

# Colorado's Voice



January 2012  
Issue 3

A Colorado Agri-Women Publication

## CAW October Meeting Summary

The Colorado Agri-Women met via teleconference on October 19th, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Danell Kalcevic.

The main topic of discussion was the 2012 AAW National Convention. Convention chair persons gave their reports. The hotel has been working with Danell very nicely and has offered some great support. They have an event planner that has been very helpful and they have offered a great deal on post-convention hotel rates in Vail. A fundraising letter has gone through some changes and members are encouraged to use the letter to solicit sponsorships. The decoration committee has some great ideas for the convention and a draft schedule was discussed. Keynote speakers have been contacted and all but one keynote address is booked and the other will be contacted in January. Heidi has been working on invitation packets to give to other affiliate presidents at this year's national convention as well as working on a convention budget. For the tours during the convention having everyone go to the same places at staggered times seemed to be agreeable to everyone.

## 2012 CAW ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted By Janell Reid, CAW Vice President

The Colorado Agri-Women will host their annual meeting on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Renaissance Hotel located at 3801 Quebec Street in Denver. The meeting will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. A light breakfast will be provided. The morning part of the day will include two speakers who will be announced soon. Lunch will be provided by the Renaissance will be served at 11:30 a.m. The afternoon will include the annual business meeting from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. We will adjourn by 3 p.m.

The 2012 AAW annual convention committee chairs will meet at 3 p.m. If you are interested in the convention which will be held at the Renaissance November 8-11, 2012 you are welcome to sit in on the meeting.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about AAW, to hear some great speakers and get involved in an organization of women who promote all of the agriculture industry. Sponsors for the event are Colorado First National Bank and Mountain Plains Farm Credit.

## Calendar Markers

### Next CAW Meeting:

Feb. 9th, 2012 8:30 PM  
via Conference call. Dial  
in number: 1-270-400-  
2000 Participant Access  
Code: 6038973

### Annual CAW Meeting:

Saturday, March 10,  
2012 at the Renaissance  
Hotel, 3801 Quebec  
Street, Denver, CO.  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Convention Planning Meeting:

March 10, 2012 @ 3:00 PM  
Following the annual meet-  
ing at the Renaissance  
Hotel in Denver.

### AAW Mid-Year Meeting:

March 29 - April 1, 2012  
at Lied Lodge in Nebraska  
City, NE

Thank-you to Butch Shoup  
with Clifton Gunderson LLP  
for doing our tax work!

Colorado Agri-Women

PO Box 63  
Bennett, CO 80102  
coloradoagriwomen@yahoo.com

Find us on Facebook at  
Colorado Agri-women

Follow us on Twitter:  
coagladies

### **Summary of the Federal Restriction on Hand-held use of Cellular Phones for CDL Drivers**

The final rule was published in the Federal Register on December 2nd, 2011 and will take effect on January 3rd, 2012. The rule does not restrict or prohibit the use of hands-free devices, however, the final rule does prohibit Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers from holding, dialing, or reaching for a hand-held cellular phone. Drivers will be subject to federal penalties up to \$2750, and motor vehicle carriers that allow their drivers to use hand-held phones while operating a CMV face penalties up to \$11,000 per violation.

### **DOL Proposed Child Labor Rule**

The Department of Labor is proposing changes to the existing regulations addressing child labor in both agricultural and non-agricultural employment under the Fair Labor Standards Act. They are requesting changes to be incorporated into the regulations that enforce policies that the Department's Wage and Hour Division follows when determining whether to assess a civil money penalty for child labor violation and the amount of that penalty. For a full review of the proposed changes go to <http://youthrules.col.gov/niosh/recws/dol/05032.pdf> Go to Pages 67-98 to refer to the agriculture section. The recommendation from a review is carried out by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2002. The comment period ended in December of 2011 but a group of agricultural business organizations is asking for a continued extension of the comment period. Please follow this closely and be very active in your comments as if the proposed changes come about it could greatly affect your abilities to have your own children work on your family farm. It could also greatly affect FFA and 4H programs. Please review. You can still go and check out the comments page at <http://www.regulations.gov>

### **EPA Extends SPCC Deadline for Farms and Ranches**

On October 13th 2011 EPA extended the deadline for farms and ranches to have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) implemented from November 10, 2011 to May 10, 2013. Rule of course is subject to no adverse comments after publication in the public register. This rule affects all operations with greater than 1,320 gal above ground storage or in 55 gal or larger vessels, or greater than 42,000 gal buried tanks. Facilities with tanks smaller than 5,000 gal and less than 10,000 gal total storage may "self-certify" their plan. Larger storage facilities will need an engineered plan.

### **AAW Position Statements Private Property Rights**

125.AAW supports legislation that reinforces our citizens' constitutional private property rights that requires just and complete compensation at the highest and best use for the taking of private property.

126.AAW opposes "takings" legislation that devalues land by: regulatory action, activities that negatively impact adjacent land by creating buffer zones, scenic viewsheds, and scenic viewscapes, or activities that impact landowner's rights in any way, or by endorsing conservation easements.

**AAW contends that water is property [the Hage vs. United States Takings case, January 26, 2004]. Any reallocation of the water permitted for private use by government is a taking. Government is obligated to compensate the owners of privately held water at the highest and best use of the property when the public deems a necessary beneficial use of that water.**

127.AAW strongly supports private property owners and the sovereignty of states above the federal government regarding allocations of water within their borders.

128.AAW urges Congress to take no action outside those enumerated powers found in Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution that would infringe upon the rights left to the states and to the people. Article 1, Section 8, enumerates these rights, which are limited.

129.AAW opposes the right to float or trespass on private property.

## Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Blueprint for Stronger Service to Increase Efficiency in USDA Operations; Streamlined, Modernized Department Central to 21st Century USDA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 2011- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must be built to meet the evolving needs of a 21st century agricultural economy, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Monday in presenting USDA's Blueprint for Stronger Service, a plan that helps producers continue to drive America's economy by streamlining operations and cutting costs.

"The USDA, like families and businesses across the country, cannot continue to operate like we did 50 years ago," said Vilsack. "We must innovate, modernize, and be better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. We must build on the record accomplishments of farm communities in 2011 with a stronger, more effective USDA in 2012 and beyond."

The Blueprint for Stronger Service is based on a Department-wide review of operations conducted as part of the Administration's Campaign to Cut Waste, launched by President Obama and Vice President Biden to make government work better and more efficiently for the American people. The agency took a hard look at all USDA operations, from headquarters to field offices. The end result is a plan that will create optimal use of USDA's employees, better results for USDA customers, and greater efficiencies for American taxpayers.

"As part of the Campaign to Cut Waste, the President and I asked all Cabinet Secretaries to make tough choices within their departments to save taxpayer money, eliminate government waste, and allow us to invest in the programs and services the American people need. This announcement by Secretary Vilsack is another example of how this can be done," said Vice President Biden. "By undertaking a thorough and thoughtful review of his Department, Secretary Vilsack has saved taxpayers millions in travel and printing costs and is consolidating more than 700 different cell phone contracts into about 10. What's more, the Department is finding significant savings by consolidating more than 200 offices across the country while ensuring that the vital services they provide are not cut."

"In the past few decades, U.S. agriculture has become the second most productive sector of the American economy, thanks to farmers adopting technology, reducing debt, and effectively managing risk," said Vilsack. "These are lessons from which we can all learn. As we continue to invest in rural communities across the country, USDA has heard from producers about reducing red tape and the need to modernize its services. Today, we are answering the challenge by announcing a series of efforts to help us continue to streamline operations, make the best use of taxpayer resources, and provide the best possible service to the American people."

The USDA will close 259 domestic offices, facilities and labs across the country, as well as seven foreign offices. In some cases, offices are no longer staffed or have a very small staff of one or two people; many are within 20 miles of other USDA offices. In other cases, technology improvements, advanced service centers, and broadband service have reduced some need for brick and mortar facilities.

When fully implemented, these actions along with other recommended changes will provide efficiencies valued at about \$150 million annually-and eventually more based on future realignment of the workforce-and will ensure that USDA continues to provide optimal service to the American people within available funding levels. These actions and plans to close or consolidate facility, office and lab operations will impact USDA headquarters in Washington and in 46 states and 1 U.S. territory.

Continued on page 4

**USDA BLUEPRINT - Continued from page 3**

- Farm Service Agency (FSA): Consolidate 131 county offices in 32 states; more than 2,100 FSA offices remain throughout the United States
- Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS): Close 2 country offices; more than 95 FAS offices remain throughout the world
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): Close 15 APHIS offices in 11 states and 5 APHIS offices in 5 foreign countries; more than 560 APHIS offices remain throughout the United States and 55 remain throughout the world
- Rural Development (RD): Close 43 area and sub offices in 17 states and U.S. territories; approximately 450 RD offices remain throughout the United States
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Close 24 soil survey offices in 21 states; more than 2,800 NRCS offices remain throughout the United States
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS): Close 5 district offices in 5 states; 10 district offices remain throughout the United States
- Agricultural Research Service (ARS): Close 12 programs at 10 locations; more than 240 programs remain throughout the United States
- Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS): Close 31 field offices in 28 states; 32 FNCS offices will remain throughout the United States

In addition, USDA is implementing a series of other changes that will save taxpayers' money while eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies. The Blueprint for Stronger Service details 133 recommendations that affirm processes already in place, as well as 27 initial improvements, and other, longer-term improvements. The initial improvements include the following:

- Consolidate more than 700 cell phone plans into about 10;
- Standardize civil rights training and purchases of cyber security products; and
- Ensure more efficient and effective service to our employees by moving toward more centralized civil rights, human resource, procurement, and property management functions, creating millions of dollars in efficiencies without sacrificing the quality of our work.

