

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**2019 COLLEGE AWARD RECIPIENTS,
page 22**

**Also inside: 4-H Horse Camp,
Dalmatian Toadflax Control,
Encouraging Healthy Play,
Heart of Agriculture Awards and more**



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

**UW College of Agriculture
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**Wyoming Agricultural
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Annual Ag Day Barbecue raises money for student groups

The annual Ag Day BBQ is noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, before the 3 p.m. kickoff of the Wyoming-Idaho football game.

The event is in the Indoor Practice Facility. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12, and free for 5 and under.

Part of the money goes to the Ag Day BBQ scholarship awarded to a student who has participated in the Ag Day BBQ. The remaining money is divided among the clubs represented to be used for educational trips, meetings, and conferences. Last year, just under \$7,500 was raised.

2019 Annual
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On the cover:
Youth helper Mattie Bloomgreen demonstrates how to lead a horse over a barrier during the 4-H Horse Camp in Thermopolis. Photo: Steven Miller.

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Mission continues growing people, knowledge, and community

Growing people, knowledge, and community is the motto of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and will continue to be a focus, said the new dean of the college.

Barbara Rasco joined the university the end of June and has spent many days traveling across the state introducing herself while taking over reins of a college that had been without a permanent dean for 14 months.

“The University of Wyoming has excellent programs, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is a great college to be in,” she said. “It’s not only good for an undergraduate education, but we are preparing the next generation of professionals in all kinds of fields. Agriculture cuts across many different disciplines.”

For example, family and consumer sciences students are entering careers in health care and education. Agricultural economics students are going into finance and banking, and many students are entering professional studies, graduate school courses, and medical or veterinary medicine.

Students in production agriculture are also taking advantage of opportunities in other

aspects of agriculture, such as agricultural marketing.

“Students are graduating with a background in agriculture who understand the issues surrounding public lands and working with federal agencies to create policies appropriate for the state of Wyoming, making this a great place to live,” said Rasco. “Our ranchers and farmers have been responsible for keeping Wyoming open and a place people want to come and see.”

The college’s programs are solid, she said – the college has real programs to teach real people real things.

“The theory is strong, but the application and practice is stronger,” said Rasco. “Our classes are small enough for students to get individualized attention from faculty and have lots of opportunities for internships and experiences both here and abroad.”

The associate deans heading the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (John Ritten), University of Wyoming Extension (Kelly Crane), and the Office of Academic and Student Programs (Warrie Means) are in place. Rasco said she is impressed with the job Mark



Dean Barbara Rasco

Stayton, who served in an interim dean capacity, and the others, have done.

“They are very solid,” she said. “They know their fields, and they know their jobs and what’s important. They care about the institution and are focused on moving the institution forward and working together to come up with solutions to the issues we are facing.”

The college department heads are:

- Agricultural and applied economics – Ben Rashford
- Animal science – Bledar Bisha (interim)
- Ecosystem science and management – Scott Miller
- Family and consumer sciences – Christine Wade
- Molecular biology – Peter Thorsness
- Plant Sciences – Andrew Kniss
- Veterinary sciences – William Laegreid

Increased attention will help extension better serve citizens

The Wyoming Legislature's recent attention on the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a whole is also a focus on UW Extension and its engagement with citizens, said Kelly Crane, extension director and associate dean.

That's a positive thing, he said. The legislators recognize the value of having an extension presence in the communities they represent.

"They've always valued it, but I think the increased attention will help us better serve our clients and also help us generate resources to restore a depleted workforce," said Crane.

There are 40 percent fewer area educators in the state than a few years ago, leaving many community-based positions unfilled. There are also two associate director positions on campus to fill. They provide direct supervision to county personnel.

"We in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources respect and value our colleagues out in the state," said Crane. "These individuals are critical to our efforts to meet the needs of communities and ensure our campus-based research and teaching programs remain

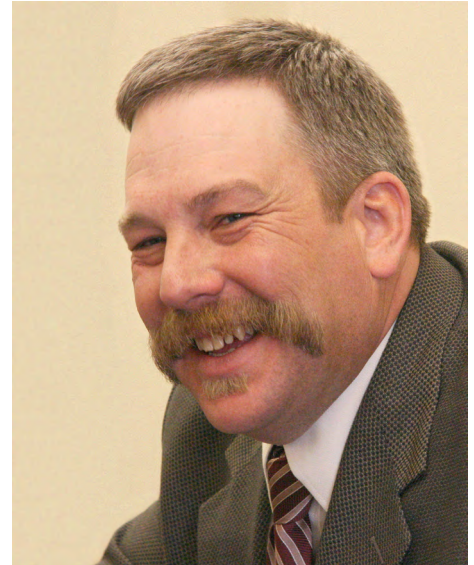
relevant to Wyoming. I am certainly committed to restoring the capacity of UW Extension to provide community-based educational and applied research opportunities."

Extension has been critical to advancing the land-grant mission of engagement with citizens, said Crane.

"It comes about through a three-way partnership with the counties, federal government and our state government," he said. "The support we get from Wyoming counties and our relationship with county commissioners is extremely important to extension. I see extension as a need, and I hope our community members see it as a need. That does not mean it doesn't have to evolve to ensure we are meeting contemporary needs and expanding our audiences in these communities. It absolutely has to do that."

Crane said extension is one mechanism that enables the university to touch the lives of thousands of youth and adults who may never visit the UW campus.

"We need people embedded in communities to serve their unique needs," he said.



Extension director Kelly Crane

Effective engagement, said Crane, requires developing trusting relationships with customers and community partners. These relationships allow extension to hear what people need and respond with relevant and impactful educational programs.

"That's different than us sitting here in all our wisdom on campus and deciding what people out in the state need," said Crane. "It's listening to people in the state and working with them to design services, research, and educational programs that consider their perspective and circumstances."

Extension has been good at that, "And we hope to help the whole university be better at it," Crane said.

Research arm of college takes strategic stance to address issues

A dean in place after more than a year's vacuum, attention from the Wyoming Legislature toward the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, an inclusive administrative team, positions filled at research and extension centers – all has Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station Interim Director John Ritten feeling pretty positive.

"I am more optimistic about the direction of our college than I've been in recent years," said Ritten, named interim director this year.

WAES is the research arm of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The office also oversees research and extension centers near Laramie, Lingle, Sheridan, and Powell. The centers have researchers on site, but faculty members and students also conduct studies at the centers.

Ritten said WAES is working collectively with other college entities to strategically address issues. For example, there are efforts to integrate more extension personnel and external stakeholders at each R&E center.

Those efforts include, "Community colleges, local

businesses and economic development to help use those resources in a more meaningful way than just traditional research," said Ritten, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. "They are still agricultural research centers, but we are trying to do more with them."

The WAES is in a position to rebuild strategically to address specific needs and support student learning with those same hires, he said.

"We have to be more effective in our growth than maybe we have been in the past, because we need to be," said Ritten. "We have pared ourselves to the bare bones. Now we have an opportunity to rebuild in ways that are more effective for students and stakeholders."

The college, which includes WAES, has undergone significant changes the last several years, some of it forced.

"That's changed now," said Ritten. "We are looking forward to having a voice in how we grow."

Now there is support from the legislature, from UW upper administration, and from others.



*Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station
Interim Director John Ritten*

"A lot of people are looking at us, in a good way," said Ritten. "It's clear people want us to succeed and, I think, they are going to help us succeed. And we want to adapt in a way that's good for people in the organization, faculty and staff members, students, as well as our stakeholders and external partners."

The result will be the state will get more meaningful and more applicable research, "And I hope we will be able to be more responsive to changes in the state while still focusing on basic research. My goal is more applied research responsiveness while keeping basic research intact," said Ritten. "All the applied research we do has its foundations in basic research. We will look for ways to bridge those two in meaningful ways, and in the end, the state will benefit."

UW taps food science expert as College of Agriculture and Natural Resources dean

A food scientist, engineer and attorney who is internationally recognized for her expertise in food safety, processing and regulation was named to lead the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Barbara Rasco, who was director of the joint Washington State University/University of Idaho School of Food Science, took the reins as dean of the college June 28. The UW Board of Trustees approved

the appointment following a nationwide search involving constituents and stakeholders across the state.

“We’re delighted that a scholar and leader of Dr. Rasco’s caliber has agreed to lead this



academic college that plays such an important role in fulfilling the university's land-grant mission across Wyoming and beyond," Provost Kate Miller said. "Her experience in developing one of the nation's strongest food safety outreach programs, working extensively with the agricultural and food sectors, gives us great confidence that she will lead the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to new levels of excellence in education, research and service."

Rasco said she is excited to work with the faculty, staff and students of the college, as well as Wyoming's cornerstone agriculture industry, to support the state's traditional animal and crop production and drive diversification to strengthen Wyoming's economy.

"I am excited to join the University of Wyoming and to

share the optimism, curiosity and unshakeable determination for which the students, faculty and staff are known," Rasco said. "I look forward to working with these talented individuals to build the next generation of future leaders in agriculture, human science and natural resource management."

Rasco said the shared vision is to improve the quality of life for people in Wyoming and the global community by living the land-grant mission and integrating quality education, innovative research and impactful outreach programs to provide innovative solutions for some of the most pressing needs facing the people of Wyoming, nation and world.

Rasco held her former position since 2014 at the Washington State University/University of Idaho School of Food Science, where she had served as a professor since

1998. From 1983-1998, she was a professor in the Institute of Food Science and Technology and assistant director of the Division of Aquaculture and Food Science in the University of Washington's College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences.

She earned a bachelor's degree in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania (1979), a Ph.D. in food science and nutrition from the University of Massachusetts (1983) and a law degree from Seattle University in 1995 and is licensed to practice in Washington state and federal court, where she specializes in matters related to food and agriculture.

Rasco also has private-sector experience as a biochemical engineer and a food scientist, providing assistance to hundreds of companies in the United States through outreach activities and extension programming.

Rasco's research has focused on food quality and safety, process design and product development. She has developed analytical methods to predict the safety and quality of food using spectroscopic, nanomaterial and microfluidic systems.

In addition to working extensively with the agricultural and food sectors in specialty crops and other operations, she has provided technical and legal assistance to small and medium enterprises in 37 countries to improve food security, economic development and public health.

— uwagnews.com 5/17/2019



Barbara Rasco visits during a welcome reception for her at the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo in Douglas.

Rejecting conventional led alumni award recipient on path of exceptionalism

A preference to make himself uncomfortable more than likely led Robert Grieve to those sweet retirement views of the broad-shouldered Bighorn Mountains near Buffalo.

His academic and business career is peppered with times he could have taken the routine route but didn't. Grieve is a recipient of an Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He will be recognized during Agriculture Appreciation Weekend September 14-15 at UW.

"I have an inborn tendency to work and live outside my comfort zone, to continuously challenge myself and to learn from those experiences," said Grieve, former professor and retired CEO. "Each time I consciously stepped away from comfort and routine it caused me to improve, both personally and professionally."

Grieve would become tenured at two universities, then pivot to helping found a startup company, ultimately becoming its CEO and pulling the business from

deep red into black. Grieve and his wife, Marcia, have two grown daughters, Megan Scales and Madeline Runstrom, and a grandson, Zane Scales.

Fifth-generation Wyoming son

The son of Fort Laramie-area ranchers (his family is fifth-generation Wyoming ranchers, and his great-grandmother [Isabel] was born here before Wyoming was a state) enrolled at UW, showing his uncommon streak early. He believed moving to a different part of the state would help him mature. Grieve received his bachelor's and master's degrees in microbiology and cited his thesis adviser, the late Robert Bergstrom ("He was a wonderful man and had an enduring influence on me," Grieve said).

Professor Leroy Maki's pathogenic microbiology class (Maki died last year) launched his interest in infectious disease and disease processes.

"He was the first of several great teachers who helped me at UW," said Grieve. "I was 'hooked' at

that point." His studies and career would focus on infectious diseases, especially parasitic diseases and immune responses in infectious diseases and allergy.

He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and was tenured at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then again at Colorado State University. He authored or co-authored nearly 100 scientific publications.

Grieve also had been working double time while at CSU. A venture capitalist from Palo Alto asked if he would cofound a company, drawing upon his academic research and network of colleagues. He was responsible for overseeing all science activities at the company while maintaining his responsibilities as a professor.

"It was simply too much work to do what essentially became two fulltime jobs and to do them to my standards," he said.

Enters private enterprise

Besides, Grieve had already accomplished a great deal in academia and the thought of

Professional Honors

Grieve's list of academia, board, community service, and his business honors, is long.

A few include the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal from the American Society of Parasitologists; advisory roles with National Institutes of Health, United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Wellcome Trust, and World Health Organization; membership on the Medical Center for the Rockies Business Relations Council; Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation Board of Governors; Wyoming Governor's University of Wyoming Top-Tier Science and Facilities Task Force; Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Fort Collins Economic Development Corporation; Colorado Technology Transfer Society, University to Industry Award; President, American Society of Parasitologists; Ralston Purina Small Animal Research Award; associate editor, *Journal of Immunology*; Editorial board member, *Journal of Parasitology*.

two or three more decades in academia made him restless. Heska (www.heska.com) was born in 1988. The company, which includes worldwide distribution, provides latest generation technologies to animal healthcare providers.

The corporate work was riskier than being a tenured professor. "But I tend to like risk," he said. "I like the accountability that comes with such things, and I knew I would learn a great deal every day. It very much worked out that way."

Heska means "white, or shining, mountains" company executives discovered in a Lakota/English dictionary. ("I believe the Lakota people used the word to reference the Bighorn Mountains, interestingly where I live today," Grieve notes). He wanted an ancient name from indigenous people rather than Greeks or Romans. A check with a representative of the Lakota ensured the name could be used and it would not be offensive.

The company had grown fast through hiring and acquisitions and by 1999 performance lagged, with the company bleeding by as

much as \$46 million. Grieve took over as CEO and doubled revenue, reduced operating expenses and flipped the large losses to an operating profit and cash-flow self-sufficiency.

