

The Corner Post

The Wyoming
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources &
Policy Section
Quarterly Newsletter



Wy. Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources & Policy Section
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"Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't."

*-Erica Jong
American author and educator*

The JIO is up and running!

Lisa Reinhart, Agriculture Program Coordinator

The Jonah Interagency Mitigation and Reclamation Office (JIO) located in Pinedale has opened its doors to the public and has just concluded the first solicitation of project proposals to mitigate impacts on the Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area (JIDPA).



Photo courtesy of Jeff Johnson, EnCana Oil & Gas USA

The JIO was created by the BLM's Record of Decision (ROD) released on March 14, 2006. The function of the JIO is to oversee the selection and monitor the effectiveness of offsite mitigation projects, and provide adaptive management in the Jonah field. To perform these functions, the JIO manages a \$24.5 million monitoring and mitigation fund donated by EnCana Oil & Gas (USA). \$16.5 million is directed towards offsite wildlife habitat improvement projects, and \$8 million is directed towards other off-site mitigation projects, monitoring, inspection, and enforcement activities.

Amongst an array of possibilities, the JIO is currently promoting projects that directly mitigate the impacts in the Jonah field such as: holistic grazing management planning for livestock and wildlife; vegetation management and improvements for wildlife and livestock with a focus on pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, and sagebrush community health; livestock/wildlife water developments; control of noxious and invasive weeds; and air quality monitoring & improvement projects. Projects hope to be approved by the end of August and can be viewed from the JIO web-site.

The JIO is managed by a representative from the following agencies: BLM (Mike Stiewig), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Dan Stroud), Wyoming Department of Agriculture (Lisa Reinhart), and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (Jennifer Frazier). The office is located at 107 1/2 Pine Street in Pinedale. Project application forms and guidelines are available on the JIO website at: www.wy.blm.gov/jonah_office. If you have any questions, you can contact the JIO at 367-3991.

Mediation Program offers Estate Planning Resource

Lucy Pauley, Mediation Coordinator

In June, the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program in conjunction with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, published *Passing It On: An Estate Planning Resource Guide for Wyoming's Farmers and Ranchers*. The 130-page handbook is designed to help agricultural producers think about estate planning and start the conversation with their families.

Over the past few years, the Mediation Program has received phone calls from agricultural families who wanted to start the estate planning process but were not sure how to go about it. Sometimes the families were looking for a mediator to help bring them together to start the conversation, while others were looking for more information on the actual process. There is a lot of information about estate planning on the web and in other areas, and this guide brings that information together into one resource and applies it to Wyoming citizens.

Passing It On is divided into nine chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the topic of the estate planning handbook and familiarizes the reader with the need for an estate plan. Chapter 2 illustrates two stories of ranching families in Wyoming who have successfully worked through the estate planning process and one example from New Jersey where the family struggled with the process. Chapter 3 provides tips and techniques for starting the conversation with your family and bringing everyone to the table. Chapter 4 provides information on developing common goals and objectives for the family farm or ranch. Chapter 5 will help take stock of the estate and determine the net worth statement for the operation. Chapter 6 talks about succession planning.

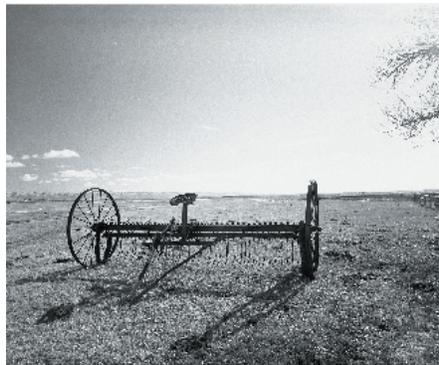
Chapter 7 was compiled with the assistance of several attorneys, estate planning professionals and other experts in Wyoming and includes several tools that can be part of an estate plan such as: wills, probate, trusts, life insurance, gifting, title ownership, annuities, the federal estate tax, conservation easement, and advanced health care directives. Chapter 7 also includes a glossary of helpful terms. Chapter 8 presents techniques for getting the family to agree on the plan, and discusses the benefits of using a neutral third-party, such as a mediator. Finally, Chapter 9 includes lists of contacts to help you with your estate plan.

Passing It On is not designed to be a do-it-yourself manual. Estate Planning is a complicated process and there is definitely the need to consult with trained professionals who can help you put your plan together. However, this handbook identifies different tools and helps interested parties start the process with their own families.

A series of estate planning workshops will be held around the state toward the end of the summer and into early fall. Stay tuned for information on workshops in different areas. Copies

of *Passing It On* are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To obtain a copy or get more information on the workshops, please contact Lucy Pauley at (307) 777-8788 or email: lpau@state.wy.us. While the estate planning process may seem like an insurmountable task, beginning the conversation is a very important start. A resource like *Passing It On* can help start the process and consulting with trained professionals will help put together an effective plan for the future of any ag operation.

Passing It On: An Estate Planning Resource Guide for Wyoming's Farmers and Ranchers



Published by the Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource
Mediation Program and the University of Wyoming
Cooperative Extension Service
June 26, 2006

Americans with Disabilities Act

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, contact the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at (307) 777-7323.

Coal Bed Natural Gas Water

Quantity versus Quality: An on-going dilemma

Justin Williams, Agriculture Program Coordinator

Who would have thought excess water would be a controversial issue in the droughty state of Wyoming? The explosion of coal bed natural gas (CBNG) development in Wyoming during the last decade has created significant wealth, a substantial number of jobs, and supported the American dependence on fossil fuels. While there are a number of positive contributions from CBNG, a number of negativities have also occurred, including skyrocketing housing prices, disturbances of open spaces and wildlife habitat, and sudden population bursts.

The issues surrounding CBNG, whether negative or positive tend to be either black or white for most. However, water, a by-product of CBNG development is no longer a black and white issue, but rather a murky gray. In most instances, water is a benefit to landowners for livestock or crop production, diversifying wildlife habitat, or intensifying the many recreational opportunities across the state.

In some instances, water can be harmful to animals, humans, and the land, especially if the water is of poor quality. Poor quality water can have a high pH, exceed micronutrient limits, or have surpassed the levels for electrical conductivity (EC) or sodium adsorption ratio (SAR). Potential effects from water vary. When sulfates exceed 3,000 mg/L, laxative effects or interference with copper absorption may occur. When boron exceeds 5.0 mg/L, animals can experience a slower growth rate, inflammation and edema in their legs and weight loss.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Quality Division is in charge of the state's water quality. This may consist of storm water, watersheds, lakes, and now CBNG water. Permits are required for any water exceeding DEQ's water quality specifications. DEQ however, does not oversee the quantity of water running through a stream or ditch. For example if a CBNG company applied for a permit to release the well's water; DEQ can approve the permit for water quality standards, but in most cases does not approve or disapprove the permit based on water quantity. The company now has permission to release the water downstream.

Some landowners who have CBNG water running through their land are experiencing negative impacts from the increased quantity of water, including the killing of cottonwood trees, soil erosion, flooding of roads, and transitioning of bottomland grass hay meadows to wetland sedges. The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) filed a petition for rulemaking on December 7, 2005 with the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council (EQC) on behalf of a number of landowners seeking a change to Wyoming statutes.

The question was, does DEQ have the statutory authority over water quantity? The PRBRC said yes, while a letter to Governor Freudenthal from Pat Crank, Wyoming's Attorney



Photo by Lyndsay Griffin

General, said no. One of the major debates centers on the DEQ term "beneficial use" in reference to agriculture. The PRBRC wants the statute to be changed to allow the landowners the right to only accept what can be beneficial to them at any given time. DEQ's Chapter 2, Section 1(b) rule claims waters used for "beneficial use" are those which are "good enough quality to be used for livestock watering or other agricultural uses and is being put to such uses."

The hearing in Casper on July 17, 2006 is PRBRC's opportunity to explain their case in front of the EQC. While the results of the hearing may change how CBNG companies disburse their well's water, it is up to the landowner to think outside of the box and if possible, use the water to improve their operation.

