

2013
ANNUAL REPORT



“Growing Wyoming’s Next Generation”

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2013, what a year it has been for Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom. As we take a moment to step back and look at the year that has passed we are grateful and encouraged for the progress we have made. The following pages tell our story and commitment to Wyoming agriculture and natural resource education. The diversity, depth and strength of our programs has been 27 years in the making.

A portfolio of programs such as ours does not happen overnight or without support. We would like to thank the individuals, families and organizations that make our mission stronger each year. We are honored to serve the community of Wyoming in such an important and impactful way. It is easy to get caught in the busyness of these programs and not share the success and milestones WAIC is reaching.

This year we piloted curriculum kits, prepared 1st grade pilot kits for the spring of 2014 and continued our work and focus for the comprehensive curriculum. We have again revamped our Country to Classroom publication to meet the needs of students and educators and, as a result, our Bookmark Contest entries doubled. Grant money was awarded to continue youth projects across the state and 30 educators spent two and half days immersed in agriculture learning in Torrington, Wyoming. Over 5,000 students were reached through community events and Tomi Sue Wille was honored as our Educator of the Year.

Thank you for your current, continued and loyal support. Please visit our new website, join us for any program when you have a spare moment to support our mission of Growing Wyoming's Next Generation.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ellis - President

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom

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Congratulations to Tomi Sue Wille, WAIC Educator of the Year! The top photo shows Wille on a fieldtrip with her students. The bottom photo showcases Wille being honored for this award by the WAIC Board, Wyoming Senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso, and Congressman Cynthia Lummis.



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom (WAIC) honors an exemplary Educator of the Year who displays outstanding efforts and achievements in educating Wyoming's youth about agriculture and natural resources and the role these resources play in our daily lives. WAIC is pleased to present this prestigious award to Tomi Sue Wille.

Tomi Sue Wille is a 5th grade teacher at the Little Snake River Valley School in Baggs. Wille consistently teaches agriculture and natural resource related lessons in her classroom and during class fieldtrips.

In 2009, Wille organized and taught a natural resources expo for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from both Baggs and Encampment at a ranger station in the Medicine Bow Forest. In 2011, Wille taught Ag in the Classroom lessons to the entire elementary school. She brought in bum lambs and wool fleece, wool fabric and sewn wool garments, invited a local spinner to give a demonstration, and gave students a taste of roasted lamb meat. She has been trained by National Energy Education Development (NEED), and in 2012 she organized and taught energy science lessons to all the elementary students.

Tomi Sue chaired her School Improvement Committee and helped her school prepare for their AdvancedEd accreditation in 2008 and again in 2013. She strives to set a high quality example as a professional educator and helps other teachers to do the same. One of her favorite quotes is by John Lubbock, "If we succeed in teaching the love of learning, the learning itself is sure to follow." Congratulations Tomi Sue Wille!





BOOKMARK CONTEST

2013 marked the 19th Annual Bookmark Contest and we appreciate all the support and involvement that this program has brought to the overall vision of our organization. In 2013, our entry numbers nearly doubled with close to 700 bookmark submissions from students all across the state. The top 12 bookmark artists, family and educators were invited to Cheyenne to

celebrate their accomplishment. On May 17, 2013 a luncheon celebration was held at the Kiwanis Community House followed by a tour of the State Capitol and then a visit with Governor and First Lady Mead. WAIC greatly appreciates the supporters of this program and would like to highlight the 2013 bookmark finalists:

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



Student: Emma Nelson
Teacher: Mrs. Hutchinson
School: Fort Bridger Elementary



Student: Arundathi Nair
Teacher: Ms. Watson
School: Spring Creek Elementary

WEED & PEST



Student: Jhett Letellier
Teacher: Mrs. Snook
School: Hulett School



Student: Dawson Butler
Teacher: Mrs. Snook
School: Hulett School

FARM & CROP PRODUCTION



Student: Todd Paisley
Teacher: Mrs. Munari
School: West
Elementary



Student: Faith Anderson
Teacher: Mrs. Bennett
Mrs. Anderson
School: Campbell County
Virtual School

RANCH & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



Student: Brock Tamlin
Teacher: Mrs. Britton
School: West Elementary



Student: Leila Mosqueda
Teacher: Mrs. Schmitz
School: Rozet Elementary

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT



Student: Logan Bishop
Teacher: Mrs. Bishop
School: Homeschool



Student: Trevor Sweeney
Teacher: Mrs. Hutchinson
School: Fort Bridger
Elementary

WATER & SOIL



Student: Elizabeth Crowley
Teacher: Mrs. Munari
School: West Elementary



Student: Danni Larson
Teacher: Mrs. Pfister
School: Lusk Elementary
& Middle School

WYOMING AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom appreciates all the support to provide 30 educators a unique and memorable experience at the Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Science Institute. The Institute focused on providing teachers with tools and curriculum to utilize in their classrooms. The class hosted in Torrington was well diversified with teachers from all across the state, from Uinta to Crook County, and expertise ranging from elementary to high school educators. The only cost for educators was a registration fee of \$100 and WAIC covered food, lodging and materials with the support of sponsors. Continuing education credits (UW & PTSB) were available for all participants.

The support from the Torrington community could not have been more welcoming and we appreciate your above and beyond effort to bring educators an authentic experience. Below are the highlights and do not give justice to the tours, interactions and growth educators experienced. WAIC hosted a community night with speaker Bruce Vincent and was excited with the community involvement and interest in agriculture and natural resource education.

WAIC believes a hands-on experience for an educator is critical not only to understand agriculture, but value agriculture. Thank you again to the community for hosting us, all the presenters and to our sponsors who make this event possible.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

We surveyed participants before and after the Institute to gauge the impact of our program. Below is a snapshot of our results: Results show a distinct pattern of improvement in agriculture and natural resource understanding when looking at pre and post surveys with more than 80% of the participants responding with “Agree or Strongly Agree” after attending the Institute.

QUESTION 1

Understanding of what agriculture is in Wyoming.

QUESTION 2

Understanding of natural resources in Wyoming.

QUESTION 3

Understanding of the Wyoming Bean Industry.

QUESTION 4

Understanding of the Wyoming Beef Industry.

QUESTION 5

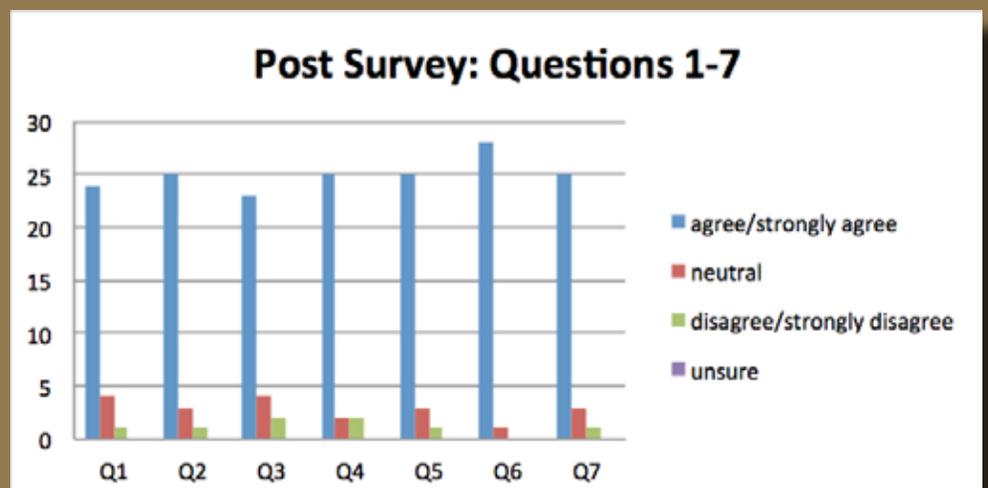
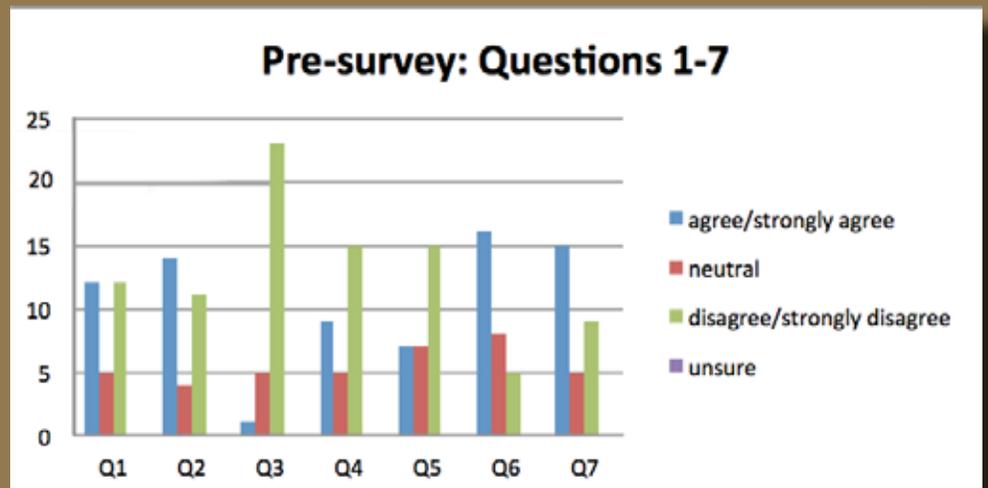
Understanding of the Wyoming Energy Industry.

