

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



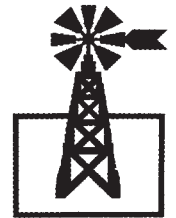
Matt Keating
Outstanding Colorado Young Farmer
Agri-Service Award
Mandi and Matt Keating

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.

For information on this program
contact participating agricultural lenders or the:

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