

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Winter 2011 Edition

Andrea Lohr Live by Faith Scholarship established



Matt and Andrea Lohr and their children Caroline and Carson make their home in Virginia. Wyoming FFA members from the early 1990s will likely remember Matt's service as a National FFA Officer. Since that time the Lohrs have inspired countless Americans through their talent as motivational speakers and by sharing Andrea's inspirational and courageous battle with cancer.

Recipient to be a service-minded Wyoming FFA member

Cheyenne — "Andrea has been a true example of unwavering faith and courage as she has battled breast cancer," says Ron Rabou of Cheyenne.

Ron and his wife Julie recently made a contribution to the Wyoming FFA Foundation to launch the Andrea Lohr Live by Faith Scholarship. The scholarship will be offered annually to a Wyoming FFA member who makes a difference in others' lives, a student

who captures the spirit of service to others. Similar scholarships

are being launched in other states in honor of Andrea Lohr, an outstanding individual who's led by example during some of life's greatest challenges.

In July 2006, at age 31, Andrea first heard the words, "You have breast cancer." Within two weeks Andrea had a lumpectomy followed by 18 weeks of chemotherapy and six weeks of radiation. By 2007 life appeared to be returning to normal for Andrea, her husband Matt and their young family, but in September of 2007 during a follow-up appointment Andrea learned the cancer had returned.

Fall 2007 Andrea had a bilateral

mastectomy and began the nine-month process of reconstruction. During her final appointment her plastic surgeon was removing her stitches and noticed a lump under her arm. A week later she found out the cancer had returned. During the fall of 2008 Andrea had additional surgery to remove the lump and the lymph nodes from under her arm. A post surgery pathology report revealed the cancer remained despite the additional surgery and progressed to Stage 4.

— Andrea Lohr

Following a visit to Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York City Andrea began an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. Over the course of her battle Andrea has been on seven different chemotherapy drugs and participated in a five-month clinical trial in New Jersey. She's endured losing her hair on four separate occasions.

"Despite her unbelievable battle," says Ron, "she remains steadfast in her unwavering faith and passion for living."

Ron first met Andrea through her husband Matt, a former National FFA

See **LOHR** Page 9

Lynne Latham recognized with honorary American degree

By Teresa Milner

Clearmont — Almost three decades of teaching agriculture, advising FFA members and working in the community earned Lynne Latham the Honorary American FFA Degree for teachers at the National FFA

Convention in October.

Latham has been a teacher at Arvada-Clearmont School off and on for the last 29 years. In addition to teaching classes like introduction to agriculture, agriculture mechanics and

metal fabrication, she's also the FFA chapter advisor. The honorary American FFA degree is the highest award the National FFA Organization can bestow upon non-members. The award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

"It was an awesome

experience," says Latham of her trip to Indianapolis, Ind., to receive her degree. "It was such an honor to walk across stage and accept my award, especially knowing the nomination came from my fellow teachers in Wyoming."

Latham was born and raised on a ranch in western Wyoming. She said her

experiences in FFA in high school inspired her to be an agriculture teacher herself, so she could be a positive influence on students. Latham says the real reward of teaching is the individual connections she, as an educator, can make with her students. She especially

enjoys seeing kids learn and grow into successful adults, and is even seeing second generation students come through her program.

"Lynne has high goals and expectations for all of the students in her class," says Charles Auzqui, principal for Sheridan County

See **LATHAM** Page 7

FFA FRIEND

FFA honors long-time volunteer, EWC welding instructor Leland Vetter

By Teresa Milner

Torrington — Eastern Wyoming College welding instructor Leland Vetter can add a new degree to his resume, thanks to the National FFA Organization. Vetter was one of 149 recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree, presented at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

The honorary American FFA degree is the highest award the National FFA Organization can bestow upon non-members. Vetter was nominated for the award by the Wyoming Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (WVATA) for his efforts promoting and assisting agriculture education programs. Vetter first became involved with local FFA chapters after sharing the Torrington high school welding lab, before Eastern Wyoming College had its own facility. Now, as director of the welding program at EWC, Vetter helps high school students improve their welding skills, holds welding clinics for FFA advisors and has served as an official at the Wyoming FFA Agriculture Mechanics career development event for almost ten years.

See **VETTER** Page 10

Wyo State Officers travel the state

By Jasper Rose Fitzgerald

Cheyenne — January in Wyoming is known for its bitter winter weather, keeping most from venturing too far from home. There is one group of people for whom January means endless hours in the car, driving from one side of the state to the other, stopping at nearly every high school along the way. These extraordinary people are the Wyoming FFA State Officers, and during the month of January these nine individuals spend their time visiting FFA chapters across the state, meeting the members, leading workshops and promoting agricultural education.

The State Officer

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State President Micah Christensen and State Treasurer Kyle Thoman devoted a portion of their visit in the Hulett community to recruiting future members. Christensen and Thoman spent some time with Mrs. Klinger's Kindergarten class while visiting the northeast Wyoming community. Photo courtesy of FFA Advisor and Ag Educator Jim Pannell

PREZ says



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

It's that time when I get to share my thoughts with you about the Foundation, the board, FFA members and whatever else I think is pertinent. There are two directions I'd like to go this time around.

The first direction is for those who work in direct support of FFA members. That's teachers/advisors and parents. This is a busy time for the members as they have just wrapped up visits by the state officers who took time to look at the projects of those members who'll be applying for the State FFA Degree. The members are busy getting proficiency applications filled out, writing, practicing and giving speeches, and more. Many schools are getting their competitive teams in full swing as well, so members are coming in early or staying late to practice and hone their skills. So what does this mean for parents and advisors?

It means plenty. Dads and moms are often taxi drives and wardrobe fixers and assistant coaches. They support the members by encouraging them or listening to practice sets of reasons or doing chores when their student is too tied up to do them. I think behind most successful FFA members there is a parent or two who are fully supportive and engaged in what their member is doing. Intermingled in their day of adult duties and obligations, many parents make time to support these great youth, and help to grow them toward being more productive adults. After all, isn't that what we're doing? We're not working for "kids," we're helping prepare the next generation of adults. So thanks moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and other caregivers who offer so much on behalf of FFA members. My hat is off to you.

