

**For Immediate Release:**

Summer 2010

**Media Contact:**

Molly Killien

(970) 875-7009

molly@steamboatcchamber.com

**Summer 2010 Press Kit  
Farmers Fare and Local Laurels**

Learn about Steamboat's agricultural history and the folks who make this "Cow Town U.S.A."

"Though the number of ranches is decreasing, raising cattle and hay remains a Western way of life in the Yampa Valley, just as it was in the 1900s." – Steamboat, Ski Town U.S.A. by Tom Bie

Steamboat Springs is well known around the world for our Champagne Powder®, genuine Western hospitality and the fact that Steamboat Springs is home to more winter Olympians than any other town in North America; 86 athletes and counting. But what else is the Yampa Valley known for? The answer can be seen in every field, hay pasture, and farm in and around Steamboat Springs. Our roots are in agriculture, in every sense of the word. Planting crops and raising cattle has been an important mainstay of this economy for the last century. Steamboat Springs was and still is a Cow Town. It was this way well before we become known as a Ski Town.

**Did you know?**

George Baggs first introduced cattle (Texas longhorns) into the area in 1871. Sheep ranchers started introducing their flocks in early 1890, and the notorious range wars ensued during the next five years. Ranching of both cattle and sheep remains a Yampa Valley mainstay.

By 1913, more cattle were shipped from the Steamboat rail yard than any other single point in the U.S. (Down the line, Hayden held a similar record for shipping sheep). In those early days when cattle were shipped onto trains and sent to sale, the cattles' faces would turn dark black from the train smoke going through tunnels. Black faced cattle would sell for a higher price because the buyers knew they came from the mountains.

**Community Agriculture Alliance**

Committed to the Yampa Valley's agriculture heritage through bridging our agriculture, business, community and resort interests, the Community Agriculture Alliance is dedicated to preserving the agricultural heritage of the Yampa Valley by initiating, supporting and encouraging actions, programs and policies that mutually benefit and connect agricultural producers and consumers. Their driving philosophy is that the agricultural environment be preserved, as once lost, it can never be restored. [www.communityagalliance.org](http://www.communityagalliance.org)

Within the Community Agriculture Alliance many organizations have flourished, including Northwest Colorado Products and events such as the Cow Town Ranch Tours.

**Northwest Colorado Products**

The mission of the Northwest Colorado Products program is to establish and maintain a market for products and services that promote products that originate in Northwest Colorado. This program builds recognition for exceptional regionally made products and services, their producers and Northwest Colorado industries in general. In addition, NWCP creates a market for products and services which originate in Northwest Colorado, develops retail opportunities that can be easily utilized by locals and tourists and tells the stories of Northwest Colorado and our residents. [www.nwcproducts.org](http://www.nwcproducts.org)

**Cow Town Ranch Tours**

Locals and guests are invited to visit local working ranches and tour our cultural countryside with local historians. Learn about the rich ranching heritage of Routt County and its residents with hands on experience. Each tour will be determined by the location and your tour guides and many include stops at cattle, sheep, horse, bison and elk ranches throughout the

*steamboatsummer.com*



county. Summer dates include July 2, 8, 15 and 22. Please call (970) 879-4370 for more information and to sign up for a tour.

### **MainStreet Steamboat Springs Farmers' Market**

Steamboat's MainStreet Market, now in its sixth season, is quickly becoming one of the largest farmers' markets on the western slope of Colorado. Featuring locally and regionally-grown produce, locally raised grass-fed beef and buffalo, pork and lamb, hand crafted artisan cheeses and bread, prepared food products of all kinds and arts/crafts handcrafted by the vendors, the market offers something for everyone. Meet the producers of these products, ask questions and become knowledgeable about the importance of knowing your food source. Join the fun and the camaraderie created at this weekly Saturday market, running from June 12th to September 11th. Truly a "not to be missed" event, the market is located in the center of downtown Steamboat right next to the courthouse on 6th Street. And, as long as you are already downtown, spend the day browsing the shops and restaurants that make downtown Steamboat so special.

*steamboatsummer.com*

