



Featuring the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Fall 2015 Edition

High Plains FFA leads effort to make 50,000 meals!

FFA Foundation supports project via Cameco Resources donation

Cheyenne — “Living to serve” is the final line in the FFA motto and that’s just what one chapter in southern Wyoming is doing. Cheyenne’s High Plains FFA Chapter held a Meals of Hope food packing event on Sept. 19, assembling more than 50,000 meals in just two hours.

Aaron Kersh, chapter vice president, said that they got the idea while attending the Washington Leadership Conference this past summer. “At this conference we learned leadership skills and also participated in Meals of Hope. We liked this project so much that we thought it would be a good idea to bring it back home.”

The Wyoming chapter contracted with Meals of Hope, a nonprofit food service company out of Naples, Florida. “They provide everything you need to package meals for local food banks in your area,” FFA advisor Ty Berry explained. “We chose the macaroni and cheese dinner made with soy flour for additional nutrition value.” The day before the event, seven pallets of raw material were delivered to the ag shop and a Meals of Hope representative flew in to assist as the project manager.

The FFA members, as well as 12 other groups and Central High School’s student body, were set up at five rows of tables with two stations at each table. Ten students worked at each station with an addi-

tional 20 students assigned to each station to carry boxes back to the pallets. Mr. Berry shared the process, “The first student picks up a pre-labeled plastic bag and puts in a sealed packet of powdered cheese, then holds it under a funnel while two other students add a measure of soy flour and macaroni. Then the packet is passed on to the next person to be weighed for portion control. If they need more or less they make adjustments and pass it on to the next person who heat seals the plastic bag. Then it goes on to get an expiration date stamp placed on it just like food products from the grocery store. Then it is placed on a counting board until they have 32 packets and finally it is boxed, taped and sent back to a delivery pallet.” About the system Berry stated, “It’s a pretty sweet process and goes very quick once the crew takes a leadership role and works together as a team.”

It wasn’t all business at the Meals of Hope event. While all of the packing took place, FFA parent and long-time FFA supporter Court Schilt played music to help bring energy to the room.

“We knew this project was bigger than we could do alone so we made it a school wide project to build unity in our student body by working together on a common

See **MEALS** Page 7



Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow joins FFA members and Cheyenne Central High School students to prepare meals for Wyoming’s food banks, senior centers, shelters churches and more. Over the course of the day, volunteers prepared 50,000 meals.



Wyoming’s National Officer Candide Jess Oldham shows at the Wyoming State Fair.

Oldham seeks national office

Lander — Congratulations to Jess Oldham for receiving this year’s National Officer Candidate nomination. Oldham served on the 2014-2015 State FFA Officer team and says that the foundation was laid long ago to make him a qualified candidate, “I want to be a national officer to be an advocate for agriculture and to impact the lives of individuals. However, what ‘made me want’ to run for a national office sparked early in my childhood when my parents taught me the importance of helping others.”

Oldham was the fourth member of his immediate family to be a state officer joining his father, Dwayne Oldham, brother Jared and sister Odessa. Jess credits his family for the lessons they taught him in order for him to achieve success in FFA, “Ever since I can remember, my parents have been teaching me countless lessons about the game of life. Everyday I’m reminded of these lessons and I still hear my mother and father con-

stantly saying ‘Life is too short...’ The ending of the phrase is always different, but the meaning of it is the same. Life is too short to be mad, to be sad, to be lazy, or unhappy. We have little time here on earth, and it is important that we do all that we can while we are here.”

Currently taking a break from college to pursue a national office, Jess plans to attend the University of Wyoming and study microbiology in hopes of eventually enrolling in medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon.

“Whether I get an office or not, the FFA has been the single greatest influence in my life and has molded me into the person I am today.” Jess said, “I hope that through all of these acquired and learned skills, I will not only be able to ensure my success, but more importantly impact others to ensure their success.”

National officer selection takes place during the National FFA Convention October 28-31 in Louisville, KY.

Blue Jeans Ball nets \$30k

Goshen County event is the biggest in Blue Jeans Ball history

Goshen County — The bar has again been raised for the Wyoming FFA’s Blue Jeans Ball. The Wyoming FFA Foundation’s premier fundraising event took place Sept. 26 at the Goshen County Fairgrounds in Torrington.

Dena Anderson and her family, owners of It’s My Party, donated both time and talent the week of the event. The Rendezvous Center was decorated from ceiling to floor with gold and blue. “This marks the second year that the Anderson Family and their business, It’s My Party, have helped us with the Blue Jeans Ball. The attention they bring to the decorations and finishing touches have truly taken the event to

the next level. I can’t say enough about how much we appreciate the investment they make in this event,” Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack stated.

Nearly 350 attendees enjoyed the night of visiting, a prime rib dinner and a live and silent auction. One of the sought after items in the live auction was a spot for two in the extremely popular Two Shot Goose Hunt, held each December in Goshen County. The hunt was donated by Rick Vonburg and, after a rigorous bidding contest, purchased by Justin Bailey of Moorcroft. Mike

See **BJB** Page 4

FFAers nationals bound

Louisville, Kent. — It’s that time of year again! Chapters across Wyoming are getting ready to head to Louisville, Kentucky for the National FFA Convention and Expo. October 28-31, members from across the United States and beyond will join together to compete in Career Development Events, listen to inspiring speakers, take part in the delegation process and continue to refine the future of American agriculture by “Amplifying FFA.”

Wyoming has a reputation for success at the National FFA Convention and will be

sending a large group of state champions to make their mark on a national level.

