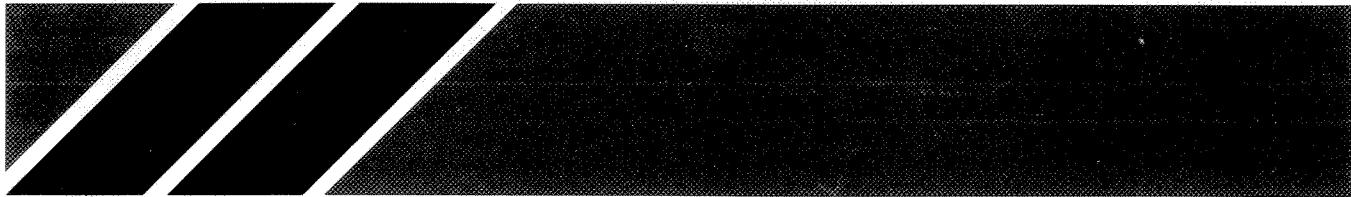


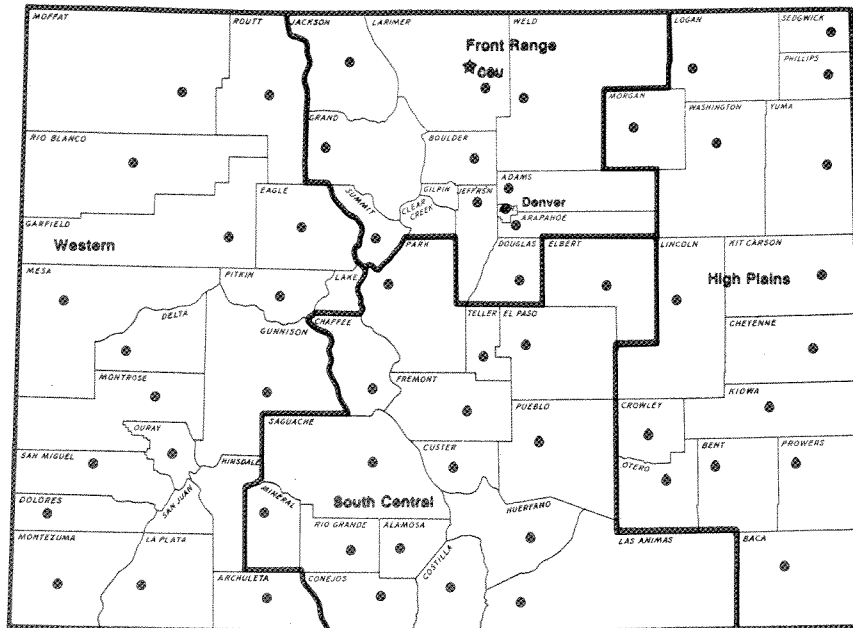


# Cooperative Extension

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523



April, 1987



- Colorado counties served with Cooperative Extension programs
- ★ Colorado State University, Fort Collins

## Cooperative Extension Program Highlights

### Purpose and Authorization

Cooperative Extension in Colorado is the off-campus educational arm of Colorado State University. The Cooperative Extension System, a nationwide educational network established by Congress in 1914, is an integrated partnership of federal, state and county levels of government and the private sector. The Smith-Lever Act established state Extension Services as a third program branch, along with teaching and research, of the designated land-grant university in each state. The term "Cooperative" refers to the partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant university in each state, and the boards of county commissioners or other local governing bodies.

In 1915, the Colorado legislature accepted the Cooperative Extension Service as a part of what is now Colorado State University. In 1979, the Colorado Cooperative Extension Service Act was passed by the legislature, which states "... primary responsibility for statewide programs of educational non-credit, informal extension conducted through

cooperative federal, state and county relationships ... shall continue to lie with the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service."

The mission of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension is to provide information and education, to encourage the application of research-generated knowledge and to develop leadership techniques with the aim of improving the quality of life for citizens throughout Colorado.

This fact sheet will help you understand the purpose, organization and activities of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. We are proud of the quality educational programs our staff delivers and we appreciate the efforts of the several thousand volunteers who are part of our Cooperative Extension team.

