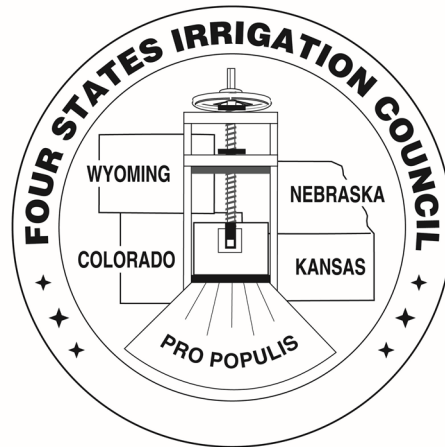


Four States
Irrigation Council
61st Annual Meeting

AWARDS



**January 15-17, 2014
Fort Collins, Colorado
Hilton**

Ditchrider Award – Ann Bleed



Ann Bleed

Ann Bleed, Ph.D., P.E. Emeritus, is currently a consultant providing consultation and facilitation services to people facing water resource issues. She also co-teaches a graduate course at the University of Nebraska, College of Law on water and environmental law and policy, teaches on citizenship for new immigrants, and serves on a number of community boards, including the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board, the Lincoln Electric System Board, the Groundwater Foundation Board, and the Nebraska Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Previous to her life in “semi-retirement”, Ann worked at the State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, first as the State Hydrologist, overseeing the more complex technical aspects of water administration and serving as the State’s examiner in water rights hearings. Later she served as deputy director, and finally as director of the Department. While at the Department she served as a representative of the State of Nebraska on the negotiating teams that settled two interstate water allocation lawsuits before the U. S. Supreme Court, Nebraska v. Wyoming and Colorado, and Kansas, v. Nebraska and Colorado. She also helped develop the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program and facilitated the Water Policy Task force, which wrote a new comprehensive integrated surface water and ground water law for the State of Nebraska.

Colorado Headgate Award – Harold Nelson



Harold Nelson

Harold Nelson was born in 1933 in Longmont Colorado. He is a 3rd generation farmer, farming since 1955, when he returned from serving in the Korean War. Harold has served on the board of the Last Chance Irrigation Company since 1958 and the Left Hand Conservancy Board since 1972. He has attended countless meetings and conferences on water issues.

In 1952, Harold married his high school sweetheart June. They have three children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Harold has two brothers and two sisters. He is still involved with his church.

Kansas Headgate Award – Mike Brzon

Mike and his wife, Linda, operate a family farm in North Central Kansas, along the Republican River Valley, in Republic County. They have two children and four grandchildren. In addition to livestock, they produce yellow and food grade white corn, soybeans, dry land wheat, sorghum and also livestock.

Working with family members has always been very important to Mike. Watching and helping family and friends excel is always a great reward. Over the years he has been involved with numerous associations and advisory boards. In the mid-seventies Mike became involved in State water issues and regulation in the Republican River Basin in Kansas and Nebraska, trying to protect and sustain the resources of the region.

By serving on various committees, he has encouraged others to get involved. Mike, presently serves on the Lower Republican River Stakeholder Advisory Committee. He is chairman of the Kansas Corn Commission and a director for the U.S. Grains Council. In past years he has served on boards for the Lower Republican Water Association, Farmway Cooperative, Inc. at Beloit, Kansas, the Kansas Wheat Association, 21st Century Dairy, and KSU Research Field advisory boards.



Mike Brzon

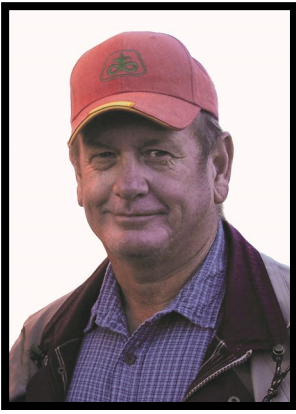
Nebraska Headgate Award – Don Felker

Born and raised in southwest Nebraska, Don has lived in the area all his life. Don graduated from McCook High School and was married in 1982 to his wife, Lisa. Together they have a son and two daughters and recently became first-time grandparents of a grandson, Riley. Don began working as a ditch rider for Frenchman Valley May 1, 1990, and was promoted to manager on July 2, 2001. In 23 years with the district, Don has watched the water supply become very limited, adding to the excitement of an irrigation district manager. For the past 13 years, the battle over the Republican River water with Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska has kept things interesting. In Don's spare time, he enjoys Nebraska football, bowling, following his daughter in high school sports, and spending time with his kids and grandson.



Don Felker

Wyoming Headgate Award – Bruce Good



Bruce Good

Bruce Good was born and raised in Douglas, Wyoming. As the son of an aircraft mechanic and a seamstress, there was a good chance he could have spent his entire life living in town. But Bruce's heart has always leaned towards the country. Many of his relatives were ranchers and farmers and he spent many of his most formative summers living and working with them, learning about cattle, crops and the rural life.

After graduating from Douglas High School, Bruce married his wife, Jean, and began working with his father-in-law on the farm, raising cattle, crops, and custom-feeding for neighboring ranchers. It was here that he got his first experiences with Charolais cattle—the breed's bulls still form the backbone of his herd today.

In 1985, Bruce, Jean, and their two young sons moved to a farm they purchased near Lingle, Wyoming. There they began raising beans, sugar beets, corn, alfalfa, and cattle. This is also when Bruce first became familiar with Goshen Irrigation District. It was not only the primary water source for the farm, it also provided Bruce with one of the biggest mentors in his life—his neighbor, Bill Franks. Bill had vast experience and knowledge from his years on the GID Board and Wyoming Water Development Commission, and he and Bruce spent many long hours discussing water issues and history.

Bruce served on many nominating committees for the board. When Bill retired from the GID board, Bruce ran for his office. He won the position and took over its duties in February of 2007. Since then Bruce has served as secretary-treasurer and is currently vice-president of the board. He has attended past Wyoming state water meetings and Four States Conferences many times and worked with Wyoming Water Development Board on various projects. He also served on the committee for the University of Wyoming's selection of a new plant pathologist.

Congratulations!

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

