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WYOMING FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE

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WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WYOMING AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL



SUCCESS STORIES



ALBANY COUNTY

Laramie Rivers Conservation District

Laramie, WY 82070
(307) 721-0072
www.lrcd.net

Bright Agrotech, LLC

Laramie, WY
www.brightagrotech.com

Tronstad Ranch

Laramie, WY
(307) 761-2987

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Campbell County School District

Gillette, WY 82717
(307) 682-2078
www.campbellcountyschools.net

CARBON COUNTY

Medicine Boy Conservation District

Medicine Bow, WY 82329
(307) 379-2221
www.medbowcd.org

CONVERSE COUNTY

Douglas Boys and Girls Club

Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 358-1784
www.bgxcdouglas.com

Wyoming Farmers Marketing Assn.

State Fair Grounds Hoop House
Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 358-2398

FREMONT COUNTY

Jackson Elementary

Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-9495
www.fremont25.k12.wy.us/jackson

FREMONT COUNTY

Fort Washakie High School

Fort Washakie, WY 82514
(307) 332-014
www.fortwashakieschool.com/fwhs

Dubois Community Food Bank of

St. Thomas Church

Dubois, WY 82513
(307) 455-2313
stthomasdubois.diowyo.org

University of Wyoming Extension

Lander and Riverton, WY
307-332-2363 or 307-857-3654
fremontcountywy.org/uwextension

Boys and Girls Club of Dubois

Dubois, WY 82513
(307) 455-2235
www.bgcdubois.com/

Wyoming Farmers Marketing Assn.

Fremont Cty. Fairgrounds Hoop House
Riverton, WY 82501
www.fremontcountyfair.org

Pushroot Community Garden

Lander, WY
<http://pushrootcommunitygarden.com>

GOSHEN COUNTY

Ellis Harvest Home and Maze

Lingle, WY 82223
(307) 532-1686
www.ellisharvesthome.com

Eastern WY College Hoop House

Torrington, WY
ewc.wy.edu/

Goshen County Master Gardeners

Educational Hoop House
Torrington, WY 82240
www.uwyo.edu/mastergardener/index.html

JOHNSON COUNTY

Kaycee Boys and Girls Club

Kaycee, WY 82639
(307) 738-2600
www.bgcbh.com/kaycee.aspx

Golder Rule Hoop House

Buffalo, WY 82634
(307) 684-9167

Laramie County

Cheyenne Alliance Church

Community Garden
Cheyenne, WY 82009
www.cheyennealliance.org

NIORARA COUNTY

Lusk Elementary School 4th Grade -

Niobrara Conservation District -

Lusk, WY 82225
www.niobrarakounty.org/departments/conservation/index.asp

PARK COUNTY

Shoshone River Farms

Cody, WY 82414
glaciercricket@msn.com

Big Horn County Extension

Powell, WY 82435
www.uwyo.edu/ces/county/bighorn

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

Historical Garden
Powell, WY 82435
www.heartmountain.org

PLATTE COUNTY

Wheatland Middle School

Wheatland, WY 82201
(307) 322-1518
www.platte1.org/wms/mshome.html

University of Wyoming Extension

Wheatland, WY 82201
(307) 322-3667
www.uwyo.edu/ces/county/platte

Wyoming PURE

Wheatland, WY 82201
(307) 331-117
wyomingpure.com

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Wyoming Girls School

Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 674-7476
dfsweb.wyo.gov/social-services/wyoming-girls-school

Volunteers of America:

Food Bank of the Northern Rockies
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 672-0475
www.voanr.org

Dayton Community Garden

Dayton, WY 82426
(307) 721-5267

North Western Community College

Powell, WY 82435
www.northwestcollege.edu

TETON COUNTY

Teton Botanic Gardens

Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 734-9235
tetonbotanicalgarden.org



SUCCESS LISTING BY COUNTY



Thank you to all of our dedicated producers, educators and food service employees for sharing your stories and providing quality, nutritious and local foods to our future generations and local communities!

ALBANY COUNTY

- Bright Agrotech, LLC
- Linford Elementary
- LaBonte Park Outdoor Learning Center
- Slade Elementary
- Spring Creek Elementary
- Tronstad Ranch

CAMPBELL COUNTY

- Campbell County School District

CARBON COUNTY

- Medicine Bow Conservation District

CONVERSE COUNTY

- Douglas Boys & Girls Club
- WY Farmers Marketing Assn. - State Fairgrounds

FREMONT COUNTY

- Jackson Elementary - Lander
- Dubois Boys and Girls Club
- Dubois Community Food Bank
- UW Extension: Kids in the Kitchen: Eat Real
- UW Extension: Plant Parts We Eat
- Fort Washakie High School
- WY Farmers Marketing Assn. - Fremont Fairgrounds
- Pushroot Community Garden

GOSHEN COUNTY

- Ellis Harvest Home
- Ellis Harvest Home-Maze
- Eastern WY College - Hoop House
- Goshen Cty. Master Gardeners Hoop House
- Table Mountain Vineyard

JOHNSON COUNTY

- Golden Rule Hoop House
- Kaycee Boys and Girls Club

LARAMIE COUNTY

- Cheyenne Alliance Church - Community Garden

NIORARA COUNTY

- Lusk Elementary School 4th Grade
- Niobrara Conservation District

PARK COUNTY

- Shoshone River Farms, CSA
- Big Horn County Extension
- Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

PLATTE COUNTY

- Wheatland Middle School
- UW Extension: Egg Candling Workshop
- WY PURE

SHERIDAN COUNTY

- Wyoming Girls School
- Volunteers of America: Food Bank of the Northern Rockies
- Dayton Community Garden
- Northern Wyoming Community College

SWEETWATER

- Rock Springs-Downtown Mainstreet Community Garden

TETON COUNTY

- Teton Botanic Gardens



BRIGHT AGROTECH HOOP HOUSE PROJECT
NATE STOREY, CEO
LARAMIE, WY

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TETON BOTANIC GARDENS
WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
CONTINUED...



Bright Agrotech is a CSA and restaurant supplier in Laramie, WY. Building a high tunnel in addition to our current one was a necessary development to keep up with demand. We are actively involved in the community of local growers as well as consumers and needed additional room for producing for an extended season. We now are able to produce more for our CSA and supply more local markets. The new high tunnel increased our

production and customer numbers. We're also using the high tunnel to give talks on vertical agriculture. We have had several organizations tour the facilities as well as been asked to speak at several conferences. We've also seen some attention on our YouTube Channel, as we detailed the construction of the new high tunnel for our aquaponic production. Our production continued through the end of November in the high tunnel and we are delivering to two restaurants (feeding between 25 and 50 people per day with our produce). Our production increased dramatically, primarily because of season extension. We went from 3-4 lb shares in the spring to 10-12 lb shares in the summer, with a significant amount of produce (50-70%) being contributed from the high tunnel.