We would like you to become better acquainted and more involved with Cooperative Extension. As the map above shows, there is a Cooperative Extension office near you. We need your participation and input to continue to meet your needs through timely and effective programs like the ones highlighted in this fact sheet.

Kenneth R. Bolen, Director

## The Extension Program

Cooperative Extension programs focus on high priority needs and problems. Current educational priorities include:

- Farm, ranch and family financial management
- Agricultural production and economic efficiency
- Wise use of water and soil
- 4-H/youth life skills, leadership and citizenship
- Human nutrition and related health
- Adult volunteer and leadership development.

Cooperative Extension provides educational programs based on these priorities in agriculture and natural resources, home economics and family living, and 4-H/youth through our 57 county offices. Extension educational programs are identified and planned by Extension agents at the county level with the cooperation of individuals, key leaders and county advisory councils. Extension specialists, the link between Colorado State University researchers and Extension field staff, provide resource support.

Cooperative Extension agents and specialists serve as faculty of Colorado State University. They work with local constituents in planning, developing and implementing the programs of Cooperative Extension. Figure 1 shows the distribution of effort in the four major program areas.

Volunteers have an important role in the delivery of Extension programs. They are an integral part of what makes our programs run. Many people such as 4-H leaders give their time with no monetary reimbursement to support and assist in the conduct of Cooperative Extension programs. National studies have shown Extension programs to be about 18 percent public supported and 82 percent privately supported, through volunteer and in-kind efforts.

Cooperative Extension programs serve urban and rural Coloradans. Primary audiences include farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses, community leaders, families, homemakers, youth and public and private organizations.

## Funding

Complementing the cooperative nature of Cooperative Extension, the funding in support of its programs is provided from multiple sources: federal, state, county and non-tax monies. Figure 2 shows the division of these funds. Federal funds are allocated to the states on the basis of law and formula. Additionally, some federal funds are earmarked to meet special needs of national priority.

The Colorado Legislature designates an annual Long Bill Appropriation from the General Fund for Cooperative Extension. County commissioners appropriate annual budget funds to assist in the operation of the Cooperative Extension office in their county. A small amount of funds are received from non-tax sources. These include grants from business and industry and cost recovery fees charged for some educational programs. For each dollar invested by the state of Colorado, federal and county supply two dollars.

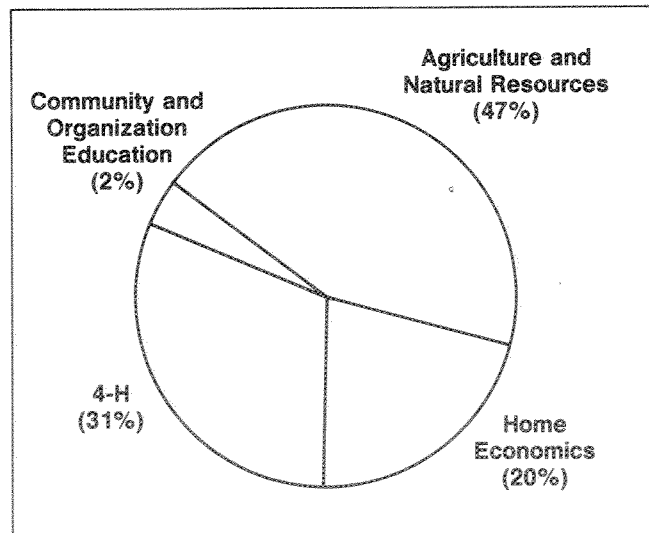


Figure 1: Distribution of program effort.

