

2020, given the impacts of COVID, was a year of “all of the above” and more. The daily chores and challenges of operating the ranch continued. With livestock needing to be fed, and calved or lambled there was no unemployment. While others struggled to adjust to having their children home doing remote learning, many ranchers just welcomed the extra help from the kids. A major challenge was driving long distances into town for supplies, only to find that many of the needed items were not available.

Livestock markets crashed in the spring of 2020, but returned to a more normal range by the time that most Wyoming ranchers were facing fall marketing. Government policies were stable and somewhat friendly toward agriculture. While some areas of Wyoming experienced drought, most ranchers were able to maintain their herds with some added supplemental feeding. Federal payments through the CARES Act provided significant relief for some. Looking back, two of the three factors could be deemed to have been positive at some time during the year.

While the impacts of COVID have lessened, 2021 is evolving as a much more challenging year for many Wyoming ranchers than 2020 when assessed by the three factors. Drought clearly rises to the top of concerns faced by producers across most of the state. Northwestern Wyoming experienced good winter snowfall and the very southeastern portion has had significant spring moisture. However, the majority of Wyoming is suffering from both a shortage of irrigation water and a lack of soil moisture. As a result, we are seeing a worrisome reduction in the number of summer pasture cattle coming into the state as well as the sale of replacement heifers that had been retained in the fall of 2020. This will have impacts on production for at least the next several years.

The change in administrations in Washington, DC this year has added another high level of uncertainty to Wyoming ranching. While some degree of uncertainty accompanies any political change, the rhetoric and fast-paced issuance of Executive and Secretarial Orders by the current administration has been particularly frightening. The rhetoric that surrounds “30 x 30”, “Make America Beautiful”, “Climate Change” and other initiatives to date lacks any substantive detail to enable our assessment of how it might affect Wyoming’s agriculture industry.

Cattle market events in recent years have given cattle producers both needed wake-up call and a new path forward. Our beef marketing chain clearly has a bottleneck at the processing level. This both increases risk when an event such as COVID impacts a major facility, and concentrates market control in too few hands. Consumer interest in buying local and knowing where their food comes from has provided new marketing opportunities for some producers. In the span of two years Wyoming has gone from having only one federally inspected processing facility to nine facilities either operating or under construction. New larger facilities being developed across the nation, including in Idaho and Nebraska, will provide greater competition and lessen dependence on the “Big Four” U.S. beef processors. Efforts by the industry and the Wyoming Business Council continue to attract larger processors to Wyoming.

A discussion of ranching’s challenges would not be complete without acknowledging the emergence of “fake meat”—both plant-based and lab-cultured products. While these products have received tremendous publicity, endorsement by celebrities and are now offered in some retail establishments, they have not emerged as a threat to the demand for high-quality beef and lamb.

Yes, ranching today is faced with significant emerging challenges. Fortunately,

these challenges are leading to exciting new opportunities. Exploring these opportunities will be the focus of the 2021 Wyoming Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show, “Positioning Wyoming’s Beef Industry for Success” hosted by the 149 year-old Wyoming Stock Growers Association in Sheridan June 2-4.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON JUNE 16, 2021

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2093. A bill to expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for increased investment in clean energy, and for other purposes.

## PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator TED CRUZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Adam J. Sullivan.

On request by Senator TED CRUZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, vice John E. Kramer.

On request by Senator TED CRUZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

On request by Senator TED CRUZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation, vice Linda Thomas-Greenfield, resigned.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 522. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule (Rept. No. 117-25).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 583. A bill to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-26).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 693. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-27).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2139. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent international cybercrime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2140. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the advanced solar manufacturing production credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2141. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2142. A bill to require annual reports on religious intolerance in Saudi Arabian educational materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2143. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to terminate certain contracts on the basis of detrimental conduct to the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2144. A bill to clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2145. A bill to ensure that irresponsible corporate executives, rather than shareholders, pay fines and penalties; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2146. A bill to establish within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services a special task force on ensuring Medicare beneficiary access to innovative diabetes technologies and services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2147. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2148. A bill to impose sanctions and other measures in response to the failure of the Government of the People's Republic of China to allow an investigation into the origins of COVID-19 at suspect laboratories in Wuhan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2149. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program for FDA-approved qualifying colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests, to increase participation in colorectal cancer screening in underscreened communities of color, to offset the COVID-19 pandemic driven declines in colorectal cancer screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2150. A bill to prevent catastrophic wildland fires by establishing a commission to study and recommend wildland fire prevention, mitigation, suppression, management, and rehabilitation policies for the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2151. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2152. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations requiring material in the online public inspection file of a covered entity to be made available in a format that is machine-readable; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

S. 2153. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repeatedly damaged by floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2154. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to extend the Federal framework closing date for the hunting of ducks, mergansers, and coots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 2155. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide increased protections for election workers and voters in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 535

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to

commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 544

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 544, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 923

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 923, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consumer recycling education and outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1220

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1220, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 1360

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to codify a statutory definition for long-term care pharmacies.

S. 1792

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to establish certain requirements for the small re-

fineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 1927

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1927, a bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

S. 1947

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1947, a bill to authorize the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Travel and Tourism, to statutorily establish the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to terminate the order requiring persons to wear masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs.

S. 2091

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2091, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 107

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.