

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AG NEWS

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COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The college has had several retirements and changes to college leadership since the last issue of Ag News. Earlier this summer, Dean Frank Galey and Associate Dean and Director of UW Extension Glen Whipple retired.

Provost Kate Miller, with approval of the UW Trustees, appointed me as interim dean as of July 1. UW administration plans to launch a national search for a new dean this fall. Provost Miller also created a transition team including senior college leadership and the college department heads.

The transition team includes long-time animal science faculty member Warrie Means, who has agreed to assume the role of interim associate dean for Academic and Student Programs. This appointment fills one of the biggest voids in the college's leadership team. Other members include Kelly Crane and Mary Kay Wardlaw, who are the associate directors of UW Extension; John Tanaka as associate director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (AES); and Brian Mealor, who is director of the Sheridan Research and Extension Center.

Each has been part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources leadership team as department heads or as a Research and Extension Center director through the time I've been here and under Dean Frank Galey, and they will remain in place to lead the college forward.

As interim dean, I see this as an exciting time for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The transition team has the opportunity to develop a plan to build on

the successes of Dean Galey and provide a vision for how the college will succeed into the future.



Interim Dean Bret Hess

This team will also serve as a working group to determine how the college might more effectively integrate extension and AES, particularly with an eye on better fulfilling the university's engagement mission. The exact outcomes are unknown, and neither the transition team members nor I have any preconceived notions of what will come out of our working group process. The team will be working closely with upper administration and the college external advisory board to address six key areas outlined by Provost Miller.

Some of these key areas are aimed at internal growth, and others are focused on external relationships. The most important thing is that these projects will address all three aspects of the land-grant mission – learning (teaching), discovery (research), and engagement (extension).

I hope to provide updates to our alumni, donors, industry partners, and friends of the college in Ag News and on our website (www.uwyo.edu/uwag) as this transition process within the college moves forward. This is an exciting time for the college as we look forward to hiring a new dean and adapting our college to meet the challenges of today's educational and economic environments.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bret Hess". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Interim Dean Bret Hess
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

SOLUTION REMAINS ELUSIVE FOR LANDOWNERS UNDERGOING CHEATGRASS ASSAULT

Cheatgrass taking over can generate enough horror to cause landowners to reach for silver bullets.

But there are no silver bullets for cheatgrass, University of Wyoming Extension specialist Dan Tekiela told those attending the July cheatgrass management field day in Sybille Canyon.

More than 45 people attended the event in the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area between Laramie and Wheatland, representing producers, government agencies, and the herbicide industry.

They saw results – or lack – of herbicide trials in a heavily cheatgrass-infested area for which the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and state lands had treated more than a decade ago.

The cheatgrass shrugged off the earlier treatments and returned, and agency representatives wanted to see what alternatives could

eradicate, or at least lessen, the cheatgrass.

“It’s the poster child of invasion in the West,” Tekiela says. “People are scrambling for information, but we don’t have the silver bullet.”

There will likely never be a one-size-fits-all solution, but Tekiela had specific takeaway



Cheatgrass research is being conducted in two plot areas in the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Management Area in Sybille Canyon.



University of Wyoming Extension invasive plant ecologist Dan Tekiela discusses the types of herbicides and research parameters involved in his cheatgrass research.

messages during the day. Seek reliable sources for information to determine how to manage what you are trying to do, and control above ground means nothing if the seed bank is not managed belowground.

Research has shown once a seed bank becomes established, the likelihood of eradicating cheatgrass or any other invasive plant species is unlikely, he notes.

Controlling cheatgrass early before it becomes a problem is best, “But people don’t respond to things until there is a problem and don’t know how to deal with it anymore,” Tekiela notes.

“It’s not all herbicides,” he says. “I tried to convey the point prevention is incredibly important, and I think everybody was responsive to that, from those with small acreages to huge ranches.”



Plant sciences doctoral student Chloe Mattilio demonstrates how the drone used for detecting invasive plants flies a programmed route.



Ag Day barbecue starts 11:15 a.m.

The annual Ag Day BBQ is Saturday, September 15, prior to kickoff against Wofford. Proceeds benefit student ag groups.

Serving is 11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Credit cards will be accepted.

Last year’s barbecue raised more than \$4,200 for about 70 students in 15 different clubs and organizations. The Food Science Club prepares the food, and ag student group members volunteer to serve.

Ag student organization members volunteer to serve at the annual fund-raiser.



The study found Chronic Wasting Disease did not jump the species barrier from infected elk to cattle.

Long-term research shows domestic cattle resist oral exposure to **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

Cattle fed extremely high oral doses of Chronic Wasting Disease-infected brain material or kept in heavily prion-contaminated facilities for 10 years showed no neurological signs of the disease.

The University of Wyoming's Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL), Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) collaborated in the \$1.5 million study. Results were published in the July issue of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. Details of the study are at bit.ly/10yearCWD.

As part of the experiment, 41 calves were randomly distributed to WGFD pens in Sybille Canyon in Wyoming, Colorado Division of Wildlife pens in Fort Collins, the WSVL, and 18 to the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa.

