

WORKING FOR YOU. WORKING FOR AG.

Colorado Farm Bureau Accomplishments.

Bringing Together the Industry

The Colorado Farm Bureau has a long history of working with other organizations to promote, protect and enhance agriculture and rural communities. Whether it's working together on a ballot initiative or at the State Capitol, Colorado Farm Bureau is a leader in collaboration and works not only with other commodity groups but also local business groups, mineral development groups and others.

State Issues

Defending Against Anti-Agriculture Activists - Initiative 16 (PAUSE)

- After activists filed a ballot initiative that would have criminalized approved animal husbandry practices and destroyed livestock production in the state, CFB joined forces with other agriculture groups to create Coloradans for Animal Care.
- Coloradans for Animal Care challenged this initiative at the Colorado Supreme Court and successfully defeated this devastating initiative.

Defending Against Animal Activists - Forced Wolf Introduction

- In partnership with a broad coalition, CFB fought a ballot initiative to forcibly introduce wolves to Colorado's Western Slope.
- While the measure ultimately passed, the coalition drastically influenced public opinion by reducing those in favor from 60% to 51% when votes were cast. Rural Colorado was overwhelmingly opposed.
- Members of the coalition were diverse and included Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Woolgrowers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Safari Club as well as local and statewide business organizations.

Fighting Mandatory GMO Labeling - Proposition 105

- CFB led agriculture groups in the Vote NO on 105 Coalition to protect Colorado farmers and ranchers from the costly, burdensome regulation.
- As leaders of the coalition, CFB provided public testimony, recruited spokesmen from around the state, ran advertisements, letters-to-the-editor and more. The measure was soundly defeated.

Protecting Agriculture from Burdensome Taxes - HB20-1420

- Introduced late in the 2020 Regular Session, HB20-1420 would have removed important tax deductions from agricultural businesses. These tax deductions provide relief to farming and ranching families experiencing devastating losses, allowing those functioning on incredibly small margins to survive.
- CFB worked diligently to secure an agricultural exemption within the bill that protected the industry.

Strengthening Private Property Rights - Amendment 74

- CFB has always supported strong, private property rights and allowed farmers and ranchers to cultivate their land as they see fit.
- CFB members filed a ballot initiative to require local/state governments to compensate landowners if rules or regulations devalue property.

Federal Issues

Ensuring Farm Families can Afford to Farm - Repealing the Estate Tax

- Keeping farm families afloat during generational transitions is key to supporting a healthy and robust agriculture industry. CFB has long fought for our families by working to repeal the Death Tax.
- In the Small Business Tax Cuts Act of 2018, Farm Bureau collaborated with other agriculture groups to double estate tax exemption (\$11 million person/\$22 million couple), a huge win for farm families across the country.

Fighting Against Government Overreach - Defeating WOTUS

- During the Obama Administration, EPA failed to listen to concerned farmers, ranchers and business owners around the country in crafting its new rule - vastly expanding EPA's and the Corps' regulatory authority beyond what was necessary or acceptable.
- In early 2019, a New Clean Water rule was created and after a lawsuit by the State of Colorado removed the rule, CFB supported legal action to have the new rule reinstated. CFB has continued to be a part of these discussions as the Biden Administration introduces new changes.

Leadership Development and Training

Elite Leadership Academy

The Elite Leadership Academy (ELA) creates powerful leaders and advocates for the agriculture industry. Participants are exposed to a diverse set of issues and industry trends. They develop stronger communication skills which empowers them to address issues proactively and impart meaningful change. ELA graduates are trained to be experts in media interviews, public speaking, issue advocacy and coalition building.

CFB Campaign School

Farm Bureau seeks to involve members at all levels of civic engagement. The CFB Candidate School helps potential candidates for local, county, and statewide public office plan and execute successful political campaigns. Participants in the school have sought various kinds of offices including, State House, county commissioner, sheriff, school board and more.

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