

A publication of the Wyoming FFA Foundation

# WYOMING FFA TIMES

2012 Fall Edition

## Pulse reflects on thirty-year involvement with Wyo FFA

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Douglas** — “I’d never had a teacher drive out to my house and care that much,” said Bill Pannell of his friend and high school Agriculture Education teacher Ron Pulse.

Bill Pannell and his brother Jim had just purchased two Red Angus heifers from the Beckton Stock Farm in Sheridan and Pulse visited their ranch to help clip the heifers. He was the new Agricultural Education teacher in the community. Following his tenure at Hulett High School, Pulse returned to school and began teaching agriculture at Laramie County Community College, a position he still holds. In the mid-1980s Pulse took on the additional role of Wyoming’s State FFA Advisor.

Following a career with Wyoming FFA that spanned four decades, Pulse retired as Wyoming’s State FFA Advisor in July of this year. Pulse’s friends and family gathered during the 100<sup>th</sup> Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo to recognize his long-time service.

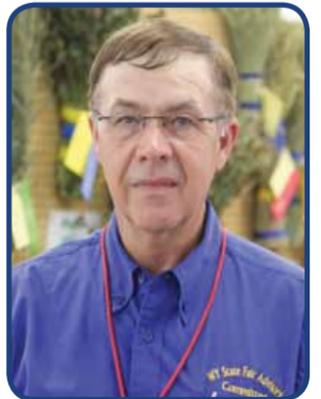
“I’ve felt lucky to have him as a father and advisor,” said Ron’s son Grant Pulse. “He truly is one who leads by example. I hope a little of him has rubbed off on me after being in his shadow for 22 years.” While traveling to summer leadership training for state officers for over 15 years, Grant said he saw his Dad treat the State Officer Team just like he treats his own children.

“He gave his heart and soul to every team year after year,” said Grant Pulse. “His life has revolved around FFA.”

Wyoming’s Agricultural Education teachers presented Ron with a clock tooled at King’s Saddlery in Sheridan. They also hosted the reception to recognize his long-time service.

Prior to the reception, Pulse took a moment to visit with *The FFA Times* and reflect on his time as Wyoming’s State FFA Advisor. In the mid-1980s Pulse along with Bob Boyd and Jack Humphrey acquired the program from the State Department of Education. At the time, Pulse said without outside involvement FFA had a questionable future in Wyoming. Pulse eventually took the lead as State FFA Advisor.

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Ron Pulse’s career with Wyoming FFA dates back to the 1970s when he was an ag teacher in Hulett. In the mid-1980s he became Wyoming’s State FFA Advisor, a position from which he recently retired. Jennifer Womack photo

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Cheyenne** — Over a dozen Wyoming teams are traveling to the National FFA Convention, Oct. 24-27, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana, to represent the Cowboy State.

While there Wyoming’s representatives will have the chance to meet fellow FFA members from across the nation and attend an agricultural expo including 2,400 displays. Exhibitors include colleges, agricultural companies, fundraising companies, the U.S. Armed Services, auto manufacturers and retailers. Students and teachers alike also have the opportunity to broaden their horizons by attending a variety of workshops.

A convention highlight is always the keynote speakers. Among this year’s guests is Josh Bleill, a Marine Corporal who is a native of Greenfield, Ind.

After graduating high school, Bleill attended Purdue University. Upon completing his education, Bleill decided to serve his country by joining the United States Marine Corps in 2004 and was activated for a tour of duty in Iraq in 2006.

While serving in Iraq, Corporal Bleill was severely injured, resulting in the loss of both of his legs. After extensive rehabilitation, Bleill returned to Indiana in August of 2008, where he attacked his new life head on. This new life included employment as the Indianapolis Colts’ community spokesperson. Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay has described Bleill as “very talented, bright-eyed, and skilled,” and Bleill now travels the country to spread his message of hope, “one step at a time.”

Wyoming FFA members attending the event

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## Wyoming FFAers National Convention bound

Frontier FFA is representing Wyoming at the National FFA Convention in the Agricultural Issues Career Development Event. The team won the honor of representing the state after competing at the Wyoming FFA Convention last April. Their topic of choice is critical habitat designation under the Endangered Species Act. Kassi Bauman photo



## Blue Jeans Ball continues upward trend

**Casper** — On Sept. 29 the Wyoming FFA Foundation partnered with Casper FFA, Windy City FFA and CY Junior High FFA to host the largest Blue Jeans Ball in recent history. Over 260 people attended and raised over \$18,000 for Wyoming FFA programs.

“It was wonderful to see Casper, and others from around the state, turn out en force to support FFA at the 2012 Blue Jeans Ball.

While the event serves as an annual fundraiser for the Wyoming FFA Foundation, the larger goal is showcasing FFA in the state and spreading the word about the outstanding youth who are involved in the program,” says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. “We want to reconnect with former FFA members, FFA parents and others who are interested in joining us to bring as much oppor-

tunity as is possible to the Wyoming FFA program.”

At the 2012 event the spotlight was shined on Casper’s FFA chapters, this year’s event partners. Casper is home to three chapters. Students first have the chance to join FFA at CY Junior High where Wendy Pollock is the ag educator. As they make their way to high school FFA is offered at by Natrona County High School with Mr. Brock Burch

and Kelly Walsh High School under the direction of FFA Advisor Jessie Atkinson. The Kelly Walsh program is on its second year and a welcome addition to Casper and Wyoming FFA.

With several champion teams and state officers in recent years, Casper has a tremendously strong FFA program. The community is home to several recent state champion Career Development Event

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## EWC expanding ag facilities

By Gayle Smith, Wyoming FFA Times

**Torrington** — Future students at Eastern Wyoming College may have the opportunity to take additional classes in agriculture-related majors and gain valuable hands-on experience as the college plans to build new, state of the art agriculture facilities. The new facilities will be built on 20 acres that make up the north campus of EWC. Currently, that area houses a facility for large animal surgery and care, corrals, shelter and hay storage.

According to Rick Vonburg, the college plans to start constructing some of

the new ag facilities this fall, while it obtains funding for others that will be built in the future. The first project underway will be the construction of three high tunnel greenhouses. A different design is planned for each greenhouse to allow students more learning opportunities. “Jeff Edwards, who is our state guru on constructing these tunnels, will watch them to see how they perform and last as far as durability and longevity,” Vonburg explained. The high tunnel greenhouses will be used for agriculture courses such as agroecology, range management, and crop and soil science classes.

The EWC board of trustees has also accepted the low bid to begin immediate construction on a livestock barn that will be shared by agriculture and vet technology students. Goshen County Construction submitted the low bid for the building. “About two-thirds of the \$193,570 cost will be covered by the Eastern Wyoming College Foundation, and the

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## Encana Oil & Gas expands State Fair opportunities for FFA members

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

**Douglas** — “I’m so excited to be here. This is my first state fair and it’s the biggest and the best,” said Rachel Derner of Burns, speaking from the recent 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo.