"It was an elegant experiment in many ways," says Hank Edwards, WGFD wildlife disease specialist. "You were taking cattle and housing them with heavily infected CWD elk and facilities. If CWD was going to jump the species barrier, it was likely you would see something in these cattle that had laid out in the pens for 10 years. That's a big deal."

The late Beth Williams, a veterinary sciences professor at UW, initiated the study. Authors of the article continued the research after she and husband, Tom Thorne, were killed in a motor vehicle crash in December 2004. Thorne had served as acting director of the WGFD and had also conducted CWD research.



Livestock and elk in Sybille Canyon pens.

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Outstanding Alumna

You can take the girl off the ranch but not the ranch out of the girl

Jody Levin walked out the college's doors in 1997 as a graduate student and always maintained agricultural connections.

This Outstanding Alumni Award recipient is an unapologetic supporter of agriculture, with her roots running deep into Wyoming, having grown up on a Boulder-area ranch, and receiving her undergraduate and graduates degrees from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"I believe strongly in the rural way of life and being connected with the land," says Levin. "It's always been very important for me to maintain a relationship with the ag industry."

And, "I owe everything to the College of Agriculture."

Levin launched Levin Strategic Resources, LLC, in 2009, specializing in government and public affairs representation. Services include lobbying and advocacy, community outreach,

public relations, and issue management. Most of her clients now focus on infrastructure, such as pipelines, transmission lines, broadband, and railroads, among others.

Builds Experience in D.C.

Her work prior to starting her business provided experience in the vast public policy and political landscapes in Washington, D.C., in business, and in Wyoming.

She had entered college as an agricultural education major but switched to ag communications. Her agricultural economics experience (she credits Professor Emeritus Dale Menkhaus for his invaluable guidance and assistance) helped her understand markets, consumer preferences, and how they drive choices.

She had been immersed in FFA and honing public speaking skills and says the two degrees were a winning combination for her.

Levin worked as a student in the dean's office when she

commented to then-Dean Steve Horn she wanted to go to D.C. to work on policy matters. When Republican Senator Craig Thomas called asking if Horn had any students he would recommend, Levin was off to Washington.

"And take off she did," writes Menkhaus.

Levin would receive her master's degree in December and that February start as a legislative aide, then become legislative assistant, and then legislative director 2001-2002.

She gained experience coordinating natural resource and agricultural policy at the state and national levels.

"In the early '90s, the political climate was very different than now," she says. "When I went to D.C., there was tremendous cooperation between Republicans and Democrats, especially on regional issues and those related to agriculture."

She returned to Wyoming and served as the state's inaugural

endangered species coordinator for Governor Jim Geringer. She then represented Qwest Communications as Wyoming director of public policy, then started Levin Strategic Resources.

Working Toward Yes

She has emulated Thomas' process to reach consensus among differing views.

"He reached across the aisle and worked with Democrats and all constituencies," she says. "He was never a draw-a-line-in-the-sand person. He always worked to find a compromise."

She says he believed doing so was the path toward yes, and she uses that with her clients.

Associate Professor Ben Rashford outlined Levin's successes in his nomination letter, from her accomplishments helping ensure authorization of the 2000 Water Resources Development Act to the 2002 Farm Bill and as the first state of Wyoming endangered species coordinator.

Those aren't her most important successes, he says.

"Her most noteworthy achievement is more general, and noted by Jim Magagna, the credibility and respect she has brought to the lobbying profession in Wyoming," says Rashford, head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

"She has been a staunch advocate for issues affecting Wyoming citizens, and her grassroots advocacy and community outreach have made her a trusted liaison between the people and government," he says.

Levin was selected to serve on the board of the Wyoming Capitol Club, the home for lobbyists during legislative sessions and just finished her term as president.

Magagna, executive vice president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, has worked alongside her for over 10 years.

"I have been able to observe the manner in which she brings



Levin received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the college

credibility and respect to the profession of lobbying by being professional, dedicated, and a source of information to legislators," says Magagna.

Levin grew up with some of the legislators and went to school with others. She might even run into them at a local grocery store.

"If I were to lead a legislator down the wrong path, that would not only hurt my reputation but my clients," she says.

Legislators don't have the staff to be experts in all subjects that arise in a short time frame during a session. They figure out which lobbyists to trust.

"What I end up doing is giving them resources on issues I'm not even working on, or they come to me for information and advice," she says. "That's the ultimate compliment."

Outstanding Alumnus

Adalberto Pérez de León UW cowboy as change agent, world citizen

A broken arm at age 5 instilled in Adalberto Angel Pérez de León traits that have characterized his life's work: discipline, pluck, and tenacity. Although right-handed, he learned to write with his left. Swimming first to strengthen both arms evenly led to swimming competitively at state (Indiana) and national (Mexico) levels.

"It is humbling to appreciate how everything is interconnected," says Pérez, who now serves as laboratory director of the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville, Texas. Research conducted there helps keep the United States free of the ravages of cattle fever ticks and screwworms and benefits livestock industries and human lives worldwide.

