CSU Extension Internship Application
Front Range: Farmers Markets

Student Mentors:

CSU Extension Lead
Martha Sullins,
Extension Specialist in Ag Business
Management and Food Systems.
Martha.sullins@colostate.edu
970-491-3330

CSU Faculty Mentor
Dan Mooney and Becca Jablonski
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Dan.Mooney@colostate.edu
Becca.Jablonski@colostate.edu

In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?
This student will be based, in part, near campus for best interaction with the specialist and faculty in the Department of Ag and Resources Economics. However, the student will also rotate among county offices (Weld, Boulder, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Douglas and El Paso) to be able to regularly access the majority of the state’s farmers markets and to learn how different agents facilitate direct market opportunities and work to enhance their communities’ food systems. The scope of work will be statewide, with travel to different market locations, and one-week rotations at CSU Extension offices along the Front Range.

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.
1. Collecting market price information on meats, vegetables, fruits and eggs at farmers markets around the state, with the goal of understanding how prices change throughout the market season by geography, certification and time of year;
2. Understanding how markets serve as incubators for new businesses by collecting data on market characteristics that might facilitate the growth of new food businesses in the same areas where farmers markets have been existence for a number of years. This work builds on seven years’ of data collection and analysis that has been generated by CSU Extension. The extension of this project will facilitate new research to support economic development strategies that may apply differently to rural, peri-urban and urban areas.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development (e.g., attending conferences or stakeholder convenings)?
- Learn how products and prices differ throughout Colorado’s farmers markets (by location and by season);
- Collect and analyze data on specific market- and other place-based characteristics that might influence the incubation and perpetuation of food and farm businesses;
- Have the opportunity to interact with market managers, vendors and other food business entrepreneurs around the state to learn about linkages to other community assets; and
- Synthesize information and make it available to ag producers, Colorado Building Farmers participants, COFSAC, USDA AMS, NMPAN, and others.

**How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs in the county/region?**

This internship supports our new and beginning farmers by providing them with information on prices and products so that they can better develop and target their marketing plans. It allows more experienced market farmers to evaluate the costs of accessing new direct markets with the potential gains (as seen in market prices) from doing so. Specific project outputs include: 1) comprehensive farmers market price data set for the 2018 market season; and 2) data collection tool for understanding market characteristics that managers, small business development centers, and other business development professionals can use to begin gauging the economic development linkages between markets and other area businesses.

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

The mentor can provide travel to markets across the state for data collection and verification. No housing can be made available through existing funding sources.