“My parents couldn’t be here this week so staying in the dorms is what allowed me to be here,” said Derner of her first time attending the annual event. “I’m grateful we have somewhere to stay and grateful to Encana for sponsoring that opportunity.”

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. contributed \$60,000 to install an HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system and update natural gas utilities in 16 buildings on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. Encana USA also made key improvements to the dorms, including upgrading the hot water heaters, for the benefit of the state’s young

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Chaney Peterson showed her horse and had the grand champion FFA notebook on display at the 2012 Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo. Chaney was among the youth who stayed in the dorms this year. Encana Oil and Gas covered the costs associated with all Wyoming young people who were on grounds and stayed in the dorms during the week. It was a gift that allowed more of the state’s young people to attend the historic event marking the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration. Jennifer Womack photo

## PREZ says

### Changing Seasons

Wyoming FFA Advisor Ron Pulse recently retired after 28 years of service. I remember when Ron was first starting and a few of us who had been state officers were helping out here and there at convention or state judging. I remember I appreciated how he worked with the volunteers and made them feel like a part of the team. Certainly many good things have happened in Wyoming FFA during Ron's tenure as advisor. His depth of understanding of the program will be missed. We wish him well.



Court Schilt  
FFA Foundation President

Seasons change. With Ron's leaving, a new state advisor has been named. The news is bitter sweet for me. The new state advisor is Stacy Broda. I have worked with Stacy in various capacities since she was a state officer in 1999-2000. Stacy started on the Foundation Board of directors at the same meeting I did. She's been the anchor of the foundation since then. Any project she took on was done with a level of commitment and attention to detail I hope to attain someday. She's an amazing leader, organizer, and worker. I am so excited for where Wyoming FFA will go next. However, I will miss her greatly as a working Foundation member. Mrs. Broda, don't let nothin' but fear or common sense get in the way.

Seasons change. I remember Lesley Pearson coming to camp as a camper some years ago. When she was a state officer I had a conversation with her FFA Advisor, Mike McConnell. During that conversation he noted that someday we'd probably both be working for her. Lesley is another amazing person whom I have had a chance to work with in various positions. She was the person with the audacity to invite Stacy and I to the Foundation meeting several years ago. Lesley and her husband brought a baby girl into the world this spring. With that new addition Lesley has made the very wise decision to leave the Foundation book-keeping to others while she focuses much closer, and lower, to home. After 14 years offering her expertise as a CPA, Lesley will be stepping down. You will be missed my friend.

Seasons change. Last year we had more rain than we knew what to do with. The North Platte River, near Saratoga, was raging and the river below the dam at Boysen was boiling until into late August. This year we can't buy a drop of rain and there's no grass to put it on. You can walk across the Platte in knee boots and keep your socks dry. The foundation launched a program last year called Bales for Blue and Gold. The idea was if you had a bumper hay crop you could designate a portion of any hay sales to the Foundation. We had some generous donors help us out with that program. With the change of seasons this year I would offer that if you have any hay crop to spare, please, check with your neighbors. I imagine there will be need for help closer to home this year.

Seasons do change, but what does that mean? Well, for someone it will mean stepping up in some capacity to help keep the books for the Wyoming FFA Foundation. For someone else it may mean getting involved with your school's PTO, or boy scouts, church, 4-H or any of several organizations in need of good help. Now may be your season to give more time. If you're not yet giving assistance to the Foundation, it may be your season to start supporting Wyoming FFA members. There are over 2,000 members in programs around the state in training to lead our schools, businesses, and communities through future changes in seasons.

In closing, I'd like to wish the Wyoming FFA members traveling to the National FFA Convention the best of luck. If there to compete, I hope it's an educational and fulfilling experience. If you're there simply to experience the convention, I hope it broadens your horizons and opens your eyes to opportunities you previously didn't know exist.

*May your fall be blessed.  
Until next time, Court*

## Ag teachers win 2012 golf tournament

**Douglas** — Over 100 golfers were in Douglas Aug. 14, 2012 for the third annual golf tournament hosted by the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

Dubbed the "Cowboy Chuck and Chip Golf Scramble," the event was held in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo and drew the sponsorship support from over 35 Wyoming businesses.

Proceeds from the Cowboy Chuck and Chip were split between the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

Beyond serving as a fundraiser, the event gets Wyoming's agricultural educators and natural resources professionals on the course together for a day of golf. A 2 p.m. tee time is followed by an evening meal. QEP Energy and the Wyoming Pork Producers Council sponsored this year's meal. Lake DeSmet Conservation District sponsored the prizes.

Mark your calendar for the 2013 Cowboy Chuck and Chip to be held Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013 during the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo.



The Peabody Coal Team was among those who enjoyed time on the course during the 2012 Cowboy Chuck and Chip golf tournament hosted by the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation.



Winning the 2012 Golf Tournament was a team of ag teachers — Ed Merrill of Newcastle, Joey Johnson of Meeteetse, Kevin Teten of Glendo and Dave Hatten of Wheatland. They're joined by Wyoming FFA Foundation Board Member Val Andreen on the left and Wayne Garman of the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) on the right.



The Jonah Bank Team — Dusty Porter, Richie Bratton, Stuart Atnip and Dominic Madia — earned second place in this year's tournament. They're joined by Wyoming FFA Foundation board member Gil McEndree and Val Andreen and WNRF Board Member Wayne Garman.



A team of ag advisors — Craig Spatz, Ty Berry, Damein Christensen and Nick Siddle — earned third in this year's tournament. They're joined by Wyoming FFA Foundation board member Val Andreen and WNRF Board member Wayne Garman.



The Andreen-Hunt Construction Team of Dale Andreen, Steve Coughenour, Bill Hunt and John Huntzinger (not shown) took fourth place in this year's tournament. They're joined by Wyoming FFA Foundation board member Val Andree and WNRF Foundation Board Member Wayne Garman.

