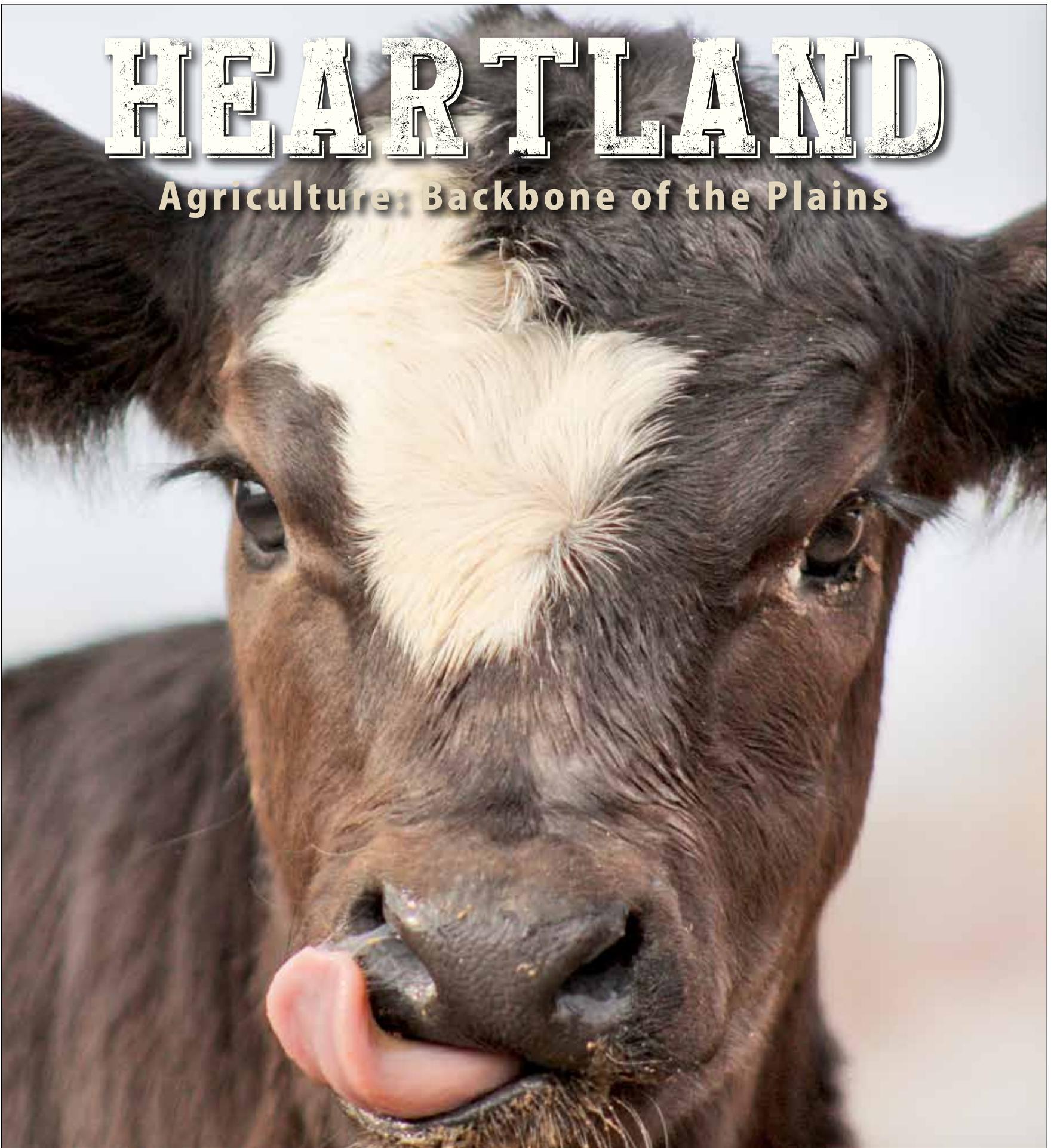


HEARTLAND

Agriculture: Backbone of the Plains



WHAT'S INSIDE

Peetz Rancher Provides Ranch-Ready Mounts.....3
 Running Through Their Veins.....5
 Terry Bison Ranch.....6
 Agri-Plastics Adds Animal Comfort Division.....7
 Exploring Careers in Agriculture.....8
 Farming Becoming Hi-Tech Enterprise.....9
 Narjes Family Celebrates 100+ Years.....10
 Brookside Farm.....12
 Wyoming Beef.....13
 Ranch Sorting.....14
 South Platte NRD.....16

THANK YOU

The Heartland Photo Contest grew more popular this year, with more than ____ submissions vying for the cover. Thank you to all that submitted photographs for the Heartland 2020 Photo Contest!
 We really enjoyed seeing all of the contest entries.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



Photographer: Carla Goranson
 Titled: "Texas"
(our calf we named "Texas" for the mark on his forehead is having a little snack!)



WYOMING
 BANK & TRUST

Proudly Serving Agriculture Across
 Eastern Wyoming and Western Nebraska!



Toby Hytrek, Vice President
 Wyoming Bank and Trust



120 Main Street • Burns, WY 82053 • 307-547-3535
 Toby Hytrek NMLS Number: 613275



PRODUCED BY THE STAFFS AT THE FOLLOWING STEVENSON NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS:

Sidney Sun-Telegraph

817 12th Ave., Sidney, NE 69162
 (308) 254-2818
 publisher@suntelegraph.com
 www.suntelegraph.com

Western Nebraska Observer

118 E. Second St., Kimball, NE 69145
 (308) 235-3631
 editor@westernnebraskaobserver.net
 www.westernnebraskaobserver.net

Pine Bluffs Post

201 E. Second St., Pine Bluffs, WY 82082
 (307) 245-3763
 pinebluffseditor@rtconnect.net
 www.pinebluffspost.com

PEETZ RANCHER PROVIDES RANCH-READY MOUNTS

ROY GILLHAM'S HORSE-TRAINING OPERATION CENTERED ON FAITH

Jeff Rice

Sterling Journal Advocate

One by one, the calves are “heeled” – roped around their hind legs to better control them – and pulled to the branding stove. The cowboy and his horse work as one, maneuvering in the tight quarters of the branding pen. It is tedious, exhausting work that only a horse can do, and only a well-bred and well-trained horse at that.

