

2021 Meet the Candidates

ARRIBA EXCHANGE

Collen McCormick - (*Unopposed*)

Colleen McCormick was born and raised north of Arriba. With her husband, Mike, they have a dryland farm and cow/calf operation north of Arriba. Colleen was a graduate of the Arriba-Flagler High School and later graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree of Economics and a minor in Statistics. Upon graduating she obtained her Series 6, 7, and 63 licenses and took a position in retail equities at Charles Schwab in Denver. In 2001 she went on to work at Morgan Stanley on the Institutional Fixed Income desk in San Francisco. Longing for the rural lifestyle, Colleen left California in 2004 and returned to eastern Colorado. She became a Certified General Appraiser in both Colorado and Kansas where she specializes primarily in farm and ranch valuations. While she still does some appraisal work, she dedicates most of her time to their cow/calf operation, the farm, and the busy schedules of her two kids, Sophia (age 11) and Connor (age 9). Colleen previously served 9 years on the Lincoln County FSA Committee and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Flagler Cooperative Association.

HUGO EXCHANGE

Wade Hollowell - (*Incumbent, Unopposed*)

My name is Wade Hollowell. I am the incumbent running for the Hugo exchange position, which I have served the last 3 years. I was born and raised on a farm and ranch southwest of Hugo and graduated from Genoa-Hugo School in 2000. I received a double BS in Agricultural Business/Soil and Crop Sciences from Colorado State University in 2004. After college, I worked for my family and neighbors for around a year before starting my own farming operation. I am currently operating my own farm and ranch business. I have previously served on the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association Board and was an alternate on the High Plains Millet Association Board. I am currently serving on the Lincoln County Stockman's Association, Lincoln County FSA County Committee and the Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association Board of Directors. I believe it is important to serve your community through work done on Boards of Directors. Being a member of other cooperatives, I understand the value of operating for the benefit of the members. Even with the complexities of dealing with government, competition and constantly changing technology, I am excited to see where rural phone and broadband are headed. These are a few reasons why I am running and I would appreciate the chance to continue to work for you, the cooperative members and with the other board members, management and staff at ESRTA.

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KARVAL EXCHANGE

Kenny Yoder - (*Incumbent*)

My name is Kenny Yoder. My wife Karla and I, along with our three children, ranch in Karval. We were both raised here and graduated from Karval High School. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Ag Business from Panhandle State University. Previous boards I have served on include the Citizens Advocating Rural Rights (CARR), Lincoln County Stockmen's Association, the Karval School Board, and I am also currently a deacon in our church. I was appointed to the ESRTA board back in February of this year to fulfill Keith James' term for the Karval exchange. I believe ESRTA Cooperative is a vital entity in our community, aggressively keeping up with new technologies and providing affordable and fantastic services to its customers. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve thus far. I would love to continue to serve you on the ESRTA board.

Curtis Dutro

Curt, along with his wife Mindy, and two kids Beau and Blake, live on their farm and ranch near Karval. After graduating from Colorado State University with a Degree in Business Administration, Concentration in Accounting, he purchased the farm and ranch where he and his family reside. During the summer of 2010, he was hired by Eastern Slope to help with the construction of fiber optics in the Flagler Exchange under the lead of Mike Devers. In 2017, he and his dad formed D&D Farms partnership, which consists of a cow/calf operation, backgrounding/grow yard, and raising both irrigated and dryland grain and hay. When time is available, he helps his in-laws, Eddie Bill and Jan Schiffers with their farming operation north of Arriba. In 2006/2007 he served as the Colorado State FFA Treasurer, which enticed him to serve on boards and committees where he thought he could assist. Curt has served as a board member for many local organizations, including the Karval Community Board and Karval Fire Protection District. He currently serves on the Karval FFA Advisory Board, Lincoln County Land Use Board, and Lincoln County FSA Committee. During the summer that I worked for Eastern Slope, I knew that I wanted to stay involved with the company. Eastern Slope has done an excellent job of growing into more than just a "telephone company." I want to serve the members as a young person in a tech driven cooperative.