



# WYOMING FFA TIMES

2013 Winter Edition

## FFA members tour Gillette businesses



Half of the over 200 FFA members who attended a Nov. 15 tour in Gillette gather for a photograph in front of Jordan's Western Dining on the South Douglas Highway in Gillette. FFA members toured the restaurant, witnessed a food delivery from Sysco and enjoyed a meal of Durham Ranchers Pie featuring bison meat from the nearby Durham Ranch.

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Gillette, Wyo.** — Over 200 FFA members visited Gillette area businesses on Nov. 15 for a tour hosted by the Wyoming FFA Foundation. Wyoming FFA members were in town for a larger FFA gathering featuring leadership training for over 500 young people who belong to the Wyoming FFA.

The 2013 tour was made possible thanks to donations from Tri-State

Generation & Transmission, Cloud Peak Energy, Durham Ranch, L&H Industrial and Encana Oil & Gas. Tour itineraries are created to highlight area businesses and industries while sharing information about career opportunities with Wyoming FFA members.

The tour group began their day at Jordan's Western Dining in Gillette. The visit included a discussion on the connection between American

agriculture and the restaurant industry. Owners Jordan Fischer and John Fischer guided FFA members on a tour of the restaurant, including the kitchen. Tour attendees also had a chance to visit with Sysco and learn more about the delivery of food to the restaurant. While at the restaurant the FFA members enjoyed a lunch of Durham Ranchers Pie, featuring bison meat from the nearby Durham Ranch.

When the Fishers opened their restaurant a little over six months ago, Jordan says they selected Wyoming FFA as the restaurant's philanthropic focus. "Without you," she told the FFA members, "what we do wouldn't be possible." Jordan shared her appreciation for American agriculture with the FFA members attending the mid-November tour.

Cordero Rojo Coal Mine, a Cloud Peak

See **TOUR** Page 4

## Wyo FFA members help So. Dakota storm victims

By Teresa Milner, WY FFA Association

**Cheyenne** — FFA members from across Wyoming demonstrated their compassion and understanding of the difficulties facing South Dakota ranchers affected by a devastating October snow storm, raising just more than \$21,000 for agricultural relief efforts.

The members pooled money collected at their fall leadership confer-

ences, held Nov. 15-16, in Gillette, and provided the donation to the South Dakota's Ranchers Relief Fund.

The FFA members' efforts were part of a service project called "Change for South Dakota" that the Wyoming State FFA Officers started in mid-October. A record-breaking storm that dumped four feet of snow in parts of western South Dakota left ranch-

ers dealing with heavy livestock losses.

"We wanted to do something that would help the members of the South Dakota FFA Association and because we all knew that some of the animals that were hurt or killed in

the storm were some of the FFA members' supervised agriculture experience projects," said Aleec

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## Weaver Ranch rich in tradition

By Saige Albert, Wyoming Livestock Roundup

**Editor's Note:** The Weaver Ranch is a long-time sponsor of Wyoming's champion FFA livestock evaluation team. The funds they donate help the team travel to and compete at the National FFA Convention each fall. Given this year's national championship, it seemed fitting to feature the ranch in this edition of the FFA Times.

**Tie Siding** — Agriculture was bred into Susan, Mourine and Maxine Weaver from their beginning.

"We had the best childhood ever," comments Mourine. "We loved our 4-H heifers, and we loved being around the cattle."

The Weaver sisters were raised at their father Adrian's veterinary clinic in Laramie and on Weaver Ranch,

which straddles the Wyoming-Colorado border.

### Long history

During the days before Wyoming became a state, Noah and Adeline Weaver, great-grandparents to Susan, Mourine and Maxine, owned the general store at old Tie Siding.

The family also established a general store in Laramie, where their son Adrian was born in 1889. The Weavers built a livery stable and a small hotel at Tie Siding a short time later.

"Our grandparents homesteaded on the Colo-

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Torrington-Lingle FFA Livestock Evaluation team members (l-r) PD Miller, Mikayla McNamee, Tyler Pickinpaugh, Skyler Miller and FFA Advisor Mr. Jason Groene.

## Torrington/Lingle FFA judges win national championship

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Louisville, Ky.** — Wyoming's four-member team of PD Miller, Skyler Miller, Mikayla McNamee and Tyler Pickinpaugh earned a national championship at the 2013 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Wyoming FFA Times recently caught up with a couple members of the team and their coach, Torrington/Lingle FFA Advisor Mr. Jason Groene, to learn more about the contest and the team's win.

The National FFA Livestock Career Development Event (CDE) is a competitive event that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate livestock. Event components include eight evaluation classes of beef, sheep, swine, and goats; oral placement reasons on four classes; and a written exam on livestock production. A team activity, utilizing reproductive and marketing information, demonstrates the teams' livestock selection ability. The Torrington/Lingle team earned the right to represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention after first winning the state competition in April of 2013 in Cheyenne.

PD Miller was named the top individual at the National FFA Convention Livestock Evaluation event. "We looked at as much livestock as we could," says PD of the months leading up to the competition. "We traveled to Laramie County Community College and Casper College. Once a week, we'd get together with Mr. Groene to go practice for the test and the team activity."

"It was pretty cool to know that if you put in a lot of hard work, dedication and practice, it works out in the end," says Tyler. "All of the work, contests and studying paid off."

"Those kids have been really fun to travel with," says Mr. Groene. "They all four get along well and they've known each other since kindergarten, if not before. They show up when they're supposed to,

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## Casper's Coughenour wins national science fair

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Louisville, Ky.** — Natrona County High School sophomore Connor Coughenour earned top honors at the National FFA Convention with a project focused on irrigation.

"I tested different types of irrigation," says Connor of his initial experiment that took place at the lab level. "I tested two common irrigation systems — flood and sprinkler — and a new type where I injected the water into the ground." Looking ahead, Connor says he'd like to complete an extension of his project and test the methods in the field.

"My system, where I injected the water, worked the best," says Connor. Results were determined based on which plants grew the most in a controlled system with the delivery mechanism for the irrigation being the only variation. Of the injection system, he says, "Those plants grew the most, with the water reaching the plants the most from that system." He says sprinkler irrigation worked the second best and flood irrigation last. Connor says injection irrigation differs from drip irrigation in that tubes aren't used.

