



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

1525 Blue Spruce Drive
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Extension Advisory Committee Minutes

July 9th, 2025
8am – 10:00 am*

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

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens (not present)

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

- A. CALL TO ORDER - at 8:05 by JoAnn Herkenhoff
- B. AGENDA REVIEW - Agenda approved as is
- C. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. May 7th, 2025 Minutes were approved
- D. COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS
 - Commissioner Stephens Update: No update at this time.
- E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION

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

- About 40 youth participated in Livestock Camps for 2025
- Concluded our Livestock Workshops this past month
- In conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association hosted the State Horse Judging Contest in the 4-H Youth and Community Arena
- **Colorado State 4-H Conference Results:**
 - Champion Horse Demonstration - She will be headed to National Western Roundup to represent Colorado 4-H.
 - FCS Teams:

- Reserve Champion Individual in FCS Skillathithon
 - Reserve Champion Individual Consumer Decision Making
 - 3rd Place Family and Consumer Sciences Quiz Bowl Team
 - Champion FCS Skillathon Team
 - Champion Consumer Decision Making Team
 - Champion teams will be headed to represent the state of Colorado at the National 4-H FCS Championships in January of 2026.
- Visit the Larimer County 4-H Shooting Sports Council booth at the Rooftop Rodeo in Estes Park on July 10th 2025!
- 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)

- Solar Grazing and Growing Event (June 3rd) was a success, we had 45 participants made up of ag professionals, ag stakeholders, producers, solar developers, and land owners. The event included a tour of Jacks Solar Garden, producer panel, focus group discussion, and presentations on technical and financial resources available for agrivoltaics.
- The Soil Health Demo Day (June 16) was also a success, we had 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 we hosted this event and due to the success and interest we hope to be hosting each year. Big Shout Out to Analecia and Maggie for all their support pre-event and day of!
- I conducted 8 more small acreage site visits across Larimer County (Berthoud, Lyons area, Loveland, and Fort Collins) since the last Extension Advisory Board Meeting
- Native Plant Master Program is going strong, Lory State Park, Red Mountain Open Space, and the Alpine Class have already occurred with about 10 participants per class
- I am teaming up with the local NRCS to host a Soil Health Day at our Farmers Market again this year on July 26th 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
- I am also teaming up with the Colorado Fruit and Veg Growers Association to host the 2nd annual NoCo Farm Hop. It will be on August 23rd and we will tour 3 farms in Weld and Larimer County (Well Fed Farmstead, Hazel Dell Mushrooms, and Hungenberg Carrot Farm). Registration will start July 7th - we are hoping for 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 16th. 15 adults and 5 youth attended the class.
- Lisa is working with the FLTI state team and will be facilitating a statewide FLTI 10 week civic learning lab based on school and family partnership. There is a marketing focus for TSD families. If any Advisory Committee members have TSD groups to market to let Lisa know. The class will be held on Thursdays from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. The first class is July 24th.
- Lisa will be presenting to the Mosaic group in August regarding extension programming and provide a 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 forum for final details and a training “Community Development 101” will be developed and piloted in February in Larimer County.
- The Aging Mastery Alumni group is meeting on July 14th for an educational picnic at Primrose in collaboration with the City of Fort Collins. The next cohort for the Spanish Aging Mastery class will be held September - November. The curriculum will no longer be available after June 2026. The alumni groups will continue monthly.

Farmers’ Market & Food Systems (Maggie)

- Farmers’ market off to a good start!
- CSU President Amy Parsons visited on Opening Day and we had record high sales for that day
- We are hosting a CSU Extension intern, Amber Obermaier (PhD candidate in Sociology) to help with the market overall and Market Days program
- Market Days team (Maggie, Alison, Analecia, Christa & Intern Amber), with support from Lexie, successfully distributed 1st round of vouchers on June 7
- Food access programs data (May 17 - June 28)
 - 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
- Maggie & Jess making short videos highlighting local producers with the LCFM (3-5 minutes long) with Lexie’s help & technical assistance
- Upcoming farmers market events:
 - July 26: Soil Health Day at market
 - August 9: National Farmers Market Week

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber & Analecia)

- Retail Food Safety- New 2022 Food Code
 - Full class registration: 139 total (30 registered, waiting for class or exams)
 - Full class: 120

- Other registration: 19
 - Facilitation- Ally Eden Spanish CFPM
 - First class June 3rd- Cheley Camp
 - 12 registered- 7 total full class
 - Hosted by Cheley Camps (1st year CFPM)
 - FSW- 86 total
 - Private classes in June
 - Cheley Camps - Spanish hosted training- 10 total
 - 3rd year in a row for Cheley and hosting FSW training
- Family Consumer Sciences (Amber)
 - Amber, Alison and Lisa Auer co-hosted our annual collaborative Garden to Kitchen program on June 16th. 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 provided a cooking demonstration utilizing
 - Amber co-hosted a Master Food Safety Advisor certification training June 2-5 at the CSU Nutrition Department lab on campus with Carla Farrand, Garfield County Extension director.
 - Three new MFSA recruits were trained.
 - 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 & Well-Being (Christa)

- Answers on Aging Resource Fair- Christa attended the Office on Aging's resource fair on May 13th 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 UC Health 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 23rd and we offered light refreshments and snacks, Senior Access Points resources, and connection activities. June 27th was our second event, Amber and JoAnn from UC Health shared food preservation and UC Health class information.
- Christa attended a full day evaluation training with CSU Human Dimensions of Natural Resources on May 14th. 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 & 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 LC Health Dept. related to extreme heat and your health on June 25th.

Horticulture (Alison)

- The state Master Gardener Conference will be held August 8-9 on 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) 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 was on gardening at high elevation; June's focused on irrigation management; August will be on the culture and care of native grasses
- Evergreen Elders has expanded to include monthly sessions at Good Sam in Loveland
- A new partnership with the Harmony Library as part of the Larimer Grow & 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.

General/Other (Cary)

- Advisory Committee applicant status
 - 1 applicant for the committee but did not offer a position to this individual.
- Sponsorships
 - Middle of the 2026 budgeting cycle. No major changes from the 2025 budget.
 - Will be proctoring this discussion during our designated meeting agenda time.
- Ag Advisory Board
 - Working with a team that has a CSU intern to produce a study for the board.
 - 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.

F. COMMITTEE FEEDBACK - Trends/issues you see in the community? Questions for staff?

- Scott Hapner
 - Seeing a lot more donors supporting food insecurity organizations in Larimer County. Opportunities there for educating the recipients.

G. STAFF PRESENTATION (Ag & Natural Resources - Jess)

- Please refer to Powerpoint slides

- Highlights
 - Agriculture and Natural Resources Updates
 - What are the Ag/NR programs?
 - Who are our main collaborators?
 - 2024 - 2025 Ag Projects
 - 2024- 2025 NR Projects
 - How do we fund these projects?

- H. DISCUSSION: Sponsorships and Donations (follow-up from last meeting)
- Follow around different needs for sponsorships for Extension programming. Sponsoring Market Days and Language Access are our higher needs and priorities.
 - Conversation around approaching the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce for Ag event sponsorships.

I. UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- County Fair
 - Volunteer opportunities for the Fair. Still have needs for the Extension booth.
- Interview Judging day needs volunteers.
- 4-H Booth needs for 4-H Activity zone
- Record book validation volunteer needs as well (4-H)
- Andy will send out all volunteer needs to the board.

J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

K. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:54am

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 9/3/2025: 8:00am - 10:00am

Respectfully submitted,
 Andy Weakland
 July 9th, 2025