

Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center
November 19 - 22

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, CARLYLE CURRIER



Members and guests,

Welcome to Colorado Farm Bureau's 108th Annual Meeting! I look forward to seeing you all and hearing about your year.

Throughout this weekend, you will hear from various speakers and staff, and you will learn more about the hard work the organization has put forth on behalf of agriculture. You will also have opportunities to make policy changes and vote for open Board seats.

I hope you spend lots of time with one another during the YF&R Cornhole Tournament, the Annual Banquet, and visiting between sessions.

It is a blessing to be together and enjoy the company of good friends. Thank you for joining us.

Have a great meeting!

Sincerely,

Carlyle Currier

Carlyle Currier, President

THANK YOU TO OUR DIAMOND SPONSOR!

Chevron



Thursday, November 19

6:00 p.m.	Auction Item Check-In *CHASM CREEK A*
6:00 p.m.	Registration Open *ATRIUM*
6:30 p.m.	Member Reception *ATRIUM*

Friday, November 20

6:30 - 8 a.m.	Auction Item Check-In *CHASM CREEK A* *Last Opportunity to Donate Items*
7:00 a.m.	Newcomers' Breakfast *ROOT 25 RESTAURANT*
7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens *ATRIUM*
7:45 a.m.	Family Room Opens *Children must be supervised by a guardian at all times.*
8:00 a.m.	Trade Show Opens *ATRIUM*
8:30 a.m.	Opening Session *GRAND MESA DEF* *Presentation of the Colors* *Introduction of the FFA, 4-H State Officers* *Sponsor Remarks* *Keynote Speaker: Mike Sistak, Center Field Strategies* *Senior Field Studies Panel*
10:00 a.m.	Coffee Break

10:15 a.m.	General Session ***GRAND MESA DEF*** *President Currier's Address* *EVP Szilagyi's Address* *Sponsor Remarks*
11:45 a.m.	Awards Luncheon ***GRAND MESA ABC***
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Credentials Committee ***BRISTLECONE***
1:30 p.m.	District Caucuses *District 2: **WIND RIVER A*** *District 4: **WIND RIVER B*** *District 6: **MESA VERDE C*** *District 8: **MESA VERDE A*** *District 10: **WIND STAR***
2:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions *(Details: page 14)* The Future of American Energy ***WIND STAR*** Legislative Panel ***MESA VERDE B*** Climate and Weather in Colorado ***HIGHLANDS***
2:45 p.m.	Coffee Break

3 - 3:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions *(Details: page 14)* The Future of American Energy ***WIND STAR*** Legislative Panel ***MESA VERDE B*** Excellence in Ag ***HIGHLANDS***
4:00 p.m.	Trade Show Closes
4:00 p.m.	Delegate Business Session ***GRAND MESA DEF*** *State Elections*
5:00 p.m.	Family Room Closes
5:00 p.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1 ***MESA VERDE B & WIND STAR***
5:15-6:30 p.m.	PAC Happy Hour *($50 donation at the door or $250+ during 2026 election cycle)* ***CENTENNIAL BALLROOM***
7:00 p.m.	ELA Reception *(Invitation Only)* ***CENTENNIAL BALLROOM***
7:30 p.m.	YF&R Cornhole Tournament *(or dinner with your county)* ***ATRIUM***

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS!







Saturday, November 21

7:00 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2 ***WIND STAR A & B***
7:00 a.m.	Collegiate Discussion Meet Round 1 ***WIND RIVER A, B, AND MESA VERDE C***
7:45 a.m.	Collegiate Welcome ***HIGHLANDS***
8:00 a.m.	Family Room Opens *Children must be supervised by a guardian at all times.*
8:00 a.m.	Wake-Up Breakfast ***GRAND MESA ABC*** *Jeremy Edmonds, Snooze & CultureQ*
9:30 a.m.	County President/Delegate Check-In ***GRAND MESA DEF***
9:45 a.m.	Voting Delegate Session ***GRAND MESA DEF*** *Collegiate Farm Bureau Presidents*
11:45 a.m.	Advocacy Luncheon ***GRAND MESA ABC*** *Tom Donnelly, AFBF*
12:30 p.m.	Collegiate Discussion Meet Round 2 ***WIND RIVER A & B, MESA VERDE C***

1:30 p.m.	Voting Delegate Session *GRAND MESA DEF*
2:15 p.m.	Collegiate Seminar *HIGHLANDS*
3:30 p.m.	Collegiate Discussion Meet Final Four *MESA VERDE A/B*
4:00 p.m.	Family Room Closes
4:30 p.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Final Four *MESA VERDE A/B*
5:30 p.m.	Reception *ATRIUM*
5:45 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes
6:00 p.m.	Childcare Opens, Pizza Party
6:30 p.m.	Annual Banquet and Live Auction *GRAND MESA BALLROOM*
9:00 p.m.	Childcare Ends



YF&R RAFFLE

Choose Your Raffle:

Set of Guns* **OR** Vintage Necklace*



TICKETS:
$25 OR
5 FOR $100



One winner from each raffle will be selected during the CFB Annual Banquet.

