



Supporting Wyoming FFA to ensure the program's ability to continue making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Wyoming FFA Times

Summer 2008 Edition

A publication of the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation



2008-2009 STATE FFA OFFICERS CHOSEN

Cheyenne – Wyoming's 2008-2009 State FFA Officer Team was announced mid-April during the State FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

"Nerve wracking, intense, yet the most fun place to be, are a few feelings candidates felt on their journey to become a Wyoming State FFA Officer," says new State Reporter Marti Brown of the Devils Tower FFA Chapter in Hulett.

Courtney Porter, Wyoming FFA's newest State Sentinel and from the Riverton FFA Chapter, describes the "Hot Box" as, "The most fun place to be during Convention, even though it was probably the most stressful." The "Hot Box" is the area at state convention where all of the state FFA officer candidates anxiously await their interviews.

To kick off the process, round one was a personal interview with the nominating committee, a group comprised of both adults and FFA members who chose the new officers. "This phase is vital for the nominating committee," explains Brown, "because this is where they got to spend some one-on-one time generating an idea of the candidates' character."

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Wyoming FFA's 2008-2009 officer team was announced in Cheyenne on April 13. Beginning from the left is Marti Lee Brown, Reporter, Devils Tower FFA; Oaklee Anderson, Vice President, Shoshoni FFA; Matthew Thoman, 3rd Vice President, Wind River FFA; Courtney Porter, Sentinel, Riverton FFA; Ty McNamee, President, Shoshoni FFA; Beth Wood, Treasurer, Pine Bluffs FFA; Jacob Berg, Parliamentarian, Burns FFA; Sara Haines, 2nd Vice President, Casper FFA; Jessie Allen, Secretary, Lander FFA. Wyoming's FFA Officer team has a strong presence at events ranging from State Fair to the groups' conventions. They serve as a role model for hundreds of FFA members across the state.

Young entrepreneur Disease prompts booming business

By Laura Nelson

Running a business he could believe in was the cornerstone of success for one young Powell entrepreneur.

Forrest Smith, now a freshman at Northwest College, was recognized as the State Star in Agri-business at the 2008 Wyoming FFA Convention this April. Smith began his business, Gluten Free Oats, as a freshman in high school when he began his FFA career.

"I really have a vested interest in my business," Smith said. "I'm not just looking to make a quick dollar – I actually eat my product."

Smith created Gluten Free Oats so his family could have a source of grain in their diets. Smith, his mother, father, sibling and grandmother all have Celiac disease, an auto-immune disease that does not allow carriers to digest the gluten protein. Gluten is found in wheat, rye and barley and destroys the intestines of a Celiac who ingests it. Smith has lived with the disease since he was two-and-a-half.

"I never knew anything better," Smith said. "I had always had to be on this special diet."

Smith's interest in growing gluten-free oats was piqued when he enrolled in FFA as a freshman and began to think about what he could do for his Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE).

"I came home that day from school and told my dad, 'Hey, with that five acres behind the house, we could raise a cow or sheep!' But we didn't have any experience with livestock at all, so decided that would not be a great idea," he said.

Then he heard about new information and research being done on gluten-free oats. Until then, he explained, it was thought that oats also contained gluten. But in actuality, oats only had gluten found in it as a result of cross-contamination with other gluten products. He began research-

See SMITH on PAGE 7

Student scientist finds success in research

By Laura Nelson

As a preschooler, the 2008 Wyoming State Star in Agri-Science had to be called into a conference with her parents and teacher because she refused to lay down for a nap. When her parents asked why she refused to nap, her father recalled, she simply told him, "Well, what if I miss something?"

This eagerness to learn and inquisitive attitude led Erica David, a senior at Pinedale High School, to develop her sixth grade science project into internationally recognized work. David's research on snow fences in Wyoming has developed from an experiment to see what type of household products could best replicate snow to testing what types of snow fences can aid in water reclamation.

"Erica grew up always wanting to be the best," her father, Matt David, said. "She was always so inquisitive and wanted to know more – always so full of question." In elementary school, Matt said, Erica's grandfather mentioned that it was the

way the wind 'stacked' snow that made it useful for irrigation. Then she wanted to know why, he recalled.

So Erica began testing household products in her garage to replicate snow. She found dish soap worked the best and then created a wind tunnel to simulate blowing snow. From this initial test, Erica started building model snow fences and experimenting with how different fences have different effects on the placement of snow. Now, eight years later, Erica has focused her experiments on how snow fences can impact water reclamation and environmental factors.

Past Wyoming State FFA officer Kayla Lynch visited Erica's project last January. "You could really see how her program had grown," Lynch said. "To put eight years into an intense project like this shows a lot of dedication."

Within a month of being recognized as Wyoming's state

See DAVID on PAGE 6

Jarrold Hendry FFA's 'State Star Farmer'

By Jennifer Womack

Cheyenne – Shoshoni FFA's Jarrold Hendry was named the 2008 State Star Farmer at the Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne on April 11. It's one of the top four awards an FFA member in Wyoming can receive. State Stars are presented in four areas – State Star Farmer, State Star in Agriscience, State Star in Agribusiness and State Star in Placement.

Hendry is part of

See HENDRY on PAGE 6



Jarrold Hendry applies the Crowfoot L to the left hip of one of his family's calves while his father, Rob, an alumni of the Wyoming FFA Association watches. Jarrold was named Wyoming FFA's 2008 'Star Farmer' during the 2008 Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne on mid-April.

periodical

Wyoming FFA Calendar

Aug. 9-16 See FFA kids in action at the 2008 Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo
On-line at www.wystatefair.com



Oct. 22-25 Cheer on Wyoming FFAers as they attend the National FFA Convention with a theme of "Step Up and Stand Out," in Indianapolis, Indiana.

periodical



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

Parts is Parts

I have been asked several times what the Foundation does and how that differs from the members. What other parts of Wyoming FFA are there? If you're curious and care to read on, I'll try to iron that out for you.

