

# WYOMING FFA TIMES

Spring 2010 Edition

## TOP CHAPTER

Student involvement, community support and striving for goals earns Kaycee top honors



Kaycee FFA Chapter officers set a goal of being the state's top chapter and worked hard to see that dream become a reality. The chapter officers are Chelsea Jones, Lathyn Hokanson, Kendi Fauber, Tiana Foley, Sara Goni and Shawn Straub.

**Kaycee** — The local FFA Chapter's top-placing finish has Kaycee community members celebrating their students' success.

"When the kids got home," says FFA Advisor Rose McGivney, "the highway patrolman, the ambulance and the fire trucks met us at the interstate and escorted us through town just like if they'd won a state championship in sports."

FFA in the Kaycee community dates back to 1969. 2009 marked the chapter's first year earning gold chapter recognition. 2010, says the officer team, was the first year the chapter was named the top in the state. "They're the leaders of the school," says Mrs. McGivney noting that many

of the students are both in FFA and serve on the Student Council.

"We work a lot with the community," says Chapter President Tiana Foley. "Without the community's support we would be nowhere. They help us bring in money from pie sales and donkey basketball. They're a big part of everything we do. On community workday we've always got help with equipment and welding. Everybody is always up to help us."

Of the recognition at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention Tiana says, "It was based on three types of projects — community projects, chapter projects and student development projects."

Chapter Secretary

Lathyn Hokanson adds, "As part of chapter development we have a coffee bar for the school every Friday morning." While teachers and high school students stop by for a coffee treat not typically available in the Kaycee community, younger students enjoy a cup of hot cocoa. "We do pie sales around the holidays as well as selling sausage and candies."

For community development, says Lathyn, "We do a canned food drive, Season of Giving and we tie

fleece blankets. This year we sent the blankets to the nursing home in Buffalo. A year ago we sent them to the Ronald McDonald House in Denver."

"Season of Giving Day," explains Chapter Treasurer Chelsea Jones, "is before Christmas. We get together and we buy the material to tie blankets. We make cookies and we make baskets and give them to people around the community."

"Last year there were over 150 people at our banquet," says Chelsea not-

ing that guests are asked to sign a guest book. The population signs at Kaycee's entrances indicate a population 249 residents strong.

Next on the officer team's list of events is the 2010 Johnson County Fair and Rodeo. Many students are preparing various projects, including livestock. With a community barn in place, students have the opportunity to take a livestock project regardless of whether they live in town.

"We have our own FFA barn," says Lathyn. "There

are sheep down there right now and a greenhouse." Chapter members will soon be planting pumpkins, which will be available to community youngsters during the chapter's fall activities.

"We've wanted to get gold chapter for a really long time," says Chelsea. "We've been working hard and adding activities. We're always busy doing something."

"It's been a goal all year," says Tiana. "Every activity we did we worked

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## FFA STATE OFFICERS



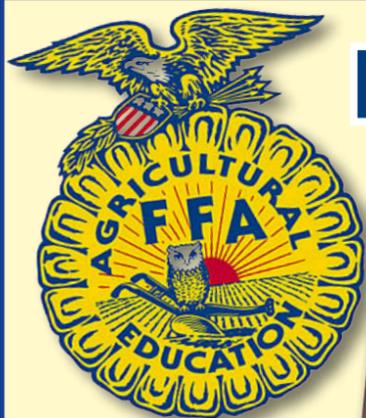
Members of the 2010-2011 Wyoming FFA Officer Team were announced April 10 in Cheyenne during the closing session of the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention. From the left are 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Amy Andreen of Casper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kinsey Freeman of Cheyenne, Treasurer Kyle Thoman of Wind River, Secretary Jacy Pannell of Hulett, President Micah Christensen of Cheyenne, Sentinel Trinity Holland of Moorcroft, Parliamentarian William Clark of Rock River, Reporter Cinnamon Smith of Gillette and Vice President Odessa Oldham of Lander.

### 2010-2011 State Officer Team selected

**Cheyenne** — FFA is a tradition for many Wyoming families. That family tradition is very evident among members of this year's Wyoming FFA Officer Team.

"I became interested in the FFA when I was an 8th grader and my town of Thermopolis was named number one chapter in the state," says 2009-2010 State President Micah Christensen who has since moved to Cheyenne with his family. His parents are Rev. John and Diane Christensen. "My sister was a senior that year and of

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## FFA STAR

Worland's Hefenieder has diverse ag interests



Six years ago Al Hefenieder purchased Percheron colts at the local livestock auction. With the help of local teamster Jim Newell he trained them and now uses them in parades, on pack trips and whenever opportunities present themselves.

**Worland** — "If everything works out, I'll spend the rest of my life farming," says Al Hefenieder, the 2010 State Star in Agricultural Placement.

Al's passion for farming recently earned him recognition as one of this year's top Wyoming FFA members. His application now goes to the national level where he'll be considered for additional recognition.

So what earned this high school senior top recognition? "I work on our family's farm," explains Al. "We raise corn for silage, malt barley and hay. In the winter time we custom feed 3,000 head of cattle." Al says he's worked on the operation "as long as I've been able."

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Sheep are among Al Hefenieder's projects that earned him top recognition in the state.

## COLLEGE BUCKS

Scholarships presented to 12 FFA members

**Cheyenne** — Each year the Foundation's scholarship program grows, both in terms of applications received and scholarship dollars awarded. This year was no exception.

The scholarship committee reviewed 53 applications and awarded 12 scholarships to current and past Wyoming FFA members. The Foundation again partnered with Encana Oil and Gas, the F.A.I.R. Posse,



Scholarship recipient William Clark. BigStar Livestock Images photo

Wyoming Association of Fairs and Clark's Mule Days Charity Pool. Our newest partner is the Wyoming Ag-Business Association.

"These scholarships are made possible through individual donations and partnerships the Foundation has developed with businesses and organizations throughout Wyoming," says Scholarship Chairperson Stacy Broda. "It speaks highly of Wyoming's youth to have the tremendous support that we enjoy in our effort to award scholarships to deserving individuals."

Tri-State Generation and Transmission provided Bradon Marshall \$1,000 to help with his registration and travel fees to attend the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. this summer. Bradon is a junior in the Riverton FFA Chapter. He has attended Wyoming leadership camp, is serving as a chapter officer and has goals including becoming the chapter president and later, a state officer. Bradon says he wants to attend this conference to not only better himself, but his chapter and peers by becoming a better

See **COLLEGE** Page 10

## PREZ says



Court Schilt  
FFA Foundation President

HELLO WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION! That's right, I called you the Foundation. That's because, as a supporter of Wyoming FFA, you are the foundation of our efforts to lend assistance to FFA members and chapters as they pursue premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

Like a big bagged momma cow walking through the tall grass, I'm utterly tickled to have the chance to write this note. This issue, while bigger than previous editions, is packed with great information and success stories of Wyoming FFA members as well as notes and recognition of some of our very generous supporters. It continues to be my pleasure and privilege to serve those members, and you, the Foundation, as a member of the board. Lots to cover, so bolt yer boxers on, we're off.

It has been a very busy and exciting time for the Foundation since the last newsletter. Last fall EnCana offered the Foundation a challenge grant of \$15,000. The challenge was to find new sponsors to support Wyoming FFA. The board was excited about the offer, though somewhat wary of the challenge. On January first Jennifer took over as Executive Director and things haven't slowed down since. She's the embodiment of what FFA teaches: enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work. In just under four months, working with supporters both business and private, the Foundation matched the EnCana challenge. WOW. That's cooler than putting a frozen pocketknife in your pocket. (Don't ask)

Not only has the board changed because of Jen's leadership, but we have some new board members that bring new energy and enthusiasm. Welcome to Donn Randall with the Wyoming Business Council in Cheyenne, Val Andreen of Casper and Chuck Markworth of Casper. New people, new ideas, new energy added to a dedicated board means more opportunity for Wyoming FFA members.

What's new? Plenty. For the first time in years, if ever, the Foundation was able to partner with donors to cover every state champion competitive team that will be going to national convention. You have stepped up and sponsored every proficiency area. We will be doing our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 4-wheeler raffle and have 12 new FFA Chapters helping us sell tickets. Let me tell you a bit more about that.

The Foundation, in partnership with Cloud Peak Energy, the Hendry Family's Clear Creek Construction and Shively Hardware, is offering a Polaris Sportsman 550 for raffle. Chapters that are interested in helping the Foundation and earning some extra money for themselves are selling tickets. The chapter keeps half the proceeds and sends the balance to the Foundation. It's about the easiest moneymaker they could do. Even I understand that math. A great BIG THANKS to these great sponsors and the chapters that are selling tickets. If you are interested in a chance at the four-wheeler contact your local chapter or shoot an email to Jennifer at [Womack@Wyoming.com](mailto:Womack@Wyoming.com).

What else is new? Well I'll tell ya. We're bringing back the FFA golf tournament. In a partnership with the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation we'll have an 18-hole scramble the Tuesday of State Fair in Douglas. This year will also mark the return of the Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball September 11 in Pinedale. More information will be coming. We also have two new programs we're trying to get off and running. One is the Learning by Doing program, which will

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## WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION

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Featuring the 2010 Prepared  
Public Speaking Champion:  
Kinsey Freeman

# Let's Talk WYOMING FFA

## Stirring the Pot

E-coli, add a dash of salmonella, one mad cow, and throw in a case of the swine flu; call me crazy but that doesn't sound too appetizing. But the media is eating it all up. Agriculture has many enemies ranging from powerful environmental groups to the unaware public. But the principal driving force contributing to agriculturalists' hardship is the distribution of bias and untrue information from influential media outlets, creating chaos in agricultural industries. Today I will share with you the ingredients to the mass media stew. The first element is the impact that the media has on society today. The next spice on the recipe is examples of how the media negatively identified certain issues within the industry. And finally we will try to stop the pot from boiling over by finding some possible solutions to the mass media frenzy.

The first ingredient is how the media really impacts Americans. Mass media is capable of touching every single American's life at one point or another. It is our basic source for information. Thus, the opinion expressed by the press is the opinion adopted by the public. Over the past 50 years the media influence has grown exponentially with the advance of technology. First there was the telegraph, the radio, the newspaper, magazines, television with twenty four hour news; but the majority of current expansion takes place on the internet with social networking sites including Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, less than two percent of the American population produces all the food and fiber that Americans rely on. Yet they are up against a powerful opposition. The Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, both have influential followings on Twitter. Television began as an entertainment vehicle for shows like "Lassie" and "Gunsmoke," but it has clearly developed into a trusted source of everyday information and opened doors for other mediums. So now that it's clear that Americans are profoundly impacted by the media, let us chop up those cases where the media stirred up the pot till it spilled over.

