



# Wyoming FFA Foundation

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## ***Cameco, FFA Challenge FFA Members to Serve Their Communities***

***Cheyenne*** — Wyoming FFA's 2,053 members from 51 chapters within the state are being called upon to carry out good deeds in their communities. Through the Cameco Cowboy State Challenge FFA members were asked to look around their communities, identify needs and step forward to help meet those needs.

"Earlier this year, with a gift from Cameco Resources," explains Wyoming FFA Foundation President Court Schilt, "we challenged the state's FFA chapters to identify areas of need in their communities and partner with the FFA Foundation and Cameco to carry out projects to meet those needs. The project is called the Cameco Cowboy State Challenge."

"The FFA is an outstanding organization, and it will be especially exciting to see local members develop their own projects," said Paul Goranson, president of Cameco Resources of Cheyenne, the nation's largest uranium producer.

At the University of Wyoming the Collegiate FFA Chapter is improving the playground facilities at the Albany County Fairgrounds. The project is made possible with funds provided by Cameco and the playground will be dedicated in memory of nine-year-old Rowdy Smallwood. "Collegiate FFA members will plan, budget for, install and maintain the park," says Collegiate FFA Advisor Kris Brewer. "This park will stand as a testament to the care that agriculturalists provide their communities and that FFA is locally grounded." The playground project will be complete in time for the 2011 Albany County Fair.

In southwest Wyoming's Bridger Valley members of the Jim Bridger FFA Chapter are encouraging their community members to make the switch from plastic to reusable cloth bags. "Our goal is to get 80 percent of our community in the habit of shopping with recyclable cloth bags," say members of the Jim Bridger FFA Chapter in their funding application. "We will give them a bag and ask for a commitment to use the bags."

Buffalo FFA members, with support from Cameco Resources and the FFA Foundation, are establishing a garden near their school. Garden produce will be

used in the school lunch program, sold at an area farmer's market and donated to a local food pantry. Pumpkins grown in the patch will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club. Buffalo FFA Advisor Jake Evans says a survey conducted by the students revealed that only ten percent of the student body is familiar with gardening. While growing the produce Evans and the Buffalo FFA Chapter members hope to see students become more aware of gardening opportunities.

"This is just a sampling of the good deeds FFA members are carrying out with support from Cameco," says Schilt. "While helping their communities the students are learning the good feelings associated with volunteerism and that they truly can make a positive difference in others' lives."

A second installment of the Cameco Cowboy State Challenge will be issued to Wyoming FFA members Fall 2011. "We're excited to see what FFA members can accomplish with a little financial support and encouragement," says Schilt.

*The Wyoming FFA Foundation supports the activities of the Wyoming FFA program. If you'd like to receive additional information on the Wyoming FFA Foundation contact their Executive Director, Jennifer Womack, at 307-351-0730 or via [Womack@wyoming.com](mailto:Womack@wyoming.com).*

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