



WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

The Weekly News Source for Wyoming's Ranchers, Farmers and AgriBusiness Community • www.wylr.net

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Quick Bits Hall of Fame

The *Wyoming Livestock Roundup* will extend the deadline for nominations for the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame until June 12. Nomination forms can be obtained by calling 307-234-2700 or by visiting wylr.net. Two individuals or couples will be inducted into the Wyoming Ag Hall of Fame on Aug. 16.

Inventories



A May 9 issue of the *Daily Livestock Report* noted that feedlot inventories of cattle on feed over 120 days for feedlots with capacity of 1,000-plus head hit the lowest levels in 10 years. Daily slaughter data for April, which indicates feedlots marketings during the month, increased 2% over last year.

Hay Stocks

The May 2017 *Crop Production* report from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed hay stocks on Wyoming farms and ranches at 360,000 tons, a 31% drop from last year. Hay production for 2016 was 2.28 million tons, 1% lower than 2015 production. Disappearance from Dec. 1 to May 1 was 1.04 million tons, compared with 775,000 tons during the same period one year ago.

Heart Disease

Months after a study showed eggs reduce strokes, cardiologists in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* discovered eggs, butter and other sources of saturated fat do not clog arteries. The new culprit is inflammation, more specifically sugar, which leads to inflammation

Colo. and Wyo. foresters gather for annual meeting in Casper

Casper – On May 11-13, the Society of American Foresters hosted their annual Colorado/Wyoming meeting, featuring educational talks and discussions led by presenters from around the country.

During the Wyoming Interagency Timber Meet-

ing on May 11, State Natural Resource Advisor for U.S. Senator Barrasso, Travis McNiven, talked with attendees about the current political climate and recent changes at Capitol Hill.

Positions

Things are continuing to progress with Presi-

dent Trump's cabinet, said McNiven.

"On April 28, he just nominated a gentleman by the name of David Bernhardt to be undersecretary, so he joins Secretary Zinke there at the Interior," he commented.

On April 24, the Senate

confirmed Sonny Purdue as the Secretary of Agriculture.

"There's no doubt that a lack of a secretary has slowed the transition process and that really impacts the forest service," noted McNiven. "We hope that

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Grazing amendments

Forest Service authorizes allotment amendments

On April 18, the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region released a supplement to their *Grazing Permit Administration Handbook* addressing permits with term status.

"Most allotment owners have been restricted to hard 'on-off' dates regardless of forage availability. Now, allotment owners will be able to seek better utilization of the forage through 'shoulder' season extensions," said Redge Johnson of the Utah Office of the Governor in an e-mail to permittees. "We have been working with the Forest Service for about a year now requesting extensions where they make sense for full utilization of forage on the range."

Jim Magagna, executive director of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, commented that the document provides more flexibility for livestock owners to extend grazing seasons based on pasture availability.

"It's too bad that this kind of document is necessary," Magagna commented.

"In the past, if a livestock owner needed to

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LEGACY of LEARNING

Longtime rangeland ecology and watershed management professor to retire

Laramie – After 50 years of Extension and education work, 37 of those years at the University of Wyoming (UW), Associate Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management Dan Rodgers is officially retiring from his position.

As he reflects back on his career at UW and his experiences working in Wyoming, one of the highlights for Rodgers has been helping students discover their passion for learning and rangeland man-

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Teaching – Every summer, Dan Rodgers helps teach youth from around the state how to identify plants during Wyoming Resource Education Days. Courtesy of University of Wyoming Extension

USDA certifies rural business fund

Acting Deputy Undersecretary Roger Glendenning today announced that USDA has certified the Innova Ag Innovation Fund IV LP as an investment pool for small and startup rural businesses.

"This certification is another tool USDA provides to help rural businesses, to create jobs and to attract private-sector capital to rural communities," Glendenning said. "Geography should not be a barrier to economic success. This pool will offer rural business owners the same access to capital as their counterparts in metropolitan areas."

The fund will support 30 to 45 companies that have the potential to generate more than \$200 million in economic activity and create 600 jobs. It will provide capital for high-growth companies in the biosciences, technology and agricultural technology industries. The fund is the second USDA has certified under the Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP). RBIP funds support USDA's strategy for rural economic growth.

For a fund to receive USDA certification, its managers must demonstrate that they have venture capital experience and that they have successfully worked with community development organizations.

Farm Credit System members are contributing \$31 million to the Ag Innovation Fund. The Farm Credit System is a nationwide network of banks and lenders specifically chartered to serve agriculture and the U.S. rural economy.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; homeownership; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit rd.usda.gov.

USDA undergoes agency overhaul

Washington, D.C. – On May 11, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue announced an overhaul in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's organization structure, including the creation of an undersecretary for trade and foreign affairs and consolidation of several agencies.

Purdue's reorganization efforts recognize "the ever-increasing importance of international trade to American agriculture."

Purdue issued a report to announce the changes, which address Congressional direction in the 2014 Farm Bill to create the new undersecretary for trade and also are a down payment on President Trump's request of his cabinet to deliver plans to improve the accountability and customer service provided by

departments.

"Food is a noble thing to trade. This nation has a great story to tell and we've got producers here that produce more than we can consume," said Secretary Purdue. "And that's good, because I'm a grow-it-and-sell-it kind of guy. Our people in American agriculture have shown they can grow it, and we're here to sell it in markets all around the world."

Changes

Among the changes made to USDA, Purdue created a new undersecretary position, the undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs.

"Agricultural trade is critical for the U.S. farm sector and the American

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