

2024 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Western Region

Across Colorado's Western Region, CSU Extension specialists are serving their communities and addressing local needs by sharing expertise and resources, delivering educational programming, strengthening partnerships, and engaging youth and volunteers.

Key impact areas for Western Region specialists in 2024 spanned topics such as agriculture, land and resource management, youth outreach, health promotion, food systems, horticulture, volunteer engagement, and more.

Across the state, Extension is where Colorado State University meets community.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Western Region

Extension in Your Region

For over 100 years, CSU Extension has strived to be your trusted partner connecting Coloradans to education and actionable, science-based solutions in your community.

COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTORS

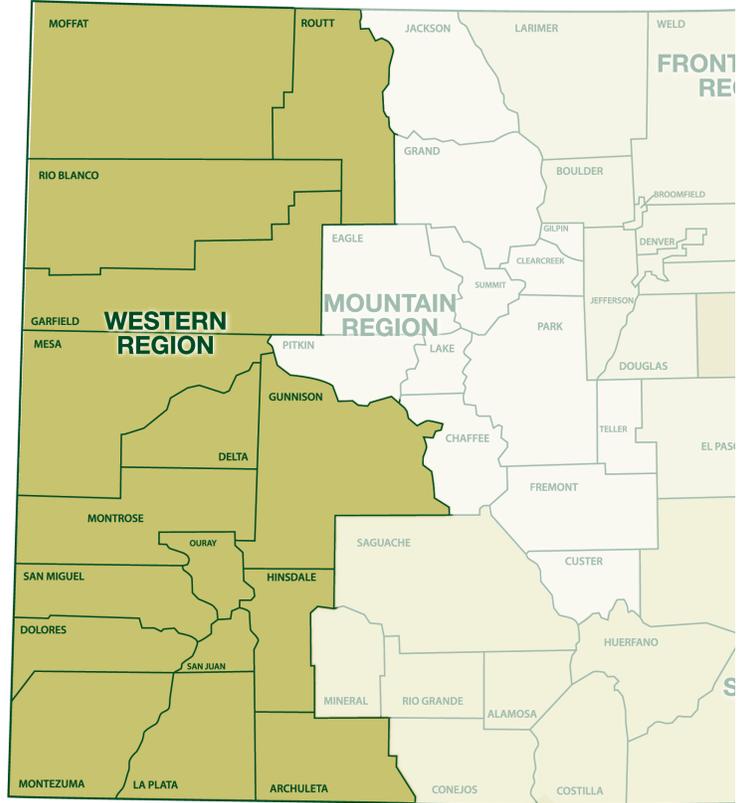
- **Archuleta County:** Cindi Galabota
- **Dolores County:** Gus Westerman
- **Garfield County:** Carla Farrand
- **Gunnison & Hinsdale Counties:** Hannah Cranor-Kersting
- **La Plata County:** Nicole Clark
- **Moffat County:** Megan Stetson
- **Montezuma County:** Emily Lockard
- **Rio Blanco County:** Linda Masters
- **Routt County:** Todd Hagenbuch
- **San Miguel Basin:** Annika Kristiansen
- **Tri River Area:** Douglas Dean
 - *Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray*

REGIONAL SPECIALISTS

- **Ag & Business Management:** Jenny Beiermann
- **Range Management:** Retta Bruegger
- **Irrigation & Water Resources:** Perry Cabot
- **Food & Agriculture:** Nicole Didero
- **Behavioral Health:** Julie Elliott
- **Accessible Education:** Greg Felsen
- **Viticulture:** Charlotte Oliver

RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT CENTERS

- **Western Campus**, including the Western Colorado Research Center
- **Southwestern Colorado Research Center**



LEADERSHIP

Darrin Parmenter
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By The Numbers

STATEWIDE REACH & PROGRAMMING

242.5

CSU Extension Positions Statewide

Statewide Program Highlights:

