“Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week” is March 1-6

By Kerin Clark

“It is our goal through our ‘Ag Books for Kids’ program to educate students about where their food comes from and what their life may be like without agriculture,” said Raenell Taylor during the formal proclamation signing for “Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week” 2021. “We can do this through agriculture related books and getting them into the classrooms to share the importance of agriculture.”

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee organizes the program and the county Farm Bureau Federations across the state donate agriculture books to Wyoming elementary school libraries. 2021 marks the 17th year of the program.

In recognition of this effort, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon declared the week of March 1, 2021 as “Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week.”

“Thank you for your leadership and reminding us just how important agriculture literacy and education are here in Wyoming,” Governor Gordon said during the virtual proclamation signing with WyFB volunteers and staff. “Agriculture has to be a part of the future, but it is also part of the solution too.”

The “Wyoming Agriculture Literacy Week” proclamation reads: “Literacy is a top priority for school children and non-fiction books are an important tool in teaching children about the world around them.”

The proclamation continues: “Many aspects of our daily lives, including the food we eat, clothes we wear, and medicine we depend on, are made possible because of agriculture. Farmers and ranchers serve as environmental stewards, maintaining and improving soil and natural resources to pass on to future generations.”

As part of the project, elementary classrooms not only receive the book donation at their school, but many have book readings. With school visitor restrictions in place this year, the WyFB YF&R Committee created a video for classrooms to experience a virtual book reading and experience a virtual book reading and a video for classrooms to experience a virtual book reading and

See ‘Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week’ page 7

2021 Wyoming Legislature

By Kerin Clark

The 8-day virtual session of the 2021 Wyoming Legislature concluded on Friday, February 5. Standing committees met Feb. 23-25 (after this paper prints). The Legislature will reconvene on March 1 for a one-month hybrid session of in-person and remote participation options for the legislators. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) will continue to serve as your voice for agriculture during the Legislative session whether the meetings are virtual or in-person to ensure Farm Bureau policy is addressed.

Farm Bureau policy supports cost savings measures to assist with budget concerns. House Bill 45, Changes to Water Right Notice Requirements for Hearing, is a bill that accomplishes that goal. This legislation passed both houses during the virtual session and has become an enrolled act.

“This legislation will help cut costs to the State Engineer’s Office,” Moline explained. “They are required to send out registered mail for hearings, so this legislation modifies the notice requirements to allow for electronic notification and regular mail use to help cut costs for not only the agency but the water right holder as well.”

Another bill that became an enrolled act following the virtual session was HB 53, Invasive Plant Species, which WyFB supported. “This bill outlines that county, state and federal entities work together to manage invasive weeds and would allow for more than two pests to be managed under the second mill allocated to the control measures,” Moline said. “Efforts will begin with focus on Medusahead in the Northeastern part of the state to try and get the invasive species controlled and eliminated.”

See ‘2021 Wyoming Legislature’ page 7
Tax Reform is Top of Mind for Farmers

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

The 2021 legislative session is well under way for members of Congress, from considering the presidential nominations to settling into new committee and leadership positions. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are outlining their policy priorities and getting to work on making those priorities into law. Our team here in Washington, D.C., is tracking all these issues closely and working to ensure that priorities for U.S. agriculture remain front and center.

Role of Farm Bureau even more critical

By Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President

Generally this time of year I would be reporting on what is going on at the Legislature. However, this year our Legislature has changed the schedule around so they met virtually for eight days after the one day they met to fulfill their Constitutional requirements. They are scheduled to come into session on March 1 so stay tuned. This altered schedule has also caused us to cancel our Legislative Meeting we hold to allow members to visit with their Senators and Representatives.

On the national level we’ve seen both the executive branch and the legislative branch move to Democrat control. Changes in the leadership will certainly have effects on agriculture.

By Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President

“Food brings everyone to the table!” That phrase was an understatement when I was growing up. As the youngest of three brothers growing up on a farm, the table was where I learned a lot about life. We were always hungry, and we most likely needed the most direction at that stage in life. Lunch time was first and foremost a time to refuel and recover in preparation for the rest of the day.

My mother always had the meal ready and my brothers and I had the job of setting and picking up the table. We would all sit down with mom on one end of the table and dad at the other and eat as a family. Whether we talked about what happened earlier in the day or what was supposed to happen the rest of the day, we enjoyed the family time. I suppose the hidden parts of that meal everyday were the planning, feedback and simple responsibilities taught to us young boys through simply eating lunch.

Food is not only nourishment for the body, but it has been the platform to facilitate meetings and gatherings alike. We as Americans get together to celebrate everything from the 4th of July, Christmas, Thanksgiving, to super bowls, graduations and the common backyard picnics. The reason for getting together varies widely as the type of food being served. From backyard barbeques with our neighbors to Heads of State dinners for our national leaders. The purpose is the sharing of culture, tradition, camaraderie, and common ground through the gathering around a table with food being served.

As a farmer I believe we play a crucial role in how society works together. Food is not only essential to our well-being, but it is also a platform to get everyone to the table. In America, we farmers and ranchers produce the most abundant, safe, and economically priced food supply in the world. With this in mind there are many forces that affect our ability to produce this food. Some of those forces that affect our ability to produce this food. Some of those

See ‘Food brings everyone to the table’ page 11

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Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates

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WYOMING AGRICULTURE
AFBF Federal Lands Issues Advisory Committee report

By Kerin Clark

“There is no better ally advocating for our issues on the national level than the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF),” said Keith Hamilton, Big Horn County Rancher. Hamilton represents the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) on the AFBF Issues Advisory Committee (IAC) for Federal Lands.

The AFBF IACs provide for discussions about the critical issues facing America’s farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau members meet with AFBF staff to provide clarification on policy issues and share views on how the issues impact their local areas. The committee members also hear from guest speakers from the legislative and regulatory branches on pertinent topics.

The AFBF IACs met virtually mid-February. “Serving on the federal lands committee is a real opportunity to be able to sit down with folks from other parts of our country and try to elevate your issues with them,” Hamilton explained.

Hamilton notes it would be difficult to discuss issues and get all of agriculture on the same page without these committee meetings. “It is important in this industry that we step up and serve,” he said. “On the federal lands committee most members have timber in common throughout the states. But how would the members in Georgia and Arkansas that are poultry producers know about invasive species and wild horses?”

With forty-eight percent of land in Wyoming being federally owned, federal lands issues are a high priority for Wyoming residents. Hamilton knows it is important to remain active on issues impacting federal land. The Hamilton Ranch utilizes federal land and he knows firsthand how important their stewardship is for the betterment of the lands.

Hamilton said wildfire discussion continues to be a major focus of the committee. “We again focused a lot on wildfires as they were a huge issue in 2020,” he said.

“All these years we’ve been burning up the West you always hear everybody wants to do something about it but nothing gets done because we don’t get the ability for timber management,” Hamilton said. “People who live in the East don’t have these wildfire issues because they do it right for the resources where they can manage the forest timber.”

Another issue discussed was the “30 by 30” plan laid out by President Biden in executive order. “The plan calls for 30 percent of land to be conserved in the United States by 2030,” Hamilton said. “We don’t quite know what this means yet, but more federal lands that nobody can manage will be another avenue for increased wildfire impacts.”

Continuing with discussion of impact to the land, Hamilton noted wild horses and burros in Wyoming devastate the land similar to the affects of wildfires in other states. “One of the issues that we in Wyoming deal with big time is wild horses and burros,” he said. “Without proper management more and more of the range resources are being degraded.”

According to Hamilton, in all of the issues discussions the universal theme is that climate change is going to play a role in whatever policy decision comes from this Administration. “It won’t matter whether it is a farming practice or forest management or grazing management it will have climate change tied to it so we need to be ready,” he said.

“AFBF has been on the forefront of this curve to make sure our message is that any regulations must be voluntary with a free market-based approach,” Hamilton explained. “We have to keep sending the message that what we are already doing is good for the environment.”

“We must keep bringing the message about the practices we in agriculture utilize that already use less energy and keeps the carbon sequestered,” Hamilton said. “Proper grazing, proper forest management on private land and proper crop practices are what we already do in agriculture so AFBF will be ahead of the curve communicating what we are already doing.”

Hamilton emphasized it will also be important to continue working with federal agencies when reviewing land use plans like grazing handbook updates. “We have to be there to share our practices and how we are good stewards of the land,” he said.

The committee also discussed executive orders and cabinet nominees for the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior. “We were reminded that it takes a long time to get regulations put in place and it is going to take just as long to get rid of them as well,” Hamilton said. “Just a review on an issue doesn’t always mean the law gets changed.”

Hamilton is nearing completion of his second and final two-year term. “It was time well spent for me to do this and get acquainted with folks in the other parts of the United States,” Hamilton said.

Brand Renewal

Cheyenne, Wyo., February 16, 2021—The Wyoming Livestock Board would like to remind Brand Owners that the deadline for renewing a brand that is scheduled for this renewal period is fast approaching. To renew a brand before it becomes delinquent, renewals must be postmarked by March 1, 2021. Delinquent brands may not legally be used on livestock and are subject to a delinquent fee before they can be made active again.

For more information or questions please contact the Livestock Board at (307) 777-7515 and ask for the brand recording office.

Join us every Friday in March for the WyFB Legislative Radio Report on Northern Ag Network

www.wyfb.org/radio-programs/
Agriculture—worth being proud of what we do

By Caleb Guild, Sixth Generation Cattle Rancher Uinta County, Wyoming

“In October of 2018, I along with my wife Ariel had the opportunity of traveling to Washington D.C. with the Young Farmer and Rancher program. As part of the scheduled events, we were privileged to meet with agricultural representatives of the Japanese Embassy. As we discussed various topics of trade and beef production, the question was asked to us, “How do we in America keep younger generations involved in and proud to be a part of Agriculture?” With that question in mind, I would like to elaborate a little on what makes me proud to be a cattle rancher in Uinta County, Wyoming.

