

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several oak leaves. The leaves are in various shades of brown and tan, suggesting they are autumn leaves. The veins of the leaves are clearly visible, creating a complex, organic pattern. The lighting is soft, with some areas being brighter than others, giving the image a textured, almost painterly quality.

extensionconnection

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University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service

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From the director...

The Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) was honored October 5-6 during the university's Ag Appreciation Weekend ceremonies as the College of Agriculture's Outstanding Outreach/Research Partner for 2007.

As you know, the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is a three-way partnership with funding coming from the state government as a part of the university's block grant, the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Smith-Lever formula funds, and county governments. The 23 Wyoming county governments provide almost a third of the funding for UW CES. These funds come in the form of office space, staff, and other support for educators serving in field offices across the state. In addition, in nearly all counties, commissioners provide salary support for 4-H and youth development educators. The commissioners have been great partners in the extension enterprise. The award was received on behalf of all commissioners by Kent Connelly, Lincoln County commissioner and president of the WCCA; Bill Glanz, former WCCA president and Washakie County commissioner; and Joe Evans, executive director of the WCCA. It was a wonderful weekend, particularly gratifying to recognize such outstanding partners – and the Pokes won.

This is a time of great opportunity for people and communities in Wyoming. With opportunity comes challenge, and many communities are facing significant difficulties related to growth and energy development. Housing is in short supply in many communities. Finding employees can also be difficult. I stopped at a fast-food restaurant in Douglas for lunch recently and was fortunate to find it open. Only the drive-through was open during the day, and the restaurant closed at 6 p.m. because of a lack of employees. We are facing some of these same obstacles in cooperative extension. It is difficult to find qualified employees, and, in some communities, potential employees are struggling to find housing. Even with these challenges, UW CES is vibrant, healthy, and effective.

I hope you will enjoy reading of the accomplishments of some of the outstanding educators and specialists in UW CES. I am proud of their efforts and am confident you will share my excitement for their work.

Regards,

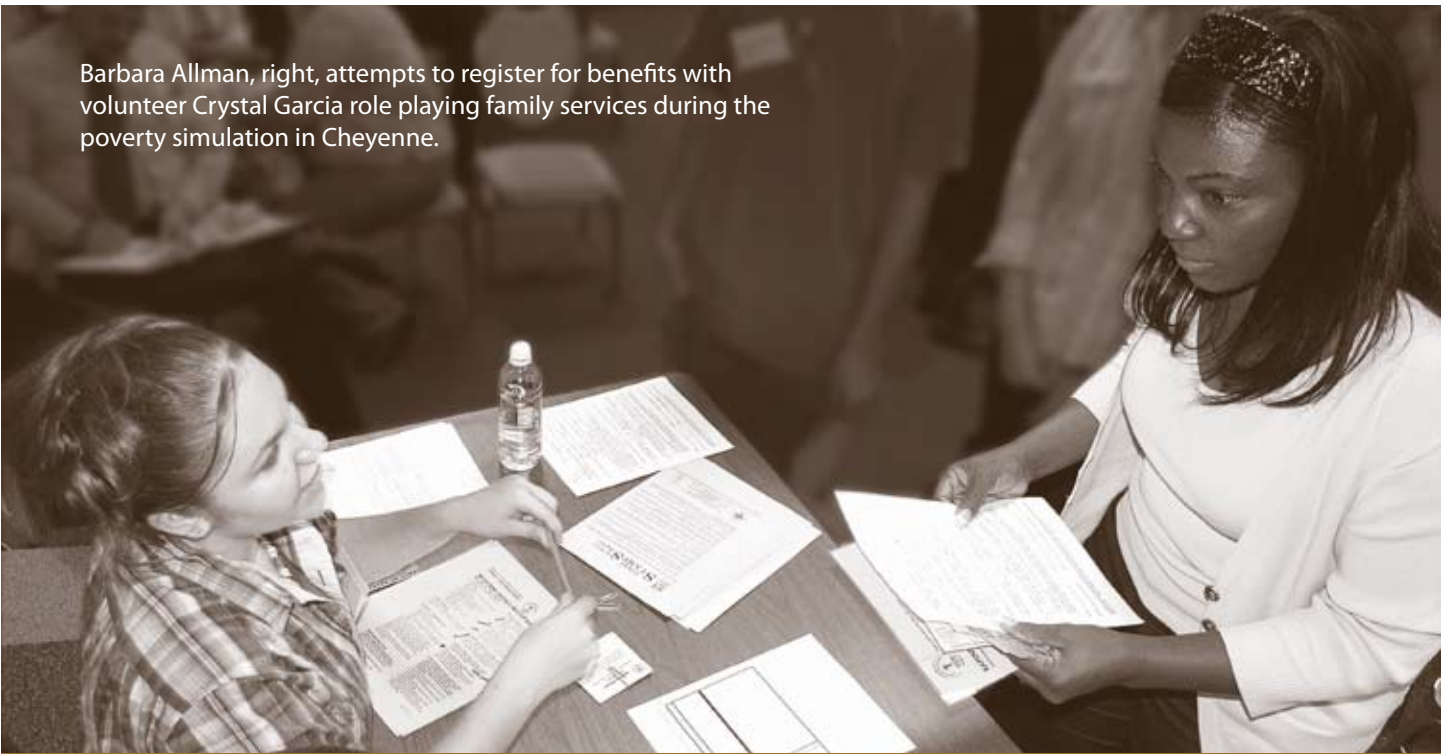


Glen Whipple
Associate dean and director, UW CES



Glen Whipple

Barbara Allman, right, attempts to register for benefits with volunteer Crystal Garcia role playing family services during the poverty simulation in Cheyenne.