He credits his team.

"Together we effected a major financial turnaround through restructuring, focus, discipline and execution while continuing to build a pipeline of products for future growth as well as a brand that became known for quality and customer care in the animal health industry," he said.

A strategic acquisition was his last transaction as CEO. He said that company brought a complimentary suite of products to Heska customers and the founder of that company who was outstanding in sales.

"I believed he would be my successor and would bring important skills that we were lacking," he said. "Both of those things turned out to be true."

Science launches college student

Grieve said he's not exactly sure when he was propelled forward,

reflecting on his life. He guesses between his sophomore and junior year at UW. He had become excited about science, “And I began to clearly understand that everything was possible, and it strictly depended on me and no one else and my willingness to work hard, be smart about my choices and to take calculated risks.”

He also said fixing on any one experience that caused him to improve was difficult.

“I choose Laramie over a community college because I knew I needed a challenge,” he related. The same for when he was accepted to various Ph.D. programs but chose the University of Florida over western schools without ever visiting.

“The change for a young Wyoming man to go to a subtropical climate with a massive student body was amazing,” he said.

Next, he pursued postdoctoral studies in upstate New York at an Ivy League school. The position paid less than another opportunity, but he believed the challenges would shape his career.

“Of course, the ultimate discomforts were leaving my tenured academic position for an unstable startup and then, within that company, leaving my science career to pursue business leadership,” he said.

(See the sidebar for a short list of his many board and community service honors.)

Grieve sees opportunity for those entering an agricultural-related career.

New information and technologies coupled with global needs for the products of agriculture will drive innovation to meet those needs, he said.

“It is an exciting time, and I truly believe agriculture is an area where Wyoming and UW must succeed. We all have a responsibility to expect and support that success.”



Robert Grieve

Wyoming forged foundation to leverage life's opportunities

An internship in Washington, D.C., during Jason Fearneyhough's undergraduate career for former Wyoming Rep. Craig Thomas set the course of his life.

"That opportunity opened my eyes that I could be involved in agriculture in a way that I never thought possible through policy and helping agribusiness do the things that they do in a broader sense than they were aware of," said Outstanding Alumni Award recipient, Fearneyhough.

Fearneyhough graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and then a master's in business administration.

Fearneyhough said many of the professors went out of their way to ensure their students had opportunities.

"They were interested in what you had to say and what you thought about issues," Fearneyhough said. "Moving forward, that gives you confidence."

Fearneyhough said he believes Wyoming people often feel as if they are at a disadvantage coming from such a small state, but he believes the opposite.

"Because you come from a small place like Wyoming and you have the interaction with great people in the university and throughout the state in the industry, you get opportunities you can take advantage of that you don't see at a larger place," Fearneyhough said. "That's something really unique and wonderful about our great state."

Agricultural positions of influence

Fearneyhough has served as deputy director and director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) and currently serves as the deputy commissioner of agriculture for Texas.

During his time as WDA director, Fearneyhough was appointed by two governors with different political affiliations, led an agency consisting of six divisions

and about 100 employees and was a cabinet-level official directing an agency with a \$35 million budget.

"While here in Wyoming, he led numerous efforts to tear down existing 'silos' and build truly lasting, impactful management on the ground," said nominator Bob Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

Elevating the influence of WDA's Natural Resources and Policy Division was one of his most significant contributions, according to Budd. This division is considered a bench mark in the Intermountain West for other state departments of agriculture, according to Budd.

In Texas, Fearneyhough is managing a global-scale agency with more than 650 employees with an annual budget surpassing \$1 billion.

"In his current role, Jason actually leads the Department of Agriculture in one of the nation's most productive and diverse

natural resource landscapes,” said Budd.

Texas ranks sixth in the world in agricultural exports, is first in the nation in cattle, cotton, hay, sheep and goats, and leads the nation with 250,000 farms and ranches covering over 130.2 million acres.

Maintaining an active role in international agricultural trade issues has allowed Fearneyhough to triple the number of international markets from 10 to 30 for Texas producers during his tenure. He also created the Texas Global Initiative, which is collaborative between other agencies and universities to increase international trade opportunities not just for farmers and ranchers but for all businesses.

Commitment to youth programs

Fearneyhough volunteers as the executive board chairman for Wyoming Future Business Leaders of America.

“As a student, those extracurricular activities really shaped my life, and it’s important

to me now to support them at every level,” Fearneyhough said.

While serving in WDA, Fearneyhough saw a need to create a program for students to voice their opinions in the agricultural arena. This led to the development of the Agri Future Program.

Agri Future connects upper-level undergraduate and graduate students with influential leaders in the agriculture industry. This was a way to ensure students could have a seat at the table to voice their opinions and ideas related to agriculture.

There were a few Agri Future conferences in Wyoming, and it grew into central Nebraska, and New Mexico took the idea as well. There were international, high school, and college students, professors and industry leaders of all ages.

While the program is not currently active, it was a way to get everyone together and talking about potential agricultural action items, said Fearneyhough.



Jason Fearneyhough

Fearneyhough has received many notable awards, such as:

Wyoming Department of Agriculture: Pacesetter Award, 2015

United States Department of Interior: Partners in Conservation Award, 2011

Wyoming Wool Growers Association: Compadre Award, 2010

Wyoming Future Business Leaders of America: Business Person of the Year, 2009

“You would not suspect Jason of his accomplishments because in his Wyoming way, he is someone who gets the job done while giving credit to others and deflecting praise with a level of humility that is unsurpassed,” said Budd. “Jason is someone who truly ‘rides for the brand,’ and his brand is Wyoming and agriculture.”

Legacy Award

60-year UW Extension employee posthumous Legacy Award recipient

Former UW President Tom Buchanan stood clapping, smiling, and looking at Stella McKinstry holding a plaque he had just presented honoring her 60 years of employment with the university.

On this 2006 January afternoon, Stella, wearing a yellow, purple and red corsage on a coat given to her with the plaque, glasses hanging about her neck via a chain, acknowledged the applause of the trustees and others wedged into the smallish meeting room in Old Main on the Laramie campus.

This year's Legacy Award posthumous recipient from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources joined what was then the UW Cooperative Extension Service in 1946, working longer than most would call a full career – 33 years – before Buchanan joined the university as an assistant professor in geography. She would work for every UW Extension

director during her 60-year career with the organization.

She would later create the Stella McKinstry Scholarship in the college.

Born in Teton County

McKinstry died in Jackson October 26, 2016, at age 93. Ironically, she was quoted in an earlier article when she moved from eastern to western Wyoming, “My dad used to say, ‘A colt always returns to where it was foaled.’” Stella was born in Jackson on October 12, 1923, to parents Linda and Harold, who were homesteading in Jackson Hole.

The former hospital building in Jackson where McKinstry was born still stands, a block off the square to the north. Her mother, who was from Massachusetts, met her father while teaching in Washington, D.C. He brought her to his homestead out a ways from old Moran (the town of Moran was

moved from its initial location). The homestead is now part of Grand Teton National Park.

The family moved to Casper, then to Colorado, and Stella would graduate from Colorado State University with her undergraduate home economics degree and then a master's degree from Washington State University.

McKinstry held only four jobs in her life – her extension position, one year of teaching in Colorado, working at a college men's boarding house as a college sophomore, and waiting tables in a dormitory as a freshman.

Colorado had almost landed her instead of Wyoming.

“The reason I came to Wyoming instead of Colorado is that the starting salary here was \$2,100, and down there was \$1,800,” she had related. “That was a good wage. That \$300 made the difference.”



Stella McKinstry and former UW President Tom Buchanan

Joined extension year after World War II

Harry Truman was president when McKinstry joined UW Extension. RCA demonstrated the first color TV. The laundry detergent Tide was introduced, and the first clothes dryer was available for purchase.

She would work for 11 of the 26 Wyoming counties, although her home was in Sublette County, where she settled in 1952.

McKinstry had flirted with teaching but chose to educate through the extension service. A single woman driving her own car through the society of the 1940s, she would work in several counties a month at a time.

“I was received fine by people,” she had related. “I think one of the things that was interesting is there weren’t too many women

who had cars at that point. People couldn’t figure out how a single woman could have a car and be independent. My first car cost \$600. It was a four-door Ford – a cute little car.”

But then, McKinstry’s entire life had been different, said Mary Martin, Teton County extension educator, whose mentor was McKinstry. “Women didn’t have cars in those days,” she noted. “Stella had a master’s degree back when women didn’t get master’s degrees. Her whole life had been different from most women’s.”

Continued working after retirement from fulltime

McKinstry worked part-time for several months in Sublette County after her retirement from fulltime until a full-time educator was

hired. She was a 4-H volunteer in the county until 2015.

Martin traveled with McKinstry throughout Wyoming and said no matter where they went, someone would know Stella.

“People generally cared for Stella and cared about seeing her,” Martin had noted. “She’s a person you were glad to know,” and said at the time, before McKinstry’s retirement, for the extension field staff there would be a hole when she left.

“We talk loosely of an extension ‘family,’” said Martin. “For a long time, she (was) the matriarch. People who knew her are better for having had her in their lives.”

Outstanding research partner furthers conservation strategies in Thunder Basin



The meeting of three groups the fall of 2014 in Laramie sowed the seeds of the Thunder Basin Research Initiative (TBRI).

Those groups included the University of Wyoming, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA).

Five years later, TBGPEA continues to be a great supporter of agriculture and natural resource research and is being recognized as the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture's Outreach Partner of the Year.

The association was formed in 1999, with a focus on black-tailed

prairie dogs. Since then, TBGPEA works with property owners and other groups to investigate, implement and promote conservation strategies.

"Research is a very important component for what we do and certainly from the standpoint as an association, we look at those places that we can get applied research, so we actually end up with something that is valuable for on-the-ground management efforts," said Dave Pellatz, executive director and conservation coordinator for TBGPEA.

Focus on sagebrush steppe, short-grass prairie

It is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The group focuses on two ecotypes, the sagebrush steppe and the short-grass prairie found predominately in northeastern Wyoming.

Working with a variety of groups, TBGPEA has invested over \$2.6 million to enhance sage and shortgrass habitats. About 35,000 acres have been treated

for cheatgrass and provided 3,900 acres of enhanced nesting cover in sage grouse core areas.

"The association has been involved for about two decades, and we have been able to work with our partners to put a lot of good conservation on the ground and to set strategy and policy," said Pellatz.

As a result of TBRI, UW graduate students, like master's candidate Lauren Connell and doctoral candidate Courtney Duchardt, have been able to conduct field-based research in the Thunder Basin. Undergraduate students, like Justin White, are able to gain hands-on experience in rangeland management and research.

"They are a critical piece with facilitating research because they assist with student housing, financial support, logistics and coordination with ranchers," said Derek Scasta, UW assistant professor and extension range specialist.

Association multitasks

Scasta noted TBGPEA establishes a need for student involvement, serves as the local sponsor and contact for collaboration with landowners, energy companies and state or federal agencies, creates the coordination of seed money from partners to facilitate research, and provides support such as summer lodging for students and technicians.

Catherine Estep, pursuing a master's of science in ecosystem science and management, has been using the Thunder Basin region to study prescribed fire impacts on sagebrush and forage. Estep is

assessing how fire affects sagebrush survival, forage for livestock and plant communities.

According to Pellatz, prescribed fire is not used much in the northeast area of the state, and this study will provide a look at the detrimental or beneficial impacts it would have on plant communities.

“One of the hopes is to get a better understanding, locally, of how fire at a fairly small scale impacts those plants, and that includes sagebrush,” said Pellatz.

Scasta said TBGPEA has brought vision and resources together for long-term research in the Thunder Basin. This partnership will provide a better

understanding of how to manage this region in Wyoming.

Pelletz, along with board members Frank G. Eathorn, Jr., Laurel Vicklund, Jewell Reed, Lona Nachtman, Joan Neumiller and John Riehle, said they are honored to be recognized as the Outreach Partner of the Year.

“As I shared that information with the board, they were very pleased to be honored and they felt the work we have done with the university has been very beneficial, and we have appreciated the efforts of UW as we work to better understand this area,” Pelletz said.

Pronghorn in the Thunder Basin National Grassland.



Volunteers teach horse sense at annual 4-H camp



For two days in Thermopolis a fifth H was added to the 4-H's of head, hands and health.

Horses.

Young Kayden Light spoke softly to her horse, Julie, too quietly for an interloper to hear the words in the wood stall the beginning of the second day of 4-H Horse Camp at the Hot Springs County Fair Grounds.

Light's baseball cap just fit under the crook between Julie's head and neck. Light, standing to Julie's left, reached high and slipped one half of the halter over Julie's right ear, then the left ear as Julie slightly cocked her head to the right – was she helping?

– giving Light easier access to fasten the halter. Light opened the stall gate, and the two classmates stepped out for the second day of schooling.

Near the end of the day before, long-time 4-H horse club leader and instructor Stuart Thompson of Sublette County described why training horses and humans is different than humans training dogs; humans ride horses – and a human's brain is communicating with a horse's brain.

"This is the only sport where we have two brains that need to get coordinated to get the result we like," he said. "And this is the beginning of that for these kids. The first thing we try to get across is the partnership between the horse and human brain."

There is no quick path. "We are accustomed to instant gratification," Thompson mused, citing the world of smartphones and video games. "Horses are not instant gratification. It's time, and time on task, time in saddle,

and it's learning that never stops and developing that partnership."

One more thing.

"Their relationship with their horses teaches the 4-H'ers their belly button is not the center of the universe," he said. "The horse is. They have to learn to feed and water the horse, take care of them before they feed and water themselves. There is another life they are responsible for."

Divide by age, skill level

More than 55 4-H'ers and their horses took part in the two days of the camp. 4-H'ers had to turn 9 this calendar year to participate, and 4-H'ers are split into juniors, intermediates and seniors.

4-H'ers are divided by age, then split into groups depending upon their ability levels, to start the camp, said Amanda Kauffman of Buffalo. She's retired from ranching, but she's attended the annual horse camp for most of 40 years, starting about the time when Americans were taken hostage in the American Embassy in Tehran and the launch of ESPN.

She allows she may have missed a couple camps – but not many.

Haylee Gibbs of Converse County and friend negotiate posts.

"I really like working with the kids," she said. "I've ridden all



Horse camp instructor, and long-time 4-H club leader, Stuart Thompson from Sublette County.

my life. It just gives me a thrill to share what I know with them. Horse camp is such a fun thing for the kids.”

They’re laughing, smiling, riding and happy, and, “They are learning things they didn’t think they could,” said Kauffman, who leads a program for horse project 4-H’ers in Johnson County. There are up to 30 4-H’ers in it. “For example, many of these kids have never loped before.”

Loping is awkward because the body is in an insecure position on a horse, she explained. “But they probably will lope before they go home. And you’re just like cheering. You see the improvement. It’s just exciting for them.”

Draws upon own childhood

University of Wyoming Extension equine specialist Jenny Ingwerson along with volunteer instructors and helpers in the arena showed 4-H’ers how to maneuver their horses and then had the 4-H’ers do it. The sun had dried the arena dirt dry, and dust sometimes obscured the riders as they came up to speed in the arena.

“We are so lucky to have Jenny,” said Kauffman. “She is a superior teacher, and she’s trying to build an equine program at UW. That would be nice. There is a big demand for it, and it’s a huge industry. Everybody seems to have a backyard horse, and then some.”

Ingwerson joined the animal science department at UW in 2014, and this was her fifth camp. Her approach has been to draw upon her own childhood and horses.

“I didn’t get to start with a nice, quiet horse,” said Ingwerson, who grew up in Plattsmouth, Neb. She participated in 4-H, open and quarter horse shows. “So when I see kids who have challenges with horses, I know exactly what they are going through.”

She even had trouble getting the bridles on because she was so little, and her horses were young and not always willing.

“A young rider on a young, inexperienced horse is rarely





Jennifer Ingwerson, left, and Connie McGinley, right, help Taylee Clark and her horse maneuver over posts.

Taebyn McGinley of Campbell County.

a good combination,” said Ingwerson. “The horse and I were always learning together. I never had a horse I could learn from, and that’s a challenge.”

Safety is always the first priority, she said. That enables the 4-H’ers to advance to other levels.

They have more fun if they learn how to work with horses and become more safe, said UW Extension educator Scott Cotton, one of the instructors.

“If these kids go through step-by-step on how to work with horses and become more safe, they have more fun,” he said, “and when they come to other events, like horse shows and fairs, they’re the ones in the arena who are not a problem for anybody.”

“On top of that, the horses are reading them and listening to them,” he said.

This was the first year the event was not at the state fairgrounds in Douglas. There were two one-day camps this July, one in Sundance and the other in Cheyenne, but this is the only two-day horse camp.

“The kids walk away better than when they came in,” Ingwerson said. “They learn something new, and they advance their riding skills. The other thing is they have fun. You don’t learn if you don’t have fun, and you don’t have fun if you don’t learn.”

— uwagnews.com 6/19/2019





Kim Dickerson, left, and Lori Hubbs, both of Cheyenne, sweep a Dalmatian toadflax area for weevils.

Herbicides, bugs on plant strategies wrestle tenacious invasive weed

Cheyenne area rancher Nina Haas walked slowly in the range grass, lush from summer rain, looking down at Dalmatian toadflax plants, and stopped.

Something had grabbed her attention, and she went down to one knee for a closer look. “There,” she pointed to one of the leaves on a plant. A round hole had been bored through, one telltale indication of a Dalmatian toadflax stem boring weevil – *Mecinus janthiniiformis* – at work.

As if coming out from behind a curtain on cue, a little black

weevil with legs churning treaded from under a leaf and continued upward, oblivious to humans and going about fulfilling its USDA-mandated biocontrol job of munching and ultimately injuring the invasive plants on the range at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station just west of Cheyenne.

Those attending the Dalmatian toadflax field day would later wave sweep nets and scoop the insects off plants. USDA workers used respirators to suck the valuable



Dalmatian toadflax stem boring weevil
(*Mecinus janthiniiformis*)



bugs into small glass jars for attendees to take home and release.

The beetles were only 10 feet away from herbicide trials by University of Wyoming Extension invasive weed specialist Dan Tekiela.

The side-by-side examples were exactly what Tekiela wanted attendees to see – multiple approaches to Dalmatian toadflax control.

“Herbicides aren’t the only option,” he said. “An integrated approach is appropriate but understand not all management approaches are applicable to

all situations. That’s really important.”

Gets name from native area

Dalmatian toadflax is native to the Mediterranean region (including the Dalmatian coast of the former Yugoslavia) and was intentionally introduced into the U.S. as an ornamental plant in the late 1890s or early 1900s. Tekiela said horticultural reports from 100 years ago state the plant seemed to survive well but wasn’t very pretty.

“That’s such a perfect statement of an invasive,” said Tekiela. “Here we are 100 years later, and it’s one of the more problematic species in the Western U.S.”

The weed hasn’t yet blown to proportions like Canada thistle. Dig a teaspoon of soil anywhere in Wyoming, and Canada thistle seeds are there, said Tekiela. He believes there is an opportunity to slow Dalmatian’s spread because the plant hasn’t advanced that far.

“You can save a lot of money if you don’t let it get to that point,” said Tekiela. “With the increasing density of Dalmatian toadflax is the decreasing density of the other desirable plants you want. Getting those back is hard. Killing a plant is easy. It’s getting what you want there that is hard.”

There isn’t one silver bullet, and thinking about multiple



Justin, left, and son Devon Lauderbach of Cheyenne look for Dalmatian toadflax boring weevils. Those attending the field day could catch and take home weevils.

management strategies on your property may lead to the best result, he said. Biocontrol can work in some scenarios but is not feasible in others, Tekiela said. Herbicides may be good options in others.

Emphasize surrounding plant community

The herbicide trials showed more than what would wreak havoc on the invasive weed. Tekiela is also interested in knowing and showing how much the surrounding native plant community can benefit from management.

“I can go out and kill plants, make a moonscape out of something, but that’s not what our goal ever is,” he said. “(That goal is) get rid of one plant and keep everything else.”

Dalmatian toadflax has been a focus for Tekiela because it is challenging to manage. He said its waxy coating makes herbicide control difficult. Leaves will even squeak if rubbed together.

“That wax is almost like a protective coating, a coat of armor,” he said, to herbicides.

Not to the beetles.

Adult females lay eggs in the stems in the spring, and the larvae hatch and begin feeding on the inside of a stem. The beetles do

not kill a plant but greatly reduce its vigor, according to information from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. After many years, sites have been known to collapse.

Bruce Shambaugh, state USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service director, explained to attendees the process the agency uses for Dalmatian toadflax boring weevil control. The beetles may have had a bit of novelty for attendees: Many probably have applied herbicides but not as many have netted beetles.

The participants could take them home if they provided information about how many beetles were released and where. Tekiela said tracking the beetles will enable better management decisions based on where they have been successful.

“The fact you are collecting a living organism that theoretically will be good for you if everything goes well is a neat concept,” he said. “Those weevils are not inexpensive, and to go out with an expert in the field like Bruce Shambaugh and collect weevils and take them home is incredible, not only for them, but it’s a neat opportunity for us in the weed management world.”

— uwagnews.com 7/25/2019



Kathleen King of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service siphons Dalmatian toadflax boring weevils into a small clear container she holds in her hand.



Nina Haas, who ranches west of Cheyenne, spots a Dalmatian toadflax stem boring weevil.

Spray and play

Encouraging physical activity through sidewalk stencils

Playing outside is not as common as it used to be for kids. Games like hopscotch and Simon says have been set aside as kids have become less active. The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) and its community partners are working to change this in Wyoming through sidewalk stencils. The stencils in Evanston are the latest addition to this project.

The event

It's the last day of school in Evanston, and summer is in the air. Students and their families gather around town to enjoy lunch and the start of summer. For some, their summer celebration begins at the Bear River Greenway. The celebration? Spray and Play, an afternoon of lunch and painting sidewalk stencils along the greenway.

It's a beautiful afternoon for the end of May in Wyoming. The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program and Evanston Parks and Recreation District (EPRD), which partnered for the event, could not be more pleased. Working with Wyoming's weather is one of the biggest challenges for painting the stencils and it seems Evanston got lucky.

As the clock nears 1 p.m., kids and families gather at the



Community Center and Pavilion along the greenway. Steve Liechty, Recreation Division manager with Evanston Parks and Recreation, fires up the grill for a barbecue lunch. Kids from preschool to middle school settle onto picnic benches and the afternoon gets started.

The Bear River Greenway

The Bear River Greenway follows the Bear River through Evanston, providing over 2 miles of paved trails. At the main entryway, there is a new Health Trail Fitness Course. The course includes 14 fitness stations for adults. While the trail and fitness course encourage adults to be active, there are no kid specific activities.

“There are a number of people who access this (area) daily and we’ve got some new exercise equipment,” said Marilee Jackson, business manager for Evanston Parks and Recreation. “But, we don’t have a lot for kids because we never put a playground over here and we probably won’t. But, with that said, stuff on the sidewalk would be great!”

« Nicholas Winn and Beth Barker demonstrate how to paint the hopscotch stencil.

» The newly painted stencils were put to use as soon as the paint dried.

The sidewalk stencils provide a low-cost option for kids’ activities without a huge commitment from community partners. Additionally, painting the stencils as a community helps create more excitement about using them.

Playground stencils

Six sets of stencils were purchased by the Wyoming Department of Health as part of

the CDC’s State Public Health Actions grant (1305). When the grant ended, CNP agreed to house the stencils in UW Extension offices around the state. Evanston is the newest community to use stencils, which were brought down from Pinedale where this set is housed. Bear River Greenway is the seventh stencil site in Wyoming.



The stencils at the Bear River Greenway are unique because they are in a park setting. In other Wyoming communities, the stencils have been painted at schools and daycares as part of other CNP projects. The idea to paint them at the greenway, a public space, came from Uinta County CNP educator Beth Barker.

“I just had this thought that we have this really nice greenway and there are activity stations for adults along the path,” said Barker. “And, I thought it’d be great to have activities for kids to do while their parents are doing the adult activities.”

Through community contacts and some perfect timing, Barker connected with the board of the Better Environment and River (BEAR) Project Inc. Barker and Kim Proffit, the Uinta County Public Health Nurse manager, presented the stencil idea to the

board on March 20. The project was approved shortly afterward.

“The thing that really grabbed them (the BEAR Board) is getting kids outside,” said Jackson, who has been a member of the BEAR Board for over 20 years. “We’re finding, especially my generation, that nobody knows what hopscotch is, nobody knows what jacks are.”

With the stencils, some of this is about to change.

Spray and play

As lunch comes to an end, anticipation hangs in the air. Cody Webb, with the Evanston Police Department, talked a little during lunch about using public spaces. He explained when it is and is not OK to paint the sidewalk. Getting kids involved in the process gives them some ownership of the stencils. EPRD is hoping this ownership will help prevent destruction of the stencils. This is

one of the biggest concerns for this project because the greenway is tucked away from town.

Explanations finished, everyone is ready. With a few quick instructions from Jackson, everyone heads toward the greenway entryway parking lot.

A loop of sidewalk surrounds the open green space here. The exercise equipment for adults shines in the afternoon sun. Everyone gathers on the sidewalk bordering the parking lot. Barker and Jackson pull out the huge stencil boxes from the truck bed. Kids of all ages start pulling on plastic gloves and masks. Nicholas Winn, a custodian at the Evanston Recreation Center and an artist, shakes up a can of spray paint. It’s time.

The first stencil to go down is hopscotch. Everyone gathers around the stencil. Winn offers a few tips on how to use spray paint



on the stencils. He demonstrates the constant movement and proper distance for even coloring. Barker shows how to use extra cardboard to cover parts of the stencil. Armed with information and cans of paint, the group divides.

Storm clouds begin to brew on the horizon as groups take stencils and lay them out along the path. One family focuses on a frog as the sky gets darker. A group of middle school boys gets creative with the Mirror Me stencil. Jackson looks upward, keeping an eye on the storm that seems to be going south of the greenway. We cross our fingers that the rain waits and carefully touch the newly painted stencils. They are almost dry.

Already in action

The afternoon winds down and the stencils are packed away. The storm has kept its distance, and our work is just about complete.

“The idea is to just go outside and play, it doesn’t have to be this big, organized, structured thing,” Jackson said of kids being active.

And her words could not be more true this afternoon. The stencils have hardly dried before kids start playing hopscotch, their parents showing them how. Mirror Me draws a crowd as the middle school boys play.

Jackson looks at the path with satisfaction. Two hours earlier, it was a line of grey cement. Now, 13 colorful stencils draw the eye and beg to be used.

Moving forward

As everything was packed up and families began to head home, Jackson noted this project isn’t over. Nothing is set, but EPRD is eager to paint more stencils after seeing how this initial set works.

“We’re excited,” Jackson said. “We just threw this together kind

of last minute. We thought, ‘let’s feed them and then get them here, then go see what we can do.’”

Additionally, Barker and Jackson plan on posting signs next to the stencils with instructions on how to play the games.

CNP is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). This stencil project was funded by SNAP-Ed. CNP provides nutrition education to individuals and families with limited resources. CNP also partners with community organizations serving populations with limited resources to help make the healthy choice the easy choice for everyone, according to the program information. To find out more, visit www.uwyo.edu/cnp.

— uwagnews.com 7/3/2019



UW Extension sheep specialist shepherds savory showdown

The caramelized and long-cooked leg of lamb, skewered marinated kabobs, chops and slow-cooked shoulder meat brought into the classroom was the tip of the iceberg in the animal science 4230 class at the University of Wyoming.