Pérez says although he was an urbanite growing up in Veracruz, Mexico, he nurtured a keen interest in animals. As a teen, he collected a book series, with his father, called *Enciclopedia de la Fauna* about animals and habitats around the world. (He still keeps

it.) After returning from a year as an exchange student in Indiana, he pursued a degree in veterinary medicine because at the time his hometown university didn't offer a bachelor's in zoology.

An internship in pathology toward the end of his veterinary studies introduced him to research as a way to address scientific questions. Today, Pérez is frequently invited to speak on issues in pest management, disease transmission, and vectors in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China, Ukraine, and New Zealand.

Becoming a Cowboy

"It's no secret I stood on the shoulders of giants," says Pérez of his experience as a doctoral student in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. One of those he credits is his co-adviser Jack Lloyd, who died in March 2018. "Jack unleashed the potential of students as scientists and helped us become research visionaries," he says.

At UW, Pérez conducted interdisciplinary research looking at diseases caused by microbes

transmitted by arthropods – animals with jointed legs, such as insects and ticks. He made foundational discoveries on how bioactive factors produced in biting midge salivary glands enhance the transmission of viruses causing bluetongue, a disease that affects livestock.

"It is amazing how much talented people from all over the world can learn when challenged with solving problems together," he says.

In the basement of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Pérez shared an office with three other international students. "Jack and Deanna Lloyd, among others, made us feel part of the UW family," he adds.

After graduating in 1996, he continued his research with a postdoctoral appointment at the USDA-ARS Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory then at UW. His subject was the transmission of vesicular stomatitis viruses by blood-feeding insects.

His family life was established during his seven years in Laramie as



Adalberto Pérez de León in the field speaking about a three-year research project on cattle fever tick management to protect livestock herds in Puerto Rico from tick-borne diseases.

well. Pérez married his wife, Valerie, at the Laramie Plains Museum on a cold January day. Two of their three children were born here. “They can claim the honor of being cowgirls,” he says. Their son was born after the family moved to North Carolina.

The Distance Between Mexico and Laramie not a Straight Line

Bees provided Pérez with the entry into entomology that led him to combine veterinary medicine and insect research. Specifically, he was sent into the field between 1987 and 1989 by the joint U.S.-Mexico Integrated Plan to Control Africanized Honey Bees. “Those were extraordinary years,” he says, “working with beekeepers from sunrise to sunset in tropical settings with stunning scenery.”

The connections landed him at the University of Georgia, where he earned his master’s degree in entomology. While Pérez was there,

Christopher Chase, then with the USDA-ARS Laboratory in Laramie, made a travel detour for a recruitment visit.

“When I first met him, it was apparent there was something special about Beto,” says Chase. “Now, he has made his mark as a world-renowned leader in developing policy and plans for national programs in both veterinary and medical entomology.”

“Beto is ambitious, bright, and innovative,” says Walter Tabachnick, who was co-adviser to Pérez before leaving to serve as director of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory. He says, “His personality is warm, supportive, and caring for the people he works with while also demanding excellence.”

Gratitude

In a move Pérez likens to “letting go of the swing,” he left the ARS

in Laramie to work for national and international corporations for 10 years, overseeing research and managing science and technology programs in the U.S. and abroad.

“I am fascinated to witness the evolution of science over the last 20 years. It used to be about breaking things apart to try to understand how each piece works. Now we ask research questions that bring livestock pests and arthropod-borne diseases into the context of ecosystems.”

Professor Emeritus Stephen Williams, former UW soil sciences department head, says, “Beto has had a stunning career.”

Says Pérez, “I am grateful to my family, mentors, collaborators, and friends. I am fortunate to have learned from individuals smarter than me, to travel the world, and experience diverse cultures. And I am grateful to the insects and ticks for keeping me in awe.”

Legacy Award

Drought, flood, sheep, cattle, and never a kindergartener

Jill Lynch Anderson reflects on a life of legacies

Driving west on Highway 450 between Newcastle and Wright, a turn south onto Lynch Road takes you to the Converse County line — right through the Earl and Minnie Lynch Ranch.

Jill Anderson's parents built that ranch in Weston County. They were among the last homesteaders in the state, starting out at a time when others were giving up.

Jim and Jill Anderson established the Earl and Minnie Lynch Agriculture Scholarship in 2015 to honor the Lynches' determination and dedication and specifically to support students pursuing graduate degrees in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

We spoke with Jill in July.

Rural Upbringing

Growing up, I did not go to kindergarten, I went to a one-room

school house, three and a half miles away. One year there were seven of us, one year there were only three. The school had outdoor toilets and a pump for water. It was the early 1950s, and my brothers and I felt lucky to have a school.

After eighth grade, I went to high school in Newcastle. For two years I boarded with a relative, but my dad missed me, so the last two years, he drove me every day the 18 miles to catch the school bus—the entire round trip was 100 miles. After graduating, I waited a year, then went down to Laramie.

My dad was born in Omaha, Nebraska. His dad and Lyn Sherwin came to Wyoming, and Sherwin started a ranch on the Cheyenne River, the 4W Ranch. It borders the Lynch Ranch.