Let's start with the basics, what is FFA? FFA is an integral part of agricultural education. Students enrolled in Ag. Ed. are eligible to join the FFA, and you can't be in FFA in high school without being enrolled in Ag. Ed. FFA members are each required to have an SAE program, that's Supervised Agricultural Experience program, which is the extension of the classroom or in many ways a living lab for students to put into practice what they learn in lecture. The SAE may be in production ag, such as raising cattle or goats, or it could be in agriculture placement, working at the feed store or the implement dealer.

FFA has something for every student with a desire to succeed. Many more students live in town than when I was a member and FFA has adapted. There are more than 10 CDEs (Career Development Events) members can compete in and over 50 proficiency award areas that members can apply for to demonstrate the skills they learn in the classroom and put to practice in their SAE. I even read a story some years back about a kid from Chicago with a worm farm in his basement! I wonder if mom would have preferred that to me cleaning my carburetor on a card table in my bedroom?

Now that we have a most basic understanding of FFA, what are the parts of Wyoming FFA and how do they fit together?

Wyoming FFA consists of the Association, several alumni/support groups, the State Leadership Camp, and the Foundation.

The association is the youth membership of Wyoming FFA. There are around 2,000 members in roughly 50 chapters around the state. Smaller programs may have 15 – 25 members, larger ones over 100. The leadership of the association is nine elected State Officers, the state Executive Secretary, and the State Advisor. Another way to think of the Association is that is the programming arm of the FFA. This is where the programs are offered and members participate. There are local programs as well as state programs.

The Alumni/Support groups are local support bodies that some chapters have. Wyoming has some incredible local alumni and parent support groups. They provide volunteer labor, teaching, coaching, financial assistance and more to the local chapter. There are many flavors and if you are interested in joining one, contact your local advisor to see if they have one. If you don't know who your local advisor is, please contact the Foundation and we'll try to get that information to you.

Currently in Wyoming there is no statewide alumni. There have been some attempts in the past to make a state alumni work, but it usually runs aground. I believe that the right group of people may be out there to put a state alumni group together again. It will take a few

See **SCHILT** on **PAGE 7**

LET'S TALK FFA

This issue featuring 1993-1994 Wyoming State FFA Office Kerin (Castle) Clark

FFA has lasting impact on our lives

"I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds."

Wow—that statement still sends shivers up my spine and oh, how it rings true yet today. As all FFA members do, I memorized the FFA creed when I was a freshman in high school. I didn't know back then what a powerful statement that was and how much of an impact the next five years of FFA involvement would have on my life.

FFA members always hear that their involvement will develop potential for "premier leadership, personal growth and career success." During my high school years, I was very dedicated to FFA. I knew I was experiencing personal growth and leadership development. However, I didn't realize how much potential was being developed for career success.

I continue to believe in the future of agricul-

ture with a faith born of deeds. Every day in my work for Wyoming agriculture I utilize skills I gained through FFA. As the media and member relations director for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, I am



Kerin Clark

constantly reminded of opportunities that arose through my involvement in FFA.

Part of my job is to conduct county board trainings and present leadership development programs for our members. It reminds me of conducting chapter visits as a state FFA officer and the fun in presenting leadership

workshops for FFA members. My year as a state FFA officer provided so much of the training for the work I do today. I am constantly pulling up mental files of advice our state advisor, Mr. Ron Pulse, provided.

Another portion of my job is to coordinate Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher program. This exciting program is a great next step for FFA members when they graduate. The program offers competitive events, leadership conferences, networking and more. It reminds me of those FFA competitions and networking opportunities where like-minded individuals get together for the betterment of agriculture as well as personal growth.

Farm Bureau is like the FFA — we are one big family across the state. I enjoy continuing to use the skills I gained through FFA in my work for agricul-



ture every day.

I am so appreciative of FFA advisors and supporters and the time they dedicate. There is no better program than the FFA for youth in agriculture to develop potential for "premier leadership, personal growth and career success."

I hope that my FFA advisor, Mr. Jack Corson, knows that he had a lasting impact on my life. And it all began the day he began teaching me about: "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

"I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task." — FFA Creed

Foundation golf tournament a huge success



Members of the 2008-2009 Wyoming FFA Officer Team pose for a pre-tournament photo at the late June Wyoming FFA Foundation golf tournament held near Hulett.

The 2008 Wyoming Golf Tournament was held FFA Foundation Hulett June 27, 2008, at the beauti-

ful Golf Club at Devils Tower. Twelve teams from around the state competed in this year's event to raise money for the Wyoming FFA Foundation. Funds raised go to support State Officer travel and general operations of the Foundation. "I really enjoyed being a part of such a great event," said Jacob Berg

Wyoming State FFA Parliamentarian, "I felt that the

participants really had a good time on such a beautiful golf course."

Participants played 18 holes of golf on a perfect June day. Along the course they were able to make bets on shots and enter into chances to win prizes in putting contests and other activities. After play ended participants were invited to a social and meal on the golf course grounds.

The winners of this year's tournament was the Pannel Ranch team with members Bruce Brown, Ogden Driskil, Jeff Jones, and Ted Bears. Congratulations to that team. We look forward to next year's tournament.

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Student dedicates tons of time to SAE

By Laura Nelson

For as long as he can remember, the 2008 Wyoming State Star in Agri-Placement had a hand in his family's five-generation ranch.

Rustin Roth, a senior at Torrington High School, was recognized for his work as a significant part in his family's operation at the 2008 Wyoming State FFA Convention this April.

