

Faculty Profile: Kristi Hansen

By Kristi Hansen, Assistant Professor

Since arriving in Laramie in 2009 to work on water resource economics at the University of Wyoming, I have had many opportunities to see that Mark Twain's observation about water resources in the western United States is just as apt today as it ever was: whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over. But I have also been delighted to be surrounded by Wyoming's great natural beauty, and have found the university and the broader Wyoming community to be incredibly supportive as I begin my career here.



It has taken me a while to end up in Wyoming. After finishing my undergraduate economics degree in Oregon, I worked as an economist for rural electric cooperatives and municipal electricity companies in the Pacific Northwest. At the time, nearly 50 percent of electricity consumed in that region came from hydro-electric power, so discussions about energy always involved water. There I realized the intense competition that exists for water from often rival uses such as irrigation, recreation, hydro-electric power, and the environment. I decided as a result that water was even more interesting than energy and went to graduate school at University of California, Davis to specialize in water resource economics.

I started at UW in 2009 after spending one and a half years in Belgium working on how best to price agro-environmental measures (most commonly, buffer strips and fallowing) so that Belgian farmers would be willing to adopt them voluntarily. I came to Wyoming after growing up in northern California and was immediately struck by the similarities between the two places: primarily, the prevalence of public land and wide open spaces and the importance of natural resources to the economy. This is especially true when it comes to water resources. For example, the tradeoffs between economic development and the preservation of the natural beauty that surrounds us, and figuring out how to improve communities' ability to deal with annual variability in water supply and timing of flows, are similar in both states.

My research and extension work in Wyoming is primarily focused on water-related projects. I am part of an inter-disciplinary team currently exploring the potential for a "payment for ecosystem services" market in the upper Green River Basin. Under this market, private funders (perhaps energy companies, national environmental foundations, and second home-owners in the region) would pay landowners/ranchers to implement management practices on their

land that would improve wildlife and riparian habitat and downstream water quality. Through focus groups, surveys, and a physical assessment of resources and management practices (both existing and potential), we are exploring optimal locations and management practices to include in the program, as well as contract terms and conditions that would be amenable to buyers and sellers alike. The Wyoming branch of The Nature Conservancy and Sublette County Conservation District as well as several other UW researchers (including AgEcon's Roger Coupal) are also involved in this project.

A second project focuses on the water which is produced during coal-bed methane (CBM) extraction. Much CBM-produced water is discharged to drainages, where it alters not only the volume and timing of flow, but land and water quality as well. Two colleagues, Dannele Peck and Steve Smutko, and I are working with Peter Burgess (MS student) to explore alternative management strategies for the byproduct water. In particular, we are looking for ways to provide greater flexibility in how standards are met without sacrificing environmental quality. Markets may provide a way for CBM producers and agriculturalists to more effectively indicate the value and/or damages they experience from the byproduct water.

There is quite a bit of activity on water issues at the university, including a relatively new inter-disciplinary double major in water resources that is catching the eye of some of our masters students. Because water is a topic that lends itself to inter-disciplinary work (law, hydrology, economics, ecology, engineering, etc.), water resources research means learning something new from colleagues in other departments every day. I feel quite fortunate to be a part of current efforts on campus to increase communication and water research across disciplines.

In addition to research and extension in water resources, I have been teaching an undergraduate course in applied microeconomics. Next year, I will switch gears to co-teach a graduate-level quantitative methods course. I am also researching the costs and benefits of reclamation after energy extraction with Roger Coupal and Matt Andersen. Specifically, Roger and I are doing an analysis of the native seed industry with Betsy Mock (MS student). There is a great deal of price and demand uncertainty in this industry, which can make it difficult for seed producers to plan. I also co-manage a study-abroad program to Angers, France, where students from Wyoming spend a month studying agricultural marketing and production in a very different cultural and economic context. I appreciated seeing firsthand some of the differences between European and US ag policy while I was living and working in Belgium. I enjoy the opportunity now to facilitate a similar eye-opening experience for our Wyoming students. You can reach me at khansel18@uwyo.edu or (307) 766-3598. ■

