

# Monthly Briefing

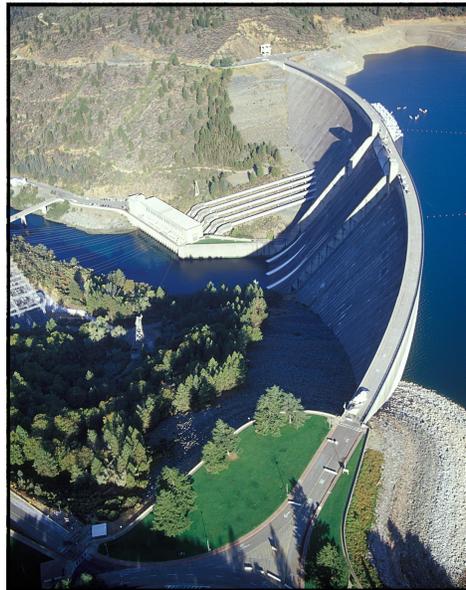
*A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News*

## House Committee Passes 3 Water Storage Bills *Alliance Witnesses Testify in Support*

The House Natural Resources Committee earlier this month approved with bipartisan support three bills to address the nation's critical need for new and expanded surface water storage projects. H.R. 3980, the *Water Supply Permit Coordinating Act*, H.R. 3981, the *Accelerated Revenue, Repayment, and Surface Water Storage Enhancement Act*, and H.R. 5412, the *Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act* will update and improve the process for permitting and funding federal and non-federal surface water storage projects.

"Water storage has been the key to economic prosperity and a way of life in my Central Washington district, which is home to two large federal water projects," said Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WASHINGTON). "Together, these water storage projects irrigate more than a million acres of farmland, make possible a vital navigation link for millions of tons of grain and commodities annually, provide numerous recreation and flood control benefits, and provide over 21 billion kilowatt hours of carbon-free, renewable hydroelectric power to customers in the Pacific Northwest. For us

to have another water supply renaissance, we must embrace new or expanded storage so that we can truly have prosperous water supply strategy well into the future. We have the power to



*Legislation passed by a House committee would streamline permitting processes associated with expanding storage, such as the proposal to raise California's Shasta Dam. (Photo Source: USBR)*

make that happen and this legislation is key to our success."

Specifically, these bills would facilitate more water storage projects; streamline the environmental planning, study, and permitting process for these projects; create a one-stop-shop for permits to expand non-federal water storage; and allow for expedited payment for water projects. The Family Farm Alliance, the National Water Resources Association, and the Association of California Water Agencies support these initiatives.

One week before Committee passage of the bills, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power held a legislative hearing on H.R. 5412, the *Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act*. The legislation, introduced by Chairman Hastings, streamlines the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental planning and study process for new surface water storage projects in order to help facilitate the construction of new or expanded dams and reservoirs. The bill mirrors the process that was applied to the Corps of Engineers in the recently enacted Water Resources Development Act by setting the same standards and expectations for the Bureau of Reclamation to become more transparent and accountable in how it operates.

"It is painfully clear, given the Bureau of Reclamation's inaction on storage in California, that the agency's feasibility study process needs to be modernized in a productive way," said Chairman Doc Hastings. "For this reason, I've introduced the Bureau of

### STORIES INSIDE.....

	<u>Page #</u>
GAO Repayment Study Debated at Committee Hearing	2
Alliance Prepares Final Comments on WOTUS	3
Clean Water Act Movement in Congress	4
AGree Releases Five Papers on U.S. Agriculture, Including Alliance Paper	5
Johnson Foundation Releases Report on U.S. Freshwater Crisis	6
Farm Foundation Works with NRCS - Western RCA Meetings Planned	7
Alliance and National Young Farmers Coalition Team Up for CO Tour	7
Colorado Water Conservation Farm Tour Agenda	8
A Salute to Our New and Supporting Members	9

*Continued on Page 2*

## Storage Bills Pass House Committee (Cont'd from Pg 1)

Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act. It's a common sense bill based on the precedent of the newly enacted Water Resources Reform and Development Act, or WRRDA, that only four Members of this House opposed."

All three witnesses at the hearing had Family Farm Alliance ties and testified on the need for a legislative solution and impacts of the proposed Obama Administration regulations, including higher food, water, and electricity costs, undermining of states' rights; and current and future water supply infrastructure.

