



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-336-7233
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE 2015 IRRIGATION DITCH RIDER AWARD RECIPIENT

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners recognized Jerome (Jerry) Loeffler as the 2015 Irrigation Ditch Rider Award recipient from the Weld County Noxious Weed Advisory Board and Agfinity. Loeffler received this award posthumously, and his wife, Lydia, accepted the award on his behalf.



Lydia Loeffler is presented the 2015 Irrigation Ditch Rider Award in honor of her husband, Jerry, by the Weld County Board of Commissioners and the Noxious Weed Advisory Board.

Loeffler worked for the Godfrey Ditch Company where he served as a ditch rider for over 50 years as well as in various positions on the Board of Directors. He received this award for his dedication to ensuring that water was able to flow through the ditch system and reach all of the shareholders. He did this by working with the users of the water system, maintaining weed control, dredging and making enhancements to the system before any problems arose.

After serving in World War II, Loeffler purchased an 80-acre farm two miles west of LaSalle on the Godfrey Bottom Road where he farmed for many years. Loeffler is survived by his wife who is 101 years old and still lives

on the same farm they purchased in 1948. He is also survived by his two daughters and his son, who continues the farming operation Loeffler began so many years ago, as well as seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

“As one of the largest agriculture producing counties in the state, water is an incredibly important resource,” said Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman. “It is crucial we have people like Jerry monitoring our ditches to make sure water is flowing properly. As a farmer and a ditch rider, Jerry was a true asset to our local agriculture industry.”

In 2010, the Noxious Weed Advisory Board created an Irrigation Systems Recognition program to acknowledge an irrigation company, superintendent or ditch rider's hard work and dedication to agriculture through irrigation systems. The award recipient will also be recognized for their excellent job of conveying water to the shareholders and maintaining a ditch that is free of unwanted vegetation. Each recipient is not only recognized during a Board of Commissioners meeting but also during the Farm Show. Agfinity sponsors the award and provides the recipient with up to \$200 in gift cards.

For more information about the Irrigation Systems Recognition program, visit the Weld County Weed and Pest Division web page at www.weldweeds.org.

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