

Special Interim Newsletter – July 1st

Two Day Eastern Plains Tour Recap



A total of 15 State Senators and Representatives (11 of whom were from urban districts) joined this year's rural tour to the Eastern Plains on June 21 & June 22

I was excited to help plan and coordinate this event with my fellow Eastern Plains colleague, and second cousin, Senator Rod Pelton. **Both of our districts (Senate District 1 and 35) combined comprise about 44% of Colorado's landmass and 7% of the people of our state. It is this 7% of our state's population, our constituents along the Eastern Plains, that are responsible for a large amount of Colorado's \$47 billion agriculture industry.**

This Eastern Plains Tour was just the start of the conversation at the state level as a way to bring all stakeholders into the conversation, both the urban and rural legislators along with agricultural producers. While we may not want to admit it, the truth of the matter is that the metropolitan areas hold the majority vote so we need to work on opening communications and offering educational outreach via site tours to anyone who is willing to come out to our rural communities; this is why it was a huge win to have the 11 urban legislators visit us out here in rural Colorado to break bread and see firsthand the practices that we do in agricultural.

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our constituents - livestock producers, water stewards, and energy leaders - from both the north and south parts of the Eastern Plains who hosted my fellow State Senators and Representatives at their **family farms** and agricultural production locations for tours and/or meals.

[Picture on the right: Food connects us all - State Legislators enjoying pizza and after learning about the dairy industry.]



The agenda of this two-day educational tour focused on agriculture, water, and energy:

We made sure to get in as many tour stops and presentations as possible during this almost **750-mile journey** that started and ended at the State Capitol.

Day one of this state legislature-only event took place mainly in Morgan County as we visited **family owned farms and ag-production** sites. State members were able to learn about water on Lower South Platte River with Jim Yahn, tour the Colorado Lamb Processors' Facility in Brush (*1st picture below*), visit Magnum Feedyard in Wiggins, tour Kraft's Quail Ridge Dairy in Fort Morgan (*2nd picture below*), tour and visit with sugar beet producers at Western Sugar Co-Op in Fort Morgan (*3rd picture below*), and talk about wheat production at Beedy's Farm and Ranch in Genoa.



Senator Byron H. Pelton State Senate District 1



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Day two of this event included: learning about water on the Lower Arkansas Valley with Jack Goble, a stop at Knapp's Farm Market to talk with fruit & vegetable growers, a tour of Broken Spear Ranch in Model, and a tour of Evergreen Natural Resources, LLC in Trinidad.