

### Fremont County CattleWomen

The Fremont County CattleWomen are gearing up for a very busy few months! We have many projects going on in our county group as well as our local groups. Our next big event is our annual Ag Expo's. Riverton's expo is going to be held on April 25th, 2008 and Lander's expo is going to be held next fall with the fourth grade students. They are not sure if they will go back to third graders but they are very excited to try this new adventure. We also have our installation of officers in April where we will be bringing in a new bunch of ideas and leaders. We were also fortunate enough to have Terrel Weston

and the National FFA Ag Issues Team Shoshoni FFA come and speak to us at our last meeting in January. Terrel was able to give us more information on the National Animal Identification and the FFA team gave us their speech on global warming. If you ever get a chance to hear the FFA kids speak it is a great opportunity. These kids are the future and to hear how well they are promoting the Ag industry is great. We are also hoping to have some of these kids attend the Beef Ambassador Contest in March. See you all then.

*Kelly Rees*

*Fremont County CattleWomen*

### Laramie Peak CattleWomen

The Laramie Peak CattleWomen held their annual banquet with the Stockgrowers at Vimbo's Dusty Boots in Wheatland on the first Saturday in December. We use this event to announce the winner of our annual Ranch Woman of the Year. Our honoree for 2007 was longtime LPCW member Mary Irvine who has held officer positions in our organization as well as chairing our popular photography contest since its inception. Mary's ranch life began in 1965 with her marriage to

Glen Irvine. Together they raised three children who have all continued in agriculture in their adulthood. Six grandchildren are growing to be productive in the next generation. Widowed in 1994, Mary remains an integral part of the family ranch. LPCW presented her with a water color painting by local artist Dorothy Cochran.



Recipient of LPCW Ranch Woman of the Year, Mary Irvine of Wheatland, WY

LPCW will get busy again in March when we serve the noon meals for Reyes' annual bull sale and an educational seminar that the Extension Service has planned. Our Associate Membership

drive has been slow since winter weather hasn't cooperated for us to make personal contacts with the businesses of Platte Co. We're all anxious for Winter to leave and look forward to the green grass of Spring.

*Donita Graves*

### Johnson County CattleWomen

#### MARTHA GIBBS, 2008 HONORARY MEMBER

Martha started her dedication and work with Cow-Belles as the secretary-treasurer over 40 years ago and has been active with the current Cattlewomen group until just a few years ago. Through the years she served on many committees and always helped with the decorations at the spring teas and during the mid-winter state meeting when Buffalo hosted it in 1973. In 1977 she modeled at an old fashioned style show for our entertainment. She is an accomplished artist, winning recognition and awards state-wide for her art. When the Cattlewomen needed a drawing for the front of our brand napkins in 1998, she graciously did the artwork of a cowgirl roping a calf. We liked the drawing so well and we needed stationery, so our next project included printing note cards with her drawing on them. On the back of the

cards it reads "The Best Cow-boys are Cow-girls". She was married to the late Bob Gibbs. In 1955, they began ranching on the TY Ranch 12 miles North of Arvada on the Powder River. They raised 4 children: Sue, John, Scott, and Jim. Her main love is the ranch and livestock as well as the beauty in nature which she reflects in her art. Today Jim, Jan and their family continue the ranching operation on the Powder River. Martha has been a loyal and dedicated member of our organization and we are happy to make her an "Honorary Lifetime Member."

*Submitted by Sally Ramsbottom*



The Johnson County Cattlewomen elected new officers, they are Linda Matthews - President, Ashlea Redding - Vice-President, and Virginia Watt - Secretary Treasurer.

Our Bull Sale season has begun! We stay very busy serving the noon meals at these sales. The profits that we make goes directly into our Scholarship Fund. In 2007 we awarded four scholarships, three scholarships for \$1,000 each and one for \$500. The scholarships are for graduating seniors from

Buffalo and Kaycee, or to continuing college students majoring in an agricultural field. The students must attend a Wyoming college or University for their first year. Ag studies include welding and diesel mechanics.

Jan. 19, 2008, we held our annual Cattlemen's Bawl. This year it was held in Kaycee. The weather was terrible all around Kaycee, but Kaycee's weather was clear! We served a delicious Prime Rib buffet with all the trimmings!

150 people turned

out for the occasion. Martha Gibbs was honored as our Honorary Member this year.

Our Johnson County brands silk scarves are finally becoming a reality! After many delays and a lot of hair pulling, we finally found a person to finish the project! Hopefully they will be finished before summer!

I hope that everyone has a good calving season and that we get plenty of moisture this spring!