The elementary students love to dig in the dirt, plant seeds, transplant, trim and to ask questions about the world of gardening, and clipping herbs to take home to their parents. The best part, however, is taking their food to the cafeteria, where the cooks take the food



to prepare for the next day's lunch! The students are so proud and excited by all they have accomplished, their faces are just beaming with pride!

The favorite food for these youngsters is turnips! That's right, Wilson Elementary School students love their turnips and the cafeteria cooks say the turnips go like french fries every time they are presented in the lunch line!





**TETON BOTANIC GARDENS
WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WILSON, WY**

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**LABONTE PARK OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER
LARAMIE, WY**

**OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER PROJECT WITH
LARAMIE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



Wilson Elementary had a Garden Club in place which was started by teachers and parents of the students. One of the original garden club founders is now a cafeteria cook, and the Wilson Garden Club Program Coordinator, Sonya MCCool, is a teacher's aid.

When Teton Botanical Garden (TBG) first came to the school garden, we noticed the overwhelming number of weeds. If TBG is known for anything, it is known for getting things done!

The first time we met Sonya, it looked like she was holding back tears of joy because she was finally getting some help maintaining the huge garden. That was added motivation for TBG, since one of our major goals is to build a community of students, parents, and other volunteers to maintain the gardens and keep extra work loads from becoming another teacher responsibility.

Every week on Thursday and Fridays, the K - 5th grade students at Wilson Elementary volunteer during their lunch recess to go to Garden Club! This is their own choice, and about 85% of the students actively participate in the garden club weekly! I heard one 1st grader say, "I've been waiting all week for this!" I asked her what she was waiting for, and she said, "Garden Club!"



KID'S GARDEN AT LABONTE

**LABONTE PARK
OUTDOOR LEARNING
CENTER**

With the help of many community volunteers, local businesses, and space allocated by the City of Laramie Parks and Recreation Department there are new gardens located on the northeast corner of LaBonte Park. There are 16 plots in the

Community Garden and they are diverse in size, shape and personality. The

north side of the site hosts a much larger 'Kids' garden and greenhouse. The Kids' Garden is used to teach children about gardening in Laramie's challenging environment from seeds to harvest.

A grant from Wyoming State Forestry provided a fruit tree grove including apples, plums and cherry trees.



LINDFORD ELEMENTARY LARAMIE, WY

SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT WITH LARAMIE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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TETON BOTANIC GARDENS SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL JACKSON, WY



General Garden Info: Our Gardening Club meets after school and is maintained through the summer. The garden was successful at a beginning level. The Albany County growing season is quite short, so the indoor Woolly School Garden will allow us to have a longer growing season and grow less hearty things because they will be protected from wind and cold. Our garden has provided food to “Share the Bounty” in our community, and has provided food for families at our school and snacks for our classrooms.

Our Gardening Goal: The mission of Linford’s Garden Club is: To provide our students with authentic learning experiences in a natural and supportive setting. Students will contribute to their community and development of self-efficacy through their participation in the Linford Garden Club. Our goal is to have the Woolly School Garden serve as our hands-on indoor classroom and to give our students the opportunity to grow food for themselves and their families regardless of our short growing season.



The first school we worked on was Summit High School, we began improvements there on July 6th, 2012. Science teacher, Brian Hager, had already been educating his students in the garden, helping the students plant vegetables to grow over the summer, as well as vegetable sprouts they could take home for the summer. Mr. Hager was ecstatic about having help with maintenance and the benefits of donations and volunteer efforts from TBG.

Within a matter of weeks, we had cleaned out his greenhouse, added proper ventilation to the greenhouse, created several raised garden beds, and eliminated several other space and growing issues within the greenhouse. By National Food Day, October 24 2013, we had more than quadrupled the garden space at Summit High, engaged the students in the garden and class room, and prepared food with the students which was served at the cafeteria for lunch!

The students planted seeds and transplanted perennial herbs and berries which came from the Wilson School garden. The students are encouraged to nibble while they work and we loved watching the students boldly go where not many high school students will go... Kale Salad!

Every student in Brian Hager’s class rooms ate the raw vegetables out of the greenhouse. At first, they were uneasy about eating the raw vegetables, but once they tried it, they all came back for more! The students are very excited about learning the secrets of cold weather vegetable gardening, and will be headed back out to the greenhouse in late February or early March to begin their vegetable gardening for the season.





TETON BOTANIC GARDENS JACKSON, WY



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SLADE ELEMENTARY LARAMIE, WY



SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT WITH LARAMIE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Teton Botanical Garden believes in the importance of sustainable gardening practices and the efficiency, productivity, and environmental responsibility which organic gardening achieves. Local and regionally produced foods are important to our environment and to our health and it is our responsibility to show the importance of sustainable actions to our children. By bringing responsible action to our schools, Teton Botanical Garden may provide students and staff with the knowledge to practice this responsibility throughout their lives.

TBG has a goal to provide every student in Wyoming (K-UW) with hands on experience and the confidence to continue these practices long after they graduate. We are accomplishing this goal by engaging and educating students, staff and faculty about the importance of eating local and regional food coupled with food grown in school gardens. Teton Botanical Garden has been working to bring fresh whole foods into every school cafeteria in Teton County, Wyoming and we have been building vegetable gardens at schools within the district.



In 2012 we started planning our program and began contacting principals to gauge the interest in school gardens and integration of whole foods into the lunch program. Initial response from the principals was so positive, we contacted the school district. The school district requested we submit a proposal for review before the end of the 2012/13 school year. TBG presented our plan to the district in early June 2013. The plan was approved, and we began implementing the plan immediately at the two schools which already had gardens established.



Teachers now generally accept the fact that worksheets, Power- points and lengthy lectures are not necessarily the best learning tools for all students. In contrast, hands-on experience through a garden project can connect students to agriculture and multi-disciplinary lessons in a way books and lectures do not.

The necessity of utilizing sustainable practices is critical in maintaining the health of our natural resources, well-being and a great tool for hands-on learning.

Two years ago teachers, students, parents, community volunteers, local businesses and Laramie Rivers Conservation District joined forces and began designing and developing a raised bed garden for Slade Elementary and has evolved to include an ADA accessible greenhouse and small fruit tree grove. The garden complements curriculum by providing opportunities for students to apply classroom learning. They develop life skills and behavioral improvements by learning to work together and being responsible. They learn interpersonal skills, organization, management, making commitments, respecting opinions, resolving conflicts and decision making. Students can learn a sense of belonging to the community by donating a portion of the harvest to a local food bank, shelter or planting a row for the hungry.

Through Slade's gardening program students have learned about nutrition and the importance of fresh fruit and vegetable. There is understanding of where food comes from, how to grow it themselves, importance of local farms, agricultural and cultural history. The students thoroughly enjoy their time outdoors breathing fresh air, digging through the soil and watching their plants mature and produce.



TRONSTAD RANCH - FAMILY FARM LARAMIE, WY

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DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN & MOBILE KITCHEN ROCK SPRINGS, WY



Our project had two purposes; one, to lower the salt content of the soil and the second to extend the growing season of the hoop house by lowering the summer temperatures and increasing winter ones. To help reduce summer heat and increase the winter temperatures, a second plastic cover was installed on our existing hoop house. The effects were positive and the summer temperatures were reduced, the season extended later into the fall and allowed for earlier planting in the spring. A rainwater collection and irrigation system for the hoop house were also installed and have been effective in reducing the salt build up caused by well watering.



While we have reached both our our intended goals, we have also reached out to the community with a group of 48 individuals visited the farm to inspect the hoop house system as part of a sustainability tour. Additionally another 25 families have toured the farm and learn about hoop house production.

The Rock Springs Main Street Community Garden and Mobile Kitchen promote economic growth and sustained interest and promotion of the downtown area of Rock Springs; bringing together community volunteers, private businesses and government partnerships.

As part of the harvest, the Main Street program offers a commercial kitchen to help prepare the harvested produce and conduct weekly demonstrations using local chefs and educators to present and share recipes, canning procedures and food safety procedures.

In 2009 the Farmers' Market attracted over 8,000 people with the number of produce vendors also increasing. The garden provides an opportunity for growth and networking among community residents and local businesses. In 2011 a local Girl Scout troop weeded, painted and laid down straw to earn a community service badge, and a partnership with Community Connections provided extensive opportunities for junior/senior high school students to serve their community. In 2012, plants and new soil were added and beds weeded by the Community Connection Boys and Girls Club. Ninety-five students from Community Connections, 135 with Boys and Girls club, chairs of the committee and additional community people were active in the garden. The whole community is benefiting from this endeavor, and the garden continues to provide opportunities with the full potential of the garden project yet to be realized.





VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA NORTHERN ROCKIES SHERIDAN, WY

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BIG HORN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION GREYBULL, WY



An onsite garden is cultivated and cared for by our clients, which include the Gathering Place, Life House (facilities for drug and alcohol rehabilitation), the Homeless Shelter and Milestones (Youth Home). They have been responsible for starting plants from seeds in the green house and then transplanting them into the garden. During the growing season all are responsible for sharing the watering, weeding, thinning out plants, etc.

The greatest joy in all of this is all the produce that we are able to use in the kitchen and pass along in our food that is prepared for 100-120 clients on a daily basis. We have canned in our kitchen, salsa, jalapeno jelly and have been very successful in selling these products and been able to teach the art of canning. This also helped us with our food cost budget and gave the clients a chance to experience home grown produce.

We also received a grant from Home Depot earlier this summer for a chicken coop to be donated in honor of Freedom Hall, the veteran's home. They got here early in the morning, wearing their trademark orange shirts. By the end of the day, volunteers from Home Depot, the volunteer clients and veterans from Freedom Hall had completed 90% of the construction on a chicken coop any chicken would be proud to call home.

We have over a hundred chickens residing in their new home, with all of our clients sharing responsibility for their care. They check the eggs, feed, water and clean the coop on a daily basis, in return the veterans from Freedom Hall are allowed to have a percentage of the eggs for themselves as the coop was for them. The rest of the eggs are being used in the kitchen for the facilities and are being sold.



Big Horn County Cooperative Extension constructed a high tunnel as a demonstration project for local producers on how to construct cost effective high tunnels using locally available materials. In 2010 a high tunnel was constructed in Greybull, Wyoming near a bike path for high visibility. Other than the plastic covering, all materials were purchased locally. The high tunnel is allowing UW Coop Extension to experiment with growing in a high tunnel so as to better serve the local producers interested in this type of season extension.

The hoop house construction workshop provided training for twelve individuals. Participants learned where to get the materials and the funding opportunities available. The high tunnel is used as a demonstration project to teach local producers and back yard gardeners about the value of high tunnel production.





CAMPBELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GILLETTE, WY



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WYOMING GIRLS SCHOOL SHERIDAN, WY



Campbell County School District uses locally raised buffalo from the Durham Ranch between Gillette and Wright and scratch made buffalo chili. We serve it to our secondary students on 10/22/13 and will make it again and serve it to our elementary students on 12/6/13. When we cooked the ground meat we were shocked at how lean it was; much leaner than beef. We used buffalo, red kidney beans, garbanzo

beans, great northern beans, fire roasted diced tomatoes, tomato paste, diced red bell peppers, oregano, cumin, chicken base, cayenne pepper, light chili powder, and cinnamon. It turned out great, here is a pic of a tray.

It's a product that FSA (Food Service of America) stocks, and can be traced back to the Durham Ranch.



We use the produce from the garden in our kitchen. One of our head cooks tracks the volume of produce grown and used specifically in the kitchen. One of our cooks, Tracy Miech, tracks the amount of produce and herbs produced from the Girls School garden and then, when she uses the produce she talks to the students and shares the information so they learn and understand the farm to plate concept.

During the previous performance period which ended September 2013 she recorded fourteen and half pounds of produce for our central kitchen with additional produce going to the dorms. The class grew carrots, lettuce, cilantro, green onions, radishes and spinach. Quite a bit of the harvest was slated for the fall harvesting period and included items such as zucchini, beets, corn, squash and pumpkins.

The Girls School also has a substantial number of apple trees which we harvest and utilize the fruit in the fall. I estimate we are able to pick several hundred pounds of apples. The fall harvest wasn't included in the total due to timing.

As Food Service Director and staff we are fortunate to be on the receiving end of the hard work from the students and staff.



NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SHERIDAN, WY

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MEDICINE BOW CONSERVATION DISTRICT

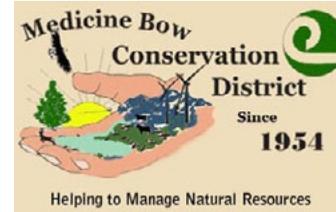
MEDICINE BOW, WY



Construction and usage of hoop houses at the College has given students the opportunity to increase the area of extended season cultivation for the Northern Wyoming Community College youth/community gardening project. Two high tunnels were constructed and the growing season was tracked, showing nearly a two month extension to the growing season in 2010. A student intern presented a poster on use and benefit of high tunnel at the Department of Ag Advisory Committee meeting in the fall of 2010.



A manual on how to construct these high tunnels was developed, documenting each step with photo illustrations. There are now two types of hoop houses on the grounds, one of metal hoops and the others of PVC. Comparison of the two types will continue over the next several years. Multiple students, community members and individuals have been directly impacted through the building and use of the two hoop houses.



Medicine Bow Conservation District wanted to provide an opportunity to educate our students and community on earth sciences, nutrition and entrepreneurship. In order to reach our goals, the District constructed two high tunnels at Elk Mountain School and the Medicine Bow school

grounds for use as outdoor classrooms on earth science.

The school district personnel prepared the sites and volunteers built raised beds. Community members donated topsoil, rental equipment and volunteer hours. The PTO members started seedling so students would have plants growing in the green house when school started. Parents, teachers and school



personnel constructed the Elk Mountain hoop house and school personnel and members of the Conservation District constructed the Medicine Bow hoop house.