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT 2011

Greetings! As our year draws to a close, I have been reflecting on the state of our department. On the faculty side, most recently we have seen the retirement of Dr. Larry Held after 34 busy years of dedicated work. If you see him around Laramie or Ft. Collins, be sure to thank him for his efforts. Also, we have received permission to hire an Academic Professional Economist Farm and Ranch Management position for SAREC (in Lingle, Wyoming) — a search which will be starting soon. With our research projects and extension programming, we have a tremendous number and diversity (see below). On the instruction side, our graduate enrollment is very strong, and while our undergraduate enrollment is good, we are looking at troubling trends. We are beginning recruitment efforts across the state with stakeholders like community colleges, but we would appreciate your own efforts by spreading the word with potential students. Below is a summary of the instruction, extension and research projects in the department. If you have any questions, contact me and we'll get them answered. Thank you for your support and interest. - Roger Coupal, Department Head

Instruction

We have approximately 120 undergraduate students enrolled. Chris Bastian is leading the effort at developing marketing and recruiting activities—send comments to bastian@uwyo.edu. Senior thesis Powerpoint presentations are posted on our website: <http://agecon.uwyo.edu/agecon/whatwedo/programs/seniortheses.htm>. In development is a senior project/thesis award for this year to give to a deserving student or group of students. The criteria and the award size are in development now. We would like to find financing for this award. The top project/thesis will be posted on our website. We have 21 enrolled graduate students: Five are funded by State assistantships, 10 by research grants. Ongoing research includes livestock management research, crop production, wildlife disease management, wind energy development and tradeoffs, reclamation research, and others. Cooperative work with MS and PhD students is happening with projects in the departments of Renewable Resources, Plant Sciences, Animal Sciences, Economics and Finance, and International Studies.

Abby Mellinger and *Jordan Steele* are our Vanvig Scholarship winners. Congratulations!

Extension Programming

Risk management—a nationally recognized program
Renewable energy extension
Drought management—a nationally recognized program
Wind energy impact analysis
On-farm wind power modeling study
Local government fiscal impact analysis
Small acreage management
Local foods
Entrepreneurship and small business
Ecosystem services bulletins
Livestock enterprise budgets
Community supported agriculture ventures
Personal finance and estate planning
BLM Resource Management Plan Update analyses
A guide to leasing Niobrara oil shale mineral rights
Local economic impact of R&E Centers
Agricultural Land Market Valuation Study for NRCS
Wildlife conservation
Economics of reclamation, component in the WRRC workshops

Research Projects

Agricultural research projects

- Wildlife / livestock disease issues
- Drought management strategies
- Livestock management
- Alternative wheat markets
- Native seed supply for land reclamation
- Ecosystem services studies
- Captive supply experimental analysis
- Incidence of subsidy payments for land rental markets (experimental analysis)

Family nutrition decision making using experimental analysis (with Family and Consumer Science Department)

Fiscal impact modeling to assess provision of law enforcement services in Laramie County with dispersed household development patterns (with Wyoming Geographical Information Science Center)

Energy Research

- Carbon sequestration
- Economic impacts of coal gasification
- Economic impacts of uranium mining
- Oil and gas reclamation regulation costs
- Wind energy impacts
- Transmission line development constraints and tradeoffs (two projects: sage grouse versus transmission and wind power, and a stochastic energy affects on transmission systems)
- Coal bed natural gas development impacts

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

The University of Wyoming's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics is nationally recognized for teaching, research, and outreach focused on economic decision-making principles applied to agricultural and other natural resource-based businesses and community development.

Goal 1: The Department is nationally recognized for agricultural and applied economics research.

Goal 2: Promote nationally recognized excellence in undergradu-

ate education. Promote nationally recognized excellence in graduate education. Promote nationally recognized instructors/teaching resources.

Goal 3: The department is nationally recognized for Extension.

Goal 4: Become Wyoming's premier source for economic information and analysis of agricultural, natural resource and community economic development issues.

Goal 5: Enhance and develop relationships with diverse clientele, students and donors to meet present and future issues as they develop.





~Special Section~ **AgEcon's Scholarship Awardee Profiles**

In the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, we're very proud of our students. In this special section we're profiling those who were awarded scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year at this year's Brand of Excellence banquet. We asked them to respond to four questions, and as you'll see there is plenty of achievement, dedication and enthusiasm. As alumni and stakeholders, it is your contributions that support these students' fine efforts. — Roger Coupal, Head, Agricultural and Applied Economics

Kailey Barlow, supported by the Wyoming Beef Cattle Improvement Association Scholarship

I was raised in Big Piney, Wyoming and graduated from Big Piney High School in 2009. I am the eighth generation to be raised on a family cattle ranch outside of Big Piney which is one of the Wyoming Centennial Farms and Ranches. It was officially homesteaded in 1898 even though my family was running cattle there as early as 1877. I competed in 4-H for 10 years and was always very active in a wide variety of school activities. Since coming to UW, I have been involved in Wyoming Collegiate Cattle Women, in which I am currently serving as the President of the club, as well as serving as an Ag Ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and as the 2011 Wyoming Beef Ambassador.



If you can't tell, agriculture has always been a huge part of my life so I was instantly drawn to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources! I originally was not an ag business student, but after taking my first ag business class (AGEC1020) with

Dale Menkhous I knew that ag business was the thing in which I wanted to be involved. Switching to ag business was a great choice and I have loved every minute of it and know it is the right degree for me to pursue.

After finishing college, hopefully in December of 2012, I would like to work either as an insurance agent, ag lender, or doing sales for agricultural related companies for a few years before eventually returning to the family ranch.

I have been very impressed by UW, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Ag & Applied Economics Department. All of my classes have been very beneficial and I have had great teachers in all of my classes so far. However, the thing I find the most impressive is the faculty of the department. They are all very willing to help with anything, from classes, to advising, to looking for internships, or any other concerns you may have. I feel as if I can definitely contribute some of my success to them! ■

Four Questions for AgEcon Scholarship Winners

1. Where are you from? What is your background?
2. What drew you to UW AgEcon?
3. What do you aim to do when you finish?
4. What activities/classes have you enjoyed the most? What do you like or have been impressed by?

Randa May, supported by the National Western Stock Show Livestock Leadership Internship

What is your background? Where are you from?

I grew up in Banner County, Nebraska, on our family farm, May Farms. My parents are Tom and Bobbie May, who have been owners/operators of May Farms for 34 years. I have a 19 year old brother, Ryan May, who is currently a freshman at Casper College studying Ag-Business and GPS/GIS. My dad is a third generation farmer in the May family and my brother and I will be the fourth generation. For 34 years we have raised hard red winter wheat. Along with my Grandpa May, Dad raised white russet potatoes for the fresh pack market for 20 years. Since I was four years old I helped Dad on farm from riding in the tractor and learning the ropes to pulling rye and picking up rocks. As I got older I began helping maintain equipment changing plow-lays and points, operating in the field going over summer fallow, unloading trucks at harvest, and still helping with pulling rye and picking rocks. Today, I continue to help on the farm while going to school. During May through August, I help with summer fallow, pull rye, prep grain bins for harvest and as a combine operator during harvest. During the rest of the year, I help maintain the equipment, semi trucks, loading

drills during planting, and prepare equipment for spring plowing.

For 13 years I showed

market swine at Laramie County Fair and the Wyoming State Fair. I was successful winning Overall Champion, Overall Reserve Champion, several class champions, and Showmanship Champions both at the county and state level.

