



# Colorado Agriculture

## Oil and Gas Well Setback Impacts and Challenges

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Executive Vice President  
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Founded in 1919, Colorado Farm Bureau is the largest grassroots agricultural organization in Colorado with over 23,000 member families.

Federated member of the 6.6 million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau strives to protect and advance Colorado's farm economy, environment, food supply, energy production and rural communities.

The strength of Farm Bureau comes from its membership and the core values that the organization was founded on.

*Mission*

*Colorado Farm Bureau, as the premiere grassroots organization, promotes the future of agriculture and protects rural values.*



***“...Colorado agriculture is leading  
the state out of this recession...”***

**Governor John Hickenlooper  
2012 State of the State Address**

# Colorado Agriculture

- Colorado's diverse agriculture industry is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest contributor to the state's economy, with over \$20 Billion annually.
- Add in the food industry and the contribution doubles to \$40 billion annually.
- Supports nearly 170,000 Colorado jobs.
- CO agriculture helps feed the nation, supports wildlife, protects the environment, supports rural communities, helping build new energy economy.

## On the National Level...

- **Agriculture employs more than 24 million American workers (17% of workforce)**
- **In 1930, 25% of the US population lived on farms. Today, it is less than 2%.**
- **In 1960, each farmer fed 25 people. Today, each US farmer feeds 155 people worldwide.**
- **97% of US farms and ranches are family owned and are producing 86% of the nation's food.**
- **US Consumers spend only 10% of disposable income on food.**

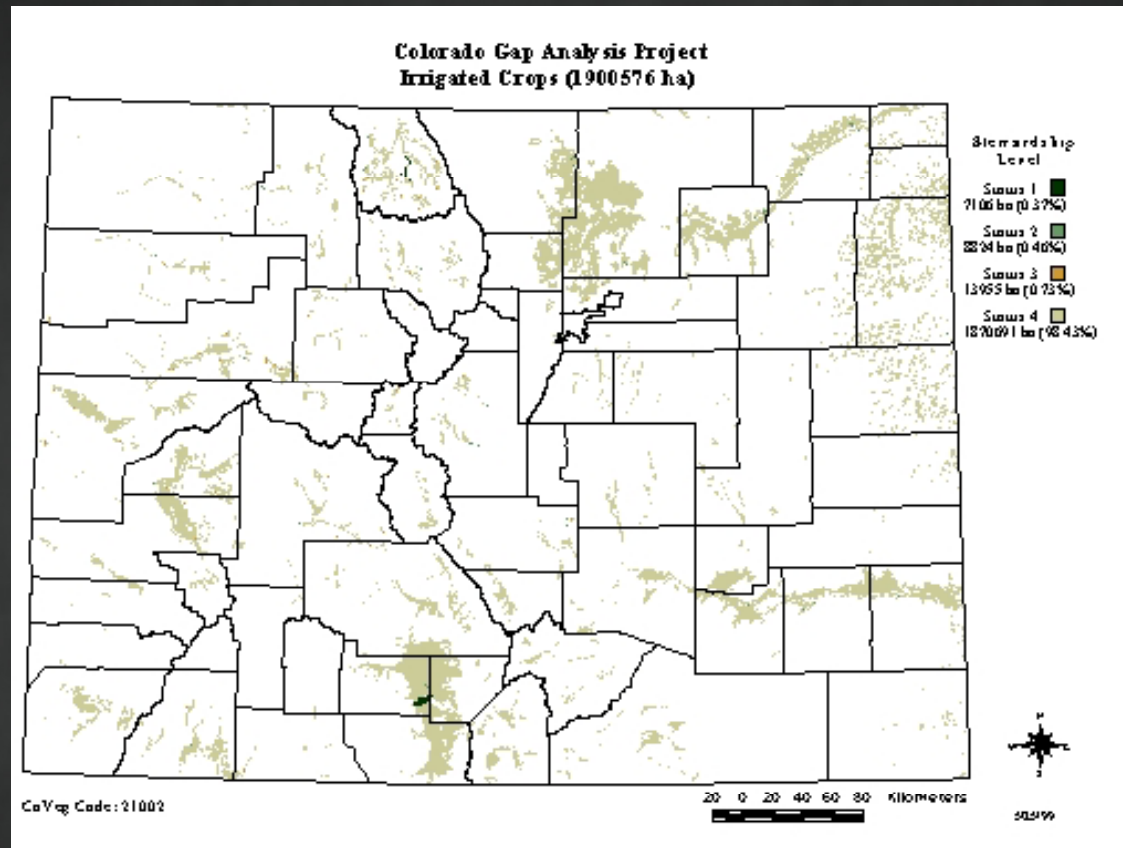
# In Colorado...

- **Top Five Commodities include:**
  - Cattle and calves (\$3B), Corn/grains ( \$750M), Wheat (\$520M), Hay (\$450M), Dairy Products (\$375M).
- **Over 30% of the counties in Colorado are dependent upon agriculture.**
- **90% of the State's Wildlife Depends on Private Lands.**
- **36,200 farms encompassing 32 million acres.**
- **60% of all Colorado's farm gate receipts are derived from livestock production.**
- **Agriculture maintains open space and scenic vistas for free.**

# Population and Food Supply...

- **World population of 7+ billion and Counting.**
- **The United Nations projects a 9+ billion world population by 2050.**
- **To keep up with population growth, the world's farmers and ranchers must produce as much food in next 40 years (growing seasons) as has been produced in the past 4,000 years combined.**
- **Huge future opportunity for Colorado Agriculture.**
- **Must find ways for all interests to coexist in Colorado.**

# Irrigated Acres in Colorado...



- 2.3 M acres irrigated in Colorado.
- Irrigation is highly sensitive to O&G well placement.



# Setbacks Affect Agriculture...

- Ag and Energy sectors have a long history.
  - Rocky at times.
  - HB 1252, specified a Surface Use Agreement process.
  - Whole estates vs. split estates can = differing perspective
- Major concerns with increasing setbacks:
  - Loss of agricultural production. Increased setbacks will = increased intrusion and limitations of agricultural production.
  - Potential lower land values (due to production loss).
  - Ag operation interferences.

# Ag's Setback Recommendations

- **CFB and CCA recommend the following:**
  - **Maintain current setback structure of 150 ft and 350 ft.**
  - **Maintain current variance process.**
  - **More clearly define the term “structure”.**
- **CFB/CCA is not opposed to O&G development**
  - **Increased setbacks = more impact on crop production**
- **CFB/CCA strongly opposes the recent call for 1,000 ft. and 1,500 ft. setback requirements...**

# Current 150/350 ft. Setback



# 150/350 ft. Setback – Field 2



# 1,000 ft. Setback – Both Fields



# 350 ft – Near School and Field



# 1,500ft – Near School and Field



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Google earth



**Thank You!**

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