

# Forum to give people voice

## Secretary of agriculture will hear comment from citizens

By ANN DEPPERSCHMIDT  
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

GREELEY — If you have a beef with agriculture policy and want to tell the secretary of agriculture about it, the microphone is all yours.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., will host a public forum Monday in Greeley to gather information for the 2007 farm bill.

The forum, scheduled for 2-5 p.m. Monday at the Island Grove Regional Park Event Center in Greeley, will allow residents to comment on agricultural issues, specifically topics concerning commodity, conservation and rural economic development.

The event is the 36th stop on a nationwide tour to gather information for the new farm bill. The 2002 Farm Bill, also known as the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, expires in 2007.

Wayne Rieger, the Larimer County executive director of the Farm Service Agency, said he will attend the meeting to listen to concerns from local farmers and ranchers.

He said there's always some pressure to do away with farm programs, but those "are really important for farmers and ranchers to stay in business."

Page  
A3  
Friday

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### **RI** WANT TO GO?

**What:** Farm Bill Forum, hosted by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo.

**When:** 2-5 p.m. Monday