

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 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/93253391781?pwd=basfljl3uM81uyRtTWDYtK5s1c3XJi.1>

Contact: Andy Weakland, (970) 498-6002 or weaklaand@co.larimer.co.us

Extension Advisory Committee Agenda

Call to Order

Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes for 5/6/2026

County Commissioner Liaison Report/Comments

Informational Items

1. **4-H** (Britney, Rachel, Roxanne)
 - Presentation
2. **Agriculture** (*Vacant)
 - Cary will provide a staffing update

3. **Natural Resources** (Jenna)

- Small Acreage Management: 20 site visits conducted this year to date, impacting 390 acres. Supported 32 land management inquiries via phone and email. Topics include: livestock protection, grazing management, hay production, pasture management, native grass establishment, weed management, windbreaks, tree selection, water retention, wildfire safety, wildlife habitat, human-wildlife conflict reduction.
- Native Plant Master: Four courses successfully completed, including the newest one in Rocky Mountain National Park; one more to run in July.
- Hosted two Living with Wildlife workshops in May: Loveland and Longmont. We had 5-6 presenters at each workshop, with very positive feedback and interest in more workshops detailing some of the topics we covered broadly.
- Larimer County Water Master Plan: As part of the Ag Water Strategy, working on an analysis of various tools to protect irrigated farmland and assess which tools may be most viable in Larimer County.
- CSU's Center for Collaborative Conservation: Providing mentorship to their fellows in multiple programs.
- Prairie Dog Working Group: Partnering with regional Extension and Open Space staff to engage landowners and managers on prairie dog interactions and develop a comprehensive report with management recommendations. Currently drafting a funding proposal for the Center for Collaborative Conservation's fellowship program.

4. **Community Development**

5. **Farmers' Market & Food Systems** (Maggie)

- We have a wonderful and enthusiastic farmers' market intern with us this summer, Lucia Baith! Lucy is double majoring in Anthropology and Soil & Crop Sciences. Lucy is a rising sophomore and helps with overall market management, special events, advertising/outreach, food access programs and Market Days for Older Adults communication & coordination.
- We've had an amazing start to the farmers' market season - we've been seeing gross sales numbers we don't typically see until July/August of each year. Each week in May grossed over \$90k at the market, which is an incredible start. As of June 17, gross sales are up an average of 26% since 2025
 - We already hit our first \$100k + day on June 13, which was a huge milestone for us last year!
- We are serving 128 individuals in the Market Days for Older Adults program, including 20 homebound individuals through our partnership with Meals on Wheels. We have accumulated over \$24,000 this year for program funds, and what does not get spent this year will roll over for 2027.
 - This is an increase of over 30 individuals from 2025
 - We are still working with SAINT Transportation Services to provide rides to Market Days participants to the farmers' market
 - We are also partnering with the Familiar Foods mobile market van to increase access. The van accepts the Market Days vouchers
- We've hosted some great community groups at the farmers' market thus far, such as the Poudre Libraries' Evie mobile book van, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, UC Health Aspen Club, The Rainbow Circles, and ISAAC of Northern Colorado
 - July & August are full of exciting events at the farmers' market, including:
 - July 18: Local illustration/poster contest of the farmers' market - afterwards, posters will be on display at the Museum of Art's community room from August 2 - 16
 - July 25: Soil Health Day & Taste the Difference event: Come for the samples, stay for the chaos
 - August 8: National Farmers Market Week: Zucchini races
 - August 15: Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the farmers' market with a market-wide birthday party - come early for cake at 8:30am

6. **Food Safety** (Analecia)

- **Retail Food Safety**
 - CFPM- 128 total participants 87% pass rate
 - 99 full class training participants 93% pass rate
 - 28 other options participants 64% pass rate
 - Lightr Grant- 46 participants completed the full class training (\$8,050), another 8 registered participants (\$9,450)
 - FSW - total participants
 - Working with Lexie (MarComms) on a rack card/flyer on why you would want to put your team through the FSW program, the targeted audience is locations that have failed inspections.
- **Food Preservation-**
 - Training Dates have been set and are up for registration on the website:
 - July 24- Water Bath canning
 - Aug 21- Jams and Jellies
 - Sept. 11- Pressure Canning
 - Oct. 23- Pickling Vegetables
 - Oct. 30- Fermenting Vegetables
 - MFSA-
 - Up and running, volunteer opportunity at the market, assisting with classes, and working on continuing education.
- **Cottage Food Act Update**
 - New Cottage Food Act - the change in Cottage Food Act goes into effect Jan 2027.
 - This change includes TCS products. The new act requires a Food Safety course, specifies CSU Extension in the act. We anticipate that there will be a need because it will be easier to sell out of your home with the new change. This act still restricts the amount of product you can produce from your own home, with this restriction we are hoping there isn't a drop in Food Truck, Catering ventures and our CFPM training doesn't take a dip.
 - Next steps for Analecia to teach in person- get recertified, co teach a class. Specialists provided online training once a month. What we want to do in Larimer County is provide the in person training option with hands-on activities and interpretation if requested. The goal like all the other classes is provided once a month, increasing if there is a demand.

