

The Fabulous Five Ride Again

Twenty-seven years after the original “Fab Five” appeared on the scene, the newest “Fabulous Five” are riding herd for the USDA at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station in Cheyenne. While the original “Fab Five” showcased their skills on the hardcourt for the University of Michigan, these multi-talented five display their skills in numerous ways: monitoring vegetation composition and structure across ranches in eastern Wyoming and Colorado; moving and weighing cattle as well as collecting fresh manure samples weekly for diet quality; and working on infrastructure (fence and water systems). Whereas the original “Fab Five” had two players from Detroit, one from Chicago and two players from Texas, the “Fabulous Five” has a much more western flavor. Here are the quintet members (in order from Left to Right in the photo):

CLAIRE LAKE

Background: Wyoming native who became interested in agriculture while in high school through involvement in FFA. Rangelands became her main area of interest because they are where nature and agriculture meet.

Current: Attending Laramie County Community College majoring in Rangeland Ecology & Management and Animal Science. First year with the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station.

Future Plans: Transfer in 2019 to the University of Wyoming focusing on the undergraduate Range Ecology and Watershed Management program.

AVERI REYNOLDS

Background: Wyoming native and former State FFA officer. Averi’s love of rangeland management originates from her involvement in agriculture education and FFA, where her advisor encouraged her to attend the Wyoming Resource Education Days

Current: Senior at the University of Wyoming studying Rangeland Ecology & Watershed Management, with a minor in Agriculture Business. Third year starter with the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station.

Future Plans: Obtain a Masters in Animal Science at the University of Wyoming focusing on genetics x environment x management interactions with cattle.



Claire Lake, Averi Reynolds, Kera Deakins, Alex Orozco, and Brody Pollard worked this summer at the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station in Cheyenne. Courtesy photo.

KERA DEAKINS

Background: California-raised in the Bay area. Graduated with a BS from California State University-Chico majoring in Animal Science. Won the 2018 Rangeland Cup Competition at the Society for Range Management meeting.

Current: Loving the Northern Plains and focusing on scoping out graduate schools for a Masters in Animal Science with an emphasis in livestock nutrition. First year with the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station.

Future Plans: Pursue her Ph. D to become an animal nutritionist and professor. Being raised in the Bay area, she has many ideas on how agriculture can become more transparent and educational to the public.

ALEX OROZCO

Background: California cattle ranching family with an appreciation of science and rangelands.

Current: Senior at California State University-Chico majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Ag Business. Founder of the Chico Rangeland Management Club. Bull rider. Returning starter with the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station.

Future Plans: Obtain a Masters in Rangeland Ecology focusing on livestock. He would like to work as an extension specialist. In the future he also plans on managing his own ranch.

FIVE CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ►

Gregg with World Perspectives gave his presentation, "Feasibility study on US beef cattle identification and traceability systems."

The convention wrapped up with the Annual Awards Luncheon. Katelyn Olson was awarded the Clifford P. Hansen Memorial Scholarship, Michael Murry received the Rangeland Professional Award, Dr. Frank Galey was the recipient of the Guardian of the Grassland award, and the Cundall Ranch was recognized as this year's Stewardship Award winner. The Spur Club members were also recognized for their generous contributions to the Wyoming Stock Growers Endowment Trust.

The WSGA staff, officers, and members appreciate the support from City of Riverton, Fremont County, and Holiday Inn Conference Center for their generous hospitality for this year's convention. It was an enjoyable stay and very successful convention!

Save the dates and join the Wyoming Stock Growers Association at the Winter Roundup on Dec. 3-5 in Casper! ❖

FAKE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

While these new technologies provide a great challenge, Beck and NCBA is confident about where the cattle industry is and the challenges it will likely face in the near future.

"I think that traditional beef can compete with any other products out on the market," Beck said. "We're not concerned about whether or not they might be better than us, we're concerned with misleading labels could confuse the average consumer."

This is not the first time mislabeling will be an issue that affects the agriculture industry and more than likely, not the last either. NCBA is looking to work with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in efforts that prevent the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from allowing these new products to be misleading.

"I've said it once, and I'll say it again," Beck said. "I live in Washington, D.C. so you all don't have to."

You can find out more about NCBA and their efforts to advocate on behalf of beef producers across the country at <http://www.beefusa.org/> or by listening to their recent podcast concerning fake meat at <https://www.beefusa.org/audionews.aspx?NewsID=6629>. ❖

BRODY POLLARD

Background: Grew up in a small Oklahoma town and spent summers working on cow-calf and stock contracting operations. After high school, Brody volunteered to serve in the US Marine Corps where he learned the importance of adaptability, leadership, and perseverance.

Current: Junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Rangeland Ecology and Management. First year with the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station.

Future Plans: Next summer, Brody would like to return to Wyoming under the WSGA Rangeland Internship. He hopes to obtain a Masters from the University of Wyoming and fulfill his goal of becoming a rangeland extension specialist.

Of note, none of the "Fabulous Five" were born when the original "Fab Five" arrived at the University of Michigan. ❖

RISK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

COVER CROP RESOURCES

Cover crops have many agronomic and economic advantages. There are numerous possibilities for cover crops that fit with existing cropping systems and even crop insurance programs.

- Cover crop information and how they fit with your current crop insurance program: <http://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/>
- FAQs for Cover Crops: <http://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/>
- Cover crop termination guidelines: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/

tool, including an instruction guide and detailed examples, visit RightRisk.org and select **Risk Management Tools** from the **Resources** tab.

RightRisk Analytics contains several useful risk management and budgeting tools, including the Forage Risk Analyzer and Machinery Risk Calculator.

The site also includes online risk management courses, producer profiles and other risk management resources.

James Sedman is a consultant to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and John Hewlett is a farm and ranch management specialist in the department. Hewlett may be reached at (307) 766-2166 or hewlett@uwyo.edu. ❖