As many other ranches in the area, the Guild Ranch got its start with the Homestead Act of 1862. My Great Great Great Grandfather Charles Guild settled in Piedmont, Wyoming in 1867 where he started running cattle and a mercantile store with locations in Piedmont, Lyman and Rock Springs. As was usual for the day we ran purebred Herefords. Time and generations have molded and changed this ranch, while important things have remained the same. We no longer run purebred Herefords but the ideals and ethics of generations past have persisted.

Charles started a legacy, like many at the time. Maybe he did not know how long it would last or if future generations would want to be involved. Yet he still did the best with what he had and tried to ensure that it would be something he and future generations would be proud of. I think it is up to us in agriculture to make sure people know we are proud of what we do. We make up such a small part of our nation’s demographic, yet we have such an impact. Isn’t that worth being proud?

In a world where it’s all about making a quick buck, agriculture lends itself to being something more. A way of life that although time and circumstances change, the essence never does. Things like Faith and family are close knit and deeply rooted as we share success and failures together. Life has a sense of urgency and yet simplicity that make it beautiful and worthwhile. I am grateful for the opportunity to raise my family, and work beside them to improve our legacy. Isn’t that what it really is, a legacy? Something passed down from generations and when it comes to us we are mere stewards for a time with an obligation to try and make out better than when we started. That is Agriculture and to me that is what makes me proud and involved. Unfortunately, I don’t think there is a catch all answer to the question we got that day. Agriculture is more than an occupation and it sure won’t make you millions. For me it’s the history of it all, the freedom to be my own boss. The feeling of satisfaction I get when a hard job is done right. It’s in knowing that I’m part of something so great, and yet so few are involved. I am grateful to live in a country that has allowed us these freedoms and opportunities for generations. God Bless America, and God Bless Agriculture.

AFBF FUSION Virtual Conference open to all

For the first time ever, American Farm Bureau is offering the FUSION Conference for FREE through a virtual conference experience. The FUSION Conference is an opportunity to bring together members of the Young Farmers & Ranchers, Women’s Leadership and Promotion & Education member engagement programs for an opportunity to connect, learn and develop as leaders in Farm Bureau.

Due to this year’s virtual environment, the 2021 Farm Bureau FUSION Reimagined Conference is also an opportunity to share this unique experience with members of the agricultural community who have not yet experienced the benefit of Farm Bureau membership, but who share a passion for the mission of Farm Bureau. American Farm Bureau Federation is the Voice of Agriculture®. We are farm and ranch families working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world.

During this year’s conference, we hope to inspire the grassroots agricultural community all across the country to engage as members and leaders within Farm Bureau so that together we can influence a stronger future for agriculture.

Attendees can register to attend the virtual convention up until the event ends on Saturday, March 13. All attendees who register prior to the last session on Saturday, March 13 will have access to most event content for 90 days after the event concludes. Register at: https://www.fb.org/events/2021-fusion-conference/
Role of Farm Bureau

From page 2

A number of other ideas may be proposed either by the Administration or Congress.

The Senate Ag Committee has added Senator Cory Booker from New Jersey who is a vegan and has criticized livestock farming. An article in Agri-Pulse said he sought a seat on the Ag Committee to address a range of concerns about ag and food policy. He went on to elaborate those concerns include “massive corporate consolidation, “unconscionable” working conditions on farms, and diet-related disease. He also indicated his desire to work on animal welfare concerns. Also appointed to the Senate Ag Committee was Senator Ben Ray Lujan from New Mexico. Senator Lujan has a near perfect record with the League of Conservation Voters when he was in the House.

Information on appointees to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shows a number of them are coming from those environmental organizations who have adverse relationships with agriculture. Recent announcements from EPA highlight that the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations worked as the Political Director of End Citizens United & Let America Vote and prior to that worked for Climate Action Campaign. The Senior Counselor to the Administrator recently served as Patagonia’s Environmental Advocate. The Deputy Associate Administrator for Congressional Affairs used to work for the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. During the confirmation hearing for EPA Administrator Michael Regan, AFBF Senior Director of Regulatory Relations Don Parish said Regan made no bones about the Agency focusing on climate change and environmental justice and reviewing WOTUS rules.

As more appointments come through, I’m sure we will continue to see similar backgrounds in those appointees.

Elections have consequences and with the conclusion of this election we certainly will see a change in policies coming out of the executive branch and the legislative branch. The role of Farm Bureau will become even more critical.

Tax Reform

From page 2

often refers to environmental sustainability, it is important we don’t overlook economic sustainability. For America’s farms and ranches to continue their important role in absorbing carbon and conserving green space, they must first be able to stay in business.

