started leasing the Golden Willow Ranch, they also purchased all the cattle from the Kukowski's. The cattle were three-quarters Salers, and they've knocked that down to about one-half.

"Most of our bulls come from Montana Seed Stock operations. Laura is a cattle representative for Northern Livestock and handles all our livestock marketing and bull genetics."



The Fosters are able to control and have tight management on their inputs through their feedlot they own in Otto, Wyo., maximizing the land they have by utilizing resources, and through the ownership and management of their liquid feed dealership.

"At the end of the day, we are creating food for consumers. Even though we aren't fully vertically integrated, we are close and can see the growth and production of our animals from day one to slaughter. This gives us confidence and firsthand insight in the beef we are growing," Paul adds.

Land, Capital, and Opportunities for the Next Generation

"Two things Laura and I believe young producers in our industry need access to are land and capital, and both of those are hard to get. We are thankful we were given the opportunity we were from Laura's family."

Laura and Paul also noted that once young producers are involved, they then have a lot of risk in operating. The Fosters believe there needs to be a better way to help protect assets and give them a start.

Foster is the Vice President of Sheridan County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation and expressed that involvement in this organization can give ranchers a voice to create policy that can help them, the longevity of agriculture, and provide resources and opportunities to create necessary change.

"It is very critical that we advocate for young producers, give them opportunities, and keep ranch and farmland in production," he concluded. ■

***WYOMING NEEDS AG**... From Page 1*

The tailgate offered a variety of activities for Wyoming Cowboys fans of all ages, including dummy roping, ear tagging, cornhole, ag Family Feud, and opportunities to take photos with farmers and ranchers while asking questions about agriculture. These activities created fun, engaging opportunities for one-on-one conversations with farmers and ranchers, providing insight into how food is grown, how it makes its way to the table, and what life can be like on a farm or ranch.

More than 400 special edition t-shirts were distributed to fans, and attendees were able to participate in an on-site guessing game with cattle identification ear tags. Prizes were also awarded to winners of the Wyoming Ag Trivia social media contests held during the week leading up to the event.

During the football game where the Wyoming Cowboys beat Northern Illinois 41-23, a 30-second video was displayed for over 20,000 fans in War Memorial Stadium. The video featured former Cowboy football player Skyler Miller and his wife, Makenna who are Goshen County ranchers. The video shared the message on the pride they have to stand alongside other farmers and ranchers that share the values of dedication, service, and integrity it takes produce the food, fiber, and fuel that support our communities and make Wyoming our home. ■



WyFB President Todd Fornstron at the tailgate with Wyoming Cowboys fans.



Senator John Barrasso talking with WyFB President Todd Fornstrom and Executive Vice President Kerin Clark.



WyFB Vice President Cole Coxbill, WyFB Central District Director Quade Palm, WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, and WyFB Northeast District Director Matt Stroh at the tailgate.



Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation member Skyler Miller with fans before the Wyoming game.



A group photo of WyFB members and WyFB staff during the tailgate.



Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation member Makenna Miller visiting with Senator John Barrasso at the WY Needs Ag tailgate.



Sheridan County Ranch and Farm Bureau Federation President Andy Edwards handing out t-shirts to fans before they enter the stadium.



Sheridan College Collegiate Farm Bureau members teaching young Cowboys fans how to rope and tag at the event.

Cooking with the Modern Ranch Wife

Spaghetti Sauce

Recipe by Connie Werner



Ingredients:

- 1 pound sweet Italian sausage
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ cup onion, minced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (14.5 oz) cans diced tomatoes, crushed by hand before adding
- 2 (6.5 oz) cans tomato paste
- 2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried basil
- ½ teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon Italian Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons parsley

This is a great sauce for spaghetti, lasagna, or any recipe that calls for a red meat sauce. It freezes well also.



Instructions:

- In a large stockpot cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until done. Drain off any grease.
- Stir in tomatoes, paste, and water. Stir well to combine.
- Add sugar, basil, fennel seeds, italian seasoning, salt, pepper, and parsley and stir well.
- Simmer covered for 1 ½ hours, stirring often. Watch for sticking or boiling. Stove temperature may need to be adjusted during cooking time.
- Enjoy!

For more recipes visit www.modernranchwife.com

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

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WyFB Statement on Harvest Fuel Relief Program

OCTOBER 21, 2026

"The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation appreciates and welcomes the administrations announcement of the $8 billion relief program for high fuel prices. Harvesting of crops and freight costs for livestock and forage transportation are some of the most fuel intensive times of year for food production, and these activities cannot be delayed.

The Harvest Fuel Relief program acknowledges relief for Title 1 commodities which in Wyoming include crops such as corn, soybeans, and wheat, while relief for other commodities will be announced later. We look forward to working with the administration to ensure livestock producers and alfalfa growers can get the support they need to continue growing food.

