

## Business and Education

In addition to agriculture and energy, Weld County is also home to thriving businesses — large and small. County government has a proven track record of working with business and industry; not creating obstacles. Major employers in the area include: JBS USA, Leprino Foods, Aurora Organic Dairy, Anadarko Petroleum, Noble Energy, Halliburton Energy Services, Vestas Blades, Banner Health, Carestream Colorado and State Farm Insurance.



Agritourism is also abundant throughout Weld County. Farmer's Markets and local produce stands can be

found in many Weld County towns throughout the summer while pumpkin patches and intricate corn mazes provide hours of fun during the fall.

### Education

Weld County is home to 17 school districts that offer quality educational opportunities. Greeley is the home of the University of Northern Colorado, a four-year university offering bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees to 12,000 students. Aims Community College is a two-year liberal arts and vocational college in Greeley with a second campus in Fort Lupton.

## Contact Us



*From left: Commissioners Barbara Kirkmeyer, Mike Freeman, Sean Conway, Steve Moreno and Julie Cozad*

To read more about Weld County,  
please visit  
[www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com)

### Contact or Follow Us!



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



[facebook.com/weldcountygovernment](https://facebook.com/weldcountygovernment)



[twitter.com/weldgov](https://twitter.com/weldgov)



[youtube.com/user/weldcountyco](https://youtube.com/user/weldcountyco)

1150 O St.  
P.O. Box 758  
Greeley, CO 80632  
Phone: (970) 356-4000



## Weld County

“Leading with  
Responsive,  
Innovative  
and  
Cost Effective  
Services”

## Weld History

The history of Weld County, which was established in 1861 when Colorado was still a territory, is literally rooted in the land. Weld County ranks number one in the state, and number nine in the country, in the value of agricultural products sold — almost \$1.9 billion annually.

So how is this possible in a region that in 1821, Major Stephen H. Long said would never be fit for human habitation and should remain forever the unmolested haunt of the native hunter, bison and jackal? The answer is irrigation. The Section No. 3 Ditch Company, which was incorporated in 1870, is said to have been “the first ditch in the United States built specifically to grow food.”



In 1835, a government expedition came through the general area; the next year a member of that party, Lt. Lancaster Lupton, returned to establish a trading post located just north of the present town of Fort Lupton. Weld County was named for Lewis Ledyard Weld, the first territorial secretary.

A large segment of the Weld County region was settled by people of German descent who migrated from Russia in the early 1900s. Weld County’s Spanish-surname population began to arrive during the mid 1920s as laborers for the sugar beet industry.

For more information on Weld County’s history, please visit [www.weldcounty150.org](http://www.weldcounty150.org), and click on History of Weld County overview.

## About Weld

*“Leading with responsive, innovative and cost effective services”*

Welcome to beautiful Weld County — home to 31 incorporated municipalities, including growing cities, charming towns, thriving businesses and thousands of acres of prime agricultural land. As Colorado’s third largest county, Weld County covers 3,996 square miles in the northern part of the state and is larger than the size of Rhode Island, Delaware and the District of Columbia combined.

The climate is dry and generally mild with warm



summers, mild winters and a growing season of approximately 138 days. The land surface is fairly level in the east,

with rolling prairies and low hills near the western border. Elevations in the county range from 4,400 to 5,000 feet.

The South Platte River and its tributaries, the Cache la Poudre, Big Thompson, Little Thompson, Boulder, St. Vrain, and other smaller streams, flow into Weld County from the south and west, leaving the county on the east.



With available services, location, resources and livability Weld County offers unbounded opportunity for families to live, work and play. We have one more important ingredient as well: A positive attitude toward growth. We love being here, and we’d love having you here too!

## Industry

Weld County leads the state in the production of sugar beets, grains, beef and cattle. The county is also a leader in the production of dry beans, potatoes, poultry and eggs, milk and other dairy products. In fact, agriculture is so important in the county that the Weld County Code includes a specific Right to Farm Statement.

Another important industry in the county is the energy industry. Oil and gas activity has occurred for decades in Weld County, which is located in the Denver — Julesburg Basin and sits above the Wattenberg Field.

Horizontal drilling has brought new life to the energy industry in Weld County, and today, Weld has more oil and gas wells than any other county in the state, approximately 20,000. The positive economic impact oil and gas has had on the county has been tremendous. Schools, fire districts, libraries as well as county and municipal governments all benefit from this recent oil boom.

For example, the 2011 tax payment to the county by just one oil and gas producer was \$52 million, of which 41 percent of that payment went to the county’s school districts, 9.11 percent went to special districts such as libraries and 8.51 percent went to Fire Districts within the county.

Other benefits of the boom: Weld County has no long-term or short-term debt, no county sales tax, a low mill levy compared to neighboring counties, and is able to pay for long-term projects with cash. In fact, starting in 2011, the Weld County Board of Commissioners began setting aside \$8 million for county road maintenance, \$23 million for improvements to Weld County Road 49, \$40 million for future expansion of the Weld County Jail and \$4 million for construction of the North Colorado Regional Crime lab.