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**Re: NWCCOG Council Presentation on Local Ag**

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**From** Shawn Bruckman <shawn.bruckman@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 11/11/2025 10:42 AM

**To** Tom Boyd <tom.boyd@eaglecounty.us>

**Cc** Jon Stavney <jstavney@nwccog.org>

Thanks for the work the that NWCCOG is doing to recognize the importance of local economics in regard to ranching in northwest Colorado and how it plays into supporting local food systems, water quality and western heritage. It just so happens I am facilitating an international compost training at CSU in Fort Collins next week and am working with the director of Agricultural Education there to coordinate the logistics of our class. Perfect timing on this! I will ask him if there is anyone on his team that could provide some sort of Ranching Economics 101 for your council. I'm assuming that your Dec 5 meeting might be too urgent of an ask, especially with the holiday coming up, but I'll put both options out there and connect you with whoever they think would be the best authority on this topic. Keep up the good work!

**Shawn Bruckman**

**970.331.2810**

*Soil Health Specialist and Compost Consultant  
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The Ground Up

[www.thegroundupsoil.com](http://www.thegroundupsoil.com)

On Mon, Nov 10, 2025 at 9:07 PM Tom Boyd <[tom.boyd@eaglecounty.us](mailto:tom.boyd@eaglecounty.us)> wrote:

Hello Jon and Shawn,

My apologies for my delayed response as I catch up on a backlog of emails.

Shawn, congrats on your new appointment at ECCD. I hope to connect with the Conservation District again soon.

Jon, as I look ahead to the value that NWCCOG brings, I was impressed with a few of our recent presentations from the KC Federal Reserve and others. Being informed helps us make better decisions. I think continued good presentations can help reinforce the value of our meetings.

I am particularly interested in how the NW Colorado ranching community operates from an economic standpoint. Inputs -> ranching -> market. How do recent beef prices impact our ranchers? Are they able to profit or do inputs simply rise ... are prices

merely a reflection of the costs of ranching, and therefore our ranching families don't see profit? How do national beef prices relate to regional pricing?

For this, perhaps there is a CSU professor who would be willing to present to us. Or, perhaps we could ask the board for ideas at the next meeting (I would be happy to do so if that's helpful).

Ranching economics 101 ... or maybe 201.

No rush on this - just an idea to consider and perhaps Shawn has some ideas.

**Tom Boyd**

Eagle County Commissioner

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On Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 3:56 PM Jon Stavney <[jstavney@nwccog.org](mailto:jstavney@nwccog.org)> wrote:

Tom,

I've been wrestling with who to contact to inform our group on the state of local agriculture since you brought it up. Today, I just put together that I've been doing noon yoga with Shawn, our composting guru who helped Vail Honeywagon stand up their program and ran it for a decade. She is now helping TOE improve their curbside program and is the recently elected President of the Eagle County Conservation District. She is fluent in the (how did you put it, Shawn?) ag to compost cycle from start to finish.

Shawn, rather than whiteboarding some content with you, I thought we would just include Tom in the email conversation. I think he was interested in the composition of ag here (we cover 6 counties) as well as how they are managing this economic time. Our next Council meetings are Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 9 -Noon and late January.

<https://eccdistrict.org/>

Thanks, all.

**Jon Stavney**

*Executive Director*

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*The soil is the great connector of lives... without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life. -  
Wendell Berry*