QUESTION 6

I have a strong understanding of agriculture.

QUESTION 7

I have a strong understanding of natural resources.





PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

"I believe that I can do a unit on Agriculture and with the help of people I have met, I know that I can get any and all resources to make an AG unit a success!"

"I definitely saw the importance of teaching my students the information I gained during this workshop."

"THE CONFERENCE WAS EXCELLENT. IT WET MY APPETITE FOR MORE EDUCATION IN THESE AREAS."

"Bruce Vincent was Super!"

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Classroom Learning Sessions
- Unverzagt Farm Tour
- Kelley Bean Presentation
- Wyoming Table Mountain Vineyard Tour and Tasting

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ochsner Ranch Tour
- Torrington Livestock Markets - Sale Barn Tour
- Bruce Vincent, Educator Workshop
- Bruce Vincent, Community Event

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- University of Wyoming James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center
- Wyoming Mining Association Presentation
- Wyrulec Presentation
- Classroom Learning Session
- Classroom Material Auction

WYOMING YOUTH FOR NATURAL RESOURCES GRANTS

Wyoming Youth for Natural Resources (WYNR) is a grant program designed to encourage Wyoming youth to develop innovative wildlife, agriculture and natural resource conservation projects that incorporate education, technology, volunteering and service to others. The program is a collaborative effort of the Wyoming Community Foundation (WCF) and Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom (WAIC). Grant

funds are generated from an endowment created in 1999 by former Governor Jim Geringer. He established the endowment fund through the donation of proceeds from the sale of the Governor's complimentary hunting licenses as they are defined by Wyoming State Statute 23-1-705(a).

In 2013, \$23,093.75 was awarded to the following projects throughout the state:

HULETT HIGH SCHOOL

Project: Ecology Trip Across Wyoming



FRONTIER FFA CHAPTER

Project: Future Agriculture Resource Mobile



UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project: Ag-Con Presentation Contest



WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION

Project: Natural Resource Education & Conservation at the Wyoming State Fair



LOWER WIND RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project: Riverton Rendezvous Ponds



MOORCROFT ELEMENTARY/CROOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Project: Summer School 2013 at Devils Tower



WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project: Tree Species Education Project



COUNTRY TO CLASSROOM

The Country to Classroom is our annual fall publication for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. This publication is a foundational cornerstone for Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom. The first version was started at the kitchen table of a board member in 1988. We appreciate our humble beginning and thank our sponsors for the ability to continue the educational model today.

WAIC has changed the format from the traditional newspaper to a full color booklet. WAIC has also added an online element to the publication and encourages you to test your own agriculture and natural resource knowledge by visiting www.wyaitc.org. Through the support of our sponsors, WAIC covered the following topics and provided over 24,000 copies to students across Wyoming in 2013.

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCE:

Uranium in Wyoming

FARM & CROP PRODUCTION:

The Beginning of Crops in Wyoming, Germination

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT:

Wolves in Wyoming

RANCH & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION:

Grass, a Renewable Resource

WATER & SOIL:

The Story of Knightia, the state fossil of Wyoming

WEED & PEST:

Lifecycle of Wyoming Noxious Weeds

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom (WAIC) attended agricultural expos and events across the state this past year providing agriculture and natural resource education to students and educators. In 2013, WAIC premiered a new program: Leaders for Agriculture and Natural Resource Development (LAND). This program provided representatives all throughout the state to better accommodate involvement in Wyoming programs.

Through WAIC's travel over 5,000 students and 400 educators and community members were supported in 2013 events. We appreciate the opportunity for outreach and relationships with the communities across Wyoming. Thank you to all the supporters who make this outreach possible. Collaboration at the community level is highly valued by the WAIC Board and staff.

CLASSROOM CLASSIC

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom would like to thank all the sponsors, participants and The Golf Club at Devils Tower for making the 1st Annual WAIC Golf Tournament a success! Looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2014 - mark your calendars for June 22nd!

save your place in the...