It is Roy Gillham's mission in life to produce horses like that, horses of consistent quality that ranchers and pleasure riders alike can work and ride with confidence.

It ain't easy, and there are no shortcuts.

“To start a colt, to raise it, it takes a lot of time,” Gillham said. “Lots of people can ride horses, but not a lot can produce a finished saddle horse.”

In most cases, Gillham said, it takes about five years, and it starts with getting the animal used to being around people.



COURTESY PHOTO

Roy Gillham, center with his oldest son Jake in the saddle to his left, prays before a gathering.

Those attributes can make horses flighty and nervous around people, and Gillham spends a lot of time just being among his horses, talking to them, touching them, getting them to accept a human presence as normal.

Training a horse is simply a matter of reinforcing those things a horse wants to do anyway; running, turning, jumping and so on, and then doing them on cue. All of this with an animal that, when fully grown, outweighs the man on its back five times over. More than anything, Gillham said, training a good riding horse means spending a lot of time in the saddle.

Although he holds two college degrees – a bachelor's in agricultural education and a master's degree in integrated resource management – Gillham has no formal training in equine management. He has, however, attended a number of clinics and has accumulated a small library of books about the training and care of horses. He even hosted a one-day clinic given by Ken McNabb, rec-

SEE GILHAM PAGE 4

JOHN DEERE EQUIPMENT IS A TREASURED ADDITION TO THOSE WHO WORK THE LAND.



21st Century
EQUIPMENT, LLC.

STOP BY FOR A TEST DRIVE AND RUN WITH US.
1901 LINK 17J, SIDNEY, NE 69162
308.254.2511 OR WWW.21STCENTURYEQUIPMENT.COM

GILLHAM

CONTINUED FROM 3

ognized as one of the top horse trainers in the country. Gillham hopes to attend a three-week apprenticeship with McNabb in 2020.

Roy Gillham first got excited about horses as a child, growing up on the Gillham's Rim Ranch near Peetz. He bought his first brood mare 20 years ago. Around the same time, while he was studying agricultural education at Colorado State University, he met BrandeeBest from Black Forest, Colo., whom he eventually would marry. That relationship had some early bumps, however, when Roy decided to buy a second mare instead of a diamond ring. When his bride-to-be pointed out their difference in priorities, he named the mare Diamond for her. Brandee finally got the diamond, of course, but Roy can't help mentioning that "the rock cost more than the horse."

The marriage has produced four sons and a solid foundation for the couple's business. Although Roy does most of the work with the horses, Brandee is a big part of the venture, photographing the horses and producing videos for the horse sales.

Gillham has named his business Cross I Quarter Horses, after the family's livestock brand, and the cross has deep significance to the family.

"Everything we do, we want it to point toward Jesus," Gillham said. "Having faith has opened some doors for us that might not have otherwise opened."

The Christian walk is important for another reason. Gillham said that, while most breeders and trainers are honest, he has seen horses sold under less than ideal circumstances.

"It's important to us that we build a solid reputation, that buyers can trust the Cross I name," he said. "By always keeping things pointed toward Jesus, we can do that."

Gillham now runs about 40 mares – at one time he had as many as 80, but said that's too many – and he has his hands full helping to run the ranch's 400-head cow herd, raising horses and training them for roping and riding. There is a working symbiosis between the ranch and the horse business; there are always cat-

tle to be moved or otherwise worked, giving the horses real-world experience, and there is no shortage of horses available to work the ranch.

Gillham's horses are of the Blue Valentine bloodline, named after a blue roan stallion foaled in 1956. FencePost writer Tony Bruguieri wrote about the legendary sire in 2012: "Blue Valentine had speed, good bone, gentle disposition, longevity and cow sense. He also had strong genes and passed his favorable traits on to 210 American Quarter Horse Association-registered foals."

Some of the horses are raised for private sales, but most of the ranch-ready stock is sold through production sales in Laramie, Wyo.

When asked what his goal is in training a horse, Gillham said there isn't really a definable goal.

"Any true horseman will tell you you never get there," he said. "You want the best response to the light-

est touch, but there's always room for improvement. I suppose, someday I'd like to be able to get on a horse and not have to use a bridle."



COURTESY PHOTO

Gillham "heels" a calf for branding on the Gillham ranch, using one of the horses he trained to work cattle.



POINTS WEST INSURANCE

Insuring your farms and ranches
Past. Present. Future.



207 S Chestnut, Kimball, NE 69145 • 308.235.2821

RUNNING THROUGH THEIR VEINS

Agriculture has run through the veins of Dan and Jesse Dersham for as long as they can both remember. As a young man, Dan Dersham's future in-laws ran one of the largest dairy farms in Colorado, and Dan's parents ran cattle as well in the form of Lazy D Registered Holsteins. When Dan found himself looking for a job, there was no question as to what he would do. Dan found himself sent to Wyoming by his future father-in-law to foreman an alfalfa farm for the older man's dairy cows. There was a piece of pasture land attached to this farm and Dan thought he would try his hand at having a few cows, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Dersham Land and Cattle was started by Dan Dersham to support his family and when Jesse partnered up with his father about four years ago they turned it into an

LLC, but there isn't a time that Jesse Dersham can remember that he hasn't been working the land. When Jesse came to him wanting to run his own ranch Dan didn't give it a second thought... he sold everything to buy a larger piece of land so that his son could break out on his own.

Wanting to diversify his business, Jesse Dersham runs a little under 900 head of cattle, but he also farms some of the land that he lives on. While much of what he grows goes back to feeding his own animals, Dersham is also able to contribute to other local ranchers in the area. Dersham's alfalfa is sold locally as well as his corn, hay and millet. While many smaller ranches are going by the wayside in this world of corporate ranching, Dersham isn't too concerned about Ag futures. "Domestic demand is excellent and we are pretty much self-sufficient at



xxxx

this point" said Dersham.

Dan Dersham cannot say enough good things about his son's operation. Jesse has his land set in a rotating system that keeps both the cows and the crops happy. Some of

the land is sodded, and the cows graze until it's time to rotate, once they move the land where they fed is able to re-grow as the herd thins down another section. While Jesse

SEE DERSHAM PAGE 8

PINE BLUFFS FEED AND GRAIN

307.245.3881

We Support Local Cattle
Producers, Feed and Grain,
Clothing, Boots, and More!



FEED & GRAIN



CLOTHING,
BOOTS, ETC.

115 East 3rd • Pine Bluffs, WY 82082 • pbfg@rtconnect.net

TERRY BISON RANCH

If you have gone to the Terry Bison Ranch for the great food, one of the tours, or a stay at one of their cabins then you are only getting about half of the story. Terry Bison Ranch is a working Bison ranch which means that there are several men and women behind the scenes working the ranch on a daily basis. There are animals to be fed, bred, and processed, and there is no shortage of work to be done.

In 1991 retired power line worker Ron Thiel had a dream of returning to his ranching roots and running a bison ranch. By 1993 Thiel had realized his dream and The Terry Bison Ranch opened its doors to the public. The ranch is 27,500 acres, or 41 square miles of land where, since 1880 the bison have wandered the property. Today there approximately 3000 head across the property that are raised for meat and breeding. Most people would look at the animals and call them buffalo; however, that would be incorrect. It is widely believed that French Traders assumed that the massive animals they were seeing all over the plains were related to the African Cape Buffalo that they had seen while there. However, in reality the Eastern Euro-

pean Bison are the only animals related to the American Bison. The word buffalo comes from the French term "buffle" which is said to be derived from the sound that the bison makes when it is huffing.

One of the ranch's biggest draws today are the award winning bison burgers and ribs. Fall off the bone tender and covered in a sauce that melts in your mouth, the food by itself is reason enough to stop by the ranch. One would think with all the bison roaming around the property that Terry Bison would offer farm to plate service, but maybe not. While the hope is that visitors are eating local bison, because of strict regulations, the ranch does not process their own meat at this time. "Because the animals are processed at a USDA inspected plant there is no guarantee that the meat that comes back is our animals, but they try their best, and the eventual goal is to offer our animals farm to plate" said Johnson. Johnson would also like to see the bison meat become more accessible for everyone. With the market now averaging about eight to nine dollars a pound for the lesser cuts, not everyone can afford bison meat.

The other important aspect of the working part of the Terry Bison Ranch are the breeding services. Breeders come from all over the country to breed their animals at the ranch as well as bringing in fresh bloodlines to mix with the herd that is currently at the ranch. The bison are wild animals, and are not domesticated in any way so they are encouraged to be on a natural regular breeding schedule as artificial insemination rarely works with the American Bison. The bison calves, at an around 40 pound birth-weight, are about a third of the size of a newborn calf, but this lower birth weight allows the female bison to self calve with little help from the rancher. The calves grown quickly though and by the winter they can be anywhere from four to six hundred pounds already growing their heavy winter coats.

According to Johnson bison meat is a leaner, richer meat that carries about thirty percent more protein and about half the fat as beef. The males that are raised for meat are not castrated, therefore the natural testosterone allows for the male to get bigger on his own without the use of

SEE TERRY BISON PAGE 8

PINE BLUFFS
DISTILLERY

SMALL-TOWN SPIRITS WITH A FLAVOR YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE.

Established in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, in 2017, we're a family-owned, family-operated distillery located just far enough off the beaten path to make things fun.

We craft our small-town spirits with a farm-to-distillery flavor you won't find anywhere else.

LODGEPOLE CREEK BOURBON WHISKEY

Lodgepole Creek is our unique take on an American classic; a blend of Wyoming-grown wheat, corn, and barley that tastes exactly like where it came from.

ROCK RANCH VODKA

Rock Ranch is our "whiskey drinker's vodka," and it's got a friendlier palate than any other vodka you'll find on the shelf.

MEET THE REST OF THE FAMILY AT SOIL2SPIRIT.COM

LODGEPOLE CREEK
AMERICAN WHISKEY
45% ALC/VOL (90 PROOF)
100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS

ROCK RANCH VODKA
PINE BLUFFS, WYOMING
40% ALC/VOL (80 PROOF)



AGRI-PLASTICS ADDS ANIMAL COMFORT DIVISION

Forrest Hershberger
forrest@suntelegraph.com

If you want to know what is best farming application, well, ask a farmer, or better yet let him design the product for the application.

That is what is happening in Sidney, Neb.

When Canadian company Agri-Plastics

opened shop on the east side of Sidney, its focus was on calf shelters.

The company has recently expanded to include products designed specifically for the comfort of calves and cows.

“We started it (Agri-Comfort) last October,” said president and CEO Darren VanBurren.

SEE COMFORT PAGE 11

xxxx



(308) Ag 

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES LLC

Does Your Soil Have What it Takes?

Seed Sales: Corn & Cover Crop | Full Service Fertilizer & Chemical | Custom Application | Soil & Tissue Samples | Water Management - Soil | Moisture Probes | Access Satellite Mapping | Field Mapping with Drone

TODD SCHROTBERGER 308.883.1596

TIM THOMAS 308.249.5335

EMAIL: SCHROTBERGER.STAR@GMAIL.COM



COURTESY PHOTO
EXPLORING CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE — The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office in Cheyenne County hosted an Ag Career Exploration Event at South Elementary School. Several employers from the county presented to the students and explained what their role was in agriculture. A primary goal of the event was to show how there are many careers that involve agriculture but are not directly located on a farm. Shown in the picture are Todd Schrotberger and Tim Thomas with (308)Ag explaining the different types of crops they work with and provide support for.

