

Why New Farmers and Ranchers?

- ❑ The local food movement is growing in Colorado.
- ❑ Local farmers' markets are thriving and can provide an excellent inroad for new farmers or livestock producers.
- ❑ The average age of farmers in the US continues to rise and is now just over 55 years of age.
- ❑ Fewer individuals are choosing to farm or ranch as an occupation.
- ❑ Entry costs into farming or ranching have never been higher.
- ❑ Those interested need an opportunity to sort through the realities of farming and ranching and determine if, how and when they should pursue it as a career.

This program is intended for those who are serious about starting, expanding, or enhancing their farm or ranch operation in the coming year through conventional or alternative markets.

*A market farm is often a food crop and/or animal product business that markets its vegetables/fruit/eggs/meat/dairy/flowers/herbs and/or value-added products directly to consumers or restaurants

Application and Registration

Application forms are available online at:
<http://jeffco.extension.colostate.edu/urban-ag/>

Return your application to:

CSU Extension
Colorado Building Farmer Program
15200 W. 6th Ave. Pkwy, Unit C
Golden, CO 80401

Or

Email: poneal@jeffco.us

With "Building Farmers" in the Title line

DEADLINE for applications January 1, 2018.

Classes will be held at:

CSU Extension Office Jefferson County
15200 W. 6th Ave. Pkwy
Golden, CO 80401

For more information:

Patti O'Neal
303-271-6620
poneal@jeffco.us

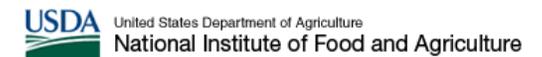
CSU Extension is training a growing segment of market farmers and ranchers on how to strategically develop a business, manage its risks, and succeed in diverse markets. Colorado Building Farmers is becoming an important incubator for Colorado's local and regional food production and marketing systems.



2018 Metro Area Building Farmers and Ranchers Program

Building Capacity
Building Community

Sponsored By



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CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

Classes Taught by Ag Industry Professionals and Working Farmers

The Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers program builds community and capacity in agriculture through classroom and experiential learning for beginning farmers and ranchers. The program is a series of eight evening classes designed to educate you about what is required to create and maintain a financially sustainable farm business. The classes will empower you to build a plan that will make you aware of potential pit falls and best practices to handle or avoid them. Students will have the benefit of input from instructors, advisory committee members and staff as well as fellow classmates during networking as well as the Business Plan Presentation.

Who Should Participate

New Farmers: less than 1- year experience; and/or intern/apprentice level

Intermediate Farmers: less than 3- years' experience; and/or farm operator or manager

Experienced Farmers: more than 3 - years' experience; and/or farm operator or manage

Cost

New and Intermediate Farmers and Ranchers \$350 for all 8 sessions plus Business Plan Presentation and Farm Tour - \$500 for two people from one operation with one set only of handout/materials provided).

Experienced Farmers and Ranchers - \$200 for all 8 sessions plus Business Plan Presentation and Farm Tour

Program

Dinner and mentored networking 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Presentations: 6:15 – 7:50 p.m.

Break 7:50-8:00 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A 8:00-8:30

Business Plan Assistance sessions planned at Agreement of class

Class Topics to include

- Strategic Business Planning
- Developing Mission and Vision
- Marketing Strategies
- Managing Risk and Resources
- Land Access
- Record Keeping
- Developing Market Channels and Niche Marketing
- Agritourism
- Cottage Food Requirements

A complete schedule with topics, speakers, required texts and downloadable information will be provided once you are accepted into the program.

Class Dates

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from January 17-March 6.

Business Plan Presentation Day (required to receive certificate) is Saturday, March 17. Farm Tours (not required, but will require sign up) are Saturday, March 24.

*Certificate of completion is awarded after completing and presentation a business plan.

Concept

Intermediate and experienced farmers and ranchers fuel the learning environment. Dinner provides time for socializing and networking. Sessions explore content useful to all levels of experience. New farmers learn in this community of farmer students and teachers. **This program thrives with participation from farmers and ranchers of all levels of experience.**

Quotes from previous Building Farmer students from post class evaluations.

“The class exceeded my expectations in all regards.”

“Each week, the class had at least one guest speaker who had both real world practical experience and a thorough understanding of the issues new farmers would face.

“Wonderful opportunity to fast-track the learning curve for family farms and ranches. Cannot recommend this class more highly. Speakers and staff were very knowledgeable and helpful and fun too!”

“This course provided my enterprise the information and resources necessary to begin operating. Thank you.”

