

THE STIRRAP

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

THE HEADSTALL - A MESSAGE FROM YPA PRESIDENT SAGE ASKIN

I'D SETTLE FOR A SLOW DOWN BUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ACTIVE!

It has been the wildest of rides this year. Earlier today I was horseback, on a tired horse, and thus slowly making my way into cowcamp for the night. It ran through my mind the whirlwind that life seems to be right now. Nobody seems to know which way is up, whether we are destined for a depression or rampant inflation, if my kids have Covid or a cold, and whether it will rain next year. I've caught myself telling our crew and our family, just push on, it will slow down in another week, or month, or year. But over and over, it's been harder to believe myself. Is it going to slow down, soon? Logically, I know it will as we come to end of our season, but the work won't stop, the projects keep starting, the truck keeps breaking down, and we keep having more kids.

Speaking of seasons, the YPA has a group of people who are in a season of our lives, where we are raising kids, working every day, and running businesses. Why then, do we choose to be involved with an organization like WSGA? It's something I had to think about the other day, and it's worth exploring.

To attend both conventions will cost around \$1000 in expenses. In addition, hotel rooms, babysitters, food/dining, replacement labor, and our membership can add up to a significant expense. It's important to realize the return we get on this investment.

Our executive VP is nationally known as Wyoming's most effective lobbyist. He has the ear of the governor, both senators, our representative, and countless state and local authorities. He works endlessly to continue to keep agriculture viable in Wyoming, and the work he does benefits both members and the 90% of ranchers who are not members of WSGA. And guess who *they* call when they want to know which way to vote on an issue? You guessed it. So, why be a member when you can be a freeloader, and get the benefits without the expense? For me, it comes down to 3 things, which cannot be valued high enough.

First, a *voice*. Within WSGA, if we attend, our voices are heard. When direction needs changed, it happens, and if we show up and pay our dues, we can get the voice to make things happen, without becoming a legislator, or having a law degree. Our voices are heard, loud and clear, respectfully and in an orderly fashion. It cannot be overstated that AGRICULTURE AS WE KNOW IT WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT WSGA. Neither would our state. So, if you want to be a part of an organization where you can feel like your voice is heard, that you personally matter, and where you can help protect the legacy for your children, be an active member of WSGA and YPA!

Second, *networking*. Do you want to know how to stay in business in small town-Wyoming? Attend a WSGA meeting! There you will find most of Wyoming's most successful ranch businesses. Why are they members? Because they feel that the value is worth the price of admission. The network we have found through WSGA gives us a point of contact in every city in the state, which is helpful if you break down, if you want to buy hay, or if you want to succeed in the livestock industry in Wyoming.

Third and final, *responsibility*. What matters more than anything at all? The responsibility we have to our forebears, and our family. It is our responsibility to be certain we leave our children and theirs better opportunities' than we were given. For me, my responsibility is to continue to work together for this to be possible. What better place than WSGA?

Altogether, when considering the big things to be a part of, when time is our most precious resource, I encourage you to attend conventions, outreach events, and anything where you may be involved with WSGA. It's the affiliate organization that gets things done, and your time is worth it to attend.

Continued next page



Remember another great benefit of joining is getting to hear about the events coming up in Farson, September 23rd, and Laramie, October 8th. Our fifth and final event will take place in Douglas in November. Be on the lookout for when that information is released on location and date. And please be sure to attend Winter Roundup Convention in Casper, December 13th -15th.

Have a great Fall! ~ Sage

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE *ROUNDUP*

SWEETWATER EVENT AND “SWEET” SUCCESS – HALEY CLARK, REGION IV

Region IV looks forward to hosting the next education event in Sweetwater County! “Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch” will take place September 23rd, 2021, at the Eden Valley Community Center in Farson (**info on next page**). Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants will present a similar session that was integral in our Park and Campbell County events. The schedule of events can be seen on any YPA and WSGA social media pages. RSVP early! A great opportunity you don’t want to miss in the region.

As Finance Chair, YPA Fundraising events at Summer Convention were a great success! Our Mini-carnival games were a blast with participants, and the Leadership *Pie in the Face* was a “sweet” finish to the week – in total raising just over \$900. Thank you to all who supported the event and a special thanks to our leadership (Sage Askin, Scott Sims, and David Kane) for being great sports! All proceeds from the event will be utilized for young producer programming and educational opportunities.



Left: YPA members pose for photobooth at Mini-Carnival Fundraiser. Right: WSGA/YPA Leadership get ready for a pie in the face.

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEASTERN WYO – KENDALL ROBERTS, REGION II

Greetings! I am Kendall Roberts, a cow-calf-stocker operator in Cheyenne and currently serving as the YPA Region II Representative and the Public Relations & Media Chairwoman. Albany County has been selected for the next location of “Business Leadership on YOUR Ranch” series. I had the opportunity to attend the event in Gillette back in May and for a one-day event, it was well worth it! We will be at the Holiday Inn Laramie on October 8th, 2021. RSVP as soon as you can!

