

# WESTERN REGION JOINT SUMMER MEETING



June 23-26, 2025

Laramie, Wyoming

**agInnovation-West**- Western Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

**WEDA**- Western Extension Directors Association

**W-APS**- Western Academic Programs Section

**W-AHS**- Western Administrative Heads Section

**W-CARET**- Western Council for Agriculture Research, Extension, & Teaching



# AGENDA

## MONDAY, JUNE 23

**5:00 - 7:00 PM**      **Opening Reception**, Bond's Brewery, 411 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Shuttles will pick up at each hotel at 4:45 PM  
Dinner on your own.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 24

**8:00 - 9:00 AM**      **Check-in and Breakfast**  
Marian Rochelle Gateway Center, 222 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

**9:00 - 9:45 AM**      **Welcome & Opening Session**  
Dean Kelly Crane & Administration Team  
Parag Chitnis, University of WY VP Research & Economic Development

**9:45 - 11:45 AM**      **Effective Engagement with Legislators, Policy Makers, and Funding Cooperators: A Perspective from our Partners**  
**Local and State Partners**

**Panelists:**

Angi Bruce, *Director, WY Game and Fish*

Bill Novotny, *Commissioner, Johnson County WY*

Randall Luthi, *Policy Director, State of WY*

Jim Magagna, *Executive VP WY Stockgrowers*

Ron Rabou, *President, Rabou Farms & WY CARET Representative*

Michelle Sullivan, *Secretary & Trustee, Uni. of WY Board of Trustees*

Bob Davis, *Representative, State of WY*

**Moderator:** Mike Smith, *VP, University of WY Government Affairs & Community Engagement*

**11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**      **Lunch**

**12:15 - 12:45 PM**      **Hunger Initiative Presentation**  
Jennie Gordon, *Wyoming First Lady*

**1:00 - 2:30 PM**      **Effective Engagement with Legislators, Policy Makers, and Funding Cooperators: A Perspective from our Partners**  
**National Panel:**

John Barrasso, *Senator, State of WY*

Cynthia Lummis, *Senator, State of WY*

Harriet Hageman, *Congresswomen, State of WY*

**Panelists:**

Doug Miyamoto, *Director, WY Department of Agriculture*

Connie Kays, *National CARET Chair*

Parag Chitnis, *VP, University of WY Research & Economic Development*

Mark Eisele, *Rancher & Owner, King Ranch Company, LP.*

Doug Steele, *VP Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources, APLU*

**Moderator:** Sreekala Bajwa, *VP, Dean & Director, Montana State Uni.*

# AGENDA

continued

## TUESDAY, JUNE 24 CONT...

- 2:30 - 2:45 PM**    **Break**
- 2:45 - 3:00 AM**    **Western Agenda Video**
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM**    **Awards Program**
- 4:30 - 5:00 PM**    **Transport to Celebration of Award Winners Reception**  
*Shuttles pick up at hotel front doors at 4:30 p.m.*
- 5:00 - 7:00 PM**    **Award Winner Reception**  
*Cliff and Martha Hansen Teaching Arena/LREC, 470 WY-230, Laramie, WY*
- 7:00 PM**            **Shuttles Return to Hotels**

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

*A detailed agenda of the day will be provided on the tour buses.*

- 9:00 AM**            **Buses Depart for Encampment, WY**  
*Gateway parking lot. Loading begins at 8:45 AM. Breakfast on your own.*  
**\*\* You will be at 9,500 feet - bring layers and stay hydrated\*\***


***Presentations will be given on bus trips. Please note: stay on the same bus all day!***

**Presenters:**

Brian Mealor, *Director & Professor, Sheridan Research & Extension Center, IMAGINE*

Hailey Sorg, *Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, & Hospitality (WORTH) Extension Educator*

Joe Cook, *Assistant Director/Research Scientist, Irrigation Science & Management Center*

- 10:00 AM**            **Self Tour at Libby Flats Observation Area**
- 12:00 PM**            **Picnic Lunch and Presentations at Big Creek Ranch**
- 4:30 PM**            **Dinner at Woods Landing Resort** 
- 7:00 PM**            **Return to Laramie**

## THURSDAY, JUNE 26

- 8:00 AM** **Breakfast**, *Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center*
- 9:00 - 9:45 AM** **Opening Remarks**  
Dr. Jaye Hamby, *NIFA Director*  
Mark Gordon, *Wyoming Governor*
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM** **Advancing the Western Agenda Workshop-  
The Importance of a Collective Mindset**  
**Presenter:** Nancy Deringer, *Chair, Western Region Academic Programs*  
*Transition to Breakout Rooms:*
- *agInnovation-West Location: Ballroom B/C*
  - *WEDA Location: Ballroom A*
  - *W-APS Location: Ballroom D*
  - *W-CARET/AHS Location: Legacy Hall*
- 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM** *Return to Ballrooms B/C*  
**Advancing the Western Agenda Workshop-  
Operating with a Collective Mindset**  
**Presenter:** Shawn Donkin, *Chair, agInnovation-West*  
**Speaker:** Ginger Paige, *Professor, Ecosystem Science & Management*  
*Transition to Breakout Rooms: Same as Above*
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM** *Return to Ballroom B/C*  
**Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM** **Advancing the Western Agenda Workshop-  
Unified Metrics to Support the Collective**  
**Presenter:** Jake DeDecker, *Chair, Western Extension Directors Association*  
**Speaker:** Jennifer Alexander, *Western Region Communicators*  
*Transition to Breakout Rooms: Same as Above*
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM** **Association Business Meetings**  
*Breakout Rooms: Same as Above*
- 4:00 PM** *Conference concluded.*