Simulation exposes organization, government personnel to day-to-day barriers of poverty

By Steven L. Miller,
Senior Editor
Office of Communications
and Technology

*It **IS** the next best thing to being there
because no one wants to be in the real thing.*

Most entering a poverty simulation put on by the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) exit with a different attitude about people living in poverty, educators say. The poverty simulation program takes only an hour or two but introduces people from public assistance agencies, law enforcement, bankers, businessmen – just about anyone – to a world of poverty where barriers prevent mothers and fathers and even grandparents from adequately providing for families.

The simulation changes nearly everyone, including Lori Jones, CNP associate in Campbell County.

“It opened my eyes to the choices because sometimes we think people make really poor choices, and then I realized low-income people sometimes only have poor choices,” she says. “They don’t have the same opportunities as those who have enough resources.”

In the simulation, participants are assigned to one of numerous families, whose members sit in the center of a room in chairs labeled with the family name. A folder explains who is in the family and the family situation. Participants role play through four “weeks,” which happen in 15-minute blocks. During that first week – the 15-minute block – they pay rent, take children to school, pay utilities, look for a job, and experience other real-life responsibilities.



Karen Hruby
CNP senior coordinator

"The poverty simulation program raises awareness of what people living in poverty deal with.

Karen Hruby, CNP senior coordinator in Laramie County, recently headed a simulation in Cheyenne with more than 75 people participating from various agencies and organizations. About 25 volunteers posed as school teachers, police officers, public assistance staff members, bankers, realtors, grocery store clerks, transportation workers, and more. Participants found out about long lines and short time.

"They have a certain amount of money, and, if they run out, they have to figure out what to do," says Hruby.

What you see is people get really frustrated, Hruby says. "For example, they may go get public assistance, and they see workers busy chatting with a friend, and they feel they are being slighted, or they miss their appointment and have to reschedule. People sometimes miss an appointment with the utility company or the company is closed before they can get there, or they don't have enough transportation tokens to get there, and they had to leave a child at home. If a child is found at home alone, he or she may be put into protective custody. All this may be going on at the end of the 15 minutes."

Hruby observes people leave with an increased



Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator Christine Pasley, left, hands out supplies to crowded "students" at the poverty simulation.

awareness and sensitivity to the barriers and issues people living in poverty wrestle.

"Participants come out with very strong feelings," notes Hruby.

Irene Paiz, fiscal assistant with Community Action of Laramie County Inc., brought her personal perspective to the simulation. "I know how bad it is," says Paiz. "I was there years ago. This is a reminder of what our clients go through on a daily basis."

Standing in long lines is very frustrating, adds Shari Jenkins of Community Action of Laramie County Head Start. She says there are about 2,000 children living in poverty in Cheyenne. "It's a good exercise to show what a day is like for the families," she notes.

Although it uses "play" money and other props, fictional scenarios, and time limits, the simulation is not a game, says Mary Kay Wardlaw, CNP director. "The learning tool enables participants to view poverty from different angles in an experiential setting. Volunteers who act as the community agencies, businesses, and organizations learn about the government regulations, limited assistance resources, and time pressures on people who work at food banks, assistance offices, and utility companies."

Community leaders and those who do work in the agencies and businesses gain some insight into the challenges of completing everyday, seemingly easy, tasks when personal resources are scarce, says Wardlaw.

Gretchen Gasvoda-Kelso, CNP coordinator in Big Horn County, says such a simulation is a moving experience. "You get to experience what our clientele live every day," she says. "We have a very small glimpse into what their life may be – the tasks and barriers they face every day, we only live for an hour. Some participants can't wait for the 15 minutes to be up."

Gasvoda-Kelso experienced in real life what participants only briefly battle. The biggest hoop Gasvoda-Kelso had to go through in her own life was trying to obtain day-care for her foster children.

"I felt at times I was begging for help," she recalls. "I knew I had the right to ask, and I didn't back down. But it's frustrating and hard to ask for help. Assistance

If I had to do that day in and day out, I would go crazy.” — Karen Hruby

workers are kind and want to help, but they also have federal regulations to follow. A person has to swallow his or her pride to go ask for assistance. Even though the Wyoming forms are much shorter than in the simulation, people don't enjoy filling out all the paperwork and providing the documentation.”

One young girl was role playing the local food bank with a small amount of food. Afterward she said that when she was a young girl, she would get angry her mother did not get more food at the food bank. Now, she realizes that even when someone really wants to help others who have less, there is often a limited amount to give.

The simulation was originally created by the Reform Organization of Welfare (ROWEL) Education Association in Missouri. It seeks to move citizens beyond compassion to an active commitment to work toward social justice.

Hruby recalls when she first started her job she'd become miffed if people didn't show up for a scheduled nutrition class. “They would later say their husband had taken their car, and they couldn't attend,” she says. “Or come to find out their boyfriend had beaten them up or their children were sick. A nutrition class was

the last thing they were concerned about attending right then. You just don't know what people are going through in life.”

Most middle class people have never had to deal with not having enough food to feed their family, or losing their job, or not having a job, she says.

“It raises awareness of what people living in poverty deal with,” says Hruby. “If I had to do that day in and day out, I would go crazy. But the fact is, people do run out of food, get evicted from their home or have their lights turned off.”

Jones has not heard from her clients whether they noticed a change in agency personnel following a simulation, but she has heard from the agency people.