In early 2009 a new influenza emerged with similarities to an influenza carried by swine. Immediately, major news outlets began devoting hours of broadcasting to warning the public of the dangers of the "swine flu." As more and more cases emerged, deepening worries about a possible pandemic, several nations shut their borders to pork from the United States.

The pork industry reacted with frustration. There was no evidence that the people who had become sick were in contact with swine. However, none of the scientific proof mattered because

the damage had already been done. According to several credible agencies including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Homeland Security, H1N1, which had been contracted by 763 people worldwide cannot be transmitted by eating pork. This is not a food safety issue. Yet the pork industry lost 30 million dollars to the discrepancy. While some media outlets, the National Newspaper Association in particular, have urged the correct title of the flu, the phrase had already caught on and now is a common misconception. Meanwhile the pork industry is struggling to reconcile the damage done by the false title applied in the early stages of the crisis.

Another instance is when the beef industry was severely hindered by the mad cow of 2003. The case was quickly contained and traced back to Canada, but not before creating mass chaos among certain media outlets and their followers. Industry experts conservatively estimate BSE has cost the U.S. cattle industry about \$2.3 billion dollars in lost export value. Secretary of Agriculture, at the time, Ann Veneman said that "beef is absolutely safe to eat." Harvard University experts note that the risk of Americans contracting mad cow disease is "as close to zero as you can get." Every reputable expert tells us that the American meat supply is still safe. Yet a cabal of radical opponents continued to hit the airwaves, and media outlets opened the doors to numerous false tales for one purpose: to spread needless alarm. These people are activists, not knowledgeable scientists.

Several sectors of the agricultural industry often fall victim to suspected outbreaks. The most recent case was the spinach scare of 2009. While it was confirmed that spinach that had been infected with salmonella another industry was impacted. Tomatoes were accused of being contaminated, but the FDA had no indication that tomatoes grown in California were associated with the outbreak. However this validation was not vocalized through the media, because the tomato story was juicier, literally. Mass media plays a substantial role in the image of American agriculture and also has certain powers in swaying public opinion. But how will the dispute between American agriculture and the mass media be resolved?

To begin with we need to educate the public. American agriculture is the foundation of life and one of the most important economic industries in the United States. However, very few Americans know about the social and economic importance of agriculture.

While education focuses on very specific content, there are ways in which public schools can strengthen the students'

See **KINSEY** Page 15



Kinsey Freeman, the 2010 Wyoming FFA Prepared Public Speaking Champion. BigStar Live-stock Images photo

## It's Happening In

# WYOMING FFA

E-mail your FFA dates to  
[womack@wyoming.com](mailto:womack@wyoming.com)  
or call 307-351-0730

June	Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp	Aug. 2-8	Big Horn County Fair
June 8-10	Wyoming Vocational Ag Teachers Association Summer Conference	Aug. 2-8	Campbell County Fair
June 12-13	Torrington/Lingle FFA Progress Show, Goshen County Fairgrounds	Aug. 2-7	Platte County Fair
July 23-31	Converse County Fair	Aug. 7-14	Carbon County Fair
July 24-Aug 1	Teton County Fair	Aug. 8-14	Laramie County Fair
July 24-31	Sheridan County Fair	Aug. 14-21	Wyoming State Fair Douglas
July 24-Aug 1	Crook County Fair	Aug. 17	Wyoming Natural Resources Foundation and Wyoming FFA Foundation Golf Tournament • Douglas Call 351-0730 for details
July 27-30	Hot Springs County Fair	Sept. 1	Deadline for the Fall Edition of the Wyoming FFA Times
July 27-31	Park County Fair	Sept. 11	Wyoming FFA Foundation Blue Jeans and Black Tie Ball • Pinedale • Call 307-351-0730 for ticket info
July 29-Aug 8	Sweetwater County Fair	Oct. 20-23	National FFA Convention Indianapolis, Indiana
July 30-Aug 8	Sublette County Fair		
July 31-Aug 2	Fremont County Fair		
July 31-Aug 7	Lincoln County Fair		
July 31-Aug 7	Niobrara County Fair		

Quick Info

# FFA BRIEFS

## 700 served at welcome dinner



Bill Johnson has been volunteering his time at the Convention Welcome Dinner since the event's inception. He says it's an event he looks forward to attending.

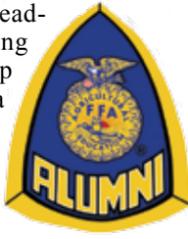
**Cheyenne** — Students arrived at the University of Wyoming in Laramie on April 7 for a day of judging competitions. It was on to Cheyenne that evening for additional competitions, leadership training, learning opportunities and three days of convention sessions.

The Wyoming FFA Foundation welcomed students and advisors to town during a welcome dinner sponsored by the Wyoming Farmer's Union, Cheyenne Kiwanis Club Ag Committee, Laramie County Farm Bureau, Bill and Judy Johnson, Cheyenne Frontier Days, Scotty's Pizza and the Casper FFA Alumni.

"The kitchen was packed with volunteers from the local Kiwanis Club who were pleased to have the opportunity to meet some of Wyoming's most outstanding young people," says Jennifer Womack, Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director. "It's always heartwarming to see community members give so freely of their time to help the state's FFA members. We at the Foundation are thankful for their support."

## Volunteers re-launch alumni

**Cheyenne** — Volunteers are spearheading an effort to rebuild the Wyoming FFA Alumni. Alumni membership dues are \$10 annually or \$50 for a lifetime membership. Corporate dues are \$500 per year. Additional information is available at [www.ffa.org/alumni](http://www.ffa.org/alumni) or by contacting one of the following individuals:



Eric Green, President  
[Eric.green@bresnan.net](mailto:Eric.green@bresnan.net) • 307-514-2217

Gayle Hamner, Vice President and Region 1 Rep.  
[ghamner@sub1.k12.wy.us](mailto:ghamner@sub1.k12.wy.us)

Howard Gernant, Treasurer and Region 2 Rep.  
[bhfair@tctwest.net](mailto:bhfair@tctwest.net)

Jeff Mooney, Region 3 Representative  
[jmm05@ccgov.net](mailto:jmm05@ccgov.net)

Ryan Ford, Region 4 Representative  
[Ford2330@yahoo.com](mailto:Ford2330@yahoo.com)

Jessie Atkinson, Secretary and Region 5 Rep.  
[Jessieatkinson1@gmail.com](mailto:Jessieatkinson1@gmail.com)

## \$11k awarded to Wyo FFAers

**Indianapolis, Ind.** — Wyoming FFA members brought \$11,000 in scholarship dollars back to the Cowboy State as part of the recently announced national FFA scholarships. This year's recipients are:

- Shelby Benning from High Plains FFA
- Larisa Bertrand from Wright FFA
- Megan Dirks from Hulett FFA
- Brittany Hamilton from Newcastle FFA
- Dane Hansen from Southeast Goshen
- Samantha Heitsch from Frontier FFA
- Katie Ochsner from Torrington/Lingle FFA
- Cinnamon Smith from Gillette FFA
- Leisl Stonum from Snowy Range FFA
- Garrett Traylor from Moorcroft FFA

## Cooper to lead nat'l Foundation

**Indianapolis, Ind.** — The National FFA Foundation announced early May that Robert K. Cooper of Bishop, Ga., will become executive director effective June 14, 2010.

Dr. Larry D. Case, national FFA advisor and coordinator, Agricultural and Rural Education, U.S. Department of Education, announced the appointment to National FFA staff and state agricultural education leaders, saying, "Rob Cooper brings to this position a solid combination of educational fundraising and executive management experience, along with a nuanced understanding of national youth organizations. I'm confident he will position the National FFA Foundation to help meet the needs of FFA and all of agricultural education."

In accepting the position, Cooper said, "I am thrilled to get to work with the team in Indianapolis. I see a tremendous opportunity for this top-notch group to build on a wonderfully strong history and take the National FFA Foundation to the next level."

Since 2006, Cooper has served as senior director for the Office of College Advancement in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, where he directed all activities related to development and alumni relations. During his tenure at the College, he cultivated several multi-million dollar gifts and grew the development budget by more than 50 percent.



## Big Star Images recognized

**Laramie** — Kassi Bauman's BigStar Livestock Images, LLC placed second and received \$5,000 in the University of Wyoming College of Business' annual Wyoming \$10K Entrepreneurship Competition in March. Five teams competed for top honors.

BigStar Livestock Images, LLC was established in 2008 as a livestock imaging service. The company provides still and video images and also design services for cattle producers looking for ways to market purebred cattle using cutting-edge technologies. Bauman took many of the photos in this edition.

## Beef producers can't be everywhere



Most of the world's consumers live outside the U.S., so it's just good business to invest checkoff dollars in international marketing. Promotions in key foreign markets give us access to populated areas of the world we could never reach as individual producers. Take Korea, for example – in a 2009 survey,\* only 3 percent of Koreans said they bought U.S. beef. The U.S. launched a big ad campaign, partly with checkoff dollars. When Korean shoppers were surveyed again, 58 percent said they bought U.S. beef between December 2009 and February 2010. So this promotion literally helped move people to buy beef. That's a checkoff investment in action – helping to put more beef on global tables and helping move the needle on beef demand.



Irv Petsch  
Y 6 Feeders and  
Petsch Ranch  
Meriden, Wyo.

\* Source: U.S. Meat Export Federation, 3/31/2010



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# Kyle Thoman named 2010 State Star in Agribusiness

*Wind River* — “I grew up on a farm and I love doing the work,” says Kyle Thoman, the 2010 State Star in Agribusiness and a member of Wind River FFA. During the recent Wyoming FFA Convention, Kyle was also selected to serve on the 2010-2011 Wyoming FFA Officer Team. Kyle is the son of Robert and Kelly Thoman of Fremont County.

“I started working for the neighbor down the road in about fourth grade,” says Kyle. His work there involved running machinery, an experience that was enhanced by the work he did on his own family’s operation.

“People around our

neighborhood encouraged me to do what I wanted to do,” says Kyle. “I wanted to start my own business and area farmers gave me a lot of advice on what to do and what not to do. That helped me a lot.”

Kyle’s business plans took off when he grasped the opportunity to lease 200 acres from an area landowner who lives in Jackson. “I offered to farm that for him and took two cuttings off of it in 2009,” says Kyle. Growing grass and alfalfa hay and oats, he used some of his family’s machinery and rented some from a neighbor.

The first cutting was almost complete when Kyle says he had a break-

down that left him unable to harvest the last five acres. He was up and running again by second cutting, but he says last fall’s weather left him harvesting the hay while he was busy with school and playing football.

“When second cutting came around we were getting into September and October and it snowed a couple of times,” recalls Kyle. “I was trying to play sports and trying to wrap up my project while fighting the weather. There were days I would go to school and try to work as much as I could. Around here the hay isn’t right to harvest until 2 a.m. to 9 a.m. Most of the time I spent haying

was then.” Kyle did complete the harvest despite the challenges.

While carrying out his farming operations Kyle was also getting a market steer ready for the Fremont County Fair. Historically he says his family has purchased the feed for their cattle pre-mixed, but last year Kyle decided to buy a mixer and make their own. “We mixed our own feed and mixed extra feed for a neighbor down the road. By selling it to him at fair market value we helped pay for some of our feed costs.”

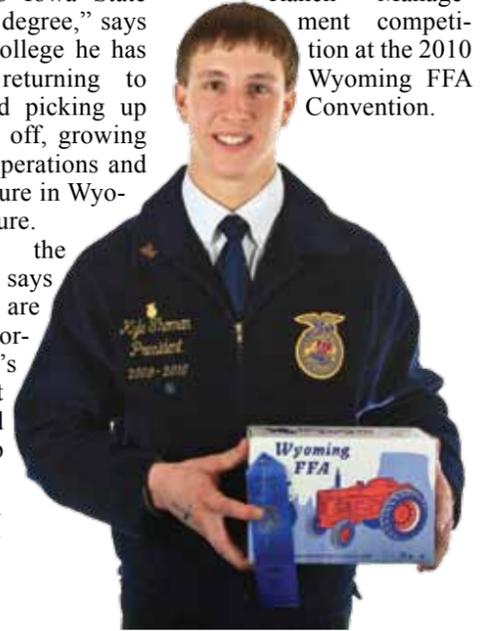
With the proceeds from his summer 2009 projects, Kyle says he was able to buy a pickup truck so he could haul his own cattle to weigh-ins and transport his farm machinery.

Given his new role as Wyoming FFA Treasurer, Kyle says he’ll scale his projects back during the

upcoming summer. He’s moving to Laramie in the fall to study Agriculture Engineering at the University of Wyoming. “I’d like to transfer to Iowa State to finish that degree,” says Kyle. After college he has dreams of returning to Wyoming and picking up where he left off, growing his farming operations and building a future in Wyoming agriculture.

Through the FFA Kyle says people skills are the most important items he’s learned. “It also helped with crop nutrition, crop care and animal science. That came in handy when I started mixing rations.”

Kyle says the skills learned through his projects also helped him reach his goal of being the high individual in the 2010 Farm and Ranch Management competition at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention.



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



2010 State Star in Agribusiness Kyle Thomas says snow was a real challenge while trying to wrap up second cutting during the fall of 2009. Thoman leased 200 acres from a neighbor for his SAE project.

## AL continued from Page 1

Earning State Star status isn’t easy. As explained by Al’s ag teacher Grace Jorgensen, “State Stars are selected by the Wyoming state FFA officers after members are selected as the Regional Star in their particular area of concentration.” The agriculture education teachers in each area pick the regional stars.

“In the summer I irrigate, spray weeds and whatever else needs done,” says Al. He upgraded his driver’s license so he can legally drive the feed truck and haul manure. Being able to do more around the operation, he says, ensures that his dad, his uncles and other members of the family can be away if needed.

Al’s parents are Bob and Melissa Hefenieder. His grandparents are Bill and Bonnie Hefenieder of Worland and Floyd and Mary Derry of Powell.

“My favorite part about working on the farm is that I get to work with my grandpa, dad, two uncles and cousin,” says Al. “No matter what the task we seem to always get the work done. I really enjoy turning bare ground into a profitable crop and watching the seasons change as I work outside. But most of all working with my family.”

Al says, “The highlight of being an FFA member has been being able to develop my showmanship abilities by fitting and showing sheep, pigs and cattle at the fair. I have enjoyed the county fair and state fair experience and the friendships that went along with it.”

Six years ago Al purchased two Percheron colts off of a load that arrived at the salebarn in Worland from Canada. “I really enjoy working with horses,” he says. “I had the opportunity to work with teamster Jim Newell and he taught me how to drive them.”

“I bought my team with my own money and am on a labor exchange for the feed,” says Al. “The horses are penned up about five miles down the road at Jim’s house. Jim also bought a team the same day, but he trained and sold his due to high hay costs. I just leave my horses down at his house and he uses them to farm his three acres around his house along with the other activities an 80-year-old man would do. Whenever I want to use my horses I just go down and get them from his house. I mainly use them for parades and a wagon train in the summer as well as for pleasure driving whenever I have time.”

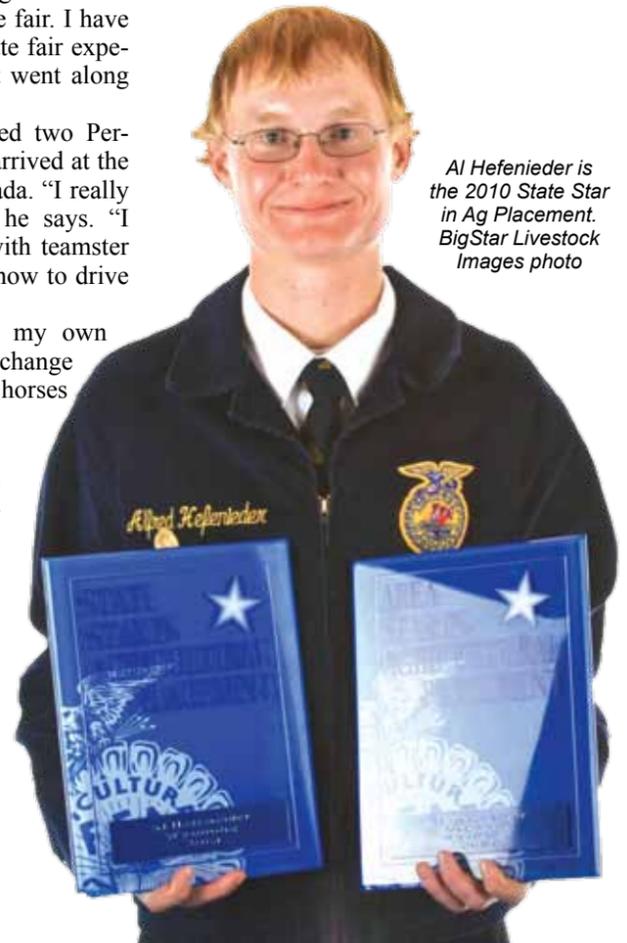
Al shares, “The most difficult part about starting my

team was that I didn’t have any past experience in driving horses. I was able to tame them down and halter break them with some guidance from my neighbors. It wasn’t until Jim offered to help me that the project really started rolling well. Jim has been working and training horses his whole life and once the horses were unloaded at his house everything went smoothly after that for the most part.”

“I didn’t get set up with Jim until they were about a year old,” says Alfred. “But the month after they turned two we drove them in the Worland Centennial Parade. Since then we have been in numerous parades and on one six-day trail ride to Hole In the Wall led by wagon master Sam Hampton.”

As Al prepares to attend Northwest College in the fall he says involvement in the FFA has helped him learn “the joys and discomforts of agricultural life as well as good work ethic and a sense of responsibility.” Al says, “You just have to keep going despite the challenges.”

Agricultural business and professional horse shoeing will be Al’s focus while he’s attending Northwest College. “I want to be able to shoe my own draft horses,” says Al. “After graduating I hope to come home and work on the family farm. I hope we can keep farming as a family and improving what we’ve got.”



Al Hefenieder is the 2010 State Star in Ag Placement. BigStar Livestock Images photo

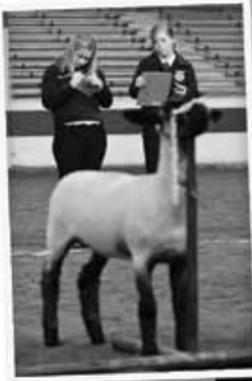
# BIG STAR

## LIVESTOCK IMAGES

### OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Wyoming State FFA Convention

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Kassi Bauman Was A Past Wyoming FFA Member

# Top teams headed for National FFA Convention Fall 2010 in Indiana

**Cheyenne** — “When I see FFA jackets in D.C. I go up to them and thank them for being in FFA. I know they’re going to be a great American, just like I know you’re going to be a great American,” said Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis during her April 8 presentation to over 1,000 student attendees at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wyoming FFA Convention.

During the Thursday, April 8 opening session, 2009-2010 Wyoming FFA President Catlin Caines of Hyattville greeted students. Caines was joined on stage by his fellow state officer team: Vice President Tressa Lawrence of Buffalo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jared Oldham of Lander, Treasurer Laurel Prusak of Clearmont, Reporter Grant Pulse of Cheyenne, Secretary Taylor Haley of Laramie, Parliamentarian Tate Bauman of Cheyenne and Sentinel Emily Voigt of Cheyenne.

“The State FFA Convention is the culmination of the academic school year and I thought we had an awesome convention,” says State Advisor Ron Pulse. “We had almost 800 students compete in the Career Development Events and over a 1,000 members in attendance.” Pulse thanked the numerous volunteers and friends of FFA who help make the event possible.

Dustin Clark, thanks to the continuing support of Farm Credit Services of America, delivered the 2010 keynote address. Clark, a member of the Texas A&M basketball coaching staff and a past National FFA Officer, encouraged Wyoming FFA members to stop procrastinating and to pursue their goals with enthusiasm.

Snowy Range FFA made an outstanding appearance at the 2010 FFA Convention with advisor Danielle Cox-Kunkel and her members taking home three team championships and the sweepstakes award. The chapter’s winning Farm and Ranch Management Team is comprised of Heather Honken, Courtney Yelton, Hunter Trabling and Sadey Saputo, who was also third high individual in the competition.

The Southeast Wyoming RC&D is sponsoring the Farm and Ranch Management Team as they make their way to National FFA Convention in the fall. Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack explains, “We’ve partnered with Wyoming businesses and organizations to ensure that each of this year’s winning teams receive \$1,000 in prize money.

The funds are presented to the chapters to offset the costs associated with traveling to and competing at the National FFA Convention. The trip can be costly, but it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our state’s FFA members.”

Snowy Range’s Champion Poultry Judging Team is comprised of Dalton Johnson, Heather Honken, Nick Moline and Michael Niswinder, who was also high individual in the contest. Egglands Best of Colorado provided \$150 to help offset this team’s travel costs, but the Wyoming FFA Foundation is seeking additional sponsors to reach the \$1,000 sponsorship goal.

In the Junior Poultry Judging for younger FFA members, a team from Hanna-Elk Mountain earned top honors. According to Advisor Jason Hubbard, team members are Crystal Richards, Maggie Johnson, Garrette Irene and Brittany Dys.