My dad met my mother, but she was five years younger. Her family lived on a homestead where

cowboys and travelers stopped on their way to Newcastle. She was a platinum blonde cutie with big brown eyes. He took other girls to dances, but he knew he had to wait and just let her grow up. She was 18 in 1933 when she graduated from high school and they married.

My dad quit the 4W Ranch because there was no house for a married couple. My dad homesteaded in 1933. Of course, that was dryland Wyoming, and it's hard to make a living on just one homestead. During the drought and Depression of the 1930s, a lot of homesteaders were leaving, and my dad bought more land. Now it's been a family-owned working cattle ranch for 85 years.

My parents were married 65 years. I had two brothers. Byrd was killed in an oilfield accident in 1957 when he was 22 years old. He



Photo: Jon Paul Anderson, Peacocking Productions

Jim and Jill Anderson of Denver are descendants of Wyoming homesteaders.

left a wife and three little girls. My brother, Patt Lynch, and his son, Troy Lynch, and his sons, Tyler and Travis, continue on the ranch today. That's a pretty neat legacy right there.

UW Greats and Passing It On

I started in the college of ag in the '60s and spent two years in home economics. I ended up switching to education, but while I was there, Margaret Boyd was my adviser. Doc Boyd in the geology department was my husband's adviser. Don Boyd may never have lived on a ranch, but he is a true cowboy.

And when I took Geology 101, Doc Knight taught the class. At the time, I didn't know it was such a big deal to be taught by him.

Jim was a graduate student in the geology department when we married. Our rent was \$40 a

month. I remember we couldn't afford paper towels. We chose to support graduate students because we've been there.

In addition to the Lynch Scholarship, Jim and his mother, Marie, established the Earl F. and V. Marie Anderson Endowment to support graduate students in natural resource development geology.

Jim's dad's parents homesteaded in the early 1900s in Laramie County. His mother's parents moved to the Chugwater area from Iowa circa 1928.

Jim's family raised Black-faced Suffolk sheep. His dad was known for his rams, which he would sell in Casper, Buffalo, and Craig, Colorado. I met Jim in Douglas at the state fair. He was showing sheep at the sheep barn.

My family is cattle all the way. My dad started with Herefords.

Now, my brother raises Black Angus. Consumers love the grass-fed, free-range beef.

I taught 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds for 23 years in Jefferson County, Colorado. I loved it. You teach the kids and the parents, too. You are a mentor to them. My partners and I wanted to start kids out with a positive school experience. Some who have graduated from high school still contact me. You don't realize when it's happening, what kind of influence you have.

Does the World Need More Cowboys?

My brother, Patt, is a good old cowboy. He can tell a story, and he knows a lot of Western history. I like to go up for branding and weaning. At this time, we put on quite a feed. We serve prime rib for about 30 people who come from

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Research Partner

Whitney Foundation helps create agricultural pathways for students



WHITNEY BENEFITS, INC.

Edward Whitney spent three decades crafting the first educational foundation in Wyoming.

His early learning experiences may have fashioned his education focus. He was born in Massachusetts and enrolled in school at St. Anthony's Terrace in Vevey, Switzerland, later learning geological engineering in France. Whitney traveled the world but the Vevey experience was apparently especially memorable: he had half his ashes buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery and the other half in an urn at St. Martin's Church at St. Anthony's.

He died in 1917 and provided Whitney Foundation be established from his estate 10 years later with the singular mission to benefit

youth. Directors are not paid, per his direction.

He also instructed establishment of an agricultural college in or near Sheridan.

One hundred and one years and over \$100 million expended per his instruction, the foundation's purpose has not faded.

Whitney Benefits is this year's Research/Outreach Partner Award recipient for its collaborative efforts to create and strengthen agricultural paths for students seeking advanced education.

The foundation's agricultural efforts include \$1.3 million to Sheridan College in 2014 toward building the Forrest Mars Agriculture Center on the campus, and:

- In 2007, a \$1.25-million gift to Sheridan College enabled the University of Wyoming to strengthen the college's agricultural curriculum for an enhanced degree program.
- In 2016, the foundation made a \$750,000 endowment to

Sheridan College to fund the Edward E. Whitney Agricultural Instructor position, filled by Assistant Professor Sadanand Dhekney in the Department of Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UW.

- In 2017, Whitney Benefits pledged \$1.475 million to Sheridan College for agricultural opportunities to continue funding the instructor position and an agriculture business instructor and create a new rangeland management instructor position, and a new seasonal farm assistant to support student and faculty member laboratory work.
- Whitney Benefits offered a 50-year "free" lease to UW for the Adams Ranch immediately south of Sheridan College. The ranch has old water rights plus rights to stored water in the Park Reservoir in the Big Horn Mountains.

Whitney Benefits vice president Roy Garber says that, in close cooperation, Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming provide educational experiences and hands-on training to area college and high school students.

“Whitneys’ goal is to increase collaborative agricultural educational and research opportunities between Sheridan College and UW students,” Garber says.

The long-term goal is to increase various four-year bachelor’s degrees and experimental agricultural experiences for students.

