

## **Garrett Grasmick represents Colorado, SECPA at national meeting**

Feb. 22, 2010

LA JUNTA – Rocky Ford High School senior Garrett Grasmick recently returned from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., where he represented both Colorado and the Southeast Colorado Power Association.

Grasmick, 18, has had a busy year. Last June, he was chosen by SECPA to attend the electric cooperative Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. That event was attended by over 1,500 youth from across the nation, with each one representing an individual electric co-op. The students on the Youth Tour selected Grasmick to serve on Colorado's Youth Leadership Council and attend a national leadership conference.

That event, the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), was held last July, also in Washington, D.C. The conference agenda included leadership and team building exercises, meeting with Capitol Hill staff members who are "alumni" of NRECA's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, and a competition to select the NRECA's National Youth Spokesperson. Grasmick competed for that honor and said that, while he wasn't selected as a winner, he did earn the opportunity to represent Colorado at the NRECA annual meeting Feb. 14-17, 2010.

That event featured one youth participant from each of the 43 states that have rural electric cooperatives. Grasmick said his time there included working to assist the Association with paperwork designed to help pass a bill on the EPA and taking part in other educational activities.

"This was a great experience," said Grasmick, who is the first youth representing Southeast Colorado Power Association to have had such great success at the initial Youth Tour. He said each of the events he attended gave him and the other participants a chance to prepare for the future with peers from across the country, expand their knowledge of the American political system, broaden their understanding of cooperatives and develop leadership skills.

Grasmick, the son of Mark and Jerrilea Grasmick of Rocky Ford, plans to attend Texas Tech and double major in agriculture economics and business before attending law school.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 42 million people in 47 states. Southeast Colorado Power Association, formed in 1937, is a not-for-profit cooperative electric utility with over 10,000 services in communities in 11 southeastern Colorado counties. All SECPA customers are members and owners of a cooperative. SECPA strives to provide high quality, reliable electric service to its members, but also seeks to develop and make available new technology. SECOM was developed as its telecommunications provider, providing nearly 1,000 miles of fiber optic cable to schools, businesses, libraries and colleges in the area.