“This is the most important time to assemble and be a part of the process,” said Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) President Todd Fornstrom. “We need to be part of the policy development process all the time. We can’t change policy and legislation in a matter of days. We do it (policy development) every year for a reason.”

President Fornstrom stated it is always important to have your voice heard in policy development. “We will be here for the long run and that is what is important about Farm Bureau,” Fornstrom stated. “Farm Bureau doesn’t just speak up in the instance of an emergency; we work to be heard and understood throughout the year on issues important to our members.”

“Moving Forward with Courage & Optimism” is the theme of the 101st Annual Meeting of the WyFB. The meeting will be Nov. 12-14, 2020 in Casper at the Clarion Inn at Platte River and is hosted by the Central District.

Policy Development

Policy discussion is always the main impetus of our annual meeting. According to Brett Moline, WyFB Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, the proposed resolutions WyFB members will be working on are broad. “Being a general agricultural organization, the proposed resolutions cover a wide array of topics, from improving meat production to state budget cuts to pesticide drift to grazing issues,” Moline said. “Having people from throughout the state participate in our policy development process facilitates great and thoughtful discussion.”

Farm Bureau’s grassroots strength begins at the county level when members discuss issues important to agriculture. Resolutions must be passed at both the county and district level before being considered by voting delegates at the state annual meeting.

“The amount of time Farm Bureau members devote to policy development at the county, state and national levels is a testimony to how important it is to have a voice in the process,” said Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President.

WyFB’s four standing committees meet Thursday afternoon to discuss resolutions pertaining to their areas and make recommendations. The committees include: Natural and Environmental Resources (NER), Agriculture Tax and General Issues, State Government Affairs (SGA), and Agriculture Political and Strategic Environment (APSE). The committees include: Natural and Environmental Resources (NER), Agriculture Tax and General Issues, State Government Affairs (SGA), Agriculture Political and Strategic Environment (APSE). Each committee will be working on resolutions and will report to the delegates on Friday.

Speakers

Members will hear reports from WyFB President Todd Fornstrom, WyFB Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton, and Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company CEO Jim Geese to kick-off the general session on Friday, Nov. 13.

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall will speak to members virtually on Friday as we wrap up our centennial year trade war, a record amount of ad hoc financial support from the federal government pushed U.S. net farm income to $103 billion in 2020,” Newton said. “We will discuss the outlook for U.S. crop and livestock production, how the election could affect farm policy and the many factors that will influence U.S. farm profitability in 2021.”

Market volatility and margins within the beef sector are a significant issue not only for Wyoming agriculture, but nationwide. Saturday’s featured speaker Stefanie Smallhouse is a rancher from Arizona and the President of the Arizona Farm Bureau. According to Smallhouse, she has a keen interest in making sure it’s a fair market and Farm Bureau members are able to not only survive but thrive.

“Across the country cattle producers have expressed great frustration with market volatility and widespread margins within the beef sector. In April of this year, AFBF President Zippy Duvall tasked a team of experts to provide rationale on the issues facing the beef industry.”
A Tipping Point for Agricultural Innovation and Research

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

The week of Oct. 19th was World Food Prize Week, including the 2020 laureate ceremony and the Borlaug Dialogue to have a global conversation about innovation in agriculture. The theme for this year’s dialogue is “Building Resilience Today for Improved Global Food Systems Tomorrow.”

It couldn’t be a more timely topic as the COVID-19 pandemic has created a tipping point and concentrated thought about the resiliency of our food system, but Farm Bureau has been having this dialog all along. That’s why we’re proud that the American Farm Bureau Federation co-hosted, together with the Farm Journal Foundation, a side event on using your voice to create a tipping point and concentrated thought on how we can continue to build a more resilient food system. The World Food Prize is considered to be like a Nobel Prize for agriculture.

In this season of Nobel Prize announcements, we’re thankful to the WFP Foundation for continuing this celebration of innovation in agriculture. After all, it is because of agriculture that we are able to have the advancements celebrated by the Nobel Prize, whether it’s medicine, literature, economics or peace. Agriculture and food security are the foundation of all human achievements.

Farm Bureau congratulates Ohio State University professor Dr. Rattan Lal, the 2020 World Food Prize laureate. Dr. Lal’s research on soil health and its role in agricultural productivity and mitigating climate change will help farmers around the world grow food more productively and efficiently. As U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in remarks during the announcement ceremony, “Dr. Lal’s research in soil science shows that the solution to this problem [of feeding a growing world population] is right under our feet.”

Dr. Lal is a native of India, which brings the World Food Prize full circle in that the man who started the award, Dr. Norman Borlaug, is credited with increasing wheat yields and saving countless lives in India in the 1960s. For that, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

See ‘Innovation and Research’ page 4

Let’s manage instead of repeat

By Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President

The last two or three months have allowed Wyomingites the opportunity to breathe smoke from forest fires throughout the west. Indeed, just west of Laramie there is a forest fire which is over 170,000 acres as of the writing of this column. South of us in Colorado, there are also some large forest fires, and everyone has heard about the conflagrations in California and Oregon.

But it didn’t have to happen. At least not to the extent that it did. Readers will once again notice this is a topic of my past columns. Common sense dictates that when you have a large amount of vegetation which has died, there will be a pretty good chance there will be a fire. Common sense also dictates that when you allow that vegetation to continue to build either through lack of management, or as is the case with many of our forests, law suits, at some point nature will burn things up.

An article in the Washington Times in September 2018 documents how catastrophic fires in Arizona fizzle out when they hit the White Mountain Apache forests. What was this “magic” the tribe used to cause this to happen you ask? They learned from earlier catastrophic fires that hit the reservation in 2002 and 2011. They analyzed those areas and

See ‘Let’s manage instead of repeat’ page 10

Calendar of Events

November
3 ........ General Election
5-6 ...... Joint Legislative Labor Committee Interim Meeting—Cheyenne
5-6 ...... Joint Legislative Minerals Committee Interim Meeting—Online only
5-6 ...... Select Water Committee Interim Meeting—Casper
7 ........ Converse County Farm Bureau Annual Banquet at 6 p.m.—Moose Lodge in Douglas
9-11 .... Joint Legislative Corporations Committee Interim Meeting—Cheyenne/online
30-12/1 Joint Legislative Transportation Committee Interim Meeting—Online only

December
1 ........ WyFB Board of Director’s Meeting—Laramie
3 ........ Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors Meeting—Laramie
3 ........ MWFBMIC Policyholders Meeting—Laramie
11 ...... Select Water committee Meeting—Cheyenne

January 2021
10-13 ... American Farm Bureau Federation Virtual Convention
12 ...... Wyoming Legislature Convenes
15-16 ... WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Conference—Douglas

February 2021
4-5 ...... WyFB Legislative Meeting—Cheyenne
A look back in time

Wyoming Agriculture column by then WyFB President

Reuben Anderson

Agriculturally Speaking

Grassroots policy development is alive and well

By Karen Henry, WyFB President

As we’ve traveled across our beautiful state attending the resolution sessions, annual and district meetings, we’ve heard a wide array of issues surface. The common thread, if you will, is the well-thought-out desire for Wyoming Farm Bureau to demonstrate in the meetings.

It is heart-warming to know it is possible to make a difference by showing up, participating and communicating at the meetings. The key being: “communicating and policy development.”

One example of the importance of communicating the issues is the action taken on Farm Bureau’s agricultural burning policy. In 1999, local members voiced their concern that agricultural burning should receive an exemption from air quality regulations. Their resolution was adopted by the state voting delegates and became official policy guiding the work of our staff and state officers. Through much diligent work, last year the policy was implemented when the Wyoming Farm Bureau successfully joined with federal, state and local agencies to put in place a burning policy.

Another example is the success of the grass roots movement. From the beginning, “grassroots” has been the key to the success of our organization; that will never change. However, through the years many things have changed. One is that we are blessed with more information than previous generations. Enough magazines are published each month to provide five copies to every person in my county. My point being that if you need specific information or have concerns which appear to be slipping past your WyFB staff and/or board, be sure to draw it to our attention.

We are bombarded with information, but we all recognize the importance of listening to the membership. This is your organization and we are here to carry out your policy in the policy books and do our best to keep you informed. Due to the volume of information our messages may encounter more obstacles and competition than in the past, but we try to be mindful of your needs.

That is the reason we are here.

Speaking of information, in a recent news release we gleaned an update on the United States BSE feed rules. The U.S. may soon impose much tighter limitations to feed as part of a government plan to reduce the risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and to revamp beef exports. According to various news reports, the new U.S. rules will be similar to those proposed in Canada, which plans to ban at-risk tissues from feed for all animals, including chickens, pigs and pets. Currently, Canadian and U.S. rules ban at-risk tissues only from cattle feed, creating a potential pathway for the BSE protein to be fed back to cattle from feed using other animal parts.

Communication is an “idea transplant,” and almost every area of human endeavor revolves around the effort of people to get ideas into the minds of others, so we are all on track!