The fact remains, the development of new CBNG wells will increase. The excess water created from the wells remains to be a contentious issue. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture recommends landowners with CBNG on their property, work closely with their neighbors, other landowners, and attorneys to create a land-use-agreement that addresses all issues related to CBNG development including, water quality, water quantity, overhead power lines, road development, and vegetation reclamation.

Drought in 2006

Larry Bentley, Eastern Wyoming Program Coordinator

As I travel across Wyoming from Sheridan to Cheyenne, Cody to Rawlins, the main topic of producers is drought. Concerns with drought far outweigh concerns over fuel prices, oil and gas development, and cattle prices. A lot of ranchers that are dependant on spring run off, did not get enough water to make a hay crop. The combination of unseasonable heat in May and the lack of spring moisture made a short growing season for Wyoming range grasses. In many areas, warm season grasses never started to grow and where it did, it matured early with little leaf growth.

Reservoirs are empty and wells and springs are below normal production levels. Producers in the Big Horn and Wind River Basins, as well as, other areas are hauling water in July. What are they going to do in August?

Producers ask me about the *Governor's Solar Pump Program*, the Wyoming Water Development Commission's (WWDC) *Small Water Development Program*, and what the State Drought Committee is doing to help. Sadly, I have to answer, "It [Governor's Solar Pump Program] didn't get funded for 2006 yet; the *Small Water Development Program* is on hold until at least next year; and I don't know about the Drought Committee, it hasn't met since mid 2005.

Wyoming, for at least the last 10,000 years, has been

a land of boom and bust in weather cycles, and has historically had more dry cycles than wet cycles. Some past droughts have lasted several for years, as did one in the late 1200's that lasted almost forty years.

On a recent tour of the Wind River Basin, Mr. John Philip said that the present drought is worse than the drought of 1931. In talking to several other long-time ranchers, all agreed they have never seen a drought of this severity. Springs and other water sources developed by their fathers are dry this year, to which they all comment, "Never happened before. That spring has been dependable for the last seventy years."



WDA File Photo

Wyoming ranchers have always survived hardships and rebounded

stronger than before, however, with all the other issues effecting their operations (predators, development, high fuel prices, rising production costs, etc.) will drought be the killer of a majority of Wyoming's ranches?

All of the Ag Groups need to come together to do whatever, is necessary to get the Governor's Solar Pump and the Small Water Development Programs re-funded and back in place, and urge the State Drought Committee to start meeting again.

Wyoming's Ag Producers need all the relief we can find this year, and every year, until this drought is over.

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Wyoming Agriculture Highway Rest Stop Signs

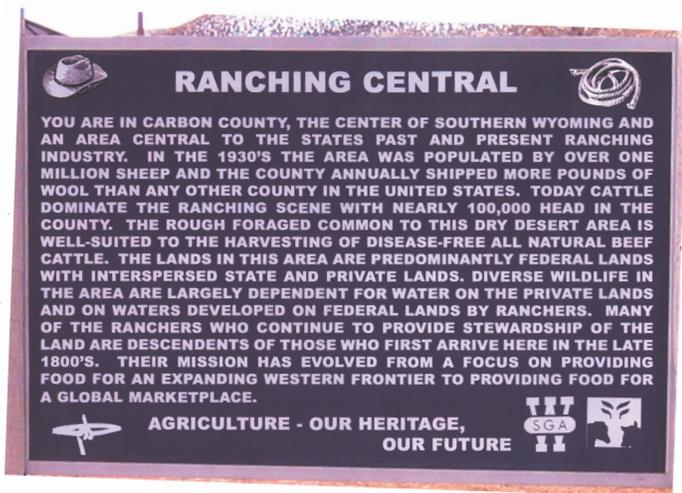
By Grant Stumbough, Manager of the Natural Resources and Policy Division and Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stock Growers Association

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association have recently initiated a partnership effort to place interpretive signs at select highway rest stops within Wyoming. The purpose of the signs is to educate the traveling public about the agricultural history of the area, agriculture's economic contribution to the local economy and the role of livestock grazing in sustaining healthy environments.

This project has the ability to inform millions of people traveling across our great state about our agricultural heritage and to celebrate an industry that is truly the economic backbone of the west. Wyoming's youth will also participate in the project to learn more about the agriculture industry and to take part in a community driven effort. Our goal is to gain local support, involve industry leaders, and build a sense of community by promoting the future of a vital Wyoming industry.

SIGNS

The 5' x 7' steel signs framed in wood and secured with heavy wood posts will be similar in construction and design to those that have been placed at these sights by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. All signs will feature the same cowboy motif—hat, rope, boot. The heading and script will be specific to each area.



Courtesy of Wyoming Stock Growers Association

PARTNERSHIP

The project has received preliminary approval from the Wyoming Department of Transportation and endorsement by Wyoming Travel and Tourism. Local ranchers, livestock organizations and FFA Chapters will be asked to participate in the development of content, placement and dedication of each sign. WSGA and WDA, working with local groups, will be responsible for routine maintenance of the signs.

COST

The cost for each sign including manufacturing and installation materials will be approximately \$2,500. In-kind costs of \$1,000 per sign include design, travel, installation labor and equipment and monitoring to determine effectiveness

FUNDING

WSGA and WDA have committed both monetary and in-kind funding to the project. Monetary support has been received from the Wyoming Private Grazing Lands Team. A grant application has been submitted to the Wyoming Community Foundation and a request for funding has been made to Wyoming Travel and Tourism. Several businesses and individuals have expressed an interest in providing private funding.

TIMELINES

Subject to approvals and funding, five signs will be placed in 2006 at selected rest stops on Interstate Highways. An additional 5 signs will be placed in 2007 at rest stops on major highways. The project will continue based on the assessment of interest and effectiveness.

INFORMATION

For further information contact Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stock Growers Association (307-638-3942 or jim@wysga.org) or Grant Stumbough, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (307-777-6579 or gstumb@state.wy.us).

The Sweetwater Watershed Study Moves Forward

Jason Fearneyhough, Western Wyoming Program Coordinator

Many months ago, a group of partners interested in water improvements on the Sweetwater Watershed got together at Sixth Crossing to discuss how we can get projects on the ground, to help with grazing management. Through a series of meetings, the landowners decided to pursue a Level 1 watershed study through the Wyoming Water Development Commission that would assess existing water improvements and look for potential water developments throughout the entire watershed.

The consultants have been selected and the initial scoping meeting for the Sweetwater Watershed study was held Tuesday July 11. This study, being conducted by Anderson Consultants, will be an inventory and assessment of existing and potential water developments within the Sweetwater Drainage. Although it will include various types of water developments, the study will focus on rangeland water improvements.

The goal of this action is to get a baseline of current

improvements and look at the potential developments in enough detail in the Level 1 study to be able to move straight to Level 3 and funding on potential projects that come out of the study.

Sweetwater Watershed landowners, Conservation Districts and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture are working together with the Wyoming Water Development Commission to get this study done. We hope to be able to get a series of projects on the ground that will enhance the grazing on the watershed while enhancing the resource.

When it is all said and done, this will have been a long process. However, the potential upside of going through this work is that we will be at a place where we can actually implement projects that are good for grazing and good for the resource. We are taking a big step in the right direction on this watershed that should pay dividends for years to come.

Excellence in Agriculture Award Winners

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture has announced the winners of the 2006 Excellence in Agriculture Awards. These winners were chosen based on their outstanding record of support or service to Wyoming's agriculture industry. The winning individuals and businesses will be honored at a ceremony on Friday, Aug. 18 at the Wyoming State Fair. The ceremony is open to the public and will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the grandstand area of the Wyoming State Fair Park.

Nine awards will be given to recognize individuals or businesses that have significantly contributed to different areas of Wyoming agriculture. Award categories, winners and the section of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture presenting the award are as follows:

Cooperating Contributor to Agriculture Award – Dr. James W. Waggoner, Jr., Laramie – *Analytical Services*

Outstanding Service Award – Cody Meat Store, Cody – *Consumer Health Services*

Friend of Agriculture Award – Jim Cagney, Cheyenne – *Natural Resources and Policy*

Pacesetter Award – Terry Cleveland, Cheyenne – *Administration*

Excellence in Agriculture Industry Supporter Award – John Harrington, Mills – *Technical Services*

Wyoming State Fair Sponsorship Honor Award – Larry and Barb Gubbels, Douglas – *Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo*

Champion of Rural Wyoming Award – Mike Ceballos, Cheyenne – *Wyoming Rural Development Council*

Wyoming Main Street Advocate Award – Jim Davis, Evanston – *Wyoming Main Street*

Friend of the Beef Industry Award – Susan Shaffer, Cheyenne – *Wyoming Beef Council*

Each award winner will be presented with a custom-made belt buckle mounted on a plaque.

This is the first year the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has hosted the Excellence in Agriculture Awards. It will become an annual event to be held each year during the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo.

For Economies of Scale, Think Pinedale !

Matt Hoobler, Senior Policy Analyst

For a moment . . . contemplate what drives the economy of Wyoming.

Look beyond the bigger cities of Cheyenne, Casper, and Sheridan; past the railway or interstate towns like Hanna, Douglas and Buffalo; and past diverse populations like Lander, Green River and Laramie.

Look beyond our “goods producing” and “extractive sectors” of the economy. Look beyond the drill rigs, compressor stations and coal trains. Look beyond our gateway communities surrounding America’s “favorite” public lands, like Jackson, Cody and Pinedale. Look beyond our “cow” towns of Torrington, Riverton and Wheatland.

When you look beyond for the economic driver of Wyoming, what do you come up with?

The economic history of Wyoming is similar to much of the West: resource extraction, ranching and tourism have been the mainstays. In many communities, these three economies continue to be the vast majority of what keeps a Wyoming town prosperous. As today’s resource values become yesterday’s economic history, the value often redistributes within these three mainstays of resource dependency.

One such redistribution is the economic value associated with simply doing nothing: leaving the resource undeveloped and the land open. When Wyoming communities experience all three main economic sectors (resource extraction, ranching and tourism), this shift in redistribution can be difficult. For example, look at Pinedale in Sublette County. Pinedale is constantly shifting economic value across different sectors. Throughout Pinedale’s existence, one could describe it as a gas-boom town, a tourist resort town, and a cow town.

A recent Colorado State University study on the tourism value of working landscapes in a mountain rural/resort community directly apply to the situation Pinedale is in today. It found the natural environment, ranchland open space, and western historical preservation contributed to the tourist’s trip experience. In this study, when converting ranch lands to other uses like urban development and resource extraction, half of all study respondents stated they would reduce their expenditures from an average of \$153 per day to \$83 per day and reduce their trip length

by approximately three days. In one mountain rural/resort community, this equated to approximately \$8 million annually.

As the economies of Wyoming continue to shuffle among ranching, tourism and resource extraction, the contribution of ranching and open space to Wyoming’s economy is of significant value. When we think of the economic value of ranching, let us not forget about the economic value of open space in addition to commodity worth. Addition of open space value from ranching increases tourism value, which is a contribution to all surrounding communities.

So look beyond our “goods producing” and “extractive sectors” of the economy and maintain Wyoming’s open space by keeping the land in ranching.



Photo by Matt Hoobler

References:

Ellingson, L., Seidl, A. & Mucklow, C. (2006). Tourists’ Value of Routt County’s Working Landscape, 2005: Summary Report. Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Ft. Collins, CO. Colorado State University.

Rasker, R. (1994). University of Colorado Law Review. Symposium: A New Era for the Western Public Lands. Volume 65. Issue 2.

BLM Sets New Grazing Regulations

Don Christianson, Senior Policy Analyst

New livestock grazing regulations published by the Bureau of Land Management in July will definitely impact ranchers in Wyoming. For those of you who remember the controversial Rangeland Reform proposals and regulations of the 90s, you'll note some changes.

Here are a few significant highlights of the new rule that goes into effect Aug. 12.

The BLM and the grazing permittee or lessee can share title to future range improvements. The shared-title provision had existed before

1995, when the "Rangeland Reform '94" regulations took effect. BLM said in a news release that ranchers, when contributing financially to the construction of range improvements, should be able to share ownership in proportion to their investment of labor, material, or equipment. They also noted that the shared title may

help some ranchers qualify for loans for their operations, and may serve as an incentive for livestock operators to undertake range improvements.

Grazing-use decreases and increases of more than 10 percent will be phased in over a five-year period unless a livestock operator agrees to a shorter period, or unless a quicker phase-in is necessary under existing law to protect the land's resources. However, the Bureau will retain its full authority to respond as necessary to drought, fire, and any other factors affecting grazing allotment conditions.

BLM managers must consider and document social, cultural, and economic effects of decisions that determine levels of

authorized grazing use.

BLM must cooperate with grazing boards established by Tribes, states, counties, and local governments in reviewing range improvements and grazing allotment management plans.

The restriction that limits temporary non-use of a grazing permit to three consecutive years has been removed. The new rule instead allows livestock operators to apply for non-use each year, whether for conservation or business purposes,

with no limit on the number of consecutive years.

Existing or new monitoring data must be used in cases where the BLM has found, based on its initial assessment, that a grazing allotment is failing to meet rangeland health standards.

BLM officials now have up to 24 months – instead of prior to the start of the next grazing season – to

determine an appropriate course of action in cases where grazing practices are at issue. This deadline can be extended when legally required processes of another agency prevent the BLM's completion of all legal obligations within the 24-month timeframe.

A provision allowing the BLM to issue long-term "conservation use" permits has been eliminated. The elimination of this proposed 1995 "Rangeland Reform" regulation is in compliance with Federal court rulings in the case *Public Lands Council v. Babbitt*, which led to a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in 1999 that the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act does not authorize such permits.



Photo by Lyndsay Griffin

The definition of “grazing preference” has been expanded to include an amount of forage on public lands that is linked to a rancher’s private “base” property, which can be land or water. This expanded definition is similar to one that existed from 1978 to 1995, when the “Rangeland Reform” regulations took effect. The restored definition makes clear that grazing preference has a quantitative meaning (forage amounts, measured in Animal Unit Months), as well as a qualitative one (precedence of position in the “line” for grazing privileges).

The definition of “interested public” has been modified to cover only those individuals and organizations that actually participate in the process leading to specific grazing decisions. The BLM can involve the public in day-to-day grazing administration matters, but isn’t required to do so. The BLM will continue to involve the public in grazing planning activities, such as allotment management planning and range improvement project planning.

The provision for BLM to seek ownership of livestock water rights to the maximum extent allowed by state law has also been removed. The removal revises the 1995 grazing regulations. BLM will still have the option of acquiring the

sole water right, consistent with state water laws.

Some services fees are being increased. Fees for issuance of livestock crossing permit, for transfer of grazing preference, and for cancellation and replacement of grazing fee bills had been ten dollars. Crossing permit will now cost \$75. The transfer fee has become \$145. Cancellation and replacement of grazing fee bills will now cost \$50.

There has been no change to the grazing fee formula.

The BLM is now limited to taking action against a grazing permit or lease only for violations by the livestock operator that occurred on that permit or lease. Before, actions could be taken on a permit or lease for any illegal acts by a livestock operator anywhere.

BLM can now authorize grazing to continue pending an administrative appeal.

The entire rule can be seen in the BLM section of the July 12, 2006 Federal Register.



“I thought north was straight up!”

2006 Environmental Stewardship Tour



Director John Etchepare speaks about the importance of stewardship.

The Environmental Stewardship Award is given to an agricultural landowner who has exhibited exceptional natural resource stewardship. Each year a winner is selected by WSGA and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture CRM Program. 2006 is the first year the Leopold Conservation Award will be presented to the winners of the Environmental Stewardship Award. This award is given by the Sand County Foundation, who presented the Barlow family with a crystal rendering of Aldo Leopold and a check for \$10,000 at the awards luncheon during the WSGA summer convention June 9th in Casper.

This year's recipient is Barlow Livestock Inc., which is a family owned and operated ranch located twenty miles west of Gillette. It was started in 1898 by L.H. Barlow who, as a fourteen year old boy, left home and settled in the Gillette area. Barlow Livestock Inc. is owned by Glen and Joy Barlow, who operate the ranch with Glenn's mother Gertrude, and their children Duce and Trey.



The Barlow Family: Lindsey, Gertrude, Duce, Joy, Trey and Glenn



Lois Herbst, President of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, presents the Barlow Family with a plaque.



Glenn Barlow explains the rotational grazing system utilized on his ranch.



Attendees gather at tour's first stop.

2006 Friend of Agriculture

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Policy Section is proud to present Jim Cagney, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Range Management Program Leader, the *2006 Friend of Agriculture Award*.

The *Friend of Agriculture Award* is given annually to a local, state or federal government employee who performs his or her duties to an effective and admirable level, consisting of scientific expertise and passion for agricultural values.

The 2006 award winner, Jim Cagney, continues to display professionalism, productivity, and strives for successful outcomes when working in controversial or high responsibility situations.

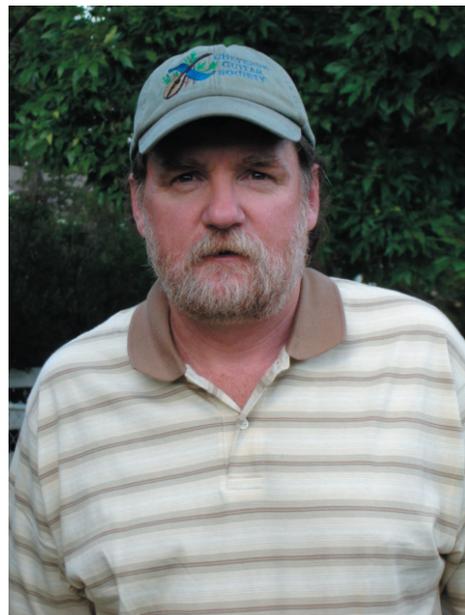
Cagney's role in wild horse management is instrumental in improving rangeland health by lowering wild horse populations. He worked with BLM at the national level and created a working solution for wild horse management in Wyoming, contributing to the development of the court decree. The decree allows for appropriate wildhorse management levels while sustaining diverse wildlife habitats and productive rangelands. He has also played a key role in developing creative monitoring techniques as a management tool for both grazing permittees and Federal agencies to maintain healthy rangelands and riparian areas on public land.

Cagney is a key player and supporter of agriculture through the development of BLMs document "Livestock Grazing Management Practices for Sage-grouse." He recognizes the need for landowner support and strives to achieve this in all he does.

"Jim's knowledge of rangeland management is a helpful tool for (livestock) grazing issues," says Grant Stumbough, Natural Resources and Policy Section Manager. "His leadership with the BLM is invaluable to the department and Wyoming's livestock industry."

He is frequently a rangeland expert on many of the WDA's Technical Review Teams (TRTs) in Wyoming. Jim devotes his time and efforts to describing rangeland conditions and trends to effectively recognize positive livestock grazing management or remedy livestock grazing impacts and improve rangeland condition.

Cagney will be honored for his receipt of the *2006 Friend of Agriculture Award* at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas, Wyoming. He will receive an engraved belt buckle depicting his award on August 18, 2006.



Congratulations, Jim!



Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|---|
| August 12-19: | Wyoming State Fair, Douglas | September 6: | Area V meeting ~ hosted by Uinta County Conservation District |
| August 18: | Living Legacy Dedication, Douglas | September 7: | Area IV meeting ~ hosted by Popo Agie Conservation District |
| August 18: | WDA Excellence in Agriculture Awards, Douglas | September 8: | Area III meeting ~ hosted by South Big Horn Conservation District |
| August 18: | Board of Agriculture Meeting, Douglas | September 9-10: | Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Expo, Casper |
| August 21: | Drought Task Force Meeting, Cheyenne | September 12: | Area I meeting ~ hosted by Crook County Natural Resource District |
| August 24: | Mediator Refresher Training, Cheyenne | September 13: | Area II meeting ~ hosted by Niobrara Conservation District |
| August 28-29 | Governor's Natural Resource Tour, Evanston | | |

If you have questions or comments about the information in this newsletter, please contact Dani Sullivan, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Policy section at 307.777.7323 or dsulli1@state.wy.us

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