

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Location:** Extension Conference Room #165 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521 ;Attend virtually via Zoom: <https://larimer-org.zoom.us/j/91993133918?pwd=RHKQ531SVIFotUwMQ9sZa0ZRUrn56u.1>

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## Extension Advisory Committee Minutes

**Call to Order:**

**Agenda Review:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
  - a. Minutes 3/4/2026

**County Commissioner Liaison Report/Comments:**

**Informational Items:**

1. 4-H (Britney, Rachel, Roxanne)

- **March Recap:**

**March 1:**Add-Drop for projects and project manuals went out to all clubs for members to get at their March meetings

**March 7:** 4-H Fest

- 16 clubs that hosted game booths

- 18 members participated in the Maker Fair

- 72 silent auction items

**March 24-28:** Citizenship Washington Focus & Ignite: 4 Larimer County 4-H members traveled to the Washington D.C. CWF, and 2 additional members gave a presentation on Leadership at Ignite

**March 28:** Larimer County Dog Expo

34 members participated from throughout the state

- **April Recap:**

**March 30-May 1:** Swine Tagging Kits were available

Tagged over 250 swine

**April 4: Larimer County's first Veterinary Science Skill-a-thon**  
 12 Members and 20 volunteers attended

**April 6-9: Rachel and Roxanne attended the State 4-H/CAE4-HYA Annual Meeting**  
 Went through a fantastic volunteer development and conflict resolution training  
 Networked with 4-H professionals across the state

**April 14-18: LifeSmarts Team made up of 5 Larimer County Youth attended National Competition in Orlando, FL.**  
 Team placed 4th overall

**April 17-19: Beef Camp**  
 20 youth attended and learned from expert Kirk Steirwalt

**April 18-19: Hunters Education for Shooting Sports**  
 40 youth attended to get their HEC cards

**April 25: Regional Public Speaking Contest**  
 6 youth attended  
 3 of those were senior members who will represent Larimer County at the state contest in June or August by competing in demonstration, illustrative talk, and impromptu speech

**April 25: Bob Keirns Memorial Gymkhana (Horse Event)**  
 About 50 youth attended  
 We have hired a temp position to help us out over the summer and through Fair. Tyler is a Larimer County 4-H alumni, and we are excited to have his ideas and support in many areas of our program.

- **May Upcoming:**

**May 1: All Horse, Dog, and Cat IDs due to the state**  
**May 6: Sheep and goat tag-in at the Ranch**  
**May 15: MQA Training - last for the year**  
**May 16: Horse Levels Testing Day**  
**May 16: Cake Decorating and Creative Cooks Contest**  
**May 23-24: Rumble at the Ranch - new Jackpot this year**

- **June Upcoming:**

**June 8-9: Swine Camp**  
**June 10-11: Sheep & Goat Camp**  
**June 12: Junior Jam**  
**June 13: Bits n Pieces Dog Show**  
**June 16-19: State Conference**  
**June 20: Larimer County Dog Fun Match**  
**June 20: Beef Hoof Trimming**  
**June 21-26: 4-H National Shooting Sport Championships**  
 5 Larimer County Youth attending  
**June 27-28: Horse Buckle Series**

## 2. Agriculture (Jess)

- **Successfully Hired an Extension Summer intern.** They will help support our 2 local food public outreach summer events (Soil Health Day at the Farmers Market and NoCo Farm Hop). They will also be working with a CSU researcher to create a literature review on customer food purchasing behavior and how local and soil health influence consumer purchasing decisions. They will be starting Mid May.
- **March 25th, Hosted Spring Pest Management for Organic Vegetable Producers webinar with**

**Karim Gharbi, Denver County Horticulture Specialist, 32 virtual attendees**

- **March 31st-April 1st, Attend Ag PRU Retreat in Loveland**
- **April 15-17, Attended Extension Risk Management and Education Conference in Salt Lake City**
- **April 8th, Led 2nd Quarterly Soil Health Action Committee Meeting**
- **April 20th, Supported RMFU Livestock First Aid 101 Class at the Ranch, 40 attendees including several 4H kids**
- **April 21st, Hosted When in Drought: Smart Irrigation and Soil Management Workshop with PVCF and NoCo Foodshed Project. The event included presentations about Irrigation Timing and Scheduling, Drought Management, How to Work with your Ditch Company, Soil Sensors 101, and Soil Management in Drought. NoCo Foodshed Project led a drip irrigation demo after the workshop. 35 attendees in person and 10 online. The event was recorded and the videos will be posted on our youtube channel**
- **April 23rd, Hosted Marketing Made Manageable: Tools For Busy Producers Webinar with NoCo Foodshed Project. 22 registered virtually for the event**
- **May 5th Supporting workshop event with NoCo Foodshed Project and CSU Food Systems, "The Price is Right: Pricing Strategies for Producers" (6-7:30pm at Odell Brewing)**

### **3. Community Development (Lisa)**

- **The Family School and Community Partnership civic learning we hold its last session on May 14th. There are 15 participants in the class with 3 from Larimer County. Lisa is facilitating this session. There will be another 10 week session during the summer. Classes are held virtually and open to community members across the state. The class is in English and Spanish with interpretation.**
- **May 5th there will be a speaking up for cleaner air event at the Discovery Museum. There will be a panel storytelling event and resource tables. We'll discuss FLTI, share upcoming civic education opportunities, and provide information on advocacy.**
- **Nueva Vida mobile home park has finished their main infrastructure work and held a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 24th. Lisa will continue working with the community to define what community governance looks like and to prepare residents to take a larger role in hosting meetings.**
- **The Aging Mastery alumni group will move into a peer support model where members advocate for what the group looks like and how to keep it going. In May the group will meet and start the planning process. The goal is to empower the group to strengthen social connectedness and explore ways to expand it to the broader community of older adult Spanish speakers. Christa presented to the group in March and handed out radon kits alongside a guest speaker on mindfulness.**
- **The Civic Education Collaboration is growing, with partners from Extension, La Familia, Mi Voz, the City of Fort Collins, and Larimer County. The group shares current programs and identifies community needs. We're expanding and have invited Poudre Libraries and United Way. Please share any additional recommendations with Lisa. Meets the last Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.**
- **The state FLTI team has 4 workshops offered this year online and open to Larimer County Residents. The first workshop was held in March about understanding local and state legislation. The next workshops are June 4th that is a community listening session, September 10th Nurturing your well being and November 12th Exploring your Leadership Pathways. Lisa is looking to bring the workshops in person locally.**

### **4. Farmers' Market & Food Systems (Maggie)**

- **The 50th anniversary of the Larimer County Farmers' Market will kick off on May 16 for our**

Opening Day of the market - come join us!

- Our Market Days for Older Adults program is currently accepting applications from interested and eligible seniors in the community. The application deadline is May 22

As of April 21, we have about \$11,000 in available funds for the program, we have been actively soliciting sponsorships, local grants and donations

The more funding we receive, the more people we can serve

We have solicited Nutrien Ag Solutions, our largest funder for the program in 2025, for increased funding for 2026

We are looking forward to hosting 5 new local farmers at the market - 2 diversified vegetable farms, 2 flower farms, and 1 microgreen producer

- Other new vendors we're looking forward to: fresh pasta, bagels, ice cream, cheesecake, plants, tofu, and more!
- We are producing and selling market merchandise this year, please come and support our merch sales!! Do your holiday shopping early!
- Tune into KRFC on May 15 at 9:15am to hear Alison & Maggie promote the market with Deni LaRue

Some statistics on our 2026 vendors for this year that we're proud of:

County Data: 74% of our vendors are from Larimer County, 14% are from Weld County, the remaining 12% are from Boulder, Denver, Adams and Western CO counties (fruit producers)

City Data: (Of the vendors in Larimer County): 77% are from Fort Collins, 11% are from Loveland, 5% Wellington, 3% Berthoud, the remaining 4% are from Bellevue, Estes Park, Johnstown and Livermore

Vendors are located an average of 18.13 miles from the market, 13.9 miles when removing the fruit vendors from the Western Slope (miles are calculated "as the crow flies")

98 vendors are located within 20 miles of the market

Closest vendor: The Bread Chic, 0.40 miles from the market.

