Trump, Biden Outline Agricultural Priorities

September 9, 2020--A new look into the priorities for rural America of President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is revealed in responses to a questionnaire distributed by the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF asked the Republican and Democratic candidates to respond with their stances on several topics directly affecting America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities, including trade, labor, regulatory reform and sustainability.

“The views of Farm Bureau members are as diverse as the food that is grown in this country, but we share the same goal of choosing leadership that will help America thrive,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “We are at a crucial time for agriculture as we navigate the challenges of a global pandemic, trade wars and depressed markets. It is important for our members to understand where the presidential candidates stand on issues important to agriculture.”

WyFB 101st Annual Meeting Nov. 12-14, 2020 in Casper

By Kerin Clark

Farm Bureau’s grassroots policy development is the strength of the Federation. Wyoming farmers and ranchers will grow the policy to the next grassroots level, the state level, at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) 101st Annual Meeting Nov. 12-14, 2020. The meeting will be at the Clarion Inn at Platte River in Casper.

Voting delegates from the county Farm Bureaus participate in policy discussion, elect officers and ultimately chart the course for the coming year. Folks also enjoy networking with farmers and ranchers, seeing old friends and making new friends.

Contact your county Farm Bureau president to learn more about attending the state annual meeting. Current health guidelines will be followed.

Meeting schedule snapshot

The annual meeting begins Thursday, Nov. 12 at noon. WyFB’s four standing committees meet Wednesday afternoon to discuss resolutions pertaining to their areas and make recommendations. The committees include: Natural and Environmental, Science should drive recovery, A look back to 1985, Find the why in your passion, Foundation raffle, Additional CFAP assistance, Constitutional Amendment on ballot.

Legislative interim meeting updates

By Brett Moline

Revenue Committee

Thus far, the Revenue Committee has resisted taking bills forward which would increase the tax revenue to the various levels of government. Establishment of an income tax, raising sales tax rates and removing exemptions, such as food, have been resisted by the committee. This does not mean these topics will not be in front of the legislature in 2021. Individuals may bring these topics back. These tax increases or establishment of taxes will increase state and local government funding.

This committee will take a look at increasing assessment rates on two classes of property. Currently, industrial property is assessed at 11.5 percent of market value and residential, agricultural, and other property is assessed at 9.5 percent. Minerals, which is not part of the discussion, are taxed at 100 percent of market value. The assessment rates would increase two percentage points each, except for minerals.

Wrapping up our Centennial Celebration and Moving into the Next 100 Years

It’s that time of year when county Farm Bureaus are holding their annual meetings. The importance of grassroots involvement cannot be understated. Farm Bureau members gathering at the local level to discuss and vote on policy issues is what has driven the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for the last 100 years. And it will continue to drive our work as we move forward in the next 100 years. Each and every one of you are valued for being a part of the Farm Bureau Federation. As we’ve realized more than ever this year, seeing our Farm Bureau family at meetings is something we all treasure. These red, white and blue table decorations with Centennial pins from the Platte County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting say it all. Kerin Clark photo.