Purchase from your local YF&R representative.

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS!

American Petroleum Institute Colorado

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

THREE CORNERS CONNECTOR

LIBERTY BRIDGE PIPELINE

FARM-TO-POWER

Sunday, November 22

7:30 a.m.	Morning Devotional *GRAND MESA DEF*
8:45 a.m.	County President Delegate Check-In *(if necessary)*
9:00 a.m.	Continue Policy Development *(if necessary)*



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN ENERGY: WINNING THE LEGAL BATTLE FOR PROSPERITY

Kole Kelley, Mountain States Legal Foundation

America's ability to produce affordable, reliable energy increasingly depends on the outcome of legal and regulatory battles. From permitting delays and public lands to property rights and agency overreach, the courts have become a critical arena for determining how—and whether—our nation's natural resources can be responsibly developed. This session will examine the constitutional and legal principles shaping today's energy landscape, recent court decisions affecting resource development, and the litigation strategies being used to protect private property, promote regulatory accountability, and support American energy production. Attendees will gain a practical understanding of the legal challenges facing the energy sector and why the rule of law is essential to economic prosperity, energy security, and responsible stewardship of America's abundant natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE PANEL

Rep. Monica Duran, Rep. Matt Martinez, Sen. Robert Rodriguez, Sen. Cleave Simpson, Rep. Ty Winter

During this panel, moderated by CFB Director of State Affairs Brandon Melnikoff and CFB Contract Lobbyist Garin Vorthmann, attendees will hear from elected officials about how they partnered with us this year and what they expect to see during the 2027 Legislative Session.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER IN COLORADO

Mike Nelson, SuperGrid

A familiar face to many in Colorado, Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Mike Nelson recently retired from talking about the weather on Denver7 News after serving as their chief meteorologist for 20 years. Nowadays he's still passionate about the weather, but is also heavily involved in advocating for updating the nation's energy grid. This session will focus on Colorado's unpredictable weather patterns (Did El Nino make a difference this year?) and discuss how changing the nation's electricity infrastructure can positively affect the family farm.

EXCELLENCE IN AG: SHOWCASING YOUNG LEADERS GROWING THROUGH FARM BUREAU

Anna Leigh Peek, Excellence in Ag Competitor

Support Colorado's Excellence in Agriculture representative as she prepares for the American Farm Bureau Federation competition. This session features a live practice presentation followed by audience feedback and discussion. Whether you're curious about the competition or considering participating yourself, you'll gain insight into the program, hear one member's agricultural journey, and learn how Farm Bureau helps develop ag leaders.

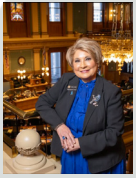
SPEAKERS



Carlyle Currier was raised on his family's ranch in Molina, CO. He received a BS degree in Agriculture Economics/Farm Management from CSU in 1976 before returning home to become the fourth generation on the ranch. Carlyle has been actively involved in water issues across Colorado and other organizations such as the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Plateau Valley Fire Protection District. He served as CFB Vice President for 10 years before being elected President in 2020.



Tom Donnelly serves as the Senior Director of Grassroots Program Development for the American Farm Bureau Federation. In this role, he oversees the organization's key advocates program, the GO Team, and collaborates with state Farm Bureaus and grassroots advocates nationwide, uniting their collective voice to engage legislators at all levels of government. With more than three decades of expertise in advocacy, grassroots, and the digital public affairs sector, Tom boasts a wealth of experience. In 2001, he established Illumen, a pioneering startup specializing in digital news aggregation, legislative tracking, and advocacy platforms.



Monica Duran has served eight years in the Colorado House of Representatives, representing House District 23 in Jefferson County, including four years as House Majority Leader. She made history as the first Latina to represent her district. She recognizes the importance of protecting agricultural traditions, supporting farmers and ranchers, preserving open spaces, and safeguarding wildlife, including Colorado's wild horses. Guided by her family's farmworker legacy, her lived experiences, and a lifetime of service, Monica believes that whether someone lives in a rural community, a small town, or a growing city, every Coloradan deserves dignity, opportunity, safety, and a voice in shaping their future.



Jeremy Edmonds is the Executive Vice President of People and Culture for Snooze, an A.M. Eatery and founder of CultureQ, a company dedicated to creating a better world of work. His love for people, process and the employee experience led him to his career in Human Resources. Jeremy's relentless pursuit of the best of the best employee experience and passion for culture has been a driving force throughout his career. With a passion for leadership development, Jeremy is committed to helping to grow and develop emerging leaders. Throughout his career, Jeremy has been a champion for diversity, leading multiple programs focused on the acquisition, development, and employee experience for underrepresented employees.



Kole Kelley is Director and Senior Attorney of Mountain States Legal Foundation's Center for American Prosperity & Energy. Raised on his family's cattle and show-pig farm in Alamosa, Colorado, he brings firsthand experience in agriculture and rural communities to his work. Kole leads litigation and advocacy protecting private property rights, advancing domestic energy production, defending free enterprise, and challenging unlawful government overreach. His work focuses on the legal and regulatory issues affecting farmers, ranchers, landowners, producers, and rural communities across the West.



Representative Matthew Martinez is the Vice Chair of the House Education Committee and a member of the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee. Rep. Martinez represents House District 62 which includes Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano Mineral, Pueblo, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Veteran and educator, Rep. Martinez is passionate about post-secondary education opportunities, workforce development, veterans' issues, and supporting local communities.



Mike Nelson began his career in 1976 in Madison, WI and has received 20 Emmy awards for outstanding work in television weather broadcasting. He served as Chief Meteorologist for Denver7 from 2004-2024, and retired in 2024 to pursue other ventures in renewable energy and climate change. In 2019, Mike was named a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the only Colorado TV Meteorologist ever to be so honored. Mike and his wife Cindy have two grown children and three grandchildren who live in the area.



Anna Leigh Peek is a Larimer County Farm Bureau board member and the North America Talent Programs Manager for Nutrien. A farm-raised Alabama native and Auburn University graduate, she has worked across agribusiness, communications, and talent development. Today, she leads programs that support students, new graduates, and emerging professionals, helping develop the next generation of agricultural leaders.



Senator Robert Rodriguez was elected to serve Senate District 32 in 2018, representing south Denver where he has lived for more than 20 years. He is the outgoing Majority Leader of the Senate. He was raised in a politically active, working-class family, where he attended Colorado public schools. He is a strong advocate for workers, unions, and consumer protections and looks to find compromise solutions among diverse groups. This year, he led the passage of SB26-121, which found a balanced framework for overtime pay for agriculture. His Senate service will end in January, as his eight-year term limit reaches its conclusion.



Senator Cleave Simpson was born and raised in Alamosa Colorado and is a fourth-generation farmer and rancher. After graduating from the Colorado School of Mines with B.S. in Mining Engineering and working in Texas and Australia, Cleave returned home to become the general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. He is also currently the Colorado State Senator representing Senate District 6 which comprises 14 counties in southern and southwest Colorado.Through a thoughtful approach to preserve our rural values, he expects to create opportunities for future Colorado generations to live and prosper in rural Colorado.



Mike Sistak is the Founder and Principal of Center Field Strategies, a public affairs consulting firm specializing in political strategy, grassroots development, leadership training, and election analysis. Before founding Center Field Strategies, Mike was part of the Farm Bureau family, working for more than five years at American Farm Bureau. He assisted state Farm Bureaus with grassroots and PAC development and taught more than 600 candidates running for public office across the country through the Farm Bureau campaign school. Mike has also worked on campaigns for the U.S. House, Senate, and White House, held senior government relations positions in Arizona, and worked on Capitol Hill at the U.S. Senate.



Jerry Sonnenberg was appointed State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Colorado in May 2025. During his tenure as a lawmaker, Sonnenberg was chairman of numerous committees including both House and Senate Agriculture Committees.. Sonnenberg also served as President Pro Tem of the Colorado Senate and received numerous awards for defending and advocating for agriculture and rural Colorado. Sonnenberg has a strong background in agriculture as a fourth-generation farmer and rancher on his family's Centennial Farm.





Taylor Szilagyi is the current Executive Vice President of Colorado Farm Bureau. She grew up on her family's cattle ranch in the San Luis Valley, where they raised market beef and show cattle. Growing up, Taylor was active in 4-H and spent summers raising her own show cattle and was a champion beef showman at the Colorado State Fair. Prior to her current role, she served as CFB's vice president of strategy and operations, where she directed Farm Bureau's communications and membership departments, external partnerships and special initiatives and programs.



Representative Ty Winter represents House District 47 and is the Assistant Minority Leader of the Colorado House of Representatives. He has deep ties to the community having been born and raised on a fourth-generation cattle ranch as well as operating a third-generation family business in district. Serving in the state legislature since 2023 he sits on the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee and Capital Development Committee.

Register For

CALLS TO ACTION

TEXT ALERTS

Scan the QR Code and fill out the form to receive Calls to Action.

POLICY WATCH

Policy Watch is an email newsletter that goes out every Tuesday during the Legislative Session to keep you abreast of the happenings at the Capitol.

HAPPY Hour

$50 MINIMUM DONATION*

**Donors who have already exceeded the $250 minimum during the 2026 election cycle are automatically eligible to attend.*

5:15 - 6:30 PM
Friday, November 20

The Colorado Farm Bureau PAC is one of our most important tools to advocate for farmers and ranchers. Your donation goes towards boosting Farm Bureau's electoral efforts, where we'll provide campaign support to ag-friendly candidates.



THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS!

FARM BUREAU BANK

BAYER

RAINMAKER

Pivot Energy

Nutrien Ag Solutions

PAC/WEST STRATEGIES

