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Research Center Update

2017 Agricultural Experiment Station Conference

Ft. Collins,, CO | January 12, 2017

Colorado State University
College of Agricultural Sciences

Western Colorado Research Center - Fruita

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Accomplishments for the year

Scope

- Concept and Engagement Plan on WCRC-Fruita and water
- Integration of CSU Extension and CWI
- Undertake search for AES/Ext Agronomist

Specific Projects

- Water Bank and Colorado River District
- Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations
- Remote Sensing
- CoAgMet and USBR (Climate Center)

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Staffing and Structure

Permanent Staff (Key Assets)

- Fred Judson (Farm Manager, Foundation Seed Manager)
- Kevin Gobbo (Technical Coordinator)
- Agronomist TBD

Support Staff

- Dr. Greg Litus
- Donna Iovanni
- Project-funded students
- Community Service

Kevin Gobbo

Fred Judson

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Limitations and Vulnerabilities

Major limitations to operation

- Viewed in the context of what we want the facility to be
- Integrated cropping systems cluster (soil science, weed science, entymology, plant science, agricultural economics)
- Associated resources for these disciplines
- Excited for proposals to give preference to off-campus units.

Key Vulnerabilities

- Transition plan (apprenticing current staff)
- Equipment age and service (leasing programs?)

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Scientific Challenges and Opportunities

New Scientific Challenges

- Water Conservation and Savings (on-farm, regional, basin)
- Alternative and Specialty Cropping (A3Fs)
- Climate and energy
- Economic Issues – Distance to Total Market (e.g., wheat)

Creating pathways to address challenges

- Understanding and documenting unique geographical assets of Western Slope (e.g., legislators, EDPs)
- Develop greater industry partnership throughout AES
- Relevancy of AES research to broader national, global

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Facility and Advisory Board Update

What would I change?

- Advisory and Advocacy Committee
- Incentives for support staff (*commitment to off-campus*)
- Suitability for main office building to promote synergy between stakeholders, campus, regional Extension, AES

- *I'm the one with the bathtub …*

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Connection to Campus

"All organizations are perfectly designed to get the results they get." – *Variously attributed*

Connected to campus? Important to WCRC?

- **Yes we want that …**

Improvements needed?

- Simple tech upgrades for videoconferencing and webinars
- Student and Faculty accessibility (air travel , lodging)
- Coordination of CSU inter- and intra-department travelers
- Targeted priorities for off-campus proposals