Let's take a look at instructors/advisors. They carry a full teaching load and many meet students early or stay late to help them prepare for competition. Ag teachers often have students for four years of school and many days spend more waking hours with students than either spends with their own family. Today's Agriculture Educator is an expert in animal husbandry, crop science, project design and fabrication, nutrition, speech and debate and myriad of other areas required to lead students through a well rounded agriculture curriculum. Some teachers I know work an extended day at school just to go home and work their own cattle or sheep. They go above and beyond, just as many of their students do, making a difference for youth. I have pretty good memories of my own advisor waaaaayyy back in the day. He had a way of working with us that just demanded respect, but he never said a word to get it. We just gave it.

I suppose where I'm headed with this is it's great to be a part of such a great partnership where so many players come together for the success of others. Parents, teachers, foundation donors, school administrators, camp coun-

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WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION

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307-351-0730

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Featuring a
Wyoming FFA
Leader

WYOMING FFA

Let's Talk

Chapter Visits Combine Sharing and Learning

This January, I traveled around the north-west corner of Wyoming, going to a new town every day, staying in hotel rooms, bunkhouses and spare bedrooms, and eating at various restaurants for every meal. This may sound like the life of Taylor Swift, Bon Jovi, or George Strait, but it's just the daily life a Wyoming State FFA Officer during chapter visits.

Dawning our official dress and walking into high schools in below zero weather, Kinsey Freeman and I visited every FFA chapter in the Big Horn Basin as well as Tongue River and Sheridan. We started our journey one sunny January Monday in Casper and drove to Lovell. From there, we visited a new chapter each day, presenting workshops on Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects, opportunities one can gain through being involved in FFA, and the importance of preparing for our futures today.

Beyond delivering information, we also learned along the way. We learned that the drive from Lovell to Sheridan takes more than "an hour or so" and that most high school students have forgotten how to make paper airplanes. I can't think of very many times that I laughed as hard as I did when I sat with chapter officer teams for dinner. We were fortunate enough to learn all about

"coon" hunting in Basin. Also, while sitting in a restaurant in Powell, we learned that it is customary to offer juice opposed to soup during dinner. While in Cody we drove up the mountain, through the longest tunnel I have ever set wheels in, and around some rocky corners to find some amazing Wyoming wildlife. Buffalo, sheep, and the occasional bird kept our eyes occupied on this journey.

Aside from seeing the amazing Wyoming countryside and presenting workshops, I learned that the FFA members in Wyoming are a truly amazing group of people. The dedication that they show to their chapters is unmatched!

Following our chapter visits, I returned to college very inspired.

This inspiration brings excitement to me in the thoughts and early planning of State Convention coming this April. Not only is it great to think that in a few short months I will get to see the FFA members I have met throughout the past year, but I will also get to work with my fellow state officers in hosting this culminating event.

Thank you Wyoming FFA for giving me such an amazing opportunity and for showing me all that our state FFA has to offer. We are counting down the days until State Convention!



Amy Andreen
Wyoming FFA 3rd Vice
President

So continued from Page 1

team, which breaks off into groups of three for the visits, has been on the road since Jan. 3 and each group visited around 18 schools. They finished their visits with a trip to the University of Wyoming on Jan. 27.

The role of a state officer involves hard work, sacrifice and dedication. It is a tough job, but if you ask any of the officers what the best part of that job is there is no hesitation in their answer: "chapter visits!" With so many different school environments across the state, each officer has the

chance to see how FFA has impacted the students and teachers as well as chapter development. Chapter development is a key subject for the state officers, who present workshops on recruitment, one of the most critical areas related to keeping FFA alive. Along with workshops, the state officers also talk with seniors about running for a state office as well as those students who have projects up for Star Star awards.

Every chapter visit is a new experience for the state officers, offering both challenges and rewards.

They present workshops at schools ranging from large to small. The end result is presentations that range from classroom workshops to what State Reporter Cinnamon Smith calls "family talks." She says it's these discussions that provide a close glimpse as how important FFA is to students, particularly those in small communities.

During their travels across Wyoming, the state officer team learns about each chapter and town, becoming more deeply connected to the members. At each town they take the traditional picture by the "Welcome to..." sign, reminding them that each town is just as

important as the last. This year's travels were also laced with adventures like relying solely on school zones to find the high schools, leading to more than one wild goose chase. It would be an understatement to say there "was never a dull moment."

With chapter visits coming to a close, all nine of the state officers learned more than they expected and are grateful for the opportunity to meet FFA members across the state. The month of January will forever hold the memories made by these nine leaders, along with the influence they left in each chapter.

It's Happening In

WYOMING FFA

Send your FFA dates to
womack@wyoming.com
or 307-351-0730

February

- Feb. 19-26 National FFA Week
- Feb. 21 Ag Team Day 2011, Buffalo. Contact Jake Evans at 307-684-2269 for details
- Feb. 23 FFA Foundation fundraiser luncheon at Texas Roadhouse, Cheyenne

March

- March 1 Wyoming FFA Foundation scholarship applications due
- March 5 Honorary State Degree nominee résumés due
- March 5 Constitutional changes mailed to chapters
- March 5 Resolutions and Convention Items of Business due in State Office
- March TBA Talent applications due in State Office (or as arranged)
- March TBA State Band and Chorus applications due in State Office (or as arranged)
- March TBA State Officer Candidates names due in State Office

April

- April TBA Proficiency Applications due to Bill Pannell at SDE
- April 4 Wyoming FFA Convention Welcome

Dinner hosted by the Wyoming FFA Foundation, Cheyenne, 5 p.m., Laramie County Community College Arena

- April 4-7 State FFA CDEs and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne
- April 4-7 Threads of Leadership clothing drive held in conjunction with Wyoming FFA Convention
- April 20-23 Region I NAAE Leadership Conference, Fresno, California

May

- May 15 American Degree Applications due in State Office
- May 15 Honorary American Degree applications due (non-teacher)
- May 15 Names of members interested in National Officer due

June

- June 1 National Officer Applications due in State Office
- June 6-10 WVATA Summer Conference, Laramie
- June 20-23 NLCSO, Cody
- June TBA State FFA Leadership Camp, Lander

Quick Info—

FFA BRIEFS

Pfizer offers FFA funds

Casper — A new program being offered to FFA Chapters across the nation encourages a partnership between FFA members and veterinarians.

Dubbed “Performance Pays,” FFA chapters are called upon to help spread the word about the “effectiveness, economic and proper use of Pfizer Animal Health cattle products.”

