

Pick the perfect podcast

You can count on your local coffee shop for conversations about everything from the weather forecast to agricultural commodity markets. But what about those days when you don't have time to stop for your usual dose of caffeine and conversation?

Try listening to a podcast! If you don't have time to join the chatter (or don't drink coffee) but would still like to learn about rural community topics, podcasts are a great option. This convenient platform offers an endless variety of topics as well as listening flexibility. While estimates vary, sources suggest more than 60 percent of the U.S. population has listened to a podcast.

Considerations for choosing a podcast

Active vs. inactive

Knowing the podcast length, episode frequency, and whether the podcast is active are all worth considering. Certain topics require daily, weekly, monthly, or sporadic updates with episodes released accordingly. These active podcasts can automatically update to your listening app and keep your routine on track.

On the other hand, non-active podcasts may suit binge listeners as they can be organized chronologically or by topic.

These may be best for long trips, marathon house-cleaning activities, or long walks (on the beaches of Cheyenne).

Listening platforms

Not all podcast apps are created equal. Consider whether you want to listen on your phone while out of service, on a web browser at home, or via another method. Certain apps can make suggestions, offer playlist creation flexibility, automatically update with new episodes, and more.

When choosing a listening platform, also consider your device's operating system (Apple or Android), app choice (Spotify, PocketCasts, Stitcher, Podbean, etc.), and whether free or paid versions are available.

Delivery style

There are three main styles of information delivery in podcasts—conversation, narrative, and fiction. **Conversations** include interviews and panel discussions. These podcasts are similar to the discussions you might hear at the coffee shop, but with guests invited specifically for their expertise.

Narrative podcasts involve nonfiction storytelling. These structured podcasts may incorporate other audio elements,

such as interview clips or transcript readings, throughout the episode in a scripted manner.

Finally, podcasts can be **fictional**, although this genre is rare for agricultural-based topics. Fictional works can be entertaining, but should be approached cautiously if being utilized for educational purposes.

Accessibility options

Several podcasts now offer accessibility options to supplement audio content. Transcripts, playback options, and alternative platforms can be useful to various listeners.

Search tips

Internet searches, suggestions from podcast apps, and recommendations from other listeners are great places to begin building a podcast library.

When entering search terms, think creatively about words such as *rural*, *farm*, *cattle*, *ranching*, or *vegetables*. For example, an asterisk at the end of a word, or partial word, such as *agriculture** will return results for both *agriculture* and *agricultural*. If the description doesn't sound appealing, take a gamble and listen anyway—you might be pleasantly surprised or even pick up a different

podcast recommendation within an episode.

Homegrown podcasts

In the scores of podcasts reviewed for this article, a limited number address small acreages (5–120 acres) and/or rural living topics specific to Wyoming. Here are a few.

Ranch House Radio is hot off the microphone in 2022 and includes four episodes to date. This podcast highlights the livestock industry, from ranching to rodeo. Each episode includes a blog post as well.

The Food Peddler's Podcast: Presented by FarmTableWest highlights the food culture around Cody, Wyoming, in 2019. Learning about good food never goes out of style!

Wyoming Agriculture Podcast comprises 13 episodes spanning from October 2020 to May 2021. The host discusses fencing, history, and opportunities to harness the wind.

Spoiler alert: A team of University of Wyoming and Wyoming Weed and Pest Council employees are currently developing a podcast that covers topics related to pest management and pesticide safety. Stay tuned in 2023!

All things Wyoming

While not specifically ag-focused, the following podcasts all incorporate agriculture in some way as it is an integral piece of Wyoming's history and economy.

The Wyoming Office of Tourism developed a great resource summarizing "**7 Podcasts to Help You Discover Wyoming.**" The list includes *Rediscover the Winds*; *Your Mountain*; *Women in Wyoming*; *Dead & Gone in Wyoming*; *The Sweet Smell of Sagebrush*; *Go Be Wyoming*; and *Wyoming My 307*.

Wyoming Public Radio often includes information about agriculture in news segments throughout the day. **The Modern West** and **Open Spaces** are two podcasts produced by Wyoming Public Media that discuss the American West, agriculture, and all things Wyoming.

Other popular podcasts

It may seem overwhelming to choose a podcast when there are more than two million options available in Apple's library alone. Thankfully, there are catered lists and recommendations to help narrow down your choices. The following can be a good place to start.

AgDaily provides helpful and accurate descriptions of podcasts by topic area (such as ag

technology, ag business, and niche methods) and highlights "can't miss" episodes.

Feedspot lists the 55 "best agriculture podcasts" and the 21 "best rural podcasts," as ranked by traffic volume and number of social media followers. The site also tracks the frequency of episode releases and average episode length.

The *Barnyards & Backyards* team has a few favorites to recommend as well.

- *Art of Range* – Rex Lockman, Laramie County Conservation District
- *AgriTalk* – Jenna Meeks, UW Assistant Research Scientist
- *The Meating Room* – Micah Most, UW Extension Educator
- *WYpod* – Donna Hoffman, UW Extension Educator

What are you waiting for? Grab a cup of joe, at home or in the coffee shop, and start listening!

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We look forward to the day UW Assistant Research Scientist **Jenna Meeks** makes an appearance on *Barnyards & Backyards Live!* She can be contacted at (307) 532-2436 or jmeeks8@uwyo.edu.

Want more Wyoming-based info?

A fan favorite where local experts address diverse ag-related topics is **Barnyards & Backyards Live!** Join two hosts as they interview guests about subjects ranging from gardening and irrigation to livestock, pests, and more.

All episodes of this video series are recorded and can be accessed on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/BB-WY-live>. As with a podcast, you can listen to the series on a phone, though you may occasionally wish to view images on screen to get the full value of the show.