CSU Extension Internship Application
Arkansas Valley (Rocky Ford): Agricultural Production

Student Mentors:
Dr. Michael Bartolo, Extension Vegetable Crops Specialist, Manager, Arkansas Valley Research Center, (719)254-6312 michael.bartolo@colostate.edu.
Dr. Alan Andales, Associate Professor, Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences.
Bruce Fickenscher, SE Area Extension Director.

In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?
Arkansas Valley (Rocky Ford)

In less than 150 words, please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.
The Arkansas Valley Research Center (AVRC) in Rocky Ford, Colorado offers a unique and multidisciplinary opportunity for interns to gain experience in agricultural production, agricultural research, and diverse outreach programs. Specifically, the intern will work with the AVRC and local Extension personnel to:

- Design and maintain research plots.
- Collect research data and compile reports specifically designed for growers.
- Coordinate and conduct field tours and Field Day activities.
- Interact with individual growers and industry representatives at the AVRC and on area farms to assess problems, determine potential solutions and deliver information.
- Install trials, collect data, and manage off-site research and demonstration plots.
- Identify and manage AVRC farm production issues encompassing pest management, irrigation scheduling, and soil fertility.

The overall goal of this project is to give the intern a broad exposure to agricultural production and research and outreach programs. The intern will be able to see how CSU works to identify stakeholder needs and then develops integrated programs to address those issues.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development (e.g., attending conferences or stakeholder convenings)?

It is expected that the intern will come away with an understanding and appreciation of the broad scope of work CSU is doing to address stakeholder issues. In addition, the applicant will get to experience different methods to effectively engage stakeholders. The intern will also have
the opportunity to attend professional development activities including industry-sponsored trainings on new production technologies, state-wide field days, and other training sessions.

**Does this project already include collaboration with a specific Extension agent/office? If yes, please describe the ongoing collaboration.**

The AVRC services the research and extension needs of a wide geographical area in Southeastern Colorado. Each year, the AVRC conducts over 25 research projects covering different disciplines of crop production including irrigation, soils, pest management, variety development, and food safety. The AVRC is also a hub of outreach activities with over 300 grower/industry contacts annually and numerous field days and tours. In addition, the AVRC is the site of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and the future home of the Otero/SE Area Extension Office.

**Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?**

Travel funds and housing may be available.