



Supporting Wyoming FFA to ensure the program's ability to continue making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Wyoming FFA Times

Fall 2008 Edition

A publication of the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

Wyoming FFA Foundation and EnCana announce partnership

Cheyenne — EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., in a partnership with the Wyoming Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation, presented \$34,000 to FFA chapters for chapter grant programs, educational expenses, scholarships and the annual convention.

"This partnership is a

huge step for the Wyoming FFA Foundation in reaching our goal of providing FFA members an environment of premier leadership, personal growth and career success," said Wyoming FFA Foundation President Court Schilt.

Of the total amount granted, \$20,000 went to the chapter grant pro-

gram to strengthen project development and increase FFA enrollment. The purpose of this program is to assist chapters in increasing educational opportunities for agriculture students and FFA members.

This partnership also establishes a scholarship fund for graduating FFA members attending

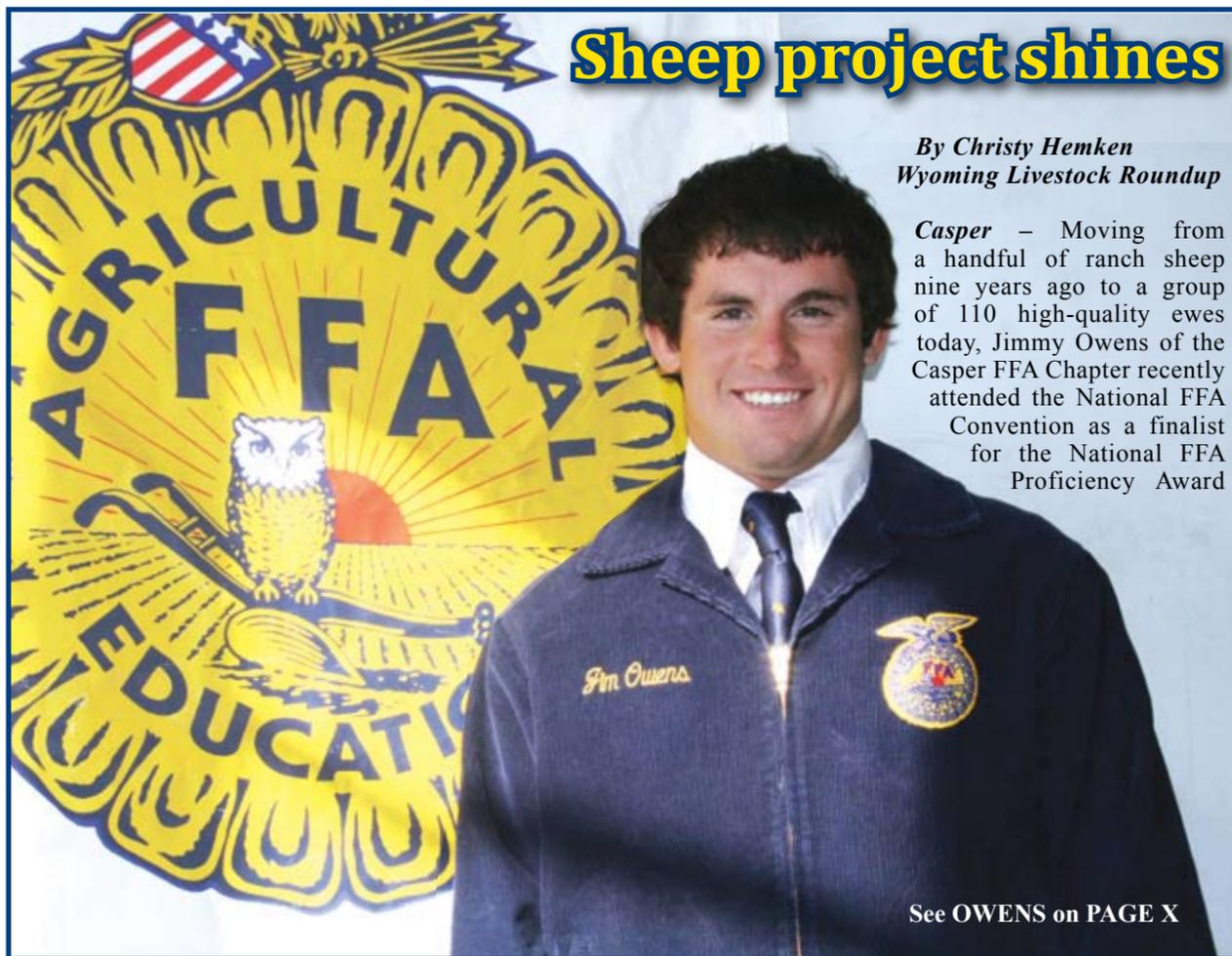
a Wyoming institution of higher education. Scholarships will be awarded to members who demonstrate academic achievement, strong involvement in the community and FFA activities and intend to pursue a degree for a career related to agriculture that mutually benefits the energy industry.

EnCana has also provided funding for the Wyoming FFA Association's annual Career Development Event and Leadership Conference. Held each April in Cheyenne as part of the Wyoming FFA Convention, this is the culminating event for all Wyoming FFA members. It provides career develop-

ment opportunities ranging from livestock evaluation to sales and service, and members compete in workshops and learn leadership development and individual growth.

