



WEHA Newsletter

WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2022

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President's Message

By Derek Hensley

I hope that this message finds you all well. Based on the recent weather across the state it is my opinion that old man winter is officially here to stay. Be mindful of winter conditions as you travel for work and personally throughout the season. Our personal lives and professional lives can be taxing on our personal wellness. I would encourage each of you to carve out time for yourself for relaxation and reflection.

As environmental health professionals we work in an ever changing landscape of legislation, regulation, and public interests. In order to stay current and improve ourselves professionally I would encourage everyone to seize

the opportunities of the multiple NEHA, AFDO, and FDA seminars and training that are being offered in early 2023. The more educated we become today the more effectively we can meet the demands and expectations of tomorrow.

The AEC planning committee has already begun meeting and is starting to set the framework for the 2023 WEHA AEC. The Executive Council is looking forward to an agenda with compelling speakers and interactive group activities. The Executive Council intends to build on the successes of the 2022 WEHA AEC and the membership feedback received following the conference.

As we round this year and head into 2023 please remember that the Wyoming Environmental Health Association is your organization as environmental health professionals. Please reach out to me or another Executive Council member if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for the association. We hope to continue to strengthen the working relationship and information exchange across all membership for the betterment of the association.



NEHA Updates

NEHA 2023 AEC Registration Now Open!

Registration opens December 1st for the NEHA 2023 Annual Educational Conference on July 31st – August 3rd in New Orleans, LA.

The NEHA AEC is so much more than a conference. It is the nexus for environmental health training, education, networking, and advancement. Our AEC is the most comprehensive training and education investment your organization can make to achieve immediate and long-term benefits.

Acquire practical and real-world information and expertise from like-minded professionals that share your passion for environmental health.

Leave trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance your organization and yourself.

Gain the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to help solve your organization's daily and strategic challenges and to improve your bottom-line results.

Earn continuing education (CE) credit to maintain your professional credential(s).



NEHA has officially launched their new brand and website. It has been 46 years since the last logo change. Their hope is that the new design both honors their past and acknowledges the development of both NEHA and the profession over the past 84 years.



We Need Your Input: National Retail Food Safety Regulatory Training Needs Assessment

We need your participation in a historic national survey to identify the strengths of the retail food safety regulatory community and assess knowledge gaps as they pertain to workforce needs.

- The 20-minute, anonymous survey is open to all retail and agricultural food safety regulatory professionals at the federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal levels.
- Results will be shared widely and will be used to bolster educational resources, reduce knowledge gaps in training materials, and improve workforce capabilities for years to come.
- Please encourage your food safety team members to complete the survey as soon as possible at neha.org/retail-grants-needs-assessment





My experience at NEHA 2022 in Spokane, WA

By: Ashton Brodahl

Getting into Environmental health was a surprise let alone getting to attend a conference shortly after being hired. I graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor's in Animal Science, concentration in range livestock. I never would have thought that environmental health would overlap with my background. At the conference there were many classes available that tapped into both agriculture and how that is impacted with various topics associated with "environmental health". There were a few classes that I was able to attend that put into context the relationship between farming practices and growing safe food. One class in particular described the use of pesticides and how that impacts the health of pregnant women, their children, and their children's children. The literature about the exposure to pesticides having contributed to many of the common diseases we have seen in the recent years such as cancer, obesity, etc. was fascinating! The conference was filled with knowledgeable people with all sorts of different backgrounds and experiences. At one point the number of classes offered were overwhelming because so many different topics were being talked about all during the same times. There was not one time during the day I was trying to stay busy. The conference is a great event to participate in and I recommend attending if given the opportunity. Coming from someone who had no clue about the complexity of environmental health, I am glad I was able to attend to understand more about environmental health as a whole to become a better inspector.



2022 WEHA AEC in Laramie, WY



CONFERENCE REFLECTION

The WEHA conference took place in Laramie this year. We had some really great speakers who enlightened us on many interesting topics.

Joe Martinez and Doug Evans shared that they are attending the pool training class in Houston, TX where they will become certified to teach the Certified Pool Operator class and help certify folks all over the state.

