

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Winter 2010 Edition

Wyo makes strong showing at Nat'l Convention



Lifelong friends are made while attending FFA events and learning from the numerous opportunities the program provides. Wyoming made an outstanding performance at the 2010 National FFA Convention. Photo Courtesy of Scott McDonald

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 individ-

ual 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 evalua-

tion, 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

See **NAT'L** Page 12



FFA STARS

Snowy Range wins national horse judging competition

By Teresa Milner

Laramie — When members of the Snowy Range FFA Chapter were announced as the winners of the 2010 National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event, they could hardly believe it.

“We were so excited, it was as if our team didn't have any emotion,” says junior Sadey Saputo. “It still doesn't feel true.”

But the four-member team from Laramie was indeed named the national

champion during the National FFA Convention, held Oct. 20-23 in Indianapolis, Ind. Team members Saputo, Nina Adams, Christa Avery and William Wood beat out more than 40 other teams from across the country for the honor. It was the first horse evaluation championship by a Wyoming team, and the first national championship of any kind for Laramie High School.

Horse evaluation is one of many

See **SNOWY** Page 8

Scholarship applications available soon

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA members are encouraged to watch the Wyoming FFA Foundation website at www.wyoffafoundation.com for details surrounding the 2011 scholarship offering. The 2011 application should be posted by mid to late January 2011.

In 2010 the Wyoming FFA Foundation, thanks to the support of sponsors like the F.A.I.R. Posse, Clark's Mule Days Charity Pool, EnCana Oil and Gas, the Wyoming Association of Fairs and the Wyoming Ag Business Association, awarded 12 scholarships. The 2011 offering should be similar and efforts remain underway to secure additional scholarships.

In 2010 the Wyoming FFA Foundation received over four-dozen applications from FFA members in search of support in reaching their college goals. Despite the growing offering, only a portion of those applicants received funds.

Donors who would like to aid the FFA Foundation in its goal of providing additional scholarship dollars are encouraged to contact Jennifer Womack at 307.351.0730.

FFA members are encouraged to explore opportunities beyond the scholarships contained in the Foundation's annual offering. Groups like the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation also offer scholarships to qualifying individuals. For details on the WACD offering, visit www.conservewy.com.

FFA members with questions about the 2011 scholarship offering are encouraged to contact FFA Foundation Scholarship Chairperson Stacy Broda at sbroda@yahoo.com or Jennifer Womack at Womack@wyoming.com or 307-351-0730. Additional details will also be posted on the Foundation's Facebook page.



TOP NOTCH

Frontier FFA wins National

Agricultural Issues

Competition with Equal

Access to Justice Act discussion

By Teresa Milner

Cheyenne — What started as a classroom presentation by a local attorney ended in a national championship for the agricultural issues team from the Frontier FFA Chapter in Cheyenne.

The team's presentation on the Equal Access to Justice Act and its impacts on public lands use won them a first place finish at the National FFA Convention, held Oct. 20-23, 2010, in Indianapolis, Ind. The team endured three rounds of competition and beat 30 other teams from across the country for the title. Team members were Ben Berry, Micah Christensen, Cora Craig, Blaze Cress, Sami Jo Heitsch, Sara Mock and Kaci Malmborg.

“I'm incredibly proud of our team and what they accomplished,” says Tommy Cress, chapter advisor and

coach of the winning team. “We had some good kids who worked really hard and their dedication paid off.”

In the agriculture issues career development event, each chapter selects a current agriculture issue and prepares a presentation on the issue that offers multiple viewpoints of the stakeholders. Each team must give their presentation to a number of different audiences in their local community, develop a portfolio on the issue and present to a panel of judges at the competition.

The Frontier FFA Chapter selected the topic for the competition after an in-class presentation by Karen Budd-Falen, a Cheyenne attorney. The

See **FRONTIER** Page 9



Frontier FFA's presentation on the Equal Access to Justice Act earned them top honors in the 2010 National FFA Convention Agricultural Issues Forum. Advisor Tommy Cress, left, coached the team of Ben Berry, Micah Christensen, Cora Craig, Blaze Cress, Sami Jo Heitsch, Sara Mock and Kaci Malmborg.

PREZ says



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas! I just like being able to start a note out like that. I could do it in the July version of the newsletter, but there are already a number of friends who think I'm loopy.

I hope this note finds you well on your way to a peaceful Christmas filled with blessings, joy, and a large helping of thankfulness. I know there are good people hurting right now, financially and otherwise, and believe me that doesn't sit lightly with me personally or in my work. There are still several question marks in the air of this great nation and this great state. But even in the toughest of times, we still have much to be thankful for. I know it is so for the Foundation.

I'm thankful for a great number of new sponsors who've stepped up this year to help us help FFA members, for some stalwart supporters who found more help for us this year as we increased our scholarship program and other support. I'm very thankful the ag teachers came to us looking for assistance with their curriculum, and we were able to find several partners who stepped up to make sure it was matched to state standards and ready to go for Wyoming. Encana, as so often is the case in Wyoming, was instrumental in making this project happen. Curriculum has been a huge endeavor this year and will certainly be a great success story for those schools that step up to try it out.

I'm thankful the Foundation has grown not just our work with Ag. Ed. Instructors, but our support of members and chapter programs as well. We're on the road to funding some exciting programs for FFA members and chapters including the Cowboy State Challenge and the Learning by Doing program. These are designed to get support directly to the chapters for community service projects and chapter improvement projects respectively. We were able to pilot them in recent years and they were so successful we want to make them a permanent Foundation offering.

I'm excited and thankful for the new and improved relations that are being built with other Wyoming ag-based organizations. Events such as the golf tournament held at state fair in partnership with the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation help build bridges for FFA members to cross tomorrow.

I am incredibly thankful, though I don't express it well, for the people who make up the Wyoming FFA Foundation. For those who give \$5 to those who give \$5,000, for those who donate an item for auction to those who take time to do the calling at the auction. I thank those who say I can't help this year, but please try me again next year. They are, you are, we are, the Wyoming FFA Foundation. In some respects 2,053 members stand on us.