"EnCana's partnership with the Wyoming FFA Foundation gives us the opportunity to posi-

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Sheep project shines

By Christy Hemken
Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Casper — Moving from a handful of ranch sheep nine years ago to a group of 110 high-quality ewes today, Jimmy Owens of the Casper FFA Chapter recently attended the National FFA Convention as a finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award

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Collegiate FFA revived

By Laura Nelson

Laramie — Less than six months ago, she unzipped her crisp, blue corduroy jacket for the last time. The jacket, with its iconic gold emblem and her name and title inscribed on the bust, symbolized some of the highest achievements and captured the most memorable moments of her high school career.

Saige Albert, from Powell, wasn't ready to leave that blue jacket — and the involvement in the National FFA Organization it represented — behind when she retired from her position as Wyoming State FFA Officer last spring. So the University of Wyoming sophomore joined back up with two of her former state officer teammates, Kaycee Eisele of Cheyenne and Nancy Thoman of Wind River, to revive the university's collegiate FFA chapter this fall.

"I just wasn't ready to be done with FFA," Albert said. "When you dedicate your entire high school career to one organization, you can't just quit it cold turkey in college."

Still dedicated to the ideals of their former FFA involvement, Eisle said the UW chapter focuses on objectives more directed toward collegiate members.

"The collegiate chapter gives students a different perspective of what FFA is all about," she said. "We're offering a transition from FFA into the real world."

With Albert at the helm as president and Thoman and Eisele as secretary and vice president, the women

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Nat'l Convention boasts record attendance

Indianapolis, Indiana — The 81st National FFA Convention came to a successful close Saturday, Oct. 25, after four days of powerful speakers, a jam-packed FFA National Agricultural Career Show, captivating retiring addresses, award presentations and the installation of six newly elected national officers. These are but a few highlights from this historic annual event.

Themed "Step Up. Stand Out," the national FFA convention welcomed a record breaking 54,731 members to Indi-

anapolis, Ind. The convention started on Wednesday, Oct. 22 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the 42nd Annual FFA National Agricultural Career Show in the Indiana Convention Center. The career show hosted more than 400 booths from a variety of colleges, agricultural related companies, fundraising organizations, U.S. Armed Services and auto and truck manufacturers. Neon tie dyed tee-shirts and sweatshirts were among the most popular items sold in this year's FFA

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State FFA Officers reflect on an 'awesome experience'

By Jennifer Womack

Wyoming FFA Foundation

Douglas — Whether it's spending time with FFA members or planning for the upcoming Wyoming State FFA Convention, Wyoming's State FFA Officer Team agrees that their tenure as officers has been nothing short of an amazing experience.

"I love the fact that having a state office has changed me in positive ways," says FFA President Ty McNamee. "I feel that I have become a more positive person, and I have also realized that I influ-

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Wyoming State FFA Officers from the left — Jacob Berg, Parliamentarian; Sarah Hines, 2nd Vice President; Marti Brown, Reporter; Oaklee Anderson, Vice President; Ty McNamee, President; Courtney Porter, Sentinel; Jessie Allen, Secretary; Beth Wood, Treasurer; Matthew Thoman, 3rd Vice President.

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Wyoming FFA Calendar



Jan. 5-26 State Officer Visits
February State Degree applications due
Feb. 6 All chapter applications due
Feb.16-20 National FFA Week
March 2 Honorary State Degree nomination resumé's due
March 2 Constitutional changes mailed to chapters
March 2 Resolutions and Convention Items of Business due
March 14 Talent applications due
March 14 State Band and Chorus applications due in State Office

March 16 State Officer candidate names due in State Office
April 1 1st Proficiency Applications due to Bill Pannell at SDE
April 15-19 State FFA CDE's and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne
April 22-25 Region I NAAE Leadership Conference, South Tahoe, Nevada
May 15 American Degree Applications due in State Office
May 15 Honorary American Degree applications due (non-teacher)
May 15 Names of members interested in National Officer due

Happy Anniversary

Happy anniversary to us, happy anniversary to us... 50 years. The Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation turned 50 this year. Our corporate charter expires and will be renewed with a new name reflecting the youth organization we serve. We will officially be the Wyoming FFA Foundation.



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

While it certainly is a milestone, I prefer to think of it differently. I prefer to think of it as a new beginning. To those who have built the foundation to what it is today I say a most sincere thank you. I know it's been no small accomplishment to get programs off the ground that have become cornerstones of the foundation. Efforts of those involved to raise funds and invest them wisely have created a great base on which to build, and I believe we need to start building in earnest now. I think in order to serve the FFA members of tomorrow we'll have to change and grow the foundation far beyond what we think we need today.

Some of the growth has already started. It's started with partners like Bearpaw Custom Embroidery and Stallion Trucking, both of Riverton, donating a 4 wheeler to raffle. It happens with partners like Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp and the Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness division who have helped with the convention dinner for several years and increased their support each year. And it continues with many many others.

Growth took a whole new turn this fall in the form of a new partnership with industry leading EnCana. I had the privilege of being in the room when state FFA officers Oakley Anderson and Beth Wood along with Foundation Director Scott McDonald made their presentation to the good folks at EnCana. I was moved at the attitude of those in the room, how interested they are in these youth that will be tomorrow's leaders and their genuine desire to help. They want to help FFA members for the long haul, not just a one time sponsorship. I hope other businesses thriving in Wyoming will follow their example.

This is the kind of growth I believe we'll need to see and sustain in order to continue to support Wyoming FFA. I know times are tough and frankly I think they'll get tougher before they get better. I'm afraid that as things tighten up, FFA chapters, FFA members and Agriculture Education programs will feel the pinch. My hope is that if this occurs the foundation will be in a position to pick up some of the financial slack and help keep students involved and chapters growing. I think this natural resource is something we need to protect and I hope you feel that way too.

Where am I going with this, you may wonder? Everyone can help. Not just big companies or the neighbor or my rich uncle, but just about everyone. I'm not suggesting that everybody open up their wallet and send a big stack of bills to the foundation. That would be nice, but I don't think it's realistic to ask or expect that. But could you afford one dollar a month? Five dollars?

Do you believe in FFA members and the FFA pro-

See COURT on PAGE 7

Let's Talk FFA

Featuring the late Dennis Love

Legacy will carry on in Love's family of blue corduroy

By Jacob Berg
2008 State Officer Team
Parliamentarian

The recent passing of Mr. Love has prompted me to say some things in his memory. The easy going, fun-loving man that we commonly call Dr. Love was an ag teacher in the small town of Lovell. He started his ag teaching career at Burns High school where he student taught and had been in Lovell for many years. He provided a positive role model for many students and some of them are even current agriculture education teachers today.

Mr. Love was a very successful ag teacher. He coached everything from agronomy to livestock and speech competitors. He made a difference in the community through highway and fairground cleanups to serving dinners with his chapter's members. He served the school as well by providing Senior BBQs as well as teacher appreciation BBQs and recently had started having BBQs at chapter meetings. I guess you could call him the Lovell grill master. Mr. Love was someone who was willing to do anything for anybody and drop whatever he was doing in order to help others. He was an easygoing character who nobody could disagree with for very long.

Mr. Love's story reminds me of a story I had once heard. An ag teacher in a small town had a pint-sized group of students. There was a lone coffee shop in this town and the teacher had a habit of beginning his day by enjoying a cup of coffee there every morning before school. As the school year passed, the coffee house's morning crowd grew, full of ag students eager to not only talk to one another, but to the teacher as well.

Teachers in agriculture spend countless hours in the classroom and with their students. They exert an influence that may never be influenced by their students. Little things that one would never consider are passed on relating to subjects on everything from how an ag teacher carries himself to what he eats and drinks. Their little quirks make a noticeable difference in the lives of thousands. Personally, one of the traits I picked up from my ag teacher was the excessive use of Mountain Dew on

road trips and savoring every french-fry that I get from McDonalds.

On a more serious note he taught me how to really care about a person and how to be responsible for what you do. The many hours that FFA members and their advisors spend together created a bond that will never be broken. This is a bond of friendship and of leadership, created by a teacher of not only school education but of life lessons as well. When a person chooses to become an advisor it is a choice to not only be an educator but it is an acceptance of the responsibility to change the lives of America's youth for the better.

Mr. Love accomplished this level of influence in Lovell. He has left us in body, yet his legacy will carry on; not only in his children but also in his students, his family dressed in blue corduroy. Dr. Love has made an impact that will be seen in Lovell High School and the surrounding community for years to come. People, like Mr. Love, leave a small piece of themselves in everyone they meet and change them ever so slightly for the better. Ag teachers, like Mr. Love are extraordinary individuals who change thousands, teach millions, and instill a piece of themselves in every person they meet.



Dennis Ray Love 1973-2008

Dennis Ray Love, 34, died Sept. 30, 2008, in Lovell.

He was the third child of George and Elaine Love, and was born Oct. 8, 1973, in Wichita, Kan. Dennis loved travel, hunting, fishing, history, welding and auctioneering. He especially loved spending time with his family and taking them on adventures, where he always had a lesson for them with a test that followed.



Dennis frequented pawn shops in Cheyenne and enjoyed "junkin" with his dad and brothers Scott and Steve. He earned a

diploma from Cheyenne East High School in 1992, a bachelor of science degree in agriculture education from the University of Wyoming in 1999, and graduated in 2004 from Western College of Auctioneering.

Dennis' passion was teaching and he spent 10 years sharing his knowledge of

agriculture, welding and FFA. He was a student teacher at Burns High School, taught one year at Hyannis, Neb., and taught eight years at Lovell High School. He enjoyed helping students gather agronomy, choose fair animals, participate in FFA contests and at county and state fairs. He also spent time teaching welding to community members in the evenings.

Dennis married JeriLyn on Dec. 31, 1999, in Greybull. He was a compassionate, caring and loving husband and father. His wife and children will forever miss him. They are asking those who knew him to share the loving kindness he brought into their lives.

He is survived by his wife JeriLyn, daughter Stormi Lyn, twin sons Morgan and James, his parents of Cheyenne, brothers Scott of Cheyenne and Steve (Marci) of Burns, grandparents Raymond and Mary-Lou Griffith, aunts Ina Rightmeier, Marilyn Meyer, and Janet Griffith, uncle Ray Griffith, eight nieces and nephews, and numerous in-laws.

Dennis was preceded in death by his infant sister Julie Rachelle, grandparents Charles and Dorothy Love, aunt Barbara Lee Love, and uncles Jim and Charlie Love. A celebration of his life was Oct. 3 at Lovell High School. Memorials may be sent to First National Bank of Lovell.

