



The Mission of the Colorado Agriculture Forum is to provide educational programming that is current, relevant, and diverse in a collaborative environment as a way for industry leaders to stay apprised of current trends and policy issues facing the industry.

Join us on social media today @coloradoagforum
#agriCULTURE #coloradoagforum

- 7:00 am** **BREAKFAST** pres. by National Western Stock Show and American AgCredit -Westminster Foyer
- 8:00 am** **WELCOME** - Westminster Ballroom
- 8:15 am** **CSU CHANCELLOR TONY FRANK**
Westminster Ballroom
- 8:30 am** **MEGATRENDS; 2024 AND BEYOND**
sponsored by Colorado State University
Dr. David Kohl, President, AgriVisions LLC
- 10:00 am** **THE HONORABLE JARED POLIS, Governor of Colo.**
- 10:15 am** **BREAK** sponsored by CSU Spur's Agribusiness & Food Innovation Program
- 10:30 am** **BREAKOUT SESSION 1:**
USING DOGS TO DETECT DISEASE AND CLEAN TUBER LOTS -Cotton Creek I
- SHINING A LIGHT ON AGRIVOLTAICS: A WORKSHOP ON CULTIVATING ENERGY & CROPS** sponsored by CSU - Cotton Creek II
- HOW THE USDA AND THE IRS MAY AFFECT YOUR FARM OPERATION** sponsored by Dairy MAX - Meadowbrook I
- WHAT AI AND AUTONOMY MEAN FOR AG** - Meadowbrook II
- 11:45 am** **LUNCH** sponsored by Colorado Lamb Producers - Westminster Ballroom
- 12:30 pm** **EXCELLENCE IN CALP AWARD** -
Mark Frasier - CALP Class 1
Ft. Morgan, Colo

12:40 pm COMMISSIONER OF AG, KATE GREENBERG

12:45 pm COLO. DEPT OF AG EXPORT AWARDS

1:00 pm SOIL, MARKETS, AND CLIMATE
Jeanne Carver, Shaniko Wool Company
sponsored by 21st Century Equipment LLC

2:00 pm BREAK

2:15 pm BREAKOUT SESSION 2:
“BREAKING THE STATUS QUO” - A DIFFERENT
APPROACH TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN
METEOROLOGY - Cotton Creek I

POOPSHOT: A WORKSHOP TO CAPTURE
MAXIMUM VALUE OF MANURE ON
COLORADO’S AG LANDS - Cotton Creek II

COLLABORATION BEYOND BOUNDARIES - CPW &
CDA DEPRADATION RESOURCES - Meadowbrook I

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE CROPS FOR
COLORADO - Meadowbrook II

3:15 pm BREAK

3:30 pm BREAKOUT SESSION 3:
INDUSTRY CULTURE WITH PRODUCERS
Cotton Creek I

AG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS sponsored by
DairyMax- Cotton Creek II

MANAGING FOR UNCERTAINTY ON COLORADO
WATER - Meadowbrook I

FARM TO TABLE MEAT PRODUCERS -
Meadowbrook II

7:00 am **REGISTRATION TABLE OPENS** - Westminster Foyer

7:00 am **BREAKFAST** sponsored by American AgCredit and
National Western Stock Show - Westminster Foyer

8:00 am **WELCOME** - Legacy Ballroom



Dani Traweek, Executive Director, CALP

The Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program, CALP, has a mission to develop leaders that will become a strong, unified voice for agricultural issues. This is done through curriculum-based programming on leadership skills, Colorado, national and international agriculture and ag policy.

Dani believes the future of agriculture is only as strong as the men and women that choose to lead the charge. They can only do that by understanding the growing chasm of diversity in an increasing population and learning the resources and opportunities available to them to make a difference in their industry and their communities.

Dani previously worked for the Colorado State Fair for 12 years and grew up in Pavillion, Wyoming where her family still raises club lambs and farms.



Jerry Sonnenberg, President, CALP

Jerry Sonnenberg has been farming and ranching in northeastern Colorado his entire life. He continues to live, raise his family, and work on the Centennial farm where he and his father were raised.

He was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2006 and immediately became a strong voice for agriculture and rural Colorado. After serving 8 years, he was elected to the State Senate for District 1 for two consecutive terms before being elected to serve as a Logan County Commissioner.