"For as long as I can remember, I would go out and help my grandpa and dad feed," Roth said. While Roth called himself "just a regular farm hand," he has put more hours in to his Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) program than most high school students can imagine. His application for the award boasted nearly 1,400 hours invested in the ranch each year.

Nancy Thoman, the 2007-2008 Wyoming State FFA officer who visited Roth's project last January, said the amount of time the student put into the project is what led to his selection as the state star. "His work hours were so impressive; the amount of time he put into his project far surpassed any other applicant."

The Ochsner ranch, a corporation formed between Roth's grandpa, uncles and father, is located north of Torrington. The family raises around 500 head of registered Angus and Hereford cattle in addition to 1,200 head of cattle in its feedlot operation.

"Being able to work with my family, knowing this ranch is all ours and that I have a future in it is really important to me," Roth said.

Thoman added, "You could tell it was a really family-ori-

ented business. It was nice to see all his family there, working together, when we visited the ranch. It really is a great, family farm operation."

However, the past state officer made sure to point out Roth's obvious individual involvement. "Even though it is not a project that he owns himself, I was so impressed with how much he knew about the project. He was so knowledgeable about every aspect of the operation."

This involvement and knowledge is what made Roth the perfect candidate for the state honor, Thoman said. In addition to being recognized at the convention, Roth received a cash award and the opportunity to submit his work to the National FFA Organization this fall and compete against other state stars.

"It was a pretty great honor to win the state star," Roth said. "I felt good that I could accomplish this." Roth was also recognized as a Wyoming State FFA Degree recipient at the convention. This degree is the highest degree honor the state can bestow upon its members.

In the future, Roth said he would like to apply for his American FFA Degree. He will attend college at Eastern Wyoming College this fall and major in agriculture business. He then plans to finish his bachelor's degree at the University of Wyoming and return to the Torrington area to continue working on the family ranch.

"I feel like FFA has played an important role in my life," Roth said. "I really appreciate what it's done for me and my future."

Sundance FFA wins sponsorship

Casper – The Bearlodge Sundance FFA Chapter has been awarded a \$500 sponsorship from Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) to help pay the cost of attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Chapter, lead by instructor Kenneth Crowson, won the sponsorship by visiting the Farm Credit Services of America web site and registering for the random drawing.

“Supporting careers in agriculture is one way Farm Credit Services of America gives back to the customers we serve,” stated Kera Bullard, Financial Officer, of the Casper FCSAmerica office. “By participating in FFA, 4-H and other youth programs, we are ensuring the next generation has the quality education and experience it needs to succeed in agriculture.”

The National FFA Convention provides student members with the opportunity to attend education workshops, gather career and college information at the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, learn from industry leaders and exchange experiences with other young people across the nation.

FFA makes a huge impact

Indianapolis, Indiana – America’s premier youth leadership organization, the National FFA Organization, continues to reach a wealth of young people. According to the National FFA Organization, there are now 7,358 FFA chapters with each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands participating.

Founded in 1928, the group’s largest event continues to be the National FFA Convention. In 2007 53,631 FFA members, including many from Wyoming, attended the convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Attendees spent \$40 million resulting in an estimated \$34.5 million a year impact to Indianapolis and a learning value to FFA members that can’t be valued with a price tag.

Advertise your business or organization in the next Wyoming FFA Times
Contact Scott at wyooffafoundation@juno.com,
or give us a call at 866-333-3838

Officer dinner proves promising

Cheyenne – In an effort to revive an old event and reunite past state officer team members, the Foundation board held a past state officer dinner at the 81st State convention in Cheyenne. While the food and conversation were first rate, the turn out was less than was hoped for with inclement weather closing highways in and out of Cheyenne.

Casey Smith, 1998-1999 State Officer and owner of Versatile Ag. Systems Well Service sponsored the dinner that was cooked by great FFA supporter Debie Child, mother of former state officer and current board member Stacy Broda, and Maxine Weaver of Weaver Ranch, current sponsor of the winning Livestock Judging team. Brisket, almond green beans with bacon, cheesy potatoes and three kinds of brownies for dessert were provided.

While it was a small crowd, there were four decades worth of officers represented with team members from the 70s, 80s, 90s and several from the current millennium. The Officer who traveled the farthest was Dr. Al Snyder from Wisconsin. Al was a state officer in the late 70s and the founder of the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp.

This dinner was starting point for an event the Foundation board would like to continue and grow, making it an annual event. Our past state officer list is growing, but we could sure use some help. If you are a past state officer please contact the Foundation director to make sure our records are correct. The director can be reached at 866-888-3838 or at wyooffafoundation@juno.com.



FFA earns national TV attention

Indianapolis, Indiana – If you’d like to learn more about what FFA members across the nation are spending their time doing watch for *FFA Today!* on RFD-TV. Times and programming information, as well as an option to download past episodes to your iPod, can be found on-line at www.ffa.org.

FFA has goals, plans to achieve

Indianapolis, Indiana – The FFA motto gives members twelve short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization. **Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.** To accomplish its mission, FFA:

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship

ATV raffle tickets available

Douglas – A 4-wheeler raffle to benefit Wyoming FFA will culminate Aug. 16 when a drawing is held in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair. The project is sponsored by EnCana, Bucky’s Outdoors, Stallion Oilfield Services and Bear Paw Custom Embroidery.

If you’d like to purchase tickets stop by the Wyoming FFA Foundation booth in the ag and natural resource pavilion during State Fair. From every ticket purchased, \$2 will benefit a local FFA program. The remainder supports statewide activities.

Thanks to the generous support of EnCana, the top three ticket salesman from the state’s FFA Chapters will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

If you’d like to purchase a ticket prior to State Fair, visit with your local FFA chapter.

Wyoming Business Council Working for Wyoming Agriculture



Farmers’ Market Program

Supports farmers’ market development and enables Wyoming farmers and ranchers to sell locally, encouraging community support for small businesses and keeping money in the local community.