Maxx Cowger from Upton FFA will compete in the FFA Creed speaking contest, Rachel Derner from Burns FFA in the extemporaneous category and Becca Webber from Shoshoni will represent Wyoming as this year’s prepared public speaker.

Casper FFA is sending three teams to compete at this year’s National FFA Convention. Their agronomy team includes Michael Nading, Timi Reynolds, Morgan Hank and

Trey Campbell. Bridger Helm, Trey Campbell, Taylor Cotton, Wilson Stewart, Austin Mettler and Tyler Moffat make up their parliamentary procedure team. Their farm business management team is comprised of Kaylen Lewis, Bridger Helm, Joshlynn Kastenschmidt and Wilson Stewart.

Billie Tillet, Larissa Tippetts, Masey Tippetts and Reece Kay from the Buffalo FFA will compete in the national Horse Evaluation Career Development Event. The Agricultural Mechanics team also hales from

See **FFA** Page 8

AG ED TALK

Travel With A Little Pride



Brendan Thoman
FFA Foundation President

What a great time of year. Thankfully, Wyoming enjoys four seasons. While visiting Hawaii not long back

I quickly concluded, that sun and warmth was wonderful, however, it was all the more wonderful after experiencing the opposite. Because we are familiar with cold in Wyoming, we can give thanks for summer but also to take this time of fall to prepare for the other season ahead.

A select group of students are about to see the efforts of their hard work and many blessings through the past seasons pay off at the National FFA convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Advisors throughout the state have prepared these young adults to compete to their maximum potential - the only way Wyoming FFA members know how. These FFA members travel across the nation, yet they take a piece of Wyoming with them and display, if only in presence, the pride deep within. I recall my history and the lectures given that the official dress wore at such events was to look 'official'. No skirts too short for the women, no untucked shirts or un-kept pants for the men. Though an occasional protest may arise, it was understood that what was represented was more than the individual, that not only by dress but posture, presence and in speech we portrayed to the rest of the country our values, therefore, source of pride. And Wyoming students definitely stood out as multiple national officers, national champion teams and individuals arose and continue to arise. FFA members continue to stand out in the right ways. I am repeatedly reminded that having a background in agriculture is something that cannot be hidden.

While attending college in Australia for a semester, one Aussie friend told me 'you Americans are so noticeable.' I replied, "how so? What if we were to dress, talk and acquired some of the same mannerisms as Australians?" The reply was, "that would be hopeless, it's even in the way you stand and walk."

In agriculture and FFA, I like to think we take seriously the accusation we are different. An individual in close union with the land obtains a sense of reality different from many other professions. Agriculturalists on the farm will find procrastination devastating if seeds are waited to be planted it the fall. Some of the best grapes come from a vine that has been stressed by drought providing joy to a farmer who may have been troubled all season long. This natural reality can make a person unique all through adulthood. It is this uniqueness that FFA works to keep alive all the way from its beginnings in Virginia in the late 1920s where it became apparent many youth were leaving the farm, until today when it is becoming more and more important to remember the foundations of the past to solve the most complex issues.

With a proper foundation and a small bit of pride I encourage you to join the FFA Foundation in building young individuals in our state who will stand solid no matter the season. All the best to those members traveling and competing at the National FFA Convention and take with you a bit of Wyoming pride!

Brendan

Let's Talk FROM OUR MEMBERS

Changing the Beef Industry One Gene at a Time

By Rebecca Weber

Editor's Note: Rebecca Weber, with the below speech, will represent Wyoming FFA at the National FFA Convention in the prepared public speaking competition.

One morning when I was about ten my dad proposed the idea of a vacation. "Vacation? I asked...wait, we don't ever take vacations, we raise cattle. Those stubborn fourlegged critters that have been a constant in my world, and they don't let you take vacations! My dad laughed... yes a vacation; we are going to a bull sale! I was skeptical about the vacation part but what I didn't realize is how much I would actually learn from our vacation. As we looked through the sale book, I asked what all of their abbreviations and numbers meant. Dad told me that they are expected progeny differences or EPDs.

Now, agriculture is becoming more current through the use of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Today we are going to explore Genomicenhanced EPDs and their importance in the beef industry.

First off, what are EPDs? According to Greiner, "EPDs provide estimates of the genetic value of an animal as a parent. Specifically, differences in EPDs between two individuals of the same breed predict differences in performance between their future offspring when each is mated to animals of the same average genetic merit." (2009). These numbers are estimates of live animal and carcass merit. This gives a buyer another selection tool to compare bulls and make a more informed decision. Each EPD is set on a different scale, these scales and the ideal number can differ between each breed. The breed averages also change each year due to continued data collection.

Back to the big question what are genomicenhanced

EPDs? These are EPDs inferred from an animal's DNA; in this case a bull. To describe this let's take a look at the example from Burt Rutherford in Beef Magazine; "Say you have a group of 10 flushmate Angus bulls. They all have the same EPDs because they're full brothers. Those EPD estimates are derived from the EPDs of the parents and, because no data on the calves has been collected, aren't very accurate." (Rutherford, 2011).

Genomicenhanced EPDs change this. With this being data collected straight from the DNA there are not any contributing factors that come from age or calving data. Wes Ishmael stated, "The difference today is that we have technology that's more reliable, that's more predictable, and that can eliminate more mistakes." (Ishmael, 2015). No matter what breed the producer chooses to use if Genomicenhanced EPDs are available the accuracy is incomparable. Let's look a little deeper and see a clearer picture of genomicenhanced EPDs.

According to a Neogen news release, "In 2014, at least six major breed associations were using GeneSeek Genomic Profiler technology to enhance EPD's improving accuracy and helping bull producers make decisions about sire candidates earlier in life." (Neogen Corporation, 2014). For example, the High Density 50K test provided by Zoetis for Angus cattle is one way for Angus producers to receive the data. (American Angus Association, 2013). The American Hereford Association or AHA is doing their test a little differently. "AHA transitioned its DNA testing to GeneSeek Inc. located in Lincoln, Nebraska." (American Hereford Association, 2015). According to a February 2015 BEEF magazine article "Neogen is introducing a new GeneSeek Genomic Pro-

See **EPDs** Page 4

WYOMING FFA Times

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www.WyoFFAFoundation.com

Wyoming FFA Foundation

307-351-0730
Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com
Executive Director, Jennifer Womack
Special Projects, Trinity Lewis
Trinity@WyoFFAFoundation.com
Brendan Thoman, Chairman • Riverton
Vice Chair, Allison McKenzie • Buffalo
Brittany Wilson, Treasurer • Cheyenne
Diane Cox, Secretary • Casper
Val Andreen • Casper
Allison McKenzie • Buffalo
Scott Vetter • Carpenter
Diane Cox • Casper
Bart Klipstein • Cheyenne
Justin Bailey • Moorcroft
Adrienne Forshee • Ten Sleep
Ty Berry • Cheyenne, ex-officio
Stacy Broda • Cheyenne, ex-officio

Wyoming FFA Association

State Advisor, Stacy Broda
307-630-6094
SBroda@yahoo.com
www.WyomingFFA.org
9608 Child Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Lois Brennecke, State President
Seth Thiele, Vice President
Jamie Hansen, 2nd Vice President
Jaycie Arndt, 3rd Vice President
Averi Reynolds, Secretary
Rebecca Weber, Treasurer
Rachel Derner, Reporter
Chaney Peterson, Sentinel
Chancey Templeton, Parliamentarian

Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp

Camp Director, Lindsey Freeman
lfreema5@gmail.com • www.FFACamp.org



Quick Info—

FFA BRIEFS

Wyo Convention April 4-7

Cheyenne — Wyoming FFA members will gather in Cheyenne, Wyo. for their annual convention April 4-7, 2016. The event marks Wyoming's largest youth convention with around 1,500 people, including 1,200 members, expected to attend.

On Tuesday, April 5 the Wyoming FFA Foundation is hosting the annual FFA Career Fair. The event is one part of a larger gathering called Leadership Day, during which members can hear from speakers and participate in events geared toward personal growth.

Colleges, businesses, non-profit groups and others are invited to attend the 2016 Career Fair, which opens at 8 a.m. and runs to 2 p.m. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first serve basis for the first 30 to respond.

New in 2015, the Wyoming FFA Foundation included FFA member businesses in the event. Last year FFA businesses included jewelry business Sassy Brass, FFA t-shirts from a Worland FFA member and 307 Pursuit, a hunting and guiding business owned by a Shoshoni FFA member. A Frontier FFA member was also in attendance selling custom FFA hair bows.

One unique feature of the Career Fair is the scavenger hunt. Upon arrival members are given a "bingo" type card on which they can get stickers from various booths and turn it in to the Foundation for a prize if an adequate number of spaces are filled.

Being part of the career fair is easy. Just email Jennifer Womack (Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com) for details and an application.



FFA branding Feb. 21, Gillette

Gillette — The Wyoming FFA Foundation is again teaming up with Jordan's Western Dining in Gillette to brand the restaurant beams on behalf of Wyoming FFA. The event will kick off National FFA Week on Sunday, Feb. 21. Much like the 2014 event, special guests have been invited to this coming year's gathering. Dick Cheney was in attendance at the 2014 event.

If you'd like to be included on the invitation list, please contact Jennifer Womack at Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com or 307-351-0730.



Travis Hakert places a brand on the beams during the 2014 branding at Jordan's Western Dining in Gillette. Ranchers from across the region made a donation to FFA in exchange for having their brands placed on the restaurant's beams and pillars.

450 booths in National Expo

Louisville, Kentucky — One of the many benefits of attending the National FFA Convention is the Expo. According to National FFA, this year's expo will include 450 industry-leading exhibitors.

The event is organized by themes including Collegiate Connection, Animal Systems, Natural Resource Systems, Teachers' World and more. The learning opportunities are only limited by one's time and willingness to visit the numerous booths.

Leadership events planned

Lander — Wyoming FFA members will gather in Fremont County Nov. 13-14 for the group's annual fall leadership events and training.

The two-day event begins on Friday at 1 p.m. with a tour of Wyoming Ag Marketing in Riverton. Following stops at other locations around the county, FFA members will gather at Lander High School for leadership training. Younger members will attend FIRE, Finding Inspiration and Reaching Excellence while older members will attend CPC, the Chapter Presidents Conference. The gathering is intended to help students strive for personal growth and enhance their leadership skills. Watch for a full report and photographs in the next edition of the *Wyoming FFA Times*.



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Congratulations American FFA Degree recipients

During the 2015 National FFA Convention just over 20 Wyoming FFA members will receive their American FFA Degree. Several qualifications must be met, including having earned the State FFA Degree. Recipients must have also completed high school ag classes and a year of college ag classes. They must maintain detailed records on their SAE and have productively invested at least \$7,500 or earned \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours beyond scheduled school hours. Congratulations to this year's recipients from Wyoming...

