



Harvest Wyoming

Annual Conference

Season Extension & Production Basics | Growing longer and better!

April 6, 2024

Sheridan College, Whitney Building
1 Whitney Way, Sheridan, WY

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Saturday April 6, 2024 — HARVEST WYOMING CONFERENCE

Season Extension & Production Basics | Growing longer and better!

Sheridan College, Whitney Building

1 Whitney Way, Sheridan, WY

8:30 AM Registration begins, visit our booths!

8:50 AM Brief welcome and outline of the day

| | Track 1 (Room W153) Extending Your Season | Track 2 (Room W203) Growing It Better | Track 3 (Room W210) Making it Work |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 9 – 9:55 a.m. | Extending the growing season in Wyoming. How long can I really grow? Jeff Edwards UW Extension | Wyoming soils - Managing them for success Jeremiah Vardiman UW Extension | Creating pollinator habitat Amy Smith UW Extension |
| 10 – 10:55 a.m. | Building season extension structures to withstand Wyoming weather Jeff Edwards UW Extension | Irrigation Dave Morneau Popo Agie Conservation District | Growing with hydroponics Adam Bunker Papa Joe’s Produce |
| 11 – 11:55 a.m. | Sheridan high tunnel, low tunnel, open field trial results Ami Erickson Sheridan College | Getting the most from your crops: selection & timing Chanda Rule Golden Rule Produce | Evaluating enterprise performance: Where to start, What to include, Interpreting results and more John Hewlett UW Extension |
| 12 – 12:55 p.m. | Lunch Harvesting Success: Year-Round Growing in Wyoming with DIY Strategies Featured Speaker - Adam Bunker - Papa Joe’s Produce | | |
| 1 – 1:55 p.m. | Soil to sale: Putting it all together Evan Van Order Living Root Farm | Starting plants from seed Erin Kinsey Landon’s Greenhouse | Rules to sell by Stephanie Styvar Wyoming Department of Agriculture |
| 2 – 3 p.m. | Producer panel - What I wish I had known before I began... Micah Most UW Extension moderator | Pest management inside and out Jeff Edwards UW Extension | Hands-on low tunnel build Ami Erickson Sheridan College (Meet in the Atrium) |

SESSIONS

9:00-9:55 A.M.

Extending the growing season in Wyoming. How long can I really grow?

Jeff Edwards - UW Extension

In this session Jeff will discuss the many ways we can extend the growing season in Wyoming.

Wyoming soils - Managing them for success

Jeremiah Vardiman - UW Extension

In this presentation Jeremiah will discuss the most common Wyoming soil types, limitations to these soils, an overview of nutrient requirements for crops, and effective concepts on how to make your soils as productive as possible. He'll also cover taking these concepts and applying them to enclosed space production and intensive farming cultivation practices.

Creating pollinator habitat

Amy Smith - UW Extension

In this session, Amy will cover the essentials of creating pollinator habitats. Participants will learn about the importance of pollinators, how to select plants, design spaces, and maintain habitats. Attendees will gain practical skills to positively impact pollinator biodiversity in their communities.

10:00-10:55 A.M.

Building season extension structures to withstand Wyoming weather

Jeff Edwards - UW Extension

Jeff will cover the many types of structures he has experimented with in Wyoming. He'll discuss the pros and cons of each and provide information on light and airflow management to optimize the growing conditions in an enclosed space.

Irrigation

Dave Morneau - Popo Agie Conservation District

Come join Dave in this session to learn about irrigation inside and outside of season extension structures. Topics include application methods, irrigation scheduling, automation, maintenance, and more!

Growing with hydroponics

Adam Bunker - Papa Joe's Produce

Adam will cover some of the knowledge he has gained growing produce with hydroponics.



SESSIONS

11:00-11:55 A.M.

Sheridan high tunnel, low tunnel, open field trial results

Ami Erickson - Sheridan College

Peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, and broccoli were grown in high tunnels, low tunnels, and in the open at the Sheridan Research and Extension Center over two growing seasons to compare strategies for season extension. Ami will share the results and discuss strategies that may help you improve your vegetable harvests in our short growing season.

Getting the most from your crops: selection & timing

Chanda Rule - Golden Rule Produce

Chanda will cover each vegetable they grow in their operation. She'll discuss starting and transplant dates, as well as the tricks she has learned over years that make growing these crops easier or more successful.

Evaluating enterprise performance: Where to start, What to include, Interpreting results and more

John Hewlett - UW Extension

Most ag business have several enterprises. It's a good idea to evaluate how each of those enterprises are performing, but it can seem like a pretty daunting and complicated task. John will help us explore effective ways of evaluating enterprise profitability, breakeven costs and returns, risk exposure and more.

