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**The 6th Annual Denver Post Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour Will Be a Wild Ride!
Kersey, Keenesburg and Brush to Host 2017 Tour**

Denver, CO -- Nothing quite says "Colorado" like a fun-filled weekend of cycling, scenery, history and shooting the breeze with a host of colorful farmers and ranchers.

These delights are in store for riders as Governor John Hickenlooper, The Denver Post Community Foundation and presenting sponsor Viaero Wireless proudly announce the route for the 2017 Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour.

The heart and spirit of Colorado lies just as much in the eastern plains as it does the Rocky Mountains. Pedal the Plains, now in its sixth year, will bring riders on a tour through Weld and Morgan county — covering 177 miles and highlighting three communities that still embody that raw pioneer spirit and a dedication to the land. From September 15 to 17, riders will meander along a route filled with scenic, historical and agricultural stops as they visit host communities of Kersey, Keenesburg and Brush.

Off the bike, participants will enjoy locally sourced food, beer gardens, live entertainment and the welcoming community spirit of rural Colorado.

"The bar is set high for our sixth Pedal The Plains," said Governor Hickenlooper. "Every year this event gets better and we're looking forward to celebrating our rural heritage, exploring our Eastern Plains communities and raising funds to benefit tomorrow's agricultural leaders."

Billed as "a ride for the rest of us," Pedal The Plains gives cyclists of all abilities the opportunity to celebrate scenery, delicious eats and close friends. The event is set in the heart of Western agriculture, home of the frontier spirit that inspires everyone to keep pedaling toward the next adventure.

"Our sister tour, Ride The Rockies, gives cyclists plenty of alpine challenges in western Colorado, but Pedal The Plains provides a unique opportunity for riders of all ages and experience levels to enjoy the friendly atmosphere and sun-drenched terrain of Colorado's plains," said Tour Director Renee Wheelock. "We are particularly pleased to have Kersey, Keenesburg and Brush as first-time host communities. Our riders are in for a treat."

A typical weekend on Pedal The Plains entails casual riding interspersed with an array of entertainment and festivities, meals made with local produce, and accommodations ranging from tents to RVs to private home stays. Farmers, ranchers and local businesses invite cyclists to dismount and enjoy educational experiences. This year's registration includes entry into the Wild Animal Sanctuary, which will host the last education stop on day 1.

Highlights of the 2017 tour include:

- The Wild Animal Sanctuary
- Auer Bird Valley Hunting Preserve
- Ch2E Tire Recycling Center
- Cooksey Farms
- Roggen Farmers Elevator Association
- Roggen Telephone Company
- Bijou's Canals and Reservoir
- 70 Ranch
- Chapin Dairy Farm

The Denver Post Community Foundation, which has produced the world-class cycling event Ride The Rockies through 31 successful years, is also the organizer, in partnership with the Governor's office, of this unique Colorado event.

Pedal The Plains provides significant economic benefits and opportunities for host communities through lodging, restaurants and retail businesses, as well as entertainment, community meals, home stays and transportation.

Proceeds from the ride benefit The Denver Post Community Foundation in support of the Colorado FFA Foundation and Colorado 4-H. In addition, Pedal The Plains will award a separate grant to each of the three host communities for an organization or community initiative of their choice.

Viaero Wireless is joined in supporting the ride by founding partners Western Dairy Association, Anadarko Petroleum, Noble Energy and Suncor Energy. Media sponsors include: The Denver Post, 9NEWS and KBCO.

"We are very excited to bring events like Pedal The Plains to our Northern Colorado communities," said Frank DiRico, President of Viaero Wireless. "Once again we are proud to provide complete 4G LTE coverage to the less-traveled areas of Northern Colorado, so the riders of Pedal The Plains can experience this adventure while staying connected to their friends and family. Pedal The Plains is a great event that helps boost the visibility of our people, neighborhoods and countryside."

Pedal The Plains is a fully supported bicycle tour and ride offerings include the 3-Day Tour, Century Ride and Family Fun Ride. Online registration is available at PedalThePlains.com and walk-on registration will be available for all of the Tour's ride offerings. Stay up to date with Pedal The Plains on social media through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by following the Tour @PedalThePlains.

About The Denver Post Community Foundation: The Denver Post Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour is an event of The Denver Post Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community by raising and distributing funds to metro-area and Colorado nonprofit agencies serving the areas of arts, youth, education, and human services. The Foundation raises funds primarily through eight signature events and programs including: Basket of Joy, Cheyenne Frontier Days Train, Colorado State Spelling Bee, Passport to the Arts, Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour, Pen and Podium Series, Ride the Rockies Bicycle Tour, and Underground Music Showcase. To learn more about Denver Post Community, visit denverpostcommunity.com.

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