



WEHA Newsletter

1250 McDougall Dr., Lander, WY 82520

Issue III

December 2005/January 2006

President's Message



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The 2005 AEC was a great success and now we can apply all that we learned into our everyday tasks. These conferences are an excellent opportunity to network with each other and neighboring associations. It also gives us the chance to visit with industry sponsors. Congratulations to the WEHA winners of the "Volleyball Brawl." Okay, maybe it wasn't a "win" since the other associations did not form a team. This shows the true teamwork of WEHA. I am proud of the WEHA membership for their joint efforts at the AEC. In addition, the Silent Auction made over \$700 for WEHA. These funds are very beneficial. A great big thank-you goes out to those of you that donated and/or purchased a silent auction item.

The membership voted and decided to have the 2006 AEC in Saratoga. WEHA and WFSC are invited to this conference for more of a "quaint" get-together. Details will be forthcoming next year. If you would like to assist with a committee to plan the next AEC, please contact me.

In addition, in 2007, we may have a NEHA Region 3 conference with a tentative location in Jackson, Wyoming. I am asking for volunteers to assist with the planning of this conference, as well. This will be a great opportunity to bring in some quality speakers and network with several States. If you would like to serve on a 2007 AEC Planning Committee, please contact me. We must get an adequate committee together to make this conference work.

I am insisting that you take some time for yourself and your family this holiday season. You do so much to benefit Wyoming that you must also remember yourself and loved ones. No matter what the weather brings us this winter season, be safe and choose your travels carefully. This should be a joyous time of year.

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Origins at the Ivory Cellar

Kenneth Blehm, Colorado State University

"A new day in the same old (sort of) ways"

Have you noticed how environmental health news today is an interesting mix of some new issues (WIPP opening in New Mexico; new control methods for air toxics) and some new variations on old ones (pathogenic bacteria outbreak at a *water park*; food protection in

(Continued Next page)

better ways (HACCP as opposed to floors, walls, ceilings)). To meet these challenges, the EH professional has to be classically trained in important areas; instructed in new areas; and prepared to deal with old and new issues in unique ways. The EH curriculum at Colorado State is changing to do just that.

We have met extensively with internal (faculty, professional consultants and current students) and external (practitioners and alumni) advisers to modify our curriculum. The national accrediting body for EH is fueling this effort by changing their criteria to focus on practitioner capability -- not merely course titles or syllabi. They have increased their emphasis on practical problem-solving within a curriculum; on the ability to apply knowledge to existing and new field situations; and the need to incorporate practicing professionals within the curriculum. We have taken the suggestions to heart and propose a new curriculum that we think will be a great improvement.

We have re-emphasized basic science courses BEFORE you learn applied aspects of EH practice. Many of our students do not terminate with the B.S. degree and many go for specialty areas of practice (toxicology, epidemiology or industrial hygiene) where background in chemistry, math, physics, biology, and microbiology are essential. Neither do we feel that basic, applied EH training can always equip you for the new or evolving issues of the field. Our new solutions are rooted in the scientific method and use of basic sciences as tools.

We have re-emphasized the need to find and communicate information when performing field work. How can you be assured that the next issue that faces you is one that was covered in a course during your college days? We will have the students involved in real and simulated field projects in every class; we will use library research as a basis for problem-solving; and we will insist that results can be presented in oral or written formats to clients of ALL educational levels.

We have increased the EH credits in specialties but have structured the classes to provide a more succinct focus. We have added or enhanced classes on radiation; chemical and solid waste; diseases of EH significance; air, water, soil and food protection to name a few. We are constructing a laboratory predominantly for undergraduate training that will serve as a focal point for field assignments to be solved as part of classes -- as opposed to "cookbook" chemistry experiments that may or may not describe reality.