RANCH

CONTINUED FROM 6



xxxx

hormones. With a diet of mostly prairie grasses the meat has a milder flavor, but is definitely different from beef. It contains a finer marbling and will be a more tender meat as well. With less saturated fat and slightly more iron, bison is also good for those watching their cholesterol as well.

Even if you only stop at the ranch for dinner, you won't be sorry. The Terry Bison Ranch has strove to uphold a reputation for a quality meal in a place where you can burn off some of those calories with a beautiful walk around a true Wyoming ranch.

DERSHAM

CONTINUED FROM 5

se sends his cows to be processed in Colorado, as that is the closest USDA processing plant, he still finds that his product supports local residents. Jesse is confident in his system and will continue to work the land as long as he is able.

Jesse now has two young girls of his own, and is looking forward to passing down his love of agriculture to them as well. While he plans on introducing them to the job as early

as he can, he also understands that there is always a possibility that they will want to do something else. "Really that's what this is all about. It's all for them. Everything that I do is for my kids, just like my dad did for me" Dersham stated. And while his dad looks on it's impossible to miss the look of pride on his face. Two men who have taken a love of the land and turned it into a lifestyle that supports them both.



Edward Jones
 celebrates Our
 Heartland.



Bill Benson
 Financial Advisor
 1121 10th Avenue
 Sidney, NE 69162
 308-254-5608

edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

FARMING BECOMING HI-TECH ENTERPRISE

Forrest Hershberger
forrest@suntelegraph.com

for “the heck it can’t,” sometimes finding ways to do the impossible.

They stand out in the field and see more than the dirt and weeds; they see next year’s crops before they are planted, cattle going to market before their time. They see surviving the foot-deep snows and spring hail storms. They are the visionaries, dreamers and perpetual optimists.

What wasn’t in the list of a necessary skill set is com-

SEE HI-TECH PAGE 11

There was a day when farmers and ranchers were assumed to be creative craftsmen. There were few things they couldn’t fix with “duct tape and baling wire.” And a welder. And a tool box full of proven tools, and the need to get home at the end of the day and get back in the tractor the next morning. Frequently farmers are known for dismissing “no”



XXXX



48" Rotating ComfortBrush



24" Stationary Brush

FutureCow. Livestock Brushes

Available in 24" Stationary, 24" Rotating or 48" Rotating options. Proven innovation that works to provide comfort and better performance with your livestock.

Contact your local Agri-Comfort dealer today.

888-231-3575 • 308-254-1137 • info@agri-comfort.com

AGRI-COMFORT.COM

Happy
cows.
Happier
Farmers.

THE LIVESTOCK COMFORT SPECIALIST

Agri-Comfort

©2020 Agri-Plastics Mfg. Made in USA

Hometown Hardware
1/4 Page B/W

NARJES FAMILY CELEBRATES 100+ YEARS IN CHEYENNE COUNTY

*IMMIGRANT STORY LEADS
TO HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE*



COURTESY PHOTO

The Narjes family is now in its fourth generation in Cheyenne County, continuing the family history of farming and ranching, a history that began in Germany.

KIMBALL SERVICE CENTER

308.235.4676



MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00am - 5:00pm
100 S. WALNUT ST., KIMBALL, NE 69145

In 1916, two men made a deal for a tract of land in south Cheyenne County. For the time in history, it probably included a little walking the soil, see what the land offered, then sit down eye-to-eye and seal the deal with a handshake. The legal steps followed.

That was nearly 104 years ago, and the Narjes family continues to be a recognized presence in the farm-

Forrest Hershberger
forrest@suntelegraph.com

ing and ranching community of Panhandle Nebraska.

Specifically, the history started when J.A. Bentley sold a quarter section of land to William Nienhuser, the father of Emma (Nienhuser) Narjes. That quarter section continues to be part of the Narjes Land & Livestock business, a fam-

ily business.

Nienhuser farmed the land, willing it to his daughter Emma upon his death. He died in 1946. About 4 ½ years later, Gus and Emma Narjes transferred the farm to their son Paul and his wife Evelyn. In the early 1950s, Paul and Evelyn began developing the property, adding a house, barn and quonset. The next 30 years also saw the addition of

SEE NARJES PAGE 18

HI-TECH

CONTINUED FROM 9

puter coding, GPS programming and a broadband system strong enough to make your combine a rolling hotspot.

Our cars and pickups are more computerized than in similar models of the 1960s and 70s, even to the 1990s. It only makes sense that agriculture would follow suit. It is the progression of technology combined with the desire to be more efficient in their business.

Tractors now come with a motherboard and circuitry previous generations only dreamed about. The days of sighting off of a distant fence post when planting or cutting wheat are a part of the past. Now, a GPS program can plot the direction and speed of the machinery. In some cases, the experience is like being an airplane pilot with the plane on autopilot. The pilot's duty is to make sure everything continues as planned.

"It is more mental, less physical," said Ryan Narjes.

The Narjes family recently shared their story of coming to Cheyenne County and starting a farm that continues more than 100 years later.

The constant push for efficiency is part of what welcomes electronics and technology into agriculture. When the rows are plotted by GPS and even drone use, there is less waste. Applications are more evenly applied and yields are better, according to Narjes. Tablet computers are one of the newest assets for the Narjes operation. Data frequently is collected and processed before the equipment is in the shed at the end of the day.

The use of satellite imagery and data collection from the field are improving farming and ranching.

"Ultimately, we're trying to be as efficient as possible, which makes us as profitable as possible," said Gina Narjes.

COMFORT

CONTINUED FROM 7

"Now, it is starting to take off."

Agri-Plastics focused on the calf stage of animal development while Agri-Comfort focuses on the adult stage of the animals.

The VanBurren family has a history in the dairy farm business. Likewise, Agri-Comfort is a division founded by farmers.

"They know what works, what doesn't," VanBuuren said.

Comfort and an environment welcoming cows to lie down actually increases milk production. The products offered by Agri-Comfort vary from mats — similar to those found in restaurant service areas — designed to take the stress off of animals in relation to hard flooring.