There is a good group of proposed FAQs that we believe the voting delegates will consider at annual meeting in Casper Nov. 10-12. Plan to be there, where belonging and working together can make a difference for you and Wyoming agriculture!
WyFB YF&R Committee At Large Position
–Voted on at annual meeting

Are you interested in taking your leadership potential to the state level? Do you have a passion for educating consumers about the agriculture industry? Are you dedicated to working with other young leaders in order to advance our work for agriculture?

If so, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee could be the perfect fit! The objective of the Committee is to give young farmers and ranchers, serving as a committee within the federation structure, the opportunity to recommend programs and activities that will encourage participation of young farmers and ranchers in both the YF&R and total Farm Bureau program. This is an energetic committee dedicated to the success of young farmers and ranchers and agriculture across Wyoming.

This fall each District Farm Bureau (five total) elected one position to the WyFB YF&R State Committee. On Nov. 14 at the WyFB Annual Meeting, an at large position for the WyFB YF&R Committee will be voted on by state voting delegates. The at large position is a one-year term.

Potential committee members must be between the ages of 18-35 and a regular Farm Bureau member. Those interested should notify your county president to request an application and nomination form or contact Kerin Clark at 307.532.2002 or kclark@wyfb.org. Application and nomination forms are also available at www.wyfb.org/yfr/committee. Forms submitted will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee at annual meeting.

Innovation and Research

To continue the type of research carried out by Dr. Lal and others working to increase agricultural productivity today and ensure people around the world have access to food, we must increase investment in agricultural research. It’s fine to talk about building resilience for improved food systems. It’s something else to make the actual commitment of research funding to achieve that goal. We must turn dialog into action. So we’re glad to see the World Food Prize Foundation advocating for the America Grows Act, a bipartisan bill to authorize annual 5 percent increases in funding for research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

American farmers and ranchers always have been leaders in innovation, but that leadership role is being challenged as China’s investment in agricultural research grows and U.S. public investment declines.

America’s investment in agricultural research took off in response to the 1930s farm crisis. Today, the world faces a different crisis: continuing productivity gains to feed a growing population while also continuing agriculture’s contributions to carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, and now working to increase agriculture’s resiliency in the face of global supply chain disruptions due to a pandemic—or other disruptive events yet to come.

Just as research and innovation led us out of the challenges of the 20th century, they will be the answer to the challenges we face in this century and beyond—but only if we make the necessary investment in agricultural research. And America’s farmers and ranchers can continue their leadership role only if the U.S. keeps up with investment by other countries. We must not lose our competitive advantage or give up our leadership role to other countries.

We need more agricultural research, more Dr. Lals and Dr. Borlaugs, and more dialog on meeting the challenges ahead by building a more-resilient food system.

Congratulations to the World Food Prize Foundation on this year’s Borlaug Dialogue. Farm Bureau is honored to be a part of this critical conversation, and we appreciate the foundation’s focus on the vital role that agriculture plays in all human achievement, thanks to innovation.
Converse County Farm Bureau Federation History

By Tim Pexton, Converse County Farm Bureau Federation Member

Converse County Farm Bureau was started in 1926 or 1946 or both. According to an article in the Douglas Budget in 1951, “25 years ago on November 25, 1926, the Converse County Farm Bureau was organized last Saturday with W.F. Mitchell being named president, Ernest Beaver, vice president, C.H. Bowers, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. C.H. Bowers, head of the women’s department.”

Yet, the same historian who posted that article in the Converse County Farm Bureau history book wrote an article for WyFBF’s golden anniversary saying that the first local in Converse County was organized in Glenrock on January 11, 1946. The piece goes on to say, “This first meeting was under the sponsorship of Mr. Bill Lindsey who introduced Mr. Gordon Sanford who was then the president of the Central District. Mr. Sanford (according to the minutes of that meeting) explained to the assembled group what the American Farm Bureau was and what its activities were, and also explained some of the organized areas of Farm Bureau in the state at that time.”

In the book, “Pages of Converse County’s Past,” Beverly Reed wrote an article that had the following excerpt, “Farm Bureau had its first beginnings in Converse County in the 1920s with locals being organized in most of the rural communities and also at the county level. The locals sponsored demonstrations. The topics varied from dressing turkeys to table service and etiquette. They also had pie socials, fund raising dances, played bingo and helped with community projects. They built benches for their community halls, provided Christmas treats for 4-H and school children, repaired county fish ponds and improved community buildings. They worked together and played together. County Extension Agent A.E. Hyde helped organize many of the locals and had input in the programs. The article goes on to say that “During the 1930s, the depression years, formal meetings of the organization were discontinued due to the economic situation.”