The Secretary detailed the changes in a speech today at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 93rd Annual Meeting, where he also highlighted the impressive achievements of American agriculture over the past three years. Currently, U.S. agriculture is experiencing its most productive period in history thanks to the resiliency, resourcefulness, and efficiency of American producers. The Blueprint for Stronger Service will allow USDA to continue the investments that help to make this possible.

Detailed fact sheets on the Blueprint for Stronger Service can be found here, by USDA Mission Area: Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS); Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS); Food Safety; Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP); Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE); Research, Education and Economics (REE); and Rural Development. For more, please visit [www.usda.gov/strongerservice](http://www.usda.gov/strongerservice).

### CAW Officers

President: Danell Kalcevic

[dkkalcevic@aol.com](mailto:dkkalcevic@aol.com)

Vice President: Janell Reid

[jrreid@coairnet.com](mailto:jrreid@coairnet.com)

Secretary: Becky Ravenkamp

[bravenkamp@rebeltec.net](mailto:bravenkamp@rebeltec.net)

Treasurer: Heidi Kathrens

[kathrens@esrta.com](mailto:kathrens@esrta.com)

### CAW Recipes

#### Balsamic-Seasoned Steak

From Taste of Home Comfort Food  
Diet Cookbook

Submitted by Becky Ravenkamp

- 2 TBS balsamic vinegar
- 2 TBS steak sauce
- 1 boneless beef sirloin steak (1 lb.)
- 1/4 tsp ground pepper
- 2 oz. reduced-fat swiss cheese slices (optional)

In a small bowl, combine vinegar and steak sauce. Set aside. Rub steak with pepper. Place on a broiler pan, broil 4 inches from the heat for 7 minutes.

Turn; spoon half the steak sauce mixture over steak. Broil 5-7 minutes longer or until meat reaches desired doneness. Remove steak to a cutting board, cut across the grain into 1/4 inch slices. Place on a foil lined baking sheet; drizzle with juices from cutting board and remaining steak sauce mixture. Top with cheese. Broil for 1 minute or until cheese is melted. Yield 4 servings.  
188 Calories, 8 g. fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 116 g. Sodium, 2 g. carbs, 26 g. protein.

This quick and easy recipe is great with a salad and baked potato. It is one of my favorites!

# 3rd Annual Colorado Agri-Women Annual Meeting



March 10, 2012, Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Pre-registration \$50.00

Deadline – Received (not postmarked) by: March 2, 2012

Registration after deadline or at door - \$65.00

Please use separate form for each mailing address

Business/Organization/Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (Used to send CAW Newsletter and meeting updates) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  First Timer  Attended Meeting Before

Check one:  Member or guest -- \$50

Member or guest -- \$65 after March 2nd

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (Used to send CAW Newsletter and meeting updates) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  First Timer  Attended Meeting Before

Check one:  Member or guest -- \$50

Member or guest -- \$65 after March 2nd

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (Used to send CAW Newsletter and meeting updates) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  First Timer  Attended Meeting Before

Check one:  Member or guest -- \$50

Member or guest -- \$65 after March 2nd

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CAW - Check # \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form and check to: Colorado Agri-Women, PO Box 63, Bennett, CO 80102

2011 AAW National Convention Re-cap  
Heidi Kathrens  
CAW Treasurer

On Wednesday Nov. 9, 2011 seven CAW ladies set out on a road trip to Wichita, KS to the 2011 AAW Convention. In attendance were your 4 officers: Danell Kalcevic (pres), Janell Reid (v-pres), Becky Ravenkamp (sec), Heidi Kathrens (tres) and 3 members Ann Cross, Phyllis Mellott, and Kelly Polizin.

After arriving in Wichita the group was joined by fellow AAW members from other states for supper and a quick catch up of their local events. On Thursday the convention started with great sessions ranging from Farm & Estate Planning, Start Chair National meetings & reports, and trainings on how to use social media outlets. That night they were treated to a "Taste of Kansas" where they enjoyed selections from different Kansas businesses and then were entertained by Native American Dancers.

On Friday morning we listened in on National AAW business then were off for the day to tour local agriculture businesses which include the Kansas Cosmosphere, the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Cargill Grain Elevator and a local ethanol plant. Friday night dinner was held 650 ft. below the earth at the Kansas Underground Salt museum where we got to tour the mine, go on a dark tunnel ride and learn how they use the facilities for storage and what they use the salt for.

Saturday was a day of business for AAW members where we discussed business related to national on goings. For lunch on Saturday President Danell Kalcevic gave a great & animated invitation to the 2012 National Convention being hosted in Denver, Colorado. We wrapped up convention by going to the "County Fair" where we were entertained by Butler Community College's concert choir and they put on a medley of show tunes. We concluded the evening with an outing to the local country dance club where we enjoyed our last few hours with fellow AAW members from across the U.S. We hope you will all join us next year when the 2012 convention is hosted right here in your own backyard.

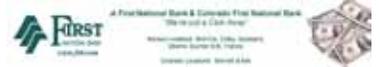


The 2011 AAW Convention was attended by women from all over the United States. All AAW events celebrate agriculture and the things that bring us together. For more information visit AAW's website: [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org)

### American Agri-Women Activities



Colorado Agri-Women invite you to attend the 2012 AAW National Convention in Denver!



Arnold's Custom Seeding

### 2012 American Agri-Women Convention

November 7-11, 2012

Renaissance Denver Hotel

3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO, 80207



#### Convention Chairs

General Co-Chairs: Danell Kalcevic, Lori Helzer, Heidi Kathrens

Registration: Heidi Kathrens

Budget: Heidi Kathrens, to be overseen by officers

Fundraising: Lori Helzer

Program / Speakers: Kelly Polzin

Hotel: Danell Kalcevic

Menu / Room Setup: Janell Reid

Tours: Ann Cross

Decorations: Phyllis Mellott

Publicity/ Communications: Vacant

Hospitality: Debby Lewton

Trade Show:

Registration Packets: Heidi Kathrens

Silent Auction: Janell Reid

Invocation / Sunday Service: Danell Kalcevic

#### Updates:

Seven CAW members attended the 2011 Convention in preparations to host the 2012 National Convention. We would like to thank our sponsors who helped make that happen! Thank-you to Simplot, Rabo Financial, Mountain Plains Farm Credit, Colorado First National Bank, Arnold's Custom Seeding!

Convention Planning Meeting: March 10, 2012 immediately following the CAW Annual Meeting at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver.

Affiliate Packets were given to affiliate presidents at the 2011 American Agri-Women Convention in Wichita, KS.

Newly revised fundraising letters are available and all members are encouraged to use them to find sponsors for the 2012 Convention.

9 months until 2012 Convention!!!!

#### 2012 Convention Committees

Registration: Heidi Kathrens

Budget: Heidi Kathrens, to be overseen by officers

Fundraising: Lori Helzer, Heidi Kathrens

Program / Speakers: Kelly Polzin

Hotel: Danell Kalcevic

Menu / Room Setup: Janell Reid, Diane Clark

Tours: Ann Cross, Kelly Polzin

Decorations: Phyllis Mellott, Diane Clark

Publicity/ Communications:

Hospitality: Debby Lewton, Lori Helzer

Trade Show:

Registration Packets: Heidi Kathrens, Phyllis

Mellott, Lori Helzer, Kelsey Helzer

Silent Auction: Janell Reid, Sally Miller

Invocation / Sunday Service: Danell Kalcevic

Colorado Agri-Women Membership Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Person who referred you \_\_\_\_\_



**Membership Options**

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$45  
\$30 American Agri-Women, \$15 Colorado Agri-Women

\_\_\_\_\_ College Student \$25  
\$10 American Agri-Women, \$15 Colorado Agri-Women

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Membership \$515  
\$500 American Agri-Women, \$15 Colorado Agri-Women

Send your check or money order to:

Colorado Agri-Women  
PO Box 63  
Bennett, CO 80102

**Colorado Agri-Women  
Membership Benefits**

Membership includes but is not limited to:

**American Agri-Women Benefits:**

- Access to the latest industry news and information
- Networking opportunities
- Participation in advocacy efforts in legislative and regulatory issues
- Opportunities to serve on committees with AAW members and other organizations
- Experience leadership Training
- Bi-Monthly AAW newsletter "The Voice"
- Annual Washington D.C. Fly In invitation
- Annual conventions sponsored by affiliates throughout the country showcasing agriculture

**Colorado Agri-Women Benefits:**

- Opportunity to be as active as you want in advocating for agriculture
- Education on important agricultural topics
- Educate and inform others about agriculture
- Learn more about the legislative process
- Experience leadership training
- Prepare to host the 2012 AAW National Convention
- Receive Colorado Agri-Women's newsletter "Colorado's Voice"

**Mission**

Our mission is: "We, as women's agriculture organizations and individuals, made up of farmers, ranchers, lawyers, goat herders, moms and more, all uniting to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world." Thru this mission we have obtained the slogan: A Voice of Truth to the Public for Agriculture.