“We believe Mr. Whitney would be quite pleased to see these educational opportunities for both local, and the state’s, youths,” Garber says.

The foundation’s agricultural efforts are only one facet of Whitney Benefits’ mission. More information is at www.whitneybenefits.com.



A young participant in the UW horse judging team’s June horse show awaits the Small Fry class. Photo: Shannon Broderick

TOP-TIER MANE EVENTS REQUIRE BIG-TIME FUNDRAISING

What does it take for members of the University of Wyoming horse judging team to view the nation’s top horses, compete at top events, beat top schools, and build skills that lead to careers in business, agriculture, or the horse industry? They have to study, practice, travel – and fund raise year-round.

The horse judging team presented its UW Horse Judging Academy March 24-25 and 2018 horse show series June 2, July 22, and September 8.

The 2nd annual academy attracted more than 60 youth and adults, including many return attendees, says coach Jenny Ingwersen-Neimann.

Day 1 in the Animal Science building, participants learned to evaluate horse show classes. Day 2 at the Cliff and Martha Hansen Teaching Arena, they judged live horses.

Community members, UW equine students, and Henderson Performance Horses in Cheyenne provided horses for

the practice classes. Two guest judges from Colorado and Cheyenne served as featured speakers and officiants. UW horse judging team alumni led sessions for the youngest age group.

The summer horse show series featured four age divisions and halter, showmanship, English, and western classes. The September show included a jackpot, ranch trail class, and year-end awards.

Events such as these, plus a tailgate cookout, raffle ticket sale and a holiday meat sale, support the team’s participation in practices and workouts at horse shows and seminars in Wyoming and Colorado and three major competitions: the All American Quarter Horse Congress Collegiate Horse Judging Contest in Columbus, Ohio, the American Quarter Horse World Show Collegiate Horse Judging Contest and the National Reining Horse Futurity Collegiate Horse Judging Contest, both in Oklahoma City.

Authors of the article are Donal O'Toole, a professor in the Department of Veterinary Sciences, which operates the WSVL; Michael Miller, a veterinary epidemiologist with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife; Terry Kreeger, a wildlife veterinarian with the WGFD; and Jean Jewell, a molecular biologist with the WSVL. Williams is listed as lead author.

CWD is a contagious neurological disease affecting cervids: mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. An abnormal form of cellular protein called a prion in the central nervous system infects an animal by converting normal cellular protein into the abnormal form. Brains show a spongy degeneration, with animals displaying abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions, and emaciation. The disease is fatal. It is among a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). TSE in cattle is also known as mad cow disease.

The long timespan of the research is important, since CWD is a slow disease, says Mary Wood, state WGFD veterinarian.

Even in deer or elk, animals can take years to succumb to the disease, she says. If the disease were to move into a different species, such as cattle, the timeline could be even longer for infection to occur.

"Many people are used to diseases moving quickly, but CWD doesn't do that," Wood says. "Nothing happens quickly – which is what makes this disease so insidious. It creeps up on you. It's subtle. By the time you realize there is a problem, the disease is so widespread and established, it's difficult to try to address."

Some cattle can get a form of TSE when CWD material is injected directly into their brains,

particularly when it is of white-tail or mule deer origin, says O'Toole.

He says a more important question is one Williams and collaborators asked, since it involved a more natural challenge.

"What happens in cattle when you use a more real-life scenario involving oral exposure?" O'Toole asks. "Plus, we used high oral doses and heavily contaminated environments. Cattle coming out of endemic CWD areas and slaughtered for human consumption are likely to pose no risk to people based on the 10-year study and several earlier surveillance studies."

That should be good news to livestock producers, says Wood.

"Managing disease in animals can be incredibly challenging," she says. "It is even more challenging when the disease infects wildlife and is shared between wildlife and livestock."

Wyoming cattle share the range with CWD-infected cervids, with CWD seen across almost the entire state of Wyoming, notes Edwards.

"This research indicated CWD doesn't easily transmit to cattle. Cattle do not get the disease due to a big species barrier, which helps restrict the disease to cervids," he says.

Some Wyoming deer populations have 20-30 percent infection rates.

"We have few tools in the toolbox to manage the disease," Edwards says. "We are trying different management efforts to hold the prevalence level, if not reduce the spread. That's the big thing coming up next for CWD. How do we control it in our wildlife populations?"

Long-time 4-H foundation chair oversaw 10-fold asset growth

The board chair who oversaw a ten-fold growth of Wyoming State 4-H Foundation assets stepped aside earlier this year.

"Probably a case of old age," says Bob Sexton, 89, of Laramie, and chuckles. Sexton served as board chair for 22 years. Greg



Bob Sexton

Schamber of Pinedale is the new chair.

The nonprofit is the only nongovernment organization that financially supports 4-H programs and education in Wyoming. Donations provide scholarships for secondary education in Wyoming schools and money to pay for 4-H activities and events. More about the foundation is at www.wyoming4h.org/4hfoundation.

There are more than 7,000 Wyoming 4-H'ers.

State 4-H Program director Johnathan Despain says Sexton has been a tireless advocate for 4-H, and his insights and dedication continue to make a difference on the board and in 4-H.