Sadey Saputo, Christa Avery and Nina Adams of Snowy Range FFA made up the 2010 Champion Horse Judging Team. Bison Oilwell Cementing of Colorado helped sponsor this year’s team. An additional sponsor is being sought to round out the support level.

Attorney Karen Budd-Falen coached this year’s winning Ag Issues Team from Cheyenne’s Frontier FFA all the way to a state championship. Team members Ben Berry, Micah Christensen, Kinsey Freeman, Sami Jo Heitsch, Kaci Malmborg, Sarah Mock and Cora Craig chose the Equal Access to Justice Act and the environmental community’s abuse of the legal system as their topic of choice. This team is sponsored by the Wyoming Farmer’s Union.

“This year’s competition was a prime example of how FFA members are learning about issues of extreme importance to the agricultural community,” says Womack. “These students shared their winning presentation on Saturday morning and educated nearly 700 fellow FFA members about this important subject.”

Rock Creek FFA of Rock River took championship honors in this year’s Agriculture Mechanics competition. Team members are Ashley Kalco, William

Clark, Tyler Barber and Scott Mustain. Andreen-Hunt Construction of Casper is sponsoring this year’s winning team.

The 2010 Champion Parliamentary Procedure team is from Cheyenne’s Frontier FFA Chapter. The team of Patrick Weaver, Dylan Freeman, Haley McKee, Jared Falzone, Kylie Foster and Danielle Kakalecik was coached by advisor Tommy Cress and is sponsored by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as they make their way to National FFA Convention in the fall.

This year’s Champion Agronomy Team hailed from Moorcroft High School and was coached by advisor Justin Bailey. Team members include Clayton Svallina, Trevor Gray, Kenny Sisson and Alisha Gonzalez. The University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Dr. Tom Whitson are sponsoring this team.

Torrington/Lingle FFA, under the leadership of advisor Jason Groene, won the meats judging championship. Team member Katie Ochsner was high individual followed by her brother, BW Ochsner in second place. Other team members are Evan Rader and Joel Kerns. Thanks to the \$1 per head Beef Checkoff, this team will receive \$1,000 from the Wyoming Beef Council.

Devils Tower FFA’s Jess Olson, Katy Pannell and Mikaela Stricker make up the 2010 champion team in the Marketing Plan Competition. Their advisor is Kristy Holum. The chapter will receive \$1,000 in prize money to ensure the team can travel to and compete at the National FFA Convention. Providing the prize money are past State Star in Agribusiness winners Troy Randall of Pine Bluffs and Forest Smith of Powell.

Winning the meats judging competition at the junior high level was Meeteetse FFA, coached by advisor Joey Johnson. Team members are Ashton Abarr, Seth Bennett, Tristen Brewer and Haley Campsey.

Southeast FFA, under the guidance of FFA Advisor Ashley Middleswarth, had the champion Ag Sales Team at this year’s convention. Team members are Zane Mackey, Jesselyn Burroughs, Spencer

Humphrey and Katelin Malm. The chapter also had the Champion Environment

ment and Natural Resources Team of Lucas Kaufman, Audrey Marsh, Austin Rutt and Blake Steben. The Wyoming Rural Electric Association teamed up with the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts to ensure sponsorship of this winning team.

Casper FFA’s team of Tate Chamberlain, Courtney Hauf, Asher Markworth and Danielle Mason was coached by FFA Advisor Brock Burch and is the champion 2010 Livestock Judging Team. As they make their way to nationals, this team carries the support of Weaver Ranches of Colorado and Maxine Weaver of Cheyenne.

A team comprised of young Riverton FFA members won this year’s Greenhand Quizbowl, which tests students on their knowledge of the FFA. Advisor Casey Styvar says the winning team was comprised of Dallin Cooper, Amber Erhart, Emma Herbst and Sierra Sanders.

In the public speaking events, three outstanding presenters were recognized. Newcastle High School Senior Courtney Mathews won the extemporaneous public speaking competition, sponsored by Hageman and Brighton, P.C. of Cheyenne. Mathew drew “green energy” as her topic and was given a short time to prepare a five-minute presentation.

neous public speaking competition, sponsored by Hageman and Brighton, P.C. of Cheyenne. Mathew drew “green energy” as her topic and was given a short time to prepare a five-minute presentation.

Kinsey Freeman, a member of Cheyenne’s Frontier FFA, gave the winning speech in this year’s prepared public speaking event. Freeman’s topic is educating the media about agriculture. This year’s prepared public speaking sponsor is Northern Ag Network of Billings, Mont.

Cody Giles of Buffalo earned championship honors in this year’s Creed Speaking competition, an event that calls upon members to memorize and present the FFA Creed.

Chris and Jennifer Womack of Douglas sponsored this year’s contest.



Riverton FFA members Amber Erhart, Sierra Sanders, Dallin Cooper and Emma Herbst made up the 2010 Champion Greenhand Quizbowl Team. BigStar Livestock Images photo



With a subject of the Equal Access to Justice Act, attorney Karen Budd-Falen coached this year’s Ag Issues Team from Cheyenne Frontier FFA’s to a winning finish. Team members are Ben Berry, Kinsey Freeman, Micah Christensen, Sarah Mock, Sami Jo Heitsch, Kaci Malmborg and Cora Craig. The team will represent Wyoming at this fall’s National FFA Convention. BigStar Livestock Images photo

EVERY PHOTOGRAPHER STARTED SOMEWHERE. CHECK OUT OUR PHOTOGRAPHY TIP SHEET AT [WYOAGWEEK.ORG](http://WYOAGWEEK.ORG)

  
**PRESENTS**  
**THIRD ANNUAL AG PHOTO CONTEST**

**ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS:** Below please find the rules for submitting your photographs. This contest is open to youth and adults, amateurs and professionals.

**DEADLINES:**  
You can send in as many pictures as you'd like whenever you'd like as long as all your submissions are in by Sept. 1, 2010.

**CASH PRIZES:**  
Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners and the photos will be used in our next Agriculture Calendar, which will be issued in November/December 2010.



<b>GRAND PRIZE:</b> ● \$300	<b>ADULTS:</b> ● 1st Place: \$150 ● 2nd Place: \$75	<b>YOUTH:</b> ● 1st Place: \$50
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For a complete list of photo contest guidelines and application visit:  
[www.wyomingbusiness.org/ag/agribusiness.aspx](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/ag/agribusiness.aspx)

For more contest information contact:  
 Terri Barr at 307.777.2807 or [terri.barr@wybusiness.org](mailto:terri.barr@wybusiness.org)

**Growing Wyoming Agriculture**

# Proficiency Winners recognized at 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention

**Cheyenne** — Each year Wyoming FFA members showcase their Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects in a quest to earn recognition among the top-placing individuals at the Wyoming FFA Convention. Supervised Agriculture Experience projects are those efforts a student carries out by starting their own business or working for others.

According to the National FFA Organization, "A Supervised Agricultural Experience program (SAE) is a key component of agricultural education. While working on an SAE project, students learn to apply the concepts and principles taught in their agriculture classes to real-world problems and scenarios. A student selects an SAE project based on his or her interest in one of four areas:

- Exploratory - Learn about the big picture of agriculture and its many related careers.
- Research/Experimentation and Analysis - Conduct research and analyze information to discover new knowledge.
- Ownership/Entrepreneurship - Plan and operate an agriculture-related business.
- Placement - Work for a business or individual, either for pay or for the experience.

Following is a list of this year's Wyoming winners:

#### **Agricultural Communications**

Sarah Saulsbury, Casper FFA

#### **Agricultural Education**

Sarah Frisbee, Casper FFA

William Wood, Snowy Range FFA

#### **Agriculture Mechanics – Design and Fabrication**

William Wood, Snowy Range FFA

Al Hefenieder, Chief Washakie FFA

Make Chaput, Casper FFA

#### **Agricultural Mechanics — Repair and Maintenance**

Thomas Rohn, Torrington/Lingle FFA

Dalton Harris, Jim Bridger FFA

#### **Agricultural Processing**

Tim Carpenter, Snowy Range FFA

#### **Agricultural Sales — Placement**

Brittany Clemetson, Casper FFA

Seth Coursen, Casper FFA

#### **Agricultural Services — Entrepreneurship/Placement**

Jayson Foley, Kaycee FFA

KyLeigh Weber, Jim Bridger FFA

Kohy Atkins, Jim Bridger FFA

#### **Beef Production — Entrepreneurship**

Kathleen Ochsner, Torrington/Lingle FFA

Cinnamon Smith, Gillette FFA

Jacy Pannell, Devils Tower FFA

#### **Beef Production — Placement**

Chay Youngberg, Jim Bridger FFA

Tom Ford, Gillette FFA

Al Hefenieder, Chief Washakie FFA

#### **Dairy Production, Entrepreneurship**

Chelsey Porter, Riverton FFA

#### **Diversified Agricultural Production**

Jacy Pannell, Devils Tower FFA

Lucas Kaufman, Southeast FFA

Kyle Thoman, Wind River FFA

#### **Diversified Livestock Production - Entrepreneurship**

Michelle Mullins, Paintrock FFA

Taite Johnson, Gillette FFA

Chelsey Porter, Riverton FFA

#### **Diversified Livestock Production - Placement**

Garrott Purdy, Pine Bluffs FFA

#### **Emerging Agricultural Technology**

Cassidy Anderson, Casper FFA

#### **Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management**

Shelby Baumgartner, Clear Creek FFA

Kate Richardson, Chief Washakie FFA

#### **Equine Science - Entrepreneurship**

Cinnamon Smith, Gillette FFA

Crystal Schliechardt, Jim Bridger FFA

Keylee Saylor, Casper FFA

#### **Equine Science - Placement**

Taylor Mason, Casper FFA

#### **Forage Production**

Jac Klaahsen, Buffalo FFA

Tim Carpenter, Snowy Range FFA

#### **Forest Management and Products**

Andrew Carpenter, Southeast FFA

#### **Home and/or Community Development**

William Wood, Snowy Range FFA

Amy Andreen, Casper FFA

#### **Outdoor Recreation**

Michelle Kirschenmann, Gillette FFA

Cinnamon Smith, Gillette FFA

Chelsey Carson, Gillette FFA

#### **Poultry Production**

Danielle Mason, Casper FFA

LeAnn Whitney, Newcastle FFA

#### **Sheep Production**

Kaleb Larson, Jim Bridger FFA

Ashley Spatz, Burns FFA

Sara Goni, Kaycee FFA

#### **Small Animal Production and Care**

Mary Chandler, Gillette FFA

#### **Specialty Animal Production**

Danielle Mason, Casper FFA

Rachel Purdy, Pine Bluffs FFA

William Wood, Snowy Range FFA

#### **Swine Production**

Tyler Crippen, Riverton FFA

Asher Markworth, Casper FFA

#### **Veterinary Medicine**

Vicki Martin, Chief Washakie FFA

Susan Button, Newcastle FFA

A special thank you goes out to our 2010 proficiency sponsors. "These businesses and individuals," says FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack, "ensure we have the funds necessary to provide Wyoming's outstanding FFA members with the recognition they deserve."

