



RANCH

## UW sells Laramie-area ranch for millions



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The University of Wyoming's department of agriculture and natural resources recently received millions of dollars from the sale of Riverbend Ranch near Laramie to help expand its wildlife and livestock disease program.

The ranch was given to UW's department of agriculture in 2011 and sold Sept. 26 for \$8.2 million, said UW Foundation President

Ben Blalock.

"The ranch was never meant to be used as a research site," Blalock said. "It was gifted for the purpose of being sold, that in time it would be sold and the ranch would be used to support UW's work in the area of wildlife disease."

It is one of the largest gifts given to the department of agriculture, said Frank Galey, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The donor asked to remain anonymous.

UW's wildlife and livestock disease program is unique in the country, Galey said. About a dozen faculty members looks at issues including brucellosis, which can be transferred from elk to cattle, and pneumonia, which can be transferred from domestic to wild sheep.

The program is attracting attention from around the country and the globe, he said.

"The Riverbend dollars will allow us to attract, hopefully, a new and additional world-class person in here for the research and teaching as well," he said. "We are pleased and blessed to have received the gift."

Galey hopes to be able to add a new faculty member within two years, and he plans to use some of the money to support the program in general.

The ranch is 6,700 acres, including 6.5 miles of the Big Laramie River west of Laramie, according to a press release from Western United Realty, the company that sold the ranch.

It was on the market for three years, listed for \$8.5 million. The ranch includes a conservation easement held by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the release added.