

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Winter 2011 Edition



By Jennifer Womack,
Wyoming FFA Times

Cheyenne — Mastering new skills, rising to new challenges, building self-confidence through accomplishments... the Wyoming FFA Foundation believes each of these should be part of the FFA experience. It's

these reasons and others that led the FFA Foundation to create the Learning by Doing grant program. By submitting an application to the FFA Foundation, Wyoming's 53 FFA Chapters have the opportunity to request dollars to enhance and improve tools available in their classrooms to challenge students to reach new levels. Encana Oil and Gas joined the Foundation, investing in student learning opportunities like those highlighted below.

Modeled after earlier grant offerings from the FFA Foundation, Learning by Doing was first launched in the Spring of 2011. Over 12 chapters applied for funds

LEARNING BY DOING IS AN INVESTMENT IN STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

totaling \$25,445.00 with over \$7,000 awarded. The FFA Foundation, thanks to generous donors, was able to help nine of these FFA chapters expand their offering to students. Fall 2011 partnerships were launched with an additional six chapters with another \$5,000 invested in learning infrastructure.

- A **VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER** in Hulett provides students hands-on learning opportunities with livestock. The facility will also enable students who live in town to enjoy the benefits associated with raising and showing livestock.

- New **POWDER COATER** is helping students in Glendo, Pinedale and Encampment put a finishing touch on high-quality shop projects. "In Pinedale," says Pinedale FFA Advisor Rex Hammer, "we use it with our PlasmaCam Machine and powder coat signs, hitch covers, lamps and more. The metal is sanded and wiped with paint thinner to remove the oils applied in the factory. We then shoot a powder over the object and bake the powder at 400 degrees for 15 minutes to cure it."

- While one might think most Kaycee students have access to a barn and the ability to house a livestock project, the community has seen considerable interest in its **COMMUNITY BARN**. Funds secured through the Wyoming FFA Foundation recently enabled students to make needed improvements and carry out maintenance to ensure the facility is available for future generations of FFA members. Fall 2011 the project went one step further with the FFA Foundation helping the chapter purchase a high-quality flock of sheep from a purebred producer who is exiting the business.

- **HAND GRINDERS** were recently secured by the

See **SKILL** Page 4

Garden grows food awareness, student participation



By Jennifer Womack
Wyoming FFA Times

Buffalo — When the Buffalo FFA Chapter set out to grow a garden Spring 2011 less than 10 percent of their school's student body had been exposed to gardening. When classes resumed this fall, students were dining on vegetables grown by their classmates.

"This past spring we started the vegetables in our new green house," says Buffalo FFA Second Vice President Lisa Zezas. The green house, which was finished in January 2011, is a new addition to Buffalo High School's agriculture education department.

As warmer weather arrived students transported the young vegetable plants to the garden. "There were two students who kept the garden watered and took care of it this summer," says Lisa. Funding from Cameco Resources, via a grant through the Wyoming FFA Foundation, helped make the garden project possible.

"The produce we harvested from the garden was actually used in our school lunch program," says Brittany Borgialli, Buffalo FFA's Chapter President.

Corn and tomatoes were plentiful and easily put to good use creating healthy, nutritious and now, more fresh than ever, school lunches. Students, along with Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA Advisor Jake Evans, were surprised when the five or six eggplants in the garden yielded 56 of the purple vegetables. Cooks for the school lunch program prepared the eggplant and also put cucumbers, zucchini, squash, cauliflower, jalapenos and more from the garden to good use.

Brittany says there was more to the project than most students anticipated. She says gardening is a lot more work than most of the students realized. There's also a great deal of value in students knowing how to grow their own produce and what it requires.

"Some kids don't always know what it takes to

See **GROW** Page 5

Wyoming FFA member tours South America

By Teresa Milner
Wyoming FFA Times

For two weeks in May Wyoming FFA member Andrew Carpenter experienced agriculture from a different perspective as he traveled to Columbia and Panama with the National FFA's International Collegiate Agricultural Leadership program.

Carpenter and 11 other collegiate FFA members from across the country traveled May 15-27, 2011,

learning about international grain marketing and global agriculture and enjoying a unique cultural experience.

"It was an amazing experience," says Carpenter, a member of the Southeast FFA chapter. "We covered all aspects of South American agriculture, from small scale free range chicken operations to a large shrimp corporation in Panama."

Carpenter explained that a problem for shrimp

production in general has been White Spot Syndrome Virus that can wipe out large populations of shrimp. Camaco, the shrimp division of the company Carpenter toured, has worked to develop shrimp that are resistant to syndrome and other common diseases.

"This one change has helped the division become more successful in finding and taking advantage of new marketing strategies," Carpenter says.

In Columbia, Carpenter visited a farrow to finish hog production facility, open-air produce and meat market, meat processing facility, cheese processing facility and a dairy cattle operation.

A sophomore majoring in international agriculture business at the University of Wyoming, Carpenter applied to the program because of his interest in South America.

See **MAY** Page 9

Tri-State introduces FFA members to cooperatives

By Saige Albert, Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Douglas — More than 220 FFA members from across Wyoming heard from Tri-State Generation and Transmission about electricity, the importance of cooperatives and how Tri-State works to ensure the survival of the electric cooperative.

FFA members were attending the Finding Inspiration and Reaching Excellence (FIRE) conference, held each year in conjunction with the Chapter President's Conference and Wyoming Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association meeting. Tri-State Generation and Transmission was a major sponsor of the FIRE conference, as well as Chapter President's Conference.

"We want students to know how electric cooperatives work, and that there are careers out there for them," said Tri-State Strategic Communication Specialist Jonathon Thornton. "We want them to know that there are great businesses here that they can work at."

Thornton's interactive presentation took students through the process of electricity generation and transmission, as well as career opportunities in electric cooperatives.

"We own the power plants and transmission lines and provide electric-

ity for Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and New Mexico," said Thornton, noting that the company currently serves 1.4 million people.

"We generate and send electricity to cooperatives — businesses that are owned by the people," explained Thornton. "We're here for you guys."

Tri-State utilizes coal, oil, natural gas, wind farms and solar energy for electricity generation to ensure that electricity is always available for consumers, adds Thornton.

"Transmission systems distribute energy out to where the people are, and we own over 5,000 miles of transmission lines," said Thornton. "It comes out of the power plants at high voltage and travels long distances to your homes."

"One power plant typically generates about 400 to 500 million watts and costs about \$1 billion dollars to build," explained Thornton to students. "It is a very capital intensive industry to be in, but regardless, it's our responsibility to give you that electricity 100 percent of the time."

"Your electric cooperative is between the generation and transmission stage and you," said Thornton.

See **FIRE** Page 7

Wyoming makes strong showing at nationals

Indianapolis, Ind. — Wyoming made a strong showing at the recent National FFA Convention with many teams and individuals bringing top honors back to the Cowboy State.

Wyoming students competed in over a dozen Career Development Events. While vying for a top spot FFA members earn knowledge and career skills.

Snowy Range FFA's presentation on the National Bio and Agro-

Defense laboratory that's being relocated to Kansas earned them a silver emblem at nationals in the Ag Issues CDE. The National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum CDE is a competitive activity that tests students' knowledge of agricultural issues and evaluates how well they can apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. To qualify for the National Agricultural Issues Forum CDE, teams must design a pre-

sentation that addresses multiple viewpoints of a contemporary agricultural issue and present it to a number of audiences in their community. For the national event, they present a portfolio based on their local audiences' feedback and deliver their presentation to a panel of judges. Team members include Nina Adams, Laurel Austin, Chad Carter, Heather Honken, Taryn Russell, Sadey Saputo and Hunter Trabling. A donation from the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union helped offset the students' travel expenses to attend national convention.

Also from Snowy Range, Wyoming's FFA's 2011 Livestock Evaluation Team of Colby Hales, McKensie Harris, William Wood and William

See **FFA** Page 6



Members of the Meeteetse FFA earned a gold emblem in the National Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event. Courtesy photo

PREZ says

Perspectives

Perspective. What's your perspective? As I sit and ponder the message I'd like to share on behalf of Wyoming FFA members, "perspective" keeps coming to mind. What's my perspective? What's your perspective? If you and I stand side by side and look at the same thing, do we have the same perception? If we don't, why not?

The answer to that question lies in part in what you or I bring to this situation before the situation ever began. What experiences do you have that relate to what we're looking at that would color your perception one way or another? What do I bring that affects how I process what I see?

I'm reading a book right now by a fellow named Dr. Tim Elmore. It's called "Generation iY, Our Last Chance to Save Their Future." So far it paints contrasting pictures of a potentially bleak or sometimes promising future of this current youth generation, those born since the early to mid 90s through the early in the last decade. It addresses them as generation iY because they are the first Internet generation. They've grown up with it. They're the first generation of kids who, as a whole, know more about technology than their parents. They're immersed in it. They have more technology on the phone in their hip pocket than in any of the computer systems I was selling just over 10 years ago and they know how to use it. They have the capability to be connected 24/7 and to communicate instantly with people all over the world. Something many of them are lacking or losing, however, is the ability to communicate face to face.

Along with communication ability many are losing long-term drive and/or commitment to accomplish larger tasks. They are used to having almost everything almost instantly. Working for, or waiting for, something is often foreign to

them. Almost a generational ADHD if you will.

Now please keep in mind I'm not too far into the book, and I'm summarizing many pages in a few sentences. I have no intention of suggesting I have any great insight into where any youth will go given time and opportunity. What I am suggesting is that on the whole I believe there is reason for concern about the shift that is happening all around us in the generation we are going to put in leadership in a relatively short number of years.

Why am I putting this out here for your perusal? Because in your hands I believe you hold evidence of an organization that excels in helping put Wyoming youth on the promising side of the future. Wyoming FFA is an organization that offers youth many opportunities to learn the skills, both hard and soft, to excel in a future I don't think we can reasonably predict. Through the dedication of Agriculture Education instructors, FFA alumni member volunteers, parent support groups, other generous people and certainly the Wyoming FFA Foundation, FFA members have very promising prospects.

As you'll read in this issue, the Foundation in partnership with many Wyoming businesses and individuals as well as some national company partners, is working to offer FFA members help with community service opportunities, classroom and educational improvements, competitive team assistance, individual scholarships and more. As a Foundation member and partner you have helped us to pass tens of thousands of dollars to FFA members and programs in an effort to expand the opportunities available to over 2,000 Wyoming FFA members.

Also in this issue you'll read some great testimony of parents and supporters of Wyoming FFA as they share a bit of insight into why they are so PRO Wyoming FFA. Look for the messages from Foundation Executive Director Jenni-



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

fer Womack and Rene Nauta, mother of Wyoming FFA State Officer Tanner Nauta.

What's your role in all this? Join us if you can. There are several ways to join up with Wyoming FFA to help this great organization in building tomorrow's leaders today. One way is to volunteer your time or expertise to help your local chapter with educational workshops, classroom events, or competitive team or individual practices. To do this, contact your local Agriculture Education teacher. Another way to help is by joining the Foundation as a financial partner. This is easy to do. If you are blessed financially and can send large support, that's great. If you are in a better position to do more moderate assistance or sustained giving, that's great. You can support these great youth by sending in a donation, or by going online to WyoFFAFoundation.com and clicking on the donate now link on the lower right side of the page.

Thanks for allowing me this time in your day to share with you some of my excitement, my perspective, about the future of Generation iY in Wyoming FFA. I believe with continued support from great people around the state we will help this new generation of leaders be better prepared for whatever their future holds. I thank you for considering an investment in our FFA members as they train to lead our state and nation.

I can't close without a reminder to support those who support the things you believe in. Shop locally whenever possible as you're doing your Christmas shopping. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2012.

Until next time,
Humbly, Court Schilt

Let's Talk WYOMING FFA

Featuring a Wyoming FFA Leader

Why We Do What We Do

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Foundation

Advice arrives in several forms, some good and some bad. Advice, or dares perhaps, from siblings and some friends typically land you in trouble or at the local emergency room for x-rays or stitches. Words of wisdom from parents, FFA advisors and the role models you can see around your community, those words are worth time spent listening. While you have to decide your own path, no value can be placed on good advice.

As I write this column I'm reflecting on some good advice my mother once gave me. "Do something you love for a living and you'll never work a day in your life." Today I realize that if you're lucky enough to spend your working days doing something you love then, well, you're lucky enough. Those of you who know me well know I'm lucky enough to spend time doing quite a few things I love, one of which is serving as executive director of the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

This coming January marks two years of my more recent involvement with Wyoming FFA. I left a job I loved and a team I thought of as family at the Wyoming Livestock Roundup to join the FFA Foundation. Not surprisingly, during the transition I frequently heard the word "Why?"

At the time I didn't give the most profound answer, stumbling through "...time for a change." Nearly 24 months later, the FFA end of the "why" is easy to answer.

Optimism: Amidst headlines that can sometimes leave you wondering about our country's future, FFA members make me feel optimistic about our future.

Belief: FFA, as proven over the years, leaves students better prepared for life in numerous disciplines. Whether you're destined to take over the family ranch or save lives at the local hospital, the skills you learn in the FFA can and will make you better at what you do.

Indebtedness: FFA opened doors for me. Today I have the opportunity to give back. I also have the opportunity, through our fundraising and networking opportunities, to ask others to join

me in giving back.

Goals: The power of goals can't be overstated. Who are you today, where can you improve and where do you want to be tomorrow? When you reflect upon what you truly want in life and who you want to be, the path to arriving there often becomes clear. Goals also keep you in the mode of watching for opportunities, opportunities that might otherwise pass you by.

Support: I'm biased, but I believe every school in Wyoming, perhaps the nation, should have an agricultural education program. Given the recent growth in the number of Wyoming FFA chapters, a growing number of people agree with me.

Challenge: The challenge to reach more alumni of the FFA program, to provide more opportunities for our state's young people and spread the positive word about Wyoming FFA, is extremely rewarding.

Difference: Whether it's ensuring an FFA member has a jacket embroidered with his or her own name or securing dollars to help a student attend college, I'm confident the work we're doing at the Wyoming FFA Foundation is making a positive difference in students' lives.

You recently received, or should have received the Wyoming FFA Foundation's annual funding appeal. It's our request to you to join us in supporting Wyoming FFA and the amazing opportunities it provides our state's young people. Please join us in supporting this outstanding program. Whether it's \$5, \$50 or \$500, it all makes a difference. If 1,000 former FFA members sent \$5 each, we could provide a very nice college scholarship to five outstanding students who've developed skills that will help them succeed. Most of us need only ask ourselves, "Where would we be today if it weren't for FFA?"

Today I loved the "work" I did on behalf of Wyoming FFA and tomorrow I'll feel the same. Any day I start to wonder, it only takes visiting with an FFA member wearing a blue and gold jacket to rekindle that commitment to the program and its success.



We hope you'll consider supporting Bulls for Blue and Gold in 2012.

Several Wyoming seedstock producers led the charge in 2011, donating 10% of Lot 10 at their sale to the Wyoming FFA Foundation to support the state's FFA programs.

We hope you'll consider joining us in 2012. Please e-mail Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com with your sale date and details or call 307.351.0730. We'll list your sale on our Facebook page and provide recognition in the Wyoming FFA Times and at the Wyoming FFA Convention in April 2012.



WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION

PO Box 71 • Cheyenne WY 82003
Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com

Court Schilt, Chairman
Stacy Broda, Vice-Chair
Lesley Pearson, Treasurer
John Schmidt
Greg Schamber
Gil McEndree
Donn Randall

Val Andreen
Chuck Markworth
Brendan Thoman
Ty Berry
Becki Dale
Jody Yelton

Jennifer Womack, Executive Director • 307-351-0730

Quick Info—

FFA BRIEFS

FFAers fill food baskets

Laramie — Members of Collegiate FFA at the University of Wyoming recently partnered with the Wyoming FFA Foundation and Cameco Resources to participate in the holiday food drive in Laramie.

“Our club was able to completely stuff two paper ream boxes full of food, plus bags of potatoes on the side that wouldn’t even fit,” says Collegiate FFA member Perry Baptista. “We provided all of the non-perishable parts of a Thanksgiving meal, pantry stocking items such as soup and cereal and a food card so the families could buy turkey and other perishable items.”

The project was carried out with support from the Wyoming FFA Foundation’s Cameco Cowboy State Challenge grant. The grant program encourages FFA members and their chapters to engage in their communities, lending a helping hand where needed. Along the way students learn the joy of giving to their communities and making a positive difference.

Astronaut visits Lander FFA



Lander — According to an article in the “Lander FFA News,” astronaut Joseph P. Allen recently spoke to chapter members. Dave and Darlene Vaughn of Lander arranged the visit.

