



ADVANCING THE LEGACY

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**WEBINAR Highlights – Colorado Master Irrigator Program**

[Recorded April 4, 2023.](#)

**Presenters:** Brandi Baquera, Colorado Master Irrigator Program Manager, and Paul Brittain, irrigator and livestock producer, South Fork Republican River Basin, Colorado.

**Colorado Master Irrigator Program Background and Program**

**Goal:** To equip participants with knowledge and connections they can use to save water while maintaining/enhancing farm profitability.

**Program Features:**

- 32-hour professional development course offered to Republican River Basin and San Luis Valley producers and crop consultants.
- Organized and designed by a farmer-led project advisory committee.
- Focuses on advanced conservation and irrigation management practices.
- Modeled after a successful program run by N. Plains Groundwater Conservation District in Texas.
- CO MI offers 25 seats to interested Republican River Basin producers.
- Local businesses partner to offer graduates discounts and incentives.
- Funded through a series of grants (CWCB, local groundwater management districts, others).
- Supports a network of younger generation producers.

**Program Focus Areas:**

- Increased water & energy efficiency
- Potential pros, cons & costs of many water management tools & strategies
- Ways to make conservation profitable.
- Interstate Compact Discussions

**Benefits:**

- Creates an opportunity to engage in group discussions with experts and other farmers about different practices and strategies that have been tried and what has worked.
- Gives course participants a network of other producers that they can talk to when they have questions about trying a new approach or tool.
- Learn more at <http://www.comasterirrigator.org/>

