

WSF Equine updated
UW Extension specialist Amy McLean notes that the Wyoming State Fair Equine Show has seen some changes this year, including increased testing requirements..Page 2

Preparing for fair
A trio of Casper 4-H and FFA members describe their process of preparing for Central Wyoming Fair in the first installment of this year's county fair features.....Page 6

Memories of WSF
With 100 years of Wyoming State Fair behind us, Jennifer Womack looks at highlights from the past and asks for help identifying attendees of the 1947 event.....Page 10

Lamb assessments
American Lamb Board Chairperson Nick Forrest explains the proposal for increasing the assessment rate for the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order.....Page 15

QUICK BITS

Hot and Dry

The Wyoming Crop Weather report for the week of June 11 noted that hot, dry weather continues to take a toll on crop and range conditions. Concerns about water, pasture and hay supply continue to worsen as stock water supplies were rated at 47% short to very short.

Beef Highs

The All-Fresh beef price, which includes Choice, Select, store-grade and "no-roll" (ungraded) product, reached a record-high of \$4.69/lb. last month, up 0.4% from April and 5.5% from May of last year. The price of Choice beef declined for the third straight month, falling 2.1 cents to \$4.97.

Grazing Passes

On June 19, the Grazing Improvement Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives with a 232 to 188 vote. The act, introduced by Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho), has a companion bill in the Senate and, if passed, will lengthen the life of grazing permits from 10 to 20 years.

Computer Work

The National Science Foundation released the list of the first seven projects the National Center for Atmospheric Research's super-computer will work on when it comes online this fall in Cheyenne, and all are from the University of Wyoming.

EIS Issued

USDA APHIS issued the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Roundup Ready sugarbeets, and the preferred alternative is non-regulated status. APHIS is required to issue a Record of Decision within 30 days of publication of the final EIS, or by approximately July 9.



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Consortium continues brucella research in new directions

Laramie – The impact of *Brucella* on livestock in the Greater Yellowstone area and human health around the world is significant, and members of the Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS) continue working to address the issues caused by the disease.

bring scientists together from around the country to bring a concerted effort to find funding and begin researching a better vaccine, better tests and a vaccine delivery system for brucellosis in elk, cattle and bison," explained UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Frank Galey at the group's June 14-15 meeting in Laramie. "We felt it was very important to bring this group together to provide an update on what is going on and to brainstorm how we can keep the momentum going."

Brucella abortus is the bacterial strain causing brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area, and the current vaccine, RB51, has proven to be only partially effective.

"If we could have a better vaccine – a silver bullet – that would be ideal, but I don't think it will happen in my lifetime," commented Director of the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. "Please see CABS on page 5"

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Resource bank Pathfinder Ranch embarks on mitigation bank project

Alcova – Mitigation banking is the practice of restoring, creating and enhancing existing resources, and right now Pathfinder Ranch in southern Natrona County is developing a bank that will provide mitigation offsets for development.

"A mitigation bank provides compensatory offsets to impacts," says Michael Fraley of Pathfinder Ranch.

He gives as an example an developer who is developing a project with an unavoidable impact.

"If they don't have offsets to their impact on-site, they're still required to offset that impact," says Fraley.

The mitigation bank that Pathfinder is setting up would provide offsets to a variety of third parties, including oil and gas development, as well as wind, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, etc. The Sweetwater River Conservancy will oversee the project.

"The federal government has said they want to see mitigation done instead of other types of offsite offsets," notes Fraley. "We want to facilitate all types of business in Wyoming in a responsible manner."

Fraley says the bank was originally envisioned to "Please see BANK on page 7"

Diversified ag Guest ranch gives family years of memories

Laramie – As a young man, Lefty Cole enjoyed the time he spent on his family's ranch in the Laramie area. Cole attended college at the University of Wyoming and began working for a company that would one day give him an executive title.

"When I got out of college I thought it would be nice to make enough money to be a rancher. When my career started out I was able to be outside for most of my work. It then became a suit and tie job when I was given the title of executive. Executive just didn't fit me well. I decided I would come home and buy a ranch," recollected Cole.

The Vee Bar Ranch was one of three stops on the Wyoming Business Council's annual Diversified Ag Tour, which was held on June 19 in the Laramie and Centennial areas this year.

Financial options

Upon buying the ranch, Cole and his family knew they needed to make changes in their operation in order to make money, and pay off the loans that were taken out to purchase cattle. Cole's son Kelly, an engineer, started to build log homes. He wanted to start a business constructing the houses.