12:00-11:55 P.M.

LUNCH

Harvesting Success: Year-Round Growing in Wyoming with DIY Strategies

ADAM BUNKER - Papa Joe's Produce

Adam joined Papa Joe's Produce in 2019 with no experience in plants. Since then, they have grown Papa Joe's from a small hobby greenhouse to one of the leading year-round regional lettuce producers, with a focus on hydroponic growing. Papa Joe's now operates three greenhouses with a team of more than 10 employees and regular volunteers. He loves working with his team to develop innovative solutions to greenhouse production in Wyoming. He is a strong proponent of local foods, and has served as the President of the Wyoming Food Coalition since 2020. Adam lives in Sheridan with his wife and three children. papajoesproduce@gmail.com



SESSIONS

1:00-1:55 P.M.

Soil to sale: Putting it all together

Evan Van Order - Living Root Farm

What began as a passion for soil health has grown into a passion for healthy food for Evan's community. Evan will be sharing their journey of applying a systems approach of no-till gardening and season extension tools to grow healthy soils, plants, and food. The presentation will conclude with how they market nutrient dense produce to contribute to the health of our community.

Starting plants from seed

Erin Kinsey - Landon's Greenhouse

Erin will be covering all things seed starting! We'll talk soil, heat, light, water and more. She'll give tips and tricks on how to be successful from the start. She'll also touch on the benefits of starting seeds indoors.

Rules to sell by

Stephanie Styvar - Wyoming Department of Agriculture

This session will cover an outline of regulations overseen by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture required to sell food in the State of Wyoming.

2:00-2:55 P.M.

Producer panel - What I wish I had known before I began...

Micah Most - UW Extension moderator

We'll visit with three area producers (Adam Bunker, Evan Van Order and Chanda Rule) and chat about producing vegetable crops and the things they consider to be crucial both in production and in business.

Pest management inside and out

Jeff Edwards - UW Extension

When growing vegetables, pests are not a matter of if, but when. Jeff will provide management tactics for weeds, diseases, insects, and rodents in production, with an emphasis of enclosed spaces.

Hands-on low tunnel build

Ami Erickson - Sheridan College

Weather dependent, participants will construct a low tunnel in the Sheridan College Ag Field lab using 3 ft high metal frames and thick poly. We will also discuss strategies to get the most out of low tunnels for season extension and the types of materials that can be used.

(Meet in the Atrium)



SPEAKERS

JEFF EDWARDS

Jeff is a University of Wyoming Extension Educator and Horticulture Specialist. He is also an entomologist who had a previous career evaluating new insecticides, herbicides and transgenic traits and has operated a small scale commercial berry and produce farm in Western Nebraska. As a UW Extension Educator he is responsible for instructing people how to apply pesticides safely and enjoys showing people how to build and manage agricultural related structures particularly hoop houses and geodesic domes. jedward4@uwyo.edu



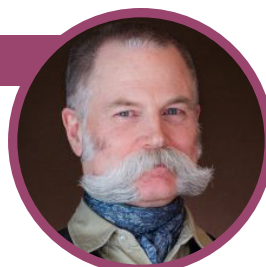
AMI ERICKSON

Ami Erickson teaches horticulture, plant sciences, and biology at Sheridan College. She is passionate about horticulture, teaching, and science. She earned a Ph.D. in Horticultural Science from the University of Minnesota. She has collaborated with the University of Wyoming on various projects, including season extension using high and low tunnels for vegetable production and the UW grapevine variety trial. amie@sheridan.edu or 307-675-0544



JOHN HEWLETT

John is a Ranch/Farm Management Specialist at the University of Wyoming; co-director of the Wyoming GrowinG Beginning Farmers and Ranchers project; and member of the regional Negotiation in Agriculture, Ag In Uncertain Times, RightRisk, and Risk Navigator teams. He grew up in Washington State, where he worked eight years (four as foreman) on a large stocker-cattle/crop operation. John's current extension interests include risk management, integrated management, enterprise assessment, financial analysis, recordkeeping, and applications of technology in agricultural. hewlett@uwyo.edu



ERIN KINSEY

Erin is a CNGA Certified Greenhouse Grower from Landon's Greenhouse. She has a horticulture degree and loves talking about plants. Tomato and ferns are her favorites.