Due to the success of this project the Carbon County School District #2 has decided to construct a third hoop house and incorporate them into the science curriculum at their three elementary schools.



DOUGLAS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DOUGLAS, WY

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DAYTON COMMUNITY GARDEN DAYTON, WY



“I’m amazed that anything grew! Carrot seeds were planted two inches in the ground,” relays Master Gardener and Boys & Girls Club of Douglas Youth Development Professional, Mary Sonesen. “We started our garden club by deciding what kind of vegetables we wanted to plant, then we worked the ground and purchased the seeds and plants. Each day I’d take a group of kids to the garden and with some guidance they did all of the planting. The next day they’d race to the garden expecting to see some overnight huge growth. I really didn’t know if I would be able to keep their attention throughout the process because kids are accustomed to instant gratification.”

Planting was done and daily watering began, Mary came back from the garden and again said “I don’t know if we are going to get anything to grow, we got a little carried away with watering and I think that the majority of the seeds have been washed away.” But eventually the seeds sprouted and things began to grow!

A lot of the kids who attend BGCD live in apartments or trailer courts and don’t have a lot of time outdoors. As a reward for watering, thinning and weeding, they got to take a few trips through the water sprinkler and play in the grass, which was an opportunity they normally did not have. Getting their hands in the dirt and being part of food production was an enriching experience for the summer club members! One mother commented in the fall about how easy it was now to get her son to eat and try different vegetables. He had really enjoyed the garden and experiencing the garden produce fresh from the garden.

The process started in early spring of 2013, when Chief Professional Officer, Amy Sonesen, told her Resource Development Director she had a really wild idea of having the kids experience the process of food production first hand, “I wanted to take our “Growing Sprouts” program to a higher level.” Megan Albright, Resource Development



The goal of creating a community garden was to give Dayton community members the ability to grow their own vegetables. The garden is comprised of 30 - 4’x8’ boxes that are rented out to community members. The school was contacted and we were able to use students from the Tongue River High School to build the boxes for the raised beds. Four of these raised beds were rented to people living outside city limits and one of the rental beds was used by the Community Cupboard Food Bank.

Approximately 87 people (29 boxes x 3 people) received benefits from the Community Garden. The Food Bank reached about 20 people of for a total of 107. Some of the families rented an additional space and we have a waiting list with three to four people on it at this time. As there is no space left to expand the number of raised beds this year the plan is to limit the number of spaces rented to one per family so that more families are able to benefit.





WYOMING PURE WHEATLAND, WY



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DOUGLAS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB...



CONTINUED...



Wyoming Pure Natural Beef began in 2004. Our goal - tap into the growing organic and natural niche market by selling direct to consumers, keep our income steady and involve the next generation in our agriculture operation.

The beef we sell is all raised on our ranch. We finish the cattle on grain for 90 days and no antibiotics or hormones are used. The cattle are slaughtered at a

USDA inspected facility in Kersey, CO. After processing, the meat is returned to our facility, inventoried and orders filled. We sell halves, quarters, small variety packages as well as individual cuts. Customers order directly off our website or by calling in an order. Regular deliveries are made to Wheatland, Cheyenne and Casper, WY and shipments are sent via UPS on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week to other locations.

Starting out, we sold a few head to 20-30 customers. Our customer base has grown to over 600 and we now sell several thousand pounds of beef each year. In 2011 Wyoming Pure Natural Beef was awarded the Small Home-Based Business of the Year by the Small Business Administration and in 2012 was a finalist for the Better Business Bureau Torch Award.

Customer service is our number one priority. When customers are satisfied, they spread the word and that has helped our business to grow. We love meeting our customers in person or talking with them on the phone. They appreciate meeting the people producing their food and they like buying local.

We are still a family run operation with one part-time employee. Everyone in the family helps out in some way from marketing, to filling orders, doing deliveries or selling at Farmers Markets or Home Shows.

Director, sought the support of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. “Our goal was to expose urban children to growing their own food through a summer self-sustainability program, says Albright. “We researched ways to garden efficiently in a small amount of space and decided we wanted to construct a hoop house which would allow us to start growing plants earlier in the spring and continue harvesting later in the fall.”

Albright submitted a grant request to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for a Community Garden for Nonprofit Organizations, Wyoming Specialty Crop Grant Program stating the following goals:

1. Club members K-9th grade will understand agriculture and the agriculture process.
2. Club members will learn where their food comes from,
3. Club member will learn responsibility while caring for a garden
4. Club members will learn how to purchase, sow, tend, harvest and prepare vegetables and fruits for consumption.

BGCD was granted \$3,500 for their community garden project and the program leader, Mary Sonesen, started working with Ted Craig and the club members on the project.

The Boys & Girls Club is located near the downtown area of Douglas, WY and has no garden area. A few years back, a group of Master Gardeners constructed raised beds, on asphalt beside the club which allowed for a small garden area. Wanting to expand, Sonesen worked with Christ Episcopal Church located on the same block as the Club. The church allowed the Boys & Girls Club to use an unused playground area in the backyard of the Church rectory to for their community garden project.



DOUGLAS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB...

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CONTINUED...



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING EXTENSION- SOUTHEAST

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WHEATLAND, WY



Sonesen reports she was surprised at the amount of support received from the Department of Ag and specifically Ted Craig. After being awarded the grant Sonesen, expected to receive some verbal support as to what type of hoop house to build and maybe some construction plans, but the Ag Department crew came and totally built the entire hoop house. While they did the largest amount of the work, Craig would frequently solicit the help of kids from the club. So between Ag staff and Club Staff, several club members learned how to use a screw gun, drill holes and were involved in all phases of construction of the hoop house.



Since the beginning of the program the kids had been given instruction and guidance from adults, but did all of the planting, watering, thinning, weeding and harvesting of the garden. It was truly rewarding to see the ownership they took in the project, and the amount of produce from our modest garden was also amazing, says Mary Sonesen, "One day we harvested 33 years of corn!" On average, during the summer 66 kids attend the program and are fed breakfast and lunch at the Club. The day of the corn harvest the ears of corn were split in two, and every child feasted on corn on the cob they had all worked at growing!

"I was amazed at how little the kids knew about food production. When the corn plants came up, they had no idea what they were, but as the summer progressed their interest and knowledge of food production increased exponentially and they bombarded me with

The Southeast University of Wyoming Extension Service out of Wheatland, WY facilitated the first "What Grade is Your Egg" certification. Fourteen local chicken growers were certified to grade their eggs in an inspected facility for commercial use. There is not yet a facility in Wheatland, but certified graders from Goshen County can use their beautiful, inspected kitchen at the fairgrounds in Torrington.



Local producers can have their eggs graded by a certified grader. The eggs are then able to be sold to schools, hospitals, restaurants or other local institutions. (Chapter 15 - 2012 Wyoming Food Safety Rule)



<http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/chs/food-safety>



WHEATLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL WHEATLAND, WY



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The Wheatland Middle School Hoop House was completed in spring 2013 through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Grant program. The build was scheduled so students could take part in building the structure. Middle school science, math and life skills teachers plan to utilize the hoop house for classroom activities. The structure will also be used as an alternative classroom and Principal Steve Loyd has many innovative ideas for using the hoop house. Take a look at some of the things taking place...