For more information, contact Kim Porter.

Forage Promotion Program

Showcases Wyoming’s premium quality hay and is designed to promote Wyoming hay in the regional and national marketplace. For more information, contact Scott Keith.

Income Diversification Program

Assists producers in diversifying their agricultural operations. For more information, contact Cindy Garretson-Weibel.

Livestock Genetics Program

Helps Wyoming producers promote their genetically superior livestock to get their product into the domestic and international marketplace. For more information, contact Scott Keith.

Livestock & Meat Marketing Program

Provides producers with education and assistance in identifying marketing alternatives for their livestock and meat. The WBC’s Wyoming Verified Program provides source, age & natural verification for Wyoming livestock producers. For more information, contact John Henn.

Value-Added Food Program

Encourages and promotes the development of value-added agribusiness opportunities and markets for Wyoming agricultural products. For more information, contact Cindy Garretson-Weibel.

Wyoming L.E.A.D.

Trains competent and highly motivated leaders to speak forcefully and articulately for Wyoming agriculture and communities. For more information, contact Kim Porter.



If you are interested in receiving a **FREE** copy of the Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness Division’s quarterly Activities Newsletter, please contact Terri Barr.

For more information, visit www.wyomingbusiness.org and click on Agribusiness.

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Active Meeteetse FFA Support Group benefits students in a big way

By Echo D. Renner

"The Meeteetse FFA Support Group has been a driving force in the success of our FFA program," says Meeteetse FFA Advisor, Joey Johnson. "They're instrumental in supporting our students in leadership training, and without their help, it would be a lot harder to provide Chapter members with quality experiences."

Over 60 percent of eligible students in the Meeteetse Schools are FFA members, thanks to family support, an enthusiastic, hard-working advisor, and the assistance of the Support Group. Last year, the Group raised \$10,575 to help the youth. Group Treasurer, Joe Thomas, says, "We raised \$4,500 from the golf

tournament, which was a sell-out. We had more golfers than we had carts. The rest of the funds came from the Old-Fashioned Roundup which is a dinner, barn dance, and auction that attracted about 350 people."

Charter member, Mervin Larsen, says, "We organized the Group in 1993, to provide a scholarship for Meeteetse FFA students. Then we helped the school set up a feed station out of town, so any kid who was interested could have a place to keep their animals."

Circumstances now require the station be relocated, and the Group intends to create a new facility with space for livestock shows, educational seminars, and other ag activities, as well as a classroom. Their plan will

require considerable financial and volunteer support to implement.

"Without local financial and community involvement, these programs, and the students themselves, won't reach their fullest potential, and that ultimately is the goal of the Group," says President, Morgan Renner

Freshman ag student, Jessica Maurer says, "The Group gives students the chance to experience agriculture. I've learned a lot just in working with them."

Tenth grade ag student, Karri Wagers agrees. "The Group really cares about the success of the students. This year they are providing loans to students for the cost of an animal and the feed, which is a great help for student's

who might not otherwise get a chance to show and experience taking care of a critter."

Chapter Advisor Joey Johnson is a member of the Support Group, and plays a critical role in success of the Chapter and the Group. Karri's mother and Group Secretary, Michelle Wagers, says, "My children have developed interests in agronomy and market beef as a direct result of Joey's efforts to expose them to all areas of agriculture. He is always willing to go the extra mile to meet the needs of kids, and ensure a continuing interest in agriculture."

Johnson is the link between the Support Group and the Chapter. He also challenges the FFA members to go to the next level. Support Group Vice President, Duaine Hagen, says, "Joey has been an integral part of the Meeteetse FFA's success. He not only cares about the students, he also wants them to be successful. He pushes them to strive, and expects them to



An active group works on behalf of the Meeteetse FFA Chapter including (back row) Morgan Renner, Support Group President; Joey Johnson, Meeteetse FFA Advisor; Duaine Hagen, Support Group Vice President; Joe Thomas, Support Group Treasurer; Mervin Larsen, member; Joe Wagers, member & Park County Deputy; (front) Shelley Moger, member; and Michelle Wagers, Support Group Secretary.

conduct themselves with integrity and pride. The Meeteetse FFA has come a long way under his professional guidance."

The Support Group says to be able to continue helping the Chapter, they need more folks to assist with activities. To become a member of the Meeteetse FFA Support

group, individual dues are \$20, family \$30, corporate \$50, and lifetime membership \$150. The Group is in the process of becoming a non-profit organization, and soon donations will be tax deductible. Send membership dues and contributions to Meeteetse FFA Support Group, P.O. Box 308, Meeteetse, WY 82433.

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FFA sponsors sought for winning teams

The Wyoming FFA Foundation is looking for businesses and individuals to help sponsor the State Champion Career Development Event Teams to compete at the National FFA Convention in October.

If you are interested in sponsoring a state champion team and the benefits of doing so, please contact Scott McDonald at 1-866-333-3838 or e-mail wyoffafoundation@juno.com

tion@juno.com

Teams Available to Sponsor: Livestock, Meats, Farm and Ranch Management, Agronomy, Sales and Service, Parliamentary Procedure, Poultry, Ag Mechanics, Natural Resources, Ag Issues, and Horse Judging.

Special thanks to the Weaver Ranch, for sponsoring the livestock team since 2007!

Foundation thanks Seth Heinert for Service

The Wyoming FFA Foundation board would like to express our sincere appreciation to Seth Heinert for his service to Wyoming FFA. Seth began his tenure on the board of directors in 2004.

Seth has served Wyoming FFA in many roles including State Officer, National Officer, counselor at FFA Leadership Camp and on the foundation board of directors. While on the board Seth was instrumental in helping establish several committees and served well as secretary.



Seth is now completing a degree in Agricultural Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Next fall he'll be teaching high school agriculture in Nebraska. Seth has his own leadership and motivational speaking company, Cross Anchor Productions. Inspiring, generous, and committed, Seth's sense of purpose and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Seth, for your great service to FFA and your commitment to youth, we truly thank you.

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Scholarships awarded to outstanding Wyoming FFA members

The Wyoming FFA Foundation was pleased to award more scholarships than ever this year at the Wyoming FFA State convention in April. Maxine Weaver, Lesley Pearson and Stacy Broda served on the scholarship committee and all agreed the applications submitted this year were from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds and from very qualified and successful FFA seniors.

The Foundation is pleased again this year to partner with businesses and organizations to provide more scholarship dollars. If your business or organization is interested in being a partner with the Foundation in our scholarship program, please contact Scott McDonald. The following are scholarships provided from our partners.

Friends of Agriculture, Industry and Recreation (F.A.I.R.) annually awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a Wyoming FFA member who has shown at the Wyoming State Fair for at least two years. This year's winner was Kaleb Olson from the Thermopolis FFA Chapter. Olson has shown lambs and pigs in market and breeding classes, as well as entered in showmanship at the

state fair. He would like to major in agricultural law or agricultural business at college.

The Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Clark's Mule Days Charity Pool. Nickie was a 16-year-old girl who worked for Mule Days and died in an automobile accident. In her memory a \$1,500 scholarship is presented to a Park County FFA member each year. The 2008 recipient, Cassandra Butler from the Cody FFA Chapter, serves as her chapter president. She was a National FFA Creed speaking champion and has been high individual in the sales and service contest.

Tri-State generation donates \$1,000 each year to the Wyoming FFA Foundation to help a member attend the cost of the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. It has been several years since we have had any applicants for this scholarship and are pleased to be able to award two scholarships this year.

The first Tri-State WLC scholarship is awarded to Wyatt Hill from the Saratoga FFA. He is a sophomore, judges livestock and has shown several projects at county fair. The second

scholarship was awarded to Rebecca Burton, who is a freshman also from the Saratoga FFA, has been to national convention and shows pigs.

The Foundation received \$4,300 in donations this year for the general scholarship fund. The following recipients received a general Foundation scholarship.

Scholarship recipient Sara Donnelly from the Casper FFA, who was awarded \$300, plans to become a veterinary technician. She's competed in the Arizona stock show and has judged poultry.

Oaklee Anderson from the Shoshoni FFA Chapter, who was awarded a \$500 scholarship, has attended FFA leadership camp, serves as her chapter president and is a member of the 2007 national ag issues champion team.

Anna Melcher from the Wheatland FFA Chapter was also presented a \$500 scholarship. She plans to be a surgical technologist, has shown at county and state fair and competed in the sales and service.

Sarah Weliever of the Riverton FFA Chapter, who received a \$500 scholarship, plans to attend Casper College and major in ag business. She was a member a state

champion meats judging team in 2006, interns at a local vet clinic, has been to the FIRE/ICE conference and serves as an officer for her chapter.

Walter Wilson from the Burns FFA Chapter, who also received \$500, plans to attend college to become a neurosurgeon and be active in the political field. He has served as an officer, on the state nominating committee, and competed in parliamentary procedure competition at nationals. He has an impressive list of community activities and is a congressional award winner.

Ty McNamee of the Shoshoni FFA Chapter, who has a long-term goal

of running for the U.S. Senate, received a \$1,000 scholarship. He has served as a chapter officer, attended FFA camp, competed at National FFA Convention in the Ag Issues CDE and is serving as the state association president.

Stephanie Schroeder of the Douglas FFA Chapter, who plans to attend school to become a veterinarian, also received a \$1,000 scholarship. Her interest in agriculture and livestock was sparked when she was nine years old and received her first horse. She has shown horses, sheep, and cattle at county and state fair. She has also competed in several national champi-

onship shows. Her application exhibited the hard work and ethics that is the backbone of the FFA.

"On behalf of the Wyoming FFA Foundation I would like to extend an invitation to all upcoming members who will be seniors as well as past FFA members who are enrolled in higher educational institution to apply for these scholarships," says FFA Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair Stacy Broda. "Our application is available after Christmas on the Foundation website. We are here to provide assistance to members, and are working to gain more sponsors to support our scholarship program."



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HENDRY *continued from page 1*

his family's Lost Cabin ranching operation competing proficiencies, specific areas of competition for FFA members, in both beef production and wild-life. A senior at Shoshoni High School, Jarrod is the son of Rob and Leslie Hendry.

Hendry's involvement in the family's ranching operation dates back to when he was just old enough to put in a good day's work on the ranch. He began building his cowherd and acquiring stock in the ranch he hopes to someday return to full time. According to Rob, Jarrod works afternoons and evenings after school, weekends and over his summer break. "I'll start fixing fence soon," comments Jarrod noting that with this winter's more plentiful snowfalls there's a lot of fence in need of repair. "I like night calving," he comments like a true teenager. "I don't mind staying up all night."

When the family branded their first bunch of calves for the year on April 5, Jarrod was there to help. All cowboy, his horse bogs around the calving pen as he rides it back after the calves are sorted off the cows. "He does that all the time," says Leslie of the horse she doesn't appear to

be overly fond of. Jarrod doesn't seem to think much of it, taking his head and riding him through it.

While his brother JW vaccinates and adds an electronic eartag to each calf, Jarrod applies the Crowfoot L to the left hip with an electric iron. It's a brand with a long history in his family, earlier used by his maternal grandfather Lee Coffman. His mother Leslie records eartag and calf information while sister-in-law Hannah and a ranch employee bring calves to the chute. Rob makes sure everything runs smoothly and castrates the bull calves. It's truly a family operation. Little conversation fills the air as everyone knows their job, when to do it and what's going to happen next. For Jarrod it's year 18 of "on the job training."