The Extension Service played a pivotal role in the organization of Farm Bureau in the county. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created the framework for the Extension Service followed by the Enabling Act of the Wyoming Legislature which provide for a contract agreement between County Commissioners and the University of Wyoming.

The following is excerpted and paraphrased from “Pages of Converse County’s Past.” “The county had long been dominated by big sheep and cattle men but the coming of the Homestead Act ended the era of free range. The homesteaders welcomed the county agent as they needed his advice. The ranchers felt that if the agent would not help the dry farmer he would soon starve out and leave. Thus, the stockmen were slow to accept the county agent and opposed the county spending money for his support. The first agent resigned after six months of service and the following spring the county commissioners cancelled their contract with the university.

Four years later, with a change in commissioners, a new contract was negotiated and on May 1, 1922, a new agent was hired. This agent started 4-H club work and introduced home economics for rural women as well as working with farmers. He resigned after a year to farm for himself. A. E. Hyde was transferred to fill his vacancy. He had been serving as county agent in Niobrara County. Hyde served for about 10 years and is remembered for developing leaders in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H club work. Mr. Hyde also did pioneering work in organizing Farm Bureau in the county.

A legal notice in the Douglas Budget dated January 7, 1928 reads as follows:

The Converse County Farm Bureau Marketing Association


Witnesses: A.E. Hyde, W.F. Mitchell

Purpose: To cooperatively market grain, livestock, wool, dairy products, poultry, and other Agriculture products; to cooperatively purchase machinery equipment and supplies for its members, to hire, buy, own, sell, and control such buildings and other real estate and personal property as may be needed in the conduct of its operation; to cultivate and develop the co-operative spirit in the community.

An excerpt from the history of the LaBonte local of Converse County Farm Bureau: “A date was set for an organizational meeting in the fall of 1929 to organize a Farm Bureau local in the LaBonte community. County agent A.E. Hyde talked to several ranchers and arranged for the meeting to be held at the new log schoolhouse just completed known as the Upper LaBonte school but later called the Black Bridge school.”

In the 1930s, as the great drought and depression started, stockmen began to demand a cut in expenses and county spending. The county commissioner again cancelled the contract and in 1933 Mr. Hyde left the county.

So, it is safe to say that Farm Bureau did begin in Converse County in 1926 and was active for a few years, maybe as many as six or eight. Then, for several reasons, there was no activity until 1946 when everything got organized and going again. I suspect that the 1930s, with the extreme drought and depression, and early 40s with World War II were the cause of the gap in activity. The County Extension agents continued to be a driving force for county Farm Bureaus along with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, and, starting in 1948, the Agriculture Insurance Company of Wyoming along with the Agriculture Indemnity Company of Wyoming which, together, became Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.
Air Ambulance Membership

By Denise Burke, Wyoming Department of Insurance

If you are Medicare eligible, you may want to contact your Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurer before you consider buying additional insurance. That is especially true when it comes to considering the purchase of an air ambulance membership.

Insurance is an important feature of daily life, but it is also one of the least understood. That goes double for air ambulance memberships. Recently, some consumers have been told that air ambulance memberships are not allowed to be sold in Wyoming under this new statute. However, air ambulance memberships can still be sold in Wyoming, but the company selling these products must now be licensed.

This is a complicated issue. Please rest assured that if you need air ambulance transport services today, air ambulance aircraft are still flying and providing excellent service to the people of Wyoming. Air ambulance memberships can still be sold, but only by licensed companies. The license requirement is there to provide consumer protections for Wyoming consumers.

It is important to note, air ambulance transport is covered by Medicare if the service is medically necessary. In other words, the air transport can’t be merely for the convenience of the patient. Secondly, the air transport will be to the closest medical facility that has the capability to treat the underlying medical condition. Unfortunately, not all hospitals in Wyoming have the needed medical staff, equipment, or expertise to treat all underlying medical conditions. As a result, it may become necessary to transport a patient to a larger medical facility within or outside of Wyoming to provide the needed care.

A recent change to Wyoming Statute 26-5-103(a)(ii), changed the definition of disability insurance under the Insurance Code. The change to Wyoming Statute 26-5-103(a)(ii) states that disability insurance is now defined as “insurance of any kind on human beings against Disablement or expense resulting from sickness, including subscription or membership plans relating to air ambulance transport services.” The change to the statute was made during the 2019 Legislature, but the effective date of the new definition of disability insurance was delayed until April 1, 2020. This delay in the effective date provided time for companies selling air ambulance subscriptions to make the necessary changes to comply with the statutory change.

