



In the MARGINS

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the UW Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

New Cooperatives Class Offered at UW

The AgEcon department is offering a new course called *The Cooperative Business Model*. The objective is to educate students about the concept of member-ownership while analyzing functioning cooperatives. Milt Geiger, a graduate of the AgEcon Department who works for the members of Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, is the instructor.

Milt is teaching the initial offering of The Cooperative Business Model on Tuesday evenings during the fall semester. He has worked in Wyoming for UW Extension and USDA Rural Development and been involved with numerous cooperative ventures. The class is listed as a 4000-level course, but it is available for students at all levels and in any major. We asked him a few questions about the class.

What are you aiming to do with the class?

I want the students to understand that cooperatives are an important part of our economy, especially in rural areas and the ag sector. Co-ops are a unique melding of a democratic ideal with capitalism. Co-ops exist for the benefit of their member-owners, but they are not a charity or a government program. Co-ops must have a mission to have a mission. Finally, I hope the students see the continued relevance of the business model; new co-ops can help address problems and seize opportunities for the students in their own lives.

How did the class come about?

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association was inspired by a presenter at their annual meeting who challenged the organization to ensure the next generation understands the value of cooperatives. Rural electric co-operatives already provide numerous scholarships to students at UW, so they approached the Department to fund the class for a two-year trial.

Why are you teaching it?

I have worked in co-op development (USDA), served as a chair of a co-op, and I currently work for a rural electric cooperative — and I was interested in teaching it. My cur-



The Wyoming Rural Electric Association, which consists of 11 utility cooperatives along with three generation and transmission cooperatives, provided \$10,000 to fund the delivery of The Cooperative Business Model course, which is being taught this semester by Milt Geiger.

rent employer is a strong believer in the co-op principles, including education, so I was able to free up my schedule to teach one night a week.

What's been the response by students?

The class has 23 students, which is a good start for a new course. I am especially encouraged by how the depth and substance of their questions, especially for our guest speakers, has improved through the course semester. The students are also quite engaged with the “co-op spotlight” presentations, which entails detailing an existing co-op. I'm eager to see the output of their final projects, which are business plans for starting new co-ops.

What are cooperatives and why are they important?

A co-op is a business that exists for the benefit of its users, be they producers, consumers, or even workers. The members govern the co-op (democratic control) and receive benefits proportionate to their use of the co-op (patronage dividends). A co-op is a business, so like any other enterprise, co-ops must have a margin to have a mission. Co-ops are significant players in many industries, including banking (credit unions), insurance,

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Faculty Profile: Duane Williams

Our profile this issue is of Duane Williams who is a state Extension specialist in community development. ~The Editor.

My programming emphasis areas are: Keys to Successful Community Development, Leadership Development (Importance of Hope), Building Human Capital (True Colors Personality Assessment and Gallup's Clifton Strengths Assessment) and Socio/Economic Analysis. Beyond creating and providing educational programs on these topics, I am also actively seeking to create on-line, independent, self-paced learning activities that will allow our clientele to obtain knowledge on these critical community development topics.

Combing a comprehensive literature review of successful community development research with 30-plus years of Extension community development programming experience, I developed an assessment to help community leaders evaluate their community's preparedness for success. The assessment is called LEAP and stands for Leadership, Engagement, Attitude and Performance. Each element has five factors for evaluation. I created an on-line Extension WyoLearn Course: **Clues to Successful Community Development** (available at extension.catalog.instructure.com/courses/cscd-100) which allows users to review key research on this topic, as well as, complete an interactive self-assessment of their community.

As noted in the Clues Program, community leadership has been found to be a critical factor for successful development efforts. Research has shown that followers want their leaders to foster the four psychological needs of trust, compassion, stability and hope. Drawing upon research into building Hope, I have organized an on-line Extension WyoLearn Course: **Community Development, What's Hope Got to Do with It?** (extension.catalog.instructure.com/courses/cl-100) This self-paced, interactive course explores leadership from the follower's perspective and examines what role Hope plays. The course provides a self-assessment to measure the user's current level of hope and their ability to build hope for yourself and others.

UW Extension's community leadership development program is called EVOLVE. The program works with local community residents to create their own leadership development educational effort that would help develop and enhance the skills, knowledge and relationships needed to build and sustain healthy communities. Evolve began in the mid-2000s and within just a few years it had helped establish or enhance programs in over one-half of the counties in the state, and the Wind River Indian Reservation. In 2018 the Extension Community Development Education (CDE) team launched an evaluation effort to gather data about the impact of the EVOLVE Program. A key part of that evaluation was the implementation of a survey of program graduates. It was my pleasure to work with the CDE Team on the

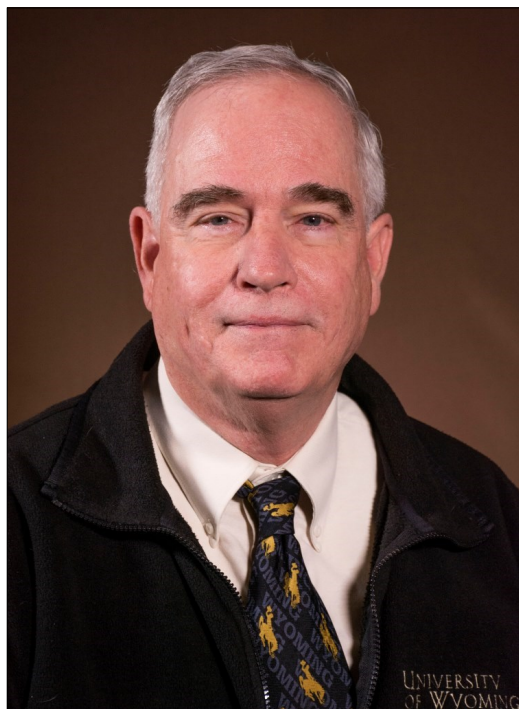
creation of the program and this program evaluation effort. I helped collect data from programs in the Northwest Extension Area and conducted the initial analysis of the survey data. I also co-authored the final report. The results were a resounding endorsement of the program and its impact for Wyoming communities.

Community leadership development is about Building Human Capital. In this regard, I am certified to provide training on two key elements for such enhancement.

The first is about **Encouraging Potential through Personality Awareness** using the True Colors™ program. This provides an easy and entertaining way to understand ourselves and others. Through this understanding participants can enhance your own potential and encourage the potential of others. The second program is called **Turning Talents into Strengths** and uses the Gallup Organization's Clifton Strengths Assessment™. This assessment helps participants find the areas where they have the greatest potential to develop strengths. This educational experience also provides an opportunity for individual and team coaching to apply this knowledge for strengths-based development.

Recently, I have been working with Dr. Tex Taylor on two employment analysis projects. The first project evaluates the relative concentration/diversity of Wyoming's economy, both at the state and county levels. The second project studies national growth, industrial mix and competitiveness by industry sectors to further our understanding of the changes which have occurred in these regions over the 2001-17 time period.

Each spring I have the pleasure of teaching AGEC 4660 *Community and Economic Development*. I find the preparation and student interaction in the course to be a wonderful mutual learning experience. I hope the applied focus of the course is providing tangible ideas and insights to many of our future community leaders. ■



Graduate students studying Wyoming water issues receive Vanvig Fellowships

Alicia Grahmann and Ellen Yeatman received Vanvig Graduate Fellowship awards this fall. Former department head Andy Vanvig and his wife Connie established the \$4,000 fellowship to support a recipient's graduate studies. The selection committee was able to award two fellowships this year due to the fund's growth, and was pleased to select Alicia and Ellen. Congratulations to them both!

Interview with Alicia Grahmann

Q: What is the focus of your thesis work? For my thesis, I am working with Dr. Kristi Hansen, and our focus is on how modeling intra-seasonal decision making (irrigating in response to

changes in soil moisture) impacts producer's returns over variable costs (ROVC), yield, groundwater use, and energy costs compared with an annual model. These results should help us identify the optimal irrigation strategy for a producer given land and water constraints. Once we get the results from our intra-seasonal model, we will look at how implementing water-use efficiency technologies (WUE) – soil moisture sensors and real-time energy meters – affects energy costs and groundwater use. Will adding WUE technologies help producers with irrigation scheduling, decreasing energy costs and groundwater use?

Our goal for this research is to help improve the set of tools producers have when making crop and irrigation decisions.