*Linda Matthews  
President*

### Goshen County Cow-Belles

#### Goshen County features Ginger Harris

Ginger (Merritt) Harris was a very active Cow-Belle and president of the Goshen County group in 1966.

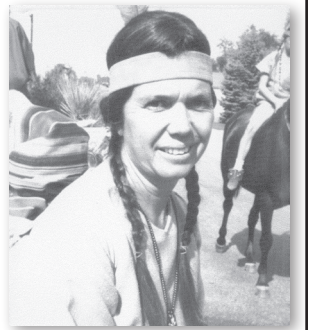
Her enthusiasm, sense of humor and hearty spirit were the ingredients for a successful year, followed by friendships that have lasted for years and years. Goshen Cattlewomen had many of the same projects in the 1960's as now; such as Brand napkins, Beef gift certificates and Pee-Wee judging at the County fair. During Ginger's presidency we also had a float in the County Fair Parade, published a County cookbook (featuring Toby and T-Bone on the cover) and served beef at many bull sales. Ginger was honored as Goshen County Cow-Belle of the Year in 1985. She now lives in Casper with full time caregivers, but still holds season football tickets to the UW

Cowboys!

Ginger's father (King Merritt) homesteaded in Federal, WY in 1917. She said he opted for ranching over picking cotton. Many Wyomingites will remember her siblings: Sonny, Hyde, Sis (Orlene), Cotton and Ramona. Ginger and Dale had seven children: Mantha (Casper), Shanna (Casper), Andrea (Story), Mark (Torrington), Merritt (Douglas), Bryan (Cheyenne) and Daletta (Florida). Dale (Jay Em) and Ginger were married in 1948 and Dale passed away in 1993.

Ginger endured a brain aneurysm in 1971, which left her with limited mobility. But her pioneer Wyoming courage has prevailed with cheerfulness and smiles. After all, with an electric wheelchair, remote controls, good books and a loving family - life is blessed.

The following song



Ginger Harris-in costume for Cow-Belle float in 1971 Goshen County Fair Parade.

was in one of Ginger's CowBelle yearbooks: O, the CowBelles of Goshen County are the Belles that take the prize. With hearts as wide as the prairies, they are true-blue as the western skies. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the stockman, they proudly prove their worth. Smiles instead of tears, steadfast through the years, they're the grandest gals on earth! Words and music by Berneice Johnson (LaGrange).

*Submitted by Thyra Shepard, President*

### Converse County Cow-Belles

The Converse County Cowbelles decided at the November meeting to sponsor a rodeo queen who would represent us at the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo. Emily Delyea is our glamorous queen for 2008 and she was crowned at our annual Christmas party on Dec.29. A big thank you goes out to Emily and all who donated to

help make her year such a success. Good luck at the Wyoming State Fair while making a stand for BEEF.

Teacher appreciation and February seem to go hand in hand, so Tammy Delyea and Veva Addleman teamed up to promote beef in our local schools. Each day in the week of Valentines (Feb. 11-15) we asked trivia questions

and offered a chance to win a beef certificate.

February is special for everyone, so we had a pampering gift exchange on Feb. 25. at the Best Western. Gifts were to be \$10 or less and were gift-wrapped. It was a rewarding and most interesting time had by all who attended.

*Ammie Murray  
President*

### Washakie County Cow-Belles

Well, here we are! Another new year started and Washakie County CowBelles are as busy as cranberry merchants!

Starting with our Christmas basket program (giving beef hamburger - of course!), we then served dinner to 54 Guardian of the Range attendees in February.

The following week we served over 400 plates of food (plus rolls for breakfast!) to WESTI Ag Days (Wyoming Extension Strategic and Technological Innovative Ag Days) participants! This was a complete success and money-maker for our CowBelles. Just as an added note, CowBelle member Phyllis Hampton and her very ag supportive husband, Sam, were recognized as the Ag Citizens of the Year. This is the first year a couple has been selected. Phyllis is a past president of our organization.

The Washakie County CowBelles are known for their great food and an example of this is the fact that WESTI Ag Days organizers only wanted us to serve the food! The UWCES Communications and Technology Senior Editor wrote one of our Extension Educators after WESTI Ag Days to make sure we knew how much he appreciated each and every dish he was served. He said the food was OUTSTANDING (and he capitalized OUTSTANDING in his e-mail.) He wanted to extend his appreciation to our members for ALL their tasty foods, from the cheesy potato casserole down to the totally sinful desserts.

Today, as I write this, there are over 135 people signed up for the State 4-H

Leaders Conference and we will be serving dinner to them tonight.