"Please see TOUR on page 4"



Allie Leitza photos

Farm Bill clears Senate

The Senate approved sweeping new U.S. farm legislation on June that would cut almost all traditional farm subsidies while expanding a costly crop insurance program, but chances are slim the bill will pass this year.

Passed by a 2-1 margin, the Senate's \$498 billion five-year farm bill would compensate growers when revenue from a crop falls, rather than prop up prices. The bill saves at least \$23 billion by cutting crop subsidies, conservation funding and food stamps for the poor. Crop subsidies provide the bulk of the savings.

"This is about reform. This is about reducing the deficit," Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow told a celebratory news conference.

The House Agriculture Committee will not begin work on its bill until mid-July, just before a five-week recess.

Agriculture Committee leaders in the House and Senate disagree on fundamental points for the new farm law, ranging from how much to cut spending to how extensive reforms should be. The House wants much deeper cuts in food stamps and \$10 billion more in cuts overall than the Senate and would offer higher price supports to farmers when the Senate would end them.

"Maybe we've done something special here," said Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kans.). "Even in the middle of an election year, we can get something done."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urged Congress to keep the farm bill moving forward.

"Swift action is needed so that American farmers and ranchers and our rural communities have the certainty they need to continue strengthening the rural and national economy," Vilsack said in a statement.

Hefenieder helps on family farm

Worland – Al Hefenieder grew up on the family farm and feedlot operation, and since returning from college, he has become an integral part of the operation.

"I farm with my dad, his two brothers, my cousin and grandpa," says Hefenieder. "All of our help is family."

Hefenieder graduated from Northwest College in Powell this May with a degree in Farm and Ranch Business Management and says he hopes to farm as long as he can.

The Hefenieders' operation consists of over 1,000 acres of farm ground, as well as a feedlot operation that custom feeds 3,000 cattle during the winter months.

Custom feeding

"We don't own any cows," clarifies

Hefenieder. "It's all custom feeding. We mix our own feed."

Hefenieder notes that the calves they take in are backgrounded and fed a primarily roughage diet, rather than high-energy corn.

"We aren't pushing anything real hard," he explains. "They are on a more roughage diet, so they are developed and grow better."

The operation feeds a large number of cattle that go to grass or are shipped to other states for fattening.

"We feed a lot of cattle to about 800 pounds, and they are shipped to Nebraska, Kansas or Texas where they are closer to the big packing houses," explains Hefenieder. "It's more cost efficient to fatten

"Please see FARM on page 4"



periodical

periodical

CABS continued from page 1

icine (VMRCVM) Valerie Ragan. "We need to work with and improve what we have."

Promising research

Professor of Bacteriology Nammalwar Sriranganathan's research at VMRCVM is aimed at improving the current RB51 vaccine by increasing the immunity of animals to the bacterium.

"Can we enhance the level of protection or broaden the immune response to protect animals?" asked Sriranganathan. "I think we need to look at *Brucella* as a whole."

Sriranganathan also noted that in order to provide continued protection antigen must be produced *in vivo*, or in the live animal.

In his experiments, Sriranganathan genetically enhanced RB51 to influence increased immunogenic ability of the vaccine. His experiments in mice proved to be promising and showed increased protection in challenge studies.

"*In vivo* expressed antigens are important – they are essential to providing the necessary level of protection," he explained, adding that the enhanced RB51 showed a significant level of protection in mice. "Ninety-nine percent of the organism (*Brucella*) is cleared from a challenge in two weeks."

Sriranganathan's research may provide a promising new development in increasing the effectiveness of the RB51 vaccine in clearing a *Brucella* infection.

"This strain of RB51 protects mice at significant levels against *B. abortus*," concluded Sriranganathan.

New directions

Into the future, CABS decided that pursuing a vaccine targeted at livestock, rather than wildlife, would be a more advantageous direction of focus.

"Worldwide, this is a livestock issue," commented Assistant Director of the Louisiana Agriculture Experiment Station Phil Elzer. "If we stop the livestock disease, the human aspect goes away. Wildlife is secondary worldwide."

With potential developments in improving RB51, Elzer also looked at the potential for Strain 19, saying, "We all know that Strain 19 works."

The problem with using a Strain 19 vaccine is the inability to differentiate between Strain 19 and a field strain of *Brucella*, which would result in cattle testing positive for brucellosis after being vaccinated, and while RB51 works, Cook said that there are doubts about its ability to offer cattle long-term protection.

