

# 2015 Water Course: Water for Agriculture

## February 11, Session 1: Climate and Legal Context for Irrigated Agriculture in Colorado

- 6:00 **Introduction**
- 6:05 **Why focus on Water for Agriculture?**  
Hannah Holm, Water Center at Colorado Mesa University
- 6:15 **Climate and Hydrological Context for Agriculture in Colorado**  
Dr. Gigi Richard, Colorado Mesa University
- 7:15 Break
- 7:30 **Legal Context for Agriculture in Colorado**  
Kirsten Kurath, Attorney, Williams, Turner & Holmes, PC
- 9:00 Adjourn

## February 18, Session 2: Water Use and Economics of Irrigated Agriculture

- 6:00 Introduction
- 6:05 **Water use by agriculture in Colorado**  
Dr. Perry Cabot, Southern Region Water Resources Specialist, Colorado Water Institute
- 6:35 **Efficiency improvements to Grand Valley Water Users Association canal**  
Kevin Conrad, Operations Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association
- 6:45 **On-farm efficiency measures**  
David Harold, Delta County farmer
- 7:15 Break
- 7:30 **Economic Contribution of Irrigated Agriculture and Economic Drivers of Water Use**  
Jesse Russell, Agriculture and Business Management Economist, Colorado State University Extension
- 8:00 **Producer panel**  
Carlyle Currier, Collbran rancher  
Bruce Talbott, Palisade fruitgrower  
Joe Bernal, Fruita rowcrop grower
- 9:00 Adjourn

## February 25, Session 3: Future of Irrigated Agriculture in Colorado and the Colorado River Basin

- 6:00 Introduction
- 6:05 **Water for Agriculture in Colorado's draft Water Plan**  
Brent Newman, Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- 6:45 **Agriculture in the Context of Colorado Basin-wide efforts to Balance Supply and Demand**  
Dr. Ken Nowak, Hydrologic Engineer, US Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado River Region and Co-Chair, Agricultural Conservation, Productivity and Water Transfers Workgroup, which formed as a follow-up step to the Bureau's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study
- 7:30 Break
- 7:45 **Panel Discussion: Perspectives on key factors and tools that can influence the future of irrigated agriculture**  
Kim Albertson, Grand Valley farmer and Colorado Basin Roundtable member  
Daniel Fullmer, National Young Farmers Coalition  
Steve Fletcher, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association manager  
Greg Trainor, former Grand Junction Public Works & Planning Director  
Dan Birch, Colorado River District and water bank feasibility study participant
- 9:00 Adjourn