Allen, according to the “Lander FFA News,” pointed out that when he was in high school the job of “astronaut” didn’t even exist. He challenged members to imagine the impossible. Allen was aboard flights on Columbia and Discovery, both in 1982.

Clearmont FFA hosts carnival

Clearmont — Clear Creek FFA hosted the 30th annual Halloween carnival on October 30, 2011. This annual event provides fundraising opportunities to the classes at Arvada Clearmont school as well as community organizations. The first carnival was held in the fall of 1981, when the Clear Creek chapter was chartered. Over the years there have been a variety of different booths, ranging from dunk tanks to mechanical bulls, with bingo being an all time favorite each year. The chili supper and carnival have always been known as a unique small community Halloween celebration.

The highlight of the carnival is the costume contest. Each year Clear Creek FFA members design and build trophies for the costume contest. Over the years there have been a variety of different trophies, ranging from hand carved wooden witches to twisted metal pumpkins. Some community members have acquired quite a collection of trophies through the years.

Advisor Lynne Latham commented “It is really great that we have past FFA members bring their children to the carnival now. We have created one of those “best traditions.”



Casper FFA ‘Can-O-Treat’

Casper — You can keep the candy. It’s canned goods that Casper FFA members are after when they go knocking on doors each Halloween.

“We load up in about ten vehicles and hit the area of Paradise Valley asking for canned goods and non-perishable foods to donate to the Food Bank of The Rockies and other charities,” says Casper FFA Reporter Cheyenne Brabec. “This year, we collected over 1,000 pounds! We love doing it and plan to continue the tradition. Thanks so much to everyone who met us at the door and contributed to this worthy cause.”

And Cheyenne admits that most Paradise Valley residents provide both canned goods and sweets to keep the FFAers energized throughout their evening travels.



FFAers help NRCS, grouse

Buffalo — Through a partnership with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service, members of the Buffalo FFA are helping ensure sage grouse steer clear of area fences.



Mid-November 40 members of the Buffalo FFA Chapter helped NRCS employees hang 5,000 markers on fence lines near sage grouse leks. According to chapter president Brittany Borgialli the effort is intended to keep sage grouse off of the Endangered Species Act. Marking the fences, she explains, helps the birds avoid the fence when they take flight, particularly when they’re flushed by a predator.

According to Buffalo FFA Advisor Jake Evans, the students are also making the markers. With 5,000 already in place along Johnson County fencelines, the students and Evans are working to make an additional 30,000 markers.

Foundation offers scholarships

Cheyenne — Are you a senior or a past FFA member already enrolled in college? Don’t forget to check out the Wyoming FFA Foundation Scholarship application! The application will be available in January on our website, www.wyoffafoundation.com. Recipients of the 2012 scholarships will be announced at the State FFA Convention in April.

Do you or someone you know want to sponsor a scholarship, donate to our scholarship fund, or include your scholarship as a part of our application? Contact the Wyoming FFA Foundation at 866-333-3838.

FFA kids attend American Royal

Lander — Members of the Lander FFA were among those competing at the recent American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. According to the chapter’s recent “Lander FFA News,” students evaluated ten classes of market and breeding livestock and gave six sets of oral reasons. They were among 27 teams competing at the event and placed ninth overall and Jess Oldham was 7th high individual overall. Team members included Alicia Espinosa, Colby Voxland, Jess Oldham, Katelyn Zuber and Ashlyn Schamber. Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor Mike McConnell coached the team.





MURDOCH'S
RANCH & HOME SUPPLY

MURDOCHS.COM

JEANS

THEY'RE IN OUR DNA

\$10 OFF*

ANY PURCHASE OF JEANS

----- totaling \$50 or more -----

*Cannot combine with any other offer. Regular-priced items only. Limit one coupon per person, per visit. Valid with this ad only, expires September 30, 2011.



Cheyenne, WY
3773 E. Lincolnway
307.632.7888

Evanston, WY
120 Beckers Circle
307.789.4900

Evansville, WY
370 Miracle St.
307.266.0734

Laramie, WY
3322 E. Grand Ave
307.721.1733

SKILL continued from Page 1

Newcastle FFA. Access to quality tools that allow students to put the finishing touch on their projects is important in the state's agricultural education classrooms.

• New **WELDING HOODS** were secured for the Rock Creek FFA chapters when their existing supply wore out. Quality and ample safety equipment ensures students master welding skills and are better prepared to take advantage of a growing Wyoming career field!

• The Wyoming Pork Producers Council partnered with FFA to secure an **ADOPT-A-SOW SWINE HUT** for students who belong to Southeast FFA in Yoder, Wyo. Thanks to this innova-

tive new project students can take a bred sow home and when she farrows the FFA advisor comes to their house and teaches them how to process the piglets. When the sow moves on to the next FFA family, the piglets stay with the former students as a growing project!

Newcastle FFA was recently awarded a new **DIGITAL CAMERA**, ensuring the chapter's projects are well-documented for award applications and member records.

Rock Creek FFA is enjoying the addition of a new **MITER SAW** to their classroom. Prior to earning the grant, Rock Creek students were using a saw built in 1974 and with a nine-inch blade, too small

to cut a mitered angle. "The new miter," according to Ag Advisor Brian Coxbill, "allows students to not only cut a miter, but they can cut a beveled edge and miter up to a 2X12."

A portion of the funding is also used to ensure Wyoming's agricultural educators have continuing access to the highest quality **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM** available. This product is delivered via the internet and ensures Wyoming's educators have access to the most current and complete lessons and learning tools.

Donors including Encana Oil and Gas, the Durham Buffalo Ranch, Powder River Energy, the Vermillion Ranch Limited Partnership, Lois Herbst of the Lazy TY Ranch, Karen Herbst, BP, Terralogics and the Wyoming Pork Producers Council, made these projects possible. Their partnership with the Wyoming FFA Foundation and the state's chapters is very much appreciated.

FFA opportunities are as unique and ambitious as the 2,053 students who belong to the Wyoming FFA. If you'd like to join the Wyoming FFA Foundation in enhancing opportunities available to the state's 53 FFA Chapters and Agricultural Education programs, send an e-mail to jen@wyoffa-foundation.com or call 307.351.0730.

The FFA Foundation will make another grant offering to the state's FFA chapters during the Spring of 2012.

"We at the Wyoming FFA Foundation are committed to doing what we're able to maximize the learning opportunities available to Wyoming FFA's 2,053 members," says FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt. "Investing in classroom infrastructure is an investment in students who master new skills, tackle new opportunities and leave high school better prepared to grasp the opportunities that lie ahead. That's money well spent!"



LEARNING BY DOING
Expanding opportunities for Wyoming students

Generating +
positive
energy
for Wyoming



Our Smith Ranch-Highland operation in Converse County is America's largest uranium mine. We provide the fuel that generates clean electricity in the U.S. and around the world.

A proud sponsor of the Wyoming FFA.



Cameco

NUCLEAR. The Clean Air Energy.

cameco.com

1974 FFA Convention

by Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

Newcastle — Recent sharing of the program from the "47th State Leadership Conference FFA," held March 21-23, 1974 in Newcastle, Wyo. was cause for a little reminiscing.

The event was held at the Newcastle High School with the help of the following state officer team:

President: Frank Hancock, Lander
Vice President: David Buell, Buffalo
Secretary: Leo Anderson, Albin
Treasurer: Brad Meyer, Riverton
Reporter: Ed Stoner, Hillsdale
Sentinel: Rex Johnson, Wheatland
Parliamentarian: Charles Reed, Powell

Delegate-at-Large: Ted Ertman, Newcastle

Delegate-at-Large: Dennis Alexander, Douglas
The convention theme was "For tomorrow's agriculture FFA unites youth with opportunities." Attendees could participate in the FFA band, compete in the state farmer and chapter contest interviews, serve as a delegate, attend the FFA rally in downtown Newcastle and much, much more. Some of the opportunities were the same as those that exist today.

Printed on the back of the FFA program was the FFA motto members recite yet today...

"Learning to do, Doing to learn;
Earning to live, Living to serve."

Competing in the creed speaking contest were Rick Erickson of Burns, Jackque Putman of Douglas, Candy Crichton of Riverton and Le Ann Baker of Worland. In the prepared public speaking Ron Siekert of Albin delivered "Export Boom." Evan Cozzens of Powell discussed "Buying Land," while Douglas Stark of Riverton spoke on "A Challenge to the Future" and Ron Wright of Buffalo delivered an "Energy Crisis – Implications and Solutions."