Companies selling air ambulance memberships and subscriptions must now show the Department of Insurance that they are financially solvent so they can pay claims when a claim occurs, and they must file their policies with the Department of Insurance so the Department of Insurance can ensure the policies comply with Wyoming law. This statutory change also gave the Department of Insurance the ability to investigate complaints against the company, and to make sure that the company conducts itself in compliance with the various consumer protections contained in the Insurance Code. If the company does not comply with the Insurance Code, the Department of Insurance now has the ability to enforce compliance through an administrative action which could result in imposition of civil penalties, revocation of the company’s license to sell memberships and subscriptions, or both.

Air Methods has ended its membership program and will be sending letters to Wyoming citizens regarding refunds of their membership premiums if they already had coverage through Medicare. If you have questions or are unclear on where this puts your membership with an air ambulance company, contact the Wyoming Department of Insurance at 307-777-7401. (Please understand that during the COVID19 pandemic, most of the See ‘Air Ambulance Membership’ page 13
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Andrea Robinson
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Grant Curry
307-532-3610
Proposed resolutions from the districts and counties were mailed to the county secretaries prior to annual meeting for distribution to county voting delegates. Delegates are encouraged to review and research the proposed resolutions prior to the state annual meeting. Please remember to bring your resolutions copies with you to annual meeting.
Grant discusses the importance of involvement in the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and policy development

Agriculture has been a large part of Rachel Grant’s life. Born into a ranching family in Iowa, Grant now lives with her husband, William, on their cattle ranch in Converse County. Grant has served as county Farm Bureau President, was part of the Wyoming Farm Bureau (WyFB) Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee and now serves on the WyFB state board of directors.

Both of the Grants’ families have been involved in the Farm Bureau Federation, so they joined the WyFB when they got married.

“We thought it was important as we knew having a membership in this organization meant there was someone who was working on developing ag policy and influencing it in a positive way,” Grant said.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is known for being a grass-roots organization whose goal is to serve as a voice for Wyoming farmers and ranchers. It is the state’s largest organization of farmers and ranchers with almost 2,500 member families.

“It is very important to be involved because when our lobbyists meet,” she said, “they are pushing something backed by a rigorous process that these producers had the opportunity to create through the Policy Development Process.”

This fine-tuned Policy Development Process attracts many members. By starting at the county level and moving to the state, this process gives all farmers and ranchers a voice. State policies could be brought to the national level.

Grant has gone through this process many times. One of the policies was in relation to water rights for ranchers in the U.S.

“WyFB worked hard through this process and this issue got taken all the way to the American Farm Bureau. In D.C., rules were discussed, and better water laws were put in place that farmers and ranchers could continue working with.”

For more information on the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and the Policy Development Process, visit its website at wyfb.org.

Madison DeCicco is a junior at the University of Wyoming, from Granby Colorado. She is studying Agricultural Communications with minors in Spanish and Equine Science. Madison is also involved in Greek life on campus as a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.
Let’s manage instead of repeat

From page 2

that didn’t burn and found they could minimize these fires by performing fuel treatments. After implementing fuel treatments, the forests on the reservation were better able to resist these catastrophic fires.

This isn’t a new idea. Dr. Peter Kolb from Montana State testified before Congress in 2009 and pointed out in Europe where they have been managing their forests for over 2,000 years, they’ve maintained forest productivity and have greatly limited catastrophic disturbances.

In 2004, as I recall, there was a major blow down of timber just to the south of us in Colorado. After that blow down forest managers urged the Forest Service to immediately implement salvage timber sales to get in and remove the damaged trees which would help prevent an infestation of pine bark beetle. Lawsuits immediately were filed which prevented these sales and sure enough we got to witness pine bark beetle infestations gradually work their way north out of Colorado and into Wyoming. The forests in Wyoming turned from green to red to gray as nature took its course and then after trees were dead, we had to await the inevitable fires.

Wyoming began experiencing fires in this area but with money and effort the fires were extinguished. However, another factor was playing into the mix west of Laramie. There were two wilderness designations which would have not allowed for any fuel reduction management because of those designations. Once the fires started on the western edge of the forest and the winds carried the flames into the wilderness areas, there was little fire fighters could safely do to limit the impact.

Indeed, because of lack of management, forest managers acknowledged that absent a fire the dead trees would continue to fall over in a “pick-up sticks” pattern which would reduce the ability of anyone or anything to move through those areas.

Why hadn’t we seen more examples of what occurred with the White Mountain Apaches? The same reason that we’ve seen over the last 30-40 years. Environmental groups have gone to court to stop fuel treatment programs. Only about a month before the fires started west of Laramie there were editorials against the Forest Service’s efforts to approve a process for small (less than 5,000 acres) fuel treatment programs on the Medicine Bow National Forest. Unless people realize these groups have contributed to these conflagrations and laws are changed to prevent that, when the forests grow back our grandchildren may get to experience the same outcomes. Let’s just hope we allow better management before the process is repeated.
The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation has selected the winners for three scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. This year’s winners are Dalton Butler, Hunter Bailey and Lauren Haiar.

In first place, Dalton Butler was selected to receive a $1500 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2020-2021 school year. Dalton played football, wrestling, track and served as team captain earning All-Conference honors for each.

He also played trombone in the jazz band at Hulett High School, participated in all aspects of FFA and helps run a sheep livestock business with his brothers. He was an A Honor Roll student for all four years of high school.

Dalton will be attending Casper College to study Aviation and Agricultural Business. Dalton is the son of JR and Bobbi Butler of Hulett.

In second place, Hunter Bailey was selected to receive a $1300 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2020-2021 school year. Hunter participated in FFA, played football, basketball and ran track, and is an A Honor Roll student.

Hunter will be attending Northwest College to study Agricultural Business. Hunter is the son of Justin and Sharon Bailey of Moorcroft.

In third place, Lauren Haiar was selected to receive an $800 scholarship from the Crook County Farm Bureau Federation for the 2020-2021 school year. Lauren has participated in music, theater, sports and church activities.

She sang in the school and church choir, won All State Student Drama award, National Champion for original poem and has interned for Representative Tyler Lindholm. Lauren will be attending the University of Wyoming to study Speech/Language/Hearing Science. Lauren is the daughter of Keith and Sherry Haiar of Beulah.

Congratulations to these very deserving recipients!
Farm Bureau Launches Think F.A.S.T. (Farm & Ag Safety Training) for Youth

WASHINGTON, September 24, 2020 – The American Farm Bureau has launched a new online youth safety course, Think F.A.S.T. (Farm & Ag Safety Training). The program was developed to help youth aged 14 to 17 think through and learn about avoiding common safety hazards on the farm and ranch.

“Safety on the farm and ranch is vital,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall, “Young people are the future of agriculture and we’re pleased to provide them with tools to help them become grounded in skills that will serve them well throughout their careers.”

The program and related materials focus on general safety, leadership and critical thinking skills applied to technical and agriculture-specific contexts. The training is available at no cost to anyone interested in learning about farm safety (farm bureau membership is not required for access). The program includes 10 modules that each take 10 minutes to complete and follow-up competency quizzes. A curriculum guide for classroom and workshop settings is available for download.

Program modules are listed below.

- Attention & Distractions with ATVs and UTVs
- Spatial Awareness with Livestock
- Looking at Situations from Multiple Points of View with Tractors & Machinery
- Task Breakdown and Job Safety with Personal Protective Equipment
- Matching Tasks and Skills with Electrical
- Decision Making for How to Complete a Task with Manual Labor
- Situational Management with Core Safety
- Empowerment and Permission to Say No with Chemicals & Pesticides

The program also includes online self-paced and in-person direct instruction options for the skills below.

- Technical Safety:
  - ATVs and UTVs
  - Livestock
  - Tractors & Machinery
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Electrical
  - Manual Labor
  - Bins, Silos and Pits
  - Chemicals & Pesticides
  - Slips, Trips and Falls
  - Shop Safety

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HAULS Act Provides Flexibility for Transporting Ag Commodities and Livestock

Oct. 8, 2020, FBNews--The newly introduced Haulers of Agriculture and Livestock Safety (HAULS) Act of 2020 would help accommodate the seasonal spikes in transportation of food, fiber and other agricultural supplies by modernizing the agricultural exemption to the hours-of-service rules, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation and 101 other farm, livestock and food production groups.

“Given the strong safety record of the U.S. agricultural trucking sector, Congress periodically has modified policies to enhance its usefulness to help ensure a more efficient and cost-effective freight transportation distribution system. But it is in need of updating,” the groups wrote in a letter to the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety.

The HAULS Act would make three important incremental changes to the agricultural exemption to hours-of-services rules.

