Introduction to the
Laramie Research and Extension Center

D. Zalesky

The Laramie Research and Extension Center (LREC) provides a diverse set of resources for numerous departments within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. These resources are utilized for efforts in research, teaching, and outreach. Due to LREC’s close proximity to campus, numerous classes can utilize the center’s resources to provide students with hands-on learning experiences. LREC staff work hard to balance resource needs for all three parts of the land-grant mission and to make sure that the highest quality resources are available for faculty, staff, students, the people of Wyoming, and users from other states.

Highlights and Accomplishments
During the past year, we lost a valued LREC staff member to retirement, Dave Moore, who worked as Beef Unit manager and farm manager for more than 35 years. His knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. Mark Karlstrum joined LREC in January as an assistant farm manager with primary responsibilities for the Cliff and Martha Hansen Livestock Teaching Arena and equine facilities.

The Sheep Unit (Figure 1) successfully completed two producer-consigned ram tests this past year. Additionally, the unit provided animal and facility resources for several research projects, lab classes, judging contests, and other outreach activities.

A research project evaluating vitamin D production in swine was successfully completed at the Swine Unit. The unit also completed a successful pig and lamb sale, which is conducted annually for local 4-H and FFA students. Additionally, the Swine Unit provides resources for teaching and outreach activities throughout the year.

The LREC Greenhouse Complex (Figure 2) continues to be a very busy location with numerous research projects. Faculty members and graduate students from the departments of Plant Sciences, Ecosystem Science and Management, Molecular Biology, and Botany utilize the facility year-round. Staff members at the greenhouse complex provide resources for teaching and outreach. The complex had a successful open house and field day last year, and we are busy planning for the upcoming field day August 27.

In 2014, the Beef Unit continued to provide animals and facilities to conduct research related

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1Director, Laramie Research and Extension Center.
to feed efficiency in beef cattle. Studies evaluating the impact of feed efficiency on traits such as growth, carcass, and reproduction are under way. Additionally, a study evaluating omega-3 fatty acids fed in the diet of cattle was conducted. The unit also had a busy year providing animals and facilities for a variety of Department of Animal Science classes and other activities.

The *Lab Animal Facility* remains full and is utilized heavily to house rats and mice used in research projects by faculty members, students, and staff in the departments of Animal Science, Veterinary Sciences, and Molecular Biology, as well as the microbiology program.

One of the busiest and most heavily utilized facilities at LREC is the *Hansen Livestock Teaching Arena and Mary Mead Room* (Figure 3). This facility is utilized in excess of 275 days annually for one event or another. Aside from being the home of the UW Rodeo Team, it is also used to conduct lab classes, provide a practice arena for other UW teams and organizations, and host numerous outreach events and meetings.

**Acknowledgments**: The mission of LREC is to provide quality resources for research, teaching, and outreach. The success of accomplishing the mission depends on the quality staff members at LREC. Their efforts make it possible to provide these resources to UW faculty, staff, and students as well as the people of Wyoming and other states.

**Contact**: Doug Zalesky at dzalesky@uwyo.edu or 307-766-3665.