AFBF economists crunched the numbers, and farm business revenue does not keep up with increasing land values. Nearly half of all farmland in America is at risk of increased liquidation pressure caused by overwhelming tax burdens. As a result, it’s difficult for farmers to pass their family business down to the next generation who desire to follow in the footsteps of their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

As it is, less than 2% of our population is directly engaged in growing the agricultural products that feed, clothe and power not just the United States but the world. At a time when farm bankruptcies are the third-highest they’ve been in a decade, we should all do what we can to reduce barriers for those just starting out, or wanting to get started, in agriculture.

Great strides have been made in recent years toward helping our farmers and ranchers find relief in the tax code, including the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which AFBF supported. But Congress needs to build on that momentum to make long-lasting, real change to our tax code in order to provide both relief and stability. Even making some temporary provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent would be a great first step, as many of the important provisions in that legislation will expire after 2025.

Other steps toward meaningful tax reform that would give farmers a fairer shake include reducing the capital gains tax, which impacts farmers at a disproportionate rate, and making permanent several temporary tax credit provisions for biodiesel and other renewable energy sources.

Every dollar counts on the farm, and farmers and ranchers need to plan their finances carefully to make it from one season to the next. Not knowing what their tax burden will be adds to the uncertainty which is all too familiar in farming. From unpredictable weather patterns and changing political climates to the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers and ranchers never know what is around the bend. It is beyond time to ensure they find certainty and stability in the tax code.

U.S. Citizenship Act introduced for immigration proposal

February 19, 2021—The U.S. Citizenship Act was introduced late February by Senator Menendez (D-NJ) and Representative Sanchez (D-CA). The Act is President Biden’s immigration proposal.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the legislation addresses a broad range of immigration issues including provisions that will directly impact agriculture. A summary from AFBF highlights areas of interest for agriculture.

• Adjustment of Status
  • An agricultural worker can adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status if they meet eligibility criteria including criminal and national security background checks, pay applicable fees, submit an application, and have performed agricultural labor or services for at least 2,300 work hours (or 400 work days) in the five-year period immediately preceding the date on which such noncitizen file the application.
  • The spouse and children of a noncitizen eligible for adjustment under this section may also adjust to LPR status, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Spouses and children do not have any agricultural work requirement.

• Overtime pay for farmworkers
  • Beginning January 1, 2022, overtime pay shall be required after 55 hours in one week, 50 hours beginning in 2023; 45 hours beginning in 2024; and 40 hours beginning in 2025. The effective date of this section for employers with fewer than 25 employees is delayed by three years, to begin in 2025.

• Removes family farm exemptions
  • Minimum wage and maximum hour requirements will now apply to an agricultural employer’s immediate family.

• Creates a labor law enforcement fund
  • The fund is intended to be used for compliance activities such as random audits of employers in industries with a history of significant employment of unauthorized workers or H-2As and H-2Bs.

• Sets criminal penalties for MSPA violations

• Establishes a commission on employment authorization
Unable to hold banquet, Farm Bureau aids food pantries instead

By CJ Baker, Powell Tribune (Reprinted with permission)

When COVID-19 forced the Park County Farm Bureau to scrap its annual banquet last year, the organization decided to pay it forward. Each fall, as the sugar beet harvest comes to a close, the local chapter of the Wyoming Farm Bureau hosts a dinner for its members. More than 100 area farmers typically attend the event, which features a nice meal and a keynote speaker; the 2019 event featured prime rib and Gov. Mark Gordon.

But in 2020, the pandemic severely restricted large indoor gatherings like banquets. “Because of COVID, we ended up running into roadblocks,” said Park County Farm Bureau President Abby Shuler.

At first, the bureau’s nine-member board thought it could just postpone things until the new year. However, as time went on, COVID-19 infections continued, the public health orders remained in place and the hopes of a banquet faded. Still, Shuler said, “as a board, we decided we wanted to do something.”

At the suggestion of board member Katie Horton, the group took roughly the same amount of money it would have spent on the dinner and donated it to local food pantries; Park County Farm Bureau recently sent off a pair of $1,000 checks: one to Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes and another to the Cody Cupboard.

“We’re just trying to do some good for our local community,” Shuler explained. “Just with the curveball that COVID threw, it’s affected a lot of families. And we figured by doing a donation of this sort, we would help a lot of families within Park County.”

The Farm Bureau is best known as an advocacy organization for farmers and ranchers — working to protect private property rights and push for limited taxes, for instance — but giving back to the community is part of its mission. The group offers scholarships to youth, helps provide agriculture education in local classrooms and is a big supporter of the Park County Junior Livestock Sale.

“We try to do something for the community and stay within our local community,” said Shuler.

In the case of the recent donations, she said it was a case of one nonprofit being able to help another; she added that Park County is fortunate to have food pantries available for those who need it.

“Organizations like the Cody Cupboard and the [Powell Valley] Loaves and Fishes, those are always organizations that are helping people,” Shuler said, “but they also need help, too.”

Beyond seeing more demand for services, local pantries were dealt another blow when COVID led to last year’s biggest food drives being called off. That made it particularly good news when the Park County Farm Bureau turned its canceled banquet into an opportunity to help out.

