

# Department of Agriculture

## Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life.

The WDA is comprised of six sections:

Administrative Services, Analytical Services (Chemistry & Microbiology Laboratories), Consumer Health Services, Natural Resources, Technical Services, and Wyoming State Fair.

## Results of outcomes

Consumer Health Services employees found 8,005 critically positive controls during their inspections of retail establishments. In addition, inspectors found 351 major deficiencies in meat plants and 1,088 critical violations at retail establishments. All deficiencies and violations were corrected and employees were trained to preclude reoccurrences.

Technical Services employees conducted pesticide program inspections, finding that 81 percent of the pesticide applicators and agribusinesses in the state were in full compliance with pesticide laws and regulations. The percentage of the total analyses performed by the Analytical Services Laboratory and reported within 30 days on 95 percent of all samples was 91.34 percent. Technical Services employees have the responsibility to assure the public that consumer products are safe and truthfully marked. As a result of their inspections, 87 percent of products inspected were found to be in compliance with state and federal standards. Of the nursery stock, feed, fertilizer, and seed establishments, 91 percent were found to be in compliance with state and federal standards, while 87 percent of all weights and measures inspections were in full compliance. All grain inspected warehouses were found to be in full compliance.

At the Wyoming State Fair, 2,451 youth and open livestock operators exhibited their animals. The amount of dollar support and sponsorships for the Wyoming State Fair equaled \$35,819 and the number of WSF special awards and donations amounted to \$2,530. There were 55,750 educational materials distributed to schools.

In order to expand the opportunities to promote the protection of our natural resources, WDA Natural Resource personnel provided information and assistance to 15 Coordinated Resource Management awareness programs, all 34 conservation districts, and all 23 weed and pest districts in Wyoming. Four small water development programs were implemented with WDA assistance and 26 impaired streams were addressed with WDA water quality grants. WDA also assisted in developing three endangered species management plans. WDA Natural Resource officials also conducted ten mediation processes and initiated four carbon sequestration pilot programs.

## General information

John Etchepare, director

## Agency contact

Don Christianson, assistant to the director for policy

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## Other locations

Laramie, Douglas, Statewide

## Year established

1923

## Statutory references

W.S. 11-1-101 through 11-17-108

## Authorized personnel

73 full-time; 13 part-time

## Organization structure

Administration, Analytical Services Lab, Consumer Health Services, Natural Resources, Technical Services, Wyoming State Fair

## Clients served

Agriculture producers; consumers; conservation districts; & agricultural, conservation, consumer, recreation, and environmental organizations

## Budget information

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| General Funds | \$11,427,954        |
| Federal Funds | \$849,465           |
| Other         | \$5,070,852         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$17,348,271</b> |

It is important that agricultural opportunities for Wyoming be expanded by increasing agribusiness related skills and knowledge, conducting market research, facilitating agriculture business development, and providing consumer and industry information of specific commodities. As measures of accomplishing that objective, the Wyoming Beef Council producer attitude score equaled 65 percent and the council provided three industry information opportunities

## Goals

Protect human health and natural resources; assure the public that consumer products are safe and truthfully marketed; and provide information and education to promote and preserve our agricultural community.

## Department of Agriculture organization chart