The temporary measures being addressed are appreciated, and we are eager to learn of the details to follow this overarching announcement. We also encourage long-term solutions to decrease fuel prices by increasing refining production in America."

— Laramie County Farmer and WyFB President Todd Fornstrom ■



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WY Cattle Prices Impacted by Beef Proclamation

By Bernt Nelson, AFBF Economist

Key Takeaways

- The beef import proclamation, along side the re-opening of the Southern U.S. border to imports of cattle from Mexico, reduced Wyoming cattle prices, costing producers an average of more than $260 per head in September.
- Wyoming ranchers fared better than the national average, but still experienced losses equal to roughly 9% of cattle value.
- Lower cattle prices and increased imports did not translate into meaningful grocery store savings.

In late August, President Trump issued a proclamation to temporarily expand the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for lean beef trimmings by 300,000 metric tons for a period of three months. Beef began entering the U.S. under the lower tariff rate on Sept. 1, 2026. The proclamation "encourages" grocery stores to sell the beef at a 25% discount, without any retailer commitments or enforcement mechanism. As of Sept. 29, about 37,486 metric tons of beef had been imported under new quota.

Nationally, feeder cattle ranging from 300-900 pounds lost about 15% in value, or the equivalent of $300-400 per head, across the country from June through September. Prices for fed cattle also fell during that period with the five-area weekly direct slaughter price for all steers and heifers falling about $576 per head or about 14.5%.

There are other factors contributing to lower cattle prices. After being closed for about 15 months due to the outbreak of New World screwworm, imports of cattle have begun at two ports—Douglas, Arizona and Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Columbus, NM is scheduled to reopen on October 26, 2026. As of Oct. 10, about 34,000 head of heavy cattle have been imported from Mexico into the United States. About 99% of these cattle are feeder cattle entering the beef supply chain.

How does Wyoming Compare?

Losses for combined feeder cattle (steers and heifers) sold at auction in Wyoming during September averaged about $262.22 per head or 9% lower than June. Losses ranged from as low as $111.90 per head for cattle weighing 900-1000 pounds to as high as $339.12 per head for cattle weighing 800-900 pounds. While those losses are less severe than the national averages, Wyoming cattle producers were not immune to losses, accounting for 9-10% of the overall value of cattle in September. Prices improved modestly in October, but combined losses still averaged about $201 per head.

Beef Imports Have Not Provided Price Relief

To determine whether additional beef imports translated into lower retail prices, American Farm Bureau Federation tracked daily prices of 80% lean ground beef at 41 grocery stores in 22 states starting Sept. 2, the day after the proclamation went into effect. The survey included a variety of chain grocery stores and independent grocers across America in both urban and rural markets.

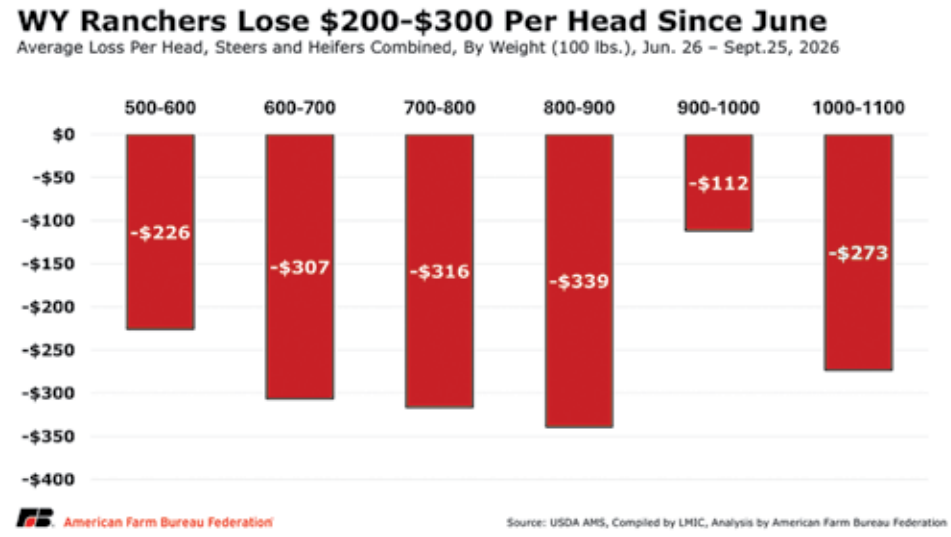
Across our sample, the average price of ground beef barely moved, going from $7.29 a pound on Sept. 2 to $7.16 a pound on Oct. 19 – a reduction of 13 cents or 1.8%. The chart below tracks the lowest, highest, and average price across all stores each day. The average line stayed nearly flat for three weeks, never rising above $7.38 or falling below $7.13, even as lower-tariff beef entered the country. Prices ranged from $3.99 to $11.99 per pound with the typical store charging $7.16 per pound.

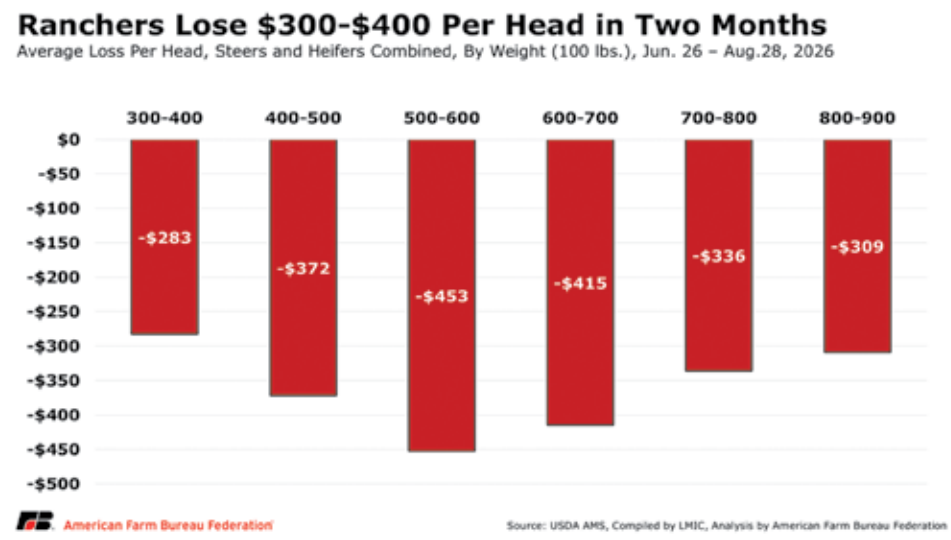
The data suggests that increased beef imports have not delivered meaningful savings to consumers. While cattle producers in Wyoming and across the nation have experienced significant price declines, retail ground beef prices remained largely unchanged, highlighting that lower import costs do not necessarily translate into lower prices at the grocery store.

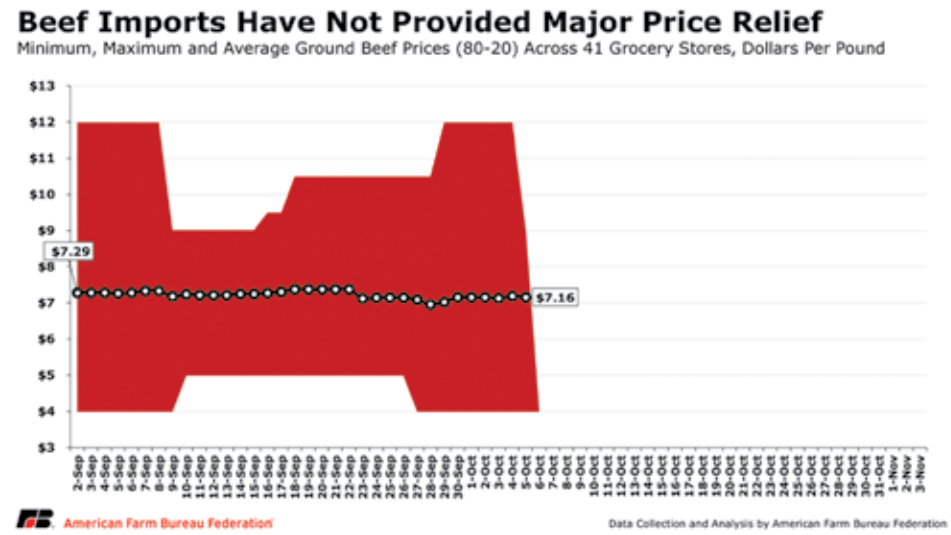
Markets

USDA's October Cattle on Feed report provided positive news for cattle markets. Placements into feedlots were down 12% from a year ago and were record low for the month of September signaling fewer cattle available for beef production in the months ahead. Futures markets responded with all contracts for both feeder and live cattle closing positively for the day.

As herd rebuilding begins, additional cattle will be retained for breeding rather than entering the beef supply chain, further tightening supplies. When combined with lower feedlot placements, those fundamentals are supportive of cattle prices in the months ahead. ■







American Farm Bureau Federation 108th Annual Convention

The AFBF annual convention in Charlolete, NC from January 8-13 is a great opportunity to connect with fellow farmers and ranchers from across the United States, hear from industry experts, explore the latest tools and trends, and gain insights into the issues shaping agriculture in 2027.

There are several workshops, speakers, and North Carolina farm and agricultural tours. Each year, this event brings together the Farm Bureau family near and far and shows how impactful one idea from a member can be to the entire organization.

To register for annual convention and for a full agenda, visit convention.fb.org.

Hotel reservations for Wyoming members can be made with Brooke Settelmeyer – bsettelmeyer@wyfb.org by December 4, 2026. Rooms are on a first come, first served basis. ■



