



Featuring the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Spring 2015 Edition

Little Snake River named top Wyoming FFA Chapter



Cheyenne — The Little Snake River FFA Chapter from Baggs earned recognition as Wyoming's number one FFA chapter during the recent Wyoming FFA Convention, held April 8-11 in the state capitol. The Court and Susan Schilt family of Cheyenne sponsored the chapter's recognition.

Led by advisor Dale Wille, the chapter is highly involved in the Baggs community. From helping individual community members to cleaning up and refurbishing a historic local cemetery, the chapter is constantly working to help in the Baggs area. Each year the chapter hosts a Christmas tree hunt where they cut trees for the members' families as well as for the elderly in the community who are unable to get their own trees.

Vice President Ryan Wille says one of the innovative projects their chapter recently completed provided food for those with the greatest need. "One that our President thought of was to auction off hay that his family's ranch donated, which would pay for one pig, one lamb and one steer. Different members took the animals home to raise them and then we butchered the animals and donated the meat to people in our valley."

Members of the current Little Snake River FFA officer

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Wyoming FFA Foundation awards \$30k in college scholarships

Cheyenne, Wyo. — The Wyoming FFA Foundation, with support from numerous partners, awarded over \$30,000 in college scholarships at the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention. Scholarships were presented on April 9 during an awards ceremony at the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention.

"We're pleased to be able to help some very outstanding Wyoming FFA

members pursue their college goals," says Becki Dale, chair of the Wyoming FFA Foundation's Scholarship Committee. "We had numerous, high quality applicants this year. Congratulations to those of you who are receiving scholarships. I hope they prove to be a meaningful investment in your education."

State Officers

Each member of the 2014-2015 Wyoming State FFA Officer Team is receiving a \$1,000 college scholarship in thanks for their dedication to Wyoming FFA. Rob and Leslie Hendry of Lysite, Emily Horton Priebe of Shoshoni and the Casper-based Wold Foundation funded this year's scholarships.

"We'd like to thank these individuals for serv-

ing Wyoming FFA over the past year," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. Receiving scholarships were Quade Palm, Heather Loraas, Tyler Clemetson, Kyle Weber, Lacy Nelson, Austin Burkett, Baxter Heinert, Caleb Green and Jess Oldham.

Andrea Lohr Live by Faith

Ron and Julie Rabou

of Cheyenne launched the Andrea Lohr Live by Faith scholarship to honor Andrea's message of living life to the fullest, appreciating one's family and making the most of even the toughest situations. Andrea was a member of the Kentucky FFA, but frequently traveled to Wyoming to work with FFA

members. Her battle with cancer ended in 2011, but her story of positive living remains through this scholarship and in many other ways. The \$500 Andrea Lohr Live by Faith Scholarship is awarded each year to a student who, despite difficult obstacles, is having a positive impact on others. The 2015 recipi-

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Miller Star Farmer

Cheyenne — P.D. Miller, from the Torrington/Lingle FFA Chapter is this year's Wyoming FFA State Star Farmer and says there are three different parts to his Supervised Agricultural Experience.

"I co-own a cow herd with my brother and sister and we raise show cattle. These are cattle either we have shown in the past or that we've purchased to better our genetics. Then to pay for all of the expenses associated with these cattle, I work for my family at M Lazy Heart Ranch and in exchange for my labor they provide feed and the other expenses associated with the cattle. Finally, I work at Miller Cattle and Feedyards and this is just a way to create another source of income. It is something I can work at over the summer and do part time when school is going on." At their custom feedyard the Millers feed 7,500 head of cattle and it is P.D.'s job to work wherever he is needed. "I usually clean tanks, feed and process cattle."

P.D.'s personal herd currently consists of eight cows and ten replacement heifers. He has exhibited cattle across the region, placing well in shows including the N.I.L.E. and the National Western Stock Show. P.D. is a senior this year and plans to work toward an agriculture law degree and continue his club calf operation or return to manage his family's feedlot.

Miller's award is sponsored by Brown Company with dealerships in Wheatland, Torrington and Riverton.

In closing, P.D. said that becoming a State Star Farmer wasn't easy, joking that the paperwork was the hardest part, and gives this inspiration for those hoping to accomplish the goal of State Star Farmer, "To be a state star farmer just work at the things you love. No matter what you do, you can achieve it if you're passionate about what you're doing."



2015-16 Wyoming FFA Officer team named

Cheyenne — On April 11, nearly 350 volunteers and 1,300 members, teachers and supporters spent the week in Cheyenne for the Wyoming State FFA Convention celebrating the theme "Grow for Gold."

As the crowning moment on the week, a nominating committee of seven individuals selected the 2015-16 Wyoming State FFA Officers.

The newly elected officer team is President Lois Brennecke of Cheyenne, Vice President Seth Thiele of Buffalo, Second Vice President Jamie Hansen of Laramie, Third Vice President Jaycie Arndt of Buffalo, Secretary Averi Reynolds of Casper, Treasurer Rebecca Weber of Shoshoni, Reporter Rachel Derner of Burns, Sentinel Chaney Peterson of Sheridan and Parliamentarian Chancy Templeton of Gillette.

Year of service

"Our state officers are the public face of the Wyoming FFA," says State Advisor Stacy Broda. "They serve as ambassadors for our organization and provide a link between local chapters and our state association."

During their year as Wyoming state FFA officers, these nine students will meet leaders in business and education and organize meetings and activities statewide.

New leaders — The 2015-16 Wyoming FFA State Officer team was installed into office on April 11. Team members include (front row, left to right) Vice President Seth Thiele, Secretary Averi Reynolds, (back row, left to right) Parliamentarian Chancy Templeton, Third Vice President Jaycie Arndt, Sentinel Chaney Peterson, Second Vice President Jamie Hansen, President Lois Brennecke, Treasurer Rebecca Weber and Reporter Rachel Derner.



The officers' responsibilities include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the Wyoming FFA and promoting agricultural literacy, says the Wyoming FFA Association.

"State officers commit to a year of service to the Wyoming FFA," says Broda. "Each of them will travel several thousand miles to interact with business and industry leaders, hundreds of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials and the general public. It's a prestigious and important position."

From the team

Each of the nine students selected for state office this year will be graduating from high school this spring and advancing to colleges across the state of Wyoming.

Brennecke, who has been an FFA member since she was in seventh grade, describes her decision to run for the office, saying, "I wasn't ready to be done with FFA, and I wanted to impact members' lives across the state."

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AG ED TALK

Exciting Times



Brendan Thoman
FFA Foundation President

The arrival of spring brings the excitement of new beginnings. We can really celebrate this in the world of agriculture — new green grass, emerging crops, newborn animals, and new opportunities with each rising sun. In the case of the Wyoming FFA Association, the annual state convention was recently held in Cheyenne. The Foundation was there to share in the excitement and provide support. Beside changes of our own (we thank Court Schilt, Donn Randall, and Becki Dale for their wonderful years as board members and leaders in the Foundation), we see a new line of nine young state officers ushered into the Association. I was able to help in the interview selection process and, judging by these individuals, the future of agriculture looks bright.

Not just in FFA but also in agriculture, it is an exciting time. Why the hype? Agriculture can be fairly consistent — people will forever need nourishing food to provide for themselves and their family's wellbeing. Yet as we strive to become experts, each in our own field in the broad expanse of agriculture, perhaps we discover that many of the challenges and solutions today have their roots in the profession of agriculture. I would like to bring to light words spoken by Eleanor Roosevelt — "Average minds discuss events, great minds discuss ideas." What is new in agriculture are ideas. Here in Wyoming we can celebrate these ideas, ideas that conversed among great people will lead to the betterment of all in this profession.

Six years ago my oldest brother and I bought a handful of registered heifers, which began our cattle herd and brought us into today's excitement of the cattle industry. In talking with friends and neighbors we were able to discern different approaches to raising and marketing cattle and work to do our best to provide and give back to the same people in the area. We were able to find ourselves back in ranching, the way we grew up and, God willing, perhaps we can provide the next generation with the same opportunity. In light of the state FFA convention, what is often heard is the quality of individuals who represent their local chapter across the state.

As a friend and I were talking at a Cheyenne hotel, a stranger standing in the lobby approached us. He explained that he had not seen so many young adults, easily depicted by their blue corduroy jackets, who conducted themselves so well. Often I have heard these remarks resembled. I must concede, out of all the necessary benefits agriculture provides, perhaps the greatest contribution of all is the great young men and women that spring forth. And if it truly takes a village to raise a child then we in the Wyoming agriculture and FFA community have an incredible opportunity and task that will help others. In the words of E.M. Tiffany, "Believe in the future of agriculture."