Connor qualified to compete at the National FFA Convention after submitting a written summary of his project. Once in Louisville, he says he put up a display board and met with a panel of judges who asked questions about his project. His performance there earned him top recognition in the "Power, Structural and Technical Systems" division of the competition and a

See **CONNOR** Page 10

## PREZ SAYS

### Energy!

Late October I boarded a plane in Gillette, Wyo. The final destination on my series of ticket stubs listed "Louisville." The last time I made this venture, I caught a plane in Laramie and my final destination read "Kansas City, Mo." Needless to say, it's been a few years since I've attended the National FFA Convention. It did not disappoint!



Jennifer Womack  
FFA Foundation Director

In Denver, I met up with State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda and the Wyoming FFA Officer Team. I try to plan ahead...so, on the plane ride from Denver to Louisville, I slept! That was a good plan since the next seven days flew by. From the opening session to the career fair, the event was busting at the seams with ideas and inspiration.

I'm not a sports fanatic, but I do love a good motivational speech that spawns new ideas and energy. University of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino advised FFA members (and adults!) to surround themselves with positive people, live by a one-day contract, know the time and place for technology, listen to be an effective communicator and look at adversity with great courage. Patino's recently released book, carries the name, "The One-Day Contract," and encourages living in the moment. He's dubbed today's young people as "the generation of distractors" and challenged them to live for the present. I really appreciated his challenge to put the cell phones down and pay attention to the people present.

"The past is to be learned from and cherished and the future is to look forward to," Pitino said. "The unique and special thing we are given is today."

Joe Torrillo was equally interesting, inspiring patriotism among the FFA members. Torrillo is a veteran of the New York City Fire Department. He was en route to a press conference when the first plane hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. He rushed to join the rescue efforts, borrowing equipment from a fellow firefighter who was stationed at the fire department near the Twin Towers. He was buried alive when the first tower collapsed, rescued and buried again when the second tower collapsed. His family found him three days later in a hospital outside of the direct area.

These were just two of the many speakers who shared inspirational and thought-provoking messages. Just a short walk and a sharp left away, FFA members (and adults!) had numerous other learning opportunities in the Career Fair. Colleges from across the country, trade organizations and more packed the exhibit hall. From the state booths to the agricultural businesses, you could learn just about anything ag-related in that expansive room!

National Convention was wonderful, but I have to say the best part was the company. If you haven't had a chance to spend time with 2013-2014 Wyoming State FFA Officer Team, take the time to get to know them. They're an outstanding group of young leaders who will go far in life's endeavors. No doubt about it! Many of them competed on Career Development Event teams while we were in Louisville and all of them took the time to spend with FFA members from across Wyoming and cheer them on as they competed. I left Louisville very impressed with Wyoming FFA's leaders! Plus, I now have a vague understanding of "snap chat," watched the first 20 seconds of "What the Fox Says" (couldn't stand anymore!) and have an even greater appreciation of the FFA program and the opportunities it presents.

On behalf of the Wyoming FFA Foundation, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A special thanks goes out to those of you who helped the Foundation reach important goals on behalf of Wyoming FFA this past year. Thanks to you, we're able to do more for Wyoming FFA with each passing year.

I'd also like to give a special shout out and thanks to Wyoming's agricultural educators. This premier group of teachers does an outstanding job in the classroom and beyond. Their impact on our state's young people is both important and lasting. If you see one of Wyoming's 50 plus ag educators this Christmas season, let them know they're appreciated!

Three months and counting to the 2014 Wyoming FFA Convention!

See you there!  
-Jen

# Let's Talk WYOMING FFA

From our Executive Director

## Wyoming makes stellar showing at National FFA Convention

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times  
Louisville, Kentucky — "Small, but mighty" comes to mind when reviewing Wyoming's performance at the 2013 National FFA Convention.

Across the nation, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, nearly 580,000 young people ages 12-21 belong to the FFA. Of those, approximately 2,300 (and growing!) are from Wyoming. Size, doesn't however, stop the Cowboy State. Performance at the National FFA Convention is a testament to the state's high quality agriculture educators and FFA members. 2013 was no exception as the state brought home two national championships and several high placing finishes. The winning livestock evaluation team and national science fair champion Connor Coughenour are featured on the cover of this edition of the *Times*.

Wyoming FFA members competed in over a dozen Career Development Events (CDE) at the 2013 National FFA Convention. According to the National FFA Organization, these "events help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market." Have a conversation with members of Wyoming's winning teams and you'll know Wyoming is hitting the mark with the goals set for CDEs.

Southeast FFA's team of Zachary Eisenbarth, Ali Briggs, Crickett Volmer and Travis Jinks made a fourth place finish in the Farm Business Management competition. The National FFA Farm Business Management CDE is designed to test the ability of students to apply economic principles and concepts in analyzing farm and ranch business management deci-

sions. Participants respond to questions concerning economic principles in farm business management as well as a problem-solving analysis section. This year's team traveled with support from Stotz Equipment with locations in Casper and Riverton.

Wyoming's Agricultural Sales team from Casper FFA finished with Gold Emblem honors. Chandler Hiser finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The event includes actual sales presentations, a written exam, team sales situation, an individual practical situation focusing on customer relations, customer service, or prospecting for customers. This year's team traveled to the National FFA Convention with support from Devon Energy.

Paintrock FFA's Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems team also earned Gold Emblem honors. Team members Royce Mercer and Ira Hook were Gold Emblem individuals at the event. Activities included in the event are a written exam, a team event, demonstration of problem-solving skills, and hands-on performance activities. Areas of emphasis include environmental and natural resource systems, machinery and equipment systems, structural systems, energy systems and electrical systems. The team traveled with support from Andreen-Hunt Construction in Casper.

Casper FFA earned Gold Emblem recognition in the national Agronomy contest. Additionally, teammates Cheyenne Brabec, Averi Reynolds and Brandie Luper were Gold Emblem individuals at the competition. Participants' knowledge of agronomic sci-

See CDE Page 7

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The *Wyoming FFA Times* is a joint publication of Wyoming FFA. Inquiries regarding subscriptions, advertising or editorial should be directed to the Wyoming FFA Foundation at [Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com) or 307-351-0730. Discounts are offered on annual advertising purchases and four editions are published each year. Editorial and advertising for the next edition is due March 4, 2013 and should also be directed to the Foundation.