Sometimes, Shuler said, “it works for everybody.”

News from the County Farm Bureau Federations

Sweetwater County FBF presents appreciation gift to James Ramsay

Submitted by Dixie Suddreth, Secretary/Treasurer, Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation

Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation board member Dick Thoman presented James Ramsay with a centennial jacket in appreciation for his 5 years of service as Sweetwater County Farm Bureau Federation president.

Crook County Farm Bureau Federation

The Crook County Farm Bureau Federation hosted a February “Meet and Greet” for potential members to learn more about Farm Bureau Federation membership and involvement. Led by CCFBF Vice President Vance Steedley, the event included good food and sharing the good reasons to join the Farm Bureau Federation and get involved at the county and state levels. Shown here Raenell Taylor, Crook County Rancher, shares why she takes time to volunteer through the Farm Bureau Federation. Kerin Clark photo.
Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week

From page 1

introduction from WyFB YF&R Committee members.

“Even in an agriculture state like Wyoming we have a lot of students that are far removed from agriculture.” Taylor explained. “We always look forward to sharing our agriculture story with elementary students because they are our future.”

“We are so passionate about Wyoming Agricultural Literacy Week to recognize and dedicate time to reading agriculture related books,” she concluded.

WyFB President Todd Fornstrom echoed Taylor’s sentiments about the program when thanking the Governor for recognizing the program through proclamation. “Thank you for the good reminder that education is one of the most important activities we will do,” Fornstrom stated. “One of our main goals with the program is making sure people know where their food comes from and that it is safe and abundant.”

Wyoming students and teachers are encouraged to visit their school’s elementary library to check out the 2021 book “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney. You may also visit www.wyfb.org and click on the education tab for a virtual reading video. Classroom activity ideas and contest rules/details are also available on the website.

Three contests are offered for Wyoming students to encourage use of the book and provide application opportunities for what is learned. The 2021 contests are: Coloring Contest for kindergarten and first graders; Poster Contest for second and third graders; and a Marketing Ad Contest for fourth and fifth graders. The county contest deadline is April 2, 2021.

Cooking with the Modern Ranchwife

Sausage Pinwheels

A RECIPE BY CONNIE WERNER

FOR MORE RECIPES, VISIT WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/MODERN_RANCH_WIFE

Ingredients

- 2 tubes of Crescent Rolls
- 1 pkg sausage
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Directions

- Heat oven to 350°F.
- Open one tube of crescent rolls and pinch the perforated lines together to create a rectangle.
- Take 1/2 the sausage and spread onto the crescent roll dough.
- Sprinkle with cheddar cheese
- Roll up beginning with the long side.
- Pinch edges and roll to seal all the seams.
- Slice 1/2 - 3/4 inch wide with a serrated knife
- Place on a greased cookie sheet
- Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden and sausage is cooked
- Repeat with the other tube

Wyoming Teachers & Students K-5th Grades

"Ag Books for Kids" 2021

"Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!" by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney. You may also visit www.wyfb.org and click on the education tab for a virtual reading video. Classroom activity ideas and contest rules/details are also available on the website.

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2021 Wyoming Legislature

From page 1

Budget reductions affect every area of Wyoming. There are several bills that would increase taxes and registration fees that WyFB will oppose during the March session. WyFB policy opposes tax increases while calling for spending and government efficiencies to be addressed.

“There are a few tax bills including one to increase fuel taxes by nine cents,” Moline said. “We will oppose this legislation calling on our member’s policy calling for no new taxes.”

The road usage tax, HB 37, is another bill WyFB will oppose. The bill has been received for introduction in the House, but no further action has been taken. “This bill would establish a per mile fee charge for the use of public roads,” Moline explained. “Proponents want to make sure electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles pay their share but to institute the road user tax would be so overbearing on all those already paying fuel taxes.”

“Looking at a licensing surcharge on these types of vehicles would be better to address the concern of electric and hybrid vehicles not paying their share of highway maintenance through fuel taxes,” he continued.

WyFB will support legislation to assist with the expansion or construction of meat processing facilities.

Regarding the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WyFB is supporting Senate File 30 which would review state laws associated with pandemics and review the state’s response to the COVID-19 virus.

WyFB will produce a legislative update via radio on the Northern Ag Network every Friday in March. If you miss it on your local radio, go to https://www.wyfb.org/radio-programs/the-following-Monday-to-hear-the-show.

WyFB also prepares a weekly legislative update that is a benefit of being a Century Club, Silver Club or Gold Club member of the Federation. The update is sent via email and/or mail to those members belonging to these membership tiers. If you are interested in increasing your level of support for Farm Bureau’s work and receiving these weekly legislative updates during the Legislature you can upgrade your current year membership by contacting WyFB Membership Coordinator Brooke Roes at broes@wyfb.org or 307-721-7723.

