



May 28, 2021

Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St. Suite 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Final Report for National Young Farmers Coalition Colorado Water Plan Grant
"Young Farmers and Ranchers Water Leadership Pilot Program"

Dear Ben,

Below please find our Colorado Water Plan grant final report for the dates between 5/1/2020 and 5/31/2021. As written in the grant guidelines, this report describes the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work. If you have any questions on the below, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your support as we seek to bring water education to more farmers, ranchers, and community members across Colorado.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sophie Ackoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sophie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ackoff".

Sophie Ackoff
Co-Executive Director

National Young Farmers Coalition

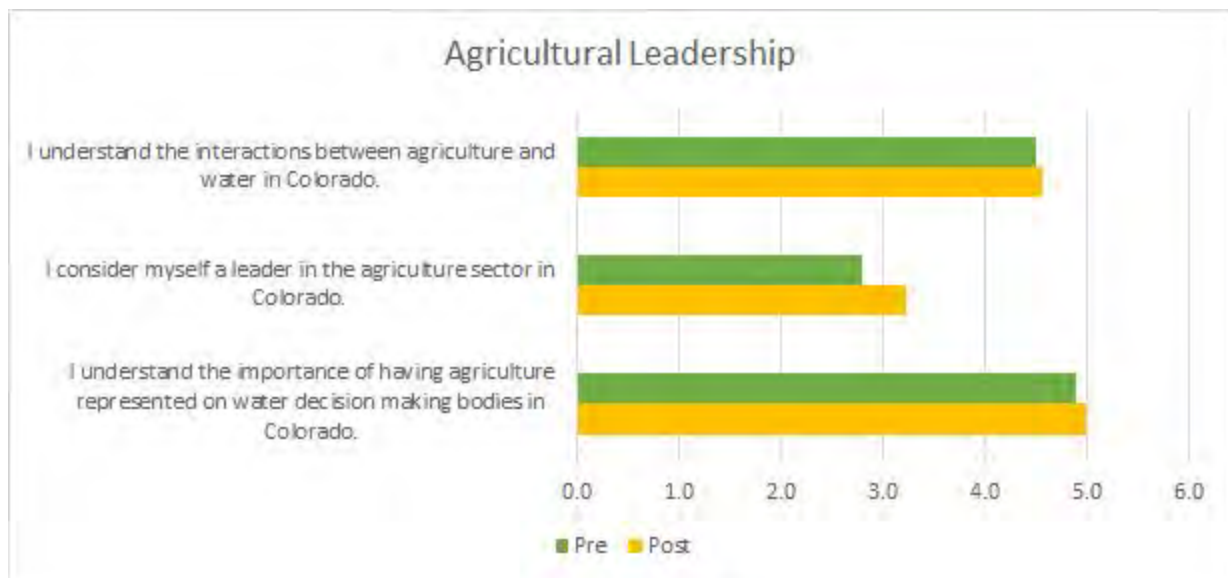
Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Pilot Program – Progress Report

Task	Completed	Results	Complications & Corrective Action
Task 1 – Fellowship Design and Outreach	100%	<p>In the spring of 2020, we designed the fellowship and recruited fellows.</p> <p>In the design phase, we sought input from CWCB, the Colorado Ag Water Alliance, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and Western Resource Advocates. With their input, we designed the training fellowship and identified potential speakers. We designed the program to create opportunity for input from the Fellows, so some webinar topics were not predetermined.</p> <p>When we opened the fellowship application, we shared the opportunity with 33 partners, including the Basin Roundtables and PEPO contacts. We also issued a press release and Erin Foster West, Western Campaigns Director, was interviewed on The Barn radio show about the program. The link to the interview is here.</p> <p>Marketing materials shared with partners are attached. The website used to recruit fellows is here.</p>	<p>We opened the application in early March, when COVID-19 became prevalent in Colorado. Unfortunately, it was a challenging time to promote the fellowship, since many producers and the general public were focusing on responding and adjusting to the challenges presented by COVID-19.</p> <p>To give producers more time to apply, we extended the application deadline by two weeks. In total, we received 16 applications, fewer than our goal of 20.</p> <p>We also had to cancel two in person recruitment events, one in the San Luis Valley and the other in Montezuma County. These events were designed to recruit acequia water users and tribal members. We shared the application with local partners, but did not successfully recruit applicants from either group.</p>
Task 2 – Fellowship Delivery	100%	<p>We recruited and trained 10 young farmers and ranchers. The Fellows cohort represented a diverse group of farmers and ranchers across the State of Colorado. The Fellows are located in 7 of Colorado's 9 basins, all are under the age of 40, 6 are women, and 2 are women of color. The Fellows are all listed on our website here.</p> <p>The Fellows participated in 7 training events, including a 2-day kick-off, five 2-hour webinars, and a training graduation event. Overall, the Fellows completed 32 hours of training on state-level water issues; leadership development; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. A summary of the teaching objectives and curriculum from the training events is attached. Based on our evaluation, the training was effective at increasing their understanding and competence in each of the three areas. See the attached summary of the training evaluation.</p>	<p>COVID-19 also created challenges for the fellowship delivery. We had planned for the graduation and kick-off in person to build cohesion in the cohort. However, due to restrictions on gathering and due to safety concerns, we moved all the trainings online.</p> <p>To try to build a strong cohort, we paired the fellows into 'fellow dyads'. The dyads were encouraged to meet outside of the training, to discuss the materials and support one another in their deliverables.</p>
Task 3 – Post-Fellowship Programming and Evaluation	100%	<p>The training portion of the fellowship was completed in October 2020. From October through March, the Fellows completed self-guided professional development and goal setting, met regularly with Young Farmer staff for coaching, and continued to attend local and state-level water meetings.</p> <p>The fellows really impressed us with their ambition to run for water-based decision-making boards. Eight fellows attempted to run for a board but one did not officially run because the timing of the year (board member elections happen at a different time). Even with those challenges, 8 board seats were attempted and we hit our goal of having 3 of the fellows accepted onto a board. The fellows set high</p>	<p>One farmer had to leave the fellowship shortly after the training portion was completed. Due to a family issue, he left the farm and moved out of state. One other Fellow left his job in agriculture early this year and moved into a new industry. He decided not to complete the deliverables since he was no longer farming.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was little corrective action we could take, as both Fellows left toward the end of the Fellowship program.</p>

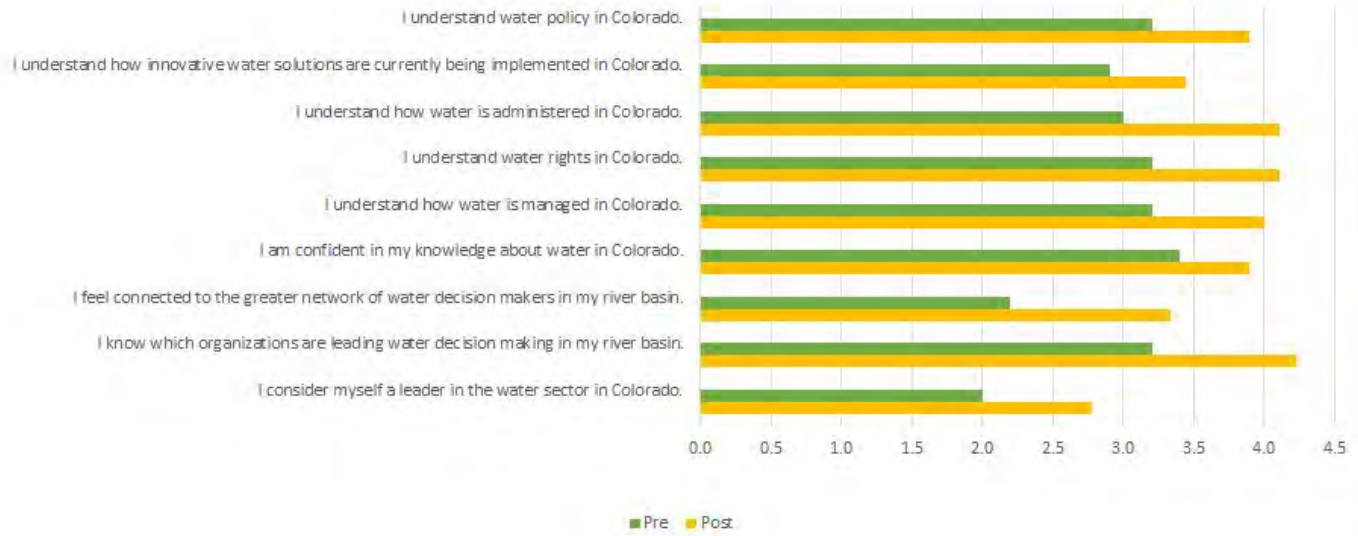
		<p>expectations for themselves in seeking board seats listed below. They all selected boards that have high influence in the water community.</p> <p>Successful Board Seats Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board (Start Date: 12/1/2020 - 3 year term) Mancos Conservation District (Start Date: 12/2020 - 2 year term) Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (Start Date: 2021 - 5 year term)</p> <p>Unsuccessful Board Seats Metro Basin Roundtable Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Arkansas Basin Roundtable Greater Arkansas River Nature Association</p> <p>Still Waiting for Decision Colorado Department of Agriculture- Agriculture Commission</p> <p>Even after 2 of our fellows were not able to complete the fellowship, we exceeded our goal for the number of participants at the fellows’ trainings. All 8 fellows who completed the fellowship hosted trainings, collectively reaching 106 people in those trainings. The fellows recruited 24 different expert speakers to present during their training and engaged 23 partner organizations in the planning and delivery of their training. The topics of each training was self-selected by each fellow and covered a variety of topic areas. A summary of the trainings is attached.</p>	
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CWCB Midterm Report- Evaluation Narrative

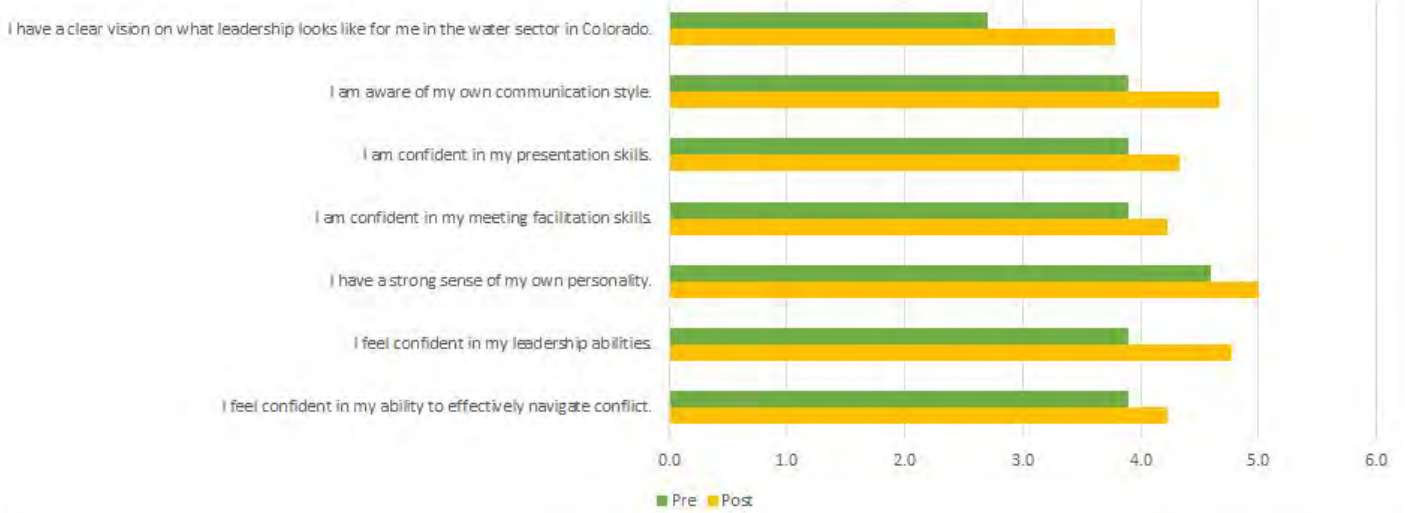
To evaluate the knowledge gained by the fellows in this program, we measured multiple topics in each of our fellowship focus areas which were Agricultural Leadership, Water Knowledge, Leadership, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We asked each fellow to what extent the fellowship program increased their knowledge of each topic, and they scored themselves on a scale from 1 to 5 (1- Not at all, 2- To a small extent, 3- Somewhat, 4- To a moderate extent, 5- Definitely). We were impressed with the pre fellowship scores as they all scored themselves pretty high in all areas. We knew this meant we had our work cut out for us to create more aware and knowledgeable fellows. As we completed the educational training portion of the fellowship we are very pleased to see that our pre and post knowledge evaluations did show an increased understanding of each of the knowledge areas we sought out to cover during the fellowship, except for one, which stayed the same. For that one that scored the same the pre and post score average was already 4.9. Below is a summary of the four focus areas and the topics that were measured within each focus area.



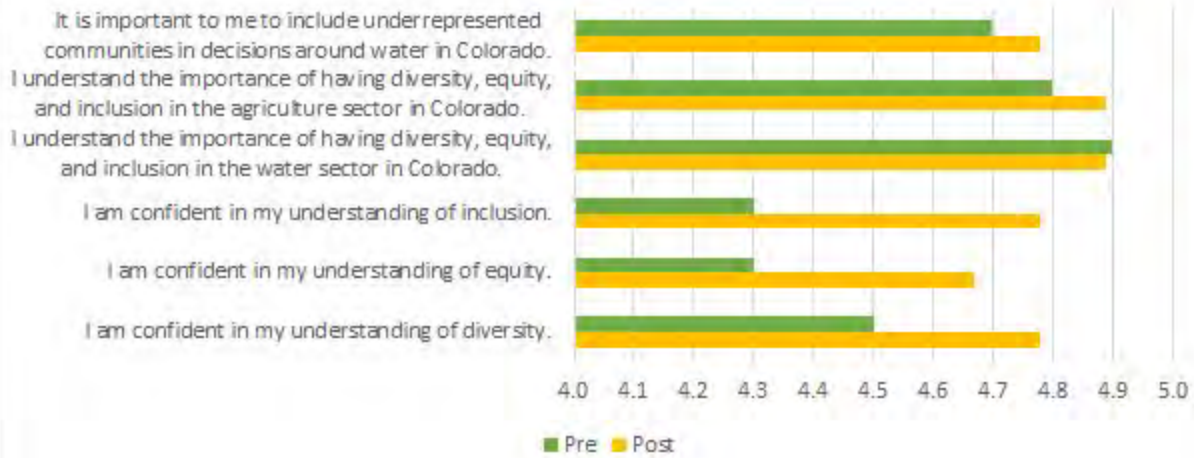
Water Knowledge



Leadership



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion





Young Farmer Water Fellows Pre-Evaluation

Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural class of the Young Farmers Water Fellowship. The pre-program evaluation is a formal, confidential evaluation to learn more about you, your expectations of the program, and for us to have a baseline understanding of the knowledge you currently have for the various components of the program.



Young Farmer Water Fellows Pre-Evaluation

Fellow Details and Demographics

* First Name

* Last Name

How old will you be on June 7, 2020?

* Please provide a short biography of yourself.

What farm or ranch do you work for or worked for most recently?

What is your title or was your title at your most recent farm/ranch role? (if applicable)

* Please upload a headshot (preferably one where your face is clearly visible without a hat or sunglasses).

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* National Young Farmers Coalition plans to feature the 2020 Fellows on our website, social media, and the press. Can we use your bio and photo to share information about the Fellowship Program?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is your paypal account? (If you have paypal, we will deposit your stipend via paypal, which is the quickest way to receive your funds. If you do not, leave this box blank and we will send a check.)

* Race/Ethnicity (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Black/African American/Afro-Caribbean/African
- ☐ Latinx/Chicanx/Hispanic
- ☐ Asian descent
- ☐ Indigenous/Original People
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ White/European descent
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Not listed above? (please specify)

* Gender (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Rather Not Say
- ☐ Custom (please specify)

* Preferred Pronoun(s)

- ☐ She/her/hers
- ☐ He/him/his
- ☐ They/them/theirs
- ☐ Other (please specify)



Young Farmer Water Fellows Pre-Evaluation

Water and Agriculture

Please rate your level of agreement with the statements below. Your rankings will help Young Farmers staff develop webinars and understand the success of the program.

* Agricultural Leadership

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I understand the importance of having agriculture represented on water decision making bodies in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider myself a leader in the agriculture sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the interactions between agriculture and water in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Water Knowledge

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I consider myself a leader in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know which organizations are leading water decision making in my river basin.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel connected to the greater network of water decision makers in my river basin.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my knowledge about water in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how water is managed in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand water rights in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how water is administered in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how innovative water solutions are currently being implemented in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand water policy in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Young Farmer Water Fellows Pre-Evaluation

Leadership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Please rate on a scale of one to five, how much you agree with each statement. Your rankings will help Young Farmers staff develop webinars and understand the success of the program.

* Leadership

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I feel confident in my ability to effectively navigate conflict.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel confident in my leadership abilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a strong sense of my own personality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my meeting facilitation skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my presentation skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am aware of my own communication style.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a clear vision on what leadership looks like for me in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I am confident in my understanding of diversity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my understanding of equity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my understanding of inclusion.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the importance of having diversity, equity, and inclusion in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the importance of having diversity, equity, and inclusion in the agriculture sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me to include underrepresented communities in decisions around water in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me to include underrepresented communities in decisions around agriculture in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Young Farmer Water Fellows Pre-Evaluation

Thank you!

Thank you for completing our Pre-Program Evaluation. We look forward to working with you!



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Introduction

Congratulations on completing the training portion of the Young Farmers Water Fellowship. This evaluation is confidential for us to learn more about your experience with the program, opportunities to improve it, and to evaluate the impact of our program.



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Fellow Details and Demographics

* First Name

* Last Name

How long have you been in the agriculture industry? (Please list your answer in number of years)

How long have you been in the water industry? (Please list your answer in number of years. If this fellowship is your introduction to water then please list 0 years)



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Graduation Session Evaluation

What are the key take aways for you from our final session?

What did you like most about our final session?

What would you have changed about our final session?

Do you have any outstanding questions or specific issues you want to learn more about?

What else do you want us to know about our final session?



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Fellowship Deliverables

This is to get a snapshot of your plans for the next 6 months, so we can know how to best support you. However, your plans can still change through the rest of the fellowship.

What board are you currently planning on running for?

When will you know if you will serve as a board member of that board?

When are you planning to host your training?

Are you currently planning on an in-person or virtual training? Indicate if you want to participate in the virtual series.

As a benefit to the fellowship program you have \$100 to spend to support your training. At this time, what are you planning on using these funds for?



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Program Format

As we continue to offer the virtual open office hours, what time of the day/week works best for you?

- ☐ Weekday evening
- ☐ Weekday lunch
- ☐ Sunday evenings

If you selected weekday, what day of the week works best for you.

- ☐ Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday

Did the Sunday evening time slot work well to participate in the Fellowship?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered No to the above question, please indicate the time of week that would have worked better for you.

What time of year would be the best to hold the educational portion of the fellowship?

- ☐ January - June
- ☐ March - October
- ☐ June - October
- ☐ September - December
- ☐ October - March
- ☐ Other (please specify)

As we look to continue this fellowship program, what do you want the program managers to know about the timing and format of the fellowship, so we can grow the program?

Please rate the pace of the program.

- ☐ The Fellowship was too slow
- ☐ The Fellowship was the perfect pace
- ☐ The Fellowship was too fast

Please rate the time commitment to the program.

- ☐ The fellowship took too little of my time
- ☐ The Fellowship took the right amount of my time
- ☐ The Fellowship took too much of my time

Please rate your how well the Fellowship met your overall expectations.

- ☐ The fellowship did not meet my expectations
- ☐ The fellowship somewhat met my expectations
- ☐ The Fellowship met my expectations
- ☐ The Fellowship exceeded my expectations

As a benefit to the fellowship program you have \$200 to spend on a professional development opportunity. At this time, what are you planning on using these funds for?



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Water and Agriculture

Please rate your level of agreement with the statements below. Your rankings will help Young Farmers staff develop webinars and understand the success of the program.

* To what extent did the fellowship program increase your knowledge of agriculture water policy?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ To a small extent
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ Definitely

* Agricultural Leadership

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I understand the importance of having agriculture represented on water decision making bodies in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider myself a leader in the agriculture sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the interactions between agriculture and water in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Water Knowledge

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I consider myself a leader in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know which organizations are leading water decision making in my river basin.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel connected to the greater network of water decision makers in my river basin.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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I understand how water is managed in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand water rights in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how water is administered in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how innovative water solutions are currently being implemented in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand water policy in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Leadership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Please rate on a scale of one to five, how much you agree with each statement. Your rankings will help Young Farmers staff develop webinars and understand the success of the program.

* Leadership

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I feel confident in my ability to effectively navigate conflict.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel confident in my leadership abilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a strong sense of my own personality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my meeting facilitation skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my presentation skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am aware of my own communication style.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a clear vision on what leadership looks like for me in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

	Not at all	To a small extent	Somewhat	To a moderate extent	Definitely
I am confident in my understanding of diversity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my understanding of equity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident in my understanding of inclusion.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the importance of having diversity, equity, and inclusion in the water sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the importance of having diversity, equity, and inclusion in the agriculture sector in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me to include underrepresented communities in decisions around water in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me to include underrepresented communities in decisions around agriculture in Colorado.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Young Farmer Water Fellows Trainings Evaluation

Thank you!

Thank you for completing our Training Evaluation. Congrats on completing this portion of the Fellowship.

2020 Young Farmers Water Fellowship Teaching Objectives and Curriculum

Fellowship Program Facilitators:

Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC

Session One: Planning for the Season

Objectives:

- Orientation to the Water Fellowship/Program Expectations
- Gain an understanding of the nexus between agriculture and water
- Gain an understanding of Water Boards and Commissions
- Gain an understanding of your own Myers Briggs Type and how your preferences influence your leadership style and potential
- Gain an understanding of how culture and bias shows up and how to be more inclusive
- Orientation to the Statewide Water Education Action Plan
- Gain an understanding of Water Law/Administration

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Alex Funk, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Water Boards and Commissions Panel
 - Moderated by Orla Bannon, Western Resource Advocates.
 - Panelists: Heather Dutton (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Deirdre Macnab (Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable), Zach Thode (Colorado Ag Water Alliance Board), Paul Bruchez (Interbasin Compact Committee)
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC
- Parker McMullen Bushman, Ecoinclusive
- Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado
- Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Session Two: Preparing the Field - Connecting, Clarifying, and Communication

Objectives:

- Connect more with your fellow fellows
- Begin to plan and implement the Pathway to Leadership Workbook
- Clarify your vision for the fellowship and completing your two deliverables
- Gain an understanding of your Myers Briggs Type as it relates to communication

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC

Session Three: Planting the Seeds - Water Law in a Nutshell

Objectives:

- Check-in and connect with your fellow fellows
- Introduction to Water Law and how it impacts agriculture in Colorado
- Continue to plan and make progress towards two program deliverables; Hosting a Water Training and Running for a Water Decision Making Board

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC
- Aaron Clay, Attorney at Law

Session Four: Irrigating the Crops - Water Management

Objectives:

- Gain a deeper understanding of Water Law and how it impacts agriculture in Colorado
- Introduction to Water Management and Acequias

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC
- Aaron Clay, Attorney at Law
- Dr. Devon Pena, The Acequia Institute

Session Five: Finding Your Market - Colorado Water Funding

Objectives:

- Check-in and connect with your fellow fellows
- Gain an understanding of fundraising for agriculture and water projects
- Gain an understanding of best practices when applying for grants

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Amber Weber, Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance
- Jill Ozarski, Walton Family Foundation

Session Six: Cultivating the Plants - Webinar Series Wrap Up

Objectives:

- Fellowship progress check to evaluate growth so far and map a plan for completing the fellowship deliverables
- Discuss impacts of COVID on deliverables (specifically the training) and discuss notifications
- Gain an understanding of how to be an effective facilitator and create engaging trainings/workshops

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC

Session Session: Harvest - Webinar Series Graduation

Objectives:

- Gain a deeper understanding of DEI and how to be a more inclusive leader by recognizing your bias and being intentional about integrating DEI into your work
- Gain an understanding of Colorado Water History
- Gain an understanding of water quality and how it impact agriculture
- Gain an understanding of your conflict style and how to navigate conflict situations
- Discuss fellowship next steps
- Celebrate your accomplishment in completing the educational portion of the fellowship

- Reflect on the fellowship to this point

Speakers:

- Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers Coalitoin
- Stephanie Scott, Scott Solutions LLC
- Parker McMullen Bushman, Ecoinclusive
- Dr. Michael Weeks, Weeks in the West
- Kenan Diker, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Kate Greenberg, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

2020 Young Farmer Water Fellow Training Summaries

Below is a summary of each of the eight trainings that the water fellows hosted as one of their two deliverables for the fellowship program.

Training Title: Basics of Water Policy, Laws, and Types

Training Date: 3/24/2021

Fellow: Amber Graves

Brief Training Summary:

Began with why Colorado Water Law is so important; residents need dependability, security, and flexibility. Went over the four essential laws of the Colorado Doctrine. Then went over riparian doctrine and why it wouldn't work in CO, and the following Yunker vs. Nichols trial that allowed CO citizens to divert water to where they could use it beneficially. Colorado Constitution and the main points of it.

Went over Prior Appropriation System and how it is applied and how seniority works. Went over a "call" as well, if a senior right holder places a call to ensure they get their rightful water even if it means a junior isn't allowed water.

Went over beneficial use's definition and multiple CO examples. Water waste, in parallel with beneficial use.

Went over returned flows, water that wasn't consumed by the original user and can be used by downstream users. Then we went over Over-appropriation, consumptive use, and conjunctive use.

Went over tributary water types then other types of groundwater that is not tributary.

We then went over the two things needed to permit a well - application to drill a well and application to obtain a water right decree.

We then went over water rights and how they are a type of property right, usufructuary right. And then went over how you can potentially abandon water and how if you don't need water how you can lease it, prove you were rotating crops, or loaning it to CWCB for instream flow use.

We then went over the types of water rights that were consumptive or non consumptive.

We then went over water courts, 7 in CO based on the major watershed and what they have jurisdiction and power over.

Then we went over the types of decrees.

Finally we went over the basic steps in obtaining a decree for water rights.

Attendee List:

Amber Graves Training

Megan Davey

Andy Breiter

5-6 others. Don't have email/zoom to see names

Training Agenda:

Wednesday 3/24/2021

6:00-6:05 Introduction to myself, Amber Graves, and why I chose this topic and why it's important to me

6:05-6:53 Going over the powerpoint on Colorado Water Policies, Laws, and Topics

Marketing Used:

Asked Bijou to spread the word to their shareholders

The YFWF's reach outs :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-web-series-tickets-141371171981>

Media Links:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-web-series-tickets-141371171981>

Evaluation Responses:

No participants responded

Training Title: Boulder County Water History and Solutions

Training Date: 2/24/2021

Fellow: Andy Breiter

Brief Training Summary:

The Flatirons Young Farmers Coalition hosted a water education program at the end of February. This program featured the Left Hand Watershed Center and the Saint Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD). Deborah Hummel from the Left Hand Watershed Center spoke in more regarding how their Adaptive Management Plan manages for uncertainty and complexity. Ms. Hummel is a Watershed Scientist for the Left Hand Watershed Center and discussed how monitoring key indicators helps their planning.

Sean Cronin from SVLHWCD gave a presentation regarding Boulder County's water history. Mr. Cronin is the Executive Director of SVLHWCD. His presentation also included information on our aging water infrastructure and a vision for what our future may look like. The training contained time for a question and answer session as well.

This training was hosted through the Flatirons Young Farmers Coalition, a chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition. I am the President of this Chapter and I have used the chapter's platform to promote the event. In addition, the membership of the Flatirons Young Farmers Coalition was the intended audience. This group consists of farmer and advocate members living in Boulder County.

Attendee List:

Alexi Yeldejian
Andy Breiter
Andy Nye
Becky Dunn
Courtlyn Virginia Carpenter
Daniel Golly
Deb Hummel
Hannah George
Helen Skiba
Laura Quaranta
Lauren Dunteman
Lauren Garrison
Matty Holleb
Megan Davey
Nola Naturals
Sean Cronin
Shan Wo
Stephanie Scott
"Suzie"
Willow Cozzins

Final Training Agenda:

630-640 People Coming on the call and Andy introduce the fellowship program, FYFC and the Watershed Center

640-705-710 the Watershed Center' Deb Hummel to present on their Adaptive Management Plan

705/710 Andy will introduce Sean Cronin of SVLHWCD

705-740 Sean will present on some history of water in Boulder County, its aging infrastructure and will touch on future vision

740-8 Q and A facilitated by Andy

Marketing Used:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fyfc-water-education-program-tickets-139318111221?aff=ebdssbeac>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CLVk7HnImV9/>

Media Links:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fyfc-water-education-program-tickets-139318111221?aff=ebdssbeac>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CLVk7HnImV9/>

Evaluation Responses:

7 participants responded- 85.7% said training met expectations. All 7 participants indicated an increase in their knowledge around the ten topics covered in the training:

- General Water Issues in Boulder County
- Water History in Boulder County
- St Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District
- Lefthand Watershed Center
- Adaptive Management Planning
- Key Indicator Monitoring
- Water Infrastructure of Boulder County
- Watershed Management
- Water Solutions to the Arid West

Key Takeaways:

While water in Boulder is a scarce and valuable resource, there are a lot of people that are well trained and educated and are more and more coming together to figure out what the future of water looks like. No one sector, including ag can find solutions alone.

The seriousness of water issues in Colorado and the work by various organizations to plan and manage water availability for Coloradans.

Ag uses the water but the control is disconnected by the voters and lack of education on how it's all linked together.

CO water is precious and there are impacts of your actions in water that you do not know or understand.

Watershed health and irrigation water use

The important position smart, inventive, agriculture has to play in our water future and land management to support water retention & infiltration & storage. Also I'm questioning our scarcity mindset around water, and also how the public trust doctrine and rights of nature are allies in this.

Training Title: Urban Water Usage, Conservation and Quality

Training Date: 3/10/2021

Fellow: Andy Nye

Brief Training Summary:

This March, the National Young Farmers Coalition hosted a Water Web Series. As part of this series, I (Andy Nye) created and delivered a presentation entitled "Urban Water Usage and Conservation/Quality".

Water use and conservation is important in any agricultural setting, large or small. As a small-scale farmer I wanted this presentation to focus a bit more on water conservation efforts within urban settings and small-scale operations specifically. This presentation included a brief overview of Colorado water history and water law, the roles and responsibilities of Denver Water, water distribution, population growth and water conservation, the Colorado Water Plan and finally highlighted some of the watering methods and techniques we use at to help conserve water, Ikigai Farm, my urban farm in Wheat Ridge Colorado.

This training was free to attend, and individuals were able to register for the event through Eventbrite. This presentation was hosted as a live online training via zoom and took place on Wednesday, March 10th from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The presentation lasted for approximately 50 minutes and was followed by a 10-minute question and answer session. This presentation was also recorded and distributed to all those who registered for the event to re-watch or watch at a later date if they were not able to attend the live event.

Attendee List:

Leslie Gwinn
Steve Gwinn
Hannah Tamura
Darla Wyeno
Dottie Adams
Megan Davey
Paula Nye
Erin Foster West
Darcy Nelson
Sarah Tamura
Unknown "user" (per zoom name)

Final Training Agenda:

5:55pm : Logged on to zoom and met with Megan Davey to help set up co-hosting and screen sharing privileges.

6:00pm : Brief hello and small talk, welcoming individuals as they signed on.

6:05pm : Formal introduction and started presentation.

- Presentation Agenda :
 - Brief Introduction to Colorado Water History and Water Law
 - Water Distribution
 - Water Quality
 - Population Growth and Water
 - Urban Farming and Water Conservation (Methods used at Ikigai Farm)

6:50pm – Question and Answer Session

7:00pm – Final thoughts and thanks as training ends.

Marketing Used:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-web-series-tickets-141371097759>

<https://www.facebook.com/ikigaifarm>

Water Web Series Flyer

Media Links:

<https://www.ikigaifarm.com/events>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-web-series-tickets-141371097759>

Evaluation Responses:

6 participants responded- 100% of responders said the exceeded their expectations -
All respondents indicated an increased level of knowledge in the topic areas covered in the training:

- Basic Colorado Water History
- The Relationship Between Urban Growth and Water Supply
- The Transfer of Water Across the Continental Divide
- How Water is Used in the Metro Area
- The Process of Treating Water for Human Consumption
- The Bodies that Control Decision Making for Water in the State
- Methods for Conserving Water in Urban Settings
- The Colorado Water Plan

Key Takeaways-

The history of water in our state and the struggles agriculture has always faced in order to obtain a supply.

There are so many methods to conserve water in the urban setting! And urban agriculture has major implications for other water users in the state.

Was really interesting to hear more about the basins and the future of water policy. Key takeaway - definitely want to stay involved and up to date on the Colorado Water Plan.

Our concern for water in Colorado and the conservation methods used by Ikigai Farm
We all need to plan and participate in making sure that we have enough water.

Training Title: Colorado Farmer & H2O Panel

Training Date: 3/15/2021

Fellow: Anna Thomas

Brief Training Summary:

The Colorado Farmer & H2O Panel was facilitated by NYFC Water Fellow, Anna Thomas. Anna brought together agricultural voices from around the Roaring Fork Valley to discuss the intersection between water and agriculture. On the panel, there were five farmers/ranchers representing four unique organizations in the valley- from sod farming to vegetable and livestock. Also, on the panel was a representative from the Colorado River District, Jason Turner.

Anna hoped to start the important conversation surrounding water rights and usage between farmers and producers in the valley. She has heard from multiple farmers that they would like to learn more about their water rights and what other farmers are doing in the area. Although, learning a lot from her fellowship, Anna knew she would need to bring in an expert voice from the water community and was connected to Jason Turner. Jason is currently the Chair of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Denver College of Law Water Law Review, and the Division 5 Water Court Bench-Bar Liaison.

Anna hopes moving forward, after facilitating these connections-farmers in the Roaring Fork valley will continue to collaborate and discuss their water rights and needs.

Attendee List:

Sarah Smith

Mollie, Shipman

Scott Partan

Ben Armstrong

Jason Turner

Sara Tymczyszyn

Jennifer Ghigiarelli

Jared kerst

Genevieve Villamizar

Rebecca Carlson

Mariah Foley

Sara, Tymczyszyn

Erin Quinn

Nancy

Final Training Agenda:

Agenda

March 15, 2021

5:00-5:05: Brief Introduction of Panelists

Sara Tymczyszyn (Highwater Farm)

Sara Tymczyszyn is the director of Highwater Farm. Sara's work background blends small farm management and alternative youth education. She has worked in organic vegetable farming in Utah, Colorado, and Massachusetts, and has always strived to better connect communities to their farmers and food. Sara's experience running a farm-based job training program for teenagers in Salt Lake City is the foundation of her current work at Highwater Farm. Outside of farm development, Sara enjoys biking and rafting with her husband. Sara is looking forward to strengthening and expanding the farm's capacity in 2021.

Ben Armstrong (The Farm Collaborative)

Ben farms for the Roaring Fork Valley community he grew up in. When not actively growing vegetables, he can probably be found at the farm processing extra produce into preserved foods like kimchi, lemon ginger pickled salad turnips, caramelized onion jam, or mexican pickled green tomatoes. After managing his farm Roaring Gardens for two years Ben joined the Farm Collaborative as their soil and production manager in 2019. This year Ben launched an Eco Apprentice teen farming program and a Farmer Incubation Program with the Farm Collaborative, and looks forward to stepping into this more education-driven role.

Mariah Foley (ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch)

Jennifer Ghigiarelli (ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch)

Jared Kerst (Rivendell Sod Farm)

Jared is the owner of Rivendell Sod Farm where he started working in 1999 as the operation's office manager. With a work background in golf and landscape irrigation, he ended up with a business degree from CU Boulder before returning to the Roaring Fork Valley. Jared initially learned turf production farming as practiced by "conventional", input intensive agriculture. Mechanistic control of plant, soil, and water led to degraded soils on the farm which led him to rethink farming. Now a student and advocate of regenerative farming, Jared is striving to reinvent Rivendell into a diversified farm through holistic ecosystem management.

Jason Turner (Colorado River District)

Jason Turner is Senior Counsel for the Colorado River Water Conservation District based in Glenwood Springs. Prior to joining the Colorado River District in 2008, Jason was in private practice representing public and private clients in all manner of water transactions and water court litigation. Jason is currently the Chair of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Denver College of Law Water Law Review, and the Division 5 Water Court Bench-Bar Liaison.

5:05-5:15: Overview of River Operations and Water Rights on the CO River- Jason Turner

5:15-5:45: Panel- Moderated Questions

1. Location, Type of Farming, Water needs
2. Water use methods used and why.
 - a. Do you use any conservation methods?
 - b. How do you define irrigation efficiency and how is it measured?
 - c. Is water conservation at the forefront when planning for a season?
3. Have you personally seen any environmental changes impact your agriculture?
 - a. Drought?
 - b. Temperature?
4. Water challenges/ Concerns
 - a. Do you have enough water?
 - b. Do you fear running out of water?
 - c. Do you believe you have enough education surrounding your water rights?
5. Water regulations & Ag Intersection
 - a. Where do you think there is room for improvement in the relationship between water policy and agriculture?
 - b. Do you believe farmers' voices are being heard?
6. Ag Water Testing
 - a. Have you had your water tested?
7. How to learn and understand your water rights.

5:45-6:00: Questions & Wrap-Up

Marketing Used:



Hello Panelists! I just shared two marketing graphics I created. If you could share them with your network that would be great. Below I have written some samples of what can be written to share the event. Please feel free to use your own wording or just copy and paste. Whatever works best for you.

Thanks,
Anna

Calling all water lovers! Join us on March 15th from 5-6pm MST to dive deeper into the intersection between Colorado water and agriculture- both integral parts of Colorado's history. Hear first hand from producers in the Roaring Fork Valley about their water usage, struggles and hopes for the future.

Have you ever thought about the intersection between H2O and Agriculture? Join us on March 15th from 5-6pm MST to dive deeper into this topic. Hear first hand from producers in the Roaring Fork Valley about their water usage, struggles and hopes for the future.

The decisions made around Colorado's water resources today will impact the state's agricultural community for decades to come. Join us on March 15th from 5-6 pm MST to dive deeper into this conversation. Hear first hand from producers in the Roaring Fork Valley about their water usage, struggles and hopes for the future.

Media Links:

Evaluation Responses:

6 participants responded to the evaluation. 50% reported the training met their expectations, and the other 50% said it exceeded their expectations. All of the respondents indicated an increase in knowledge in the key topic areas of the training:

- River Operations and Water Rights on the CO River
- Agriculture Water Use Methods
- Water Challenges in Agriculture
- The Intersection Between Water Policy and Agriculture

Key Takeaways from the training:

water (or the lack thereof) is on everyone's mind, whether you're a veggie farm or livestock person or municipal

Water lawyers and farmers can get along fine

I related to all the sentiments shared by the farmers on the panel, and felt overwhelmed but definitely educated by Jason Turner's input and responses. It was very valuable to connect some of our local producers with someone so experienced in water law and hope that opportunities like this continue.

I thought it was really interesting to see the varied feelings of farmers in regards to if they felt like their voices were being heard in policy.

A better understanding of the agricultural point of view of water usage. I am usually involved in conversations around recreational use of water; so, it's really cool to hear some different voices around water usage in our area!

Really appreciated hearing from Jason Turner with the River District - was very surprised to hear that with our current system (of water rights tied to property) that more water stays in ag use. Feeling very motivated to make plans for water storage.

Training Title: Protecting Future Water Use Through Regenerative Agriculture

Training Date: 3/30/2021

Fellow: Courtney Gerber

Brief Training Summary:

The purpose of this webinar is to explain the theories of regenerative agriculture and permaculture and to show how these theories can be put into practice as a means to conserve and protect future water use for agriculture while also protecting ecological systems and providing us with energy. The secondary purpose of this webinar is to bridge the gap between people during a time when socially we seem more divided than ever politically and ideologically. Bridging the gap socially is necessary to create a powerful response to desertification, climate change, and other ecological disasters which put agriculture, and humanity in peril.

Experts in these topics, Dr. Tina Evans from Colorado Mountain College, Mr. Marco Chung-Shu Lam of Elkstone Farm, and Dr. Richard Knight of Colorado State University will be speaking in the webinar.

Dr. Tina Evan's speaking points include:

- Permaculture as a philosophy and practice
- How permaculture relates to regenerative agriculture
- How permaculture relates to water stewardship
- A few example practices for soil/water stewardship using permaculture
- Related efforts not called "permaculture"

Mr. Marco Chung-Shu Lam will be speaking more specifically about permaculture design as it relates to water conservation.

Dr. Rick Knight will be speaking about collaborative conservation as a means to bridging the gap between rural and urban communities, which is necessary to protecting and conserving water use in agriculture. He will also be speaking about his idea of the radical center.

This webinar is meant to reach Colorado Ranchers and Farmers, as well as anyone who cares about securing future water for agricultural and other uses and the webinar will be on Zoom.

Attendee List:

Final Training Agenda:

Webinar Agenda: Protecting Future Water Use Through Regenerative Agriculture

6:00-6:10

“Welcome to protecting future water use through regenerative agriculture. My name is Courtney, and I’m representing the National Young Farmers Water Fellowship. This fellowship is aimed at training young ranchers and farmers to take on leadership roles in agricultural and water decision making bodies.

I live in Hayden, Colorado where I’m a snowboard instructor in the cold season, and do various agricultural jobs in the warm season. Since zoom is a collaborative platform, let us not be strangers, and go ahead and introduce yourself in the chat and make sure to include where you are from and why you are interested in this webinar.

PAUSE

The purpose of this webinar is to offer solutions of how we can rise collectively to the water challenges posed to agriculture by climate change and growing human population.

The western US has been battling for adequate water supply for decades, and the situation continues to become more dire. Trends of drought are becoming longer and more frequent as weather trends get hotter and drier and human populations grow.

