



ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

Lower Arkansas Valley Agriculture Tour

Tentatively Wednesday, August 18, 2021

10am – 3pm

The tour date, topics and agenda are currently being developed and are not yet final. Registration information and the finalized agenda will be posted in our Summer Newsletter to be distributed on June 15, 2021. Please check the newsletter and our website – ARBWF.org for details. Thank you for your patience!



In the morning, the August Water Forum tour will begin in the Swink area. Enjoy the rural setting at [Hanagan's Farms](#) by joining the “Know your farmer, know your food” themed tour. Quality, tradition, and family owned for over 100 year, Hanagan Farms would not grow or sell anything that they would not feed to their own family. In 2006, at the Colorado State Fair, Hanagan Farms was awarded the Centennial Farm Certificate for the continued ownership of the farms for 100 years.



ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

While on the farm tour we will explore topics related to Innovations in Sustainability on Irrigated Agriculture. Specific presentations by seasoned professionals will include Agritourism, Conservation Easements, Farm Marketing Options, and New Technologies for Irrigation.



Join us under a shady tree for a delicious lunch featuring a bountiful of beautiful, fresh, and local grown produce. The warm sunny days and cool nights make for the best produce in the state. Be sure to take some of the delicious goodies home with you!



ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM



The afternoon tour will be held at the [Folium Bio-sciences](#) facility in La Junta. The tour will be hosted courtesy of Phillip Chavez of Diamond A Farms. Folium Biosciences is a Colorado headquartered company specializing in the cultivation, extraction, and manufacturing of hemp-derived ingredients and finished products. The hemp oil which is the final product is made into many products, from dietary supplements to cosmetics.

Diamond A Farms grew 370 acres and 550,000 hemp plants in 2018. The farms have full access to water rights and combined with no use of synthetic pesticides and chemicals, they are creating best-in-class, sustainable farming practices. The production of hemp at Folium Biosciences is used only in the extraction of the medicinal CBD oil and seed for their fields. It is an entirely self-contained facility.

The hemp produced at Folium Biosciences is produced by a process which results in all female plants through the modification of genes in the pollen. Only one in 400 of their plants turns out to be male. Chavez sees hemp as having extreme



ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

possibilities as a cash crop and they have 200 employees in the La Junta, Rocky Ford and Colorado Springs area.

Diamond A is also interested in improving soil and water quality. The farm grows extensive cover crops which are turned back into the ground for organic matter. They are working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Colorado to improve soil and water quality.

DRAFT