

MICHAEL F. BENNET
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September 28, 2010

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Final Acre Ceremony
NRCS 75th Anniversary

Dear Event Attendees,

Congratulations on arriving at the "Final Acre" of the soil condition survey. The completion of the first phase of this ambitious undertaking is a testament to the hard work by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and its partners, and will go a long way to ensure that we make the best use of Colorado land.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I understand how crucial healthy, high quality soils are to ensuring that our lands are productive. Taking inventory of all of the soils in Colorado is no small task, given the size of our state and the diversity of its land and soil types, but it promises to be quite rewarding.

Already, the soil data NRCS has collected have helped provide land managers with more accurate, accessible information, giving them the tools they need to make sound decisions. Because of your efforts, we can more easily analyze data and more effectively maintain the quality of our farm and ranch lands, improving water quality and soil nutrition while conserving the precious resources that Colorado has to offer. I look forward to hearing more about the success of this project as it moves forward.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the NRCS for its 75 years of service to landowners here in our state and across the country. Your contributions to natural resources conservation since the 1930s have helped to ensure that the integrity of private lands in Colorado and across the United States can be maintained in perpetuity.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2010

Final Acre Ceremony of the
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Schlagel Farm
Longmont, Colorado

Dear Fellow Coloradans, Guests, and Dignitaries:

Thank you for inviting me to the "Final Acre" ceremony celebrating the completion of the initial stages of soil survey work in Colorado.

The work that you are doing is vital to our state. By understanding the soil, you prepare us for the future of agriculture, construction, and all other industries that require knowledge of the earth. The Natural Resource Conservation Service leads the charge in understanding soil conservation. The soil mapping that you have performed on almost every acre in the state gives Colorado a valuable resource and tool in deciding how to use our land.

Healthy soil is essential to productive, prosperous lands. Without an understanding of soil, disaster can strike, as we saw in the 1930's Dust Bowl. Thankfully, the Natural Resource Conservation Service has dedicated itself to making soil use efficient and sustainable. For 75 years you have helped American land become the most productive in the world. You have worked with land owners through conservation planning and assistance to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

I was pleased when, on April 29, 2010 the United States Senate unanimously approved a resolution congratulating you, the outstanding professional public servants of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, on the occasion of your 75th anniversary. NRCS has become a leader over these years in teaching us all how to partner with State and Federal agencies, learning institutions and Conservation Boards and groups.

Congratulations on your many accomplishments and thank you for your service and dedication to proper land use.

Warm Regards,



Mark E. Udall

United States Senator, Colorado