In 2010, Jerry gathered a group of people that saw the need for leaders in agriculture and reignited the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program. He continues to serve as President of their board and is actively involved in the development of spokespeople and advocates for both agriculture and rural Colorado.

8:15 am

CHANCELLOR TONY FRANK, Colo. State University



Dr. Tony Frank is the Chancellor of the CSU System. He previously served for 11 years as the 14th president of CSU in Fort Collins. Dr. Frank earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Wartburg College, followed by a

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. and residencies in pathology and toxicology at Purdue. Prior to his appointment as CSU's president in 2008, he served as the University's provost and executive vice president, vice president for research, chairman of the Pathology Department, and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He was appointed to a dual role as Chancellor in 2015 and became full-time System chancellor in July 2019.

8:30 am

DR. DAVID KOHL, Ph.D. sponsored by CSU

President, AgriVisions LLC



David Kohl received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. Kohl is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small

Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Dept. of Ag and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech.

Kohl is a two-time recipient of the prestigious American Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Teaching Award and is one of only five professors in the 100-year history of the Association to receive the award twice. Kohl was recognized as one of 30 leaders who are the brains behind innovative business management and economic information that agriculture uses today. He also has been named one of 7 economists and bankers who challenge the status quo.

Kohl is currently President of AgriVisions, LLC, a knowledge-based consulting business providing cutting-edge programs to leading agricultural organizations worldwide. He is also business coach and part owner of Homestead Creamery, a value-added dairy business in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

10:00 am

THE HONORABLE JARED POLIS



Governor, State of Colorado

Governor Jared Polis is an entrepreneur, education leader, and dedicated public servant who is focused on saving Coloradans money, keeping our economy strong, and preserving our Colorado way of life.

Polis has delivered historic savings for Coloradans and their families, and is focused on key issues for Coloradans, including continued investment in our education system, addressing Colorado's housing crisis, making Colorado one of the ten safest states, and strengthening our workforce and economy. Polis has also made significant progress towards the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2040, and continues protecting precious resources like our water and land.

10:15 AM BREAK sponsored by CSU Spur's Agribusiness and Food Innovation Program

10:30 AM BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

Cotton Creek I

USING DOGS TO DETECT DISEASE AND CLEAN TUBER LOTS

Andrea Parish, Nose Knows Scouting, LLC

Parish, of Dayton, Wyoming is owner of "Nose Knows Scouting". Her experience in working in potato warehouses across the country, from Main to Washington states led her to her passion of training dogs to detect potato plants infected with PVY. Parish's dog, Zora, joins this talk in exploring further "high-tech tools" for diagnosing crop disease.

Cotton Creek II

SHINING A LIGHT ON AGRIVOLTAICS: A WORKSHOP ON CULTIVATING ENERGY & CROPS

Ron Meyer, Agronomist, Colorado State University Extension

As an agronomist, Ron is the Extension Area Specialist for the northeastern plains of Colo. specializing in corn, wheat and sunflowers.

Austin Kinzer, American Farmland Trust

Since 2020, Austin has focused on agrivoltaics and the energy-water-food nexus, specializing in irradiance modeling for agrivoltaic systems and decarbonization of agriculture. In his current role at the American Farmland Trust, Austin is working to advance farmer-centric agrivoltaic projects and ensure rural communities benefit from the transition to clean energy.

Dana Hoag, Professor, Colorado State University

Dana Hoag is a native of Colorado and earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees at CSU. He has been a professor at CSU for about 30 years, where he is active in teaching, research and extension. Dr. Hoag specializes in issues where agriculture and the environment intersect.

Jordan Kraft Lambert, Director of Ag Innovation, Colo. State University

Jordan has devoted her career to building a global food and ag technology economy that brings together growers, consumers, and innovators to create nourished people and an abundant planet. She is currently the Director of Ag Innovation at Colorado State University, housed at Spur. She has served as VP of Business Development at VAS, a company that makes health management software for 6 million of the 9 million dairy cows in the US. In her work as a genetic engineer, she has engineered rice to be drought and salt tolerant, as well as to produce human breast milk proteins for use in pharmaceuticals. She grew up on a dairy farm in rural northeast Colorado, where her family still farms today. Jordan has a BS in plant biotechnology from UC Davis and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Kristen Boysen, Managing Director, Colo. Dept. of Agriculture

Kristen is the Managing Director of the Drought and Climate Resilience Office with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. In her role, she works to support and incentivize sustainable working lands, increasing multi-benefit habitat projects, ecological processes, and adapt to climate change

Meadowbrook I

HOW THE USDA AND THE IRS MAY AFFECT YOUR FARM OPERATION sponsored by Dairy MAX

Paul Neiffer, CPA, Farm CPA Today

Paul provides income and estate tax planning services and FSA planning related to farmers and their families. Paul is past president of the Farm Financial Standards Council and current chairperson of the AICPA Ag Conference. He writes the “FarmCPA” column for Top Producer magazine along with their Top Producer Podcast and is also the primary author of the “FarmCPAReport.com” blog. Paul is a nationally recognized speaker on many subjects related to farmers and processors including tax planning, estate tax and succession planning, farm management accounting, farm bill, farm economics and many other related topics.

Meadowbrook II

WHAT AI AND AUTONOMY MEAN FOR AG

Wade Stewart, Trimble Inc.

Wade grew up in Western Kansas. His passion for ag was sparked while working on a farm during his high school and college years. Wade attended Fort Hays State University and received a B.S. in agriculture and an M.B.A. Wade has been working in agriculture for over twenty years with a primary focus on precision agriculture. Wade began his professional career working on some of the industry’s first automated steering and application control solutions. Work has enabled Wade to travel the World and experience different crops and agricultural practices. Wade has worked for Trimble Inc for the past 13 years, and currently manages a Global team of product managers focused on hardware products used in the agriculture division.

11:45 am **LUNCH** sponsored by Colorado Lamb Producers
Westminster Ballroom

12:30 pm EXCELLENCE IN CALP AWARD - Ballroom



Mark Frasier, CALP Class 1

Manager, F Cross Cattle Company, Ft. Morgan, Colo.

Mark is manager of F Cross Cattle Company, a family-owned beef cattle operation in Eastern Colorado. The company grazes and feeds cattle for commercial and natural beef markets. He also serves as a director and chairman of the holding company of FMSBank, and is active in other family business interests including real estate, oil production, and coffee roasting. Mark holds a degree in Agriculture Economics from Kansas State University. Mark lives in Fort Morgan with his wife Tina.

Mark is an active member of his community and has been a leader in a variety of volunteer organizations, including three terms on his local school board, treasurer of the Morgan Community College Foundation, a director of Singers, Ltd., and was appointed to the Colorado Underground Safety Damage Control Commission. Mark is the current board chair of Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center and is a trustee of the Eben Ezer Foundation.

Mark participated 15 years as a Technical Review Panelist and producer representative to the USDA Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, including a two-year term as council chair. He was elected president of the Colorado Livestock Association in addition to Cattle Fax, an industry market research group serving the beef cattle industry.

A proud alumnus of the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program, Mark was on the roster of Class I (a "First Class Fellow") and subsequently selected as a Kellogg Fellow with the Center for Food and Agricultural Policy in Washington, DC. He returned to serve on the board of the Colorado Ag Leadership Council and chaired the council in the early90's, when CALP first operated as a stand-alone organization outside the support of the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

12:40 pm

KATE GREENBERG - Westminster Ballroom



Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Kate Greenberg was appointed to serve as Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture by Governor Jared Polis in December 2018. As Commissioner, Greenberg provides leadership and direction to the Colorado Department of Agriculture and its 300 employees. Commissioner Greenberg has worked in agriculture for more than twelve years, from boots-on-the-ground experience to advocating for family farmers through two federal Farm Bills.

12:45 pm

CDA EXPORT AWARDS - Westminster Ballroom

David Delcourt, Seed Ranch Flavor

Cory Schmeling, Great Range Bison

1:00 pm

SOIL, MARKETS AND CLIMATE



Jeanne Carver, Shaniko Wool Company

sponsored by 21st Century Equipment

Jeanne is the Founder and President of Shaniko Wool Company. Located in Oregon's interior high desert, Shaniko Wool is the only supply of Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) and NATIVA Regen certified wool produced in the U.S. and North America. Her efforts in scaling the supply of third-party certified wool follow her work since the late 1990's, in taking wool and lamb produced on her family's heritage Imperial Stock Ranch through manufacturing and delivery as finished products into a variety of markets. Shaniko Wool is now 10 western ranches, collectively grazing 2.6 million acres. In early 2020, she launched a Carbon Initiative to measure the ecosystem and climate impacts of their ranching operations and wool supply. Jeanne is an award-winning agricultural entrepreneur and author, receiving both the American Sheep Industry Innovation Award and the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Hall of Fame Award in 2023.

2:00 pm

BREAK

Cotton Creek I**“BREAKING THE STATUS QUO” - A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN METEOROLOGY***Kody Wilson, Meteorologist*

Kody moved to Colorado shortly after high school and attended the University of Northern Colorado—graduating in 2012 with his Bachelor of Science Degree with an emphasis in Meteorology. His passion and areas of focus are in Microscale Meteorology and Severe Weather. His forecasting experience encompasses the better part of 15 years and includes experience both in the United States and Canada. In addition, Kody has actively competed in numerous forecasting competitions hosted nationwide by the American Meteorological Society and has placed above the 95th percentile for forecasters in the United States. Kody recognized a need to provide a forecasting service to the general public that emphasized the importance of communication, honesty, and transparency. Over the last six years, Kody has amassed nearly 250k followers on Facebook and has partnered with over 60 local business sponsors in Idaho and Colorado who financially invest in his work.

Cotton Creek II**POOPSHOOT: A WORKSHOP TO CAPTURE MAXIMUM VALUE OF MANURE ON COLORADO’S AG LANDS**

produced by Jordan Kraft Lambert, Director of Ag Innovation, Colorado State University Spur Campus

Manure is a valuable asset for Colorado farmland. As the original biological soil amendment, manure provides valuable water holding capacity in arid soils, prevents soil from blowing in high winds, nurtures soil microbial biodiversity, and provides crop available nutrients that make farmland more resilient and productive. At the same time, manure is mostly regarded as a regulatory and economic burden. Join us for a workshop to map Colorado’s manure shed and identify what would need to be true to extract the maximum value from Colorado manure to improve soil health.

Meadowbrook I

COLLABORATION BEYOND BOUNDARIES - CPW & CDA DEPREDATION RESOURCES

Wayne East, Ag/ Wildlife Programs Manager, Colo. Dept. of Ag

Wayne has worked at CDA for almost 10 years and manages four statewide programs including depredation, captive cervid health, aquaculture, and the state's wild horse program.

Adam Baca, Wolf Conflict Coordinator, Colo. Parks and Wildlife

Baca, who is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology from New Mexico State University. In late 2017 after moving to Montana, he was selected for what was initially a seasonal pilot program within USDA Wildlife Services focusing on non-lethal mitigation methods to reduce livestock losses to predators such as grizzly bears and wolves. Baca joined the CPW in the summer of 2022 and continues to follow his motto of "...meeting people where they're at and where they're ready to work with me, otherwise, how can we be productive moving forward"?

Meadowbrook II

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE CROPS FOR COLORADO

Sally Jones-Diamond, Director of Crops Testing Program, CSU

Sally Jones-Diamond is the Director of the Crops Testing Program in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University. Her research focuses on crop production management relevant to the needs of producers in semi-arid eastern Colorado, with a special interest in drought tolerant crops. Her program's mission is to provide unbiased and relevant information to allow producers to make the best management decisions for their farms. Her program runs the official variety trials in Colorado for grain, oilseed, and some forage crops, in addition to conducting agronomy and crop input studies in collaboration with commodity groups and industry partners.

3:15 pm

BREAK

3:30 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Cotton Creek I

INDUSTRY CULTURE WITH PRODUCERS

Michael Hirakata, Hirakata Farms

Michael Hirakata is the Co-owner of Hirakata Farms. He a 4th generation farmer. Hirakata Farms grows, packs and ships cantaloupe, watermelon, honeydew and pumpkins. Hirakata Farms has been farming in the Arkansas Valley for over 100 years.

Misty Spiller, Silver Spur Ranches

Raised in the Texas Hill Country, Misti (Menzies) Spiller spent her formative years enveloped in the Texas Extension programs. Her involvement in extracurricular agricultural competitions from a young age led to a highly successful collegiate judging career, both in meats and livestock. This is a passion that she continues to be associated with today, intent on helping shape the next generation of agriculturalists. In her time in the industry she has been involved in building multiple large scale registered cattle operations, keeping records and managing genetic data across all of the major breed associations. She works alongside her husband, Decky Spiller, who manages the Silver Spur Ranches Registered Cattle Division.

Mike Shields, San Isabel Ranch

The San Isabel Ranch is owned and operated by Mike and Sara Shields and has been in the family since it was homesteaded in 1872. The operation is a fall calving cow/calf, stocker cattle and horse hay family operated business.

Cotton Creek II

AG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS sponsored by DairyMax

Dan Frazen, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture

Dan Frazen is the Agriculture Emergency Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). He leads the emergency management and crucial infrastructure protection programs for CDA's eight divisions.

Dan is also the primary for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources for the State of Colorado. Dan has been working in emergency management and disaster response since the 2013 Colorado Floods. He is a retired law enforcement officer, with twenty-four (24) years of service, and is a qualified Liaison Officer on the Eastern Colorado Incident Management Team (ECIMT). Dan is a proud graduate of the Colorado State University (CSU). He is a Colorado Certified Emergency Manager, and he recently completed FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (NEMAA).

Jake Rockwell, Emergency Manager, Yuma County

Jake Rockwell is the Emergency Manager for Yuma County, where he collaborates closely with both local and statewide stakeholders to elevate the standards of disaster preparedness in the county. With a robust background in Criminal Justice and practical experience in production agriculture, Jake understands the nature of meticulous emergency planning, recognizing the need to minimize damages both on and off the farm when unforeseen disasters strike.

Jake holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Northern Colorado and was recently honored with the 2023 Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence. Jake is committed to fostering a resilient community and implementing proactive measures that enable individuals and organizations to effectively plan and respond to emergencies.

Meadowbrook I

MANAGING FOR UNCERTAINTY ON COLORADO WATER

Jim Yahn, manager, North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs

Jim Yahn is the manager of the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs, a position that he has held for nearly 32 years. He is responsible for overseeing the diversion and distribution of water to over 350 farmers. Together the reservoirs are a source of irrigation water for approximately 70,000 acres. Jim is a registered professional engineer, receiving his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University.

Jim served as the South Platte Director on the Colorado Water

Conservation Board for 5 years and has been a member of the South Platte Basin Roundtable since its inception in 2005 and currently serves as one of the roundtable's two representatives to the Inter-Basin Compact Committee. Jim also currently serves as a Colorado Water Congress board member and serves as one of two Colorado board members to the Family Farm Alliance.

Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, Colorado River District

Zane manages the River District's Colorado River advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels, and oversees the organization's work with counties, municipalities, and partner organizations on the Western Slope. Zane brings nearly 20 years of natural resource policy experience to the District's team, including 6 years as staffer in the United States Senate. Zane serves as a Board member for the Colorado Water Trust and the National Water Resources Association.

Meadowbrook II

FARM TO TABLE MEAT PRODUCERS

Eric Christensen, owner, Christensen Ranch

Eric moved back to the ranch in 1997 after spending several years working with his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, at the national level and earning his business degree from Simpson College. Eric and Jodi were married in 1999; and have two grown children.

Kathy Wood, Christensen Ranch

After completing her Bachelor of Science in both Biochemistry and Microbiology from Colorado State University, Kathy worked at the Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver in a neurobiology lab for several years before returning to the ranch to learn the family business in 1989. Her children, Connor and Kirsten, work in the family business with key roles in the social media and logistics parts of Christensen Ranch.

Jay Knight, Marketing Director, Colorado Craft Beef

A US Marine Corp. Veteran and marketing guru, Jay Knight joined Colorado Craft Beef in recent years to help grow their business to a national ranch-to-table brand.

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The Colorado Agriculture Forum is produced by the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program cohort. The Ag Forum represents a culmination of a year of programming, fundraising, marketing and team building.



Andrew Holsten
Sterling, Colo.



Alyssa Green
Commerce City



Brandi Goodman
Ft. Morgan, Colo.



Brandon Schenk
Sterling, Colo.



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Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program

CALP is proud to host the
32nd Annual Colorado Agriculture Forum.

CALP is a non-profit organization with a mission
to develop leaders that will become a strong, unified voice
for agricultural issues.

Applications are now open for Class 17 and will close Sept. 1.

Thank you to our year-round supporters:



Tom Kourlis

2024 COLORADO AG FORUM NOTES



