Introduction
It is truly an honor to present the 2016 edition of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES) Field Days Bulletin. It is an honor because I have the distinct privilege of serving as WAES director at a pivotal juncture in its history. This year, WAES is celebrating 125 years of research service to the great state of Wyoming.

The Kick-Off Event
WAES kicked off its 125-year anniversary celebration during its annual University of Wyoming Research and Extension (R&E) Center planning conference in February. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ newly refurbished sheep wagon sported a banner with “Ag Research Transforms Life” while it was parked in the Simpson Plaza throughout the opening day of the conference on the UW campus. Siting the wagon at this location served as a perfect backdrop for a group photo of conference attendees (Figure 1). This location also was ideal for the many students, staff and faculty members, administrators, and visitors to sneak a peek as they strolled by on their way to and from the UW Union. In addition to a keynote address from then UW President Dick McGinity at the awards and appreciation banquet, the crowd was treated to a short video clip highlighting the existence and mission of WAES over the course of time. This video clip may be viewed by clicking on the 125th anniversary YouTube video on the main page of the WAES website (http://www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn/).

Documenting WAES History
The video clips about each R&E center will be based upon information contained in a new book written by David Kruger, UW library liaison to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. David has done a remarkable job of detailing the history of WAES and its affiliated R&E centers in a reader-friendly format. Look for a synopsis of the book’s content in the 2016 issue of the college’s research magazine, Reflections. The book, which includes a forward by new UW President Laurie Nichols, also should be available at the various events where the Halflinger team is pulling the sheep wagon.

Field Days
Join us for field days at R&E center locations in Powell (July 19), near Wyo east of Sheridan (July 20), near Lingle (August 25), and in Laramie (August 27) to take a ride in the sheep wagon, learn about our rich history, and gain insight into current and future research endeavors. Each R&E center also will be celebrating its history and contributions to WAES over the years. In

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1Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station.
addition to the sheep wagon and short video mentioned previously, each center has special events planned to complement the WAES celebration.

**WAES Field Days Bulletin**

Similar to the previous five years, hardcopies of the 2016 *Field Days Bulletin* will be available to attendees of the field days. WAES publishes the annual bulletin in an effort to make our constituents aware of research and other activities being conducted at the R&E centers, in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and at other locations around Wyoming, including on-farm trials. The bulletin is one of several vehicles WAES uses to disseminate results of its investigations to the public. Persons unable to attend the field days can locate electronic copies of past and current issues of the bulletin at http://www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn/publications/.

**Conclusion**

To circle back to my opening sentence, I am proud to be WAES director at this moment in history. It has been a pleasure serving in this capacity, and I look forward to the many exciting developments in years to come.

**Acknowledgments**

I wish to thank all past, present, and future members of WAES for keeping up the tradition of a vibrant WAES. Members of our sister organization, UW Extension, are also thanked for their endless assistance. A special acknowledgment is extended to David Kruger for documenting the rich history of WAES! A special heartfelt recognition goes out to all WAES supporters who have contributed in many ways. Thank you also to all the contributors to WAES bulletins. Finally, many thanks to editors Joanne Newcomb and Robert Waggener for making the *Field Days Bulletin* a highly professional document, to David Perry for his help organizing bulletin peer reviews, and to Tanya Engel for graphic design.

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**Figure 1.** Participants in the 2016 WAES planning conference stand around the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources newly refurbished sheep wagon. Kneeling, from left, Dan Smith, Larry Miller, Kalli Koepke, Leslie Montoya, Gustavo Sbatella, Brian Mealor, John Tanaka, and Mike Moore. Standing in front of sheep wagon, from left, Dale Hill, Cath Harris, Denny Hall, Dave Lutterman, Troy Burke, Rochelle Koltiska, Larry Howe, Kelly Greenwald, Mark Karlstrom, Rod Rogers, Andi Pierson, Doug Zalesky, David Perry, Julie Daniels, Mary Kay Wardlaw, Travis Smith (cowboy hat), Steve Paisley, and Bret Hess. Back, left of sheep wagon, from left, Brad May, Carrie Eberle, and Mike Albrecht.