Reflecting on the event Le Ann Baker recalls, "I won't ever forget the public speaking experience and have used and continue to use those skills each and every day! Ray 'Pappy' Lowe was my advisor. We had rehearsed the creed for months. We had sample questions by the hundred and even my parents drilled me at home. I recited the creed that night and felt pretty good."

Then came the question, recalls Le Ann...

"How do you apply the FFA Creed to your daily life?"

"Mr. Lowe's face went blank as he remembered that question had never occurred to us," says Le Ann. "I took a deep breath and blurted out some line that must have been impressive. Mr. Lowe smiled from ear to ear and applauded hands clapping over his head! Pappy was a great influence on so many young people. It wouldn't have mattered if I won or not he was proud!" Le Ann was the 1974 Creed Speaking champion and one of, if not the first, women to win the event.

"FFA was a huge part of my life and one of the organizations that helped make me who I am today," says Le Ann.

A special thanks goes out to Val Andreen of Casper for sharing this piece of FFA history. If you have a tidbit from Wyoming FFA history that you'd like to share, please drop us a line at Jen@WyoFFA-Foundation.com or call 307.351.0730.

bp



BP America

**Supporting the
Youth of Wyoming**

Jonah Operation Center

Former State Reporter uses her FFA skills daily

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Foundation

Gillette — It's not uncommon for FFA members to find their passion within the program, develop their career plans and set out to reach those goals. Such was the case with 1997-1998 Wyoming State FFA Reporter Becki (Sheldon) Dale. From FFA service to a college degree focused on communications, to putting her combined skills to work, FFA helped Becki find her career path.

While serving on the Wyoming State FFA officer team Becki began studying agricultural communications at the University of Wyoming, a fitting degree given her position and role on the officer team. Becki went on to earn

her master's in communications and now works in corporate communications for Gillette-based Cloud Peak Energy, a coal mining company with operations across central and northern Wyoming.

"I was part of the John B. Kendrick FFA Chapter in Sheridan," recalls Becki. "I was active in livestock and meats judging and I had market steers." For her Supervised Agriculture Experience Project, or SAE, Becki worked at a local veterinary clinic.

Becki's agricultural roots, lifelong passion for ag and prompting from her dad, an alumni of the program, resulted in Becki's joining FFA. It was a natural addition for the long-time 4-H member who is a huge advocate for both programs today.

After joining FFA, Becki says it was encouragement from a few strong leaders that drove her to seek more from the program. "I became active in FFA because of the opportunities I saw and the mentors I watched," shares Becki. "Cody Wagner, who served as National FFA Secretary and was from my chapter, was a huge mentor of mine in FFA and I remember

looking up to him. That is what is great about FFA, not only the opportunities it provides as an organization, but also the people you meet and learn from."

Skills developed in the FFA, says Becki, helped build confidence for her present career in corporate communications for Cloud Peak Energy. "I am responsible for the company's communication programs, such as community advertising, the company newsletter, the website and the intranet portal." Becki can also be seen at the youth livestock sale in Campbell County, buying animals and encouraging area youth who belong to both 4-H and FFA to carry out quality projects, setting and achieving their own goals.

"When people ask me what I'm proud of," says Becki, "one of the things I mention is being a part of the FFA program. My experiences, the people I met, the places I went and the goals I set, made me who I am today. The leadership and the responsibility learned are what I'm proud of and what I hope we're teaching our kids."

Becki and her husband Justin, also an alumni of 4-H and FFA, have three children. Their son J.D. is a year and a half old and daughters Brianna and Ericka are six and eight. 2011 marks the first year Ericka is eligible to show and she's joined 4-H and is working with two market beef. Becki says she and Justin are truly looking forward to the 18 years ahead, helping their children with 4-H projects and eventually, they hope, FFA projects.

In November of 2011 Becki agreed to join the Wyoming FFA Foundation board of directors. The Foundation works to maximize the opportunities available to Wyoming FFA's 51 chapters and 2,053 members.



Becki Dale stands with her husband Justin, son J.D. and daughters Brianna and Ericka.

GROW continued from Page 1

start with a seed and grow it until the end," says Lisa.

There does, however, seem to be a growing interest in learning the art of gardening. Evans says since the green house was added last winter and the garden project carried out, enrollment in his Plant Science class has doubled. Lisa, who is enrolled in the Plant Science class, says students enjoy the hands-on learning opportunities provided by classroom learning done in conjunction with the green house and garden.

The garden also provides more students the opportunity to join the FFA and fulfill their requirements for a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project. Brittany says it's among her chapter's goals to ensure Buffalo High School students have the opportu-

nity to join FFA regardless of whether they live in town or in a rural setting. The garden provides additional members the opportunity to try their hand at agriculture while making a positive difference in their community.

Plans to grow and harvest pumpkins to carve with youngsters at the local Boys and Girls Club were altered when a type of blight wiped out the pumpkin crop. Students improvised, carrying out the project after purchasing pumpkins from the local IGA store. With pumpkins in hand they volunteered their time to carve jack-o-lanterns with the kids who attend Buffalo's Boys and Girls Club.

Looking toward 2012 Mr. Evans and his students plan to double the size of their garden. A portion of the 2012 har-

vest will again be used in the school lunch program. Pumpkins, assuming Mother Nature cooperates and the blight doesn't make a return, will be grown for the local Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, Evans says they'd like to have enough produce to make a contribution to the local food pantry.

"Buffalo's garden project," says Wyoming FFA Foundation President Court Schilt, "is a wonderful example of an agriculture-based project that includes wonderful lessons and a fantastic community service component. I'm so pleased that we can partner with Cameco ensuring projects like these can continue happening in Wyoming schools. I applaud Jake Evans and his students for their outstanding work."



Brown Company is proud to serve Wyoming agriculture and proud to support Wyoming FFA!

See us for all of your Ag and Construction Equipment Needs!

WHEATLAND, WYO.
705 16TH STREET
307.322.2525

RIVERTON, WYO.
705 16TH STREET
307.857.7037

TORRINGTON, WYO.
900 E. VALLEY RD.
866.532.2426

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.GOBROWNCO.COM

YOUR DONATION AT WORK

Learning by Doing...

Investing in Student Opportunities

Mastering new skills, rising to new challenges, building self-confidence through accomplishments...the Wyoming FFA Foundation believes each of these should be part of the FFA experience. It's these reasons and others that led the FFA Foundation to create the Learning by Doing grant program. By submitting an application to the FFA Foundation, Wyoming's 51 FFA Chapters have the opportunity to request dollars to enhance and improve tools available in their classrooms to challenge students to reach new levels.

Here's a look at some of the projects funded:

- A **VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER** in Hulett provides students hands-on learning opportunities with livestock.

- **POWDER COATERS** are helping students in Glendo, Pinedale and Encampment put a finishing touch on high-quality shop projects.

- While one might think most



Kaycee students have access to a barn and the ability to house a livestock project, the community has seen considerable interest in its **COMMUNITY BARN**. Funds secured through the Wyoming FFA Foundation recently enabled students to make needed improvements and carry out maintenance to ensure the facility is available for future generations of FFA members.

- **HAND GRINDERS** were recently bought for the Newcastle FFA.

- New **WELDING HOODS** were secured for the Rock Creek FFA chapter when their existing supply became worn out.

- The Wyoming Pork Producers Council partnered with FFA to build an **ADOPT-A-SOW SWINE HUT** for students who belong to Southeast FFA in Yoder, Wyo.



We'd like to thank Encana Oil & Gas, the Durham Buffalo Ranch, Powder River Energy, Vermillion Ranch Limited Partnership, Lois Herbst of the Lazy TY Ranch, Karen Herbst, the Wyoming Pork Producers Council, BP and Terralogics for helping make this program possible!

UW ANIMAL SCIENCE



College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU...

THE STUDENT

We are excited about all of the good things going on in Animal Science! We apply land-grant principles of learning, discovery and engagement for the benefit of students, consumers and clientele associated with animal agriculture. In the past couple of years, our research productivity and relevance has been ranked 7th and 8th, respectively, in national comparisons of Departments of Animal Science.

For Students We Offer:

OPTIONS IN ANVS MAJOR:

- Animal Biology
- Business
- Communication
- Meat Science & Food Technology
- Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Production
- Range Livestock

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Academic Quadrathlon
- Block and Bridle Club
- Collegiate FFA
- Collegiate 4-H
- Food Science Club
- Livestock, Meat & Horse Judging
- Pre-Vet Club

**CONCURRENT MAJOR WITH AG ED • GRADUATE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES • SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE**

For more information please contact us!

Phone: (307) 766-2224
Email: animalscience@uwyo.edu
Website: www.uwyo.edu/Anisci/



University of Wyoming
Animal Science Dept. 3684
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

FFA continued from Page 1

Dalles earned third in the nation. The National FFA Livestock CDE is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate livestock. Event components include eight evaluation classes of beef, sheep, swine, and goats; oral placement reasons on four classes; and a written exam on livestock production. A team event, based on production performance records, demonstrates the team's breeding livestock selection ability. Hales was the 5th high individual at the competition and teammates Harris and Wood each received gold emblem recognition. Dalles also made an outstanding performance at the event, earning a silver emblem at the national competition. The team traveled under the sponsorship of Weaver Ranches of Colorado and Wyoming.

Buffalo FFA's Agriculture Mechanics Team comprised of Nathaniel Spencer, Tony Johansson and Tim Downare also earned silver emblem recognition. The National FFA Agricultural Mechanics CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Activities included in the event are a written exam, a team activity, demonstration of problem-solving skills, and hands-on performance activities. Areas of emphasis include environmental and natural resource systems; machinery and equipment systems; structural

and energy systems; and industry and marketing systems. Spencer earned gold emblem recognition in the competition while Johansson and Downare earned silver emblems. The team traveled to nationals with support from Andreen-Hunt Construction of Casper.

Cheyenne's Frontier FFA took sixth in the nation in the Agriculture Sales competition. The National FFA Agricultural Sales CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event includes actual sales presentations, a written exam, a team sales situation, an individual practical situation focusing on customer relations, customer service, or prospecting for customers. Team members include Dylan Freeman, Shelby Kinssuater, Sam Schulz and Blaze Cress. Team members traveled with the support of Devon Energy Corporation. Freeman, Kinssuater and Schulz earned gold emblems in the competition and Cress won a silver emblem.

In the Agronomy CDE, sponsored by Drs. Tom and Donna Whitson of Powell and the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture, Casper FFA earned a silver emblem. The National FFA Agronomy CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Participants' knowledge of agronomic sciences was tested

through several levels of competition including developing solutions for problematic scenarios; identification of seeds, insects, soil and crops; and other management practices. Team member Lauren Hedges earned a gold while Melissa Haygood, Heather Loraas and Stormie Russell each brought home silver emblems.

Meeteetse's Environmental and Natural Resources Team earned a national gold emblem. The National FFA Environmental and Natural Resources CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. This event focuses on testing students' problem solving and decision making skills in environmental and natural resources. These areas concentrate on soil profiles, water and air quality, waste management, environmental analysis, and use of global positioning units. Team member Sheana Guthrie received a gold emblem while silver emblems were earned by Jeffrey Allen, Jessica Mauerer and Clayton Webster. The Wyoming Rural Electric Association and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation sponsored this year's team.

Casper FFA's Farm Business Management team of Seth Coursen, Chantale Sternberg and Taylor Mason received silver emblem honors at the national level. The National FFA Farm Business Management CDE is designed to test the ability of students to apply economic prin-

ciples and concepts in analyzing farm and ranch business management decisions. Participants respond to questions concerning economic principles in farm business management as well as a problem-solving analysis section.

Coursen and Sternberg received gold emblems at the national level and Mason a silver emblem. Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy, LLC of Alcova sponsored this year's team.

The 2011 Wyoming FFA Horse Judging Team, also from Casper FFA, placed fourth in the nation. The National FFA Horse Evaluation CDE is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate horses. Event components include eight selection classes that consisted of four halter classes and four performance classes. Students also give four sets of oral reasons with two sets coming from each evaluation class. Team member Justice Hayes received a gold emblem and was the 10th high individual overall. Team members Cheyenne Brabec, Chandler Hiser and Asher Markworth, each received gold emblems for their outstanding performance. Bison Oilwell Cementing sponsored this year's team.

Justin Linn, Megan Linn and Jessica Pingetzer, members of the Shoshoni FFA, comprised the 3rd place team at the national marketing plan competition. The National FFA Marketing Plan CDE helps students practice and

sharpen skills in marketing through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. The plan may focus on the introduction of a new agricultural product, supply or service or on improving marketing of an existing product, supply, or service. The team traveled with the support of Pine Bluff's Randall family and Gluten Free Harvest of Powell.

Casper FFA's meats judging team of Colter Bentley, Lisa Andreen, Zoey Taucher and Ali Ballard placed 4th in the nation, receiving a gold emblem. The National FFA Meats Technology and Evaluation CDE is a competitive activity that tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat carcasses and products. Event components include a general knowledge exam; beef carcass evaluation; identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; quality and yield grading of beef carcasses; a team meat merchandising activity; and solving of a meat formulation problem. Each member of the team earned gold emblem recognition and Bentley was the fifth high placing individual in the nation, which earned him a college scholarship. The team traveled with support from the Wyoming Beef Council.

Burns FFA worked their way to fourth in the nation in the Parliamentary Procedure competition. The National FFA Parliamentary Procedure CDE tests students' ability to effectively communicate ideas during a meeting. Components included a general knowledge exam of parliamentary law, a ten-minute demonstration of parliamentary procedure, oral questions, and written minutes of the demonstration. Team members Rylee Anderson, Breanne Fugate, Shay Lemaster, Cassidy Malm, Ashley Spatz and Alexandria Langs-meth made an outstanding performance amidst tough competition. The team traveled under the sponsorship of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Casper FFA earned a silver emblem in the poultry judging competition at nationals. The National Poultry Evaluation CDE is a competitive activity that tests the participant's ability to select top quality poultry and poultry products needed for successful production and marketing. Event participants must complete a written exam on poultry management, evaluate classes of live birds for eggs and meat production, evaluate quality of eggs, and evaluate and identify parts and products. Team

members Tate Chamberlain and Brady Slocum earned gold emblem recognitions. Silvers were earned by Brooke Mason and Kaylee Schneider. The team is sponsored by Egglund's Best of Colorado.

In the Creed Speaking competition Brody Cress of Cheyenne earned a silver emblem. The National FFA Creed Speaking CDE is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to present the National FFA Creed in a competitive setting. Members deliver the Creed from memory and respond to three questions. The event gives FFA members the opportunity to develop their ability to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner. Sagebrush Marketing, LLC of Newcastle, sponsors Wyoming's creed speaking competition.

Corson Kerb's outstanding performance in the prepared public speaking competition earned him silver emblem recognition. The prepared public speaking CDE is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to prepare and present a factual speech on a specific agricultural issue in a well thought out and logical manner in a competitive setting. Members prepare and deliver a six-to eight-minute speech from memory and respond to five minutes of questions. The event is just one way FFA members can develop their ability to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner. Northern Broadcasting sponsors Wyoming's prepared public speaking competition.

Rachel Purdy of Pine Bluffs received a bronze emblem for her performance in the extemporaneous speaking competition. The National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to prepare and present a factual speech on a specific agricultural issue in a well thought out and logical manner. Members select one topic from a choice of categories, have thirty minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech, and respond to five minutes of questions following delivery. Hageman and Brighton, P.C. of Cheyenne sponsor Wyoming's extemporaneous public speaking event.

Thanks to a donation from Murdoch's and Carhartt, members of the CDE teams that represented Wyoming at nationals each received a new Carhartt coat. The coats were presented prior to the students' trips to the National FFA Convention.



Proudly supporting Wyoming FFA Since 1971

Support provided by Wyoming beef producers through the \$1 per head beef checkoff

WWW.WYBeef.com

Like us on Facebook: WYBeefCouncil

FIRE continued from Page 1

“We have 44 cooperatives – 44 businesses – that we sell electricity to each month,” added Thornton.

“For one dollar, you can run a DVD player about 316 hours. Your computer can only run for about 46 hours when it is awake, but runs for five times as long when it’s asleep,” commented Thornton. “The most expensive item in your house is the oven. For one dollar, you can only get about one hour of baking.”

“The Price of Electricity is Right” game, created by Thornton, gave members the opportunity to put their skills to the test in guessing the number of hours that household items could be run for the cost of one dollar.”

Items included a Nintendo gaming system (588 hours), blender (38 hours), a stereo (31 hours), and a ceiling fan (125 hours). These numbers surprised students and gave them an awareness of their energy usage.

“It doesn’t seem like a lot of money, but it can start to add up,” said Thornton. “It’s a precious resource.”

There are a number of careers available through electric cooperatives as well.

“It’s not just the lineman you see or the people working in power plants. We have engineers, telecommunications technicians and public relations specialists,” remarked Thornton. “It’s a career that is

stable and offers benefits that you may not be able to find in rural communities. Some of the best jobs out there are ones that work with electric cooperatives.”

As in agriculture, the generation familiar with the inner workings of electric cooperatives is getting older, and Thornton was excited to share information about Tri-State with Wyoming high school students.

“Typically, cooperatives have been very involved and very well known in the elderly populations – those people who were there when the lights were turned on,” said Thornton. “We always want to involve youth, let people know what electric cooperatives do and let them know that they own the business.”

Thornton joined FIRE conference participants with an upbeat presentation to convey that information.

“Events like this conference are a fabulous way for us to be able to let students know that they don’t magically get electricity,” said Thornton. “In turn, we see these students as the future of rural America, and we want to let them know that cooperatives are there for them.”

“We want to keep the lights on and do it at an affordable rate. We do everything we can to educate people in the community that you don’t just flip the light switch on. There is so much more behind the switch,” commented Thornton. “There are hundreds of thousands of employees who do their best to keep the lights on and keep it affordable. We want students to not only know about it, but to be a part of it.”

For more information about Tri-State Generation and Transmission, visit tristategt.org. Saige Albert is editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at saige@wylr.net.



FFA members attended the Finding Inspiration and Reaching Excellence (FIRE) conference, held in conjunction with the Chapter President’s Conference and Wyoming Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association meeting.

2011 Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball

Worland — Approximately 200 FFA members and guests joined the Wyoming FFA Foundation and Worland FFA for the 2011 Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball. The event was held Sept. 17 in Worland and co-hosted by the Foundation and Worland FFA.

Gil McEndree, President of Pinnacle Bank’s Worland branch, chaired the Foundation committee that spearheaded the event. “Worland turned out en force for the event, nearly filling the new facilities at the museum and cultural center,” says McEndree. “It was great to see so many residents come out to support FFA.”

The 2011 event marked the largest in the event’s recent history. In 2010 the FFA Foundation voted to bring the event back after a multi-year hiatus. “We’re glad we did,” says Wyoming FFA Foundation president Court Schilt. “In 2010 Pinedale welcomed the event with open arms and we felt equal hospitality and support this fall in Worland. It’s great to travel across Wyoming and reconnect with old FFA friends.”

“The Worland community, starting with local FFA advisor Grace Anderson, made this a wonderful event,” says Wyoming FFA Founda-

tion Executive Director Jennifer Womack. “The folks at the new museum were wonderful to work with and the Worland Country Club did an amazing job of preparing the prime rib dinner. Several local businesses stepped forward to support the auction and numerous supporters and friends purchased tickets to the event. The support was overwhelming.”

Devon Energy Corporation, BP, Cloud Peak Energy and Encana Oil and Gas signed on as corporate sponsors for the evening, helping keep ticket costs for the event at a reasonable rate. Businesses including McGarvin-Moberly Construction, the Agribusiness Division of the Wyoming Business Council, American National Bank, Pinnacle Bank and Andreen Hunt Construction sponsored tables at the event.

Beyond the locals who attended the event, others traveled from as far away as Pinedale to enjoy the evening. Several Wyoming FFA chapters sent items for the auction, including fire rings and a table made by students. Vern Lofink of Thermopolis volunteered his services as the evening’s auctioneer and countless individuals and businesses

sent a nice array of auction items.

“This year in particular,” says Womack, “it was amazing to see the former FFA members who saw the Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball as an opportunity to give back to the program. The Thoman family, for example, built a log bed that we included in the live auction. Becki Dale of Cloud Peak Energy, a former FFA officer, helped earn her company’s support for the evening and gathered up a table full of FFA supporters. I could go on and on, but the general theme was the support was outstanding and made a meaningful difference for Wyoming FFA.”

Several members of the Wyoming FFA officer team attended the event and Worland FFA members helped welcome guests to the dinner and auction. Former Wyoming FFA Officer Justin Mills, now manager of the NILE in Billings, delivered the evening’s keynote address.

Planning is underway for the 2012 event with plans to move the gathering to the Buffalo area. “We hope the momentum continues growing and we see 250 or more FFA supporters in attendance next September,” says Schilt.

TEACHERS: HELP YOUR STUDENTS GROW

Help students grow their own MARKET GARDEN

Join the national trend of producing and selling locally to a fast growing market. Growing a market garden and selling your produce at a local farmers market is one way to meet consumer demand, make a little money and fulfill the qualifications of an SAE project.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES:

- More than 45 farmers markets in Wyoming
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation
- Direct marketing to customers
- Winter market opportunities
- State Fair Farmers Market
- Online farmers market in southeast Wyoming

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

Get started now! Applications are due March 30, 2012. The Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness Division is offering 24 grants of up to \$500 to youth to start a market garden.

ASSISTANCE:

- Your local ag teacher
- Master gardeners in 13 counties
- Wyoming Business Council
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Farmers Marketing Association



For more information contact Kim Porter, Wyoming Business Council Farmers Market Program Manager, Agribusiness Division at kim.porter@wyo.gov or 307.777.6319

Wyoming Business Council
214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY, 82002
wyoombusiness.org



facebook.com/WyomingAgriculture



For application, visit: <http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/program/farmers-markets/1302>

Know your dollars are making a DIFFERENCE!



Making a donation to a non-profit organization is an investment in something in which you believe. It’s also a statement of your trust in that organization, a declaration of your faith that they’ll put the funds to work as you intended. At the Wyoming FFA Foundation we want you to see your dollars at work, to know you’re making a positive difference for Wyoming FFA’s 2,053 FFA members who belong to one of the state’s 51 FFA Chapters.

FFA members are known across the country at first sight thanks to the national blue corduroy jackets with corn gold accents. Wearing the symbolic blue and gold jacket is accompanied by a certain set of standards, a code of ethics to which members are asked to adhere. This expectation to dress and act respectfully is the foundation of FFA programs across Wyoming and the nation. It’s upon this foundation that we can inspire students to do and be their best. It’s for these reasons and more that a donation to Wyoming FFA is an investment in youth who display leadership, understand civic engagement, set and achieve goals and become American success stories!

At the Wyoming FFA Foundation we believe a student should never be limited by his or her financial ability to purchase an FFA jacket. That’s why we launched the Voucher Fund, a commitment to ensuring every student has a jacket carrying his or her own name and achievements. Because of donors like you this program has been a huge success!

BY THE NUMBERS

2010-2011 VOUCHER FUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ **49 FFA MEMBERS** now have an FFA jacket and their dues are paid thanks to supporters like you.
- ★ **1 NEW CHAPTER** was aided in establishing a jacket closet for new and potential FFA members. Students sometimes need to borrow a jacket while waiting for theirs to arrive or determining whether or not they’ll become full-fledged FFA members.
- ★ **11 CHAPTERS** drew on the Voucher Fund for support this year. This fund helps them recruit new members and ensures all students have the support necessary to join the FFA. Students seek access to the fund with the help of their FFA advisor.
- ★ **TONS OF OPPORTUNITY** — Every investment in a new member equates to opportunity for a Wyoming young person!



WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION
PO BOX 71
CHEYENNE WY 82003
JENNIFER WOMACK, EXEC. DIRECTOR
307.351.0730
JEN@WYOFFAFUNDATION.COM



Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Noble Energy salutes the work of the **Wyoming FFA Foundation** as it helps to develop the personal and career skills of students studying agriculture. FFA's work with these students ensures Wyoming will have continued leadership for sustaining and growing its agricultural business throughout the state.



Conducting our business with integrity, respect and high standards
of health, safety and environmental stewardship.



Farming career started on FFA farm

by Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Times

Byron — Brent Rageth joined FFA as a freshman in high school in Pine Bluffs. It was the first year the program returned to the school after a hiatus dating back to the 1960s.