Dan Keppen, Alliance Executive Director (OREGON) testified that new or expanded water storage is necessary and conservation alone cannot solve the water supply problems currently crippling the west.

"As you are all aware, actually developing new storage projects is much easier said than done," he told the Subcommittee. "For many reasons - political, economic, and social - the construction of traditional surface storage projects is undertaken on a much more limited basis than in decades past. Even if authorization and funding is secured for a new storage project, the existing procedures for developing additional water supplies can make project approval incredibly burdensome. Clearly, the existing procedures for developing additional water supplies need to be revised to make project approval less burdensome."

Bennett Raley, attorney for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (a member of the Alliance) and representing the National Water Resources Association testified on the need for storage projects in Colorado and the benefits of legislation to encourage and promote new and existing water storage.

"Northern Water is not alone in working to develop water

supply opportunities that are sensitive to environmental needs without triggering the complex, costly and time-consuming process for federal water supply projects," said Mr. Raley. "Water providers throughout the West are seeking similar non-federal solutions."

Jeff Sutton, General Manager of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (CALIFORNIA) and a member of the Family Farm Alliance Advisory Committee, testified on California's need for increased water storage projects.

"The 'Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act' consists of a number of common sense proposals directed at removing unnecessary bureaucratic impediments to new storage in a manner that would provide additional water supply certainty to the businesses, individuals and wildlife whose wellbeing and, in many cases, survival is inextricably linked to the importance of congressional action to mitigate the adverse impacts of future droughts," he told the subcommittee.

Earlier this Congress, the Full Committee and Water and Power Subcommittee held multiple hearings on the need for improved water storage and the multiple use benefit of water storage. The Alliance had a strong presence in all of the storage hearings and helped craft every one of the bills. In June, U.S. Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi (R-WYOMING) introduced legislation to make it easier to build new surface water storage projects throughout the West. The *Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act* streamlines the current multi-agency permitting processes that delay the construction of new or expanded surface water storage by creating a "one-stop-shop" permitting process through the Bureau of Reclamation.

## GAO Repayment Study Debated at Committee Hearing

Democratic lawmakers used a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released one day before the subcommittee hearing on new storage legislation (see above) – and used those findings as justification for opposing the proposed bill.

"Irrigators haven't paid for projects that were built forty years ago and Congress isn't allocating money for projects already approved. Yet, House Republicans insist on a hearing that ignores these real issues," Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OREGON), Grace Napolitano and Jared Huffman (both from CALIFORNIA) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said in a statement.

This issue was debated before the House Water and Power Subcommittee hearing and was teed up by Reps. Napolitano and Huffman, who sit on the subcommittee. Rep. Doc Hastings immediately countered the claims by explaining their arguments were similar to criticizing a home owner for owing money to the bank when he was only 15 years into a 30 year mortgage. At the subcommittee hearing, Rep. Hastings and all of the witnesses were able to address these claims by explaining that many of these projects are still being paid upon and will continue to do so for many more years.

The GAO report, *Bureau of Reclamation: Availability of Information on Repayment of Water Project Construction Costs Could Be Better Promoted* (GAO-13-139), says irrigation districts still owe \$1.6 billion, roughly a quarter of their tab for the 130 projects built for irrigation by the Bureau of Reclamation. Irrigators have paid off construction costs in 54 of those projects, but they still owed payments on 76 projects as of the end of fiscal 2012. Many of those projects were built during the 1960s. According to GAO, of \$6.4 billion in construction costs that irrigators owed for projects they had a stake in, more than \$3 billion was covered by financial assistance from other revenue sources.

The one solid recommendation coming from GAO on this matter was that Reclamation "better promote to the public that information on water projects' construction costs and repayment status is available". Reclamation prepares repayment statements annually, but they are not posted on its website. You may access the GAO report at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-764>.

# Alliance Prepares Final Comments on WOTUS

The Family Farm Alliance is on track to transmit formal comments on a controversial proposed Clean Water Act (CWA) rule to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). EPA and the Corps have extended the public comment period for the “Waters of the U.S” (WOTUS) proposed rule from July 21, 2014 until October 20, 2014, an additional 91 days. This extension is in response to numerous requests received by the agencies from concerned parties, including the Family Farm Alliance, which felt that additional time for comment on the proposed rule was warranted for several reasons.

“Most important, perhaps, is that the agencies have not reviewed the adequacy of the underlying science, while also asking commenters to provide complex technical information,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

In recent months, EPA has ramped up efforts to defend its proposed rule intended to clarify protection under the CWA for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources.

The proposed rule is intended to "benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the Clean Water Act". EPA and the Corps of Engineers have intensified a 5-month outreach effort, with recent emphasis on addressing growing concerns expressed by the American agricultural community. As the debate has intensified, lines

have been drawn which put farmers, ranchers and irrigators on one side, and the federal agencies and some conservation groups on the other.

The Western U.S. has been forever changed by the construction of the massive system of canals, ditches and drains, all part of an irrigation system envied by the world. The world-class agricultural production created by irrigation of farmland in the West is highly dependent on the continued constant operation and maintenance of the canal and drainage system, a complex integrated and interrelated labyrinth of miles and miles of ditches, drains, pipes, culverts, tile drains, and other arteries that carry the precious irrigation water to family farms and ranches.

“We believe the proposed rule must be crystal clear in excluding much if not all of this important infrastructure from CWA coverage,” said Mr. Keppen. “Without this protection from the added regulation and permitting requirements CWA jurisdiction would bring to these features, we believe the entire Western irrigation and drainage system would collapse under the inherent bureaucratic red tape created by being classified as a water of the U.S.”

It appears that the federal agencies firmly believe that the proposed rule will clarify administration of the Clean Water Act in the agricultural sector. Many agricultural interests are equally convinced that the rule will further muddy regulatory waters.

“Our concern is that if any parts of the proposed rule are overly broad, this will work to the advantage of future Corps and EPA regulators and activist groups who already are causing problems with litigation filed under the citizen suit provisions of the CWA,” said Mr. Keppen.



Photo: Bureau of Reclamation.

*Parts of the American West—such as the Klamath Basin, located in California and Oregon,—have been forever changed by the construction of canals, ditches and drains, all part of an irrigation system envied by the world.*  
Photo Source: USBR

Clean water is vital to farmers and ranchers in the Western U.S. and to the well-being of rural communities nationwide. However, the Alliance is concerned that the proposed rule would provide the potential for expanded federal jurisdiction over newly defined “tributaries” and associated “other waters” as “waters of the U.S.”

“Along with the additional bureaucratic red-

tape associated with this jurisdictional expansion, the proposed rule would unnecessarily impede Western farm and ranch families’ ability to manage the delivery and use of irrigation water to grow food and fiber for America and the world,” said Alliance President Patrick O’Toole, a sheep and cattle rancher from Wyoming.

The Alliance’ concerns are centered on the proposed rule’s jurisdiction over man-made irrigation ditches and drains under the CWA. While the proposal excludes ditches “excavated wholly in the uplands” and drains “draining only uplands” from being categorized as “waters of the U.S.”, these exclusions may raise more questions than answers in a jurisdictional dispute.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Alliance Tackles WOTUS (Cont'd from Page 3)

The words “wholly” and “only” may imply a “zero tolerance” for any disturbance in the past of a newly defined tributary or wetland. And, there is no clear determination that artificially created wetlands (as a result of irrigation in the uplands) are also excluded as “waters of the U.S.” Finally, the term “uplands” is not defined and could be subject to dispute when determining placement or drainage if forced into using either “wholly” or “only” as the applicable factors for exclusion (or not).

The proposed rule, according to the EPA and the Corps, was intended to “clarify” CWA jurisdictional interpretations. Yet the plain language of the proposal suggests otherwise.

“The proposed rule creates broader interpretations of what is or should be considered ‘waters of the U.S.’ and creating the uncertainty associated with additional specific agency ‘case-by-case’ analyses and jurisdictional determinations where none exist today,” said Mark Limbaugh, the Alliance’s representative in Washington, D.C.

The Alliance letter that is under development expresses significant concerns that the proposed rule, if adopted as written, could negatively impact the future of Western irrigated agriculture.

“The proposed rule is too broad in categorizing ‘tributaries’ and ‘other waters’ as ‘waters of the U.S.’ and contains no ‘bright line’ limitations on what waters are jurisdictional and what waters are not,” said Mr. Keppen. “Essentially, in our view, under the proposed rule CWA jurisdiction would be expanded to any small stream, ditch, artificially created wetland, or other water feature that could eventually flow into or be subjectively determined to affect the water quality of a traditionally ‘navigable water’ which the CWA originally was intended to protect.”

The Alliance letter will also express concerns about whether the underlying science of the proposed rule has been fully vetted by the agencies with the public to allow for the rule to move forward. The Alliance has advocated in earlier letter to EPA for a public comment period to be opened on the final Connectivity Report currently under review by the Science Advisory Board (SAB) of the EPA when the report is finalized with the SAB recommendations attached.

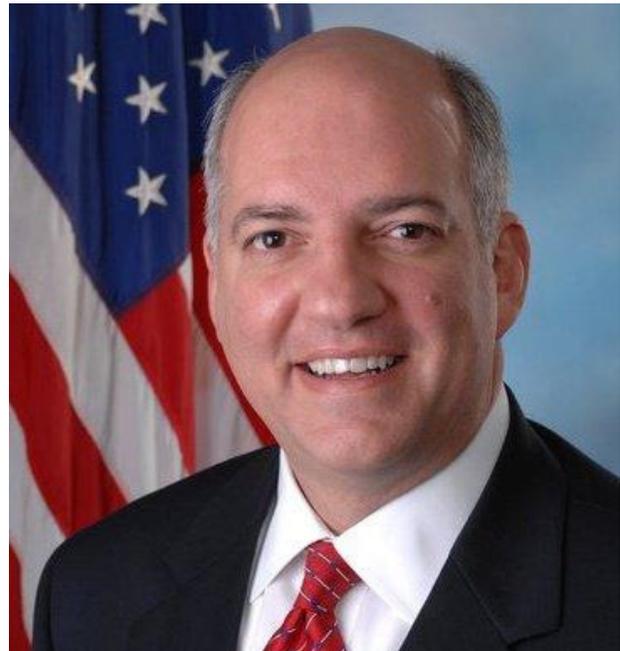
A draft version of the Alliance comment period is being reviewed by the organization’s board of directors and 40-member Advisory Committee and will be finalized in early October.

“We understand the meaning and purpose of the Clean Water Act and the agencies’ goal of protecting our nation’s water resources while providing clarity and certainty for the regulated community,” said Mr. Keppen. “While we do not believe the proposed rule does that, our final letter will hopefully provide some insight as to where changes to the proposal could help address some of our concerns.”

The EPA proposed rule and other material can be downloaded at [www.epa.gov/uswaters](http://www.epa.gov/uswaters).

## Clean Water Act Movement In Congress

The House of Representatives versions of two appropriations bills funding the EPA and the Corps of Engineers include legislative language to halt the rule-making, and the House earlier this month approved a bipartisan stand-alone bill (HR 5078) that would stop the rule-making and direct EPA to work with state and local governments to develop a consensus proposal for defining the scope of the Clean Water Act. The Family Farm Alliance submitted a letter in support of HR 5078 to the House Transportation Committee earlier this year.



**Rep. Steve Southerland Source: [southerland.house.gov](http://southerland.house.gov)**

H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, passed the House by a vote of 262 to 152. The bill, introduced by Representative Steve Southerland (R-FL), would prohibit EPA and the Corps from finalizing their proposed rule to expand the jurisdiction over waters of the U.S. regulated under the CWA. The bill prohibits the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from developing, finalizing, adopting, implementing, applying, administering, or enforcing the proposed WOTUS rule, or using the rule as a basis for future administrative actions. Among other things, it would also prohibit any “guidance” that would expand the scope of waters covered by the CWA and the agencies’ interpretive rule that would broaden regulation of the agricultural community by restricting the exemption from CWA Section 404 permitting for certain NRCS approved agricultural conservation practices. Finally, the bill requires the agencies to develop a consensus-based proposal with the states to define jurisdictional waters under the CWA.

The legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration, where it is not likely to be acted on.

## AGree Releases Five Papers on U.S. Agriculture *Family Farm Alliance White Paper Included*

Earlier this month, AGree – a long term, collaborative initiative that seeks to transform U.S. policy affecting the food and agriculture system at home and abroad - announced the publication of five papers offering diverse perspectives on how to achieve productivity, profitability, and environmental outcomes in U.S. agriculture. The papers, intended to inform AGree's development of consensus recommendations, are authored by leading producers and other practitioners and experts at the intersection of agriculture and conservation. The papers were published in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in Burlington, VT, at which AGree Co-Chairs Gary Hirshberg and Jim Moseley were speaking. Mr. Moseley is among the authors, as are four members of AGree's Advisory Committee, including Family Farm Alliance President Patrick O'Toole.

Taken together, the papers provide insight into the opportunities for aligning environmental stewardship with productivity and profitability on farms and ranches across the country. You can visit the AGree website's [Publications Page](#) for an *Overview and Abstracts* of the papers as well as links to the individual papers.

"Landscapes" by Kristin Weeks Duncanson, Jim Moseley, and Fred Yoder features three Midwestern farmers who chart a path forward for agricultural conservation through producer-led, cooperative watershed or landscape-scale efforts focused on achieving measurable agriculture and conservation outcomes.

"Increasing Sustainability of America's Working Landscapes Through Improved Public-Private Collaborations at Multiple Scales" by Jim Faulstich, Steve Jester, and Jim Stone was written by two Western ranchers and conservation

leaders and the Executive Director of Partners for Conservation (PFC). It outlines a range of strategies and tactics to improve landowner-agency relationships and foster collaborative approaches to natural resource challenges.

"Towards a Knowledge Infrastructure for Science-Based Policy and Sustainable Management of Agricultural Landscapes", by economists John Antle, Susan Capalbo, and Laurie Houston discusses the importance of a knowledge infrastructure for agriculture and its potential to improve on-farm decision making as well as support the sustainable management of working landscapes.

"Securing the Future of Western Agriculture: A Perspective of Western Producers" by Family Farm Alliance President Pat O'Toole and Executive Director Dan Keppen provides insights into the unique challenges and opportunities facing landowners and producers in the western United States.

"Food and Beverage Company Sustainable Sourcing Initiatives in Farming Regions", by Hal Hamilton and Elizabeth Reaves of the Sustainable Food Lab, describes the experiences of food companies to date with sustainable sourcing initiatives involving large-scale commercial agriculture and concludes that sustainable food production is inherently collaborative and requires leaders who are able to work effectively with people across their organizations and in different sectors.

These "Point of View" papers were commissioned by AGree to inform and stimulate dialogue about policy reform; they do not represent official AGree positions. The views expressed are those of the individual authors. To learn more about AGree, please visit [www.foodandagpolicy.org](http://www.foodandagpolicy.org).

### Dear Friends of the Family Farm Alliance:

***Irrigation Leader* magazine is distributed to irrigation district managers and boards of directors in the 17 western states, Bureau of Reclamation officials, members of Congress and committee staff, and advertising sponsors.**

**We encourage Family Farm Alliance members to consider signing up for an electronic notice or having their names added to the hard copy mailing list of *Irrigation Leader* magazine. You can do so by contacting Kris Polly at (703)-517-3962 or by e-mailing [Irrigation.Leader@waterstrategies.com](mailto:Irrigation.Leader@waterstrategies.com).**



## Johnson Foundation at Wingspread Releases Report on U.S. Freshwater Crisis

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread recently announced the release of *"Navigating to New Shores: Seizing the Future for Sustainable and Resilient U.S. Freshwater Resources,"* - a report that culminates The Foundation's work through its Charting New Waters (CNW) initiative.

"The Johnson Foundation first began looking at the challenges that surround our nation's water resources in 2008, and has since been doing what it does best - bringing together partners to spur collective action," said Dr. Lynn Broaddus, Director of the Environment Program at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread.

"Charting New Waters has been a deep examination of how the management of our water resources can be reimaged and reinvented to address our water challenges and generate positive environmental, economic and social benefits."

In its latest phase, CNW focused on what it will take to transform the nation's aging 19th- and 20th-century water infrastructure into resilient 21st-century systems that will sustain the nation's environment, economy and society for future generations. By aiming to help local, state and national leaders set a course for and navigate decisions regarding the conception, construction, financing and management of water infrastructure, CNW's ultimate goal is to accelerate the widespread adoption of innovative and successful water infrastructure and management solutions.

"We originally launched this effort knowing that, despite the growing concerns around U.S. water security, there seemed to be no one pulling together the important work that was happening in different sectors and different regions," said Ms. Broaddus. "Innovation is happening in every aspect of water resources management today - in all

regions of the nation - and The Johnson Foundation sees myriad opportunities to take water sector innovation to the next level."

