Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
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Agriculture and air quality symposia scheduled

DENVER – Members of Colorado's Agriculture and Air Quality Technical work group will be hosting two symposia focusing on ways agriculture is helping to reduce nitrogen deposition impacts at Rocky Mountain National Park through more efficient use of nitrogen in farming and ranching operations. The symposia will be held Feb. 16 at the Steakout Restaurant, 19592 E 8th Ave. in Fort Morgan, and Feb. 17 at the Lamar Community Building in the Multi-Purpose Room, 610 S 6th St. in Lamar.

Although nitrogen is important in today's agricultural operations, volatilization, transport and subsequent deposition has led to increasing concerns for officials at Rocky Mountain National Park and other areas with sensitive ecosystems.

"The purpose of the Agriculture and Air Quality Technical Work group is to bring agricultural producers, environmental interests and regulators together to discuss how a collaborative approach toward reducing nitrogen's impact on Rocky Mountain National Park can be a win-win for everyone involved," said Bill Hammerich, chief executive officer of the Colorado Livestock Association.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is among about a dozen co-sponsors of the event.

Members of the agriculture and air quality technical work group hope to engage with agricultural producers to address nitrogen transport and deposition. Symposium topics include:

- Fundamentals of nitrogen escape from crop and livestock production systems
- State and National Initiatives - with a nexus to nitrogen deposition
- Partnership to Reduce the Ecological Impacts of Nitrogen Deposition at Rocky Mountain National Park
- Rocky Mountain Atmospheric Nitrogen and Sulfur Study
- Air Quality Assessment Tool for Livestock Producers
- Ammonia Best Management Practices & Weather Monitoring & Notification Systems

To RSVP for one of the symposia, contact Landon Gates at 970-218-0284 or Landon@CapitolFocusLLC.com. Registration deadline is Feb. 10. Registration fee is $25. Certified crop advisors can receive up to six continuing education credits by attending one of the symposia.

Other symposium sponsors include Colorado Association of Wheat Growers, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Corn Growers, Colorado Dairy Producers, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Livestock Association, Prowers County Public Health and Environment, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Agri-business Association, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the West Greeley Conservation District.

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