Brendan Thoman

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Continuing the Heritage of Families in Agriculture

Editor's Note: Chaney Peterson, pictured below, is a member of Sheridan's John B. Kendrick FFA. Chaney presented the winning prepared speech, featured here, at the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.



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supposed cattle rustler, was accused of committing horrible crimes and hung, so her land could be taken. It just so happens that she was hung about sixty miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming, near the chunk of land my Great, Great, Great grandpa called home, The Pathfinder Ranch. This amazing and historical area is where my ancestors raised Hereford cattle. This large investment was passed down three generations. After 34 years of ranching, Pathfinder was 26 miles long and 16 miles wide. But, the three brothers hit hardships with too many taxes, a struggle for enough money, and a unanimous desire to retire. In 1973, my great grandpa Stan Sanford and his brothers had no choice but to sell the ranch. This is just one example of my heritage in agriculture. In fact, go back four generations on nearly every branch in my family tree, and you'll find my

relatives had working ranches, none of which are in my family today. So, what happened?

Almost all of these ranches were sold because money was tight, the rancher's physical ability to do the work continued to decrease, and younger generations didn't fill the need, as it is with so many farms and ranches in our country.

These hardships are undeniable across the nation. One of the most common reasons for family farms disappearing is the farmers' never ending work load. No doubt making a living in agriculture is honest, because there's no lying about the struggles a farmer or rancher will come across or the dedication that a farm will always need. The average age of the American Farmer is 57 years old an age rapidly approaching retirement. The aches and pains of this hard lifestyle can be overwhelming. When recently talking to my great grandma, who raised cattle and alfalfa on nearly 1000 acres until 1996, I asked her why she stopped when she did. Her response was a bit surprising. "We weren't able to work anymore," she said, "[We] didn't want to hire any help, they would just destroy it."

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FFA BRIEFS

Torrington-Lingle to represent Wyoming FFA at 2016 NWSS

Cheyenne — Members of the Torrington-Lingle FFA Chapter, shown below, will represent their chapter and the Cowboy State at the National Western Stock Show in January 2016. The team won the honors after finishing second in the state in the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event at the recent Wyoming FFA Convention.

After winning the livestock judging competition at the National FFA Convention in 2013, Torrington-Lingle FFA Advisor Mr. Groene has a young team. He says none of the team members are graduating seniors. Team member McKenna Greenwald was the high individual at the 2015 state FFA competition.

The Torrington-Lingle Chapter will travel to the NWSS with support from past Cheyenne Ag Educator and FFA Advisor James Cotton and his daughter Kathryn Cotton. Mr. Cotton taught agriculture education in Cheyenne from 1969 to 1997. For many years Mr. Cotton and his chapter held the record for winning the most consecutive livestock judging competitions. His record was broken by one of his own students who went on to be an ag educator and FFA advisor, Mr. Randy Epler. Prior to teaching, Mr. Cotton was a very active and successful member of Newcastle's Saddle and Siroin FFA Chapter.



McKenna Greenwald, Brooke Juma, Morea Shipley, Georgia Wollert, Mr. Jason Groene, advisor

Casper FFAers to judge meats at 2016 NWSS

Cheyenne — Members of the Casper FFA will be judging meats at the National Western Stock Show after earning a second place finish in the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event at the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention. Mr. Brock Burch is the team's FFA Advisor.

For the past five years Wyoming FFA Advisor Stacy Broda and her husband John, along with Steve and Jackie Palm of Wheatland, have donated funds to offset travel costs. The award is presented during the Wyoming FFA Convention and given to the team that finishes second in the state in meats evaluation.

In the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event, students develop the skills needed for careers in the meat animal industry. During the event members evaluate beef carcasses for quality and yield grade, identify various cuts of meat and their origin on the carcass, and identify wholesale and retail cuts. Wyoming's annual competition is held at the University of Wyoming Animal Science Department Meats Laboratory in Laramie.



Hunter Romsa, Sheridan Stewart, Ben Campbell, Rachel Emery

FFA Camp 2015 scheduled

Lander — Two sessions of the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp, a Wyoming tradition dating back to 1978, are planned for the mountains above Lander during June 2015. This year's camp director is Lindsey Freeman and associate directors are Curt Andreen and Cinnamon Smith.

Session 1 will take place June 9-13 and Session 2 is scheduled for June 15-19. The camp is held at the Fremont County Youth Camp in the mountains above Lander. Any FFA member who will be completing 8th through 12th grade this year, or a freshman or older in the coming school year, is eligible to attend. Early registration, totaling \$150, is due May 1. Registration thereafter is \$175. Scholarships are available.

Additional information, including registration instructions, is available at www.FFACamp.org.

FFA members to visit D.C.

Cheyenne — Two Wyoming FFA members — Katie Schilt of Cheyenne and Sydney Ellers of Glendo — will be traveling to the FFA's Washington Leadership Conference with support from Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

During the five-day Washington Leadership Conference, attendees learn how to become effective leaders by learning their purpose, how to value people, how to take action and how to serve others. FFA members leave WLC with the knowledge and the confidence to act in ways that help their schools, community and their country. The conference takes place in the nation's capitol.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission is a long-time supporter of scholarships for Wyoming FFA members to attend this conference. Tri-State Generation and Transmission is a wholesale electric power supplier owned by the 44 electric cooperatives that it serves. The cooperative generates and transmits electricity to its member systems throughout a 200,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming.



Riverton wins Quiz Bowl

Cheyenne — Riverton FFA, coached by advisor Casey Styvar, took home top honors in the Greenhand Quiz Bowl Competition held during the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention. Hosted by Collegiate FFA at the University of Wyoming, the competition tests young FFA members' knowledge about FFA.

The Greenhand Quiz Bowl is designed for beginning FFA members, grades 8-10. It tests their knowledge of FFA history and events through a written test. The competition is a stepping ground for later participation in FFA's broad array of Career Development Events.



Kyle Carper, Mady Dolcater, Rose Buckingham and Vinne Dolbow are the 2015 Greenhand Quiz Bowl Champions.

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Toby Lynde, Board Chairman
Jessie Schell •



Honorary FFA Degree presented to Wyoming FFA supporters

Cheyenne — Supporters of the Wyoming FFA were recognized with their honorary FFA degrees during the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne. Wyoming FFA gives a heartfelt thank you to these supporters and the positive impact they make on Wyoming FFA and its members.

Jeff Berry

Jeff Berry is an agricultural instructor and livestock judging coach at LCCC. Jeff was a Cheyenne FFA member where he showed cattle and judged livestock. He now serves as the superintendent for the Wyoming FFA Livestock Judging Career Development Event. He is responsible for organizing all livestock and logistics of the competition. Wyoming FFA is thankful for Jeff's involvement, time and efforts and enjoys his positive attitude and the goofy smile he brings with him.

The Butcher Block

Alan and Salli Johnson are the owners of The Butcher Block in Laramie, Wyoming. They have been very supportive of the local Snowy Range and Rock Creek FFA Chapters for many years. They donate products for auctions, cook food for banquets, discount food for dinners, allow CDE teams a practice location and are a source of employment for many placement SAE students.

Cheyenne Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Cheyenne Area Convention and Visitors Bureau has supported Wyoming FFA since the state convention was permanently moved to Cheyenne in 1998. CACVB is instrumental in helping with facilities, room blocks and sponsoring a breakfast and lunch during convention. Wyoming FFA is thankful for the committed staff at CACVB and their help hosting the largest youth convention in Wyoming.

Kelcey Christensen

Kelcey Christensen is a past Wyoming FFA

member and holds the Wyoming FFA State Degree. He serves as the University of Wyoming meat lab manager. Kelcey has been instrumental in hosting the Meat Evaluation and Technology CDE and several workouts for FFA members throughout the year.

Kelly Groene

Kelly Groene is the owner of GroBusiness Solutions and wife of Torrington FFA Advisor Jason Groene. Over the last three years Kelly has provided awards, t-shirts and volunteer gifts for Wyoming FFA conferences and events. Kelly is always willing to go the extra mile in helping Wyoming FFA, has made donations for numerous events, and can be counted on to provide a quality product and service.

Garrett Horton

Garrett Horton is a financial officer for Farm Credit Services in Wyoming and a past Wyoming FFA member. Garrett is instrumental in sponsoring and finding the keynote speaker for State FFA Convention. He also serves as the Agricultural Issues CDE superintendent where he is in charge of finding judges and competition logistics. Garrett also helps coach Paintrock FFA's meat judging team.

Laramie County Conservation District

The Laramie County Conservation District and staff are no strangers to supporting youth and FFA. Over the years they've supported the local Laramie County FFA chapters as well as youth events. They also serve as superintendents and co-host to the Environmental and Natural Resource CDE during State Convention as well as provide other practice opportunities for Wyoming FFA members for this event.

