

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD
DENVER, CO 80204
(303) 455-7600
<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

September 17, 2019

Matthew Lohr, Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5242
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Lohr:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association (CCTA) to the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for funding from the Conservation Innovation Grants for Farm Conservation Innovation. If awarded, CCTA will implement the Farmers for Advancing Regenerative Management Systems (FARMS), a farmer-led initiative to address profitable soil health.

CCTA is a nonprofit organization that serves the conservation and no-till farmers of Colorado's High Plains, conducting workshops and field days to address current challenges faced by producers. The organization hosts the annual High Plains No-Till Conference in Burlington, Colorado and is recognized as the National No-Till Innovator for 2019. NRCS funding for FARMS will provide qualified technical assistance, facilitate peer-working groups, and leverage the expertise of long-term practitioners to mentor transitioning producers. FARMS will facilitate an innovative combination of technical and social support to equip participants to sustain soil health systems and regenerate their land for future generations.

In the unforgiving landscape of the High Plains, successful soil health management is essential to the regeneration of the land, and farmer profitability. I encourage you to give the application submitted by the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association, every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your attention and please notify my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator