Robotic harvesting and precision agriculture company from Lakewood, Colo., was the judge’s top pick in the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association’s (CFVGA) Tech Pitch. The competition, which featured four of the best applicants from a field of highly qualified companies, was the culminating event at CFVGA’s Fourth Annual Conference, Feb. 19-20.

Coming in first by audience vote was Augean Robotics, Phoenixville, Penn., whose presentation awed viewers with video of a robotic harvest cart that follows a harvester, hauls product to a drop off point and returns to the harvester on its own.

“It was inspiring to see veteran Colorado agriculture leaders and new companies making connections, talking about the issues agriculture faces, and sharing ideas,” said Eric Adamson, Tortuga AgTech. “We had met with a handful of Colorado growers in the past, but we never had the chance before to connect with our own local ag industry in such a concentrated and powerful forum. The CFVGA conference was a great way to start building more local relationships and learning from passionate agriculture leaders here in our backyard, as well as leaders from the broader Western Growers Association.”

Also participating in the Tech Pitch were two additional finalists: VisuLine, a Denver, Colo., company that has created early detection, on-site water monitoring to comply with FDA regulations; and Impello, a company producing Tribus™, liquid plant-growth promoting rhizobacteria that may also reduce Listeria, that hails from Fort Collins, Colo. All four finalists received an annual CFVGA membership and free booth at the two-day conference.
Colorado Legislative News

It has been a relatively quiet legislative session but CFVGA has been involved with bills that direct the state to promulgate standards for direct reuse water on edible crops, on new regulations for “call before you dig,” and on several transportation bills.

By the time you read this, the session will most likely have come to an end and the focus has and will build on the November elections. Be sure to stay informed and encourage candidates to come talk to your agricultural communities. Keep them engaged and informed about Colorado fruit and vegetable production. If you would like CFVGA to help organize a candidate forum in your area let us know.

From the President

Thanks to All for a Great Annual Conference!

First I would like to thank you for awarding me the first-ever CFVGA member of the year. Each of my present, and past board members are equally as deserving of this award as there have been many people working behind the scenes over the past eight years to get to this point. So when you see the CFVGA board representative from your area tell them thank you for all of their hard work. We all volunteer our time not only for board meetings but heading up pillar committees and representing CFVGA at numerous events. We do it because we believe in the agricultural community we live in.

Thanks to everybody that made our annual conference a great success. Everyone from the volunteers to exhibitors and sponsors that through their financial support keep registration affordable.

Looking to the future, we have a busy couple of months ahead of us. I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., and I plan to take our family auction flyer with me to emphasize that the labor and labor housing crisis is real.

A special thanks goes to The Packer for offering CFVGA members a fantastic deal to attend the West Coast Expo in May. I look forward to attending myself.

Finally, PLEASE reach out to growers in your area and get them to sign up to be members so they can take advantage of member benefits like this and because we can accomplish so much more together than we can alone.

newsletter Advertising Opportunity!

Get your message out to Colorado’s fruit and vegetable growers, allied organizations and others by advertising in the CFVGA NEWSLETTER.

2018 CFVGA Newsletter Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSOR--</th>
<th>Half Page</th>
<th>Quarter Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platinum—single issue</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum—four issues/full year</td>
<td>$675</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold—single issue</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold—four issues/full year</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver—single issue</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>$145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver—four issues/full year</td>
<td>$765</td>
<td>$525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze—single issue</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze—four issues/full year</td>
<td>$810</td>
<td>$560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER--</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single issue</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four issues/full year</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON-MEMBER--</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single issue</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four issues/full year</td>
<td>$1400</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reserving advertising space:
Contact Marilyn Bay Drake CFVGA executive director, at admin@coloradoproduce.org or 303-594-3827 to confirm availability of space and to submit advertising artwork.

2018 CFVGA Newsletter Publication Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Approximate distribution date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*schedule subject to change

CFVGA Newsletter Advertising Sizes

Half Page (7.5 x 4.75 or 3.5 or 3.5 x 10)
Quarter Page (3.5 x 4.75)

Submitting advertising artwork:
For best results, submit advertising artwork as JPEG or EPS (encapsulated postscript), low resolution when possible. We can help you convert if PDF, if necessary. Please note that all advertising is subject to approval by CFVGA.

