

THE STIRROP

A NEWSLETTER BY THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION - YOUNG PRODUCERS ASSEMBLY

THE HEADSTALL - A MESSAGE FROM YPA PRESIDENT SAGE ASKIN "DECISIONS"

Welcome to the Young Producers Assembly! I am delighted and humbled to be a part of this organization, and genuinely appreciate working with you all. Our mission has not changed and remains to guide our decisions as a group; to continue to work to *generate opportunities for young producers to be successful and passionate about the livestock industry in Wyoming.*

As young producers, we all are faced with decisions. Every day, many of us are balancing our children and families, and often have multiple generations involved at one time on the ranch. We are faced with much of the physical labor, and varying degrees of the mental labor, all while trying to maintain a work life balance. It is a daunting task! Never fear, for "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26.)

Sometimes, our decisions may seem simple, such as getting out of bed, and what to eat for breakfast. At times we are faced with what may seem like much tougher decisions, including where to send the kids to school, should we put together a plan to buy the neighbors place, or will this drought continue, forcing us to sell half the herd. In the moment, all decisions can be difficult, and often we are shocked into a flight or fright reaction, where we do not make any decision at all. I like to call this decision paralysis. Decision paralysis is a disease, that leads to us making no decision until the moment that it would have mattered is long past.

This happens to everyone; I cannot describe the number of times and ways I have lost time and money, and suffered headache and heartache, simply because I did not make a decision when it needed to be made. The balancing act is to frame the decision in an objective way, so it does not scare us into this period of inaction. A well-informed, well thought out decision is always the goal. When we freeze up, it is always because the information was new, unexpected, and blindsides us. So, the question this begs, is how do we frame our lives in a way where new information is processed under a framework of principle and guidelines, that any new information may be run through the system and comes out the other side without the devastating maybe, but a clearly defined Absolutely, Yes, or Heck, NO!?

Principles are our moral code, are very clearly defined, and involve our moral boundaries where we do not budge. Guidelines can involve our Mission and Vision, which provide goals, which give us tools that suddenly guide our steps in this world we face, fraught with uncertainty and these scary decisions, every single day.

One decision that several of you made in February, was to attend Dallas Mount's presentation in Cody, Wyoming, titled Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch. Feedback was positive, that this was a good decision, and a lot of the presentation and indeed what YPA and WSGA do every day revolves around providing you as our members with more data that can help you make well informed decisions both faster, and with greater accuracy. On May 20th, in Gillette, Wyoming, a similar presentation will be available for only \$50, and to quote a Cody participant, this could be the "best \$50 I've spent this year."

When making you decisions this week and this year, just remember, right or wrong, the decision needs to be made now, then dealt with, and if it was wrong, deal with that, then. So, for me, it helps to sit down and work within our framework of Principles and Guidelines to make the best call, and know that half of making the right decision, is choosing to make a decision in the first place. In May and beyond, make the decision to stay active, stay involved, and lead your business and family into places where without you and your decisions, it would never have gone.

Here's to Green Grass, and Fat Lambs and Calves! See you this summer! ~ Sage

President – Sage Askin

Vice President – Michael McGinnis

Secretary – Ty Espy

Region I – Cameron Smith

Region II – Kendall Roberts

Region III – Saige Zespy

Region IV – Haley Clark

Region V – Chance Marshall



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE *ROUNDUP*

CAMPBELL COUNTY EVENT – CAMERON SMITH, REGION 1

Region 1 looks forward to hosting the next education event in Campbell County! “Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch” will take place May 20th, 2021 at the Ramada Inn Gillette. Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants will present a similar session that was integral in our Park County event. The schedule of events can be seen on any YPA and WSGA social media pages starting after April 1st. RSVP early! Seats are limited. Lunch and session materials are included in the \$50 registration.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP OF YOUR RANCH ATTENDANCE IN CODY – HALEY CLARK, REGION IV

Hello everyone! I am Haley Clark, fifth-generation rancher from Big Piney, YPA Region IV Representative and Fundraising Chairwoman. I had the pleasure of attending the first WSGA/YPA event of 2021 and it did not disappoint. My family and I left our family ranch in Big Piney to travel to Cody on February 22nd, hopeful that the information we would receive would benefit us and it truly did. Not only because I was involved in planning the event, but because I genuinely wanted to learn from speakers like Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants and meet producers in the area. As a YPA member, I was so pleased to see the attendance of both young and older producers. In agriculture it takes all of us to work the family business, both in and on the ranch. Our 25 attendees received information that they could bring back to the ranch and make the necessary changes to improve their operations. We left with a fire to improve our family business and I know many others did as well. Between the hard and dedicated work WSGA does for its members and agriculture and our YPA goals to help young producers, I believe that future events, such as this, will be helpful and educational to our producers. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the incredibly generous sponsors! We urge you to join us at the next event in Gillette! Let’s learn and prosper together.

NEIGHBOR IN YPA – MEMBER FEATURE



I am Kahla Mills, a fifth-generation rancher in northeastern Wyoming near the town of Gillette. My husband, Trent (pictured), myself, and our three kids run a cow-calf operation as well as own a fencing company. I am currently the Region 1 Vice President for the Wyoming Stock Growers. I love spending time with my kids and husband doing our ranch work, and I am looking forward to the summer rodeo season with my kids. I really enjoy raising our kids in this lifestyle in this crazy world we live in. I get up and keep doing it every day because I want my kids and grandkids to get to experience this amazing and hard life we live, as well as feed the world the amazing beef we raise.

Kahla and her photo (above) won the Beef Month Cover Photo Contest in May 2020

The photo that I submitted for the is just out looking at our cows. I love taking pictures of my cows and do anytime I get a chance! When you are a member of a trade organization, networking is my biggest takeaway. The amazing friendships and support/information you can gain from it. I also love being able to get my story out to people who do not know about agriculture, or the beef industry. For all the members out there -- Thanks for being part and supporting our amazing organization!

Read more about Kahla Mills on our Facebook and Instagram pages in May! Thank you Kahla for allowing us to use your photo this year!

RIDING FOR THE BRAND – A THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

A big THANK YOU to Dennis Sun of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup, David Fales of Wyoming Authentic Products, Encore Green, LLC, Kendall Roberts of Meadow View Management, Helen Rosenbaum of Cody Feed & Livestock Supply, and HydraBeds of Western Wyoming, LLC. Without their generous support, we would not have been able to host such a successful event in Park County on February 25th.



HERD IT HERE FIRST - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1st-15th – YPA Best Beef Photo Contest for May Beef Month! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for further details. Winner will be selected May 23rd.

May 20th 11am-4pm – “Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch” Regional Education Series, Ramada Inn Gillette. RSVP by May 10th to WSGA at trenda@wysga.org or calling 307.638.3942.

June 2nd-4th – Wyoming Stock Growers Summer Convention, Sheridan, WY. Details to follow.

A BIT OF WYO

FUN FACT ABOUT WYOMING AGRICULTURE AND HISTORY!

Did you know that there are more cattle than people in Wyoming? Can you guess how many cattle? As of February 3, 2021, there are 582,658 people in the state of Wyoming and 1.27 million cattle. That is 2.18 head of cattle for every person in the state.

(source: beef2live.com)

Have a fun fact? Send them to womingypa@gmail.com and be entered to win \$50 Visa Gift Card. Winner will be selected on the next volume of the *Stirrup*.



Photo: YPA President Sage Askin at Park County Event. Photo courtesy of Haley Clark.

STABLE CONNECTION

WEBSITE: WWW.WYSGA.ORG - Click the tab “Programs” and find “Young Producers Assembly”.

Facebook www.facebook.com/WSGAYoungProducers/

Instagram www.instagram.com/wsga_youngproducers/

Email: womingypa@gmail.com WSGA Office: 307.638.3942

THE LAUGHING STOCK

What is a happy cowboy’s favorite candy? Jolly Ranchers

What did the momma horse say to the baby horse who was awake at midnight? It is Pasture Bedtime

The Mission of the Young Producers Assembly is to generate opportunities for young producers to be successful and passionate about the livestock industry in Wyoming.