To review all bills introduced for 2021 go to: https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021
Here is the summary of a recent Market Intel article:

February 16, 2021: With the release of USDA’s Farm Labor Survey on February 11, farmers that utilize the H-2A program finally know the minimum wage they must pay their H-2A workers in 2021. Usually, this wage rate, known as the Adverse Effect Wage Rate, is known when the Farm Labor Survey is released in November, but changes in policy that were proposed and then struck down in the courts over the last four months delayed the Farm Labor Survey’s release, which in turn held up the AEWR announcement. The FLS reveals an average increase of $0.63 per hour, or 4.5%, from 2020 to 2021, though there are considerable regional differences.
It’s your future. Let’s protect it.
Together we’ll create a plan to protect what matters most to you.

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307-234-5515

CHEYENNE
JASON BELL
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WHEATLAND
SALLY HOUX
307-322-3791

[fbfs.com]
**NEW MEMBERS**

*Note: (REG) denotes new “Regular” membership*

**ALBANY**
Kelby & Michael Gribble, Laramie; Rylan Harding, Laramie; Timothy Hunt (REG), Tie Siding; Madeline & Davitt Potter, Laramie; Dawn Weber, Laramie; VR Investments, LLC, Laramie

**BIG HORN**
Larry Anderson, Shell; Jan & Fred Barrett (REG), Greybull; Brady & Andrew Satterfield, Greybull; Deanna & Timothy Lambeth, Cowley; Renee & Kevin Lewis (REG), Basin; Sharon & Timothy Miller, Shell; Joe Paumer (REG), Man- derson; Karen & Gordon Preis (REG), Embellie; Barb Steinheinert-Harburg, Laramie; Renee & Robert Wilkerson (REG), Powell

**CAMPBELL**
Peggy & Tim Boardman, Moorcroft; Shy & Monte Brug (REG), Recrus; Cheryl Carter, Gillette; Kathy & John Cattles, Gillette; Jeanette Graves, Moorcroft; Stacey & Michael McCartney, Gillette; Rita & Steve Mueller (REG), Gillette; Jo- di & William Sauer, Recrus; Sherman Wood, Gillette

**CARBON**
Mary Ann & Edward Boasanac, Ranch- cho Santa Fe; James Bosler, Saratoga; Stephanie & Damien Cesko, Rawlins; Michelle Decellie, Saratoga; Timothy Dziadon, Saratoga; Janice & Rocky Field (REG), Saratoga; Tammy & David Hejduk, Rawlins; Mackie & Rod John- son (REG), Crowheart; Heather & Tyler Mortensen, Rawlins; Paul & Mark Ni- ska, Alexandria; Diana & John Penrod, Hanna; Whitney Wilder, Rawlins

**CONVERSE**
Colleen & David Bolte, Glenro- sen; San- fy & Ed Edison (REG), Douglas; Ja- son Lee, Douglas; Cadie Mariner, Larami- ne; Tonja & Jim Morrison, Evanville; James Shillen, Douglas; Theresa & Andrew Stewart, Urie; Mandy Veith, Glenrock; Riley Stull, Glenrock; Lorraine Veith, Glenrock, Nancy & Al- len Wintemute, Douglas

**CROOK**
Cathryn Glacken (REG), Sundance; Tammy & Mike McGuckin (REG), Sundance, Dawn Newland (REG), Belle Fourche, Pamela & Douglas Smith (REG), Hulett; Rhonda & Brian Snow (REG), Sundance; Julie & Tony Swanda (REG), Moorcroft; Robin & Curtis Wendling (REG), Moorcroft

**FREMONT**
Jeannie & David Banks, Riverton; Gail & Dustin Cash, Riverton; Stacia & Dustin Citron, Alcova; Tim Corbett (REG), Pavil- lion; Braxton Crofts (REG), Lander; Ken- neth Donkerse Boulder; Lindsay & Le- if Gasch; Lander; Edward Germond, Lander; Brandon & Rich Sorenson, Riverton; Janice & Melroy Vigoren (REG), Riverton; Erica Wood, Lander

**GOSHEN**
Erica Wood, Lander; William Bodine Torrington; Margaret Brown, Tor- rington; Johnny Buchanan, Torrington; Sarah & Luke Chaires, Hay Springs; Jamie & Jason Cowan, Guernsey; Ni- na & Tom Grubbs, Lingle; Clay Hiser, Torrington; Polly Madden, Torrington; Wylie & Marco Martinez, Torrington; Jason Osdoba, Torrington; Whit Pet- terson, Torrington; Charlotte & Mike Steben (REG), Torrington; Steve True, Cheyenne; Delwin Watson, Lingle

**HOT SPRINGS**
Darlene Axtell, Thermopolis; Kiamchi & Tucker Capella, Thermopolis; Nancy Collins, Thermopolis; Wade Thron- burg, Thermopolis, Kristi Thronburg, Thermopolis