7. **Health & Well-Being** (Christa)

- Christa presented “Finding the Right Balance: Youth Mental Health and Technology”, to a group of parents and staff at Mountain Sage School on May 13th.
- Christa Presented a webinar on gut health and inflammation for older adults with Partnership for Age Friendly communities on May 14th.
- Christa presented a webinar with Adams and Boulder County health specialists focused on connecting youth to nature. The webinar was for Extension staff across the state hoping to do more of this work in their counties.
- On May 22nd, the Connection Cafe in Red Feather Lakes hosted our Master Gardeners Program. We decorated pots and gave away free herbs to patrons of the food pantry. Our MG answered questions about high altitude gardening and container plants for patios and decks.
- Christa hosted the first “Taste it Tent” at the market on May 23rd. We highlighted microgreens and the vendors that sell them, by giving out samples of a microgreen pesto with crackers and educational materials about microgreens and the recipe to take-home.
- Christa and Jenna are partnering with the LC Natural Areas staff to create a program for women related to nature and health. The course will be piloted this fall and highlight social and nature connection with other women (18+). The course will culminate in an overnight backpacking trip at Horsetooth Open Space.
- Christa is partnering with UCHHealth, LC-Health and Environment, and RFL Library to host a Longer Tables event in Red Feather Lakes this fall to foster community connection and social belonging. CSU has a partnership with the Longer Tables organization to help host 150 tables across the state for the 150th anniversary.
- On June 13th, Christa hosted the 2nd Taste it Tent at the market highlighting radishes with refrigerator pickled radish samples and nutrition education.
- On June 16th and June 29th, Christa presented “Venture Outside” to UCHHealth Aspen Club members in Loveland and Fort Collins. The participants received a short presentation on the health benefits of going outside and were led through nature-based mindfulness activities outside.
- Christa presented “Fueling Strength and Movement” at Berthoud Library on June 22nd. This presentation was created by our Spring public health intern .
- June 26th, Connection Cafe at RFL hosted Aspen Club Advance Care Planning.

8. **Horticulture** (Alison)

- In early June, Alison hosted a “Plants That Thrive” event at the CSU Perennial Gardens; with the support of five Master Gardeners, they interacted with over 75 people and talked to them about good waterwise plant options for their landscapes.
- Alison went to Red Feather Lakes to do Evergreen Elders programming on June 16 for the RFL dementia support group.
- Colorado is hosting the National County Association of Agriculture Agents (NACAA) conference July 8-12 in Denver and Alison helped organize a tour of Fort Collins horticulture and agriculture stops, including the Gardens on Spring Creek, the Plant Environmental Center on campus, and ARDEC.
- The Master Gardeners planted the tomato and zucchini trials in early June, along with select winter squash and miniature pumpkins; come to the Larimer County Farmers’ Market on August 22 to taste tomatoes and offer your input!
- Alison will continue teaching her colleagues and Master Gardener volunteers with turf identification and diagnostic support during several lectures and hands-on opportunities throughout the summer; there are two Larimer County CMGs who are being trained as part of the “lawn team”.
- Master Gardeners are teaching public classes at the Council Tree Library in Fort Collins and the Berthoud Library - check out our Extension calendar and the library calendar for these opportunities.

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

- Staffing updates
- Community Needs Assessment update

Committee Input

Trends/issues you see in the community? Questions for staff?

Staff Presentation

STAFF PRESENTATION (4-H Team)

1. 4-H Presentation

Discussion

Committee Member Training (Cary)

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Soil Health Day & Taste the Difference event at the Larimer County Farmers' Market on July 25: 8:30am - 1:00pm (you do not have to stay the whole time!) County Fair volunteer sign-ups - please help us staff the Extension table at County Fair August 1-2

Future Agenda Items

Next Meeting Scheduled

9/2/2026: 8:00am - 10:00am

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least 7 business days' notice. Please [email us](#) or call (970) 619-6002 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.