"The longer a cow lies, the more milk it gives," VanBuuren said.

Agri-Comfort also offers mats

that reduce sand consumption. The mat is fitted into freestalls, Cows have less of a tendency to dig in the sand, therefore the bed does not "belly out," or result in a shallow pit causing discomfort and lesions to the cow. The sandsaver mat also saves the cost associated with wear on equipment.

Agri-Comfort also offers Rotating Comfort Brushes, and Flap Duct, a ventilation system that can direct a specific flow of air to each stall in a building. The brushes are designed to massage the cow, as well as clean and reduce stress.

VanBuuren said cows have been observed waiting in line to use the comfort brushes.

"It's amazing how much work dairy farmers put into the business," said Michelle Beier, marketing manager.



The Insurance Store, Inc.



(308) 254-2224

845 10TH AVENUE • SIDNEY, NE 69162

BLUFFS CAR CARE

YOUR TOTAL CAR, TRUCK, & TRACTOR CARE!

307.245.3575

Winterize
Your Vehicle

DON'T STALL.

Schedule Your Winter
Car Check Today.

GET THE EXPERT ATTENTION YOUR CAR
NEEDS FOR THE WINTER SEASON:

1. Tires - winter tires check tread
2. Fluids - change or refill
3. Wipers - replace
4. Battery - check cables etc.

Keep up regular maintenance
Checking hoses, belts and sparkplugs.
We can do it all!!!

700 PARSONS AVE. PINE BLUFFS, WY
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS 307.421.1991





DARIA ANDERSON-FADEN

The "Faden Barn," built in 1905-06 and located on the Brookside Farm north of Kimball, is a familiar sight as one heads north out of Kimball.

BROOKSIDE FARM

Daria Anderson-Faden

Western Nebraska Observer

Brookside Farm is a half mile north of Kimball and sits on the banks of Lodgepole Creek. It's much more than a picture perfect setting.

The farm, also known as the Gridley-Howe-Faden-Atkins Farmstead, was listed in 1997 on the National Register of Historic Places.

The description on its registration form for that distinction states that "the property illustrates an historically typical farmstead evolution in Nebraska. The farmstead is a rare and well-pre-

served collection of buildings and structures which reflect change in agriculture from timber claim to 20th century technology and small scale farm diversification."

The familiar Kimball landmark began as a timber claim by James Gridley in 1881. By 1891, he had received his certification of proof for the 80 acres and was responsible for the Chinese elm and cedar trees on the north property line next to the Lodgepole Creek. Gridley made few other improvements and left the area to work on the railroad in Utah.

By 1895, the irrigated

SEE BROOKSIDE PAGE 19



ONE MULTI-TASKER DESERVES ANOTHER.

From field to feedlot, you need a tractor that can multi-task as well as you do. Case IH Farmall 140A tractors are tough, reliable, remarkably versatile and an excellent value. Make complex chores easier and faster than ever. With models in 2WD and optional MFD configurations, you'll always find the right tractor for your operation and budget.

SEE US TODAY!

HorizonWest Inc.

Where the customer is #1!

Scottsbluff, NE Sidney, NE Torrington, WY
308-636-3727 308-254-2270 307-532-2766
888-322-7344 888-227-3440 888-922-7344

Visit Our Website At www.horizonwestinc.com



Case IH is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.

POINTS WEST

Community Bank & Insurance

Sidney	809 Illinois St.	(308) 254-7110
Sidney	420 Glover Rd.	(308) 254-5100
	Insurance	(308) 254-4928
Dalton	301 Main St.	(308) 377-2313
	Insurance	(308) 377-2230
Chappell	774 2 nd St.	(308) 874-2215

Member FDIC

www.pwcbank.com

WYOMING BEEF

Agriculture is a way of life in Wyoming and always has been, but what will that look like as the future of meat replacement products grows in popularity? Wyoming is the ninth largest state in the US covering 97,914 square miles and has the second highest elevation at 6,700 feet above sea-level; however, we have the least amount of population, making room for our agricultural future. The natural vegetation in the grasslands and mountains make this an ideal place to raise livestock. In 2008 Wyoming saw 599 million dollars in cattle revenue alone not includ-

ing the revenue from our crops.

2019 is seeing a revolution in the creation of plant based meat “products”. People are climbing on the vegan/vegetarian lifestyle, and even fast food restaurants have joined the party. 2019 saw the introduction of the “Impossible Whopper” at Burger King, a 100 percent plant based “burger” and Carl’s, Jr. rolled out the “Beyond Famous Star Burger,” also 100 percent plant based, but what does this mean for your average consumer? While companies like Impossible Foods do everything they can to create a meat alter-

SEE BEEF PAGE 15



STOCK PHOTO

Wheat Belt
1/4 Page Color



BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

Option NOW to enroll students for the 2020-21 school year!

- ✓ Safe, caring, and respectful learning environment.
- ✓ 4-day school week.
- ✓ Option Enrichment Fridays – Students choose their own schedule for the day
- ✓ Full Day Preschool (Monday – Thursday).
- ✓ Small classes and low student-to-teacher ratios = Personalized Learning.
- ✓ 1:1 laptop in grades 6-12 – Seniors keep their laptop upon graduation (certain requirements apply).
- ✓ Transportation from town centers available.

Visit our website at www.bcswildcats.org for more information, check out our School Report Card, and download the Option Enrollment Application for the 2020-2021 school year! Call 308-436-5262 to schedule a visit or to speak with Charles Jones, Principal, or Dr. Evelyn Browne, Superintendent.

Banner County School, 200 School Street, Harrisburg, NE 69345
Preparing the students of today for the world of tomorrow!



www.pwcbank.com

**Stop in today and see one of our ag lenders
to help with all your financing needs!**



Worry about them...
not your finances!



307.245.3900 • 205 W. 2ND ST • PINE BLUFFS

Need Propane?



Our Propane Team is here to serve you
with reliable Sales and Service!

Your safety is also our #1 Priority!



