



Field Programs

The Field Programs Section performs inspections and collects samples. Sixteen inspectors, strategically located throughout the state, enforce the laws and regulations relating to each program listed in this brochure.

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Laboratory Services Section

The Biochemistry Laboratory ensures that animal feeds conform to manufacturer label guarantees for crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber, minerals, salt, medications, vitamins, and other nutrients. The laboratory analyzes fertilizers to ensure conformance with labeling requirements for nitrogen, available phosphoric acid, soluble potash (N-P-K), and other plant nutrients. Composts distributed in Colorado are tested for stability and maturity.

Through a cooperative grant program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the laboratory analyzes pesticide residue samples. Investigators collect these samples in commercial or private pesticide applicator misuse or misapplication complaint cases. Analyses are also conducted on pesticide concentrates to check for compliance with manufacturer labeling information. Under a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant, Pesticide residue screening is also conducted on commodities for the Pesticide Data Program.

The microbiology laboratory examines food destined for human consumption for contamination by pathogenic and potentially harmful bacteria. Through a grant funded by the USDA, the laboratory receives and tests fresh produce bound for Colorado and other State stores for pathogenic bacteria as part of a multi-state surveillance program. Microbiological research work into studying more effective pathogenic screening methods for commodities is being conducted under a USDA grant through the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN).

Animal feeds sold or distributed in Colorado are examined for antibiotics, bacteria, adulterants, and prohibited materials.

The microbiology laboratory also analyzes environmental samples taken from Colorado custom exempt meat processing plants for pathogenic bacteria and overall sanitation of work surfaces.

The groundwater laboratory analyzes well water and surface water samples from various locations in Colorado. The water is tested for pesticide residues and nitrate contamination. The Biochemistry Laboratory works in cooperation with Colorado State University, other State offices, academic institutions, and several federal agencies on projects designed to better understand and protect the quality of groundwater in Colorado.

Sample analyses are performed under a comprehensive quality assurance regimen with program-specific, customer-driven, quality control requirements. The Biochemistry Laboratory is audited by the USDA. Laboratory staff strive to deliver high quality results while adhering to the principles of bio-safety, chemical hygiene, and professionalism.

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The Metrology Laboratory maintains Colorado's official standards of weights and measures which are traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Laboratory also furnishes calibrated and documented standards to regulatory officials and industry. Mass standards are used in the agricultural, aerospace, biotech, computer and mining industries, as well as licensed scale repair companies. Length standards are used in law enforcement, manufacturing, and highway construction. Volume standards are used to ensure net quantity at dairies, distilleries, gasoline stations, and manufacturers of liquid goods. Time and frequency standards are used by law enforcement agencies to calibrate traffic control devices. Moisture standards are prepared to test the accuracy of commercial grain moisture meters at grain warehouses.

Companies that sell or repair commercial weighing and measuring devices are regulated to promote scale and other device accuracy.

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Division of Inspection & Consumer Services Programs and Services



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www.colorado.gov/ag/ics

Inspection & Consumer Services Division

The Division of Inspection and Consumer Services (ICS) programs provide economic protection to agricultural producers and ensure that Colorado consumers receive products that are safe, properly labeled, and sold in an honest manner. ICS regulates animal feed, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, farm products dealers, commodity handlers/grain warehouses, scales and other measuring devices, pricing and package weight accuracy, eggs, food plan operators, custom meat plants, and wild game processors. ICS also has two laboratories: the Metrology Laboratory and the Biochemistry Laboratory. Consumer protection, promotion of equity in the marketplace, and animal and human health safety are the primary goals of ICS.

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Technical Services Section



The Feed Program provides protection for livestock and pet owners by ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of commercial feed. Feed samples are analyzed for content and possible adulterants. Product labels are reviewed to ensure that the guaranteed composition, ingredient list, directions for use, and any statements necessary for safe and proper use are listed. Medicated feed products are monitored to ensure the safety of meat, milk, and eggs. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a.k.a. "Mad Cow Disease," prevention inspections are performed at Colorado renderers, feed manufacturers and distributors, and animal feeding operations.

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The Commodity Handler Program protects agricultural producers by assuring a stable marketing system for their commodities. This program licenses and bonds commodity handlers. Commodity handler examinations are conducted and include the measurement of grain inventories compared to storage obligations and an analysis of the company's financial condition.

The Farm Products Program protects producers and dealers of fruits, vegetables, hay, and livestock by licensing and bonding farm products dealers and conducting examinations and financial analysis of dealers. When appropriate, investigations of dealers are conducted and complaints between producers and dealers are investigated.

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The Fertilizer Program provides consumer protection by ensuring that fertilizer products will perform as advertised and contain the plant nutrients that are guaranteed on the label. This program inspects, samples, and analyzes fertilizers used for agricultural production and home use.

The Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Program regulates the storage and use of anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia can present safety problems if improperly handled, stored, or transported. Safety inspections are performed at bulk storage sites and on tanks used to transport and apply the product.

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The Custom Meat Processor Program regulates domestic and wild game meat processing facilities that process animals for consumption by the owner of the animal, their family and non-paying guests. These facilities are exempt from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) official inspection. Facilities are inspected for proper sanitation, labeling, recordkeeping, compliance with USDA BSE regulations and verification that uninspected meat is not sold for human consumption.

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The Egg Program ensures that eggs sold to the public are wholesome and properly labeled. Inspections are conducted at wholesale and retail stores to verify that eggs are handled properly and comply with grade and labeling requirements. Egg producer inspections confirm that eggs from small flocks are cleaned and packed safely. Inspectors assure that these eggs are candled for quality and checked for defects before they reach the store, restaurant or farmers market.

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The Measurement Standards Program is responsible for the testing and oversight of commercially used scales and devices at grocery stores, hardware stores, feed stores and other retail, wholesale, and manufacturing locations. Large test units are used to test scales used at grain elevators, farms and ranches, railroads, mines, and other locations. Scales used for law enforcement are also tested for accuracy. Packages are inspected for net contents and truth-in-labeling, allowing consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. Shelf, tagged, and advertised prices are verified at retailers to ensure scanner pricing accuracy. Moisture meters are tested to verify proper calibration. Weighers are certified to ensure accurate and fair public weighing.

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The Home Food Service Plan Program provides consumer protection through the regulation of sales methods used by companies that sell meat and other food items door-to-door or for home delivery. Sales contracts, invoices, product labeling, and advertisements are reviewed for compliance.

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