## Wyoming FFA Calendar

| October  |  | April     |  |
|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 24-27    | National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana                             | TBA       | Proficiency Applications due to Bill Pannell at SDE (Subject to change)            |
| November |  | May       |  |
| 4        | Chapter Program of Activities & Budgets due in State Office                | 8-11      | State FFA CDEs and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne                                 |
| 9        | Wyoming FFA Foundation Tour, Wheatland                                     | 17-20     | Region I NAAE Leadership Conference, Pendleton, Oregon                             |
| 9-10     | Midwinter Meeting & F.I.R.E./CPC Leadership Conference- Douglas            | June      |  |
| 19-20    | Cowboy Classic, UW   | 15        | Honorary American Degree applications due  |
| 27-Dec   | 1 ACTE & NAAE, Atlanta   | 15        | Names of members interested in National Officer due                                |
| December |  | July      |  |
| 1        | State and National FFA Dues due  | 3         | American Degree Applications due in State Office                                   |
| January  |  | 3         | National Officer Application's due in State Office                                 |
| 2-18     | State Officer Visits, as arranged/scheduled                                | 10-12     | WACTE/WVATA Summer Conference, Casper  |
| February |  | 11-15     | Session 1, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp   |
| TBA      | State Degree & Proficiency applications due to Regional Chairs as arranged | 16-20     | NLCSO, Cody  |
| 11       | All chapter applications due in State Office                               | 18-22     | Session 2, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp   |
| 16-23    | National FFA Week  | August    |  |
| March    |  | 1         | National FFA Band and Chorus apps due online                                       |
| 1        | Honorary State Degree nominee resumes due                                  | 15        | National chapter applications due, Indy  |
| 1        | Constitutional changes mailed to chapters                                  | 15        | National proficiency applications due, Indy  |
| 1        | Resolutions and Convention Items of Business due in State Office           | 15        | National agriscience fair applications due, Indy                                   |
| 1        | Talent applications due in State Office                                    | September |  |
| 1        | State Band and Chorus applications due in State Office (or as arranged)    | 13        | Wyoming FFA Foundation, Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation annual golf tournament |
| 1        | State Officer Candidates names due in State Office                         | 15        | National Public Speaking Manuscript Due, Indy                                      |
| 1        | State Officer Candidates names due in State Office                         | 15        | National Ag Issues Portfolio Due, Indy   |
| TBA      | Proficiency applications due   | 10-17     | Wyoming State Fair, Douglas  |
|          |  | 21        | 2013 Blue Jeans Ball, Johnson County (tentative)                                   |

## WYOMING FFA Times

The Wyoming FFA Times is a joint publication of Wyoming FFA. Inquiries regarding subscriptions, advertising or editorial should be directed to the Wyoming FFA Foundation at [Jen@WyFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyFFAFoundation.com) or 307-351-0730. Discounts are offered on annual advertising purchases and four editions are published each year. Editorial and advertising for the next edition is due Nov. 9 and should also be directed to the Foundation.

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Across Wyoming there are over 53 FFA chapters and over 2,000 members. The Wyoming FFA Times is all of Wyoming FFA's publication, featuring the news and happenings within the program. It's laced with the numerous reasons to celebrate the program, features outstanding supporters and hopefully unveils new ideas for the many ambitious members. It's also the publication for those who support Wyoming FFA and want to see it flourish and grow!

## FFA continued from Page 1

will also represent the Cowboy State in a variety of Career Development Events (CDE). Participants develop life skills intended to prove beneficial in future careers. CDEs also allow students to explore a variety of career fields and gauge their interest level as they make future plans.

"Preparing for a national CDE is a very challenging task," says High Plains FFA Advisor Ty Berry of Cheyenne. "I like to refer to the CDEs as an enrichment exercise to our curriculum and the national contest simply takes that one step further. Students must dig a little deeper and study for a national test as well as a challenging team activity. In addition to the contest content, students must learn to prioritize a to do list and exercise time management skills in order to keep up in school as well as prepare to compete."

Two teams from Mr. Berry's chapter will compete at this year's National FFA Convention. Weaver Ranches of Colorado and Wyoming, sponsors this year's Livestock Judging team from Cheyenne's High Plains FFA. The High Plains Chapter will also represent Wyoming in the Marketing Plan competition. They travel with the support of Gluten Free Harvest, Donn & Julianne Randall and TR Custom Wicking. High Plains is also the home chapter for the Poultry Judging team that will represent Wyoming at this year's national convention.

"Attending the national convention and competing at the national level is just one example of how FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students," says Berry. "The opportunity to travel, see new places and meet people from all across the United States is valuable in gaining a larger perspective of agriculture and the careers it has to offer. Students are exposed to the poise and confidence of the national officers conducting business on stage, the knowledge and insight from keynote speakers, the opportunities from hundreds of displays at the FFA career show and the excitement and enthusiasm of sharing the experience with over 50,000 other members just like them!"

A team from Meeteetse will compete in the Sales and Service CDE. Devon Energy sponsored this year's team. Meeteetse will also represent Wyoming in the Environment and Natural Resources competition. The Wyoming Rural Electric Association and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation sponsor this team.

Bow River FFA will represent Wyoming in the Agricultural Mechanics competition. Andreen-Hunt Construction of Casper sponsors the team. "We have been working a lot on preparation for nationals as I'm sure everybody is," says Bow River FFA and Hanna-Elk Mountain Agricultural Educator Jason Hubbard. He says the team's studies have included everything from electrical wiring to catching water on rooftops and using it for agricultural purposes.

Torrington-Lingle FFA will represent Wyoming in the Agronomy competition at the National Convention. The University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Drs. Tom and Donna Whitson sponsor the team.

Frontier FFA from Cheyenne East High School will compete in the Agricultural Issues competition. The FUSA Insurance Agency and the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union sponsored this year's team. According to Frontier FFA Advisor Joe Allen, the team will be discussing, "What considerations should be made when determining critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act?" Cheyenne attorney Karen Budd-Falen has been helping the team and will travel with them to National Convention. Allen says the team has been practicing at least twice a week and delivered their presentation to the Wyoming Legislature's Agriculture Committee when they met in Hulett this fall.

"We are very excited that the U.S. Natural Resources Committee for the U.S. Senate is coming out with their newest report and recommendations for this important topic on Monday, October, 22," says Allen. "This means we will be studying the new report on Tuesday so we can have the most recent information for our presentation and questions on Wednesday."

Competing in the Farm and Ranch Management CDE is a team from Casper FFA. The team travels with the support of Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy, LLC. Casper FFA will also represent Wyoming in the Parliamentary Procedure competition with support from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Shoshoni FFA will represent Wyoming in the Horse Judging CDE at nationals and is supported in part by Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy, LLC.

The Southeast FFA chapter from Yoder will represent Wyoming in the Meats Judging competition. The team travels

under the sponsorship of the Wyoming Beef Council.

Three Wyoming FFA members are traveling to National Convention to partake in public speaking events. Chaney Peterson from the Sheridan FFA will represent Wyoming in the Creed Speaking competition. Chris and Jennifer Womack are sponsors of this FFA event. Colby Giles of Buffalo will compete in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. Hageman & Brighton, P.C. of Cheyenne sponsor this competition. Andrea Gurney from Southeast FFA will represent Wyoming in the Prepared Public Speaking competition.

Northern Ag Network sponsors this event.

"I am excited about the potential Andrea is showing for a competitive run at the National Prepared Public Speaking competition," says Jay Clapper, Southeast FFA Advisor. "She's worked hard and I feel confident that she'll represent Wyoming well."

