

LOCALLY GROWN GRAIN SUPPLIES NEW VENTURE

Pine Bluff Post Staff

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Purdy Farms is a small family run ranch located in Pine Bluffs, Wyo. Gene Purdy's newest adventure is growing barley and wheat for Wyoming Malting and Pine Bluffs Distilling. Purdy speaks of growing the barley and wheat, but he does not grow the yeast that goes into the distilling of vodka.

"This is the greenest distiller in the nation," Purdy said. There is no waste stream, as he grows the barley and wheat for distilling vodka, the "spelt" that is left after (which is not supposed to have any alcohol in it) is taken back to the farm to be fed to the cattle, which produces the fertilizer that is put back on the land, making it ready for more wheat and barley planting. The business is

bigger than what he had originally envisioned; however the building is just like the drawing he had done on a napkin a while back.

Chad Brown, one of the other owners of Wyoming Malting and Pine Bluffs Distilling, explains "Wyoming is the fifth-largest barley producer in the nation. Like many Wyoming raw resources, the grain is shipped to retailers at a markup, and finally bought by consumers for even more money. I want to keep that money in Wyoming."

"The malting process is a value-added process for agricultural products. This area grows lots of barley, millet and wheat. Our business will help those farmers by giving them somewhere to sell. Then we can provide that product to brewers and distillers around the state," he said.

First bottling of Rock Ranch

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COURTESY WYOMING MALTING

From left: Gene Purdy, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, and Chad Brown of Wyoming Malting.

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