AGADEMICS
FEBRUARY 2018

COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
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New Publications

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Minimizing Extreme Weather Impacts: Cover Crops 101

Iron Deficiency Chlorosis in Wyoming

Wyoming Small Acreage Irrigation
New Videos
By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Garden Rotation
Plant Hardiness Zones
Shrub Pruning
Winter Care for Young Trees
Juniper Pruning
Strawberry Patch Cleanup
Living Christmas Trees
Dividing Perennials
Plant Pressing
Winter Livestock Feeding
La Nina
Proposals Submitted

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

- **Alexander, Brenda, Enette Larson-Meyer, and Jason Gigley**: $84,976 to National Pork Board for “UVB Exposure and the Immune Protective Effects of Synthesized Vitamin D in Swine.”
- **Bisha, Bledar**: $133,447 to AB Sciex Pty Ltd for “Improvement and Validation of a Mass Spectrometry Method for Microbial Identification.”
- **Collier, Timothy**: $18,405 to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for “Biological Control of Wyoming Weeds.”
- **Edwards, Jeffrey, Jeremiah Vardiman, Brian Sebade, Hudson Hill, and Douglas Zalesky**: $15,000 to Colorado State University for “ATV Safety Training for ATV Users in Agriculture and Natural Resource Industries in Wyoming.”
- **Edwards, Jeffrey, and Daniel Tekiela**: $22,975 to Environmental Protection Agency for “Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program (PSEFMP).”
- **Ernest, Holly**, and Beth Mendelsohn: $1,000 to Raptor Research Foundation for “Great Gray Owls in the Range-Edge: Population Genomics and Ecology of an Elusive Raptor.”
- **Freeburn, James**: $349,724 to Utah State University for “Professional Development Program Administration and SARE Fellows.”
- **Guo, Wei, John Oakey, Jun Ren, Jay Schneider, and Ying Ge**: $200,000 to American Heart Association for “The Novel Insights of RNA Binding Proteins in Cardiac Muscle Function.”
- **Islam, Anowar**, Christopher Graham, and Cody Creech: $9,661 to South Dakota State University for “Forage Genotypes and Variety Testing for Growth, Yield, and Quality Potential in Northern Plains.”
- **Latchininsky, Alexandre, and Larry Debrey**: $111,079 to USDA APHIS for “Wyoming CAPS Infrastructure, Wyoming CAPS Bundled Small Grains, Wyoming CAPS Nematode Surveys.”
- **Maczko, Kristie, and John Tanaka**: $176,000 to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for “Benefits from Prescribed Fire on Rangelands - Applying Usable Science to Increase Awareness.”
- **Maczko, Kristie, John Tanaka, and John Ritten**: $120,000 to USDA NRCS for “Keeping Expiring CRP Lands in Grass Using NRCS Conservation Programs - Assessing Success.”
- **McLeod, Donald**, and Scott Lieske: $466,689.41 to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture for “Determining the Relationship between Development Pattern and the Costs of Public Services.”
- **Murphy, T., and Whitney Stewart**: $10,320 to U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council for “Evaluating Livestock Feed Value of Lentil Screenings Sampled Throughout the Northern Great Plains.”
- **Murphy, T., Whitney Stewart, M. Van Emon**: $24,129 to National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, “Quantifying Trace Mineral Status of Western Ewes During Critical Porduction Periods.”
- **Norton, Urszula**, and Emmanuel Omondi: $209,969 to National Science Foundation through Rodale Institute for “Improving Ergothioneine Concentration and Nutrient Density of Grains and Vegetables with Mushroom and Mycorrhizal Fungal Cultures.”
- **Scasta, Derek, and Timm Gergeni**: $24,712 to Utah State University for “Evaluating the Relationship between Soil Health, Forage Quality and Grazing Capacity at the Ranch-Scale in a High-Elevation Steppe.”
• **Schumaker, Brant**: $24,200 to Utah State University for “Comparing Seasonal Associations between Livestock and Wildlife in the Rocky Mountain Region.”


• **Stewart, Whitney, Warrie Means, and John Ritten**: $30,000 to American Lamb Board for “Quantifying the Economic Impact of Excessively Fat Lambs in the U.S. Lamb Processing Sector.”

• **Stump, William**: $33,000 to Bayer for “Investigations in Disease Management for Wyoming Crops.”

• **Van Diepen, Linda**, and Cinzia Fissore: $10,792 to Whittier College for “Changes in Mycorrhizal Interactions and Nutrient Exchanges between Tan Oak and Sequoias Following Sudden Oak Death Infestation.”