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EPDS continued from Page 2

filer™, the GGP HD150K. This tool screens cattle DNA for more than 150,000 genemarker variations linked to important traits in breeding stock.” (Beef Magazine, 2015). When you come

right down to it, deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA is cut apart and placed on a chip when there is a genetic match, the chip lights up. “The promise of genomic enhanced EPDs today relies on the SNPs

the panel of singlenucleotide polymorphisms (pronounced ‘snips’). Basically, SNPs unlock the information about genetic influences on traits.” (Scharpe, 2014) Now, that we understand how these

BJB continued from Page 1

McNamee of Torrington’s McNamee Auction Service, donated his time and did an outstanding job of auctioneering at the event.

The tables at the front of the room were filled with main sponsors of the event including: Miller Cattle and Feed Yard LLC, Pinnacle Bank, the Eastern Wyoming College Foundation, the Wyoming Pork Producers, Cloud Peak Energy, Cameco Resources, Andreen Hunt Construction, Casper FFA Alumni, Rocky Mountain Power, Horizon West, Farm Credit Services of America, Brown Company, WYRulec, 21st Century Equipment and the Yoder Wyoming Grain Company.

The Torrington/Lingle FFA Chapter co-hosted this year’s event, with the chapter’s members spending several hours helping with the set up. Ag teacher Jason Groene not only led the charge in the chapter hosting the Blue Jeans Ball but served alongside Trinity Lewis as the event co-emcee. Groene said about the event, “I just think it was a really neat opportunity for the Wyoming FFA Foundation and the Goshen County Community to come together for a good cause. I think it turned out to be a really, really great time for everyone involved.”

Local wine maker Patrick Zimmerer with Table Mountain Vineyards provided wine at each of the tables and Wyoming FFA State Advisor, Stacy Broda, served an array of decadent des-

serts.

During the gathering Wyoming FFA recognized State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jillian Balow, as well as Lorilyn O’Kief, Career Technical Education Consultant at the Wyoming Department of Education. Wyoming FFA appreciates its strong partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education.

Wyoming FFA Foundation board member, and chairman of the Blue Jeans Ball, Scott Vetter stated “The 2015 Blue Jeans Ball was another great event put on by the Wyoming FFA Foundation and was well received by the communities around Torrington. I want to thank the numerous volunteers who made the evening both memorable and unique. It is good to see so many people come together to support such a worthwhile cause. In doing so, the Wyoming FFA Foundation set a new record for monies generated to support the youth of Wyoming FFA. We are already starting to plan next year’s event to be bigger and better than this year.”

The Wyoming FFA Foundation Blue Jeans Ball remains possible largely due to the many donors, supporters and attendees. If you are interested in helping with next year’s event, to be held in October of 2016, please contact Jennifer Womack at Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com.

EPDs are evaluated and produced it is extremely important to understand how they can help a cattle producer.

To look at this a little bit from a commercial producer’s standpoint these EPDs are extremely helpful. Recently I was helping my dad look through a bull book searching for a heifer bull. With traditional EPDs we wouldn’t really know what to expect. However, as Heather Thomas states, “Genomic tests are a way to more accurately predict the potential of young animals and to initially evaluate traits that are difficult to measure from the individual animal’s own performance.” (Thomas, 2015). So, as a commercial buyer these genomic-enhanced EPDs may eliminate producer frustrations, and allow herd improvements to proceed at a faster rate.

Now, lets look from a seed stock producer’s standpoint. Granted that the test needed to produce these EPDs is fairly expensive, they may produce a larger customer array, with a stronger cattle guarantee. According to a personal interview with producer Dale Venhuizen, “It is very useful for Embryo Transfer calves or for calves in a smaller herd with small contemporary groups where there is not much data to determine their EPDs.” (VanHeuzen, 2014). When a seed stock producer is trying to mar-

ket and sell their cattle as breeding stock things such as phenotype and accuracy are important. The Genomic enhanced EPDs allow the accuracy needed. With this advance in technology many beef producers may find the breeder more reliable. “Genomics and the corresponding Marker Assisted or Genomic Enhanced EPD, have become a reality.

Within breed genomic predictions have proven to add accuracy, particularly to young bulls for several traits.” (Weaver & Spanger, 2015). Think of it this way. I am at a sale hoping to buy one bull. I spy two bulls that really appeal to me as far as phenotype goes. When I look at their EPDs I notice that one bull is backed with genomic enhanced EPDs while the other is not. As a small commercial producer I am going to choose the bull with the genomic enhanced EPDs, simply for the accuracy. No matter if a producer is an Angus or Hereford breeder the Genomic Enhanced EPDs will help boost any purebred herd. “On both bull buying and replacement heifer selection and breeding there are tools to help us go ‘beyond the eye’ to select for those things in the unseen world that make for more profitable cows.” (Priestley, 2015)

From the time I was ten until now, a lot of things have changed. I have learned more about the meaning and impor-

tance of EPDs, no matter the breed. EPDs have also changed, not their meaning but their accuracy and therefore their importance. “The powerful information from HD 50K adds dependability to EPDs, increasing the probability of purchasing bulls with genetic merit that meets or exceeds selection objectives, and helps enable fewer potentially costly selection mistakes,” (Zoe-tis, 2015)

Looking back on that warm Nebraska day at the bull sale with my parents, I knew what numbers to look for, today because of genomic enhanced EPDs, I can base more importance in EPDs. Both commercial and seedstock producers can benefit from Genomic Enhanced EPDs. A 2014 News Release from Neogen Corporation says it clearly, “These are powerful tools to estimate the genetic merit of cattle earlier in life. So producers can make money by taking advantage of the value of time and making appropriate decisions about animal selection earlier. For the future, testing costs will continue to go down. Adoption will continue to increase. And at a certain point, if you’re not doing it, you are definitely going to be on the outside looking in.” (Neogen Corporation, 2014). We live in an amazing time in the cattle industry and it is clear to see the potential genomic enhanced EPD’s hold for the beef industry.

