



Dear Educator,

I am honored to introduce you to the Wyoming Stewardship Project. I want you to know, this unit was written with you and your students in mind. Developing this project has been a thoughtful process and multi-year commitment to offer lessons for classrooms across the state.

Wyoming educators, in collaboration with field experts and the Wyoming Department of Education, wrote, piloted, and revised the unit you are about to teach in your classroom. We are tremendously grateful for their efforts. These units are not intended to be a burden but were created purposefully to be easy-to-use, cross-curricular, and comprehensive. Units build on each other throughout the grades. However, they can be used independently without loss of integrity.

Found in the Educator Essentials document is everything needed to be prepared to teach this unit. We outline the Higher Order Thinking Skills and how to identify them throughout the units. We have compiled a material list of everything you need to complete all lessons: worksheets, PowerPoints, and video links are included in individual lessons. Additionally, a '101' sheet has been included to give you background information for the highlighted industry in Wyoming.

Our hope for the Wyoming Stewardship Project is to empower students to be our critical thinkers and problem solvers of tomorrow. We believe the stewardship definition captures the overall intent: As Wyoming citizens, we are stewards entrusted with the responsible development, care, and use of our resources to benefit current and future generations.

Thank you again for your effort in the classroom, presenting these lessons to your students, and helping advance this pivotal project for our state. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions!





Jessie Dafoe

Executive Director
Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom



Teacher Preparation and Required Materials

The critical work of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) involves breaking down complex material into parts, detecting relationships, combining new and familiar information creatively within limits set by the context, and combining and using all previous levels in evaluating or making judgments. Within each lesson you'll find reference to the Higher Order Thinking Skills that are part of the work students will be doing using language from Bloom's Taxonomy: Analysis, Synthesis, Application, and Evaluation.

- Analysis skills are used in areas with this symbol: 
- Synthesis skills are used in areas with this symbol: 
- Application skills are used in areas with this symbol: 
- Evaluation skills are used in areas with this symbol: 

The following ideas and content will be important to know for this unit:

- Basic map skills/features (Title, Key, Compass Rose)
- Meaning of stewardship (see included definition)
- Basic understanding of Wyoming agriculture
- Main types of livestock in Wyoming
- Main crops in Wyoming
- Basic knowledge of Wyoming counties
- How to write a friendly letter

- Become familiar with government agencies that deal with agriculture (Game and Fish Department, Conservation Districts, Animal Damage Management Board, etc.)
- Understanding of what predators and prey are
- Understanding of drought impacts

The following materials will be needed for this unit:

- Guest speaker from the agriculture Industry (if you choose this route instead of the videos) Refer to Lesson 5
- Index cards (3 per student)
- Poster-size sheets of paper
- Masking tape
- Purple paper to cut into strips
- A large space to play a tag game
- A whistle
- Markers (a different color per student)



AGRICULTURE 101

Wyoming Agriculture Statistics at a glance:

- The value added to Wyoming's economy by the agricultural sector totaled \$1.72 billion in 2016.
- Of that total, animals and animal products accounted for \$1.084 billion, crops totaled \$338 million, and farm-related income totaled \$300 million.
- In 2016, 11,600 farms and ranches used 30.3 million acres to raise agricultural products in Wyoming.
- Farmer and rancher cash receipts totaled \$1.39 billion.
- Cattle and calves ranked as the largest livestock commodity raised in the state, followed by miscellaneous livestock (mostly horses and sheep), and hogs.
- Hay was the largest crop raised based on cash receipts, followed by sugarbeets, and barley.

*Provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wyoming Annual Bulletin, 2017

Wyoming Agriculture Overview:

Wyoming farms and ranches provide food, fiber, and open space. Farmers and ranchers make daily stewardship decisions for water, soil, rangeland, and the agricultural commodities they raise/grow. Agriculturists support communities throughout Wyoming, and the culture of hard work and neighboring help is noteworthy. Wyoming agriculture is not an easy business but a necessary way of life that farmers and ranchers pursue to provide for the nation's people, open space, and wildlife.

The story of agriculture in Wyoming started in 1830, when the first five cattle were brought to the state. Even then, it took almost another 40 years of cattle moving through Wyoming before large herds were brought to stay. The arrival of the railroad in 1867 started off the cattle boom in Wyoming. Free grass, a country hungry for beef, and railroad access for shipping provided the chance for businessmen to make money raising cattle. Raising sheep was also big business, and the sheep industry grew along with the cattle ranches. In fact, by the early 1900s, there were more sheep in Wyoming than cattle!

About that same time, homesteading acts began allowing settlers to claim pieces of land across the West. As the settlers arrived, the large areas of free grazing land used by the cattle and sheep men were broken into smaller pieces. This led to conflict between the different groups over the best uses for the land and resources. This time in history is now known as “The Range Wars” and includes events and people such as the Johnson County War, Tom Horn, and “Cattle Kate.” The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 changed the way grazing was managed on public lands and ended “The Range Wars.”

Many of the early settlers tried raising crops, as well as livestock. Farming in Wyoming was a unique challenge for the settlers because of the harsh weather conditions in our state. The rain water received each year is not enough to support most crops, and unless the settler was lucky enough to claim land near a stream or river, it was not possible to irrigate. Challenges in keeping crops watered led to building irrigation districts and water storage systems in several areas of the state. In areas without access to irrigation, dryland farming allowed farms to thrive.

By the 1920s, new farming equipment and technology encouraged the growth of larger farms and ranches and led to fewer small farms and ranches. Many are still family owned and operated today. As technology and culture have changed over the years, many people have moved into urban areas. In comparison, there are fewer farms and ranches remaining, but agriculture is still alive and well in Wyoming.

Today, dryland farming and irrigation have allowed Wyoming farmers and ranchers to raise crops that can thrive in our environment. Wyoming farmers raise hay, oats, barley, corn, beans, sugarbeets, and other crops. More than one million head of cattle, and over 350,000 sheep graze Wyoming’s grasslands, outnumbering the people here.

Wyoming is still one of the few states in the country with agriculture at its core, and our farmers and ranchers carefully steward the water, soil, and rangeland to make sure they are available for future generations.

Stewardship

As Wyoming citizens, we are entrusted with the responsible development, care, and use of our resources to benefit current and future generations.