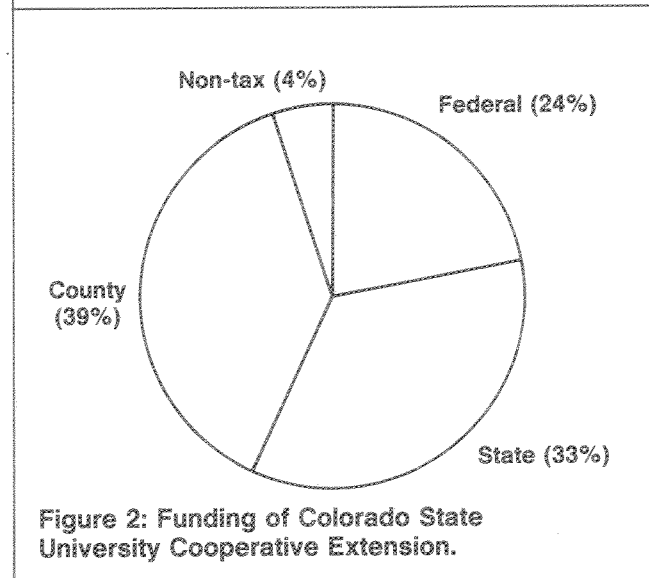


Figure 2: Funding of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

## Reaching Out

Extension staff use a variety of teaching methods to reach Coloradans. During the 1986 program year, they

- presented information at 9,642 public meetings and workshops.
- provided more than 700,000 Service in Action educational fact sheets to clientele.
- wrote 1,105 feature articles and prepared 5,343 news releases.
- made 2,617 presentations for radio and 385 TV appearances.
- involved more than 4,000 families as volunteer participants on program advisory committees.
- prepared 22,103 educational newsletters.
- taught adults and youths in 1,837,044 contacts through public meetings, office visits, phone calls, personal letters and visits to home and workplace.

## Extension Program Examples

**Agricultural Financial Management** — Over 370 farmers and ranchers and 30 agricultural lenders gained financial skills in a series of agricultural finance workshops in the state conducted by Extension specialists. Another 250 operators were assisted through the farm and ranch management associations. More than 1,200 additional producers were given financial management assistance by Cooperative Extension staff.

**Livestock Marketing** — A series of marketing workshops designed to assist feeder cattle producers and feedlot operators to evaluate marketing alternatives were conducted in 16 locations throughout the state.

**4-H Projects** — A total of 21,260 4-H project members were enrolled in agricultural projects and were instructed by 4,980 volunteer leaders; 2,100 youth participated in natural resource projects instructed by 530 volunteer leaders; 3,740 4-H members learned about food/nutrition and diet through instruction by 1,150 volunteer leaders. Extension agents trained these volunteer leaders.

**4-H Volunteer Leaders** — A total of 5,012 volunteer leaders were recruited and trained to service all local 4-H units; 1,195 junior leaders assisted. A unique 4-H key leader program involves 258 volunteers in 30 counties. They work closely with Cooperative Extension personnel and share in the management of 4-H programs and events.

**Extending Financial Resources** — Through individual assistance, meetings, radio, television and newspaper outreach efforts, more than 1,500 families increased their success in meeting personal financial goals.

**Integrated Reproduction Management** — Analysis of records for 6,000 calves indicated that calves born in late March averaged \$80 per head more profit than calves born in January and \$43 more profit than calves born in February when the date of sale was adjusted for similar ages of calves. These data were applicable in eastern Colorado. Eight ranches statewide are cooperating in this integrated systems approach to beef production.

**Healthy Heart** — A total of 995 professionals and 2,650 consumers have been trained in nutrition by Cooperative Extension specialists in the Healthy Heart program. About 80 percent of the participants sampled have shown improvements in dietary habits as a result of the training.

**Light Cattle Management** — A series of statewide educational seminars on improved nutrition and management of cattle attracting 575 livestock feeders resulted in a conservative estimate of \$5.10 savings per head due to improved management techniques. With over 300,000 light cattle placed in feedlots last year, feeders could have grossed an additional \$1.5 million following Cooperative Extension recommendations.

**Increasing Profits for Sheep Producers** — Through the use of a breeding soundness evaluation of 2,918 rams, it is estimated that savings of \$237,500 would be realized by sheep producers by reducing the number of rams from 3 per 100 ewes to 2 per 100 ewes.

**Rangeland Improvement** — Eighteen hundred fifty acres of spring grass were planted resulting in 925 additional animal unit months (AUMs) and 43,000 additional pounds of calf weaned resulting in \$33,500 additional gross income. Prescribed burning of 7,000 acres of sagebrush increased available forage by 3,500 AUMs per year for 10 years producing a net return of about \$180,000. Reduced losses to poisonous plants benefited one ranch alone by \$15,000 in one year.

