

**Date:** Wednesday, September 2, 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/95607688830?pwd=gWWJ2UzmuViu0kGrc2M7ToKOKFKpj.1>

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

## Extension Advisory Committee Agenda

### Call to Order

### Agenda Review

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

### County Commissioner Liaison Report/Comments

### Informational Items

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

- County Fair
  - County Shoots: 135 exhib 271 entries across .22 Rifle, .22 Pistol, Muzzleloading, Archery, Shotgun, Air Rifle, Air Pistol
  - Dog Show: 32 exhibitors showed 46 dogs in Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility classes
  - Fashion Revue: 28 exhibitors with 40 class entries across clothing construction, artistic clothing, heritage arts, leathercraft, and archery projects
  - Rocket Fly Day: 17 exhibitors with 20 entries across all Rocket Units
  - Horse Show: 52 exhibitors showed 62 horses in English, Western, Ranch Riding, and Gymkhana classes
  - Static Projects: 558 projects submitted over 40+ project areas
  - Livestock: 1,368 entries across breeding, market, showmanship and other contests such as goat obstacle course and egg decorating in beef, meat goat, sheep, swine, dairy goat, dairy cattle, poultry, and rabbits
- State Fair
  - State Shoots: Members who compete in Archery, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, .22 Rifle, and Muzzleloading competed the third weekend of August down in Pueblo. Members who compete in Shotgun and .22 Pistol will be headed down this upcoming weekend to compete, and then Outdoor Skills and Western Heritage will be the third weekend of September.
  - Fashion Revue: 3 Senior members represented Larimer 4-H in the state competition
  - Dog Show: 10 exhibitors represented Larimer County at the first dog trial weekend that included classes for Showmanship, Obedience, and Rally. 6 exhibitors will be attending the second dog trials for Agility at the end of September.
  - Horse Show: 6 exhibitors attended the state horse show to compete in a selection of classes that pertain to English, Western, Ranch Riding, and Gymkhana
  - Public Presentation Contest: 4 members gave presentations down at the state fair this past weekend.
  - Cake Decorating Contest: 8 members attended this past weekend to decorate cakes for the contest.
  - 235 Static Projects went down to State Fair - they are currently on display, so you can see them down in Pueblo through Monday, Sep 7, 2026
    - 4 of our state projects were selected to be displayed at the Gustafson Gallery at CSU from September 14-November 14.
  - Livestock: Exhibitors are showing their livestock animals in Pueblo from August 27-September 7.
  - Rocket Fly Contest: This contest was postponed and will now be mid-September for the 8 members that we have participating in this contest.
- Upcoming:
  - Outreach Events:
    - EnergyFest on Saturday, Sep 26, 2026
    - Fall Festival at the LCFM on Saturday, Oct 31, 2026
    - Laurene Edmondson Elementary - Doing a start-up series to start outreach in schools
  - End of the Year Wrap Up and Start of New 4-H Year
    - Chartering Due to State on Sep 15, 2026
      - All 26 clubs plus JLC & Shooting Sports Council
    - Achievement Night on Oct 6, 2026
    - Open House on Oct 8, 2026

2. **Agriculture** (\*Vacant)

### 3. **Natural Resources**(Jenna)

- Small Acreage Management: 34 site visits conducted this year to date, impacting 1450 acres. Supported 45 land management inquiries via phone and email. Topics include: weed management, establishing native grasses and forage plants, livestock protection, grazing management, hay production, windbreaks, tree selection, water retention, wildfire safety, wildlife habitat, human-wildlife conflict reduction.
- Landowner Guidebook: working on a guidebook to provide resources for rural landowners on land stewardship to benefit their interests, the ecosystem, and their neighbors. Content will include: vegetation and weed management, pasture and grazing management, soil health, wildlife, riparian areas, water and irrigation, forest health, wildfire preparedness, building and zoning, septic and greywater systems, and more. Collaborating with about 25 regional subject matter experts to write content.
- Native Plant Master: Five courses successfully completed, season has ended. Next steps are volunteer recognition, mailing certificates, recruiting future instructors.
- Prairie Dog Working Groups: (1) Partnering with regional Extension and Open Space staff to engage managers on prairie dog interactions and develop a report with management recommendations; drafting a funding proposal for the Center for Collaborative Conservation's fellowship program. (2) Participating in the Great Plains Conservation Network's Prairie Dog Working Group focused on rural landowner coexistence. Members are affiliated with CSU, Extension, USDA, and other organizations. Because prairie dog colonies expand their footprint during drought, understanding prairie dog management and impacts on landowners is an important part of our regional drought response.
- Human-Bear Conflict Reduction: participating in a group convened by CSU faculty and researchers, connecting with CPW, city and county staff. We aim to support Larimer County communities in bear conflict hotspots to receive funds for projects that reduce attractants: Masonville, Rist Canyon, Poudre Canyon, Red Feather, and Estes Park. This year's drought has caused bear sightings and conflicts to double statewide compared to 2025. Because human-bear interactions increase during drought, bear conflict reduction is an important part of our regional drought response.
- Women's backpacking program: see Christa's update above.