[www.WyoFFAFoundation.com](http://www.WyoFFAFoundation.com)

### Wyoming FFA Foundation

307-351-0730  
[Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com)  
PO Box 71 • Cheyenne WY 82003  
Executive Director, Jennifer Womack  
Court Schilt, Chairman • Cheyenne  
Brittany Wilson, Treasurer • Cheyenne  
Becki Dale, Secretary • Gillette  
Val Andreen • Casper  
Greg Schamber • Pinedale  
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Bart Klipstein • Cheyenne  
Ty Berry • Cheyenne, ex-officio  
Stacy Broda • Cheyenne, ex-officio

### Wyoming FFA Association

State Advisor, Stacy Broda  
307-630-6094 • [SBroda@yahoo.com](mailto:SBroda@yahoo.com)

### www.WyomingFFA.org

9608 Child Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Brett Roth, State President  
Mikayla McNamee, Vice President  
Ty Carpenter, 2nd Vice President  
William Wood, 3rd Vice President  
Lindsay Utter, Secretary  
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### Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp

Camp Director, Lindsey Freeman  
[lfreema5@gmail.com](mailto:lfreema5@gmail.com) • [www.FFACamp.org](http://www.FFACamp.org)  
Burt Andreen, Associate Director • Casper  
Cinnamon Smith, Associate Director • Gillette  
Toby Lynde, Past Director (2008-11) • Gillette  
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Across Wyoming there are over 51 FFA chapters and over 2,000 members. The Wyoming FFA Times is all of Wyoming FFA's publication, featuring the news and happenings within the program. It's laced with the numerous reasons to celebrate the program, features outstanding supporters and hopefully unveils new ideas for the many ambitious members. It's also the publication for those who support Wyoming FFA and want to see it flourish and grow!

Quick Info—

# FFA BRIEFS

## FFA scholarships offered

**Cheyenne** — Wyoming FFA members are encouraged to apply for college scholarships offered by the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

The scholarship application will be made available at [www.WyoFFAFoundation.com](http://www.WyoFFAFoundation.com) no later than Jan. 1, 2014.

Applications are due back to the Foundation no later than Feb. 1, 2014. Watch the Foundation's Facebook page for the exact release date.



## Foundation members sought

**Cheyenne** — The Wyoming FFA Foundation has openings on its board of directors. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack at 307-351-0730 or email [Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com). Vacancies exist in the western Wyoming, central Wyoming, northwest Wyoming and northeast Wyoming.

The Foundation will hold its Annual Meeting on Jan. 18, 2014 in Douglas. Currently, the board meets on the first Wednesday of every month during the evening hours via conference call. In person meetings are held twice a year with one in January and the second in November and in conjunction with Wyoming FFA's fall leadership event for members.

## WY FFA Convention planned

**Cheyenne** — The 2014 Wyoming FFA Convention will take place in Cheyenne early April 2014. The event will begin on Monday, April 7 and span through Thursday, April 10.

Over the course of the four days, Wyoming FFA members will compete in Career Development Events, attend convention sessions and see their state capitol. Wyoming's 2014-2015 State Officer Team will also be selected with the officers announced during the closing session of convention on Thursday morning.

According to the *Wyoming Business Report*, the convention is the largest annual youth gathering held in Wyoming. Over 1,000 Wyoming FFA members are expected to attend.

## Celebrate FFA this February

National FFA Week 2014 will be held Feb. 15-22, 2014. The weeklong celebration of FFA always spans George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22 and runs Saturday to Saturday.

Washington is an important figure within the FFA program. During the organization's opening ceremonies, the treasurer states his location as "Stationed at the emblem of Washington." He continues, "I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts — carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent."

FFA week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. It's a time to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.



## Career Fair planned

**Cheyenne** — The Wyoming FFA Foundation will again be hosting a daylong career fair in conjunction with the Wyoming FFA Convention. The event is planned for April 8 at the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne, Wyo.

"The 2013 career fair, the first of its kind, proved very popular with both FFA members and advisors," says Jennifer Womack, Foundation Executive Director. "Realizing that, we're looking to grow the event this year and bring in more vendors and interactive displays for the young people attending. I'm really excited to see where we can take the event in 2014 and hope many of the region's colleges, ag businesses and more will consider attending. The event is a great opportunity to visit with FFA members who are potential employees in the not-too-distant future."

For additional information on participating in the 2014 Career Fair, please contact Jennifer Womack at 307-351-0730 or email [Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com). A limited number of booths are available and will be rented on a first-come, first served basis. Over 1,000 FFA members are expected to attend this year's convention, making it the largest youth convention held annually in Wyoming.

## 2014 golf tourney date set

**Douglas** — If you're planning ahead for 2014, makes plans to attend and enter the 2014 Cowboy Chuck & Chip Golf Tournament. The event will be held Aug. 12, 2014 at the golf course in Douglas. The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation host the annual tournament. A \$600 sponsorship includes entry fees for a four-person team.



## STORM continued from Page 1

sha Gladson, State Treasurer.

Chapters were asked to put collection cans in local businesses and encourage their community to provide pocket change for struggling South Dakota producers. Members across the state responded to the challenge, placing donation cans or raising money in other ways. Little Snake River FFA members wrote letters to area ranchers, making a personal pitch to help. Shoshoni FFA members decided to help by donating bred cows to help rebuild South Dakota herds.

"Wyoming's FFA members showed the true meaning of living to serve with their contribution to the Change for South Dakota project," said Stacy Broda, State FFA Advisor. "As we watched our agricultural family in South Dakota endure this storm and its aftermath, the pictures and stories educated our students first-hand about the hardships that often happen in our industry."

Meeteetse FFA member Levi Gitlitz decided to help by donating the proceeds from the sale of a family heifer at the Riverton Livestock Auction. The heifer was "rolled-over" and sold more than a dozen times with all the proceeds going to help ranchers Levi has never met but still cared about. Riverton Livestock was so impressed with Gitlitz's efforts that they agreed to donate their commission and fees to the fund as well.