Laramie County Fair

The Laramie County Fair has always been supportive of the five local FFA chapters in Laramie County. They also hosted the Wyoming FFA Foundation Blue Jeans Ball last October at the Archer Fairgrounds. Fair staff went above and beyond to provide a facility and atmosphere that proved successful for the fundraising event.

Dennis Madigan

Dennis Madigan served as the technical director for the Cheyenne Civic Center for thirty years. In his role at the Civic Center he worked with the Wyoming FFA Association the last 17 years during the Wyoming State FFA Convention. Dennis was an integral part of making sure the technical aspects of the convention stage program was a success. From hanging banners to wiring state FFA officers for their retiring addresses, Dennis ensured the technological requests were completed.

Frosty Malone

Frosty Malone is actively engaged in agriculture activities no matter the day. She works alongside of her husband Bryan at the Woody Ranch in Robertson. Her sons, Ty and Tel, are very active in agriculture, FFA and 4-H. Frosty was instrumental in the Jim Bridger FFA Alumni reorganization and has served on the board for the past 12 years. She has also contributed to activities for the local chapter, including training judging teams, providing show animals, serving as a chaperon and helping with fundraisers. Frosty is a member of the 4-H Council, Pork

Brice McIntosh

Brice McIntosh is currently the Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor for the Saddle and Sirloin Chapter in Newcastle. Formerly, he was a member of the Casper FFA and finished his high school career as a member of the Wheatland FFA chapter, where he was involved in Meats Evaluation and Farm Business Management. Brice began his career teaching in Shoshoni for two years before replacing advisor Mr. Ed Merrill in Newcastle. His passion for agriculture drives him to motivate kids not only in the classroom, but in life. He would like to thank all of the people who ha

Justin Mills

Justin is a lender with Platte Valley Bank, serving Weston County. He has been involved in agriculture outside of FFA since the day he finished serving as a state FFA officer in 1995. As a college student, Justin helped with the FFA Leadership Camp as a counselor and board member. In every occupation he's held, Justin continued to stay involved with FFA. As a broadcaster for Northern Ag Network, he would attend the Wyoming State Fair each summer and interview FFA students and scholarship recipients for his programs. After

taking over at the NILE, Justin continued to invest in youth and agriculture through the NILE Merit Heifer program. Since moving back to Wyoming in 2013, Justin quickly reconnected with his Wyoming FFA roots.

Phillip Scheel

Phillip Scheel is the owner of Tumbleweed Propane, Inc., in Thermopolis. He has been involved in FFA since he attended high school in Pine Bluffs. He continues to be a very active part of FFA by helping found the Thermopolis FFA Alumni Association, where he still serves as president. Phillip spends a lot of time each year helping develop extra activities for people to enjoy during the Hot Springs County Fair, such as the pig wrestling competition, ag olympics and the Over-the-Hill Showmanship competition. He makes himself available to help students with their showmanship, speaking, and parliamentary procedure questions.

Codey and Kody Stocks

Codey and Kody Stocks are both past FFA members and Codey is a past Wyoming FFA State Officer. They own and operate KC Incorporated and Savery Creek Outfitters in Dixon, Wyoming. For the past three years they've provided embroidered and laser engraved awards for state convention, and embroidered gear for the state FFA officers. The Stocks have also donated fishing trips to the Wyoming FFA Foundation for the Blue Jeans Ball.

Dr. Monte Stokes

Dr. Monte Stokes has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Wyoming FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event. As a staff member of Eastern Wyoming College Dr. Stokes is always looking for a way to involve and develop Wyoming FFA members and all young people in the areas of veterinary science and agriculture in general.

Lacy Teigen

Lacy has been actively involved with Wyoming FFA since her freshman year with the Snowy Range FFA chapter. Lacy continued using the horse judging skills learned in the FFA by attending LCCC to judge horses and then to the University of Wyoming. Since her freshman year in college, she has helped with many aspects of Wyoming FFA's horse evaluation competition. Lacy is the current Superintendent for the Horse Evaluation CDE. She is the LCCC horse judging team coach and is studying to earn her Master's degree in agriculture business.

Ty Vallier

Ty Vallier was part of the Rock Creek FFA as a member for three years during High School. While in the FFA he was elected to the offices of Vice President and President. He enrolled at the University of Wyoming and graduated in 2012. He then went on to teach in Sutherland, Neb. for two years before coming back to Rock River to be the Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor of the Rock Creek FFA Chapter.

Rick Vonburg

Rick Vonburg is a past member and Wyoming FFA State Officer. Rick is an agricultural instructor and the Business and Technology Division Chair at Eastern Wyoming College. Rick has been instrumental in building a positive relationship between Wyoming FFA and Eastern Wyoming College with his help hosting the Veterinary Science Career Development Event and providing scholarships and sponsorships to Wyoming FFA members.

Wyoming Trophy and Engraving

Terry and Judy LaHiff

Terry and Judy LaHiff are the owners of Wyoming Trophy and Engraving in Cheyenne. Wyoming FFA has had a long standing relationship of more than 30 years with the LaHiffs and their business. Trophy and Engraving provides numerous awards for state convention and has donated several awards over the years. Wyoming FFA appreciates the quality of product and service they have provided over the years and looks forward to a continued relationship with them.

Wil Zollman

Wil Zollman is an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor at Lovell High school. He has dedicated many years of service to students and the FFA organization. Currently in his thirteenth year of teaching, Wil hopes to continue building a successful program at Lovell High School. As a member of the Oregon FFA association, Wil held greenhand and chapter president positions.

Congratulations to Wyoming's 2015 State FFA Degree recipients

Each year during the Wyoming FFA Convention, the State FFA Degree is awarded to the Association's top members. To qualify for the degree members must first have received their chapter degree, been enrolled in agricultural education for at least two years, demonstrated leadership skills, completed 25 hours of community service and much more. Below is a list of those FFA members who were awarded their State FFA Degree during the recent Wyoming FFA Convention.

BIG COUNTRY FFA

Shade Frank, Carissa Pickard

BOW RIVER FFA

Shelby Bowen

BUFFALO BILL FFA

Mikayla Billin

BUFFALO FFA

Jaycie Arndt, Cody Ballek, Wyatt Blakeman
Clayton Borgianni, Cahill Ellenwood
Jade Harper, Dalton McCorkle
Connor Oaks, Lauren Rives, Seth Sickler
Seth Thiele

BURNS FFA

Shelby Batson, Rachel Derner
Rowan Fichtner, Tyler Morgan
Hunter Petsch, Claire Streeter
Brook Weibel

CASPER FFA

Clayton Atkinson, Rachel Emery
Sierra Hiser, Kaylen Lewis, Clay Loraas
Korina Potter, Averi Reynolds, Alix Smith
Flannan Stark, Kassie Witt, Bailey Ziehl
Shannon Zumbrennen

CHIEF WASHAKIE FFA

Jessa Mae Clark, Chad Cross, Burk DeBoit
Ricardo Martinez, Josh Miller

CLEAR CREEK FFA

Linzee Adamson, Levi Bircher
Dylan Collins

DEVILS TOWER FFA

Hannah Bauernfeind
Bryce Conzelman
Sheyanne Fosheim, Jodi Gantz
Tessa Garman, Hali Ike
Brooke Mills

DOUGLAS FFA

Ashley Parker, Hannah Smylie

ENCAMPMENT

Harold Jackson, Luke Pantle

EVANSTON FFA

Toby DeGraw, Logan Lester
Kassidy Van Syoc

FRONTIER FFA

Summer Bowman, Lois Brennecke
Haley Cole, Halley Jankovsky
Daniel Kindsvater, Madison Lacy
Jordan Simonovich
Jenny Smith, Mikayla Zimmerman

GLENDO FFA

Evan Wilhelm

HIGH PLAINS FFA

Shannon Burke, Ashton Cloward
Shelby Dial, Bailey Dolph
MacKenzie Klipstein, Colton Lake
Tonie Prego, Brianna Santora
Nicole Stratton

JIM BRIDGER FFA

Logan Ellis, Carli Fenus, Bailey Lupher
Logan Lupher, Madison Vitt

JOHN B. KENDRICK FFA

Gabrielle Koltiska, Chaney Peterson

KAYCEE FFA

Josie Austin, Kelley Largent

LANDER FFA

Sierra Lyons, Makayla Meeks
Kelsey Nelson, Jacob Winchester

LITTLE SNAKE RIVER FFA

Kendal Dietrich, Michael Espy
Keaton Jeannerett
Courtney Kudara
Katie Lee, Katelyn Olson
Ryan Wille

