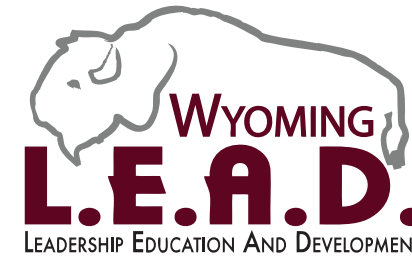
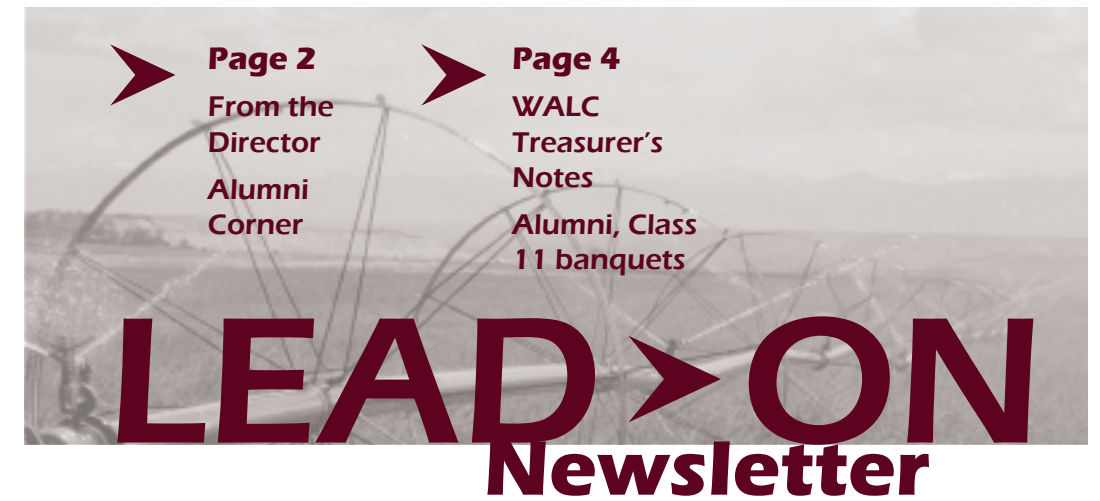


WALC
P.O. Box 5
Cheyenne, WY 82003



December 2009
Kim Porter, Editor



Developing leaders who will speak forcefully and articulately for agriculture and Wyoming communities

WALC Treasurer's Notes

Shirley Tschannen
WALC Treasurer



Congratulations to the new L.E.A.D. class! The board is very excited about the new curriculum and the new class. The WALC board made a few policy changes at the last board meeting. First, we voted to move our bank account to Cheyenne in an effort to become more efficient. What this means for you is faster cashing of your checks, since our bookkeeper is in Cheyenne. The board

also voted to pay for dinner at the L.E.A.D. seminar banquets for those members who have paid their dues. We hope to see more alumni at the banquets!

I would also like to take this time to thank all those alumni that paid their dues in 2009. Your support of the Wyoming L.E.A.D. Program is truly appreciated. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Join us for dinner (p.s. we'll pick up the tab)

It is a very valuable experience for the current L.E.A.D. class to meet alumni and interact with them.

In an effort to increase alumni participation at the seminar banquets, the Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council voted to use a portion of the alumni dues to pay for dinner.

That's right, if you are a dues paying member, dinner is on us!!!

We encourage all alumni to attend the banquets in their area and get to know Class 11.

Our first banquet in Green River will be held Tuesday, Dec.15 at the Crazy Moose Restaurant.

We are very excited about the banquet speaker, Dale Enerson. Dale is with the National Farmers Union and will be presenting a talk on cap and trade titled "Marketing a 21st Century Crop from our Farms & Ranches."

From the President



Brenda Williams
WALC Board President

Hello everyone, once again Wyoming weather left many scrambling to finish up fall work. I know everyone is busy, but I hope you will enjoy some time with family and friends this holiday season.

L.E.A.D. program is attributed to all of you who have given back to this program by paying your annual dues and through your generous donations. We cannot thank you enough.

Alumni, when a L.E.A.D. seminar is being held in your area, I hope you'll be able to stop by and meet the new class. The board recently voted that if you have paid your dues you may attend the banquet at no additional charge. Just a little perk to keep those dues rolling in.

It seems hard to believe, but the holidays really are upon us.

It is my honor to present L.E.A.D. Class 11. Please join me in welcoming yet another group of talented folks excited about agriculture and their futures. The success of the Wyoming

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Ag leadership program chooses new class

Eighteen Wyoming producers and agribusiness men and women were chosen from around the state to participate in the Wyoming Leadership Education and Development (L.E.A.D.) program's Class 11.

"The program underwent some modifications this year and I'm excited to see how they work," said Cindy Garretson-Weibel, Agribusiness director at the Wyoming Business Council. "I'm also pleased we had more applicants with this new structure than we've had the past few years. This year's class is a diverse group that represents the agribusiness side as well as producers, and includes people from all across the state."

