

2021 WYOMING

Specialty Crops

DIRECTORY



UW

Extension

MP-150-21

June 2021

Welcome

A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

On behalf of University of Wyoming Extension, I am pleased to present the *2021 Wyoming Specialty Crop Directory*. UW Extension is a community development organization dedicated to helping Wyoming's people and its communities improve the quality of life, and encouraging residents and visitors to buy locally produced foods is an important part of creating a more robust food system and economy.

Our enthusiasm for developing and promoting the food system is shared by our project funders. Grant funding for this effort came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service through funds provided to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

With these funds we created this directory to help connect people in Wyoming with edible specialty crops, including fresh vegetables and fruits, culinary herbs and spices, honey, and homemade goods containing specialty crops such as jams, jellies, barbecue and hot sauces, salsas, pickled and fermented vegetables, fruit pies, and wine. We also hope that farmers and others who produce food will use this directory to connect with their peers as they develop their skills and personal connections.

In short, we hope that this directory:

- Helps residents and visitors find and support Wyoming's local food producers.
- Connects food entrepreneurs with like-minded peers.
- Helps educate producers and others about available resources on a local, state, and national level.

Thank you!

The information in this directory was collected by Robert Waggener, who worked tirelessly to support Wyoming's agriculture, specialty crop producers, farmers' markets, CSAs, businesses that sell locally produced foods, and many others, including UW Extension offices, local conservation districts, community and school gardens, educational programs, and agencies that are involved in some way with specialty crops.

Please enjoy this opportunity to support the local food movement.

Cole Ehmke

University of Wyoming Extension specialist

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Disclaimer

Because of the directory's funding source, this project is focused on listing producers of edible specialty crops (as defined by the USDA), including Wyoming value-added food products using specialty crops. Reference to a specific product, process, service, manufacturer, or company does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation.

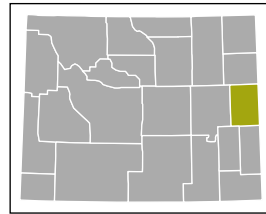
Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kelly Crane, associate dean and director, University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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Niobrara

C O U N T Y



Berried Delights

Sells a variety of homemade jams and jellies at Hometown Country in Lusk (see listing below, and see Weston County section for more details about Berried Delights)

Owner: Elizabeth Townsend

Location: Newcastle

Email: elizabetht@berrieddelights.com or et@tribcsp.com

facebook.com/berrieddelights/

Phone: 307-746-9334

Website: www.berrieddelights.com/

Hometown Country

Sells many 'Made in the Area' products, including canned goods such as jams, jellies, and barbecue sauces; locally produced honey; clothing for the entire family, including handcrafted items designed and created by store owner Vicki Boldon; jewelry; gifts; and other items.

"We truly believe in 'local,'" Ms. Boldon says.



Owner: Vicki Boldon
Location: Lusk
Email: vicki@clearlyclassicdesigns.com
Facebook: Hometown Country Lusk Wyoming
Phone: 307-334-2044
Website: www.clearlyclassicdesigns.com/

Hometown Country Greenhouse
Offers vegetable, herb, and fruit starts; annual and perennial flowers; roses; and other plants

Owner: Vicki Boldon
Location: Lusk
Email: vicki@clearlyclassicdesigns.com
Facebook: Hometown Country Lusk Wyoming
Phone: 307-334-2044

Lusk Farmers Market
Offers vendors an outlet to sell fresh produce, locally produced honey, homemade canned goods, baked items, meat products, farm-fresh eggs, artisan-style goods, and other items

Market president: Cassandra Matney
Location: Lusk
Email: luskwyofarmersmarket@gmail.com
facebook.com/LuskFarmersMarket/

Niobrara Conservation District
Offers seedling trees and shrubs, including fruit and

berry varieties, along with a variety of perennial flowers and seeds; has a variety of plant demonstration plots that showcase varieties of flowers, shrubs, and trees that grow well in the local environment; offers a gardening program for local youths (see listing below); and sells weed barrier.

The Niobrara Conservation District also helps landowners conserve natural resources, improve wildlife habitat, sample water, and develop windbreak and living snow fence designs; offers natural resource education and programs on range monitoring; and has a number of other conservation-related programs.

District manager: Lisa Shaw; education coordinator and water technician: Heidi Sturman; along with an elected volunteer board of supervisors
Location: Lusk
Email: lshaw@wyoming.com or heidi.sturman@wy.nacdnet.net
Facebook: Niobrara Conservation District
Phone: 307-334-9957

Niobrara Conservation District Garden Program

Local students help plant and care for vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers in 10 raised beds and two ground plots at the Niobrara Conservation District (NCD) property from spring through fall. They learn various aspects of plant sciences, horticulture, and gardening, including the lifecycle of plants and insects, and the importance of pollinators.

They also learn about mapping out a garden to use its space most efficiently, and the basics of “companion planting,” which involves pairing plants that complement each other in terms of water, nutrient, and light requirements; growth habits; and pest-repelling abilities.

“The kids love planting and harvesting, and help to select the seeds we use, including fun and interesting things like purple carrots, round zucchinis, tomatillos, and all kinds of peppers,” says NCD District Manager Lisa Shaw.

Students and adult mentors, led by NCD Education Coordinator Heidi Sturman, deliver fresh produce to the Niobrara Senior Center, as well as to the local office of the Department of Family Services, where it is available to residents with low incomes.

Ms. Shaw adds: “We also have an end-of-season picnic, where the kids bring their families to enjoy foods that are made with fresh produce they grew from start to finish.”

Because of the success of the program, NCD is working to secure grant funding to construct a high tunnel by 2022.

“Natural resource education is a passion of mine, and our community believes in it,” Shaw says.

District manager: Lisa Shaw; garden and education coordinator: Heidi Sturman

Location: Lusk

Email: lshaw@wyoming.com or heidi.sturman@wy.nacdn.net

Facebook: Niobrara Conservation District

Phone: 307-334-9957

Niobrara County Extension High Tunnel

A high tunnel and four outdoor raised beds are located at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds, which allows University of Wyoming Extension personnel, 4-H members and other youths, and members of the community to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers, which, in turn, enables residents to learn about various aspects of plant sciences, horticulture, gardening, and the importance of pollinators.

The facilities are ideal for youths to participate in the 4-H Gardening and Horticulture Project.

Program contacts: Kellie Chichester (4-H & youth development), Denise Smith (nutrition and food safety), and Erin Persche (administrative assistant)

Email: kelliec@uwyo.edu (Kellie), desmith@uwyo.edu (Denise), or niobraracounty@uwyo.edu (Erin)

Phone: 307-334-3534

Website: <https://wyoextension.org/niobraracounty/>

Niobrara County 4-H Honey

Niobrara County 4-H members and other youths have the opportunity to learn about beekeeping, honey production, food safety, and other aspects of this growing industry (both hobby and professional) in Wyoming and other states, including everything from hive health to the importance of pollinators.

An apiary was established at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds in 2017, and youths along with adult mentors, including University of Wyoming Extension educators and local beekeepers, care for the bees and also produce honey, which is sold from the Extension office at the fairgrounds. In 2020, about 25 gallons of honey were produced and sold, with proceeds going back into the program. For example, the funds helped several 4-Hers attend the Wyoming Bee College in Cheyenne (see statewide section).

Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator Kellie Chichester says that the Niobrara County 4-H Honey program started after a group of local high school 4-Hers attended the Citizenship Washington Focus conference



in Washington, D.C., in 2017. During that conference, 4-Hers from around the country were tasked with the challenge of helping to ensure the country's food supply. The Niobrara County youths decided to start a beekeeping and honey program, not only to promote local food production, but also focus on the importance of pollinators and their habitat.

Chichester says the apiary at the fairgrounds can help others get started in beekeeping, including hobbyists.

Program contact: Kellie Chichester, 4-H & youth development educator

Location: Lusk

Email: kelliec@uwyo.edu

facebook.com/groups/NiobraraCounty4HExtension/

Phone: 307-334-3534

Website: <https://wyoextension.org/niobraracounty/>

Pine Ridge Barbecue & Dipping Sauces

Sell homemade jalapeño, regular, and sweet mustard barbecue and dipping sauces at Hometown Country in Lusk (see the Natrona County section for more details about Pine Ridge)



Owners: Barb and Eli Dicklich
Location: Casper
Email: herbadashery@bresnan.net
facebook.com/pineridgesauces/
Phone: 307-259-8454
Website: <https://pineridgesauces.com/>

Tiger Club

Starting in 2021, students in Tiger Club, the after-school and summer program at the Niobrara County elementary and middle school, will begin growing vegetables, fruits, and flowers in high tunnels as part of the club's many activities.

Students will learn horticulture and gardening basics, including the importance of pollinators. They will participate in harvesting and washing of fresh produce, and then enjoy the fruits of their labor come mealtime.

The program is funded by the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which is designed to help students in families with low incomes. In addition to the gardening program, students will participate in a wide variety of activities, including reading, writing, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), music, health and nutrition, business

management basics, and physical education. One activity is focused on inventions.

"The kids help choose the programming we do, because we are trying to encourage them to explore many different things. The gardening, cooking, and nutrition programs have been of great interest to a number of the students, in part because agriculture is such an important part of our county," says Principal Lu Kasper.

Students interact with members of the community, including Lusk ROCS, a group that uses one of the high tunnels to grow flowers for town beautification efforts. In 2021, Kasper says, efforts were underway with the Niobrara County Extension office to partner with its 4-H program (see separate listings above and below).

Principal: Lu Kasper; after-school and summer program co-directors: Cora Fitzgerald and Cassandra Matney

Location: Lusk

Email: kasperl@lusk.k12.wy.us, fitzgeraldc@lusk.k12.wy.us, or matneyc@lusk.k12.wy.us

Phone: 307-334-2224

University of Wyoming Extension, Niobrara County office

Provides workshops and classes based on community interest, including nutrition, food preservation, food safety, gardening, and horticulture (see Niobrara County Extension High Tunnel listing); oversees 4-H activities, including a beekeeping program for youths (see Niobrara County 4-H Honey listing); tests pressure canner dial gauges; offers pesticide applicator license testing and training; and helps coordinate the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (CNP), which teaches individuals and families with limited resources to get the most for their food dollars and health

Program contacts: Denise Smith (nutrition and food safety), Kellie Chichester (4-H & youth development), and Erin Persche (administrative assistant); area educators serving Niobrara County are Beth Wood (CNP) and Scott Cotton (agriculture and horticulture)

Location: Lusk

Email: niobraracounty@uwyo.edu (Erin), desmith@uwyo.edu (Denise), or kelliec@uwyo.edu (Kellie)

facebook.com/groups/NiobraraCounty4HExtension/

Phone: 307-334-3534

Website: <https://wyoextension.org/niobraracounty/>