

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 and Microbiology Laboratories), Consumer Health Services, Natural Resources and Policy, Technical Services, and Wyoming State Fair.

In addition, the Department supports activities of three affiliate organizations: Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom, Wyoming Beef Council and the Wyoming Rural Development Council which also has responsibility for the Wyoming Main Street Program. Each of these organizations has its own Board of Directors and is dedicated to serving the citizens of the State of Wyoming.

Results of outcomes:

In 2004, Consumer Health Services employees found 1,038 critical violations in retail establishments and 11,256 positive controls during their inspections. In addition, inspectors found 337 critical violations in meat plants. These critical violations were corrected and employees were trained to preclude reoccurrence.

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 the products inspected were found to be in compliance with state and federal standards. Technical Services employees conducted pesticide program inspections, finding that 82 percent of the pesticide applicators and agribusiness in the state were in full compliance with pesticide laws and regulations. Of the grain warehouses inspected, 98 percent were found to be in full compliance. Inspections of nursery stock found that 92 percent of nurseries were in full compliance. Of the feed fertilizer and seed establishments inspected, 72 percent were found to be in compliance with state and federal standards, while 94 percent of all weights and measures inspections were in full compliance. In addition, the Weed and Pest Coordinator provided information and assistance to all 23 Weed and Pest Districts.

The percentage of the total analyses performed by the Analytical Services Laboratory and reported within 30 days on 95 percent of all samples was 96.03 percent. Analytical Services also deposited \$ 36,644 of service fees into the General Fund.

To help promote understanding and cooperation among agriculture industry and department officials, two Ag Coalition meetings were conducted during the year.

General information

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Agency contact

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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

90 employees: 78 full-time, 12 part-time

Organizational structure

Six sections: Administration, Analytical Services, Consumer Health Services, Natural Resources and Policy, Technical Services, Wyoming State Fair
Three affiliate organizations: Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom, Wyoming Beef Council, Wyoming Rural Development Council

Clients served

Agriculture producers, consumers, conservation districts, and agricultural, conservation, consumer recreation, and environmental organizations around Wyoming

Budget information

General Fund.....	\$17,223,001
Federal Fund.....	\$1,159,667
Other Fund.....	5,283,311
Total	\$23,665,979

At the Wyoming State Fair, 4,471 youth and open livestock operators exhibited their animals. The amount of dollar support and sponsorship for the Wyoming State Fair equaled \$45,408.00, and the number of state fair special awards and donations amounted to \$5,207.00.

In order to expand the opportunities to promote the protection of natural resources, 15 Coordinated Resource Management awareness programs were conducted and 10 management strategies were developed. In addition, Natural Resources and Policy personnel provided information and assistance to all 34 conservation districts.

It is important to expand agricultural opportunities by increasing agribusiness development, and providing consumer and industry information of specific commodities. As a measure of accomplishing that objective, the Wyoming Beef Council producer attitude survey showed 65% of Wyoming beef producers approve of the beef checkoff program. The council provided 42 informational opportunities with this funding.

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom's programs are currently used in 19 Wyoming counties. The program reached over 90 teachers through its annual Coordinated Resource Management in the Classroom class and its Natural Resource Discovery Rendezvous Workshop.

The Wyoming Rural Development Council (WRDC) celebrated its 10th Anniversary and the Wyoming Main Street Program was created under House Bill 27 in the Wyoming Legislature. One and a half positions were created with the Main Street Program, and three pilot communities were selected. The WRDC facilitated ten community assessments in Wyoming and partnered in facilitating 10 additional workshops around the state.

Goals

Consumer Health Services and Technical Services plan to narrow the scope of regulations, continue to implement self-inspections for low risk operations, and assure that each establishment is risk assessed.

Technical Services plans to do a risk analysis of the division's work and prioritize the work to be accomplished. The section will also explore options of streamlining processes, receiving training from other organizations, outsourcing and privatizing some of the workload.

Natural Resources will explore the option of partnering with other agencies and organizations for training. In addition, the section will prioritize meetings and coordination efforts and review and prioritize all Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments and proposed rules and regulations to ensure that we are commenting on the most critical and important agriculture issues.

Administrative Services will coordinate the department's software standardization. In addition, the department will advocate a three-year replacement schedule of hardware as well as coordinate a leasing program for hardware.

Department of Agriculture organizational chart