First Ever Chapter President's Conference a success



By Ty McNamee, FFA
Association President

Douglas — The Annual Finding Inspiration and Reaching Excellence Conference, or F.I.R.E. Conference, was created for freshman and sophomore FFA members to learn leadership skills, acquire confidence, meet new people and mingle with old friends, as well as the State FFA Officers.

F.I.R.E., along with the first-ever Chapter Presidents Conference (CPC), was held in Douglas Nov. 14-15.

Over many years, the F.I.R.E. Conference has been changed and altered. And now the Wyoming State FFA Association is trying a new variation they feel will be a huge success. Yes, F.I.R.E. is still the same leadership conference that it has been for many years. However, taking a recommendation from last year's Wyoming State FFA Officer team, this year a new conference for older FFA members to enjoy was created.

This new conference proposal started out as a small seed. The Wyoming FFA Association loved the idea that there could be a conference that

would provide leadership tools to older FFA members and Chapter FFA Officers. The small seed grew and turned into a plan for the 1st Annual Wyoming FFA Chapter Presidents Conference, or CPC! From each FFA chapter across the state of Wyoming, the Chapter President, as well as another delegate, was asked to attend CPC. Here they discussed numerous chapter and state issues and how they would like to improve the inner workings of what the entire Wyoming FFA Association does. In allowing these delegates to voice their opinion and make positive change to our organization, they are truly allowing our association to be run by the students and for the students.

F.I.R.E. Conference is a

great way for younger FFA members to get involved in our organization. It is an experience many of them never forget.

CPC is an opportunity for older FFA members to keep gaining leadership tools, and they are now part of what will hopefully be a landmark in Wyoming FFA. The Wyoming FFA State Advisor, Executive Secretary, and Officer Team met and worked numerous times to make sure that the addition of this new conference would be immensely successful.

State FFA Officers said they loved to see the FFA members and how they went about improving and honing their leadership skills, one of the things the National FFA Organization is all about.

WYOMING FUTURE FARMER FOUNDATION

Contact us at

wyoffafoundation@juno.com,

or give us a call at 866-333-3838

Court Schilt, Chairman • Stacy Broda, Vice-Chair • Lesley Pearson, Treasurer • Seth Heintert, Secretary • Eddie Carpenter • Cari Sue Covolo • Gil McEndree • Harry O'Connor

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OWENS *continued from page 1*

in sheep production.

A group of 17 students and parents, led by Natrona County High School ag teacher and chapter advisor Brock Burch, attended the convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Oct. 22 through 25.

Burch says Owens was the only national finalist from Wyoming this year, the first one in the Casper FFA Chapter's history and the first from Wyoming in quite some time. There are 47 proficiency areas available and every year four

national finalists are chosen within each.

"We've talked about the Proficiency Award since I started my freshman year of high school, so I've aimed for it and have kept good records," says Owens of the project, giving Burch credit for helping him along the way.

"This award all starts with record keeping and business management, and we've worked on record books every month, updating financial records and

doing inventory twice a year," says Burch.

"Through good records you have to tell the story of where you're been and where you're going," he adds. "In the ag classes we try to make this program more than just a high school job, but something career-oriented. With where Jimmy's at now, he could very easily make this a career through the things he knows and the things he does."

Owens says he's lived his whole life on a cow and sheep ranch near Teapot Dome outside of Casper, and that his family

has always raised sheep. "The first year I showed sheep in 4-H I had ranch sheep that weren't very good, and I didn't like losing too much," he says. Because of that, he soon visited the ag advisor in Laramie, buying a group of 40. "Ever since then I've raised show sheep," he says.

Owens is also member of the Casper College Livestock Judging Team, in which he most enjoys evaluating beef. "Livestock judging has been the most fun part of FFA for me," he says.

Now a freshman in

ag business at Casper College, Owens says he returns to the ranch when there's work to be done, and he'd like to return full-time after college. In addition to the sheep, he and his brother partner on a group of cows.

"I like all of the people at convention, and it's fun with all the people you

meet there," he says of the trip to National FFA Convention.

As for the management of Owens' sheep while he's in college and off the ranch, Owens says he'll lamb in May next spring, a decision made to enable him to attend to his ewes himself when school is over.

EnCANA *continued from page 1*

tively shape the future of Wyoming both educationally and economically," said Eddie Carpenter, EnCana Wind River Basin operations leader and FFA board member. "Agriculture and natural resources are the foundation of our society and we want to make sure our youth learn the importance of resource stewardship."

"I am truly excited about the partnership with EnCana and the opportunity it offers us to serve Wyoming FFA members," says Schilt. "It is my hope that other industry leaders operating in Wyoming will see the positive impact FFA members have on their communities and want to join EnCana in partnering with the Wyoming FFA Foundation. Together we can help prepare tomorrow's leaders for the challenges they'll face."

"Our partnership with EnCana allows the Foundation to help local chapters strengthen their FFA programs and enhance the experiences of Wyoming FFA members," says Foundation Treasurer Lesley Pearson. "The core concepts taught and emphasized in FFA positively shape the futures of Wyoming FFA members. My personal experiences as an FFA member provided me opportunities that would otherwise not have been possible. Although I work outside of the agricultural sector, the fundamentals I learned in FFA gave me the foundation I needed to succeed in my career. The Wyoming FFA Foundation, with EnCana's help, is excited to enhance the opportunities available to Wyoming FFA members."