LOVELL FFA

Mysen McArthur, Richard Walker

LYMAN FFA

Chaparral Clarke, Cody Ellison, Allie Eyre, Bailey Gross, Rachelle Harris
Hunter Hewitt

MOORCROFT FFA

Savanah Richter

NEWCASTLE FFA

Nate Pillen, Josie Podio

PAINTROCK FFA

Bree Dooley, Colten Flitner
Marriah Mills

PINE BLUFFS FFA

Dakota Chrystal, Jordan Crouse,
Scott Gross, Mollie Heithoff
Jaden Ragsdale, Preston Thurin,
Jesi Zitek

PINEDALE FFA

Angel Brandewie, Riley Irwin
Dustin Jakobsen, Fallon Ramsey,
Ryanne Stevie, Kaylum Thayne
Kassidy Williams

POWELL-SHOSHONE FFA

Bailey Atkinson, Bryce Bott
Aimee Kawano, Hannah Maddox

RIVERTON FFA

Macy Bates, Tia Gopp
Jessica Lawrence
Hank Osborne, Vanessa Powell
Harlee Speyer

ROCK CREEK FFA

Trevor Broyles, Monique Cope
Jacie Newkirk, CJ Smith

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FFA

Bonnie Bates, Lily Myers
Lindzy Thomas

SARATOGA FFA

Marshal Hill, Hunter Mason
Andrew Oiler, Chaze Wiant

SHOSHONI FFA

Sydney Davis, Rebecca Weber

SNOWY RANGE FFA

Chordell Carter, Pamela Gandy
Jamie Hansen, Cooper Johnson
Brant Lindsey

SOUTHEAST FFA

Cody Alps, Ben Rein

SUNDANCE FFA

Jacob Disney, Peggy Garman

TEN SLEEP FFA

Reed Hampton, Kristian Hash

THERMOPOLIS FFA

Sasha Bleak, Choc Maddock
Tyelynn Myers

TONGUE RIVER FFA

Brook Butler, Bailey Forsness
Elana Ostler

TORRINGTON/LINGLE FFA

Lexi Asa, Trey Faessler
Barry Greenwald Sara Kostur
Kayce Lay, P.D. Miller
Michelle Stuck, Kody Walter
Gabrielle Wollert

UPTON FFA

Kaylee Arthur, Eben Cowger
Lane Dodd

WIND RIVER FFA

Robert Buline, Ranelle Hindman
Darcey Maddock, Chesnie Whitlock

WRIGHT FFA

Kelsey Baker, Courtney Fuller
Leigh Ann Hess

WINDY CITY FFA

Brayden Marker

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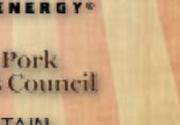













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THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE




MEMBER FDIC

FFA businesses join in annual State FFA Convention career fair

During each Wyoming FFA Convention one day is set aside for leadership activities. Workshops take place throughout the day as does a career fair where members are invited to participate by meeting and interacting with industry leaders, businesses and colleges. This year an amendment was made to the career fair, showcasing FFA members and their businesses.

Blake Fegler was one of the members with a booth displaying some of

his promotional items from his guiding and outfitting business, 307 Pursuit. Blake began 307 Pursuit as a 12-year-old in the summer of 2010. "Ever since I was a little kid I loved hunting," he explained. "My father was the one who introduced me to the outdoors...from there my passion increased every year." 307 Pursuit is located in central Wyoming and offers opportunities for harvesting pronghorn antelope and mule deer across Wyoming.

Fegler credits FFA for helping with his business in numerous ways, "I joined our chapter's Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) team as a freshman. ENR has taught me how to run GPS units which is starting to help me in my business." The Shoshoni High School junior continued, "The most important CDE I've ever been part of and that has helped my business is Ag Marketing. Marketing taught me to position my business to certain clients, how to promote my business to involve more people and most importantly great ways to increase my market share and profitability opportunities. Linking marketing and 307 Pursuit has helped me immensely in leading our Marketing CDE team in winning the competition at State Convention. As we continue our journey to the National FFA Convention I'm excited to see the knowl-

edge I can bring home to my business that I have learned through FFA." 307 Pursuit can be found on Facebook or by contacting Blake at 10c307pursuit@gmail.com.

Just down the aisle from 307 Pursuit, bows of nearly every color and design adorned Savannah Birkle's booth. "Making and selling bows began when I just wanted to wear a cute accessory with my official dress," Savannah said. "Some of the girls in my chapter thought it was really cute and I saw it as an opportunity to create a new Supervised Agricultural Experience." After seeing the interest her friends took in the bows, Savannah began making bows for her officer team as means of advertisement. Other members of her chapter have helped by making new designs. The Frontier FFA Chapter member knows that the lessons she's learning through her bow business are long lasting. "I've been learning a lot about money management and record keeping. I was also very lucky to have so much support from my fellow members. I owe a big thanks to Mr. Allen, my advisor, as well for helping get me a table at State Convention." Birkle sold out of her inventory at the Career Fair but had supplies to make more. She plans to use the money to cover her input costs and donate the

profit to her chapter. "FFA is a big part of my life and has given me the opportunities to grow myself and with my chapter. I hope that the money I make with bows can help my chapter with camps, competitions and community service."

Members tended to flock to the corner of the room where the Wyoming FFA t-shirts were displayed. Although event t-shirts have been ordered for convention in the past, this year the t-shirts represented one member's SAE. Vance Curtis is a sophomore at Worland High School. Last year he helped his chapter make t-shirts for the Battle of the Big Horns wrestling tournament and said, "I really liked working the machine and getting to meet the people." When his chapter decided to make convention shirts last year he volunteered to help. "This year when we talked about doing the t-shirts again for the convention and making shirts for the FFA Foundation I asked my

advisor, Mrs. Godfrey if I took on all of the responsibilities could I turn the t-shirts into my SAE and she said yes. So now I run it all."

Curtis calls his business Curtis Custom Designs. He is currently working with the Worland High School athletic director to gain the business of all school events. Vance builds all kinds of designs for both t-shirts and sweatshirts and can be contacted at 307-431-7792.

The foundation that FFA lays for young entrepreneurs is like no other. Wyoming FFA is proud of the numerous small businesses being created and conducted by young minds with a great work ethic.



Frontier FFA members sell stylish FFA hair bows during the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention Career Fair.



Clementine's in Douglas is supporting FFA through Burgers for Blue & Gold

Poor Boys Steakhouse in Casper is donating 10% of all burger sales during the month of May. Stop by and enjoy a great burger for a great cause. Tell them you also support FFA!



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Vance Curtis, a member of Chief Washakie FFA, makes t-shirts during Convention.

Frontier FFA wins ag issues CDE with debate over trespassing

Cheyenne — Is raw milk safe? Is drilling for oil and natural gas worth the risk? Are solar farms sustainable? These are examples of the topics that members involved in the Agricultural Issues Career Development Event (CDE) help to present and answer. Participants research the pros and cons of an ag issue and present their findings and theories to a panel of judges.

"Frank Ranches vs. Jonathan Ratner and the Western Watersheds Project (WWP)" was the case presented by the Cheyenne Frontier FFA. "We picked our issue because we thought this would be an interesting one to highlight to the public," said team member Garrett Hartigan.

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Farmers' Union Insurance

Association donated \$1,000 to help the team offset the costs of traveling to the National FFA Convention to compete this fall.

The lawsuit is one that is currently underway in Wyoming between a group of landowners in Fremont and Lincoln counties that claim that Jonathan Ratner, WWP Director for this region, intentionally trespassed on their land. Half of the Frontier FFA team

members presented the rancher's side of the argument while the other half had to defend Ratner and WWP.

"We picked this case that is actually happening...and we have had the chance to be coached by one of the lawyers in the case, Mrs. Karen Budd-Fallen in order to get the latest facts," team member Savannah Birkle stated. "We made sure to tell everyone that this is just a mock of the trial and that we have changed some of the facts just to make the argument more interesting and to not skew what is really happening."

Sara Brennecke, who played the part of an environmentalist, stated, "One thing that I learned was the ability to debate something that I'm not passionate about."

Her teammate Savannah Birkle chimed in, "Being able to put your-



Mr. Joe Allen, Advisor • Cortland Fitzgerald • Sydney Miller Samantha Jurkowski • Nick Hartigan • Sara Brennecke Savannah Birkle • Garrett Hartigan • Karen Budd-Fallen, Coach

self in a position where you are not passionate allows you to understand a different side and become more empathetic towards other points of view. You learn even more when you argue an opposing side because you learn to dig deeper to develop the rational that the person you're representing would have."

