

## Ranchers, farmers celebrate Colorado Agriculture Day

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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The Colorado Agriculture Council partnered with the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association to celebrate Colorado Agriculture Day Tuesday, March 19.

As a part of National Agriculture Day, the event was designed to highlight agriculture's value to Colorado's economy, emphasize the importance of buying local and share the bounty that agriculture creates with those in need.

Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Salazar, Colorado Senator Gail Schwartz and Colorado Representatives Randy Fischer and Jerry Sonnenberg joined the celebration with local chefs, farmers, ranchers and legislators at the Colorado State Capitol to recognize the importance of agriculture.

The celebration marked the second annual Colorado Farm to Fork Culinary Competition. By "Defining Colorado Cuisine," Colorado chefs unveiled and spotlighted the incredible use of locally produced fare. In groups of three, Colorado chefs, farmers/ranchers and legislators presented "local" meals that were judged by an esteemed, celebrity panel of experts and media personalities.

Thanks to the ACFCCA, the dishes, featuring locally grown and raised products, were served to the guests including legislators, legislative staff and volunteers.

"The ACF Colorado Chefs Association is excited and honored to partner with the Colorado agriculture community again this year," said ACFCCA executive director Joan Brewster.

"Colorado is home to some of the most talented chefs in the nation. Our chefs are passionate about food and feel extremely fortunate to live in a state where they can use fresh, local products in their recipes. Colorado chefs understand firsthand that partnering with local growers and ranchers is good for their business, good for the Colorado economy and healthy for their patrons."

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