

## Written Profile

**Farm:** Lytle Ranches

**Location:** Pioche, NV

**Date of Origination:** 1865

**Industry Sector(s):** Alfalfa Hay, Grass Hay, Cattle



In the spring of 1865, Brigham Young, founder of the Church of Latter Day Saints, sent W.M. and John Lytle, along with other families, to settle the valleys that encompass the present day Lytle Ranches. Thus began the foundation of a century farm that would create a livelihood in Nevada for generations to come. We are excited to share the story of Lytle Ranches, as we celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The area settled in 1865 by W.M. and John Lytle was then part of the Utah Territory. The settlers built Eagle Valley Fort, cleared the land, dug irrigation ditches, and built their first homes in the lush meadows of Eagle Valley. However, in 1868, that part of Utah was ceded over to Nevada, and many of the settlers left to return to Utah.

Seeing opportunity, Charles Lytle came to the valley and bought out his brothers and the Chamberlain family, another of the original settlers. Later, Charles traded a mine he owned near Deer Lodge, Nev., for two additional valleys. Eventually, Charles would own a substantial amount of land covering five valleys, and develop a highly successful cattle operation.

Charles and others formed what later, in the 1920s, became the West Side Cattle Company. It had existed in one form or another for a long time prior, with a vast amount of mountain property holdings and vested water rights. Each succeeding generation of Lytles bought up other members of the West Side Cattle Company when they were no longer interested in ranching.

Today, only two families remain from the original group, the Lytles and the Delmues. The Lytle Ranch covers about 1,000 acres of privately owned meadow, alfalfa fields, and other irrigated crop lands. In addition, they lease over 40 percent of the BLM million-acre Wilson Creek allotment that provides ideal winter grazing in Dry Lake Valley, as well as fenced crested wheat seedings for spring and fall, and vast high mountain areas for summer use. Over the years, both the Lytles and the Delmues have made improvements, installing over 60 miles of pipeline from mountain springs, over 300 miles of fence, 10 windmills, over 20 troughs, over 30 reservoirs, 20 sets of corrals, and they have seeded over 31,000 acres.



Today, Charles great-grandson Kenny and his wife Donna, along with great great-granddaughter Kena and her husband Pat Gloeckner, own and operate the Lytle Ranches. Sixth-generation descendants Kylee, Kori, and Kourtney Gloeckner, and Jason Lloyd, and seventh-generation Rowdy Lloyd, are helping carry on their heritage started by John and W. M. so many years before.