In closing the team members agreed that this case in particular made them more attentive to the need for agriculture advocacy. Hartigan stated, "The agriculture industry gets overlooked and trampled on for doing things wrong when they are doing things right. They are doing what they need to do but we need to help bring cases to people's attention so that ranchers aren't alone." Without hesitation the team admitted that taking part in the Ag Issues CDE will make them more attentive to current events and issues in general.

Shoshoni tops marketing Career Development Event

Cheyenne — Katelyn Jennings, JJ Pingetzer and Blake Fegler, of the Shoshoni FFA Chapter, won this year's Marketing Plan Career Development Event (CDE). Participants in the Marketing Plan CDE develop and present a marketing plan for a current agricultural product, supply or service. In the Shoshoni team's case, they developed their plan for John Deere's Field Connect for Stotz Equipment in Riverton. The water management product was chosen after JJ and Blake attended a clinic when the product first came out and were immediately interested.

"In the marketing plan, you have to do a lot. We compiled background information on the company we chose, then we conducted a buyer profile and researched industry trends. After that we did the SWAT of Field Connect which are the strengths, weaknesses and threats of the product," JJ Pingetzer explained. The team also evaluated the two closest competitors of Field Connect and addressed

the 5 P's; product, price, place, position and promotion. Planning for a budget and numerous other applicable business practices play a role in the CDE too.

When asked if the members would be interested in pursuing marketing as a career Blake smiled and said, "Stotz Equipment actually is reviewing our plan to be implemented at their store."

"We really didn't like research at the beginning. Then we realized research was the basis for the whole contest." Not only did the team grow to appreciate research Katelyn said, "We even learned more about the people in our area."

Each of the members of the marketing team are part of farm and ranch operations and are excited to put to use all that they've learned thus far in their marketing journey.

Thanks to the generosity of Wyoming FFA Foundation donors, the team will receive \$1,000 to offset their costs for attending and competing at the National FFA Convention this fall.



Mr. Damien Christensen, Advisor • Blake Fegler Katelyn Jennings • JJ Pingetzer

BAGGS continued from Page 1

team shared some ideas for other chapters to use.

"Making new members feel welcome is the main thing. Let them know it's a friendly environment and that it is fun," stated Ryan Wille.

Officer Courtney Kudera said that most everyone in their school is in FFA, "There are some new students that move in that aren't sure about FFA, but we strive to get them to at least one event. Much of the time they then continue to be involved with FFA."

Chapter Historian Michael Espy shared the importance of getting freshman involved. "We go to their classroom and tell them about FFA. We talk about the CDEs (Career Development Events), the different activities and community service projects to really get them going and to get them to understand that their involvement isn't only important to our chapter, it is important to our community." Michael smiled and added, "Of course we push how fun it is and all of the experiences you have."

When asked about fundraising ideas, Chapter Treasurer Katelyn Olson stated, "First of all, our community is incredible at supporting the things we

do so we owe them a huge thank you. One of our main fundraisers is auctioning off the items we build in our shop. We have a big pancake feed and then a local auctioneer donates his time to sell the items."

The chapter officers each attested to the different ways FFA has helped in their personal growth. "FFA is a very good thing to build leadership and help people develop. Most students involved in extracurricular activities are lost when they get out of high school. FFA gives people a very good mindset and helps them to mature," said Ryan Wille.

"FFA has really taught me to talk to people with more ease and not to be so nervous," said Kudera.

"FFA has helped me to develop a deeper understanding of things I did before while learning new things as well," said Katelyn Olson. "I am excited to see the things that come out of my FFA life as I head into the future."

Together the officers agreed that winning the title of top chapter has motivated them to become even more involved in their community and in the opportunities that FFA membership presents.

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These teams will represent Wyoming at the 2015 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 28-31



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Michael Nading, Jr. • Timi Reynolds • Morgan Hank • Trey Campbell
Advisor, Mr. Brock Burch (not pictured)

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HORSE EVALUATION — LOVELL FFA

Advisor Mr. Wil Zollman • Coach Chandi Workman • Billie Tillett
Larissa Tippetts • Masey Tippetts • Reece May



ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES ROCKY MTN. FFA, COWLEY

TaiLyn Miller • Jennifer Parker • Lily Myers
Bonnie Bates • Mrs. Chrsin Shorma, Advisor

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Connor Oaks • Mr. Jake Evans, Advisor

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FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CASPER FFA

Bridger Helm • Kaylen Lewis • Joshlynn Kastenschmidt • Wilson Stewart
Mr. Brock Burch, Advisor (not pictured)



AG SALES & SERVICE — TEN SLEEP FFA

Mr. Bower, Advisor • Amanda Lewton • Aften Peterson
Madison Anderson • Kristian Quaye



LIVESTOCK EVALUATION JOHN B. KENDRICK FFA, SHERIDAN

Makayla Mayfield • Gabrielle Koltiska • Chaney Peterson
Bell Ward • Mr. Siddle, Advisor

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MEATS EVALUATION TORRINGTON-LINGLE FFA

PD Miller • Morea Shipley • Makenna Greenwald • Skyler Miller
Advisor, Mr. Jason Groene



AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM FRONTIER FFA, CHEYENNE

Mr. Joe Allen, Advisor • Cortland Fitzgerald • Sydney Miller
Samantha Jurkowski • Nick Hartigan • Sara Brennecke
Savannah Birkle • Garrett Hartigan • Karen Budd Falen, Coach

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MARKETING PLAN — SHOSHONI FFA

Mr. Damien Christensen, Advisor • Blake Fegler
Katelyn Jennings • JJ Pingetzer

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FFA CREED SPEAKING

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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE — CASPER FFA

Coach Janine Johnson • Bridger Helm • Trey Campbell
Tyler Cotton • Wilson Stewart • Austin Mettler • Tyler Moffat
Advisor, Mr. Burch (not pictured)

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POULTRY EVALUATION HIGH PLAINS FFA, CHEYENNE

Ashley Swearingen • Sarah Dey • Mackenzie Klipstein
Hanna Lane • Mr. Ty Berry, Advisor



VETERINARY SCIENCE — RIVERTON FFA

McKenzie Dykman • Macy Bates • Katie Hazlewood
Courtney Raymond • Mr. Casey Styvar, Advisor

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TEAM *continued from Page 1*

She continues that the state officers in past years have been influential in her life, and she was driven to continue to serve the Wyoming FFA Association as a state officer.

Her sentiments were echoed by nearly every other officer selected to serve the Association this year.

Long-time agriculture advocate Thiele adds, "I have seen the positive impact that state officers have on a lot of students, and I hope that I can continue those positive influences."

Peterson continues, "State officers have always been down-to-earth people. I remember meeting them at camp and realizing that I wanted to serve the organization and help members like they do."

"I love this organization. I am excited to continue my FFA experience and impact other members' lives the way that past state officers have impacted mine," Brennecke says. "I'm super psyched for this year, and I'm extremely

grateful for the opportunity."

Motivated for influence

"Being a state officer is all about connecting with members from across the state," Brennecke continues. "I'm excited to be able to share what each chapter does and learn from it."

With a background of FFA officers in her past, Weber comments, "This organization is in my blood. I found out early that the type of people who serve as state officers are great leaders, and I strive to be like them. It's always been my number one goal."

"As the Sentinel, it's part of my duties to help get members involved and make them feel comfortable," Peterson adds. "It is my goal to be involved and build a strong network of members."

Templeton notes that she also hopes to be a positive influence for agriculture and the FFA organization.

Since she was young, she has been involved in agriculture, and Templeton says, "It is an honor to be a

state officer, and I will serve my Association and the FFA members this year by being an advocate and reaching out to inspire others."

This year

Each of the officers have set personal goals for the year, and they will continue to work together to set goals as a team, but an overarching theme among all of them was the opportunity to increase involvement and advocate for the agriculture industry.

"I hope to help make this year a fun year for our team and for Wyoming FFA members," Weber says. "We want to keep members interested in FFA and get them excited about serving."

Hansen notes, "I hope to embrace this year and not let the opportunities go by. I'm super excited to work with a great team and this great organization."

"I hope I can be a good state officer," Brennecke says. "I want to connect with members and make a difference. I hope to help them get involved

and get them excited about agriculture."

Derner explains that her passion for leadership and feeding the world has continued to drive her motivation in the past and this year. As a state officer, she hopes to help members understand the importance of the agriculture industry and continue to be involved in leadership.

"This year provides us a great opportunity to connect with members and advocate for agriculture," she says.

"I'm honored and excited to serve and work with the great people involved in this organization," Peterson says.

Thiele comments, "As a state officer, I'm part of something bigger than just

myself. FFA is an extension of my family, and I work for everyone in the organization – from my chapter through the state and national levels. My main goal this year is to serve the Wyoming FFA Association to the best of my abilities."

Saige Albert is managing editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup.

Cloud Peak Energy speaks to Wyoming FFA members

During Leadership Day at the Wyoming FFA State Convention, Cloud Peak Energy led one of the workshops titled "Coal Mining: 101." Members in attendance learned about the basics of coal mining and were even exposed to some of the political issues surrounding the coal industry. Don Vissat, Mitch Hackman and Megan Degenfelder shared the stage, each presented a different sector of the publically traded Wyoming company.

Practical safety on the job was the first topic covered by Mitch Hackman. Concerning cell

phones on the job Hackman explained, "We just tell people that they are better to turn it off and put it away and to never take it in their vehicles." He admitted that CPE realizes that people have a lot going on in their lives but they strive to never compromise safety; something that he encouraged the listening audience to strive for as well.

Vissat helped lay the foundation for the basics of coal use; how it is mined, shipped, transferred to energy and then sent back for use in our homes. Questions posed to the FFA members were readily answered by the Wyoming youth, yet Josie Bailey, Whitcomb FFA Member, stated that even though she's been exposed to coal her entire life she still found the information valuable.

Employment opportunities, the cost of operation, Cloud Peak Energy's involvement in the surrounding communities and the similarities between coal and agriculture were

all covered by Megan Degenfelder. "I was at a workshop earlier in the day where they talked about people thinking that meat comes from a supermarket; the same is true with energy. Many people just think to have electricity you turn on a light switch." Megan went on to talk about Friends of Coal, a group that advocates for coal in western states. She explained that billions of dollars in taxes and royalties paid from the production of coal goes right back to our local communities and said, "When we talk about taking away coal or lessening our use of coal, there are a lot of effects that come with that. We are proud to give back to our communities and know that it is imperative for everyone to know the facts about coal so that they can have a voice in the energy debate."

With a large percentage of Wyoming graduates pursuing some facet of the energy industry, the workshop proved valuable to all in attendance.

Lewis top in Agriscience

Cheyenne — Casper FFA's Kaylen Lewis was named State Star in Agriscience during the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention.

Kaylen's Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) focuses on conducting agriscience experiments and learning scientific concepts. For one project, Kaylen tested three different prototypes for an injection watering system that could be integrated into an existing pivot system. She also tested the feasibility of using milk as a substitute for traditional fertilizer. Kaylen hopes her findings can provide farmers with new solutions in irrigation and fertilizer, saving producers time and money.

"It did take a lot of hard work," says Kaylen, "and I was surprised to be honest. When I was listening to the other candidates' projects on stage I didn't think I would win."

Kaylen plans to attend college and work toward a doctorate degree in astrophysics.



Lander's McConnell named top ag teacher for 2015

Cheyenne — Mike McConnell has been Lander's FFA Advisor

for 25 years and has been selected as the 2015 Wyoming FFA Advisor of the Year.



Mr. McConnell is presented a plaque by Wyoming FFA Advisor Stacy Broda

Two ag teachers are nominated by fellow teachers from each region and then the final advisor is selected by the state officer team. When asked the impact of the award, McConnell replied, "It means a lot to me. It is nice to be recognized by the members of the Wyoming FFA Association State Officer Team. It's always nice when you are recognized and don't have to apply for an award or do something like that but rather you are truly recognized on behalf of other people. It is a significant award that means an awful lot."

Mr. McConnell lives near Lander on their family ranch with his wife Anjie, son Mark and daughter Kiley. "My biggest supporters who have gotten me to this point, without question, are my family." He added, "...both of my children are FFA members in our chapter right now. Mark is currently the chapter president and Kylee was a creed speaker as a freshman. My wife is always taking care of us. She is at home taking care of the ranch right now. But it is the support of my family and I am also blessed to have incredible

group of friends and peers as ag teachers that are willing to help and work together and share information and ideas. I feel real lucky to work with and be supported by the people that I am."

His students give Mr. McConnell credit for being an absolute role model and always considering their best interests. It is evident to the entire state that McConnell is fully dedicated to promoting agriculture and keeping youth involved yet, in his own humble way Mr. McConnell focuses the success of his teaching

career on his members and community, "I don't know if we have done anything special. I especially don't know if I have done anything special, but I am fortunate to work with a great group of men and women every year. Our chapter strives to be the best chapter we can be and we strive to be humble, gracious, and we strive to be examples of what hard work and commitment can accomplish. So I think it is a culmination of all of those things. Also being good at what we do and being recognized by a group of people that are in a position to see those things."

SCHOLARSHIPS *continued from Page 1*

ent is Cassandra Colvin, Lovell FFA, who will be pursuing a nursing degree.

F.A.I.R. Posse

Courtney Fuller of the Wright FFA Chapter is the recipient of the \$500 F.A.I.R. Posse scholarship. The award is presented annually to an FFA member who has a history showing at the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo. Courtney says participating in the Wyoming State Fair has taught her responsibility, hard work, commitment, initiative, time management, how to work with others and how to be a gracious winner, showing respect both in and out of the winners' circle.

Wyoming Ag Business Association

Jennifer Parker, who will be studying ag business at Casper College, is this year's Wyoming Ag Business Association scholarship winner. Jennifer will receive \$500 from the group to offset her college education costs.

Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply

Maggie Johnson of Bow River FFA is the recipient of the scholarship donated by Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply. Maggie will be attending Sheridan College to study animal science with an end goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

SS Ranch Scholarship for Animal Science

Jaycie Arndt, a member of the Buffalo FFA, will receive the \$500 scholarship donated by Andy and Stacy Malm of LaGrange and intended for students studying animal science. Jaycie plans to study animal science at Sheridan College before studying to become a large animal veterinarian.

State Officer Scholarship Matthew Winterholler, a member of Gillette FFA, is the recipient of the Wyoming FFA State Officer Team's annual scholarship. The scholarship is funded by proceeds from the auction the state officer team hosts each year during the Wyoming State Fair. Winterholler will be attending Casper College where he'll study ag business and ani-

mal science while competing on the livestock judging team.

Howard Child Memorial Scholarship

Three deserving FFA members are receiving scholarships to pursue their studies in welding and mechanics thanks to funds donated by the Child Family. Among them are Lane Dodd of the Upton FFA, Ryan Geving of Meeteetse FFA and Evan Wilhelm of Glendo FFA.

Teddy Weekly Memorial Scholarship

In 2014, with support from the Weekly Family and memorial donations, the Wyoming FFA Foundation launched the Teddy Weekly Memorial Scholarship. Winners are selected by the Weekly Family and in 2015 the family donated extra dollars so that four deserving members could receive scholarships. This year's recipients are Brooke Mills of the Devils Tower FFA in Hulett, Shade Frank of Big Country FFA in Cheyenne, Rachel Derner of Burns FFA and Mackenzie Klipstein of High Plains FFA in Cheyenne.

General Scholarships

Each year, thanks to the support of donors who believe in the FFA



Shade Frank
Big Country FFA



Maggie Johnson
Bow River FFA

Washakie FFA in Worland, Jennifer Parker of Rocky Mountain FFA in Cowley, Chancy Templeton of Gillette FFA, Mackenzie Klipstein of High Plains FFA in Cheyenne, PD Miller of Torrington/Lingle FFA, Ryan Geving of Meeteetse FFA, Courtney Fuller of Wright FFA, Shade Frank of Big Country FFA in Cheyenne, Landan Doyle of Chief Washakie FFA in Worland, Gabrielle Wolpert of Torrington/Lingle FFA, Brooke Mills of Devils Tower FFA in Hulett, Kiernan Brandt of High Plains FFA in Cheyenne, Jamie Hansen of Snowy Range FFA and Ryan Geving of Meeteetse FFA.

The Wyoming FFA Foundation's scholarship application is available each January, online at www.WyoFFAFoundation.com. Scholarships are available to both high school seniors and those already enrolled in college who either are or have been a member of Wyoming FFA.



Courtney Fuller
Wright FFA

Harris State Star in Agribusiness

Cheyenne — Entrepreneur Rachelle Harris is this year's Star in Agribusiness. Rachelle and her sister Shaunte began their bullet-themed jewelry business, Sassy Brass, after their father created a unique set of earrings as a Christmas gift for his daughters. The earrings are made from the end of a bullet with a gem in the center. Since the business' birth Rachelle has helped to build and oversee inventory. She is also involved in shipping the items, marketing and bookwork.

Harris gives FFA much credit for her business' success. "FFA has played a huge part in our business. FFA has taught me great work ethic, record keeping and a respect for others that I feel everyone needs to learn. I have been truly blessed to be involved in such an amazing program that has done that for me."

