“Ag Books for Kids” 2021 winners announced

By Kerin Clark
Nearly 10,000 agriculture books have been donated to Wyoming elementary schools through the 17-year span of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee “Ag Books for Kids” program. Contests are held each year associated with the book of the year to encourage students to learn even more about agriculture.

In 2021 county Farm Bureau Federations across the state donated 664 “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” books by Rianna and Sheridan Chaney to Wyoming elementary schools as part of the WyFB YF&R Committee “Ag Books for Kids” project. The students then had the opportunity to participate in a contest to show what they learned about agriculture. The contests included: Coloring Contest for kindergarten and first grade; Poster Contest for second and third graders; and a Marketing Ad Contest for fourth and fifth graders.

According to Raenell Taylor, WyFB YF&R Promotions Sub Committee Chair, educating elementary students about agriculture is key to our future in agriculture.

“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.”

“These contests are a great way for the students to apply what they are learning from reading the “Ag Books for Kids” book of the year,” she concluded.

2021 Contest Winners
Students from across Wyoming were recently recognized for their participation in the 2021 WyFB “Ag Books for Kids” contests. We appreciate all the teachers and students who participated in the contests. We would also like to thank Lexie Dockery, Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation YF&R County Chair, presented awards to Gianna Pavone for winning the Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest. Courtesy photo.

Lexie Dockery, Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation YF&R County Chair, presented awards to Gianna Pavone for winning the Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest. Courtesy photo.

Electricity grid reliability is vital to the survival of Wyoming agriculture. Without a reliable grid, there is no way to tell if your electric pump for your stock water well will turn on in the morning, if your center pivots will run in the middle of the night, and if you can use most of the appliances in your home. Most all farms and ranches depend on a reliable grid, and it is something we often take for granted.

In February of 2021, we watched from our living rooms and cell phones as power failed across the state of Texas. A dramatic number of accidents and deaths were attributed to a historic polar vortex that swept across it and neighboring states causing numerous power outages.

Most of these power outages have since been attributed to non-weather-related causes.
Helping Young Americans Return to Rural Roots

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

In times of crisis, our priorities become clear with family topping the list. The pandemic prompted a great migration home for many young Americans last year. As many offices and college campuses went virtual last spring, it presented a prime opportunity for recent graduates and young families to return home and relocate to smaller towns and communities. While only time will tell if these moves become permanent and take root, we now have a unique opportunity to encourage the next generation to plant and grow their lives and families in rural America.

We cannot expect young Americans to stay and build their families and careers, however, if the opportunities in rural communities lag behind our suburban and urban neighbors. Bridging the digital divide is critical to opening those opportunities and access to essential resources, healthcare, education and jobs. That’s why the American Farm Bureau is proud to partner with 19 other organizations, including Land O’ Lakes and Lead for America, in the new American Connection Corps. This pilot project will place 50 recent college graduates in communities, working with young people and empowering them to get involved in and help start local programs and businesses. This is a promising opportunity to bring young people home and encourage them to plant themselves in the local community. You can help spread the word too by encouraging dedicated young folks in your community to apply. The pilot program will begin in communities in Minnesota, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Kansas and Oregon.

If we are going to continue to strengthen agriculture and rebuild our rural economies, we need to create more pathways for young professionals in a variety of fields to return home. Agricultural communities also suffer from a shortage of professionals like veterinarians, whom we rely on to help in the care of our animals but often cannot afford to practice in more remote areas right out of school. Legislative solutions such as the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act play an important role in bridging this gap as well. This bipartisan bill

Research and facts needed

By Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President

I doubt that Bill Gates or Colorado Governor Jared Polis reads this column but if they did I would like to provide a few facts that might help them understand why their anti-meat campaign will do little to solve the problem they are accusing meat of causing. The reason is simple. They are blaming meat for a problem (greenhouse gas) it does not cause. They have bought the rhetoric from their environmental friends which is wrong. If they have not heard of Dr. Frank Mittleohner from UC-Davis, they should probably look him up before they launch their next anti-meat campaign.

Bill and Jared, in case you don’t know who Dr. Mittleohner is let me help you out. In 2006 a publication from the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) entitled “Livestock’s Long Shadow” made the claim that livestock, worldwide, contributed 18 percent of the greenhouse gases. Dr. Mittleohner did not think that number was correct and challenged the study. The study’s authors then reanalyzed the data and it became clear that the UN had made a huge mistake. Dr. Mittleohner had pointed out that for every $100 of revenue raised, it would lower wages of U.S. workers by $32. In other words, roughly 1/3 of the tax income would come out of wage earners pockets. The study also found that in years one to ten there would be a decrease in job equivalents each year of 80,000 jobs, and over the long run it would result in a decrease of 100,000 jobs, again each year. It would have an equally large impact on GDP.