I began school at Banner County Elementary. In 2004, I transferred to Pine Bluffs Jr./Sr. High School to become a member of the National FFA Organization. While in high school I participated in varsity volleyball, varsity basketball, varsity track and field, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FFA, and Student Council. I graduated in 2007 from PBHS as Co-Salutatorian with Honors along with a number of scholarship and honorary athletic and academic awards. I attended Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne where I graduated with an Associate's

Continued next page.



of Science in December of 2009 with Honors from the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Omega Zeta Chapter. While attending LCCC I was involved in Livestock Show Team, Block and Bridle, Associated Student Government, and Student Activities Board. I also worked as the Wyoming State FFA Association Intern. Also, in the fall of 2009 I received the most prestigious degree in FFA, the American FFA Degree, 30 years after my Dad received his. I then moved to Laramie to pursue a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Kinesiology and Health Promotions. After one semester in the Kinesiology program, I realized my true desire and passion was rooted in the agriculture industry and could see myself no place else. During my studies at UW I have been involved in Global Business Club, Collegiate FFA, Block and Bridle, and president of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society 2011-2012 Cap and Gown Chapter. Along, with attending college I have also devoted time to be the Pine Bluffs FFA Chapter Farm Management CDE team as the co-advisor in spring of 2010 and 2011, and assistant coached for the PBHS track and field team during spring of 2011.

What drew you to ag business?

Growing up on the family farm, I knew that one day I would go back to continue the May family tradition in being a fourth generation farmer. Being in 4-H and FFA strongly influenced a deeper passion for the agriculture industry. The values and lessons that I learned from my Dad and Grandpa in being a good, honest, and successful producer made me realize that with producers like them the agricultural industry will continue to be competitive in a volatile international market. The prestige of the agriculture industry comes from the hard work and dedication of producers and business men and women to promote a positive image of the ag industry, and the quality and safety of the products produced and marketed. Being a part of an industry that continues to feed an increasingly populated world by combining values and traditions of family farms with modern technology, is inspiring and poses a challenge to young

agricultural leaders like myself.

What do you aim to do when you finish?

It is my hope to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to obtain a Master's Degree in Agri-Business/ Agri-Economics. Upon completing college, I hope to work for a company that strives to make the US ag products highly competitive in the international market, while at the same time helping the family farm/ranch continue operating. Also, I would like to be a representative who for the company attending college job fairs to promote the company to future agricultural business leaders. Through my career it is my desire to promote a positive image of the agricultural industry to the media and consumers. Also, when May Farms will be handed down to my brother and me, I will be leaving my career to carry on the family tradition.

What activities/classes have you enjoyed the most? What do you like or have been impressed by?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. Being selected as a Mortar Board member has encouraged me to be a more influential servant leader; whether it simply means helping with a fundraising or business project or simply saying, "Thank you." Being a part of Mortar Board has shown me that members are not only scholars who are chosen based upon their leadership, but they unite as a small community to serve selflessly the greater good. Having the opportunity to work with and get to know responsible and hard working individuals has been a privilege for me beyond words.

I have enjoyed my economics courses and Ag Management course the most. The challenges that those classes have offered are ones that as a leader in a company I will face. Having the tools and knowledge from those courses to solve the issues or present alternatives will be extremely beneficial to not only to company success, but individual success as well. ■

Jake Carver, supported by the Amanda and Oscar Schmale Scholarship

I am from Ouray Colorado, a small mountain town with about 800 people. Agriculture was important to the local community. My family has a cattle ranch in western Colorado and it has always been an interest of mine. When I finish school I hope to get a job for a large beef corporation somewhere in the Midwest. I like the math class that I have taken this semester at the university. It is taught in a way that is easy to understand and learn quickly. I am impressed with the advanced technology that the University of Wyoming uses. ■



Lara Allnutt, supported by the Rhonda Jane Cox Memorial Scholarship

I was raised on a ranch in North Park, Colorado. My family raises Hereford-angus cattle. I was drawn to ag business from being raised on the ranch. I was happiest when I was doing something connected to agriculture. Ag business is the opportunity for me to learn more about ag in the areas I am interested in and am less familiar with. When I graduate, I aim to work with ag economics and banking. Also, I intend to work for my family and one day own my own land. In my time at UW, I have enjoyed my AGRI 1001 class the most, as it has opened some doors and opportunities for me. It showed me the broadness of the college of agriculture and helped me to know what I am most interested in. I also enjoy my college algebra class and am impressed by my teacher, Megan Schnorenberg. She has an enthusiasm that has inspired me to like math more and feel confident with my abilities in that classroom. ■

Jamie Reed, supported by the Mill Family Scholarship

I grew up on a 5th generation cattle ranch in Niobrara County in eastern Wyoming. I enjoyed helping my parents on the ranch while growing up. I was drawn to Ag Business because of my background in agriculture, and from growing up on a ranch. I can see how important the agriculture industry is going to be in the future and want to be a part of it for the rest of my life.

