

# University of Wyoming offers new farm, ranch management course

A farm and ranch management course for area agricultural managers is being offered by the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service.

Western (formerly Wyoming) Integrated Ranch/Farm Education (WIRE), a six-day course developed by agents and specialists at the UW Cooperative Extension Service, consolidates the management of all farm and ranch resources.

The course can be taken for university credit or noncredit and will be offered in five Wyoming communities, Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and Dec. 6-8 in Newcastle and Gillette; Jan. 10-12 and Jan. 17-19 in Torrington; Feb. 14-16 and Feb. 21-23 in Worland; and May 16-18 and May 23-25 in Laramie.

Early registration is required because class size is limited to 50 participants. The fee for three hours' UW undergraduate credit is \$400 (\$300 noncredit) per person and includes six days of instruction, two field trip labs, a banquet, a financial calculator and two reference books. A reduced noncredit fee of \$220 is available to additional members from the same family, ranch or farm operation, but does not include the reference books or calculator.

"WIRE course instruction emphasizes a process of management and practical tools for integrating the physical, biological, financial and human resources on all agricultural operations," says John Hewlett, CES farm and ranch management specialist in the UW College of Agriculture.

"WIRE is a powerful education program for Wyoming and the West," he says. "WIRE introduces a management process for setting goals and priorities, planning, budgeting, making decisions, keeping records and performing evaluations with personal goals and optimal resource use in mind."

The course includes lectures and hands-on work, in small groups or as individuals.

"A detailed, six-year case study, based on an actual Wyoming operation, is used to illustrate many concepts and specifics of the management process," Hewlett says. "Participants can use or

adapt many planning, record-keeping and analysis tools from this practical case study for their own operation."

Hewlett says WIRE markets the services of Cooperative Extension as a whole, and follow-up assistance is available as needed through the extension system.

"The course provides an understanding of the relationships and interactions between soil, rangeland, crops, livestock, wildlife, finances, human creativity and labor," he says. "All resources are enumerated and budgeted over time, much like the familiar cash flow. The course really brings it all together, giving the manager control of the operation and its resources."

WIRE is team-taught by agents and specialists who produced the course materials. Hewlett says the program has been updated and notes some changes.

A farm case study is being developed for a new version of the program to be offered this year. The farm case study will be used at Torrington and Worland, while the range/livestock program will be offered in Newcastle, Gillette and Laramie.

Two new follow-up programs are being offered in conjunction with the WIRE courses. One discusses marketing and risk management and the other covers financial management.

Financial management courses will be offered Dec. 19-21 in Gillette; Jan. 31-Feb. 2 in Torrington; Feb. 7-9 in Casper; March 7-9 in Worland; and May 30-June 1 in Laramie. The marketing and risk management programs will be given Dec. 13-14 in Sundance; Jan. 24-25 in Torrington; Feb. 7-8 in Casper; Feb. 28-29 in Worland; and May 30-31 in Laramie.

Cost for the financial management program is \$399 for credit (\$253 noncredit), and for the marketing and risk management program, noncredit registration is \$79. Reduced tuition is offered for both courses only for noncredit.

The financial management program is an in-depth course dealing with the financial resource of agricultural operations. The marketing/ risk management program examines the specific issues of marketing and price risk management. Both programs are designed as follow-up to the WIRE farm and range livestock programs and are open to the public.

Hewlett says the entire series of

WIRE programs has been approved by FmHA (Farmers Home Administration) to meet all borrower training requirements. FmHA borrowers interested in the WIRE programs for certified training should register early. All class sizes are limited.

For more information, call UW Conferences and Institutes at 1-800-448-7911 or 766-2124.