Action Team – Data Collection – Action Team Member Louise Olsen-Marquez

How might we research local models to provide educational support for the legacy of agriculture and also educate the community on the value of agricultural lands and the challenges/benefits/needs of local producers

Local Resources: Guidestone, County Extention Office

Regional: Colorado CattleWomen, Inc. CSU, Gunnison Ranchland Legacy, Savory Institute, Quivira Coalition in New Mexico

I have a message in to Colorado CattleWomen, Inc. and will contact them again for an interview.

The mission of this organization shall be to educate, promote, and protect the cattle industry.

Colorado CattleWomen, Inc. is an all volunteer non-profit (501 C 6) organization dedicated to the beef industry. The purpose of CCW is three fold; to promote beef as a product, to educate the public about the industry and its contributions, currently and historically; and to educate about and protect the agricultural lifestyle. **CCW** members are members of local affiliates located across the state. Their age ranges from high school through late 90's. **CCW** members are wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, husbands, sons, fathers, distant relatives, to people involved in the beef industry and people who have no link to the industry but are nostalgic about the lifestyle. **CCW** is an affiliate of the American National CattleWomen.

Membership in the Colorado CattleWomen, Inc. (**CCW**) is not dependent upon owning a cow. It is dependent on your interest in the industry and the people within the industry.

CSU (Extention offices have been mentioned by others, I was also thinking of the Office of Engagement at CSU: “Providing trusted, practical education to help you solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.” <http://extension.colostate.edu/>

CSU System Engagement Hubs across the state may have information we can glean from their experiences. I plan to contact two of them to see if they have information on education for our use.

Gunnison Ranchland Legacy http://gunnisonlegacy.org/

Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy exists to serve landowners in the conservation easement process. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, GRCL works on behalf of conservation-minded landowners to place conservation easements on lands in the Gunnison Valley. Services offered by GRCL include:

helping landowners assess their needs and future plans.

finding an appropriate land trust.

obtaining funding to pay for conservation easements.

completing legal and technical aspects of the transaction.

Over the last 22 years, GRCL has helped families preserve more than 30,000 acres of ranchland.

Savory Institute https://www.savory.global

The Savory Institute facilitates the realization of a life of enduring returns for the land and all who depend on it. The Institute is the [brain trust](https://www.savory.global/institute/) of the organization. We develop innovative tools and enhanced curricula, inform policy, establish market incentives, increase public awareness, and coordinate relevant research, cultivating relationships with aligned partners.

1500 28th Street
Boulder, CO 80303
contact@savoryinstitute.org
303.327.9760

They have an “… entrepreneurial approach, we believe is necessary to reach our mission of large-scale restoration of the desertifying grasslands of the world, and addressing the stemming problems of food and water insecurity, climate change, and poverty…” from their website: https://www.savory.global.

Quivira Coalition: similar goals of Guidestone, helpful to look at their website and will contact them for an interview

Mission Statement of The Quivira Coalition: https://quiviracoalition.org/

The Quivira Coalition builds soil, biodiversity, and resilience on western working landscapes. We foster ecological, economic, and social health through education, innovation, and collaboration.

Our [***Land and Water program***](https://quiviracoalition.org/land-and-water/) helps ranchers develop plans and management strategies for restoring and building resilience on slope wetlands, grasslands, and other working landscapes.

Our [***New Agrarian program***](https://quiviracoalition.org/newagrarian/) helps to ensure that living and working knowledge of these practices, and the landscape itself, is stewarded into the future.

Our [***Education program, including our annual conference***](https://quiviracoalition.org/conference/) and [open source publications](https://quiviracoalition.org/publications/), creates a space for our coalition to share ideas and resources, and for the general public to learn about the critical role working lands play in the health of our food systems, communities, and our planet.

At the foundation of all our work is the concept that well managed working rangelands and forests are two of the most effective, efficient, and immediately viable paths to remedy the devastating impacts of climate change.

Legislation: <https://www.colorado.com/news/agritourism-law-win-colorado-ranchers-farmers-and-more> The bill passed 35-0 in the Senate on April 21, 2014 and 64-0 in the House on March 12, 2014, and was signed into law on May 6, 2014.

From the article above:”... “With the ongoing support of the legislature and our industry partners, tourism and agritourism in Colorado continues to reach the next level of success,” said Al White, executive director of the Colorado Tourism Office. “While visitors may first think of our world-class skiing or climbing our fourteeners when they think Colorado, we’re also becoming known for our craft beer, wine and spirits, farmers’ markets, farm and ranch stays, U-pick fruit and vegetables, homesteading workshops and more.”

Gail Schwartz, co-sponsor of the bill when she was our District Senator from Snowmass, now lives in Crested Butte and still lectures on agritourism and its benefits for Colorado. I am attempting to contact her to interview her.

I will also contact our current Senator Kerry Donovan who is currently sponsoring a bill:https://coloradopolitics.com/colorado-farm-ranch-interns/

“…could allow farm and ranch operations in Colorado to hire more interns, or at least do it more cheaply…[Senate Bill 42](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-042), sponsored by Sen. Kerry Donovan, D-Vail, to create the Agricultural Workforce Development Program came out of the legislative Young and Beginning Farmers Interim Committee last summer, which convened on ways to groom or support the next generation of agricultural producers in the state….“This bill focuses on the future of agriculture in Colorado by connecting new agriculturalists with seasoned experts,” Donovan said in a statement. “I’m thrilled to be constructing a pathway for young and beginning rancher and farmers to develop skills and hopefully start successful careers in agriculture.”

Last, I have a suggestion that I have only suggested to a few people: to educate the current public, in town and in subdivisions, about the importance of our agricultural heritage and get the know the current needs of ranchers and farmers I am suggesting having the Farmers Market usually held in Salida on Saturdays in the summer to be held during the week of County Fair, at the Fairgrounds so ranchers, farmers and urban oriented dwellers can mix.