Here’s how Pfizer says it works:

- FFA chapter works with a local veterinarian or animal health supplier on an educational program, produce a meeting, open house or other initiative to promote the effective, economic and proper use of Pfizer Animal Health cattle products.

- FFA chapter submits two pages summarizing the chapter’s plan, how the effective, economic and proper use of Pfizer Animal Health cattle products was communicated; response from beef or dairy producers and overall impact of the chapter’s marketing and educational efforts, including five photos, to:

FFA/Pfizer Animal Health Marketing Contest
 PO Box 815396
 Dallas TX 75381

Each participating chapter will receive \$100. The nation’s top chapter will earn \$2,500 and an expense-paid trip to Pfizer Animal Health’s headquarters in Madison, N.J. for four FFA members to present their plan to the Pfizer Animal Health marketing team. The nation’s second place team will receive \$2,000, followed by \$1,500 for third and \$1,000 each for 25 runners-up.

For additional information on the program contact Pfizer at 866-611-2626. Once again this year there is also an opportunity for chapters to receive a percentage of the proceeds from Pfizer sales through their local vet or Pfizer distributor.

Nat’l scholarships offered

Indianapolis, Ind. — Wyoming FFA members have until Feb. 15 to apply for over \$2 million in scholarships offered by the National FFA Organization. The application is available online at www.ffa.org. Scholarships are available for a wide array of disciplines and take a student’s FFA involvement, work experience, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics into account.

Student editor joins Times

Laramie — Jasper Rose Fitzgerald has joined the Wyoming FFA Times as a student editor. In this role Fitzgerald will help compile news articles for the publication.

Fitzgerald is a native of Red Lodge, Mont. who is active in Collegiate FFA at the University of Wyoming where she is double majoring in agriculture and journalism. She spends her summers working on a ranch near Beartooth Pass, an area she describes as “one of the most beautiful places in the world.”

“In my free time I love to be outdoors especially skiing and riding horses, and spend a lot of time in my kitchen cooking and baking,” says Fitzgerald.

If you’re interested in joining the FFA Times as a student editor contact Jennifer Womack at Womack@wyoming.com. Student editors are paid on a per column inch basis for their work and gain valuable materials to add to their journalism portfolios.



Hisers donate car to FFA



Dick and Peggy Hiser donated a car to the Hanna-Elk Mountain FFA Chapter for use in their mechanics and shop work. Receiving the car on behalf of the chapter early December 2010 are Wyatt Houston, Chris Strauch, Jon Ellis, Rylie Richardson and FFA Advisor and Agriculture Educator Mr. Jason Hubbard.

Saratoga — Hanna-Elk Mountain FFA members have a new shop project thanks to the generosity of Dick and Peggy Hiser of Saratoga.

“Our plan for the car is to use it in our agriculture mechanics classes,” says Jason Hubbard, FFA Advisor and Agriculture Educator. “The students will trouble shoot the car and try to figure out what is wrong with it and why certain things don’t work. We will use the car for every level of student.” New mechanics students will learn to change the oil while the school’s more advanced students will learn about the car engine’s inner workings.

Hubbard says the project provides a good opportunity for his class as well as a possible fundraiser once the car is fully repaired and can be sold.

FFA supporters thanked

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA Foundation supporters received the Foundation’s annual appeal to donors in the last quarter of 2010. The response has been overwhelming and the FFA Foundation sends its thanks to those who’ve stepped forward to support FFA in Wyoming.

“We hope our donors will see fit to continue giving to the Wyoming FFA Foundation,” says FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt. “The dollars we receive each year through our annual fund drive are instrumental in our ability to continue our work on behalf of Wyoming’s 50 FFA Chapters and 2,053 FFA members.”

“Thanks to all of you who have responded to the Wyoming FFA Foundation’s annual appeal to supporters,” says FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. “When those of us who benefited from the FFA program give back, we ensure FFA’s benefits continue for subsequent generations. It’s an investment in youth who display leadership, understand civic engagement, set and achieve goals and become American success stories!”

Those with questions about the annual appeal or the work of the FFA Foundation are encouraged to contact Womack at 307.351.0730.

Golf tourney scheduled

Douglas — The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation are once again teaming up to host the Cowboy Chuck and Chip. The annual golf tournament will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 16 in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo.

The 2010 tournament, the first co-hosted by the organizations, was the largest tournament to take place at the Douglas Golf Course in 2010. Organizers are hoping for an equally strong turn-out in 2011. Again this year the tournament will be open to the first 25 teams to register. Sponsorships are now being sought and details can be obtained at 307-351-0730.



FFA Fundraiser Luncheon

February 23, 2011

Cheyenne, Wyo. • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pulled Pork Sandwich • Beans
Caesar Salad • Beverage



FREE delivery of 5 or more meals
by calling 307-630-6094

\$10 donation per ticket
Additional tax-deductible donations appreciated

Proceeds benefit Wyoming FFA’s 2,053 members and 51 Chapters!



FOR TICKETS:



SEARCH
“WYOMING FFA
FOUNDATION”





Call 307-630-6094
or 307-351-0730

Quick Info— FFA BRIEFS

Official dress sought

Cheyenne — Parents and students traveling to Cheyenne for the 2011 Wyoming FFA Convention are asked to bring official dress items they no longer need.

Cheyenne's Bauman family, in partnership with the Wyoming FFA Foundation, is launching Threads of Leadership. The Baumans are collecting official dress items. They'll launder, press and catalog the items and make them available to students in need of official dress. The project compliments the Wyoming FFA Foundation's voucher fund, which helps students secure an FFA jacket embroidered with their name.

Tate Bauman, son of Brett and Tammy Bauman, was a member of the 2009-2010 Wyoming FFA Officer Team. The Baumans are committed supporters of Wyoming FFA with Tammy serving on the Wyoming FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

Drop off locations will be set up during the 2011 Wyoming FFA Convention. Donors are asked to bring their items to the Cheyenne Civic Center when they're in town for convention.

Info updates sought

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation is working to update its contact database. If you have a new address, please drop us a line at Womack@wyoming.com and we'll correct our records. If you have a former FFA members who continues to receive mail at your house, please send us his or her new address so we can keep them in the loop of what's new and exciting with Wyoming FFA.

If you know someone who should be receiving the FFA Times, whether it's a school administrator or a local business, let us know and we'll add them to our mailing list. The FFA Foundation appreciates your help in spreading the positive word about Wyoming FFA and the outstanding opportunities it provides to our state's young people.