Broda said Wyoming members really empathized with their South Dakota counterparts.

"It was easy for our members to be a part of a project that not only helped those in need but advocated for agriculture in a very heartfelt way. As the money came in from chapters' efforts, it was hard not to have goose bumps as the total came in at over \$21,000."

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**TOUR** *continued from Page 1*

Energy coal mine, hosted the tour group for a discussion on coal mining in the Powder River Basin. Cordero Rojo has received widespread recognition for its work in reclamation and wildlife habitat development. Approximately 39.2 million tons of low sulphur coal is shipped from the mine annually, making it an important contributor in meeting the nation's electricity needs.

"Cloud Peak Energy is a proud supporter of the Wyoming FFA,"

says Becki Dale, Cloud Peak Energy Community Affairs Specialist and a Wyoming FFA Foundation board member. "We appreciate how FFA develops premier leadership, personal growth and career success in its members, and we are excited for the opportunity to show students mining in Wyoming."

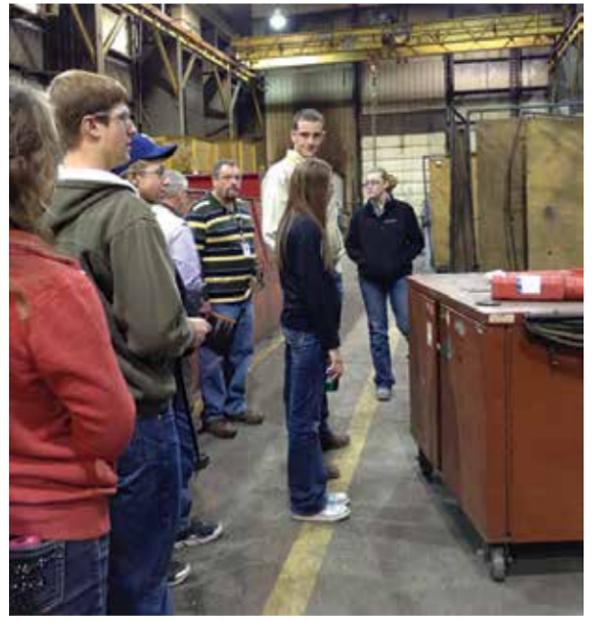
The day's final stop was at L&H Industrial where FFA members had a chance to visit with company president Mike Wandler. The company opened in 1964 as

a "mom and pop" welding shop and today has a presence on four continents. During this stop FFA members learned about numerous careers in the field of heavy manufacturing, engineering, welding and service and repairs. Many left the facility proud of their state's contributions on a national and international scale.

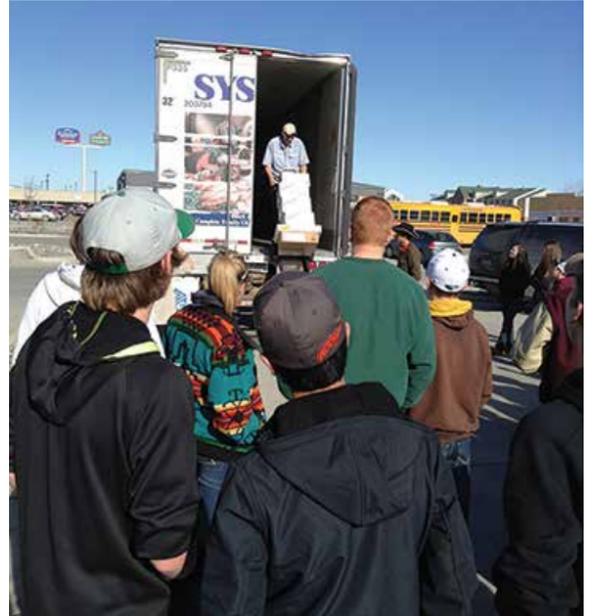
"L&H is happy to host the FFA and excited to show them their abundant and prosperous career opportunities," says company president Mike Wandler. "The FFA group has many people that would

fit our culture and really enjoy our work inventing, manufacturing and repairing earth moving equipment. We find people who grow up in farming and ranching usually have great work ethic and values."

The Wyoming FFA Foundation began hosting tours for the state's FFA members in 2012 in an effort to spread awareness about Wyoming businesses and career opportunities. Upon completion of the tour, FFA members traveled to the Complex to take part in the weekend's leadership development events.



FFA members marveled at the large scale welding shop at L&H Industrial in Gillette. Seeing the facilities and the mining size equipment provided many FFA members knowledge about potential careers in Wyoming's industries.



Sysco made a delivery to Jordan's Western Dining while FFA members were touring the facility. The delivery allowed students to see the tight scheduling and efficient ordering systems that exist in the background to ensure restaurants run smoothly.

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**WEAVER** *continued from Page 1*

rado side of the state line in 1886,” says Maxine. “At the same time, David Weaver homesteaded on the Wyoming side of the state line.”

Continuing to acquire land for the ever-expanding operation, Adeline continued to purchase property at Tie Siding between 1904 and 1931. The Stevenson Ranch was acquired in 1958, and the family began to run registered Black Angus cattle in 1960.

The ranch continued to run a commercial herd until 1990.

“When dad started, most people had Herefords,” says Maxine. “He bought his first registered Angus in 1960, so we could work with cattle that didn’t have to deal with burnt udders, bad bags, cancer eye and dehorning.”

**Seedstock Angus cattle**

Today, the Weaver sisters carry on the long traditions of cattle ranching in their family.

“We have all worked off the ranch at some point, but we are all back now,” says Maxine. “We are the fifth generation on

the ranch.”

They continue to buy and sell property to acquire the land that is best suited to raising their ideal bull.

As a Black Angus seedstock producer, they strive for bulls that are able to perform at high elevation. Each year, the registered Angus bulls are sold as virgin two-year-olds during their February sale.

“We feel like their feet and legs stand up better as two-year-olds,” Maxine notes. “We let them mature naturally before we sell them.”

