

Sheridan Press
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**No Charge
SC given
land lease
by Whitney**

From staff reports

Whitney Benefits Inc. has agreed to let Sheridan College lease a 560-acre plot of land south of the college for three years at no charge, SC announced Thursday.

The land, which makes up the Adams Ranch, will become part of "hands-on" agriculture programming at the college, SC said.

The land "will become part of the Ag Complex and will be managed jointly with (the



Maurie Petterson
Sheridan College
Vice President

University of Wyoming) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service," said Maurie Petterson, SC's vice president.

"It serves the Sheridan College leadership role for agriculture in the region," he added.

On Monday, Wyo resident Jim Hardesty signed a three-year agreement with SC to lease 300 acres of the 560-acre plot at a cost of \$70 per acre for the first year, and \$75 per acre for the following two years, Petterson said.

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Whitney

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"We did arrive at Mr. Hardesty through a competitive process," he said. "We published requests for proposals in The Sheridan Press and evaluated them for technical merit, including cost."

Peterson estimated five requests were reviewed. According to SC, the acreage is irrigated alfalfa fields.

Peterson said the lease requires Hardesty to maintain the property and equipment used on it. Lease revenue will benefit the agriculture program, he added.

Jim Berridge, SC's department chairman for agriculture and technical careers, said plans for the ag department involve rangeland rehabilitation, natural



Roy Garber
Whitney Benefits
Vice President

resources management, studies of high efficiency irrigation techniques, and testing new forage crop varieties.

"The ag department is extremely grateful to Whitney Benefits for their offer in providing the best possible educational and economic development opportunities for agriculturists in this region," Berridge said.

"This is a situation where the sum is of greater value than the collection of parts," he said.

Roy Garber, vice president of Whitney Benefits, said Whitney Benefits is "pleased" to provide further income to the agriculture program at SC.

"Whitney is particularly pleased to provide educational and on-site training opportunities to the students in the agricultural programs at Sheridan College," Garber said.

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