Ag Team Day planned



Attendees at Ag Team Day 2010 compete in the tractor push.

Buffalo — Wyoming FFA chapters will try their luck at a host of competitions Feb. 21 in Buffalo as the local chapter hosts "Ag Team Day 2011."

Five-member teams, including at least two females, will compete in hay rolling, the Polish tractor pull, manure pitching, a water bucket race, the feedbag relay and dummy roping tug-of-war.

As the name indicates, in the hay bale roll students will roll a large round bale down a 50-yard course, around a post and back. The fastest time wins! If you think that hay bale is heavy, stand by for the Polish tractor pull. The team that pushes the tractor the furthest in three minutes wins.

Just like home, only faster, teams participating in the manure pitching will be given pitchforks, a snow shovel and two wheelbarrows. The team that moves four wheelbarrows full of manure the fastest wins. Line up for the water bucket race to see how fast Wyoming FFA members can pack a bucket two-thirds full of water....without spilling too much!

In the dummy roping tug-of-war, the winner is the first team to rope the dummy and drag it across the finish line. If the previous events aren't enough to completely wear out Wyoming's FFA members, then they'll be back to race while carrying feedbags. The team that moves 10 bags of feed from the starting point, over two fences and delivers them to their final destination the fastest, wins.

FFA members get your advisor and your team and head for Buffalo on the morning of Feb. 21. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the competition getting underway at 10:30 a.m. Ag Team Day 2011 is set to conclude by 2 p.m. Contact Buffalo FFA Advisor Jake Evans for complete details.

Bulls for Blue & Gold starts

Cheyenne — Wyoming seedstock producers have begun signing up for the 2011 Bulls for Blue and Gold Program. The new FFA Foundation program calls upon Wyoming seedstock producers to donate 10 percent of Lot 10 to the Wyoming FFA Foundation. Ranches that sell private treaty are encouraged to donate \$300, 10 percent of the average bull sale price.



"Response to the program has already been strong," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "We launched the program Jan. 1, 2011 and we've already had ranches sign up."

Among the early adopters are G Bar H Genetics Registered Angus Bull Sale, whose sale was held Feb. 8 at Torrington Livestock Auction in Torrington. Ranch patriarch George Haas was the first to bring Angus cattle to Wyoming with the arrival of two females in 1937.

George Ochsner & Sons of Torrington also enrolled in the program. Online at www.qualitybulls.com, the ranch sells private treaty from its headquarters 20 miles north of Torrington. The ranch has a goal of raising problem-free cattle with low birthweights, high performance, maternal ability and good dispositions. George Ochsner was inducted into the American Hereford Hall of Fame late in 2010. The ranch sells 200 Hereford and Angus bulls each year.

Reyes and Russell will offer 60 two-year-old bulls and 60 yearlings on March 1 in Wheatland. At a second sale on April 4 in Saratoga they'll be offering 100 yearlings. Keith Russell and the Reyes family pride themselves on offering high quality cattle.

"We'd like to thank Wyoming's seedstock industry for stepping forward and making this project possible. We're working hard to maximize the opportunities available to Wyoming's 2,053 FFA members and it's great to have the agriculture industry's support," says Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. To enroll your ranch contact Womack at 307-351-0730 or womack@wyoming.com.

CELEBRATE National Ag Week MARCH 13-19, 2011

Come visit our booth at the
2011 Cheyenne Home & Garden Show

March 18, 19 & 20 at the Taco John's Events Center in Cheyenne

For more information, contact the Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness Division at **307.777.2807** or wyoagweek.org.

We hope to see you there, and know your agriculture facts – there will be a quiz!



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Growing Wyoming Agriculture • www.wyoagweek.org

Wyoming Ag Facts

Last year...

- ✓ 32,450 scoops of ice cream could have been made from the milk produced in Wyoming
- ✓ Wyoming sheep produced 7,955 miles of wool, enough to circle the earth three times, resulting in 301,075, 9-pound bundles of fleece
- ✓ The hides of cattle produced in Wyoming could make 99.9 million baseballs, 13.8 million footballs, 8.3 million basketballs, 12.5 million volleyballs, 8.3 million baseball gloves, 12.5 million soccer balls or 694,000 saddles
- ✓ Wyoming cattle produces enough beef to make 12.9 million hamburger patties (1/4 pound each)
- ✓ There was enough wheat produced to make 171.9 million loaves of whole wheat bread

FFA SCHOLARSHIPS

Available to high school seniors and college students

Applications online at www.wyoffafoundation.com

Thanks to the following for supporting our
2011 scholarship offering:

Encana Oil & Gas

F.A.I.R.

Basin Electric

Jake Clark Mule Days in memory of Nickie Linnabur

Tri-State Generation and Transmission

Steve Graves Trucking

Ron & Julie Rabou

Bill Welles

Erin Vineyard

John & Pat Bekken

Andreen Family

Gerry & Carolyn Danko

Wyoming Ag Business

Ron & Sylvia Eisele

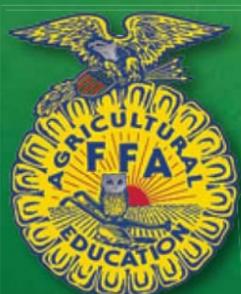
Association

Travis & Susan Moffat

2010-2011 Wyoming FFA Officer Team

Willis & Kathy Williams

Due March 1, 2011



We're committed to helping Wyoming FFA members reach their college goals!

Please consider joining us!

*Our commitment to the Wyoming Ag community
runs as deep as our natural gas wells*



Encana is proud to partner with FFA, 4-H and Ag in the Classroom to teach youth the importance of agriculture. We are also partners with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust to preserve and strengthen agriculture for the future.



www.encana.com

FFA Foundation scholarship applications due March 1, 2011

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation, an 11-member board that works to enhance the FFA experience for 2,053 Wyoming FFA members, is seeking applicants for its annual scholarship offering.

“We at the Wyoming FFA Foundation believe it’s important to offer scholarships to graduating FFA members who’ve proven their ability to set and achieve goals and need help pursuing their college dreams,” said Stacy Broda, Wyoming FFA Foundation Scholarship Chairperson. “Similarly, we offer scholarships to FFA members who are enrolled in college. We’re able to make this annual offering thanks to private donors and companies that support Wyoming FFA’s goals and mission.”

New this year, the

Foundation will offer the Andrea Lohr Live by Faith Scholarship. Lohr, former Kentucky FFA President and the wife of former National FFA Officer Matt Lohr, is battling cancer. Amidst life’s challenges Andrea has maintained a positive attitude while inspiring others through her blog (www.caringbridge.org). Matt and Andrea Lohr, who are in their 30s and the parents of two beautiful children, deliver motivational speeches and have touched many lives, including many in Wyoming. Ron and Julie Rabou, friends of the Lohrs who live in Cheyenne, launched this effort by making an initial donation and are challenging others to do the same. The scholarship will be presented to an FFA member who shares his or her story of how someone has

made a difference in his or her life.

Friends of Agriculture Industry and Recreation (F.A.I.R.) is once again partnering with the Wyoming FFA Foundation to offer a scholarship to an FFA member who has multiple years of experience exhibiting projects at the Wyoming State Fair. Applicants will be asked to share their State Fair experience.

A member of the FFA from Park County, Wyo. will be presented a \$1,500 scholarship in memory of Nickie Linnabur. The Jake Clark Mule Days Charity Pool funds the scholarship in memory of Linnabur, a young lady from Park County who was killed in a car accident. The 2011 scholarship recipient will be asked to join in the festivities, including a rodeo, parade and an auction, in

Powell and Ralston as the Clarks host Mule Days June 15-19, 2011 (www.saddlemule.com).

The Wyoming FFA Foundation is also gathering scholarship applications on behalf of the Wyoming Ag Business Association. The Association will present a \$500 scholarship to a student continuing his or her higher education in Wyoming.

With support from Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., scholarships are being offered to students pursuing natural resources studies. A priority is given to those students who are enrolled or plan to enroll in the University of Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center. Students who take classes from the UW Reclamation and Restoration Center leave college better prepared for work

reclaiming Wyoming land following a disturbance or development.

Beyond the college scholarships, two entities that support Wyoming FFA are helping ensure the program’s members can attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). WLC familiarizes FFA members with the nation’s capitol while helping them build their leadership skills and strive for personal growth. Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric sponsor this offering, which will help four FFA members attend the Summer 2011 conference. WLC enables FFA members to learn about the nation’s capitol while developing their leadership skills. Attendees meet FFA members from across the nation and leave WLC with the knowledge and the con-

fidence to act in ways that help their schools, community and their country. Details are available online at www.ffa.org under “events.”

A portion of the Wyoming FFA Foundation’s scholarship offering is dependent upon annual donations. If you’d like to join the effort to help Wyoming FFA members achieve their college goals please contact Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director, at 307.351.0730.

Complete details, including application materials, are available from FFA Advisors across Wyoming or online at www.wyoffafoundation.com. Scholarship recipients will be announced during the Wyoming FFA Convention to be held April 4-7 in Cheyenne.

COURT continued from Page 2

selors and others make up an educational team in Wyoming that is among the best in the nation. Wyoming FFA members are the top of the crop, and as a foundation supporter, or anyone else mentioned, you are a part of this team. Excellence is seldom an accident, so thank you for your part in making it a reality. It’s a reality that Wyoming FFA has consistently repeated for multiple generations.

As we approach the state convention in early April I hope you’ll be a part of the excitement. If you’ve supported us before, I hope that will continue and if you’re still considering support for Wy-

oming FFA members I hope this will help sway you to join the team. I learned very recently that our good friends at Encana Oil and Gas have again partnered with Wyoming FFA in a very substantial way. We value this partnership and the numerous benefits it brings to Wyoming FFA chapters and their members.

Whether you can partner with us or not, I hope you have an opportunity to offer thanks to some of the great folks mentioned. Thank you for your eyes and your mind for a few minutes.

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Tri-State Generation and Transmission offers electricity facts

There's just certain things a student should know...milk doesn't come from the grocery store, wool doesn't grow on trees and electricity isn't made in the switch on the wall.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, with headquarters in Colorado and a service area including Wyoming, recently offered Wyoming FFA members and their supporters some electricity facts.

In 2009 nearly half of

the electricity produced in America used coal as its fuel source. Wyoming has numerous coalmines where the energy-rich, combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock is dug from the ground. Fuels like coal are used to power the generators in a larger effort to ensure Americans have energy supplies that are reliable and affordable.

Using other fuel sources like natural gas, renewable energy including

wind and solar, and nuclear energy, can also create electricity. Nuclear plants utilize the heat given off when the atoms of uranium are split. Uranium is mined from the ground, just like coal. Cameco Resources, one of the Wyoming FFA's supporters, mines uranium near the central Wyoming community of Glenrock.

Once electricity is created it moves along cables to a substation transformer that sends it to your home through distribution lines. Transformers convert the

high voltage energy in the lines to lower voltage energy suitable for use inside homes and buildings. Today the grid connecting American homes and businesses with their power supply sources is more than 150,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines carrying power from more than 5,400 electricity generating plants. Across the United States there are more than 3,000 utility companies that market electricity to consumers.

As consumers it's our

responsibility to use electricity wisely and efficiently. It's more than responding to your parents' request to turn off your bedroom light. Here are some other things to consider:

- A heavy coat of dust on a light bulb can block up to half of the light;
- Across America, home refrigerators annually use the electricity of 25 large power plants;
- An energy-smart clothes washer can save more water in one year than one person drinks in an entire lifetime!

From educating consumers about electricity to ensuring reliable delivery, numerous jobs exist in America's electricity industry. Companies like Tri-State Generation and Transmission employ accountants, computer specialists, dispatchers, economic developers, drafters, engineers, environmental specialists, marketers, graphic artists, planner, power plant operators and much, much more.

LATHAM continued from Page 1

School District #3. "Her classroom environment represents a genuine culture for learning, with commitment to the needs of all her students. She puts in numerous extra hours and is a master teacher with a true passion for teaching. She devotes her life to providing a quality education for all students and is a blessing to this community."

Each honorary degree recipient is recognized at a general convention session in front of FFA members. The ceremony is followed by a reception with FFA supporters and other award recipients. What made the award even more special for Latham was a Wyoming FFA connection.

"Emily Horton was the guest speaker at the reception," says Latham. "Emily was a national FFA officer, of course, but before that, she was a Wyoming state FFA officer. Emily was one of the state officers to visit my chapter during her year of service, and my students and I got to know and really enjoy her. Emily talked about her times with my chapter during her speech. That just made the whole experience so personal and special."

State advisor Ron Pulse says the distinction of being an honorary degree recipient is not taken lightly by the Wyoming FFA.

"It takes a lot of years of teaching, years of supporting the professional organizations, and years of going beyond the call of duty at every level," says Pulse. "It's been a long time since I can remember someone being so thankful for recognizing her amazing qualities than Lynne Latham. I think Lynne is the epitome of good teaching and is certainly deserving of the recognition."

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LOHR continued from Page 1



Ron Rabou, pictured here and a former Wyoming FFA State Officer, and the Lohrs met through the FFA. Ron and his wife Julie recently partnered with the Wyoming FFA Foundation to launch a scholarship recognizing Andrea Lohr and her ability to inspire those around her.

officer. Andrea was also active in the FFA, serving as State FFA President in Kentucky. While the Lohrs make their home in Virginia, like many FFA friendships, the friendship between the Lohrs and the Rabous has spanned two decades and a distance spanning a large portion of the continent.

"It's been nearly 20 years since I served as a Wyoming State FFA Officer and the time has flown like I would

have never imagined," says Ron. "Though the years have passed by, the experiences I had and the friendships I developed are still a very important part of my life today. One such friendship is with Matt Lohr from Virginia." Matt serves as Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and has spent two decades speaking to audiences across the nation.

"It was through Matt and the FFA program that I was introduced to his lovely and absolutely amazing wife, Andrea," says Ron. "Andrea also has quite an amazing resume of accomplishments, not to mention her tremendous character and love as a mother and wife. Despite the challenges life has given her, both she and Matt always respond with strong faith, enduring love and courage unlike anything I have ever seen."

Andrea, among other accomplishments, is also a very talented motivational speaker who has been in demand to speak at numerous gatherings ranging from leadership conferences to graduation ceremonies. Several of her speeches are on the website at www.and-realohr.com.

Winter 2008 Andrea launched a blog to share her personal journey and life lessons. (www.caringbridge.org/visit/and-realohr). Her blog has received nearly 50,000 visitors who follow her inspirational story. Andrea's hope is that others can learn just how important life is through her story. "Hug your family, tell them you love them, live life to the fullest, and make the most of each day," she advises.

"I'm honored to call Matt and Andrea friends," says Ron. "And I'm even more privileged to say they continue to make a positive impact in my life and the lives of thousands of others."

Ron says it's an honor for he and Julie to work with the Wyoming FFA Foundation to establish the Andrea Lohr Live by Faith Scholarship. Ron explains, "The scholar-

ship will be given annually to one Wyoming FFA member who demonstrates faith and perseverance in their life and as a result has made a positive, life changing difference in the lives of others."

The Rabous invite others across Wyoming to join them in this effort, recognizing Matt and Andrea's journey. "We hope that many more lives will be touched," says Ron. Funds will be deposited in an endowment, the proceeds from which will serve as the award's

annual basis. In addition to their initial gift, the Rabous will contribute annually to help make the scholarship possible.

"We appreciate Ron and Julie's generosity and the opportunity to recognize an individual as inspirational as Andrea Lohr," says Wyoming FFA Foundation scholarship chair Stacy Broda. "I hope Wyoming FFA members are inspired by Andrea's story. For over two decades the Lohrs, through their FFA friendships and motivational speeches have

been touching Wyoming lives. This scholarship will perpetuate that tradition."

Donations to match the Rabous' gift can be mailed to the Wyoming FFA Foundation at PO Box 71, Cheyenne WY 82003. Those with questions can call Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack at 307-351-0730. Donation envelopes have also been inserted in this edition of the FFA Times to ease the process for those who would like to help honor Andrea Lohr and her family.

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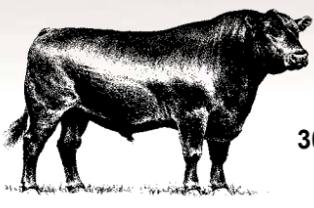
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Winner drives home a brand new scooter donated by Spradley Motors



Wyo makes strong showing at Nat'l Convention

Editor's Note: Due to an error in the last edition of the Wyoming FFA Times, we're republishing the 2010 National FFA Convention results pertaining to Wyoming.

By Teresa Milner

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA members lived up to their potential at the 83rd National FFA Convention in October, bringing home two national championships, three gold emblem team awards and a host of other team and individual accomplishments.

The convention, held Oct. 20-23 in Indianapolis, Ind., is the culminating event of the organization, hosting the national finals for career development events, proficiencies, star awards and other competitions.

Highlights for the Wyoming FFA career development teams include first place finishes for the Snowy Range FFA in horse evaluation and Cheyenne Frontier FFA in agriculture issues. The Casper FFA finished 5th in livestock evaluation, Torrington/Lingle FFA placed 4th in meats evaluation, and Frontier FFA finished with a gold emblem in parliamentary procedure. Wyoming also earned six silver emblems and four bronze emblems.

A report developed by Charles Parker of the California Department of Education ranked Wyoming fifth among all states in career development event success for 2010. States finishing above Wyoming were Missouri, California, Oklahoma and Washington, each of which have three to thirty-three times as many FFA members as the Cowboy State.

State FFA Advisor Ron Pulse attributes the success Wyoming FFA sees

every year at national convention to the quality of its teachers, ag programs and members.

"For no more members than we have, to do as well as we do each year is truly remarkable," says Pulse. "Our success speaks to how well put together our operation is and the overall quality of our agriculture teachers and local programs."

Thirty seven Wyoming FFA members also earned their American FFA Degree at the convention. (See sidebar) Wyoming honored Leland Vetter of Torrington and Clear Creek FFA advisor Lynne Latham with the Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest honor the organization can bestow on non-members.

Team Career Development Events

- Agricultural Issues** – Frontier FFA (Cheyenne), national champions
- Agricultural Mechanics** – Rock Creek FFA (Rock River), silver emblem
- Agricultural Sales** – Southeast Goshen FFA, silver emblem
- Agronomy** – Whitcomb FFA (Moorcroft), silver emblem
- Environment and Natural Resources** – Southeast Goshen FFA, silver emblem
- Farm Business Management** – Snowy Range FFA (Laramie), silver emblem
- Horse Evaluation** – Snowy Range FFA, national champions; Sadey Saputo, first high individual; Christa Avery, fifth high individual
- Livestock Evaluation** – Casper FFA, 5th high team; Asher Mark-

worth, ninth high individual
Marketing Plan – Devils Tower FFA (Hulett), bronze emblem

Meats Evaluation – Torrington/Lingle FFA, 4th high team; B.W. Ochsner, third high individual; Katie Ochsner, 11th high individual; Evan Rader and Joel Kerns, gold emblem individuals.

