

2007 University of Wyoming Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

(PSAS) Forage Based Livestock Systems - Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 301 20% Reproductive Performance of Animals
- 302 15% Nutrient Utilization in Animals
- 305 5% Animal Physiological Processes
- 307 20% Animal Management Systems
- 311 15% Animal Diseases
- 314 5% Toxic Chemicals, Poisonous Plants, Naturally Occuring Toxins, and Other Hazards Affecting Animals
- 601 10% Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management
- 602 10% Business Management, Finance, and Taxation

V(C). Planned Program (Situation and Scope)

1. Situation and priorities

The value of agriculture to Wyoming's economy approaches \$1 billion each year, and agriculture's contribution to open spaces, wildlife, and recreation is even greater. The largest component of Wyoming agriculture is the beef cattle industry, accounting for approximately 70 percent of all cash receipts and 86.5 percent of all livestock production. Sheep, lamb, and wool receipts in 1998 were \$29 million. Forage sustains the Wyoming livestock industry. Hay is the leading crop in Wyoming with production valued at \$185 million annually, mostly marketed through livestock.

V(D). Planned Program (Assumptions and Goals)

1. Assumptions made for the Program

1) Information exists that can improve the profitability and sustainability of Wyoming agriculture. 2) UW College of Agriculture personnel are dedicated to collection and distribution of non-biased, research-based information. 3) People will be interested in improved livestock production techniques, and will be motivated to change. 4) Increased understanding of the National Animal Identification Plan will increase participation by Wyoming ranchers. 5) Funding will be secured for speaker honorariums, facilitation, travel, accommodations, publications, and media.

2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

Short Term: Wyoming livestock producers will gain an understanding and compliance with the National Animal Identification Program. Producers will also gain an understanding of heifer development as well as opportunities for matching genetic improvement with successful marketing strategies. Livestock producers will have an increased awareness of sources of risk as well as risk-management alternatives. Medium Term: Wyoming producers will be able to implement electronic animal identification in their operations to gain advantages in herd management. Producers will have a greater awareness of food security and animal management practices. Producers will be able to utilize technology and information to make better heifer selection decisions. Long Term: Wyoming producers will benefit through an increased value of livestock and crops related to improved cropping practices, herd selection and management.

V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Activity for the Program

Any or all channels of the media will be used to familiarize the public with UW CES and the AES programming areas and personnel. Media releases in local newspapers, radio spots and television advertisements will inform the public of upcoming Extension programs including contact persons. Newsletter articles distributed both electronically and through the mail by county offices, area teams, and the University of Wyoming will reach producers locally, regionally, and state-wide. Public educational programs with invited speakers and Extension specialists and educators presenting research-based information, will continue to be held in response to local, state, and national livestock production issues. Demonstrations of technology and skills training will be included in education curriculum to enhance educational effectiveness. Field tours will be organized to provide producers with the opportunity to observe industry procedure. Specific Areas of Focus. Emphasis will be placed on the four main areas which follow; Herd management and traceability, herd development, cropping systems and livestock development, risk and operation management techniques and alternatives to enhance the stability of Wyoming livestock producers. The new Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) located at Lingle, Wyoming will provide a resource base for integrating livestock/forage based programs.