

3 – Food Asset Mapping CSU Extension Internship

1. Name of faculty/research scientist mentor and contact information, including Department.

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2. In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?

Delta County, Colorado

3. In less than 150 words, please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.

Delta County received a grant from the Economic Development Administration to support “inspired growers and entrepreneurs to develop, operate and grow successful local businesses that put to use the advantages of [their] agrarian region.” As a first step in supporting this effort, the leaders of ‘Engage’ Delta County have requested support from CSU to facilitate asset mapping. Asset Mapping helps communities to document their strengths and resources by creating an inventory and depicting them on a map. The intern will support this effort, first through a web-based search, and then through snowball sampling food and agricultural businesses in Delta County. By the end of the internship, the student will have created a food asset map and worked with Extension and Economic Development professionals in Delta County to understand how the map can be used to support food systems planning and community economic development efforts.

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

Thus, the student will learn: 1) how to create a food asset map (see: <https://sustain.ubc.ca/foodassetmap>), and 2) how to utilize these data to support decision-making (including policies and investment opportunities) that support food systems led economic development.

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

Yes, this project will work directly with the Tri River Area Extension. They have been a collaborator with Engage Delta County and are thus invested in this effort.

6. How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs?

Engage Delta County identified opportunities in agriculture as a targeted area for investment and support (see: <https://engagedeltacounty.org/engage-in-agriculture/>). Thus this student will support ongoing efforts by Extension and Engage in this space, contributing directly to supporting an identified stakeholder need.

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

Yes, limited travel funds are available. Housing is likely available at the Agricultural Experiment Station.