Away from the ranch, it's Jarrod's volunteer time with the Lysite Fire Department that he's most excited about. He hopes to have the opportunity to continue spending some time in that area when he heads off to study Agribusiness at Casper College in the fall.

Four years of involvement in the Shoshoni FFA Chapter under the direction of Advisor Crystal Woehlecke has pro-

vided a strong foundation in volunteer service. "We clean up our section of the highway every year," says Jarrod of the Chapter's involvement in the state's adopt-a-highway program. They also run a horticulture program as a fundraiser and will soon be hosting a donkey basketball game. As a freshman Jarrod competed in the Creed Contest, memorizing the FFA Creed, and for two years was a participant in the prepared public speaking competition.

"Jarrod has been a great asset to our chapter," says Woehlecke. "He works really hard in FFA and he will be missed next year. He has served in several different chapter officer positions over the last couple years. I wish Jarrod luck in the future."

Following a short break for lunch Jarrod's out the door to get the Skid Steer so he can work on the springtime job of cleaning corrals. He also needs to check in on his market steers in the pen in preparation for this year's Fremont County Fair. "We're limited to one in the market sale," he notes.

Jarrod also helps with the family's pheasant hunting business. Birds are ordered in lots of 500 from a Wisconsin farm that's home to over two million of the colorful creatures. With most of

the clients stemming from Casper, hunters schedule in advance. It's Jarrod's job to take the birds from their pens on the ranch and place them along the drainages prior to the hunters' arrival. He also

helps care for the birds. Not only an extra business for the ranch, Jarrod says it's an opportunity for people to visit and learn about ranching. "It's steadily growing," he says of the number of hunters.

It's also helped grow the ranch's resident pheasant population.

"I like it," says Jarrod of ranching and FFA. "Next year I'll put in for my American FFA Degree."

DAVID *continued from page 1*

star in agri-science, Erica was off to the national Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, where her experiment "Investigations of Innovative Snow Fence Designs to Maximize Snow Capture for Water Conservation and Reclamation in Industrial Settings" was awarded third place. In May, she took her project to the next level at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

As her project grew over the years, her father, Matt, said it was only natural to turn it into an FFA project when she entered high school.

"Reclamation has a huge role in agriculture. FFA provided her with a tool to take her research project and continue with it. As agriculturalist, we use billions of dollars of water each year, so we better learn how to use it properly," Matt said. "That's where Erica got involved with taking her science project and turning it in to her FFA program, too."

Lynch said she was amazed at the size of Erica's project when she visited the seven test sites she has set up on the Jonah natural gas field. Erica currently tests each site for water quality, water density and organic activity, among other things.

"I learned so much from Erica when we visited the field," Lynch said. "She told

me everything I could ever need to know about snow fences and the impact they can have on the environment. Her knowledge and the fact she puts that much time and effort into this is just incredible."

Erica is now working to get her designs for snow fences patented, Matt said. She also continues to work with Jonah field representatives to retain water, increase vegetation germination and focus on environmental growth to speed the natural gas field's reclamation. Matt said Erica has had several oil and other drilling companies interested in using her techniques.

"This will probably make oil companies millions of dollars in reclamation in the future," Matt said. "And she might just get a good piece of that."

While seeing the monetary payoff for her hard work may still be in the future, Erica has certainly been paid off in respect from the academic world. Her findings have been published several times in leading snow research journals, National Geographic for Kids and Science News for Kids.

This national recognition led to a lot of great educational offers, her father said. Erica was accepted into Purdue University, Cordell Uni-

versity and the University of California Davis. She decided upon the latter, and will head west this fall to study bio-engineering on a full-ride honors scholarship.

"Erica really set a high standard in our state association for what we expect to see in an agri-science project," Lynch said. "She is so intelligent; I don't know how she balances school, the rest of her extra-curricular activities and this enormous project."

In addition to balancing these factors, Erica also runs an extensive livestock operation. With more than 100 chickens and more than 50 Boer goats and sheep, she also finds time to raise show animals, exhibit 30-40 head of livestock at the county and state fair and run her own "Amazing Eggs" business. For this work, Erica was also honored at State FFA Convention as a regional star in agri-business. She also received her state FFA degree this spring.

With this schedule, it's clear that the little preschooler who refused to nap still doesn't miss a thing. "Sometimes I worry about her doing too much," Matt said. "But, she tells me she's just fine. She found her passion, and now she is just chasing after it."

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SMITH *continued from page 1*

ing 'clean' oats sources, and he finally found an oats farmer who he believed was an oats source safe from contamination.

With the help of Pow-

ell's local FFA support group, Smith purchased his first table-top oats mill for \$235.

"I could only mill about two pounds every half-

hour," Smith explained. "So I would have to start some oats rolling, go watch TV or do homework, then come back and start some more. It was a long pro-

cess."

However challenging, Smith continued to operate his business like this for over a year and a half. But halfway through his sophomore year in high school, he was forced to change oats distributors.

"I kind of thought that would be the end of it," he said. But, Smith soon found another distributor in the father of one of his fellow FFA members. After inspecting his fields and getting certified, Smith was back in production, but on a much larger scale.

Because of the increase in oats he had available, Smith decided it was time to expand. As a high-school student, Smith was too young to take out a private loan to purchase the equipment he needed to expand. So, he formed a Limited Liability Company (LCC) in a three-way partnership between him, his father and his mother.

"My parents took out another loan on their house to cover it. They really believed in me that I could do this," Smith said.

Now, Gluten Free Oats sends out 20-30 orders each day, each consisting of several two-pound bags of its product. The company has distributors in nearly every state in America and has even shipped to customers in Canada, Taiwan and Australia.