**JOHNSON**
Tony Arndt, Buffalo; Angelo & Jared Bai- ley, Buffalo; Sonja Boom & Phil Atwell, Buffa- lo; Jordan & John Campo, Buffalo; Patricia & Dennis Camino, Buffalo; Ron Chapman, Buffalo; Colette Fenster (REG), Buffalo; Jayaon Foley (REG), Buffalo; Wilbur Jones (REG), Kaycee; Elizabeth & Mark McKasky, Buffalo; Kyle Miller, Clearmont; Pauline & Danel Stuart, Buffalo; Kathryn & George Stricker, Buffalo; Halo LLC (REG), Buffalo; Har- lan Angus LLC (REG), Kaycee; The Stone Yard LLC, Buffalo; Harlan Livestock (REG), Kaycee

**LARAMIE**
Nicole Bjork, Laramie; bềnve; Ceci Car- rier, Cheyenne; Melinda Cool, Cheyenne; Soo & Carl, Cheyenne; Cara- lyn & Reagan Elliot, Cheyenne; Sue & Jeffrey Everett, Cheyenne; Dephne & Johnnie Garcia, Saint George; San- dra Gauden, Cheyenne; Jenny & Ste- ven Gienapp, Cheyenne; Caleb Green, Cheyenne; Rebecca & Robert Higgins, Cheyenne; Memo- randa Keshes, Cheyenne; Catherine, Cheyenne; Katie Keshes, Cheyenne; Charles Kokes (REG), Cheyenne; Daryn Kramer, Cheyenne; Tony Lun, Cheyenne; Angela Martinus, Al- bin; Linda & Dick Pryor (REG), Burns; Deanna Rieck, Cheyenne; Tammy Rogers, Cheyenne; Thomas & Mary Scriver (REG), Glenwood; Kim & Greg Selin, Cheyenne; Diane Sluss, Cheyenne; Vicki Vassallo, Cheyenne

**LINCOLN**
Ray Carter (REG), Cokelville; Thomas Craig, Thayne; Robert Degarmo, At- fordon; Carolyn Durgin, Kemmerer; Annette & Roy Fadorsky, Thayne; Celsie Hunt, Diamondville; Helen & Jason Jenkins, Thayne; Karen & Greg Kinnies, Etna; Alanna & Austin McKenzie, Star Val- ley Ranch; Dennis Klemmer, Big Horn; Marvin Rudy, Kemmerer; Toni & Levi Sudonick, Kemmerer; Elizabeth & Bri- an Tresp, Solana Beach

**NATRONA**
Catherine Ames, Casper; Sierra & Zach Atkinson, Casper; Derek Bar- ness, Casper; Dustin Beck, Casper; Jordan Belville, Casper; Meghan & Ja- cob Brlant, Bar Nunn; Roger & Michelle Casper; Tim Conway, Casper; Jamie Cox, Casper; Jim Delinger, Casper; Heidi Donaldson, Casper; Jamie Dun- lin, Casper; Brad Edwards, Casper

**NIOBRAHA**
Dawn & Benjamin Schwenk (REG), Arvada

**PARK**
Cynthia & Brian Adney, Cody; Donna Blevins, Powell; Rachel Buchanan, Cody; Kimberly Dalles & David Buck, Cody; Carmen & Travis, Duncan, Cody; Tara Hodges & Anders John- son, Cody; Sharon & Brian Kelly, Pow- ell; Jessica & John Molino, Cody; Stan Parker (REG), Cody; Janette & Daniel Partenheimer, Sheridan; Toni & Rus- sell Remet, Sheridan; Majo Ranch, Sheridan (REG), Cody; Bull Creek Farms, LLC (REG), Cody

**PLATTE**
Whitney Balzani, Wheatland; Clay- ton Cochran, Wheatland; WINSTON Hoy, Myrtle Beach; Jerry Loeffelbein, Wheatland; Sharon & Gerald Miles, Wheatland; Daniel Nis, Wheatland; Jessica & Paul Nickl, Chugwater; Jessica & Jai- tan Talafero, Hartville; Middle Creek Ranch LLC, Wheatland

**SHERIDAN**
Wendy Arndt & Redmond Lanker, Ar- vada; Daniel & Joshua Baran, Sheri- dan; Pamela Belus (REG), Banner; Gwendoynburg, Sheridan; Carlie & Jacob Burdick, Sheridan; De- jana Catherwood, Sheridan; Casey Michael Swanson, Sheridan; Cathy & Jeff TERRY, Sheridan; Ed Thompson, Casper; Jessica & Jer- emy Barnes, Casper

**TETON**
Armond Acri, Jackson; Elizabeth & Col- ler Donnell, Wilson; Paul Fridman, Jackson; Jennifer & Gilbert Gaudern, Jackson; Erik Johnson, Alta; Shannin & Martin Levitz, Jackson; Jesse Nage, Alta; Cammy Patridge, Eastwood; Gretch Schmid, Jackson; Beatrice & Francois Sorel, Wilson; James Sorensen, Wilson

