

The Colorado Young Farmer

Volume 40, Issue 3

April 2011

Upcoming Events 2011

May 7

Officer Executive
Committee Meeting
Fort Morgan, CO

June 1-3

Colorado FFA Convention
Alamosa, CO

June 4

Fish and Chip Tournament
Pelican Lakes Golf Course
Windsor, CO

August 29

Colorado State Fair
FFA Heifer Wrangle Show
Pueblo, CO

December 7-11

45th National Young Farmer
Educational Institute
Kansas City, MO

December 15

Award Applications
Due

Meet the New State Officers



2011-2012 Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association Officers

(l to r) Andi Begler, Reporter, Front Range Chapter (Fort Lupton); David Begler, Southeastern Vice President, Front Range Chapter (Fort Lupton); Ben Christensen, Secretary, Alamosa Chapter (Blanca); Bryson Miller, Treasurer, Fort Morgan Chapter (Brush); Dan Ross, President, Yuma Chapter (Yuma); Eric Kipp, Immediate Past President, Yuma Chapter (Yuma) and Allan Carlson, Northeastern Vice President, St. Vrain Chapter (Longmont).

FORTY SECOND HIGHLIGHTS

Over 150 members, advisors, sponsors and guests were in attendance at the Forty Second Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association Institute. It was held February 4 -5, 2011 at the Rocky Mountain Park Inn in Estes Park, Colorado.

The members of the Front Range Chapter hosted the educational and interesting Institute. Steve Sterkel – Advisor, Darrell Johnston – President, Cindy Johnston – Facilities Coordinator, and Greg Wright – Exhibit Chairman, along with chapter members are to be commended for their leadership in planning and coordinating the activities. They are grateful to businesses who had an exhibit and sponsors of the Friday evening activities.

The Thursday evening Early Bird Social was hosted by Chuck and Norma Miller and Bryson and Stephanie Miller with Auctioneers Miller and Associates from Brush, Colorado. Chuck and Bryson are members of the Fort Morgan Chapter. Everyone enjoyed the evening visiting with friends and making new acquaintances.

The Friday morning Business Session included seating of the delegates, introduction of state officer candidates and assignment of the Nominating and Auditing committees. President, Eric Kipp presided over the session. Jacqui Larson, Colorado Spokesperson for Agriculture Coordinator, reviewed the activities of the year. Stephanie Lebsock, who was the 2010 Colorado winner and also one of the two National winners reported on her activities during the year.

The Friday morning workshop, “A Unique Marketing Opportunity” was presented by Jay Wisdom from Haxtun, Colorado. He explained how he and his family changed their farming operation into a successful poultry and turkey production and processing facility. It is a true family operation consisting of Jay, his wife, and their two young daughters along with minimal extra labor. They purchase, feed, and raise young birds to maturity. The birds are then processed in a facility that was constructed on their property. Jay has personally developed a market for their birds and eggs in restaurants and farmers markets on the front range. He delivers the processed birds and eggs regularly each week to customers. It is a unique and successful operation.

The highlight of the luncheon was the entertainment by, “Elk Hollow,” Jack Overly and Gary Reeves from Estes Park. They sang a variety of songs and everyone enjoyed their presentation. Trae McCullum from Holyoke, the 2010 FFA Heifer Wrangle recipient sponsored by the Colorado Young Farmers presented a report on the value of the program for him.

The Friday afternoon workshop, “The Benefits of GPS in Agriculture,” was presented by Kyle Rohn, Product Performance Specialist for Precision Ag Solutions in Colorado. Everyone enjoyed his educational presentation.

The Friday late afternoon, “Elkhorn Avenue Scavenger Hunt” in downtown Estes Park provided those who participated an opportunity to visit businesses in the area.

The Friday evening, “Mardi Gras” theme brought out traditional costumes and activities galore. Prior to the dinner, everyone gathered in the convention center in their colorful attire and beads to view the parade of unique and interesting floats. The group enjoyed a “Cajun Boil” dinner.

Everyone was fascinated with the variety of contests during the evening. The winners were:

- Best Men and Women’s Costumes – Jack and Florence Annan
- Best Float – Arickaree Chapter
- Drag Queen – Doug Dietz, Arickaree Chapter
- Smoothest Men’s Legs – Said Zokhroug, Quality Well and Pump
- Footloose Dance Off – Steve and Michelle Sterkel, Front Range
- Grand Exhibit Prize Winner – Minute to Win It
- Chuck Miller, Fort Morgan Chapter

The 2011-2012 officers were elected at the Saturday morning business session, they are: President – Dan Ross, Northeastern Vice President – Allan Carlson, Southeastern Vice President – David Begler, Secretary – Ben Christensen, Treasurer – Bryson Miller, Reporter – Andi Begler, and Immediate Past President – Eric Kipp.

Randy Schwalm, President of the Colorado Young Farmer Educational Foundation presented a report. The Foundation will be sponsoring the Fish and Chip Tournament on June 4, at the Pelican Lakes Golf Course in Windsor, Colorado.

continued on next page

The report on the 44th National Young Farmer Educational Institute held in Monterey, California last December was presented by Past President Maureen Whittington and President Eric Kipp.

The Colorado Spokesperson for Agriculture contest was held Saturday morning. The four contestants did an outstanding job with their presentations. A panel of three judges selected the winners.

The Saturday Spokesperson for Agriculture Luncheon is always one of the highlights of the Institute. For many years, the contest has been sponsored by Mountain Plains Farm Credit through the support of Mike Flesher. The 2011 winners were: First – Elisa Sagehorn, CSU Chapter; Second – Andy Bartlett, Northeastern Junior College Chapter; Third – Shelby McCracken, CSU Chapter; Fourth – Guy Kuntz, CSU Chapter. Elisa Sagehorn will represent Colorado at the National contest in Kansas City, Missouri in December.

There were over 20 exhibitors who had a booth display throughout the Institute. As each individual visited the booth representative, they were asked to answer a question about Young Farmer history prior to obtaining their signature. The signed exhibitor sheets were collected at the banquet that evening. Three individuals whose names were drawn were required to put an oreo cookie on their forehead and get it into their mouth within one minute without the use of their hands. Chuck Miller succeeded first and won the grand prize of \$750.

The Saturday evening Awards Banquet featured the presentation of the following 2011 awards:

- Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter Winner – St. Vrain Chapter
Runner-Up – Fort Morgan Chapter
- Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter Community Service Award
Fort Morgan Chapter
- Outstanding Northeastern Region Colorado Young Farmer
Bruce Kokes – Northeastern Junior College Chapter
- Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Agri – Service Award
Matt Keating – Fort Morgan Chapter
- Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Agri – Business Award
Nicholas Erker – Fort Morgan Chapter

- Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Advisor
Danica McComb – Fort Morgan Chapter
- Honorary Members
Ernie Gill – Past Colorado Advisor
Tom Scarlett – Retired Agriculture Education Instructor and Trinidad State Junior College Administrator

The annual Case IH Scholarship Tractor Auction was held during the banquet. Randy Pauletto, Territory Sales Manager presented comments on behalf of Case IH. Chuck Miller with Auctioneers Miller and Associates served as the auctioneer as he has since the program was established in 1993. The buyers were: Johnston Family Farms, Dale Whittington, Brandon Johnston, Jerry Hergenreder, Craig Sitzman and Bruce Kokes.

It was an educational and memorable Forty Second Institute that provided a variety of programs and activities. The members of the Front Range Chapter are to be commended for planning and hosting the activities.

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St. Vrain program named Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter for 2011

For the fourth time in eight years, the St. Vrain Valley Young Farmer Chapter has been chosen the most outstanding chapter in Colorado by the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association. This chapter has become the one to beat in state-wide competition, definitely setting the mark high for community service and chapter activities.

First established in 1983, the St. Vrain Progressive Farmer Chapter, as it calls itself, located in the Longmont area, consists of 30 chapter members. It takes great pride in the many community service projects and activities it sponsors each year. From a nationally recognized pinto bean drive to the support it gives area FFA chapters, the St. Vrain Young Farmer members are always at work making a difference in the community surrounding Longmont and beyond. Its' membership is open to anyone of any age interested in learning more about agriculture.

During an especially difficult economic year for the nation, the St. Vrain chapter's now nearly famous annual holiday food drive responded bigger than ever to the increased needs of area food banks. This year the St. Vrain group provided over 1.5 tons of pinto beans to give to the hungry and combined efforts with many other farm organizations and agencies in Boulder County to also come through with 2,500 pounds of flour, 100 pounds of ground beef, 1,000 pounds of sugar and \$1,000 in cash donations.

The pinto beans arrive at the food banks in 20-pound bags. The brown seeds, full of flavor and nutrition come from donations from Northern Feed



St. Vrain
Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter
(L to R): Artie Elmquist—Past President, Steve Coleman—Advisor
and Greg Winter representing Syngenta Seeds—Garst Seeds

and Bean of Lucerne, Colorado Bean of Greeley and Twin Peaks Seed and Bean of Longmont, all long-time supporters of this Young Farmer project. It is the Chapter members who do the leg work to get the beans to the food banks .

Since the inception of this food drive back in 1992, over 29 tons of beans alone have been distributed to the needy. The Young Farmers also solicit help from area 4-H clubs and the Rocky

Mountain Offices of the Farm Service Agency to help make deliveries to the Outreach United Resource Center in Longmont, to the Mead Community Food Bank and the Trinity Housing Project in Greeley. A number of the St. Vrain Chapter members are bean growers, so this community service project means that those who grow the beans are helping make sure these donated gifts get to those who most need the beans.

A long time participant in the annual National Western Stock Show, this year the St. Vrain Chapter members once again assisted with the Annual International Sheep Shearing Contest and this year, the group also helped with the Colorado State University Ag Adventure Book on the top floor of the Hall of Education. Chapter member Artie Elmquist created a display on behalf of the Colorado Sugarbeet Growers Association that was a new addition to this year's CSU exhibit.

The St. Vrain Chapter continued its help to youth programs and the awarding of scholarships. This year the group awarded four new scholarships to area youth majoring in agriculture. Since this program started, the chapter has raised more than \$12,000 in scholarship money. With good grades, recipients of this gift are eligible to get additional money from the

Continued on next page

St. Vrain program...

chapter in future years, provided they are still an undergraduate earning good grades. In addition, this year the chapter gave money to the livestock judging program at Northeastern Junior College to help cover some of the students' traveling costs to compete.

Other community service projects taken on by the St. Vrain Young Farmers included support of the local Cattle-4-Kids program which makes it possible for local 4-H kids to show a heifer at the Boulder County Fair and possibly the Colorado State Fair. The youngster gets to keep the heifer as a breeding project and keep or sell future calves born to the cow.

Money for these scholarships and other gifting to youth groups is raised in a number of ways, however the most popular fundraiser is an annual consignment auction. This event is held each year at the St. Vrain Sugarbeet Receiving Station near Mead. WW Auctions of Fort Collins donates auctioneering for the event and the Roosevelt FFA Chapter of Johnstown operates the food concession stand and the St. Vrain FFA Chapter provides clerking services at the sale. Both FFA Chapters use this event to raise money for their chapters.

In September of each year, the St. Vrain Chapter participates in the Mead Sugarbeet Festival by helping with displays of both old and new sugarbeet equipment and being on hand to lead the show and tell portion of the day when the public can actually see sugarbeets being delivered and piled at the station.

The St. Vrain Chapter is a strong supporter of the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture's "AgriCULTURE in the Classroom." As part of this program, teachers from throughout Colorado are invited to spend a couple of days each summer learning about farming. Chapter members serve as hosts for teachers and take them to their farm for a day of learning which helps prepare them better to teach their students the importance of agriculture.

Among its other community service projects, the chapter has a long tradition of supporting the Colorado Pedal Tractor Pull Association. In 2010 the Chapter assisted the St. Vrain and Roosevelt FFA Chapters in sponsoring the local pedal tractor pull competition at both the Boulder County Fair and the Mead Sugarbeet Festival. At these events, children ages 5-12 attempt to ride a specifically built pedal tractor equipped with a wagon and iron weights up to 50 feet. It is hoped that this partnership with these FFA chapters will eventually lead to new members in the CYFEA someday. Some of the St. Vrain Chapter members are also volunteers each year at the state tractor pull competition held in Yuma.

Chapter members are competitive at all levels. Since 1992, St. Vrain has had five Colorado Spokesperson for Agriculture state winners and has had several national winners.

Community service isn't all that the chapter does. Each year it holds educational meetings, runs a golf tournament, does a membership drive, and holds special events. This chapter is one of only a few in the state that have a website. The site provides regular updates of chapter activities and links to other agriculture websites of interest. It also allows students and teachers to log on and learn about agricultural issues of interest, especially those specific to northern Colorado. The site is www.stvrainyf.org The president of the St. Vrain chapter is Bob Clifton and the chapter advisor is Steve Coleman.




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Everything Agriculture

Fort Morgan named Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter Community Service Award winner

Group also named runner-up for state's Outstanding Chapter Award

Last November, the Fort Morgan Colorado Young Farmer Chapter held its annual game night for a cause. The cause in 2010 was to raise money for the All American Beef Battalion, Steaks for Troops Campaign. The event raised \$4,700. That no doubt, bought quite a few steaks for soldiers and also helped the Chapter capture the prestigious 2011 Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter Community Service Award.

In addition to taking home this much sought after award, the Fort Morgan Chapter was also named the runner-up for the 2011 Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Chapter Award. The St. Vrain Chapter, headquartered in Longmont, CO, won the overall state title.

Each year the Chapter picks a cause to be the beneficiary of the event, ranging from a sick child to a group needing financial assistance in order to better itself. Members chose the All American Beef Battalion Steaks for Troops Campaign. This organization goes to military bases all around the country and puts on free steak feeds for soldiers and their families when they return home from active service.

"Because this organization is founded around giving thanks to our troops from those of us in agriculture, we felt a strong connection," explains Bryson Miller, Chapter president. The nearly \$5,000 raised came from proceeds raised during an evening that included a local steak feed, a Texas Hold'em tournament, several other games, a 'blow up the car' event and a flat screen TV giveaway.

Fort Morgan competes aggressively in all areas of state competition and captured the best state Chapter category in 2005 and again in 2009. The last time the Fort Morgan Chapter took the top community service award was in 2005.

Under the leadership of Chapter President Bryson Miller and Chapter Advisors Dennis Bostron, Greg Ditter and Danica McComb, the 56-member Fort Morgan Chapter has an arm's length list of community service and educational activities it does each year. The Steaks for Troops project was brand new to the Chapter in 2010 and was just one more way that many in the Morgan County community and beyond benefit from the work the Chapter does.

Community service activities for the year included sponsorship of the catch-it-pig contest at the Morgan County Fair and a barbecue, also at the fair that takes place prior to the livestock sale and draws approximately 1,000 people each year. The CYF members hold an annual scholarship golf tournament to raise money to fund an annual \$6,000 scholarship, given out over four years time, to a high school senior planning to study something agriculture related at college.



Fort Morgan Outstanding Chapter Community Service Award and Chapter Runner up Danica McComb—Advisor and Bryson Miller—President.

The Chapter works in conjunction with the CSU Extension Service each January to provide Ag in the Classroom activities in local elementary schools. The Young Farmers provide an in-class agriculture education workshop for the children, followed by members of the Young Farmer Chapter traveling with these classes to attend the National Western Stock Show. An assessment of the effectiveness of the program is done. The children are quizzed at the start of the program regarding how much they know about various aspects of agriculture. A week later, after students have spent time at the stock show in the

company of these older mentors, they are tested once again to see how much they have learned and retained about agriculture.

Two of the other most successful and satisfying events sponsored this year by the Fort Morgan Young Farmers is Doink's Annual Harvest for Life Blood Drive, held in honor of a past member and sponsor, Don "Doink" Lebsock. This year, 48 people donated blood. A food drive, held in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of Morgan County, benefits the Caring Ministries food bank in Morgan County. The Boy Scouts gather the canned food and then Young Farmer Chapter members sort and box it into family size packages to be given out to the hungry.

In May of 2010, the Fort Morgan Chapter held a Rain Dance which included an oyster fry and was also a membership drive. It resulted in the recruitment of eight new members and a little extra rain, so they like to think.

To celebrate the Chapter's 40th anniversary, the group's 2010 annual meeting included inviting all of the past presidents to the banquet. Twenty seven of the past 40 presidents were present, including Ed Fritzler who was the Chapter's very first leader.

The Fort Morgan Chapter's list of activities goes on and on and includes top-placing entries in the July Fourth and Christmas parades plus a Halloween party. But, it is not all fun and games. The group held an educational session on farm safety in which the Morgan County Ambulance Service hosted a CPR certification course. This was combined with a first response program by Morgan County Sheriff Jim Crone. The group did educational tours of Cargill and Kay Jan, Inc. in 2010 with plans to also visit Leprino Foods, Five Rivers Feedlot and the Sterling Ethanol Plant in early 2011.

Last but not least, the Chapter has spent considerable time updating its' directory which now includes 56 members and more than a 100 sponsors. The group developed an e-mail data base and a Facebook page which allows the members to network and stay informed.

Danica McComb named Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Advisor

The list of awards earned by the Fort Morgan Colorado Young Farmer Chapter in 2011 is impressive. The group captured the state's top community service award, was runner-up for the top chapter award, and two outstanding members walked away with the top agri-service and agri-business awards. Yes, having top quality people in your organization is one reason why this happens. Having good leadership is another. For her outstanding ability to lead, Danica McComb, a chapter advisor for Fort Morgan's chapter, has been named the 2011 Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Advisor.

McComb has been an agriculture education teacher at Fort Morgan for the past four years. A 2007 graduate of Colorado State University, she hails from the Yoder, Colorado area, east of Colorado Springs. She attended the rural Edison School District, graduating from high school there in 2002.

Various elements come into play when this award category is judged during state competition. High member attendance rates at chapter meetings, number of state officer applicants and state award applicants and percentage of chapter membership that is paying state dues are all taken into consideration. Perhaps even more important, is that the members of the chapter hold the advisor in high esteem and are eager to get on board, be involved and make the successes happen.

As the members of the Fort Morgan Chapter will attest, McComb has been at the helm this past year as the group completed numerous educational and community service projects. From a Rain Dance and Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry, a fundraiser to generate dollars for a Steaks for Troops effort, to several parade float entries, a ladies night banquet and Halloween party, she's involved, yet quick to let the members do the work.

Chapter President Bryson Miller gave kudos to McComb, calling her a breath of fresh air for the chapter. "She is very supporting of the chapter and is able to offer many attributes to help our chapter strive,"



Danica McComb
Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Advisor
Danica McComb and Dennis Bostron representing
Schmeeckle Bros. Construction and Supply.

he said. "She's been very helpful to me in my efforts to maintain proper business and parliamentary procedures. She rarely misses one of our activities."

Communication is the key to getting things done and McComb helped chapter members overhaul their mailing list which was composed to 59 members and an estimated 100 sponsors. The Chapter is now able to send news out via email and through the post office, feeling much more certain that

the messages are received. The membership has grown some this year.

"We also had our first female officer candidate in chapter history this year," notes Miller, "I believe this can be partially credited to Danica's work and the example she has set." The membership of the Fort Morgan Chapter, which numbers 56, is now primarily individuals age 23 to 30 and Miller says he thinks that this co-hort relates really well to McComb who is also in this age bracket. "Her abilities and insight are far beyond her years. I've worked with three different advisors since being involved in our chapter. Each one brings a unique set of attributes to the table," Miller says. "Danica has offered great support and assistance to our chapter and she really can be credited for much of our recent success."

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Fort Morgan's Nicholas Erker recipient of Colorado Young Farmer Agri-Business Award

The tall concrete silos on the outskirts of Fort Morgan bear the Erker Grain name and make a strong statement about the company's presence and enterprising activities. The company has experienced some significant growth in recent years and Nicholas E. Erker is one of the primary catalysts behind the progress. For his outstanding accomplishments in agri-business, he has been named the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Agri-Business Award.

This award is presented each year to recognize a Colorado Young Farmer member who has demonstrated huge competencies in ownership of an agri-business operation from which he or she derives at least 50 percent of his or her income. The recipient may receive the award only once in his or her lifetime. Winners are selected based upon their overall business program, leadership activities and civic, church and community service work.

Erker Grain is a world-wide supplier of in-shell and hulled confection sunflower products and has become a major exporter of these products. The original company was established in 1976, but has since expanded its operation to include two additional entities, Erker Trading Company and Smirks. The "trading" spin-off was designed to oversee the domestic and global market management portion of the business. Smirk's on the other hand, is an import export company specializing in dried fruits, nuts, seeds and other ingredients. Nicholas Erker plays a triple role, serving as executive vice president of Erker Grain Company and as president of both of these secondary operations.

Erker, 27, began his career with the family's company in 2005 when he came on board as director of sales and operations. In those early days he attended trade shows and helped load and unload trucks and rail cars—work he now says helps him understand and appreciate the various positions at the company. In 2008 he was promoted to vice-president and took over the responsibility of coordinating the overall marketing and sales efforts. In 2010, Erker Grain Company merged with two other sunflower processors when it bought out Agua Dulce Grain of Alice, TX and Prairie Sun Seeds of Souris MB Canada and as part of this expansion, Erker received his current titles.

The Erkers employ 35 people in two states and Canada including hourly employees, quality managers, accountants,



Nicholas Erker
Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer
Agri-Business Award
(l tor) Nicholas Erker and Tim Jordan representing
Channel Bio.

logistical experts, and sales and support staff. The company currently has a very aggressive debt structure with a highly capitalized infrastructure. The family has carved out a very good niche selling sorted, sized and bagged seeds all over the world. They take pride in the fact that they sell seed to and contract seed back from producers growing 45,000 acres of sunflowers each year.

With much of the product now being shipped overseas, resolving issues related to storage and delivery is a constant as Erker's operation functions day to day in a global market. His

daily routine includes tracking inventory, collecting samples, maintaining position reports, monitoring pricing, payroll and any other aspects of company efficiency. One of his most recent accomplishments was figuring out that a change in the shipping process from the farm area to Denver alone would save the company nearly \$170,000 a year. One of their biggest customers is a company in Turkey so sending product across the ocean is a daily occurrence.

Erker has been involved with the Young Farmer organization for several years. He has a sideline passion, being a disc jockey, and has provided his services for several of the group's dances and other events. He is active on the Fort Morgan Chamber of Commerce. The company frequently opens its door to schools and other group for tours. Nicholas really enjoys helping with Cajun Boils and in the last few years, has helped put these on as fundraisers for local charities including Hospice, churches, FFA and 4-H.

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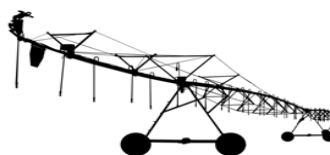


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Matt Keating named Colorado Young Farmer 2011 Agri-Service Award winner

Matt Keating of Fort Morgan has spent the last 12 years working his way up the corporate ladder with Mountain Plains Farm Credit Services of Greeley, a career he began two weeks after he graduated from Colorado State University. He now holds the title of Vice President Credit Underwriting. In addition, he owns and operates a small irrigated farm in Morgan County where he grows alfalfa, raises children, and tends to a 60 head cow calf operation, not necessarily in that order. This year, he was named the Colorado Young Farmer Agri-Service Award winner.

This state award is presented each year to recognize a member who is employed in agri-business, but does not own an agri-business operation. Winners are selected based upon their overall agri-service program, leadership activities and civic, church and community service work.

Keating, 34, was born on a farm near Montrose and moved to Morgan County when he was 11. After high school he attended CSU where in 1999, he completed a degree in a double major—animal science and ag-business. He was quickly hired by Mountain Plains Farm Credit Services as a loan analyst and wisely took advantage of some internal training offered by the company. A consolidation of offices in Greeley in early 2000 resulted in a promotion for Keating to loan officer. In 2005 he was promoted to assistant vice-president of commercial lending and once again completed training through Farm Credit Services Leadership Development Program in Chicago. Two years later, in 2007, he was promoted to his current position.

Today, Keating's primary responsibilities consist of managing and directing the activities of a large loan underwriting department and supervising department personnel and activities in functional areas, including loan analysis, underwriting, loan servicing and loan monitoring. He helps assure departmental compliance with policy, procedure and regulations and represents the association to outside groups through active involvement in community relations activities. He plays a role in the selection, hiring, training and evaluation of personnel. Mountain States is a progressive and leading agriculture finance source and as such Keating has the opportunity to be involved in many facets of the operation and its many ongoing programs and activities.

Keating's position with Mountain Plains gives him many opportunities to mix with various farm and ranch



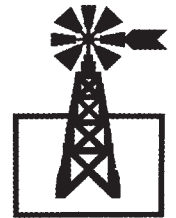
Matt Keating
Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer
Agri-Service Award
Mandi and Matt Keating

organizations and youth organizations, namely 4-H and FFA. Over the years he has emerged as a natural leader and has brought this to the Fort Morgan Young Farmer Chapter, being on the officer team from 2005 to 2010. He has held the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice president, president and immediate past president. In 2009 he served on the committee that put together the 40th Annual Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association State Institute. Aside from his activities with this organization, he has served several years as a lector for

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Weldona and for the past four years, has been on the finance council for Saint Francis and also Saint Helena in Fort Morgan. He has assisted with the Weld County Food Bank food drive activities, Santa Cops Toy Drive and the Relay for Life Cancer Walk among other volunteer endeavors.

Keating and his wife, Mandi, have four children, three daughters and a son.

Colorado Agricultural Development Authority



The Colorado Agricultural Development Authority (CADA) Beginning Farmer Program is available to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in Colorado with purchases of land, breeding stock, or equipment.

This program provides tax-exempt bonds to lenders who provide low-interest financing for approved purchases. Individuals who own insubstantial amounts or no farm land may qualify for up to \$470,000 in tax exempt bonds under this program. Parent-child and other directly related person transactions are now allowed under this program.

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Bruce Kokes named 2011 Outstanding Regional Colorado Young Farmer

With farm ground that lays under one of the largest wind tower farms in the nation, Bruce Kokes has grown accustomed to the frequent “whosh” he hears as he moves across his homestead north of Crook, CO. Kokes has found a wonderful way to combine his cattle business with wind, wheat, hay, dryland corn and summer fallow crops, topped off with a sideline agriculture construction enterprise.

For his entrepreneurial successes, he has been chosen the Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer for 2011.

Kokes, 52, who hails from the northeast region of the state, has turned his family’s operation into a diversified labor of love. He began his own farming career in 1978 renting 640 acres of country from his father--420 acres of grass and 200 acres of dryland farm ground, mainly wheat and millet hay. He purchased 30 cows and when he took that first calf crop to town and received a dollar a pound on a nice group averaging 523 pounds per head, he thought he was in heaven. He also wondered if he’d ever see that kind of price again.

Today, he and his wife Kathy run 100 mother cows on 2200 acres of grassland, most of it land he owns. He works 900 acres of dryland farm ground where he plants a third of it in wheat, a third in hay and dryland corn and the last third is summer fallow.

When their oldest son, Levi, 28, returned from the military and decided he wanted to also farm, Bruce and Kathy made room to bring him into the operation. Levi now owns 45 cows and trades labor on the farm for the feed and grazing of his herd.

The older Kokes knew he had children that might want to come back to the operation. In part planning for this, and also an economic necessity, in 2004 he diversified his operation to include doing small construction jobs for others, primarily work related to agriculture. He initially built bird guzzlers for the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NCRS) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). When the wind companies came to his area and began leasing tower sites, he saw a niche and contracted with these companies to build cattle guards on location. Today, he and Levi continue to do some of this



Bruce Kokes
Outstanding Northeastern Region Colorado Young Farmer
(l to r) Kathy Kokes, Bruce Kokes and Greg Winter
representing Syngenta Seeds-Golden Harvest.

wind park work, but also contract with others to build fencing and small buildings. This diversification has made it possible for both generations to work together to financially support the family’s cattle and crop production activities. Kathy also holds an outside job at nearby Cabela’s in Sidney, NE which contributes to the household budget.

Over the years Kokes has changed his farming practices to no till for better conservation of soil and water. The father-son team does much of its own equipment upkeep. Bruce received a degree in

diesel mechanics years ago and says this has been a huge factor in helping keep equipment maintenance and repair costs down. A large shop on the farm provides a perfect place for winter repair work.

There are others in the family that want to be, and are involved on the farm. He and Kathy also have a set of twins, a daughter Brittney and son Brett, now age 26. Brittney is married to Travis Cook and they have two sons. They show up to help with harvest each year and bring grandkids around frequently so that grandpa and grandma can help acclimate them to agriculture.

Bruce Kokes has been involved with the Young Farmer organization since 1976, before he even started farming on his own. He has been a member of three chapters since that time, the Crook Young Farmers, the Caliche Young Farmers and most recently the Northeastern Junior College Young Farmers. He’s done his fair share of leading efforts to organize and participate in ladies night events, tractor pulls, pedal pulls, human pulls, consignment auctions and state and national institutes. He’s held nearly every local and state office available and he’s done them well. In 1995 he was named the National Reporter of the Year. He has enough chapter awards to cover a living room wall.

When he isn’t doing something with Young Farmers, Bruce helps with the Crook volunteer fire department and fire district as a volunteer and an officer. He sits on an FFA advisory board, a fair board, and a Premier Farm Credit board. He is chairman of the Northern Colorado Wind Project and helps with the Farm/Ranch Information Program for Wind Parks. He is an active member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the Northeast Colorado Cattle Association.

Tractor Auction A Success

For nineteen consecutive years, the Colorado Young Farmer Scholarship Tractor Auction has been a success. This year the auction was held during the awards banquet at the State Institute.

Past President, Chuck Miller with Auctioneers Miller and Associates in Brush, served as the auctioneer as he has done since the program was established in 1993. A total of \$4600 was raised for the scholarship fund.



The "Tractor Auction" buyers were Jerry Hergenreder, Johnston Family Farms, Brandon Johnston, Bruce Kokes, and Dale Whittington, Randy Pauletto represented Case IH.

Six blocks of 25 hours use of a new Case IH tractor are sold. The tractors are donated through the cooperation of nine dealers in Colorado. Randy Pauletto, Territory Sales Manager coordinates the program and he was present to deliver comments on behalf of Case IH.

An educational savings account has been established by the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association. Extra funds from the tractor auction that are not used for the scholarships each year are deposited into this account for future use.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize two college freshman and one sophomore majoring in agriculture and one junior and senior majoring in agriculture education working toward Agriculture Education teaching certification during the 2011-2012 college year.

The students must be enrolled as a full-time student at a junior college, community college or university and be a Colorado resident. The selection of the scholarship recipients is based upon scholarship, activities, interest in agriculture and teaching agriculture education.

This year there will be five one-year college scholarships selected which include: two \$500 awards for a freshman, one \$500 award for a sophomore, one \$750 award for a junior and one \$1250 award for a senior.



Randy Pauletto, left, represented Case IH and Chuck Miller with Auctioneers Miller and Associates served as auctioneer at the Tractor Auction.

Scholarship applications were mailed to every Colorado Agriculture Education Department and high school counseling office and to the Colorado colleges. The deadline for applications was March 15, 2011.

The buyers for the 2011 auction were: Johnston Family Farms, Brandon Johnston, Dale Whittington, Jerry Hergenreder, Craig Sitzman and Bruce Kokes.

The members of the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association are proud to have established and continue this valuable educational scholarship program through the cooperation of Case IH.



Chuck Miller has served as the auctioneer of the Scholarship Tractor Auction since it started in 1993.

MY THOUGHTS



Dan Ross
President

This year, with all that has been going on in the world, the economy, wars and natural catastrophes, we are all faced with many questions. Since the new officer team was elected in February, during orientation, many questions were asked of us about our thoughts and goals for the Colorado Young Farmer Association. As a group, we discussed our thoughts and goals for the organization but I felt to better answer the questions and to set higher goals we need to understand who we are. So I got out the Young Farmer Manual and did some reading.

Who Are We?

A Young Farmer is someone who has an interest in improving themselves and the industry of agriculture through their interaction and involvement with a group of people who have similar interest's goals and objectives, regardless of age and gender.

What Is Our Mission?

As agriculture becomes a more technology advanced industry, we must better educate ourselves to stay in front of market trends and technology to become better agriculturalists and business owners, employees, parents, family members and members of our community.

How Can We Achieve Our Mission?

We need to make all of our educational meetings more available to people in the communities we live in and help those who live around us more aware of our role in local, state, national and world affairs. We also need to go outside our local communities and educate others about agriculture and how it affects their lives.

How Can We Do This?

That is the question every chapter advisor and member asks every time I meet with chapters. Some ideas I have are pretty simple. How did you get involved and why? Did someone invite you to a meeting? Invite someone. Advertise meetings in the local paper and use the community calendar on the radio stations. Make your meeting a big event with qualified presenters. Get as many members involved as possible to make the meetings fun and educational. Use your local resources, the soil conservation district, extension offices, NRCS, and local businesses. Get involved in the community talk to your local schools, churches, 4-H clubs, fair boards and local charities to find out how your group can help.

I realize that we are all busy with work, family and other organizations but if we really want to make our Colorado Young Farmers program and all the local chapters thrive we have to get involved, motivated and excited in WHO WE ARE. Invite your friends, co-workers and family to meetings and to help with your community service projects. They will all be surprised how much they learn and will have fun as well!

Colorado Farm Show Booth

Each of the Colorado Young Farmer officers enjoyed a day at the Colorado Farm Show. It was held January 25-27, 2011 at Island Grove Park in Greeley, Colorado.

For many years, the Association has had a booth at this three day event which attracts visitors from throughout Colorado and the country.



Officers Andi Begler, Jack Annan and Allan Carlson review Colorado Young Farmer newsletter with Mark Reinert of Agland.

Each day, two or three of the officers assist in working the booth. They enjoyed visiting with members, past officers, exhibitors and others who stop by to visit about the Young Farmer organization and activities.

The booth featured pictures of award and scholarship winners, a listing of sponsors and a video of the past Year In Review.

Past newsletters were available to those visiting the booth. It was an outstanding way to promote local chapter, state and national Young Farmer educational, leadership, community service, recreation and recognition programs and activities.

Each of the officers enjoyed their day at the Colorado Farm Show.



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Colorado Young Farmer Day At Stock Show Is Exciting

What an eventful and busy day! The Young Farmer/FFA Day at the National Western Stock Show on January 18, 2011 was packed full of activities. Prior to the rodeo, the officers held an Executive Committee meeting at the American Pride Coop in Brighton.

At the FFA Heifer Wrangle, a total of thirty two members from throughout Colorado are selected to participate. The sixteen participants at both the afternoon and evening performances line up side by side in the arena. At the command of "Go" by the announcer they run toward the eight calves at the other end.

The object is to catch one, wrestle it to the ground, put a halter on and lead the heifer out of the arena. Many times, the calf escapes and the race is on again.

Tarek Thompson, a member of the Woodlin FFA Chapter, caught the calf sponsored by the Colorado Young Farmers. He is a freshman at Woodlin High School. His Agriculture Education Instructor is Rheanna Vrbas.

He will raise the heifer, show her at the Colorado State Fair in August, have her bred and add her to his cow herd at home.



President Eric Kipp and Executive Secretary Jack Annan rode in the stagecoach during the rodeo.



The Colorado Young Farmer officers with Tarek Thompson from the Woodlin FFA Chapter.

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Rheanna Vrbas, Woodlin Ag Ed instructor, Tarek Thompson and his father Todd Thompson.

Officers Attend Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet

Over 400 were in attendance at the 22nd Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet. It was held February 24, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver, Colorado. All of the newly elected Colorado Young Farmer officer team attended.

The 2010-11 Colorado FFA officer team under the guidance of Kenton Ochsner, presided over the activities. They did an outstanding job with the ceremony, opening, introduction of guests and foundation donor recognition.

It was an impressive evening to honor those who have devoted their lives and careers to the success of Colorado Agriculture. John Stulp, past Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture served as master of ceremonies of the induction ceremony. Don Thorn, Executive Director of the Colorado FFA Foundation did an outstanding job in preparing the presentation material for each person being inducted. There were five inductees this year.

William Coors from Golden, Colorado is currently chief technical advisor and director emeritus of Molson Coors Brewing Company after retiring from the board of Adolph Coors Company in 2003. Bill served more than 63 years on the board and for almost 40 years served as chairman of the board.

Coors was born on August 11, 1916, the grandson of the Company's founder Adolph Coors.

Upon receiving a graduate degree from Princeton University in 1939, he started his remarkable career with the family business. His commitment to sourcing local barley has created jobs, economic stability and long-term sustainability for many rural Colorado residents and communities.

Dr. Ben Konishi was born on May 26, 1926 in Fort Lupton, Colorado. He and his 14 siblings were raised on a vegetable farm and dairy by his parents. Helping take care of the families vegetable farm did not



Past President Bill Markham, left, and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed the evening at the table with Pete Coors.

interest him, but the cows did. At the age of 11 Ben knew that he wanted to be a veterinarian.

He was active in 4-H and FFA and raised champion dairy animals. In 1943, he was elected Colorado FFA Secretary. He graduated from Colorado A& M with a degree in Veterinary Science in 1950.

He started his veterinarian career in Monte Vista and two years later moved to Alamosa and started his own practice in 1952. He capitalized on the strong work ethic he grew up with and is still practicing at the age of 84. He is a professional whose career has spanned six decades and influenced countless families and individuals.

John Schweizer, Jr. always knew he wanted to farm. After he graduated from high school, he became a full time farmer and rancher near Rocky Ford, Colorado. He worked tirelessly on the farm and at the American Crystal Sugar Factory in Rocky Ford during the "sugar campaign."

He and his son, together operate the farming operation and a 200 cow-calf unit and grow 350 feeder calves each year.

Continued on next page

Officers Attend Colorado...

John is currently the president of the Lower Arkansas Valley Super Ditch Company and is very active within the Colorado Farm Bureau. In 2003, he received the Colorado Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award. He has been an outstanding contributor to agriculture in Colorado throughout his career.

George Tempel was born on December 30, 1934 in Lamar, Colorado. He grew up on a farm near Wiley. He graduated from Wiley High School where he played football and was active in FFA. He graduated from Colorado A&M in 1956 and farmed for several years.

He entered into business with his brother and the Esgar family forming Tempel and Esgar, Inc. which eventually included 18 grain elevators. They were sold to Cargill in 1989.

George also helped start Colorado Feeds, Colorado Beef Feed Yard, The Cow Palace, the Lamar Truck Plaza, Colorado Mills, Granada Feeders while farming with his son-in-law. These businessmen provided jobs and economic stability in southeastern Colorado.

Bill Wailes grew up on a farm and dairy near Johnstown, Colorado. His involvement in 4-H and his parents work ethic can be attributed to his love of dairy cattle. He exhibited Brown Swiss at fairs throughout the state.

While attending Colorado State University for three years, he milked the 2 a.m. shift at the dairy and managed the show string of several breeds of dairy cattle. He received the Bachelor of Science in Animal Science degree in 1969.

After a four year stint of managing dairies in Colorado, Bill returned to Colorado State University where he managed the research dairy facilities, was the Dairy Extension Specialist and the past eight years as Head of the Animal Science Department. He has continued to work closely with the dairy industry and has initiated national and international dairy tours for producers of Colorado.

It was an honor for the Colorado Young Farmers to be represented at the prestigious Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet.



Colorado FFA President, Mack Witzel welcomed everyone to the banquet.



The Power Point presentation of each Hall of Fame recipient was impressive.

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Chapter News

South East Weld County Tad McMillian – Advisor

The South East Weld County Young Farmers have been very active since becoming affiliated with the state Association last November. The chapter meets the third Thursday of each month. The chapter members appreciate the financial support from Mountain Plains Farm Credit in sponsoring the Membership Growth and Expansion Project.

Along with educational programs, the meetings also included planning for the Casino Night, which was held in February. The purpose of the event was a community service activity and a fundraiser for the chapter. The funds will be used for educational tours for the members and to provide a scholarship for a graduating senior at Weld Central High School.

During the late summer, the chapter is planning a golf scramble for members and others.

Dustin Cooksey represented the chapter at the 42 nd Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association Institute in February in Estes Park, Colorado. We are sure more members will attend next year.

This is all the news for now. If you are ever in the Keenesburg area, find a Young Farmer member and ask for a tour.

Northeastern Junior College Jerry Wernsman – Reporter

Greetings from the NJC Young Farmers!! It seems like it has been a long winter, but spring is just around the corner, thank goodness.

We have had an active winter that has kept us all on the go.

The state Institute was enjoyed by many of our members. The trip to the Institute was a little interesting with the weather, but once we were there, it turned out to be a great weekend. We enjoyed hitting the streets of Estes Park for the Scavenger Hunt and the shop owners seemed to enjoy it also. We had many conversations with them as to what our Young Farmer organization was about and where we were from throughout the state.



The Mardi Gras night was very interesting, and a great time was enjoyed by all. The DJ and dancing went late into the night!! The awards banquet went off well with a nice meal and conversation. Congrats to Bruce Kokes from our chapter for winning the Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer Northeastern Region Award.

We had our membership drive at which we had a dinner of rocky mountain oysters and chicken strips. Thanks to Wickham Tractor Company in Sterling for allowing us to use their shop for the dinner.

The chapter held a Sponsor Appreciation Night for our sponsors by hosting a Cajun Boil for the sponsors, employees and our members and families. Thanks to Jim and Becky Santamaso of Sterling Livestock for allowing us to use their facility for this dinner. We had a fantastic turnout serving over 100 people. We had a great night weather wise and it allowed us to interact with our sponsors and let them know we appreciate their support. We also had great participation from our group as this is probably the most popular event that we sponsor.

Hope everyone has a safe and prosperous spring.

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Chapter News

Johnstown Brent Hopkins – Advisor

The Johnstown Young Farmers have had a busy few months since becoming organized last fall. At the first official meeting officers were elected: Dennis Backy was elected President and Mikaela Ellingston will serve as Vice President.

The chapter has held several meetings and have planned educational programs and potential fundraising activities for the future. The chapter members are grateful for the financial assistance from Mountain Plains Farm Credit in sponsoring the Colorado Young Farmer Membership Growth and Expansion Project. The \$500 stipend certainly assisted in getting the chapter organized.

Two of the chapter members attended the state Institute. We look forward to being more involved in the future.

The chapter has established a Facebook page and it has increased interest and awareness about the new organization in the community.

The chapter members have also been assisting the Roosevelt FFA Chapter in preparing the teams for the district and state contests. In addition, they have assisted in providing SAE opportunities for the students.

The membership is excited about the establishment of the Young Farmer Chapter in the community.



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Front Range Cindy Johnston – Reporter

Well spring has sprung, and what a drag. We really didn't get much of a winter. Many of us are still waiting on the much needed moisture. Might have to practice our rain dance. We have kicked off 2011 with a big bang. Our group has been super busy. We had a blast hosting the 42nd Colorado Young Farmer Institute. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did. Mardi Gras is always so much fun and a great way to kick up our heels, and let off some steam.

After the Institute we started planning our 17th annual Casino Night fundraiser. This is always a great time for all those who attend. Once again we hosted it in Keenesburg at the local fair grounds. We had a great evening, and managed to earn nearly \$ 4000. A big THANK YOU to all our contributors, and all of those who attend year after year. Without them we would not be the successful group that we are.

March has come in like a lamb and we are trying to catch our breath. We are busy planning our annual spring ATV Challenge. This year it will be held on May 15 th at Johnston Family Farms in Erie. We invite all of you to bring your ATV or UTV and join us for some mud, bumps, and lots of fun.

We have also attended the Brighton FFA fundraiser and purchased three students and made a cash donation to their program. We also attended the Adams County committees fund raiser and got to enjoy the evening with a good meal and making a cash donation to use for their programs. We also made a donation to the Weld County Buyers group; this will help buy animals at the Weld County Fair this summer. To round off our month we are getting ready to award our annual scholarships to local students who are or will be attending a college with ag related study. This is always great to see the future of AG...

As we get ready for spring planting and soon summer irrigations, we hope everyone has a wonderful spring and super summer. Until fall, we say farewell.

Chapter News

Fort Morgan Lauren Linker – Reporter

The Fort Morgan Young Farmers are off to a great start for 2011. We hope that we find everyone well since we last met at state institute. First of all, I would again like to thank the Front Range chapter for putting on such a great institute this past year. I would also like to take the time to update everyone on the events of the chapter thus far this year. We started the first of the year with an educational project that we have been involved with for the past few years: Ag in the Classroom Education. We partner with the Morgan County Extension office and the Cattleman’s Association to spend time in every third grade classroom in Morgan County and teach the students about agriculture for a week in January. The following week we help to sponsor their trip to the Stock Show. This gives students who may otherwise not have any agricultural education a chance to experience a great opportunity to become involved in what we value.

At the state institute in February, our chapter was pleased to be recognized with such an outstanding slate of awards. I also want to congratulate everyone on such an outstanding 2010, and challenge each chapter to continue to grow in 2011. Following the institute, we had our annual election of officers. For 2011, our slate of officers is: Lauren Linker – Reporter, Erik Mohrlang – Secretary, Cody Millar – Treasurer, Brent Kliesen – Vice President, Conrad Bostron – President, and

Bryson Miller – Immediate Past President. We are excited about the road ahead and I am excited to work with such an excellent officer team!

Our annual ladies night banquet was a success in which many of our sponsors and members joined us to celebrate the past year. We can’t thank our sponsors enough for all that they provide for us throughout the year. In the upcoming months, we are working to plan some additional educational tours, our annual rain dance and membership drive, and the scholarship golf tournament held by our foundation. Have a great spring!



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Chapter News

Arickaree Jennifer Hill – Reporter

Hello All! Spring is here! I don't know about anyone else, but I for one am ready for warmer weather. I am hoping that all this March wind brings some much needed April showers!

At the last writing, we were planning our second biannual Hunters Safety Class, held at the end of December. Devon Lane with the Colorado Division of Wildlife came out to teach the class of many ages. We had a class of thirty; I was one of them, not the oldest and certainly not the youngest. We had some come quite a ways. We hold the class for two days; class and activities the first day, some class, testing and shooting the second day. We provide a light breakfast, snacks and lunch both days. It is a great way to reach out to all ages in the community, and we hope to continue for many years.

February rolled around and we all know what that means, State Institute. It was great seeing everyone. We had a few attend, wish we could have had more, but many were busy. For those of us that did attend I think I speak for most when I say we had a good

time. Thank you, Front Range for another good institute in the books. We are proud of our members for bringing home the trophies! What good sports!

State President, Dan Ross joined us at our March meeting to update us on happenings thus far from the state. He also talked a little on his own doings, his sprinklers and repair.

St. Patty's day was also the date for the Arickaree FFA Hired Hand Sale. The Young Farmer men fired up their cookers to cook up some rocky mountain oysters and chicken strips for all the prospecting buyers. We cooked up quite a bit to feed all those hungry people, I don't know how many, but there was a lot.

That's about it for now. We have many activities coming up. Some tree planting, scholarship applications and some other fun activities.

Until next time, have a great spring!



State Institute Memories



Greg and Jennifer Kortynovich were presented with a beautiful flower bouquet for coordinating the Day Care services.



Cindy Johnston led the Mardi Gras Parade.



Jay Wisdom presented an interesting "A Unique Marketing Opportunity" educational program



Early Bird Social coat drawing winners were (l to r) Bryson Miller, Katie Bostron, women, Jack Annan, men, and Chuck Miller



The Early Bird Social was sponsored by Auctioneers Miller and Associates



Kyle Rohn presented an educational workshop, "The Benefits of GPS in Agriculture"



Everyone enjoyed the luncheon entertainment by "Elk Hollow"



Elisa Sagehorn, left, is presented with the Spokesperson for Agriculture jacket by Becky Lindgren representing sponsor Pioneer Seeds



Nick Colglazier represented Colorado Farm Bureau who sponsored the Saturday luncheon



Colorado FFA President Mack Witzel presents FFA Greetings at luncheon



Darrell Johnston was the Mardi Gras master of ceremonies.



Trae McCullum from the Holyoke Chapter presented an interesting Colorado FFA Heifer Wrangle report

State Institute Memories



Steve and Michelle Sterkel were winners of the Footloose Dance Off contest



It was difficult to determine which contestant had the most beads



(l to r) Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest Sponsor, Mike Flesher with Mountain Plains Farm Credit. Winners were Andy Bartlett– Second, Elisa Sagehorn– First, Shelby McCracken–Third, Guy Kuntz– Fourth and Jacqui Larson– Contest Coordinator



(l to r) Photo of Agriculture winners Brandon Johnston, Katie Bostron, Ben Christensen, Artie Elmquist, Cindy Johnston and John Claunch



The "Drag Queen" contest winner was Doug Dietz from the Arickaree Chapter



Laura Brownell was decked out in festive Mardi Gras attire



Florence and Jack Annan were the winners of the costume contest

State Institute Memories



The three competing for the Grand Prize Exhibitors Award were (l to r) Chuck Miller, Katie Bostron and Bruce Kokes, Chuck won the "Minute to Win It" contest by successfully getting an oreo cookie on his forehead into his mouth without using his hands.



Honorary Membership was presented to Tom Scarlett, and Ernie Gill.



Jeff Schumacher represented Premier Farm Credit sponsor of the Awards Banquet



Eric Kipp, right, presents President's Plaque to newly elected president, Dan Ross



Dan Ross, left, newly elected President presents "President's Plaque" to Eric Kipp



Tim Jordan, right, representing Channel Bio presents new officer coat to President Dan Ross



(l to r) Present and past Colorado Young Farmers Advisors Mike Womochil, Ernie Gill, Sid Koon, Dr. Darrell Anderson, Dr. Dale McCall and Executive Secretary- Jack Annan



The Arickaree Chapter was the winner of the float contest in the parade



Everyone enjoyed Susie O's presentation at the Awards Banquet

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