Science class: Hydroponic set up for growing beans and lettuce. Looking at starting a worm project and growing native plants to replace burn areas.



Growing food for Life Skills class: 1st crop was primarily peppers and tomatoes. They are now working on a winter crop and had some luck with cabbage and eggplant. (above)



Salsa made from garden produce. (right)

Plans are in the works to experiment with "green" power to extend projects and provide power.



questions about different vegetables. When we started harvesting vegetables, the kids all wanted to take something home, so I made sure that each child was able to take some of the produce home. When asked the next day how they had prepared the food, I discovered produce going home with the kids was not being used because their parents didn't know how to prepare it. As a result, I began a program called Healthy Snacks from the Garden. We prepared the produce in all sorts of ways and the kids really liked the healthy snacks!

Next spring, we plan to start many

of their own seeds and get a head start on gardening with the help of the hoop house. The hoop house will also allow for planting of succession crops, which will keep the club in fresh supply of vegetables throughout the summer and fall. "We hope to have the kids sell some of their starter plants in the spring and produce in the fall so they can take the project full circle from production to harvest, to consumption to income!"





**WYOMING FARMERS
MARKETING ASSOCIATION
STATE FAIR HOOP HOUSE
DOUGLAS, WY**

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**SHOSHONE RIVER FARM
CSA
POWELL, WY**



To promote specialty crop production in Wyoming, the Farmers Marketing Association constructed a hoop house at the State Fair incorporating locally produced biocomposite materials made from wheat straw and recycled plastic milk jugs.

The high tunnel was constructed during state fair time and was able to showcase construction techniques and designs suitable for Wyoming. A solar fan, solar vents and roll up sides were also incorporated into the hoop house to demonstrate ventilation techniques.

The hoop house was used as a display during fair time and was highly visible to over 40,000 attendees at the state fair. The Douglas master gardeners, fair staff and other community individuals have since used the hoop house to grow vegetables and serve as a semi-permanent display that is open for the public for view. The raised beds continue to be cultivated by individuals for personal consumption and are in full production during fair time to showcase vegetables that can be grown in a hoop house.



The demand for fresh, local produce has continued to increase in the Big Horn Basin. In order to carve a niche in this ever growing market, we began to build hoop houses. Our first structure was created from salvaged materials. Since, we have added three additional structures to provide cold weather protection for the vegetables.

The construct of the four high tunnels has increased Shoshone River Farm's production of early and late season crops for sale to restaurants, a small CSA and the Cody Farmers Market. The hoop houses allow for triple cropping of leafy greens and the harvest time for tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and eggplant has increased to four months.



In 2009 we had two restaurants, a 6 member CSA and approximately 30-50 people at each farmers market. This year the CSA number has increased to 50 shares and we plan to continue growing.



HEART MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL & HISTORICAL GARDEN

POWELL, WY

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BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF DUBOIS DUBOIS, WY



Living History – The Heart Mountain Agriculture Department basically ran similarly to today’s experimental stations. They sampled the soil and grew what was best suited for the soil types and climate. From 1943-1945, 45 different crops were grown with some of these varieties still grown in the area today. Some crops like Carter peanuts, we would never think could be grown here. Re-establishing the historic garden provides

an opportunity to grow some of the same plants and demonstrate how they are grown while drawing on the uniqueness of the overall agricultural efficiency.

Hearth Mountain Wyoming Foundation has created the garden in such a way that duplicates techniques used at Heart Mountain during WWII. Schools adopt sections of the garden, growing, transplanting and winterizing their plots. Through their hands on experience they learn about plant science, the importance of agriculture and the history of agriculture at Heart Mountain. The public – visitors and volunteers – are also encouraged to take ownership and pride in the historic garden through educational talks and volunteer opportunities, ensuring this garden continues into the future. From June to October, 7350 visitors visited the garden and are hoping to receive around 20,000 visitors per year. In restoring the historical garden we have engage the hearts, minds and support of our local communities.



For the first time ever, the Boys and Girls Club of Dubois, located in Dubois, Wyoming, had a very successful summer garden that was planted and cared for by elementary-aged students in our summer program. With the help of a “Healthy Habits” mini-grant from the Wyoming Department of Health’s Department of Multicultural Health and the expertise of a local master gardener and volunteer, the Club planted carrots, squash, radishes, kale, lettuce and other vegetables in two raised beds located in the Club’s back yard. The two raised beds were obtained from a prior gardening grant awarded in 2009.

A local contractor donated and delivered the soil for the garden, and the gardener volunteered to put up deer fencing and furnish us with seeds and explained fertilizer. The gardener took students through the process of planting the seeds and explaining how to



care for the garden. Students watered the garden each day and by the end of the summer harvested some of what they had grown to eat as a snack at the Club and to take home and share with their families. We plan to have our garden again next year and add additional seed varieties, such as tomatoes!

In addition, the Club took middle school club members on a summer field trip to a local ranch in Dubois, the Warm River, to learn about beef and hay production. Students learned how many people one cow can feed, how much hay it takes to feed a cow, visited the horses and learned how to set an irrigation dam!



DUBOIS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK DUBOIS, WY

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I am Mary Ellen Honsaker, Director of the Dubois Community Food Bank of St. Thomas Church. Through the Food Bank I had a chance 9 years ago to turn a fenced old and unused playground into a Community Garden - the success of which led to the Food Bank opening a Farmers' Market the next year at the church.

I travel about 200 miles a week to buy produce from Farmers' Markets in Jackson and, when harvesting, Riverton. I also have relationships with growers in Lander-Riverton-Shoshoni and add them to my travels. We run the Market from mid-July through September. Proceeds from the Market support both the Garden needs and purchasing needs of the Food Bank. We average around \$1,500 profit. We have few vendors - one young boy sells his mother's garden excess, another person brings her canning and jellies. Occasionally there are baked goods from another.

Several years ago a former vegetable farmer moved to Dubois and volunteered to plan and care for our garden, with volunteer help. He's greatly improved our soil! Two of the 4x8 foot cedar beds are rented out each year, and the rest, fifteen plus open ground, support the Food Bank. He has greatly increased our productivity in this 7,000 ft. altitude, short season site! He has also inspired many to expand or create gardens here in Dubois, and sells



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WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPECIALTY CROP GRANT PROGRAM



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Program has been instrumental in funding, building or implementing over 100 hoop houses over the past four years. WDA has partnered with University of Wyoming Extension, NRCS, private producers and community organizations to promote and extend Wyoming's short growing season.