## 5. Food Safety (Analecia)

- Presentation

## 6. Health & Well-Being (Christa)

- Christa has been hosting Branch Out at Arapahoe Bend Natural Area with her intern Ella (Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Senior). We have 10 youth participating, ages 8-12. The program is 6 weeks long and will end on May 6th.
- We are coordinating with the Boys and Girls Club in Loveland to host Branch Out with middle school aged youth this summer.
- Christa was a planning team member for the first Nature and Health Summit for CSU Extension at the CSU Spur Campus on April 20th. Over 30 people came to participate in learning about this growing topic in Extension and walked away with resources and new connections.
- Christa is continuing to host Connection Cafe at the North 40 food pantry in Red Feather Lakes. In march we hosted a nutrition education table, April will highlight the Health District and their survey, May will be Master Gardeners.
- We are also in the beginning stages of planning for a Longer Tables event for North 40 and possibly Berthoud. The event will be a social connection dinner to foster community belonging.
- Christa attended the Lillian Fountain Smith Nutrition Conference: Nutrition Through the Lifespan, April 16-17, 2026, at the Hilton in Fort Collins, CO. The conference is hosted by CSU Food Science and Human Nutrition and focuses on leading research related to food and nutrition.

- Christa presented 4 nutrition classes between Berthoud Library and Loveland Life Center .

**Berthoud-Mediterranean Diet**

**Berthoud- Healthy Cooking for 1 or 2**

**LLC- Healthy Cooking for 1 or 2**

**LLC- Fueling Strength and Movement**

- We have nutrition classes also planned for May with Partnership for Age Friendly Communities and Aspen Club.
- Christa talked with the Aging Mastery Alumni Group on March 30th about radon risks and passed out 15 free radon test kits. Lisa and a guest speaker helped with interpretation and we had a lot of questions and interest about the topic.

We still have around 100 in-person test kits left; Please let me know if you have any ideas for getting them out to residents.

## 7. Horticulture (Alison)

- Phew - what a spring! We are in full-force drought and waterwise landscape consults.
- The Master Gardeners wrapped up a three-week series at the Loveland Library. We had an average of 25 people each week and our new contact at the library, Janette Edwards, has been wonderful to work with. The Master Gardeners will do a presentation each month at Council Tree Library in Fort Collins in June, July, August, and September.
- The KUNC live “In the NoCo with Erin O’Toole” occurred on April 23. Alison was one of the panel “experts” and focused on lawn care during drought. Over 100 people attended. Excerpts from the recording will be featured on KUNC in the coming weeks.
- On May 13, Alison will present at “Trees in the West” at CSU Spur on her experiences working with urban forestry leaders.
- Alison is supporting a Turf Team for Larimer, Adams/Broomfield, and Boulder Counties - with Max Nikkari, CSU grad student, they are providing turf identification and diagnostic training for CMG volunteers; in addition, they will accompany the volunteers once per month on site visits.
- The Master Gardener Veggie Trials are continuing in 2026 with support from a CSU Extension Seed Grant (\$1,500). This year the trials are focusing on cherry tomatoes and zucchini types. The trial is being replicated in Douglas County.

## 8. Natural Resources (Jenna)

- Native Plant Master

All courses are full with ~70 signups. First class is at High Plains Environmental Center on May 9.

- Small Acreage Management

~12 site visits so far this season, topics have included weed management, reseeding for pasture and native grasses, grazing management, predator proofing chicken enclosures, wildlife-friendly fencing, wildlife habitat and management, native plants/hedgerows, windbreaks, defensible space/fire safety, water retention, and succession planning.

- Landowner Guidebook

Working with ~25 experts in Larimer County to build a guidebook for rural landowners, helping them manage their land and responsibilities. Topics will include septic systems/leach fields, weed management, pasture health, soil health, forest health, wildfire preparedness, water conservation/retention/irrigation, riparian areas, drought planning, emergency management,

interactions with wildlife, zoonotic diseases, and more.

- **Workshops**

4/21: When in Drought: Smart Irrigation and Soil Management (Jess led this; ~50 attendees)

5/15: Living with Wildlife, Loveland

5/22: Living with Wildlife, Longmont

**9. General/Other (Cary)**

- CSU/County budget updates
- 4-H Livestock & Equine position update
- Staff trainings
- Community needs assessment

**Committee Input:**

**Staff Presentation:**

**1. Presentation - Food Safety (Analecia)**

**a. Consumer & Retail Food Safety**

**Discussion:**

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Future Agenda Items:**

**Next Meeting Scheduled:**