



Scot Schaefer is a third generation farmer with over 31 years of experience. After obtaining a B.A. in production management from Western State College he decided to go into the farming business. Early on he held a job as a ditch rider while farming and operating a dairy with his Dad. Currently he grows barley and hay and has a cow/calf operation. Farming is his passion, emphasizing in small bales for horse hay. Scot is active in water issues. He is a board member for sub district 2, serves as president of the San Luis, and consolidated ditch companies, and he also is a director on the Rio Grande Water Users Association. Scot and his wife Michelle have two daughters Emily and Elizabeth who are both teachers in the valley, and a son, Simon who is attending South Dakota School of Mines. They also have two grand kids and are realizing the wonders of being grandparents! Scot is currently serving his third term as a Monte Vista Coop board member and is currently Chairman of the board. He has a great appreciation for the importance of the coop to our local farmers as well as our local economy and is very motivated to keep the Coop strong and meeting the needs of its members.



Tyler Mitchell

My name is Tyler Mitchell and my wife Melissa and I have two children, Madeline (9) and Sophia (7). We are part of a farming operation in the Sargent area. Together with my brother Clay and father Mike we raise potatoes, malt barley, quinoa, and green manure under center pivot irrigation. I received my bachelor's degree in Bio-Resource and Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University.

I am currently a board member of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee which is a marketing committee for the Colorado potato industry, and the National Potato Council which is a national representative of the potato industry on legislative and regulatory matters. I am also a member of the Colorado Farm Bureau, a 4-H leader, and serve as a board member of the Sargent School Board of Education.

I am running for a board position because I believe the Monte Vista Coop is very important for our Ag Industry and the community we have here in the San Luis Valley.

If elected I will use my experience as a business owner, as well as my experience serving on other boards to help the Coop continue to successfully serve the needs of the industry and the community.



Byron Kunugi has been part of the family farming operation in the Blanca/Ft. Garland area since high school. He currently works closely with his brother and nephew and together they raise potatoes, Coors barley, wheat, and alfalfa. He earned his degree from Adams State University in Business Administration and Marketing.

He is a current board member of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, the Costilla Soil Conservation District and the Costilla County Fire Protection board. Byron is a retired fireman and has served on the Colorado Pesticide Advisors committee and is a former Vice President of finance on the National Potato Council.

He feels like the Monte Vista Coop is a vital part of the economy and wants to be a part of ensuring it reaches the needs of our members. If elected Byron will bring common sense, leadership, and experience to the board of directors.