I will graduate in May, 2012. I have enjoyed participating on the UW rodeo team, competing in the team roping and goat tying. In my spare time I enjoy team roping, cooking, and swing dancing. My favorite classes have been Ag Law and Equine Management. I have enjoyed the professors in the College of Ag being willing to help out students whenever they are able to. ■



Perry Baptista, supported by the W. Gordon Kearl Agricultural Economics Scholarship

I am from the small town of Elizabeth, Colorado. We moved to Elizabeth about five years ago; moving to the country was what sparked my interest in Agriculture. Before then, my family and I lived in San Diego, California and had absolutely zero agricultural knowledge, as growing or raising anything on a less-than ¼ acre city lot is pretty much impossible (and against several ordinances, I'm sure).

I became interested in agriculture when I planted my first vegetable garden in Elizabeth. I absolutely love growing food – watching a little seed turn into something tasty to eat is so much fun. I wanted to learn more about the business aspect of agriculture (how to manage an operation, how food prices are determined, *etc.*), so when I heard about the Agricultural Business major, I knew it was what I wanted to study.

Sarah Weliever, supported by the Henry Petz Scholarship

I grew up outside of Riverton, Wyoming. My family did not own a farm or ranch, however I have been very active in 4-H and FFA. I have had a passion for agriculture since I was very young. Although I did not personally grow up on a farm or ranch I spent a lot of time with my friends and family on theirs and I decided this was something I would always want to be a part of. When it came time to decide what major I would declare when I was applying for college my FFA adviser asked me the two things I loved the most. I told him agriculture and money, naturally we decided Ag Business was the place for me.

When I graduate I aim to obtain a job within the finance sector of Ag Business, primarily looking at becoming an agricultural loan

I would like to work somehow on a farm or ranch, but I don't have any set plans at this time. Someday, I want to own a farm of my own.

There are several activities that I participate in here at the University of Wyoming. I am currently the academic year AmeriCorps Representative at ACRES Student Farm. I spend a lot of hours out on the farm and love every minute of it. I am also treasurer for the Collegiate FFA, another fun organization that has really helped improve my leadership skills.

My favorite subjects have been Macro and Microeconomics. I think they provide a really interesting way to study how people make decisions and how the world works. ■

officer. But I am keeping my options open. While at UW I have enjoyed all of my classes for the most part. However, some of the classes I have taken which I have enjoyed the most are the Rural Banking class taught by Bill Biles and the Agribusiness Management class taught by Dr. Chris Bastian. I am also on the UW Meats Judging team! It has been a lot of fun as well as a great learning experience. ■



Devin Burton, supported by the Andrew and Connie Vanvig Scholarship

I graduated from Powell High School in Powell, Wyoming; but I have spent most of my life in eastern Utah. I went to Northwest College and received an Associate's Degree of Science in Animal Science and transferred to UW. I was drawn to ag business because I wanted to work in agriculture but was more interested in business than science in general. I also like other cultures and travel. The United States trades with many other nations and I realized there was a good chance for international experience in ag business more so than animal science.

Looking forward, I would like to go to law school. If I do not get into law school then I will test the job market and see how that

goes. If I get a job I hope it has some international aspects. Grad school is also an option further down the road.