"Thanks to the above-listed sponsors," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt, "the Foundation issued nearly \$13,000 to Wyoming FFA chapters to help with their travel costs to the National FFA Convention. We appreciate these supporters who join us in

our belief that competing at the National Convention, attending the Expo, networking with FFA members from across the country and hearing from outstanding speakers, has outstanding benefits not only for our state's young people but the communities in which they live

and serve."

Watch for results from the National FFA Convention in the next edition of the *FFA Times*, due out this November. You can also find Wyoming FFA on Facebook where news from National Convention will undoubtedly flow!





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## EWC continued from Page 1

remainder will be through the Wyoming Higher Education Endowment Fund," Vonburg said. "The Barn will be 32 feet wide by 60 feet long, and will have overhead doors to more easily accommodate the moving in and out of livestock," he added. This new facility will be used to house livestock for vet technology, animal science, and livestock judging programs, Vonburg said.

Still in the works are plans for a 23,000 square foot Agriculture Technology Education Center (ATEC), which is expected to cost millions to build. "We are still working on plans for that facility, and exploring funding opportunities," Vonburg said. "The Wyoming Community College Commission has approved building all these facilities, so once we have a plan finalized and funding in place, we could build this facility," he said.

Vonburg said the college is hoping to work in conjunction with the University of Wyoming, local banks and the community to make it a reality. "Several years ago, we had an ag focus group that determined we needed an ag facility like this. There is a lot of community support to construct it," he said. "Goshen County is the heart of agriculture in Wyoming. We are number one in livestock and crop

production, and have a livestock auction barn that is rated in the top 10 in the country," he said. "When prospective students tour the college, they are disappointed in our lack of an ag facility. I think it is the strength of the faculty that has kept our ag department going."

The ATEC facility will include classrooms, laboratories, offices, and an instructional and demonstration area. The demonstration area will allow farrier science, ag mechanics, livestock judging, and other hands-on activities to take place that are difficult to hold at the present time. "This would be a proposed classroom that would be set up similar to a theater with an instructor station up front," Vonburg said. "You would be able to open it up into an arena where livestock or machinery could be brought in," he said.

Currently, students taking courses like horse shoeing are challenged because only a small room with an overhead door going outside exists, where a horse can be brought in. "Students have to bring their own horses, unload them to work on them, load them up and take them back," he said.

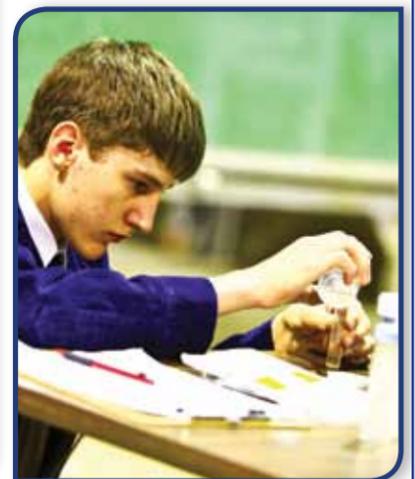
Livestock judging is even more difficult. Since the college doesn't have the facilities to house their own animals, students on

the livestock judging team spend evenings and weekends going to area producers to evaluate their animals and improve their skills. "With these new facilities, we hope to build up our own livestock for livestock judging purposes," Vonburg said. "Someday, we hope to host livestock judging contests here at the college."

Mostly, when the facilities are completed, Vonburg hopes it will draw more students to EWC. "When these facilities are complete, we hope to offer more hands-on learning, more livestock, mechanics, and equine classes, and more areas of study. We are very excited about these new facilities. There is a symbiosis between the vet tech and ag program, and the vet technology program also has a limited large animal facility. Both departments are excited about the possibilities these new facilities will provide," he said.

Once the facilities are complete, Vonburg hopes to make it a true community resource. "I would like to see visiting professors from UW come and take part in our campus," he said. "I would also like to see us be able to host community events, ag related meetings and shows, and expand the possibilities in all our ag and community-related events," he added.

The Wyoming Business Council would like to wish all Wyoming FFA members good luck at the upcoming national convention.



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Quick Info—

# FFA BRIEFS

## Broda named State Advisor

**Cheyenne** — Summer 2012 Cheyenne native Stacy (Child) Broda took the reins as Wyoming State FFA Advisor. Broda comes to the program having served as an agricultural educator, FFA advisor and as a past Wyoming State FFA Officer.



“I was born and raised on my family’s cow/calf operation outside of Cheyenne where my husband, two boys and I currently reside,” says Broda. “My roots run deep as I am the fifth generation raised on our ranch and look forward to my boys having the same experiences and opportunities I had growing up.”

Broda was a member of the Cheyenne FFA when Cheyenne had just one chapter. “I have fond memories of my FFA career, which had a great impact on the career field I have chosen. I am a University of Wyoming graduate with a degree in agricultural education and agriculture business. I taught for three years at H.E.M. High School in Hanna, Wyo. After teaching, getting married, and moving home to the ranch, I had the opportunity to serve as the Wyoming FFA Association executive treasurer for the last six years. I have also been on the Wyoming FFA Foundation board of directors for the last eight years.”

As Broda embarks on her new role as State Advisor she says one of her favorite quotes, attributed to Theodore Roosevelt, comes to mind: “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

“Working in agriculture and with the youth of Wyoming has always been work worth doing and important on so many levels,” says Broda. “I feel privileged to be a part of an organization that provides leadership training, career development, and personal success to its members. I look forward to working with state officers, FFA Advisors, members, and supporters throughout the state to make Wyoming FFA all that it is and can be.”

## FFA editors sought

**Cheyenne** — Do you love FFA and like to write? Consider serving as a student editor for the *Wyoming FFA Times*. In this role you’ll have the opportunity to gather Wyoming FFA stories and see your work in print. For FFA members planning to pursue writing careers, it’s a great opportunity to build a portfolio. Those who have work published in the *Times* will receive a per column inch payment for their work and have their byline appear in the publication. They’ll also gain valuable writing experience and feedback on their submissions.

Four editions of the FFA Times are published each year and editors will be expected to submit an article for each edition during their time of service. For additional details email Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack at [Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com](mailto:Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com). Please consider sharing a few of your Wyoming FFA article ideas with your inquiry. Deadline for the next edition is Nov. 9, 2012.

## Vet Science CDE begins

**Torrington** —

Wyoming FFA members gathered in Torrington this fall for the state’s first ever vet science competition. Eastern Wyoming College hosted the event. Ten chapters from across Wyoming gathered for the inaugural event with Worland taking home top honors and Casper placing second. Both teams will represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention.