We gave beef certificates to the first Washakie County baby born in 2008 and will give additional beef certificates to the first Washakie County baby born after Valentine's Day, since there wasn't one born ON Valentine's Day!

Least, but not last, let's not forget St. Patrick's Day. A member of our Cow-Belles goes to the grocery stores, checks out consumer's baskets to make sure they are buying beef, and then hands them beef certificates. She says it makes her feel like Ed McMann and Publisher Clearinghouse! This is a very positive outreach to promote beef and to extend our visibility in the northwest part of our state.

As if we aren't busy enough with beef promotions and dinners, this year we also updated our Washakie County Cow-Belle afghans with members' brands on them. This fund raiser has been so successful that we have totally sold all our inventory and need to reorder more! If you want aprons, hats, scarves, napkins or placemats that have our brands on them, please contact President Dani Rice at 366-2571. This was last year's promotional push and we are ready to place a re-order on those items as well as the afghans.

The Washakie County CowBelles' reputation for good food and being a great group to work with is becoming overwhelming, but we love each and every minute of our togetherness with members of our communities and our State.

*Marlene Laudon*

# It seems funny now...

"It Seems Funny Now..." We have all had events in our ranch lives that seemed like disasters we would never get over--and as time passes we can look back and laugh. As Kris Johnson notes in her Albany County news story, wouldn't it be great if we could laugh at the time? Laughter is healing, so most of us should be very healthy because we all have memories of events that "Seem Funny Now"!!

*It wasn't funny then!!!*



I do my own stunts.

**MaeAnn Manning** - MaeAnn was riding a rough pasture one day many years ago, just traveling along doing her work. When she got home that evening, husband Bob asked "Where is your saddle blanket?" She didn't know then and still hasn't found it!

**Deb Murray** - Deb had been training for the breakaway competition for high school rodeo. The big day was here, she had qualified for the short-go at the Wyoming State High School finals. She came out swinging, she caught, she forgot to stop Buck, but he didn't forget to stop, he just reared up instead. When the clock stopped her long beautiful hair "a fake fall" had come off and was in the arena. She just jumped off, grabbed the hair from the ground and yelled "It's alive, it's alive"! Her dad was not laughing that day!

**Ammie Murray** - The day before their ranch branding, Ammie came to the house to use the restroom. After getting back on her horse 'Cupcake' she headed back to help gather. She didn't

see the ditch, but Cupcake did! Ammie landed in the cactus pile. Ammie spent branding day recovering from a trip to the doctor!

**Jane Irwin** - Jane was riding her horse as a youngster and met up with a cactus pile by accident. Her mom thought putting lemon juice on the affected area would help disinfect it and help with the pain. Jane let her know she was wrong, with the pain relief anyway!

**Dixie Huxtable** - Dixie had just completed a not very impressive run around the barrels at a high school rodeo, when her horse 'Pepe' decided not to stop and to go out thru the roping chute instead of the arena gate. It would have worked okay if the roping chute had not been real narrow and under the announcers stand. In the process of squeezing out the small gate, she ripped her blouse off in front of the announcer, who naturally had to comment on her attire or lack there of! Last rodeo performance in that town!

**Ammie Murray**

Husband Jim and I rarely spend much time apart with the exception of biannual NCBA meetings. I opt to stay home for uninterrupted sewing time while he takes off to get educated. During a winter meeting, a blizzard blasted our area. No problem, the critters had been tended, and I could hole up. About 2:00 AM I was awakened from a sound sleep by the shattering glass of a bedroom window. A heart-

stopping moment until I reasoned that nobody would be out in the middle of nowhere during a raging blizzard. Peeking cautiously out the window, I could see the shadows of about 20 bulls that came in seeking shelter from the wind. My home intruder was the large posterior of a Hereford bull. Fortunately, he only broke the storm window so the glass shards were confined, and there was no gaping hole open to Wyoming elements.



The first Spring project was realigning the house yard fence. Funny now, but at the time I felt I was in a situation I couldn't physically or mentally handle.

**Donita Graves**

I had an experience when I was just a new ranch wife. Doug had gone to an Auction looking for a loader the spring after we were married and right at the beginning of calving season (of course!) I had never really seen a calf born and wasn't sure what all happened. I saw this thing in the back of the cow and called my brother-in-law on the radio to tell him about it. He said it was just the water bag and I should have a new baby in about 30 minutes, don't worry! So I went about my work and checked again in about 20 minutes, no progress, so I called on the radio again, he again said don't worry! About an hour later I told him I thought he needed to come up,

this really didn't look right. He came up, was going to get the cow in the corral and barn. She took off on a dead run across the pasture! We finally managed to get her into the corral and barn about an hour later (after his Mom came up too and helped us). The calf was backwards, but we did get a live calf... then the cow prolapsed! By the time Doug and his Dad returned, Greg was blood from one end to the other! We did end up with a live calf and cow, but Greg said he would go loader looking and Doug could stay home and calve his own cows. I got quite an education in one day!!

**Kim DesEnfants**

One beautiful spring morning all the crew were in front of the barn making plans for the day. I came riding up on a little four year old mare who had only been ridden eight or ten times. She was doing really well.

My mother had two pet geese who always hung around the barn

hoping the horses would spill a few oats. Well, they came to meet me and my little mare, the male of the two grabbed my mare by the flank and wouldn't turn loose. Round and round we went, the mare bucking and the goose hanging on tight. Finally I landed in a heap and the goose and mare took off. I got up and dusted myself off and

looked toward the barn. All the old cowboys were in fits of laughter and not one came to see if I was hurt.

I was 17 at the time and it is still very clear in my mind. I'm now 86 and still get a laugh out of it when I look back, but—it didn't seem funny then!

**Margaret Haines**

My "little story" has to do with our grandson, Tanner. He's a little ranch boy at heart but is a tender heart too. We had a first calf heifer die and he was quite concerned. The afternoon that she died was a nasty one so we planned on getting her out of the alley way the next

morning. He buzzed outside the next morning and came racing back from the corral to say "Yep Gramma, she's still dead." I laughed and laughed even though we ended up with a bum calf and a dead heifer out of the deal.

**Janet Givens**

I know our friend would not mind me telling this story on her as she loves to still call us her second family. She still communicates to a number of us via e-mail or phone often from California. A car load of ladies had been to a Region V meeting and were anxious to get home. We decided to stop in Billings for a sandwich. We all know Sally loves to talk and talk and if you have traveled with her you know she is always the last one to order a meal, get dressed to leave, pay for her meal or go to the rest room as she is busy visiting with someone, whether she knows them or not. Anyway, five of us had paid our bill,

had gone to the rest room and were waiting in the car for Sally to hurry and come out so we could get home. Finally she comes limping out of the restaurant crying and laughing. "You guys all left me and I needed you." Why, what happened? Well it seems she had gone to the bathroom, sat down, leaned over and got pinched by the loose toilet seat, tried to get up and got pinched on the other side of her rear, fell over and started to laugh and there was no one to help her up. She really did have a nasty bruise on her rear. However we did not show her much sympathy until we did see the bruise after we were almost home. One other time she was in a real hurry, at a national



meeting but had to stop in the rest room a minute before the start of a meeting. She dashed into the first rest room she saw, took care of business, came charging out and ran smack dab into a man. She chose the men's rest room. She wanted to go change clothes so the guy would not recognize her if he saw her again, but realized, once again there was no time.

**Bobi Lentz**

It's 24 below zero, 2:00am and the cow needs help. My brother and I get the cow from the pen outside into the barn. The generator is running a light in the other end of the barn (the barn is 50'X100'). We have pens and an alley with a squeeze chute to do the necessary work. The cow refuses to go near that end of the barn. Dan decides to use one of the support posts, rope her and do the work there. We finally get a rope on her neck and chase her to the clos-

est post. Dan said we needed to get her closer so I'm to go near her to get her closer. She starts to chase me, the rope around the post is getting longer on her end and shorter on Dan's end. Finally Dan gets her stopped and started the other direction. Meanwhile, I'm hyperventilating (not used to running in full winter clothes) and getting light headed. We finally get the cow and her new calf turned loose. Happy ending!

**Linda Haines**

One beautiful, sunny spring morning four Crook County CattleWomen—Marjorie Goodson, Vernie Nussbaum, Betts Seeley and Jeanette Smith—left Sundance to attend the Wyoming CattleWomen Spring board meeting in Casper.

All went well. It was good to meet old friends and make new ones. The necessary business was conducted in a speedy manner and we were on the road home shortly after 2:00 p.m. We decided to go back to Sundance through Gillette rather than the shorter route past Wright and on to Upton. It would be a good opportunity to have a nice dinner in Gillette and still be home at a reasonable hour. Or so we thought!!

At about the halfway point it was not unusual for us to stop and get out of the vehicle to stretch

our legs. Imagine the shock to discover that the car doors had accidentally locked. There we were—no coats, purses or cell phones!! We were stranded on the 4-J road between Midwest and Gillette. Luckily the vehicle had OnStar, so no problem. We just needed access to a phone in order to call them.

A cute young cowboy stopped and we thought we were doing fine. However, OnStar declared SORRY, SERVICE EXPIRED. (We later determined this was in error.) One of the four responded with "Oh, \*\*\*\*!"

Next step was to try AAA but the closest approved locksmith was in Buffalo, a long way from us. Wyoming Highway Patrol was also miles away. Next a Gillette worker on his way home to Mills stopped. Dale had a cell phone and vowed not to leave us until we were back in our car! We heard him tell his wife he was helping four "little old ladies". Jeanette was then ready to

break the back window of her Suburban, but cooler heads prevailed.

Just about dark a Wright fire truck and crew came by after fighting a rural fire. One of these men knew Vernie's daughter and had a friend in Wright who was a locksmith. The locksmith's wife said she would get her husband out as soon as she located him. An hour later he arrived (receiving much applause from the four "little old ladies" who now needed a restroom and were cold and hungry.)

In five minutes we were on the road and returned home around 10:00 p.m. for our "early" arrival in Sundance.

We are so thankful to live in Wyoming because of all the help and concern we were shown that day. Several days later we could laugh about the whole situation. The moral of our story is "Never leave a car without a set of keys in your pocket!!"

**Jeanette Smith**



### Looking Bad by Jo Harlan

We were engaged! Jim went to the Wyoming ranch after graduating from Iowa State U., but I still had a semester left, so we parted. My parents wanted to get to know Jim better, and see where their daughter would live. They planned an August excursion with car and trailer to the Harlan Ranch where Jim worked for Floyd Rosenberger. After a visit with Jim, they'd go on to Yellowstone Park. I was to be a guest of the Rosenberger family. It was

hot weather, and I was from Illinois, so when we arrived in Kaycee, I was dressed in white shorts and a red shirt. I called Jim from the town phone, (this was 1947), to tell him we had arrived. He asked what I was wearing, and the location of the phone. I thought this was a little odd, but I looked down at myself and described—"Colosimos' store, white shorts, and a red shirt." "Well," he said, "you've already ruined your reputation!!"

August 1947—Jim entertained my Dad and me on one day of our visit, by driving the little Jeep to Red Fork of Powder River in the Big Horns. We were going to Shorty's Cabin. He packed a cooler of beer and pop, and off we went. We got terribly stuck in a spring next to the river about a mile from the cabin. We tried every known way to get unstuck to no avail. We were just about to walk off the mountain—when over the hill rode three cowboys, (Floyd Rosenberger, Church Firnekas, and Bill Daly). They galloped up to us, roped our jeep, and pulled us out of the mud.--(It was like a John Wayne movie to an Illinois city girl!!)

Jim offered to pay them, but they said they'd settle for the little woman cooking lunch in the cabin. WOW!!! I couldn't even start a FIRE in that old black stove—much less cook lunch for three strange cowboys, and two men who should be helping, instead of happily drinking beer on the porch!! In the cupboards were a few staples—coffee, rice, canned milk and canned tomatoes. After a long "sweaty" time in the kitchen—I could hear the men, laughing and trading stories--- I served them a main course of rice with canned tomatoes in it, and a dessert of rice with sweetened canned milk in it. The coffee turned out to be very old and stale, and I made it plenty strong!!



Barnum loved a joke, and they had a new sucker!! I didn't know it 'til later, but the story went all over Southern Johnson County, and they had a BIG laugh!! Jim and I were married that December. We had lots of company always. They liked to see what I was doing wrong. I took it with good grace, and my neighbors were kind, helpful, and good friends throughout my life in Barnum. They liked a laugh!!

Looking Bad – 1948 – Jim bought 300 chickens so I could help make money to pay the bills. I hated those chickens. They were mean, and dumb, and lots of work! Jim shot 64 skunks that year—we made a mark on the ice house for each dead one. It was hard to keep chickens alive with all those skunks around!

One afternoon I was coming in from the chicken house when a fat mother skunk and five babies trailed down the hill ahead of me. I quickly got the 12 gauge shot gun, loaded it, yelled for a man—any man, to come and shoot them. No one came, and I saw I'd have to do it

myself. I walked behind the skunk family while I shot, reeling backward from the tremendous kicking action of the gun, missed, and shot again, and again. I think I shot about six times to lay them low. I was emotionally frazzled, and my shoulder hurt from the recoil!! When I quit shooting, men stuck their heads out from behind sheds and wagons all around the area." Where were you? I needed you," I whined sadly!! They told me they were scared to death once the wild shooting began—so they just hid!! Some kind of brave cowboys in the wild west!!

### It Won't Take Us Long!

Some women have a "honey-do" list for their busy husband, just a short list of handy-man jobs. The men don't have a list but there are times, on a ranch, when they need another person to help a short time. This incident was one of those times.

The kitchen door opened, there stood my Hal and he says "Hon, could you come and help me in the corral? It won't take very long but it is kind of messy down there." I

put on my chore jacket, cap, gloves and also quite tall "over the shoe" rubber boots. Before I got to my station, a smaller "sorting" gate, I stepped into a lower real, muddy place and since my right foot was in deeper, I lost my balance and down I went right onto my seater in that goo. He quickly helped me up and asked if I was alright and I was okay. The jeans I was wearing were quite heavy and since it didn't soak through all of my clothes,

we got the sorting done. It wasn't a bit funny then!!!

I was glad I didn't get mad as "an old wet hen," that I didn't have the gate open at the wrong time, that I hadn't twisted my knee and double glad, all went well, after all.

Hal dried the supper dishes for me, gave me a little smooch on my cheek and said, "Thanks for helping me sort that pair out, I sure needed a little help."

Opal Oudin

You know it's time for a new chairperson, when...!

Everyone knows that chairing a project gets easier with every year, but there comes a time for a new Woman at the helm! I must admit, there were NO complaints. The chairperson didn't even realize the problem for 48 hrs. (I guess, technically, that means there was No Problem!) In fact, if it hadn't been for cleaning the garage two days later, this wouldn't be funny!

The annual Christmas Chili giveaway came and went without a hitch. The biennial garage cleaning was a very relieving event for the weekend and then, the case of chili beans was found! Yes, that is, six very large two pound cans of chili beans, almost too heavy to carry and One would think, much less harder to forget, case of chili beans.

Sheridan County CattleWomen like to brag that they can serve 100 pounds of burger, on the streets of Sheridan WY, in six large roasters of Chili, during the Christmas Stroll, the day after Thanksgiving, in almost one hour.

I like to think that six thirty-quart roasters of homemade chili is a very nice token of appreciation for Sheridan County. I don't want to get carried away and break more breakers or spend more time on the street, in the cold, so six large roasters will have to be enough. We do try to limit the servings to "samples" so that we can make the chili go farther, (oh, I know it's a novel idea, but maybe a person could even add beans to the pot?)

In fact, the "cook and bottle washer", had mentally noticed that the roasters weren't at their maximum capacity. Thinking, that the beef could have been more watery and lost in the browning-up or a person could have added more sauce, no sleep was lost. Oh well, there were no complaints on the All Beef Chili except for the 200 strollers that didn't get a sample and maybe should have. Rationalizing that the recipe was the same as had been used for all four years, there was no sleep lost. They'll have to just get in line earlier next year.

Everyone knows that an all meat chili would even be a treat for CattleWomen. Now I do know what they mean by "stretching" the beef or even the "filler" in the recipe!

Sure hope we get some new Chairpeople soon! I'll Help!!! But I can't be expected to read a recipe or even measure ingredients after the first year.

Then again, if all else fails, maybe a person could even clean the garage more than twice a year!

Riki Davidson

Note by Bobi Lentz—the chili unintentionally without beans was very delicious—just would have served more with the beans that Riki found in her garage later!!!



### The City Girl in Yellow Pants

Several months after I married Duane, in 1986, we were invited to a branding. Bob McCune in Leiter knew that Duane was a rancher but knew little of me, other than we were Square Dancers. Duane said we would be there, of course before talking to me. Being a city girl all my life, I did not know what a woman's part in a branding was. I worked as a medical assistant for years so I had knowledge of "people" medicine, I thought I probably could handle "cow" medicine okay.

I fretted about what I should wear to this branding. I asked Duane and he said I should wear anything I wanted to. I did not own any jeans at this time so I chose some comfortable yellow pants, white checkered blouse and my new shoes that were so comfortable. I figured this was a good decision because there was a chance I would be on my feet most of the day helping "in the kitchen". Duane looked at me and smiled, saying that I was as beautiful as ever.

When we arrived at the ranch, Duane took

me inside the house and told me I probably would be inside most of the time preparing the meal. So off he went with the men folk. I did help the women for a few minutes and then they said everything was set for now and we were needed outside. I just went along, not knowing what was expected. The women commented on my nice yellow pants but gave no indication that they would not last long that day, however one woman took time out to take my picture to remember the event.

Well, things outside were not very clean. The first to get dirty were my nice new shoes, now covered with manure and dirt. I saw that the calves were separated from their mothers and hated hearing them bawl. Poor babies! Then I felt the heat of the branding fire. At first look, it appeared to be quite organized but there were many tense moments also. Some of the women had jobs already assigned for them to do so they got right to work. I couldn't believe they actually handled these calves with their strong arms and gave them shots etc. These were

women I have never been around before, true ranch women! I admired their abilities and wanted to become one of them someday.

They all told me to just stand by the fence and I could watch. The men laughed at my yellow pants and mentioned how they hoped they were not new. I was so embarrassed and mad at Duane for not teaching me the ropes properly about a branding! I was determined to be a real "ranch wife" so I refused to stay on the side lines and helped in any small way I could see to do. I quickly knew that my clothes were totally ruined and that my shoes were headed for the burn pile. I just told myself that it was Duane's fault and that he would just have to buy me new clothes!

The men teased me a lot that day. I think that day I passed the test as a future ranch wife, and gained a little respect that I might work out alright after all. What a day that was, one Duane and I have never forgotten and look back with fond memories of my initiation into being a true CattleWoman.

Connie Portwood

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

|                     |                 |   |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| March 29, 2008      | Casper College  | 10:00 A.M. WCW Meeting                          |
| March 29, 2008      | Casper College  | 1:30 P.M. Beef Ambassador Contest               |
| April 20 - 22, 2008 | Napa California | Region VI meeting (Sally would love to have us) |
| June 3, 2008        | Sheridan, WY    | Annual Meeting and Installation WCW             |
| June 4-7, 2008      | Casper, WY      | WSGA annual meeting                             |
| June 4-6, 2008      | Missoula, MT    | Region V meeting                                |
| June 14-19          | Denver, CO      | ANCW & Cattle Industry Summer                   |

## Concerns about the Beef Recall

By Leticia Varelas, New Mexico  
National Beef Ambassador Team

So there I was yesterday, sitting in my World Agriculture and Food Problems class, and the teacher brought up for discussion the recent news about the beef recall of

143 million pounds of beef stemming from the findings of Humane Society of the United States undercover video. Well, after hearing a few of my classmates' pledges to never

eat beef again, I raised my hand to give them our side of the story.

As a person who is deeply rooted in the agriculture industry, I assure you that our primary concern is the well being of our animals. At a young age, my parents instilled in me a love and respect for the animals that we raise. Ultimately, I know that we are producing a product for you, the consumer. The process to deliver you high quality American beef requires several steps and people. It is a team effort, and everyone should be and IS held accountable for the actions they take in the process. Although it is very sickening to see even one case of abuse and cruelty, I ask you, do you think that this was the only video made by the HSUS? Probably not. So how many videos of packing plants that are following the regulations do you think they made to catch this one incident? I urge you not to lose hope or faith in the American beef industry. For hundreds of years we have worked to deliver you a high quality product that is backed by our guarantee of safety. The actions of the Hallmark/Westland Meat Company are very isolated. When I look back at this previous week to see what happened, I can release a sigh of relief to know that the USDA has

worked hard and proven itself once again as an organization that is dedicated to food safety. They were efficient and diligent when they were called in

to clean up a very dirty mess.

So, when you go home tonight, be assured that the beef you serve your family is just as safe today as

it ever has been. The men and women who work to deliver you safe, wholesome products from pasture to plate work to serve you.

### More recall information for Wyoming CattleWomen

Added comments from the California Beef Council:

If you would like general talking points to help clarify our industry's commitment to responsible animal husbandry, we encourage you to visit [www.BeefFromPastureToPlate.org](http://www.BeefFromPastureToPlate.org).

Some things to keep in mind if an acquaintance or consumer asks about the video:

- Cattle producers work hard every day to give animals the proper care and handling they deserve and expect proper treatment to continue after they leave our farms and ranches.
- The acts depicted in this video appear to violate the Humane Slaughter Act which USDA FSIS regulates. The beef industry strongly supports strict compliance with and enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act.

The most disturbing part is that despite the fact that 99.99% of the people involved in this industry do things right, our industry's credibility was harmed. The result is that when distorted or non-factual claims about our industry are made in the future, they will resonate more with the public than they otherwise would have.

As an industry we have to embrace the fact that we can't afford to have any more of these types of mistakes. One or two rogue employees can cause irreparable damage to this industry, and because we are a low-margin industry that in part depends upon low wage-earning employees, the responsibility to train and create the proper cultures for those employees is critical.