Paralleling the water crisis, we find ourselves in the US feeling more divided socially and politically than ever. This seems like the perfect storm of events.

But I am not here to leave you with more horrifying facts about the climate situation, rather I am here to bring you solutions of how we can rise collectively to the challenge and adapt to the effects of climate change in the most powerful way.

Tonight we have 3 speakers who are experts in permaculture, regenerative agriculture, and collaborative conservation.

In just a moment I will hand it over to our first speaker, who will answer the question, “what is permaculture and regenerative agriculture?” but first I want to explain something important about the topics you will be hearing about tonight.

We must remember, Colorado was once inhabited solely by the Ute, Cheyenne, Comanche, Arapahoe, Pueblo, Apache, and Pawnee Native Americans. These indigenous people used the principles of permaculture and regenerative agriculture long before we did and therefore we must honor their efforts in shaping these processes. Permaculture and regenerative agriculture are rooted in Indigenous cultural beliefs that our role in the universe is to tend, care, and maintain relationships of balance. They also hold that people belong to land, rather than land belonging to people. And finally, people are part of the land and as such healing of land must include the healing and unity of people. So in following these practices, we must remember we are seeking inspiration from Indigenous cultural beliefs and practices, but with a modern twist.

At this point I will introduce our first speaker to the virtual stage. If you think of a question you would like answered by any of our speakers tonight, please jot them down, and save them until the very end.”

6:10-6:15 Introduce Tina Evans

Dr. Tina Lynn Evans is a Professor of Sustainability Studies at Colorado Mountain College where she teaches in the Bachelor of Arts program in that field. Dr. Evans has led and participated in extensive course and program development efforts in environmental and sustainability studies for more than 15 years. She was awarded the 2017 Campus Sustainability Research Award by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for her article “Finding Heart: Generating and Maintaining Hope and Agency through Sustainability Education.” That same year, she was also named college-wide faculty of the year at Colorado Mountain College.

Dr. Evans is also the lead developer of the Permaculture Design Certification program at CMC and the lead designer and implementer of the Bear Park Permaculture Center on campus, a two-thirds acre site that serves as a living laboratory for Permaculture, Sustainability Studies, Culinary Arts, Art, and other academic programs. The site includes a 42-foot in diameter geodesic growing dome for four-season growing. Evans completed her permaculture design certificate training at the Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute in Basalt, Colorado, taught by leaders in the field such as Jerome Osentowski and Adam Brock. She loves working in permaculture where theory and practice are brought together through design to implement sustainability on the ground.

6:15-6:45 Tina speaks about permaculture and related topics

Please pop into the chat, and add one takeaway from Tina's talk that you learned, was surprising to you, or stuck with you in some way.

REMINDER TO JOT DOWN QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE FOR OUR SPEAKERS, SAVE THEM UNTIL THE END

6:45-6:50 Introduce Marco Chung Shu-Lam

Marco has been practicing and teaching permaculture and sustainable living skills for over twenty five years in diverse climates from the Andes to the Hawaiian islands. Originally trained by the founder of Permaculture, Bill Mollison, Marco's teaching style moves away from the lecture format and emphasizes getting people's hands in the Earth. Marco is the founder of the Mandala Integrative Medicine Clinic and a renowned acupuncturist and herbalist who grows many of the herbs used in his practice. His vision is a melding of ecological sustainability and nature-based health care where our personal healing and our land stewardship are deeply intertwined. Marco has been an active creator of new permaculture curriculum and pioneered the "Permaculture through the Seasons" course with Sandy Cruz. The 9 month permaculture course planted seeds for a more robust permaculture community. Marco created the permaculture curriculum for the Environmental Studies department at Naropa University in 2006 and stewarded the program there for 6 years. Marco is currently managing a 700 acre permaculture farm in Northern Colorado with his wife Jamie and grows citrus and figs in a 3500 sq ft climate battery greenhouse and helps mountain communities become more self-sufficient. He is passionate and committed to teaching a new generation of earth stewards and healers to show up with their gifts and presence to help regenerate the relationship between people and the Earth.

6:50-7:15 Marco speaks about permaculture and topics more directly related to water and society

Once again, add something to chat that you learned from Marco, was surprising, or stuck with you!

REMINDER TO JOT DOWN QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE FOR OUR SPEAKERS, SAVE THEM UNTIL THE END

7:15-7:20 Introduce Rick Knight

Richard Knight works at the intersection of land use and land health in the American West. A professor of wildlife conservation at Colorado State University, he received his graduate degrees from the University of Washington and the University of Wisconsin. He sits on a number of boards including the Science Board of the Malpai Borderlands Group, The Partnership of Rangeland Trusts, The Land Conservation Assistance Network, and the Colorado Land Library. He was formerly on the Board of Editors for both Conservation Biology, and for Ecological Applications. In 2007 Colorado State University honored him with the Broad of Governors

Excellence in Teaching award. He is a five-time recipient of the Student's Choice for Favorite Faculty Member in the Warner College of Natural Resources. His most recent book (2020) is Twenty-five Years of Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands: The Story of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

7:20 - 7:50 Rick speaks about collaborative conservation

Again, post in the chat something you new learned, or something surprising, or something that stuck with you!

7:55 - Conclude webinar, thank speakers for taking time to present in this webinar, thank webinar attendees for taking their time to listen, if you did sign up for this webinar via eventbrite please check your email for a post webinar survey, and now I'll open up the platform for questions to our speakers.

Marketing Used:

Water Web Series Flyer

Routt County Ag Journal Posting

Media Links:

Evaluation Responses:

Training Title: Equity & the Colorado Water Plan

Date of Training: 3/1/2021

Fellow: Megan Davey

Brief Training Summary:

The approach to this training is to make space for an introductory conversation around the intersection of equity and water/water management in Colorado, especially for folks who may not be too familiar with some of the things missing in the current Colorado Water Plan like mention of urban growers, tribal users, and acequia members. Given that the CWP is in its update process, this feels especially relevant, and I think this is also an opportunity to discuss how we as young farmers in Colorado can be allies in our advocating for a more equitable future.

Speakers & topics include:

Willow Cozzens, formerly with CWCB, now working specifically on Water Equity issues w/ National Young Farmers Coalition & Frontline Farming

Scott Williamson, from Water Education Colorado, who will be speaking about the founding of WEco, the adoption of WEco's Equity Principles, and the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) in relation to the Colorado Water Plan

Devon Peña, from the Acequia Institute, speaking about acequias as a form of governance and democratic water use, compared to the prior appropriation system

Attendee List:

Final Training Agenda:

Marketing Used:

Water Web Series

Media Links:

Evaluation Responses:

Training Title: Future Farmers of America Water Seminar

Training Date:

Fellow: Nikita Christensen

Brief Training Summary:

The FFA Water Seminar will allow students that are directly interested in agriculture to take a look at current water issues in the San Luis Valley. The goal is to give students an overview of water issues as well as the current cost of water in the San Luis Valley. The cost of water in the valley continues to rise with increase in Sub District fees. Sub Districts were created to pull resources together in order to meet sustainability needs of areas within the Valley. The Sargent School that will be the first participant of this program, is located in the Sub District 1 area. Sub District 1 is located in the 2nd largest producing area of Fresh Market Potatoes in the US. This area produces approximately 226 million dollars of ag products. The largest employer in this area is agriculture. While the valley farmers and ranches struggle to meet sustainability, they continue to fight against external pressures. Population increases along the Front Range have incentivised developers to target low income, rural areas for water exportations. The San Luis Valley manages this issue every decade since the 1980s. The goal of this project is to establish an understanding of the importance of water to the jobs, cultures and wellbeing of the San Luis Valley.

