



**LARIMER COUNTY**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

1525 Blue Spruce Drive  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524  
(970) 498-6000  
FAX: (970) 498-6025  
www.larimer.govext

**Date:** Wednesday, September 03, 2025  
**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

## EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

### Public Registration:

This is a hybrid meeting, so come in-person or join the meeting virtually via Zoom to be let into the waiting room at:

<https://larimer-org.zoom.us/j/93656065798?pwd=A99sJ6YIAjoMjYfr5Eab70WsyRKIZO.1>

**Contact:** Please contact Andy at (970) 498-6002 or weaklaan@co.larimer.co.us if you are unable to attend the meeting.

### Call to Order

### Agenda Review

### Approval of Minutes

- July 2nd

1. July Minutes

### Board Feedback

### County Commissioner Liaison Report/Comments

### Information Items

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

We miss you all today! We are meeting families to pick up their projects that went down to state fair this morning

More than 18 state fair static exhibit entries

State Fair results coming soon

Thank you for a successful county fair!

2. **Ag & Natural Resources:** (Jess)

Soil Health Day at the Farmers Market was a success, each vendor received a poster that listed their soil health practices and we had a fun interactive activity for the public! The taste the difference event was very successful, we had more than 160 customers participant in the blind taste test, here are the results

83% thought the local Colorado peach was the best

74% thought the local grass-fed steak was tastier

75% thought the local tomato tasted better

67% thought the local milk was tastier

76% thought the local mushrooms were better

62% thought the local chorizo was better

This will most likely be an annual event, it took a lot of time to prep and set up but we will be more prepared next year. Thank you to Analecia, Kara, and Scott for your support at this event!

Maggie, Lexie, and I have been working on a new project called the “know your farmer campaign” where we are interviewing farmers and ranchers at the Larimer County Farmers Market on their farms. So far we have filmed at 5 farms and are hoping to film 4 more farms and ranches by the end of October. Lexie will work on editing and uploading these videos on youtube and we will promote the

campaign through our socials.

The NoCo Farm Hop was a successful event with 45 participants and 9 Spanish speaking participants. We toured three farms in Weld and Larimer County, Well Fed Farmstead, Hazel Dell Mushrooms, and Hungenberg Produce.

Conducted 6 site visits in July in Fort Collins, Masonville, and Lyons Native Plant Masters classes are officially finished for the summer

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

Currently Lisa is co-facilitating a statewide FLTI Family, Schools Community Partnership 10 week virtual curriculum Thursday evenings. We are currently halfway through the program and have participants from both the PSD and TSD school systems.

Recruitment for the Spanish Aging Mastery program. Classes will be held at the Extension Office Mondays 12:45-2:30pm from September 15th - November 17th. Please let Lisa know if you would like a copy of the flyer.

The Aging Mastery alumni group had a picnic at the Primrose studio where they learned about the City of Fort Collins natural areas and had a focus group with Ginger Williams from the state team regarding older adults' needs in programming.

FLTI is continuing to assist with coordination and facilitation for the Nueva Vida monthly community meetings.

Grace just completed her extension internship collecting data regarding how being on a waitlist for childcare subsidies affects families. Lisa mentored grace through the internship.

Lisa held a webinar for Mosaic on August 19th highlighting Larimer Extension offerings, FLTI and included an advocacy lesson.

### 4. **Farmers' Market:** (Maggie)

Thank you to Kara and Scott for your help at the market on July 26 with Soil Health Day and the “Taste the Difference” food demo! It was a HUGE hit and a very unique event; the vendors had good feedback on it as well.

Congressman Joe Neguse visited the market on July 26 as well, and participated in the “Taste the Difference” food demo (he got the peaches wrong but we will not judge him for that)

We celebrated National Farmers Market Week from August 3-9, 2025, with events such as a Proclamation from the County Commissioners on August 5, and the always popular zucchini decorating and races at the market on August 9

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union also attended the market on August 9 and gave goodie bags to all the farmers

On August 9, we believe we hit a record in SNAP distribution at the market with \$1,632.00 “purchased” SNAP vouchers in one market day

On August 2, we hit a gross sales (not including federal benefits programs) record - over \$100k in overall sales from the market on that day!

