



In the MARGINS

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the UW Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

UW Agricultural Economics Professor Receives Vanvig Distinguished Faculty Award

An agricultural and applied economics faculty member at the University of Wyoming whose career exemplifies research, outreach, teaching and service is this year's recipient of the Andrew Vanvig Lifetime Distinguished Faculty Award in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Chris Bastian has performed outreach, research, teaching, mentoring, service and student advising at a high level, said Dale Menkhous, professor emeritus in the department and a previous Vanvig award recipient.

"To be able to carry out these responsibilities in a conscientious and exceptional manner, as Chris has done, is rare and characterizes a distinguished faculty member," said Menkhous.



Bastian began as a lecturer at the University of Wyoming in 1990, and advanced to research associate then assistant, associate and senior UW Extension educator. He returned to UW as an assistant professor in 2005 after receiving his Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from Colorado State University and attained full professor in 2017.

Vanvig served as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics for 25 years and was a faculty member for 35. He created the award in 2010 to honor a senior faculty member in the

college for lifetime accomplishments in teaching, scholarship/creative activity and service. Professors in the college with a minimum of 15 years of service are eligible.

Bastian is the epitome of what a senior faculty member should be, stated his nominators.

"He has not only made a significant impact on our discipline through scholarship contributions, but he is continually recognized as an outstanding educator by students and peers and has gone above and beyond to serve our department, college, university and regional associations," stated department head and associate professor Ben Rashford, assistant professor Chian Jones Ritten and research associate Amy Nagler.

Bastian has mentored 270 undergraduates and supervised 53 graduate degrees. He has written or co-written 79 refereed journal articles, 88 reviewed extension publications, 130 presentations and received over \$3.5 million in grants.

Bastian embodies the land-grant mission of teaching, research and extension, said Chris McIntosh, professor and department head of agricultural and economics and the University of Idaho.

He cited Bastian's service to the university and profession and serving on the executive board (Bastian is now president) of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

"His reputation as an excellent teacher is well known throughout the agricultural economics profession," said McIntosh. "It is also obvious when you see him present his work at professional conferences."

Another previous Vanvig award recipient offered high praise for Bastian.

"Chris has been a pillar in our department for as long as I can remember due to his leadership and expertise in a wide

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College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
Agricultural and
Applied Economics

Department 3354
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, Wyoming 82071

College of Agriculture, Room 206
(307) 766-2386

www.uwyo.edu/agecon
www.facebook.com/UWAgEcon

Department Head: Ben Rashford
Editor: Cole Ehmke



Moses Obbo sent greetings from Kampala, Uganda. “Like many other professionals across the world I’m working from home, thanks to the lockdown caused by COVID-19 pandemic. I work for the UK based research company Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd. as a Senior Analyst for the East Africa region. We have a remote office here in Uganda but I prefer to work from home. The photo shows me dressed up for work — something I sometimes do to get into the office work mood.”



Wendell Field (class of 1988) in western Wyoming has been carving and printing a woodblock, and doing some drawing and painting as well as working the garden. “I’m also encouraging others to spend some time drawing, either from your imagination or from life. Drawing forces you to sit still and really look at something you might not otherwise notice. Don’t just look at the object, look at the shapes and spaces that surround the object. Make it about the process not the result.” wendellfield.com

AgEcon Alumni in Photos

Back in late April — during the depths of the stay-at-home directives and just as spring was arriving — we asked alumni for photos of how they were passing the time while staying home. Some wonderful submissions came in showing the pleasures of being at home and the spirit of our Cowboy alums. Enjoy!



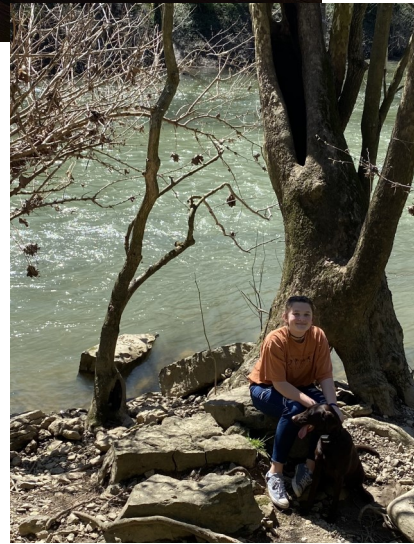
Paula Morton (1980, International Agriculture) recently moved to Grand Junction, Colorado. “I have been busy organizing my house but I have made time to plant the peppers and squash.”

Hannah Gorman (2015) bottle feeds a calf in NE Wyoming.



