



**1525 Blue Spruce Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
(970) 498-6000
www.larimer.org/ext**

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2025
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Scott Hapner, Kelly Pollard, Margaret Long, Xochil Arellano

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens was not present

Extension staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Lisa Auer, Maggie Switzer, Analecia Vasquez, Christa Timmerman, Bailey Schilling

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:03 a.m. by Kara Rudnick.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved as is.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: November 6, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

BOARD FEEDBACK:

- What is our relationship with the winter farmers' market?
- Maggie explained that we do have a small collaboration with them as she connects with their coordinator throughout the year.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Stephens was not present at this meeting, but did share an email update with Cary Weiner:

- The Colorado Legislative starts tomorrow.
- Larimer County purchased 72 acres of land directly next to The Ranch.
- Question received asking if there is any legislation that would affect Extension.
- The county has an individual that tracks legislation and possible impacts.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Rachel, Bailey, Britney, Diane)

- The National Western Stock Show is January 11-26, 2025. Rachel will be helping with school visits on January 15th and January 22nd. Come say “hi” to her!
- The National 4-H FCS Championship and Conference is January 15-17, 2025. We have amazing representation from Larimer County this year! We will have competitors in FCS Quizbowl, FCS Public Speaking and Fashion Revue. Thank you, Kara, for coaching and chaperoning this trip!
- There will be designated orientation sessions for each livestock species from January through March, 2025.
- Beef Tag-In is scheduled for February 18, 2025, and includes all market beef that members want to nominate for the 2025 Larimer County Fair.
- Livestock Field Day is on February 22, 2025 and is hosted by the Larimer County 4-H program with guest speakers around different disciplines of Animal Sciences. It is our hope that members can build on their knowledge and management practices by listening in to these sessions. It is also grouped in with a Meat Quality Assurance Workshop.
- Ignite by 4-H is March 12-16, 2025. We have one outstanding 4-H member giving a presentation for a grant she received this past year. We will also have five additional youth attend the conference as a leadership development opportunity.
- The National 4-H Conference is April 11-16, 2025. We have three applicants submitted to the state level and there are five available spots.
- The enrollment deadline for returning 4-H members is February 1, 2025 and March 1, 2025 for returning 4-H members.
- Enrollment to date for 2024-2025 is: 114 leaders/volunteers, 293 club members, and 44 Cloverbuds.

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- Jess is hosting the second annual Grant and Grow at CSU on January 31, 2025 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Grant and Grow is an agricultural grant informational event followed by a grant writing workshop. It will be virtual and in person this year. USDA, CDA, NRCS, WSARE, RFBC, Colorado Ag Water Alliance, and Mad Agriculture will be presenting on the grants they are offering to producers in 2025. CSU Food Systems will be hosting the writing workshop portion of the event.
- Jess is working with CSU Food Systems to host a min Grant and Grow event in Montrose, Colorado at the Soil, Food and Farm Forum for producers on the Western Slope.
- The 2024 Larimer County Agriculture Producer Survey findings are published and have been sent to the Larimer County Commissioners to distribute to relevant county departments. Jess presented the results of the survey to 30 producers. They discussed their perspective on challenges and it will be summarized and shared at the next Agriculture Advisory Board meeting.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- See presentation for updates.

Farmers' Market (Maggie)

- Maggie is adopting leadership of Market Days for Older Adults program and led a focus group on December 16, 2024 with six participants in the program to ask about potential programmatic changes and received very good feedback overall on the value of the program.
- Maggie is currently working with Analecia (with support from Christa and Alison) to seek sponsorship opportunities for the Market Days program and is currently exploring programmatic changes such as shifting to a card-based model of distributing voucher funds.
- The Larimer County Farmers' Market application will open on January 15, 2025.
- Maggie is coordinating with statewide partners from Nourish Colorado and the Colorado Department of Human Services to continue and expand the produce bonus program in 2025, including non-produce food vendors (bread, eggs, meat, etc) at the market to accept SNAP/EBT (but not offer double-up incentives), which could help expand food access in broader Fort Collins with these local businesses.
- In-person SNAP authorization dates will be held in March at The Ranch for Larimer County Farmers' Market vendors.
- Maggie has been accepted to InTents Conference, a national farmers market conference, in March 2025 to speak on our 2024 produce bonus program implementation at the market.