The report marks the conclusion of the Foundation's work on U.S. freshwater issues and will be used as a tool to discuss

successes and set goals for the battles that still lie ahead. The Foundation will be conducting a final convening that will focus on the progress made over the past six years by everyone involved in CNW and the opportunities for others to carry the work forward.

"We all need water and count on it to survive," said Ms. Broaddus. "Our economy would grind to a halt without the reliable, safe, disease-free water that most North Americans have come to take for granted. Tackling

our water infrastructure challenges presents an opportunity for future economic growth and an overall better quality of life for all of us."

The Johnson Foundation has set aside October 8th as a day of activities in Washington, DC to present the new set of recommendations targeted at a national audience. While this roll-out will focus primarily on municipal and industrial, utility, and climate change matters, Alliance President Patrick O'Toole has been invited to participate in the event to address agricultural water issues.

"The thrust of my message will be to underscore the critical challenges facing Western irrigated agriculture, as evidenced by the current drought in California and other parts of the West," said Mr. O'Toole. "I intend to describe why now, more than ever, we should be finding ways to firm up agricultural water supplies so our farms and ranches can continue to feed a growing world population."



*Alliance President Pat O'Toole addresses the "Charting New Waters" forum in Washington, D.C.*

## Farm Foundation Works with NRCS *Western RCA Roundtables Planned*

The Farm Foundation is working with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to host Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (RCA) round table discussions in several Western states. Established by law in 1977, the RCA requires USDA to gather public input on natural resources conservation policy issues. The goal is to safeguard the nation's natural resources to meet current and future agricultural needs, improve delivery of conservation services to landowners and communities, and expand participation in conservation programs.

To assist NRCS in gathering input from the public, Farm Foundation is hosting a series of discussions in the seven USDA Climate Hub regions. The meetings will take place September through November 2014.

Discussion in each session will address three core topics: water resource management, soil health, and the resilience of soil and water resources to climate change and extreme weather events. Presentations by regional experts will be followed by group discussions of regional resource problems and, most importantly, potential solutions to these problems.

"We would like to get input from as many people as

possible, and are asking all invitees to respond to a survey we have prepared, even if they are not able to attend the Regional Round Table discussion," said Sheldon Jones, Farm Foundation Vice-President and a member of the Family Farm Alliance Advisory Committee. "Information gathered at these sessions will be reported to USDA leaders and to Congress through a national forum in early 2015."

Upcoming roundtables are scheduled for October 6 in Davis (CALIFORNIA) and October 9 in Spokane (WASHINGTON).

The Farm Foundation in early 2011 organized similar industry meetings across the country to engage the public in the RCA process. Alliance president Pat O'Toole was a member of a Blue Ribbon panel that assisted the Foundation, and brought leadership to that process. The Alliance supported this effort by getting producers to participate and present at meetings in Ft. Collins (COLORADO), Mesa (ARIZONA), and Portland (OREGON). Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen has been invited to be the regional water speaker for the Spokane meeting on Oct. 9. If you are interested in participating or if you have any questions, please contact Sheldon Jones at 630-601-4151.

## Alliance and National Young Farmers Coalition Team Up for Colorado Conservation Tour

The Family Farm Alliance and National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) have teamed up to host a tour of innovative farm and ranch operations in the Four Corners area of the Colorado River Basin.

"We have been working with NYFC and producers across the Colorado River Basin to identify innovative on-farm approaches to water efficiency and conservation and how such approaches look across operations and regions," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

Farmers and ranchers across the Colorado River Basin and other western regions are enhancing water conservation, productivity and resilience through on-farm practices. Farmers are implementing efficient technology, developing precise irrigation techniques and monitoring the effects of their management. In addition, many are integrating land management practices into their operation that both improve the efficiencies of irrigation technology and gen-

erate opportunities for water conservation. Namely, producers are managing more and more for soil health: conservation tillage, cover crops, mulching, even rotational grazing are examples of the management tools being put to the test by western farmers and ranchers.

"To develop further dialogue around on-farm efficiency and water conservation practices we are hosting a western farm tour this fall for farmers to share their insights," said NYFC's Kate Greenberg. "We are also creating case studies and producing a short film. Ultimately, we hope to use these findings to show how they fit into the larger picture of the Colorado River Basin."

The tour is scheduled for October 27-29, 2014 and will be based out of Durango (COLORADO). If you have questions or want to learn more about this tour, please contact Kate Greenberg at 612-889-6829 or Dan Keppen 541-892-6244.

**For a complete draft itinerary of the Colorado tour, please see Page 8**

# Water Conservation Farm Tour Agenda

## National Young Farmers Coalition & Family Farm Alliance

### Monday, October 27, 2014

- Noon Arrive at the [Strater Hotel](#) 699 Main Ave. Durango, CO; check-in; Meet-up
- 1 pm Leave Hotel for James Ranch, 20 minutes North of Durango
- 1:30 Introductions & snacks at James Ranch
- 2-4pm Tour [James Ranch](#): *Managing livestock for soil health, water conservation and product quality in an integrated, multi-generational family farm and ranch; Dan James.*
- 4:30pm *Guest Speaker Pending*
- 5:30pm Dinner at the James Ranch grill - chili & cornbread
- 7:00 Return to Hotel
- Late-night Drinks, music, night-life optional

### Tuesday, October 28, 2014

- 7am Continental breakfast
- 7:30-9:30am Drive to Ute Mountain Farm & Ranch (2hrs)
- Enroute presentation by Bruce Whitehead, Southwestern Water Conservation District***
- 9:30-11:30 Farm tour: *Managing irrigation for enhanced efficiency & productivity*
- 11:30 Box lunch, Strater Hotel Catering
- 12:00-2:00 Return to Hotel
- 2:30-3:00 Strater Hotel Theater; workshop introductions  
*Pastries, coffee & tea provided*
- 3:00-4:00 Rotating collaborative workshops: *1) Soil health and diversified vegetable production 2) Grazing Cropland: rotation, challenges and opportunities, 3) Irrigation efficiency and land stewardship; 4) Cover crops and minimum Tillage*
- 4:00-4:30 All-group presentations from workshop groups
- 4:30-5:30 Break
- 5:30pm Participant dinner at [Powerhouse Science Center](#) 1333 Camino del Rio Durango, CO 81301
- 6:30 Doors open to community
- 7-8pm **NYFC Film Premier & Farmer/Rancher Panel**
- 8:30pm-on Party moves elsewhere; drinks, music, night-life optional

### Wednesday, October 29, 2014

- 7am Continental breakfast
- 8-8:30am Eric Kuhn, General Manager, Colorado River District, *Colorado River Basin policy overview: Challenges and solutions for a drying West*
- 8:30-9:15 Q&A & CO River Basin policy discussion
- 9:15-9:30 Harrison Topp, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, *Update on opportunities to integrate microhydro power into irrigation systems*
- 9:30-9:45 Break: *Pastries, coffee & tea provided*
- 9:45-11:30 Case Study Presentations– Pat O’Toole, Ladder Ranch, Savery, WY; Brendon Rockey, Rockey Farms, Center, CO; Harrison Topp, Fruit grower, Paonia, CO
- 11:30-12pm Wrap up
- 12pm Tour completed; shuttle back to airport for those flying

**A Big Thank You to Our New and Supporting Members!**

***JULY-AUGUST 2014***

**ADVOCATE (\$1,000 -\$4,999)**

**Association of California Water Agencies  
Nebraska State Irrigation Association  
Reinke Manufacturing Company (NE)  
San Luis Canal Company (CA)**

**DEFENDER (\$500-\$999)**

**North Side Canal Company (ID)  
Stotz Equipment (AZ)**

**PARTNER (\$250-\$499)**

**BE Giovanetti and Sons (CA)  
Durham Pump, Inc (CA)  
Flying R Farms (AZ)  
Mick and Leslie James (AZ)  
Schroeder Law Offices (OR)  
Strawberry Water Users Association (UT)**

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**Make your tax-deductible gift to the Alliance today! Grassroots membership is vital to our organization. Thank you in advance for your loyal support. If you would like further info, please contact Dan Keppen at [dankeppen@charter.net](mailto:dankeppen@charter.net), or visit our website: [www.familyfarmalliance.org](http://www.familyfarmalliance.org).**



*Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture*

Contributions can also be mailed directly to:  
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Riverdale, CA 93656.