Q: Do you have results you can share – key findings? I do not have results just yet, but am getting very close. Stay tuned!

Q: What is your background – where do you come from and what do you aim to do when you finish?

I grew up in rural agricultural community, Hallettsville, TX (population 2,550), on a cattle ranch just outside of town. I was raised in the livestock industry with both sides of my family being avid ranchers (my grandparents are still ranching in their retirement). Due to my agricultural background and interest in the agricultural sector, I attended Texas A&M University where I received my Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. After completing my undergraduate degree, I decided to further my education at the University of Wyoming, focusing on water resource economics in relation to farming and ranching. With the completion of my Master's degree, I plan on entering the job market with the intent of focusing my career in the water resource economics field.

Q: What brought you to UW AgEcon?

I took a tour of UW in April, 2018 where I was able to meet and talk with several of the faculty members about the master's program and the university. During my visit I could feel the family like atmosphere the department has. I was convinced that UW was where I wanted to continue my education. Since being here, I found that the faculty is truly invested in our education and research and wants to see us succeed here and in our future careers.



Interview with Ellen Yeatman

Q: What is the focus of your thesis work? My research is on the ranch-level economic and ecological trade-offs of initiating a basin-wide agricultural water use demand management program, which pays water users to use less water, in the Green River Basin of Wyoming. The ecological trade-offs include wetland and late-season return flow impacts from applying less water during the growing season. My model results will indicate a spatial pattern of participatory acres, profit, compensation levels, water savings, and ecological impacts across three study sites.

Q: Do you have results you can share – key findings? Not yet.

Q: What is your background – where do you come from and what do you aim to do when you finish? I'd like to consider myself a Wyoming-ite as I have lived in Wyoming since 2012, but I am also really proud to say that I grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. I aim to stay in Wyoming after graduate school. I love this wild state with open land and few people. As a headwaters state, there is a lot of good work to be done revolving around water management on both private and public land. Just as Wyoming was a leader in western water law, I believe Wyoming has the opportunity to again be a leader in western water conservation policy. I'd like to continue conducting natural resources economic policy analysis in a career with government, NGOs, or private consulting agencies.

Q: What brought you to UW AgEcon? Water. Freshwater systems never intrigued me much until I moved out west where the resource is scarce! I fell in love with the complexity of western river systems when I packrafted down the Dirty Devil River in the spring of 2013. From 2015-2017, I worked as a research assistant at the Central Wyoming College satellite campus in Jackson conducting a microplastic pollution study on the Snake River with Professor Kirsten Kapp. This led me to my first visit to the University of Wyoming where I gave a presentation of our research and my first time considering graduate school. In 2017, I worked on the Green River as a field technician for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Qual-

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Recent Department Work

Publications

Brockman, S., T. Panchalingam, C. Jones Ritten, J. Shogren, M. Ehmke, C. Bastian & G. Parkhurst, *Adding Realism to the Agglomeration Bonus: How Endogenous Land Returns, Spatial Heterogeneity, and Affordability Affect Pollinator Habitat Fragmentation*, 6th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists. June 25-29, 2018. Gothenburg, Sweden.

Ehmke, Mariah, Alessandro Bonanno, Kathryn Boys & Trent Smith. "Food Fraud: Economic Insights into the Dark Side of Incentives." *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Jones Ritten, Chian, Linda Thunstrom, Mariah Ehmke, Jenny Beiermann & Donald McLeod. "Honey Laundering and Consumer Demand for Local Honey: An Experimental Study." *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Panchalingam, T., C. Jones Ritten, J. Shogren, M. Ehmke, C. Bastian & G. Parkhurst. "Adding Realism to the Agglomeration Bonus: How Endogenous Land Returns Affect Habitat Fragmentation." *Ecological Economics*.

Rahman, M., C. Bastian, C. Jones Ritten & O. Phillips. "Subsidy Incidence in Privately Negotiated Spot Markets: Experimental Evidence." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*.

WAEA Presentations

Papers presented at the Western Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

2019 WAEA Presidential Address: "Evolution Toward Private Negotiation as a Dominant Institution in Agribusiness Supply Chains: Implications, Challenges, and Opportunities." **Chris Bastian**, University of Wyoming. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. 44,3(2019): 457-473.

