

BOULDER COUNTY EXTENSION ADVISORY BOARD

July 1, 2021

Dear Commissioners Jones, Levy, and Loachamin,

CSU Extension Boulder County Advisory Board recognizes and appreciates the partnership that Boulder County Commissioners have long supported CSU Extension Boulder County (hereafter Extension). It takes many partners working together to provide wise stewardship of public funds to offer valuable services for the community. The purpose of this letter is to:

- Recognize and thank the Commissioners for their support of Extension;
- Express our intent to be an active Advisory Board; and
- Provide regular, periodic Extension highlights to the Boulder County Commissioners.

In this letter, we ask you to join us recognizing the Extension staff for their outstanding efforts transitioning to online programming, education, and publications during the challenging year of the pandemic. Since the inception of Extension 107 years ago, they have never been tested as they were during the past 16 months of this world-wide pandemic. Amid the losses, the relearning, and pivoting, the Extension leadership and staff demonstrated their ability to continue to deliver programs and services. The people Extension serve, were not forgotten.

As part of that effort, Extension has created more [resources in Spanish](#). Their efforts helped to keep Boulder County residents engaged and will have a lasting and positive impact on expanding access to more diverse populations within Boulder County.

The Extension's 4-H (Head, Heart, Hands and Health) program provides opportunities for youth to develop skills, practical knowledge, and wisdom through observing, doing, and living through experiences. 4-H gives kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

In addition to programs, Extension staff offer practical knowledge and experience to help solve individual, family and community issues. For example, the Extension [Grow and Give](#) program made it easier for individuals and community gardens to grow and donate fresh vegetables, herbs, and fruit to local food banks, pantries, and shelters to help those who are food insecure. Although this is a state-wide program, Boulder County donated the most garden-fresh food (7,799 pounds)!

<https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/boards-and-commissions/extension-advisory-committee/>

Extension is an invaluable asset to Boulder County, offering a wide range of information and resources for Boulder County residents, from agriculture, energy, home & family, to nutrition, food safety & health to wildfire mitigation and more. Extension offers multiple fact sheets on a variety of topics, such as *Soil Erosion Control After Wildfire*, and newsletters like *Family Matters*, featuring articles on parenting issues and information on health, physical activity, nutrition, and child safety. In addition to fact sheets, and newsletters, Extension also offers [YouTube videos](#) on a variety of topics like drought, preparing your home for wildfires, and gardening tips to name a few.

The Extension staff care about the Boulder County community and work hard to understand the needs of the community. For example, Extension recently facilitated focus groups with LGBTQI and Latinx community members to better understand their needs. In June, Extension launched a Community Survey that was designed to gather information to help Extension tailor programs and services to better serve the unique needs of the entire Boulder County community.

The Boulder County Extension Advisory Board fully supports Extension and will continue to actively participate in efforts that assist Extension staff as they work to achieve Extension's strategic goals and improve the lives of Boulder County residents. We hope all of you will continue offering your support of this amazing organization and its people.

Sincerely,

Boulder County Extension Advisory Board

- Kate Newberg, Chair
- Rob Alexander, Vice Chair
- Jay Ruggeri, Secretary
- Mary Mulry, BOCC Appointed Member
- Betsy Shehigian, BOCC Appointed Member
- Laine Cavazos, Member Representing Program Area
- Joshua Coffie, Member Representing Program Area
- Hallie Adams, BOCC Appointed Member

Cc: Jana Peterson, County Administrator