



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

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2025
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. live and virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Dick Christensen, Kelly Pollard, Scott Hapner, JoAnn Herkenhoff

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens (not present)

Extension staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Analecia Vasquez, Rachel Wildman, Lexie Casper, Christa Timmerman, Lisa Auer, Amber Webb, Bailey Schilling, Jessica Callen, and Britney Filter

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:05 a.m. by JoAnn Herkenhoff

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved as is

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: May 7, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

BOARD FEEDBACK: Scott Hapner - Seeing a lot more donors supporting food insecurity organizations in Larimer County, which gives opportunities for educating the recipients.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS: None

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

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

- Approximately 40 youth have participated in Livestock Camps for 2025 and our Livestock Workshops concluded this past month.
- In conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association, we hosted the State Horse Judging Contest in the 4-H Youth and Community Arena at The Ranch.

- The Colorado State 4-H Conference Results:
 - Champion Horse Demonstration - the winner will represent Colorado 4-H at the National Western Roundup.
 - The FCS Teams - Reserve Champion Individual in FCS Skill-a-Thon; Reserve Champion Individual Consumer Decision Making; Third Place Family and Consumer Sciences Quiz Bowl Team; Champion FCS Skill-a-Thon Team; Champion Consumer Decision Making Team. The Champion teams will be headed to represent the state of Colorado at the National 4-H FCS Championships in January of 2026.
- We will be at the Rooftop Rodeo in Estes Park on July 10, 2025, at the Larimer County 4-H Shooting Sports Council booth.
- We have one Larimer County 4-H member representing the State of Colorado at the National Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska.
- We are so pleased to have Ganah Elhemri serving as the 2025-2026 Colorado 4-H State President. She will represent Larimer County and the State of Colorado very well!

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- The Solar Grazing and Growing Event held on June 3, 2025 was a success. There were 45 participants made up of ag professionals, ag stakeholders, producers, solar developers, and land owners. The event included a tour of Jack's Solar Garden, a producer panel, a focus group discussion, and presentations on technical and financial resources available for agrivoltaics.
- The Soil Health Demo Day on June 16, 2025 was also a success. There were 85 attendees with similar backgrounds as the Solar Grazing and Growing Event, but with more producer attendance. The event included a tour of Olander Farms, demonstrations led by the NRCS, and a producer panel. This is the second time Extension has hosted this event and due to the success and interest we hope to be hosting each year. A big shout out to Analecia and Maggie for all of their support pre-event and during the event.
- Since the last Extension Advisory Committee meeting in May, Jess conducted eight small acreage site visits across Larimer County (Berthoud, Lyons area, Loveland, and Fort Collins).
- The Native Plant Master Program is going strong. The classes at Lory State Park, Red Mountain Open Space, and the Alpine Class at Rocky Mountain National Park are completed, with approximately ten participants per class.
- Jess is teaming up with the local NRCS to host a Soil Health Day at our Farmers' Market again this year on July 26, 2025. Our goal is to educate the public on the benefits of soil health and raise awareness on the current practices our farmer vendors are implementing on their land.
- Jess is also teaming up with the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to host the 2nd Annual NoCo Farm Hop. It will be on August 23, 2025, and we will tour three farms in Weld and Larimer Counties (Well Fed Farmstead, Hazel Dell Mushrooms, and Hungenberg Carrot Farm). Registration will begin on July 7, 2025, with the hope of 55 attendees and some state and local representatives.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- Amber, Lisa and Alison hosted the Garden to Kitchen class in English/Spanish on June 16, 2025. Fifteen adults and five youth attended the class.
- Lisa is working with the FLTI state team and will be facilitating a statewide FLTI ten week civic learning lab based on school and family partnership. There is a marketing focus for Thompson School District families. If any Advisory Committee members have Thompson School District groups to market to please let Lisa know. The class will be held on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first class is on July 24, 2025.
- Lisa will be presenting to the Mosaic group in August regarding Extension programming and providing an FLTI advocacy activity.
- Lisa is working with the FLTI state team to build a community development toolbox. This will be presented to the Community Development PRU at CSU's fall forum. From there, a "Community Development 101" training program will be developed and piloted in February 2026 in Larimer County.
- The Aging Mastery Alumni group is meeting in collaboration with the City of Fort Collins for an educational picnic at Primrose Studio on July 14, 2025. The next cohort for the Spanish Aging Mastery class will be held between September and November this year. The curriculum will no longer be available after June 2026. The alumni groups will continue to meet monthly.