**Safety/Food Preservation** — Programs reached a total of 17,981 persons directly. This program was enhanced with the training of 107 Master Food Preservers — volunteers who were given 30 hours of training. The Master Food Preservers contributed over 2,750 hours answering phone calls, conducting workshops, preparing exhibits and other activities, improving food preservation skills.

**Seed Certification** — The 1986 seed production season involved 198 growers in 35 counties producing certified seed on over 27,400 acres enabling more farmers to maximize profits by planting quality seed of superior cultivars and preventing the spread of noxious and objectionable weeds.

**Seed Potato Certification** — Approximately 12,000 acres of seed potatoes were inspected during the 1986 season; 9,840 acres were approved on the basis of three field inspections. The estimated impact of improved seed on the Colorado potato industry is \$5 to \$6 million annually.

**Master Gardeners** — Cooperative Extension staff trained 519 individuals in home garden information to the "Master Gardener" level. These Master Gardeners returned over 15,000 volunteer hours for their training by answering questions via telephone, individual field calls, diagnostic clinics, public presentations and many other activities.

**Dairy Herd Improvement** — Milk production of 27,309 cows in the Dairy Herd Improvement Program increased by 1,403 pounds per cow which resulted in \$4,980,888 additional gross income to the participating producers.

**Aerial Pesticide Application** — Commercial spray applicator aircraft were checked for proper application and calibration through "Fly In" clinics. Ninety-five percent of the aircraft spraying systems were modified and spray patterns adjusted. Improved spraying affected over 400,000 crop acres.

**Evapotranspiration (ET)** — The Denver metro area showed a 12.4 percent water savings on turfgrass through the ET program. The program assists urban homeowners in water conservation efforts by watering lawns according to the amount of water transpired. Water conserved in urban areas increases potential usage for agricultural purposes.

**Energy Conservation** — Through workshops, cable television and personal contact, more than 1,000 homes and county buildings were either weatherized or participants were educated about energy conservation. Annual savings in energy usage with county buildings alone amounted to \$140,000 in 1986.

**Family Community Leadership** — Sixty-nine new state trainers were trained during 1986. These trainers, guided by nine area team leaders, developed and conducted 31 workshops within the state reaching a total of 1,656 Colorado residents. This leadership project is designed to encourage participation in public issues affecting families. A total of 6,872 hours of volunteer time was contributed to this program effort during its fifth year of service.

**Community and Organization Education** — In 1986, 380 individuals improved their leadership and decision making skills enhancing their capability to function in the community growth process. Educational program support and leadership training improved quality of fairs and exhibitions for 59 local events, Colorado State Fair and the National Western Stock Show.

**Dare to be You** — There were 15,885 youth involved in a "Dare to Be You" educational program to help equip them with personal skills in getting along with people and community. Special programs were developed to address school dropout and alcohol awareness/safe driving problems.

**Kids on the Block** — This handicapped awareness program was presented to 20,415 individuals (primarily elementary school children) through Cooperative Extension's 4-H program to provide a better understanding of individuals with disabilities. The unique presentation has been shown to more than 121,000 individuals since May 1981.

**Teletips Information Service** — The Teletips educational telephone service celebrated its sixth anniversary in March, 1986. Since the system began, there have been 371,235 calls with 35,700 of those calls in 1986. The information tape library contains over 800 three- to four-minute tape recorded topics.

### 4-H Facts and Figures

The facts and figures below summarize the current 4-H participation from county 4-H enrollment reports.

#### Numbers Participating in

Organized 4-H clubs	15,386
Special interest programs	17,690
School enrichment programs	19,511
Individual study	42

#### Number of Participants

Boys	24,753
Girls	27,834

#### Percentage by Age

Preteens (8-11 years)	62.2%
Early teens (12-14 years)	26.7%
Middle to upper teens (15-19 years)	11.0%

#### Percentage by Residence

Farm	18%
Rural and towns under 10,000	31%
Cities of 10,000-50,000	11%
Suburbs of cities over 50,000	9%
Cities of 50,000+	31%

#### Other Facts

Percent of Colorado youth age 8-19 years in 4-H	13%
Number of organized 4-H clubs	1,059
Number of special interest groups and school enrichment groups	272
Number of volunteer adult club leaders	5,012
Number of volunteer teen leaders	1,195
Number of other volunteer leaders	6,651

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