“With our two-year-olds, our main thing is

calving ease and high elevation,” says Maxine. “Most of our buyers are from Wyoming and the West Slope of Colorado. They want bulls that are PAP tested at 7,500 feet, where tests are more accurate.”

To accommodate the needs of producers, bulls are PAP tested as yearlings, and the scores are listed in their sale catalog. Heifers are tested every several years.

In addition to selling bulls, the sisters sell two-year-old bred commercial heifers at their yearly sale.

In their heifers, the Weavers are looking for a moderate-sized cow that

exhibits maternal traits and correct conformation. The heifers not selected as replacements are sold.

**A year in the life**

The Weaver sisters begin their year in January preparing for their President’s Day Bull Sale.

Following the sale, they spend the next month delivering bulls.

“Before the sale, our replacement heifers go to Sedgwick, Colo.,” says Maxine. “They calve the heifers the beginning of March and the cows start the beginning of April.”

Lyle and Deb Linman manage the Weaver’s Ranch at Sedgwick, Colo., which enables

the sisters to personally deliver bulls. The Linmans are also partners in the cattle business.

“Then, we ultrasound test the bulls around May 1,” says Susan. “Ultrasound is a newer technology that we really use to get more carcass information on our bulls. We are able to get marbling, rib eye and backfat information.”

Beginning in June, bulls are moved to summer pastures.

Bulls are summered at Tie Siding between 7,500 and 8,000 feet of elevation. Recently purchased property north of Centennial will allow bulls to summer at up to 9,000 feet.

Heifers are also brought to Wyoming and Virginia Dale, Colo. for the summer but are kept separated by at least a road and a couple of fences.

“The beginning of October, we will start watching the weather and decide when we want to take the cattle home,” says Maxine. “Some of the heifers will be dropped off at Virginia Dale, Colo., and the rest are brought back to Owl Creek Canyon outside Fort Collins, Colo.”

Eventually, all the heifers end up at Owl Canyon for the winter.

For the winter, the cattle are left on pastures until the grass is depleted or snow gets too deep.

“We put them out on pasture with a protein supplement, and then we feed hay if we get ground-covering snow,” she continues.

**Joys of ranching**

Mourine, Maxine and Susan all appreciate the ranch lifestyle for different reasons and aim to continue in the industry.

“I like being my own boss,” says Mourine. “Ranching isn’t a job – it’s a way of life.”

Mourine also notes that she enjoys working with her children Sheldon Emerson and Darby Luckey, who are partners on the ranch. While both are also involved in separate ventures, they are still a part of ranch activities.

Maxine adds, “I enjoy seeing the results of what we do. For example, we pick a breeding program and plan three years ahead to see an end result.”

She notes that being a part of the industry, making progress and making a difference is important.

For Susan, the oldest of the sisters, the cattle and the people keep her in ranching.

“We like the cattle, but the people in the industry are great,” she notes. “Growing up, we really loved raising cattle, and we still enjoy it today.”

Mourine adds, “Agriculture is a great way of life.”

Saige Albert is managing editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at saige@wylr.net.

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**CDE** continued from Page 1

ences was tested through several levels of competition including developing solutions for problematic scenarios; identification of seeds, insects, soil and crops; and other management practices. The Casper team traveled with support from the University of Wyoming's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Wyoming's Environmental and Natural Resources Team from Cheyenne High Plains FFA finished with a Gold Emblem. Team member Jace Cussins was recognized as Gold Emblem individual in the event. Team members Joshua Berry, Josiah Masie and Kiernan Brandt were recognized for their Silver Emblem finishes. This event focuses on testing students' problem solving and decision making skills in environmental and natural resources. These areas concentrate on soil profiles, water and air quality, waste management, environmental analysis, and use of global positioning units. This team traveled with support from the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation.

In the Agricultural Issues Forum, the team from Buffalo FFA earned silver emblem honors.

The National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum CDE is a competitive event that tests students' knowledge of agricultural issues and evaluates how well they can apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. This year's team traveled with support from the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and FUSA Insurance. During their presentation, they discussed cattle feedlots in America.

The Marketing Plan Career Development Event team from Casper FFA earned Silver Emblem honors. The team traveled with support from Donn & Julianne Randall, TR Custom Wicking and Gluten Free Harvest. The National FFA Marketing Plan CDE helps students practice and sharpen skills in marketing through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. The plan may focus on the introduction of a new agricultural product, supply or service or on improving marketing of an existing product, supply, or service.

Silver Emblem honors were earned by the Horse Evaluation Team from Buffalo FFA. The team traveled with support from Cinderella Horses. The team's Alanna Starkovich made a Silver Emblem finish

for individual recognition. The National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate horses. Event components include eight selection classes that consisted of four halter classes and four performance classes. Students also give four sets of oral reasons with two sets coming from each evaluation class. Teams also work together to complete practical activities and a team presentation.

The National FFA Meats Technology and Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat carcasses and products. Event components include a general knowledge exam; beef carcass evaluation; identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; quality and yield grading of beef carcasses; a team meat merchandising event; and solving of a meat formulation problem. Wyoming FFA's team from Snowy Range FFA in Laramie earned Silver Emblem recognition at the event. The team traveled with the support of the Wyoming Beef Council.

Wyoming's Parliamentary Procedure Team from Burns FFA earned Silver Emblem recog-

nition at the event. The team traveled with support from the Wyoming Farm Bureau. The National FFA Parliamentary Procedure CDE tests students' ability to effectively communicate ideas during a meeting. Components included a general knowledge exam of parliamentary law, a ten-minute demonstration of parliamentary procedure, oral questions, written minutes of the demonstration as well as a team problem solving activity.

Snowy Range FFA, representing Wyoming in the national Poultry Evaluation CDE, earned Silver Emblem honors. The National Poultry Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests the participant's ability to select top quality poultry and poultry products needed for successful production and marketing. Event participants must complete a written exam on poultry management, evaluate classes of live birds for eggs and meat production, evaluate quality of eggs, and evaluate and identify parts and products. The Wyoming FFA Foundation helps the state champion poultry team with travel using general donations. Interested sponsors are encouraged to contact the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

In a relatively new competition, Casper FFA

represented Wyoming in the Veterinary Sciences competition. The team earned Silver Emblem recognition. Teammate Alix Smith was recognized as a Gold Emblem individual in the event. The National Veterinary Science CDE is a competitive event that tests the participant's ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill in practical settings as well as identify breeds, parasites and equipment. Participants also complete a written exam and respond to scenario questions about current topics in the veterinary industry. Teams present to a panel of judges about the roles and responsibilities of the veterinary team in a variety of situations involving patients from companion animal to large animal. The team traveled with support from Zoetis and vet-

erinarians Jay & Brandi Hudson of Gillette.