Parliamentary Procedure – Frontier FFA, gold emblem

Poultry Evaluation – Snowy Range FFA, silver emblem

Individual Career Development Events

Creed Speaking – Cody Giles, Buffalo FFA, bronze emblem

Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Courtney Mathews, Newcastle FFA, bronze emblem

Prepared Public Speaking – Kinsey Freeman, Frontier FFA, bronze emblem

National Officer Candidate
Catlin Caines, Paintrock FFA

American FFA Degree Recipients

Meghan S. Aanonsen, Rock Creek	Taylor Haley, Snowy Range FFA
Ashley Anglen, Jim Bridger FFA	J. Amber Henry, Jim Bridger FFA
Kelsie J. Anson, Paintrock FFA	Catey Hobza, Douglas FFA
Wendy Arndt, Buffalo FFA	Jacob James, Pinedale FFA
Kaitlyn Balfour, Casper FFA	Michelle Johnson, Jim Bridger FFA
Madison M. Becker, Douglas FFA	Libby Lankford, Snowy Range
Kylie Bremer, Torrington/Lingle	Tressa Lawrence, Buffalo FFA
Caleb W. Bunce, Casper FFA	Alyssa Danielle Lozier, Lander
Catlin Caines, Paintrock FFA	Levi Lozier, Lander FFA
Luke Egle, Pinedale FFA	Colton Malli, John B. Kendrick
Zach Egle, Pinedale FFA	Jared Oldham, Lander FFA
Brodie Epler, Southeast Goshen	James Owens, Casper FFA
Jayson Foley, Kaycee FFA	Grant Pulse, High Plains FFA
Kayla Sue Foster, Frontier FFA	Ethan Purvis, Casper FFA
Haley A. Fox, Frontier FFA	Rustin Roth, Torrington/Lingle
Cody Gifford, Lovell FFA	Ty Vallier, Rock Creek FFA
Eric David Gillies, Lyman FFA	Morgan Vercimak, Jim Bridger
Kaitlynn Glover, Casper FFA	Emily C. Voigt, Frontier FFA
Sara Haines, Casper FFA	

VETTER continued from Page 1

"The states have the opportunity to nominate people from time to time that go above and beyond the normal support we all receive from folks in our home communities," explains State FFA Advisor Ron Pulse. "We selected Leland Vetter because he epitomizes the undying commitment to our agriculture students and goes well beyond just being helpful. Leland has put on contests, clinics and demonstrations for many years, which has profited our students and teachers immensely."

Vetter had his own cheering section when he accepted his degree in Indianapolis last October. Vetter traveled with his son, who is a current FFA member, and his daughter, who drove down from Chicago to see her dad receive his award.

"It was a heck of a deal. I was excited and honored to be nominated," says Vetter. "We took in as much of the convention as we could. We enjoyed seeing the speech and agriculture mechanics competitions, and the many displays and booths the convention offers."

Torrington FFA advisor Jason Groene says the reason the WVATA nominated Vetter was because of his efforts to assist Wyoming agriculture education programs and further the education of students at the next level. "Leland Vetter is top notch in my book," says Groene. "I have had former students go through his program and the difference he has made in those young men and women is

incredible!"

Vetter was himself an FFA member in Linton, North Dakota in the early 1970s. He says his was a brand new chapter, which focused on hands-on activities like soils, plants, welding and agriculture mechanics. Vetter has also been recognized on the state and local levels of FFA with the honorary chapter farmer and state farmer degrees. Vetter says both are proudly displayed in his office.

Vetter believes helping FFA members and other youth organizations is important for Wyoming's communities.

"I'm impressed by the qualities organizations like FFA try to instill in these youngsters. Things like leadership and a love of the land are so important," says Vetter. "Without that attention and training, some of these students might have fallen by the wayside."

Groene is impressed with how Vetter instills those same values in his own children. "I have had the privilege to teach three of Leland's children, and there are more to follow," says Groene. "His main accomplishments are simply his children and the way they value education and the need to be productive citizens."

While the media may focus on what's wrong with America's youth, Vetter says he's not worried. "There are an awful lot of good young people out there, with good values and a willingness to work hard to succeed. We have nothing to worry about."

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Being scholarship savvy can bolster your success rate

By Teresa Milner

The only thing more daunting than the cost of a college education may be completing the endless scholarship applications to help you pay for it. If you've filled out even one college scholarship application, you know that it can be time consuming and tedious. There are definitely other things you'd rather be doing.

We've compiled some basic advice from the folks that know—those individuals who sit on scholarship selection committees and read through that application you so carefully crafted. They've given us some hints and tips to help make the application process easier and improve your chances of receiving an award. So before you mindlessly grind through the next scholarship, or worse yet, throw out that stack of apps on your desk, read our tips below.

Create a resume

Begin your scholarship quest by creating a resume. A resume is a place for you to list all of your achievements in one document. Sort through the many accomplishments and awards you've received. Take some time to really think through your last few years of school, because some accomplishments don't necessarily come with a fancy certificate, but they may represent significant milestones in your life. List the activities, community service, offices, sports, contests and clubs you've

participated in. Be sure to include the role you played in each of these. Add your grades and any other special achievements.

Once you have a solid list of high school happenings, you need to get them organized. List them in descending order, from most current to the earliest. Always mention your most current accomplishments first because they tend to be the most relevant and impressive on applications. Also, be sure to keep your resume updated as your school year progresses.

Once you have your resume completed, you can use it as a reference for all future scholarships. Grab the application, pull out your resume and start transferring the relevant information. That way, you won't leave out something important about yourself, like the outstanding sophomore scholar award or the art contest you won in ninth grade. So long as you continue to add to your resume, you will always have an easy-to-use reference on hand.

"The added bonus of a resume is that when you ask a teacher or another adult to write a letter of recommendation for you, you can give them your resume to help guide their letter," explains Laura Woodsman, a public relations professional from Indiana. Woodsman serves on a variety of scholarship selection committees in the Midwest and has scored hundreds of scholarship applications. "A resume can help your letter writer

remember your specific achievements and awards. It will help make their letter easier to write and hopefully reaffirm what an outstanding recipient you would be."

