

BARNYARDS & BACKYARDS

Abby Perry - University of Wyoming Extension Small-acreage Specialist | Rawlins, Wyoming | ajacks12@uwyo.edu
 Jedidiah Hewlett - University of Wyoming Extension Educator | Douglas, Wyoming | jhewlett@uwyo.edu

EDUCATION TO ASSIST WYOMING RURAL LANDOWNERS

“Foster a culture of stewardship among small acreage land managers by promoting sustainable practices which enhance the ecological, economic and social aspects of the land and its people.”

The number of small acreage holders in Wyoming and many western states has been rapidly increasing as thousands of acres of former farm, ranch and wildlands have been subdivided. Where landowners lack the proper knowledge and skills to properly manage their acreage, natural resource problems such as land degradation, poor animal health, invasive weeds, and water quality issues often result.

In 2005, the University of Wyoming Small Acreage Issue Team was established to help educate rural property owners about sustainable land management practices, livestock care, and healthy living.

- **Small-acreage owners hold about 1.2 million acres across Wyoming (5-160 acre-parcels, 2013 county assessors' data).**
- **Top Counties include Laramie, Natrona, Fremont, and Park counties.**
- **A large majority of the respondents fell into the 50-69-year-old age bracket.**
- **Over 70% of respondents indicated that they purchased rural property to enjoy privacy, aesthetic values (beauty of nature), and wildlife on the property.**



Pictured: Micah Most, Donna Hoffman, Jacelyn Downey, Jennifer Thompson, Caleb Carter, Jeff Edwards, Abby Perry, Rex Lockman, Matt Jolivet, and Jeremiah Vardiman. Team members not pictured are Amanda Furnival, Jedidiah Hewlett, Brenna Litynski, Amy Smith, and Karla Swartz.

The Small Acreage Issue Team members represent University of Wyoming Extension, Wyoming Natural Resource and Conservation Districts, Wyoming Weed & Pest Council, Wyoming State Forestry Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Audubon Rockies and others.



MAGAZINE

An award winning quarterly informational magazine that contains brief articles written by natural resource experts on topics such as livestock care, maintaining pastures, irrigation, landscaping, growing food and food safety, weed control, entrepreneurship, and so much more!

- **Timely, relevant content to address interests and challenges faced by rural landowners living in Wyoming.**
- **Published 4 times/year**
- **To date, over 80 issues have been published including 782 articles written by authors from over 61 organizations.**
- **Currently delivering to over 2,000 addresses**
- **Digital archives are available online. (This is a big part of our “Treasure Trove”).**

“The articles are always very informative. I especially appreciate contact info for experts at UW for follow up information. On some topics the articles are brief so links to additional info is great.”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

We have published stand-alone publications on a variety of topics. Although these publications are available for free online, the print version is highly popular with our readership. Collectively, **63,953 copies of these misc. publications have been printed.**



- Living with Wildfire in Wyoming (2013)
- Wyoming Small Acreage Irrigation Guide (2017)
- Wyoming Rural Living Resources – A Practical Guide (2019)
- Fruit and Veggie Growing Guide (2025, 2nd ed.)
- Promoting Pollinators on Your Place (2017)
- Plants with Altitude (2014)

BARNYARDS AND BACKYARDS LIVE!

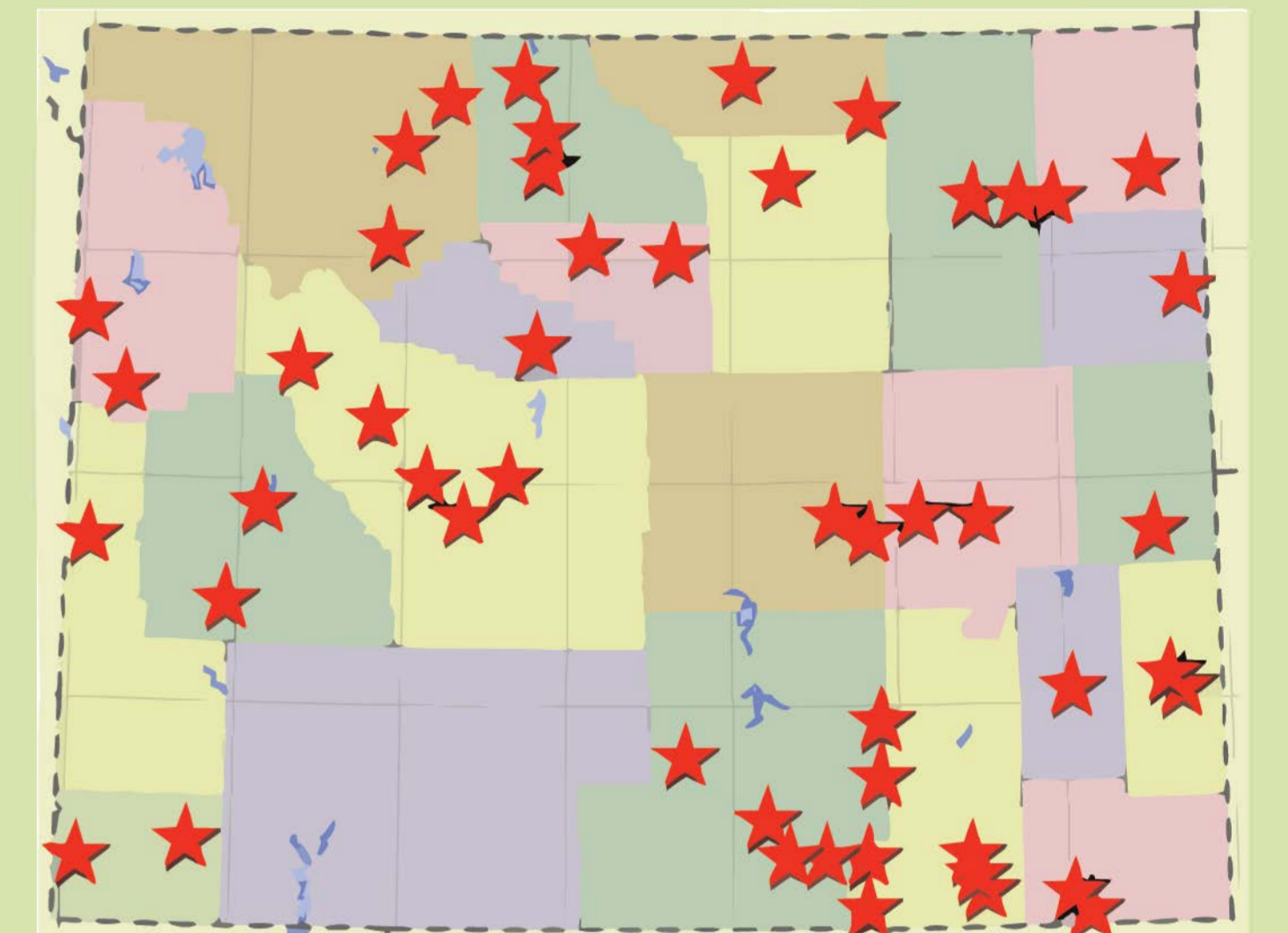
In the wake of the Covid-19 shutdowns in 2020-2023, a team of UW Extension educators hosted virtual video webinars with experts to discuss a variety of topics. The sessions were streamed live on Zoom & Facebook so participants were able to interact with the presenter in real-time. Recordings were posted on the UWE YouTube channel for later viewing.

- Over 70 recorded sessions on topics ranging from composting to canning
- Average of 198 views per recording
- This effort is no longer ongoing. Recordings are accessible on UWE YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@BandBWY>.

FIELD DAYS AND WORKSHOPS

Informational workshops are organized locally and held around Wyoming. In cooperation with partnering organizations and sponsors, these workshops provide an opportunity where landowners are able meet to discuss challenges they have encountered and attend sessions to learn about different land management topics from the experts. Examples include:

- Harvest Wyoming Annual Conference (multiple locations)
- Native Plant Walk (Albany County)
- Wildfire Recovery (Johnson County)
- Living on a Few Acres (Campbell County)



Workshops have collectively served **more than 11,263 Wyoming citizens** over the years.

2025 Workshop Results:

- **Average self-reported knowledge gain = 35%**
- **Overall workshop score = 4.6** (5 = excellent 1 = poor)
- **Will you use the information to change what you do on your property? = 4** (5 = very much, 1=not at all)
- **Did the workshop meet your expectations? Yes, 94%**

WY LANDOWNER SURVEY: 2006, 2015, AND 2024

The Small Acre Issue Team has conducted multiple surveys to better understand the demographics of WY small acreage owners, what educational information they need, and how they prefer to receive their information. Feedback collected through the survey and individual program evaluations are critical for informing the efforts of the Small Acreage Issue Team. Survey results can be viewed on our website: <https://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/>.