Including federal benefits programs: \$102k

We are partnering with SAINT Volunteer Transportation to provide rides to the market for Market Days participants on voucher pick-up days, helping with access to the program and to the market

We are implementing a visitor survey at the market - click here to take the survey! (only if you have visited the LCFM)

We are once again competing for the Best Farmers' Market in the U.S. with American Farmland Trust - VOTE FOR US HERE

Our goal: #1 in the state of Colorado - last year we placed 2nd to Louisville (boo!) in this public-voted contest (they are not actually the best, they just got enough people to vote for them)

Upcoming market events:

September 6: Health fair, with booths from North Colorado Health Alliance, UCHealth Aspen Club, and other nonprofits/community groups offering public health services/programs (partnering with Christa to organize & implement)

October 4: Celebrating dogs at the market in conjunction with Tour de Corgi

Maggie & Alison are running the 2nd Annual Ag Week Farmers Market on CSU's campus tomorrow, September 4, from 10am - 1pm - stop by to visit and shop with a handful of local LCFM vendors!

In partnership with CSU College of Agriculture and Rams Against Hunger

#### 5. **Food Safety & Nutrition** (Analecia)

Presentation

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

We will be facilitating Branch Out, an 8-week nature and health program, with Berthoud middle school students starting on September 3rd. The program was co-developed with Adams and Boulder County health specialists and this will be the first pilot of the program. Lexie has created flyers and social media materials to promote the program. Christa attended the Turner Middle School back-to-school event and is partnering with Berthoud Community Library to host the sessions.

We learned that LC Office on Aging will no longer be providing their Answers on Aging booklet in print due to budget restraints. This will be a larger loss for the older community and their caretakers who have relied on a print version of local resources. Our website, Senior Access Points, will be revamped and promoted this fall with a social media campaign. We continue to meet with Partnership for Age Friendly Communities and LC Office on Aging to assess program needs and avoid duplicative work.

At the August pick-up for Market Days for Older adults, we shared advance care planning materials (UCHealth) and File for Life magnets and card holders. Many participants do not have advance care planning documents on file, so we hope our encouragement and connection to UCHealth was beneficial in planting the seed that these documents are important.

We continue to prepare for Healthy by Nature, a nature and wellness event at Lee Martinez Park on September 27th. We are hosting the event with CSU Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) and City of Fort Collins Natural Areas. HDNR staff were able to secure three sponsors to help support event costs. Please share the event flyer in your networks.

#### 7. **Horticulture:** (Alison)

Our office, CSU Extension, and the Master Gardener program suffered a devastating loss of longtime volunteer, Dr. Tony Koski, on July 12. Tony was a Larimer County 4-H volunteer when his children were young and became a Master Gardener in 2011. He served as the CSU Extension Turf Specialist for 37 years.

The Master Gardener 50th Conference (held August 8th & 9th on campus) was a huge success! We had over 220 Master Gardeners across the state attend. Attendees did tours on Friday, had a banquet celebration in the CSU Annual Trial Gardens, and concluded the evening by watching the premier of "Bigger than Backyards", a 27-minute video about the Colorado Master Gardener program. It's worth the watch!

The CMG winter squash trials will be featured at the ARDEC-South Field Day on August 28, 10:00am-12:30pm - it's free to attend and includes lunch. Register here.

Green School is open! While Larimer County is not training new Master Gardener volunteers for 2026, interested individuals can take the training to obtain a Colorado Gardener Certificate. Pricing varies - and there is a 50%

discount for CSU or county employees (email [greenschool@colostate.edu](mailto:greenschool@colostate.edu) for the link). Early bird registration costs \$495 and ends September 30.

Alison and Erica Wharton, CMG and horticultural therapist, recorded a presentation for the Washington State University Master Gardener conference on the Evergreen Elders program. The conference will be held at the end of September.

Master Gardeners Deb and Susan will do presentations at the Council Tree Library in Fort Collins this fall.

Grow & Give continues to support backyard produce donations to support food insecurity in our community; we have added new partners this season: the Wolf Pantry with Front Range Community College and Laurene Edmondson Elementary School in Loveland

Alison will travel to Estes Park in October to present on harvesting and sowing wildflowers - this will be her fourth presentation to the Estes Community this season

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

Family & Consumer Sciences position and staffing update

Marketing & Communications plan

2026 committee meeting frequency and scheduling

2026 Work Plan ideas

### **Staff Presentation**

- Food Safety: Analecia

### **Discussion**

2026 committee meeting frequency and scheduling

2026 Work Plan ideas

1. Food Safety Presentation
2. EFNEP Presentation

### **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

Open Streets, September 14, 10am-3pm, Lady Moon Dr. between Le Fever Dr. and Shallow Pond Dr.

Healthy By Nature Fair, September 27th 12-3pm at Lee Martinez Park

### **Future Agenda Items**

2026 Work Plan vote

Marketing & Communications Plan feedback

### **Next Meeting Scheduled**

11/5/2025: 8:00am - 10:00am

### **Adjourn**

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at [aweakland@larimer.org](mailto:aweakland@larimer.org) 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.