The 14-month training program began Nov. 5-7 at the Ranch

See **LEAD CLASS II** on page 3

**MEET
CLASS 11**

Hugh Deselms and Kirstin Deselms of Albin
Eric Felbeck of Buffalo
Linda Dobkins of Burns
Jamie Harkins and Kem Nicolaysen of Casper
Brian Currier of Chugwater
Lisa Daly and Neil Forgey of Douglas
Bridger Feuz of Evanston
Jason Walker of Gillette
Paul Bauder of Glendo
John McNary of Kaycee
Tracy Smith of Meeteetse
Amy Shepperson of Midwest
Ty Anderson of Pine Bluffs
Corey Forman of Powell
Bill Waneka of Wheatland

WALC Board Members ~ 2008 - 2009

Brenda Cardwell - President, Casper
Leif Hanson - Vice President, Kaycee
Shirley Tschannen - Secretary/Treasurer, Lander
Brett Moniz - Past President, Laramie
Cindy Garretson-Weibel - L.E.A.D. Director, Cheyenne

Annette France - Member, Lyman
Sherry Maston - Member, Wheatland
Pak Landers - Member, Cheyenne
Aaron Clausen - Member, Douglas

www.wylead.org

From the Director

L.E.A.D. Class 11 students bring diversity to program



Cindy Garretson-Weibel
L.E.A.D. Program Director

Wow! What a great class the Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council selected to participate in Class 11.

This is a diverse group – diverse in occupation, ag industry sector, experience and geography. I also want to congratulate all of the applicants

who applied for the program and urge you to apply again if you were not selected.

Ruth Kay Petersen kicked off the first seminar for the new class and did a great job making the class feel more comfortable speaking in front of a group. Her fantastic section on change was also well received.

We have a lot of ground to cover, both literally and figuratively, during the next 14 months for L.E.A.D. Class 11.

Alumni Corner

Class 9 alumna Brenda Johnson uses L.E.A.D. experience to her advantage

Kim Porter
L.E.A.D. Program Coordinator

Brenda Johnson, L.E.A.D. Class 9 alumna, has had many opportunities to use her Wyoming L.E.A.D. Program experience. Faced with challenges both positive and negative, she jumped in and led the charge on two projects that had a profound effect on her community and way of life.

Johnson discovered the city of Cheyenne was planning to build a reservoir on the Willadsen Brothers Ranch, where she has served as the ranch manager for over 13 years. She sent letters and attended meetings of the Select Water Committee and the Water Development Commission. She led the effort to stop any further attempts at putting the reservoir in, including obtaining support from several legislators and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. “The Wyoming L.E.A.D. Program gave me the important contacts I needed and the courage to speak up,” Brenda said. “It would have been much more intimidating if I hadn’t have gone through the program.”

Though the program will go by very quickly, the impact will last a lifetime. I look forward to being involved in the process.

Here is wishing you and your families a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Alumni Happenings:

Deepest Sympathies are extended to the family of Bill McClurg, L.E.A.D. Class 3 member from Hudson. Bill passed away this past June in Equador while scuba diving.

Congratulations to Irv Petsch, L.E.A.D. Class 1 rancher from Meriden, who was recently elected to serve as the vice chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation’s Beef and Allied Industries Committee.

L.E.A.D. online

Check out the Class 11 Blog:
wylead.org/Wyoming_L.E.A.D._Program/Home.html



The city has eased up on their endeavors, but once a year she still sends a letter outlining their position to keep the reservoir off their land.

In 2006, many ranchers in her area were being contacted by wind developers. Johnson organized the land owners in an effort to pool their resources, forming the Southeast Wyoming Wind Association. Once they knew what land was being offered for wind development, she shopped around and contacted several wind developers to get bids. Two ranches were successful in getting wind development on their land, but the entire project did not go through for several reasons. Johnson attributes part of the success of the project to the L.E.A.D. Program.

See **CORNER** on page 3

LEAD CLASS 11 from page 1

in Ucross, Wyo.

The seminar included an orientation and focused on communication skills.

Throughout the program, fellows participate in 10 educational seminars in an effort to enhance their leadership skills and understanding of all aspects of agriculture and policy making.

Eight seminars will take place in Wyoming, one in Washington, D.C., and an international study seminar will be held near the end of the program.

L.E.A.D. was established in 1984 with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to establish a rural leadership program. Ten classes totaling 174 men and women have graduated from the L.E.A.D. program since its creation.

L.E.A.D. is sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council’s Agribusiness Division and the Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council (WALC).



(Back L-R) Ty Anderson of Pine Bluffs; Jason Walker of Gillette; L.E.A.D. Program Coordinator Kim Porter of Cheyenne; Corey Forman of Powell; Hugh Deselms of Albin; Paul Bauder of Glendo; John McNary of Kaycee; Eric Felbeck of Buffalo; Brian Currier of Chugwater; Bill Waneka of Wheatland; Jamie Harkins of Casper; Kirstin Deselms of Albin; Amy Shepperson of Midwest; and L.E.A.D Program Director Cindy Garretson-Weibel of Cheyenne. (Front L-R) Tracy Smith of Meeteetse; Lisa Daly of Douglas; Linda Dobkins of Burns; Bridger Feuz of Evanston; Kem Nicolaysen of Casper; and Neil Forgey of Douglas.

CORNER from page 2

“The L.E.A.D. Program gave me the confidence to pull the land owners together and the leadership skills to coordinate the effort,” Johnson stated.

Johnson loves working on the ranch, where she has implemented a program to transform the cattle herd into a more consistent product with Angus/Gelbvieh crosses. Because she works alone most of the time, she strives for a herd that is low maintenance with good dispositions. By culling cattle which take extra time to manage, the herd has become more efficient and easier to manage. Brenda relies on her border collies to help her get the cattle work done. Brenda said with a laugh, “I manage cattle and dogs a lot better than I can manage people usually.”

The Wyoming L.E.A.D. Program staff and the Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council join together to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!!!