• **Vincenti, Virginia**: $2,500 to Phi Upsilon Omicron for “Elder Family Financial Exploitation: Risk and Protective Factors within Families.”

• **Wang, Qiurong**: $106,532 to American Heart Association for “Molecular Mechanism of Maternal Obesity Elevated Cortisol Induced Term Fetal Cardiac Dysfunction.”

• **Zhu, Mengqiang**: $8,000 to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for “The Influence of Vegetation on Soil Phosphorus Cycling Over Time in Semi-Arid Soils.”
Monies Awarded

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Maczko, Kristie, and John Tanaka: $150,000 from Public Lands Endowment Trust for “Evaluating Non-Fee Grazing Permit Costs in the Context of Social and Economic Characteristics of Public Land Ranchers.”
Presentations

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Seminar from Departments of Plant Sciences and Molecular Biology

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Department of Plant Sciences Seminars

Fridays, 1:10-2 p.m., Ag 2024

- **February 9** - “Exploring Local Implications of the Agroecology Movement,” Richard Vercoe, UW Geography, https://zoom.us/j/507364882
- **February 23** - “King George, Vampires and Herbicides,” Franck Dayan, Colorado State University Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, https://zoom.us/j/674932786

Department of Molecular Biology Seminars

Fridays, 2:10-3 p.m., Animal Science/Molecular Biology building, room 103

- **February 2**: “Regulating Bacterial Growth with Toxins and Nucleotide Signaling Molecules,” Michael Laub, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **February 9**: “Bacteria-Induced Gut Hypoxia Functions as an Essential Signal for Mosquito Development,” Michael Strand, University of Georgia
- **February 16**: “Oxygen-Dependent Glycosylation Regulates the Ubiquitin/Proteasome System in Toxoplasma and Other Protists,” Christopher West, University of Georgia
- **February 23**: “Listeria and the Harnessing of Innate Immunity,” Laurel Lenz, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Changing Faces, Changing Places

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Welcome:

- **Harshbarger, Shaily**: UW Extension Lincoln County, 4-H educator (1/8)
- **Lewis, Livy**: UW Extension Wind River Indian Reservation, Cent$ible Nutrition Program assistant (1/8)
- **Martin, Mary**: Cent$ible Nutrition Program state office, office associate (1/8)
- **Newlin, Brittany**: UW Extension Laramie County, 4-H administrative assistant (12/18)

Farewell:

- **Sussex, Tansey**: UW Extension Laramie County, 4-H educator (1/16)

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Two days of sessions by University of Wyoming and Utah State Extension educators and resource specialists from both states filled the second-annual Wyoming-Utah Ag Days in Evanston in January. The event was hosted at the Evanston Roundhouse.

No slides are available in this gallery
More than 31 topics highlight this year’s Fremont County Farm and Ranch Days

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Profitable ranching and an eye on the weather are subjects of lunch speakers during Fremont County Farm and Ranch Days Wednesday-Thursday, February 7-8, in Riverton.

More than 31 sessions are offered this year in the fairgrounds Armory Building in addition to private pesticide training classes, says Chance Marshall, University of Wyoming Extension educator.

Sessions and lunches at the 34th annual event are free.

Retired farm and ranch manager and consultant Burke Teichert is Wednesday’s lunch speaker. His career spans managing several ranches in the U.S., Canada, and Argentina, in addition to ranch acquisitions.

“He developed a reputation for organizing ranches to be very cost-effective and profitable with very efficient, small crews,” notes Marshall. “He is also a proponent of planned, time-controlled grazing for improved soil health and ranch productivity.”

“Climate Change and Weather Outlook” is Don Day’s subject for Thursday’s lunch.

Day started DayWeather Inc. soon after graduating from the University of Wyoming in 1992 by providing customized forecasts for 14 radio stations in Wyoming. The network has grown to nearly 80 across four states in the Rocky Mountain West and High Plains.

Sessions begin 9 a.m. both days, and topics include a livestock market outlook, rancher’s rules of thumb, alternative crop options, DNA barcoding to understand livestock and wildlife diets, sheep parasite management, water regulations, alfalfa weevil management, ag leasing, breeding mares, food preservation, retirement planning, and Wyoming grizzly bear status.

Contact Marshall at 307-332-2363 or at cmarsha1@uwyo.edu for more information.