"His passion for making a difference in the lives of

Wyoming's youths is extremely high whether it be through his personal love of shooting sports and the outdoors or through looking for financial support to grow the program," notes Despain.

Foundation assets have grown from \$500,000 when he became chair to over \$5 million.

Despain says those in Wyoming 4-H are grateful for his leadership and look forward to Sexton and the rest of the board providing funding for the sustainability and growth of 4-H opportunities.

"We have a long way to go toward our goal of sustainability, but we've come a long way with Bob Sexton at the helm of the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation," says Despain.

Legacy Award, continued from page 11

Gillette and Casper and Colorado to help. This is just neighbors helping neighbors.

Five years ago, this dryland ranch was hit by an end-of-July storm. As much as 13 inches of rain and hail fell in a very short time. It took my brother's house, two barns, almost his life. In one place, it was 25 feet deep. Patt lost his old dog, who wouldn't leave and got swept away. The water was so strong, but Patt was saved because he was able to grab the bed of the truck.

The next morning, people came from all over. They were unbelievably generous and helped him

get back on his feet. A lovely young woman gave him her dog, Ruff. Now, Ruff is Patt's constant companion and goes everywhere with him. One little lady in the nursing home gave \$5. Patt had a hard time accepting it all. We said, 'You know if it was anybody else, you'd be the first one there.'

That's the heart of cowboy country. Jim and I feel so strongly about ranching. It's a lifestyle. It's not for the rich and famous. We've been blessed with family, friends, business, and education. You can't ask for more than that.

Sheridan R&E Field Day



Research intern Tyler Jones



UW Extension restoration ecologist Kristina Hufford discusses reclamation plots.



Farm manager Dan Smith describes the dryland corn research.



Ami Erickson, Sheridan College biology and horticulture instructor, left, and Beth Fowers with the R&E Center, with Sheridan College student Owen Sutton

See virtual tour of Sheridan R&E Center field day

Those attending the Sheridan Research and Extension Center field day, June 30, saw crop and rangeland research and Pistol and Pete during the program at the Wyarno facilities. Go to bit.ly/2018sheridanfield to view brief videos providing a virtual tour from the day and listen to researchers offer information about their studies.



Powell R&E Field Day

July 19 was a day for sharing news, field tours, research results, conversation, and food. Go bit.ly/2018powellfield to view brief videos from the Powell Research and Extension Center.



An alpine goat watches as James Forsberg has a go at donkey wrangling.



Vivek Sharma, left, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, is an irrigation and agronomy specialist at the center. Alex Murphy is an undergraduate student who also works for a producer in Powell.

Groups of visitors tour the fields in a tractor-pulled people mover. In the foreground, sugar beets.



Camby Reynolds describes field trials, alternative crops, production crops, and irrigation studies at the Powell R&E Center. He has been farm manager since 2013.



The Powell field day ends with dinner on the grounds.



UW meat judging team makes a comeback

The University of Wyoming meat judging team made a strong showing its first season under new coach Sierra Jepsen. The university last had a team in 2015.

The team placed second overall in specifications out of 17 teams at the Houston Stock Show Meat Judging Contest in Houston March 3. Katie Hazlewood of Riverton, Erika Eckhardt of Sterling, Nebraska, and Eli Worrall of Worland, placed 10th, 11th, and 12th individually in specifications. Eckhardt was 9th in pork judging.

Specifications refer to the USDA institutional meat purchasing specifications that ensure consistency across the industry. Students memorize USDA specification rules for a variety of meat cuts, explained Jepsen. Competitors look over 10 cuts of meat and determine if they meet all specifications or if there are defects.

"It's a pleasure working with this group of students because they all care deeply about improving their personal scores, as well as being good representatives for the university and state of Wyoming," Jepsen says.

The team turned in its top performance at the Iowa State University Meat Evaluation Contest in Ames, Iowa, February 10. They earned 4th overall out of 11 teams, 3rd in specifications, lamb judging, and beef judging, and 4th in beef grading and reasons. Alecia Ouellette of Carson City, Nevada,

was 6th overall individual and 5th in beef judging. Worrall was 5th in specifications.

At the Fort Worth Stock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, January 28, Wyoming placed 7th of 11 teams. The team was 5th high in pork judging and 6th high in lamb judging. Worrall placed 6th in pork judging. Zach Davis of Sebastopol, California, was 12th in placings and 13th in beef grading. Cedar Radosevich of Manila, Utah, was 16th in lamb judging.

At the National Western Stock Show in Denver January 14, the UW team earned 8th out of

14 teams and 6th in beef judging. Radosevich was 6th in placings, Ouellette 11th in beef grading, and Hazlewood 17th in lamb judging.

The UW meat judging team helped with the 4-H and FFA state meat judging contests in late spring and will resume competition this fall.

Jepsen invites UW students to sign up for the fall course, Introduction to Meat Judging. "The course covers everything they need to know to become a competitive meat judge," she says. "After completing it, they can join the team."