State Fair...State FFA Officers' Point of View

By Jessie Allen, FFA Association Secretary

Douglas — Wyoming State Fair was the last event to wrap up our exciting summer as state officers. We all arrived anxiously to Douglas on Aug.

8, two days before fair started, and immediately got to work by cleaning and organizing the FFA exhibit hall and dorms.

The FFA chapters started to arrive as early as 10 a.m. on Aug. 10, so the long process of registration and dorm assignments began, and the week of fair had officially started.

Throughout the week, it was our job to be at every show to hand out ribbons, shake the exhibitors' hands, and help with any other task that needed to be done at the show. We would rotate which officers went to shows and which officers worked in the FFA exhibit hall office. Some shows would

go as long as nine hours straight, so it was a tiring week for all of us. We also had a silent auction and an ATV raffle that we advertised each day. All proceeds of the silent auction went to our fund for National FFA Convention. The top items sold were a ranch vacation for two, donated by the Allen's Diamond Four Ranch, and a welder, donated by Lincoln Electric. We were all very pleased with the results of the silent auction and are still very grateful for our generous donors and buyers.

On Aug. 13, our parents joined us at fair for a luncheon. I gave a welcoming for the parents,

and then we showed them around fair. It was great to have our parents come and see us at work as state officers.

At the end of the week, we wrapped everything up at the round robin by announcing the Champion Ag Teacher, Mr. Sidle, and winners of the ATV and silent auction items. State Fair was a tiring, stressful week, but we all worked together and accomplished everything that needed to be done. I had the best summer of my life traveling and making memories with my fellow state officers, and I couldn't be more pleased with how the summer ended at State Fair.

Wyoming Business Council is a proud supporter of Wyoming FFA Programs:

WY FFA Leadership Camp ~ State Youth Leadership Convention
National Youth Leadership Convention ~ WY State Fair FFA Activities



For information on how the Wyoming Business Council can support your FFA efforts, contact:

Cindy Garretson-Weibel, Agribusiness Director, 307.777.6589, cindy.weibel@wybusiness.org
Wyoming Business Council, 214 W. 15th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002, www.wyomingbusiness.org

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Fall/Winter Contest Deadline: March 1, 2009

Spring/Summer Contest Deadline: Sept. 1, 2009

Contact Terri Barr at 307.777.2807 or terri.barr@wybusiness.org

STATE *continued from page 1*

ence the lives of hundreds of FFA members across the state and nation.”

“The greatest highlight of my state officer year so far has been camp,” says Wyoming State FFA Secretary Jessie Allen. “I grew so much as a person, and I realized that by being a leader and a friend to the FFA members, I have the ability to make a positive impact on their lives.”

“FFA camp was one of my favorite events because we got to know so many of the members,” says State FFA Reporter Marti Brown. “I met a first year camper who was extremely shy. She was really apprehensive to join in all of the fun camp activities. I had her in my reporter workshop and with a few simple probing questions I got her talking up a storm.” Brown adds, “Afterwards when I would see her around camp I introduced her to some of the other campers and invited her to play vol-

leyball, among other things. In the beginning of the week she was scared of everyone and everything and by the end of the week she was sad to leave. I know that she made lifelong friends and attained some beneficial social skills on the mountain and she wouldn't have had the opportunity to do so if not for FFA.”

“There was one individual at FFA Camp who was shy and timid, and I didn't know if he was ever going to have a fun time mingling with the state officers, counselors, and other members,” relates McNamee. “However, as the week progressed he came out of his shell and he was able to make friends. I know that he will continue to take that confidence and apply it towards all that he does in his life.” McNamee says the young man was so appreciative that he later sent a thank you note to the entire state officer team. “I was excited and truly

touched by the fact that he took his time to do that,” says McNamee.

“One person that I've seen benefit from the program,” says Allen, “is a girl I met at camp this year.” Playing a game in one of the group meetings on the second night of camp Allen says they were asked to answer random questions from drawn cards. “What do you see when you look in the mirror?” was the question the young girl received. “I saw tears build up in her eyes. She was so self-conscious and ashamed of who she was, and it just broke my heart,” says Allen. “However, by the end of the week, I saw her gain confidence and become more of a leader in the group. When she told me how much she loved camp, it was one of the best feelings I've ever heard.”

“Camp itself can be a life changing event for members; all members in some way leave camp changed whether it is a new lifelong friend, a spark to serve and lead, or even a want to seek self improvement for success,” says Sara Haines, Second Vice President. “While serving at camp I got to watch members begin as strangers and in just a few short days become family.”

“I also really loved National Convention,” says Allen noting it was her first year to attend. “I realized how strong my passion for FFA is when I got never-ending goose bumps just from

being surrounded by 54,000 FFA members.”

“I want to end this year with really good results,” says FFA Vice President Oakley Anderson. “My one job is to serve them and be the best I can be for their benefit. I have wanted to leave the Association in a better condition than when I entered as a state officer. If I can make it better for the members, I will be satisfied.”