4-H Youth Development

Agriculture

- AgrAbility
- Agricultural Business Management
- Annie's Project
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers
- Cropping Systems
- Livestock
- Pesticide Applicator
- Rangeland
- Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado

Community & Economic Development

- Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI)
- Workforce Development

Emergency Management

Food Systems

Health and Wellbeing

- Behavioral Health & Resilience
- Cooking Matters
- Cottage Food Safety
- CSU Produce Network
- Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Financial Health
- Food Safety, Preservation, Preparation
- Healthy Aging
- Master Food Safety Advisor
- Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Management

Horticulture

- Beekeeping
- Colorado Master Gardener
- Grow & Give
- Landscape for Life
- Seed Saving/Free Seeds

Natural Resources

- Native Bee Watch
- Native Plant Master
- Rocky Mountain Naturalist

WESTERN REGION

44

CSU Positions
35 Positions Fully or
Partially Funded by CSU

19

County Positions
Hired/Funded

REGIONAL YOUTH & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



3,896

4-H Youth Reached

1,915

4-H Volunteers

Colorado
Master
Gardener

194

Volunteers

8,693

Volunteer Hours

CSU IN THE WESTERN REGION - 2024

28,382

Contacts reached through
consultations and presentations

15

CSU Extension Summer Internship projects
connected to research and programs in
the Western Region. 2024 internship topics
included:

- Community & economic development
- Water quality
- Agricultural technology
- Agriculture literacy
- Rural health & well-being
- Disaster preparedness, response & recovery
- Alternative crops
- Youth education & outreach
- Local food systems & food access



2024 Impact Highlights

Archuleta County

Landowner Basics 101 Classes

CSU Extension specialists in Archuleta County hosted a series of classes in spring 2024 focused on educating new landowners on land stewardship, local resources, and best practices for managing property. Classes were held weekly in April and featured topics including: Weed Management, Living with Wildlife, Forest Fire Mitigation and Evacuation Planning, and Range and Soil Health.

Dolores County

Land Management Workshop Series

The 2024 Land Management Workshop Series consisted of three workshops and covered topics including soil testing and soil health, pasture renovation and grazing management, and weed management.

Garfield County

Greenhouse Training and Development

Nine inmates at the Rifle Correctional Center successfully completed the Certified Master Gardener program in a unique partnership that also resulted in reopening the prison's greenhouse after a five-year closure.

Extension Specialist Danielle Wesolowski led the project to bring the 12-week course to the Rifle Correctional Facility. The inmates who participated in the program gained classroom education and hands-on experience in gardening, horticulture, botany, and greenhouse management. As a result, inmates gained skills and knowledge to support them in exploring related career pathways when they exit the facility.

Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties

Women's Calving Clinic

The Calving Clinic provided 28 women who work on local ranches with education about calving, regardless of their experience level. The goal of this effort was to provide a supportive forum where participants would feel comfortable asking questions and engaging with experts to build their understanding of topics related to calving.

During the three-hour session, a local veterinarian and two Extension specialists covered topics including calving dystocia management, cow nutrition, and calving season stress.

La Plata County

Health Without Barriers

The Health Without Barriers program on Tackling Youth Obesity and Mental Health in Rural Colorado featured a holistic approach to address nutrition, physical activity, mental health, and mindfulness to provide participants with practical tools and insights to apply in their day-to-day lives.

After starting in October 2022, through 2024 Health Without Barriers began in October 2022. Between the launch of the program through 2024, Extension specialists engaged a total of 27 families, comprising 34 teens, 25 parents/caregivers, 17 siblings, and 14 extended family members or other support figures. The program's multilingual format was designed to foster greater access and engagement for participants in the community.

Garden Guys Radio Programming

Western Region Extension Director and Horticulture Specialist Darrin Parmenter and local gardener Tom Bartels hosted a radio program airing every Saturday morning during the growing season, sharing gardening advice and insights about local food systems.