Killing the Family Farm

By Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President

Current efforts to eliminate step-up basis and raise the top tax rate to 39.6 percent would be devastating. In a study done by EY (Ernst & Young) not only would an elimination of the step-up basis have an impact on agriculture, it would also damage other sectors of our economy. The study pointed out that for every $100 of revenue raised, it would lower wages of U.S. workers by $32. In other words, roughly 1/3 of the tax income would come out of wage earners pockets. The study also found that in years one to ten there would be a decrease in job equivalents each year of 80,000 jobs, and over the long run it would result in a decrease of 100,000 jobs, again each year. It would have an equally large impact on GDP.

See ‘Research and facts needed’ page 3

See ‘Killing the Family Farm’ page 9

Wyoming Agriculture, ISSN 10710272, is the official publication of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, 931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY 82070 and is published monthly, except for combined July/August and December/January issues. $1.00 subscription rate is deducted from Farm Bureau membership dues. Paid subscriptions are available to Wyoming Farm Bureau members only. Periodicals postage paid at Torrington, Wyoming 82240. Postmaster send change of address to: Wyoming Agriculture, Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. The Wyoming Farm Bureau toll-free number is 1-800-442-8325. www.wyfb.org

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Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates
Livestock Organizations Discuss Challenges in Cattle Markets

May 10, 2021—On Monday, May 10, 2021, member leaders of American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Farmers Union, R-CALF USA, and the United States Cattlemen’s Association met in Phoenix, Arizona. These groups convened at the request of Livestock Marketing Association to discuss challenges involved in the marketing of finished cattle with the ultimate goal of bringing about a more financially sustainable situation for cattle feeders and cow-calf producers.

The group talked openly and candidly about a wide range of important issues facing our industry today, including but not limited to:

- Packer concentration,
- Price transparency and discovery,
- Packer oversight,
- Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement,
- Level of captive supply, and
- Packer capacity.

The group also agreed to take to their respective organizations for consideration these action items:

- Expedite the renewal of USDA’s Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR), including formula base prices subject to the same reporting requirements as negotiated cash and the creation of a contract library.
- Demand the Department of Justice (DOJ) issue a public investigation status report and as warranted, conduct joint DOJ and USDA oversight of packer activity moving forward.
- Encourage investment in, and development of, new independent, local, and regional packers.

This unprecedented meeting brought together diverse producer organizations to identify issues and discuss potential solutions. These issues and action item lists are not comprehensive, due to time constraints of this meeting. Attending organization representatives were pleased to have reached consensus on many issues and are committed to the ultimate goal of achieving a fair and transparent finished cattle marketing system.

Research and facts needed

From page 2

...sounded correct, so he set about to see what was behind that number. What he found was the FAO authors utilized a different measure for livestock than they did for other greenhouse gas emitters. When he challenged the authors on this, they agreed and issued a correction of the report. However, even though the number was shown to be inaccurate we still see people using the incorrect number today.

And like every good fictional story, the documentary “Cowspiracy” went one better and said that livestock contributed 51 percent to all greenhouse gases in the world. Dr. Mitleohner challenged their information as well and then the documentary producers changed from 51 to 18 percent, which was the inaccurate FAO number.

Here is where I would like Bill and Jared to truly pay attention. Out of all the arable land available for food production in the world, two-thirds of it is marginal, meaning that it is not good enough to raise crops. As Dr. Mitleohner puts it, livestock, specifically ruminants, can “up cycle” the plants on those marginal lands which can then be utilized by humans.

But Bill and Jared want us to stop eating meat. If everyone in the US was converted to veganism with the wave of a magic wand, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 2.6 percent.

So the next time you feel the urge to “save the planet” guys, do a little research to see if what you propose makes sense.
A Friendly Reminder

By Lane Hageman, WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Member (Southeast District)

At this point in the year 2021, if one were asked to sit and make a list of concerns which have surfaced in this modern world, the list may easily turn into a novel. The growing snowball of issues which Americans currently face, has become a tragedy for all living generations as well as future generations. As a cattle rancher in Southeastern Wyoming, a main concern of mine is the future of our beef industry. An industry which has been driven by individual freedom, self-motivation, and private property rights. All of these things have happened in the pork and poultry industries. The work ethic that has been driven by individual freedom and self-motivation will be lost when we no longer work for ourselves. Here are some examples; mandating RFID ear tags or BQA certificates for cattle sales, being forced to raise all natural and antibiotic-free cattle, eliminating our land is to keep it in the hands of private individuals. We have to say no to Conservation Easements and be very cautious of the several million acres being put in to CRP. If we as producers don’t stand up and say no to these programs, and let our government pay us off one by one, the cornerstone to our operations will be eliminated and we will become dependent on those who simply are not on our side.

I encourage all Ag producers as times continue to change, to hold individual freedoms and private property rights dear. Understand the reasons for your work ethic and self-motivation as we continue to work for ourselves and for the consumer. Be prepared to unite together and disobey these devastating policies which are currently being pushed. The beef industry has shaped an unmatched work ethic and created entrepreneurs. It has taught generation after generation to stand for what is right, persevere in all situations, serve others, and never ever compromise values and principles. Help us to continue to value and uphold our precious freedoms, which are given to us through agriculture. May we recognize all that this industry has done for us, and do everything in our power to stand up and fight to return the favor.

God Bless.

Lane Hageman

WyFB YF&R Committee Spring Meeting

The WyFB YF&R Committee met for their spring meeting early May in Lander. Committee members worked hard on committee business and leadership training before taking some time to hike around Sinks Canyon together. L to r: Chelsea Baars, Aletta Ziehl, Quade Palm (back), Kelli Hamilton, Kaley Barlow, Tucker Hamilton. Seated: Bristol, Elizabeth and Taylee Foxworthy, Kerin Clark photo.

WyFB YF&R Committee Spring Tour

A great benefit of being a part of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee is taking tours while at meetings. It was interesting to learn about the year-round agriculture work growing flowers and plants at Sprouts Greenhouse in Lander. Front row: Kaley Barlow, Aletta Ziehl, and Elizabeth Foxworthy. Back Row: Chelsea Baars, Quade Palm, Kelli Hamilton, Tucker Hamilton, and Griff Sprout with Sprouts Greenhouse. Kerin Clark photo.
AFBF signs onto letter in dissent of circuit court decision

By Morgan Spiro, WyFB Intern

On April 29, 2021 a three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decided against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in favor of an argument presented by the League of United Latin American Citizens. The case was brought forward after an attempt by the EPA to continue studying the affects of chlorpyrifos, a commonly used chemical pesticide.

The American Farm Bureau Federation signed a letter on May 4 alongside 40 other agricultural organizations. This letter, addressed to EPA Administrator Michael Regan, highlighted many concerns about the implications of and the precedent decided in this case.

“Agricultural stakeholders rely on the independent experts at the EPA to reach reasonable, science-based and evidence-based conclusions the EPA did in ultimately denying the petition in this case. In its opinion, the court panel inappropriately substituted its own views for that of the EPA’s regulatory and scientific expertise,” the letter writes, “We are gravely concerned how this precedent might impact the approach EPA must take with other petitions in the future.”

The letter concludes that the groups signing would be ready to assist the EPA as appropriate in correcting its actions.

Return to Rural Roots

interested in experiencing Cheyenne Frontier Days?

How about the Last Cowboy Standing? Put on by PBR (Professional Bull Riders), the Last Cowboy Standing will take place during Cheyenne Frontier Days at Frontier Park Arena in Cheyenne, WY on July 26th & 27th. All members receive 15% off. Members must log in to receive discounted tickets. Visit pbr.com for more information.

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Ag Books for Kids

From page 1

the county Farm Bureau Federations and YF&R Committee volunteers.

County winners were forwarded to the district where three winners were selected.

District winners all received a copy of “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” and were forwarded to the state contest.

2021 “Ag Books for Kids” State Winners

Coloring Contest:
State Winner: Gianna Pavone, Niobrara County (Southeast District)
State Runner-up: Audrey, Lincoln County (Southwest District)

Poster Contest:
State Winner: Garret Jolley, Park County (Northwest District)
State Runner-up: Violet Peterson, Park County (Northwest District)

Marketing Ad Contest:
State Winner: Veltie Mendoza, Niobrara County (Southeast District)
State Runner-up: Ann Trinh, Park County (Northwest District)

2021 “Ag Books for Kids” District Winners

Southwest District Winners
Coloring Contest:
• Aubree Morton, Park County
• Elly Samson, Big Horn County
• Teslyn Lee, Big Horn County

Poster Contest:
• Paige Christiansen, Lincoln County
• Mason Suter, Sweetwater County
• Sage Madsen, Sweetwater County

Marketing Ad Contest:
• Aubrey Boodleman, Sweetwater County
• Peyden Sisam, Sweetwater County
• Madison Hodder, Sweetwater County

Northwest District Winners
Coloring Contest:
• Audreee Morton, Park County
• Elly Samson, Big Horn County
• Teslyn Lee, Big Horn County

Poster Contest:
• Beth Black, Park County
• Garret Jolley, Park County
• Violet Peterson, Park County

Marketing Ad Contest:
• Grace Perry, Park County
• Ann Trinh, Park County
• Star Potts, Park County

Southeast District Winners
Coloring Contest:
• Ali, Platte County
• Gianna Pavone, Niobrara County
• Clairia Peagler, Goshen County

Poster Contest:
• Annabelle Duff, Goshen County
• Avery Kirkley, Goshen County
• Addie Lytle, Niobrara County

Marketing Ad Contest:
• Cassie Trowbridge, Goshen County
• Addy Sidwell, Niobrara County
• Veltie Mendoza, Niobrara County

Central District: No entries

Coloring Contest
Gianna Pavone, a first grader at Lusk Elementary in Niobrara County, was the state winner of the coloring contest. Pavone received a $50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”

Audrey, of Lincoln County, was the state runner-up. She received a $25 gift card and an agriculture book. She completed first grade with Mrs. Harris at Afton Elementary.

Poster Contest
Garret Jolley, of Park County, won the state poster contest. Jolley received a $50 gift card and an agriculture book titled “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”

Receiving a $25 gift card and a copy of “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” for the state runner-up was Violet Peterson of Park County.

Marketing Ad Contest
Lusk Elementary 5th grader Veltie Mendoza won the marketing ad contest. Mendoza, of Niobrara County, received a $50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”

Ann Trinh, of Park County, was the state runner-up. Trinh received a $25 gift card and an agriculture book.

In its seventeenth year, the “Ag Books for Kids” program is a project of the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. Throughout the years, 9,465 books have been donated to elementary schools by the county Farm Bureau Federations. The grassroots efforts of the county Farm Bureau Federations who donate the books and help educate about agriculture contribute greatly to the program’s success. The program’s purpose is to build the collection of agriculture reading materials in Wyoming elementary schools and educate children about agriculture and its importance to us all.
WyFB awards nine college scholarships

*By Kerin Clark*

Investing in the youth of our great state as they work to accomplish their academic goals is important to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Each year we award $5,500 in scholarships and three Continuing Education Scholarships are awarded at $500 each. The Continuing Education Scholarship recipients must be an entering college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student. Wyo*ming Farm Bureau Federation scholarship applications are due March 1st each year and are available at local county Farm Bureau offices or online at www.wyfb.org.

We are proud to honor these outstanding individuals with college scholarships to play a small part in helping them achieve their goals.

**Hailey Wehri**
**Livingston Family and H.J. King Memorial Scholarship**

Hailey Wehri, of Newcastle, is the recipient of the $1,500 Livingston Family/H.J. King Memorial Scholarship. Wehri will be a freshman at Casper College this fall studying Animal Science. Her parents are Rick and Ann Wehri. Wehri states she has enjoyed being involved in many different community and school groups. She is an active FFA member having served as a chapter officer and competing in livestock judging. Wehri also participates in FSLA and served as the president of the National Honor Society Chapter. She was a part of her high school’s Sources of Strength, which promoted mental health and well-being of students. 4-H and soccer have also played a large role in her activities. Wehri’s family has been involved with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation for generations starting with her great-grandpa who served as state vice president in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Her recommenders describe Hailey as a driven and intelligent individual. Her ability to lead by example with a positive attitude and a great work ethic are noted as some of her many attributes.

**Heather Hokanson**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

South High School Graduate Heather Hokanson will attend Laramie County Community College this fall seeking a degree in Education. From Cheyenne, Heather is the daughter of Neil and Dianna Hokanson. Heather plays in the orchestra and is a member of the National Honor Society, Safe School Ambassadors, Wyoming Academic Challenge and her church youth group. Heather notes Farm Bureau Federation has been important to her family for generations. Her grandfather Kenneth Hokanson served as president of the Lincoln County Farm Bureau Federation. Her recommenders note she is a hard-working young lady who strives to learn and better herself in everything she does. Among her many attributes they note that Heather’s presence, leadership and positive attitude are a great benefit to her peers.

**Elizabeth Lungren**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Elizabeth Lungren will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming this fall majoring in Molecular Biology and Agriculture & Natural Resources. From Teton, she is the daughter of Luke & Gabrielle Lungren. Elizabeth has been active in sports and clubs during high school. She lettered in basketball, volleyball and cross country. At school she has been a member and officer in National Honor Society. Student Council, FBA and AA Club. Elizabeth also participated in 4-H and volunteers as an emergency medical responder. Her recommenders commend her kind and caring nature along with her natural leadership abilities. They note her enthusiasm for continual learning and growth is admirable.

**Lindsie Farver**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Seeking a degree in Plant Sciences, Lindsie Farver will be attending Northern Wyoming Community College Sheridan this fall. Farver, of Saratoga, is a graduate of Encampment Schools. Her parents are Tabatha and Mike Farver. Lindsie has been active as an FFA office, FCCLA member, National Honors Society, volleyball and the school Buddy System. She has volunteered for food drives, trash collection and local blood drives. In the community, Lindsie has served as the Woodchoppers Jamboree and Rodeo Queen. Her recommenders note she is a highly motivated student that sets goals for herself and is also willing to help anyone in need. Her ability to be a creative thinker and persistent worker are noted as attributes that lead to her success.

**Taylor Reynolds**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Taylor Reynolds, of Moorcroft, will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming seeking a degree in Psychology/School Counseling. Her parents are Dustin and Heather Reynolds. Taylor has been involved with a variety of school activities and organizations as an officer and member. These include: Student Council, Secret Squirrel Brigade, FFA, and Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCA). She also served as the state president of the FCCA. In her community, Taylor has been active in 4-H and her church youth group. She also participates in many community service projects. Her recommenders say her organized and driven personality contribute greatly to her character as a leader. They note her charisma and personality lifts others up and encourages them to be involved.

**Stratton Kohr**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Chemistry is the degree Stratton Kohr will be seeking this fall as a freshman at the University of Wyoming. Kohr is a graduate of Thunder Basin High School in Campbell County. His parents are Marshall and Lynn Kohr. Stratton has participated in Student Council, National Honor Society and the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association. He played high school hockey with the Gillette Wild Hockey Association. He has also participated in the community through 4-H and other organizations. His recommenders say his drive, habits of excellence and intellect are a potent combination. They note his ability to communicate and stay grounded in his own belief system are two of his many admirable traits.