**SUBLETTE**
Rhonda & Martin Deleeve, Pine- delane; Kay & Duane McEary, Pine- delane; Scott Grove, Pine- delane; Laurie & Ronald Hanson, Pine- delane; Patricia & Michael Henderson, Pine- delane; Logan Koltermann, Pine- delane; Karen & Rick Noble, Pine- delane; Rose & Martin Ross, Pine- delane; Christine Kwak & Derek Schutz, Pine- delane; Ronald & Pamela Tam- bourine, Pine- delane; Wren Taylor, Pine- delane; Darcy & Daniel Tolson, Bon- durt; Christine & Jason Zakonok, Pine- delane; Burg & Company LLC (REG), Stuart

**SWEETWATER**
Lisa & Troy Aleshire, Green River; Me- linda & Spencer Allred, Green River; Ambrina & Russ Tolson, Green River; Steven Ferguson, Green River; Steven Ferguson, Green River; Virginia Folks, Rock Springs; Taylor Hibbs, Rock Springs; Taylor Hibbs, Rock Springs; Phillip Mines (REG), Farson; Sue & Lo- renzo Romero, Farson, Casey Wylie (REG), Rock Springs

**CONVERSE**
Armond Acri, Jackson; Elizabeth & Col- ler Donnell, Wilson; Paul Fridman, Jackson; Jennifer & Gilbert Gaudern, Jackson; Erik Johnson, Alta; Shannin & Martin Levitz, Jackson; Jesse Nage, Alta; Cammy Patridge, Eastwood; Gretch Schmid, Jackson; Beatrice & Francois Sorel, Wilson; James Sorensen, Wilson

**WESTON**
Donna & Kevin Cote, Newcastle; Jer- emiah Decker, Newcastle; Donna & Tracy Hunt (REG), Newcastle; A. B. Liston, Newcastle; Muria & Ran- dal Olson, Upton; Nicole & Preston Perino (REG), Newcastle; Judy & Don Rawhouser(REG), Newcastle; Connie & James Tooman (REG), Newcastle
Agriculture Climate Alliance Gains Momentum

February 22, 2021—American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on February 22 on the increasing momentum behind an alliance co-founded by AFBF, the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance.

“We are encouraged that leaders in both the House and Senate are requesting more detailed guidance to achieve FACA’s climate goals and recommendations. It’s important that any new climate policies respect the people who will be impacted the most—farmers and ranchers. FACA’s 40-plus proposals demonstrate farmers and ranchers must be treated as partners as we work together to build on the impressive advances already achieved toward climate-smart farming,” Duvall said.

“We also welcome the 34 new members of FACA who represent farmers, agribusinesses, state governments and environmental advocates,” Duvall continued. “The growth of alliance members from a wide range of industries shows we are on the right path toward protecting the environment while ensuring farmers and ranchers can continue growing healthy, affordable food for America’s families.”

Learn more about the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance at agclimatealliance.com.

Food brings everyone to the table

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forces that play a role include availability of labor, regulation of air, water, fertilizer, and pest control. Those issues along with additional pressures from global trade have an impact on farmers and ranchers.

In today’s day and age the consumers are so far removed from the farm table that they want to know how we produce their food and have many questions. It is our job as farmers and ranchers to not only reassure our customers of their food’s safety, but also help bring them to the table through education on our production processes.

We all should keep in mind that food is part of our overall freedom; without an adequate supply we are dependent on sources outside of our borders and outside of our control.

I know I need life insurance, but I also need to save for retirement.

You might think you have to choose between protecting your loved ones with life insurance or saving for your future, but you don't have to.

You can do both, and it's easy when you work with your Farm Bureau agent.

Let's talk about life insurance and ensure you're prepared for the future.
Laramie, Wyoming Feb. 16, 2021 – Sharing resources that will help farmers and ranchers keep safety top-of-mind through the Agricultural Safety Awareness Program is a priority of county and state Farm Bureau leaders across the nation. As part of ASAP, Feb. 28 - March 6 has been designated as Agricultural Safety Awareness Week. U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers will join Farm Bureau in promoting the week with its theme "Driving Safety Home."

A different safety focus will be highlighted by Farm Bureau and U.S. Ag Centers each day of the week:
• Monday, March 1 – Farmer Roadway Safety
• Tuesday, March 2 – Caretaker Support
• Wednesday, March 3 – General Farmer Wellness
• Thursday, March 4 – Mental Health
• Friday, March 5 – Community Roadway Safety

During this week and throughout the year, Farm Bureau encourages farmers to make safety a priority on the farm.

The Agricultural Safety Awareness Program is a part of the Farm Bureau Health and Safety Network of professionals who share an interest in identifying and decreasing safety and health risks. For more information and resources, visit the ASAP Facebook page.

Visit the Centers’ YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/USagCenters) for new content and fresh ideas about how to stay safe while working in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Join the movement to keep farms safe and share your own safety messages on social media using the hashtags #KeepFarmsSafe, #ASAP21 and #USAgCenters.

The 11 U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers (www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/agctrhom.html) are funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights. Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions.” - James Madison