

2015 Forum Awards

For immediate release

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(Fort Collins, Colo.) Several awards were presented to statewide professionals during a banquet as part of *Forum*, an on-campus, weeklong professional development opportunity. Forum is an opportunity for Extension agents and on-campus specialists to meet and discuss upcoming issues and develop strategies for tackling them. CSU Extension, part of the Office of Engagement, serves all Colorado counties and provides reliable, research-based information, research capabilities and resources to all Coloradoans.

F.A. Anderson Award

The F.A. Anderson award recognizes outstanding performance by a state Extension employee throughout their career. Marisa Bunning, associate professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, College of Health and Human Sciences, and Extension specialist was given one of Colorado State University Extension's highest awards earlier this month.

Virtually all of Bunning's research funding—all linked to food safety Extension efforts—has involved multiple departments and colleges at CSU, and community shareholders.

Bunning has championed the use of social media, webinars, websites and online content allowing her to further develop strong collaborations and an extensive communication network with Extension agents, community partners, and their local audiences.

“Dr. Bunning's research and outreach directly impacts nutritional decisions and behavior of Colorado's citizens and beyond,” said Lou Swanson, director of Extension and Vice President, Office of Engagement. “CSU Extension continues to greatly benefit from her scholarly engagement.”

Bunning's commitment to collaboration includes the development of educational materials targeted to produce growers in 2012. This program helped producers understand the fundamentals of developing a farm safety plan, and was an important step in improving on-farm food safety in Colorado, especially following the listeria outbreak associated with Colorado-grown melons.

Bunning worked closely with other CSU researchers and producers in response to that listeria outbreak, collaborating with College of Agricultural Sciences faculty to develop a Melon Task Force. They implemented a strategic plan to improve all practices related to the production, distribution, and consumption of melons. From September-December 2011, Bunning and collaborators secured more than \$37,000 in funding; hosted a seminar with over 130 participants including food safety experts from federal and state agencies; and responded to media requests by numerous state and national television, newspaper, and radio programs.

“Marisa’s career as an Extension Specialist should be used as a template for how to work and make a difference through collaboration,” said Michael Pagliassotti, head of the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department. “She is highly regarded for her expertise in food safety, her passion for serving the public, her ability to mentor students, and as someone who fosters an inclusive environment.”

Bunning is the Project Director for the CSU Farm-to-Table Food Safety website and Co-Director of the Colorado Farm-to-Market website. Most recently she became the Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Food Safety and the Prevention of Food Borne Disease, a multi-institutional collaboration that includes the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado and CSU.

Alton Scofield Award

This year there were two people recognized with the Alton Scofield Award.

LaPlata County

Wendy Rice, from La Plata County, has worked diligently to extend research-based knowledge to all stakeholders in her county and region, including Native Americans, the working poor and low-income residents in response to local issues. Rice brought *Cooking Matters* to La Plata County and thus greatly extended the reach of Extension resources to diverse clientele. *Cooking Matters* helps low-income families shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget. Rice tailored the lessons to show respect for the cultural background of all participants.

In addition, she was instrumental in the formation of the Healthy Living La Plata County Coalition that continues to impact diverse audiences. A grant for radon mitigation and education secured by Rice allowed housing and health improvements for residents of four counties.

Rice’s commitment to fostering an environment that respects and values all persons dovetails with her dedication to working with the Native American and Hispanic communities, and persons of all socio-economic status has truly benefited her community, county and region.

TriRiver Area

Anyone who has eaten Olathe sweetcorn, snacked on a Palisade peach, or sipped a glass of local wine has benefitted from Bob Hammon’s expertise. A staunch supporter of growers and always working to increase yields, save production costs, and help growers be successful, Hammon started his CSU career in 1988 at the Agriculture Experiment Station in Fruita, Colorado. Hammon is the Area Entomologist and Agronomist for Extension in the, Tri River Area.

In 2003-2004 a grasshopper infestation caused considerable crop and economic loss for many of the forage growers in the Collbran/Plateau Valley. A resident sought his advice and together they formed an Advisory Committee that came up with a comprehensive and complicated treatment plan to control the grasshoppers. A successful program was implemented in 2005. It was Hammon’s dedication to local agriculture that pulled together both growers and residents, who often have strong and differing opinions on crop management, to voluntarily participate in the

program, which included surveying and mapping of affected areas, developing a treatment plan, publicizing the program and coordinating with an aerial spray service to perform the work. A little more than 18,000 acres were treated and thousands of dollars saved.

While he works with onion, wheat, alfalfa, tomato, stone fruit, berry, grape and bean growers, his most notable work is with the sweet corn industry in the Uncompahgre Valley. Approximately 2,650 acres are planted in sweet corn annually generating a significant economic contribution to the local economy. For the past 15 years, Bob has listened to grower concerns and supported the industry through research, pest monitoring and economic support. This has earned him great respect and admiration from the local farmers and growers, who value his advice.