Get the Specifics

Read the entire scholarship application to make note of eligibility requirements. Many times the scholarship is meant for a specific population. You might have to carry a specific GPA, you might need to live in a specific geographic area or the scholarship might only be for certain college majors. Don't waste time and effort applying for scholarships for which you won't qualify.

"Some scholarships offered through the Wyoming FFA Foundation even have eligibility requirements," explains Stacy Broda, scholarship chair for the Wyoming FFA Foundation. "For example, the Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship is for FFA members in Park County only. But every year, we have students from other counties complete the Linnabur scholarship section."

Also make note of the background, history and goals of the scholarship. Doing this may help you complete the application in a way that will make you more appealing as a recipient.

Read the Directions

While most scholarships ask for the same basic information, each has individual directions. Do you need to have letters of reference, submit a resume or

essay or have your advisor sign it? Do you need to include your transcript? Does it need to be typed? Does it need to be submitted electronically? What is the deadline?

"We have a few scholarships each year that are removed from consideration simply because the student didn't follow directions," explains Broda. "Some students have missed out on funding because they forgot to send a transcript or didn't include letters of recommendation."

Broda recommends reviewing the directions one final time before submission just to double check you've met all requirements. "Don't put in all the work and get thrown out for something simple."

Get personal

A scholarship essay or personal story is your chance to explain yourself, show your personality or share your achievements and vision with the scholarship selection committee. It's the perfect opportunity to convince the committee you are a worthy recipient, so step up to the challenge!

Woodsman recommends approaching the personal story like you would an English composition or speech for your agriculture class.

"Start by brainstorming topics for your essay. Take ten minutes and collect potential ideas to focus on. The essay shouldn't be another laundry list of accomplishments, you've already covered that in other areas of your appli-

cation," says Woodsman. "Focus on your strengths, characteristics and personality. For each of these big ideas, list four or five pieces of evidence from your life, such as things you've done, places you've been or special accomplishments that support that idea."

From there, Woodsman says you should create a brief outline and group similar ideas together. You can formulate it like a prepared public speech: include an introduction, two or three main points and a conclusion. Or, you could choose to focus on a single, interesting point about yourself or use a narrative to tell a short, vivid story. All three formats can work well, Woodsman says, as long as you address the important points the application calls for. Use your outline to flesh out the details and draft the complete essay.

Broda believes the personal story can often get neglected. "Our scholarship selection committee uses the personal story to get a better feel of the applicant," she says. "A lot of kids don't spend much time on the personal story and only provide a few vague paragraphs. Tell us who you are, what you are about and why you'd be a worthy recipient. The more descriptive and detailed you are, the more the committee learns about you."

Proofread, proofread, proofread

Both Broda and Woodsman emphasized the

need to check and recheck your grammar and spelling. Remember, the application is a reflection of you and your commitment to being an outstanding student. Make sure your work is as professional and correct as possible.

Ask yourself these questions. Did you complete each and every question? Did you address each question correctly? Did you convey your main essay idea clearly? Did you provide enough supporting information? Proofread for careless spelling, grammatical errors and awkward or vague language. Try reading your application aloud. Sometimes you can hear errors easier than you can read them on paper.

"Have a parent, teacher or your FFA advisor review the application for you," suggests Broda. "They can provide you valuable feedback on how an application might be perceived by a stranger. Don't let your application be filled with errors and become memorable for the wrong reasons!"

Your application can make or break your chances of being granted funding for school. Be thorough, be complete and showcase your accomplishments and personality. With a little hard work, you'll have an application that shines. Then, you'll be well on your way to paying for school and enjoying life as a full-fledged college student!

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Big Country FFA

Cheyenne — Wyoming's newest FFA chapter, the Big Country FFA from Cheyenne South High School, recently hosted an awards recognition ceremony where 28 members received their FFA Degrees.



Wyoming's newest FFA chapter recently honored 28 of its members with degrees.

Wearing their brand new FFA jackets sponsored by the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation, 12 students received their greenhand certificate and pin while 16 seventh and eighth grade students received their Discovery Degree. Under the direction of Advisor Ty Berry, the High Plains FFA officers of Cheyenne Central conducted the ceremony. High Plains FFA also awarded 24 greenhand degrees and 11 Discovery Degrees to its members. It all took

place in the auditorium of the new South High School with a large gathering of FFA members, parents and guests.

South High School opened Fall 2010 with only freshmen and sophomore students. Next year will bring the addition of a junior class and finally the seniors will come on board in 2012- 2013. Laramie County School District #1 recognizes the value of an agriculture program and made a firm commitment to include an agriculture facility in the planning stage for South High.

With the addition of the Big Country FFA, Cheyenne now has three FFA chapters and provides all LCSD#1 students with the opportunity to become involved in high school agriculture and FFA.



High Plains FFA's officer team helped present awards at the joint ceremony attended by students, parents and FFA supporters.

Jim Bridger FFA

Bridger Valley — "In the time it takes you to read this sentence Americans will have thrown away 22,000 plastic bags," says information being distributed by the Jim Bridger FFA's Ag Issues Team.

The students who comprise the team — Marci Harvey, Sammy Hood, Shantell Henry, Halee Salsbury, Marissa Vitt and Crystal Schielichardt — along with team coach Ruth Rees and FFA Advisor Cari Covolo are encouraging their community members to make the switch from plastic bags to the more environmentally friendly cloth-bags.

"The average person uses 500 plastic bags to carry his groceries home from the grocery store each year," says the team. They further state, "Litter is a costly problem. Highway departments spend millions of tax dollars and many hours annually picking up litter. This is money and time needed for more important services."

The students have shared their message by making a presence in their local grocery store. Shoppers using the preferred cloth bags will have their names entered in a drawing for prizes, which are being donated by the local community at the FFA members' request. The team is also speaking at events and gatherings across the community, encouraging their friends and neighbors to make a habit of taking cloth bags with them to the grocery store.



Jim Bridger FFA members are encouraging members of their community to make the switch from plastic to cloth bags.



These FFA members from Southwest Wyoming say fewer consumers using plastic bags will mean less litter.

"We feel a need to get involved in community recycling," says the team. "We have seen the plastic grocery bags along every highway, stuck on fences, in trees and blowing in the wind. We want to encourage families of Bridger Valley to use cloth bags and help them remember to bring them every time they go shopping."

Submit material for our next edition by April 15, 2011

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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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Range Management
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