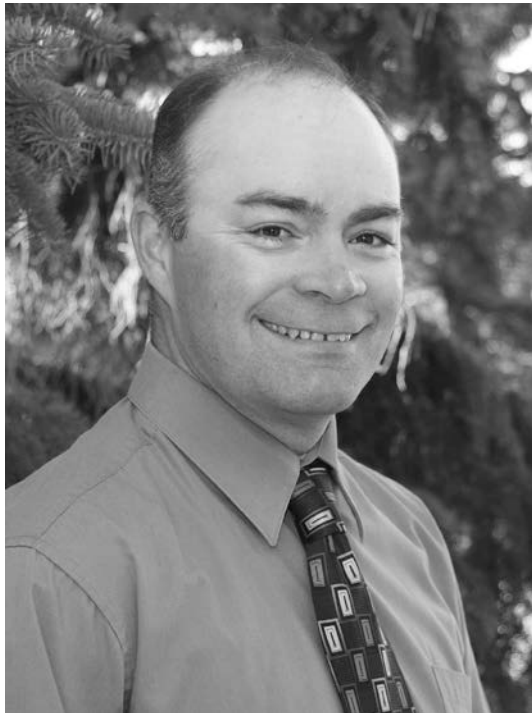


Western Region

Bret W. Hess

**Former Director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean for Research, University of Wyoming
Interim Executive Director, Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors**



Bret Hess is a visionary leader who aspires to advance strategic initiatives with potential for tremendous impact. His unprecedented enthusiasm to make a difference is inspirational and contagious. He is a great team builder who has an innate ability to unify diverse interests. Bret emphasizes collaboration and partnership in his approach to advocating for a cause whether it is at the local, state, regional, or national level.

Hess has served the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) as an active participant and chair plus as a member of the Multistate Research Committee, and as Administrative Advisor to multiple projects. He co-authored *The Western Perspective & The Western Agenda* and has led the joint regional effort to create awareness about the contributions and value of agricultural experiment station research and Extension in the West. He has served as chair of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP), ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee and National Research Support Project Review Committee. While serving as chair of the Experiment Station Section, Hess and fellow chair of the Extension Section took gigantic steps towards expanding the two Sections' partnerships with various national agencies and organizations.

Bret served as Assistant Director and then Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, and Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture and

Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. He also held positions as Interim Head of the Department of Plant Sciences, Interim Director of the Sheridan Research & Extension Center, and Interim Director of the Powell Research & Extension Center. Before joining college administration, Hess received the Young Scientist Award from the Western Section of American Society of Animal Science and the American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award. He recently received the Wyoming Crop Improvement Association Excellence in Service Award.

Dr. Hess earned BS and MS degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.