Keycee Eisele, the state FFA officer who visited Smith's project last January, said, "The fact that his business has grown so progressively is unbelievable. To go from that little table grinder to the huge warehouse he runs now is just great."

Smith said he has no plans to halt production just because he no longer lives at home. While he studies business management at Northwest College, he still finds time to put in at least three to four hours of work each weekday at the business.

"We're still improving," Smith said. "We're still trying to find more efficient ways to make the oats flow through the production line."

But he also said he knows the company will be in good hands when he graduates with his associate's degree next spring.

"By the time I leave, the business is going to be completely on its feet," he said. "And when I come back, I'm going to buy back my parent's shares of the company and take it over full-time."

Smith plans to go to the California Baptist Ministry College and get a bachelor's degree in youth ministry. His father began working for the company full-time about six months ago and will run it while Smith

is in California.

When he returns, Smith said his focus will still be on putting out a high-quality product. Even though the United States doesn't currently have established standards for 'gluten-free' production, Gluten Free Oats has its own standards. Smith said they inspect their product to ensure it has a gluten contamination of less than 20 parts per million. He explained this standard is like trying to find two dimes in a pile of 10,000 pennies.

"My family knows what it is like to get sick from this disease," he said. "So we really don't want to cheat people. It's very important that we take care of our product."

Eisele said: "Forrest deserved winning the state star so much. He has worked so hard on this project. It is just incredible that he took his diagnosis at age two-and-a-half and made it into a great thing for his family and other people who are Celiac."

Besides a booming business and promising employment future, Smith said the greatest thing about starting Gluten Free Oats five years ago is its effect on customers.

"This has really just been our blessing from God. It's great to see that God has given us something that lets us help so many people," he said.

FFA enjoys 4th fantastic feed

Cheyenne – The fourth annual convention member dinner was a great success due to the efforts of great volunteers and the generosity of great sponsors.

As a kick-off to the 81st Wyoming FFA convention the foundation hosted the 4th annual member dinner. The dinner was coordinated by Lindsey Gee with help from Sean Allen of Primo's Pizza, who also supplied the meal. Members were treated to pizza, a warm pasta dish, sub sandwiches, salad and a drink.

PacifiCorp of Casper, the Wyoming

The member dinner is held the first night of convention when members and chapters are busy competing in various contests on tight schedules. By offering dinner the Foundation allows members, coaches, chaperones and advisors to relax and enjoy dinner and down time without the hassle of boarding busses and running about Cheyenne then rushing through dinner to get back to the contests on time. It's a great time to picnic in the bleachers of the Laramie County Community College arena and enjoy fellowship with members from across



Dinner coordinator Lindsey Gee, 2007-2008 Wyoming FFA President Nancy Thoman and Primo's Pizza Owner Sean Allen during the dinner held for FFA members during the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

Business Council's Agribusiness Business Division and the Cheyenne Kiwanis, a group that also sent several volunteers to serve, sponsored this year's dinner. Cheyenne Farm Bureau agent Warren Ayala supported the cause, as well as Cheyenne Frontier Days, Central Landscaping of Casper, Bill and Judy Johnson of Cheyenne and Farm Bureau of Laramie County.

the state. At this year's dinner over 600 members were served. Leftover food was taken to the Comea House shelter.

The Foundation Board would like to thank the generous sponsors, coordinators, and volunteers who make this dinner possible. If you are interested in helping with the 2009 dinner, please contact the foundation Executive Director.

SCHILT *continued from page 2*

people with passion, vision, drive and creativity to put it together. If you think you are one of those people please contact the Foundation and we'll try to get you in touch with others. My personal vision for a state alumni is that they would be the hands of a state wide support group while the Foundation would be the pocket book, if you will.

Moving on we find ourselves at the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp. Camp is an independent non-profit entity operated by the Western Institute of Leadership for Life. W.I.L.L. WILL is Camp, and Camp is WILL. The camp has its own board of directors known as the WILL Board. They partner with the foundation on some financial matters. I've been on the camp staff for a few years now and I

would offer to any parent of an FFA member, it is a great place for growth if you can spare your student for a week.

Finally that brings us to the Foundation. The foundation is in many respects the funding arm of Wyoming FFA. It is made up of a great number of people who support Wyoming FFA members, many of whom you can read about in this newsletter, with financial or other donations. (We recently had a nice family donate an International 300 utility tractor.) The foundation is guided by a board of directors representing several sectors and locations around Wyoming. We have people in banking, energy, ranching, agribusiness, state government, news media and more.

As the funding arm of Wyoming FFA we are con-

stantly looking for more opportunities to partner with individuals and businesses to grow the financial base for all Wyoming FFA members. We work with chapters that may not have an alumni as well as those that do. One line of thinking we embrace is that if there is a program that the Association would like to offer students, we'll try to find funding to make that happen. If you are interested in helping the Foundation with a program you read about in this issue, or have another partnership in mind, please contact us. Our numbers and other contact information is included in this publication.

Well, that's the view from 20,000 feet. For more information on any part of Wyoming FFA please contact your local Ag. Teacher or a Foundation member. Thanks for tuning in!

STATE *continued from page 1*

Round two and three were the group interviews. "These phases determine a candidate's willingness to work in a group and discover team dynamics," says Brown. "As a new twist to the process, instead of having a written FFA knowledge test, the candidates had to prepare a greeting as if they were state officers attending an FFA event."

To wrap things up, candidates had one last

personal interview as a last chance to "show their stuff" to the nominating committee.

"Whether a candidate got a state office or not, the experience was most certainly unforgettable," says Brown.

As Wyoming FFA State President Ty McNamee of the Shoshoni FFA Chapter puts it, "In the end, the entire experience of running for a state office was a great time."