Finally, we have identified even greater numbers of our most valuable resource -- practicing professionals -- who will serve as adjunct faculty teaching courses; who will continue to mentor and guide interns; who will sit on advisory and oversight committees; and who may allow our newest "rookies" (meaning students who are brand new to the curriculum) to shadow them for a day. These shadow days will help students learn more of the diversity of what we do every day so that they may make excellent intern or career decisions.

Exciting times!! New but old challenges!! We welcome and invite your comments on our changes. Several health authorities across the region have been asked to review and comment on our curriculum changes. If you would like to help us in this process, please drop a note or email to me at my by-line and I will see that your information goes to the appropriate contact person. Your observations from the front-line are always welcome.

But -- BE CAREFUL -- I am also on the lookout for adjunct faculty, mentors, and job shadows. You may find yourself soon invited to the greatest and most challenging (BUT FUN) problem of all -- namely insuring the quality of our efforts and profession for those who will follow us.

Ken Blehm
Ken.Blehm@colostate.edu

WEHA Announcements

1. Plan to attend a Temporary Food Class to be held in Casper, May10-11, 2006. Sponsored by WEHA, organized by Dean Finkenbinder and Linda Stratton. Further information will be sent.
2. The WEHA Executive Board voted to create a Bereavement Allowance with the following guidelines. The president will send either a plant or bouquet and a card to a member in good standing upon the loss of an immediate family member. A limit of \$50 was set and a proviso of a donation to a charity if the family prefers was included in the guidelines.
If you know of a member's loss please notify the WEHA president, currently Sherry Maston at smasto@state.wy.us, so the president can acknowledge the member's loss.

WEHA minutes now available at:
<http://www.wehaonline.net>

Attention Environmental Health Workforce

Wyoming would like to host a NEHA Region 3 annual educational conference in Jackson, Wyoming in 2007. This resort town has been successful with tourism, offering visitors many activities with breath-taking scenes of the Teton Mountains. In order to make this happen, we must form an adequate committee from multiple States. Volunteer to serve on the planning committee by contacting Wyoming Environmental Health Association (WEHA) President, Sherry Maston, at smasto@state.wy.us or (307) 331-1662. Having a Region 3 meeting will provide an opportunity for western states to attend a quality conference in closer proximity than the NEHA conference. Better yet, plan to attend both! In addition, feel free to contact NEHA Region 3 Vice President, Tom Gonzales, for information at e-mail address: tgonzales@larimer.org or call (970) 577-2051. Join me in getting started on this right away.

New Employees

Tony Capello – Environmental Health Specialist - Teton County Health Department

I am from Golden Colorado and graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Environmental Health in 2004. I have studied Spanish for over eight years and had spent some time in Spain including a solo-backpacking trip in the fall of 2004.

I completed an internship with Larimer County Environmental Health in Fort Collins, Colorado the summer of 2004. During my internship I helped conduct West Nile Virus surveillance including mosquito trap data and mapping, public awareness, and bird collection and sample swabbing. I worked in conjunction with the CDC on a plague outbreak investigation in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. Conducted inspections of local food service establishments and daycare centers. Worked on a variety of communicable disease incidents including: Rabies, Tularemia, and Hanta Virus. I also collected and tested weekly water samples from guest ranches, campgrounds, hotels and resorts in Estes Park, Colorado.

In addition, I have wastewater control and operation experience after working in Industrial Pretreatment at the City and County of Broomfield's Wastewater Plant prior to arriving in Jackson Hole.

Ryan Hoobler – Consumer Health Specialist - Wyoming Department of Agriculture

My interests include hunting and fishing, camping, and snowmobiling. I also like to spend time with my 5 yr old yellow lab "buddy". I am originally from Kansas. We moved to Colorado when I was 5. I attended college at Northeastern Jr. College in Sterling Colorado. I lived in Bridgeport NE for 3 years prior to moving to Cody a year and a half ago. I cover the Cody area and west to the national park border. My area is all in Park County. Prior to the Department of Agriculture, I worked for a construction company for 3 months, a metal recycling company for 2 months, a commodities trading company for 1 1/2 years and I was a retail farm store manager in Nebraska for approximately 5 years.