Fred and Joan Moller

Heath and Jaime Hornecker

D&W Livestock

Huckfeldt Trucking Company

Green River Valley CowBelles

Showtime Magazine

Crook County CattleWomen

Sedman Farm and Feeders

Sprout's Greenhouse

Wyoming Crop Improvement Association

ADM Moorman ShowTech Feeds

Double 8 Ranch

Rex and Gayle Hamner

Wyoming Purebred Columbia Association

Katrin S. Kolder, DVM and James Madsen

## Cowboy Chuck and Chip

### Golf Scramble

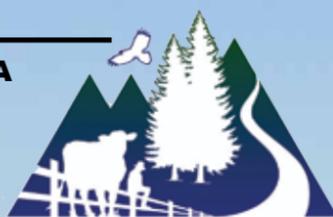
Aug 17, 2010 • 2 p.m.

Douglas Community Golf Course

\$75 Per Person Entry Fee

- Held in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair
- Pre-register at 307.351.0730 or the day of the tournament beginning at noon
- Pick your team or we can also help you find teammates
- Two mulligans at \$5 each available during registration
- You'll be allowed to throw, "chuck," your ball one time
- Dinner provided following the tournament
- Prizes awarded to the top four teams
- Open to all ages

Proceeds benefit the Wyoming FFA Foundation and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation - Olin Sims Endowment



# FFA Foundation congratulates FFA Degree recipients

**Cheyenne** — The Wyoming FFA Degree is the highest honor that can be achieved within the Wyoming FFA. In an effort to achieve this recognition FFA members are encouraged to grow, achieve, and establish themselves in an agricultural career. Attaining the State FFA Degree in Wyoming requires a solid commitment to agriculture and FFA. The Wyoming FFA Foundation would like to congratulate the following FFA members for reaching this goal and earning recognition at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

**Lander**

Breanna Ingram  
Michelle Kearl  
Odessa Oldham

**Lyman**

Blake Condos  
Randy McBroon  
Stormy Lupher

**Mountain View**

Kaycee Carpenter  
Chay Yongberg  
Jesse Wall  
Kaylie Johnson  
Kohy Atkins  
Sarah Nixon  
Dalton Harris  
Kaleb Larson

**Pinedale**

Elizabeth Shaffer

**Riverton**

Mary Osborne

Laura Schweigert  
Melanie Linthicum  
Mikenzie Taylor  
Walter Crofts  
Chans Woolery  
Shelby Rice  
Kacy Townsley  
**Shoshoni**  
Russel Goff  
Tess Clemetson  
Ryan Huxtable  
Johnee Jo Campbell

**Wind River**

Matt Hitt  
Faith Hoffman  
Nick Pince  
Kyle Thoman

**Basin**

Michelle Mullins

**Cody**

Katrina Barnett  
Brennon Edwards

**Powell**

Hannah Pollart

**Thermopolis**

Kylie Olsen  
Kirsty Tillack  
Kylee Gibbel  
Tamarah Byer  
Jennie Heath  
Steven Cable  
Baely Lofink  
Mandi Reynolds  
Christopher Groh

**Worland**

Alexis Salzman  
Kate Richardson  
Al Hefenieder

**Bearlodge — Sundance**

Luke Bethea

**Buffalo**

Dani Guyton  
Megan Belus

**Clear Creek**

Ryan Baumgartne  
Shelby Baumgartner

**Devils Tower — Hulett**

Shane Wolf  
Jacy Pannell

**Gillette**

Cinnamon Smith  
Michelle Kirschenmann

**Newcastle**

Courtney Mathews  
Marina Podio

Susan Button  
Jennifer Bayne

Katrina Chord

Brittany Hamilton  
Megan Gordon

LeAnn Whitney

**Sheridan**

Victoria Nesbitt  
Codee McKinzie

Heather Gould

**Tongue River**

Ashley Stimpson  
Chris Poglajen

**Whitcomb — Moorcroft**

Laramie Jackson  
Brittany Griffith

LaNae Graham  
Hugh Cook

Jami Baker

Cole Robinson

**Burns**

Bethany Malm  
Lee Peterson

**Encampment**

Cady Cox

**Frontier**

Chris Ashworth  
Benjamin Berry

Micah Christensen  
Brayden Connour

Kinsey Freeman  
Samantha Jo Heitsch

Zane Lacy

Kaci Malmborg

**High Plains**

Jace Beard  
Travis Burkett

Nicole Vining  
Kolby Drake

Shelby Benning  
Lauren Schutkowski

Mariah Babb  
Melissa Davis

**Little Snake River**

Jace Munzing  
Kal Ready

Michelle Yergen

**Pine Bluffs**

Todd Baker

James Taylor

Allie Leitza  
Matt Smock

**Rock Creek**

William Clark  
Justin Brinkerhoff

Ashley Kalco  
Scott Mustain

**Saratoga**

Ryley Giacometto  
Ashlie Ward

**Snowy Range —**

**Laramie**

Kodi Bernaski  
Tim Carpenter

Gwen Kirk  
Samantha Pratt

Leisl Stonum  
Courtney Yelton

**Casper**

Cassidy Anderson  
Amy Andreen

Mike Chaput  
Brittany Clemetson

Tyrel Coursen  
Kerstin Mundy

Sarah Saulsbury  
Mike Owens

**Chugwater**

Myron Lovett  
Meagan Bebo

**Douglas**

Jamie Geho  
Tyler Halverson

Morgan Peden

**Glendo**

Garret Wilson

**Southeast**

Dane Hansen  
Audrey Marsh

Andy Carpenter  
Lucas Kaufman

**Torrington/Lingle**

Rayanne Hartung  
Theron Hageman,

Joel Kerns  
Thomas Rohn

Katie Ochsner  
Haley Yorges

**Wheatland**

Ty Hiatt  
Zack Rose

Brady Cochran  
Kelsey Plambeck

Jason Brant  
Adonis Sheeley

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## 2010 WYOMING FFA ATV RAFFLE

FUNDS BENEFIT WYOMING'S 2,000 PLUS FFA MEMBERS!

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# 2010 WYOMING FFA CHAMPIONS



Photos by **DIG STAR** Livestock Images

**CHAMPION AGRONOMY TEAM:**  
WHITCOMB FFA OF MOORCROFT



Kenny Sisson, Clayton Svalina, Alisha Gonzalez and Trevor Gray  
Advisor: Justin Bailey

**SPONSOR:**  
UW COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND DR. TOM WHITSON

**CHAMPION AGRICULTURAL ISSUES TEAM:**  
CHEYENNE FRONTIER FFA



Ben Berry, Kinsey Freeman, Micah Christensen, Sarah Mock, Sami Jo Heitsch, Kaci Malmborg and Cora Craig  
FFA Advisor: Tommy Cress

**SPONSOR:**  
WYOMING FARMER'S UNION

**CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM:**  
CASPER FFA



Courtney Hauf, Danielle Mason, Asher Markworth and Tate Chamberlain  
FFA Advisor: Brock Burch

**SPONSOR:**  
WEAVER RANCHES OF COLORADO AND MAXINE WEAVER OF CHEYENNE.

**CHAMPION FARM AND RANCH MANAGEMENT TEAM:**  
SNOWY RANGE FFA



Heather Honken, Sadey Saputo, Hunter Trabing and Courtney Yelton  
FFA Advisor: Danielle Cox-Kunkel

**SPONSOR:**  
SOUTHEAST WYOMING RC&D

**CHAMPION POULTRY JUDGING TEAM:**  
SNOWY RANGE FFA



Michael Niswinder, Heather Honken, Dalton Johnson and Nick Moline.  
FFA Advisor: Danielle Cox-Kunkel

**SPONSOR:**  
EGGLAND'S BEST

Rock Creek FFA of Rock River took championship honors in this year's Agriculture Mechanics competition. Team members are Ashley Kalco, William Clark, Tyler Barber and Scott Mustain. FFA Advisor: Brian Coxbill. **Sponsor:** Andreen-Hunt Construction

**CHAMPION MARKETING PLAN:**  
DEVILS TOWER FFA



Mikaela Stricker, Katy Pannell and Jess Olson  
FFA Advisor: Kristi Holm

**SPONSOR:**  
TR CUSTOM WICKING AND GLUTEN FREE OATS

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING WYOMING FFA CONTACT THE WYOMING FFA FOUNDATION AT 307-351-0730**

Cheyenne Frontier FFA is this year's Champion Parliamentary Procedure Team comprised of members Patrick Weaver, Dylan Freeman, Haley McKee, Jared Falzone, Kylie Foster and Danielle Kakalecik. FFA Advisor: Tommy Cress. **Sponsor:** Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

**CHAMPION AG SALES TEAM:**  
SOUTHEAST FFA



Zane Mackey, Jesselyn Burroughs, Spencer Humphrey and Katelin Malm  
FFA Advisor: Ashley Middleswarth

**SPONSOR:**  
DEVON ENERGY

**CHAMPION MEATS JUDGING:**  
TEAM TORRINGTON/LINGLE FFA



Katie Ochsner, BW Ochsner, Joel Kerns and Evan Rader  
FFA Advisor: Jason Groene

**SPONSOR:**  
WYOMING BEEF COUNCIL THANKS TO THE \$1 PER HEAD BEEF CHECKOFF

Moorcroft's Whitcomb FFA was reserve champion in this year's Meats Judging Competition. Thanks to the support of Steve and Jackie Palm and John and Stacy Broda, the team will represent Wyoming at the 2011 National Western Stock Show in Denver.