CALL 800.658.4457
and speak to one of our
Propane Professionals
TODAY!



RANCH SORTING

Daria Anderson-Faden

Western Nebraska Observer

“Hey, why don’t you come to this sorting event with me? I think you will get a kick out of it,” Frank Stauffer asked Trish Lukassen, who has since become his ranch sorting teammate.

Although she had never watched the event, Trish didn’t just show up. She took her horse and participated – and the rest is history.

The Lukassen/Stauffer team from Kimball has been ranch sorting since 2015 together.

“It took us a long time to learn to ride together right,” Lukassen said. “We were so afraid we were going to screw up and let the other one down, so we would mess up.”

Now Lukassen enjoys it.

“I’ve ridden my whole life and done a little bit of everything,” she said. “It was just something new and something around cattle that I’ve always done. We both grew up that way. Something you could do and compete in, I think that is what drew me to try it.”

Stauffer shared that he enjoys the “competitiveness and the friends you make. It is an amazing group of friends from all over the country.”

Teams participate in divisions and are handicapped. They start with 11 cows in one pen and have an adjoining pen. The cows are numbered 0-9 and one is left unmarked.

While the first rider enters the pen of cattle, the other rider guards the opening between the two pens. The goal is to sort the cattle, one by one from the herd into the second pen. As the team starts, a number is called and they must sort the animals in less than one minute.

If one gets out of sequence or gets away from them, they have a “busted run, no time,” Lukassen said. She calls it “gambling on horseback.” Generally, only three runs out of 10 will be successful.

“Getting 10 head in is rare,” she said.

“We’ve had a pretty good fall,” Stauffer said.

Lukassen added that “we have both been real competitive in the Wyoming association. This last year when we went to Reno, that was a big deal. There were 1,030 teams participat-



TRISH LUKASSEN

Frank Stauffer goes after the No. 7 cow at the Western States Production Finals in Reno, Nev., in October 2019.

ing.”

Both Stauffer and Lukassen won divisions at Reno. Forth Worth had 6,900 teams and they were pleased that they both made it back into the finals.

In addition, the Lukassen/Stauffer team won and received a gorgeous belt buckle at the first Jelder Johnson Memorial Ranch Sort in Torrington, Wyo., last fall. This was a meaningful win for Stauffer, as Johnson was his cousin.

The keys are teamwork, strategy and know-how of cows, and a good cow horse helps.

“Everything you learned on the

SEE RANCH SORTING PAGE 17

BEEF

CONTINUED FROM 13

native that tastes like meat, what does that look like?

The Impossible Whopper is made of twenty-one different ingredients to include things like soy protein concentrate, coconut oil, sunflower oil, cultured dextrose, soy protein isolate, and zinc gluconate. If these things sound strange to you, you're not alone. The average consumer would have no idea what some of these ingredients are. Compared to the ingredient list of a pound of 80/20 ground beef, a consumer may be even more confused. Ground beef contains the leftover trimmings from steak, roasts, and other beef cuts including ground fat...That's it. Depending on the cut you choose your ground beef will be made of chuck, round, or sirloin, and will, according to government regulations, will never contain more than thirty percent fat. So why the non-meat hype, and how will it affect Wyoming?

Even for those consumers who are

interested in the non-meat craze it can be cost prohibitive. According to nbsnews.com "Alternative meat products are still more expensive than regular meat products. At Whole Foods the Beyond burger retails for around \$12 a pound while regular ground beef goes for less than half that, at \$5. And at Bare-Burger in New York, the Impossible and Beyond Meat swap-ins cost \$2.95 more than the regular beef burger." For many American shoppers this is just too much to spend on a "meat" that may or may not be actually better for you. In a side by side comparison of the Beyond Famous Burger and the Star Burger, both offered by Carls, Jr., The difference in protein, fat and carbohydrates is minimal; however, the difference in sodium and calories could cause a person to hesitate. The plant based burger carries about 100 more calories and about 340 more milligrams of sodium. These numbers

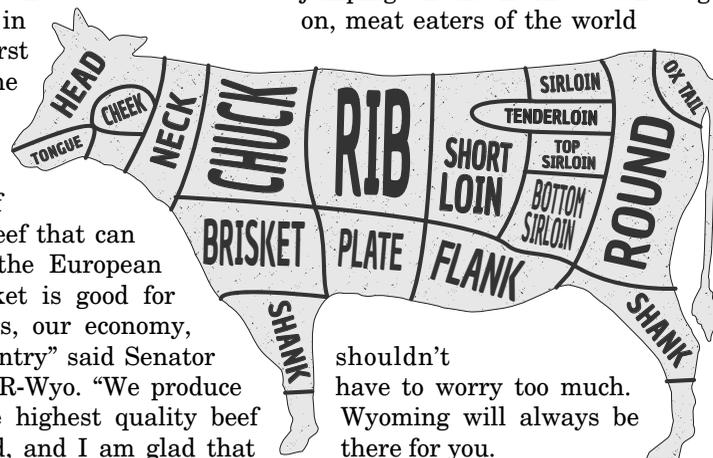
may not seem overly shocking, but when multiplied over a long amount of time they add up.

Studies show that while the plant based craze is definitely catching on, the consumption of meat world wide is increasing. Good news for the Wyoming rancher! An agreement entered with Europe in August of 2019 will increase the export of beef by around

46 percent in just the first year. "The announcement to increase the amount of American beef that can be sold in the European Union market is good for our ranchers, our economy, and our country" said Senator Mike Enzi, R-Wyo. "We produce some of the highest quality beef in the world, and I am glad that

Wyoming farmers and ranchers will have more certainty when it comes to trade. Our livestock industry is a vital piece of our economy and critical to the well-being of our communities."

Right now Wyoming exports more than three million dollars in beef and veal to Europe. This new deal will not only continue that trend, but will expand it. So while Americans are jumping on the no-meat bandwagon, meat eaters of the world



shouldn't have to worry too much. Wyoming will always be there for you.



BUYING GRAIN. SELLING GRAIN.

Always as promised... for more than a century.



(308) 254-7871 | scoularnebraska.com/sidney

NOW HANDLING ORGANIC WHEAT

For details, contact Mike Wooster:

(402) 344-1324

mwooster@scoular.com

Do You Know What a Natural Resource District is?

Shelly Sutherland
South Platte NRD

Nebraska, a state that is as unique as its residents! Not long ago Nebraska coined a new tourism pitch: "Honestly, it's not for everyone." While some struggled with that saying, it really couldn't be more true.

Nebraskans care about their communities in a way that has become a thing of the past in many parts of the county. We love our open spaces, our friendly neighbors and communities that come together to help raise our children. We have fundraisers for our neighbors in need, and when an emergency happens in our state we all pitch in to help.

In the 1960's and 1970's the people of Nebraska recognized a need to protect and conserve our Natural Resources. Yes, there were already federal agencies that "watched over"

those areas, but why not have more localized decisions?

Nebraska is a unique state in so many ways, there are multiple climate types, a range of topography and elevations, and various soil types across the state. No one policy seemed to fit all the areas that we call home. Established in 1972, Nebraska's 24 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) were established. In 1989 two districts combined into one, and the present day 23 NRD system resulted. NRDs are meant to be local government entities, governed by locally elected officials. Much of the funding for NRDs comes from local property taxes, though NRDs work with other funding options, including grants, to finance different projects and programs.

NRD boundaries are organized based on Nebraska's major river basins, allowing for better and more localized management practices for similar topography. NRDs were cre-

ated to resolve many issues that affect Nebraska. Topics like flood control, soil erosion, irrigation run-off, groundwater quantity and quality issues, and surface/ground water integrated management. NRDs are charged with 12 areas of responsibility, all that have a direct effect on the quality of life for Nebraskans.

The South Platte Natural Resources District includes 3 counties; Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel. That's more than 1.65 million acres! Laying in the Southern Panhandle of Nebraska, the SPNRD strives to look to the future even as it protects the present.

The District population is around 17,000 people, and around 73 percent of those people reside in cities and villages. Agriculture dominates the economy, with more than ¾ of the 1.65 million acres devoted to crop and livestock agriculture operations.

While many people in Nebraska

know that the NRDs manage water consumptive use, did you also know many NRDs have recreation areas and promote wildlife habitat and health? In the SPNRD there are 4 recreation areas. Oliver Reservoir near Kimball, the SPNRD Headquarters building in Sidney, Goldenrod near Chappell and Goldeneye near Big Springs.

Oliver Reservoir lies eight miles west of Kimball and is a prime example of a Multi-Function Facility. Owned and operated by the SPNRD, the property is 917 acres that features a 264-acre lake at the conservation pool level. Oliver was originally designed as an irrigation impoundment on Lodgepole Creek, but through the years Oliver has grown in size and has become a favorite local destination for people and wildlife alike. While primitive camping exists on the North side of the lake, the entire 917 acres provide wildlife habitat and other forms



PENNINGTON

SCOTT SMITH | GENERAL MANAGER

PENN PAK III

PO BOX 443 | SIDNEY, NE 69162
OFFICE: 308.254.0301 | FAX: 308.254.0363
EMAIL: SSMITH@PENNINGTONSEED.COM



HAUG TRUCKING, LLC.
SHORT OR LONG LIVESTOCK HAULING

MIKE HAUG - OWNER / OPERATOR

308.672.3377

PO BOX 538
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363-0538

RANCH SORTING

CONTINUED FROM 14

ranch, throw out the window,” Stauffer said, laughing.

The Lukassen/Stauffer team – having competed at Forth Worth, Reno and Las Vegas – will head to Rapid City, S.D., at the end of January and then in March go to a jackpot in Mitchell and perhaps Regionals in Loveland, Colo. They also attend “local” sortings in Cheyenne, Gillette, Douglas and

Torrington in Wyoming,

Stauffer said he “had a goal of going 12 times a year, but I ended up going way more than that; we probably go to 20 shows a year,” he said, laughing.

Lukassen said she told herself that she was going to slow down and not go so much, “but . . . then you start getting successful and, well, let’s just go to Reno and a month later, well, let’s just go to Vegas.”

Stauffer’s wife, Norma is considered the “pit crew.” She can read a book, tally points and point out the problem cow.

Lukassen said that “Norma has watched more runs than they have ridden. She is a pretty valuable asset to us.”

Stauffer said his wife will advise us “to watch cow No. 5 because he just busted the last four

teams. I don’t know how she stands it because I couldn’t do it.”

Ranch sorting, Stauffer said, “It is the most unadvertised sport in the world.”

He said the association, called the Ranch Sorting National Championship, is very popular in Colorado, Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and gaining popularity throughout the rest of the county.

Ranch sorting became a nationally formalized event in 2007. The event stems from work on the average ranch, where cattle are separated into pens for branding, doctoring or shipping.

It is advertised as a “family fun horse sport” with competition for beginners to professionals.

The handicap system goes from 1-9, and both Lukassen and Stauffer are ranked as 3s – but then almost 60 percent of the sorters are handicapped at 3. There are only about 10 sorters with a 9 handicap.

Recently, Cinch has become a spon-

sor for the association. The clothing company has given away pickups as prizes and added \$20,000 bonuses on some divisions.



TRISH LUKASSEN

Trish Lukassen drives the No. 8 cow into the pen at the Western States Production Finals in Reno, Nev., in October 2019.



TRISH LUKASSEN

Ranch sorting teammates Trish Lukassen and Frank Stauffer attended the Ranch Sorting National Championship World Finals in Fort Worth, Texas.

**KIMBALL
AUTO PARTS**

**FILTER
SALE**

**810 US-30
KIMBALL, NE 69145**

Morgan County
Conservation
1/4 Page Color

TR Custom Wicking
1/4 Page Color

Fornstrom LLC
1/4 Page B/W

NARJES

CONTINUED FROM 10

a feed lot, hog confinement building, pivot, shop and a storage building.