First, it would eliminate the “planting and harvesting periods” requirements to ensure uniformity across the country. Most states already have adopted a year-round agricultural exemption (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) to accommodate the diverse range of crops and modern agricultural practices that keep trucks moving agricultural products year-round, the groups noted.

Second, the measure would provide a 150-air-miles exemption from hours-of-service regulations on the backend of hauls. This builds on the current exemption for the beginning of hauls at the “source” and simply would add the term “destination.” The same concerns that exist at the start of the haul — navigating minimally maintained rural roads, allowing extra time to ensure livestock safety, for example — exist at the end of the haul.

“This language also would address the very real concern those who come close to their destinations and then ‘run out of time,’ forcing them to leave livestock on their trailers for 10 consecutive hours while only being a short distance from their destination. This is impractical, illogical, and detrimental to animal welfare,” the groups wrote.

Third, the HAULS Act would update the definition of an agricultural commodity for purposes of determining eligible freight for the agricultural exemption. The bill’s proposed definition “appropriately covers current agricultural products and allows for continued evolution of any agricultural commodities in the future,” according to the groups.

Air Ambulance Membership

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Department of Insurance employees are working remotely so there may be some delay in responding to your questions.)

The mission of the Department of Insurance (DOI) is to provide consumer protection through licensing, financial examination, investigation and resolution of consumer complaints, and review of insurance plans and policies for compliance with state law. In order to fulfill its mission, the DOI has diverse responsibilities including licensing and regulating insurance companies; licensing and regulating agents, brokers, adjusters, and consultants; and monitoring the insurance products that are sold in Wyoming. As part of its regulatory responsibilities, the DOI reviews and approves policy filings, investigates consumer complaints; monitors the financial condition of insurance companies, and collects taxes on the premiums charged by insurance companies on policies sold to Wyoming citizens. These consumer protections also apply to air ambulance membership.

To contact the Wyoming Department of Insurance, call 307-777-7401, or visit: DOI.wyo.gov.

Welcome to Gold Club Membership

Gold Club Members Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President, (left) and Todd Fornstrom, WyFB President, (right) recognized Matt & Melissa Stroh, of Weston County, for upgrading their Farm Bureau Federation membership to the Gold Club level. This level of membership adds greatly to Farm Bureau’s mission to keep agriculture strong in our great state. Kerin Clark photo.

Generation to Generation

Northeast District Farm Bureau President and Campbell County Rancher Troy Swartz and granddaughter Rozlynn listen intently to resolutions discussion at the district meeting. Grassroots policy involvement starts at the local level. Kerin Clark photo.
In a large skillet or saucepan, brown the hamburger with the onion. Drain grease. Add tomato soup and brown sugar. You may need to add 1-2 cans of water if too thick. Add the cooked elbow macaroni and let it simmer for a few minutes until the noodles swell. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

TOBBI’S FAMOUS GOULASH
THIS IS A FAVORITE FOR CHILLY DAYS

Ingredients
1 onion chopped
1lb ground beef
2 cans Tomato Soup
2 tbsp. brown sugar
1.5 cups elbow noodles, cooked
1-2 soup cans of water
Salt and pepper

Directions
1. In a large skillet or saucepan, brown the hamburger with the onion. Drain grease.
2. Add tomato soup and brown sugar. You may need to add 1-2 cans of water if too thick.
3. Add the cooked elbow macaroni and let it simmer for a few minutes until the noodles swell. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

Governor Makes More COVID-19 Relief Funding Available to Businesses and Nonprofits Beginning Nov. 2

CHEYENNE, October 26, 2020 – Governor Mark Gordon has allocated remaining federal CARES Act funding to help Wyoming businesses and nonprofits with ongoing COVID-19 related losses and expenses.

The Wyoming Business Council is finalizing two new funds for the COVID-19 Business Relief Program, the Agriculture Fund and the Endurance Fund. Both funds will open on Nov. 2 and close Nov. 18.

“The effects of COVID-19 haven’t disappeared from our communities and businesses,” Governor Gordon said. “There are impacts still being felt by business owners, nonprofit organizations, and agriculture producers. Right from the start we worked with the Legislature to pace our programs so that they would reach each sector as the needs became clear. The Business Council will distribute these federal funds where they’re needed to help continue our economic recovery.”

The Agriculture Fund has $90 million reserved to support Wyoming farmers and ranchers who have experienced business interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Awards up to $250,000 are available for Wyoming agricultural producers who were established on or before March 13, 2020.