**CHAMPION HORSE JUDGING TEAM:**  
SNOWY RANGE FFA



Sadey Saputo, Christa Avery and Nina Adams  
FFA Advisor: Danielle Cox-Kunkel

**SPONSOR:**  
BISON OILWELL CEMENTING

**CHAMPION ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM:**  
SOUTHEAST FFA



Blake Steben, Austin Rutt, Audrey Marsh and Lucas Kaufman  
FFA Advisor: Ashley Middleswarth

**SPONSOR:**  
WYO. RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION AND THE WYO. ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**CHAMPION PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING:**  
KINSEY FREEMAN OF CHEYENNE FRONTIER FFA



**SPONSOR:**  
NORTHERN AG BROADCASTING

**CHAMPION EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING:**  
COURTNEY MATTHEWS NEWCASTLE FFA



**SPONSOR:**  
HAGEMAN AND BRIGHTON, P.C.

**CHAMPION CREED SPEAKING:**  
CODY GILES BUFFALO FFA



**SPONSOR:**  
CHRIS AND JENNIFER WOMACK

# Worland's Kate Richardson State Star in Agriscience

**Worland** — FFA has helped Worland FFA member Kate Richardson set her career goals. Her newfound interests have also earned her

top recognition as the 2010 State Star in Agriscience. Kate's parents are Barry and Linda Richardson. In 2008 through oppor-

tunities offered via the FFA, Richardson says she became interested in range judging. Since that time Kate has made an outstand-

ing performance in the field.

"You look at different types of plants and you need to be able to iden-

range hand, the second high illustrated talk, the champion presentation board and we were the champion FFA team," says Kate.

Beyond her interest in range judging, Kate participated in the extemporaneous public speaking competition at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention and was on her chapter's Ag Issues and Marketing Teams. "I show a steer and a pig at county fair," says Kate, who is also the current Worland FFA Chapter President.

In the fall Kate will begin studying range management at Northwest College in Powell. Growing up on a ranch, she says, "I thought about using range management in production and I enjoyed the ranching experience. I know it's important to manage your range

properly. Before the FFA judging competitions, I think of range management as a career option."

During her tenure in the FFA Kate says she's also had the opportunity to become a better public speaker. She's given illustrated talks on range management, participated in the FFA public speaking events and made a presentation at a Society for Range Management conference in Denver, Colo.

"Being involved in so many things also teaches you time management," says Kate. "If you're going to be involved you've also got to keep up on your school-work."

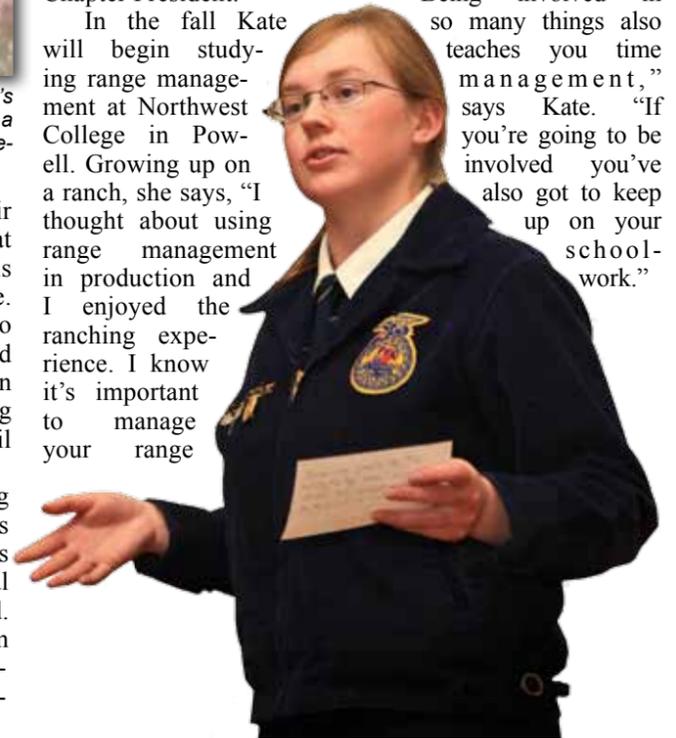


FFA sparked Kate Richardson's interest in range judging and a future career in range management.

tify them, know what their grazing season is, what their grazing response is like and more," says Kate. "You have to be able to look at a select plot and tell what condition it is in by what plants are growing there and how deep the soil is."

During Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED) 2008 Kate was the fourth high individual and her team placed third. At the 2009 event the team came back to earn top honors and Kate was the second high individual.

"We went to Montana Range Days and I was the top FFA individual, the top



State Star in Agriscience, Kate Richardson, was among the competitors in the 2010 Wyoming FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Competition. BigStar Livestock Images photo

## LEADERS continued from Page 1

all the things she did in high school she told me to join FFA. I joined that next year and instantly fell in love with the FFA and agriculture. Not being from an agriculture-based family proved to be a surmountable obstacle."

"When I was in sixth grade I went to bed each night to the sound of my sister giving the FFA Creed," says Kinsey Freeman, this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and the daughter of Bryce and Pam Freeman of Cheyenne. "So, it was natural for me to memorize the Creed three years in advance. Once I started to actually understand the words, I realized that FFA was for me." Kinsey's mother, Pam Freeman, attended college to become an agriculture educator and her uncle, Troy Wiant, is the ag teacher in Cody.

"My whole family has been involved in FFA for as long as I can remember," says Secretary Jacy Pannell, the daughter of Jim and Kelly Pannell of Alva. "When I was a little girl going to chapter banquets with my family, I always wanted to wear an FFA jacket and be as involved in the FFA as I could be. When my cousin Seth Heinert got a national FFA office I set the goal to become a state officer and hope-

Clark. "He is a respectable and honest individual who strives to prepare ag students for our futures."

"My goal as an officer is for every member to feel like they are a part of something, something that is bigger than us," says Christensen. "I love the quote from Helen Keller: 'I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.' My goal is to be, and encourage those honest workers. My goal is for FFA to continue to accomplish the humble tasks."

"I am so excited to be part of the state officer team this year," says Freeman, who hopes to make a positive difference for Wyoming FFA members and lead at a level that hasn't before been an option. "Service and relationships are two of the most important aspects of the FFA and I hope to implement both throughout my year of service as the Wyoming State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President."

Pannell says she will do her part to ensure member have "the best camp, convention, conferences and workshops." She hopes all members have an opportunity to grow as leaders.

"It is a great honor to serve on a team with all of the amazing individuals who have been chosen," says Smith. "For this coming year my personal goal is to get to know as many members of the Wyoming

FFA as possible. I believe I was chosen to represent them and therefore they should know who I am and know they can approach me."

"My number one goal for the upcoming year is to get to know different members from throughout the state," says Andreen. "I think that the relationships built through this opportunity I have been given cannot be matched by anything else and they will go far beyond our year in office. I love meeting new people and getting to know them, so its not only a goal but something I'm really looking forward to."

**"The 2010-2011 Wyoming State Officer Team is full of premier leaders and excellent role models."**

— William Clark, 2010-2011 Wyoming FFA Parliamentarian

"I enjoy agriculture and I see this as a way to help others as many did for me," says Thoman, who sees his state office as an opportunity to teach other members about all FFA has to offer.

"My goals for this year are simple: to keep it simple," says Holland. "We need to focus on leadership and stepping up to be different as well as raising the awareness of agriculture for today's youth."

"I would really like to see an increase in the Career Development Event participation," says Clark. "I would also like to see more high school students join the FFA."

Clark says, "The 2010-2011 Wyoming State Officer team is full of premier leaders and excellent role models. I am so humble to be among them."

"To be a state officer is a great privilege," says Thoman.

**"My goal as an officer is for every member to feel like they are a part of something, something that is bigger than us."**

— Micah Christensen, 2010-2011 Wyoming FFA President

fully run for a national office."

"I got started in the FFA even before I was in FFA because I was able to watch my older brother and realized how much I truly loved the group of people," says Reporter Cinnamon Smith, daughter to Rod and Katie Smith of Gillette. "I spent many years at state and county fairs, judging and ranching and realized that I was at home in all of those different environments. Because of that I knew that I wanted to be very active in FFA. As a freshman I started in FFA and tried to find what part I liked best. It didn't take me long to see that I enjoyed the speaking competitions and serving as an officer the best. Since my freshman year I have grown a lot, but still love every part of the FFA."

Third Vice President Amy Andreen followed her older brother Burt's lead when it came to joining FFA. Amy is the daughter of Dale and Val Andreen of Casper. "I was that little sister who followed my brother around and wanted to be just like him. I followed him into the FFA and eventually became really involved and immediately fell in love with the organization!"

"I am the fifth person in my family to serve as a State FFA Officer," says Kyle Thoman, this year's Treasurer and the son of Bob and Kelly Thoman of Fremont County. "I joined FFA because I saw how much fun it was for my siblings, but also because I was interested in what it had to offer."

"I became involved in FFA through a long line of family tradition," says Sentinel Trinity Holland of Moorcroft and the daughter of David and Sandra Holland.

Parliamentarian William Clark was drawn to FFA when Brian Coxbill came on as the new agriculture education teacher. "He is an excellent teacher," says Clark, who is the son of Eric Clark and Lana



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**COLLEGE** continued from Page 1

leader. The F.A.I.R. Posse awards one scholarship to an FFA member who has been at exhibitor at the Wyoming State Fair for two years or more. Receiving this scholarship is Brittany Hamilton from the Newcastle FFA. Brittany has shown at the state fair since 2000 in 4-H and FFA. She has exhibited market lambs and swine as well as several static exhibits. Brittany is a senior and plans to obtain a degree in agricultural education. She says agriculture has always been a backdrop to many memories that have affected her life.

The Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Clarks' Mule Days Charity Pool. Nickie was a 16-year-old girl who worked for Mule Days and died in an automobile accident. In her

memory this \$1500 scholarship is awarded to Skye Albert from the Powell FFA Chapter. Skye is serving as a chapter officer, competed in the agricultural issues CDE (Career Development Event) and plans to attend Creighton University and major in social work. She says FFA has taught her a lot about helping the community and what living to serve really means.

Elizabeth Shaffer for a senior in the Pine Dale FFA received a \$250 scholarship in memory of Jeff Lundberg. Elizabeth serves as chapter president, helps with the chapter business, and competed in the agri-science fair. She plans to attend the University of Wyoming and pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Elizabeth says FFA is such an amazing organization that helped her develop lifelong skills.

From the Rock River FFA Chapter, William Clark received another \$250 general Foundation scholarship. William is a senior and plans to specialize in family medicine, beginning his college

career at Laramie County Community College. He was a star chapter farmer and a member of the state champion ag mechanics CDE team this year. William says FFA has matured him into a harder-working and ambitious young man.

Courtney Yelton a senior from the Snowy

the 2009-2010 State Vice President. She says after college she plans to advocate for agriculture and help educate people on our traditions and lifestyles.

EnCana Oil and Gas generously donated \$5,000 to FFA's scholarship program for students enrolling in the UW Reclamation and Restoration center or majoring in a natural resources related major. The following recipients received \$1600 scholarships.

Kaycee Carpenter from the Jim Bridger FFA in Mountain View plans to attend Casper College majoring in



Skye Albert was awarded the Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship funded by the Clarks' Mule Days Chairty Pool. BigStar Livestock Images photo

Range FFA in Laramie was awarded a \$500 scholarship. She serves as chapter president this year and says FFA has grown her as a person and helped her learn skills such as public speaking, dependability and teamwork. She competed in agricultural issues, farm and ranch management and prepared speaking this year.