Officially “Advanced Sheep Production Management,” the course description states the spring semester class integrates animal breeding, nutrition, and reproductive physiology in sheep production management schemes.

Unofficially, assistant professor Whit Stewart navigates students from the hoof to slaughter and eventually to the portions of lamb the more than 30+ students and a few others would critique as part of the class final.

From hoof to plate

Stewart shepherds Department of Animal Science students through the lambing shed, lamb feeding, how to body condition score sheep, diseases, how to evaluate wool, and seeing the carcasses on the rail. The meat

served this day was from carcasses judged at the recent state 4-H and FFA meats contest in Laramie and an earlier carcass evaluation portion of the class.

Stewart said having students involved from hoof to plate preparation is a unique aspect of the class.

“They get everything related to the industry,” he said. “(Today) was the lamb preparation lab final. When you look across the country, sheep production classes usually don’t focus on that, but it’s a good way to end the semester and engage them in a different

way than we have the previous few weeks.”

Enrollment continues to grow in the class and other sheep-specific curriculum

Recent data, Stewart said, shows more millennials are interested in eating lamb due to its unique flavor profile and versatility in traditional and ethnic culinary applications. In general, lamb has a unique, robust flavor compared to beef and can be influenced by breed, country of origin and the sheep diet.

About 5 million head of sheep were raised in 2016 in the U.S., according to the USDA. There

Jaelyn Whaley, left, and Nicole McKibben prep two leg of lamb samples for taste testing in a cooking competition between University of Wyoming sheep specialist Whit Stewart and UW Meat Lab manager Kelcey Christensen.



were about 360,000 in Wyoming; the state ranks fourth in total sheep and lamb production and third in breeding sheep numbers. Wyoming's sheep industry has grown 4 percent since 2015, according to the recently released Census of Agriculture.

Stewart has described Wyoming as the wine country of the nation's sheep country for wool. The state produced the highest-valued wool clip in 2017 (\$4.4 million or \$2 a pound), according to USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Sheep and Goat Report estimates released in 2018. Utah was second at \$4.1 million in total value.

"People come from all over the world to buy our wool," he said.

Sees producer appreciation

Stewart said many of the state's sheep producers express on

Facebook pages an appreciation of how many students are in the sheep production class.

"I'm taken aback they are taken aback there is interest in the industry," said Stewart, the UW Extension sheep specialist. "We are working with an extremely productive livestock species that provides meat and wool on very low-input resources. Why shouldn't there be interest? But I think it reflects the millennial demographic. They are more willing to try lamb, and we are also seeing in our ag students an open mind to add sheep to an existing enterprise."

Students were broken into groups of five, and Stewart assigned each group a choice of three recipes from the American Lamb Board to prepare under the scrutiny of other class members. Stewart wanted to target different

The recipes

The students prepared braised shoulders, lamb chops, ground lamb and leg of lamb recipes:

- Smoked American leg of lamb with Texas-style dry rub – bit.ly/legoflambrub
- Slow roasted lamb shoulder with pomegranate apricot glaze – bit.ly/shoulderglaze
- Southwestern lamb shoulder roast – bit.ly/southwestroast
- Tzatziki stuffed American lamb burgers – bit.ly/stuffedlambburgers
- Greek lamb burgers with tzatziki grilled red onions – bit.ly/tzatzikilambburgers

These and many others are at bit.ly/deliciouslamb.

non-traditional, lower-price point muscle cuts and their preparation. Food was judged on external and internal visual appearance, aroma, presentation of the product, taste, tenderness and other aspects.

Stewart wanted to highlight recipes that go beyond the lamb burger and lamb chop.

"A lot of cuts we can prepare similar to how we prepare beef – braised, slow cooked, marinated kabobs," he said. "We wanted to highlight the diversity so they would, one, know of the great recipe resources at the American Lamb Board, and two, advocate for more lamb products."

— uwagnews.com 5/23/2019



Luke Sharp delivers American lamb burgers for taste testing as part of the Advanced Sheep Production Management course final. Students prepared several cuts of meat.



First Lady Jenny Gordon holds the specially made signs for Heart of Agriculture Award recipients, from left, Carolina Noya, Judy Raymond, Brandi Forgey, and Cat Urbigkit.

Heart of Agriculture awards recognize women ranchers

Wyoming women ranchers are the state's fastest growing demographic, and 11 were recognized in Gillette with Heart of Agriculture Honoree awards.

Whether native born, beguiled as a youth in the Netherlands by Wyoming's mystique, or living in Boston and hearing the state's siren call, they're either managing their own ranches or in equal partnerships with spouses.

The ranchers, nominated from their counties, received the honors at the University of Wyoming Extension event. First Lady Jennie Gordon, who operates a cow-calf operation in Johnson County with husband Gov. Mark Gordon, was the keynote speaker.

Women producers is the fastest growing demographic in the state, said Scott Cotton, a UW Extension educator in Natrona County.

He cited the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

"Wyoming has an amazing number of professional influential and productive women producers," he said. "We want the active women agricultural producers in Wyoming to be recognized for the work they are doing. We think that's important."

Jim Magagna said he sees an increasing number of women



Cat Urbigkit



Carolina Noya



Judy Raymond



Brandi Forgey

ranchers in the state. Executive vice president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Magagna said there are ranches being solely operated by women and there are true partnerships between spouses.

“They each have distinct roles but that includes both of them out there moving cattle, and they are both sitting in the office making financial decisions,” said Magagna

at the Gillette event. The 147-year-old association had its first woman president in 2007.

“I think probably there are still a few places in Wyoming where women face the challenge of just being fully recognized for what they do, but this is changing,” he said.

He did not know all 11 women producers recognized but knows many of them. “The diversity to

me is what’s impressive,” Magagna said. “Each in their unique way is making important contributions to Wyoming agriculture.”

Extension collaborated with several producer groups, ranch industry representatives and a committee of women producers to receive and verify nominations from each county and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Eleven receive Heart of Agriculture Honoree awards

Eleven Heart of Agriculture Honoree awards were presented during the recognition program Wednesday, May 1, in Gillette by the University of Wyoming Extension.

In addition to Brandi Forgey, Carolina Noya, Judy Raymond and Cat Urbigkit:

- Campbell County – Gwen Geis
- Converse County – Elaine Moore
- Fremont/Natrona counties – Gwen Shepperson
- Goshen County – Linda Scheer Nichol
- Johnson County – Karen Hostetler
- Park County – Shirley Bales
- Sheridan County – Gayle Symons

Extension plans to recognize women producers each year.

Coincides with women's suffrage anniversary

The timing of the honors the same year as the 150th anniversary of women suffrage in Wyoming is appropriate, said Cat Urbigkit, one of the award recipients. She and her family manage a sheep operation in Sublette County, and she writes, is a photographer, and publishes *Shepherd* magazine.

"I'm so happy to be associated with these women, and a lot of them are my friends," she said. "They are strong women leaders and are respected in their communities and in the field in agriculture."

She's involved in the day-to-day decisions on their ranch and is in the traditional family role, with everyone involved.

"But I also have the pleasure of working with herders who are here from other countries and not used to women having a physical role in managing livestock as well as the decision-making role," she said. "So, it's been an interesting dynamic to be involved in. It's never been a problem, but it's kind of humorous to me to kind of shove a man aside when working sheep in a pen."

Carolina Noya of Crook County grew up in the Netherlands.

"As a kid I looked at a map and looked at Wyoming and I said there is where I'm going," said Noya. "Silly, right? I was 6 years old."

Yet at age 22 she came to the U.S. by herself and lived in New York City, getting a job riding thoroughbreds. She was also a sky jockey, flying and attending to horses or other animals. She then decided to work as a ranch hand near Douglas and eventually came to own her own goat herd.

"I love working with a herd," she said. "Not working them in a chute but going places with them. I love that type of spending time with your herd. As a herder,

that's all you do, day and night because of the predators, but I really appreciate seeing how these animals interact."

Inspire younger women

The Heart of Agriculture Honoree Award can be an encouragement to younger women, she said, and showing women's involvement in agriculture may help change negative images.

Agriculture has been portrayed badly at times, especially in public lands ranching, Noya said.

"Maybe with showing that women are part of agriculture, too, you can show the other side, that kind side, the loving side," she said. "Maybe you can show with something like this it's not just ranchers or cowboys, it's much more involved. That real care is involved in producing animals or crops. I think women take pride in being a part of that whole cycle of growing and producing."

Tennessee girl Judy Raymond didn't know it, but she was part of a plan put in motion, she said, by her husband to be – with divine help. He had more or less asked God to drop a wife from a helicopter onto his ranch – or he was leaving.

"He has a very strong faith," she said. Ten days after the prayer, she arrived.

Raymond had lived in Boston many years teaching and had bicycled in Wyoming and loved the state. She later moved to Wyoming to help manage a bed and breakfast near Rawlins and owned

by a woman she had met while biking in the state. Her friend took Raymond to look at a homestead cabin on the ranch, but Raymond says she was really taking her to be introduced to the rancher. Her friend thought they might be a match.

That was 23 years and two children ago.

“When God has brought you to a place, that makes a huge difference,” she said. “Everything works out.”

The cow-calf ranch is a family operation, but the hardest part for Raymond was getting used to work never-ending, as opposed to teaching school for nine months and then ending.

“That was very difficult psychologically for me to accept, that there is always a very long list of things to be done,” said Raymond. “You can choose how much it weighs on you. I’ve chosen to do it a day at a time.”

There was also that imposter thing. A city girl, she didn’t know ranch terminology, and when introduced to a sheep ranch neighbor, she asked when he planned to start calving.

“My husband was embarrassed, this city girl asking a sheep rancher about calving. That was embarrassing and humbling, to be on a steep learning curve,” she said. “I didn’t know the terminology. When I heard that someone’s outfit had different

needs, I thought it was the clothes you were wearing.”

She’s finally past all that. “That feeling of being an imposter was a long time getting over,” said Raymond. “Maybe within the last couple years I finally realized ‘You are a rancher, not a teacher or anything else. A rancher.’ And I’m comfortable with it. It’s been difficult, but I love the life. I love being a food producer with my family.”

The UW Extension agriculture/horticulture initiative team initiated the Excellence in Agriculture Symposium and Heart of Agriculture luncheon as a new addition to their regular statewide programs.

— uwagnews.com 5/7/2019



The Halflinger draft horse team of Pistol and Pete represented the college at the July Wyoming State Capitol Open House and Celebration. The event commemorated the renovation of the building and grounds. Elias Hutchinson of the Laramie Research and Extension Center helps Gavin Bond wave to his mother, taking a photo. Travis Smith, also of the LREC, at left.

— Facebook 7/10/2019

Agricultural economist concludes longtime career at University of Wyoming

There were many pin-worthy events in 1975.

The Vietnam War ended with the fall of Saigon; Bill Gates and Paul Allen created Microsoft (Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak would create Apple the following year); “Jaws” dominated the big screens; and David “Tex” Taylor joined University of Wyoming Extension as a senior economist.

After 43 years, the professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics retired this summer. His career spans beginnings as a loan officer in Nebraska to a research assistant in Washington, D.C., an extension educator and then faculty member in 1985.

Taylor said he would tell his 1975 self starting the career journey to be patient and expect the unexpected.

The Edgar, Mont., native was raised on a farm near Billings with two brothers. The 6-foot 8-inch Taylor attended Montana State University, played varsity basketball and earned his bachelor’s degree in economics in

1972 and master’s in 1973. That year, a teammate from the MSU basketball team asked if he would work on a study in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming.

“I came down here and basically never left,” quipped

Taylor, who earned his Ph.D. at Colorado State University in 1985.

Taylor said a three-year stint in Teton County as an extension educator taught him how to frame things in a clearer, more easily understood and helpful way. He also came away with a wife. He



Agricultural and applied economics department head Ben Rashford, right, sees eye-to-eye with 6-foot 8-inch Tex Taylor.

met Rebecca in Jackson. They have two children, who live in Laramie.

Taylor has been the go-to guy for economic analyses of environmental, tourism and recreation, endangered species, and many other issues affecting Wyoming and its communities, noted Dale Menkhaus, professor emeritus in the department, who worked with Taylor for decades.

“His achievements and contributions have gained for him a distinguished reputation, not only in Wyoming, but also in the western region and nationally,” said Menkhaus.

His mentoring also drew respect.

Taylor was always patient, kind and generous as a mentor, said Chris Bastian, a professor in the department. Taylor helped Bastian with his dissertation.

Taylor taught the details that need to be considered pertinent to analyses, information not found in textbooks or software manuals, said Bastian.

“It was this kind of mentorship and expertise that sets Tex apart from many so-called experts,” he said.

Applied research, studies that help understand a given issue or question, always appealed to Taylor.

“Driving through a community somewhere in Wyoming, I’d always think, ‘What makes this community’s economy work, what drives it, what are the important factors, why is it here?’” said



Taylor with artwork presented during his retirement reception this summer.

Taylor. “I always found that interesting.”

Taylor has been a longtime member of the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, which tries to estimate near-future revenues received by Wyoming’s government. It’s a cocktail of annual estimates in October to assist in the governor’s preliminary budget, with a revision in January. Mineral prices, natural gas prices and the stock market all come into play.

Very difficult to predict, he said.

Taylor said he will miss that experience. Getting the inside perspective on how Wyoming state finances work has always been very interesting, he noted.

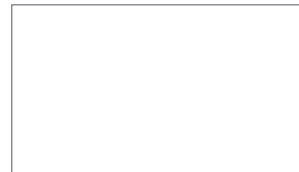
“The economist does the analysis, and that’s wonderful and great, but to be useful, and where I get satisfaction, is when people actually use it,” he said.

Taylor said his plans are to remain in Laramie.

— uwagnews.com 7/1/2019



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