Donn Randall signed on as the new Agriculture Education teacher, among other things challenging students to master the art of public speaking and learn new skills at the school farm. Donn recalls Brent borrowing a tractor and a grain drill to

carry out the planting on the school farm.

“I spent four years in FFA, showing cattle and I worked on the school farm,” says Brent. “It was on that seven acres that I started farming between my freshman and sophomore years and that’s where I started my farming career.” Brent served the chapter as sentinel and was chapter president his senior year.

“Donn made us do a certain amount of public

speaking,” recalls Brent. “It helped me get up in front of people and speak my mind and ideas. Later in life it helped me meet and talk to new people I didn’t know.”

After graduating from high school Brent went to Hastings, Nebraska to attend college on a football scholarship, but returned to Pine Bluffs when he graduated and bought his first farm.

“When I came home from college in 1988 I went to Pine Bluffs,” says Brent, “and bought my first farm in 1990 with a limited resource farm

loan.” He says it took two years visiting the local farm office to make his goal of farm ownership become a reality.

In 1990 Brent moved his farming operations south and east a ways, purchasing a farm five miles north of Julesburg, Colo. He’s now in the process of selling that farm and moving to Byron, Wyo. where he purchased a farm five years ago and more recently opened a used implement dealership.

“I found a run-down farm in that area that hadn’t been farmed for

seven years,” he says. “I bought that farm and got it going.” At his farm near Byron, located 11 miles east of Powell, Brent grows crops for Wyoming Whiskey, a relatively new company headquartered in Kirby, Wyo. He welcomes the dependable water and less hail than he’s accustomed to in Colorado. Early November he was harvesting corn that will be delivered to Wyoming Whiskey.

“I’m from Wyoming and I like the tax structure,” he says. “I like Wyoming and there’s a lot of opportunity in the

Byron area.”

Looking back to his start farming in the FFA, Brent is quick to thank Donn Randall. “He’s a great guy and he’s been a great mentor for me. He’s been a friend of mine ever since, too. He taught me a lot, especially about public speaking and that’s something everybody needs.”

Randall offers equal praise when it comes to Brent. “He was a very dedicated and determined FFA member back in 1981 and today his hard work and good planning has definitely paid off,” says Donn.

MAY continued from Page 1

“This whole trip opened my eyes to agriculture industries I didn’t even know existed six months ago,” he says. “I experienced global agriculture firsthand, and can now understand the importance of foreign markets to U.S. agriculture. I hope to incorporate this experience and everything I learned into a future career.”

Carpenter says the group also took time to enjoy some traditional sightseeing, including the Panama Canal and a Columbian craft market for souvenirs.

“I even got to celebrate my birthday in a salsa club in Columbia. Not many people can say that!” Carpenter says.

The I-CAL program is open to any collegiate agriculture students participating in collegiate agriculture groups like Block and Bridle, Collegiate 4-H or Collegiate FFA. Students are required to submit a written application and participate in an interview. The location of the program changes from year-to-year, with previous trips to Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The cost of the program also varies, with an average cost per student of \$5,500. But through sponsorships, each student is required to only pay \$1,700 to \$2,300 to take part in the program.

Carpenter encourages other FFA members to consider this and other international experiences offered to them.

“There is so much to learn, so many people to meet and it’s a lot of fun to. Take a chance and go for it,” Carpenter says.

For more information about I-CAL or other collegiate FFA activities and programs, visit www.ffa.org/collegiate.



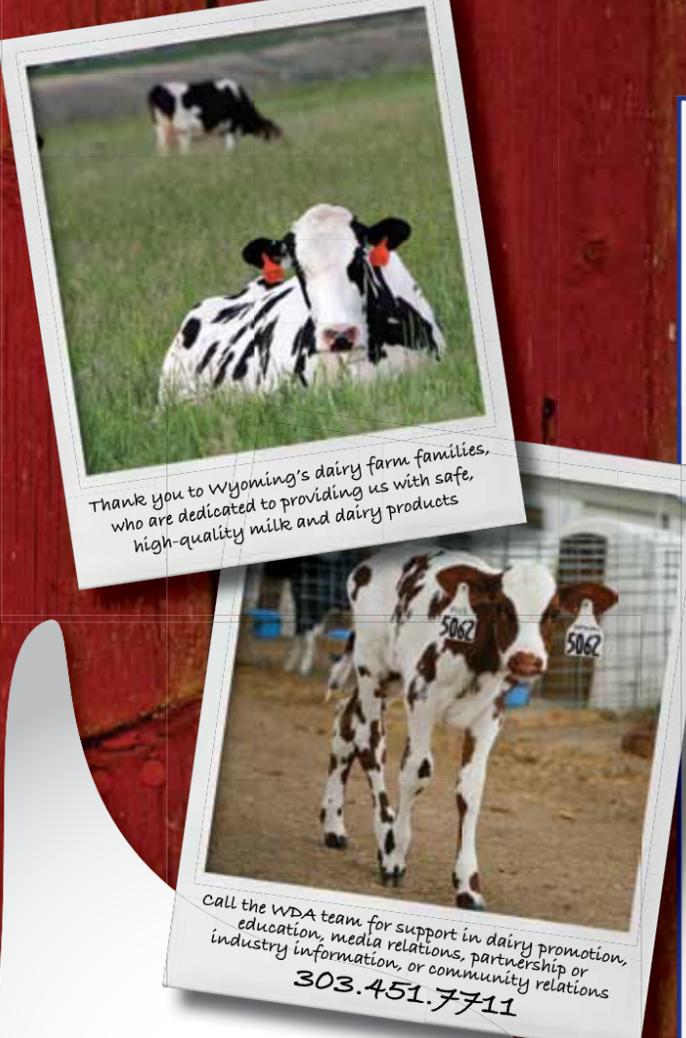
Call today to learn more!

With produced water handling experience, our systems provide year-round water dispersal for energy operators while producing bountiful crops for feeding your livestock



Turning Produced Water into Pounds

(307) 673-0607 ♦ www.beneterra.com



Thank you to Wyoming's dairy farm families, who are dedicated to providing us with safe, high-quality milk and dairy products

Call the WDA team for support in dairy promotion, education, media relations, partnership or industry information, or community relations
303.451.7711



Dairy farmers nourishing people and planet with world-class care.

Western Dairy Association has resources available for you!

Looking for information on the dairy industry or the nutritional benefits of milk and milk products? Western Dairy Association can help! Whether you are working on a project for school or work, or simply want to increase your own knowledge, our organization contains a wealth of information that we'd like to share with you.

Useful Links

WesternDairyAssociation.org
The official website for WDA programs and services.

FuelUpToPlay60.com
Interested in improving the health and wellness environment in your school? Visit the official Fuel Up to Play 60 website to find out how to get involved in the program.

**Eat healthy.
Get active.
Make a difference.**

DairyCheckoff.com
Information for dairy producers and the public about the activities of the national dairy producer checkoff.

NationalDairyCouncil.org
Information and resources about the health benefits of dairy products. Also features tasty and nutritious recipes!

DairyFarmingToday.org
A website designed to educate the public about modern dairy farming.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook for even more information on the dairy industry!



Check out our YouTube page for promotional videos, media interviews and more!

Cameco encourages community service



An underpinning within the FFA program is challenging students to reach out into their communities, identify needs and volunteer their time and talents to create a positive difference. In an effort to encourage and expand this aspect of the program, the Wyoming FFA Foundation launched the Cowboy State Challenge. In 2011, after Cameco Resources, one of the world's largest uranium companies and one with operations in Wyoming, stepped forward to sponsor the program, it became the Cameco Cowboy State Challenge. Individual donors also joined in supporting the program.

Here's a look at the partnership that's encouraging the next generation of Cowboy State volunteers to serve and improve their communities. These are the students who will lead our nation in the years to come. We think you'll be impressed with what they're accomplishing!

Wyoming's **Collegiate FFA Chapter**, located at the University of Wyoming, used Cameco dollars to update and improve the **playground facilities** at the Albany County Fairgrounds in Laramie. This project was carried out in memory of Cowboy Rowdy, a youngster lost in a farming accident. Thanks to Collegiate FFA's efforts, the Albany County Fairgrounds has even more to offer area youth!

Kaycee FFA's fall 2011 project will have a warming effect on residents of the retirement home in their community. Chapter members are joining forces to sew blankets for the elderly people who live at the facility.