“My last few months as a state officer, I know, will be very hectic,” says Brown. “I want to keep everything in perspective and not get overwhelmed. Chapter Visits are coming up and I really want to make a positive lasting impression with every member I come into contact with. I also want to work hard and make this state convention the best Wyoming FFA has

seen in years!”

“My goal for the final few and short months as an officer is to take advantage of every opportunity,” says Haines. “Whether it be the chance to help a member, serve a chapter, promote the association, or improve myself, I want take that opportunity and put my all into it, so it can reach its full potential. At times I often take for granted so many experiences that are provided to me while serving, but as an officer, for the rest of my year, my goal is to live each experience to the fullest, savor every success, learn from every struggle, and always look to improve.”

“I would love to put on one great State FFA Convention,” says McNamee. “I hope that people will be truly inspired when they return from convention to make their FFA chapters and communi-

ties and schools successful.”

McNamee's biggest goal? “...to always make sure that I am being a role model for FFA members and those other people around me. I hope that I can truly inspire and educate as many people as I can about agriculture and the FFA Organization because I know how much it has done for me. I feel that if I am setting a good example and making sure I do this, I am helping the Wyoming FFA Association prosper.”

“This is my year to serve the Wyoming FFA members,” says Allen, “so I want to help them become strong leaders, confident speakers, and solid individuals overall.”

“When it comes to State Convention,” says State Parliamentarian Jacob Berg, “I hope we have an inspiring, productive, and just down right cool week of it.”

Wyo FFA scholarship program grows

By Stacy Broda
Wyoming FFA Foundation

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation Scholarship Program has grown substantially the last three years with the help of individual and business donations. The Foundation is proud to partner with EnCana Oil and Gas for our 2009 application to provide scholarships to current and collegiate FFA members in Wyoming. EnCana is generously supporting the scholarship program with a donation of \$6500 for students majoring in agricultural and energy related fields.

The scholarship program is also supported by individual donations made to the Foundation's scholarship fund. In 2008 the Foundation was able to award \$4300 to college bound Wyoming FFA members. The Foundation also

partners with Friends of Agriculture, Industry and Recreation (F.A.I.R.), Tri-State Generation, Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship, and the Wyoming Association of Fairs to provide scholarships to FFA members.

To receive a scholarship, applicants must be a paid Wyoming FFA member in good standing or a past FFA member already attending college, and complete the application.

The 2009 application will be available at www.wyoffafoundation.com Jan. 1, 2009 and is due March 1.

Contact Scott McDonald at 866-333-3838 or wyoffafoundation@juno.com if you or your organization would like to sponsor a scholarship, be a part of our application, or have any questions regarding the scholarship program.

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For their support of the ATV Raffle held this summer.



We would also like to congratulate...

Larry McDaniel of Lusk
For winning the ATV.



THANK YOU!

For your support of Wyoming FFA!

NAT'L *continued from page 1*

Shopping Mall, also a part of the career show.

More than 1,600 FFA members took part in a

pleted at 12 sites in the Indianapolis metro area, including Gleaners Food Bank, Strides for Success and Indy Parks. City civic leaders, the National FFA and a local organizing committee developed this community component to promote civic engagement through agricultural education, service learning and FFA member participation. Even adults got in on the act; an impressive 5, 500 volunteers from across the country and Indianapolis community joined together to make the FFA convention a success.

Dana Hee, an Olympic Gold Medalist and award winning Hollywood stuntwoman, addressed the convention's three opening sessions and was just one of several speakers to take the stage during convention. Other keynote speakers included Tom Zupanic, vice president of marketing for the Indianapolis Colts, country music artist Michael Peterson, and former national FFA president Fred McClure. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer also made a special guest appearance.

Motivational speaker Mark Scharenbroich was a big hit during the Fourth Convention Session, encouraging FFA members

to develop positive connections with their peers. He also talked about the amount of personal change and growth that occurs during high school. "For the very first time in your life, FFA, you get to choose the path," he said.

Eighteen-year-old award winning country singer and proud former FFA member Taylor Swift rocked Lucas Oil Stadium Wednesday night to an FFA only crowd of more than 22,000. Illusionists Ridgeway and Johnson performed their death defying Grand Illusion & Escape show at Con-seco Fieldhouse during the Third Convention Session Thursday evening.

The 2008 National FFA Alumni Benefits Auction raised more than \$198,000 for student scholarships during its silent, live and online auctions. Nearly 750 items were available for bids and counterbids, including a 2009 Ford F150 SuperCrew XLT and a New Holland T6050 Elite Tractor.

The American FFA Degree, the organization's highest honor, was awarded to a record 3,341 recipients. FFA members received their degrees Saturday morning at Lucas Oil Stadium. Of those, four individuals were named the organization's top Stars Over America. Those award winners include

American Star Farmer Travis Schnaithman from Oklahoma, American Star in Agribusiness Jason Handstedt from Wisconsin, American Star in Agricultural Placement Derek Lowrey from Missouri and American Star in Agriscience Laura Bruner from Ohio.

During the ninth and final general session, the 2008-2009 national officers were elected and installed into office. The new officer team includes President Paul Moya from New Mexico, Secretary Nessie Early from California, Eastern Region Vice President Hannah Crossen from Ohio, Central Region Vice President Laila Hajji from Oklahoma, Southern Region Vice President Regina Holliday from Georgia and Western Region Vice President Riley Branch from Texas. These six officers were elected from a slate of 38 candidates and will serve as student representatives of the organization, traveling more than 100,000 miles throughout the United States and Japan as part of their year of service to the FFA.