**Sydney Bell**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship**

Sydney Bell, of Cheyenne, is studying Pharmacology at the University of Wyoming. She is the daughter of Ryan and Pam Bell. In high school, Sydney was active in National Honor Society, Skills USA and 4-H. She is a member of the Cheyenne Fiddle Orchestra, her church youth group and volunteers at the Laramie County Library. Her recommenders describe her as an engaged and motivated student with strong character. Her commitment to the goals she sets while being respectful in living a way consistent with her faith and values are noted as remarkable traits.

**Emily Keiter**
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship**

A University of Wyoming senior, Emily Keiter, is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education and Biology. From Burns, her parents are Dave and Lisa Keiter. During high school, Emily was active in FCA, cross country, track, basketball and 4-H. At college she is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA, Campus Ventures and Alpha Tau Alpha. She is also a Children’s Church teacher. Her recommenders described Emily as a person with high integrity, responsibility and ambition. They note her dedication and determination accompanied by her talent and excellent work ethic make her a tremendous leader and student.

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Grand Opening
June 4-5
(After this event, adoptions will be the first Friday of every month)

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch, Lander, WY
June 5
September 4

Deerwood Wild Horse Ranch, Laramie, WY
June 12

Britton Springs Adoption, Lovell, WY
June 24-26

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY
July 23-31

Wyoming State Fair Mustang Days, Douglas, WY
August 20-22

Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island, NE
September 14-16

Wyoming Honor Farm, Riverton, WY
September 17-18

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William Richard "Bill" Vollman  
August 5, 1921 - April 21, 2021

William Richard Vollman, 99, passed away on April 21, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Bill, son of WR and Flora "Flo" (Brown) Vollman was born as an only child in Douglas on Friday, August 5, 1921. Immediately his parents took him to the family homestead 30 miles northwest of Douglas, an area known as Hyland Loop. As an only child, Bill enjoyed spending time with his cousins, Kenneth, Tuffy, and Iola Taylor. He attended grade school at the Hyland School and went to high school in Casper and Douglas, graduating from Douglas High School in 1939. After graduation he went to the University of Wyoming for one year and then went to California where he worked for Lockheed Martin. Not too long after moving to California his father asked him to return to the ranch as their ranch hand had been drafted to the war. Three years later, Bill was also drafted in 1944 and happily served in the United States Navy. He went to Farragut Naval Training Center in Idaho, and from there was assigned to a Naval Troop Transport, the USS Botoumt. It was a new ship and the cargo was not tied down yet and things shifted in rough water. The crew all got seasick and only three of the men (Bill being one) were well enough to get things secured. That night, Bill had been assigned a night watch but his Ensign (superior) excused him from that duty since he had worked so hard. On one stop the ship made, they picked up Bill Lindmier, and Bill was happy to see him; on two other occasions he met up with Tuffy Taylor, Bill’s cousin who was also in the Navy. After the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, the ship was ordered into Tokyo Bay and was near the Battleship Missouri during Japan’s surrender ceremony. Bill was honorably discharged in 1946 and returned home to the ranch.

In 1946, Bill met Alice Leeling during a dance at the LaPrele Dance Hall. They married on June 29, 1947 and made their home at the Vollman Ranch. Together they raised three children, Vicki, Robert and Lori. In 1967 Bill lost his dad, and within a year, they lost their daughter Vicki and Bill’s mother in an automobile accident.

He took great pride in his cattle, always studying Angus genetics to improve his herd. Bill enjoyed the harvest season of dry land farming and later being part of the progress and improvements made by Bob on their newly acquired irrigated farm. He valued having good neighbors. Through the years Bill was active with the Weed and Pest board, Farm Bureau, 4-H, and the Wyoming Pioneer Association and he was the first FFA state degree recipient from Douglas. He loved square dancing and polka dancing. Also, listening to music was a favorite past time, especially in the later years.

Around 1987, Bill and Alice retired and moved to Douglas from the ranch. Bill wasn’t ready to quit just yet and drove to the ranch most every day to work. He enjoyed driving the pastures checking water, salting cows, fixing fence, and was still climbing windmills at 90 years old. He worked hard to pass on traditions that were taught to him. Even when he was unable to continue working livestock, he still enjoyed going to the ranch and watching his grandsons and great-grandchildren using the skills that he had passed down through each of his children and onto the future of his ranch. Bill and Alice took many adventures together around the world, such as Australia, New Zealand and Alaska to name a few of the favorites. They never spent a night apart in their 73 years together, until the last couple years when health issues would necessitate one or the other stay a night or two in the hospital, and of course Bill’s short stay with the Douglas Care Center at the end.

Preceding Bill in death were his grandparents; father on April 5, 1967, his mother on March 25, 1968; and daughter, Vicki, on March 28, 1968.