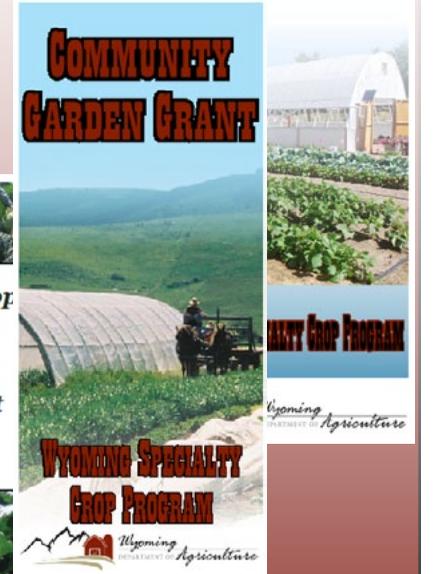


Visit the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for more information. Brochures and grant applications are also available online.

<http://agriculture.wy.gov/component/content/article/178>



**SPECIALTY CROP PROGRAM
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
HOOP TUNNEL GRANTS**





LUSK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 4TH GRADE NIOBRARA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LUSK, WY

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DUBOIS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK...

continued...



In the fall, the 4th grade class travels to Ellis' Pumpkin Patch in Lingle. At the Pumpkin Patch, students not only pick out a Halloween pumpkin, but also learn about gourds. They discuss the many uses of pumpkins and gourds: from a food source to decorations.



Students are able to explore the many different varieties and colors of pumpkins and gourds. The Ellis Pumpkin Patch enables the students to experience a part of the local agricultural economy.



from his own open site now. We grow herbs - basil & cilantro, as well as cabbage, broccoli, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, radishes, summer squash, kale, chard, spinach, collard greens, mixed lettuce - and more. At the Farmers' Market, held in the Community room next to the Garden, we offer our produce to be picked fresh for the customers during the 3 hour

sale time (Sundays 12-3, but may change next year to Thursdays 4:30-7:00 pm). All produce from our beds is also available to our Food Bank clients at the Saturday morning distribution time. We have offered beds for them to grow their own produce, and hope that families will take advantage of this opportunity.



As you can see, all that we grow has a good use - along with just the wonderful presence of the garden in our church life. When I have produce left that was bought for the Market that might not last for Food Bank distribution I will put it in my car and sell it easily to business owners along our one main street. Rarely is there enough left to benefit a restaurant. I do buy in bulk on my trips when asked by local folks for ingredients (tomatoes, small cucumbers...) for preserving in the fall, and flats from our raspberry farms for making jams.



**WYOMING FARMERS
MARKETING ASSOCIATION
FREMONT COUNTY HOOP HOUSE WORKSHOP
RIVERTON, WY**

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**LUSK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 4TH GRADE
NIOBRARA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LUSK, WY**



Central Wyoming's weather makes it challenging to grow wind and cold sensitive specialty crops. The demand for locally produced high quality specialty crops fruits and vegetables is increasing. As high tunnels have the ability to increase the growing season for specialty crops by approximately 60 days this project was completed to educate the public on the use of high tunnels in Wyoming. Not only was the construction designed to education on production in a high tunnel, but also teach them how to use local materials to construct their own while proving it possible to produce specialty crops in the Riverton area.



During the 2012 Farmers Marketing Association Conference in Riverton a 15X36 hoop house designed for Wyoming weather was constructed by 15 volunteers that included work shop leader Del Jimenez of New Mexico Cooperative Extension, master gardeners, and other volunteers at the Fremont County Fair Grounds. Construction was performed in an educational setting with materials that were purchased at the local hardware stores.

The exception to this was the plastic covering as this is only available through green house suppliers. The overall outcome of this project was to stimulate public interest in the use of high tunnels and encourage the adoption of their use for the production of fresh specialty crops for farmers and specialty crop markets in Wyoming. The unit is used as displays for horticultural specialty crops during fair times. It is also available for use by local master gardeners to further the goals of the specialty crop program.

THE LOCAL GARDENS

In the fall of the year Mrs. Pfister's 4th grade class delve into the subject area of plants. The class studies parts of the plan, their funtion and what plants need to survive.

Students have the opportunity to bring plants from home and try to identify them. They have to draw their plant and label the plant parts.

The class takes a field trip to two loal gardens where they learn what a plant needs to survive and what the optimal planting conditions are.

The gardens enables the studnets to identify the specific plant parts on a variety of live specimens. Students discuss plants and their produce as a food source for humans and livestock, as well as how that food is supplied to the grocery store.





**CHEYENNE ALLIANCE CHURCH
SEED N FEED - COMMUNITY GARDEN
CHEYENNE, WY**

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**JACKSON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL GARDEN
LANDER, WY**



The plan was to build a model community garden that included raised beds, irrigation equipment, storage shed, fencing and tools. The garden was also designed to be nurturing and supportive space for new and experienced gardeners to plan, plant, tend and harvest healthy organic vegetables for personal consumption and local charity donation. Encourage organic gardening ethic and entrepreneurship. Cooperation through individuals/groups in the church and community developed unbroken land into raised bed plots; provided well water and mentoring for a model community garden on church property in Cheyenne.



The response by the community and the church was great! The soil amendments produced amazingly productive gardens even for first time gardeners. Horticulturist, Catherine Wissner provided three classes and free seeds. A core committee of volunteers donated hundreds of hours of preparation, set-up, help with individual gardeners, and much good will with several garden picnics. The gardens were especially pleasing

during production. Twenty two raised beds were constructed, directly impacting over 66 individuals and indirectly over 200 in the church. Produce was weighed for the first year with over 2000 pounds being recorded.

A few years ago we contacted the local grocery stores to sell raspberries, cantaloup and pumpkins. Many of the stores were concerned about volume, shelf space, and their connections with warehouse suppliers. SonHarvest Seasons contacted Mr. D's in Lander and Woodward's IGA in Riverton to see if they would sell these products. Both stores agreed and over the next two years developed a "Local Produce" market that generated interest in their store and supported local produce.

Since that time Woodward's IGA has ended its store, but Mr. D's in Lander continues to buy any produce we have available and has exclusively bought pumpkins each year. They are as excited to sell local grown produce as we are to



grow it and we appreciate their loyalty to our business and the promotion of Local Produce.



As mentioned before I see opportunity for growers to sell to retailers and to sell in their niche markets as well. This provides a diverse market that takes up excess produce if it is available but it also allows the grower to grow more without risking so much on one market.



PUSHROOT COMMUNITY GARDEN LANDER, WY

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KAYCEE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB - COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT...

CONTINUED...



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The Lander Pushroot Community Garden provides access to community gardens and resources while developing community through education and organically grown food. The garden produces nutritious vegetables Lander residents can enjoy in place of non-local food trucked to Wyoming. Pushroot Community Garden began in the summer of 2008, with four people collaborating to plant three demonstration plots. The spring of 2009 brought twenty one

gardeners and three organizations growing produce in nineteen raised beds, Pushroot also created a website serves as a source for Community Garden information and other local food issues. In 2010 there were 35 plots providing space for 25 individual gardeners and 5 organizations. Classes were also held with the intent of sparking an interest in learning about gardening and instill a sense of community responsibility.