The family history has always been close to the land. Gary Narjes recalls visiting the family farm in Germany. The family lost their farm in the Hitler take-over of Germany. Since then, the owner has allowed family members to visit the farm, but the new home of the Narjes family is Cheyenne County.

The farm home was then sold to their son Gerhardt (Gary) and wife Susan Narjes on November 15, 1989; with the remainder transferred following Paul's death. Gary and Susan resided on the farm until 2013 and during that time added a machine building, grain bins plus other improvements. Their son Tyson and wife Regina Narjes purchased the home and three acres in 2013 while the remaining property is owned by Narjes Land & Livestock and Gary and Susan.

Gary and Susan's other son Ryan and wife Laura live west on previous Narjes family property. Ryan and Tyson joined the operation as partners upon college graduation and the Narjes Land & Livestock L.L.C. was officially formed in 2009.

The family business has enlarged the total number of farmed acres and is currently in a developed and gradual process of transition to this new generation of agricultural professionals.

In 2016, the AKSARBEN Foundation recognized the Narjes Land & Livestock, LLC with the Pioneer Farm Family Award. The AKSARBEN Foundation has been recognizing families with strong Nebraska values and helping to develop the leaders of tomorrow since 1985, according to the organization's website.

"The success of the farm hinges on passing the land to the next generation," said Gary Narjes.

The family agrees it is the passion and love for the land that keeps the family involved in agriculture.

"If you don't love it, you better not do it; too much work (and stress)," Susan Narjes said.

The gratification is in raising an animal to maturity, a crop from seed to harvest and facing the challenge of increasing efficiency. Tyson Narjes also added the freedom of self-employment is a factor that keeps him in the family business.

The success of modern day farming isn't hinged on a single name or a specific process. The days of farmers holding onto their secrets to success are all but gone. Networking is as much a part of the farmer and rancher's "tool box" as a wrench or a welder. The new approach to agriculture is collaboration, work together when necessary toward a common goal.

"There's a lot of good service providers that help the farmer," said Gina Narjes.

The future of Narjes Land & Livestock, the family farm, depends on the continuing passion be stewards of nature, provide food for the world's population and earn a living on their terms, callouses and computer-dimmed vision sometimes haunting the same individual.

The next generation is still in its youth, learning from parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles what a family farm is all about. They will make the choice as they mature, to farm or follow other passions.

"The opportunity is going to be here," said Gina, "but we're not going to force them. It's their choice."

BROOKSIDE

CONTINUED FROM 12

area, known as Brookside Farm, was purchased by Henry H. Howe, a Vermont native who came to the Kimball area and became a large sheep rancher, Howe added a sheep barn in 1895.

Howe's wife and children spent most of their time on the acreage so the children could attend school in Kimball. The native limestone for the house was hauled to town from an area southwest of Kimball in the summer and fall of 1899. The Howes moved into the striking limestone house in 1900.

The Howes owned the farmstead for about 10 years and then sold it to a bachelor from the Banner County area, Elmer Faden. According to a 1905 report in the Western Nebraska Observer, "E. L. Faden and his mother have moved on the place former purchased of H.H. Howe adjoining town."

From 1905-06, Faden improved the farmstead by building the massive barn. Elmer Faden was part of a large family that came to the southern panhandle from Wisconsin.

Although a sheep rancher, Faden was transitioning to cattle and built the barn for his cattle and horses.

The barn boasts of a gambrel roof, which required fewer materials to build and was easier to build than other types of barns. This type of roof is considered roomy and more comfortable than others.

The roof is a symmetrical, two-sided sloped roof. Typical gambrel, the barn has an upper slope which has a shallow angle then drops to the lower slope, which is steeper. The barn has a haymow door and a hay lift, as well as stalls and a milking area.

The property changed hands again in 1917 when Dallas and Minnie Atkins purchased it for their sheep operation and to ample feed for their cattle. The house, barn and added buildings would stay in the Atkins hands for the next 103 years. In the first five years that the Atkins owned the place, they would add a tank house, hog shed, chicken coop and garage.

The plans for the these out buildings were obtained by Vernon Atkins from the Extension offices, while he studied at the University of Nebraska.

The last building added to Brookside Farms was in 1947 – a half quonset shed,

The National Register of Historic Places states that the shed "reflected available technology and the need for a shelter for tractors and other machinery. Quonset buildings were increasingly available after World War II; their popularity reflected pre-fabricated technology available to area farmers and ranchers."

Vernon's son, Kendall, and his wife, Beverly, currently own the Brookside Farm.

The Faden Barn, as it is known today, has been the location for a fair share of work in the past century. Now it is the site of some special events.

For 13 years, AgFest was sponsored here by the Farm Bureau and the Atkins family. It hosted 1,200 to 1,500 fifth-grade students from Kimball and Banner counties in the barn and courtyard. Christmas also has been celebrated in the barn. Many Sunday School events, political visits, events for local and state groups and weddings have been held on the farm, too.

This landmark is a pleasant reminder of the history and development of agriculture and livestock on the high plains of the Nebraska Panhandle from the 19th century to the late 1940s.

RUSHMAN SEEDS
YOUR PANHANDLE PEA & WHEAT SEED DEALER

SPECIALIZING IN THE NEWEST VARIETIES OF HARD RED WINTER WHEAT
.....
CUTTING EDGE VARIETIES IN THE PEA INDUSTRY
.....
WE HAVE PEA INNOCULANT
.....

FULL SERVICE SEED DEALER

308.249.1384



HIGH WEST
DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



HIGH WEST
WIRING

WHAT CAN HIGH WEST'S FAMILY OF COMPANIES DO FOR YOU?

- ✓ EXPERT ELECTRICIAN SERVICES
- ✓ FAST, AFFORDABLE CELL PHONE REPAIRS
- ✓ BUSINESS IT & NETWORK SERVICES
- ✓ BACKUP GENERATOR INSTALLATIONS & MORE

HIGHWESTWIRING.COM AND HWDS.COM