Download schedule as PDF.
Organic grain, vegetable, and livestock producers will share information about their operations during the High Plains Organic Farming Conference in Cheyenne this February. The fifth-annual meeting is Tuesday-Wednesday, February 27-28, at Laramie County Community College, says Jay Norton, University of Wyoming Extension soils specialist and conference organizer.

“This year’s conference is shaping up to be the best yet, with concurrent symposia focused on dryland grain systems, intensive vegetable production, and livestock systems, plus a keynote address on the changing policy environment in Washington, D.C.,” says Norton.

The detailed agenda is at www.highplainsorganic.org.

A half-day organic certification workshop Tuesday afternoon features step-by-step procedures for getting and staying certified, says Norton, an associate professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

The day includes a session on record keeping and a panel discussion including producers who have participated in technical and financial assistance programs for organic transition and certification.

Producers will share information for dryland systems, intensive vegetable production, and livestock systems Wednesday morning, followed by concurrent technical sessions featuring scientists and educators from Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming during a total of 16 sessions that day. Poster presentations on current research, plus many information and vendor booths, will be on display both days, says Norton.

The producer sessions are always popular, he notes.

“Those talks generate enthusiastic discussions about the many ways to accomplish production, marketing, weed management, personnel management and certification in the many types of farming operations,” says Norton. “Those discussions set the tone and carry through the whole day.”

Michael Stein, policy associate with the Organic Farming Research Foundation in Washington, D.C., is the keynote speaker in the afternoon. He will discuss policy issues for organic agriculture and the 2018 Farm Bill.
4-H educator begins Jan. 8 in Lincoln County

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Shaily Harshbarger began as the University of Wyoming Extension 4-H educator in Lincoln County January 8.

Harshbarger will be in the Lincoln County Extension Office in Kemmerer.

A 2017 graduate of Kansas State University, she holds a bachelor’s degree in animal science with an emphasis in business and a minor in business. Harshbarger interned with the University of Wyoming Extension 4-H Program in Lincoln County in 2016.

She has been involved in 4-H and FFA programs in which she participated in livestock, dairy and horse judging in addition to a variety of leadership roles.

Shaily Harshbarger
The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was well represented at the Denver National Western Stock Show in January. The college’s Ag Ambassadors and interns provided information about the college and university throughout the show’s January 6-21 run.

Pistol and Pete represent the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and the University of Wyoming at the National Western Stock Show parade in Denver on January 4. With Travis Smith, left, and Doug Zalesky, both from the Laramie Research and Extension Center.

UW Livestock Judging Coach Caleb Boardman judged the 2018 NWSS Market Lamb Show.

Back, from left, Braxton Crofts, Jared Marquardt. Front, from left, Kristy DeGering, Rylee Anderson, Katie Shockley

Rylee Anderson at the UW kiosk.
From left, Mike Day, head of the Department of Animal Science, Kristy DeGering, Katie Shockley, Ashley Hyche, Jared Marquardt, Braxton Crofts, Rylee Anderson, Sarah Kauer
Wyoming 4-H’er wins Denver stock show catch-a-calf competition

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Albany County 4-H’er Kyle Despain and his market steer entry won the Catch-A-Calf competition at the National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show in Denver in January.

Despain competed against 34 other 4-H’ers and entries from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Despain attends Laramie High School and is the son of Becky and Johnathan Despain. He is a member of the Critter Creek 4-H Club.

“I can tell you he is one of the nicest, most humble young men,” says Mary Louise Wood, Albany County 4-H educator. “He’s always willing to help others and is a true hard worker. He is a great representative of what the Catch-A-Calf program is all about.”

The market animals are judged on rate of gain, quality of fitting, and carcass quality, according to stock show information. The exhibitor is judged on showmanship, their record book, and a personal interview.

Individually, Despain won the showmanship competition, was second in the live placing class with the steer and second in sponsor relations. He placed third in the overall production phase and was fifth in record books and in interviews.
Youth nutrition education program effort draws UW Extension honor

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Cent$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) educators who updated and expanded a curriculum implemented in elementary schools across the state have received the organization’s Community Impact Award.

The educators helped incorporate new materials and activities into the curriculum and trained other educators on the program. Grazing with Marty Moose is the program’s curriculum for second and third graders. The honor was presented during University of Wyoming Extension’s training conference in December on the Laramie campus.

Educators and their home counties are Marilou Vaughn, Fremont; Krista Brown and Michelle Hans, Natrona; and Beth Barker, Uinta.

CNP director Mindy Meuli says the curriculum was updated in 2016 and implemented last year.

“Without the hard work and creative ideas of this group, this new Marty Moose program would not have been possible,” she says.
Larson-Meyer, Guo earn Agricultural Experiment Station research awards

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

A University of Wyoming professor who is advancing understanding of nutrition’s role in the performance of casual exercisers to elite athletes and an assistant professor who seeks to improve meat quality by investigating prenatal influences in livestock have received research awards from the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES).

“I am always impressed by the quality of nominations we receive for these awards. I also find it interesting that this year’s winners utilize livestock species to study human health, and in both cases, their research has implications for both livestock and humans,” says Bret Hess, associate dean of research in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and WAES director. He and Dean Frank Galey presented the awards in December in Laramie.

Enette Larson-Meyer of the Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences earned the Outstanding Research Award for her investigations on how diet and exercise influence skeletal muscle metabolism, energy balance, and the prevention of obesity. Her research has explored how nutrition influences the health and performance of active individuals at all stages of life and levels of performance.

She has also explored the influence of vitamin D on health and human performance and exposing animals to sunlight as a way to increase the nutritional value of pork and other animal foods.


Wei Guo in the Department of Animal Science received the Early Career Research Award. A major research focus of the Guo laboratory is fetal programming or how physiological characteristics of the developing fetus can be influenced by environmental events with lasting effects. Guo is studying the life course impact of fetal programming on striated (skeletal) muscle development and function.

His long-term goals are to develop therapeutic strategies for striated muscle diseases and improve meat quality and quantity in livestock. His program has attracted more than $1 million from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the American Heart Association. Guo joined the University of Wyoming in 2013.
Frank Galey, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Wei Guo, assistant professor in the Department of Molecular Biology; and Bret Hess, associate dean of research and Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station director.
Service to Cent$ible Nutrition Program earns Coordinator of Year Award

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

The Cent$ible Nutrition Program (CNP) educator serving Lincoln and Uinta counties received the program’s Coordinator of the Year Award.

Beth Barker received the honor during University of Wyoming Extension’s training program in December on the Laramie campus.

CNP director Mindy Meuli says Barker is a standout team player. Barker has served on numerous state committees, trained new employees, helped recruit participants for two multi-state research projects, and began covering another county in addition to her home county, Uinta.

She did this while graduating 62 adults and 279 youths in the two counties, notes Meuli.

Beth Barker
Wind River efforts prompt Educator of the Year award

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Cent$ible Nutrition Program educator Kelly Pingree received the program’s Educator of the Year award.

Pingree, who serves the Wind River Indian Reservation, was presented the honor in December during the University of Wyoming Extension’s training conference.

CNP director Mindy Meuli notes Pingree’s program had 79 graduates and a 44 percent increase in participant physical activity last year. The CNP curriculum has 17 hands-on lessons.

Meuli says Pingree serves on the Shoshone Cultural Foods project committee, is planning a gardening project in partnership with the Eastern Shoshone 477 Program, and has helped with a number of policy, system, and environmental changes at the Warm Valley Senior Center.

Kelly Pingree
A nutrition educator who helped establish a community garden in Greybull to donate fresh produce in Big Horn County received the Cent$ible Nutrition Program’s (CNP) Linda Melcher Award.

Kristy Michaels received the honor during the University of Wyoming Extension’s training conference in December on the Laramie campus. Melcher, a past CNP director, developed the program in Wyoming. The award goes to an educator who embodies the spirit and essence of CNP, notes Mindy Meuli, CNP director.

“With little direction and a lot of motivation and a vision, Kristy played a key role in developing a community garden that donated more than 310 pounds of fresh produce to organizations serving low-income people in Big Horn County,” says Meuli.
Program recognizes outstanding staff, faculty

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

College staff and faculty members received recognition during the dean’s Employee Recognition Program in December.

The Agricultural Experiment Station also presented its outstanding faculty and student research article awards for Reflections magazine.

Dean Frank Galey presented Kelly Greenwald, an administrative assistant at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture and Research Extension Center near Lingle, and Marissa Gannon, an accounting associate in the Department of Molecular Biology, with his outstanding employee awards.

Students recognized outstanding teachers and advisers in the college. Senior lecturer Rachel Watson in the Department of Molecular Biology received the Lawrence Meeboer Agricultural Classroom Teaching Award. Assistant Professor Chian Jones Ritten in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics was presented the Outstanding Adviser Award.