I have loved my experience at UW. I enjoyed the Agri Business Management class from Chris Bastian and managing the small business computer simulation. I enjoyed all of my trade, world food, and international classes. I have been seriously impressed by the opportunities at UW. I have been fortunate enough to travel to three Asian countries, I am working towards a minor in Chinese, and I have real international ag-related experience as well as study abroad for language experience. These were made possible by generous scholarships and opportunities from UW. ■

Zachery Ellis, supported by the Oletha and Loren Likens Memorial Scholarship

I am a sophomore from Lingle, Wyoming. I grew up on a farm where we raise corn, beans, alfalfa, and we also have a pumpkin patch. I have been on a farm all my life, whether it was riding with my dad in a tractor when I was younger, or actually working. We have a little over 500 acres of farmland, and we also run over 200 head of cattle. I was raised as in a very small community of 500 people, where everyone knows who you are. I am big into being outdoors, working with animals, and athletics which makes the farm my favorite place to be.

I was drawn to ag business because of being raised in an agriculture environment. I also am interested in ag business in order to

help run the family farm. My plan as of right now when I graduate is to move back to my hometown and help run the family farm. I would also like to use my degree to help surrounding farms be successful.

While at UW, I have enjoyed several classes. One of my favorites was Entomology because I have always been interested with insects. I also like to participate in intramural sports such as basketball, softball, and flag football. I like the simplicity of getting help by people at the university. It impresses me how the college has so many students but can still have a personal care for a single student. ■

Four Questions: 1. Where are you from? What is your background? 2. What drew you to UW AgEcon? 3. What do you aim to do when you finish? 4. What activities/classes have you enjoyed the most? What do you like or have been impressed by?



Amanda Leu, supported by the Jerome Maurice “Jerry” Meyer Memorial Scholarship

What is your background? Where are you from?

I grew up on a farm just outside of Gillette, Wyoming. I have been around livestock and agriculture my whole life. I was very active in 4-H and FFA. I love showing steers, livestock judging and being around other agriculture enthusiasts like me. I love sports just about as much as I love livestock. After high school I decided to further my livestock judging career at Casper College where I received my Associates degree in Ag Business. I decide to get my bachelors degree in Ag Business and a minor in Finance at UW where I hopefully will be done in May.

What drew you to ag business?

I always knew that the agriculture field is where I wanted to land: it's where my roots lie and my future is the brightest. With a business degree I have a wide variety of careers to choose from.

What do you aim to do when you finish?

After gradation I either plan to go to graduate school or find a job in

the banking industry. I have worked in the banking field the last two years and it seems to be a really good fit for me, and I enjoy it. I would like to work in a small town bank working with loans.

What activities/classes have you enjoyed the most? What do you like or have been impressed by?

I really enjoy my Ag classes. I get to interact with other students with similar interest and the classes are small enough that I seem to grasp concept and ideas quicker. The teachers in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as my advisor are quick and helpful in answering questions and advising. ■



Andrew Carpenter, supported by the Oletha & Loren Likins and Ella Schloredt Scholarships

I grew up in Goshen County, Wyoming on a small ranch. I graduated from Southeast High School in 2010. Agriculture has always played a significant role in my life. I was very much involved with 4-H and FFA.

I knew that I wanted to be involved in agriculture. Going to college for ag business will allow me to have a variety of different career options when I graduate from school. The college of agriculture has a great reputation but it is small enough that the professors take a personal interest in the students. I had older siblings graduate from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well.

When I finish school, I look to work for an ag corporation or start my own ag-based small business.

Last year I took part in the Karibu Kenya program where we traveled to Kenya to study sustainable agriculture. This expanded my perspective and showed me what farming was like on the other side of the world. Collegiate FFA gave me the opportunity to participate in the International Collegiate Agriculture Leadership program this summer, where I traveled to Panama and Colombia. I have had great classes in the college of agriculture and have been given great opportunities in my field of study. ■

Interviews with Vanvig Awardees

This year we are pleased to award the 2011-2012 Vanvig Graduate Fellowship to two students: Jordan Steele and Abby Mellinger. We've asked them about themselves and their work for your interest. The Andrew and Connie Vanvig Award consists of recognition and a stipend for high quality graduate work and was created in honor of former Department Head (from 1957 to 1982) Andy Vanvig.