Publication of advertising:
The CFVGA newsletter is produced and distributed as a PDF on an 8.5 x 11 format and formatted to fit within the email message by a Constant Contact template.
In addition, Tortuga AgTech was awarded services from Western Growers Innovation Center and $3,000 in legal services from Faegre Baker Daniels. Augean also will receive services from Western Growers Innovation Center and $2,000 in legal services from Faegre Baker Daniels.

Beyond the tangible awards, participants were excited about the connections made with other tech companies, possible investors and growers. The experience also gave some pitchers ideas to refine their technologies and/or business models going forward.

“We learned a lot, both about our potential customers and our plans,” said Charlie Andersen, Augean Robotics. “It was suggested at the pitch that we should think about a leasing model for early robots, to de-risk the technology for farmers, and that we should explore some other uses and expansion kits/capabilities. Additionally, we ran into several farmers who had other ideas for what they might do with our robot – we found, for instance, that when farmers go to repair pivot irrigation systems they often must carry replacement parts by hand up to half a mile up/down rows of corn. A robot like ours that can follow you like a dog and run routes back autonomously could be quite helpful in this burdensome task that we had no idea existed.”

Judging the Tech Pitch were Hank Giglas, Western Growers Innovation Center, Salinas, Calif., and Bruce Talbott, Talbott’s Mountain Gold, Palisade, Colo., Jeni Lamb Rogers, attorney with Faegre Baker Daniels, Denver, Colo., Mark Loch, Blackhorn Ventures, Boulder, Colo.; and Anne Misak, Colorado Enterprise Fund, Denver, Colo.

Learn more about these technologies:

- Tortuga AgTech [http://www.tortugaagtech.com/]
- Augean Robotics [http://www.augeanrobotics.com/]
- Visugen Global [http://visugen-global.com/home/]
- Impello [https://www.impellobio.com/tribus-grow/]

Robert Sakata Named 2017 CFVGA Member of the Year

Robert Sakata, Sakata Farms, Brighton, Colo., was named the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association’s 2017 Member of the Year Feb. 20 during the association’s fourth annual conference. Not only was he the first recipient of this award, the award will henceforth be known as CFVGA’s Robert Sakata Member of the Year Award.

“It is entirely fitting that the CFVGA member of the year award be named after an individual who has put his whole heart into making our organization a success,” said Roger Mix, CFVGA vice president. “As a CFVGA founding board member, he has invested huge amounts of time, talent and even his own money.”

In presenting the award, CFVGA Treasurer Reid Fishering noted: “Last year, the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association voted to implement a Member of the Year Award to recognize members who achieved distinction within their areas of work—whether it be farming, business or academics—as well as serving CFVGA in an exemplary manner. The Member of the Year selection committee considered the applications and their decision was unanimous.”

“He (Sakata) even put the deposit for the first conference in 2015 on his personal credit card,” said CFVGA Secretary Glenn Hirakata. “Over the last four plus years, he has traveled the state and nationally, attending agriculture conferences and other events to establish a presence and encourage folks to join and sponsor CFVGA.”

Sakata is CFVGA’s volunteer representative to the Colorado Ag Council, which meets every other week when the Colorado Legislature is in session, to monitor and advocate for Colorado produce growers. He has represented CFVGA at Ag Day, emceed the Colorado Farm Show’s Produce Day and hosted legislative roundtables.

Sakata was one of 25 individuals nationally recognized by The Packer in 2016 and received the United Fresh Grower Achievement award in 2014. He is on two ditch boards, the Colorado Water Congress and the National Onion Association. He was on the Water Quality Control Commission for 15 years, just retired from the Colorado Groundwater Protection Advisory Committee and was on the Metro Basin roundtable.

Sakata has addressed members of the U.S. House and Senate on behalf of Colorado produce growers. He has been a speaker at the Center for Produce Safety Symposium, International Food Safety Conference and the Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference. In 2017 he was selected to be a member of the National Produce Safety Training Advisory Council.
Recall Readiness

By Marilyn Bay Drake, CFVGA Executive Director

A study by the Food Marketing Institute and Grocery Manufacturers Association estimated the average cost of a recall for food companies to be $10 million in direct costs, plus brand damage and lost sales that can cripple a company for years after a recall has been closed. The good news is that the decision by a farmer to become ready in the event of a recall can result in the operation examining and improving its safety procedures.

Last year, the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association hosted a Recall Readiness and Crisis Management Workshop. CFVGA, with the help of the Specialty Crop Block Grant administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, brought in nationally-recognized experts who addressed attendees on what they can do to prepare for and mitigate the negative impacts of a recall. Establishing a recall plan will not prevent a recall, but it can lessen the time, money and impact of a recall, should a farm have to issue one. It is also a confidence booster for growers, who learn step-by-step how to prepare for a recall.

Member resources include videos of each presentation, contact information for the presenters, Q&A, a recall plan template and a preparedness checklist. Each document can be downloaded and customized for your farm/facility.

In addition, as you establish a recall plan, consider CFVGA as one of your resources. At a minimum, we can direct you to experts and issue news releases required by FDA as part of a recall.

Workshop participants felt the training was well worth their time. To see what they said and to check out all the resources mentioned above, click here [https://coloradoproduce.org/member-food-safety-resources/](https://coloradoproduce.org/member-food-safety-resources/) or log on to the CFVGA website at [https://coloradoproduce.org](https://coloradoproduce.org) choose the Resources tab, then choose Food Safety. At the top of this page, where it says Members, for additional Food Safety resources click here, click and log in if you have not already done so. These and many other Members Only materials are available to all Allied and Grower members. Use the email address of the primary member to log on. Need help? Contact me at admin@coloradoproduce.org.
1 - 5 SERIES TRACTORS
0% FOR 60 MONTHS

Subject to credit approval. Restrictions may apply. See dealer for details.

www.4RIVERSEQUIMENT.com
Growing Your Business

Faegre Baker Daniels offers comprehensive legal and consulting services to Colorado’s fruit and vegetable growers and distributors.

Faegre Baker Daniels
USA • UK • CHINA
FaegreBD.com
Jeni Lamb Rogers, Faegre, Baker Daniels

Jeni Lamb Rogers is an associate with Faegre Baker Daniels LLP and works out of the firm’s Denver and Boulder offices. She lives in Arvada. Last year, Jeni was elected to Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Board of Directors to fill one of two Allied member seats.

She has been with Faegre Baker Daniels since late March, when she joined the law firm to become part of its nationally ranked food and beverage regulatory and litigation practice. Previously, she worked as an associate attorney for Holland & Hart LLP, a Denver based law firm. Her prior work involved helping companies comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), reviewing food product packaging and labeling, negotiating food related commercial contracts and advising companies through a recall process.

Before practicing law, Jeni worked for a food hub as an agricultural economist on several international research projects and in food policy. With the food hub, she helped organic and conventional vegetable growers and small processed food businesses manage risk, market their products and practice food safety in selling to wholesale grocery buyers.

Internationally, Jeni’s research in conservation agriculture allowed her to work on projects in Kenya, Uganda, and Lesotho, where she studied the connection between women’s social networks, technology uptake and adaptation and household food security. In western Kenya she started a non-profit soybean processing business for farmers living with HIV. The business produced soy flour and soy beverages for local sales.

Her food policy experience includes work with the American Seed Trade Association and the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Agriculture. She drafted influential comments on FSMA Produce Safety and Preventive Controls for Human and Animal Food Regulations while in law school.

Jeni is happy to be part of Faegre Baker Daniels, a large, international law firm that serves a wide variety of clients and industries, but it is especially proud of its food and agriculture practice. Approximately 150 attorneys are part of the Food and Agribusiness industry group, and she is part of a team of six attorneys dedicated to food regulatory compliance, food safety and food related litigation.

“As a food regulatory and litigation associate, my role is to provide practical, day-to-day advice to food businesses and answer their regulatory questions, develop policies and procedures to help them achieve compliance, negotiate favorable commercial contracts, and serve as part of the defense team when our food or agribusiness clients are confronted with a major lawsuit or regulatory enforcement action,” Jeni explained.

She said her favorite part of her job is sitting down with a client and helping them solve problems in order to meet their business goals.

“Federal and state regulation of food safety and packaging is complicated, but I absolutely love working with companies to understand their specific challenges, and then applying my knowledge of the regulations to develop workable solutions,” she said. “My best days are when a client walks away feeling better about their understanding of what is expected from them by a regulatory agency and knowing I have helped them gain confidence in the ability of their systems to meet and exceed those expectations.”

In regard to product recalls, Jeni said, “Unfortunately, bad recalls and nasty lawsuits happen to good people. It’s hard to stay positive when you work with people in what are often some of the most challenging moments in their professional careers and their business is usually a huge part of their identity. Supporting a client through something like that is really challenging, and the hours can be absolutely crushing too. Getting a company to the other side makes it all worth it.”

Her advice to produce farmers is that they be proactive. “Although you can’t anticipate everything that might happen during an inspection of your farm or facility or during a product recall, there are a lot of things that you can put into place ahead of time to make that process go more smoothly, and that up-front
Business Development Committee

Chair: Amber Strohauer

The CFVGA 2018 Business Development Committee continues to pursue projects promoting Colorado produce using unconventional approaches. This year's projects include promoting #2's, specialty produce and providing logistical support to growers and exploring the logistics of a mechanism to put together folks needing to find less-than-a-load transportation.

The Business Development Committee is organizing Succession planning workshops for produce growers in 2018. We are currently working with the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) to encourage more Colorado grower representation at the annual Produce Marketing Association trade show in Orlando, as well as other regional trade shows. We will continue to keep our webpage current and up-to-date with new information, as well as provide support for the CFVGA annual conference. We are excited to embrace two new committee members this year: Ashley Warsh, CDA, and Brittany Mancini, Green Chef.

The Business Development Committee spearheaded a specialty crop promotion for #2 produce, taking potential buyers to growers on the Western Slope. One of the participating buyers was the University of Colorado’s Dining, which purchased #2 produce from one of the buyer’s operations.

The committee provided support for the annual CFVGA conference in areas such as keynote speaker, Pamela Riemenschnieder, Produce Retailer magazine, who presented emerging produce trends and a breakout session on #2 produce moderated by committee member Shaina Knight.

In addition, there are many pages and links to web resources available only to members at https://coloradoproduce.org Check out these resources today! Contact the CFVGA office at admin@coloradoproduce.org if you need help with log on credentials or have other questions.

The Business Development Committee strives to promote our Colorado produce and provide relevant and requested resources for our members.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact the CFVGA office or me at Amber amber@strohauferfarms.com

Food Safety Committee

Chair: Alisha Knapp, Co-Chair Martha Sullins

CFVGA’s food safety committee welcomes its new committee chair, Alisha Knapp, and sends a great thank-you to Dominic Disanti for his

continued on next page

Member Spotlight - continued from page 9

investment can make a huge difference when those events happen.”

Jeni is excited about Faegre Baker Daniels “incredibly experienced” team of food lawyers who are equipped to answer questions about regulatory compliance, develop and review plans to prepare for FDA inspection and recalls, and to guide growers through the inspection and recall process.

“We also have attorneys experienced in environmental compliance, healthcare, labor, worker safety and commercial contracts. I hope grower members will see us as a resource for helping solve commercial challenges – whether that happens to be a food safety issue, a contract dispute, or something else entirely.”

Jeni believes CFVGA leadership, especially Robert Sakata, have done an excellent job building the national reputation of the organization. She said that by working with older, nationally renowned organizations like Western Growers, United Fresh, Produce Marketing Association and the Center for Produce Safety, CFVGA has established itself as an incredible resource for Colorado fruit and vegetable growers to access the best information available in the country at a fraction of the cost it takes to be involved in all of those organizations.

These connections, she said, allow CFVGA to connect members to the right people when challenges arise.

Despite having the “ultimate desk job,” Jeni loves spending time outdoors.

“Whether it’s riding my horse, Denny, hiking with my family, or just working in the garden, I am at my happiest when I can get outdoors and enjoy some amazing Colorado sunshine.”

--Lamb Rogers
contributions over the last year!

The committee’s 2018 activities to date include:

- Participation in Colorado Produce Day in Greeley Jan. 23 by organizing a session to update growers on the latest news regarding compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act’s Produce Safety and Preventive Controls Rules
- Collaboration with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to hold a mock produce safety audit at the GrowHaus’s hydroponics operation in Denver Feb. 15
- Holding two Produce Safety Rule Grower Training courses (January 25 in Greeley; March 26 in Delta) and supporting two additional grower courses (January 25-26 in Montrose; March 14 in Durango)

Plans for 2018 include:

- Holding a mock audit at a produce container farm
- Organizing and holding a lotting and traceability exercise/workshop
- Sponsoring a seminar on liability and risk for produce growers
- Sponsoring a technology field day for growers to test software solutions and other products
- Organizing additional Produce Safety Rule Grower Training courses for fall 2018
- Developing education on environmental monitoring for food facilities

Please contact Alisha at alisha.knapp@gmail.com with any other ideas you would like us to work on!

**Labor Committee**

*Chair: Reid Fishering*

The Labor Committee will be holding its next meeting in May, where it will explore ways to help growers find and retain quality labor. The committee will be considering the merits of holding a labor summit. Questions and suggestions can be addressed to Chair Reid Fishering at reid@mountainquality.farm

**Nutrition & Health Committee**

*Chair: Roger Mix, Co-Chair Wendy Peters Mochetti*

The Nutrition & Health Committee is charged with educational outreach on the nutritional benefits of locally-grown and Colorado-grown produce. Committee members vet research, literature and videos related to this topic and make these available to the public and to members.

This committee also contributes images and information, including recipes and nutritional information for CFVGA’s social media sites and for distribution to the news media. It also provides analysis of and suggestions for advocacy areas involving nutrition as well as making suggestions and helping secure speakers/presenters for CFVGA’s annual conference.

Make sure to address your concerns and suggestions as well as questions to Chair Roger Mix at mixfarms@gmail.com

**Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference May 8-9**

The 2018 Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference (RMFSC) will be May 8-9 at the Arvada Center. Day two will include information on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) as well as the Produce Safety Rule. CFVGA Member Julie Marrone with Petrocco Farms is one of the speakers.

Established in 1972, the RMFSC has become the premier food safety conference of the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. The conference brings together professionals from the food industry and the food safety community, providing a unique annual opportunity for updates, networking, and new ideas. National and local experts present information and views on current issues, problems, and developments. Conference participants are afforded an opportunity to gain an updated, broader view of the field and their role in securing and protecting a safe food supply.

For more information and to register, visit www.rmfoodsafty.org
Comparison of Irrigation Methods Shows the Benefits of Drip

By Dr. Michael Bartolo, CSU –Ag Experiment Station, Rocky Ford, Colo.

Growers throughout Colorado face increasing pressure to conserve water along with other natural resources. Recurrent droughts, heightened competition for water from rapidly growing urban areas, along with the potential for improved crop productivity have compelled growers to investigate improved irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler.

In southern Colorado, peppers are an important crop. Historically, growers have sown chile-type peppers into bare ground with irrigation water supplied by gravity-flow furrows. Besides a high-water demand, traditional furrow irrigation often led to variations in yield and quality and increased the occurrence of both soil borne and foliar diseases.

Recently, a study was conducted at Colorado State University’s Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford to determine the response of peppers to different irrigation and production methods. The information derived from the project was intended to help growers manage their water resources more effectively and better understand the economic implications of more efficient irrigation methods.

In the study, three irrigation methods were compared: conventional furrow irrigation, bare ground drip irrigation and drip irrigation with plastic mulch. For all treatments, irrigations were applied as needed based on soil moisture content. Other production practices were applied as dictated by crop conditions.

Water was derived from the Arkansas River via the Rocky Ford ditch. Pepper pods were harvested at the green mature stage and total marketable weight, pod size and pod weight were recorded. Other data, including plant height and percent stand survival, were taken but are not reported in this article.

Overall, crop consumptive water use was lowest when peppers were grown with drip irrigation + plastic mulch and highest with the conventional furrow irrigation treatment (see table). Pepper yields were highest with both the drip irrigation methods relative to the furrow-irrigated treatment. For the two drip treatments, it was estimated that 10 percent of the net application amount percolated below the root zone.

For the conventional furrow irrigation treatment, it was estimated that 30 percent of the net application amount percolated below the root zone. Water applications to the furrow-irrigated treatment resulted in significant tail-water run-off at the end of the field (23.3 inches). The fate of the tail-water was not directly measured in this experiment. However, it was again estimated that a significant portion of the tail-water (70 percent or 16.3 inches) could be lost to evaporation and consumption by non-beneficial plants.

Overall, this study illustrated the potential for drip irrigation to significantly increase pepper yields and reduce water consumption.
Wow, what a few months since I last had a chance to communicate with you all. On the political front, U.S. House Speaker Ryan is stepping down, which means there will be a leadership race within the House Republican caucus to replace him. Kevin McCarthy of California or Steve Scalise of Louisiana are two contenders. It is unclear whether the winner will be the next speaker or merely in charge of the minority party in Congress. The party of the incumbent president tends to lose ground during mid-term elections. Since World War II, there have been 18 mid-term elections. The party of the president has lost seats in the House in all but two of those elections and lost seats in the Senate all but five of those elections. That would foretell poorly for Republicans.

What has melted paint around the financial world is President Donald Trump's aggressive use of trade policy against China. China and the United States represent 40 percent of the world's total economic activity. President Trump has set the United States on a collision course with China over trade disputes. These disputes are, in many cases, long-standing and have been recognized as true by most of the world, so the president is justified in taking action. However, global markets are nervous, because the Chinese government has said it will respond in kind. A direct confrontation between the United States and China could destroy the global economy and set into place significant disruptions or even an economic meltdown.

More eminently, the impact of Chinese retaliation might be felt on America's farms with the Chinese announcing and beginning to levy retaliatory tariffs on huge swaths of commodities, including fruits and vegetables. These tariffs will not only impact exporters but will have a cascading effect into U.S. domestic markets as excess supply drives down prices. This is especially problematic for fruits and vegetables which cannot be stored like soybeans or frozen like pork or beef. We cannot try to ride out some of the low prices if we lose Chinese export markets. We would have to sell somewhere else.

In addition, higher prices on steel and aluminum—part of the president's trade push—could increase prices on capital equipment that farmers use. The president has acknowledged that the Chinese retaliation will cause harm to the farm sector and has instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use its authority, a provision in place since the Great Depression, to spend money to somehow mitigate the harm. We are at the very beginning of this conflict, but it could lead to significant harm if things are not handled delicately and adeptly by the president. Experts suggest the United States work collaboratively with other trading partners to put pressure on China from multiple fronts, so that it is more willing to give ground on these real problems.

There also are strong winds lashing at the farm bill. House Agriculture Committee Democrats have been in open revolt against proposed changes to the feeding programs that the House Republican chairman has proposed. At this point, it appears no Democrats will vote in favor of the farm bill as a result. Since conservative Republicans historically attack the farm bill as corporate welfare for farmers, the absence of Democratic support for the farm bill would make it very difficult to pass on the House floor. House Agriculture Committee action is scheduled for the middle of April with floor action shortly thereafter. If the farm bill does not make it past a floor vote, Democrats might not be in the mood to help Republicans with elections only a few months away. On the other hand, the Senate is proceeding in a bipartisan fashion, and the farm bill is on track for passage in early summer.

Finally, with the fervor around DACA now gone, immigration efforts have faded into the background. We at Western Growers continue to seek out every opportunity to move immigration reform forward. We know that we need reform and to create a better guest worker program as well as to ensure that workers currently here are here legally and can stay.
Member Directory

Grower Members (51)
Anchor Farms
Arkansas Valley Organic Growers
Aspen Produce
Buena Vida Farm
Buzzards Roost Partners
Clark Family Orchards
Colorado Mushroom Farm
Colorado Organic Fruit
Cooksey Produce
DiSanti Farms
Ela Family Farms
Fagerberg Produce, Inc.
Farm Safe USA
Farmer Johns
Fern Hill Farm
Fuller Orchards
Golden West Farms
Hanagan Farms
Hines Farms
Hirakata Farms
Hoffman Farms
Honey Gold Farms
Jalin Farms LLC
Jones Farms Organics
Kilt Farm
Knapp Farms
Martinez Farms
Matthew Sarchet
Maverick Potato Co
Milberger Farms
Mix Farms
Monroe Organic Farms, LLC
Mountain Quality Marketing, LLC
North Field Farm
Peach Haven Farms
Peaches & Cream Organic Farms
Peterson Farms
Proctor Farms
Rancho Durazno
Red Mountain Ranches
Rettig Farms
Rossi Dairy/Produce, LLC
Sakata Farms, Inc.
Skyline Potato Company
Southern Colorado Farms
Stahley Melons
Strohauer Farms
Talbott’s Mountain Gold
Topp Fruits
Warsh Farms
White Rock Specialties LLC
Worley Family Farms

Allied Members (61)
Agfinity, Inc.
Agroplasma Inc
American AgCredit
American Takii, Inc.
Aquatic Resources, Inc.
Azomite Mineral Products
Bejo Seeds, Inc.
Birko Corporation
Brighton Economic Development Corporation
CCOF Certification Services
Certis, USA
Champion Seed Company
CoBank
Colorado Dry Bean Admin Committee
Colorado Potato Admin Committee
Cropworx
CSU Office of Engagement
Decade Products
DeLine Box & Display
DocuPots
DuPont Crop Protection
Eurofins STA Laboratories
Faegre Baker Daniels
Farm Credit of Southern Colorado
Feeding Colorado
Flood & Peterson Insurance
FMC
FoodMaven
Four Rivers
FreshPack Produce
Gowan Seed Company
Harris Moran Seed Company
Helena Chemical Company
Hollar Seeds
Hortau Simplified Irrigation
Hugh H. Branch, Inc.
IFCO Systems
Impello Biosciences
Johnny’s Selected Seeds
Keithly-Williams Seeds
Lipman
LiveWell Colorado
Mas Labor H-2A, LLC
Monte Vista Cooperative
Netafim USA
Power Grow
Rehrig Pacific Company
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rogers Mesa Fruit Co.
Silveus Insurance Group
Smart Yields
Sprouts Farmers Market
Syngenta
The Packer
Tri-State G&T Assn
U.S. Tractor & Harvest, Inc.
Valley Irrigation of Greeley
VisuGen Global, LLC
Western Growers Association
Whole Foods Market
Wilbur-Ellis Co

Partner Members (122 individuals)
Adams Co Workforce & Business Ctr
Canon City Schools
CO Department of Labor & Employment
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Farm Show, Inc.
Colorado Farm to School Task Force
Colorado State University
Colorado State University - SLV Research Center
Colorado Wine Industry Development Board
CSU Arkansas Valley Research Ctr
CSU Extension - Adams County
CSU Extension - Arapahoe County
CSU Extension - Boulder County
CSU Extension - Chaffee County
CSU Extension - Denver County
CSU Extension - El Paso County
CSU Extension - Jefferson County
CSU Extension - Larimer County
CSU Extension - Mesa County
CSU Extension - Otero County
CSU Extension - Pueblo County
CSU Extension - USDA-NRCS
CSU Extension - Weld County
CSU Extension NFSH PRU
CSU Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic
CSU Extension/Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety
CSU Orchard Mesa Research Center
CSU Soil & Crop Science Dept
CSU Western Colorado Research Center
Denver University
Fort Lewis College
Greeley-Evans School District
Honey Gold Farms
Hunger Free Colorado
In Good Faith Orchard
Kaiser Permanente Colorado
KSIR-Northeast CO Broadcasting
McMullen, Kelly
Sprout City Farms
St Vran Valley School District
Uproot
USDA - APHIS National Wildlife Research
Weld County School District 6
Weld Food Bank
Western SARE

General Interest Members (4)
Bruce & Shirley Gerk
C.Lynch Creative LLC
Home Advisor
Veterans to Farmers Program (Denver Botanical Gardens)

Find the most up-to-date member directory and complete contact information by using the membership tab at coloradoproduce.org