Associate Professor Anowar Islam in the Department of Plant Sciences and Mary Martin, University of Wyoming Extension educator based in Teton County and serving northwest Wyoming, received Outstanding Educator Awards. Nominations are reviewed by a committee of a dean’s office representatives, an academic department head, and a previous award recipient, with final recommendations to the dean.

AES Director Bret Hess presented two awards for outstanding faculty research papers in the station’s Reflections magazine. Associate Professor Randa Jabbour received recognition for her paper quantifying alfalfa weevils and their predators in the Big Horn Basin. Associate Professor Dan Wall received the award for his article detailing myxobacteria social behaviors and how it recognizes and exchanges beneficial material through cellular contact.

Graduate student Lee Noel received the Outstanding Student Paper award for his article examining environmentally safe grasshopper control. His adviser was Professor Alex Latchininsky.

No slides are available in this gallery
Goshen County 4-H educator honored for innovative programming

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Innovative programming and working across generations are among reasons Goshen County 4-H educator Megan Brittingham received the Newer Employee Award from the University of Wyoming Extension.

Brittingham was presented the honor during extension’s December training conference in Laramie.

She joined UW Extension in 2010. Nominators said Brittingham successfully works with teens to senior citizens and includes all members of groups in starting and evaluating programs.

She worked with local businesses and the local school district to start a chick-hatching project in eight Goshen County elementary classrooms. She determined which breeds would be most successful and obtained the necessary equipment. The project extended beyond the school year with students seeing their hatched chickens at the county fair.

She also spearheaded creation of the Wyoming 4-H Theater Camp. Extension educators worked with college theater departments to bring theater and arts education into the Wyoming 4-H Program.
Diversity efforts earn Crook, Weston County 4-H educators extension honor

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Diversity efforts earn Crook, Weston County 4-H educators extension honor

4-H educators in Crook and Weston counties were recognized by the University of Wyoming Extension for their diversity education efforts.

Stacy Buccholz in Weston County and Sara Fleenor in Crook County received extension’s Diversity Enhancement Award during the organization’s training conference in December on the Laramie campus.

The two worked with teen 4-H leaders to create workshops and menu ideas that incorporated cultural diversity at the Crook-Weston County 4-H Summer Camp.

4-H’ers were able to experience different countries and learn about cultures, global challenges and participate in hands-on activities while they learned.

Madden joined extension in 2008 and Fleenor in 2012.
Extension fraternal organization honors educators

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

The Wyoming chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) honored members for excellence during the University of Wyoming Extension training conference in December.

ESP fosters excellence in extension.

Recently retired educator Phyllis Lewis was selected for the Wyoming Chapter Continuing Excellence Award for a 22-year history of effective nutrition education in Wyoming and for state and national participation in ESP. Her most recent team effort was the Food For Thought Project.

Educator Caitlyn Youngquist received the Wyoming Chapter Early Career Award based on effective combinations of teamwork, engaging research, embracing communities, and coordination of annual events. Her recent collaborative efforts include the retail pesticide education project with educator Caleb Carter and hosting a Western Area Livestock and Agriculture Risk Mitigation training with Scott Cotton, and coordinating WESTI Ag Days each year.

The John P Elbogen Foundation was chosen for the Chapter 2017 “Friend of Extension Award” in recognition of the support and sponsorship of innovative extension projects in Wyoming.

The McMurry - Paying It Forward Foundation was chosen as the 2018 “Friend of Extension Award” recipient in recognition of over 20 years and $50 million in support for youth programs in Wyoming and direct support for 4-H and the University of Wyoming.

Scott Cotton was selected as the National Distinguished Service Award winner for the Western Region based on an exemplary career in animal and range management science in addition to decades of national leadership in the field of agro-security and agriculture disaster mitigation training.
Sigma Phi, and group member Jodee Jacobsen, left, presents the 2018 Friend of Extension Award to Susie McMurry, secretary, and Trudi McMurry, director of the McMurry Paying It Forward Foundation.

Caleb Carter receives the Wyoming Chapter Distinguished Service Award from Scott Cotton.

Caleb Carter, left, and Caitlin Youngquist accept the Wyoming Chapter Continuing Excellence Award from Scott Cotton on behalf of retired educator Phyllis Lewis.

Scott Cotton of the Wyoming Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi presents educator Caitlin Youngquist with the chapter's Early Career Award.
Hayman receives UW Extension’s highest honor

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Vicki Hayman, Weston County nutrition and food safety educator for the northeast area, was awarded the Jim DeBree Excellence in Extension Award – UW Extension’s highest honor – during extension’s annual conference in Laramie in December.

Whether handing out recipes and food samples at farmers markets, teaching menu planning and how to read a nutrition label, or team teaching food safety practices with the local health inspector, Hayman engages with people to help them improve their lives.

“Vicki includes innovative approaches and multiple teaching styles to expand her audience and increase program impacts,” says nominator Denise Smith, nutrition and food safety educator in Niobrara County.

As a member of extension’s Healthy Eating Focus team, Hayman teaches food preparation skills, Dining with Diabetes and other Chronic Diseases, and the Real Food program, all with hands-on learning and resources to ensure healthy changes last after classes end.

Publications and curricula co-developed or authored by Hayman include Cooking It Up! Diabetes-Healthy Recipes Everyone Will Love, Cooking It Up! Friendly One-Pot Meals from Your Pressure Cooker, the Real Food curriculum, Calcium Science Investigation (CSI) curriculum, and the Wyoming 4-H Fabric and Fashion Manual.

Hayman promotes interaction and cooperation among agencies and organizations through a variety of roles, says Smith. These include adviser, coalition member, facilitator, and liaison.

The Jim DeBree Award is named in honor of the retired Wyoming extension administrator and given each year to an extension employee who demonstrates a high level of professionalism, performance, and leadership within their program areas and communities.

Hayman joined UW Extension in 1997 and is based in Newcastle.
Smith earns WAES staff award

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Travis Smith, beef unit manager for the Laramie Research and Extension Center (LREC), has earned the 2018 Kathleen Bertoncelj Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) Staff Award. Smith was recognized in December for contributions in the three areas of the University of Wyoming land-grant mission – research, teaching, and outreach.

He ensures approximately 250 beef cows are bred, fed, grazed and remain healthy; livestock research is managed with reliable experimental controls; and UW classes and student employees gain real-world experience.

In research, Smith has helped coordinate experiments for faculty investigators and graduate students, including the logistics of moving animals, synchronizing breeding protocols, supervising calving, and managing animal handling and sampling. Smith often contributes to scientific papers, which in 2015 included serving as co-author on research published in the Journal of Animal Science and Rangelands.

In his teaching role, Smith has coordinated student laboratories for UW beef production classes and taught artificial insemination and breeding exercises. Smith has served as adviser and co-adviser for the UW Ranch Horse Team, helped re-establish the UW ROTC mounted color guard, and supervises student workers.

Smith has gained notoriety for managing Pistol and Pete, the pair of Haflinger draft horses that pull the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources sheep wagon and other wagons in parades and events around the state.

Friends and supporters made gifts to establish the Kathleen Bertoncelj AES Staff Award in 2016. Bartoncelj is a former senior office associate in AES who worked at UW for 38 years, the last 16 in WAES.

As the research unit of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Wyoming AES funds and actively promotes investigations to increase agricultural productivity, natural resource stewardship, and community well-being. The LREC is one of four research and experiment stations AES operates around the state.
Grasshopper management team earns UW Extension Creative Excellence Award

By Tanya Engel | February 2018

Team members who develop innovative grasshopper control methods for public use have received the University of Wyoming Extension Creative Excellence Award.

Members of the UW Extension Entomology Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Team, Alexandre Latchininsky, Scott Schell, John Connett, Douglas Smith, Cindy Legg, and Lee Noel, have applied entomological research to forecasting and control.

UW entomologists began to explore efficient, economical, and less hazardous methods for grasshopper control in the 1990s under the leadership of Professor Jeff Lockwood. Now their integrated pest management methods have been adopted in 17 Western states and in countries from Mexico and Argentina to Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Australia, notes UW Extension associate director Kelly Crane, who presented the award in Laramie in December.

The team issued an early warning in 2010 for a significant grasshopper outbreak in Wyoming. They established a communication strategy and delivered training and information to more than 900 landowners and various public agencies through workshops and public meetings.

State-level grasshopper response in Wyoming was the largest in the U.S. According to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Protection and Quarantine program, methods developed by the team resulted in protection of nearly six million acres. Savings to the state were estimated to be $11.6 million.

In a letter of recommendation, professor Furkat Gapparov of the Uzbek Institute of Plant Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources stated, “In order to protect rangeland and crops from severe losses to locusts and grasshoppers, most countries are using tons of toxic pesticides applied to millions of hectares. This is costly, often inefficient and has enormous negative impact on human health and the environment.

“For two decades, Dr. Latchininsky’s team has provided worldwide leadership developing creative, efficient, economically viable and environmentally acceptable strategies for locust and grasshopper management,” he says.