



# — W Y O M I N G — AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

WINTER 2019



## The Wyoming Stewardship Project is Hitting the Highway!



Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom will be taking the Wyoming Stewardship Project to more classrooms than ever this year. Janet Wragge, our Wyoming Stewardship Project Director, has already begun visiting teachers across the state to introduce and support their implementation of the units and resources. Laramie Peak Motors, Platte Valley Bank, and WyoTech have generously provided a leased vehicle to further program efforts. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to follow Janet, "Zippy" the car, and "Andy" their antelope sidekick on their Wyoming adventures!



## **Congratulations to our 2019 Educator of the Year!**

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom would like to congratulate Ashlee Siedel, the 2019 Educator of the Year. Mrs. Siedel teaches 5th Grade at Big Horn Elementary in Sheridan County.

Siedel is active in her school, community, and Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom programs. She has been involved with writing and teaching units for the Wyoming Stewardship Project. Siedel

commented, "Participating in the Wyoming Stewardship Project has been a rewarding experience that has given me a greater appreciation for all the resources Wyoming has and how they are managed. I feel that this curriculum is an excellent resource for teachers to supplement their instruction with Wyoming-based units. It's been a pleasure the past three years to work with top-notch teachers from around the state to develop this curriculum. Seeing the process through from start to finish has been a highlight of my teaching career."

Siedel has taught units from the Wyoming Stewardship Project and shares that her students have learned what it takes to make good stewardship decisions after considering multiple points of view. "It was fun to see my students take an interest in our school garden after learning about what they could do to care for our local/school resources. It was really helpful last year to have Wyoming specific resources to pull from that kids could connect to and were familiar with."

Siedel was awarded a cash prize of \$5,000 through Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom. The award is funded by Occidental Petroleum Corporation. Wyoming Livestock Roundup and Mantha Philips are also sponsors of the program.



### **Nominate an Outstanding Educator**

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom is seeking nominations for the 2020 Educator of the Year Award. Teachers can apply or be nominated online at <https://wyaitc.org/our-work/educator-of-the-year/>.

The application form must be accompanied by 1-3 photos or documents showcasing the teacher's work in the classroom along with 2 letters of reference.

The winning applicant will receive a cash award, and be recognized at the Ag Hall of Fame BBQ during the Wyoming State Fair.

**Applications must be received by March 13, 2020.**



## **Bookmark & Beyond Information and Materials are Now Available**

Packets of templates, Wyoming's Agriculture Resources maps, and program information have been mailed to classrooms across the state.

Second through fifth grade students tell the story of stewardship of Wyoming's Resources as they illustrate their 2020 bookmarks.

Fifth grade classrooms are invited to explore Wyoming's resources in a whole new way! Students will learn cutting-edge GIS technology while honing their writing and presentation skills to develop a class mapping project.

AgTerra of Sheridan is providing access to their MapItFast software free of charge for interested classrooms.

Program resources are also available on our website at <https://wyaitc.org/our-work/bookmark/>



## **Your Donation Makes A Difference!**

**By: Ray Mader**

I was born and raised in Buffalo, Wyoming and grew up around livestock and horses. I loved 4-H and FFA, played all sports and rodeoed. My dad was a livestock auctioneer and sold cattle at Billings Livestock, Sheridan Livestock, and Gillette Livestock Auctions. I naturally always wanted to be involved in agriculture.

I got involved with Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom about 9 years ago, and at that time I got Superior Livestock involved.

The reason that we have become so involved is because younger people are two to four generations removed from production agriculture and have no idea where our food comes from. Most think it just comes from the grocery store. Therefore, we need to be able to tell them our story about production agriculture, minerals and energy, and our recreation in the state of Wyoming. Hopefully that will have an impact on their knowledge of our state and nation, how our economy works and get them involved in our state and local communities. If we can educate students to become critical thinkers, they will grow up with an understanding and realization of what makes Wyoming a great state.

Supporting Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom through donations... Well, it's the best bang for your buck! I will continue to contribute time and finances to make this education happen, because the whole nation needs to know our story and WAIC is in the lead doing that!





Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom  
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### Thank You, From My Family to Yours

It's hard to believe November is here. So much has happened this year and the growth of our programs is humbling. It has only happened because you believe in our mission, our abilities, and our goals of impacting students throughout the state.

I'm learning with my own children that the 'why' question comes early and has no indication of stopping anytime soon. As challenging as some of their questions are, I'm thankful for their inquisitive minds. I know other children across the state share the same desire to understand 'why' things are the way they are. The Wyoming Stewardship Project has students asking why and then critically searching for an answer. This is such an opportune time to shape young minds to ask critical questions and understand their community and resources. Thank you for making it possible for students to explore for themselves, ask big questions, and find big answers.

I enter this time of year with a heart filled with gratitude. From my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for making a difference for our state.

All my best,

*Jessie Dafoe*  
Executive Director



*Asher (age 4) and Hannah (age 2) participated in the Sheep Lead at Laramie County Fair for the first time this year.*



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