"One approach is to

change the diagnostic paradigm," noted Veterinary Epidemiologist for USDA APHIS Pauline Nol, adding that if Strain 19 could be differentiated from a field strain of *B. abortus*, the vaccine provides protective immunity for six to eight years.

Research complications

While scientists across the country are working hard to attempt to develop a new brucellosis vaccine, the classification of *B. abortus* as a select agent means that it can only be used for challenge studies at the USDA Agriculture Research Service laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

"We are to challenge with Strain 19," commented Elzer. "The select agent rules are very detrimental, especially for those of us who want to do a virulent challenge – it inhibits large animal research."

Using Strain 19 in attempting to challenge vaccines makes research difficult because the strain isn't identical to *B. abortus* and may respond differently to vaccine.

With the select agent list up for review in 2013, the CABS committee noted hope of getting *B. abortus* removed from the list, which would enable increased research with the pathogen.

Farm Bill provision

The group also identified funding as a primary issue, but Galey's work with Congress provided for the inclusion language in the Farm Bill regarding funding for zoonotic diseases with a reservoir in wildlife, focusing on *B. abortus* and tuberculosis.

"I made contact with Sen. Debbie Stabenow to get funding for this class of

"If we could have a better vaccine – a silver bullet – that would be ideal, but I don't think it will happen in my lifetime. We need to work with and improve what we have." – Valerie Ragan, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

diseases," explained Galey. "The language did make the Chairwoman's mark of the next version of the Farm Bill, and the U.S. House is still working on their own version. We are hoping to get language in there as well."

He added that current amendments to the Senate version of the bill do not

affect the language, but support is necessary to obtain funding.

"We're going to have to have outreach and get our stakeholders involved," commented Galey.

Saige Albert is managing editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at saige@wylr.net.

Brucella affects human health worldwide

Laramie – While brucellosis is a relatively minor problem in the United States, primarily affecting livestock and wildlife populations in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Director of the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Valerie Ragan noted that *Brucella* affects human health around the world.

"In much of the world, brucellosis is still a major disease because of the effect it has on humans," explained Ragan at the June 14 meeting of the Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science. "It causes a disease called undulant fever or Malta fever."

Ragan described symptoms of undulant fever as being similar to a flu that never goes away.

"People not only feel bad, but they become unable to be productive so it affects the economies of a lot of countries," added Ragan. "People are not productive, and animals are not productive."

Brucellosis occurs in much of the world, and she noted that very few countries are brucellosis-free.

"The problem is getting rid of it," Ragan said. "Most countries have it at some level."

Fire burns across Converse Co

Douglas – Fire crews were able to gain ground and work toward containment on the Russell's Camp Fire in southwest Converse County. The fire, which covered over 2,700 acres on June 21, began on June 17.

It has been driven to the north and east by high winds, dry fuels and high temperatures. Residents were evacuated from homes and cabins along Cold Springs Road, near the east boundary of the fire.

The fire is burning primarily on the Medicine Bow National Forest, as well as on state and private lands. It is located approximately 32 miles south of Glenrock and has burned north over Buffalo Peak, south of Squaw Mountain and west to East Box Elder Creek.

The cause of the fire, which has been burning since Sunday, is under investigation. Updates can be found on Twitter at @MBRNFsTBNG, hashtag #RussellsCamp-Fire or at inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/2917/.



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Hole in the Wall Ranch	125	Steers	425	\$227.00	Chad Sedgwick	102	Steers	615	\$179.00
Hole in the Wall Ranch	220	Steers	475	\$212.00	Bacon Ranch	200	Weaned Steers	625	\$175.50
Hole in the Wall Ranch	135	Heifers	400	\$215.00	Bacon Ranch	100	Weaned Heifers	550	\$181.00
Bixby Cattle Company	236	Steers	440	\$217.00	Cross Canyon Ranch	87	Steers	660	\$171.00
Bixby Cattle Company	240	Heifers	425	\$207.00	Goggins Ranch	70	Steers	685	\$170.00
Coalville Calf Pool	110	Steers	465	\$206.00	Goggins Ranch	80	Heifers	600	\$166.00
Coalville Calf Pool	220	Heifers	480	\$194.00	G.C. Young Cattle Co	80	Weaned Steers	610	\$183.00
Marc & Michele Shaules	200	Steers	490	\$199.50	Tom, Richene & Blake Boschee	250	Weaned Steers	565	\$185.75
Marc & Michele Shaules	200	Heifers	475	\$188.00	Beck Brothers	550	Weaned Steers	675	\$169.50
Meadows Ranch	200	Steers	500	\$196.50	Beck Brothers	350	Weaned Heifers	625	\$157.50
Bruckner Farms	310	Steers	510	\$195.00	Point of Rocks Angus Ranch	164	Weaned Steers	725	\$170.25
Bruckner Farms	220	Heifers	450	\$187.00	Thad & Nancy Hereim	350	Steers	590	\$177.75
Kimmel Ranch Partnership	92	Steers	525	\$189.50	David J. Kjelgaard	84	Steers	600	\$177.00
Kimmel Ranch Partnership	96	Heifers	500	\$182.00	Hughes Newford Co	200	Steers	600	\$174.00
S Bar B/Davies Ranch	330	Steers	530	\$198.25	Ratzburg Livestock	370	Steers	600	\$172.75
S Bar B/Davies Ranch	610	Steers	570	\$182.00	DeMars Ranch	85	Steers	650	\$171.00
Barthelmess Ranch	226	Steers	530	\$193.50	DeMars Ranch	81	Heifers	625	\$166.00
Barthelmess Ranch	111	Heifers	450	\$186.00	Sauerbier Ranches Inc.	142	Steers	680	\$167.00
Hofeldt Livestock	90	Steers	550	\$185.00	Jim & Carrie Bignell	160	Steers	675	\$169.00
Hofeldt Livestock	90	Heifers	525	\$176.00	Rock Creek Ranch #1	570	Steers	680	\$172.00
Fred & Sandy Miller	90	Steers	570	\$182.00	Rock Creek Ranch #1	300	Heifers	590	\$174.00
Fred & Sandy Miller	90	Heifers	560	\$174.50	Coalville Calf Pool	220	Steers	675	\$165.50
Gordon & Sheila Young	110	Steers	510	\$192.50	R and R Bronec	310	Steers	725	\$169.25
Gordon & Sheila Young	168	Steers	625	\$177.75	R and R Bronec	90	Weaned Heifers	625	\$162.00
Gordon & Sheila Young	105	Heifers	485	\$176.00	C S Angus	87	Steers	720	\$170.00
Richard Kehler	90	Steers	520	\$195.00	Martinsdale Colony	162	Steers	740	\$166.75
Richard Kehler	170	Steers	620	\$178.00	Martinsdale Colony	89	Repl Heifers	675	\$159.00
Half Moon Ranch	110	Steers	550	\$183.50	Jim Judisch	140	Steers	800	\$166.00
Half Moon Ranch	100	Steers	600	\$174.00	Jim Judisch	75	Heifers	750	\$162.00
Half Moon Ranch	95	Heifers	540	\$175.50	TD Farms	170	Steers	720	\$175.00
Chris & Gari King	194	Steers	515	\$198.00	Matthews Ranch	190	Steers	800	\$150.50
Chris & Gari King	85	Steers	585	\$181.00	C Bar J Ranch	82	Steers	825	\$154.50
Chris & Gari King	108	Heifers	500	\$179.00	Sieben Ranch Co.	127	Steers	850	\$153.50
Greg Bumgarner	92	Steers	550	\$185.00	Sieben Ranch Co.	127	Steers	850	\$153.50
Skelton Ranch	110	Steers	550	\$180.00	Chevallier Ranch Co.	200	Steers	850	\$155.75
Skelton Ranch	250	Steers	600	\$176.75	Greet Ranch Inc.	172	Steers	850	\$162.75
Skelton Ranch	260	Heifers	500	\$180.00	Ridenour Land & Cattle LTD	69	Steers	850	\$153.75
Earl Stucky Ranch	400	Steers	575	\$180.50	Buffalo Head Ranch	345	Steers	900	\$150.25
Earl Stucky Ranch	290	Heifers	545	\$176.50	Sunlight Ranches	1500	Steers	900	\$148.50
Skip Olson	104	Steers	575	\$181.00	WJ Rothwell Ranch Co	130	Spayed Heifers	820	\$148.50
Udy Ranches LLC	102	Steers	585	\$173.00	WJ Rothwell Ranch Co	220	Spayed Heifers	880	\$150.00
					Sunlight Ranches	1000	Spayed Heifers	865	\$149.35



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