The competition included a written test on nine areas of animal and veterinary sciences, sections on animal breed identification, veterinary equipment identification and animal parasite identification for each individual. In addition to the individual competition, each team was given a scenario to develop a written response with facts and options to improve an animal care and ethics issue in the United States.

On an individual basis Seth Peterson from Worland was first, Ty Carpenter from Jim Bridger second, Kaylen Lewis from Casper third, and Danae McGarvin from Worland fourth. Fifth was Tevin Smith from Casper and Lacey Packard of Casper was sixth.



Worland’s Chief Washakie FFA had the champion team at the inaugural vet sciences competition at Eastern Wyoming College this October. The team, as well as the second place team from Casper, will represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention. Photo courtesy of Stacy Broda

## FFA presidents gather

**Washington, D.C.** — Wyoming FFA President Bryce McKenzie and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jessica Pingetzer represented Wyoming at the July 21-27, 2012 State FFA Presidents Conference in Washington, D.C. This year’s theme was “Founding the Future.”



Wyoming State FFA Officers Jessica Pingetzer and Bryce McKenzie visit the office of U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis while in the nation’s capitol Summer 2012. Courtesy photo

According to Jessica, two delegates from each state came together to discuss issues important to the future of the National FFA Organization and American agriculture. As leaders in the agricultural industry, Bryce and Jessica learned how to effectively advocate for agriculture. Their time in D.C. included visits with Wyoming’s congressional delegation as well as presentations from the nation’s agricultural leaders.

“FFA members were privileged to hear from Jan Eberly, the first woman to become a National FFA President,” says Jessica. “It was awesome to hear from Jan Eberly. She is very successful and has perfected her story. She definitely advocates for agriculture and leadership. SPC was truly a great experience.”

“I wish the entire State Officer team would have had the opportunity to attend SPC,” says Bryce. “The training we received was something that the entire Association could have benefitted from.”

## Grainger Foundation supports FFA

**Casper** — During the 2012 Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo the Grainger Foundation presented the Wyoming FFA Foundation with a \$5,000 gift. The dollars have been deposited in the FFA Foundation’s Learning by Doing program where they’ll be used to fund expanded learning opportunities for Wyoming FFA members.

Two times a year the FFA Foundation issues grants to Wyoming chapters to help ensure they have modern, up-to-date equipment in their shops and classrooms. Over the course of the three-year program over \$60,000 has been invested in Wyoming classrooms. A record amount was distributed in 2012 thanks to supporters like the Grainger Foundation.



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## Champion Poultry Evaluation Team High Plains FFA

(back) Joshua Berry, Mr. Ty Berry, Jace Cussins,  
(front) David Hsieh and Kiernan Brandt.



## Champion Sales & Service Team Meeteetse FFA

(back) Keely Newkirk, Mr. Joey Johnson, Clayton  
Webster, (front) Stori Hlavnicka and Sheana Guthrie

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## Champion Ag Mechanics Team Bow River FFA

(back) Chris Strauch, Mr. Jason Hubbard,  
Rylie Richardson, (front) Jon Ellis and Quade Palm

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## State Range Management Team Worland FFA

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## Champion Livestock Judging Team High Plains FFA

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## Extemporaneous Public Speaking Colby Giles, Buffalo FFA

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## Champion Parliamentary Procedure Team Casper FFA

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Mr. Micah Christensen, Lisa Andreen, (front) Rachel  
Emery, Sierra Hiser and Kassi Witt

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## Champion Farm & Ranch Management Team Casper FFA

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(front) Kaylee Schneider and Ali Ballard

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## Champion Greenhand Quiz Bowl Casper FFA

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# Leake, an alumnus of Wyoming FFA, oversees maintenance for Schlumberger

By Shawna Praeuner  
Wyoming FFA Times

**Worland** — Many Wyoming young people chart their career goals through FFA experiences, applying the skills gained to successful careers. Chris Leake, a Worland native who now oversees maintenance for oilfield service provider Schlumberger, is no exception. Schlumberger is the world's largest oilfield service com-

pany. A graduate of Worland High School, Chris participated in the local fair, successfully showing market swine. In his final few years, he took home two champion showmanship awards and a champion market award. He went on to the Wyoming State Fair where he received third overall in showmanship.

Chris attended the Wyoming FFA State Con-

vention every year and competed on the Washakie chapter's livestock judging team for four years straight. As a sophomore he served as chapter secretary and was vice president his junior and senior years. "The whole FFA experience had a positive influence on my success in my career," says Chris. "Every person I interacted with in FFA was a positive experience and helped

me to become who I am today."

Touring businesses in Worland with his FFA chapter, Chris saw a wide variety of industries. Ultimately, it was diesel mechanics that struck his interest and led to his future career. In 2004 as an entry-level diesel mechanic, Chris began working for oil field service company Schlumberger. Beginning in his hometown of Worland, Chris put the skills he learned in FFA and his agriculture classes to work. Since then he has worked all over the globe. From as close as Rock Springs to as far away as Russia, Chris has traveled

a lot of country in his work with Schlumberger. He's currently based out of Conway, Arkansas, where he serves as the Maintenance Manager. In this role, he oversees equipment reliability, a sizeable budget and over 60 people.

Chris' experiences in FFA taught him a lot about public speaking and business interactions. He learned how to handle different types of people and their personalities, which is something he utilizes on a daily basis. His familiarity with fabricating trailers and working on ag-related equipment in his agriculture classes gives him an edge when looking at his

company's equipment reliability. "FFA didn't necessarily help me in deciding my career path but it certainly helped in my success," says Chris.

Like many, FFA left Chris with some great memories. With a new school year upon us, Chris has some advice for current and future FFA members: "Take every experience with FFA to its full extent," he says. "Take the opportunities that are available and use them to benefit everything that you want to do. I think if I could do it over I would have pursued a different path in college and continued my FFA career well into those years."

## WSF continued from Page 1

people. The company also paid for FFA members and other youth attending this year's Wyoming State Fair, to stay in the dorms.

Chaney Peterson, an FFA member from the John B. Kendrick Chapter in Sheridan, echoed Derner's gratitude, stating that Encana's generosity made it possible for more FFA members to attend this year's Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo.

Both girls were very active at this year's Wyoming State Fair. Peterson's horse placed in halter and her FFA notebook was top in the state. She'll also represent Wyoming in the Creed Speaking competition at the National FFA Convention. "I have a goal of earning a gold emblem," said Peterson.

Derner brought two hogs to the State Fair, one of which placed in its class. She also entered her classroom notebook for FFA. Looking toward next year, she's already making plans to return to the event. "I hope to come back and qualify in showmanship," she said. "I love that as it's all about you. It really is your dedication."

Back in their home communities both girls serve as officers in their respective chapters and compete in FFA's Career Development Events. The

Parliamentary Procedure Team to which Derner belongs will represent Wyoming at this fall's National FFA Convention in the contest for junior high teams.