Team Award

The Extension Team Award recognizes a team comprised of county, area, regional, state and/or interdisciplinary program employees. There are two groups being recognized for their efforts: the PetAid Disaster Team and the Farm Bill Training group in Agricultural Business Management (ABM).

The PetAid Team, comprised of 13 Extension agents were singled out for collaboration with numerous county partners: county animal response teams, emergency managers, law enforcement, wildlife officers, kennels, animal control, brand inspectors, animal rescue organizations, fairgrounds, animal related businesses, health departments, veterinarians, fire departments, companion animal associations, and Red Cross chapters. Team members include:

- Ragan Adams, Veterinary Extension Specialist, Dept. of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS)
- Franklyn Garry, Professor, Veterinary Extension Specialist, Dept. of Clinical Sciences, CVMBS
- Victoria Buchan, Professor, School of Social Work, College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS), Colorado State University
- Louise Quijano, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, CHHS, Colorado State University
- Debrah Schnackenberg, PetAid Colorado, Disaster Services
- Sharon Bokan, Boulder County Extension
- Karen Crumbaker, Larimer County Extension
- Bruce Fickenscher, Southeast Area Extension
- Todd Hagenbuch, Routt County Extension
- Travis Hoesli, Grand County Extension
- Larry Hooker, Weld County Extension

- Kurt Jones, Chaffee County Extension
- Dennis Kaan, Golden Plains Area Extension
- Deborah Lester, Park County Extension
- Eric McPhail, Gunnison County Extension
- Mark Platten, Teller County Extension
- Marvin D. Reynolds, San Luis Valley Extension
- J D Sexton, Director, Moffat County Extension

Farm Bill Training

The 2014 Farm Bill was the first to utilize online tools to help producers navigate its provisions. The Agricultural and Business Management (ABM) team sought community partners including Northeastern Junior College and students there received a "train-the-trainer" in-service. Many producers returned for a second workshop or went to NJC and specifically requested that the college student that had assisted them in the workshop be their guide through the rest of the process.

The ABM team is made up of Norm Dalsted, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Dennis Kaan, Extension Area Director; and Extension agricultural and business management economists Jesse Russell, Jeff Tranel and Brent Young.

The ABM Team represented CSU Extension as the primary partner with USDA-Colorado Farm Service Agency in providing educational programming to more than 2,000 producers across the state. Participants represented 48 of the 64 Colorado counties and 8 other states. Reactions from participants were supportive:

- “The staff made every effort to be sure we had knowledge of the Farm Bill. It was greatly appreciated.”
- “More of this kind of training is needed for those involved with production agriculture.”

This project created results at two levels; it served the immediate need of producers in the farm bill selection process but it also greatly enhanced the professional development of NJC students.

Community Engagement Award

The Community Engagement Award recognizes an individual who has exhibited excellence in creating mutually beneficial and transformational relationships that address a public concern. That description aptly fits Dan Schroder, Extension Director in Summit County.

Schroder has led an increasingly complex forest health and wildfire prevention outreach program in Summit County. In the role of Extension Director, he is charged with management of the

Summit County Wildfire Council, which is made up of local, state and federal stakeholders. Extension administers hazardous fuel reduction and community wildfire protection programs, and under Schroder's leadership a curbside slash removal program was instituted and a chipping program began. In all, more than 3,400 landowners have participated in the two programs in the last two years alone.

"Dan has done remarkable work in our community engaging our community with his outreach efforts on forest health and fire mitigation," said Summit County Commissioners Dan Gibbs, Karn Stiegelmeier and Tom Davidson in their letter of nomination. "Dan's leadership with the Summit County Chipping Program has been successful beyond our wildest expectations. This program has created an awareness of personal responsibility regarding fire mitigation unlike any other education program."

Diversity

This year's Extension diversity award goes to Mark Platten, county director in Teller County. Generations in the work environment may not come to the top of your mind when considering diversity, yet it's one of the key drivers in today's workforce. Since millennials, or Gen Y, started entering the workforce over a decade ago, Extension has had four distinct generations working side-by-side. This generational stratification has caused growing pains as Gen Y continues to shake things up. Communication, motivation, work schedules, and so much more vary immensely between each generation.

Organizations that rely heavily on volunteers, such as Extension, are carefully assessing their volunteer 'work' force. The driving forces for volunteers within generations X and Y are quite a bit different as can be witnessed by the stark decline in volunteers in traditional service organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions. The same is true within Extension.

Platten has conducted generational training to over 500 participants over the past three years including: 4-H youth and leaders, non-profit organizations, chambers of commerce, judicial staff, and national Extension venues. His programs go beyond the typical exploration of different communication needs, to the deeper levels of what motivates, how to recruit and retain, and why the various generations volunteer or make job choices.

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