



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### 105 Years of Tradition

The ***El Paso County Fair*** in Calhan, Colorado continues to be one of the most established and successful in the state. Since 1905, my hometown of Calhan- *the highest non-mountain town in the United States*- has enthusiastically hosted 105 years of food, fun and entertainment and has provided a home for residents of El Paso County and the surrounding areas to celebrate its agricultural and rich rural traditions of the rugged west.

Toni Knapp reported in the 1985 El Paso County Fair Souvenir Program that visitors came from far and wide in covered wagons, Conestoga wagons, surreys and by horseback to the first fair. The 1905 fair was a thanksgiving festival honoring the hard work of the local famers and their bountiful potato harvest. The fair included a potato and bean bake off, joyful entertainment and horse races for the locals to enjoy.

Although families now drive cars instead of covered wagons, there are still plenty of thrilling activities for every member of the family to enjoy. This year's ***El Paso County Fair*** begins on Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> and wraps up on Saturday July 31 with the traditional 4-H Junior Livestock Sale, the daring and electrifying Demolition Derby/Tug of War and music to dance to under the starry nights by the McRae Band in the Pepsi Dance Tent. Promising to be bigger and better than ever, the fair will include a mix of the traditional agricultural events such as the 4-H rabbit, poultry goat, sheep, beef, swine and horse shows; horticultural and cooking contests; and, the Gold Canyon Gunfighters, Auto Races, Great Cat Adventures, exciting Ranch Rodeo and other fun family shows.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Fair Advisory Board, fair exhibitors, 4-H participants and their families, CSU-Extension, sponsors, staff and an army of dedicated volunteers our ***El Paso County Fair*** continues to be one of the most important traditions in our county.

Please join me, my family and our neighbors for a week of fun and enjoyment at the El Paso County Fair in Calhan Colorado. Visit [www.elpasocountyfair.com](http://www.elpasocountyfair.com) or call the fair office at 719-520-7880 for additional information. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and celebrate El Paso County's spirit of hard work and agricultural traditions with you and your family!

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