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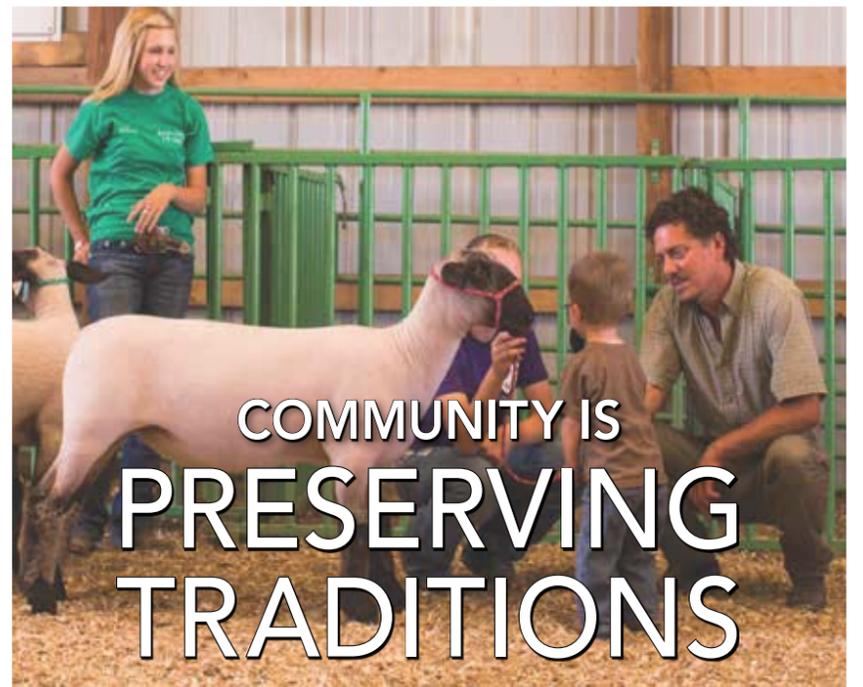
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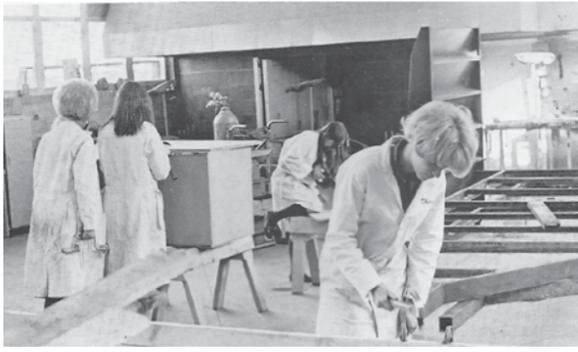
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MEMBER FDIC

All-girl ag class paved the way for Wyo FFA girls



Members of the all-girl ag class of 1969-1970 work in the shop.

Cheyenne — “We kept hearing that girls were going to be admitted to FFA,” recalls Christine Lummis. “We wanted to learn what the boys were learning about crops and livestock.”

Impatient for the day to come when they could enroll in agricultural education classes, Christine and her sisters, Claudia and Cynthia, approached their school’s agriculture educators and school leadership. Administrators challenged them to find 10 other young ladies, the minimum required to hold a class, to join them in the all girls ag class of 1969-1970. It was Christine’s senior year of high school, so the only opportunity she’d have to take the class.

“Word got out and girls were calling us,” recalls Christine. While the Lummis sisters were new to formal agricultural education, they weren’t new to agriculture. They grew up working on their family’s Cheyenne area

ranch and showed livestock in 4-H for many years. Agriculture education was a natural extension of the work they’d already been doing.

“It was odd that they wouldn’t just put us in the class with the boys,” recalls Cynthia Lummis. “They felt it was necessary to segregate the girls from the boys, but at the time it hadn’t been done before.”

Dress codes remained stringent at East High School so the girls welded in their skirts and dresses. “My mom went out and found long shop coats for all of us,” recalls Christine. “Everyone had to buy their own coats to keep from frying their clothes. We built feed bunks for the corral, tool cabinets and stock racks for a pickup,” she says.

“Learning how to weld at East High School was very helpful,” says Cynthia Lummis. “I remember getting a piece of metal stuck to what I was try-

ing to weld with. Trying to pull it off, I accidentally threw it across the shop.” A tool cabinet that Cynthia built still stands in the shop at her family’s ranch.

“I attended a different high school,” says Janet Dodson, one of the original class members. “They bused me over to East High School every day for class. I thought it was huge that they were willing to do that. I enjoyed it so much. I didn’t care if there were no boys and we weren’t allowed in FFA. From judging livestock to constructing things, it just opened a whole new world for me.”

In March of 1970, an article Christine Lummis wrote for the local Sun Day Magazine stated, “The girls took the class for various reasons. Some live on ranches and feel the training necessary in breeding, raising, showing and judging animals. Others, living just outside of town, have horses and wanted to learn about feeding and caring for their animals while saving money by building some of their own equipment. Still others are city girls who care enough for agriculture to devote their time to a class such as this. Whatever reason the 13 girls have for being in ‘Ag 5,’ they have made an experimental class into a successful undertaking for both stu-

dents and teacher, Clark Allen.”