The Endurance Fund will have at least $24 million set aside for businesses and nonprofits to cover COVID-19 related losses and expenses. Money available in this fund may increase as unused CARES Act dollars from other programs may be diverted into it. Awards up to $250,000 will be available for all affected Wyoming businesses. Eligible nonprofits in Wyoming include 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6), 501(c)(12) and 501(c)(19) with no more than 50 percent of time spent on lobbying.

“These two funds serve important purposes as we near the deadline of the current CARES Act funding,” Business Council CEO Josh Dorrell said. “First, because of the seasonality of agriculture production, this $90 million relief fund allows farmers and ranchers to better capture 2020 losses and expenses related to the pandemic. Second, many Wyoming businesses and nonprofits are not out of the woods yet, and this opportunity for another round of funding will help with the losses businesses have continued to endure.”

Eligible entities can apply one time per fund and recipients of previous Business Relief Program awards (Interruption, Relief and Mitigation funds) may apply for the two new funds if they have eligible losses or expenses since their previous application dates.

Details on the new funds and webinar registration links for a Nov. 2 webinar are available at wyobizrelief.org.

ABOUT THE COVID-19 BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAMS

In May 2020, the Wyoming Legislature created three programs to distribute $325 million in federal CARES Act funding to Wyoming businesses and nonprofits that have experienced hardship related to the COVID-19 crisis. The Wyoming Business Council is distributing these dollars through the COVID-19 Business Relief Program, which now consists of five funds: the Interruption, Relief and Mitigation Funds, which have all closed; and the new Agriculture and Endurance Funds, which open Nov. 2, 2020.

For more information about the Business Relief Program, please contact Strategic Partnerships Director Ron Gullberg at 307-286-9519 or ron.gullberg@wyo.gov
Your financial future is one of the many things on your mind.

It’s the only thing on ours.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it’s the importance of being prepared for the unexpected. Could your financial future handle another year like this one? Our agents and advisors are committed to helping you gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing you’re not alone in preparing for your future.

Contact your agent or visit FBFS.com to find an advisor, today.
From page 1

From newly created Cattle Market Working Group, composed of 10 state presidents, to investigate and research recent volatility in the cattle markets due to COVID 19, as well as the impacts of the Holcomb, Kansas, beef plant fire that occurred in August 2019,” Smallhouse explained.

“In total, we spent over 20 hours hearing from stakeholders, experts, and regulatory officials. There was extensive discussion of the various factors involved as well as an economic overview.”

“As a result of the group’s work, and with the help of AFBF staff, we were able to create a report to assist members in understanding the dynamics of the beef sector in preparation for policy development in the states,” she continued.

“The supply chain and its interaction with the markets is very complex,” Smallhouse concluded.

“I am happy to present the report and give you a little insight into my takeaway from what we learned.”

Also on Saturday Weston County Rancher Bob Harshbarger will present a history of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

Reports and Elections
Resolution consideration, a WyFB YF&R report and elections conclude the meeting on Saturday.

Foundation Fundraiser
Members are invited to donate to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation to have their names placed in a drawing for a “Family of Chairs” custom made and donated by Garie Henry, of Uinta County (see page 6 for details).

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Foundation supports educational programs for agriculture producers and legal issues which impact Wyoming agriculture.

“Harvest for All” Fundraiser
The WyFB YF&R 17th annual “Harvest for All” fund drive will take place at annual meeting. Monetary donations (we are unable to accept food donations) will benefit the Wyoming Food Bank, a credentialed Feeding America Harvest affiliate serving Wyoming communities. Please bring your monetary donations to the registration desk at annual meeting. This year’s Harvest for All raffle will feature a custom-made fire pit by Lex Geer, of Campbell County. Make sure to buy your playing card raffle chances from any WyFB YF&R Committee member during annual meeting.

Agenda
The agenda is on page 8 and available at www.wyfb.org. Pre-registration has closed.

Reservations from this point forward will be honored based on availability. Contact Julie Johnson-Doyle at jdoyle@wyfb.org or 307-721-7723.

Join your fellow Farm Bureau members Moving Forward with Courage & Optimism for agriculture at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Federation. Health protocols required by the convention facility will be followed.

101st WyFB Annual Meeting

AFBF President Zippy Duvall
Stefanie Smallhouse
Dave Salmonsen
John Newton

Thank You Veterans
Honor All Who Served
VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11TH

$1,000 BONUS CASH!!!
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members receive up to $1,000 bonus cash on eligible purchases of new Ford and Lincoln vehicles, now through January 4, 2021.
Go to www.FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or www.LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com for details!