

Sheep, cattle producer receives Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Agriculturist Award

Wyoming native and University of Wyoming alum Brad Boner received the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Agriculturist Award during this year's brunch and award ceremony.

He was presented the award Saturday, April 12, in the Wyoming Union by Cole Ehmke, GSD president, and Doug Zalesky, Laramie Research and Extension Center director, who nominated Boner.

Boner, in partnership with his two brothers and father, run their operation in Converse County. One-third of their stock is Angus cattle while the rest are Rambouillet and Targhee sheep. Aside from livestock, the operation also offers guided hunts for antelope and mule deer.

"Since I was 9 or 10 years old, (raising livestock) is all I ever wanted to do, and I've been fortunate enough to work in something I'm very passionate about," says Boner.

He says he is proud to receive recognition from fellow Wyoming producers and industry members.

"It's the highest honor to be recognized by your peers and that's pretty special," he says. "People in ag are a unique bunch, and a lot of great people work in this industry. I can't think of a better honor than to be recognized by those people."

Boner serves on six statewide and national agricultural associations and has been a member of four UW organizations. He serves as a producer member on the Laramie Research and Extension Center Sheep Unit Advisory Committee.

Involvement in the agricultural community is a way to stay connected to community and industry issues, he says.

"I think those associations make us more aware of what the challenges are in front of us and also it gives us a better message to approach the non-ag public with," explains Boner.

His youngest son is majoring in livestock business management at UW and has aspirations of returning to the family ranch. Boner says he's strived to teach all three of his children to sincerely enjoy what they're doing.

"I think you should be passionate about what you do and work hard at it, and if you put those two things together, success usually follows," he says.



Brad Boner receives the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Agriculturist Award from nominator Doug Zalesky, left, director of the Laramie Research and Extension Center, and Cole Ehmke, president of Gamma Sigma Delta.