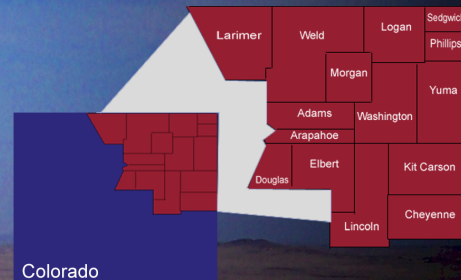


Progressive 15

Providing A Voice for Northeast Colorado



The Briefing

March 15, 2011

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Progressive 15 Updates

Flags to be lowered Tuesday in honor of Limon police officer Jay Sheridan

Governor John Hickenlooper today ordered flags be lowered to half-staff on all public buildings statewide on Tuesday, March 15 in honor of Limon police officer Jay Sheridan, 27, of Limon. Sheridan was killed on March 9 while serving a fugitive warrant in Limon, a town 90 miles east of Denver. Sheridan was a six-year veteran on the Limon Police Department. Sheridan is survived by his wife; a daughter; his parents; and a brother and sister. A funeral is scheduled for Tuesday in Limon. Gov. Hickenlooper will attend the funeral.

Progressive 15 Alumni of the Plains Honoree Passes

Former Progressive 15 Alumni of the Plains Honoree, Mike Lounge passed away March 1, 2011. Lounge was a NASA Astronaut and a graduate of Burlington High School's Class of 1964. His family continues to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Progressive 15 Positions

HB 1069 Oppose—Physical Education in Schools. While agreeing that phys ed is healthy for students in light of budget cuts to K-12 education this unfunded mandate is not supported.

HB 1126 Oppose—Parental Involvement in Schools. Again while in theory it would be great, it provides another set of unfunded mandates on school districts already strained for money.

HB 1187 Support - Exemption of Northeastern Junior College Club Employees from the state personnel system

SB 061 Oppose - Special Education Appeal Process No fiscal note available and removes local control

SB 069 Oppose - This would spend \$500 K over two years and add 2 staff positions while cutting education budgets on the other hand.

SB 019 Support Small Employer Health Insurance Payments

HB 1005 Support Repeal of taxes on items used in agriculture production

HB 1146 Support Definition of Ag Land for Property Tax Assessments

HB 1156 Support Extension of conservation district grant funding with severance tax revenues

HB 1094 Oppose Measurement of waste diverted from landfills

HB 1116 Oppose Local government waste services fees requiring voter approval

HB 1255 Oppose Alternative Energy Park Act

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Redistricting

Several members attended the redistricting meeting in Fort Morgan including, Chairman David Foy, Executive Director Cathy Shull, Morgan County Commissioner Tony Carlson and Logan County Economic Development Director, Rich O'Connell. Each of us testified that we wanted to keep the district based on our agriculture roots, mirroring other districts already in place and based on mutual economies.

Legislative Day at The State Capitol



Governor Hickenlooper Signs Several Bills into Law

Over the last month, Governor Hickenlooper has signed the following bills into law:

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsors	Description
HB11-1050:	Boiler Inspection Regulation	Soper-Tochtrop	Boiler Inspection Regulation by the Division of Oil and Public Safety
SB11-156:	FY 10-11 General Fund Reserve Reduction	Lambert-Becker	Reduction in the General Fund Reserve Required for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year
SB11-157:	Modification to School Finance Act	Steadman-Ferrandino	Modification to the School Finance Act of 1994, Concerning an Appropriation within
SB11-160:	Clarify Total Film Incentives Issued	Steadman-Gerou	Clarification on the Amount of Performance Based Incentives Available by the Colorado Office of Film
SB11-161:	CDPHE Laboratory Cash Fund	Lambert-Becker	Creation of a Cash Fund for Fees in Connection with CDPHE Laboratories
SB11-163:	Repeal Alternative Fuels Incentives Issued	Lambert-Gerou	Repeal of the Alternative Fuels Rebate Program
HB11-1028	Alzheimer's Assn Tax Checkoff	Liston-Johnston & Newell	Voluntary contribution designation benefitting the Alzheimer's Association Fund to appear on individual income tax return forms
HB11-1041	Update Colo Ins Guaranty Assn Statute	Reisberg-Harvey	Updating Colorado Guaranty Insurance Association Policies
HB11-1051	DNA Expungement Clarification	Swerdfeger-King S.	DNA sample expungement is never available for a felony convict
HB11-1087	Pest Control Reimbursement	Vigil-Giron	Reimbursement to county governments for charges incurred in pest control operations
HB11-1110	Resid Nonprofit Corp Meetings Refund	Acree-Harvey	Rights of members of Nonprofit Corporations in which residency is qualification for membership
HB11-1113	Impact Fees Transparency	Holbert-Foster	Provision of information pertaining to impact fees imposed by local governments
HB11-1011	Board of Assessment Appeals Hearings	Peniston-Giron	Participation of additional individuals in proceedings pending before the Board of Assessment Appeals
HB11-1018	Electronically Transmitted Court Docs	Tyler-King S.	Regulating the conditions under which court documents may be transferred electronically
HB11-1021	Colorado Channel Authority Fiscal Year	Todd-Steadman	Approval for the fiscal year of the Colorado Channel Authority
SB11-028	Add Judge Seventh Judicial District	Schwartz-Coram	Approving the addition and total number of judges for District Seven

