

Harriet Hageman fights for Wyoming, U.S. agriculture

In her nomination for the 2011 Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame, Harriet Hageman's list of accomplishments on behalf of agriculture include such notable court cases as *Nebraska v. Wyoming*, *State of Wyoming v. USDA* and *USES and Anderson v. Two Dot Ranch*.

Hageman was born the fifth of six biological children to Jim and Marion Hageman of Fort Laramie, where she spent her childhood and adolescence working with her family on their ranch. During high school she was active in FFA, and following graduation she attended Casper College on a livestock judging scholarship. Following her time there, she attended UW, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1986 and a law degree in 1989.

Since then, Hageman has been the lead attorney for the state of Wyoming in protecting its share of the North Platte River, and she also fought the USDA to protect Wyoming's access to national forest lands during the Roadless Lawsuit, which resulted in a nationwide injunction. She has also successfully defended Wyoming's Open Range Law before the Wyoming Supreme Court, in addition to representing numerous ranchers, irrigation districts and grazing permittees.

It's her tenacity in protecting both Wyoming and U.S. agriculture that has earned her a place in the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

"I've had a varied practice over time, but I've been very fortunate to come back to Wyoming and be able to work in the agriculture industry from a legal standpoint," says Hageman of her experience.

"After working with her on a daily basis for more than 14 years, I can affirmatively state that no one works harder or cares more for Wyoming agriculture," says Kara Brighton, who partners

with Hageman in the Hageman and Brighton Law Office in Cheyenne.

"I consider Harriet a true role model for young people in agriculture," says UW graduate Stacia Berry. "She helped me to realize that someone has to fight agriculture's fight for land, water and other natural resources that can be easily stripped away. She is a zealous advocate

for producer and landowner's rights; she works incredibly hard to protect them. Watching her in action is a privilege and an inspiration."

"Role models like Harriet are rare. Her work did not put agriculture on the map – it is more important, because right now she is keeping agriculture on the map," continues Berry.

"Harriet's love and commitment to Wyoming water rights, private property and protecting open range is honorable," says Rick and Klodette Stroh of Stroh Farms. "Harriet utilizes her God-given common sense, and has prevailed at protecting people's rights."

Wyoming State Engineer Pat Tyrrell says he's watched Hageman's tireless work on behalf of Wyoming agriculture for the last two decades.

"Whether the issue be wolves, roads, federal land management or water rights, she is there fighting for the rights of the agriculture community," says Tyrrell. "Harriet comes at her passion not from the position of an attorney with particular talents in an area she exploits to make a good living – rather, her focused energy comes from her very real love of agriculture, having grown up in the business, and her fervent desire to protect a way of life that, at times, seems attacked from every corner."

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton says, "We are for-



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