Stephanie Malcolm – Consumer Health Specialist – Wyoming Department of Agriculture – Fremont County

I am the new Consumer Health Specialist in Fremont County. I primarily cover the Lander and Dubois areas.

I am a Wyoming native and was raised south of Encampment on a large commercial cow calf operation. I attended Eastern Wyoming College for two years where I focused on animal science courses. I then went on to the University of Wyoming and graduated in 2003 with a bachelor in Agricultural Business and a minor in Economics.

I moved to Fremont County to be with my husband, Alex, who works for the University of Wyoming as an Extension Agent. Last year we were blessed with our first son, Colton, who just celebrated his first birthday on November 23rd!

In my spare time (ha ha), I enjoy cooking and working on our home. I also like to hunt and try to get back to the ranch whenever possible!

Alex and I raise registered Black Angus cows and hope to continue to expand that operation in the future!

I am truly enjoying my new position with the Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Services and look forward to a long career!

Tiffany Metz – Environmental Health Specialist – Cheyenne/Laramie County Health Department

I grew up on a farm/ranch east of Scottsbluff. I graduated from Scottsbluff High School in 2000 and graduated from Chadron State College December 17, 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. During the summer of 2005, I worked as a lab tech at the Sherard Water Treatment Plant. I started with the City/County Health department in September. I am a member of the YMCA and have two dogs, Tiki and Jenni.



UPCOMING TRAINING:

34th Annual Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference
The Arvada Center for the Performing Arts
May 23-24, 2006

NEHA's 70th Annual Education Conference and Exhibit
San Antonio, Texas
June 25-28, 2006

IAFP Annual Education Conference
Calgary Alberta, Canada
August 13-16, 2006



WRDC, WDA co-sponsor Farmers Market Conference

by Ashley Camp

On Saturday November 19, 2005 fifty-three Wyoming agriculture producers and market managers attended a Farmer's Market Conference at the Natrona County Extension Office in Casper. The workshop was sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council, Wyoming Rural Development Council, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and the Cooperative Extension Service.

"The Farmer's Market Conference was a great success because it provided information to managers and vendors, and facilitated the creation of a future Wyoming Farmer's Market Association," stated Ted Craig, Value Added Program Manager with the Agribusiness Division of the Wyoming Business Council. The workshop featured Sally Haines, the Market Manager for the Boulder County, Colorado Farmers Market who explained how the market works in Boulder, what is new, and how farmer's markets benefit communities; Ted Craig, who gave an overview of Farmer's Markets; a panel of Wyoming market managers and producers; and a panel of health professionals to discuss food safety issues and the Wyoming laws for food safety. A lively question and answer session followed each panel where everyone learned about how Wyoming Farmer's Markets are currently operating, correct health, food safety, and product labeling practices, and ways to improve and expand upon the current Farmer's Markets in Wyoming.


The last segment of the workshop focused on the challenges and benefits of creating an association of producers for farmers markets in Wyoming. It was felt that the benefits outweighed the challenges and a committee was formed to begin the creation of a statewide association. A statewide association would give Wyoming producers a voice, and a network to inform both vendors and market managers about Farmer's Markets statewide in Wyoming.



Casper News

Submitted by Robert Harrington - CNCHD

On November 17th, Canadian authorities notified CDC that a breeder in Canada had suffered a die-off of rabbits and hamsters caused by Tularemia. Rabbits from the affected lot were reportedly shipped to California for meat consumption, and hamsters went to a pet distributor in suburban Denver. That distributor subsequently sent about 12 hamsters to a pet store in Casper. Investigation disclosed no ill animals.



Environmental Health Needs Assessment in Wyoming

Submitted by John Drinnon, CNCHD

House Bill 94 task force completed a lengthy study of unmet or underserved environmental needs statewide. Topics ranged from meth lab clean-up to housing issues. Dr. David Barber certainly deserves the lions share of the credit for coordinating the task force and organizing the data into a comprehensible document. The legislative subcommittee met in October at which time the study was outlined for discussion. The task force was fairly well represented and information provided in the text was inclusive. You may access the Task Forces report by going to the Wyoming Department of Health's web site.

2005 AEC

Donkey Tail Award

"Taking it in the shorts"!!

This nominee takes some risks. For example when doing slaughter inspections he does not wear a knee length frock. Therefore, he does not want to wear his best duds for this rather dirty job. So he chooses to wear the oldest jeans he possibly can. Well he met his fate one day while on the slaughter floor. He went to bend over and low and behold he ripped the rear end out of those precious jeans. One of the owners (a lady no less) of the meat plant came through the door and admired the green undershorts he now adorned. What else could he do but laugh and continue with the inspection. This inspector is none other than Rory Mc Manus, we can send a collection plate around for a new pair of jeans!

Nomination - Nancy Rieke Award

It took a year for the Laramie County Team to revise, pilot and re-revise the Going for the Gold Intermediate program. One member of the team worked so hard and through frustration learned all the quirks with digital cameras, how to set up displays for pictures and tackled the biggest chunk of the project which was to work with PowerPoint to make every slide just perfect. Jon Cecil worked diligently on this project to make it the best ever. He should be commended on a job well done. Jon has the passion for teaching and always wants the best materials to make the job easier and clear to the participants. He, along with all his experiences (good and bad) has helped with making this project a success. Therefore, I nominate Jon Cecil for the Nancy Reike Award.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Stratton

Long Time Member Retires

By: Dawn Helms

On May 31, 2005 the Wyoming Department of Agriculture lost a very valued employee to a large fifth wheel camper and his pickup truck. Bill Locker retired from the Consumer Health Services Division (CHS) of the Department of Agriculture after serving the great state of Wyoming for over 17 years. Bill and his wife Sharlene will be traveling down south to Texas to spend some time with his children and grandchildren.

While employed with the Department of Agriculture, Bill served on several committees, wore several hats, and taught many of the new employees over the years. Bill was the label expert for CHS and served as one of the primary slaughter inspection teachers.

On May 4, 2005 the CHS department sent Bill off with a going away party at Avanti's Italian restaurant in Cheyenne. The department honored Bill with a beautiful clock with the inscription of:

(Continued on Next page)

“Bill Locker
1988-2005

In recognition of your untiring efforts, loyalty,
friendship and performance over the years.
From you CHS family”

The “A Team” sent Bill off with a framed and signed picture from our in house artist, Doug Krogman. Everyone at the Wyoming Department of Agriculture will miss Bill. We all wish Bill and Sharlene great fortune and adventures in their new life.

WEHA Members learn about Slaughter Inspections



Bill Locker explains proper procedures for viscera inspection of hogs during a training held for WEHA members responsible for meat inspection at the UW Meat Lab on March 8, 2005. Right-To-Left: Shawn Moore, Joe Martinez, Bill Locker and Dawn Helms.



Bill Locker explains proper procedures for pork carcass inspection during an on-the-job training class. Kevin Krouch (right) performs the inspection.



WEHA members, Shawn Moore and Sue Mickelson, pose with a lamb carcass after completing inspection.

THANKS to our Sustaining Members!!

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2006
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WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Business Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Work Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Office _____ Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

Position/Title: _____

Agency: _____

Counties/Cities Assignment Area: _____

Position Duties/Specialty Areas: _____

Are you a: Registered _____ Licensed _____ or Certified _____ Professional?

Are you a member of: NEHA _____ IAFP _____ Member of WEHA since: _____

Annual Dues: \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
\$10.00 Before March 31, 2006 or any new members
\$15.00 April 1, 2006 or later.
\$ 5.00 Student Membership

Please return completed applications with dues to: Joe Martinez, Treasurer
315 N 9th St
Thermopolis, WY 82443

Please fill out forms completely.