Bill is survived by his wife, Alice, of 73 years; son, Bob (Sherry) Vollman of Douglas; daughter, Lori (Darrell) Brown, of DeKalb, Missouri; grandsons, Brady (Roni) Vollman and Jared (Mandy) Vollman both of Douglas; Aaron (Rachel) Brown and Eric (Katie) Brown both of DeKalb; and great grandchildren, Joslyn, Cadence, Lauryn, and Zander Vollman all of Douglas and Hunter, Shelby, Erin, and Dodge Brown all of DeKalb. A funeral service was held, April 29, 2021, at the Upper Ag Building on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas, Wyoming with Pastor Bill Williamson of the First Baptist Church officiating. Interment is in the Douglas Park Cemetery with military honor accorded by the Samuel Mares American Legion Post #8 and the United States Navy Funeral Honors.

A memorial to the Wyoming Pioneer Association, P.O. Box 1545, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 would be appreciated by the family.

Bob was preceded in death by Carol Dickau, Jess Dickau, Robert Fink, Ed Fink, Greg Kruse, and Warren Manning.

Robert L. Kaufmann  
September 3-1931 - April 15, 2021

Robert L. Kaufmann, 89, passed away April 15, 2021 at Sheridan Memorial Hospital. Robert, better known as Bob, was born September 3, 1931, in Sheridan, Wyoming to Alex and Ann (Kerbel) Kaufmann. At five years of age, the family moved from the big stone house, now known as the Ranch at Ucross to what was known as the Kaufmann Ranch. He attended Kearney Grade School and graduated from Sheridan High in 1949 and the University of Wyoming in 1954, with a B.A. While attending the University of Wyoming he was on the Rodeo Team and received many Bronc Riding trophies, buckles and saddles.

He married Patsy Ostrom in 1953 and they ranched 32 years on Piney Creek. Two daughters, Jeanne Ann Camino and Carol Kaufmann, were born of that marriage. They later divorced.

Bob was a life-long member of the Sheridan Elks Lodge. He was a member of the Johnson County Fair Board and a Judge at the Johnson County 4-H Fair and High School Rodeos for several years. Bob was President of the Farmers Co-Op during the mid-80’s, served on the School Board of the Kearney School and was a member of the Beef Growers Association of Johnson and Sheridan Counties.

Bob, along with all the Champions, was honored at the 75th Anniversary of the Sheridan WYO Rodeo, July 14, 2005, as the Champion Bareback Rider in 1953.

Bob was an excellent rancher and an all-around "handy man". There was nothing he couldn’t fix. He always enjoyed taking his girls to the horse shows and Coralee to participate with the Equestrian Annettes in their many parades. Carol was the Sheridan WYO Rodeo Queen in 1978. Jeanne was Champion Barrel Racer, at the age of 15, and was also honored at the Sheridan WYO Rodeo in 2005.

Bob truly enjoyed time with his grandchildren when they were young, feeding cattle, Easter Egg hunts and driving snow machines. Bob sold the ranch in 2000 and moved to his present home in Sheridan where he was residing at the time of his death.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, mother, Brother Dick and wife Pat. Survivors include his two daughters, his companion and caregiver during the past 37 years, Coralee Davis, Grandson Kelly Camino (Britni and great grandparents Corbin and Hudson); Joe Camino, Luke Camino (Josslyn, great grandparents Braxtyn and Sterling, and great grand daughter Riley); Heidi Borgioli (Paul, great grandparents Anthony, Norris Graves and great granddaughter Patsy Graves); Grandson Robert Weber, great grandson Alex and great granddaughter Ashlee, as well as nephews Tom and James Kaufmann and several cousins.

A Celebration of Bob’s life was held at the Kane Funeral Home on May 8th.

Friends wishing to, may donate to the Dog & Cat Shelter, 84 East Ridge Road, Sheridan, WY 82801, or the Sheridan High School Rodeo Club, c/o Sheridan High School, 1056 Long Drive, Sheridan WY 82801.
This is the story of two Godly men who lived their lives to the fullest and took advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ.

It started 89 years ago when Victor “Poppy” Andrew Johnson was born on April 26th, 1932 to James and Agnes Johnson in Laramie, Wyoming. He was the third out of four children. Victor was ornery than he looked. There are many stories, some we can talk about and some we can’t, that have been told down the years about Victor. One in particular involved an outhouse when he was seven years old. His mother and sister were visiting the outhouse when they noticed a stream coming from a knothole in the wood of the john and soaking their laps. When they realized what it was, they ran out of the outhouse screaming, to the delight of Poppy. The punishment he knew he was going to get was worth it to him. He also figured out a way to bottle the skunk scent in little bottles and use it for his purposes. On one occasion, he decided his sister’s boyfriend’s car needed some extra aroma so he placed some drops under the floor mats and on the exhaust. Their date that night was extra smelly. That boyfriend never did figure out why his car always smelled like a skunk.