DAVE MORNEAU

Dave Morneau lives in Lander, WY and works as a Conservation Specialist at Popo Agie Conservation District. He and his wife Anita run a cow/calf operation, put up their own hay and grow vegetables for home consumption and Farmer's Markets. Dave is an experienced irrigator and high tunnel grower, but a brand-new beekeeper! David.Morneau@wy.nacdnet.net Andrew Cassidy partnered with Dave to create their session on irrigation. Andrew has been an USDA-NRCS District Conservationist since 2009 and is located in the Sheridan office.



SPEAKERS

MICAH MOST

Micah Most works for the University of Wyoming as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in Johnson County. Born and raised in western Nebraska, Micah studied Animal Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln prior to his current role. Teaching folks where their food comes from and how to grow their own is one of Micah's favorite parts of his work! mmost@uwyo.edu or (307) 684-7522.



CHANDA RULE

Chanda has a B.A. in Botany/Microbiology from the Ohio Wesleyan University. She is a wife, mother of 3 wonderful, active, hardworking teenagers, and a partner in Rule Livestock LLC. Gardening has always been in her blood. She grew up on a farm in rural Ohio, with several large family gardens. She continued to garden in Wyoming. Golden Rule Produce went from a family garden to a pick to order/farmer's market garden to a self-service produce stand with the addition of a 30'x96' high tunnel.



AMY SMITH

Amy is a rancher, insect nerd, and UW Extension educator. She is a flower enthusiast and is fascinated by the insects that visit them. She is based in Goshen County and can be contacted at asmith207@uwyo.edu or (307) 532-2436.



STEPHANIE STYVAR

Stephanie is an Inspection Supervisor for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Consumer Health Service located in Northeastern, WY. Stephanie was previously an area inspector and has been with the Department for 18 years. Stephanie has a background and education in Agriculture. Stephanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness and a Master's Degree in Animal and Veterinary Science.



EVAN VAN ORDER

Evan is the owner and steward of Living Root Farm in Hardin, MT. Along with his wife and children, they have been growing produce for their community since 2016 utilizing regenerative ag practices and zero synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Their mission is to work with nature to promote healthy soil where we can grow healthy plants that provides healthy food to our community.



JEREMIAH VARDIMAN

Jeremiah is an Extension Educator for the University of Wyoming, located in Powell, WY. He has worked for the University for 12 years; 3 years as an assistant Farm Manager at UW's Sheridan Research and Extension Center and the last 9 years as an Extension Educator. He has a diverse background in land management, with his most recent work being in crop production and pest management for Wyoming crops. His most recent work has focused on vineyard management, insecticide resistance in alfalfa weevils, cheatgrass control, and soil management. Contact info - jvardima@uwyo.edu , 307-620-5118



Other Organizers of Today's Event

MELISSA COOK

Melissa Cook is a University of Wyoming Extension community vitality and health educator based in Big Horn County. Melissa enjoys teaching, writing, creating videos (you might see her recording a session!), and spending time outdoors. New to UWE in 2023, Melissa serves the Big Horn Basin and can be contacted at 307-899-9001 or mcook12@uwyo.edu.

BJ EDWARDS

BJ Edwards is the Executive Director for the Wyoming Food Coalition- the state of Wyoming's food policy council that works to strengthen local food systems by connecting stakeholders and amplifying their voices so that Wyoming producers, consumers, and environments thrive. BJ is passionate about working with local growers to create marketing avenues for local foods, increase local food access, and break down barriers for local producers to sell their products in Wyoming.

DONNA HOFFMAN

Donna is the new Wyoming State Master Gardener Coordinator and continues as the Natrona County Horticulture Educator. She enjoys working with rural landowners as well as urban gardeners and all fellow tree lovers.

HANNAH MORNEAU

Hannah is the horticulture educator and project coordinator for the University of Wyoming Extension in Laramie County. She likes to talk gardening and get her hands in the dirt!

HAILEY SORG

Hailey is the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative Educator for University of Wyoming Extension. She works around the state with communities, organizations, and individuals looking to maximize their outdoor recreation, tourism, and hospitality opportunities.

JENNIFER THOMPSON

Jenny is the Small Acreage Outreach Coordinator for University of Wyoming Extension. She works with the wonderful, multi-organizational team who bring you Barnyards & Backyards barnyardsandbackyards.com

TED SMITH

Ted is the UW Extension Horticulture Program Coordinator for Park County. Previously he worked at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center/OSU Muck Crops Research Branch in Willard, OH. He has lived 10 years in Park County and will complete his Range Management Degree in 2025. His interests in the field of agriculture are market vegetables, historic agricultural demonstrations, and organic grain production.

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