



the C.A.L.P 411

COLORADO'S AGRICULTURAL
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:



*Bruce Talbott, Class 3
Palisade, CO*

that would never have otherwise occurred. You end up with a network of contacts that become valuable resources the rest of your life. Colorado is a very agriculturally-diversified state and all of us can learn from each other.

Class 3 had the unique opportunity on our international trip to visit the Soviet Union before it broke up. Though I had a lot of travel opportunities, previously, this experience gave me an appreciation for how truly fortunate we are to be able to farm and live in Colorado. Our problems are mere inconveniences compared to what producers were facing there at that time. If one did successfully overcome all the production and marketing challenges, you were suspected to be a predatory capitalist - life is good here.

I continue to be active in our family fruit-producing organization and participate in various industry organizations. I've recently been active on the boards of Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Child & Migrant Services, Ute Water Conservation District and Western Growers Association (WGA). WGA represents over half the US Produce industry and has historically had board membership from only Arizona and California. The organization bylaws were recently changed to allow a member from either Colorado or New Mexico. This gives our produce industry access to an impressive infrastructure and collection of services and resources we could never come up with independently. What they get is constituent access to four more senators and additional representatives. Agriculture continues to become more interstate and international. I believe being well connected is important to thriving in Colorado Ag.

I had the opportunity to participate in Class 3 of the program back when we still had some of the original Kellogg Establishment money and were just transitioning to funding the program locally. There has been a lot of transitions over the years and I appreciate those who have reinvented the program and held it together.

With the many concurrent factors that shape our lives, it is sometimes fuzzy as to what values and appreciations came from what influence. The CALP experience did, however, convince me of the importance of being in the forefront of the public dialogue when it comes to agriculture. If you are not willing to be a spokesman for your interests, someone else will and it is very unlikely they will tell your story and protect your interests the same way you would. Some interviews may be hostile but at least you have the opportunity to build your case and discourage narratives that are inaccurate.

Additionally, it provided an opportunity to be exposed to facets of Colorado agriculture that I wouldn't have otherwise have ever experienced and to build friendships



FEBRUARY 29, 2024

agriculture

A CULTURE OF PROGRESS

The date has been set for the 32nd Annual Colorado Agriculture Forum for Feb. 29, 2024.

This year's forum looks to bring together producers, consumers, experts and other stakeholders that represent agriculture, the foundational pillar and economic driver of the great State of Colorado. CALP is thrilled to host the Ag Forum, with the theme, Agriculture; A Culture of Progress, promising a program of speakers and presentations delving into agriculture's most relevant topics. This year, we felt it was more important than ever to both celebrate those within the agriculture community but also continue to explore ways to innovate and improve.

Please join us for the 2024 Colorado Agriculture Forum and a full day of networking, learning and exploring with leaders across Colorado's Agriculture and Business Community.

Agriculture: A Culture of Progress
The Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Boulevard
Westminster, CO 80020

We are currently reaching out to sponsors and have a wide array of opportunities to select from to ensure your company finds the best fit possible.

With an expectation of over 400 attendees, including ag producers, industry allies, agricultural advocates and elected officials and staff members; this is a great opportunity for your organization to gain exposure and visibility across Colorado's agriculture community. This simultaneously provides an opportunity to be an important part of the conversation of progress and sustainability throughout the industry.

If you, or somebody you know, are interested in sponsoring the Colorado Ag Forum, please contact Dani Traweek at dani@coloagleaders.org. Registration opens on Nov. 24, 2023. Like us on Facebook @coloradoagforum or check the website for updated information.

ColoradoAgForum.com



Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Class 16

Agriculture has always played a critical role in my life. Growing up on a sheep and cattle ranch, taught me a lot about how the livestock industry operates, especially on the Western Slope of Colorado. I've always had a passion for this lifestyle, and recently realized how important it is to educate others on the crucial role agriculture plays in our communities, state and nation as a whole. Since joining CALP class 16, I've begun to expand my knowledge about agriculture across our beautiful state as well as grow my leadership skills, specifically in advocating for agriculture. Each seminar has enlightened me on a different industry in the field, including challenges faced by all. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow not only my understanding of different agriculture industries across our state, but how I personally can help producers across our state continue to thrive while sharing their story

NEW! 2024 ALUMNI EVENT

On February 28, 2024, the evening prior to the Ag Forum, the Alumni committee will host an Inaugural Alumni Reception.

Mark your calendar to join us at the:

BUTTERFLY PAVILION

6252 W 104TH AVE
WESTMINSTER, CO 80020



At 5:30 pm, the alumni committee anticipates hosting CALP Alumni, state legislators, sponsors and supporters of CALP for hors d'oeuvres, drinks and tours of the Butterfly Pavilion.

THE AGVOCATE



*by Dusty
Johnson
Class 14*

The mission of AGvocate is to be an
advocate for agriculture.

Find us on Facebook @AGVOCATECO

State News -- Fifteen State Senators and State Representatives participated on a two day tour of the Eastern Plains in June to learn about agriculture, water, and energy in the area. In addition to these three topics of focus, some of these participating members also got to experience some of our rural ways of living when they traveled almost 750 miles on our under-maintained roads, ad limited-to-no cell service, and saw first-hand the water build up we had from all the rain with no way to store it for future use. This tour is just the start of the conversation to bridging our urban-rural divide, and the many stakeholders (farmers and ranchers who hosted the site visits on their property and the different commodity groups who helped sponsor) of this trip saw the need to do more of these educational and outreach type events to showcase our state's agricultural and rural communities.

Federal News --With a deadline of September 30th, Congress is working on twelve appropriation bills that will fund the government through 2024. One of these appropriation bills is dealing with the funding for the USDA and FDA, which was advanced by the House Appropriations Committee in June with major funding cuts. As a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, the USDA is currently facing an almost \$8 billion cut from its budget and programs. The 2023 Farm Bill also needs to be passed before September 30th, however, these discussion are seemingly on hold and won't continue until after these appropriation bills are passed.

The Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program is a 501c.3 non-profit organization with the mission to develop leaders that will become a strong, unified voice for agricultural issues.

DANI TRAWEEK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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AUGUST 2023

AG IS OUR MIDDLE NAME



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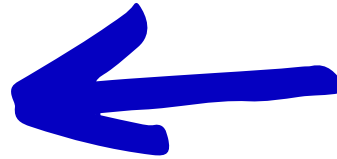
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CLASS 16 SCHEDULE

Sept. 17-24, 2023	Seminar 4	Washington DC & Pennsylvania
Nov. 12-14, 2023	Seminar 5	Ft. Collins
Feb. 28 - 29, 2024	Seminar 6	Denver Ag Forum
April 21-23, 2024	Seminar 7	Ft. Morgan
June 9-11, 2024	Seminar 8	Durango/Cortez
Sept. 18-27, 2024	Seminar 9	International Trip
Nov. 10-12, 2024	Seminar 10	Alamosa/Monte Vista
Feb. 19-21, 2025	Seminar 11	Ag Forum & Graduation

ALUMNI SCHEDULE

November 13, 2023 - Ft. Collins Alumni Dinner @ TBD



**CLASS 16 TOUR @ RANCHO DURAZNO
IN PALISADE**



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