Bennet, Udall Urge Administration to Push for Opening of Japanese Markets to Colorado Beef

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall today urged the White House to push Japan to open its markets to imports of Colorado beef as it takes part in Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations to expand the presence of U.S. businesses and exports in the Asia-Pacific region. In a letter to the president, the senators said that Japan's expressed interest in joining the TPP should be an opportunity for the Administration to ensure it puts an end to its prohibitively high tariffs on agricultural goods. Bennet and Udall also called on the White House to push for Japan to ease restrictions on U.S. beef products that currently are inconsistent with international standards, set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and not based on scientific criteria.

<http://bennet.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=0a49c5f4-e051-4a9b-a45b-572de4a50ac3>

Celebrate the Bounty of Colorado Agriculture—Ag Day is March 16

Governor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed March 16, 2011, as "Colorado Ag Day." The day coincides with National Ag Week, March 13-19, and is designed to celebrate the abundance provided by America's agricultural producers. "Colorado's farmers and ranchers contribute greatly to our way of life. Besides providing food and fiber, agriculture also protects our natural resources," said Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar. "Colorado's diverse agriculture and food industry is a large part of our great state's economy, generating approximately \$20 billion annually and supporting more than 108,000 jobs." Colorado Ag Day and National Ag Week recognize American agriculture and the contributions of the farmers and ranchers. The events focus on educating consumers about how agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear. A number of events are scheduled in Colorado to honor those involved in American agriculture. More information can be found at www.agday.org or <http://www.colorado.gov/ag>

Governor Hickenlooper Makes Appointments

Governor Hickenlooper made appointments to the following:

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Effective 3/3/11

Richard Eric Kuhn, Glenwood Springs (D)
Taylor E.C. Hawes, Lafayette (U)
Wayne Vanderschuere, Colorado Springs (U)
Melinda R. Kassen, Boulder (D)
T. Wright Dickinson, Maybell (R)
Peter D. Nichols, Carbondale (D)

State Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction & Pump Installation Contractors—4 year Term

Theresa Jehn-Dellaport, Golden, to serve as a geologist

Community Colleges and Occupational Education Board—4 year Term

Kenneth C. Weil

Pinnacol Insurance Board of Directors

John Plotkin
John Cevette

For more information on Boards and Commissions, visit www.colorado.gov/governor or e-mail boards@state.co.us.

Grants Available to Eradicate Noxious Weeds

The Colorado Department of Agriculture invites county officials, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations involved in weed management in Colorado to apply for two grants designed to eradicate noxious weeds. The goal of the grants is to protect Colorado's natural resources by providing noxious weed management opportunities across the state.

The two grants, funded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Fund and the US Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program, will award approximately \$400,000 combined for projects focused on List A species and populations of List B species that are subject to eradication.

- List A species are weeds that are designated for eradication statewide.
- List B species are weeds that have become established in the state and must be contained, suppressed and, where isolated populations exist, eradicated.

For a complete list of List A and B species, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on "Noxious Weed Management Program." Application documents are listed at www.colorado.gov/ag and must be delivered to CDA by close of business on March 18, 2011.

Grants Available for Colorado Specialty Crops

From established crops such as potatoes and onions to up-and-coming crops such as hops and lavender, the diversity of Colorado's specialty crop industry is evident across the state. To help develop and promote the state's specialty crops, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is seeking proposals for the *Specialty Crops Block Grant Program*. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, and nursery crops including floriculture and sod.

The grant program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which partners with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition. Proposals must be received by close of business (4:30pm) on April 4, 2011. For more information and an application, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant or call (303) 239-4116.

Plan to Remove Mexico's Retaliatory Tariffs Good News for Colorado Agricultural Producers, Rural Economy

Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet released the following statement on President Obama and President Calderon's announcement that Mexico and the United States have established a path forward to resolve the cross-border long-haul trucking dispute and phase out Mexico's retaliatory tariffs. The development marks a positive step forward in the effort to expand Colorado exports of agricultural products to Mexico.

"This is great news for our economy and Colorado producers. For too long, Colorado farmers have been hampered by retaliatory tariffs on their exports to Mexico, our third-largest trading partner. Colorado's farmers and ranchers can go toe-to-toe with anyone in the world. This is a step in the right direction, and I look forward to working toward resolving remaining disputes that hinder our exports and close off our products from new opportunities and markets abroad." Last month, Bennet and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack met and strategized how to solve outstanding trade disputes with Mexico to open that important market to Colorado products. For more information on that conversation, [click here](#). Last year, Bennet joined Reps. John Salazar and Betsy Markey in sending a letter to President Calderon pushing him to open the Mexican market to U.S. potatoes.

Regional Tourism Act (RTA) Updates Timeline

The RTA timeline is being moved back approximately six weeks. An updated timeline, as well as the RTA Guidelines and Application Checklist is available from: **Shela Tatro** Manager, Economic Development Commission shela.tatro@state.co.us or www.AdvanceColorado.com

Bennet Announces Start of CRP General Sign-Up Today for Colorado Landowners and Producers

Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet announced today that general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for Colorado landowners and producers begins today and continues through April 15. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for enrollment at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

Membership Investments

Renew:

Mitch Albert	Danyel Brenner	Prairie Development Corp.
The Wildlife Sanctuary	Mike Benson	David Ferrill

New:

Move Colorado

2011 Calendar

(Progressive 15 events in Blue)

March

- 15 Yuma County Farm Bureau CDOT Truck Safety Meeting—Yuma, CO For More Info: [Download Flyer](#)
- 16 Colorado Agriculture Day—<http://www.colorado.gov/ag>
- 16 Fiscal Education Network Webinar—10: 30 a.m.—https://www.coloradononprofits.org/workshops_reg.cfm?id=8667
- 22 Agritourism Workshop—Fairplay, CO For more Info: www.coloradoagritourism.com
- 23 Fiscal Education Network Webinar—3:30 p.m.—https://www.coloradononprofits.org/workshops_reg.cfm?id=8666
- 25 Colorado Foundation for Ag Farmer & Rancher Appreciation Dinner—University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO For More Info: [Download Flyer](#)
- 26 CCA 1867 Club Dinner—Denver, CO For More Info: [Download Flyer](#)

April

- 6-8 Ports-To-Plains Alliance Energy Summit Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield, CO
- 14 - Fort Morgan Workforce Center Job Fair, Clarion Inn, Fort Morgan 970-867-9401
- [14-15 Progressive 15 Spring Conference - Akron](#)
- 20 Small Business Conference—Adams County Regional Park Complex, Brighton, CO For More Info: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1390588287>
- 21 Market Your Food Product Workshop—Community College of Aurora, Aurora, CO For More Info: www.coloradoagriculture.com

May

June

13-14 Symposium on Mileage-Based User Fees—Breckenridge, CO For More Info: <http://utcm.tamu.edu/mbuf/>

July

- 21 - Progressive 15 Standing Committee Meetings - Fort Morgan

August

September

- 15-16 Progressive 15 Fall Conference - Wiggins

October

- 17 Progressive 15 member caucus Phillips County
- 24 Progressive 15 member caucus Kit Carson County
- 31 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