I am thankful for Wyoming Agricultural Educators. These men and women work long hours and build incredible relationships with their students. Most have them for three to four years of high

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WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION

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Featuring the FFA
Foundation Vice
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Let's-Talk WYOMING FFA

Curriculum Secures Ag-Ed's Future

Over a year ago, the WVATA (Wyoming Vocational Ag Teacher Association) came to the Foundation asking for support to fund a curriculum for all agricultural education programs across the state. Our board was excited to be part of such an important and necessary project. EnCana Oil and Gas partnered with the Foundation to sponsor the initial fee to fund validating and crosswalking the curriculum packages to the Wyoming state standards. Each program in the state now has the opportunity to use this online library of standards-based lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, as well as assessment tools.

The curriculum includes lesson plans that fall under Ag Business, Environmental Resources, Animal, Plant & Soil Science and Agri-Science, to name a few. Each of these categories provides numerous lessons that are all linked to state agricultural education standards as well as the Wyoming Academic Standards (Math, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, Health, and Fine Arts). As the need grows for career and technical education to prove their worth in the education system, it is increasingly important for agriculture teachers to have all their lessons linked to the state standards.

Once teachers log into the MyCaert site, the possibilities are endless for using this curriculum. MyCaert provides several options to search lessons by standard, subject, or vocabulary terms. For example if a teacher knows they need to meet a certain standard, they can do a search for that specific standard and find several lesson plans that

meet that need.

This curriculum is not only a great resource for brand new teachers or teachers coming in from other states, but also for experienced teachers. One of the many advantages of this resource is the assessment tools. Teachers are able to print tests or they can enter each of their students into the system and students can take assessments online. When assessments are taken online, MyCaert automatically grades them and sends the teacher the results.

For many school districts and agricultural education as a whole, it is becoming increasingly important to have a guaranteed viable curriculum, which means that programs are teaching the same or similar lessons. This will be very important and vital when a student moves schools so that he or she has had some consistency of instruction. This curriculum not only gives Wyoming agriculture education a "standard curriculum," but provides teachers flexibility in adapting lessons to students needs. It also provides an opportunity to match lessons to the specific types of agriculture that exist in a given region or area of the state.

The 2010 curriculum project's benefits will stretch long into the future by securing agriculture education's future role in the education of Wyoming young people and aiding the state's teachers in their important work. As a member of the FFA Foundation, I'm proud we could do our part to provide this new tool for Wyoming's agricultural education classrooms.



Stacy Broda
FFA Foundation Vice
President and Scholarship
Committee Chair

It's-Happening-In

WYOMING FFA

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

January		April 4-7	
Jan. 4-21	State Officer Visits, as scheduled	April 4-7	Threads of Leadership clothing drive held in conjunction with Wyoming FFA Convention
Jan. TBA	FFA Foundation scholarship application available at www.wyoffafoundation.com	April 20-23	Region I NAAE Leadership Conference, Fresno, California
February		May	
Feb. TBA	State Degree applications due to Regional Chairs as arranged	May 15	American Degree Applications due in State Office
Feb. 1	Learning by Doing applications due from Chapter seeking funds	May 15	Honorary American Degree applications due (non-teacher)
Feb. 11	All chapter applications due in State Office	May 15	Names of members interested in National Officer due
Feb. 19-26	National FFA Week	June	
Feb. TBD	FFA Foundation fundraiser luncheon at Texas Roadhouse, Cheyenne	June 1	National Officer Applications due in State Office
March		June 6-10	WVATA Summer Conference, Laramie
March 1	Wyoming FFA Foundation scholarship applications due	June 20-23	NLC SO, Cody
March 5	Honorary State Degree nominee résumés due	June TBA	State FFA Leadership Camp, Lander
March 5	Constitutional changes mailed to chapters	July	
March 5	Resolutions and Convention Items of Business due in State Office	July 1	National FFA Band and Chorus applications due
March TBA	Talent applications due in State Office (or as arranged)	July 15	National chapter applications due, Indy
March TBA	State Band and Chorus applications due in State Office (or as arranged)	July 15	National proficiency applications due, Indy
March TBA	State Officer Candidates names due in State Office	August	
April		Aug. 13-20	Wyoming State Fair, Douglas
April TBA	Proficiency Applications due to Bill Pannell at SDE	Aug. 16	Cowboy Chuck and Chip Golf Tournament held by the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation, Douglas
April 4-7	State FFA CDEs and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne	September	
		Sept. TBD	2011 Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball, Worland

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Quick Info—
FFA BRIEFS

Official dress items sought

Cheyenne — Lacking an FFA jacket, black dress slacks, shoes, a black skirt or a white shirt for official dress should never limit a Wyoming FFA member from fully participating in the opportunities the program offers. With that thought in mind the Wyoming FFA Foundation offers the voucher fund to help students secure an FFA jacket that carries their state name, their chapter name and their own name and the pins they've won.

Brett, Tammy and Tate Bauman have stepped forward to carry the project one step further. In partnership with the FFA Foundation, the Baumans are launching the Threads of Leadership project. The Baumans are gathering black slacks and skirts, white shirts and black shoes from FFA members who either no longer use the items or have outgrown them. After the garments are laundered and pressed, they'll become available to members who lack the items that make up official dress.

Tate is a past Wyoming FFA member and served on the 2009-2010 State Officer Team. "A few years back," says Tammy, "a student from our chapter was to perform on stage at state convention, but didn't have black shoes. Several of our members were collecting funds to head to the mall when a fellow member took the shoes off his feet and handed them to the other student so he could wear them across the stage. We believe that all members should have the opportunity to have a jacket with their own name on it and the other items of clothing that will make their FFA career the best it can be without any limitations."

"This project captures the FFA spirit of leadership and helping others," says FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt. "We love the idea of FFA members helping one another maximize their FFA experience and ensure quality official dress to wear as they pursue their FFA goals."

FFA members are encouraged to bring official dress items to the Wyoming FFA Convention for drop-off. Details of where items can be delivered will be available in the next edition of the *FFA Times* and announced on the Foundation's Facebook page and website.

Student editors sought

Cheyenne — If you love to write and are considering a career in agricultural communication, the *FFA Times* may provide a fun growth opportunity. The Wyoming FFA Foundation is looking for a few students to serve as student editors. These individuals will help gather FFA stories and photos for the quarterly publication.

"This is a great opportunity to test your skills and build your portfolio for future career opportunities," says FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "I encourage interested students to contact me regarding the details, what they can offer and their reasons for showing an interest in the project." Writers whose work is published will be paid a small fee for their contributions. Womack can be reached via e-mail at Womack@wyoming.com or at 307.351.0730.