"I think it's way cool," said Peterson of Encana USA's gift. "I can't imagine trying to provide this for all of these kids." She and Derner also encourage State Fair attendees to stay in the dorms where they have a chance to meet members of the Wyoming State FFA Officer Team and other young people from around the state. "We play cards every night," said Peterson who has appreciated the opportunity to meet additional FFA members from across the state.

Wyoming State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda echoes the FFA members' gratitude. "FFA members work hard on their projects in order to show at the Wyoming State Fair. Encana's generosity was much-appreciated in helping more of our state's young people attain this goal and participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration."

"Encana's generosity benefits FFA members in so many ways," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt. "From college scholarships to supporting leadership training and now FFA members attending the State Fair, Encana USA is truly making a difference for Wyoming young people."

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**PULSE** continued from Page 1

"I picked up what pieces there were, which wasn't much," said Pulse. "I got with Lizz Schilt who was with the Foundation at the time. We worked together and that was the beginning. The Association was broke financially and we turned the thing around. There were some years I didn't get paid and I didn't care. I didn't do it for the money. I did it, because the kids needed help. I believed in the kids and in FFA. I was an ag teacher through and through."

Since the mid-1980s Pulse says Wyoming has

developed a quality reputation at the national level and is one of the top five associations in the nation. "We've done some cool things with FFA Camp, the Foundation, the Alumni and everything else has come together at the same time."

Pulse said, "The things that make me the happiest are when the state officers finish their year and they're happy and thankful, it was a good experience, they'd do it again and they want to come back and help you some more."

"I had more national officers than anybody

before me. We added 13 new chapters, that's a big deal for me. We also went from four or five hundred at our convention to over 1,000," said Pulse.

"I'm passionate about FFA," he said. "If you weren't, you couldn't do it. You have to believe in it and I do. I wish I could continue, but it's time for some new blood. I'm going to continue to be an advocate for ag teachers and FFA forever."

Stacy Broda of Cheyenne has been selected by the Wyoming Department of Education as the new Wyoming FFA Advisor. She began in her new position during Summer 2012.

**Wyoming FFA Camp celebrates 35 years**

**Lander** — In June of this year, nearly 150 FFA members gathered in the Wind River Mountains above Lander to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp. The nostalgic theme, "The Legacy Lives," encouraged members to build their own legacy. Campers were excited to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> year in a variety of ways from classy camp sunglasses to welcoming a National FFA Officer for the entire first session. Cain Thurmond joined us from Georgia interacting with members in small groups and inspiring us with his reflections. If you would like to know what Cain thought of Wyoming check out his video blog at [www.ffacamp.org](http://www.ffacamp.org).

Michael Hirsh from the Growing Leaders organization inspired campers. He challenged students to examine images and reflect on their "habitudes." After a few intense days of leadership workshops FFA members enjoyed the entertainment brought by Wyoming FFA Camp Founder, Dr. Al Snyder. Dr. Snyder is an exceptional hypnotist and had campers rolling in laughter and it was great to have him back to help celebrate such a big anniversary. As a tradition at camp, a few members are selected to serve as Camp Officers and serve alongside the Wyoming FFA State officers. They are responsible for planning a camp meeting and the camp banquet. Campers also know that all work and no play has never been a tradition at camp. Members often find themselves on the volleyball court or dancing in the lodge. In just four days, members work, play, eat, hike, make friends and grow as leaders; when they get home they sleep.

By the time camp was over, we were all out of programing, and the campers still didn't want to go home. A first time camper from the Cheyenne High Plains FFA, Mackenzie Klipstein, had an excellent time at camp. "This was my first year at camp and it couldn't have been better! I met so many new people and learned many things that will benefit me for the rest of my life. I can't wait to go back to

camp next year!"

Many advisors see the value in sending members to camp as well. It is a great opportunity to expose members to new aspects of FFA and help young people become the leaders of their chapter.

"The High Plains FFA sends FFA members to camp every year," says High Plains FFA Advisor Ty Berry. "They come home energized and excited about getting involved in the many different opportunities that FFA has to offer. In my opinion, this is one of the best values available to our students. A quality opportunity at a great price!"

Looking forward, the dates for 2013 have already been set, Session 1 will be Tuesday, June 11th – Saturday, June 15th, 2013 and Session 2 will be Tuesday, June 18th – Saturday, June 22nd, 2013. The 2012 camp was very busy, with a full schedule, several guests, and many leadership opportunities. For 2013, plans including bringing in just as many opportunities for leadership and student development to continue building a strong member base for Wyoming FFA.

The Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp can be found online at [www.FFACamp.org](http://www.FFACamp.org), on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/FFACamp> or on Facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/FFACamp>



Thanks to a Cameco Cowboy State Challenge grant via the Wyoming FFA Foundation, attendees at the 2012 Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp were able to leave behind a nice addition to the camp facilities. Eighteen benches were built and donated to the facility, benefiting numerous camps held at the site over the course of each year. Court Schilt photo

  
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**BALL** continued from Page 1

Teams. In 2011 the Casper FFA Chapter had four state champion teams. At this year's National FFA Convention, multiple teams from Casper FFA will be competing.

All three chapters made outstanding contributions to this year's Blue Jeans Ball by selling tickets and gathering auction items. Mr. Burch's class construction a set of high-quality panels, displaying the hands-on skills students enrolled in agriculture education often have the chance to learn.

Individuals and businesses donated nearly 150 items that were sold either via live or silent auction. Additionally, Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy LLC donated a Remington 45 pistol that was raffled off by selling 104 chances at \$20 each. The raffle generated just over \$2,000 with all tickets sold.

USA Trucking, Andreen-Hunt Construction, Encana Oil and Gas, Cloud Peak Energy, the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and the Wyoming Pork Producers Council all stepped forward as corporate sponsors at this year's event. BP Energy of Farson sponsored the tickets for the nine-member Wyoming State FFA Officer Team. Cameco Resources, Elk Petroleum and Triangle G Consulting sponsored tables at the 2012 event.

"Some might wonder what the Wyoming FFA Foundation does with the funds raised at gatherings like the Blue Jeans Ball and the annual golf tournament we hold in conjunction with the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation," says Womack. "In the past year we've awarded \$25,000 in

college scholarships, granted \$15,000 to FFA chapters to aid their community service efforts, spent over \$20,000 buying learning materials for the state's agricultural education classrooms, bought FFA jackets for members who lack the funds to do so themselves and more. It's worth noting that there's more to do and we thank those people and companies who are stepping forward to help us reach those goals."

The Blue Jeans Ball has a long history in Wyoming. After a multi-year hiatus, the Wyoming FFA Foundation partnered with Pinedale FFA to bring the event back in the fall of 2010. In 2011 it moved to Worland and 2012 brought it to Casper. Because the FFA Foundation's programs are designed to deliver statewide benefit, the group hopes to continue moving the event to new communities.

Looking toward 2013, the Blue Jeans Ball will move to Johnson County with a tentative date of Sept. 21, 2013. Womack says, "We hope to see FFA supporters turn out en fore to rally behind this outstanding program and the growth opportunities it brings our state's young people."

Those interested in attending or sponsoring the 2013 event are encouraged to contact Womack at 307-351-0730. "One table sponsor has already signed up for the 2013 event," said Womack, "and we hope we can continue growing this annual celebration of Wyoming FFA."



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## Hamner looks to energy as an occupation

**Laramie** — With Wyoming being an energy-rich state, the University of Wyoming developed a program to help students earn a degree and find work in the energy resources field. The Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center is housed in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and works closely with the School of Energy Resources. Students who major in this field learn about Wyoming's oil, gas, and coal industries, in addition to the newly emerging wind power business. More importantly,

the students learn about the land, how these energy industries affect it, and how to restore, rehabilitate and reclaim it once they are finished with it.

Alan Hamner, who is a non-traditional student completing his studies at the University of Wyoming, was originally studying engineering, but liked the diversity of the energy resources field. He decided to change his major after consulting with Pam Henderson, who is an academic advisor for the program, and has since served as Hamner's mentor. "The

program caught my eye because it is such a broad range of interdisciplinary curriculum. There is engineering, environmental natural resources, and business. The field is broad, so you can go any direction you want in this field," he explained.

Hamner, who is one of the Wyoming FFA Foundation's scholarship recipients with support from EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., is now majoring in energy resource science with a minor in reclamation and restoration ecology. The field holds a lot of appeal to Hamner, who chose the energy resource science field because he enjoys learning about all types of energy from wind power, to oil and gas, coal mining, and uranium. "I wanted to stay in the state of Wyoming, and be out working in the field, so I figured this would be a great opportunity for me," Hamner explained. "I was going to become a structural engineer, but I would have to move to a big city to make ends meet with that type of degree, so I decided on this combination instead."

Hamner is no stranger to energy, having worked for different energy companies around the state since he finished high school. One of his first positions was working as an inflator during the summer. Later, he would spend winter breaks from his studies at college in Sheridan inflating pipelines for tanks and vessels. He has completed an internship in Rawlins, Wyoming doing reclamation monitoring, which he really enjoyed. "I worked primarily out in the field," he said. "But, I would like to work into more of the office part of it," he said.

As he completes his degree, Hamner said two courses have been particularly interesting to him. One course was in reclamation of drastically disturbed lands, and is taught by another of Hamner's mentors, Dr. Peter Stahl. The course teaches students what happens to land if it isn't rehabilitated or reclaimed. A class in petroleum engineering has also appealed to him. The course covers the energy process of a company from start to finish, outlin-

ing everything in the process. "It covers what happens from the time it is in the ground until it is on the truck. Both of these courses were pretty intriguing," he said.

Hamner said his favorite part of the program has been learning more about reclamation and restoration ecology. "It has involved case studies and real life issues that have happened in the past and currently," he said. "We study what has happened and learn from it. We also get a lot of hands-on experience in the classroom," he added. During this coursework, the instructor challenges them to come up with solutions to the case studies, before showing them what the organization has actually done to resolve the issue at hand.

Since energy is such a major business in Wyoming, Hamner feels plenty of employment opportunities exist for students who finish the program. "One of our classmates was just hired as a project manager for a wind farm just outside of Laramie," he said. "There are big companies and little companies to work for in this state, and from what I've heard, they seem to treat you pretty

well."

Hamner encourages students to look at energy and resources as a major because of the opportunities available in the field. The reclamation and restoration field addresses the land that has to be reclaimed once energy industries pull their drilling rigs or finish mining for coal. "You have to go back in and reseed sagebrush, forbes and grasses to restore and rehabilitate the land," he said. "I would definitely encourage it as a course of study because you can be interested in range, forestry, wildlife, reclamation or ecology. It covers a broad field. You could finish this course of study, and have a career starting vegetation, after drilling is complete, to create habitat for wildlife like sage grouse, antelope, and other animals."

"If you like math and open range, this degree is a good program for that," he continued. "It is very diverse. The nice thing about it is it is an interdisciplinary curriculum where you may take four extra courses to earn a minor in ecology or another area. You can even earn a second bachelors or a minor with just a few extra semesters," he said.



Alan Hamner is studying in the University of Wyoming's College of Reclamation and Restoration. Hamner is one of the many students benefitting from scholarships Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., has offered to natural resource majors via the Wyoming FFA Foundation. Preference is given to those students pursuing studies in Reclamation and Restoration. Courtesy photo

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### SOs serve at State Fair

**Douglas** — As Wyoming celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo this past August, Wyoming's State Officer Team was in attendance to help host shows to both enjoy and help ensure the event's success.

"The officers arrived early and spent the first couple of days decorating the FFA hall and putting together the State Officer Silent Auction," says Wyoming FFA Parliamentarian Lisa Andreen of Casper. "They greeted members as they arrived in town from all corners of the state."

As the shows started, Lisa says they spent their days handing out ribbons, rosettes, and buckles as well as keeping track of placings. They also managed the FFA office, registering chapters for the week and directing fair-goers.

Four of the officers were also showing animals at fair, says Lisa, so they spent a lot of their time in the barns, taking care of their animals as well as helping other members with their animals.

"Overall," says Lisa, "it was a successful and enjoyable year for everyone there. The State Officers would also like to extend an invitation to attend the 101st State Fair next summer! Wyoming youth, get ready!"

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## Bauman named National Collegiate Ambassador for FFA By Shawna Praeuner, FFA Times

**Laramie**—For some, FFA is an extra-curricular activity. For others, it's a hobby. For Tate Bauman, it's in his blood and brings out his true passion for agriculture. The son of Brett and Tammy Bauman, Tate grew up on his family's Charolais Cattle Ranch in Carpenter, Wyo. He experienced his first Wyoming State FFA convention when he was in the second grade. From that moment on, he knew he wanted to wear the National Blue and Corn Gold colors and be a member of such a prestigious organization. But being a member wasn't enough once he got to experience it first hand; he wanted to excel in it...and that's exactly what he has done.

As a seventh grader, Tate officially started his FFA career. He was the youngest showman and won the FFA Swine Showmanship at the Wyoming State Fair the same year. Once he reached high school, Tate served as POA Chairman, Chapter Secretary and Chapter President of the High Plains FFA Chapter at Central High School in Cheyenne. Wanting to get the most out of FFA, he went on to serve on the Wyoming State FFA officer team from 2009 to 2010 as Parliamentarian.

He has continued his FFA endeavors well into his college career at the University of Wyoming while pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business. "I continued my FFA career in college due to the fact that it runs in my blood, it's a passion. FFA has given so much to me that if I continue in college, I will be able to gain more, while being able to serve others and provide others with the opportunities that I was given," says Tate. With the encouragement of his Collegiate FFA Advisor Kris Brewer, Tate submitted his application to become a National FFA Ambassador. After a series of interviews with questions based on his resume and personal questions, he was chosen as one of 20 to represent the entire nation and agriculture.

"Being a National Collegiate Ag Ambassador you will travel and spread the word about agriculture. We present to anybody, preschool kids all the way to civic groups," says Tate.

"To become a National Ambassador," says Brewer, "he had to submit a video of himself presenting, answer essay questions and provide references. All of the Ambassadors are sophomores, juniors, seniors or grad students in college who are

selected through an application and phone interview process. He will receive a \$1000 scholarship, digital camera, use of an I-pad and projector and compensation for his travel. Ag Ambassadors deliver presentations based on economic importance, environmental stewardship, sound science and sustainable agriculture. Eighty-eight college students from 29 states have served as ambassadors. Only twenty college students are chosen from across the United States each year." Brewer says she's had two members, Saige Albert and now Bauman, chosen for the prestigious positions.

On top of his demanding schedule with school and the National FFA, Tate is an entrepreneur. At the age of 14, he started his own show pig operation. It was originally started with the goal of using it as his SAE in FFA. Now, his operation is in full-swing and has taken him further than he ever imagined, saying, "This business has allowed me to help and mentor the younger generations on the importance of agriculture and how to treat animals properly." In 2009, Tate was named the State Star in AgriBusiness.

With so many years of experience in FFA, Tate is bound to have abundant

memories that will last him a lifetime. When asked to name a few, Tate simply says, "The most memorable is being a State Officer and being a role model for so many."

"Never give up no matter what happens, it

happens for a reason," says Tate to younger members. "When one door closes, another opens. Also make sure to take advantage of every opportunity that you can; it will only make you a stronger person and allow for a strong future."

### Foundation grants dollars

**Cheyenne** — Early October the Wyoming FFA Foundation distributed over \$15,000 in grant dollars to Wyoming FFA chapters.

Evanston FFA will be building a flatbed trailer that will allow their chapter to transport local projects. High Plains FFA will be applying the funds they secured to improve management techniques for the chapter's flock of sheep. Southeast FFA will be building a portable livestock pen and Worland FFA will be adding a universal bender to their collection of classroom tools. These projects were funded with donations from Encana Oil and Gas, the Grainger Foundation, Cloud Peak Energy, the Gretchen Swanson Foundation, the Wyoming Wheat Growers Association and Devon Energy.

Thanks to a gift from Cameco Resources, money has been set aside to help the Cowley FFA Chapter reach their goal of building a greenhouse. The new facility will teach students how to grow their own food and help supply fresh vegetables to the school lunch program.

The next round of funding to Wyoming FFA Chapters will be offered in January of 2013. Wyoming's FFA Advisors are encouraged to look for the application online at [www.WyoFFAFoundation.com](http://www.WyoFFAFoundation.com) and watch their email for early 2013 notification.



Tate Bauman is a national collegiate ambassador for the FFA, spreading fact-based information about American agriculture and its importance. Courtesy photo



When Tate Bauman presented his retiring address at the Wyoming FFA Convention, he discussed the Code of the West. Courtesy photo

### Membership over half million

**Indianapolis, Ind.** — During the 2011-12 school year, 16,939 students joined FFA and raised the organization's total membership to 557,318 students in grades seven through 12 in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"Interest in agricultural education continues to grow due to the hard work, dedication and commitment agriculture teachers and state FFA leaders have toward developing our members for the future," said National FFA Organization CEO Dwight Armstrong. "Our members are developing skills through educational and real-world experiences that will ideally position them to pursue one of more than 300 careers in agriculture."

Demographically, Texas added more members than any other state last year, growing to 86,482 students. Trailing Texas was Georgia, Colorado, Delaware and Arizona.

Texas also leads the list of the top five largest FFA membership states, followed by California (70,683), Georgia (32,244), Missouri (25,748) and Oklahoma (24,364). Nine of the 10 largest FFA chapters are in California high schools in Fresno, Sacramento, Hanford, Woodland, Atwater, Tulare, Madera, Romoland and Clovis. FFA chapters were in 18 of the 20 largest U.S. cities last year, including New York City, Chicago and Philadelphia.

"Through my travels this year, I have been quite impressed by the passion that agriculture teachers exude toward their students," said National FFA President Ryan Best. "They're working hard every hour in the classroom to fully develop FFA members' potential for future personal and career success."

There are 7,498 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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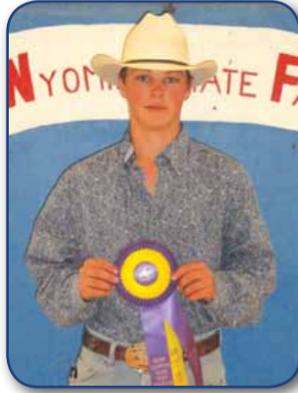
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Congratulation to the FFA Showmanship winners at State Fair!



Heather Grossman of Pinedale, the 2012 Wyoming State Fair reserve champion



William Wood of Laramie, the 2012 Wyoming State Fair champion

### State Officers gather for training

**Cody** — At the end of June, Wyoming's state officers traveled to the mountains near Cody for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO). At this conference they were introduced to the Montana and North Dakota state officer teams. Past national officers Tiffany Rogers and Landon Schaffert, and current National FFA Officer Cain Thurmond served as event facilitators.

Over the course of the week-long event Wyoming FFA State Reporter Ashley Spatz says they learned skills necessary to perform at their best as state officers. The Wyoming team focused on developing their workshops for chapter visits in January. "It gave me more insight on presen-

tations and developing workshops," says Ashley. "The state officers not only focused on workshops, but were able to practice opening ceremonies, flag ceremonies and vespers, which are motivational speeches."

Payton Blackwell, state secretary, says, "Later on in the conference each state association prepared a delegate issue to send on to National FFA, which had the possibility to make it into the delegate business session at National Convention. Wyoming will be sending issues that include a National FFA livestock show and regional conferences."

As the conference came to an end, the Wyoming officers were able to wrap up with some team bonding time.

Submit material for our next edition by Nov. 9, 2012



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"**Learning by doing**" is an important teaching strategy that agriculture instructors Heath Hornecker, Tom Parker, Marty Finch, Jeremy Burkett, and Todd Jones employ with students. Much of that "learning by doing" is employed in the field working with global positioning systems (GPS), livestock presentations, range ecologies labs, and soil science activities.



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