Students at **Jim Bridger FFA in Lyman, Wyo.** took after the "bag monster." This ambitious young team has been working with the local grocery store and other venues to encourage customers to minimize their use of plastic bags, instead opting for the cloth variety. Their end goal is a cleaner, more environmentally conscious community!

After seeing untapped opportunity for **recycling**, the **CY FFA Chapter** in Casper is updating and improving their school's recycle bins. Thanks to these environmentally conscious young leaders, less trash is destined for their community's landfill!

As the holidays approach so does the awareness of friends, families and neighbors in our community who could use a helping hand. Students who belong to both the **UW Collegiate FFA Chapter** and the **Gillette FFA Chapter** looked to Cowboy State Challenge funds to carry out **Christmas giving projects** in their communities.

Buffalo FFA is literally growing learning opportunities with their new school garden project. Beyond providing fresh veggies for the school lunch program, this project helped the entire student body gain a glimpse of gardening. A portion of the food was utilized by the school lunch program and the FFA chapter is expanding the garden in 2012.



Jim Bridger FFA members are committed to replacing plastic with cloth in their community. Courtesy photo

FFA Camp Makes a Difference

By Renae Nauta, Wyoming FFA Parent

As a parent there are several "scary" days when raising your children. One for me personally was when my kids started high school.

The world had changed so much from when I attended high school and I was not sure I had prepared my two kids for this new and high pressure adventure they were about to embark upon. They both were raised in a spiritual home with strong morals and a sense of family, and also surrounded by the culture of agriculture and being involved in their local FFA chapter. Each of my kids had different types of struggles their freshman year; from the beginning of their freshman year through their end of the school year. There were only two stable areas in their life, family and FFA, for which I was very thankful. In the spring of their freshman year their FFA advisor asked if they would be interested in attending the FFA summer leadership camp. They both came home and talked to me about this opportunity to attend the leadership camp for FFA. I knew they both wanted to be chapter officers and could see that they had a growing passion for FFA. I chose to support this decision to attend camp even though I did not know anything about this FFA leadership camp. I had also witnessed my kids' diminishing self confidence and how they were starting to bend to the pressures of high school. My hope and prayer was that they would find the strength and guidance to refocus not only their passion for FFA but also that they might be able to rebuild and solidify their self confidence once again.

Before I knew it June was here and I was helping pack up the kids to go to camp which I still have a very clear memory of

them leaving with hope, excitement, and yet they both were very unsure of themselves. In a short five days my kids were headed home and I could tell from the phone call I got on their way down the mountain that something had changed for the positive in their life! Although neither of them have told me the complete details of what happens at camp; I hear the camp songs, funny stories about the showers and keeping cabins clean and the contest they have. The character building and "soul" searching that has happened at camp is never really talked about I just hear "it's a camp thing mom."

When my kids started their sophomore year I could already tell that something was different at their core, not a surface change, but something very deep inside of them had changed. The foundation that I had started and FFA had continued building was now solid. I know that they faced more challenges and difficult times during the balance of their high school career, but I never again saw them question themselves or bend to the pressure of fitting in or who they were.

I know without a question that my two kids, who are now young adults, would not be where they are without the guidance and character building they had at FFA camp. I have watched several students struggle with the pressures of high school and life and wish I could send them to the summer FFA camp. I just knew that no matter what these students were facing they could find the answers and strength they needed if they could just go to FFA camp! If you don't believe me just look at the changes and the type of leaders that Teasa and Tanner Nauta have become.



LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Agriculture Department

Associate degrees in

Agribusiness Technology (AAS)

Agriculture (AS)

Agriculture Production Technology (AS)

Equine Business Management (AS)

Equine Science (AS)

Equine Training Management (AAS)



lccc.wy.edu • 307.778.LCCC

SPECIAL THANKS!

EVENTS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN A GROUP SHARES A VISION AND THE DRIVE TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN. THAT TYPE OF ENERGY EXISTED WITH THE 2011 BLUE JEANS AND BLACK TIE BALL. THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!

CORPORATE SPONSORS



TABLE SPONSORS



2011 BLUE JEANS
BLACK TIE BALL

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



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

encana[™]
natural gas

www.encana.com

Share your chapter's story by e-mailing us at womack@wyoming.com

Students Write About —
WYOMING FFA

Thermop's Rhodes earns a spot in the national FFA choir

Thermopolis — Participating in the 2011 National FFA Convention Choir grew both Harley Rhodes' passion for FFA and his goals within the program.

After submitting an audition tape and answering some follow-up questions Harley was selected to join the choir at the 2011 National FFA Convention. Beyond performing at the national convention, Harley says they sang at tourist destinations around the city, in the convention career show and at some of the area's marketplaces. Harley even had the opportunity to sing a solo at the event.

Among the trip's highlights, he says, was singing as a flash mob. Members of the choir would disseminate into a crowd and one of them would break into a song and the rest would join. Harley says members of the crowd also joined in the singing. Once they're done singing the choir members walk away like nothing every happened. "We did a medley of songs and it was really cool," says Harley.

This schoolyear marks Harley's second belonging to the FFA. He says FFA is a family tradition, one that he's proud to help continue. "I enjoy showing livestock, getting to meet new people and the community involvement," says Harley. "Both state fair and the State FFA Convention are fun."

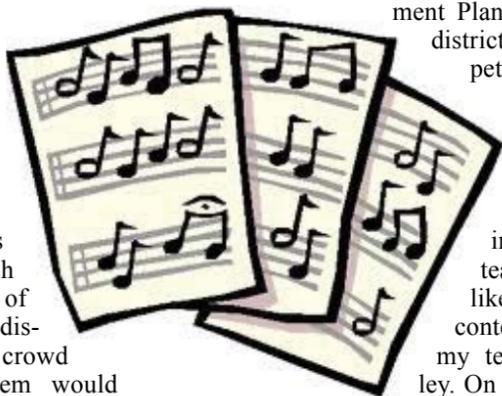
Last year, amidst an already busy schedule competing at the Wyoming

FFA Convention, Harley joined the state choir. He participated in the creed speaking and competed on his chapter's Greenhand Quiz Bowl and meats judging teams.

Looking toward the spring 2012 Wyoming FFA Convention, Harley says he's preparing a speech for the speaking competition. While he's still narrowing down his topics, he's been studying and contemplating the Bureau of Land Management's new Resource Management Plan for the Worland district. He's also competing on his chapter's meats and livestock judging teams and they're thinking about launching a horse judging team. "I'd really like to win a CDE contest with one of my teams," adds Harley. On top of all that, he again plans to participate in the choir.

Longer term Harley says he plans to run for a spot on the Wyoming State FFA Officer Team, hopes to earn his American FFA Degree and represent Wyoming as the state's National Officer Candidate. Depending on scheduling, trying to balance state cross country and FFA, Harley hopes to return to the National FFA Convention as a member of the choir.

"It's been a really great experience," says Harley. "If anyone has enough time and is willing to put forth the effort, I'd suggest joining the FFA. It will get you really far."



Submit material for our next edition by January 20, 2012

WYOMING FFA TIMES
 A Wyoming FFA Foundation publication
 PO Box 71 • Cheyenne WY 82003 • 307.351.0730

Experience education for a lifetime

The Casper College **Agriculture Department** offers A.S. degrees in agriculture, agri-business, animal science, and range management and A.A.S. degrees in agri-business and animal science technology. Students can participate on the livestock judging team, rodeo team or the numerous ag clubs on campus.

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



Andrea Leininger
Range Management
La Junta, Colo.

For more information contact:
Heath Hornecker
hhornecker@caspercollege.edu
307-268-2525 • 800-442-2963, ext. 2525





Casper College
www.caspercollege.edu

SHARING YOUR GOALS AND YOUR HISTORY.

CHEYENNE 1501 South Greeley Highway	307.637.3552
3518 Dell Range Boulevard	307.637.7244
CODY 1702 Sheridan Avenue.....	307.527.7186
627 Yellowstone Avenue.....	307.527.7186
GILLETTE 1708 West U.S. Highway 14-16.....	307.682.0089
MITCHELL, NE 1151 Broadway	308.623.1611
MOORCROFT 602 East Converse	307.756.3473
NEWCASTLE 204 West Main Street	307.746.4466
THERMOPOLIS 125 South 5 th	307.864.5555
TORRINGTON 2000 Main Street	307.532.2181
WORLAND 644 Big Horn Avenue.....	307.347.3215

wypinnbank.com



Pinnacle Bank

THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE