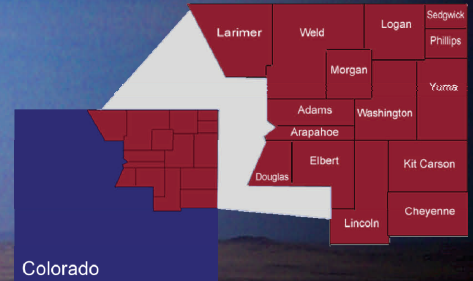


# Progressive 15

Providing A Voice for Northeast Colorado



# The Briefing

October 5, 2011

## Board of Directors

**Adams:** Barry Gore, Vice Chair  
**Arapahoe:** Erin Messner  
**Cheyenne:** Open  
**Douglas:** Bill Schroeder  
**Elbert:** Open  
**Kit Carson:** Bob Churchwell  
**Larimer:** Open  
**Lincoln:** Del Beattie  
**Logan:** Richard O'Connell  
**Morgan:** Kari Linker, Treasurer  
**Phillips:** Nancy Berges, Secretary  
**Sedgwick:** Mike Sullivan  
**Washington:** David Foy, Chair  
**Weld:** Perry Buck  
**Yuma:** Carol Boden

Executive Director: Cathy Shull

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@progressive15  
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## Progressive 15 Updates

- Progressive 15's Board has decided to take no position on Prop 103 and continue to monitor for now. We have resolutions supporting the funding of higher education and resolutions not supporting the allocation of money for specific items that tie up the legislators flexibility in their work to balance our budget each year.
  - Progressive 15's Board has voted to provide a letter of support in the repurposing of Bonny Reservoir.
  - Progressive 15's Chairman appointed Laura Teague as the co-chair of the Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee.
  - Progressive 15's Board prepared a resolution in support of Club 20's new congressional map— see at [www.progressive15.org](http://www.progressive15.org)
1. Thank you to all our speakers, attendees, and guests who were at the Progressive 15 Fall Conference.
    - Winner of the Texas Hold'em Tournament was Kari Linker, Morgan County Economic Development director and Progressive 15 Treasurer.
    - 1st Place in the Prairie Golf Tournament went to the Team from Burlington and 2nd place to Tri State
    - Alumni of the Plains Inductees were David Foy; Perry Buck; Kari Linker; Del Beattie; Carol Boden; Bob Churchwell; Richard O'Connell; and Mike Sullivan
    - Harvesting The Plains Award went to Frank Zybach as the inventor of the center pivot. Check out the video on his life and inventions:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snWrG8Tlv0c> (copy and paste to your browser

## **Other Updates**

### **September 2011 Forecast—**

To See the September Forecast visit: <http://bit.ly/nO5GsL>

### **Patricia Hippe Named Chief Financial Officer for Colorado Housing and Finance Authority**

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) is pleased to announce Patricia Hippe as its new chief financial officer (CFO). Hippe most recently served as the deputy commissioner and chief financial officer for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. As CFO, Hippe will serve on CHFA's four-member executive team and oversee the authority's corporate debt and investment, treasury, accounting and information technology teams.

### **Governor Hickenlooper Announces Several Board and Commission Appointments**

Governor John Hickenlooper has announced appointments to several Boards and Commissions. The appointments were made to the Colorado Beef Council, the Colorado Council on the Arts, the Auraria Higher Education Center Board of Directors, the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council, the Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors and the State Board of Human Services.

To see the list of appointees and the entire press release from the Governor's Office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/npDjyd>

For more information on Boards and Commissions, visit [www.colorado.gov/governor](http://www.colorado.gov/governor) or e-mail [boards@state.co.us](mailto:boards@state.co.us).

### **Looking for Hay? Annual Directory Connects Producers & Buyers**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture publishes the Colorado Hay Directory annually to help connect hay producers with buyers. The 2011 edition of the directory is available to the public at no cost.

The 25th edition of the Colorado Hay Directory features nearly 100 producers and brokers of hay as well as companies that provide hay-related products and services. Categorized by region, each listing includes the type and amount of hay available, bale type and size, whether or not laboratory analysis is available, certified weed free status and identifies organic hay.

The Colorado Hay Directory is published by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with participating Colorado hay producers, Colorado State University Extension, and with support from Ag Biz Solutions, LLC, Hutchison Incorporated, ProAG-Morris Industries Inc. and Scimetrix Ltd. Inc.

The directory is available online at [www.coloradoagriculture.com/hay](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com/hay). For more information or to request a copy of the 2011 Colorado Hay Directory, call the Colorado Department of Agriculture at (303) 239-4115.

### **Governor Hickenlooper Seeks Additional Federal Drought Assistance**

Governor John Hickenlooper has sent a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting drought assistance for two additional counties. Elbert and Douglas counties asked Hickenlooper to seek the federal assistance and be declared primary drought disaster areas. The declaration, if approved, would allow farmers and ranchers to apply for emergency loans if they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Elbert and Douglas counties join 17 other counties that have sought drought assistance. Those counties are Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande and Saguache.

For the entire press release from the Governor's Office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/n1QxBr>

### **Representative Gardner Announces "One More Job" Initiative**

In a letter sent to hundreds of businesses across the 4th Congressional District this week, Representative Gardner is asking what it would take for them to create one more job. The basic principle behind this initiative is that if even a fraction of businesses in this country added just one more employee, we could put thousands of people back to work.

Gardner's team has set up an email account where job creators can send their feedback, [onemorejob@mail.house.gov](mailto:onemorejob@mail.house.gov). Through this initiative, they hope to hear concrete ideas from business owners about how to reform the tax code or regulatory system in a way that will promote job creation and growth.

To read the letter, click [HERE](#).

## **Governor Hickenlooper Announces Education Leadership Council Appointments**

Governor John Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia have announced 38 appointments to the Education Leadership Council. The Education Leadership Council was created by executive order on Hickenlooper's first day in office. The council will provide a meaningful forum for educators, community members, business leaders and lawmakers to examine the current status of education policies and make recommendations to the governor, General Assembly and governing boards regarding long-term improvements. Garcia will chair the council.

To see the list of appointees and the entire press release from the Governor's Office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/o35vpG>

For more information on Boards and Commissions, visit [www.colorado.gov/governor](http://www.colorado.gov/governor) or e-mail [boards@state.co.us](mailto:boards@state.co.us).

## **Governor Hickenlooper Announces Payments of More Than \$54 million for Local Governments**

Governor John Hickenlooper and Reeves Brown, executive director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), announced today \$54,655,280 in annual state Severance Tax and Federal Mineral Lease Direct Distribution payments will be made to 506 Colorado counties, municipalities and school districts.

DOLA distributes the payments, which are derived from energy and mineral extraction statewide. Last year's distribution to Colorado communities was \$37 million.

Direct distribution is based on the number of employees in the energy impacted communities in which they resided and the following factors: permits, production, employee residence, population and highway user miles.

To see the entire press release from the Governor's Office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/prbWzu>

Click [here](#) for a report listing distributions by local government recipients.

## **Governor Hickenlooper Signs Executive Order to Continue No Kid Hungry Colorado Campaign**

Governor John Hickenlooper today signed an executive order to continue the No Kid Hungry Colorado campaign (formerly the Colorado Campaign to End Childhood Hunger by 2015) at a Hunger Free Colorado event. The campaign, initiated by former Gov. Bill Ritter and Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien in 2009, works to increase the number of children receiving nutritious meals in school breakfast and summer lunch programs while developing a comprehensive plan to end childhood hunger in Colorado by 2015.

The campaign is a partnership between the Office of the Governor, Share Our Strength and Hunger Free Colorado. Together, these leaders are committed to ending childhood hunger in Colorado by removing the roadblocks to existing programs so that Colorado's children get the food they need.

To view the entire press release from the Governor's office and the Executive Order visit: <http://1.usa.gov/pShcWg>

For more information about the campaign, visit [www.hungerfreecolorado.org](http://www.hungerfreecolorado.org) and [www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org).

## **Department of Human Services Finds Nearly 850 Rules to Repeal and More Than 2,000 More to Revise**

Governor John Hickenlooper announced today the Colorado Department of Human Services is poised to recommend the repeal of nearly 850 rules that are unnecessary or outdated and the revision of another 2,000 rules.

To view the entire press release from the Governor's office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/qNWJrd>

## **Patent Reform Bill Receives Final Approval in Congress, Will Spur Innovation, Create Jobs in Colorado**

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall today applauded final passage of the America Invents Act, a bill that will create jobs, promote innovation and improve our ability to compete economically with countries across the globe. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 89 to 9 and, having passed the House in June, will be sent to the President for his signature into law.

To view the entire press release from Senator Bennet's Office, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/pMWT7v>

## Report: Higher Food Prices

Driven by higher commodity prices, global food prices soared to record highs in 2011. World populations are experiencing some modest relief as food prices have eased since peaking in February. On the other hand, U.S. food prices have climbed higher in recent months. In the latest issue of the Main Street Economist, Omaha Branch Executive Jason Henderson examines global and U.S. food price trends, as well as the burden of higher food prices on low-income populations.

Read the full article at <http://bit.ly/qt4TEK>

## Lieutenant Governor Garcia Announces AmeriCorps Grant Awards

Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia announced today that twelve organizations in Colorado have received AmeriCorps\*State program operating grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

For the entire press release from the Lieutenant Governor's Office visit: <http://1.usa.gov/qHfwmw>

For more information on AmeriCorps and other programs and other programs, contact Serve Colorado at 303-866-6426 or visit [www.colorado.gov/servecolorado](http://www.colorado.gov/servecolorado)

## Membership Investments

### Renew:

Northern Colorado Water	Olsson Associates	Lincoln County EDC	Ron Swehla
Northeast Colorado Broadcasting	Sam Mamet	Colorado Livestock	InterMountain REA
Adams County	Robin Van Ausdall	Colorado Tourism Office	Colorado Cattlemen
Danny Tomlinson	Yuma County EDC	City of Aurora	

## 2011 Calendar

(Progressive 15 events in Blue)

### October

- 4-6 2011 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference –Avon, Colorado  
To Register: <http://bit.ly/qZdTtN> For More Information: <http://bit.ly/nTBcOC>
- 7-8 Colorado Entrepreneurship MarketPlace-Pagosa Springs To Register: [www.regonline.com](http://www.regonline.com)
- 11-14 Housing Colorado Annual Conference-Vail [www.housingcolorado.org](http://www.housingcolorado.org)
- 14 CREA Innovations Summit 2011—Denver [www.regonline.com](http://www.regonline.com)
- 17 Progressive 15 member caucus Phillips County
- 24 Progressive 15 member caucus Kit Carson County
- 27-28 Grant Writing Workshop—Fort Morgan For Details: <http://bit.ly/nnkZdM>
- 31 12 Noon - Progressive 15 member caucus Weld County

## **November**

- 7 Progressive 15 member caucus Logan County
- 14 Progressive 15 member caucus Morgan County

## **December**

- 5 Progressive 15 Board Retreat - Fort Morgan