



# Harvest Wyoming

## Annual Conference

Season Extension & Production Basics | Growing longer and better!

### March 8, 2025

Laramie County Community College  
Cheyenne, WY

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# Saturday March 8, 2025 — HARVEST WYOMING CONFERENCE

Season Extension & Production Basics | Growing longer and better!

Laramie County Community College

Cheyenne, WY

7:50a.m. - Registration begins and lots of cool booths to visit!

8:20a.m. - Brief welcome, introductions and outline of the day

	Room 108	Room 109	Room 305	Room 206
9 - 9:45 a.m.	<p>Extending the growing season in Wyoming. How long can I really grow?</p> <p><b>Jeff Edwards</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Wyoming Soils - Managing Them for Success</p> <p><b>Jeremiah Vardiman</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Strategic Intercropping</p> <p><b>Micah Most</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Gardening for Insects</p> <p><b>Whitney Cranshaw</b> CSU Entomology</p>
10 - 10:45 a.m.	<p>Starting Plants from Seed</p> <p><b>Isaiah Smith</b> Cheyenne Botanical Garden</p>	<p>Irrigation Panel</p> <p><b>Dave Morneau, Rich Lewis, Maggie McKenzie</b></p>	<p>Gardening for Insects</p> <p><b>Whitney Cranshaw</b> CSU Entomology</p>	<p>Find a Niche: Filling Gaps in the Market in the Shoulder Seasons</p> <p><b>Ethan Page</b> Central Wyoming College</p>
11 - 11:45 a.m.	<p>Building Season Extension Structures to Withstand Wyoming Weather</p> <p><b>Jeff Edwards</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Growing Fruits and Berries in Wyoming</p> <p><b>Scott Skogerboe</b></p>	<p>Wyoming Soils - Managing Them for Success</p> <p><b>Jeremiah Vardiman</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>What Does it Really Take to be a Market Grower?</p> <p><b>LeAnn Miller</b></p>
12 - 12:45 p.m.	<p align="center"><b>Buffet-Style Lunch</b> Some Interesting and Unusual Herbs and Veggies to Consider. <b>Whitney Cranshaw</b> - CSU Entomology</p>			
1 - 1:45 p.m.	<p>Deep Winter Greenhouses</p> <p><b>Kirstee Moore</b> NPNRD</p>	<p>Let's Grow Vertical!</p> <p><b>Dave Morneau</b> Popo Agie Conservation District</p> <p><b>Hannah Mills</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Growing Fruits and Berries in Wyoming</p> <p><b>Scott Skogerboe</b></p>	<p>Cultivating a Healthy New Venture</p> <p><b>John Hewlett</b> UW Extension</p>
2 - 3 p.m.	<p>Edible Landscaping</p> <p><b>Isaiah Smith</b> Cheyenne Botanical Garden</p>	<p>Pest Management Inside and Out</p> <p><b>Jeff Edwards</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Irrigation Management for Wyoming Plants</p> <p><b>Jeremiah Vardiman</b> UW Extension</p>	<p>Small Livestock, Your Garden, and You!</p> <p><b>Jedidiah Hewlett</b> UW Extension</p>

# SESSIONS

9:00-9:45 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

This presentation is going to discuss the most common Wyoming soil types, limitations to these soils, an overview of nutrient requirements for crops, and how to get your soils to be as productive as possible. Taking these concepts and applying them to enclosed space production and intensive cultivation situations will help you produce bountiful fruits and vegetables.

## Strategic Intercropping: Leveraging Mutual Inter-plant Relationships

**Micah Most** - UW Extension

While many people's ideal vegetable planting is defined by manicured and tidy rows, there is a lot that can be gained by intentionally mixing things up. In this talk: Understanding traditional practices of polycropping (growing multiple species together), an argument against "companion planting," and how to leverage plant characteristics to boost blooms and bumper crops.

## Gardening for Insects

**Whitney Cranshaw** - CSU Entomology

Many kinds of insects are considered desirable, providing services in the form of pollination or in the management of pest insects - or just because they can be interesting and enjoyable to watch. These insects can be encouraged to thrive if there is attention given to providing the conditions that they require in the form of foods used by the adults and young, shelter, and in some cases, nesting sites. In this session the principles for gardening for insects will cover butterflies, hummingbird moths, natural enemies of insect pests, and various bees.

10:00-10:45 A.M.

## Starting Plants from Seed

**Isaiah Smith** - Cheyenne Botanical Garden

Get off on the right foot this growing season! Learn how to start plants from seeds. Many vegetables benefit from a jumpstart indoors before planting out in our short-season growing climate. You will also learn which vegetables prefer to be direct sown and some tips on timing and general success.