To learn more about the national FFA convention, visit www.ffa.org/convention/2008/index.cfm.

FFA membership at 31-year high

The National FFA Organization announced this year there are 507,763 members in 7,439 FFA chapters across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands – a 31-year high.

"This is an exciting time for FFA, as we are nearing the all-time-high membership total we originally reached in the 1970s," says Larry Case, chief executive officer and national advisor for the National FFA Organization. "These membership numbers help prove what we already know - FFA is relevant in students' lives and futures because it helps prepare them for more than 300 diverse and plentiful career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fuel and fiber industry."

The all-time national FFA membership topped 509,000 in 1976-1977.

American FFA Degree Recipients from Wyoming

- Saige Albert
- Tyler Anderson
- Burt Andreen
- Brogan Clay
- Stacey Craig
- Chris Davis
- Lauriel Davis
- Kaycee Eisele
- Kimberly Fairbourn
- Mark Gillies
- Jessica Jaycox
- Katharine Johnson
- Amanda Jones
- Kaylee Kerbs
- Becky Lembitz
- Kayla Lynch
- Weston Maxfield
- Amber Micheli
- Joey Miller
- Forrest Smith
- Shannon Steben
- Jaymes Talbott
- Sassy Taylor
- Adam Teeter
- Sadie Thornburg
- Con Trumbull
- Sarah Udem
- Mary Wood
- Cheyenne Wortham

three-day community service project for the National FFA Days of Service. Projects were com-



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child development, retailing, textiles, merchandising, family services, nutrition, dietetics, interior design...

veterinary medicine, domestic and wildlife disease research, breeding and genetics, pathobiology, meat science, livestock production, animal biology...

environmental studies, disease control, horticulture, landscape design, turf management, greenhouse operation, natural resource work, crop, soil, and insect sciences...

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UW *continued from page 1*

hope to lead their membership in gaining pre-professional skills. Eisele said the chapter will serve as a place for students to take the skills they learned as FFA members in high school and translate them into exceptional resumes, cover letters, job interview skills and a solid work ethic.

Kris Brewer, the chapter's faculty advisor, said she hopes students in the collegiate group will use it as a tool to grow and mature as career-ready adults.

"After so long in FFA, it's hard to see these students in a professional role sometimes. They are still thought of as the kid at leadership camp, the exhibitor at state fair or as a state officer," Brewer said. "But now they need to be seen in a more adult, professional role."

The nearly 40 students who attended the chapter's first meeting this fall will have plenty opportunity to nurture those traits in the semesters to come. Thoman, also a sophomore, said the group plans to bring in guest speakers from the professional community, host resume-

building workshops and initiate service programs to get students involved in the community and state.

"Getting students involved in our campus and community helps them create a great network of people that will be able to help them down the road," Thoman said.

Wasting no time in this charge, one of the chapter's first activities this fall was to participate in UW's Safe Treat program for Halloween. They also focused on making contributions to the campus' Kans for Kindness drive, which collects canned food goods to donate to Interfaith Good Samaritan and Community Holidays in Albany County. Collegiate FFA members will also extend a helping hand to the Salvation Army this winter, posting up at Bell Ringing stations in the Laramie community.

In addition to career success, Brewer said these activities help the collegiate chapter focus on the final line of the FFA motto: "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve."

"We're really centered on the need to provide ser-

vice leadership. That's what FFA is all about – giving back," she said.

In addition to community service, Eisele said collegiate FFA members can serve as mentors to younger FFA members.

"We had our time in the organization, now it's our turn to help," Eisele said. The chapter will assist the state FFA Association at State FFA Convention this spring, hosting the Greenhand Quiz-bowl event. They hope to expand their involvement at convention as their membership grows. Albert said in the future she hopes the chapter can serve as a

work relief effort to the small group of individuals who plan and orchestrate the convention.

Thoman said: "We definitely want to increase the support group for FFA across the state. We can't compete anymore, so our role now is to help the younger members."

The women said they look forward to the other opportunities they see in the future with a larger active collegiate membership. Thoman said she hopes the collegiate chapter will initiate more involvement and increase membership in the state's FFA alumni. Another

long-term project the women said they would like to focus on is providing scholarships to FFA students.

"This collegiate FFA chapter can provide a lot of support for members post-high school," Thoman said. But, she added, that support doesn't only extend to students already involved in FFA. She said the chapter welcomes students who haven't previously been involved in the organization, and they would like to collaborate with other student groups on campus.

"We're going far

beyond that 'cows, plows and sows' mode students see FFA as," Brewer said. "We're focused on leadership, mentorship and service. All FFA strives to better individuals, and we are following the same footsteps."

While the traditional days of stanch blue corduroy are behind them, the three women who now lead the collegiate FFA are far from forgetting what the organization can hold for its members.

"It's our job now to show the students how FFA really does carry through their entire life," Brewer said.



James Leroy Jeffres 1946-2008

James Leroy Jeffres, 62, died on September 27th, 2008. Jim battled prostate cancer for eight years and achieved one of his final goals of dying at home in his favorite room of the house overlooking the valley.