Jordan Steele

Q: What is the focus of your thesis work?

A: My thesis is a predator project dealing with the impacts of wolves on cattle herds. I am basing the project out of the Wyoming Trophy Game management area which is the area around Yellowstone that includes Pinedale, Dubois and up to Cody. The reintroduction of the wolf has been surrounded by controversy since the very beginning. The wolf population has grown dramatically over the past years and cattle producers are starting to feel the effects. I want to get a handle on how bad these effects are getting in terms of money and time. I am trying to look at the direct effects of wolves such as death loss and increased management time. There are also indirect effects on the cattle such as decreased weaning weights, decreased conception rates and stress related disease. This is relatively new research so I will have to make the best of it.



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Abby Mellinger

Q: What is the focus of your thesis work?

A: My thesis work examines the economic efficiency of conservation easement purchases for mitigation of oil and gas impacts to wildlife in Sublette County. I will be constructing an index that reflects biological and economic land values and then use a spatial optimization algorithm to find which properties or areas can maximize both.

Q: Do you have results you can share – key findings?

A: Absolutely none yet! – I am still sorting through data.

Q: What is your background – where do you come from and what do aim to do when you finish?

A: I'm from Cody, Wyo., attended UW as an undergraduate and earned a B.S. in Economics and Environment and Natural Re-



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Advocate for AgEcon

By Chris Bastian, Chair of the Department Marketing Committee

Word of mouth from people like you helps students find Ag Econ as a major. Recent focus groups with students indicated they often make choices about major based on information and advice they get from people like yourself. We need your help to spread the word about Ag Econ as a major!

Here are some talking points to use with high school students and those looking for a more satisfying academic home.

1. **Open Options.** We offer three options in our BS degree (Ag Business, International Ag and Farm and Ranch Management), each with an array of employment opportunities. And we have good placement of our grads. See the list for information on where our undergrads receive jobs. Our students are getting jobs in ag-related fields as well as traditional straight business fields.
2. **Advising.** We offer one-on-one advising with our students (many programs can't).
3. **Face Time.** While we have more than 100 students majoring in our department, our students get a lot more opportunity for face time with faculty than in the business college.
4. **Scholarships.** Our college has great scholarship program - less than a thousand students competing for over \$411,000 in scholarship monies.
5. **Practical Application.** Our degree program combines economics, business and agricultural sciences as a central core. We teach application, and we do it better than other places. We have picked up a number of majors from the business college because of the reasons mentioned above.

Where AgEcon grads get jobs

Distribution or marketing
Financial or real estate sector
Processing or manufacturing
Recreation or tourism
Education or Extension
Private consulting
Non-profit sector
Retail business
State/federal/local government
Foreign service
Natural resources or energy

As you talk with people, remember that our degree prepares students for a broad array of career options and is coupled with plenty of opportunities to interact with our faculty.

If you'd like brochures to use when talking to potential undergrads or high school teachers/counselors, or a poster (focused on the graduate program), let us know and we'll send you some. Contact Janet at windsong@uwyo.edu. ■

Transitioning Wyoming Ag—succession planning workshop to be held

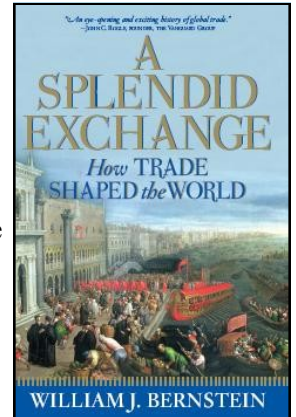
Preparing the next generation of management for a farm or ranch operation can take tremendous effort. This conference brings the two generations together into one room to work on things important to bringing another generation into the operation. If you've recently added a generation or if you've got a son or daughter in school who is considering coming back, this will be an opportunity to spend some time on campus with them and work on issues from your farm and ranch. Reserve a place now for February 24 & 25 in Laramie. Contact Cole Ehmke at cehmke@uwyo.edu or (307) 766-3782. ■

Book Corner

Tom Foulke

Title: *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World*
Author: William J. Bernstein (2008)
Published by: Atlantic Monthly Press

For anyone interested in the history of global trade, *A Splendid Exchange* is a good place to pick up a fascinating overview of trade's importance to the global economy through history. The book weaves a tale from Babylonian times all the way through the "Battle of Seattle" (the anti-globalization riots of 1999 WTO conference). Along the way, the author throws out interesting tidbits on commodities as varied as copper, silk, coffee, tea and cotton. More importantly, he shows how the transportation and exchange of these commodities led to the inventions and institutions that we have today.