Kameesha Morris of Buffalo represented Wyoming in the Creed Speaking. Jin Kim of Sheridan represented the state in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking and Tyler Clemetson of Shoshoni competed in the Prepared Public Speaking. Hageman Law P.C. of Cheyenne supports the Extemporaneous Public Speaking competition while the Northern Ag Network supports Wyoming's Prepared Public Speaking competition.

Early April 2014, when the Wyoming FFA Convention comes to Cheyenne, Wyoming's champion teams will be selected. Winning teams from the event will represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, during late October 2014.



Casper FFA's Ag Sales Team earned a Gold Emblem finish at the National FFA Convention. Shown left to right are Christy Williams, Heather Loraas, Kellee King, Chandler Hiser, Lauren Hedges and Mr. Brock Burch.

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**CHAMP** *continued from Page 1*

do what's asked of them and listen to what they're told."

For the team activity, he says they were given a genetic scenario involving bull selection. With EPDs in hand, they were asked to choose the best bulls for a given set of cows. The

team was also called upon to answer questions about marketing. Skyler and Mikayla did that part of the activity, figuring slides, shrink and shipping costs.

Each member of the team won \$1,000. Additionally, PD won another \$1,000 for placing as the

top individual. Skylar won \$800 and Tyler \$400 for their individual finishes at the national level.

"Our team won the right to attend the National Highland Show and judging contest in Europe during the summer of 2014.

PD is a junior at Torrington High School, making him eligible to again compete in the Career

Development Events at the Wyoming FFA Convention this April. Despite the national win in Livestock Evaluation, he says he isn't ready to quit competing in the events. "I'm going to try another CDE this year, probably something like Marketing Plan or Horse Evaluation." As a freshman he was on the Agronomy Team and was

part of a state champion Meats Evaluation Team, going on to represent Wyoming in that event at the National FFA Convention.

Similarly, Tyler says he'll again compete in a CDE at the Wyoming FFA Convention. Of FFA in general, he says he likes it. "It's what I'm good at," he adds. "It's what I've done for a long time and I can use what I know to accomplish something."

Not surprisingly, Tyler plans to seek a spot on a judging team when he graduates from high school next spring. That will fit well with his plans to study animal science or animal nutrition. "I'd like to be a sales rep or maybe start a feed company some day," he says.

"The world is out in front of them," says Mr. Groene of the team members. "Each of the kids had scholarship offers to go judge at the next level." Mikayla, he says, is already judging for Casper College. "Within the industry, it will open a

lot of doors as far as connections they made that will serve them well later in life."

Back in Torrington and Lingle, he says the win is serving as an inspiration to younger members as they realize they belong to a chapter that gets things done at a very high level. "It sets expectations for our younger members to try and achieve at that same level," says Mr. Groene. The team spoke to the local rotary group and represented their school on the area radio station.

In the months ahead the team will be raising funds to pay for their trip to judge in Europe. As the first livestock judging team from Wyoming to win the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Championship, they'll serve as ambassadors for Wyoming and the nation in their overseas travels. If you'd like to make a contribution to their travel expenses, please contact the Wyoming FFA Foundation at 307-351-0730 for additional details.

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# Longtime Wyoming ag educator Richard Hubbard remembered

*Editor's Note: I was enrolled in Mr. Hubbard's classes and a member of his FFA chapter from 1988 through my sophomore year of college. Over the course of that time he opened numerous doors of opportunity, encouraged learning and aided me in developing an SAE that was central in funding a large portion of my college education. His life is a testament to the positive impact one person can have within their community. —Jen Womack*

**Sundance** — Richard "Dick" Eugene Hubbard, 74, of Sundance, Wyo. passed away on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at Crook County Long Term Care Center.

Richard "Dick" Hubbard was born on February 14, 1939 in Blockton, Iowa, to Clarke and Pauline Hubbard. He attended grade school in Clearfield, Iowa and moved with his family to Riverton, Wyo. in 1951. He graduated from Riverton High School in 1957 and attended Casper Col-

lege for two years, earning his Associate of Science Degree. He attended the University of Wyoming and graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and 60 hours of Graduate Credits towards his Masters Degree. He was also a Member of Alpha Tau Alpha, the Honorary Agricultural Education Fraternity. He started his teaching career in Sundance, Wyoming, in the fall of 1961 where he met Helen M. Hoge while she was also starting her teaching career. They were married on July 21, 1962 in Bismarck, North Dakota, and have been married for over 51 years.

He taught Agricultural Education, Welding, Ag Mechanics, Cooperative Vocational Education, Science and Ag Science and was also the FFA advisor from 1961 to 2003 for the Bearlodge FFA Chapter in Sundance, Wyoming. During these 42 years of teaching, he only missed

two days. He left his legacy by exemplifying the FFA motto "Learning To Do, Doing To Learn, Earning To Live, Living To Serve." Both student and program success can measure his accomplishments. Some of his most memorable teaching experiences were having two National FFA proficiency winners and a three-star National Gold Emblem FFA Chapter.