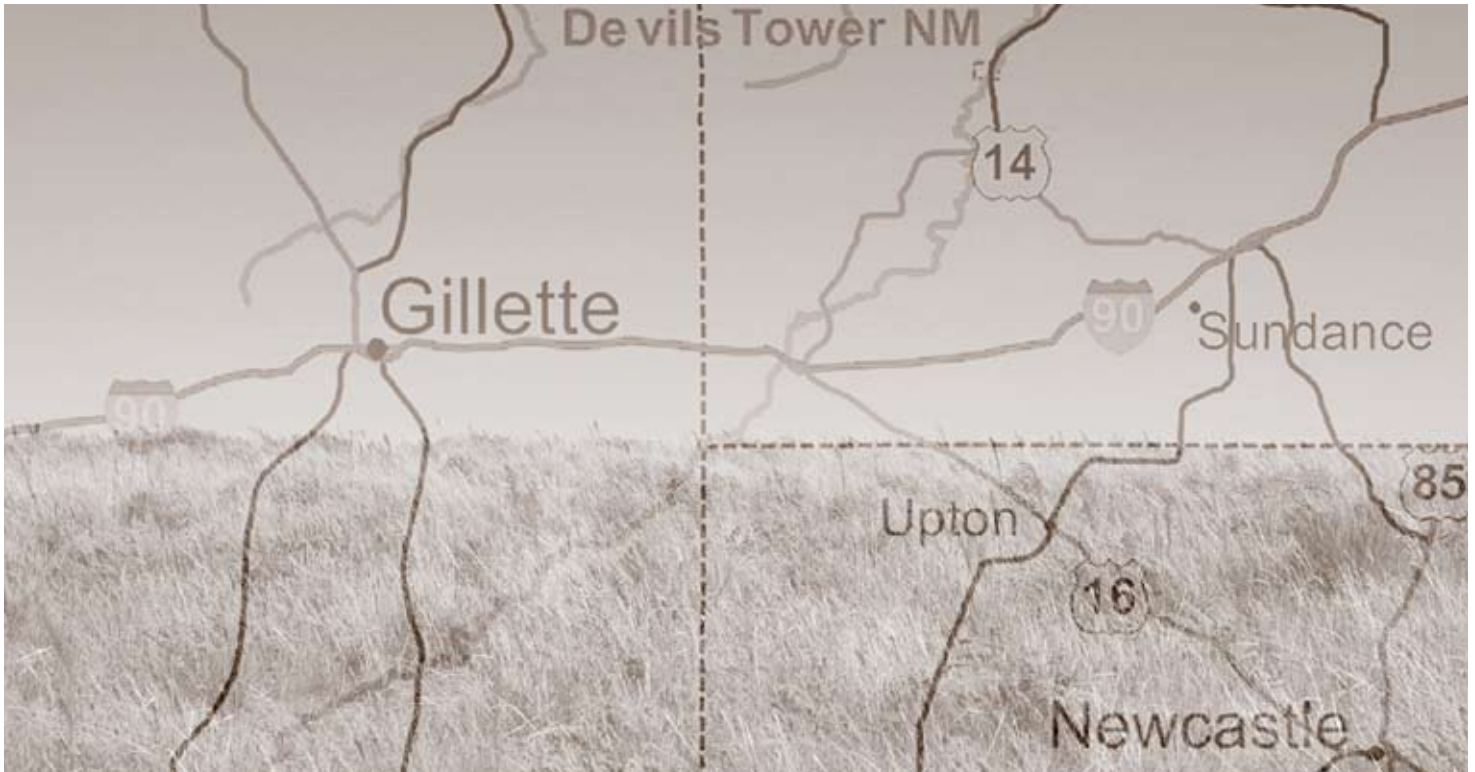
“They say it totally changed their views and made them more sympathetic. It will change you,” she says. “It will change your future interactions with someone who is low income. You smile more. You are more helpful. You realize their day probably has enough problems in it, and you want to be part of the solution.”



Lori Jones
CNP coordinator



A poverty simulation by the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) in Laramie County and headed by CNP senior coordinator Karen Hruby drew more than 75 participants and 25 volunteers.



Northeast Area educator arrangement changes working well

By Robert Waggener,
Editor
*Office of Communications
and Technology*

A new extension educator arrangement for the Northeast Area (Campbell, Crook, and Weston counties) is working well, both for the educators and the public, according to those involved.

A decision nearly two years ago created two part-time 4-H educator positions in Campbell and Crook counties and transferred many of the community development duties (including family financial management classes) in the three counties to Bill Taylor, an area educator based in Weston County.

Previously, a full-time educator split duties between 4-H in Campbell and Crook counties and community development work in the three Northeast Area counties.

"That posed some logistical difficulties," says Rindy West, 4-H program associate for Campbell County.

Taylor says, "Trying to share across county lines is very difficult with 4-H. You get different programs involved, topography, weather, logistics, and expectations of clientele. 4-H is so

hands-on with all of the individual members, leaders, parents, and project areas, and the expectations are different. Everyone decided it would be better to create the part-time 4-H positions for each county."

Discussions started when the full-time educator who split duties between 4-H and community development left the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service system two years ago.

In October 2006, Janet Lake was hired as the part-time 4-H educator for Crook County. She works with full-time 4-H youth educator Peggy Symonds.

Jessica Gladson was hired that same month as the part-time 4-H educator in Campbell County. She works with West. (See separate story on Lake and Gladson on Page 8.)

"This arrangement has worked very well. Jessica is focused and dedicated to Campbell County," West says. "She is able to get to know everyone quite well, and she is doing specific programming to meet the needs of 4-Hers and



other young people of our county.”

Attracting and training new 4-H leaders are among the goals in Campbell County. The number of leaders has risen from 247 in 2006 to 267 this year. The number of 4-H members has stayed relatively constant at around 430.

West adds of Gladson’s performance: “She has done a super job, and she is very knowledgeable in her project areas.”

Attracting and training leaders has also been a focus in Crook County, as has attracting youths to the program.

The number of 4-H members increased from 140 to 170 the past year while the number of leaders remained relatively constant at 90. Lake recruited and trained six new leaders and also trained 19 existing leaders, but the program lost about 10 others to natural attrition.

The biggest increase in 4-H membership stems from a new after-school club that was started by Lake – the Critters and Crafts.

“Janet has done an excellent job of marketing and developing 4-H, and the position has allowed us to do more training and support of our 4-H volunteer leaders,” says Gene Gade, Northeast Area educator based in Crook County. “She’s provided more in-service training and follow-up contacts to attract more leaders. Her work has definitely strengthened our 4-H program.”

Gade adds, “We needed some help in key areas including FCS (family and consumer sciences), and Janet has done a series of workshops just for the kids, primarily in the FCS area. That was almost not happening for three or four years because we simply didn’t have the personnel to do it.” Among the FCS

project areas in 4-H are fabric and fashion, quilting, knitting, crocheting, food and nutrition, cake decorating, gardening and horticulture, and child development.

With all of her duties, Symonds says, the addition of a part-time 4-H educator has bolstered the county program across the board.

“It has worked well. I couldn’t concentrate a lot of time in FCS and after-school programs, so Janet has helped me tremendously.”

FCS and after-school programs are handled by Lake, while Symonds concentrates on livestock and natural resource projects, shooting sports, youth leadership, veterinary sciences, and many of the crafts, including projects such as leather and rope craft, wood working, photography, robotics, and aerospace.

Symonds also helps 4-Hers participating in judging contests with the excep-

tion of meats and vegetables. She hopes the void in these two areas can be filled with the addition of Lake.

Symonds credits Gade for his ongoing help with the 4-H program in Crook County.

“Gene steps in and helps whenever we need help, including assisting with workshops and all of the natural resource and range management areas, which he has expertise in,” she says.

Taylor says the county overlap in community development programs has and continues to work well – despite some obstacles.

“I can provide the same basic programming for all three counties and do some minor tailoring to meet the needs of a specific class; however, there are still some issues of trying to reach out beyond your own county,” Taylor says. “You know the people in your home county well, but it’s a challenge to reach out to those you don’t know.”



Gene Gade



Peggy Symonds



Bill Taylor



Rindy West



Part-time 4-H educators enjoying

*By Robert Waggener,
Editor
Office of Communications
and Technology*

The part-time 4-H educators in Campbell and Crook counties – the only two to hold such half-time positions in the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service system – are enjoying their work and the challenges they face to attract new members and leaders and to bolster programming.

Jessica Gladson and Janet Lake started in October 2006 as half-time 4-H educators for Campbell and Crook counties, respectively. These positions were created following the creation of a new educator arrangement in the Northeast Area (see separate story on Page 6).

“We have a strong program, which made it nice to step into this job,” Gladson says. “The leaders and members are actively involved in 4-H and easy to work with.”

Lake says the job is suited to her interests both on a personal and professional level. “The job is perfect for me because it’s a wonderful combination of teaching and management. I enjoy working with kids of all ages.”

The position has allowed Lake to continue teaching private music lessons. “The two part-time jobs are a perfect combination.”

Lake grew up in Sundance and says 4-H was an important part of her school years.

“Just recently, I was looking at a photo in one of my albums that shows me giving a presentation in 4-H. I remember presentations like that helping my public speaking skills. I also learned about working with groups, holding an office, and being responsible. I remember having a lot of fun with others and greatly remember the fun of 4-H camp.”

Specific skills – like knitting and sewing – have also followed her in life.

Some of those skills, along with newly acquired ones, are being shared with 4-Hers in the family and consumer science project areas in Crook County. Lake has facilitated a number of workshops in cake decorating, food preservation, quilting, fabric and fashion, gardening, horticulture, and child development.

“One of the objectives was to increase the visibility of 4-H in Sundance, Hulett, Moorcroft, and other areas of the county. We have marketed 4-H to the area; we’re trying to get our name out there,” Lake says. “We have invited non-4-H members to get involved in the workshops, and we’ve had a youth activity day in each of the three communities.”

Approximately 90 youths participated in the activity days, and nearly half were non-4-Hers. Among the activity areas were gardening, ceramics, food and nutrition, and science. She also started a new after-school 4-H club, Critters and Crafts, which attracted 11 members and four leaders.

Lake earned an associate’s degree from Casper College in 1974, worked for a number of years, and

work, challenges

then decided to go back to school. She earned a business and music education degree from Black Hills State University, Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1996, and then taught middle school and high school music in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Gladson grew up on a grain farm and cattle ranch in central North Dakota. She attended North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, for two years before transferring to the University of Wyoming, where she earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences in 2001.

Gladson was substitute teaching in Campbell County when the part-time 4-H job opened, and she believed it was a perfect opportunity to blend her interests in 4-H and working with young people

with a desire to spend time with her own family (she and her husband, Travis, had their fourth child in October).

Gladson says 4-H has been an important part of the lives of her family as well as her husband's.

She was involved with 4-H for 11 years while growing up in North Dakota, as was Travis, who was raised in the Gillette area. Their oldest son is now in 4-H, as are nieces and nephews.

"My dad was also active in 4-H, and both of my parents were leaders," Gladson says. "My dad still has his grand champion rope craft display hanging in the basement. It must have been a very proud moment in his life."

Gladson says Rindy West, 4-H program associate



Janet Lake teaches food safety to 4-Hers and other youths in Crook County using the Partnership for Food Safety Education's "Fight BAC" program, which is designed to educate people how they can help reduce their risk of foodborne illness. The campaign's "bacteria mascot" is BAC.

for Campbell County, has helped her in many aspects of the job. "She has been very good to work with. She is very organized and competent. She is very good at every aspect of her job, whether it's working with leaders and 4-Hers or working with staff."

Gladson concentrates in the family and consumer science areas, including fabric and fashion, quilting, knitting, crocheting, food and nutrition, cake decorating, and child development. She also coordinates Clover Buds, the pre-4-H program for youths ages 5 to 8. There are about 40 youngsters in the program, which Gladson says is growing.

"It's really fun to work with the Clover Buds. We're trying to incorporate more of the project areas at their level," Gladson says. "This allows them to be active like

big brother and big sister. This allows many of the projects to be a family event."

Though many of the activities for Clover Buds are geared around having fun and learning socialization skills, Gladson says, teaching gun safety has been an important aspect.

"We live in Wyoming and know that a large number of our residents have firearms," she says. "The Clover Buds don't shoot guns, but they do handle them. We show them how toy and real guns can look similar, and we teach them that all guns deserve respect."

Asked to discuss other goals of the 4-H program, she responds, "We would like to see continued growth in 4-H numbers, not just member numbers but completion of projects and the learning of the 4-H curriculum."



Janet Lake



Jessica Gladson



Project expands to four counties

Participants put stamp of approval

*By Steven L. Miller, Senior Editor
Office of Communications and
Technology*



**"We designed this
program to make an
impact, not just create
awareness."**

—Bridger Feuz

There's only a little bit of bull in the Master Cattleman program developed by a team of extension educators and university specialists led by Bridger Feuz.

Of the nine topics in the program, only one has any mention of herd improvement by new genetics into the herd – bull buying. Its emphasis is on marketing; however, many of the marketing topics include information on topics such as animal management, nutrition, genetics, and selection.

"We molded it toward more of a business marketing program for producers," says Feuz, who serves Uinta and Sweetwater counties and has also taken on marketing duties. His Master Cattleman program focuses more on business strategies and less on animal science topics.

Ten producers completed a three-month pilot course last spring in Uinta County, each lending their stamp of approval by saying they would recommend the course to anyone.

Producer James Sewell of Woodruff, Utah, just across the state line northwest of Evanston, was looking for an educational program for his cattle crew. He recommended it to others. "I think there was very good interaction with the speakers and with other individuals taking the course," he says. "The small group size held with that."

The course, which costs \$75, will be offered in four counties this year: Lincoln, Albany, Campbell, and Sheridan. Educators include Hudson Hill in Lincoln County, Kellie Chichester in Albany, Lindsay Taylor

in Campbell, and Scott Hinger in Sheridan.

"I'll be doing a train-the-trainer course program for it," says Feuz, "and about half of the hours will be taught by either a university specialist or invited speakers. Educators teach, depending upon their comfort level, about half of the material, and they bring state specialists in to teach the other half."

Involved last year were ranch management specialist John Hewlett, financial management specialist Cole Ehmke, and beef cattle specialist Steve Paisley. Dillon Feuz,

opportunity to practice using them. We have 24 hours of curriculum, which gives us time to talk about new production opportunities. It gives us time to really teach instead of making them aware of things. We are actually teaching how to look and evaluate production options."

The course arose from two directions. The Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Systems members had talked about a more comprehensive program to focus on a full program to give producers tools to use and make an impact, says Feuz. "We would

ing program for producers. It focuses more on business strategies and less on animal science."

The pilot program had eight three-hour sessions from January to March. Session topics were goals and risk management, enterprise analysis, cull cow management, retained ownership, alternative calving strategies, niche marketing, bull buying, and estate planning.

When participants discuss ideas in retained ownership, for example, they return to tools learned in the first two sessions and determine whether, in their current environment, they

opportunities and decide whether it might work for them.

Sewell says the opportunity to hear what other producers were doing was a plus for the program. "There were also some good speakers who brought in some new and different ideas," he says. "I particularly liked the segment on cull cow marketing. That's a place where ranches can make a big difference on their bottom line."

Feuz is excited about the program for a couple of reasons. "One is that I thought we could build a really good curriculum that could help producers," he notes.

on Master Cattleman program

a livestock marketing and farm management specialist at Utah State University and brother to Feuz, was an invited speaker, as was Burke Teichert, manager of Deseret Ranches, which has ranches in Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, Florida, and Oklahoma.

"I think the reason it is so successful is that the curriculum is a combination of business analysis tools and management/marketing strategies," notes Feuz. "We start with tools to use to look at production options and then talk about production options, but we go back to those tools and give an

often reference the Master Gardener program as a great program that teaches people a lot of good information," he notes.

Feuz then attended a National Cattlemen's Beef Association meeting in Denver, Colorado, and saw a booth for the Oklahoma State University Master Cattleman program. "There is where it clicked," says Feuz. "The curriculum we developed is completely different from any other Master Cattleman program I looked at, but there is where the general idea came from. We molded ours toward more of a business market-



Bridger Feuz

have the risk tolerance to make it work.

When those producers attend other meetings to hear speakers talk about their methods, Master Cattleman attendees can use the tools to evaluate the new

"Two, this is a program that allowed our educators to be able to teach and help producers – to get connected with producers. It's not a program you just have state specialists or guest speakers and you are not a part of it. It allows our area educators to shine, too."

A measure of success is not just numbers signing up for a program, he says. "I think we designed this program to make an impact, not just create awareness. Our measure of success will be if producers implement tools. Even if there is only one or two from each class, I think that's a success."



Sublette Community Partnership has civic leaders,



*By Steven L. Miller, Senior Editor
Office of Communications and Technology*

With several sets of wheels slowly turning, the white, broad-shouldered behemoth lumbered its way east on Highway 191 through the heart of Pinedale.

Cars, pickups, and trucks pulling flatbed trailers patiently lined up behind the muscular gasfield vehicle hugging the lane near the curb, its weight sending vibrations felt on sidewalks of the darn-near-to-Jackson town nestled in front of the spectacular snow-capped Wind River Mountains.

Though natural gas development arrived in the southern part of Sublette County nearly 60 years ago, a drilling technique called “fracing” has renewed energy development. Water with sand is pumped below at a high rate and pressure. The water cracks (fracs) the rock deep in the well, and the sand is carried out into these cracks. When the pumping is stopped, the sand holds the cracks open, which essentially makes a path for the natural gas to flow to the wellbore.

The renewed development sent repercussions reverberating from the sagebrush hills of southern Sublette County to the mountainous north – housing shortages, childcare shortages, a need for workforce education.

energy representatives addressing issues

A little more than a year ago, the unthinkable – or perhaps improbable – happened. Ever since the county seat settled in Pinedale in the 1920s, relations between north and south have been cantankerous.

But last year, representatives of EnCana Oil & Gas, BP America, Ultra Resources Inc., Shell Oil, and Questar Exploration & Production Co. found themselves sitting at a table with the southern mayors of Big Piney, Marbleton, and La Barge – bordering southern Sublette County – and Pinedale from the north and a representative of the Sublette County Board of Commissioners. Bent on staring down energy development issues, they created the Sublette Community Partnership (SCP).

“Truth be told, I don’t think something like this had ever happened in the county before,” says SCP chairman Betty Fear, the commission representative. “We were brainstorming and trying to determine how much it would cost us to do what we needed to do. We kept saying ‘somebody should go to this or that meeting.’ But nobody ever did. We knew we needed an employee.”

At that point, she says, the oil company representatives in the group might have been thinking they were going to foot the bill.

“That’s when a mayor of a town stood up and said ‘I think we could give \$5,000,’ ” she recalls. “The mayor from the next town said they could do that, too. I knew then that, yes, this was going to work.”

Later, the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service was asked to participate to bring the resources of the university to the group’s disposal, and Laurie Latta was hired as the group’s coordinator. Technically, she works for the UW CES, but she takes direction from the SCP. She had worked as an assistant to the Pinedale mayor for 15 months prior.

“Last year was a learning curve,” says Latta, born in the south and living in the north. “To have these people sitting down at one table was exceptional. They recognized the socio-economic issues that were not being dealt with, and to have them come to the table was an accomplishment in itself.”

Part of the reason that happened, says Latta, is the commonality of issues. “Both ends of the county have been hit by energy development,” she says. “But there are thoughtful, aggressive people in significant positions who understand the needs of their communities who look at the challenges not as adversarial but as looking out for their constituents. The county commissioners understand what is going on in the communities.



Betty Fear, SCP chairman

The economic prosperity the county is undergoing affords us to do good things for the people in the county.”

Housing, child care, and work force education were set as goals but were not clearly defined last year, she says. “The sense of trust and working together to solve problems is the principal thing that happened last year.”

While big equipment and gasfield workers had long been in Big Piney, Marbleton, and La Barge, Pinedale is now feeling the effects of energy development. “There has been a lot of give and take,” says Fear. “Pinedale has had a struggle, but the talking has been helpful to everyone. Having industry



Laurie Latta, left, hired through the Cooperative Extension Service, and Steve Smith, Pinedale mayor, are members of the Sublette Community Partnership formed to address energy development issues in the county.

listening has been good, too, to understand the problems small towns have with the influx of people.”

The SCP, says Randy Teeuwen, community relations adviser for EnCana and a member of the group, helps industry understand the communities’ needs, their vision for the future, and how industry can fit into their hopes for the future and make a positive contribution.

Teeuwen says industry in the small towns might be

looked at as the 800-pound gorilla. “But the 800-pound gorilla doesn’t necessarily have to trample a community,” he says. “What we need to do is complement what the communities see as economic growth and sustainability over the long haul and help them to direct and determine their future.”

About EnCana’s philosophy, he says, “Our sense of social responsibility is to do the right thing in the communities where we operate, to be part of those

communities and respond to their needs and understand we have impacts on the communities. We think the right thing to do is be a contributing member of the community.”

The socio-economic problems the group is facing are not low hurdles, says Pinedale Mayor Steve Smith. The issues cannot be solved overnight. “I envision in the coming year a lot more activity than last year,” he predicts. “In the first year, we got our feet under us.”

He complimented the county commissioners for recognizing problems towns are facing and providing funding mechanisms for improvements. Revenues and monies from the State Land and Investment Board (SLIB) are helping the small communities, he says.

Geoff Sell is a small-town boy in a big-time position as operations manager for Shell EP Americas’ Rocky Mountain production area. Raised in Glendive, Montana, he worked for Shell there

“Our sense of social responsibility is to do the right thing in the communities where we operate, to be part of those communities and respond to their needs and understand we have impacts on the communities.”

—Randy Teeuwen, EnCana community relations adviser

and is a 31-year employee – including two years at Pinedale and 17 years in New Orleans.

He says he loved living near New Orleans, but after Hurricane Katrina, and an opportunity to come to Pinedale, he and his wife wanted a small-town atmosphere.

He’s looking for employees who like that, too. So housing, and the hard climate, come into play. Sell says all who work for him have found housing.

“Housing has lots of local politics tied up in it,” he says. “It’s a frustration. Laurie (Latta) has pulled together several workshops, but it didn’t feel like it was a huge success. Housing is going to be a struggle.”

Development around Pinedale is done in large parcels. “It seems like a lot more of the county may be carved up than what is necessary,” he says, an advocate of denser housing closer to town for access to water and sewer lines to keep prices down. “To make projects be truly affordable, more latitude needs to be given to developers.”

Developers need to show what their final product would be like. “People could then decide for themselves whether or not that proposal would be a fit for their particular community,” he says.

Some landowners, he says, are going to become rich by taking developers to the cleaners.

“People have to want housing and accept it,” he says. “If not, there is no use in Laurie or anybody else banging their heads against the wall.”

The companies also face workforce shortages. Shell has worked with Western Wyoming Community College to provide full-ride scholarships to students and had four interns this summer.

The company would like to hire those in the county or those who are willing to move to the area and participate in the communities. “Some of our strongest people are local,” says Sell. “Folks who participate in every aspect of a community are what we desire.”

Sell faces challenges. Employees should like

small-town amenities but the lifestyle, too. “It’s a long winter and reasonably hard. People’s pastimes have to align with their environment,” he notes. “There is fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing. Sitting in a home four or five months out of the year would make you pretty miserable.”

Beginning gasfield workers can make \$50,000 per year, and they get good days off, he says. Most Shell Production employees work eight 10-hour days, followed by six days off.

Employees need to have the right skills, and early work force training is being discussed. “I’d like to have something put together for our young people to come back to our county and make a good living and stay in the county,” says Fear. “You have to have early training, possibly while still in high school. Not everybody wants to be a college graduate.”

An option would be the two school districts to open classes to each other’s students. “We are hoping to get something off the ground this year,” she says.

The next problem is childcare and after-school care. “So many kids, because of their parents’ jobs, are on their own until 7 or 8 at night,” says Fear. “There are quite a few day-cares that offer three hours in the morning and in the afternoon, but it is increasingly difficult to find care for a child when their parents work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.”

A proposed recreation center in Marbleton might solve some of the problem, offering activities to residents and possibly childcare, and draw future employees to the southern end of the county. To apply for a SLIB grant, towns had to prioritize projects and submit to the county. If SCP had not been in place, says Fear, such cooperation among the towns might not have happened.

“Marbleton had the most crucial problem,” says Fear. “For Pinedale and Big Piney and Marbleton to decide unanimously that Marbleton should be the number-one priority shows how the group is working together on the issues.”



Amber Wallingford
touring Four
Ways Dairy Farm
in Taiwan during
her Leadership
Education and
Development
Program
international trip.

L.E.A.D. Program directs educator to desired skills

*By Steven L. Miller,
Senior Editor
Office of
Communications and
Technology*

Leadership has taken Amber Wallingford from being president of her 4-H club at age 13 to most recently National Taipei University.

Where it takes her next is not known, but being a Wyoming Leadership Education and Development (L.E.A.D.) Program graduate was a major depot along the journey.

Wallingford, a 4-H educator serving Washakie County since 2002, recently completed the 18-month program that lead her to Taiwan but also bolstered personal leadership skills she says she'll use on the job and in her personal life.

L.E.A.D. was created in 1984 to assist adults in agriculture to become more effective leaders in community activities, agricultural issues, and policies for Wyoming. There are now more than 174 L.E.A.D. graduates. In addition to class days, participants tour selected Wyoming sites.

"I wanted to use it for my career and for personal use," says Wallingford. "I thought it was a great opportunity to do that, and I would see Wyoming, too. There are parts of the state I had never been to before L.E.A.D., and I have lived here my whole life."

She is a graduate in L.E.A.D. class nine (to view class nine, visit <http://www.wylead.org/Photo%20Gallery%20Pages/Fellows%20Class%209.htm>). Wallingford had gone through the nine-month Washakie Leadership Institute by educator Rhonda Shipp, "but this one was more specific to agriculture, and I thought it was a great idea," she says.

L.E.A.D. was initiated with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the program was administered by UW. L.E.A.D. is now sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council's Agribusiness Division and the Wyoming Agriculture Leadership Council.

Wallingford was sent an application by Laurie Thoman, a 4-H leader in Sweetwater County. A class seven graduate, Thoman says graduates attempt to get the word out about L.E.A.D. and look for those who are influential in a community with youth programs and who educate people about agriculture in general.

"I thought Amber was a good candidate," Thoman says. "Amber was involved in youth programs and in a prime place to promote agriculture. I also thought it was something that could help Amber in her work with CES as well."

Wallingford, a Hot Springs County High School graduate, obtained an associate's degree from Northwest Community College and then an ag communications degree from UW in 2002.

When Johnathan



Amber Wallingford

Despain moved from the 4-H educator position in Washakie County to become the state 4-H program director, Wallingford had an opportunity to work in her hometown area. "It happened to open up at the right time," she says. "I knew it was meant to be. It has definitely had its moments, but I've enjoyed it. I'm glad I took this step."

She and other 4-H educators had just finished judging record books when she was interviewed. "You read their stories and what they learned and what 4-H has done for them," she notes, "and it makes it all worthwhile. They are becoming better citizens or people because of what they did in the program."

Wallingford's first L.E.A.D. session was at The Ranch at Ucross and focused on the fundamentals of communication. "We had a very entertaining speaker, and I realized maybe I could utilize that

"The connections I made as I traveled the state are wonderful for doing things in my job now."

—Amber Wallingford

working with 4-H kids and leaders or working with my family in my personal life," she notes.

Another session she particularly liked was last summer – family decision making in business. "That was more of a personal one I gained from. I took a lot home from that one," says Wallingford, who was raised on a farm and ranch near Thermopolis. Her parents still farm and ranch there.

Class 10, which has a tentative schedule of 12 sessions, started this October and ends March 2009.

"Eighteen months seems like a long time, but, once I got into it, I couldn't believe how fast it went by," Wallingford says. "It is a huge time commitment, but you meet people from all across the state. The connections I made as I traveled the state are wonderful for doing things in my job now."

Thoman echoes the benefits of networking. "You become much more aware of the organizations and entities that can help and affect agriculture," says Thoman, who grew up on a ranch near Green River and lives on the family ranch.

There is also a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet individuals and organizations associated with agriculture, and a two-week international trip. Wallingford toured Taiwan. Thoman's class toured Australia and New Zealand.

"There is an opportunity for learning and knowledge about what effects agriculture, something that is not available through any other program I know of," says Thoman.

On the Web: http://ces.uwyo.edu/Washakie_main.asp



Wallingford poses at National Taipei University in Taiwan with the associate dean of the College of Agriculture.

New facilities in Lincoln County to replace inadequate CES offices

*By Robert Waggener, Editor
Office of Communications
and Technology*

Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Service (CES) personnel are anxiously awaiting the day when they move into new offices in Afton and Kemmerer. They say the buildings will replace inadequate and outdated facilities.

Construction is underway on the new Afton Civic Center, and work is scheduled to begin early next year for a community building in Kemmerer.

The Afton Civic Center will house CES and chamber of commerce offices as well as a museum for Aviat Aircraft, which manufactures sport and utility aircraft in Afton including the Eagle, Husky, and Pitts planes (www.aviataircraft.com/about/overview.htm).

The building in Kemmerer will house CES offices, and there will be training rooms, banquet rooms, a kitchen, and stage that will be available for public use. The tentative name is South Lincoln Event and Training Center, but that could change if a corporate sponsor steps forward, says Laurie Peternal,



Laurie Peternal

4-H program associate in Lincoln County.

Kemmerer CES offices

CES offices in Kemmerer are now housed in the Lincoln County Courthouse. There is no room for meetings, and the facilities for Cent\$ible Nutrition and family and consumer science programs are inadequate, Peternal says.

"The new facility will really allow CES to hold meetings, camps, cooking programs, large-group activities, and other events," Peternal says.

Now, CES has to find meeting space elsewhere in the community, which has posed many problems.

"The new building is for the community. There will be space for meetings, trainings, expos, concerts, and other events and activi-



Hudson Hill

ties. Facilities like this are currently not available in Kemmerer," Peternal says.

Plans will allow for future expansion of the building for preparatory and storage facilities for nearby Fossil Butte National Monument (www.nps.gov/archive/fobu/expanded/index.htm).

Peternal says funds for the building are from local, county, and state sources. Applications have also been submitted for federal funding. Officials hope to let bids by January 2008. Groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for March 1, with a target completion date of January 2009.

Afton CES offices

Hudson Hill, area educator for Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties, says the CES offices in Afton,

like those in Kemmerer, are inadequate.

"We've got the worst office in the state; that's my opinion, but I believe it's fact," Hill says of the offices in Afton, which are housed in an old building that was part of the UW research dairy. "An update is definitely needed."

Unlike current facilities, the new building will meet requirements for such things as accessibility to people with physical handicaps. It will have a large meeting room, two small meeting rooms, office space, and a kitchen to teach Cent\$ible Nutrition Program and family and consumer science classes.

"There is a shortage of places to meet in the community, so the new building will fulfill a real need," Hill says.

Concerning the offices for the chamber of commerce and meeting space, Hill adds, "One goal for the chamber is to bring outside interests here ... seminars, workshops, and professional development. They are hoping to bring people to the valley."

Hill says trusses started going up in early October, and work should be complete by next spring or summer.



Retired UW CES 4-H Youth Specialist Betty Holmes, left, presents the Honorary Quealy Club award to Denise Smith at the Wyoming Homemakers meeting in September.

Wyoming Homemakers honor Denise Smith

*By Steven L. Miller,
Senior Editor
Office of Communications
and Technology*

Driving from Lusk to Rock Springs to attend a state convention only to learn when sitting down at the front table facing the crowd you're the major award winner is a shock. Looking out and seeing that many of your immediate family members somehow got there without your knowledge is another.

Denise Smith, family and consumer science and 4-H educator for Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara counties, was presented the Honorary Quealy Award in September during the Wyoming Homemakers annual meeting. There are only three living recipients since the organizing of the award in 1946: Smith, Professor Randy Weigel in the Department of Family

and Consumer Sciences, and Olga Quealy, daughter-in-law of Susan Quealy of Kemmerer, founder of the honor.

"It was a tremendous surprise, and I was very honored," says Smith, who has been the liaison between the homemaker clubs and UW since the two severed ties about 10 years ago.

"I really enjoy working with the homemakers, and I still believe they do make a terrific contribution to their families and communities."

Their roles may have changed since Mrs. Quealy's day, she says, "but I still think as homemakers they play an important role and do need to be recognized."

Wyoming Homemakers was organized in 1915 and has had several names. Home Demonstration Clubs became Extension Homemakers in 1939.

It then became Family Community Education, which changed to Wyoming Homemakers in 1999. Mary Martin has observed the Quealy awards programs her entire career and says she has admiration and respect for the women in the clubs.

"They are an amazing group of women who represent so many others from their communities," says the educator serving Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties. "They are women who know the value of the family to their communities and willingly give of their talents and time to create communities that are the kinds we call our hometowns."

Only 11 have received the honorary award in the 61-year history, says Bev Holmes of Cheyenne, secretary of the Quealy Club, whose members are Quealy award recipients. Holmes

says Smith, who began with UW CES March 1, 1976, in Uinta County, was selected as an honorary winner at the Quealy Club's meeting last year, but the selection was kept secret until the homemakers' state meeting in September.

"Denise has been a stable extension person for the homemakers and Quealy Club for the last 15 years," says Holmes. "She has done so much for us, and she's been there for both organizations. She's the one who is always positive and very supportive of us."

Says Smith, "I think having someone there to help them remain a cohesive group and to keep going has been my role."

There are homemaker clubs in 13 of Wyoming's 23 counties, with about 530 members, says Holmes. In Rock Springs, Smith, who has worked in

Niobrara County since March 1, 1980, didn't have a clue what was to happen. Holmes had kept her from going to the front of the banquet on arrival. "They never let me go up front. They kept me busy to the side talking," says Smith. Then she was allowed to go up front, sat down, and looked out at the crowd.

It wasn't faces that caught her attention. It was a shirt that wasn't supposed to be there.

"We had gone shopping in Denver, and the clerk in the store told my son, Clay, that there were only 10 of these shirts made, and that he would have the only one in Wyoming," recalls Smith.

"I sat down, and I looked up and saw this shirt, and



Denise Smith

I wondered 'How did this kid get a shirt like Clay's?' I looked and saw that it was Clay, then I saw my whole family, and I asked myself, 'What are they doing here?' I never read the program. I looked down and saw my name, and I was shocked."

Says Martin, who attended the banquet, "Denise has tirelessly,

personally, and professionally supported the home-makers organization. She exemplifies the remarkable difference a dedicated woman makes to her family and community and, in Denise's case, to our profession – her initiation into the Quealy Club came as a complete surprise to her, and it was heartwarming to see her entire family arrive to celebrate the occasion with her."

Smith and her husband, Reed, have three children, Clay, who attends Casper College, Erin, who works in the brand division of the Wyoming Livestock Board in Cheyenne, and Justin, who attends Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington.

extensionconnection

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