SAREC Introduction

Introduction to the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center

John Tanaka¹–³

Introduction
The James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) was established in 2002, and research activities began fully in 2006. SAREC has 349 acres of irrigated cropland using a combination of three center pivots, a lateral-move sprinkler, and furrow irrigation (Fig. 1). There are 1,223 ac of dryland crops, primarily in wheat and corn, 2,180 ac of rangeland, and a 400-head feedlot. SAREC also oversees management of the approximate 320-ac Rogers Research Site in the North Laramie Mountains near Laramie Peak, land that was gifted to the University of Wyoming by Colonel William C. Rogers.

SAREC Personnel
We work as a team (Fig. 2) to provide the best possible research and extension activities, serving a six-county region in eastern Wyoming (Albany, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte), the state as a whole, and other regions with similar crop and livestock production issues. We welcome Blaine Magnuson to our team (Fig. 3). Blaine was hired as a research aide to help with all of the ongoing and future studies at SAREC. He comes to Wyoming from Nebraska, where he was running a ranch after graduating from Chadron State College. Our research includes small- to large-plots on cropland, rangeland restoration, grazing on pasture and rangelands, and feeding primarily cattle in the feedlot. Additionally, we are heavily involved in extension activities throughout the year by providing a place for hands-on demonstrations and also giving talks and writing articles of interest to a wide variety of constituents. We are highly committed to conducting research and extension activities that help solve issues for farmers, ranchers, agricultural organizations, the owners of small acreages, the managers of both public and private lands, and others.

Developments
In 2017, during a period of severe weather, we escaped the tornados, but were hit by a microburst of wind that blew apart one of our sheds (Fig. 4). We are working with UW insurance personnel to get it rebuilt. We continue to focus on maintaining what we currently have, and we have also developed a plan to upgrade and modernize our equipment over the next several years. We have installed small paddocks for long-term grazing system and soil health research.

We are improving our infrastructure to accommodate as much cutting-edge research as we can. Along those lines, we are pleased to start several new long-term projects on the center related to sustainable agriculture. Included in this effort are using carbon products to amend the soil, planting different mixes of pasture grasses, establishing an irrigated organic field, growing first grains (aka ancient grains, including spelt and emmer wheat), along with all of the novel research you will read about in the SAREC section of the Field Days Bulletin.

All of us are involved in outreach and engagement with farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and our communities. One program that was finally given a name is our Taters for Tots. SAREC assistant farm manager Al Unverzagt has taken the lead with this effort, in which we grow a patch of potatoes and invite local fourth-grade students to come out and pick some spuds. Students also go to the classroom to learn a little about agriculture.

Acknowledgments
SAREC was formed to be a place where applied research will be conducted to help agricultural production in the region become more sustainable. Our mission is to serve the citizens of Wyoming, the region, and nation by facilitating innovative discovery, dissemination, and engagement of integrated agricultural systems that are ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially acceptable. The success of SAREC depends upon the staff and faculty, and the advice we get from farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses through our newly created SAREC Advisory Board and through more informal meetings and discussions. These efforts are among the reasons why SAREC can provide a quality location for faculty, staff, students, and others from UW and beyond to conduct their research and extension activities.

¹Director, James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center; ²Associate Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station; ³Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.
Contact Information
John Tanaka at jtanaka@uwyo.edu or 307-837-2000.

PARP: I, II, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII