CSU Extension Internship Application
West Slope (Fruit or Orchard Mesa): Food Systems

Student Mentors:
CSU Extension Lead
Mark Uchanski
Assistant Professor, Horticulture
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
mark.uchanski@colostate.edu

AES Program Lead
Perry Cabot
Water Resources Extension Specialist-
Western Region
Civil and Environmental Engineering
perry.cabot@colostate.edu

In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?
Western Slope and Western Colorado Research Centers (Fruita and/or Orchard Mesa).

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.
The Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief is a program based at the CSU Western Colorado Research Center in Mesa County, Colorado. It is a collaboration between the Agriculture Experiment Station (AES), CSU Tri-River Extension office and many other local This student will be responsible for working with the CSU Food Systems Team and the faculty and staff at the Western Colorado Research Centers with the goal of identifying a local food scenario to model. For example, strawberries could be identified as a crop of interest due to their relatively high value. An area farm or farms may elect to establish a strawberry planting or and this will have supply chain and other impacts. One objective of the internship will be to describe those supply chain impacts, including profitability of crops or cropping systems (e.g. organic) that build into the profit margins the increased cost of transport to likely markets (e.g. Denver, Salt Lake City, and regional markets). A written document will be generated to summarize the findings.

There will be opportunity to establish demonstration plot(s) as part of the internship experience. This could include irrigation technologies, specialty crop plots, or variety trials and can be used for Extension activities around these topics.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development (e.g., attending conferences or stakeholder convenings)?
- Learning outcome:
  - The student intern will develop a thorough understanding of cropping systems on the Western Slope and be able to identify viable scenarios and supply chain impacts.
  - The student will experience both the value of a written document and demonstration plots as two different ways of conveying information to stakeholder groups.
- Professional development:
The intern will attend regional advisory/outreach committee meeting(s):
  - Regional Extension advisory committee
  - AES advisory committee

How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs?
There is interest in high value specialty crop production, and associated production technologies (e.g. drip irrigation), to diversify the cropping system. Specific examples of stakeholder-identified crops and cropping systems:
- Seed production (e.g. native species)
- Drip irrigated strawberries
- Carrots
- Garbanzo beans
- Organic products & markets
- Hemp

Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?
Travel funds are available, and housing is available at the Research Center at Orchard Mesa.