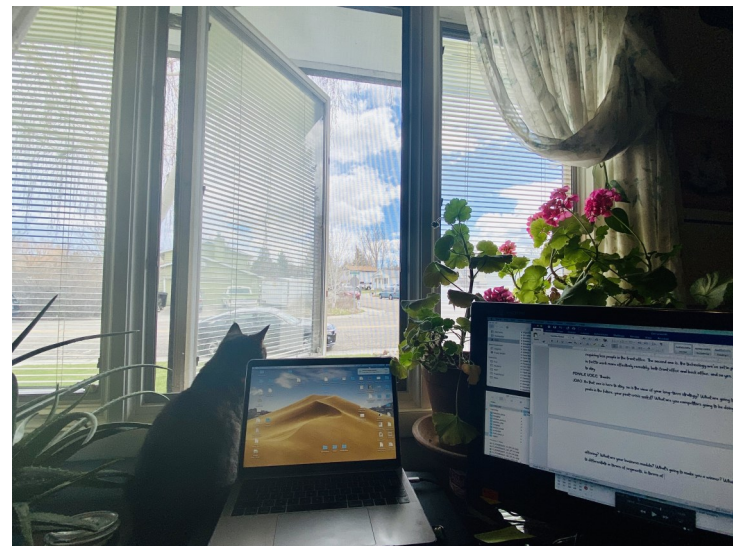
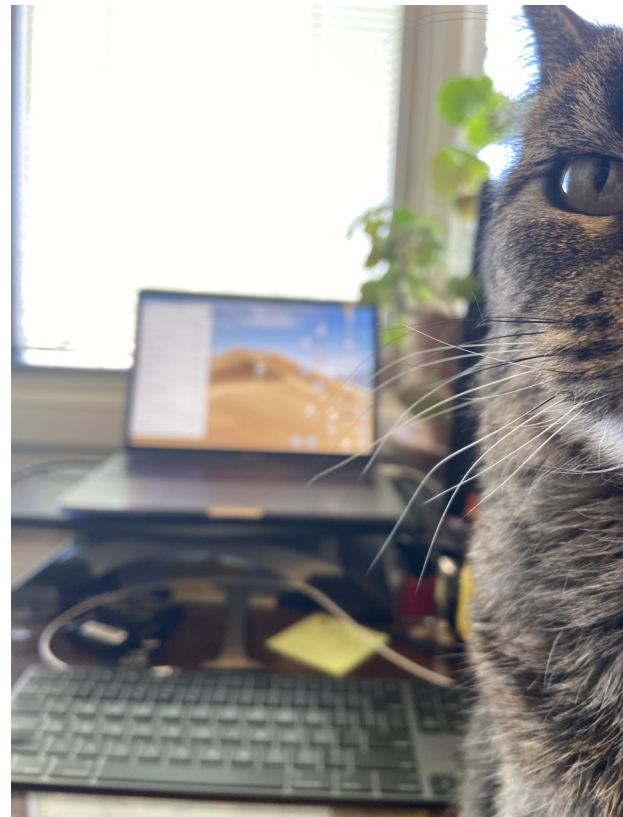


Mikol Christensen (2010) in SW Wyoming finally has time to work on his old truck. “The 1950 Ford F-1 is the first body style of the F series truck we know today. In 1953 they changed the name to F-100.”



Ann Cormican (class of 1990) is enjoying the outdoors of Kentucky. “My daughter Sidney made ‘butterfly tea’ steeping violets from the yard, adding honey, then adding lemon juice to change the color from blue to purple.” The happy lab is Roux.

Carrie Kelly (1997) in Illinois is starting their garden. “My 12 year old daughter Katie Anne is doing the roto tilling!”



Saige (Albert) Zespy in central Wyoming was spending a lot more time working outside in the sunshine. “I very much appreciate laptops! And my kitty is pretty pleased that I can work with her, too. When it’s rainy and I have to be inside, I’m loving that the geraniums are blooming on my desk!”



Recent/Upcoming Department Work

Business Structures for Today's Farms and Ranches. **John Hewlett**. Western Extension Committee. Western Agricultural Economics Association. Annual Meeting. Online, formerly in Sante Fe. June 28-30, 2020.

Delivering A Short-Term Study Abroad Class with Measurable Student Outcomes. **Mariah Ehmke and Cole Ehmke**. Western Agricultural Economics Association. Annual Meeting. Online, formerly in Sante Fe. June 28-30, 2020.

Understanding Risk in Agriculture. **John Hewlett**. 2020 Extension Risk Management Education National Conference. Online, formerly in Denver, April 1-2, 2020.

Education on Community Supported Agriculture Ventures in the Rural Mountain West. **Cole Ehmke**. 2020 Extension Risk Management Education. National Conference. Online, formerly in Denver, April, 1-2, 2020.

Abuse of Power of Attorney: Risk Factors, Prevention and Responding. **Cole Ehmke** and Virginia Vincenti. Poster presented at Extension Risk Management Education National Conference. Online, formerly in Denver, April 1-2, 2020.

Calculating Custom Rates. **John Hewlett**. WESTI Ag Days. Worland, Wyo. February 12, 2020.

Forms of Business Ownership: Which is Best? **John Hewlett**. Fremont County Farm & Ranch Days, Riverton, Wyo. February 5, 2020.

Succession Planning. **John Hewlett**. 2020 Alaska Peony Conference, Fairbanks, Ak. February 1, 2020.

Planning for Success. **John Hewlett**. 2020 Alaska Peony Conference, Fairbanks, Ak. January 31, 2020.

Economic Tools for Sheep Producers. **Bridger Feuz**. American Sheep Industry meetings in Scottsdale, Ariz. in January and at the Young Entrepreneurs session at the Lamb Council.

Understanding Business Finances workshop. **John Hewlett**. 2020 Alaska Peony Conference. Fairbanks, Ak. January 30, 2020.

Forms of Business Ownership. **John Hewlett**. 2020 WY/UT Ag Days. Evanston, Wyo. January 28, 2020.

Ag Survivor – Strategies for Managing Risks in Your Operation. **John Hewlett**. Top Farmer Conference 2020. West Lafayette, Ind. January 9, 2020.

Managing Ranch Labor – Hiring & Retaining Ranch Workers. **John Hewlett**. 2018 Wyoming Stock Grower's Association. Progressive Rancher's Forum. Casper, Wyo. December 9, 2019.


AgEcon and COVID19 Response

If you've seen the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the news over the last few months, it may be because its staff have been working hard to help individuals and businesses navigate the coronavirus situation. Many efforts have used websites and Facebook pages to circulate information, others have used media releases. Some recent media releases the AgEcon department has assisted with include these:

- UW Extension specialist suggests ways to cope with coronavirus income loss, 3/26
 - Ag sector may begin seeing coronavirus pandemic effects, 3/27
 - UW gerontologist: Social distancing doesn't have to mean further isolation for older adults, 3/27
 - Cleaning, sanitation important tools to minimize coronavirus threat at home, workplace, 3/31
 - Program director says Wyoming needy face obstacles to getting COVID-19 relief checks, 4/9
 - Census response needed more than ever, 4/24
 - UW Extension educator offers advice for managing bills amid coronavirus pandemic, 5/8
 - Local ranchers can be sources for meat, 5/13
- An archive of news is available at uwagnews.com.


RightRisk - Risk Concepts

A series of eight publications covering the most common forms of business ownership is now available: sole proprietorship, partnership, and corporation, as well as some of the variations like limited partnerships, limited liability companies, etc. Materials include how each form compares for: formation, operation, liability management, taxes, ownership transfer (estate planning), and dissolution. Copies are available at:

RightRisk.org > Resources > Risk Concepts. 



Ag Help Wanted – Updates Now Available

A series of four bulletins which update the online text *Ag Help Wanted: Guidelines for Managing Agricultural Labor* are now available. They cover: What is the Fair Labor Standards Act in Agriculture and How Does it Apply to Me?; What is a Form I-9 and Who Needs One?; What are U.S. VISA Requirements for Agricultural Workers?; and What are the U.S. Regulations for Child Labor in Agriculture? Copies of each are available for download at: <https://aghelpwanted.org/updates>. 



Recent Master's Candidate Thesis Presentation

Ellen Yeatman

Ranch-level Economic and Ecological Tradeoffs of Water Demand Management in the Upper Green River Basin



Researchers Test Ancient Grains in Wyo.

Here's how an AgEcon researcher browsing a table recipe book in France came upon the idea for the Ancient Grains project.

The idea of the project is to bring ancient grains to Wyoming's persnickety climate zones — and, if grown, whether any products would interest consumers.

Emmer, einkorn and spelt are called ancient grains because evidence shows them being grown more than 10,000 years ago in ancient Mesopotamia during the first agricultural revolution — and later fueling pharaoh's Egypt thousands of years later. Modern New World producers bypassed them because an extra step is needed to remove their hulls, increasing costs. Grains not needing that extra step were developed.

Now, rising consumer interest in niche foods has farmers and scientists taking a new look at these grains.

Senior research scientist Tom Foulke was in a chateau in Blois, France, looking at a recipe book while he was shepherding UW students during an annual international course.

"I'm looking at the book and saying, 'Why aren't we growing this?' We are always looking for crops to grow here," Foulke says. "The question for me came up that maybe there's a business here, maybe there's an opportunity, and it evolved."

Meanwhile, agriculture and horticulture educator Caitlin Youngquist, based in Washakie County, experimented growing a small amount of emmer and spelt in the bountiful Big Horn Basin.

"My interest in some of these first grains or early grains started as I was listening to barley growers express concern about MillerCoors cutting some of their contracts," she says. "I wanted to look for other crops that could be easily grown with the existing equipment and expertise we have in the basin."

Named First Grains after the first domesticated cereal crops,

the project grew into crop and nutrition research and marketing efforts — Youngquist and agronomy and cropping systems specialist Carrie Eberle in crops; Assistant Professor Jill Keith in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences studying nutrition; and Foulke exploring potential products and markets, trying to guide a project a public university just isn't built for.



Blake McGee sells pizza dough made from first grains in addition to his baked goods at a Laramie farmers market this past summer.

The program is end-to-end (vertically integrated), from producers raising the grain to bakers and brewers selling products made with these grains. If it's successful, private industry would then take over.

The goal is to build a niche industry in Wyoming's agricultural economy.

"The public-private partnership is something the university has not done before," Foulke says. "The university normally licenses patents and does the research, but to actually have the whole system under one roof is a little bit different, and that's been a challenge."

The process is backward from business as usual when determining what crops to research.

"In the past, we've looked at it from what crops we have and how well they will grow here," he says. "As an economist, I'm trying to look at this and say what crops we can sell, how are they grown and how well they work."

A better bottom line usually entices farmers to consider changing crops. Foulke says getting the premium for growing a niche crop is one of his goals.

The grains have been grown on UW research and extension centers near Powell, Sheridan and Lingle, and by five producers in the state. The grains are grown under dryland and irrigated conditions, no till and conventional, and organic and non-organic to find out if they will grow in Wyoming and how best to grow them.



UW senior research scientist Tom Foulke poses with a sack of emmer malted by the Wyoming Malting Co. in Pine Bluffs.

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AgEcon Scholarship Recipients

We're very proud of our scholarship awardees — here is a list of our students and the awards they received for the 2019-2020 year. Congratulations!

Student Name	Scholarship(s)
Amy Newman	Don and June Lobdell Scholarship; Gary and Gloria Parker Scholarship; Schmale Brothers Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Anderson	Joe and Arlene Watt Scholarship Fund
Baxter Boldon	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship
Brandi Fuller	The National Western Stock Show Scholarship
Bree Dooley	Henry Petz Scholarship; Carroll O. "Schoony" Schoonover Scholarship
Bree Thompson	The Nation Western Courtenay C Davis Memorial Scholarship Honoring Clifford P. Hansen
Brodie Sutton	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship; Gordon and Reta Mae Tate Scholarship
Carrie Yeatman	Mary Mead Graduate Fellowship for Women in Agriculture
Coby Lane	Oletha and Loren Likins Memorial Scholarship
Colton Sowards	The National Western Stock Show Scholarship
Courtney Newman	Don and June Lobdell; Amanda S. and Oscar W. Schmale Scholarship
Drew Ellis	Farm Credit Services of America
Dylan Long	Wyoming Beef Cattle Improvement Association
Garrett Hartigan	The Howard I. Downer Wyoming State FFA Officer Scholarship
Garrett Nunn	Wyoming Beef Cattle Improvement Association
Jacob Wintermote	NW Hilston Scholarship
Jared Marquardt	John H. and Hilda Simpson Scholarship
Jedidiah Hewlett	Farm Credit Services of America; Henry Petz Scholarship
Jessica Gordon	Y Cross Ranch Graduate Scholarship; National Western Stock Show Graduate Student Scholarship
Jordan Holmes	Mary Mead Memorial Scholarship for Women in Agriculture
Jordan McCracken	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship; Farm Credit Services of America
Jordan Pierson	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship
Kade Price	Gordon and Reta Mae Tate Scholarship
Karlie Renner	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship
Kendra Hinckley	Joe and Arlene Watt Scholarship Fund
Lewis Crow	Y Cross Ranch Graduate Scholarship
Lexie Dockery	Ella Schloredt Scholarship; W. Gordon Kearl Agricultural Economics Scholarship
Luke Byers	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship; Amanda S. and Oscar W. Schmale Scholarship
Magdana Kondaridze	Glenn P. Roehrkasse
Makenna Greenwald	Oletha and Loren Likins Memorial Scholarship
Meghan Smith	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship
Michaela Forty	Andrew and Connie Vanvig Scholarship; Farm Credit Services of America
Paige Parish	Mark Carson Family Agriculture Scholarship
Peyton Kloberdanz	Doug and Deniz Stark Ag Scholarship for Transfer Students
Rian James	Y Cross Ranch Scholarship
Sabrina Juma	Oletha and Loren Likins Memorial Scholarship
Samuel Reinke	Mill Family Scholarship
Sarah Dey	The UW "Jack" Radichal Scholarship; Neil A. Frye Memorial; Richard and Joyve Thorvaldson Clark Scholarship
Scott Gross	Leroy and Martha Maki Scholarship
Shaylee Hancock	Andrew and Connie Vanvig Scholarship
Shaylin Stein	Mary Mead Memorial Scholarship for Women in Agriculture
Sheridan Harvey	Paul Stock Foundation Scholarship
Tessora Bustillos	Lee Wiegand Excellence Fund in Agriculture
Tevyn Baldwin	National Western Stock Show Graduate Student Scholarship
Wesley Taylor	W. Gordon Kearl Agricultural Economics Scholarship; Woodrow and Glyda May Scholarship
William Flitner	Wilbur and Jean Harris Memorial Scholarship



