

Wyoming Agriculture

What's the future look like?

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Recent Agriculture Stats

- ❖ 12,000 Farms and Ranches
 - Average of 2400 acres
- ❖ 29 million acres of agriculture land
- ❖ Economic value of \$1.83 Billion
 - Cattle & Hay
- ❖ Average age: 57.5 yrs old
 - 70% of wyo-ag workforce: 35 and older
 - Average annual wage: \$25,090
- ❖ Agriculture ranks 3rd in Wyoming
 - Tourism and Mineral



Wyoming Ag Workforce

A silhouette of a cow standing in a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind the cow and casting long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the background, other cows are visible grazing in the field.

- ❖ 3,158 Wyoming residents working in Wyoming Agriculture sector and 3,717 non-residents (2019; DOE)
 - Average Wage:
 - Women- \$18,430
 - Men- \$30,388
 - non-residents- \$25,090
- ❖ Why can't we pay our workers?
- ❖ Agriculturists are not getting enough for their products at market
 - Price increase in fuel, labor, hay
 - Dictate the price of our own products
- ❖ Push for local consumer education and market opportunities

Wyoming Young Adults

- ❖ Wyoming young adults age 15-24 population has decreased by 4,784 (2014-2019)
 - Number of young adults working decreased by 8,315 people
- ❖ Wyoming's millennial population (those born from 1981 to 1996) decreased by an estimated 7,681 individuals
- ❖ Yet, we've seen a higher rate of high school enrollment in Wyoming
- ❖ So why are they leaving?
- ❖ 4-H and FFA members numbers have increased
 - A decrease in agriculture projects i.e. county and state fairs

Land and Resource Access for Young Adults

The background of the slide features a sunset sky with silhouettes of several cows standing in a field. The cows are dark against the bright orange and yellow light of the setting sun, which is visible as a horizontal line on the horizon.

- ❖ Extremely difficult
- ❖ Price of land and the price of cattle
- ❖ Programs available
 - Stock growers, farm bureau, Wyoming department of ag, Ranch Hand certificate at C.C.
 - Designed for those already established in ag
 - Focus on leadership and advocacy rather than practical agriculture skills
- ❖ Programs developing agriculture trade skills?
 - Apprenticeships?
 - Placement Programs?
- ❖ Wyoming Agriculture Placement Program?
 - Opportunity to develop practical skills and understand agricultural systems

Wyoming Native American statistics

- ❖ Lack of educational, healthcare, and financial resources
 - Federal collaboration
- ❖ 47.9% of Wyoming Natives are employed
- ❖ 41.7% not in the labor force
- ❖ 8% unemployment rate (national average 5%)
- ❖ Fremont county has 3% decrease of employment from 2019-2020
 - Shouldn't there be an excess of available workers?
 - Why is it so difficult to find someone to work on our ranch?
 - Why are we hiring non-residents?
- ❖ Lack of knowledge and skills because we don't educate our own communities

Summary

Heritage.
Hope.
Support.

❖ Wyoming ag workforce

- Drive hire prices for our agriculture commodities
- Will benefit the workforce and industry as whole

❖ Wyoming Young Adults

- Create agriculture programs for practical agriculture opportunities
- Learn skills of the trade to fill employment demands

❖ Wyoming Native American Communities

- Help build infrastructure and opportunities at a local level

A photograph of three cows silhouetted against a bright sunset in a field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The cows are standing in a dark field, their forms clearly defined against the bright light of the sun.

There is always hope.

THANK YOU!