



Courtesy photo

U.S. Representative — Marilyn Musgrave, (R-CO), met recently with officers of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) and the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee (CWAC) in Washington D.C. to discuss national legislative priorities. Pictured from left to right are: CAWG Secretary-Treasurer Brad Warren of Keenesburg, CAWG Vice President Ron Clark or Matheson, CAWG President Brad Ivey of Wiley, Musgrave, CWAC President Dan Anderson of Haxtun and CWAC Past President Randy Wilks of Burlington.

Colorado Wheat Boards visit congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

The Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) and Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee (CWAC) met with members of the Colorado congressional delegation March 17-19, in Washington, D.C. to discuss implementation of disaster assistance, improvements to federal crop insurance, federal research funding specific to Colorado and other priorities for national legislative action.

Officers for both state organizations discussed and stressed the national legislative priorities of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), the Wheat Export Trade Education Committee (WETEC) and CAWG for 2003, including:

- Implementation of recently enacted disaster assistance legislation by USDA in a manner that ensures that price and crop value determinations are fair and consistent by using the producers crop insurance election price in all cal-

culations.

- Improvements to the federal crop insurance program to make it a more viable and affordable support program so that future emergency disaster assistance legislation is not necessary. Improvements recommended include availability of crop insurance up to 90 percent coverage (with the economic incentive comparable at all levels of coverage to encourage producers to buy higher levels of coverage), making the administration of crop insurance less complex and focusing crop insurance on revenue (not bushels or yield).

- Aggressive action to open markets and remove trade barriers around the world, aggressive funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, reform of all unilateral sanctions, removal of trade restraints on sales of agricultural products to Cuba, ratification of the U.S./Chile Free Trade

Agreement and increased funding for food aid programs.

- Support for continuation funding of \$320,000 for genetic enhancement of wheat to Colorado State University (CSU); support for an increase in base funding of \$700,000 for the USDA/ARS Central Great Plains Research Station at Akron (Congress approved increases in base funding of \$240,000 in FY 2002 and \$500,000 in FY 2003); support for new funding of \$1.5 million to CSU and four other state universities to create a regional program entitled: "Viable Dryland Cropping Systems for the West Central Great Plains; and support of increased funding for *Aegilops Cylindricum* (jointed goatgrass) research from \$383,000 to \$500,000.

Officers of both state organizations were in Washington, D.C. to attend board meetings of NAWG, U.S. Wheat Associates (USWA)

and the WETEC. CAWG is a member state of NAWG, the lobbying organization representing U.S. wheat growers. CWAC is a member state of USWA and WETEC. USWA is the export market development organization representing U.S. wheat producers. WETEC is charged with carrying out activities that advance and promote the trade policies of USWA and NAWG.

CAWG is a voluntary membership organization that promotes the interests of wheat growers at the state and national levels of government and provides special programs and benefits to dues paying members. CWAC is a marketing order funded by a producer assessment of one cent per bushel for education, research and promotion programs to increase the consumption of Colorado produced wheat.

Ag News

Musgrave requests support for agriculture research food safety, quality,

Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) urged the House Committee on Appropriations to provide funding for agricultural, drought, and disease research programs at Colorado State University (CSU) during the fiscal year 2004. In letters to Chairman Henry Bonilla of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies, Musgrave detailed the importance of various research programs to the Colorado's agricultural producers, the safety of food, and growing the economy.

"Farmers and ranchers are experiencing difficult realities with severe drought conditions, potential bioterror attacks, and weak commodity prices," said Musgrave. "These various research programs at CSU are critical in aiding agricultural producers to overcome their burdens and continue to provide a safe, cost effective food source for the nation."

Musgrave's specific requests to the Committee, for programs at CSU, are as follows:

The Center for Economically Important Infectious Animal

Diseases (CEIIAD): The center began its activities in 1998 as the first single institution to fill a national void in the integrated research on animal diseases. The CEIIAD research focuses entirely on animal diseases that either cause, or can potentially cause, serious economic losses for animal agriculture, or that threaten our national food supply such as West Nile Virus, bovine tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis, chronic wasting disease, paratuberculosis (John's disease) and strands of E. coli infection. These are particularly important in handling a bioterror related outbreak. Musgrave requested \$900,000 for fiscal year 2004.

Drought Analysis and Management Laboratory: The DroughtLab will utilize its expertise in atmospheric sciences, hydrology, water resources, agricultural engineering, ecology, forestry, fishery, wild land biology, agricultural and economics to explore alternative drought mitigation actions and enable the West, with its growing water needs and uses, to prepare for drought. The DroughtLab will concentrate its

research on the areas of knowledge needed by water managers and policy makers across the Western United States. Musgrave requested \$1.8 million for fiscal year 2004.

Genetic Enhancement of Wheat: Researchers at Colorado State University are working to develop varieties of wheat that have improved heat and drought stress tolerance, which will serve to stabilize production under present climate conditions. It is anticipated that even minor gains in stress tolerance would add \$15 million annually to the value of Colorado wheat crop. CSU is ideally suited to undertake this research because of the close integration of its wheat breeding and wheat molecular genetics programs along with its history

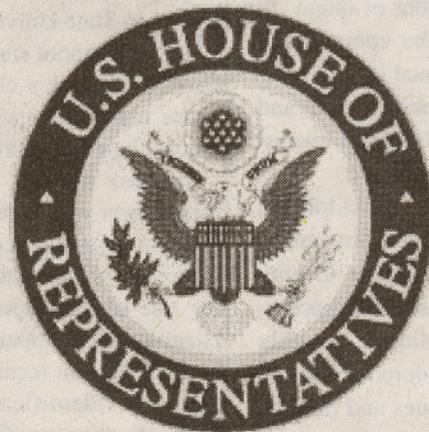
of research accomplishments in this area. Musgrave requested \$320,000 for fiscal year 2004.

National Program for Integrated Resource Management (NPIRM): The long-term goal of the NPIRM is to improve and sustain the economic and environmental health of rural communities by

improving the competitive position and sustainability of independent livestock producers. To achieve this goal, three universities, including CSU, will implement a coordinated and

interdisciplinary training program that will focus on management of land, water, livestock, recreation and human resources for long-term profitability and sustainability. Musgrave requested \$1.96 million for fiscal year 2004.

Chronic Wasting Disease Re-



and production at risk in Colorado

search: Over the last year, the Colorado Department of Wildlife and CSU have cooperatively worked during the states' most intensive wildlife surveillance effort to test more than 26,000 deer and elk for Chronic Wasting Disease, which attacks the animal's brains. Colorado is among several states devastated by this disease. Musgrave requested \$3.5 million to aid the Division of Wildlife and \$3 million to construct laboratories at CSU for long-term research of chronic wasting disease.

Viable Dryland Cropping System for the West Central Great Plains: The primary goal of the program is to coordinate and conduct research addressing the most critical economic, physical, biological and sociological factors that must be overcome for dryland cropping systems in the 105 million acre Great Plain region to remain viable in the future. This is an integrated effort bringing together a multi-disciplinary team of more than 30 researchers from the land-grant university system and the USDA Agricultural Research Service

(ARS) in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Musgrave requested \$1.5 million for fiscal year 2004.

"Colorado State University provides the state and region with valuable research in the area of agriculture, drought and animal diseases. CSU is very well suited to extend their research in order to aid farmers and ranchers with the difficulties they face today. We must be aware that the quality and safety of our nation's food source are at stake."

Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United State House of Representative in January 2003, and she represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a

member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at

<http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.