Evaluating Risk Strategies - a module on developing and evaluating risk management strategies in agriculture. **John Hewlett**, University of Wyoming; Jay Parsons, University of Nebraska - Lincoln; Jeffrey Tranel, Colorado State University.

A Laboratory Comparison of Risk Mitigation Strategies in Conservation Markets. **Kristiana Hansen, Chian Jones Ritten, Amy Nagler & Chris Bastian**, University of Wyoming.

Political jurisdiction, reputation and urban form: a more complete specification of public service costs. Scott Lieske, University of Queensland (Australia), **Roger Coupal & Don McLeod**, University of Wyoming.

Crime, Money Laundering, and the Seizure of Assets in Illegal Product Markets. **Chian Jones Ritten, Chris Bastian & Owen Phillips**, University of Wyoming.

Farm-Level Implications of adopting BECCS in the Upper Missouri River Basin. **Eilish Hanson, Amy Nagler & John Ritten**, University of Wyoming.

AAEA Presentations

Papers presented at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Almond Grower Demand for Pollination Services in the Western United States. **Ehmke, M., C. Jones Ritten, C. Bastian, H. Bruce & V. Hovhannisyan.**

Modeling Grassland Conversion: The Need for, and Challenges of, Using Satellite Imagery Data in Empirical Land Use Models. **Ben Rashford & Shannon Albeke**, University of Wyoming; David J. Lewis, University of Wisconsin.

Strategic Self-ignorance and Consumption of Harmful Goods. Linda Thunstrom, HUI; Jonas Nordström, Lund University; J. Shogren & **Mariah Ehmke**, University of Wyoming.

The Economics of Fuel Management: Wildfire, Invasive Species, and the Evolution of Sagebrush Rangeland in the Western United States. K. Rollins, M. Taylor & M. Kobayashi, U. of Nevada, Reno; R. Tausch, US Forest Service Land Use; W. Attavanich, Rutgers U.; **Ben Rashford**, U. of Wyoming; R. Adams, Oregon State U.; B. McCarl, Texas A&M University. *Spatial Economic Analysis of Parental Immunization Hesitancy in Rural Montana.* **Mariah Ehmke, Stephen Frimpong** and Chen Xu. (poster).

Vanvig Lifetime Achievement Awardee Announced

Dean Barbara Rasco has announced that the 2019 recipient of the Andrew Vanvig Lifetime Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award is Dr. Chris Bastian, Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Chris will be recognized at the Faculty and Staff reception on December 17th. Look for a profile of him in a coming edition of *In the Margins*.



Andy Vanvig served the University of Wyoming as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics for 25 years. During his tenure, he saw the number of students, the size of the faculty, and the scope of the department's work increase several-fold. Whether teaching his agricultural finance class, working with agricultural leaders, or helping a group of ranchers, Andy was a leader in Wyoming agriculture for the nearly 34 years he served

as a UW faculty member. Andy died in February 2016. ☐

Recent Master's Candidate Thesis Presentations

Kyle Balint

Economic Assessment of Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Strategies in the Tongue River Basin, WY

Stephen Frimpong

Delayed or Declined: A Spatial Panel Analysis of School-Level Parental Immunization Hesitancy in the Rural Western United States

Eilish Hanson

Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage in the Upper Missouri River Basin: Farm-Level Economic Implications

Magdana Kondaridze

Empirical Evidence of Changing Food Demand and Consumer Preferences in Russia



Taylor Recognized as Friend of Community Development

The Wyoming Association of Community Development Extension Professionals has selected Tex Taylor as its 2019 Friend of Community Development.

Each year the group selects an individual who has demonstrated expertise and provided significant contribution to the quality of life in the community in which they live and/or other communities. The nomination this year noted that “His achievements and accomplishments have gained him a distinguished reputation in our state, the Western region, and nationally, and his work has impacted every community in Wyoming.” Even in retirement Tex continues his availability and willingness to assist Extension’s Community Development Educators with data and project designs to help ensure the University of Wyoming Extension is providing exceptional efforts into our communities.



Tex was recognized with a plaque in early December at UW Extension’s annual conference. ■

Rashford Selected as Top Prof

Members of the University of Wyoming’s senior honor society recently honored their “Top Profs”, including our own Ben Rashford, a professor in and head of the AgEcon Department, who was selected by student Lexi Dockery.