Tressa Lawrence from the Buffalo FFA currently attends Casper College majoring in ag business. Tressa received a \$500 scholarship from the general Foundation fund. She is a member of the college judging team, student senate and also served as

range management. She is currently serving as their chapter president, has attended range camp, and competed in the agronomy CDE. Kaycee says she has learned responsibility, hard work and public speaking through FFA.

Kate Richardson a senior from the Worland FFA also received an EnCana scholarship. She plans to major in range management at Northwest College. Kate was a star in agriscience in 2009, served as chapter president and attended WyRED and Montana Range Judging Days. Kate says the second paragraph of the FFA Creed embodies her



Elizabeth Shaffer received a scholarship in memory of Jeff Lundberg. BigStar Livestock Images photo

attitude toward agriculture and that FFA has sparked her interest in the career field she has chosen.

The last EnCana scholarship recipient is Blaise Allen from the Meeteetse FFA. Blaise is a freshman at Northwest College majoring in agroecology and ag education. He enjoys learning how he can make a difference in sustaining America's future in the ag industry and competed at nationals in the Environmental and Natural Resource Contest.

The Wyoming Ag Business Association awarded two \$500 scholarships in memory of Jeff Lundberg. Director Keith Kennedy commented, "The Wyoming Ag-Business Association was very pleased with the quality of the applications we reviewed for the Jeff Lundberg memorial scholarship, and wish all the scholarship applicants the best in their future endeavors. We are especially proud of our two recipients this year, Katie Ochsner of Torrington, and Kate Richardson of Worland." Ochsner is a senior in the Torrington FFA and plans to attend Casper College majoring in ag-business. She serves as chapter

president, has competed at National FFA Convention in the livestock judging contest and is a member of this year's state champion meats judging team. Katie says through FFA she has made friends, and found that the agriculture community is made up of good people with similar goals. Kate Richardson is from the Worland FFA and was also awarded an EnCana scholarship.

The Wyoming Association of Fairs also partnered with the Foundation to award a scholarship to a student already enrolled in college. This recipient will be announced during the 2010 Wyoming State Fair.

The scholarship program would not be possible if it weren't for the sponsors and volunteers who donate their time and resources. The Wyoming FFA Foundation would like to thank all individuals, businesses and organizations that financially supported the scholarship program this year. The board also appreciates the individuals who spent countless hours reading and scoring applications. Those individuals include: Debie Child, Sue Ford, Stacy Broda, Tammy Bauman, Teresa Milner, Meghan Jeffres and John Broda.

The Wyoming FFA Foundation scholarship application is available in January of each year on our website and emailed to FFA Advisors. If your business or organization would like to be a part of our application and program, please contact Jennifer Womack at 307-351-0730.



Courtney Yelton of Laramie's Snowy Range FFA was among this year's FFA Foundation scholarship recipients. BigStar Livestock Images photo



Brittany Hamilton of Newcastle received the F.A.I.R. scholarship. BigStar Livestock Images photo

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**PREZ** continued from Page 2

work like a grant program for chapters looking to improve their equipment or educational materials. The second program, the Cowboy State Challenge, will be geared toward community improvement projects. As these programs are just getting started, we are looking for financial partners to help get them off the ground. If you are interested please contact one of the board members.

It's truly an excit-

ing time to be on the board. ZZZOOOTTTT, in fact, it's electrifying! One parting thought. Whether it's financially supporting FFA members, helping coach a meats team, donating banners, coaching peeewee soccer, serving on the church board of directors or WHATEVER you do for others.... THANK YOU! You are making a difference.

Until next time... Court



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**KAYCEE** continued from Page 1

110 percent. I don't know if we ever wrote it down on paper, but it was definitely our goal."

"We're looking to make a repeat performance," says Lathyn of their leading goal for their senior year at Kaycee High School. "We want to leave the program on a positive note, the ones who earned the top chapter in the

state."

With roughly 50 students at Kaycee High School, 85 percent of them belong to the FFA. The officer team is hopeful they can sway at least another 10 students to join the chapter.

"It's a big part of life here," says Chelsea. "They join because ag is awesome."

"Most of our kids are still ranch kids," says Mrs. McGivney.

"It's great to have all of the opportunities," says Sara Goni, the Chapter's Sentinel.

"You make so many friends and have the opportunity to hear from a lot of speakers," says Chelsea.

One of the best, says Tiana, was *Dirty Jobs* host Mike Rowe at the 2009 National FFA Convention.

Mrs. McGivney plans to

take between 10 and 12 students to the 2010 National FFA Convention this fall. The trip costs around \$900 per student. Beyond the first-rate speakers at the event, students have an opportunity to visit the trade show, meet fellow FFA members from across the nation and learn about the many aspects of agriculture and natural resources.

"We've got some major fundraising to do," says Tiana.

**Past state officers to volunteer time in Tanzania**

Seth and Lisa (Nelson) Heinert, two past Wyoming FFA State Officers, are planning a trip to Tanzania, Africa to volunteer their time and talents at the Orkeeswa Secondary School. Seth and Lisa plan to spend 16 months there.

"Orkeeswa is run by a non-profit called the Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania (IEFT), whose goal is to bring hope and education to rural Tanzania," says Lisa.

Both Seth and Lisa were members of the 2000-2001 Wyoming FFA Officer Team with Seth serving as Sentinel and Lisa as Secretary. Seth went on to serve as the National FFA Secretary in 2002-2003. He now teaches high school agriculture in North Bend, Neb. and Lisa is the Director of Student Ministries at Horizons Community Church in Lincoln, Neb.

"Lisa did a search on Google for agriculture education in Tanzania and the website for IEFT came up," says Seth. "We contacted them and liked what they had to offer." The couple visited Tanzania five years ago with Habitat for Humanity.

"After our first visit to Tanzania, we both had an interest in returning," says Seth. "This opportunity matched our interests and talents with a need over there, so it made sense to do it. It's a great opportunity to learn from a different culture and build relationships with others interested in youth and agriculture development."

Seth will teach agriculture and biology to the students in Tanzania while Lisa works in the school office as a teacher-coach for the local teachers, as well as helping with sponsor relations.

The Heinerts credit FFA with developing their love to travel as well as providing skills that will aid them during their time of service in Tanzania. "We have been to Europe and Japan directly through FFA as well as many states," says Seth.

Those interested in supporting Seth and Lisa's trip can do so online at [www.firstgiving.com/lisaheinert](http://www.firstgiving.com/lisaheinert). "All donations will help cover living expenses for Seth and myself while we are volunteering at Orkeeswa," says Lisa. "Any donations above our living expenses will go directly to the school and students."



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# & the future of Wyoming agriculture

# Lucas Kaufman 2010 Wyoming State Star Farmer

**Southeast** — “I have a diversified agriculture production and that consists of beef production, commercial cattle, swine production and crop production,” says Lucas Kaufman, the son of Brent Kaufman and Sheri Kaufman and this year’s Wyoming FFA Star Farmer.

“I’m a six year member of FFA,” says Kaufman. “I’m a senior this year and plan to attend Eastern Wyoming College in the fall and stay there for one year studying pre-dentistry before transferring to Chadron State College.”

“I’ve always liked the field and I’m interested in technology,” says Kaufman, who first began taking a close look at teeth in his father’s vet clinic. “I’ve

helped my dad float a lot of horse and work on dogs’ teeth.” Kaufman says he plans to apply to the University of Nebraska’s dental school after finishing his undergraduate work.

While Kaufman’s career path isn’t directly related to agriculture, he says the benefits he’s gained through FFA will remain with him lifelong. “I’d have to say the best thing I’ve gained is a knowledge of agriculture, learning how to farm, how to stay profitable and really just developing myself as an individual and learning those qualities that make a well-rounded person,” says Kaufman.

“We raise Angus cattle and some Angus-Simmental cross,” says Kaufman. “My cattle project began with a small herd of

about 100 to 150 head and it’s now grown to almost 220.” Herd improvement, he says, has come through retaining the highest quality replacement heifers and breeding them to select bulls from area seedstock producers.

“My beef production project is comprised of my market steers,” says Kaufman who has shown through both 4-H and the FFA. “I have been showing three head every year for the last five years. My swine project entails four to five

head every year.”

He was also a member of this year’s champion Environment and Natural Resources CDE Team. “I learned how to manage water run-off, a lot about waste management and proper environmental procedures.” He’s looking forward to joining his teammates during this fall’s trip to National FFA Convention where they’ll compete for the national title.

“There’s a written test, usually 50 questions and then there’s a practicum,”

says Kaufman of the competition. “There’s a GPS and you basically have to plot points or figure the area of points they give you. Then there’s water testing, which tests for dissolved oxygen and nitrates. There’s also soil testing where you determine nitrate and pH levels as well as phosphate levels and what type of soil it is.” The final aspect, says Kaufman, is the team activity. “They give you a topic and you have to address it. This year at state convention it was water quality and we developed a

presentation highlighting the problem, formulating a solution and delivering our solution to a panel of judges who then ask us questions.”

Kaufman is a prime example of the benefits that exist through agriculture education and membership in the FFA regardless of a student’s future career goals. Kaufman says, “I’ve learned a lot of personal skills, public speaking through the FFA Creed and participation in the Ag Issues Competition and Extemporaneous Public Speaking.”

## FFA’s top supporters receive Honorary Degree

“Each year the Wyoming FFA Association selects a few of its supporters and individuals that have done an outstanding amount of work for our organization, to be recognized as Honorary Degree Recipients,” said 2009-2010 Wyoming FFA Sentinel Emily Voigt during the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention.

“It is always a pleasure to receive honorary membership into the FFA. The purpose of the ceremony is to recognize from time to time the efforts of others on our behalf,” said 2009-2010 President Catlin Caines.

Those receiving their Honorary Degrees at the 2010 Wyoming FFA Convention were:

- Bill and Vicky Haley
- Brett and Tammy Bauman
- Burt Andreen
- Dave Bennett
- Dwayne and Denise Oldham
- Jerry and Anne Voigt
- Joe Thomas
- John and Verna Lawrence
- Kristi Holum
- Kristie Brewer
- Kurt Nejezchleba
- Lacy Bangert

- Laurie Woolfolk
- Lindsey Freeman
- Marius Wilson
- Matt Frazier
- Maxine Weaver
- Oaklee Anderson
- Philip and Cathy Caines
- Representative Cynthia Lummis
- Representative Daniel Zwonitzer
- Robert and Jodene Prusak
- Ron and Linda Pulse
- Rose McGivney
- Senator John Barrasso
- Sharon Kanode
- The von Forell family

“On behalf of the Wyoming FFA Foundation I’d like to congratulate these individuals and thank them for their work on behalf of Wyoming FFA,” said Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. “Among the list of names are parents who’ve supported their children as state officers, advisors who’ve encouraged countless youth and volunteers and donors who make Wyoming FFA the outstanding organization that it is.”