Annual appeal mailed

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA Foundation supporters recently received the Foundation's annual appeal to donors. The tri-fold brochure highlighting Wyoming FFA programs includes a remittance envelope to ease the donation process for those who want to help grow Wyoming FFA programs.

"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."

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

Convention sets new record

Indianapolis, Ind. — The 83rd National FFA Convention set an all-time event attendance record with a total crowd of 54,942 members, advisors, sponsors and guests.

There are 7,487 FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The organization has 523,309 student members.

Case to retire Jan. 1, 2011

Indianapolis, Ind. — National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry D. Case, will retire on Jan. 1, 2011.

During his onstage recognition at the recent National FFA Convention, Case introduced his wife of 44 years, Joy, and their children and grandchildren. He addressed the crowd of FFA members and delegates and referenced the fact that there are several educators in his family.

"When I say agricultural education is the noblest of professions and is important to me, I mean that," said Case at this fall's National FFA Convention. "If it's good enough for my family, it's good enough for you."

Case wrapped up his onstage comments by assuring FFA members that they are in good hands. "I believe in you," he said, "and I shall never forget you."



Dr. Larry D. Case
National FFA Advisor

Address updates requested

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 member who continues to receive mail at your house, please send us his or her new address so we can keep them informed about 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 our state's young people.

Bulls for Blue & Gold starts

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation is calling upon the state's seedstock producers to help expand the programs available to Wyoming FFA members. In 2011 the Foundation will be launching its Bulls for Blue and Gold project.

Seedstock producers are being asked to donate ten percent of the sale price on Lot 10 to the FFA Foundation. Participating producers will receive a copy of the logo shown here to display in their sale catalog to acknowledge their support for the program.

"We hope this partnership will put Wyoming FFA members in touch with agricultural leaders around the state while generating some funds for the program," says FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "I encourage interested seedstock producers to call me at 307.351.0730 if they're interested. We'll also be sending a letter describing the program out early 2011."

Participating seedstock producers will be highlighted in the FFA Foundation's donor recognition materials, on a special page on the Foundation's website and their sales can be touted on the group's Facebook page.



Nat'l offers scholarships

Indianapolis, Ind. — Wyoming FFA members are encouraged to visit the National FFA website at www.ffa.org and fill out the group's scholarship application.

Each year the National FFA Organization awards approximately \$2 million in scholarships designed to fit the diversity of applicants.

Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. The selection process takes into account the whole student - FFA involvement, work experience, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics.

Via www.ffa.org, more than 1,000 scholarships are available with just one application to complete.

Voucher funds available

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA members who need help purchasing an FFA jacket are encouraged to look to the Wyoming FFA Foundation for help. The FFA Foundation's voucher fund is designed to ensure students have access to an FFA jacket that carries their state, chapter and individual name.

The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation and the Tonkin Foundation of Casper provided the current pool of funding available in the Foundation program. Several FFA members have looked to the fund for help already this year, but with State Convention planned for April 2011, the Foundation expects additional applications as members prepare to attend and compete at the event.

PREZ continued from Page 2

school. They pour their heart into their students and it shows when they visit about this one or that one. And it shows in the students as they grow into young adults, making a difference in the communities they live in, or going on to college, most on scholarship. As a basis for good education, look at your ag teacher.

On a more personal level I'm thankful for the people I get to work with on the board. They are a cross section of Wyoming and truly exemplify the cowboy spirit of leave things better than you found them. Every time there is a project to be done board members step up with an outstretched hand. The only hesitation is taking time to ponder, can we get a bigger impact for members if we... It's really an honor to work with a group like this. Lesley, Stacy, John, Val, Gil, Greg, Tammy, Donn, Chuck, Brendan and Jennifer, thank you. Thanks to you and your families for all you pour into this organization.

Finally I thank FFA members. I get to work for them on the Foundation and I still get to work with them at the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp. You are an amazing bunch of young people and I am blessed to have the association we have. I look forward to working with you and or for you in the coming year.

...and I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, I had too much dinner now my vest fits too tight! I hope your Christmas and New Year are blessed.

Court

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FFA members attend World Dairy Expo to compete, learn

Article courtesy of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Madison, Wisc. – Two Wyoming FFA members made a positive impact at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisc. Sept. 28 through Oct. 2. High school sophomore Lori Hetzel of Powell won the Commercial Hay division of the World Forage Analysis Superbowl, and Buffalo senior Jac Klaahsen assisted Wyoming Business Council Crop and Forage Program Manager Donn Ran-

dall throughout the Expo.

“This was Lori’s first year competing at the World Dairy Expo, and the fifth consecutive year Wyoming has won the Commercial Hay Division,” notes Randall, who is also a member of the Wyoming FFA Foundation and the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp Board of Directors. “She led a group of Wyoming producers who represented our state very well, and provided great exposure for Wyoming hay.”

Klaahsen is the

2009/2010 FFA State Champion in Forage Proficiency, and he turned back his proficiency last spring in order to run for it again this year. The trip was an opportunity for him to meet knowledgeable people in the forage industry, and fine-tune his Forage Proficiency project for this year.

“I met a lot of people and learned a lot about dairy hay. One highlight was meeting the FFA National Forage Proficiency winner from last year and helping him feed his dairy cows and seeing first hand how

his system works. It was a cool experience visiting and learning from him,” notes Klaahsen.

“Jac also met with two ag program advisors in Wisconsin, one of which is considered the guru for FFA Forage Proficiency in that state. The other program produced the FFA National Forage Proficiency winner last year. Both advisors were very helpful and offered assistance to Jac in his Proficiency project this year,” notes Randall.

“Both advisors gave me a lot of pointers, and I really appreciated them taking the time to meet with me,” adds Klaahsen.

Randall takes a booth to the Expo each year to help promote Wyoming hay, and Klaahsen also helped there. “I helped Mr. Randall as needed and talked to people who stopped by about Wyoming hay and how to get in contact with producers. I also got a lot of people’s contact information,” notes Klaahsen.

“The booth is in a great location and we get a lot of people who are seriously interested in Wyoming hay,” adds Randall. “We handed out a lot of business cards and met a lot of people. Jac did a great job and stepped right up and visited with people. His background in forage production was evident, and he was a



Mayville FFA Advisor Cal Geiger, 2009 National FFA Forage Proficiency Winner Andy Feucht and Jac Klaahsen of Buffalo FFA visit on Fuecht's Mayville, Wisc. farm where the discussion centered on creating a national winning forage proficiency application. Photo courtesy of Donn Randall

lot of help.”

“After going on this trip with Mr. Randall, I have decided I would like to become a feed specialist and work in the nutrition field,” explains Klaahsen, who adds he didn’t know what he wanted to do after high school prior to this trip.

“It was a lot of fun and very educational. I think I will benefit from it, and the experiences I gained will really help me in FFA and with my future job pursuits,” says Klaahsen, whose future goals include running for a state FFA office. He is currently the Buffalo FFA Chapter president, and in addition to his Forage Proficiency Project,

Klaahsen shows beef and sheep and is on his chapter’s Agronomy and Environmental and Natural Resources teams. His family runs cattle and has a custom haying business outside Buffalo.

“I would say that the exposure Jac received will help him do very well in the future. He’s quite a young man, and two pretty big companies offered him a job right out of high school while we were at the Expo,” notes Randall.

Heather Hamilton is editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at heather@wylr.net.



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The Season for Giving

By **Brittnee Borgialli**
Buffalo FFA Reporter

The Buffalo FFA kicked off its “season of giving” on Nov. 8 with a community-wide food drive encompassing the entire city of Buffalo. By working with local grocery stores to set-up donation boxes, publicizing the event on the radio station, advertising on bank billboards and distributing 1,300 dona-



A member of the Buffalo FFA delivers donation bags to a local house. With over 90 percent of the chapter members participating, Buffalo FFA's November 2010 efforts resulted in over 700 pounds of food for the local food bank.

tion bags around town, the project was a huge success.

Over 90 percent of the chapter's members participated in the project that resulted in over 700 pounds of food for the local food pantry. The chapter is very proud of the fact that they were able to help out.

Following the Food Drive, the Buffalo FFA Chapter began the turkey drive. By working with the local IGA to purchase the needed supplies, FFA members secured the ingredients to ensure a turkey dinner could be served at 10 area homes for the holidays. The meals were organized in gift baskets and presented to families Buffalo Community Health helped identify. Buffalo Community Health is the organization that leads the local community in matching donors like Buffalo FFA with families in

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need.

December 2010 at the Buffalo FFA Chapter will be devoted to working with local Marines to gather toys for a “Toys for Tots” program. The Chapter will be in-charge of toy drops and collecting needed items. In addition, chapter members will work with the Buffalo Crisis Center on a Christmas tree giveaway for families in need.

Starting Your Own Supervised Agricultural Experience

From the **Worland FFA**

Starting your own SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) is an important task in all FFA members' tenure. It is important to pick something that you like to do and something where you can earn some money for your efforts.

- SAEs can be split into three major areas:
- **Entrepreneur** You start your own business or work for yourself;
 - **Placement** You work for someone else; and
 - **Exploratory** You carry out a project similar to a science project.

In traditional FFA programs, such as the Chief Washakie FFA, most members raise livestock for resale. Showing market or breeding sheep, cattle, poultry and or swine is fairly typical for our FFA members. Horses would be the next most popular, although most members do not sell their horses.

But, what happens if you live in town and don't have the facilities to raise livestock? Then students have to find other avenues to fulfill the SAE requirement. Local High School Senior and Chief Washakie FFA member Jessica Frederick is doing just that. Bling accessories are all the rage right now in western wear and attire and since Jessica loves it, she knew that there was money to make.

With the financial backing of her FFA Advisor, who is also a fan of big chunky jewelry, Jessica started making and marketing her own BLING!



Worland FFA member Jessica Frederick's quest for an SAE project resulted in the creation of chunky jewelry that both her and her FFA Advisor Grace Jorgensen, pictured here with Jessica, love.

Jessica, who was her own first customer, is creating necklaces in a variety of colors and textures with removable western style conchos for an added punch. She is also making earrings and bracelets to complete any girls' ensemble. Jessica plans on selling most of her items to her friends, but will also be doing some trade shows and holiday parties as the Christmas season approaches.

JAN. 15, 2011 • APRIL 15, 2011
JULY 15, 2011 • OCT. 31, 2011

The beef checkoff is promoting, defending and safeguarding while I am at home on the ranch.

As a third generation cow/calf producer and feeder with a fourth generation hoping to take over, I cannot afford to underestimate the importance of marketing beef to consumers. I also don't have the dollars, the time or the expertise to reach more than a few local consumers on my own. That's why I count on the beef checkoff to reach out to consumers on my behalf.



Spencer Ellis
Cow/calf producer, feeder
Lovell, Wyoming

I see the beef checkoff as our industry's watchdog. Checkoff dollars help educate consumers about beef nutrition, food safety and how our industry humanely treats animals. The checkoff safeguards beef's reputation on a daily basis. It's particularly valuable in monitoring issues and responding with timely, factual and science-based information. Consumers are exposed daily to information around beef safety and animal welfare. We need to make sure they have all the facts. The checkoff promotes our products and defends our industry in a way that individual producers can't. I can't run my ranch and also speak to all the issues facing our industry; the beef checkoff does that for me.

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Reclamation minor a relatively new option for UW students

By Jennifer Womack
Wyoming FFA Foundation

Laramie — Range savvy agricultural education students and FFA members may want to explore a relatively new degree opportunity offered by the University of Wyoming.

In 2009 and 2010 Governor Dave Freudenthal and the Wyoming State Legislature Designated \$1.16 million in Abandoned Mine Land funds to the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The purpose of these funds is to establish and support the Wyoming Restoration and Reclamation Center through June 30, 2012. Efforts are underway to perpetuate the college beyond that timeframe.

With the creation of the Restoration and Reclamation Center came a new opportunity for Wyoming and the nation's students who

have an interest in the state's rangelands, their management and health.

"We are involved in both outreach to citizens of our state and teaching undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Wyoming," says Professor of Soil Ecology and Center Director Peter Stahl. "At the University we offer a minor in reclamation science to undergraduate students and a certification in Reclamation for graduate students. There is also a registered Student Club focusing on reclamation (ROaR, Restoration Outreach and Research) at the University."