Jim was born to Charles and Ruby Jeffres in Lander, May 29,

1946. They stayed in Lander for seven years before the family moved to Pavillion where they owned and operated a dairy farm for several years. Jim left the farm after high school to attend Northwest College in Powell on a football scholarship. Over the next four years he

held various jobs including a stint with Boeing in Seattle, WA, before he returned to Lander and met Christine Cheatham. They married June 4, 1970 and had two daughters, Lesley and Meghan. Jim, always the entrepreneur, owned a trucking company, farmed, and finally settled on owning and operating a construction company, specializing in concrete work and remodeling. However, Jim's true passion was found later in life in the form of golf. He moved from novice to competitive golfer over two short years, no doubt due to the 18 and even 36 holes played daily.

Jim is survived by his wife, daughter and son-in-law Lesley and Travis Pearson, and daughter Meghan Jeffres, two brothers, Robert and Tom Jeffres, and a sister, Mary Jo Jeffres. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his grandparents, Earl and Mary Jeffres, and Robert and Viata Crail.

Memorials may be made to Help for Health Van, PO Box 73, Lander, WY 82520 or WY FFA Foundation, PO Box 71, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

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For more information contact the UW Collegiate FFA Chapter Advisor: Kris Brewer at kbrewer@uwyo.edu or 307-766-3798 or any current or past Collegiate FFA member.



Attorney Harriet Hageman reflects on her time in Wyoming FFA



Attorney and former Wyoming FFA member Harriet Hageman speaks to a group of ranchers in Worland.

Cheyenne — FFA is known for producing leaders and Cheyenne-based attorney Harriet Hageman is one of them.

“I didn’t join FFA until later in High School,” reflects Hageman. “I became involved through the coach and ag teacher in Lingle — Curt Humphrey. I took ag classes from him, learning how to weld, build pig barns and judge livestock. I became an officer in the Lingle Chapter, and later ran for the State Sweetheart, which I won. I was not one of the ‘State Officers’ with all of the responsibilities, but definitely enjoyed

working with them during my tenure. Jackson Stewart and Bill Pannell were two that I worked with, and I always knew that they would excel at their chosen professions.”

Through her career as an attorney Harriet has worked on many water and natural resource matters, including *Nebraska v. Wyoming*; the “roadless litigation”; challenges to the Fish & Wildlife Service’s management and recovery of the Canadian gray wolf and other species; protection of private property from contaminated discharges; predator control; defense of

Wyoming’s “open range” law; protection of grazing rights on Bureau of Land Management and private lands; and protection of water rights as a Wyoming attorney. She and her partner Kara Brighton in Hageman & Brighton, P.C., represent several irrigation districts around the State, addressing such matters as protection of irrigated agriculture and the impact of land use changes.

Hageman says, “FFA provided me with the background to pursue many of the activities that I have since undertaken. I went to Casper College on a

livestock judging scholarship, and was fortunate to have Kelly Burch as my coach. I ran for the School Senate, and was active in student government. I met countless ag people from around the State and have, fortunately, maintained many of those friendships for the last 25 years.”

“I often credit my ag background and livestock judging skills with providing the foundation for the attorney that I am today,” says Hageman who was raised on her family’s ranch between Guernsey and Fort Laramie. “The confidence that I gained through my judging activities allowed me to communicate quickly, succinctly, and clearly. I believe that I am more effective at arguing my case to judges and juries than I would have been

without the training and skills that I developed through FFA and livestock judging. My effectiveness as an advocate for the ag industry is directly tied to my FFA background, and I would encourage anyone who wants to become an attorney to take advantage of the training and skills that the FFA leaders have to offer.”

In closing Hageman says, “In short, my entire life is about communicating and I have no question that my ability to do so is a direct result of my involvement with FFA.”

As for Wyoming’s young people Hageman says, “Get involved in every program that is offered, from judging to being an officer, to participating in the State Convention.”

“We have a lot of work ahead of us in terms of pro-

tecting our ag industry,” she says. “There is a strong, concerted and well-funded effort to export our food production outside of the United States. One need look no further than those countries that have suffered some of the most horrific tragedies and civil wars (i.e., Sudan, Etheopia, etc.) to understand that food independence is directly tied to homeland security, to a healthy population, and to the wellbeing of all of our citizens. We need to be more proactive in broadcasting this message to the larger audience — to educating the general public on what our farmers and ranchers do, and how everyone benefits from their labors. The FFA program provides a great opportunity to move forward with this message.”

COURT *continued from page 2*

gram enough to give that much? If each person receiving this newsletter sent in the equivalent of \$1 each month that would equate to almost \$40,000 per year. If each reader could pack lunch and skip a McDonalds meal once a month think about how we could grow and the impact we could have. I know it’s hard to think about handing someone a \$50 bill, but could you do a few dollars each month?

I know I sound like a commercial and for that I apologize. I am passionate about FFA and FFA members and I like to share that passion. I urge you to consider creating your own partnership with the Founda-

tion, or with your local chapter. Set aside a monthly gift. If you are already working with us, I hope you’ll see the value of your investment and continue your support.

As you prepare for the holiday season and Christmas I hope that you will look around your community and see who supports the causes you champion and support them. I’ve yet to hear of amazon.com buying a lamb at the county fair.

I hope as you move through the season you are able to count your blessings.

Thanks for reading and Merry Christmas.

—Court

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