Garden Guys aired 24 shows on public radio station KSUT and its six translators, broadcasting across Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan (NM and CO) counties, becoming the third-most listened to show behind NPR News and This American Life. The show now airs as a podcast on four different platforms, empowering listeners with tips and information about seasonal gardening, troubleshooting common garden issues, canning and preserving garden produce, and more.

Moffat County

Community Animal Response Team Training

Protecting livestock is an important part of emergency response to incidents and accidents, such as a trailer or semi-truck rollover. CSU Extension and Moffat County Emergency Management partnered to provide emergency animal response training for volunteers who serve on the Community Animal Response Team, along with counterparts in Routt and Rio Blanco counties who were also invited to participate. Training topics included incident command, responding to livestock accidents, practical livestock evacuation, and setting up portable corrals.

Montezuma County

Agritourism Research Internship

CSU Extension intern Sal McCollum researched the role of agritourism in fostering economic development in rural communities within Montezuma County under the mentorship of Tim Komarek, associate professor of economics and co-director of the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI) at CSU. McCollum investigated agritourism's potential to enhance downtown economies, gathered insights from local stakeholders during site visits and events, and developed recommendations for utilizing agritourism as a tool for economic growth, specifically in rural towns like Cortez and Mancos.

Routt County

Cottage Food Safety Training

The Colorado Cottage Food Act allows Coloradans to produce and sell certain approved foods from their home kitchen as a business upon successful completion of the Cottage Foods Safety Training requirement. CSU Extension delivers the training program both online as well as in-person in counties across the state. In 2024, 1,339 participants from Routt County and across Colorado took part in-person or online trainings.

San Miguel County

Oral History Preservation Project

CSU Extension intern Madeline Cummings supported a project in summer 2024 focused on preserving the oral histories of ranchers in San Miguel County, a rural county with a history of ranching that dates back to the 1880s. Working under the mentorship of Linda Meyer - archivist for the CSU Libraries Agriculture and Natural Resource Collections - Cummings spoke with three families about their experiences ranching in San Miguel to bring greater awareness to the importance of ranching for rural communities, and to preserve their stories and historical photographs as part of the Agricultural Archives. Cummings also created a display for the San Miguel Basin County Fair that highlighted the Fair's history and advertised the oral history project to others in the community and to encourage more families to participate.

Tri-River Area (Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray Counties)

Sweet Corn Insect Control

Field data and genetic research are helping Colorado's sweet corn crop recover from a 2023 corn earworm outbreak, boosting yields by 40% in 2024 and continuing to make further progress in 2025. Adrian Card, CSU Extension State Produce Specialist, was selected to lead a solution-seeking coalition of stakeholders after insect damage reduced crop yields by 52% across 23 farms, costing the region \$2.8 million in 2023. By evaluating the effectiveness of controls, studying earworm genetics and behavior, and optimizing pest control strategies, Extension specialists are able to help Colorado's sweet corn growers produce crops that are more resilient and economically sustainable.

Collaborative Project to Eradicate Japanese Beetles

The population of destructive Japanese beetles dropped 85% during the course of a multi-year project that started in July 2023 and consists of a collaboration between fruit producers, CSU Extension, and the City of Grand Junction. After the second full year of treatments in 2024, Colorado Department of Agriculture trapped 830 beetles in or near the treatment area - a significant decline from 5,716 beetles trapped in 2023.

STATEWIDE SPOTLIGHT: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Colorado 4-H Youth Development

4-H is delivered by Colorado State University Extension and reaches over 110,000 youth in Colorado annually, helping them to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders. Colorado 4-H engages with youth across the state through hands-on projects in areas including health, science, agriculture and citizenship.

Across the state, more than 10,000 volunteers and almost 100 4-H professionals and staff members provide support and mentorships to 4-H youth through locally based clubs, programs, and activities.

Colorado 4-H reached **3,896 youth** and engaged **1,915 volunteers** across Colorado's Western Region in 2024.