University of Wyoming meat judging team members at the National Western Meat Judging contest in Denver in January (left to right): Katie Hazlewood, Riverton; Erika Eckhardt, Sterling, Nebraska; Alecia Ouellette, Carson City, Nevada; Haley Cole, Cheyenne; Cedar Radosevich, Manila, Utah; Zach Davis, Sebastopol, California; Amanda Mills, Vernon, Vermont; Eli Worrall, Worland; coach Sierra Jepsen

Ecosystem science and management student wins UW's outstanding thesis award

Graduate student Austin Carey in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management received the Outstanding Master's Thesis award for the University of Wyoming.

His thesis was, "Partitioning surface and subsurface flow in a semi-arid rangeland watershed."

His research focused on understanding and measuring the partition of rainfall into surface and subsurface flow on a rangeland watershed, says his adviser, Associate Professor Ginger Paige.

She says his thesis was written in five chapters, three of which were written as publications. Two have been published, and a third is in preparation for submission.



Austin Carey graduated last spring with a master's degree in rangeland ecology and watershed management with a dual degree in water resources through the water resources program.

ACRES seeks support for the greening of the farm

The UW Foundation announces the launch of a You Fund campaign to raise money for a greenhouse to be built at ACRES Student Farm.

A greenhouse will allow student farmers to raise more produce and provide more hands-on learning opportunities for UW students and others. Visit the campaign at <http://bit.ly/acres-greenhouse>.

"With a greenhouse, we'll be able to start seeds earlier in the spring before the growing season begins and extend production to the fall, spring, and winter months," says Hannah Dunn, AmeriCorps VISTA member serving the student farm this year.

The 1.8-acre community-oriented, volunteer-based, and student-run farm grows produce using sustainable



Student farmers at ACRES Farm will use the greenhouse to extend Laramie's high-elevation growing season.

methods and provides food and educational and research opportunities for the Laramie and University of Wyoming communities.

The ACRES Student Farm Greenhouse Project is scheduled to be completed by November. Visit the farm's website at <http://www.uwyo.edu/uwacres>.

Molecular biology, chemistry student receives Spitaleri Award

Sophia Kwende of Cameroon received the Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri Award as the University of Wyoming's outstanding graduating woman.

The award, established in 1964, recognizes Kwende for exhibiting the finest leadership, academic integrity, and citizenship qualities. She graduated last December with dual degrees in molecular biology and chemistry.

As a 17-year-old, Kwende began her UW career in 2015 and quickly settled on the sciences, especially molecular biology.

Kwende says she has been fortunate to experience an environment at UW that cultivates creative scholarship.

"I was elated at the thought of having all students presented with the opportunity to not only be aware of

their potential, but to maximize it," she says.

Rachel Watson, a molecular biology senior lecturer, and Kwende's adviser, lab supervisor and mentor, has high praise for her student.

"In my nearly 17 years as an educator at the University of Wyoming, I do not think that I have ever encountered a more inspirational, more holistically well-rounded, high-achieving student than Sophia,"



Sophia Kwende

Watson says. "Her intelligence is surpassed only by her willingness to assist others and her ability to critically apply theoretical knowledge."

UW student's entry wins ag econ group's outstanding thesis award

A former master's student in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming has received the Outstanding Master's Thesis award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA).

Sachintha Mendis completed her master's degree in agricultural and applied economics

at UW in 2017 and is pursuing her doctorate in agricultural and resource economics at Colorado State University, says Ben Rashford, head of the department in the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The AAEA is the largest and most prestigious professional association for agricultural and applied

economics, notes Rashford.

"The AAEA each year selects a maximum of three theses from nominations representing the best graduate student research in the country," he says.

Mendis' thesis at UW was "Estimating Demand for Food Quantity and Quality in China."

Mendis is the second UW student selected for



Sachintha Mendis

the award in the last four years. Anna Scofield received the honor in 2015.

Wyoming Conservation Exchange receives first UW partnership honor

A partnership that includes UW Extension faculty members, Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD), the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Environmental Defense Fund, and The Nature Conservancy was recognized in May with the inaugural University of Wyoming Marvin Millgate Excellence in Community Partnership Award.

The Wyoming Conservation Exchange (WCE) provides a process for industry to support landowners with financial incentives for engaging in environmentally beneficial activities.

“This partnership has demonstrated what organizations with diverse interests can accomplish when they sit down to work together,” says Kristi Hansen, associate professor in UW’s Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Others from UW involved in WCE include agricultural and applied economics Professor Roger Coupal; ecosystem science and management Associate Professor Ginger Paige; and adjunct faculty member Anne MacKinnon of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

WCE started as a grassroots effort in the Upper Green River Basin. As early as 2006, landowners and natural resource managers at SCCD discussed how landowners might generate revenue from conservation practices that provide social benefits beyond the ranching community. In 2011, SCCD, The Nature Conservancy, and UW Extension partners followed the landowners’ lead and began studying the feasibility of a “payment for ecosystem services” program.



Could a conservation exchange work in Wyoming? Representatives from the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Sublette County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, and University of Wyoming Extension came to the table at Red Canyon Ranch near Lander to work out the details.