Amid all the knowledge that she is gaining through the project Rachelle said, "The biggest thing I have learned is really how blessed I am. There are so many things I am learning right now at



a young age that others don't learn until they are older."

Rachelle encourages others to get involved right now and know that the business world isn't just for middle-aged adults, "Teens my age need to know that it is possible to be a successful business person at a young age. If you have a dream and an idea don't settle and say 'I will do it later.' Work now to achieve it and continue to chase your dream. You won't regret it." Sassy Brass continues to grow on a state and nationwide level. To see their products visit www.SassyBrass22.com.

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2014-15 State Officer Team retires, shares plans

It is always a melancholy moment on the last day of the Wyoming FFA Convention. The final awards are handed out and the last honors and recognitions are made. One of the most exciting moments, hearing the report from the nominating committee on those elected to make up the new state officer team, is followed by saying goodbye to the team that led Wyoming FFA for the last year. So, as we welcome Quade Palm, Heather Loras, Baxter Heinert, Tyler Clemetson, Kyle Webber, Austin Burkett, Jess Oldham, Lacy Nelson and Caleb Green into the ranks of past state officer here's what they have planned for the future.

Past president Quade Palm said, "I know we handed the reins over to a group that can take what we did and do even better things." Quade attends Casper College majoring in Ag Business. "Now that I'm done [serving as a State Officer] I'm planning on finding a job for some work experience and finishing my degree."

Lacy Nelson said her state officer year was the best year of her life. "I know that the people I met and the relationships and friendships I built with them are the kind of connections that don't just fade away. I learned an enormous amount from others, and about myself,

and have been inspired to continue to be a leader and do what I love." Lacy is a freshman at Sheridan College and has a goal to "Spend my life doing something I love, a career that doesn't feel like a job."

Austin Burkett is attending college in Cheyenne pursuing a degree in Ag Business. About being a State Officer Austin commented, "It has done wonders for me and I am looking forward to seeing where life will take me next." Austin plans to become a welder and own his own business in Wyoming and Nebraska.

Casper College Sophomore Heather Loras will graduate with her associates in May and then plans to intern during the summers and attend the University of Wyoming to receive a Bachelors in ag communications. "After graduating from senior college I plan on getting a job with a radio station or any opportunity that comes about."

Caleb Green attends Sheridan College and would like to one day become an ag teacher. "FFA has taught me to follow my dreams and passions. It has also taught me to work hard, help others and make a difference." Caleb said, "FFA has made me the person I am today and it's helping me follow my passions. I love FFA and the people within it."

Baxter Heinert is a freshman at Casper Col-

lege working to receive her degree in Animal Science. Baxter said, "My career goals are to be a wildlife biologist and research animals in the Yellowstone or Black Hills area. Or I might just work with pandas at the zoo - who knows!" Although sad that her year of service is over, Baxter relayed that she is excited to see where the new state officer team leads the Association.

"I'm going to miss the members, the crazy car rides and getting to spend time with my team doing what we love but seeing

what we accomplished this year makes it a little easier," stated Kyle Webber. "FFA will always hold a special place in my heart and I will support it until I leave this world." Kyle will graduate from Casper College in May with degrees in Range Management and Animal Science. From there he plans to attend the University of Wyoming to learn more about

Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. He plans to minor in Agroecology.

Jess Oldham currently studies at Casper College but plans to one day attend medical school in hopes of becoming a surgeon. Jess added, "I also hope to live on a ranch and eventually retire on said ranch and continue to be involved in agriculture and FFA."

FFA has played a pivotal role in Jess's

life. "It has opened my mind to the idea that if I work hard and try my best I can truly achieve anything that I want."

Tyler Clemetson attends Casper College and hopes to become an ag teacher and own a farm in Wyoming. "I couldn't find the room to write all of the things I've learned in FFA. I guess the biggest lesson I have taken away is what leadership truly is. Before FFA I always tried to explain leadership as being the boss and getting everything done. Now I see leadership for what it really is-service."



'Pinky' offers ag education, philanthropic opportunities

Cheyenne — Education is often thought to be something passed from teacher to student. Members of Frontier FFA in Cheyenne are proving that student leadership and one very special pig can teach some of life's best lessons.

Pinky Jane the pig was living an average pig life at her home near Cheyenne when her owner, Mikayla Zimmerman, decided she had more to offer than just a regular pig's life. Under the guidance of her ag teacher, Joe Allen, and fellow FFA members, Mikayla brought Pinky into the school and artificially inseminated her. "I had always wanted to turn one of my projects into an educational opportunity so that all of the members of our chapter could participate. The ag classes

helped take care of Pinky, they helped give her shots and feed and water her."

In an effort to manage the guilt from their homes during her pregnancy, the members set up a webcam and connected it to a live stream on the Internet. "We all live out of town but we wanted to be able to watch her in case something wasn't right," explained a fellow chapter member who helped with the Pinky project, Lois Brennecke.

Mikayla, Lois and their classmates wouldn't have predicted what would happen next. Within the following days and weeks individuals all over the United States and the world began watching the live stream of Pinky the pig.

"We had comments and questions coming in with people wondering

why we were doing certain things and what we were doing. When we put her in her farrowing crate we really started being attacked negatively. The people that had been following us all along actually defended us and our treatment of Pinky," explained Lois.

"People from Alaska and Canada and even non-FFA members from our high school took it as a personal task to help defend what we were doing with Pinky," Mikayla said.

Mikayla and her family spent the days around Pinky's due date at the school and even camped in the classroom at night. At the end of her gestation, Pinky gave birth to a healthy litter of pigs, although two of them died. The FFA members used each real-life circumstance to educate the thou-



Sophie visits one of Pinky the pig's piglets, Scooby-Doo. Frontier FFA recently hosted an open house with the funds raised going to Sophie's family to help with medical costs as she battles leukemia. Photo courtesy of Frontier FFA.

sands following Pinky in order for them to more deeply understand production agriculture. The piglets that were born at the high school were first celebrated at a large "baby shower." Guests brought nearly \$1,200 worth of real baby items to be donated to Safe Harbor, a child advocacy center. After they were old enough, Pinky's pigs were sold to be shown as livestock projects at the county fair.

Pinky went home to the Zimmerman family for the summer, but as soon as school began students insisted that she return. Again, in the fall of 2014 the students artificially inseminated Pinky with semen they had researched and hand selected from Iowa.

Pinky has now had her second litter of school piglets and

another baby shower took place mid-April. The philanthropic side of the shower has changed since last year.

Some family friends of Mikayla's recently began a long and hard battle. Their then two-year-old daughter, Sophie, was diagnosed with leukemia. Until Sophie is four she will spend every other week at the children's hospital getting treatments. Sophie has since bonded with Pinky in such a way that the little girl has grown to love her as her very own buddy. Sophie now visits the pigs every Sunday and insists to her mom that she has to wear the same clothes every time so that "Pinky will remember who I am!" She named the first 2015 piglet, a female, Scooby-Doo and keeps

her doctors updated on the pig's progress. The most recent baby shower raised over \$2,000 in donations for Sophie's medical and traveling expenses. The chapter has also made pink bracelets and other promotional items to sell to raise money for Sophie and a bank account has been set up in her name. FFA members never cease to amaze their communities; such is the case with the Frontier FFA, a sweet girl in need and a big pink pig. To learn more about the Pinky Project follow Pinky on facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Pinky-Jane, her blog www.pinkyjanecbabies.blogspot.com/ or on her live stream www.m.ustream.tv/channel/pinky-s-pregnancy.

Agriscience fair winners announced

Cheyenne — Results are in from the Wyoming FFA Agriscience Fair held March 2 in Laramie. Winning student scientists were recognized at the recent Wyoming FFA Convention. Frontier Refining of Cheyenne sponsored this year's science fair.

"As a former scientist myself, it was truly inspiring to see how Wyoming FFA has evolved in terms of the science fair contest," said Lisa Andreen who attended the conference on behalf of the *Wyoming FFA Times*. "I was a participant in 2009 and 2010, and in just five years, it has blossomed into another very competitive contest amongst Wyoming FFA members. To see the amount of projects in all different categories shows that many agriculture students share a passion for science, and industry advancements. Many of the projects that I observed were very innovative, and unique, and I feel that they could be very beneficial to the agriculture industry."

Following is a list of the 2015 winners, appearing by order of rank in their division.