The Public Relations & Media Committee says goodbye to Kristy DeGering who served on the Committee as Co-chair. Kristy had to stepped down due to a demanding work schedule for the UW College of Ag & Natural Resources. Kristy was integral in developing the *Best of Beef* Photo Contest held during May Beef Month as well as managed the YPA Instagram page. Thank you, Kristy, for your time on the committee and we wish you the best! And now we welcome Karen Drumhiller from Converse County who joined the committee following Summer Convention.

Please have patience with us as we transition and catch up on all media platforms currently. Be sure to reach and let us know what kinds of information you want to see on our pages and profiles. Thank you and we look forward to serving YPA!

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

NEIGHBOR IN YPA – MEMBER FEATURE

My name is Tyler Gardner and my family (photo left) and I live on a large cattle operation north of Cody, Wyoming. I am currently the livestock manager for cattle operations on the west side of the Big Horn Mountain range. My wife and I are originally from Star Valley, Wyoming, however since being married in 2008 we have lived in Laramie, Wyoming where I pursued a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. In 2014, we moved to the Nebraska Sandhills where we worked for Deseret's Rex Ranch. Then, in 2018 we picked up and moved to Kingsville, Texas where I pursued a master's degree from the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management. Upon graduation in May of 2020, we moved to our current position north of Cody. Currently, I am serving as the chairman for the Policy Committee for YPA.



Tyler Gardner, wife Katie and their kids, Briggs (9), Addley (7), Tinley (4), and Cooper (due end of September).

What do you love most about ranching? Tell us some things you are doing today and maybe some challenges you are facing. When it comes to ranching, I really enjoy how family oriented this life is. Taking my kids with me and trying to instill in them the work ethic my parents instilled in me brings me the most amount of joy. We are currently implementing different grazing strategies and utilizing cover crops to promote soil health and species diversity. I am excited to see what changes we can make. Like most other operations, I would say our biggest challenges are controlling costs and people management. Honestly, I look forward to getting out of this drought.

What is your biggest takeaway from being a member of a trade organization? My biggest take away from being part of WSGA and YPA is that to really have a seat at the table on key issues affecting our industry, we must come together and unify ourselves. Trade organizations really make that possible. I also really enjoy rubbing shoulders with other producers and learning from them.

Favorite motto (quote), biggest influences today, and hobbies off the ranch. My high school shop teacher told me once that "anything worth doing is worth doing right." I have always remembered that. I have been blessed with many great mentors that have helped me get to where I am today. The biggest influence would be my dad. He taught me the importance of hard work and being a man of your word. I do not have many hobbies off the ranch, but when usually out on the ranch we enjoy fishing, horn hunting, or tubing the river.

HERD IT HERE FIRST – EVENTS CALENDER

September 23rd, 2021 – “Business Leadership on Your Ranch” Series. Eden Valley Community Center, Farson Wy. Registration 10am, Program 11am-4pm.

October 8th, 2021 – “Business Leadership on Your Ranch” Series. Holiday Inn, Laramie, WY. Registration 10am, Program 11am-4pm.

November – “Business Leadership on Your Ranch” Series. Location and date TBD. Registration 10am, Program 11am-4pm.

December 13th-15th, 2021 – WSGA Winter Roundup, Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Casper, WY. More info to come.

ALL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.WYSGA.ORG OR ON WSGA and YPA SOCIAL MEDIA

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

A big THANK YOU to all supporters and sponsors!

Dennis Sun of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup, David Fales of Wyoming Authentic Products, Encore Green, LLC, and Kendall Roberts of Meadow View Management for your continued contributions to the events and we wish to welcome new sponsors from our Campbell County event: Campbell County Cowbelles, John Haskell of Ranch Right LLC, ANB Bank (gift bags), Ashley Handran of CBH CO-OP, Kevin Couch of Pinnacle Bank, and Tait Berlier of AgRisk Advisors. We look forward to introducing you to new supporters following our events in Sweetwater and Albany County.



Interested in being a sponsor or supporter to YPA and WSGA? Please reach out to us. Not only do we provide different sponsor levels, but we also help you get your ad right here next to these fine folks and local businesses!

Membership is also the key to unlocking that untapped market. Our Associate Level Membership is built for businesses just like yours and you get access to members exclusives, updates on issues affecting the industry, and more! **JOIN TODAY!**

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

A BIT OF WYO - FUN FACT ABOUT WYOMING AGRICULTURE AND HISTORY!

Now that the Fall school semester has started, here is a fun fact about the University of Wyoming “Cowboys” team name. It is believed that back in 1891 when a true cowboy assisted the Wyoming football team against a team from Cheyenne, and a Cheyenne player allegedly yelled “Hey, look at that cowboy,” and the nickname stuck with the teams as just a bunch of cowboys. Good luck to all Cowboys and Cowgirls this 2021-2022 year!

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*.

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.

FARM & RANCH TRANSITION



Is it time to have a discussion?

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