Farmers' Market and Food Systems (Maggie)

- The Farmers' Market is off to a great start! Colorado State University President Amy Parsons visited on opening day and we had record high sales.
- We are hosting a CSU Extension intern, Amber Obermaier (PhD candidate in Sociology) to help with the market overall and the Market Days program.
- The Market Days team (Maggie, Alison, Analecia, Christa & Intern Amber), with support from Lexie, successfully distributed the first round of vouchers on June 7, 2025.
- Food access programs data (May 17-June 28, 2025)
 - SNAP collected: \$5,010.00
 - Double-Up Food Bucks collected: \$3,738.00
 - Market Days Dollars collected: \$1,440.00
 - Produce Bonus: \$2,745.00.
 - Undercount of this number due to lack of consistent reporting from vendors. In this program, customers spend SNAP directly with vendors, thus vendors do not report these sales as consistently
- Jess and Maggie are making short videos (three to five minutes long) highlighting local producers with the Larimer County Farmers' Market with Lexie's help and technical assistance.
- Upcoming farmers market events:
 - July 26: Soil Health Day at market
 - August 9: National Farmers Market Week

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Retail Food Safety:

- With the adoption of the 2022 Food Code, there is still an uptick in registration for testing. CFPM totals: 139 total participants completed, 30 are registered and are waiting for class or exams.
- For the first time, Cheley Camps will be hosting a Spanish Certified Food Protection Management (CFPM) class, with Ally Eden facilitating it.
- Food Safety Works (FSW) has a total of 86 participants. For the third year in a row, Cheley Camps is hosting a private Spanish FSW training in June 2025, with ten participants.

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber, Alison and Lisa Auer co-hosted our annual collaborative Garden to Kitchen program on June 16, 2025. Alison taught container gardening for tomatoes and peppers and provided a hands-on demonstration. Participants took home buckets with planted starters to grow at home.
- Amber co-hosted a Master Food Safety Advisor certification training June 2-5, 2025, at the CSU Nutrition Department lab on campus with Carla Farrand, Garfield County Extension director. Three new MFSA recruits were trained and Graduate student Emma Caleine and 4-H State intern attended the training to produce food safety videos for the 4-H Food Preservation project.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa)

- Answers on Aging Resource Fair - Christa attended the Office on Aging's resource fair on May 13, 2025 at The Ranch. She gave out 50 radon test kits, 23 general Extension flyers, and 84 Senior Access Points Materials (rack cards and magnets).
- Connection Cafe - We are partnering with UCHealth and Larimer County Department of Health and Environment to host a pop-up space at the North Forty Food Pantry in Red Feather Lakes. Our first event was May 23, 2025, and we offered light refreshments and snacks, Senior Access Points resources, and connection activities. June 27, 2025, was our second event. Amber and JoAnn from UCHealth shared food preservation and UCHealth class information.
- Christa attended a full day evaluation training with CSU Human Dimensions of Natural Resources on May 14, 2025. The training was particularly helpful for the nature and health curriculum she is developing with other Extension staff in the state.
- Rural Futures Faculty Event at CSU - Christa attended the event hosted by Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences for a collaborative conversation on how we can work together to address rural challenges. OEE staff were also present and there were fruitful discussions about how Extension can be more involved with campus faculty and students.
- Climate Smart Future Ready Presentation - Christa co-hosted a presentation with the Larimer County Health Department related to extreme heat and your health on June 25, 2025.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- The state Master Gardener Conference will be held August 8-9, 2025 on the CSU campus, Friday includes tours and a banquet reception to celebrate the CMG 50th

anniversary. Saturday's conference includes a full line-up of excellent speakers and topics, including Alison's brother, Jeffrey, who is the propagation manager at a large wholesale nursery.

- Training for the Tree Team - (for Larimer, Weld, Broomfield/Adams, and Boulder counties) Master Gardeners included a tree walk at Grandview Cemetery in June and a hands-on diagnostic workshop in July. These sessions focus on identifying trees, diagnosing insect and disease issues, and addressing cultural care of trees in the landscape.
- Alison will do a total of three presentations for the Estes Valley Garden Club in 2025. April's presentation was on gardening at high elevation; June's is focused on irrigation management; and August will be on the culture and care of native grasses.
- Evergreen Elders has expanded to include monthly sessions at Good Samaritan in Loveland.
- A new partnership with the Harmony Library as part of the Larimer Grow and Give program includes a location to drop-off excess produce and flowers that will be donated to the Wolf Pantry at Front Range Community College (flowers will be donated to the Loveland Youth Gardeners program for their students to make bouquets for health care facilities). CMGs will host a Q&A booth and provide coolers for people to drop off extra produce for library patrons and community members. The first shift was July 7, 2025.

General/Other (Cary)

- We have had one applicant for the Extension Advisory Committee, but they were not offered a position..
- We are in the middle of the 2026 budgeting cycle. There are no major changes from the 2025 budget. We will be proctoring this discussion during our designated meeting agenda time.
- We are working with a team that has a CSU intern to produce a study for the Ag Advisory Board. It is important to share that Jess Callen has played a huge role in the direction of the Ag Board since it has come back under Extension a year and a half ago.

PRESENTATION: Ag and Natural Resources (Jess)

(Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information).

DISCUSSION:

- Following up from the last meeting, Market Days and language access are our higher needs and priorities for sponsorship and donations.
- A conversation was held about approaching the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce for Ag event sponsorships.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Larimer County Fair - There is still a need for coverage at the Extension booth.
- Interview Judging day needs volunteers.
- The 4-H Booth needs volunteers for the Activity Zone.
- 4-H needs volunteers for record book validation.
- Andy will send out all volunteer needs to the Advisory Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:54 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: September 3, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
July 9, 2025