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Emily Horton: Wyoming native, FFA alumnus excels at John Deere

From blue and gold FFA jackets to brown and gold University of Wyoming jerseys, Wyoming-native Emily Horton has strong allegiances. Now her loyalty is paying off as she proudly represents the green and yellow tractors that keep much of the agriculture world running.

Horton grew up near Riverton raising row crops and cattle and as a State and National FFA Officer she distinguished herself as the girl who loved the green steel of John Deere. It was her passion for the agricultural machinery maker that eventually led her to the career of her dreams.

"I love my job. Being a part of the process to bring solutions to producers and help them be successful is something I am very passionate about," she says.

As a University of Wyoming student majoring in agriculture business, Horton landed an internship with John Deere in 2006. Horton made a lasting impression and after graduation she had a job waiting for her. She went into a marketing representative program and her first venture was with John Deere Harvester Works

in Moline, Ill. There she helped introduce the new 70-series combines to more than 5,000 dealers across the country.

There is no rest for the ambitious and Horton's second project was coordinating a customer fly-in program where she was responsible for everything except packing the customer's bags. During the project Horton also took on the task of opening a retail store at the factory's visitor center. She was involved at all levels of the project from choosing room fixtures, to selecting merchandise to hiring a manager.

And that was just the first six months on the job.

Horton's career path then took her from Illinois to Des Moines, Iowa where she now works at John Deere Intelligent Vehicle Systems (IVS). Her role at IVS is in product development.

"My job is to ensure the voice of the customers is heard, as we engineer future precision ag products," Horton says.

Iowa doesn't have Horton for long as she faces yet another move -

this time to Idaho. With the arrival of June Horton began a new job as a crop systems specialist. This position involves helping dealers in their business



related to sprayers, tillage, seeding equipment and precision farming products in Montana, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Horton says she is happy to be moving closer to home and closer to Cowboy football games.

This new position will have Horton logging long miles but traveling is something she is accustomed to. As the 2004-2005 National FFA Secretary, Horton traveled all across the country and even to Japan.

"The traveling part doesn't bother me," she says. "My goal is to help

ensure that we are providing solutions for customers that enable them to be more productive and profitable in their operations."

Her experiences, she says, have also given her a strong foundation for success in her career.

"My experiences in FFA, on the Wyoming Board of Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee and being involved in Wyoming agriculture on the family farm have helped me immensely," Horton says. "I experienced different types of agriculture and how producers run their operations. Without these experiences I would not be able to relate to customers and understand their needs."

The customers she serves have also taught her a lot about the agriculture industry nationwide. Horton has learned that customers' perceptions change based on geography and situation. She says she sees and experiences different approaches to farming and ranching, different labor systems and different perceptions related to challenges.

"I knew about Wyoming grown row crops and irrigation and I knew

about ranches with cattle and hay," she says. "Through this career I have expanded my customer knowledge and am a part of the process to provide customers solutions that help them become more profitable and more productive."

Although there are many regional differences, Horton also finds universal trends among the nation's agriculturists.

"Whether it's Wyoming, Iowa or Arkansas, farmers and ranchers are committed to production agriculture as a career and lifestyle," Horton says. "They want to be a part of putting quality food on tables around the world while pursuing a way of life they truly enjoy."

Horton's work with John Deere is rewarding, but the dream job isn't without challenges and sacrifices.

"I really miss Wyoming, the people and the mountains," she says. "I miss having 500,000 close friends."

Being away from her home state is especially tough for Horton who is a Wyoming girl through and through. In Wyoming she could be found scream-

ing at a Cowboy Football game, tackling tough issues as a WDA Youth Advisory Committee member and sharing her passion for agriculture on a daily basis.

"I have been a lot of places and seen a lot of things and there is no place in the world like Wyoming," Horton says. "Nowhere else can you look at the Owl Creek mountains while operating a windrower or sit at 7200 feet on Saturdays in the fall."

Horton says she is able to make other places feel like home because she can find ways of appreciating them. But no matter what, Horton will always have the brown and gold running through her veins.

"Regardless of my love for the job and the opportunities, I keep Wyoming in my heart everyday," Horton says. "No matter where I'm at, I'm keeping true to my Wyoming principles and am representing who we are."

Article, written by Liz LeSatz, reprinted with permission from the Wyoming Livestock Roundup.

Retiring FFA officers reflect on their year of service

This past year has flown by for the 2007-2008 State officers. It has been filled with many fun times, as well as some challenging times. We would like to thank all of those who have helped us throughout the year and made this year special and memorable for all. Without everyone's support of this wonderful association, this year could not have been as successful.

We started the year off with different camps and workshops to help us as state officers be able to better serve our members. We then attended the Wyoming State Fair, helped with shows and the FFA exhibit hall. In October, we attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana for a week. When we returned home, we had two short weeks to prepare for F.I.R.E./I.C.E Conference in Douglas at the state fairgrounds. December was busy planning for chapter visits.

In January, all state officers were traveling around the state for two to three weeks visiting chapters and giving state degree candidates the State Degree test. The best part of our adventures traveling around the state was being able to talk to

the members and present workshops to the chapters to help them develop their skills for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. In February, we joined Governor Dave Freudenthal as he signed a proclamation declaring National FFA Week. We also started planning for state convention.

April 9-12 was the culmination event for not only this past year's state officers, but for the chapters as well. Approximately 950 members attended the 81st Wyoming FFA State Convention and competed in many different Career Development Events (CDE's). All four sessions during convention were based around a different genre of music to help with this year's theme, "Rock Solid from the Inside Out."

The Wyoming FFA Association says, thanks again for this past year and for everyone's support of the 2007-2008 State officer team. You all are truly "Rock Solid from the Inside Out" and good luck in the future.

Nancy Thoman, Beth Wood, Burt Andreen, Matthew Bowen, Con Trumbull, Kaycee Eisele, Saige Albert and Kayla Lynch



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