Youngquist says how the crops could fit into current crop rotations also is being studied.

“What some of the research shows is they are not competitive with our modern wheats in terms of yields under a high-input system,” Youngquist says. “But they can be quite competitive under a low-input system, and so they fit well into a potential niche.”

Big Horn Basin harvests burst with commodity crops and seed, but not many niche crops that go into an organic or health food market.

“The ancient grains have a potential if there’s enough market development, both locally and regionally, for this product. There’s a great increase in products that are labeled with ancient grains,” Youngquist says.

Some Wyoming bakers have experimented with using the grains, as have some microbreweries.

Ancient grains, such as einkorn and emmer, aren’t going to take over malting barley acres in the basin, she says. “But it does provide some other options for growers who want to grow something different or want to grow something that goes into a local food product or local breweries they could maybe sell to at a premium or as a niche-marketed product.”

The dehulling problem has been solved, opening the door to product development. A dehuller has been purchased and installed at UW’s Powell Research and Extension Center.

The dehuller is the center of production processing for these grains, Foulke says.

“All of the products, whether for bread or for beer, need dehulled seed,” he says. “No dehulling capacity was available in a three-state area. With this new machine, the project can start building the niche industry and take the first steps toward privatization.”



Mike Moore installs a dehuller machine at UW’s Powell Research and Extension Center. Seeds of first grains require an extra step of de-hulling prior to processing. Moore is director of the Wyoming Seed Certification Service based at the center.

Track the Census

The 2020 Census is underway. Keep tabs on how many households in your community have responded with a Census map of self-response rates from across the country. Data are available at the county level.

<https://2020census.gov/>

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University of Wyoming
Agricultural and Applied Economics, Dept. 3354
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

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Vanvig Awardee. Continued from page 1.

variety of subject matter area,” said Tex Taylor, a professor emeritus and member of the agricultural and applied economics department and a 43-year UW employee.

“He has been a model of consistency, excelling in all aspect of the profession,” he said. “He has also been a valuable mentor to many of us in the department whose counsel is widely respected.”

Rashford said Bastian sets the example of the true all-around faculty member.

“He has excelled in the classroom, as an adviser and in mentoring graduate students,” said Rashford. “His research is nationally recognized; he has been consistently published in top journals and has generated millions in competitive funding. And he readily uses his expertise and research to help solve timely issues for stakeholders around the state and region.”

Bastian has sustained his efforts at the highest levels for decades.

“He is a model for others to emulate,” said Rashford. ■

Honor Society Recognizes Hovhannisyan

The University of Wyoming chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture, has recognized Vardges Hovhannisyan, an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, with their Faculty Award of Merit.



Gamma Sigma Delta is an honor society dedicated to recognizing academic achievements and accomplishments of students, faculty, alumnus, industry and university supporters. The Wyoming Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta each spring honors individuals who have contributed to the understanding and furthering of agriculture and related sciences.

The award is for faculty members who have distinguished themselves in research, teaching, extension or a combination. Congratulations! ■