A Garden Education Coordinator was contracted and run our Lights On program supplying 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students an introduction to gardening as part of their Lights On summer and fall programs. She also developed and taught courses in cooking and preserving fresh vegetables involving PCG gardeners and other Lander residents. A Facebook page and monthly newsletter during the growing season help get the word out. A kids gardening class was also offered and closed with a harvest meal featuring the kinds of plants in the garden.



owners, employees of Boys and Girls Club of the Big Horns, and employees/ members of the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Horns Kaycee Unit. Thanks to the BGC Kaycee Unit for the additional hard work in maintaining the garden by watering, weeding, and caring for the plants to make it an appealing site.

To date, four of the five goals have been met and accomplishments include:

1. Students ate a meal including lettuce, spinach, carrots, and radishes they grew and harvested
2. All materials for the garden project, minus fencing and 2 X 6 boards for the raised garden bed were either donated or "rescued" (RE-purposed, RE-used, and RE-cycled) from the Kaycee Landfill to complete the Garden.
3. Kevin and Judy Lund donated top soil and "POO" to help start the garden project without the use of chemical attributes
4. This IS only our first year with DEFINITE future plans for the project,
5. Kaycee Boys and Girls Club HAS been awarded a reimbursement grant to improve our community garden with the addition of a High Tunnel Greenhouse!

The High Tunnel Greenhouse Grant has made it possible to extend the short Wyoming growing season offering further educational opportunities for club members. This grant has also afforded the club to continue the project beyond a single year and be an ongoing service provided to our community.





KAYCEE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB - COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

KAYCEE, WY

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UW EXTENSION - KIDS IN THE KITCHEN: EAT REAL

CARBON & FREMONT COUNTY



Each year Kaycee Boys and Girls Club chooses a community pride project as a part of their summer program. For 2013, participants chose to start a community garden. The goals of this project included:

- Helping students/participants become aware of where their food comes from and what it takes to get from seed to table
- RE-purposing, RE-using, and RE-cycling items to grow food and make an enjoyable atmosphere for the surrounding garden area
- Use natural fertilization and pest control
- Grow the garden to an on-going project; eventually producing more produce for distribution to Senior Housing and possibly a future as a Farmer's Market setting.
- Successful grant application and award from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Community Garden for Non-Profit Organizations or the Non-Profit Organization High-Tunnel Greenhouse Grant



The site started as two empty lots of weeds requiring repeated mowing every summer. The idea was to utilize the lots to teach our youth self-sufficiency, improve the community through reuse of otherwise discarded items, and give back to community members through distribution of produce.

Project organizers were granted immediate permission by landowners to utilize the empty lots for the community garden project. After several weeks of leg work, necessary permits were obtained to build the temporary fence and, finally, the project was officially under construction by Mid-June.

The exceeding amount of success this project has seen can be accredited to the efforts of local area ranchers, community members, Soil Conservation District Board, property



In partnership with Principle Traci Blaize and Guidance Counselor Brooke Dotterer of Rawlins Middle School, Extension Educator Justina Russell of the Wind River Indian Reservation Extension office, Kids in the Kitchen Eat Real, a food-education program adapted by Extension Educator Diane Saenz was piloted on three separate occasions to enhance nutrition programming for youth. Kids in the Kitchen Eat Real, is based on a school curriculum created by Teachers College, Columbia University for Food Day. Kids in the Kitchen Eat Real is

an adaptation of the Eat Real a school curriculum.

This multi-session food-education program provides hands-on instruction and discussions that help youth learn and critically think about food, build food-skills and foster a love of cooking that will hopefully lead to healthier food choices. All recipes used featured a vegetable or plant food. Activities included a game comparing processed food to whole foods, guided food preparation followed by tastings and discussion. Cumulatively more than 40 individuals –youth and adults – were involved.





**UW EXTENSION
PLANT PARTS WE EAT
CARBON & FREMONT COUNTY**

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**WYOMING FARM TO PLATE
TASK FORCE**



In partnership with Teresa Pacheco of Project Prevention, Jamie Daisey of Carbon County Library, Colleen Worman of Velma Linford Elementary School, Erika Babbit-Rogers of Wyoming Farmer's Market Association, Joel Charles and Dewey Gallegos of Pedal House and Jon Larson of Carbon County Higher Education Center the "fender blender" by Rock the Bike was piloted to enhance garden-nutrition programming.



A total of four programs were held in Carbon and Albany counties during the 2012 harvest season. Two separate programs were held in Rawlins at the Rawlins Community Garden and two were held in Laramie at the Velma Linford Elementary School Garden and the Laramie LOCO market at Undine Park. Each event was unique to the location and audience but all centered on the theme of eating plants that could be grown locally. An adaptation



of the program Plant Parts we Eat was delivered at each event. This garden-nutrition education program includes learning activities such as identifying edible plant parts, vegetable scavenger hunts and culinary-nutrition activities such as making a "green monster" (a non-dairy smoothie based on green vegetables and fruits) with a bicycle-powered blender and popping corn atop a camp stove for a "seed salad".

Mission:

Provide a consistent & unified foundation for Wyoming Farm to School Stakeholders; including...producers, consumers, retailers, schools and all other parties interested in quality local foods.

Goals:

Connecting schools and institutions with local producers to:

- Assist in providing healthy cafeteria meals in schools and institutions**
- Provide agricultural, health and nutritional education opportunities**
- Support local producers and the local economy**



GOLDEN RULE PRODUCE HOOP HOUSE PROJECT BUFFALO, WY

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FORT WASHAKIE HIGH SCHOOL FORT WASHAKIE, WY



The goal of the hoop house was to increase production and consumption of fresh local grown produce in Buffalo and surrounding areas. At last year's farmer's market, we typically sold out in the first hour. After completing the hoop house my season expanded from June to September to March to October with a production increase of 35%. The purchase of the hoop house has been the first step in increasing the production of local produce. To further increase the local produce available we plan to install raised beds, allowing for earlier planting, less soil compaction and less time expended upon weeding. The addition of a full drip irrigation system will allow for less water waste, less weeds and reduced chance of fungal diseases. These improvements will all increase the production and in turn, local consumption.

In addition to increased production we have also worked to educate our local community as to where their local produce comes from through tours and field days.

We hosted three tours after the hoop house was constructed. Two high school classes, a group of elected officials and staff comprised our tour groups. Furthermore, every on-site sale included a mini tour with consumer questions being answered as they selected their produce directly from the plants.



These are some photos from the garden developed at the Tribal College in Ethete last spring. It turned out to be a great model . . . the kitchen is right out the backdoor and Wyoming Indian Middle School is just across the parking lot.

Our other garden is at the Boys and Girls Club in Fort Washakie. It is maybe five times the size of the Tribal College Garden .





ELLIS HARVEST HOME LINGLE, WY

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WAGON WHEEL KITCHEN INCUBATOR TORRINGTON, WY



Ellis Harvest Home has markets at their MAZE Tuesday and Friday evenings and delivers produce to Douglas Saturday from mid-August to late September. Some produce is sold during MAZE season along with winter squash and pumpkins. Jalepenos have been sold to several Mexican restaurants in the area and home canners purchase sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets and some green beans.