## Irrigation Panel

**Dave Morneau, Rich Lewis, and Maggie McKenzie**

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

## Gardening for Insects

**Whitney Cranshaw** - CSU Entomology

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## Find a Niche: Filling Gaps in the Market in the Shoulder Seasons

**Ethan Page** - Central Wyoming College

This workshop will highlight ways to identify crops and growing strategies to fill market gaps in the shoulder seasons. The discussion will focus on practical methods for growing greens, root crops, and specialty products earlier or later in the year. By identifying underrepresented niches in farmers' markets, attendees will gain actionable insights to diversify their offerings and bring unique, in-demand products to their community. Those growing for home use or donation to food banks can also use this information to make the best use of an extended growing season.

# SESSIONS

11:00-11:45 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.

## Growing Fruits and Berries in Wyoming

**Scott Skogerboe**

Come learn which small fruits and fruit trees have stood the test of time in the Cheyenne area. Scott Skogerboe has tested 100's of varieties in his 3-acre property north of Fort Collins for 30 years. Let his experiences guide you in selection, pollination needs and cultural requirements leading to successful backyard fruit growing.

## Wyoming Soils — Managing Them for Success

**Jeremiah Vardiman** - UW Extension

This presentation is going to discuss the most common Wyoming soil types, limitations to these soils, an overview of nutrient requirements for crops, and how to get your soils to be as productive as possible. Taking these concepts and applying them to enclosed space production and intensive cultivation situations will help you produce bountiful fruits and vegetables.

## What Does it Really Take to be a Market Grower?

**LeAnn Miller**

In this session we'll cover what to consider if you are interested in growing for the market, to see if it is right for you. We'll also cover some of the different kinds of markets in Wyoming (in-person sales, online, etc.).

12:00-12:45 P.M.

## LUNCH

## Some Interesting and Unusual Herbs and Veggies to Consider for Your Garden

## WHITNEY CRANSHAW -

CSU Entomology

Whitney is an Emeritus Professor of Entomology at Colorado State University where he has worked since 1983. During this time, he conducted a wide range of Extension, research and teaching programs with the primary focus of improving the understanding of and effective management of insects of horticultural crops (vegetables/fruits, flowers, trees/shrubs, turfgrass, hemp). Although he retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, support websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.

For the past two years, a demonstration area at a northern Colorado CSU farm has been developed to showcase the diversity of the world's crops. In 2024 there were over 250 different kinds of plants included (different species, cultivars) with greatest emphasis on different types of vegetables and herbs. Several of these have stood out as having unusual qualities, as food crops and sometimes also for ornamental use and/or to assist with nectar/pollen needs of various beneficial insects. About a dozen of these will be discussed.



# SESSIONS

1:00-1:45 P.M.

## Deep Winter Greenhouses

**Kirstee Moore** - NPNRD

A deep winter greenhouse (DWG) is a sustainable farming solution designed to grow crops year-round, even in cold climates. These greenhouses utilize passive solar heating, geothermal energy, and thermal mass to regulate temperature without relying on conventional heating systems. Some designs incorporate partially underground structures to harness the earth's natural heat, while geothermal loops supplement warmth from the ground. Join this session to learn more about the pros and cons of building and operating these structures.

## Let's Grow Vertical!

**Dave Morneau** - Popo Agie Conservation District

**Hannah Mills** - UW Extension

Join Hannah & Dave to talk about maximizing space efficiency in your season extension structures and confined garden spaces. Topics include key benefits, best-suited plants, and types of materials and structures that can be used.

## Growing Fruits and Berries in Wyoming

**Scott Skogerboe**

Come learn which small fruits and fruit trees have stood the test of time in the Cheyenne area. Scott Skogerboe has tested 100's of varieties in his 3-acre property north of Fort Collins for 30 years. Let his experiences guide you in selection, pollination needs and cultural requirements leading to successful backyard fruit growing.

## Cultivating a Healthy New Venture

**John Hewlett** - UW Extension

Are you ready to turn your great idea into a thriving new venture? Success depends on more than just ambition—it requires understanding potential hurdles, prioritizing key challenges, and tackling risks strategically. Identifying critical challenges early on, whether they involve funding, team dynamics, or market competition, can make all the difference. By addressing these challenges from the start, you can set your venture on the path to success.

2:00-3:00 P.M.

## Edible Landscaping

**Isaiah Smith** - Cheyenne Botanical Garden

Learn how to integrate crops into your home landscapes. Get the most out of small and awkward spaces by selecting plants and varieties that produce both food and beauty. Whether adding a few annual herbs to a flower garden or landscape designing with berry bushes, you too can get more out of your home landscapes.

## 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 on enclosed spaces.

## Irrigation Management for Wyoming Plants

**Jeremiah Vardiman** - UW Extension

Providing plants with the water they need to succeed is a major challenge in Wyoming. This session will cover the scientific knowledge of how to manage irrigation for plant health and production, the pros and cons of the different irrigation systems, and how to put this knowledge into practical use.

## Small Livestock, Your Garden, and You!

**Jedidiah Hewlett** - UW Extension

Do you find yourself managing mounds of manure? Are you thinking about shifting to organic cropping methods? Come and learn how livestock and gardening can be both competitive and complementary.

## 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 on 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



## 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 a 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 agriculture. hewlett@uwyo.edu



## 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 farmers markets. Dave is an experienced irrigator and high tunnel grower. David. Morneau@wy.nacdnet.net



## 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



## 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



## HANNAH MILLS

Hannah Mills is the Horticulture educator for the University of Wyoming Extension in Cheyenne. Originally from Lander, WY, she grew up gardening and running cows with her family. She has a background in plant science and rangeland management and loves all things plants. Hannah coordinates the Master Gardener program in Laramie County and enjoys teaching kids how to garden.



## ETHAN PAGE

Ethan grew up in New York and got into agriculture at a young age by raising sheep through 4-H. From there, he studied animal and environmental science in college and holds a Masters on how CSAs can benefit small farmers. He has worked on small farms, in backyard gardening and education, and controlled environment hydroponics. He currently manages the CWC Beginning Farmer Training Program and leads the AAS in Regenerative Food Systems.



## ISAIAH SMITH

Isaiah Smith is the Horticulture & Operations Supervisor at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Cheyenne, Wyoming. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Isaiah has transplanted well to Wyoming after moving here over 7 years ago. He fell in love with the prairie and the mountains and their plants and has been sharing that love with Cheyenne ever since. Isaiah has a strong passion for those plants tough enough to survive in Cheyenne and oversees the Crevice Garden, Water-wise Beds, and Wyoming Bed at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.



## JEDIDIAH HEWLETT

Jedidiah Hewlett is the UW Extension agriculture and natural resources educator serving Converse County. He grew up raising rabbits and poultry, among other endeavors. He can be reached at [jhewlett@uwoyo.edu](mailto:jhewlett@uwoyo.edu) or 307-358-2417.



## KIRSTEE MOORE

Kirstee Moore is the Special Projects Coordinator at the North Platte Natural Resources District. She started working in the greenhouse industry 10 years ago, which sparked her deep passion for horticulture and environmental stewardship. As an active University of Nebraska Master Gardener, she's always looking to expand her knowledge, and is currently pursuing a degree in horticulture through the University of Massachusetts. In addition to her professional work, she serves on the board of directors at the Gering Library in her hometown.



## LEANN MILLER

With over 40 years of experience in sales, marketing, and hospitality, LeAnn has found her skills bring a unique perspective to the non-profit and agriculture world. She has been the driving force behind many local food activities in Casper, WY. Currently, she is the Local Food Broker for Fresh Foods Wyoming L3C and the Eat Wyoming Online Farmers Market, connecting retail and wholesale producers and consumers, all while operating a statewide CSA program. She has been an integral part of the local food procurement programs for Food Bank of Wyoming and statewide school districts.



## RICH LEWIS

Rich has gardened in Cheyenne since the 1990s and has been a Master Gardener since 2019. He grows vegetables and flowers and likes to try different methods to grow plants. He has a Rain Gutter Gardening System he uses in a season extension structure and a drip system for outside.



## MAGGIE MCKENZIE

Maggie is a long-time Laramie County gardener, having grown up about a mile from where she currently lives west of Cheyenne. She began her drip irrigation adventures in 1989 and has explored this method of watering for trees, ornamental beds, containers, and veggie patches. In addition to her well-supplied irrigation system at home, she's also installed and operated several in-town systems using both individual well and city water as sources. Having had success with drip irrigation systems, she is a devotee of this simple, flexible and water-wise method of irrigation.



## SCOTT SKOGERBOE

Scott has been the Propagator at Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery for the last 30 years, where he grows 300,000 trees and shrubs every year for sale to nurseries from Casper, Wyoming, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and just about everywhere in between. Prior to going to work with his current employer, Scott was the owner of a small nursery specializing in fruit trees and berries adaptable to the rigors of growing on the high plains of the American interior west. In his spare time, he enjoys going out with his wife, Dianne, also a professional Horticulturist, to explore for new and old plants. They particularly look for old and obscure apples. Scott descends from pioneers on his father's side who first settled in Wyoming in 1876. They were among the founders of Beulah in Crook County.



## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### HAILEY SORG

Hailey is the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative Educator for the 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 a Horticulture Specialist for the University of Wyoming Extension. She supports the UW Plant Diagnostic team and UWE Educators and has wide-ranging interests in horticulture subjects.

### 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.

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