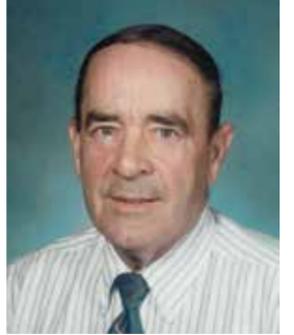
He was the first shop teacher in the state to introduce MIG and TIG welding to the program in the 1960s and plasma cutting in 1986. He introduced aquaculture into his Ag Science curriculum and was in the first group of ag teachers to introduce computers and agri-data to his students. His keeping on top of modern technology enabled his students to win the State Mechanics Championships at the Wyoming State Fair for 26 years. In 1988 and 1995, he received the National Vocational Agricultural Teacher's Association Award for Outstanding Service. In 1989, he received the Crook County School District #1 Administrative Award of Excellence for being an Exceptional Teacher, and the FFA - Wyoming Association Certificate for Outstanding Achievements in Farming, Leadership, Citizenship, and Community Welfare. He was awarded recognition by the National Vocational Agricultural Teacher's Association Thirty

Minute Club, and received a Certificate of Excellence from the Washington Leadership Conference. In addition, he was nominated several times to the Who's Who Among American Teachers, had numerous State and National winning students, was a Charter Member of the National FFA Alumni, was selected as the Wyoming Agricultural Education Teacher of the Year in 1995 and 1996, holds Honorary Wyoming and Honorary American FFA Degrees, was a Life Member of the Wyoming and National FFA Alumni Association. In addition, he was the only teacher in the History of Sundance High School that ever had a student win a National Award - 5 top four National Semi-Finalists and 2 National Winners out of over 500,000 students nationwide. He annually took his students to the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas; Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, DC; and the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

He taught Adult Education -Welding classes in the evening for 12 years. In addition to his academic achievements, he served numerous years in civic and community organizations: he was a Member of Sundance City Council for 14 years; Chairman of the Crook County Bicentennial Commission for 2 years; Charter Member of

the Crook County Sheriff's Posse for 10 years, and Chairman for 4 years; Member of the Sundance Chamber of Commerce for 27 years and President for 2 years; Member of Sundance School PTA for 10 years; Member of the Bear Lodge Snowmobile Club for 25 years; Charter Member of the Sundance Trap Shooting Club for 20 years; Sundance Community Food Basket Program for 15 years; and Sundance Community Blue Bag Recycling Program for 10 years. In addition, he helped organize the Crook County Search and Rescue Team; establish the Sundance Kiwanis Club; and was a delegate to the WAM Convention.

He and Helen owned and managed the Arrowhead Motel for 34 years. He was the father of three children and grandfather of four grandchildren who are



all currently attending college. He is survived by his wife Helen and children Todd (Connie) Hubbard and grandchildren, Tobias and Elizabeth, Spearfish, SD; daughter, Laurie (Hubbard) Harrington and grandchildren, Alyssa and Hayden Harrington, The Woodlands, Texas; daughter, Dr. Tonya Hubbard, Canon City, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to benefit the Wyoming FFA Foundation, PO Box 71, Cheyenne, WY, 82003.



Mr. Hubbard with Senator Alan Simpson and FFA member Shannon Burke during one of Mr. Hubbard's many trips taking FFA members to the nation's capitol.



In 1995, Mr. Hubbard and the Bearlodge FFA members were recognized at the National FFA Convention as a three-star chapter. Shown left to right are Amy Wolf, Tara Goodwin, Court Schilt, Jennifer Vineyard and Mr. Hubbard.

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# FFA IN ACTION



Fall is a busy season for members of Casper's FFA chapters. Casper FFA, CY FFA and Windy City FFA are all part of the Field of Dreams Corn Maze. The event serves as both a fundraiser and an opportunity for FFA members to educate the community about agriculture.



The 2013-2014 State Officer Team grasped local fashion quickly while visiting Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Team members each selected a new hat for the May festivities. The officers toured Churchill Downs while in Louisville for the National FFA Convention.



Lauren Hedges and Amori Erickson have a little fun while preparing for Wyoming FFA's fall leadership events in Gillette.



Jace Cussins, Brett Roth and Ty Carpenter enjoy some downtime during the 2013 National FFA Convention.

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### CONNOR continued from Page 1

cash prize. Connor was also recognized on stage at the Convention and received a plaque.

2013 marked Connor's first trip to the National FFA Convention. He says he enjoyed the Expo and the convention sessions, learning a great deal from the experience. "I thought it was a lot of fun and I learned a lot," says Connor.

"Work has its rewards," says Connor.

That attitude will serve him well as he continues his FFA career. He's considering competing on a Career Development Event team at the 2014 Wyoming FFA Convention. "I like the competition, I like doing activities and getting to be around kids with the same interests as me," says Connor.

# Exhibit

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## FFA Foundation, supporters invest in learning

By Jennifer Womack, WY FFA Times

**Cheyenne** — Wyoming FFA members and agricultural education students, according to the Wyoming FFA Foundation, should be supplied with modern tools in good working condition. Whether it's a new welder or a flock of sheep, the Foundation wants to ensure the state's agricultural education classrooms are well equipped with the supplies that challenge students, encourage them to master new skills and provide a head-start on career goals.

In 2013 Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., the Grainger Foundation, Cloud Peak Energy, the Wyoming Pork Producers Council and the Gretchen Swanson Foundation partnered with the Wyoming FFA Foundation in this quest for expanded learning opportunities. Much was accomplished and following are a few of the highlights.

CASPER FFA added lab science equipment to their Agricultural Education classrooms. Upon full implementation, instructor Brock Burch hopes students can earn a science credit by taking some of his agricultural education classes. With the new equipment in hand, Casper students can carry out various science labs. Burch says the equipment includes probes, sensors and moni-

tors. Many lessons mimic real-life careers in which the students may someday be interested in pursuing.

EVANSTON FFA members are building a flat bed trailer for use in their program and learning many lessons along the way. Beyond actual construction of the trailer, advisor Brenden Ellis is using the construction project as an opportunity to teach welding, painting, wiring and hydraulics. Upon completion the trailer's dovetail will include hydraulics.

