



State Board of Directors

Candidates Bios





DISTRICT 1

Norman Strickholm

LARIMER COUNTY - MEMBER SINCE 1992

I grew up in a small town (pop. 450) nestled in the Green Mountains of Vermont. My parents were both city people who grew up in Boston and New York City during the depression years. My Dad an electrical engineer and my Mom a computer programmer and elementary school teacher. I wanted to dairy farm starting in eleventh grade. A retired dairy farm couple in my church offered me the lease on their farm when I was a senior in highschool. I started buying Ayrshire calves my senior year and throughout my years in college. I have a degree in Dairy Farm Management and a minor in Electrical Engineering. I farmed in Vermont for 10 years before buying my own dairy in Loveland Colorado in 1991. Moving equipment and milking herd was an adventure. I sold out in 2003 and joined my new wife in her family's company in Wyoming as president. We bought a hay farm together and worked both businesses. Brenda passed away from complications from Colon cancer years ago. I sold the hay farm in 2020 and semi-retired to my dairy facility in Loveland. I have it rented out to an artisan cheese maker. I have served on the Larimer County Farm Bureau Board since 1995 and previously served on the Addison County Farm Bureau Board from 1981 until 1991. I do some custom farming in my area and a little consulting work for a raw milk dairy currently.



DISTRICT 3

Jason Vermillion

CHEYENNE COUNTY - MEMBER SINCE 1983

I am a 5th generation farmer of small grains, livestock, and hay, on a Centennial Farm. I am a graduate of the University of Wyoming. I have a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business with a minor in Soil Science. I also work as a Crop Insurance Adjuster and list equipment on Auctiontime.com. I have spent 4 years as District 3's YF&R representative, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the YF&R committee. I am a graduate of the Elite Leadership Academy and am also a 2012 winner of the Excellence in Agriculture award. After serving 3 terms on the state board I am looking forward to serving another term as your District 3 representative.



DISTRICT 5

Connie Hass

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY - MEMBER SINCE 2002

My name is Connie Hass and I reside near Trinidad with my husband Tony where we have a cow-calf operation. We have two grown children and one grandchild, Liam. I am a retired Math educator of 34 years with 33 of those years in the Hoehne School District.

I sit on the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, the Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company Board of Directors and the VP of Las Animas County Farm Bureau. I am a graduate of the Leadership Program of the Rockies Class of 2021 and am proud to be an advocate for agriculture having participated in the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Bootcamp. I would be honored to continue to advocate for rural Colorado and Agriculture while serving my district as their board member.



DISTRICT 7

Dave Brown

ALAMOSA COUNTY - MEMBER SINCE 2013

A native of the San Luis Valley, David Brown is principally engaged in his family's generational sheep farm and ranch. The Browns manage approximately 1,000 ewes in addition to a lamb feedlot with a capacity of 5,000(+) lambs on feed. Additionally, David operates a custom hay and straw baling business, delivering 5 million tons of product to the San Luis Valley and beyond. His expertise also extends to barley harvest and custom lamb feeding direct to processing. David's service on the Colorado Farm Bureau Board of Directors began over 9 years ago and he remains the Board Representative for District 7. David offers the CFB Board important perspectives and experience when it comes to issues important to his district: ag labor, the H2-A program, market development, trade, input costs, federal lands grazing, and more. Beyond his Board service, David is active in CFB's Young Farmer and Rancher program, and is a graduate of CFB's Elite Leadership Academy.



DISTRICT 9

Zandon Bray

**MONTROSE, OURAY & SAN MIGUEL - MEMBER
SINCE 2010**

Zandon Bray is a 3rd generation cattle rancher in the west end of Montrose and San Miguel Counties located in southwestern Colorado. He works alongside his dad and two brothers on the 20,000-acre Bray Ranch located in Redvale, CO where they raise Black Angus and Hereford cross cattle. In addition to the cattle operation, Zandon and his wife Sara help manage a big game hunting business that offers mule deer, elk, and black bear hunts. Zandon has been an active member of the Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel County Farm Bureau Board since 2010 where he served as President of the board from 2013 - 2024. Zandon served 4 years on the Colorado Farm Bureau YF&R Committee, 2 years on the AFBF YF&R Committee, and is a graduate of Colorado Farm Bureau's Elite Leadership Academy. Zandon has served 3 terms and currently represents District 9 on the Colorado Farm Bureau State Board. Zandon has served as Treasurer of the board for the past 2 years. Zandon and Sara have three children Keiran (20), Cole (16) and Sabry (14).



YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Kole Kelley

DOUGLAS COUNTY - MEMBER SINCE 2016

Kole Kelley currently serves as President of the Douglas County Farm Bureau and Chair of the Colorado Bar Association's Agriculture and Rural Law Section. He is an attorney with Fennemore Craig, P.C., where he advises clients in the agriculture, natural resource, and advanced energy industries on complex real property and regulatory matters.

Kole was recently recognized in Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch for his work in Energy Law, Natural Resources Law, and Real Estate Law. He was also named one of the 2025 Leaders in Agriculture and a 2021 Who's Who in Agriculture by the Denver Business Journal.

Kole is a graduate of the Colorado Farm Bureau Elite Leadership Academy; the Colorado Farm Bureau Elite Leadership Academy Masters Class; the Leadership, Policy, and Governance Leadership Training Program; and was recently selected to be included in this year's Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training Program.

Kole's experience includes:

- President, Douglas County Farm Bureau (2023–Present)
- Chair, Colorado Bar Association Agricultural and Rural Law Section (2024–Present)
- Co-Board of Governors Representative, Colorado Bar Association Agricultural and Rural Law Section (2024–Present)
- Vice-Chair, Colorado Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee (2021–Present)
- President, Colorado Junior Swine Association (2023–2025)
- Board Member, Leadership, Policy, and Governance Foundation (2023–Present)
- Member, Colorado Farm Bureau Membership Task Force (2024–2025)
- Member, Colorado Livestock Association (2024–Present)
- Member, Action Colorado (2023–Present)
- Vice-Chair, Colorado Bar Association Agricultural and Rural Law Section (2022–2024)
- Board Member, Colorado Junior Swine Association (2022–2023)
- Member, Presidential Selection Committee, Adams State University (2023)
- Editor-in-Chief, University of Denver Water Law Review, Volume 22 (2019)

Outside of his professional and volunteer leadership, Kole co-runs MPK Showpigs, where his family raises and develops competitive showpigs for youth exhibitors across Colorado and beyond.