Top Profs positively influenced a specific student’s life at UW, going beyond normal classroom expectations to help their students succeed. Mortar Board is a national honor society of college seniors selected for distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. ■



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Cap & Gown Chapter

mortarboard

Hansen Elected WAEA Director

Kristi Hansen, a professor in the AgEcon Department, has been elected as one of two new directors in the Western Agricultural Economics Association. She will serve a three-year term. She joins Professor Chris Bastian who is the current president of WAEA. The association’s aim is to foster the study and understanding of agricultural economics and its application to problems in the western United States and Canada.

The next annual meeting of WAEA will be June 28 – 30, 2020 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the historic LaFonda on the Plaza hotel. The deadline for selected papers and symposia is February 3. Details are at www.waeonline.org. ■



WESTERN AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Agribusiness Instructor Hired

The Department is pleased to announce that Leticia Varelas Henderson has started work as a lecturer in our core agribusiness curriculum. We are excited to have Leticia join us. Her years of experience in western agricultural systems will bring a wealth of knowledge to our agribusiness students. She fills a position opened with the temporary departure of John Ritten to the post of Interim Director of the UW Agricultural Experiment Station. She started on November 1. Welcome!

Leticia’s Bio: I grew up on a sheep and cattle ranch in the Chihuahuan desert of southeastern New Mexico. When I first started college, my goal was to go into the agriculture business sector working either in finance or marketing. However, after getting involved with different industry associations and government agencies, I quickly learned that what got me really excited was working on issues and challenges associated with agriculture and natural resource management. I love that economics gives us tools to use in decision making and problem solving for many common questions that face farmers, ranchers and natural resource managers. After graduating from New Mexico State University with a M.S. in Agricultural Economics, I worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of Wyoming. For the last four years, I have built an Extension and outreach program in northeast Oregon focused on range livestock production and economics. As much as I’ve enjoyed my time in Oregon, I’m ready to move back to Wyoming where the culture, blue skies and hunting are unmatched. I’m excited about joining the Agricultural and Applied Economics at UW and the opportunity to engage with students in preparing them for their future careers. ■



AgEcon International Programs, 2019

By Tom Foulke

This was a busy year for our international programs. We are fortunate to be able to regularly offer two amazing, but very different, international programs. They both offer our students excellent opportunities to get an international experience and broaden their global perspectives. We sent 19 students in two groups overseas during the summer.

In June, we completed our 33rd year of our signature program, *Food and Farm Culture in France*, in cooperation with our partners at the École Supérieure D'Agriculture D'Angers (ESA). This month-long broad-base program gives students exposure to agriculture, culture and history in western France. Students live with a host family and take classes at ESA, along with field trips to farms, vineyards, cheese-making facilities and others. There are also a couple of overnight cultural field trips included, one to the chateaux of the Loire valley and another to Mont St. Michel and the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy and the American Cemetery at Colville-sur-mer. Kristi Hansen and Tom Foulke led this trip.

In July, twelve students led by Tom Foulke made a foray to Australia with the second iteration of *Australia's Export-led Agricultural Sector*. This three-week tour in Queensland and New South Wales in cooperation with the University of New England (Armidale) gives students a good look Australian agricultural production with an eye on exports. We visited lettuce, sugar cane, macadamia nut, cotton, wheat, sheep and cattle operations. This year was especially instructive as there has been an ongoing drought in Australia of biblical proportions. Students got a first-hand look at how producers were dealing with drought.

We ended our trip in Sydney where we had time to see the Opera House and go out to Bondi Beach.

Australia's Export-led Agricultural Sector will next be offered in the summer of 2021. 📍



Student travelers to France

Sarah Gorman	Yoselin Montiel
Kaley Kremer	Rachel Serrell
Alyssa Lewerk	Bree Thompson
Tanner Lathrop	



Student travelers to Australia

Darci Tamlin	Alec Baker
Katie Duffy	Makenna Greenwald
Hailey True	Blake Ferris
Amy Olson	Sarah Kestersen
Katie Hazlewood	Jesse Oldham
Kenna Noble	Taylor Akers



UW Students Learn About Scottish Ag & Economic Dev.

Apart from AgEcon's two regular international programs, this year we offered a special class to Scotland in conjunction with the UW Honors College. In June a dozen UW students spent part of their summer in rural Scotland to learn about the cultural and economic histories of communities in that lovely country.

The students, ranging from freshmen to graduate students, took part in *Scottish Rural Spaces: From Ancient Fields and Forests to Modern Food Systems*, offered through the UW Honors College. The 22-day program in June was taught by Mariah Ehmke, a UW associate professor; and Cole Ehmke, a senior extension specialist, both in the Department.

The class was the latest offering from the UW in Scotland effort, which was created by a group of UW faculty who find a common connection to Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott.

"We strived to have the students engage with a wide range of experts about the cultural and economic histories of Scotland — and where Scotland is going — with an emphasis on what is happening in rural areas," Cole Ehmke explains.

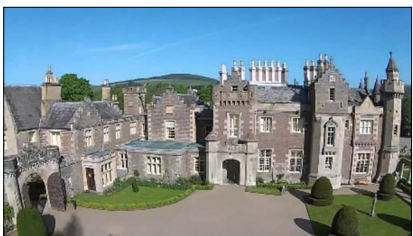
Dana Jorgensen, a junior from Castle Rock, Colo., describes the trip as "absolutely amazing" and focused on landscapes and agriculture.

"We were given the opportunity to visit more touristy areas, such as castles and museums. However, because our trip was ag-based, we had the privilege of meeting farmers and learning about their impact on society and the economy," Jorgensen says. "I loved traveling across the country with a great group of people to see all the beauty Scotland has to offer." ■



L. Abbotsford House is an 1800s baronial mansion built by Sir Walter Scott.

R. Andrew Pray examines lambs at the Scottish Rural College's Hill & Mountain Research Centre.



Cooperatives Class — continued from page 1

ag marketing and supply, electric, and some retail sectors.

What's the future of cooperatives in the mountain west?

Perhaps I'm overly optimistic, but I believe that co-ops have a growing role in our regional economy. Co-ops can address some of the unique challenges of rural areas through the provision of essential services, like groceries or electricity. Most intriguing is the co-op business model's potential to "soften" some of the perceived inequity of free-market capitalism while strengthening democratic institutions. I believe that this appeals to folks across the political and economic spectrum. ■

Yeatman — continued from page 3

ity Water Quality department. Luckily, Professor Kristi Hansen picked up the phone when I called to ask about her research in the Green River Basin. The timing was impeccable as she, Ginger Paige and Anne MacKinnon had just solidified funding through the Kemmerer Fellowship to conduct research on the recreational benefits of flood irrigation practices in the Green River Basin. I started graduate school a mere few months after that phone call. ■

Quick Reference

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In the Margins is the semiannual newsletter of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The editor is Cole Ehmke.

To make a contribution or find out how you can help the department, contact Ben Rashford, Associate Professor and Department Head: brashfor@uwyo.edu or (307)766-2386.



Tax Implications for Machinery Trade-ins



The latest *RightRisk* news letter features information on tax planning, especially for machinery trade-ins. To read more or subscribe, go to: RightRisk.org/news ■



In the Margins

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Pasture Cam Turns 20

2019 is the 20th anniversary of the Pasture Cam - <http://www.uwyo.edu/agecon/about-us/pasturecam.html>.

Tom Foulke put the first Pasture Cam up in 1999 overlooking Prexy's Pasture from the department copy room. The idea came while shoveling snow one winter's day. The name "pasture cam" came from an early internet search that brought up the "Old Faithful Cam" in Yellowstone NP.

The long-running view has gone through numerous cameras. John Hewlett was brought in for technical help early on, and is still the master technician, while Tom monitors the camera and provides some surreptitious tree-trimming. Over the years Tom has collected screen captures of interesting UW moments, including the Post 9/11 ceremony and the change from road to pedestrian way – note that there are no longer streets or parked cars.

It's a popular page too – it's the first entry on a Google search for 'pasture cam' and one of the top viewed pages on the UWYO domain. People from around the world regularly check it. We have had comments from people from Alaska to Italy and even one from Antarctica (really, an alumni was working there). ■



Above: A screen capture from September 14, 2001. Right after 9/11 there was a big gathering on Prexy's in memorial. Here, the crowd is breaking up. Right: An image from December 2019.