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

- Presentation

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

- I am out of office during this meeting - sending best wishes to you all!
- Market sales continue to be at a record high - we are up 22% from last year on average
- It's been a hot summer but we continue to push through and we are excited for fall weather
- We have welcomed two new farms to the market: Mendez Farming and Hispanic Women Farming Proyecto
- July and August we hosted many market events - Taste the Difference/Soil Health Day, National Farmers Market Week, and our market "birthday" on August 15
- Maggie is collaborating with the City of Fort Collins and the NoCo Foodshed Project to organize "farmers' boxes" of produce for a City-wide Longer Tables event on September 26
- Maggie helped to organize the annual Ag Week Farmers Market on CSU's campus on September 10 from 10am - 1pm - if anyone wants to check it out, it's a fun time!
- We hosted a breakfast for Northern Colorado market managers on August 7, and Maggie has assisted the Wellington Market in their protocol/how-to on implementing SNAP at their market and connected them with resources for Double-Up Food Bucks and Produce Bonus, and has started to connect the Windsor Farmers Market with SNAP authorization resources to help them accept SNAP as well
  - FYI: Maggie is on the board of the Colorado Farmers Market Association and as part of her leadership role with them she organizes monthly calls with statewide market managers and is in a good position to offer support to the northern Colorado market managers
- Maggie is also collaborating with the NoCo Foodshed Project to co-host a series of educational sessions for farmers on organic certification and risk management - this was a project initially started by Jess in the agricultural role that Maggie has taken on to fulfill our commitment and partnership with community partners

## 6. **Food Safety** (Analecia)

- Retail Food Safety:
  - CFPM- 169 total participants 87% pass rate
  - Full class training- 129 total participants 93%
  - Other options- 40 total 68% pass rate
  - FSW- trying to gain interest, work with health department and inspections to see who would benefit from the training. Curious to see if the FSW will be more of an interest at the start of 2027. This class does fulfill the requirement for Cottage Food as well as our specific Cottage Food class.
- Food Preservation:
  - Jams and Jellies- held on 8/21, 8 total participants- made strawberry jam success!
  - Next 9/11- Pressure Canning- 10 participants, we have two more spots available- registration closes 2 days before class
- MSFA - Volunteering at the Farmers' Market, assisting with classes, continuing education date set for TAMALE Making - Friday, November 6th starting at 10am. If anyone is interested please let Analecia know by October 23rd to acquire the right amount of supplies.
- Cottage Food- Analecia will be training by the end of the year to start hosting starting 2027 in person option. Anticipating an influx of interest due to the change in rules.

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

- Nutrition Classes with UCHHealth Aspen Club have been well attended. Healthy Cooking for 1 or 2 in Fort Collins and Loveland.
- Mindfulness and Garden Photography Class at CSU Trail Gardens with ~20 participants.
- Taste it Tent on August 8th highlighted beans and market herbs with a bean salad. Distributed ~85 flyers/recipes and over 150 samples of bean salad.
- Red Feather Lakes- Connection Cafe on July 24th highlighted Volunteers of America. August 28th will highlight the Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- Longer Tables social connection event at Fox Acres Golf Club in Red Feather Lakes with UCHHealth Aspen Club and Larimer County Health Dept.. Nearly 100 participants joined us for a community dinner and social connection activities like Human Bingo, conversation cards, and a photobooth.
- Christa is a co-led for the newly launched Nature and Health Alliance Colorado Chapter. The group is forming a new website and planning to host quarterly networking and learning events for practitioners, researchers and community members interested in nature and health efforts in the state. We are also hoping to host the first nature and health summit in 2027.
- Christa and Jenna are working with LC Natural Resources to pilot a new nature health program in September, Trail Ready Women: Connecting Women and Nature Through Backpacking at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space. The program will consist of 3 in-person classes to teach skills and form connections with the group and one overnight experience to practice the skills and connect with nature. We received 16 applications and have 8 spots available, so we are hoping to host this again because the interest is high. We have also received a lot of interest from potential leaders who have backpacking experience and want to share their knowledge. In the future we may have a training program for volunteer leaders and are collecting those names/information for future programming.
- Upcoming: Healthy by Nature Fair on Sept 19th 12-3pm at Lee Martinez Park; Trail Ready Women Pilot September; Technology and Youth Health Presentation for UCHHealth Healthy Hearts and Minds staff; Nutrition classes with Berthoud Library, UCHHealth, AARP, and a local church group.

## 8. **Horticulture** (Alison)

- September 4 wraps up the four-class series at the Council Tree Library in Fort Collins, with presentations largely focused on waterwise landscaping and tree care; these were taught by Master Gardeners and Alison.
- Classes continue at the Berthoud Library - check their schedule.
- Applications for the Larimer County Master Gardener program closed on August 31; interviews will be held at the end of September. Training (Green School) begins the week of October 23, 2026 and wraps up in late March. Volunteers will have opportunities to do hands-on training.
- Green School, where participants will receive a certificate as a Certified Colorado Gardener (no volunteer expectations), opened on August 17. The Early Bird fee is \$495 and ends September 30. Registration on October 1 is \$545.
  - CSU and county employees are eligible for a 50% discount on the Green School fee of \$275. Reach out to Alison (astoven@larimer.org) if you are interested.
- Landscape Like You Live Here will be held on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm, September 15 to October 20, 2026. Cost is \$150 and topics include trees, perennial plants, annuals, and the basics of landscape design. Click here for more information.

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

- Position updates
- County Fair

## **Committee Input**

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

## **Staff Presentation**

Community Development

1. Community Development Presentation

## **Discussion**

Community Needs Assessment

## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

Healthy by Nature Fair at Lee Martinez Park on September 19th 12-3pm. Christa can use volunteers to help with set-up/take down and manning CSU Extension booths. Email Christa for more information [timmerch@larimer.org](mailto:timmerch@larimer.org)

## **Future Agenda Items**

## **Next Meeting Scheduled**

11/4/2026: 8:00am - 10:00am

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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.