Animal Systems Division 1

Leland Moooren, Casper
Rhett Greenwald, Torrington/Lingle

Animal Systems Division 2

Callie Klinghagen, Chief Washakie
Karli Renner, Meeteetse
Makalie Kunzler, Lyman

Animal Systems Division 3

Ellary Golumb & Chris Brown, Casper

Animal Systems Division 4

Kaitlin Barnes & Savannah Housholder, Casper

Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems, Division 1

Matt Willadsen, Casper

Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems, Division 2

Karen Lambert, Upton
Brooklynn Graybill, Meeteetse
Megan Frank, Casper

Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems, Division 4

Gabrielle Wollert & Georgia Wollert, Torrington/Lingle
Matt Borovats & DeLancy Hodges, Chief Washakie

Food Products & Processing Systems Division 1

Ky Sorenson, Paintrock
Aletta Ziehl, Casper

Food Products & Processing Systems Division 2

Madi Westerholt, Buffalo
Jessica Hamblin, Jim Bridger
Tyson Roberts, Jim Bridger

Food Products & Processing Systems Division 3

Emma Housholder & Morgan Robertson, Casper

Food Products & Processing Systems Division 4

Madison Edeler & Brianna Jolley, Paintrock
Sarah Rohde & Danyaray Pribble, Casper

Plant Systems Division 1

Laura Delano, Casper

Plant Systems Division 2

Levi Gitzlitz, Meeteetse
Morgan Hank, Casper
Josie Bailey, Moorcroft

Plant Systems Division 3

Justin Jozwik & Thomas Hampton, Casper

Plant Systems Division 4

Josh Miller & Adeline Miller, Chief Washakie

Power, Structural & Technical Systems Division 1

Landen Fuller, Torrington/Lingle
Lee Hedges, Casper

Power, Structural & Technical Systems Division 2

Colton Wardell, Rocky Mountain
Burk DeBolt, Chief Washakie

Power, Structural & Technical Systems Division 3

Brady Rasmussen & Ivan Perez, Chief Washakie

Power, Structural & Technical Systems Division 4

Kaylen Lewis & Averi Reynolds
Matthew Winterholler & Chancy Templeton, Gillette
Cole Hill & Nick Schlattmann, Paintrock

Social Systems Division 1

Kylie Lipps, Casper
Siobahn Meyers, Rocky Mountain

Social Systems Division 2

Abbigail Faxon, Casper

Social Systems Division 3

Brandon Adkins & Sheridan Stewart, Casper

Social Systems Division 4

Trey Campbell & Timi Reynolds, Casper
Cody Baumstark & Buck Butterfield, Chief Washakie

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Greenwald named State Star in Ag Placement

Cheyenne — This year's Wyoming State Star in Agricultural Placement is Barry Greenwald from the Torrington/Lingle FFA. Barry works at his family's third generation farm, Joe Greenwald Inc. "I do a little bit of everything. I help feed our fat cattle when we have them, help irrigate and haul pipe and recently we put in a drip irrigation system," Barry says while describing his duties. Greenwald uses a variety of new technologies, is proficient in the operation of grain bins and augers and has been properly trained in preserving silage and other feeds.



"When Mr. Groene first came to me and said that I had a good chance of doing something good at state other than my CDE's I kind of looked at him funny and said 'No I can't do that.'" Greenwald admitted while talking about the moment his FFA Advisor helped in persuading him to try for State Star in Ag Placement, "but then I got into the process of it and started working toward it and I really realized my potential and how much effort I've put forth and how it has all come out."

Barry said that becoming the State Star in Ag Placement was a real encouragement for him, "It gives you a confidence boost that in the state of Wyoming

you are one of the best at what you do." After achieving the task for himself Barry Greenwald encouraged others seeking to accomplish similar goals by saying, "Have fun! Work hard and don't look at the end goals as much as the day to day goals. You won't accomplish any goals if you don't have fun doing it."

Barry plans to attend Laramie County Community College this fall to pursue a management degree and eventually go back to the family farm.



HERITAGE continued from Page 2

Often times farmers are forced to step out of the job with little interest from younger family members, taking multi-generation farms out of the picture. "Experts predict 50-75% of ranches in the West will change hands in the next 10-15 years..." While this is a frightening statistic on its own, the Bureau of Land Management predicts that agricultural related jobs will decrease 3% in the next seven years.

Many of these ranches are facing not only labor trouble but money trouble. Financially, farming and ranching is different from every other occupation, only getting substantial checks a few times per year. John F. Kennedy once said, "The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways." With little room to make money, farmers and ranchers have

to be extremely cautious in spending. This would explain why they often do the work of many to avoid the cost of hiring help. When an opportunity comes along to sell a struggling farm for millions of dollars, many times it is hard to refuse. The second reason for the loss of family farms lies within this too-good-to-be-true offer. For developers and business savvy people, space is the key factor to success. So, industry needs the land, while producers see the opportunity for an easier life, and a profitable way out. "Wyoming's ag lands decreased from 25.8 to 25.2 million acres from 2006 to 2007. That marks a 600,000 acre decrease, an area almost as large as the state of Rhode Island." Just driving around your hometown, I'm sure you will find fields or pastures that have been the building site for newer housing or industrial buildings.

As the population continues to skyrocket, there has to be a place for everyone to go, creating a need for balance between expansion and agricultural production. As you can see, farms and ranches for sale are targets for expanding cities and growing businesses. Additionally, the disappearing farms are changing the ways of agricultural production. Obviously, business development reduces the amount of land available for agriculture. This puts pressure on remaining producers to pick up the slack left behind. Small to middle sized farms, especially, are now up for grabs, but it's difficult for ranching enthusiasts to buy property with the increasing land prices of today. This fact potentially supports the growing trend of less farms producing more.

While some farms and ranches that go up for sale have a different outcome than what is ideal for agriculturalists, there are efforts within our communities and country to keep consumers

and producers happy. Evidence that we want to keep family farms, which constitute 97% of all farms in the US, lies within these efforts and programs. Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is a program that has been extremely successful in protecting "land's Agricultural capacity and open character" in Wyoming. To date, 204,135 working acres have been conserved, but still 600,000 acres have slipped away from Agriculture forever.

You may have heard of the popular show "Farm Kings" which films a large family who readily supplies local food markets and businesses with their Freedom Farms fresh, home-grown products. Along with supplying family farmed products, this family has numerous outlets to educate the public. Education is essential in motivating younger generations to take over the 50-75% of ranches expected to change hands. Through general ag classes, families educating on a day to day basis, and organizations like Freedom Farms, 4-H and FFA, kids are learning better practices and developing a passion for agriculture. It's important to remember that there are still 2.1 million family farms out there, that continuously need our support.

Though it is devastating to my family and me not to have the same opportunities and land to grow up on that my ancestors had, we have to understand the choices they had to make, given their financial standings and desire to retire. Even though it is unlikely I will ever be able to own a ranch with substantial land, I will continue to be involved in and a passionate promoter of agriculture, as I hope you will. Through education I am learning how to be a more diverse, efficient, and business savvy advocate for the industry and way of life that is in my blood.

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Agri Science Research
 Vance Curtis, Chief Washakie

Equine Placement
 Pamela Grandy, Snowy Range
 Masey Tippetts, Lovell
 Annie Butterfield, Chief Washakie

Ag Mechanics-Repair
 Josh Miller, Chief Washakie

Agri Science Research - Integrated
 Adeline Miller, Chief Washakie
 Burk DeBolt, Chief Washakie
 Matt Borovatz, Chief Washakie

Agri Science Research - Animal
 Callie Klinghagen, Chief Washakie

Food Science
 Burk DeBolt

Beef Production Placement
 Chancy Templeton, Gillette
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 Jessa Clark, Chief Washakie

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 Cole Hill, Paintrock
 Kelsi Klaahsen, Buffalo

Environment & Natural Resources
 Matthew Winterholler, Gillette
 Danae McGarvin, Chief Washakie

Wildlife Management
 Matt Borovatz, Chief Washakie

Goat Production
 Kylie Byrd, Chief Washakie
 Jaycie Arndt, Buffalo
 Brook Howard, Burns

Beef Production, Entrepreneurship
 Madison Vitt, Mtn. View
 Bailey Luper, Mtn. View
 Jess Clark, Chief Washakie

Ag Sales & Placement
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 Taitlyn Bethea, Sundance

Vet Science
 Fallon Ramsey, Pinedale
 Danae McGarvin, Chief Washakie
 Logan Ellis, Mtn. View

Sheep Production
 Bryce Conzelman, Devils Tower
 Wilson Renner, Meeteetse
 Chancy Templeton, Gillette

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What's Happening

Calendar of Events



- June 9-13 Session 1, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp
- June 16-20 Session 2, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp
- Aug. 11 Cowboy Chuck and Chip Golf Tournament
- Aug. 14 Wyoming FFA Duck Race, Douglas
- Aug. 14 Wyoming FFA Ice Cream Social, FFA Building on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Aug. 15 Wyoming FFA 5k, Douglas
- Sept. 26 Wyoming FFA's Blue Jeans Ball, Torrington

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