Ralph Swift, who is a Rangeland Reclamation Specialist with Encana Oil and Gas, works in a career carrying out many of the lessons taught by the Restoration and Reclamation Center. Swift works in Encana's Jonah Field, located near Pinedale.

"I have worked for

Encana for about four years," says Swift, who prior to that spent 32 years working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in a variety of positions including soil scientist, conservationist and rangeland specialist.

A Colorado native, Swift earned his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Southern Colorado. He went on to earn his graduate degree in Rangeland Ecology from Colorado State University. "Students entering this career field need a strong background in plant and soil sciences and their relationship," says Swift. "You need to know how plants obtain nutrients and how they grow."

On a day-to-day basis Swift is in charge of reclaiming and monitoring those areas where the soil is disturbed by natural gas exploration in the Jonah Field. "When we go into production, the site becomes available for reclamation." The disturbed area, ranging from two to five acres, is re-contoured and reseeded. Swift also tracks and does the qualitative review on reclaimed sites, documenting when the site is eligible to make the

switch from reclaiming to reclaimed.

Encana, wherever possible, reduces the area of disturbance to ease and enhance the reclamation process. On flatter locations the use of environmental mats, large wooden mats that cover the surface, helps reduce soil compaction and preserve the presence of native vegetation. When the National

The variety of work and seeing the transition from a site that's a work in progress to a finished, reclaimed, location are two of the areas Swift says he enjoys most about his job. Selecting quality seeds, which can be difficult considering his work with native vegetation, is one of the items Swift lists as key to reclamation success. Over the last two years

enhancing surrounding rangeland for productive use and providing off-site mitigation are key activities in responsibly producing energy," says Randy Teeuwen, Public and Community Relations Advisor at Encana. "We want to encourage Wyoming students to pursue rangeland studies because we know that science-based solutions for reclamation

BLUE & GOLD GOALS CAREER CHAT

FEATURING RANGELAND RECLAMATION

Christmas Tree was harvested earlier this year, Encana's mats were used to protect the site where the tree was cut.

Swift says companies like Encana employ some people in his line of work while others work for consulting firms or companies that specialize in rangeland reclamation. "Get the basics of rangeland monitoring," advises Swift to those who are considering the career path. Computer skills are another must, he says, noting the use of technology in monitoring programs and keeping records.

Encana has devoted over \$100,000 to pulling cheat grass by hand from reclaimed areas to ensure it doesn't spread. While grass seed quality is getting better according to Swift, he says a small amount of cheat grass is still allowed in seed sold in Wyoming.

For the past two years Encana's scholarship offering through the Wyoming FFA Foundation has given preference to students enrolled in the College of Reclamation.

"Environmental responsibility is a core value at Encana and reclaiming drilling sites,

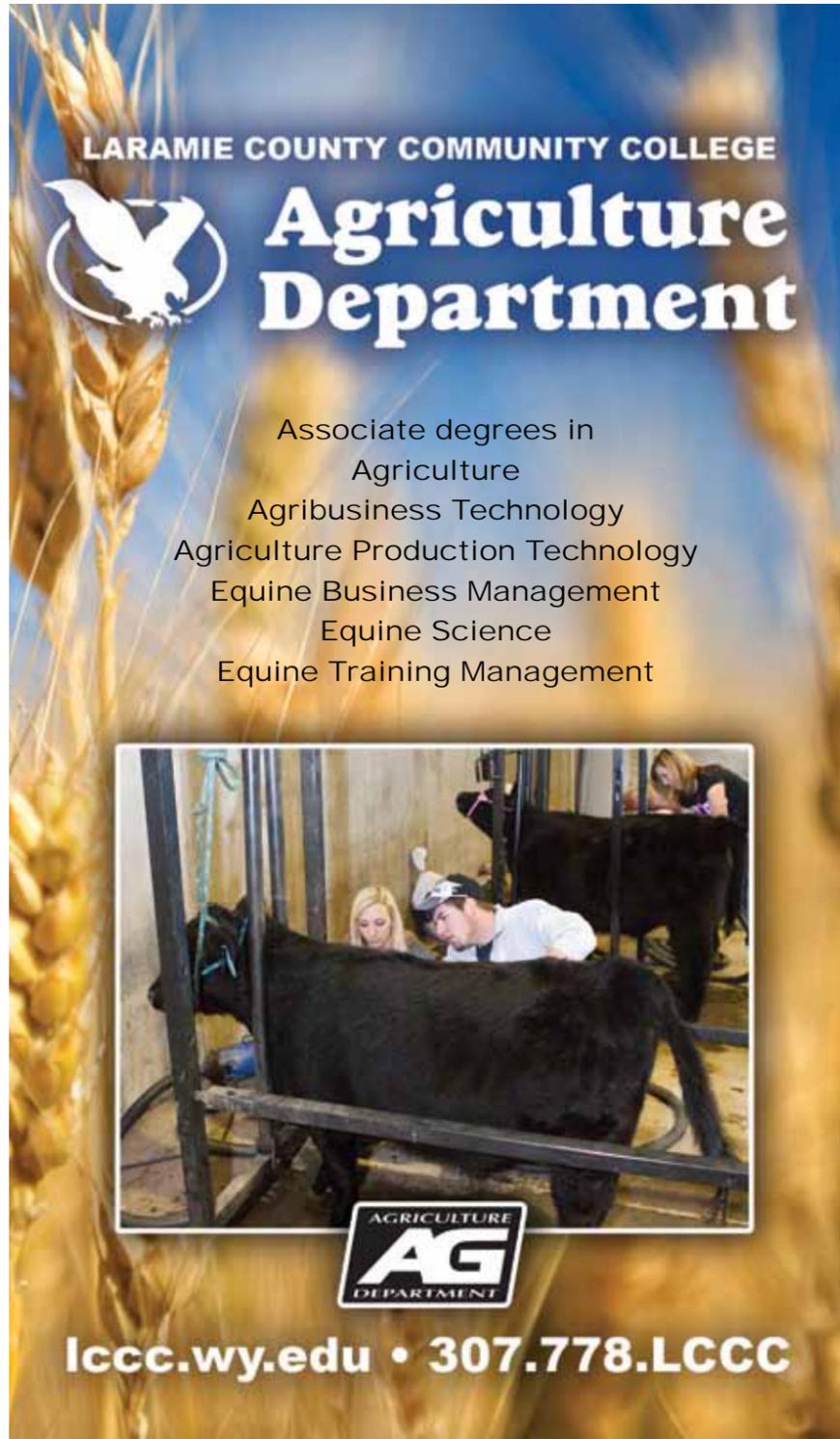
will benefit our state and its resources."

"Until a year or two ago, there was so much demand for people with experience in reclamation, jobs went unfilled," says Stahl. "Natural Resource demand has gone down and so have the number of positions available for reclamationists but there are still positions to be had. So numbers of jobs in Wyoming has declined a bit. However, once the Niobrara Oil play activity increases and the economy picks up, I expect the demand for reclamationists to go way back up."



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SNOWY continued from Page 1

competitive career development events offered by the FFA. The competition tests students' abilities to evaluate and rank horses based on conformation and performance. As part of the competition, the Snowy Range team had to judge halter classes, four performance classes and defend their places in four sets of oral reasons.

Saputo says the most difficult part of the competition was trying to evaluate horse breeds not seen very often in Wyoming.

"We had to judge a class of saddle seat pleasure and Arabians at halter," she explains. "Wyoming has mainly stock horses, so judging Arabians was something new

for our team."

Saputo took that challenge in stride. She was high individual overall in the competition. Avery finished fifth high individual overall. Both hope to continue judging horses at the college level in the future.

As a team, the students were also required to take a written test on anatomy, nutrition, tack and other horse-related knowledge and make a team presentation. This year, the students had figured out what was wrong with an ailing foal and present their findings to a judge.

Career development events were created by the FFA to help students develop their abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

"This experience has taught me a lot about being confident," says Saputo. "The best part of horse judging for me is sharing a common interest in horses with my team members. Learning to pick apart horses has made us better horsemen and better riders."

Each student received a \$1,000 college scholarship. They all wanted to thank coach Katie Odgen and FFA advisor Danielle Kunkel for their guidance and support in preparation for the event.



bp

BP America

Supporting the Youth of Wyoming

Jonah Operation Center

Ag-Ed continued from Page 1

Equal Access to Justice Act is a federal act that allows groups to be reimbursed for attorney's fees and other expenses when they sue the federal government.

"Basically, the act has the federal government paying to sue itself. Since 2000, the federal government has paid more than \$37 million in reimbursed attorney's fees to environmental groups who sued the government," explains Cress. "Our students didn't think that sounded like a good use of funds, and decided it would make an excellent agriculture issues topic. The presentation grew from there."

The team began researching the issue in late 2009 in preparation for the state competition, held each April. They built their presentation on a case study where environmentalists wanted to stop a rancher from grazing sheep on public lands, alleging that grazing damaged critical sage

grouse breeding grounds.

Sami Jo Heitsch played the role of Budd-Falen in the chapter's presentation. She says the hardest part of the competition was looking at the issue from an opposing viewpoint.

"It was really a challenge for our team to learn and represent the viewpoint of the environmentalists. During the competition, one of the judges asked us what we should learn from environmental organizations. I think this competition really helped me and my team understand what it means to be open minded, look at both sides of an issue and weigh the arguments fairly," explains Heitsch. "FFA does well to teach us in high school that from NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act) to humane treatment of rodeo animals, to be true professionals, we need to be open-minded, honest and fair."

The team presented to more than 25 audi-

ences, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Mayor of Cheyenne and the Wyoming Livestock Board.

"Some of the things I will take from this competition are the ability to think on my feet and to know that you can never be too well prepared," says Heitsch. "Our team built this topic and presentation from the ground up. We debated and discussed the issue as a team for several months before developing our final presentation. The judges couldn't stump us because we knew the issue inside-out."

Heitsch was honored to represent Wyoming and her chapter at a national level. "We joke that Texas and California have more FFA members in their state than we have people in Cheyenne. But Wyoming is well known at national competitions. It was neat to show everybody how competitive our state is."

"I enjoy coaching this competition. It's a lot of work, but it really



Wyoming FFA President and National Champion Ag Issues Team member Micah Christensen speaks at the National FFA Convention while his teammates listen intently. Photo courtesy of Scott McDonald

hones a student's public speaking and research skills," says Cress. "The kids have to get out and get in front of the public because you have to present to different local audiences. We're grateful to all the groups in Cheyenne who allowed us to come in and give our presentation, and for the financial support we receive from Foun-

dation Sponsors to help offset our travel costs." The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union provided \$1,000 to help this year's winning team make the trip to compete at the National FFA Convention.

Heitsch was also grateful for the support she and her team received. "A big thank you goes out to Mr.

Cress, Karen Budd-Falen, our parents and our teachers. All of them played a role in helping us win a national championship."

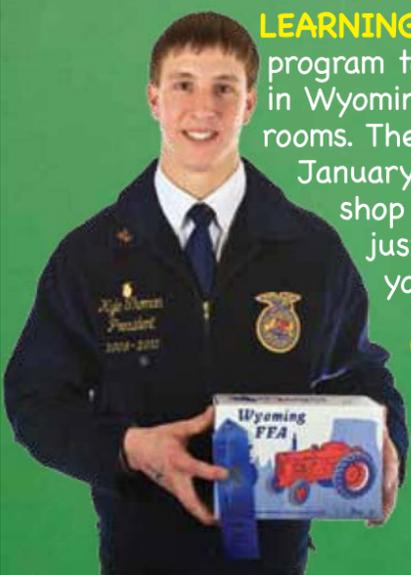
Each team member received a \$1,000 college scholarship. This is the second time the Frontier FFA Chapter has won the national agriculture issues competition.

CHALK ONE UP TO A BRIGHT FUTURE!

When it comes to **HELPING** Wyoming FFA, the reasons to say **YES** are easy to see

SCHOLARSHIPS Great kids deserve great opportunities. As Foundation members were handing out scholarships at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention, one student said it was scholarships like those offered by the Foundation that allowed her to pursue her college dreams. In 2010 we had 40 applicants AND WE EXPECT EVEN MORE IN 2011!

GENERAL FUND DOLLARS The FFA Foundations work on behalf of Wyoming FFA members costs money. General fund dollars, not normally available through grant sources, are the hardest to come by. We appreciate those donors willing to invest in keeping our doors open and ensuring the programs longevity.



Kyle Thoman farmed and mixed feed in his quest to be this year's Star Farmer. BigStar Livestock Images photo

LEARNING BY DOING We're launching a program to enhance learning opportunities in Wyoming's agricultural education classrooms. The first funds will be awarded in January 2011. New equipment for the shop or instructional tools may be just the ticket to helping Wyoming's young people master new skills!

COWBOY STATE CHALLENGE Where would your community be if it weren't for the volunteers who make things happen? We want Wyoming FFA members to be that next generation of volunteers! The Cowboy State Challenge, which we'll launch upon funding availability, asks

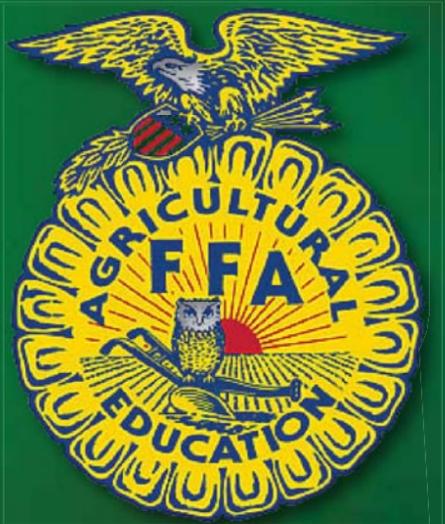
students to look for needs in their communities and meet them.

VOUCHER FUND There's just something about that corduroy jacket that makes a student feel like they're part of something larger than themselves, something positive with a lot of room for personal growth. If a student wants a jacket, but lacks the funds, the Wyoming FFA Foundation and our supporters are here to help. EVERY FFA MEMBER SHOULD HAVE AN FFA JACKET DISPLAYING THEIR NAME AND THE PINS THEY'VE WON!

FFA LEADERSHIP CAMP Leaders are born, goals are set and dreams are solidified while attending FFA camp in the mountains above Lander. Your contribution helps ensure registration remains affordable and that camp has the materials it needs to continue as one of the FFA programs **BRIGHTEST SUCCESS STORIES!**

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If you haven't already responded to the Wyoming FFA Foundation's Annual Appeal, please consider doing so. Donors like you keep us working for Wyoming FFA's 2,053 members & 50 chapters! Mail contributions to: PO Box 71 • Cheyenne WY • 82003



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Where are they now? WYOMING FFA

Jennifer Coxbill-Rice

"I am so thankful for my agricultural education and FFA experiences," says Jennifer Coxbill-Rice, an alumni of the Southeast and Wright FFA chapters who now works as a physician in Thermopolis, Wyo. "The public speaking and leadership skills I learned in FFA have helped me in all of my training and I use these skills now on a daily basis when interacting with people."

Jennifer was a member of the Southeast FFA Chapter, where Randy Epler served as her advisor, from 1993 to the fall of 1996. She participated in horse judging and was a member of the State Livestock Judging Champion Team in the Fall of 1996 before her family moved to Wright, Wyo. "In Wright, Mr. Fred Wilson (also a Southeast alumni) was my advisor. I was the President of the Wright FFA Chapter my senior year."

"My favorite FFA activity was public speaking," says Jennifer. "I competed in the prepared speech contests my sophomore through senior years. I was the State Champion Prepared Speaker my senior year (1998) and was a semi-finalist at National FFA Convention in Kansas City that fall. I earned my State Degree my junior year while at Wright (spring 1997)."

Jennifer's project work centered on horses, rodeoing, beef cattle and a business she developed making belts, tack and other leather goods.

Today Jennifer says, "I am a physician in Thermopolis and Worland. I am a rural family medicine doc and particularly enjoy obstetrics. I work in the clinic, the hospital, emergency room and do surgical obstetrics as well (c-sections)." Jennifer graduated from the College of Ag at UW in 2002 (with a BS in Molecular Biology) and from the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colo., in 2006. "I graduated from the North Colorado Family Medicine Residency in 2009 in Greeley/Wray, Colo." says Jennifer.

Jennifer and her husband, Keefe Rice, an agricultural education teacher/FFA advisor, have a two-year-old daughter named Katie. "I spend every spare moment with my family and still love my horses, especially breakaway roping," says Jennifer.

"When I was first learning to 'present a patient' in medical school, I realized it was extraordinarily similar to giving reasons for a judging contest: you present the facts, form an opinion, and then defend your opinion," says Jennifer. "I have to be able to think and speak promptly on my feet, and

these are skills that were honed in my ag/FFA programs. I also hope that I can use these skills to be a persistent spokesperson for the agricultural industry as a member of my community and the agricultural field as well."

Liz LeSatz

Liz LeSatz was a member of the Wheatland FFA from 2002 to 2005 where she served as chapter reporter and chapter vice president. In 2005-2006 she served as Wyoming's State FFA Treasurer. Since graduating from the FFA program, Liz has volunteered her time at the FFA Foundation's call-a-thon and served on the 2010 Nominating Committee that helps choose the new state FFA officers each year.

"I graduated with my B.S. in Agriculture Communications in 2009 from the University of Wyoming," says Liz. "I am currently living in Cheyenne and working for the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and Stock Growers Ag Land Trust as the Communications and Outreach Coordinator."

Liz and her fiance Tyler Lauck, a Wheatland area farmer, plan to marry on Jan. 8, 2011 in Cheyenne. Following the wedding they'll make their home in Wheatland.

The Woehl Family

Many Wyoming FFA alumni will remember Douglas' Woehl family. Henry and Connie Woehl had two children participate in the FFA program. Connie recently provided an update of DJ and Jake's activities since their tenure in Wyoming FFA.

DJ Woehl is the ag-ed instructor for Divide County High School in Crosby, N.D., which is located about five miles south of the Canadian border and 15 miles east of the Montana border. She is in her second year of teaching agriculture classes, grades 8-12. She coached the first livestock judging team in Crosby in 35 years this past year and had speakers at the state competition last summer and will have them again this June. In North Dakota the speech contests are held in September, which she had to adjust to. DJ continues to develop her cattle herd that she began while in college.

In 2007 DJ completed a double bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Agricultural Educa-

tion; she finished her master's degree in International Agriculture from Oklahoma State University in 2009 after completing her internship near Dublin, Ireland, for the University of Dublin at a research facility.

Jake Woehl is in his first year of teaching and chose the collegiate arena. He is the livestock judging coach for Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA), his alma mater for his Associate of Science degree in 2007. He then completed his bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University in 2009 and his master's degree in International Agriculture in 2010 after an internship in Canada. Jake always loved the area around Curtis, Neb., so he loves returning. He is the collegiate FFA advisor and the content advisor for an equine magazine produced at NCTA.

"As parents of former FFA members and supporters of the FFA Foundation," shares Connie, "we see the value of teaching young leaders to express their thoughts in a concise and organized manner."

Karen Herbst

Shoshoni FFA's first female president Karen Herbst is quick to express her thanks for her ranch-based upbringing and her history in the FFA program. Karen was a member of the Shoshoni FFA in the mid-1970s. Both Karen and her mother, Lois Herbst, recently made contributions to the FFA Foundation's Learning By Doing program, aimed at expanding the learning opportunities available to the state's agricultural education students.

"It's because of my ranch raising and the challenging of Bob Meredith, my ag teacher/FFA advisor, that made me always work to be on the A team versus junior varsity," says Karen, who serves as land manager for Providence Minerals from her Dallas, Texas headquarters. "In oil and gas most of our dealings are with rural landowners, so my upbringing is even more helpful in understanding their concerns with operations on their surfaces."

When not busy with her endeavors in the oil and gas industry, Karen can often be found at the rodeo arena. Karen's company, Cinderella-Horses.com, leases roping horses to professional rodeo cowboys. Eight-time world champion calf roper Joe Beaver and Clint Cooper, son of rodeo legend Roy Cooper and a three-time NFR qualifier, are among the cowboys riding Cinderella horses. One of Karen's horses, which she calls "Sweetness," was voted 2010 Tie Down Horse of the Year. During 2010 rodeo legend Fred Whitfield, Trent Creager and Cooper were among the cowboys that rode the horse that helped them earn over \$90,000 in prize money this year.

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State Officer Update

WYOMING FFA

Wyoming FFA Officers...on the road again

By: Cinnamon Smith
State FFA Reporter 2010-2011

Your Wyoming FFA State Officer Team realizes how blessed they are to have an amazing FFA Family to get us through a year with new schools, long miles of travel, and minimum time to visit our own families. Freshman year at college is not easy for everyone with all of the adjusting that takes place, but because of our FFA family it has been a lot easier. We started the school year right after State Fair and took a couple weeks to adjust to our new life and then it was back to the FFA activities we all enjoy.

In September our officer team was invited to the Black Tie Blue Jeans Ball in Pinedale, Wyo. We arrived in enough time to help with some last minute decorating and witnessed how Kyle can fix a table with only a coat hanger and a pair of pliers. In a short while the festivities began. During the silent auction we witnessed first-hand the Wyoming FFA community support. We ended the night with a dance to the Dyer Highway Band and the next morning we all made the long trips back to our college homes. Then only a couple weeks later we were back together in Cheyenne for a workday to prepare for our trip to Nationals, chapter visits, and started planning for F.I.R.E and C.P.C conferences that were fast approaching.

October was here before we knew it and on the 17th we stepped foot in the Denver International Airport excited and ready for our next week at the 83rd National FFA Convention! That night we unloaded at the Westin Hotel, with the opportunity to mingle with other state officers from all over the nation and the next couple of days were ours to enjoy.

October 20th started convention and a whirlwind of events that came

with it. Each day we would try to catch as many of the contests, sessions, and delegate events as time allowed. We learned the shortest distance between the Convention Center and the Session Hall, watched a wonderful Lady Antebellum Concert, and got to eat at Benny Hana's. We saved the best for our last night, our team hung out and exchanged stories with some Wyoming FFA members at their hotel! National Convention left us all tired, as we boarded our plane home with four Wyoming FFA Chapters. We were looking forward to arriving back home in Wyoming.

We had a couple weeks to reenergize before another work day on Nov. 6 where our team finalized our workshops and plans for F.I.R.E. and C.P.C. After one short week, C.P.C was here and we were in Douglas covering tables, cleaning dorms, making posters and preparing for the weekend. After a quick introduction the members attending C.P.C went with us to Fort Reno and the F.I.R.E students stayed in the Cafeteria. Although both workshops covered many things, C.P.C started with workshops on Etiquette, the Chapter Exchange of Best Practices, and the award of the Participation Plunger to tables with unique ideas and enthusiasm. We danced the night away with the help of our wonderful Disc-Jockey, Jake Berg, and began the next morning at 8:30 am with more workshops and leadership activities. As the weekend came to a close and we all said goodbye to another C.P.C conference and headed back for more school. Now as our semester wraps up and we are all taking our finals, we each are looking forward to a January when we visit each of your chapters. In the meantime our team and our families wish you all Happy Holidays and a great New Year.

See You In January!

NAT'L continued from Page 1

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 Markworth, 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 FFA
Ashley Anglen, Jim Bridger FFA
Kelsie J. Anson, Paintrock FFA
Wendy Arndt, Buffalo FFA
Kaitlyn Balfour, Casper FFA
Madison M. Becker, Douglas FFA
Kylie Bremer, Torrington/Lingle FFA
Caleb W. Bunce, Casper FFA
Catlin Caines, Paintrock FFA
Luke Egle, Pinedale FFA
Zach Egle, Pinedale FFA
Brodie Epler, Southeast Goshen FFA
Jayson Foley, Kaycee FFA
Kayla Sue Foster, Frontier FFA
Haley A. Fox, Frontier FFA
Cody Gifford, Lovell FFA
Eric David Gillies, Lyman FFA
Kaitlynn Glover, Casper FFA
Sara Haines, Casper FFA

Taylor Haley, Snowy Range FFA
J. Amber Henry, Jim Bridger FFA
Catey Hobza, Douglas FFA
Jacob James, Pinedale FFA
Michelle Johnson, Jim Bridger FFA
Libby Lankford, Snowy Range FFA
Tressa Lawrence, Buffalo FFA
Alyssa Danielle Lozier, Lander FFA
Levi Lozier, Lander FFA
Colton Malli, John B. Kendrick FFA
Jared Oldham, Lander FFA
James Owens, Casper FFA
Grant Pulse, High Plains FFA
Ethan Purvis, Casper FFA
Rustin Roth, Torrington/Lingle FFA
Ty Vallier, Rock Creek FFA
Morgan Vercimak, Jim Bridger FFA
Emily C. Voigt, Frontier FFA

Submit material for our next edition by Jan. 15, 2011

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