



extension
IMPACTS

The Wyoming Master Cattleman program is designed to help producers focus on their goals while helping to improve ranch management skills.

Master Cattleman program in Albany County addresses producer needs

Situation:

The total value of Albany County's 2007 livestock inventory and crop production, \$57.4 million, shows agriculture is still a major economic base in Albany County.

Sustainability of agriculture industries is dependent upon research-based information provided to address needs of producers.

Following a successful pilot Master Cattleman program in Uinta County in 2007, the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service's (UW CES) Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Systems initiative team identified this program as a vehicle to address statewide needs. The Wyoming Master Cattleman program is designed to help producers focus on their goals while helping to improve ranch management skills. Albany County was one of five counties to participate in 2008.

The program was organized into eight sessions. Participants met once a week for a minimum of three hours beginning in January and ending in March. Participants were provided a notebook full of resources from the program's speakers. Sessions were taught by UW CES specialists and educators, ranch owners, managers, and feedlot personnel. Participants also received a copy of the Western Beef Resource Committee's *Cow-Calf Management Guide*.

Written program evaluations were collected at the end of the program. Four of the five participants responded to a follow-up survey five months after the program to determine if anyone had implemented any changes as a result of recommendations discussed in the program.

Impacts:

The follow-up surveys provided the following impacts:

- 100 percent implemented a practice or changed a practice because of attending this program.
- 100 percent believe the program made or will make a positive impact on the profitability of their operation.

Producers were asked to evaluate each of the sessions on a Likert scale (1=Poor, 5=Excellent). The average score for the sessions was 4.56.

Five producers from Albany County participated in the Wyoming Master Cattleman program. All took part in the weekly discussions.

End of 2008 program evaluations reported:

- 96 percent gained knowledge of production strategies.
- 92 percent gained knowledge of enterprise analysis and risk management.
- 100 percent plan to implement one or more ideas.

Comments included:

- "The flow of ideas and alternative solutions to problems were terrific."
- "This has been an excellent program. Lots of new information. Great exchanges with other participants and the presenters."

100 percent of participants believe the program made or will make a positive impact on the profitability of their operation.