



COLORADO YOUNG FARMERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
49TH ANNUAL STATE INSTITUTE
JANUARY 25 – 28, 2018

From all indications the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association's 2018 State Institute was a success! The 49th annual CYFEA State Institute was held at the beautiful Omni Interlocken Hotel, in Broomfield, in late January. CYFEA Chapter members and supporters came from around the state, with members and representatives from seven of our Chapters along with most of the CYFE Foundation's Board of Directors. This annual gathering of the young and young-at-heart, beginning and established farmers, educators and other agricultural enthusiasts, started on Thursday evening, January 25th, immediately following the 2018 Colorado Farm Show. On Thursday night, Schaeffer Oil and Williams Natural Beef sponsored a "Welcome" Social event at the hotel that was well attended.

Friday morning, January 26th, started off with the first session of the 2018 CYFEA Business Meeting, with the great leadership from the CYFEA Executive Team. After constructive dialogue and the morning meeting's adjournment, there was a Trade Show coffee break sponsored by Perry Brothers Seed and Quality Well and Pump, along with a breakout session on "Precision Ag and Drones" presented by 4Rivers Equipment Company. Friday's Membership Luncheon was sponsored by the CO Beef Council and included a dynamic presentation by Dr. Sara Place, the Senior Director of Sustainable Beef Production Research with the National Cattleman's Beef Association. There were also two young women that addressed the group: Tiana Smith, the CO State FFA President, as well as McCall Etl, one of the CYFEA 2017 Academic Scholarship recipients. We expect to see them both well advance in Ag leadership roles someday!

Friday afternoon, a chartered bus sponsored by the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee, took approximately fifty CYFEA members and supporters to the Coors Brewery for an offsite tour. That evening, the Front Range Chapter hosted a Roaring 20's theme party which included a dinner buffet, the live band "Loose Change", costume contests, an instant photo booth, and even a Craps table for fun! Sponsors for this event were J9 Crop Insurance, Simplot Company, and 4Rivers Equipment Company.

On Saturday morning, the 2018 Business Meeting resumed with further dialogue and voting on several action items by the Chapter delegates. Mid-morning brought a coffee break, sponsored by American AgCredit, and followed by a breakout session by Kelly Huenink, Director of Business Management at Northeastern Junior College, presenting on "18 Ag Business Management Tips for 2018" to a packed room.

Saturday's 2018 Leadership Luncheon was sponsored by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, CO Corn Administrative Committee, Gordon Insurance Agency, and Gordon Real Estate Group. The program featured a discussion on current 2018 Farm Bill issues with members of the Colorado Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Corn, Colorado Wheat, and the Colorado Livestock Association. Leland Swenson, Senior Advisor on Colorado Rural Policy for CO Senator Michael Bennett, acted as the panel moderator.

Saturday night was the CYFEA annual Banquet Awards Dinner was sponsored by the 2018 CO Farm Show, and included the 2017 CYFEA Chapter and Honorary award presentations, Photo Contest winners, and the CYFEA 2018 State Institute Sponsorship recognitions. The evening concluded with entertainment by special guest Greg Peterson, of the Kansas "Peterson Farm Brothers". Greg's appearance was sponsored by 21st Century Equipment.

There was an overall good feeling to this year's Institute by those that attended. Most commented on the positive direction that the CYFEA and its Chapter membership are headed, moving forward into 2018. Next year, the CYFEA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary!

For more CYFEA information and 2018 sponsorship opportunities, you may contact Sharon Pattee, Executive Director, by calling either: (970) 616-1396 or (719) 291-3919 Sharon's email address is: spattee@cyfea.org

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