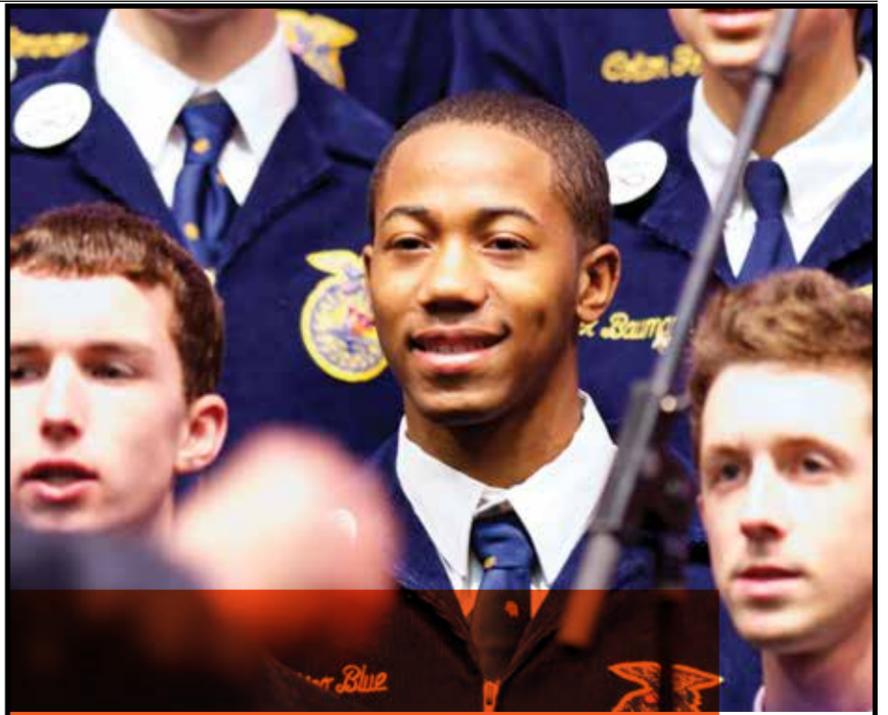
JIM BRIDGER FFA members gained both a new trailer and some important lessons as they restored a livestock trailer for their chapter's use. New isn't always needed, as they proved while completing the project. They sanded the trailer down, added a new paint job and worked on the electrical and other aspects to make the old trailer almost like new!

SOUTHEAST FFA members are enjoying the use of a new swine hut. FFA members who don't live on traditional farms and ranches can still get a healthy dose of ag thanks to the Wyoming Pork Producers and this trailer.

An FFA member takes the trailer, which houses a sow, home and anxiously awaits the arrival of piglets. Once the piglets arrive, advisor Jay Clapper helps process the pigs and the member grows their project!

TEN SLEEP FFA members are putting a nice finish on their projects with their new powder coating system. The investment not only equates to nicer projects, but helps students in that area develop skills they might not have otherwise learned.

These are just a few of the projects funded by the Wyoming FFA Foundation and partners in 2013. Together we're helping ensure students graduating from Wyoming high schools are better prepared for the workforce. Developing career skills allows them to explore different fields, solidify plans for post-secondary education and build their own confidence in their abilities. That's an investment worth making!



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**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

Calendar of Events **WYOMING FFA** *What's Happening*

Submit material for our next edition by March 3, 2014

**JANUARY**

- 2-17 State Officer Visits, as arranged/scheduled
- 18 Wyoming FFA Foundation Meeting, Douglas

**FEBRUARY**

- 1 Wyoming FFA Foundation scholarship applications due
- 5 Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Committee Conference Call
- TBA State Degree & Proficiency applications due to Regional Chairs as arranged
- 10 All chapter applications due in State Office (mail hard copy and email copy)
- 15 National FFA Scholarship Applications Due
- 15-22 National FFA Week

**MARCH**

- 5 Wyoming FFA Foundation Board of Directors Conference Call
- 10 Honorary State Degree nominee résumé's due
- 10 Talent applications due in State Office (or as arranged)
- 10 State Officer Candidates names due in State Office
- 24 State Officer Candidate applications due
- 24 Nominating Committee applications due
- 24 Vet Science Contest, EWC and Torrington/Lingle FFA Contests
- 27-28 Powell/Northwest College Contests
- 29 Proficiency applications due in Casper
- 29 Casper Contests
- TBA Sheridan Contests
- TBA UW Contests and State Agri-Science Fair

**APRIL**

- 2 Wyoming FFA Foundation Board of Directors Conference Call
- 7 Wyoming FFA Foundation Convention Welcome Dinner
- 7 Wyoming FFA Foundation Scholarship Reception
- 8 Wyoming FFA Career Fair
- 7-10 State FFA CDE's and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne
- 11 Northwest College Sale
- 16-19 Region I NAAE Leadership Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAY**

- 7 Wyoming FFA Foundation Board of Directors Conference Call
- 15 Honorary American Degree applications due (non-teacher)
- 15 Names of members interested in National Officer due

**JUNE**

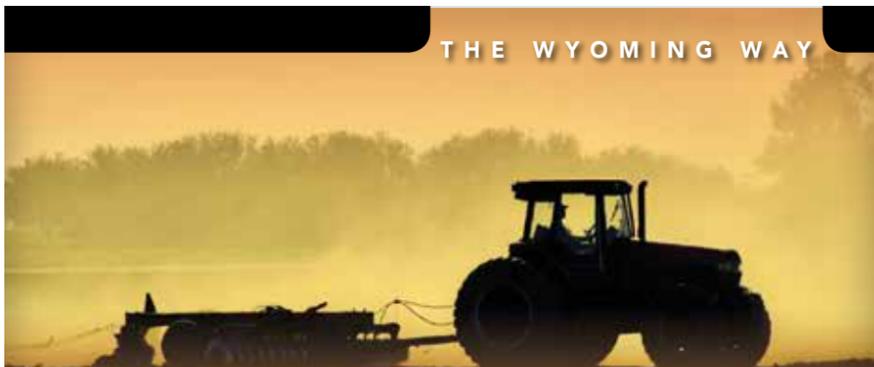
- 2 National Officer Application's due in State Office
- 4 Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Committee Conference Call
- 9-12 WACTE/WVATA Summer Conference, Sheridan
- 9 American Degree Applications due, bring to WACTE
- 9 Proficiency Applications due, bring to WACTE
- 15-19 NLCSO for state officers, Cody
- 10-14 Session 1, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp
- 17-21 Session 2, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp

**JULY**

- 1 National FFA Band and Chorus apps due online
- 2 Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Committee Conference Call
- 15 National chapter applications due, National FFA
- 15 National proficiency applications due, National FFA

**WYOMING FFA TIMES**  
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**For more info. contact:**  
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