Ruth Williams spoke about her shop, The Sugar Mouse Cupcake House, and her journey of how she got there. She is a wonderful lady with a kind soul who started selling cupcakes at farmers markets to make money to help children who are victims of sex trafficking over in Cambodia. Her story is truly inspiring and her shop in Laramie is the epitome of adorable.

We also heard from Deborah Blum over Zoom who reminded us a little about how important our job is. She captured our attention with stories about the early 19th century and how wild the food world was with no regulations on food safety. Farmers would add formaldehyde to milk to help their product last longer, thinking if formaldehyde helps preserve dead bodies it must have the same effect on milk, right? Medicine for children was sold containing antifreeze, flour was adulterated with brick dust and other similar items, and needless to say, lots of people died. We've come a long way since then and do our part every day to help make our world a little safer for everyone.

Our tours included the Wildcatter and the UW High Altitude Performance Center. A cool forty to fifty grand can get you a private suite in the Wildcatter with amazing views of the field. We got a private look at the athletes' kitchen and heard from their chef about the types of specialized meals they do for them.

What an amazing conference and a huge thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. See everyone next year!

By Josie Prince





Annual Award Nominations



It's now 2015 and the WEHA AEC will be here before you know it! Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the annual awards presented at the AEC each year. Descriptions of each award and the nomination form are provided below so make sure you turn in your nominations as soon as possible.

Outstanding Environmental Health Professional

Nomination can include the following:

- ◆ Performance of assigned duties and job description
- ◆ Cooperation with fellow workers and peers
- ◆ Willingness to take constructive criticism and offer the same to others in a tactful manner
- ◆ Educational background including special training or education
- ◆ Published articles written or presented by the nominee relating to his/her profession

Outline the areas in which the candidate has made a significant recognizable contribution to WEHA. Recommendations should be signed by the individual or individuals recommending the candidate.

Arthur Williamson

Arthur Williamson was director of water quality before the Department of Environmental Quality became an agency. He did outstanding work in the State of Wyoming from 1960 throughout the 1970s. He was a well educated and versed engineer working worldwide in the Centers for Disease Control on catastrophes in foreign countries, while always promoting public health.

The criteria for a nomination can include the same outline as the Outstanding Environmental Health Professional except:

- ◆ Recipient need not be a member of our organization
- ◆ Candidate must be a person who has performed exemplary accomplishments in the Environmental Health field

The Donkey Tail

This award is presented when a written recommendation is submitted that includes an actual account of a humorous incident which occurred during the year while in the line of duty. The award is pre-



Meet The Inspector



TENIKAH DOLBOW

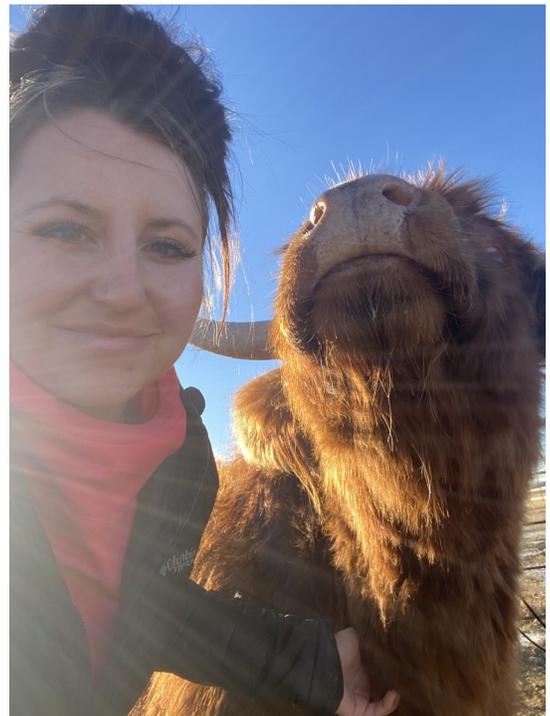
I started with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Services Division in November of 2020. In February of 2022 I accepted a new position with WDA CHS in Sheridan County as an Inspection Specialist II. I earned my associates of Applied Science in Veterinary Assistance from Northwest College in 2017. When I am not at work you will find me spending time with my 2 dogs. I enjoy spending as much time as possible outside riding my horses, working on my photography and camping.