The Ellis crop produces tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, onions, cabbage, beets, carrots, turnips, bell, jalepeno, green chili, habenero and super hot peppers, sweet corn, rhubarb, 8-10 varieties of winter squash and 12-15 varieties of pumpkins and gourds.



The Ellis's business began after selling pumpkins for years. It began with a small garden in the middle of the pumpkin patch and a pumpkin buyer asking to purchase other produce. The garden grew for the next year and has expanded every year since. Our first high



tunnel was built four years ago, the second the year after and our third in 2013. Excluding our sweet corn, we have about one acre of "garden".

In addition to our pumpkin and produce sales, we created a maze out of our corn field for families and kids to come and enjoy the outdoors.

The purpose of the incubator project was to provide an opportunity for local specialty crop producers to add value to their produce by preserving the harvest and expanding the potential income from their operations. The upgrade of the processing and packaging equipment at the County Fair facility provided an opportunity for Specialty Crop producers to include value added products in their current business. The facility allows for processing classes and seminars as well as providing a location for groups to prepare food items in larger volumes. Our purpose was to provide a production area available at affordable rates and benefit the local economy through supporting the development of small value added specialty crop food businesses. In order for the kitchen to be more efficient, existing equipment was relocated and a vendor storage shelving unit installed. Supplies were purchased to upgrade the kitchen for value added food processing. The fair manager traveled to the Grand Junction Incubator for a training with their kitchen incubator manager on best management practices for a shared use kitchen facility. A Servsafe class, two preserving the harvest seminars and a Recipe to Reality workshop were held at the facility. The number of value added specialty crop products and vendors at the local farmers market increased



because of the opportunities the kitchen provided.

As a result, the idea of kitchen incubation has stimulated other communities to look at developing their facilities. At the present time five communities are exploring developing shared use kitchens including Douglas, Wheatland, Sheridan, Osage and Laramie. Douglas is presently renovating a kitchen to allow producers to value add packaged products.



WYOMING GRAPE AND WINE ASSOCIATION
TABLE MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS
HUNTLEY, WY

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ELLIS HARVEST HOME - MAZE
LINGLE, WY



The Wyoming Grape and Wine Association (WGWA) began in 2001 and has been dedicated to educating and developing of Wyoming's Grape, Wine and Alternative Crop industry. The Association continues to promote the industry in Wyoming through tours, website resources and education. Handbooks based on local growers experience were developed and printed for distribution at county extension offices and master gardeners programs. The booklet features growing tips, variety info and how to successfully grow grapes in Wyoming. The project reflected a more hands on educational program based on shared producer experience about growing grapes in Wyoming away from a pure research based focus.

WGWA also finalized and completed its "Grape Growing Brochure" for distribution throughout the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service and Master Gardener's program. This guide features information on vineyard selection, varieties suited for Wyoming as well as links to additional resources online. WGWA is also expanding cooperative efforts with the University of Wyoming's Research and Extension Center in Sheridan, WY. As this partnership develops, additional handouts and research will be offered to growers both in print and through its website.

WGWA will continue to revise, update and reprint revised publications as needed. The brochure was reduced in its content due to the ever changing information being developed in the upcoming year. While the brochure is more promotional in nature, it will promote the industry and point to WGWA resources on the website.



We got started with the MAZE 6 years ago. Dan had been considering adding a corn maze to the pumpkin patch, (lots of corn mazes have pumpkin patches with them). After many hours of "what-ifying" and wondering if some one else was going to start a maze in the area, we decided to "just do it" before someone else beat us to it. So we did and here we are. We are not Wyoming's only corn maze, we ARE the oldest and we like to think the maze with the most Agritainment to offer. :o)

The maze and pumpkin patch are open weekends the last weekend in September through the last weekend of October-Saturdays from 10am - 10pm (so we can have moonlight/flashlight mazes at night) and Sundays 10am - 6pm. Weekdays we are open by appointment only for school groups; we usually have kids in the yard from 9:30 - 2:00 most days during the week.



During maze/pumpkin season we have corn boxes, pedal tractors, a hay maze, spider web, tomato launcher and a corn cannon for those who don't want to get lost and found in the maze or for something to do before or after getting lost and found. And kittens, always kittens and the family dogs for kids to hold and pet!. (we tried doing without kittens one year, they were missed so much by those who'd been there before we had to find some at the last minute)

Our goal is to provide "Family Fall Fun on the Farm", to create a place where you can bring the whole family and spend the entire day. (We also have a concession stand!)



EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOOP HOUSE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

TORRINGTON, WY

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TORRINGTON MASTER GARDENER'S EDUCATIONAL GARDEN

TORRINGTON, WY



The goal was to educate Eastern Wyoming College students on sustainable crop production practices through hands on experiences in soil fertility, pest management and specialty crop production utilizing two high tunnels at the EWC Agricultural Technology Education Center. Courses incorporating the high tunnels into curriculum include Agroecology (AECL 1000), Applied Soils (SOIL 2200), EWC Agriculture programs including Farm and Ranch Management (FRCH.AAS), Agri Business and Sciences (AGBSS.AS)

and Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management (REWM.AS). New students majoring in FRCH.AAS or AGBSS.AS are scheduled to take SOILS 2200 and/or AECL 1000 during their freshman year, while students in the REWM.AS program take AECL 1000 during their sophomore year. During the 2012-2013 school year, 40 agriculture students participated in building the high tunnels. During the spring semester, 30 students were enrolled in the SOIL 2200 and CROP 2200 courses. Both courses utilized the high tunnels for lab work. The AECL 1000 course had an increased enrollment for the fall 2013 semester. Spring 2014 includes SOIL 2200 and CROP 2200 courses. Incorporating the high tunnels as part of the lab settings for AECL 1000, SOIL 2200 and CROP 2200 courses adds a broader range of hands-on experiences for the agriculture students. The expanded growing season provided by the high tunnels allows improved curriculum by increasing coverage of agriculture topics with demonstrations of modern techniques.



The Torrington Master Gardener group is very involved with the Goshen county community and provides accurate input on how and what grows well. A high tunnel was constructed to allow small scale research on production methods using high tunnels so recommendations could be made to local producers in Wyoming. Six Torrington Master Gardeners constructed a high tunnel at the Goshen

County Extension site next to a master gardener training garden. The new hoop house was equipped with a solar fan and solar vents and can be prominently seen from the nearby highway which has generated much interest by the local town's people. A high tunnel workshop was scheduled during County Fair time to increase exposure and education. A cinderblock wall painted black, was also installed to act as a heat sink in order to analyze its effect on increasing growing season time.

It is estimated that over 500 people have visited the hoop house since it was built. There are 15 active master gardeners actively growing and producing from the high tunnel. Produce from the hoop house is also being sold at the local farmers market with the proceeds going towards master gardener training. The small scale research has helped the local extension educator and master gardener coordinator to better serve their local hoop house producers.

