



**Our mission** is to provide information and education, and encourage the application of research-based knowledge in response to local, state, and national issues affecting individuals, youth, families, agricultural enterprises, and communities of Colorado.

We are part of the land-grant university system nationwide. We draw from the University's research-based resources to strengthen community partnerships, boost the economy, engage families and youth, and enhance our quality of life.

We provide the extensive knowledge, research capabilities and resources of this premier land grant university to Coloradans from all walks of life.

Extension staff throughout the state are dedicated to serving current and future needs of Coloradans by providing educational information and programs that safeguard health, increase livelihood, and enhance well-being.

Designed to meet the unique needs of each of Colorado's 64 counties. Colorado State University Extension offers a wide variety of programs and educational classes.

We teach people how to apply science-based information in their daily lives in order to make informed choices about everything from personal finances and healthy living to community issues.



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## We're Here for You



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## Who We Are

Since 1912, Colorado State University Extension has been a trusted resource for building and strengthening Colorado communities. Extension is the front door to the university, within the Office of Engagement.

**Other Office of Engagement units are:**

- Colorado Water Institute
- CSU Online
- Office of Community and Economic Development

**Campus partners include:**

- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Health and Human Sciences
- College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Warner College of Natural Resources



# Our Programs

## What We Do

Community needs drive our work. Statewide engagement fuels our collaboration. Our educational programs are carried out through interdisciplinary groups with interrelated efforts, to bring about statewide engagement efforts, based on community needs. We foster a direct connection between Extension agents and campus and field-based subject matter specialists in five CSU colleges, to meet locally based, county, and regional needs of Coloradans. Our educational program are available through a variety of methods including web-based platforms, social media, traditional group meetings, one-on-one contacts, and diverse electronic program delivery channels.

- 4-H youth development
- Community development
- Cropping systems
- Energy
- Environmental horticulture
- Family and financial stability
- Livestock and range
- Natural resources
- Nutrition, food safety and health
- Food systems

### Volunteers

Our educational programs are delivered by Extension agents, specialists, and volunteers. We have over 14,000 volunteers statewide, extending our reach in 4-H Youth Development, Colorado Master Gardeners, Energy Masters, Master Food Preservers, and Native Plant Masters.

### Environmental Horticulture

**Supporting** home gardeners and the green industry in the challenges with gardens, landscapes, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects, vegetables, fruit production and more. Extension agents partner with specialists and Colorado Master Gardeners in educational ventures that lead to gardening success.

Water and other new and emerging horticulture issues are constantly being evaluated, with new educational programs developed for online and face-to-face learning opportunities.

### Community Development

**Providing** best practices for civic leaders, activists, involved citizens and professionals that improve various aspects of communities, we seek to build stronger and more resilient local communities. Members of this group work together to identify areas throughout the state that could benefit from increased focus on community development.

Outreach and professional development activities provide ways to improve cross-county facilitation for Extension agents, so that they can better build community development capacity in their communities.

### 4-H Youth Development

**Learning** leadership, citizenship, and life skills, 4-H members in Colorado 'make the best better'. 4-H programs are available through local 4-H clubs, 4-H camps, in-school and after-school programs, and grant-funded programs including AmeriCorps. With 112,000 members and over 11,600 volunteers, Colorado 4-H programs are grounded in the belief that kids learn best by doing. Kids complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and citizenship in a positive environment. All 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements and Colorado 4-H alumni say 4-H was the second most influential area of their youth, right behind family.

4-H citizenship programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. Science programs provide youth the opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through fun, hands-on activities and projects. 4-H science program focus includes robotics, rocketry, environmental science, agri-science, biotechnology and veterinary science.

### Family and Financial Stability

**Helping** people improve their personal finances and relationships, with programs such as the GRANDcares Project, and the Family Leadership Training Institute.

The GRANDcares Project includes: (1) a self-care program for grandparents, (2) a leadership and life skills building program for grandchildren, and (3) webinars for service providers working with grandfamilies.

The Family Leadership Training Institute is a free 20-week course that builds family involvement and leadership skills

To reach more diverse audiences, we are developing a series of short videos addressing adolescent brain development, effect of e-cigarettes, obtaining and understanding your two free credit reports, teaching children savings via multi-chambered piggy banks, and simple mental health via mindfulness.

### Nutrition, Food Safety & Health

**Promoting** understanding and adoption of nutritious food choices and safe food handling practices. We answer questions from consumers and professionals on nutrition and food safety topics including high altitude food preservation, best practices for cottage food producers, healthy eating patterns, and chronic disease prevention.

We also design, develop, and implement nutrition and food safety education

programs for a variety of Colorado residents as well as partner with community groups and agencies in determining and reaching specific food safety and nutrition education goals.

### Food Systems

**Engaging** communities and the agriculture, food, health and natural resources sectors.

Together we consider the more system-wide changes and dynamics that influence how agricultural businesses interact and households integrate food into their daily lives.

Our work is assessing the economic viability and vibrancy that might flow from innovative food system production, marketing and tourism models.

We evaluate how food choices and public health may intersect in our households, schools and communities.

Our collaborative efforts explore how the interface between our natural resources and amenities and the agriculture and food system is evolving.

### Livestock and Range

**Collaborating** on issues such as range monitoring, land use pressures and youth education about cattle care and nutrition. We work with multiple government agencies, various landowners, and private businesses to provide training on managing rangelands and emerging livestock issues.

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### Cropping Systems

**Addressing** issues such as dryland cropping, soil response, and climate information, the interrelated areas of plant sciences, entomology, plant pathology, weed science, range science, soil science, and horticulture allows agents and specialists to work together to provide solutions. Their research and educational programming helps Colorado farmers tackle insect, water, and fertilization challenges to meet the challenges of their unique growing conditions.

From wheat production, cover crops and new and emerging crops to horticultural and small acreage strategies and climate information, large and small scale farmers and land managers are provided with the management strategies advances that suit their growing situations.

### Energy

**Providing** unbiased information and services to residents, agricultural producers, small businesses, local governments, and schools, to help them make informed energy decisions.

We provide energy assessments for small towns, home energy and solar assessments, and individual consultations. From solar/wind feasibility assessments

for farmers with center pivot sprinklers, community energy assessments for municipalities, energy tours, enhancing energy lesson plans for 4-H programming, piloting educational lighting signs for distribution to hardware stores and a new, consumer-focused energy website called Your Energy highlight the work we do.

### Natural Resources

**Partnering** with the Warner College of Natural Resources, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), local conservation districts, and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, we focus on forest health and defensible space, small acreage management, water and soil health, native plant initiatives, wildlife education, youth outreach opportunities, and citizen science climate-smart initiatives. Climate-smart initiatives are the most recent undertaking where we work across boundaries to help clients with decision-making tools on such issues as new tree/shrub varieties, native grass/forb species, drought and fire concerns, changing migration and wildlife patterns, and emerging noxious weed issues.