A Splendid Exchange is a broad sweep of a book that does not dwell too long on one subject, but uses each topic as a segue into the next; with enough detail to keep you engaged, but not overwhelmed. Some topics are covered in a little more detail than others, if they lead to an important facet of trade, such as the development of navigation and the discovery of trade winds. These form a sort of theme through the first three-quarters of the book, since sea transportation was paramount in the shaping of our trade system.

Another theme is cloth. Mr. Bernstein points out that throughout most of recorded industry, the primary manufactured trade good was cloth. And until well after the invention of power spinning and looms, most of the world's wealth was held in cloth. The records of the British East India company show that most of the slaves, purchased in Africa for the New World sugar plantations, were purchased not with gold, but with cotton calico.

My one objection to the book was that near the end, the author took to editorializing a little too much. That can be forgiven as an author's prerogative, or overlooked, if you agree with him. In either case, I do not think it appreciably diminishes the enjoyment of the book overall.

Recommended for your library by Tom Foulke. ■

Tom is a senior research scientist in the Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics.



In the Margins

University of Wyoming
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Jordan Steele—Vanvig Interview, cont'd.

Q: Do you have results you can share – key findings?

A: I do not have any key findings to share yet. However, I did have the chance to make a research trip this summer up to that country and talk to ranchers and a few government officials about the topic. I learned a great deal in that trip. It was very interesting to talk to everyone and see the country where the wolves are. So I guess the key finding so far is that wolves do affect cattle production. What I need to find out is how bad do they affect it and if there is a way to offset these negative effects.

Q: What is your background – where do you come from and what do you aim to do when you finish?

A: I originally grew up on a cow/calf ranch northeast of Aladdin, Wyo. The town of Aladdin is a small town, population 15. I kind of grew up in the sticks. My brother, my best friend, and all the other neighbor kids actually went to a country school for part of elementary. Then for high school we went to Sundance. The ranch was a great place to grow up, I loved it. My parents now live in South Dakota and still run cattle. Our family also has land leased around Sundance as well where we have more cattle. When I am finished, I would like to be in agriculture somewhere. I am really not sure where but I would like to be able to use my smarts and my big mouth somewhere. A community college teacher, rodeo coach, large ranch manager, and USDA type jobs have all caught my eye so far.

Q: What brought you to UW AgEcon?

A: My background definitely brought me to AgEcon. I had thought about other routes in college but AgEcon was where I was most comfortable. I learned the most in this program and

enjoyed myself as well. I really have no regrets joining this program. I like how everything we learned in theory can be applied to all aspects of agriculture. Economics can be a really abstract thing for some people but it made sense to me so I stuck with it. ■

Abby Mellinger—Vanvig Interview, cont'd.

sources, and I hope to build a career in the Rocky Mountain West applying economics to environmental and natural resource policy and decision-making.

Q: What brought you to UW AgEcon?

A: I came to AgEcon because I had worked with some of the faculty here as a student research assistant in ENR and had some of them as teachers during undergrad and knew what sort of research they do, which interests me. I also like that this is an applied economics degree and really value the outreach and research that comes along with it. This program was just a good fit! ■

Conference Sessions Available

The audio and video of sessions from the recent Pills, Potions, and Profits event (the 11th Consumer Issues Conference) are available at www.uwyo.edu/consumerconference. Speakers discussed a wide variety of topics related to drugs and consumers in American society at the conference. ■

**Pills, Potions
and Profits**
The 11th Consumer Issues Conference
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