Under that approach, landowners, the “sellers,” implement practices — such as grazing and irrigation management — that generate measurable conservation outcomes to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat and water resources. The revenue landowners receive can help keep their ranches in operation, improving both the environment and economy.

“Buyers” can include energy companies seeking off-site mitigation for impacts from their development activities that cannot be avoided or reclaimed or conservation foundations wanting to support the high-quality environmental amenities that characterize Wyoming landscapes.

President Laurie Nichols and Provost Kate Miller established the Marvin Millgate Community Engagement Awards in cooperation with UW’s Engagement Task Force to recognize collaborative teaching and research that extends beyond the UW campus. The conservation exchange received \$1,000 to fund additional engagement activities.



Gamma Sigma Delta president Brant Schumaker, left, with Outstanding Freshman Ty Paisley



Gamma Sigma Delta vice president Melanie Murphy, left, and Outstanding Sophomore Award recipient Hailey True



Schumaker and Outstanding Junior Award recipient Ella DeWolf in molecular biology and microbiology



Outstanding Senior Award recipients Sophia Kwende of molecular biology and chemistry and Ty Shockley, agricultural and applied economics, with Melanie Murphy



Schumaker and Noah Hull, animal and veterinary sciences, Outstanding Doctoral Student Award recipient



Chian Jones Ritten representing the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics with Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Senior Ty Shockley, left, and Outstanding Agribusiness Senior Award recipient Kylie Mertens



Jennifer Harmon, left, representing the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, with Honor Book award recipient Natalie Thibault



Kristin McTigue, right, representing the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, with Honor Book recipient Katie Jacobs



Gerry Andrews representing the microbiology program with Honor Book recipient Abigail Wilkins



Pam Langer, right, representing the Department of Molecular Biology, and Irene Rosenfeld Scientific Achievement Award recipients Trey Thompson and Sophia Kwende



Department of Plant Sciences head Jim Heitholt, right, with Honor Book Award recipient Taylor Bush, left, and Outstanding Graduate Student Mavis Badu



Veterinary sciences department head Will Laegreid with Honor Book Award recipient Brookely Schambers



New student Gamma Sigma Delta inductees from left, Abigail Wilkins, Kylie Mertens, Sophia Kwende, and GSD vice president Melanie Murphy



Will Laegreid, left, head of the Department of Veterinary Sciences, with Rob Ziegler, Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory Achievement Award recipient



Schumaker with new Gamma Sigma Delta faculty member Myrna Miller of veterinary sciences

Gamma Sigma Delta honors outstanding students

Students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources were recognized for their academic excellence during the Gamma Sigma Delta awards program this past April on the UW campus.

Outstanding student awards

Freshman – Ty Paisley, Wheatland, animal and veterinary science (AVS)

Sophomore – Hailey True, Casper, and Cedar Radosevich, Manila, Utah, both AVS

Junior – Ella DeWolf, Laramie, molecular biology and microbiology; Rachelle Tucker, Pierce, Nebraska, AVS

Senior – Ty Shockley, Wheatland, agricultural and applied economics; Sophia Kwende, Cameroon, molecular biology and chemistry

Doctoral – Noah Hull, Cheyenne, AVS

Department and Program Awards

Agricultural and applied economics – Kylie Mertens, Merino, Colorado, Outstanding Agribusiness

Senior Award; Shockley, Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Senior
Animal Science – Morgan Lyman, Jackson, Honor Book

Family and consumer sciences – Katherine Jacobs, Rock Springs; Kerry Schinkel, Rawlins; Natalie Thibault, Cheyenne, Honor Book

Microbiology – Abigail Wilkins, Cheyenne, Honor Book

Molecular biology – Trey Thompson, Cheyenne, Sophia Kwende, Irene Rosenfeld Scientific Achievement Award

Plant sciences – Bobby Dorvall, Laramie, Taylor Bush, Cheyenne, Honor Book; Mavis Badu, Laramie, Outstanding Graduate Student

Veterinary sciences – Brookely Chambers, Pinedale, Honor Book; Morgan Lyman, Jackson, Achievement Award; Rob Ziegler, Green Lane, Pennsylvania, Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory Achievement Award

Slater producer recognized for service to Wyoming agriculture

Statewide leadership and an emphasis on what's of benefit to Wyoming agriculture prompted recognition of a Slater couple by the Wyoming chapter of the international honor society of agriculture.

Gregor and Cindy Goertz received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Gamma Sigma Delta during its awards program in April at the University of Wyoming.

UW Extension beef cattle specialist Steve Paisley notes the couple's establishment of an organic dryland farming operation, their direct marketing natural beef company, and organizing and developing local wind energy opportunities.

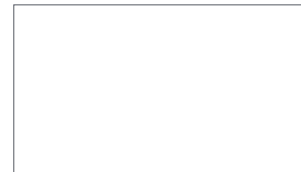
"Gregor and Cindy are not only successful business people and agriculturalists, they recognize the importance of providing input and guidance for agricultural programs on a statewide level," says Paisley.



Cindy and Gregor Goertz, recipients of the organization's Distinguished Service To Agriculture Award.



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AG NEWS

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