Lucas Kaufman of Southeast FFA is the 2010 Wyoming State Star Farmer. Kaufman raised crops and beef cattle in pursuit of the state’s top honor. Kaufman’s post high school plans include becoming a dentist. BigStar Livestock Images photo

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Students Write About  
**WYOMING FFA**

## Casper FFA Celebrates Growth

Dear Wyoming FFA Times,

The FFA program in Casper is growing by leaps and bounds! This year we have added a new middle school program at CY junior high as well as another teacher, Ms. Wendy Pollock. The size of the FFA program in Casper has also enabled a second advisor to be hired as an assistant to Mr. Brock Burch. The assistant advisor is Ms. Christy Williams.

With the approximately 150 members, including the junior



Casper FFA members during their annual "Rake and Run."

high program, we have been busy! For this school year we have:

- Held a back to school barbecue;
- Hosted a petting zoo at the back to school bash;
- Participated in our twice a year highway cleanup;
- Attended National FFA Convention;
- Collected 1000 pounds of food at our annual Can-Or-Treat for Halloween;
- Raked numerous yards for the annual rake and run;
- Judged livestock at the American Royal;
- Won the best float during the homecoming parade;
- Attended the FIRE conference in Douglas;

- Delivered blankets to nursing homes for Christmas;
- Held a book drive for elementary schools;
- Held a blanket drive for a children's hospital;
- Worked with elementary schools to educate kids about agriculture;
- Participated in many competitions to prepare for state convention; and
- Earned first place in the State Livestock Judging competition.

We provided demonstrations to the elementary schools during the Ag in the Classroom expo and we also have an active PALS program.

Casper FFA is a well-rounded and busy chapter, to say the least! We participate in all the contests on district, regional, state and national levels. At the National FFA Convention this year,

## Thomas Foundation supports voucher fund

**Cheyenne** — The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation has partnered with the Wyoming FFA Foundation to ensure all Wyoming students have the opportunity to belong to the FFA.

"Members of the FFA wear the symbolic blue and gold jacket with black dress slacks or a black skirt and black shoes," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Vice Chairman Stacy Broda of Cheyenne. "The FFA Foundation offers funds to ensure all students interested in becoming a member of the program have the financial

means to purchase official dress. FFA Advisors put forth requests on behalf of students in their program who want to belong, but don't have the money to purchase an FFA jacket and the accompanying attire."

"Craig believed that FFA taught students about the core values of our state, including hard work, utilizing our resources while protecting the environment, and the importance of public service," says Susan R. Thomas, Director of the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation. "In my experience as an educator for 36 years, I've seen children who are involved in these types of activities are the ones who can really succeed in their careers and their personal lives. I can't say enough good things about the FFA. The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation is proud to be a part of this effort."

"I have very fond memories of Senator Thomas and his wife Susan at State Fair, an event they faithfully attended," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "Senator Thomas never forgot his agricultural beginnings and he and Susan were and continue to be outstanding supporters of Wyoming's young people."

"It's great to see the

our Horse Judging team placed third, the poultry judging team placed fifth, our extemporaneous speaker was third overall and we had a science fair project that placed second.

We work hard to make a positive impact on our community through monthly community service projects. For November, we have a turkey drive, in which we collect and donate turkeys to the Salvation Army. In December, we participated and volunteered in the Elf Workshop, where kids in the community are able to buy inexpensive gifts for their family.

Every student is required to have an SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) Project. Mr. Burch even has poultry, aquaculture and hydroponics in the shop to enable more students to have projects! Students also work together to find places to raise their animals if they don't own their own land.

The Casper FFA is a gold emblem program that strives for growth and improvement. With the hard work and dedication of Mr. Burch, his Alumni, and the incredibly talented students, the program will continue to meet its goals! The chapter wrapped up the school-year on May 12 with their annual banquet featuring keynote speaker Rulon Gardner.

Sincerely,

Lisa Andreen, 2009-2010 Reporter

Senator and Mrs. Thomas' legacy of youth education and agriculture live on through this new partnership," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt of Cheyenne.

With the support of the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation an additional 18 students will have the oppor-

tunity to join the Wyoming FFA. In recent years the Wyoming FFA Foundation has seen a growing interest in the program that helps FFA members purchase official dress.

The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation can be found online at [www.Thomas-Foundation.com](http://www.Thomas-Foundation.com).



Senator Thomas shows a steer during the 2002 Charity Beef Show at the Wyoming State Fair. Thomas was an outstanding advocate for Wyoming agriculture and the FFA. His support lives on through a recent contribution from the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation to help Wyoming FFA members in need purchase official dress. Jennifer Womack photo

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**KINSEY** continued from Page 2

understanding of agriculture and its fundamental importance to society. For example, calculating the amount of forage needed to raise 100 head of yearling cattle can be the subject of a math or science lesson. Reading articles or preparing speeches can be incorporated into reading and English curriculums.

A 2008 survey by the International Food Information Council revealed that when consumers were asked about specific food concerns, half cited "disease and contamination" as the top item. Unfortunately nearly 60 percent showed no interest in learning about food production.

So in short with the help of the media we can put a face back on the farmer by promoting agriculture in a positive way and report issues with science and not opinion. Instead of instilling fear we can work with the media to educate the public on issues and keep them updated. Mass media isn't going anywhere but neither is American agriculture; they both play essential roles in the average American's life. It is up to both parties to understand the power and influence they have on society and help promote each other through accurate information. This is a relationship that will keep the pot from being stirred in the future.

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Have an FFA story you'd like to share? 307-351-0730 or [womack@wyoming.com](mailto:womack@wyoming.com)



**PHOTO REPRINT**  
From the Fall 2009 FFA Times



Wyoming FFA alumnus and past state FFA officer Ryan McConnaughey joined the staff of Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis when she took office in January of 2009. He says the skills he learned in the Wyoming FFA have helped him in his present-day career. Courtesy photo

Dear FFA Times,

I just thought you would be interested in knowing more about the story behind the photo in the piece about Ryan McConnaughey in the Fall Edition of the *Wyoming FFA Times*. The other two in the photo are Specialist Eli Lilley and Specialist Tyler Lawson who were training at the time at Ft Hood for their current deployment.

Tyler and Eli are both past members of the Snowy Range FFA. Eli was also a Wyoming state officer serving as 1st Vice President 2005-2006.

I took that photo with Ryan's camera last June at Fort Hood during a trip sponsored by the Wyoming ESGR, an organization that supports employers of Wyoming Guardsmen and Reservists. I was

there representing their employer, Donny Robbins of MJ Ranches. Eli and Tyler are currently serving with the Wyoming Army National Guard on deployment in Kuwait and Iraq.

Sgt Mathew Parker also a former Snowy Range FFA member is serving with them on this same deployment as well as probably a lot of other Wyoming FFA alumni. If you wouldn't mind

could you please send me two copies of the paper so I can send them both a copy.

Thank you,  
Cindy Shivy  
Laramie  
Dec. 21, 2009

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2010 EWC Livestock Judging Team



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Looking Back On  
**WYOMING FFA**

**'73 Creed Speaking Champion shares her story**

**Buffalo** — Walk into any FFA speaking competition today and you'll find just as many girls as boys amidst the competitors. But when Linda Ritchie Lulias stepped on stage at the 1973 Wyoming FFA Convention in Thermopolis, she was charting new territory.

In the fall of 1972 Linda found herself spending time around the agriculture education classroom at Buffalo High School, largely due to her brother's involvement in FFA. "Troy Freeburg, from the Albin area, was the advisor and on his first teaching assignment," recalls Linda, who has returned to the Buffalo community after living in other parts of Wyoming.

"I started helping in the fall with the judging competitions," says Linda. "It didn't take long for me to join. Although I was a couple of weeks late joining the program, it took off from there."

Linda spent the remainder of her career at Buffalo High School as a member of the FFA. She was the Star Greenhand, a three-time chapter officer, a member of multiple judging teams and showed livestock at the county and state fair. Her parents, Bill and LaVern Ritchie, were ranchers in Johnson County, raising hay and registered Hereford and Simmental cattle. Linda also entered cattle in the carcass competition, one year entering the champion carcass at the Wyoming State Fair.

Most memorable, however, is her appearance at the 1973 Wyoming FFA Convention. "I ended up winning the Creed Speaking Contest," says Linda who was the first female to compete in the event at state convention and the first to win it. During her junior and senior years of high school she returned for third and fourth place finishes in the public speaking event. "I earned my State Farmer degree as a junior and ran for a state office both my junior and senior years, but didn't get one," recalls Linda. She says she didn't get to compete at national convention, as there wasn't a nation creed speaking competition at the time she won state.

Linda's FFA membership ended when she graduated in 1976, but she says the life lessons remained with her. "I learned a lot of things, all life lessons," says Linda. "Most of them I learned at home, but they were solidified in the FFA program. You learn to be part of a team." Linda says she experienced teamwork at home with her six siblings, but also appreciated the opportunity to work with



1973 FFA Creed Speaking Champion Linda Ritchie was the first female to win the Wyoming event.

fellow students in pursuit of a common cause.

"I learned about setting goals and how to meet those goals. Lessons start at home and continue in the program. FFA exposed me to more than what I was used to at home. I met people from all over Wyoming and shared agriculture experiences with all of them," says Linda.

"The public speaking opportunities were huge and that's something I didn't get anywhere else," she says. "I have to say that is a lesson you carry lifelong, the ability to form an opinion and clearly state it. It's served me well in all aspects of my life."

Looking back on the addition of girls to the FFA Linda says, "At first I was against it. We'd been told there were programs for girls and programs for boys. I tried to find a way to fit inside that mold. I have to thank Troy Freeburg for seeing the future as a co-educational program, and encouraging my participation."

Linda says, "I'm really glad I could be a part of that early on. It opened a lot of doors for agriculture girls down the road. It's changed the FFA and made a major impact on agriculture all across the United States. When FFA embraced women it earned strong producers, strong minded agribusiness people and strong advocates who could make a difference in the future of agriculture. I believe it has made a difference within the organization and in agriculture as a whole since their inclusion."



1973 FFA Creed Speaking Champion Linda Ritchie is joined by 1972-1973 FFA President Dwight Sieg-miller, Jack Sheehan, Charlie Hancock and David Miller.

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

**Andrea Leininger**  
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