“Jim Cotton, as I recall,” says Cynthia, “was the instructor. He was very patient with us girls and it was just a wonderful experience. He couldn’t have been a better first time, all girls ag teacher.” Several ag educators worked at East High during the late 1960s and others, like Bob Parkins and Duke Marquiss, in addition to Allen and Cotton helped with the class.

Jim Cotton, retired from teaching, lives in Cheyenne today. While the girls never caught wind of it, he says the class was controversial among ag teachers across the state. He says he enjoyed teaching the class.

“I remember one time that we went somewhere for a judging competition,” says Janet. “I didn’t win or do well, but I judged the livestock the same way our teacher did. I thought that was pretty darn good. I was amazed that I placed the dairy cows, hogs and horses the way I did. I’ve been involved in livestock ever since.”

The following year Janet’s family moved to Gillette where she was not allowed to enroll in

ag education. That single year and the lessons she learned, however, had a lifelong impact. “Ag teachers in general have a real passion for kids,” she says.

Albeit incrementally following a National FFA decision, girls in Wyoming were welcomed into the FFA. Claudia Lummis and Claudia Schleyer Downey served as co chapter sweethearts at Cheyenne East that year.

The teachers’ time was not wasted, says Christine Lummis. Many of the girls, including the Lummis sisters, went on to work with animals and serve in the field of production agriculture.

Today Wyoming FFA membership is at least half female, thanks in part to the leadership of women like those who made up the all girls ag class of 1969 and 1970.



NO LOST FINGERS — YET! Ginny Maese, Mikki Hansen, and Annette Steele are making furniture as they develop skills with small hand power tools.

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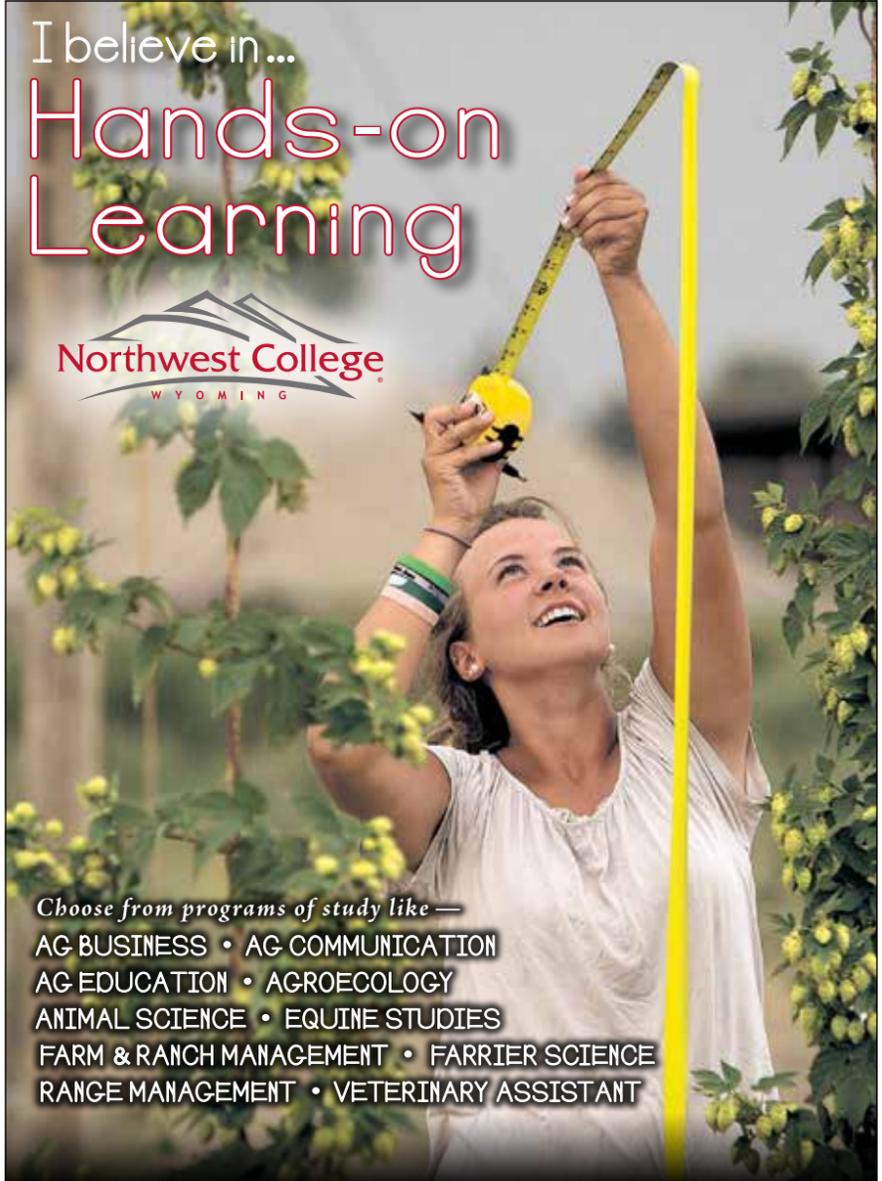
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Stewart holds a lifelong passion for FFA, Ag Ed

Douglas — “I’m 100% FFA, but then I grew up in it,” says retired ag teacher Bill Stewart of Douglas.

Stewart’s tenure with FFA dates back to his high school years in Shawnee, Oklahoma where he was a four-

squirrels and coons. My dad raised horses.” He recalls the cattle he showed as “belt buckle calves,” so small that you could see the showman’s belt buckle above their backs.

Bill and his wife Doni are both natives of

thing and moved to Wyoming.” Bill worked for von Forells for two weeks before asthma forced him to find something different. He went to work for the National Guard and then he and Doni moved to Jackson, simply because they’d always wanted to try living there.

They left Jackson for Bill to study education at the University of Wyoming. He’d earlier received a degree in animal husbandry from Oklahoma State University. Upon graduation he taught in Carpenter beginning in 1962. In 1965 he began teaching in Douglas and retired from that same school in 1993.

Bill’s career was marked with success that had a lifelong impact on many of his students. His chapter had 48 state farmers (state degree today), 16 gold emblem chapters and was three times named the top chapter in the state. He had three students make a mark on the national scene with George Etchemendy winning the national livestock proficiency in 1993, Jim Willox winning extemporaneous public speaking in 1985 and his own son, Jack Stewart, serving as a national FFA officer in 1981-1982.

Shawnee, Oklahoma. “I lived there for 23 years and we’ve been in Wyoming since 1959,” says Bill.

“We’ve been married 56 years,” says Doni.

“Too many people, too many fences and too many kinfolk,” says Bill. “We packed up every-

Teaching has changed over the years, says Bill. “I have eight paddles downstairs and they’re all full of names.” Students who faced discipline issues were paddled right in the classroom and had to write their name on the paddle. “We took care of our discipline problems right there in the classroom,” he says. Students also brought handguns to school and target practice was a classroom activity.

“I couldn’t teach today,” says Bill noting the computers as a limiting factor. He does enjoy substitute teaching and continues to cheer on Wyoming FFA members including his own grandchildren. He also volunteers to serve as

superintendent for the state poultry contest at the Wyoming FFA Convention each year and has done so for over a decade.

“Wyoming has always done well at nationals because we have quality programs at the local level,” says Bill. “When you have smaller schools you have more time to work with the kids.” The benefits, he says, are life-long.

“In your ag programs, what you learn is practical. It sticks with you when you learn it,” he says. “I’ve had kids real good in shop, but they could not take tests. Everything is based on tests. Some people can’t take tests, but they’re good with their hands in

the shop. We need people like that.”

As a teacher, Bill sought to reward those students willing to try. He recalls one year that he had a student who tried out, unsuccessfully, for every contest. “I took him to state convention as a manager. In FFA, every kid has a chance to try.”

Bill also teaches hunter safety in the Douglas community and he and Doni are active in their church. Bill has taught adult Sunday school for 28 years. One can’t help but think the line “Living to Serve,” from the FFA motto resonated with Bill and Doni Stewart and the way they live their lives with a positive impact on those around them.



year member and a state junior farmer, the Oklahoma equivalent of today’s Wyoming FFA Degree.

“You name it, I had it,” he says of his high school projects. “Cows, sheep pigs. I’ve raised pigeons and rabbits. I’ve raised opossums,



Jim Willox, front row, won a national championship in Extemporaneous Public Speaking while a member of Stewart’s chapter.



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Conzelman earns success in many areas in 2015

Hulett — It was a year of great accomplishments for Devils Tower FFA's Bryce Conzelman. Conzelman swept the Crook County Fair winning buckles for champion steer, heavy-weight market hog, champion market lamb and reserve champion ram. He also won the sheep futurity, was the grand champion 4H and FFA showman and had a loading chute that won the purple ribbon in the ag mechanics division.

Bryce went on to have the grand champion Ramboulett ram at the Wyoming State Fair, the reserve champion Ramboulett ewe and the champion ag mechanics project. Bryce said that the key to winning is consistency, "I just did what I knew and didn't get nervous. I have done it (showed) for so long that I just do it the same every time to train



my livestock the right way to be shown." In Bryce's opinion investing numerous hours in your animals is key and he said the best advice he can share with others is to never get frustrated.

Bryce was raised in agriculture and comes from a family very active in their local FFA chapter. He currently runs 35 head of registered Ramboulett ewes as well as 25 commercial wether dam ewes. "I have been trying to

switch genetics around so that one day I can have a winner." Bryce said about his black faced ewes. Continually striving to improve his flocks, last year he sold 13 of his best lambs as show lambs.

Although deeply appreciated, it isn't all about the buckles and ribbons for Conzelman. Through showing Bryce has learned "Responsibility, strategy, winning with humility and losing with grace."

Bryce is a freshman at Northwest College in Powell where he is a member of the show and livestock evaluation teams.



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MEALS continued from Page 1



State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow are among the volunteers who helped prepare the meals. Courtesy photo

goal. We had help from 12 different groups in our school. Some were volunteers, some were financial donors and most were both," Berry stated. "We also partnered with the Wyoming State FFA Officers and State FFA Advisor Mrs. Stacy Broda, who turned out to help."

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jillian Balow, also attended the event and worked alongside the students. She praised Berry's program stating, "The High Plains FFA Chapter took the lead in their school and community by coordinating the Meals of Hope project. Students and teachers were energetic from the first meal to the 50,000th." Balow went on to reflect on the impact projects like this have, "When we spark this type of community involvement and leadership, many people benefit,

not just the recipients of the meals. It was my honor to work shoulder to shoulder with students to assemble meals."

Although the packing only took two and a half hours, lives were impacted indefinitely. "Meals of Hope helped me recognize the need for food within my own

community and inspired me to address that need," said Claire Lake, High Plains FFA Treasurer. The 50,497 meals were divided between several Cheyenne area food banks, the Salvation Army, the senior center and local church kitchen pantries.

Berry concluded, "The High Plains FFA would like to recognize and thank the Wyoming FFA Foundation for their support of a 'Living to Serve' grant. We also thank the other donors from Central High clubs and student organizations." The Wyoming FFA Foundation was able to make a financial investment in the High Plains FFA projects thanks to a contribution from Cameco Resources, a uranium producer with operations in central Wyoming.



Wyoming's State FFA Officer Team, including Seth Thiele and Chaney Peterson shown here, were among those helping at the event organized by High Plains FFA in Cheyenne.

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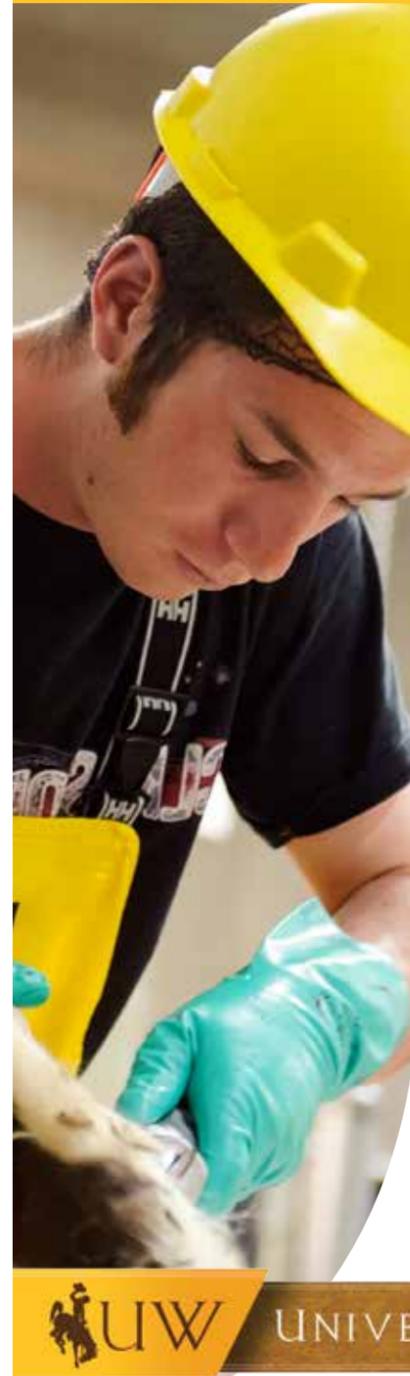
I have ranched all my life but the hands-on experience in the UW Meat Lab helped me appreciate the importance of having a good final product for the consumer.

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FFA continued from Page 1

Buffalo and includes Wyatt Blake-man, Trevor Spayners, JW Sayer and Connor Oaks.

Continuing their tradition of excellence in the Meats Evaluation competition, Torrington-Lingle FFA's PD Miller, Morea Shipley, Makenna Greenwald and Skyler Miller will compete to be national champions.

Rocky Mountain FFA will take Tailyn Miller, Jennifer Parker, Lily Meyers and Bonnie Bales to compete in the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE.

Competing in the national Agricultural Issues Forum is the team from Cheyenne's Frontier FFA consisting of Curtland Fitzgerald, Sydney Miller, Samantha Jurkowski, Nick Hartigan, Sara Brennecke, Savannah Birkle and Garrett Hartigan. And from Cheyenne's High Plains FFA chapter, Ashley Swearingen, Sarah Dey, Hanna Lane and Mackenzie Klipstein will compete in Poultry Evaluation.

Makayla Mayfield, Gabrielle Koltiska, Chaney Peterson and Bell Ward from Sheridan's John B. Kendrick FFA will represent Wyoming in the Livestock Evaluation CDE.

Shoshoni FFA members, Blake Fegler, JJ Pingetzer and Katelyn Jennings are representing Wyoming in the Marketing Plan division and Ten Sleep FFA's Amanda Lewiston, Afton Peterson, Madison Anderson and Kristian Quaye will compete in the Ag Sales and Service contest.

Wyoming FFA State Advisor, Stacy Broda is excited for National Convention stating, "I'm looking forward to National FFA Convention. It's a time to catch up with others from

across the nation, enjoy the largest youth convention and represent Wyoming. We're proud of all our members competing in CDEs, receiving their American FFA Degree, and those competing in the Agriscience fair."

Each day of the convention and expo is filled with exciting things to do and see. Dr. Rick Rigsby will be the first featured speaker. Award-winning journalist, college professor and former character coach and chaplain for the Texas A&M Aggies football team, Rigsby uses motivational speaking, books and blogs, to encourage others to become great people who do great things. Growing in popularity, Amberly Snyder will take the stage on October 30th. Amberly was the Utah FFA State President when she was involved in a car accident that dramatically changed her life. She is the winner of the World All-Around Cowgirl buckle for the National Little Britches Association and still competes in rodeo. Snyder shares an exceptionally inspirational story relatable to all, especially other young people. Finally Brad Montague will take the stage. Montague believes that if kids and grown-ups work together, they can change the world. He developed the idea for internet sensation Kid President after being inspired by a group of teenagers at an annual summer program he and his wife run.

With so much to look forward to, we wish Wyoming FFA all of the best at this year's National FFA Convention and Expo and look forward to reporting their accomplishments in the next issue of the *Wyoming FFA Times*.

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