Attendee List:

Final Training Agenda:

Marketing Used:

Marketed the seminar through the Future Farmers of America network

Media Links:**Evaluation Responses:**

3 participants responded to the evaluation. 66.7% reported that the training met their expectations and 33.3% said the training exceeded their expectations.

Key Takeaways from the training:

The restrictions on drilling in the valley. I knew there were restrictions but I didn't know how in depth it was.

It takes a lot to change water laws.

My key takeaway was how much trouble were really in. And that we need to start conserving our resource. I also took away how important our water is and how important it is to shut down RWR.

Training Title: Water Conservation Through Agricultural Practices**Training Date:**

Fellow: Nick Purchess

Attendee List:**Final Training Agenda:****Marketing Used:****Media Links:****Evaluation Responses:**



COLORADO YOUNG FARMER WATER FELLOWSHIP

About the Program

The Colorado Young Farmer Water Fellowship is managed by the National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers). Young farmers and ranchers are underrepresented in Colorado's water policy decision-making bodies, such as the Basin Roundtables, water conservancy districts, agricultural advocacy groups, local water districts, and conservation districts. As a result, the next generation of Colorado's producers are denied a critical opportunity to help shape the implementation of Colorado's water plan and their farming conditions, and the State of Colorado misses the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge of young producers.

The decisions made around Colorado's water resources today will impact the state's agricultural community for decades to come. The Fellowship will bring together stakeholders that will be most impacted by these decisions: Colorado's next generation of farmers and ranchers. By providing opportunities for young producers to take a more active role in water planning conversations, and by providing them with knowledge and resources to educate their local peers around water issues, the Fellowship will lead to more farmers and ranchers deeply engaging in the water supply planning process.

The Fellowship is designed to address this gap through an educational program that will guide ten young farmers and ranchers towards water leadership positions in Colorado. Selected fellows will participate in a series of five virtual trainings and two in-person gatherings, and will receive support from Young Farmers staff in running for a seat on a water board or commission. Within six months of completion of the Fellowship, participants will be expected to lead a workshop training a cohort from their peers in water conservation techniques, as well as to seek a position on a water decision-making body.

Applicant Qualifications and Program Requirements

Eligible applicants must:

- Own or work on a for-profit, cooperative, or non-profit farm or ranch, or plan to start a farm or ranch in 2020 or 2021, within the State of Colorado;
- Be 40 years-old or younger at the start of the program (June 8, 2020); and

- Be a resident of the State of Colorado.

Applicants who identify as being part of a community that has been marginalized or excluded from policymaking processes, such as Black, Indigenous, and other farmers of color , are encouraged to apply.

What to Expect:

Fellows will be compensated for their time and travel if accepted into the program in exchange for full participation throughout the duration of the Fellowship. Each fellow will receive a **\$2,500 stipend** to cover the cost of their time spent in the program and running for boards or commissions. Fellows will receive the stipend in two installments, one during the fellowship and one upon completion of their local water training and final program evaluation. Travel, meals, and lodging for Fellowship convenings will also be covered by the program.

Fellows will spend approximately 5-6 hrs a month on the program between webinars and independent work, plus one two-day kick-off and one-day graduation.

Webinars and trainings will cover:

- Water planning and policy in Colorado, specifically regarding the issues most relevant to farmers and ranchers;
- State and federal funding opportunities for water conservation;
- Public water decision-making bodies and how to run for boards and sit on such bodies, such as local water board, water conservation board, or basin roundtable; and
- Preparation to educate and mobilize fellow farmers and ranchers towards systems change on relevant local water issues.

Pending: One on one coaching to assist with participant-led water workshops and campaign to be elected to a water policy body.

Please note that stipends of this kind are taxable income. Grant recipients will need to supply a W9 form (including a SSN or ITIN number) in order to receive a check.

How to Apply

To apply, complete the application (www.youngfarmers.org/cowaterfellowship) and submit one **letter of recommendation**. If selected, Fellows will be notified by email on May 4, and need to confirm their participation by May 18.

Deadline: April 13

Contact Erin Foster West at westernwater@youngfarmers.org with questions.

Important Dates

Application closes April 13. Applications will be reviewed by National Young Farmers Coalition staff and a state review committee. The review committee members will be diverse in background, perspective, and experience.

May 4: Fellows will be notified of selection.

May 18: Deadline for fellows to confirm participation.

June 8 - 9: Program kicks off with in-person training in Denver.

June 28: Webinar 1

July 19: Webinar 2

August 9: Webinar 3

August 23: Webinar 4

September 13: Webinar 5

October 11: Graduation, in-person with location TBD.

YOUNG FARMER WATER FELLOWSHIP

If you are a young agricultural producer interested in taking a leadership role in water, this program is for you!

Important 2020 Fellowship Dates

June 8-9 (Denver)

Webinars will be held on
the following Sundays from
5:00pm - 7:00pm

June 28

July 19

August 9

August 23

September 13

October 12 (Location TBD)

Application Deadline
April 13, 2020

Fellows accepted into this educational fellowship can expect to benefit from the following:

- \$2,500 stipend upon completion of full program.
- Travel and lodging covered, in addition to stipend.
- Three days of in-person and five webinar trainings.
- Support to bring the knowledge back to your community.
- Support to seek and secure a leadership position on water decision making organization.

Fellows can expect to learn topics such as water planning and policy, state and federal funding opportunities, understanding of water decision-making bodies and how to sit on such bodies, preparation to educate and mobilize fellow farmers and ranchers on local water opportunities.

For additional information, fellowship requirements, and to apply visit www.youngfarmers.org/COwaterfellowship

Questions? Contact:

erin@youngfarmers.org or 202-780-5464



YOUNG FARMER WATER FELLOWSHIP



If you are a young agricultural producer interested in taking a leadership role in water, this program is for you!

Important 2020 Fellowship Dates

June 8-9 (Denver)

Webinars will be held on the following Sundays from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

June 28

July 19

August 9

August 23

September 13

October 12 (Location TBD)

Application Deadline
April 13, 2020

Fellows accepted into this educational fellowship can expect to benefit from the following:

\$2,500 stipend upon completion of full program.

- Travel and lodging covered, in addition to stipend.
- Three days of in-person and five webinar trainings.
- Support to bring the knowledge back to your community.
- Support to seek and secure a leadership position on water decision making organization.

Fellows can expect to learn topics such as water planning and policy, state and federal funding opportunities, understanding of water decision-making bodies and how to sit on such bodies, preparation to educate and mobilize fellow farmers and ranchers on local water opportunities.

For additional information, fellowship requirements and to apply visit:

www.youngfarmers.org/COWaterfellowship

Questions? Contact:

erin@youngfarmers.org or 202-780-5464



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