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Retail Food Safety:

- Overall: 150 total CFPM, with 103 full trainings and 47 other self-study options. Requested training: YMCA, Meals on Wheels, Interpretation training.
- Spanish classes: Two requested trainings with the Estes Park YMCA and Interpretation training.
- Spanish training: Cheley Camps (two years in a row) and Bird and Jim.
- Requested training: Cheley Camps, Bird and Jim, 4-H Junior Leaders' Club (third year in a row).
- Vouchers: Partnership with Larimer County Department of Health and Environment. We have \$5,000 in vouchers and \$2,075 has been redeemed (2,270 have signed up and received training, with \$655 available and the goal is to have all spent by the end of February 2025).
- The new FDA Food Code states that the person in charge must be a Certified Food Protection Manager and have one CFPM on site at all times during preparation and the sale of product. The voucher program is a way our county is trying to help businesses comply with the Food Code.

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber completed the "Healthy You" eight week class series pilot with UCHealth Aspen Club members in Windsor with 11 attendees overall. The series was a success and there are plans in 2025 for another round.
- Amber hosted a fermentation class in November with The Vegetable Connection community partner for their client base.

- Amber completed the year of organized classes with Larimer County Community Corrections and distributed the last of the kitchen toolkit bags offered to clients upon graduation from a 90-day treatment program. These incentives are the completion of a \$12k grant from Human Services in 2020 to serve this specific audience.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa)

- Radon Awareness Month is January and we are partnering with Larimer County Health to distribute free test kits and education about radon exposure in homes. We have a social media campaign with a variety of messages to encourage testing and mitigation. We have an online ordering form with pre-paid postage on all kits. We are also supplying kits to Berthoud and Red Feather Lakes Library for residents pick-up in-person. LCDHE will have pick-up locations in Fort Collins, Loveland and Estes Park. A press release is set to go out on January 3, 2025. Lastly, we are partnering with a public health evaluation class this semester. The students will be learning about the radon program and developing a qualitative or mixed methods evaluation to implement.
- We said goodbye to Cheryl Noble on December 31, 2024. Cheryl coordinated Market Days for Older Adults, Advance Care Planning and Senior Access Points. With her position ending we have decided to reduce programming for Advance Care Planning and will refer all calls and inquiries to UCHHealth Aspen Club. In addition, Market Days will primarily be led by Maggie Switzer with help from Christa, Alison, Ana, and interns. Senior Access Points will continue without any major changes and an intern will audit the site during Spring semester.
- We will be applying for \$3,000 internal PRU H&WB funds to support nature and health activities in 2025 (including the Healthy by Nature Event). This is a collaboration between Warner College of Natural Resources and Adams and Boulder County Extension.
- Christa went through a hybrid Wilderness First Responder training in December in Estes Park. She hopes to launch a nature and health program for middle schoolers this Fall with Adams and Boulder County Extension. The training has built confidence in teaching in outdoor settings where a variety of health and safety issues can arise.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- Master Gardener totals for 2024: 130 volunteers contributed 5,860 volunteer hours and 1,876 hours of continuing education.
- The Colorado Master Gardener program celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2025! Look for special stories from the local Larimer County volunteers throughout the year. During the first year of the program in 1975, Larimer County sent two people to training in Denver - one from Loveland and one from Fort Collins.
- Alison will be teaching at CSU's PDI series on January 8, 2025; ProGreen in Denver on January 28-29, 2025; HABIC (Human-Animal Bond in Colorado); Fort Collins Nursery on February 1, 2025; and for OLLI in February; she also has classes scheduled for the Gardens on Spring Creek later in the spring.
- The Ram Scholars will be supporting the Extension Office with administrative tasks, like packing seed for giveaways; this is a partnership that started last summer. Ram Scholars are individuals at

CSU who have intellectual disabilities and take college classes while building life skills.

General/Other (Cary)

- Update on Larimer Extension Aims and Indicators.
- 2025 Work Plan: discussion around more opportunities for volunteering and involvement in Extension to expand knowledge levels. Cary will gather notes and put them together for review. A motion was approved for the work plan that was discussed during the meeting.
- Officer Elections: Kelly Pollard was nominated and approved as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Scott Hapner was nominated as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee but wasn't present to accept the nomination so Cary said he would reach out to him.

PRESENTATION: Community Development and Engagement (Lisa)
(Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information).

DISCUSSION: None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Ignite presentation (Food for All)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:07 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: March 5, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
January 7, 2025