Victor completed eighth grade and started ranching with his father. He would haul bulls down to Denver as a young teenager. He met Mary Lathrop through the First Assembly of God church. He wooed Mary with his beautiful singing voice and banjo playing. On one of their first dates, Poppy invited Grandma Mary to his family’s house for dinner. They all bowed their heads to pray. When everyone’s eyes were closed and they were thanking God for their blessings and food, Poppy was putting a large helping of mashed potatoes on Grandma Mary’s dinner plate. When the prayer was over and everyone opened their eyes, all were quite astonished to see that Mary had helped herself to a large portion of food. The embarrassment was almost too much for Mary as her face turned multiple shades of red. Poppy was pretty happy with himself. God brought them together in Marriage on May 7th, 1952 where his musical talents came to an abrupt end, to the great annoyance of Mary for the rest of their 62 years of marriage.

They had two sons Jerry and Orville Johnson. According to Orville, they had Jerry and they thought that they could do better so they had another son, and he thought, that they thought, he was perfect, so they stopped having children. And this continued the legacy of the Johnson 99 Ranch.

Orville was born on November 3rd, 1956 in Laramie, Wyoming. Around the time of Orville’s birth, Victor, along with his father and brothers, Leonard and Kenny, decided it was time to liquidate the Hereford cattle, buy Angus cattle and split the ranch into different ranches. Victor’s sister, Mary got married to a preacher man and moved to Washington.

Poppy led his family through the trials and tribulations of the ranch life. Regardless of what they faced, he and Mary placed all challenges at Jesus’ feet and nothing could be a testament to that more than when he lost his brother Kenny at a very young age, when he was hit from behind by a drunk driver on I-80. Poppy’s focus and love revolved around his ranching lifestyle. There is no place that he would rather be than riding horses, feeding cattle, irrigating hay fields, haying, and telling his grandchildren they needed to be kicked. Poppy and Mary led their flock, now 7 generations strong, to embrace their faith in everything they do and say and to trust God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and this has evolved into some of the strongest individuals you will ever meet.

Part of the Johnson family tradition was to sit around pickin’ and grinnin’; holidays, family gatherings, any time they could take a few minutes off from ranching. This is where Orville’s love for singing and playing the guitar was born and developed. The Drover’s Band came into action and their first gig was at the High School Rodeo in Laramie. Orville would take his rolls of cash that he had earned playing in the band, into the Bank of Laramie. Dick VanPelt would watch him make a bee line for a certain teller or he would hang around killing time until she was available. This kept happening over and over and people started taking bets on how many times Orville would visit Lindy at the Bank each week. They started dating and on one date they were sitting in his car. Orville bet Lindy a penny that he could kiss her without touching her. Lindy, with her competitive nature, accepted the bet and knew she couldn’t lose. So Orville kissed her and said, “You won the bet! Here is your penny!”. Orville and Lindy were married on September 12th, 1981. Orville continually teased Lindy and always told their children that Lindy was the one who proposed marriage to him.

They had their oldest daughter Samantha on March 6th, 1983 in Laramie during a horrible snow storm and it took them two hours to get to the hospital from the ranch. According to Stacy, she thought, they thought they could do better and eighteen months later, they had another daughter. She was perfect so they stopped having children. They had Stacy at the ranch with two midwives and Orville caught her in his arms as she was born.

Some of Orv’s proudest moments was when he walked both of his daughters down the aisle on their wedding days. After he lifted his daughter’s veils, he would pull their spouses and them close together and whisper into their ears, “Just remember, the most important thing, is to serve the Lord.” When Stacy and Kyle told Orville they were expecting he would always say, “I am so excited” then he would look at Kyle with disgust and say, “I kind of want to hurt you”. He loved each of his grandchildren with an incredible love and desire to disciple and guide. In the more recent years, Orv and Lindy took in many individuals who needed a place to stay for awhile or a place to work to get back on their feet. Orv not only loved his family but he made all who were around him feel like family. He also chose to love many young individuals as his own. So many of you have adopted him as your dad and he filled the role beautifully. Orv did not hesitate to speak truth, even though sometimes you didn’t want to hear it. He loved helping others learn how to train horses and invited people to bring their horses to the ranch to work through different challenges. Orv would tell his daughters, “make sure when you get off your horse, he is a little better than when you got on”.

Orv loved to tell jokes! You can probably recall a joke that you have heard from Orv. Most of his jokes were appropriate, some not as appropriate. Most were at appropriate times, some at not the most appropriate times. Samantha and Stacy would tell their dad, “We are going to town, so please try not to be yourself” and then they would all laugh. Orville never missed an opportunity to tell people that he taught his daughters everything they know and he was absolutely right.

Orville loved to squish faces. He would grab the back of your head with one hand and with the other he would squish your nose. If you have ever had this happen, you knew he loved you. Orville was always coming up with ways to do things differently or better and he became quite the inventor. Just recently he created an easy gate opener and was in the process of getting it ready to be marketed. The family will continue to complete this project that Orville started. God gave him the gift of creation and he didn’t waste it.

Many of you have had the opportunity to experience the long standing family tradition of pickin’ and grinnin’ as Orville’s family entertains you with their songs and humor. Along with Orville’s amazing musical talents, you couldn’t find a better horseman. Ask the person sitting next to you and you can bet they have a horse trained by Orv. Almost every horse that is used on the ranch or by the grandkids was used on the ranch or by the grandkids.
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**Poster contest: 1st-Finn Johnson 2nd-Clain Aviles**

**Color contest: 1st- Jameson Songer- not pictured 2nd- Cohen Gall 3rd-Harlee Bayer**

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**Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation awards scholarships**

By Barb Erickson, Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Secretary

Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation members support the future generation through educational scholarships for graduating seniors and continuing education students and now has added the Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship for continuing education students who demonstrate an agriculture focused career path and are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of excellence in agriculture as an industry and a way of life.

A few months ago, the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors made the decision to honor the dedication and memory of the late Chuck Curry who served as the Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Agent for nearly 30 years. Chuck’s heart and soul was dedicated to serving his clients and especially those involved in agriculture. He was born and raised on the family farm in Goshen County and as the saying goes, “you can’t take the country out of the boy”! The first Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two well-deserving young ladies who also have a great appreciation for ag. Both girls come from families who have been strong supporters of the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation for many years. Kadra Clark, daughter of Jake and Kerin Clark of Yoder, and Paige Miller, daughter of Paul and Christine Miller of Torrington, each received a $500 scholarship to help them in their future educational endeavors. As we remember and honor Chuck, we also congratulate Kadra and Paige and wish them well.

Kadra who is studying Business Marketing at Chadron State College writes that “For the future of agriculture, I see communication and promotion playing an even bigger role. Farmers and ranchers need to share their stories and show consumers the importance of agriculture in our world.”

Paige who is studying Animal Science at Colorado State University shares that she is eager to see and be a part of the continuous advance in technology that is now in the hands of her generation which with agriculturalists, scientists, engineers and businessman will be responsible for feeding the growing population of this country.

Congratulations also go to the three recipients of the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship. Calista Dugger, daughter of Jeromie and Kendra Dugger of Torrington, received a $500 scholarship as a high school graduate planning to major in Agriculture Business and Pre-Law at Casper College. Continuing education scholarships in the amount of $250 each were awarded to Jacob and Noelle Chapman, son and daughter of Marge and Jeff Chapman of Torrington. Jacob is studying Agriculture Education with an Animal Science emphasis at Black Hawk College in Illinois while Noelle is at the University of Wyoming finishing up her Doctor of Pharmacy and MS in Health Services.

We are proud of the young people in Goshen County!
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the 48% of the federal surface area in Wyoming for economic activity will be significantly limited,” Hamilton said. “While Congress must designate lands as “wilderness” we have seen where Congress doesn’t have to act to designate these lands. By not acting the federal agencies must manage those identified lands as wilderness until Congress acts on the recommendation.”

As of May 17, three Wyoming counties (Goshen, Niobrara and Uinta) have seen their county commissioners adopting non-binding resolutions in opposition to the 30 x 30 plan. Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board Members Lori Schafer and Joe Campbell took the issue to the Goshen County Commissioners on May 4 to raise awareness of the plan. The resolution opposes the 30 x 30 plan and states the order may inappropriately result in harm to local and regional economies.

“In conversations WyFB has had with the Wyoming County Commissioners Association regarding county resolutions, they indicated this will be a topic at their mid-May spring meeting,” Hamilton stated. “Farm Bureau will discuss this topic with them again and know more on the County Commissioners views following their meeting (after the paper deadline).”

“All told whether the goal is to utilize private lands or public lands to accomplish the goal, we in agriculture will be on the front lines,” Hamilton continued. “Protecting private property rights and multiple-use of federal lands is high priority for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation,” Hamilton concluded. “We will continue to engage on all levels to ensure agriculture and private property rights are protected.”

children has the Orville Johnson “touch” in their training. Although Orville could sing in front of hundreds of people, he didn’t love the leadership role, but God had different plans for him. If Orville wasn’t speaking at church, assisting with High School Rodeo, Farm Bureau, Stockgrowers, rodeo queening, and Conservation District Events, in his spare time he and his “Woman” helped establish the Wyoming Draft and Driving Association and if that leadership wasn’t enough, God placed him in a position of ministry with the Rancher’s Gospel Band and Friday Night Live Events fulfilling God’s calling to grow God’s kingdom wherever he roamed. Orville, honored his father and mother well. Part of his, and Lindy’s ministry was taking care of Poppy, helping him to continue working on the ranch and including him in all things. They enjoyed the time they spent with him and served with humility and a servant’s heart.

Anybody that really knew Poppy and Orville, knew that they were anxiously anticipating the coming of Jesus Christ and eternal life. We will terribly miss both Poppy and Orville. On the ranch, not one thing doesn’t remind us of them. Today is a celebration of their walk home with their Lord and Savior and to the place God has prepared for them. So many lives were touched by the life of Orville and Victor. We are not able to share all of the stories today but we would really like you to email them to us so that we can put them in a special memory book to make sure his grandchildren and the generations to come will have these stories.

Orville and Victor ran the race God had for them with endurance. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18. We have felt God close and we pray this for all of you.