-- Troy Marshall—Beef Cow Calf Weekly

### Legal Notice of Proposed By-Law Change

At the September 16, 2006 meeting of the Wyoming CattleWomen, Inc. there was a motion to amend the by-laws by omitting the office of President-Elect. This motion was seconded and passed.

Wyoming CattleWomen Bylaws, Article XI, Amendments and Revisions, Section 1 states that "Amendments and revisions to the by-laws of this organization may be made at any annual meeting by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of members present at such meeting, providing previous notice is given."

The By-laws Committee is recommending that all wording referring to President-Elect be eliminated. The Office of Vice President will be inserted into the President-Elect space and the offices will then be reentered. **Inclusions are in Bold type.**

*Duties of Officers:*

**A. President:** Shall be the chief executive officer an official representative of the organization. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the membership, Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

2. Have authority to call meetings.

3. Have authority to appoint committees and serve as an ex-official member, fill vacancies occurring during the term of office for chairmen or committee members.

4. Assign duties to the elected officers and committee chairmen.

5. Present a report to the member-

ship at the annual meeting of the organization.

6. See that all directives of the membership, Executive Committee and Board of Directors are carried out.

7. Serve as our representative on the Board of Directors of the American National CattleWomen (hereafter referred to as ANCW) and prepare necessary reports from our state.

8. Have authority to execute all contracts and agreements.

9. Expenses incurred in the performance of the office shall be allowed as budgeted.

**B. Vice President (omit--President-Elect):** Shall be moral support and physical help to the president, and **shall accept duties as assigned by the president or Executive Committee.**

1. Perform the duties of the president in the President's absence.

2. Prepare for term as president by making committee appointments and preliminary Wyoming Beef Council Budget.

3. Shall work to increase membership in WCW.

4. Shall represent WCW on Ag unity when delegated.

5. Shall assist the President in attending county meetings.

**6. Shall serve as chairman of the budget committee.**

Submitted by Diane Frank,  
WCW Parliamentarian

### Checking in on the Beef Checkoff

By Diane Kirkbride

Following the annual Cattlemen's Convention in Reno, I came home with renewed excitement and energy about the Beef Checkoff. In report after report we heard about the examples of projects and programs funded by our checkoff dollars that are making a difference and helping maintain a strong demand for beef. I wanted to share a few of these with you that you may or may not be aware of.

Have you seen the new consumer advertising print ads? With this creative and new campaign the beef checkoff hopes to reinforce consumers' passion for beef while highlighting the protein benefits that beef provides. "Discover the Power of Protein in the Land of Lean Beef" is being featured in print advertising and on the radio combining the "Beef. It's what's for dinner." tagline and the familiar Aaron Copland "Rodeo" music. Matthew McConaughey was selected to provide a contemporary and fresh voice for our industry. You can view these new ads and hear the radio advertising at [www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com](http://www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com)

The Beef Innovations Group has just launched five new beef cuts as a result of extensive chuck roll optimization efforts. After the first group of value cuts led by the Flat Iron and the Petite Tender, it is estimated that the value of the chuck increased by \$50 to \$60 a head. We're hoping for another "shot in the arm" for the value of the chuck and also for all of our own bottom lines. The new cuts include the Delmonico Steak (a Chuck Eye Steak) which is extremely tender and juicy and has exceptional beef flavor. We had an opportunity to sample the new Boneless Country-Style Beef Chuck Ribs and they were delicious. They are juicy, meaty and tender and will be extremely convenient and perfect for summer cookouts.

The beef checkoff funded production of the "Enriching Family Mealtimes Tool Kit" which is now available. This kit includes eight family friendly beef recipes, mealtime tips, mealtime planning sheets, reproducible handouts and a CD with PowerPoint Presentations. The Youth and Family Education Committee was also able to reproduce the "Caretakers All" kit including a CD with lesson materials, teacher's guide and activity sheets for each lesson.

We all have seen on the nightly news the recall of Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company's products. As happened with the BSE outbreak and the "Cow that Stole Christmas" in 2006, this event has been a difficult challenge for the Beef industry to respond to. The Crisis Preparedness group was able to have an immediate and comprehensive response. Our industry leaders assured our consumers that our beef supply is safe and that we are committed to doing what needs to be done to maintain high standards. As beef producers we expect our animals to be treated humanely and given proper care from farm to plate. The Wyoming Beef Council office has received information including talking points, fact sheets and template letters regarding beef safety. Contact Ann Wittmann if you need any additional information.

These are a few ways that your Beef Checkoff continues to work for all beef producers.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.



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