Students visit the Lerwick Ranch in Albin, Wyoming as they conclude the pilot Wyoming Stewardship Project units.

Cowboy Chronicle

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom March 2017

Annual Bookmark Voting

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is celebrating National Agriculture Week by highlighting student creativity and their understanding of Wyoming's resources through the Bookmark Contest. Students from across the state have diligently worked to showcase our resources.

Thank you to the Wyoming Business Council for your help to develop a Wyoming map highlighting agriculture production all across the state.

This year the Bookmark Program was available to grades 2-5 and we received a record number of entries totaling over 3,000 with all 23 counties participating!

We need your help to select the People's Choice bookmark. Visit www.wyaitc.org and vote for your favorite artwork. Your participation encourages students to learn more about Wyoming's resources. **Make sure to cast your vote March 13-24th!**

2016 People Choice Award Winner: Blake from Lusk with Governor and First Lady Mead, Superintendent Balow, Director Miyamoto, and supporters.

Wyoming Stewardship Project UPDATE

We were excited to share with you in the last newsletter, an update of the Wyoming Stewardship Project with the mission for students to gain an understanding of Wyoming's vast resources and become informed citizens, capable of serving as stewards for Wyoming's future.

Last fall we had the opportunity to observe classrooms in Newcastle working through the units and we're excited for more classroom visits in 2017. Our travels have taken us to the Lerwick Ranch where they hosted Albin Elementary after they completed their pilot units.

It was amazing to watch all that the Lerwick family had prepared for the students. The week prior they had hosted grades K-3 and we were able to join grades 4-6 for the day.

Savannah Kirkbride (pictured) shared the following thought from the day, "The activity was very educational and tied in well with what we have learned in class about agriculture and stewardship."

The Lerwicks provided an opportunity for the lessons to become real. Students were able to watch a veterinarian preg check, understand feed ratios and walk through financial decisions ranchers face. It was a project-based day where students explored math, science and language arts. They were able to interact and ask questions based upon their work done previously in the pilot units.

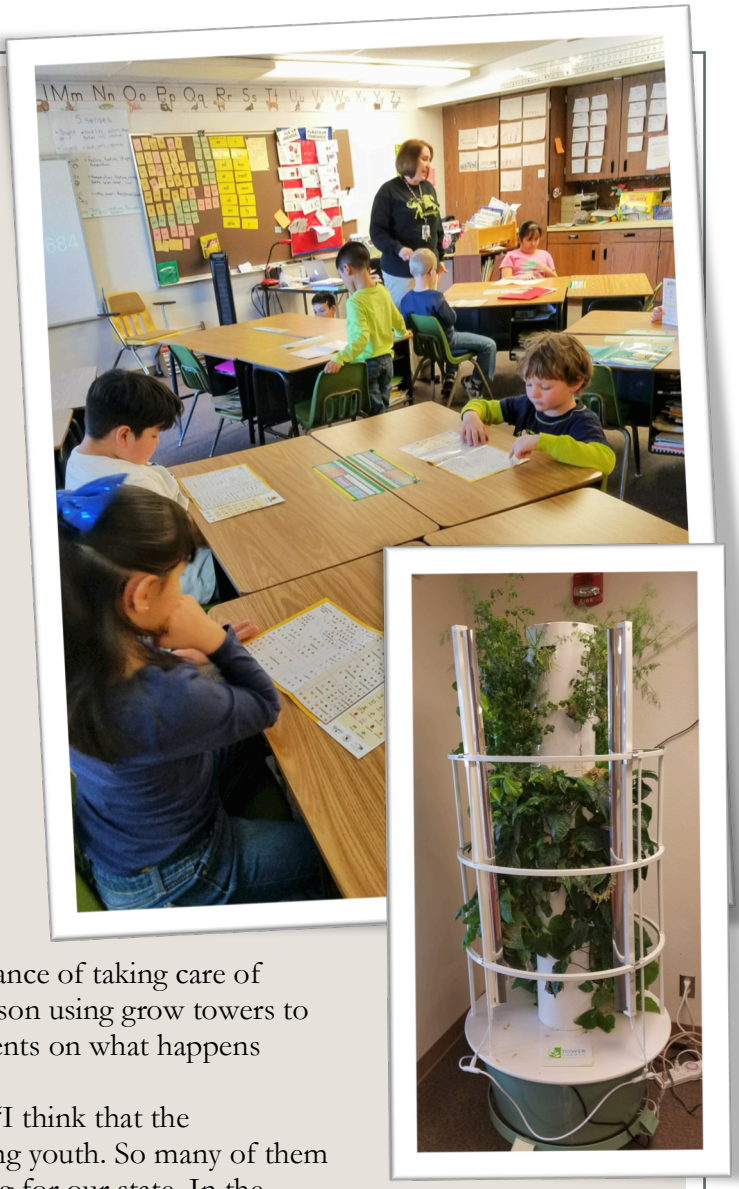
Students enjoyed many experiences including a chance to milk a cow, see baby calves as the calving season is in full swing for the Lerwick family and witness the inner workings of the ranch. It was encouraging for the students to see the multiple generations of the family taking part in the ranch activities. Students understood ranchers are stewards, no matter the weather or other obstacles they face, our Wyoming producers care for their livestock and provide for their families.

Tad Romsa, pilot educator, shared the following thought, "Through experiences gained with Wyoming Ag in the Classroom last summer, I began talking to local farmers and we have established what is hoped will be annual learning experiences with our local ag producers. The Lerwick family, along with other producers in the community, have provided our school with some very innovative field trips which expose students to real world 21st century learning. For me personally, Wyoming Ag in the Classroom was the catalyst and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the summer experience in Hulett as well as one of the curriculum designers for units. Without the experiences provided, it is likely none of this would have happened."

Work has already begun for sessions this summer to bring together pilot teachers from across the state to revise current units and develop additional units in June.

Students watching veterinarian, Dr. Berry Nicodemus preg check cows during a field trip to Lerwick Ranch in Albin.

A Note From:
Nikki Cowley, Board Member



The Wyoming Stewardship Project was derived from our desire to preserve the culture and resources we love. Pivotal to achieving this goal is helping our students identify Wyoming's vast natural resources, and creating a desire to be active stewards over their judicious use. These children are our future, and it is crucial to connect them with important questions like where their food comes from and how their homes are heated. Educators are integral in this pursuit, and we are grateful for their interest and support of this endeavor. As teachers around the state are implementing these lessons, it is exciting to see this mission unfold.

I had the pleasure of observing Ms. Jill Blazovich's 2nd grade classroom at Desert View Elementary School in Rock Springs, WY. Ms. Blazovich is currently piloting the lessons developed for our Wyoming Stewardship Project. I was able to listen as the class discussed the differences between farms and ranches, natural resources unique to Sweetwater County, and the importance of taking care of these resources. This 2nd grade class will soon start a lesson using grow towers to show seed to plant concepts. They'll also hold experiments on what happens when variables like water and sunlight are altered.

On the efforts of our program Jill commented, "I think that the stewardship project is a crucial program for our Wyoming youth. So many of them really don't know or understand the importance of caring for our state. In the elementary grades, they get only the history snapshot in 4th grade. What we really need is for them to see the value in all areas of Wyoming, and to want to become stakeholders in preserving that value!"

The students also worked on their bookmarks and were enthusiastic about sharing the scenes they had created. Ms. Blazovich embodied our vision as she engaged the children to appreciate the significance of our agricultural system and natural resources. We want to thank those who have supported our program, and encourage each of you to consider an avenue that will assist us in achieving this important goal.

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom
PO Box 347
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Thank You for Your Support

We greatly appreciate your investment in our programs!
Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.

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We received the following donations from January 1 to February 28, 2017.

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We received the following donations in the 2016 calendar year.

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*We apologize for any mistakes; please contact us so we can correct the error immediately.