WYOMING AG IN THE CLASSROOM GOLF TOURNAMENT

When: June 22, 2014
Where: Devils Tower, WY
Register by: June 9, 2014
Team Entry Fee: \$500.00

Agenda:
10:00 am Registration
11:00 am Shotgun Start
5:00 pm Awards Presentation

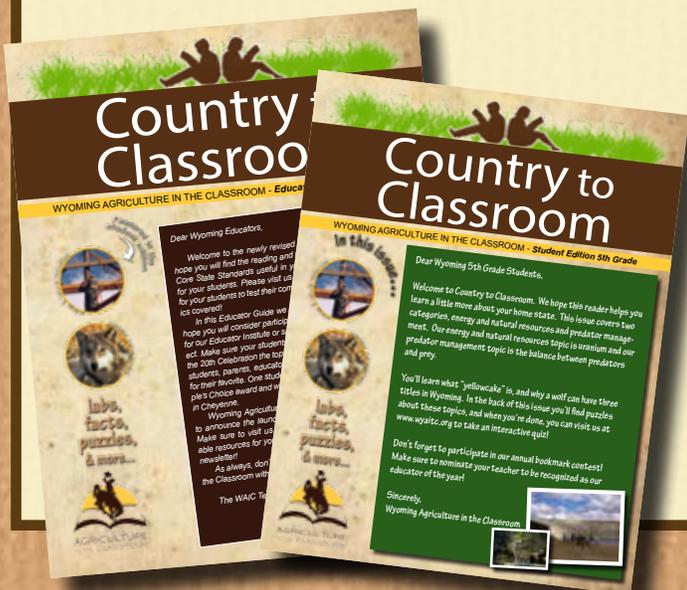
Lunch will be provided. The tournament includes a driving and putting contest.

All proceeds sponsor Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom programs and curriculum.

Sponsorships:
Bronze \$250.00
Silver \$500.00
Gold \$800.00

Event rate available at Best Western by calling (307) 467-5747.

To register contact Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom by visiting www.wyaitc.org or by calling (307) 369-1743.



K-12 CURRICULUM

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is continuing to move forward by providing a statewide comprehensive K-12 agriculture and natural resource curriculum. The process began with an initial agriculture and natural resource framework that encompasses Common Core State Standards. This framework serves as a foundation that has an education focus with an agriculture and natural resource emphasis.

The vision is to start at the kindergarten level and build on the concepts and values of the agriculture and natural resource industry each year. We know the pressures teachers face now are more stringent than ever. Our curriculum is not something additional for educators to consider but meets the current requirements of the classroom with the added benefit of providing agriculture and natural resource real world examples. The majority of our curriculum is project based. Lessons and materials provide educators an opportunity to engage students in a new and interactive way. The purpose of this curriculum is to ignite critical thinking skills in the classroom.

Students become our businessmen, community leaders and legislators without understanding the value and role agriculture and natural resources play in our daily life and economy. Our goal is to bridge that gap. WAIC does not view this as an isolated project, but a chance for the agriculture and natural resource community to join together and help grow Wyoming's next generation. Kindergarten was piloted in 2013 with great success and we are looking forward to piloting first grade in 2014.

Photos on this page show educators utilizing the Curriculum.



EDUCATOR COMMENTS:

"Taking real wheat, getting the seed, making predictions and using the flour mill - a lot of fun."

"Great lesson overall and fantastic integration."

"... helped bring things 'down to Earth' for the kids' everyday lives."

"They (students) loved being able to see the real natural resources in the jars."



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS. *We do not take the task of providing agriculture and national resource education lightly and want our supporters to know our efforts are as diligent as ever. Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.*

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(DONATIONS ABOVE \$1,000)**

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Wyoming Rural Electric Association
Wyoming Weed & Pest Council
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Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation

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(DONATIONS UP TO \$500)**

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LEGACY ENDOWMENT DONORS

Gretchen Swanson Family Foundation
Theo Hirshfeld
Elton and Mary Wells

*This list reflects donations received during the 2013 calendar year. We apologize for any mistakes or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections.

FINANCIALS

Assets

Cash & Equivalents	\$192,694.34
Receivables	\$0.00
Next Fixed Assets	\$5,021.61
Investments	
Legacy Endowment	\$1,843,315.31

TOTAL ASSETS \$2,041,031.26

Liabilities

Deferred Income	\$19,631.25
Payables	\$1,713.16

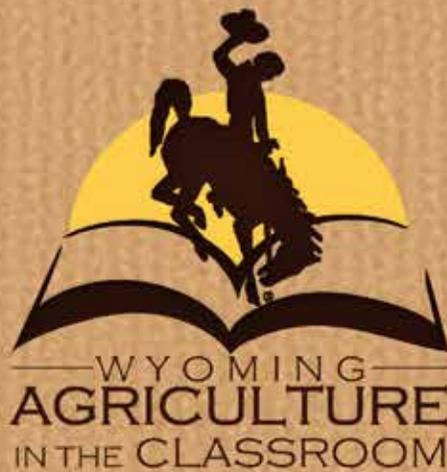
TOTAL LIABILITIES \$21,344.41

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$176,371.54
Restricted	
Legacy Endowment	\$1,843,315.31

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$2,019,686.85

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$2,041,031.26



“Growing Wyoming’s Next Generation”

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