KELSEY MCKINSEY

Hello all! My name is Kelsey McKinsey. I'm the new inspector in Gillette.

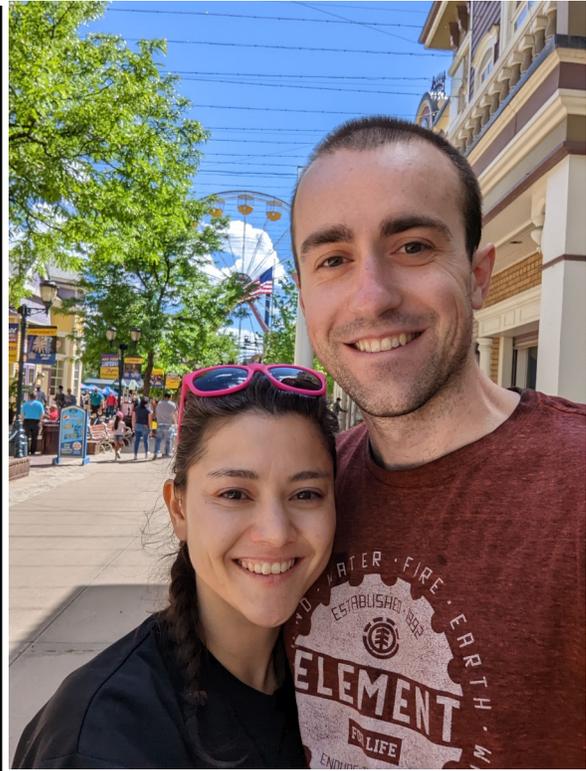
I was previously with the Department of Workforce Services as a Claims Analyst for Workers' Comp for the last several years. I'm so excited about moving over to the Department of Ag!

I attended the University of Wyoming and moved back to Gillette after my husband landed a job here. I currently have a whole zoo that keeps me busy when I'm not at work. After 5PM, you can usually find me chasing one of my four horses, three ducks, three dogs, or highland steer, Dudley. If I get a break from all of my animals, I'm usually spending my free time hunting, hiking, or fishing.



NOAH CHESHIER

Hello! I started at Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health in February and have been enjoying interacting with the public and other local entities. I grew up in Star Valley, Wyoming, a small place right on the border of Idaho. I studied at the University of Wyoming where I majored in Biology and minored in Soil Science. I previously worked at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory testing COVID samples, so this position has been quite the change of pace. In my spare time I enjoy gardening, woodworking, and spoiling my cat. I was voted as Secretary for the Executive Board of WEHA, and I look forward to serving in that position to the best of my ability. I have a lot to learn, especially everyone's names.... so introduce yourself to me if we cross paths and thank you for reading about me!



CPO Training Schedule

Currently there are no CPO classes upcoming in Wyoming at this time. There are online options available that you can check out by visiting the PHTA website at

<https://www.phta.org/certification/service-operations-retail/cpo/find-a-cpo-class/>



WEHA Scholarship Fund

PURPOSE: To provide stipends for WEHA Members to attend conferences, meetings, seminars, symposiums etc. which are beneficial to WEHA.

POLICY: \$1000 in scholarship funding for the purpose of stipends is available per year, with a maximum stipend of \$250.00, per WEHA member per calendar.

PROCEDURE:

1. Applicants must include a meeting agenda, registration form, and a written explanation of how WEHA and the member attending will benefit.
2. All applications will be reviewed by the Executive Board prior to approval.
3. Following the conference etc. a written report must be submitted for publication in the WEHA Newsletter.

Upcoming Training & Conferences...

- **NEHA AEC 2023** July 31– August 3, 2023
- **Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations** February 26–March 4 2023 Anniston, AL
- **NACCHO Annual 2023** TBD
- **NACCHO 2023 Preparedness Summit** April 24-27 Atlanta, GA.
- **World Aquatic Health Conference** TBD
- **AFDO AEC** June 11-14 2023 Norfolk, VA

- **NEHA online learning courses**
<https://www.neha.org/e-learning>
- **Northwest Center for Public Health Practice**
<https://www.nwcphp.org/training/training-search>
- **FDA's Training and Continuing Education**
<https://www.fda.gov/food/retail-food-protection/retail-food-industryregulatory-assistance-training>
- **Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response**
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/ehter.htm>
- **NSPF Certified Pool/Spa Inspector**
<https://www.phta.org/certification/service-operations-retail/cpi/>
- **NSPF Instructor Class**
<https://www.phta.org/certification/service-operations-retail/cpo/>

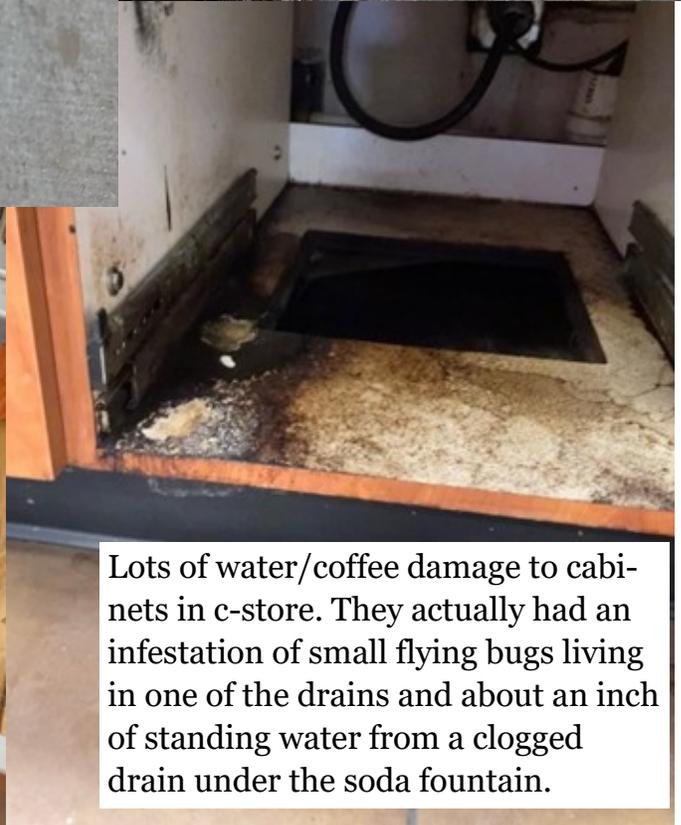
From the Field



Sticky trap in c-stand at CFD



Blood everywhere at a meat market store



Lots of water/coffee damage to cabinets in c-store. They actually had an infestation of small flying bugs living in one of the drains and about an inch of standing water from a clogged drain under the soda fountain.

Thank you to the Department of Agriculture and Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department for the pictures provided.

FDA National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Self-Assessment and Verification Audit Workshop

By Tiffany Gaertner

I attended the FDA National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Self-Assessment and Verification Audit Workshop in Spokane, WA. The class was taught by FDA Retail Food Specialists from across the country and covered the purpose of the standards, details involved with each standard, exercises to determine if standards are met in the auditing process, and utilizing tools that are available to make the Standardization process less complicated. The best part of the class was meeting colleagues from around the country and getting to know them and hear about their programs, their difficulties, and their triumphs. Each classmate had unique background information from the standards that they had been working on that they brought to the group at each table. The groups used this depth to navigate the auditing exercises. The biggest difficulty facing jurisdictions was recovering from covid. The pandemic shook the world and brought many challenges to everyone in the Environmental Health Field which in turn brought challenges to the Standardization process. Staffing resources, turnover, training, hostility and distrust from the public and establishments, and public fear and paranoia all have increased drastically due to the pandemic. Standardization efforts often had to be placed on the back burner while Environmental Health programs tried to stretch staff and resources just to survive. As Environmental Health programs work to get back to normal with inspections, training staff, providing education to the public, and standardization can also be used as a tool to help build back relationships with establishments by offering consistency and direction while improving public trust by communicating what we do to protect them.



Roy Kroeger

Roy Kroeger has retired from the Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department. He is a wealth of knowledge and he will be missed by his friends and coworkers here.

Roy grew up in Sterling Colorado where he graduated High School in 1984. After high school he joined the US Army and served from 1984 to 1988. In the service, he was a member of the Corps of Engineers working on construction projects in California, Colorado, New York and South Korea.

Roy Kroeger was employed with the health department since August 1993. Roy received his B.S. in Environmental Health from Colorado State University in 1993 and has twenty-nine years of experience in the environmental public health profession. He received his Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential in June 2000 and has been a member of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) since 1993. Roy was also active in the Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming Environmental Health Associations.

Roy served eight years on the Wyoming Environmental Health Association's Board

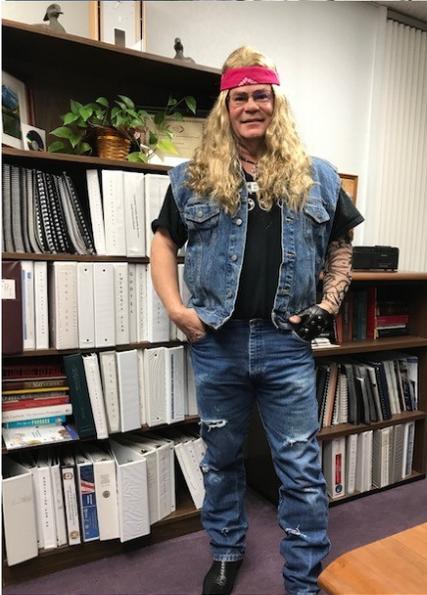
of Directors including two years as President and concurrently served as President of the Wyoming Food Safety Coalition in 1991. Roy received the Wyoming Outstanding Environmental Health Professional's Award in 2002 and the Arthur Williamson Award in 2012.

After representing Environmental Health in Wyoming he decided to get involved with the national organization and served as NEHA's Region 3 VP from 2007 until 2018. In 2018, he was elected as Second Vice President and then served as President from July of last year until July of this year. During his term on the NEHA Board, he has been active with many projects including working with congress to secure additional funding for the CDC, FDA and other Environmental Health interests. Roy has also been involved with numerous papers, presentations and the inclusion of Environmental Health into the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act in 2018. He has also participated as a subject matter expert in updating the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) and Certified Professional in Food Safety (CP-FS) credentials.

Roy is also currently serving on the Governing Council of the FDA's Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) and the Governance Council for the Council to Improve Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response (CIFOR) and has served on the Environmental Health Accreditation Council. Which develops and applies accreditation guidelines for institutions of higher education that wish to ensure premium quality education and training of environmental health science and protection practitioners.

Roy is continuing his career with El Paso County Public Health in Colorado Springs CO serving in a similar role as he had in Cheyenne. We wish him all the best!







2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Work Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home: _____ Office: _____

Email 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
\$20.00 Before April 30, 2022
\$20.00 New Members
\$30.00 May 1, 2022 or later
\$5.00 Student Membership

Please return completed form and dues to:

Erica East
WEHA Treasurer
3269 Klondike Way
Rock Springs, WY 82901



Wyoming Environmental Health Association

2219 Carey Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.wehaonline.net/>

WEHA Board

President	Derek Hensley	derek.hensley@wyo.gov
Past President	Chelle Schwope	
Vice President	Vanessa Gall	vanessa.gall1@wyo.gov
Treasurer	Erica East	erica.east@wyo.gov
Secretary	Noah Cheshier	noah.cheshier@laramiecountywy.gov

Committees

Food Safety	Amanda McCauley & Vicki Snider	amanda.mccauley@wyo.gov / vicki.snider@wyo.gov
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Water & Small Wastewater	Jen Escobedo & Tiffany Gaertner	jennifer.escobedo@laramiecountywy.gov / tiffany.gaertner@laramiecountywy.gov
PR/Facebook/Website	Noah Cheshier & Ben Schornak	noah.cheshier@laramiecountywy.gov / ben.schornak@laramiecountywy.gov
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