**Action Team – Interview and Data Collection Form**

**Action Team Member:** Susan Nies

**How Might We:** provide educational support for the continued legacy of agriculture?

Specifically in labor/workforce support, including possibilities with internships and apprenticeships

**Data Source:**

Name: variety of articles, programs and potential contacts

Contact: links to these articles, programs and potential contacts

Add Contact to Envision Contacts? Y/N

https://www.fb.org/newsroom/farm-bureau-video-farmers-squashed-by-labor-shortage

http://www.agworkforcecoalition.org/

https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865589275/Utah-farmers-ranchers-want-immigration-reforms-to-meet-labor-needs.html

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=201720180AB376 (support for military veterans to become farmers and ranchers)

https://www.beginningfarmers.org/farm-and-ranch-intern-in-colorado/

https://www.beginningfarmers.org/internships/

https://www.beginningfarmers.org/apprenticeship/

http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/Training/Internships/Internships\_on\_Local\_Farms\_and\_Ranches/www.pieranch.org/farmer-training.html

http://www.ranchwork.com/jcategory/internships/

http://www.lonecreekcattleco.com/internships

https://www.universities.com/find/colorado/best/agriculture

http://agsci.colostate.edu/

http://guidestonecolorado.org/farmhands-youth-education-programs/ (includes internship and apprenticeship programs - adult education programs)

http://www.civicnetwork.io/index.php/network/civic-canopy

**Insights:**

1. The issue of obtaining adequate support labor-wise in the ranching and farming area is a nationwide issue. One potential solution at a national level is changing the immigration visa process for laborers/workers in this area.

2. In at least one state, California, military veterans are being supported to enter into the field of farming and ranching with different programs. Perhaps, something similar could be done here in Colorado and as they transition into their own farms and ranches, they could learn from assisting on current ones.

3. Perhaps internships, apprenticeships and training programs for beginning farmers/ranchers or those interested in the agricultural world could help provide needed labor assistance to current ranchers and farmers while providing educational experiences and learning for the participants. It appears many such programs currently exist. I have listed some above.

4. Many colleges and universities both in and outside of Colorado have agricultural programs for their students and internship programs. Perhaps, Chaffee County ranchers and farmers could be assisted by these interns while offering an educational learning experience in the field, literally and figuratively.

Also, is it possible to coordinate with our local Colorado Mountain College to offer more in the way of agricultural programs with related internships that could assist Chaffee County’s local ranchers and farmers?

5. In talking with Kurt Jones of the Chaffee County Colorado State University Extension office, it was good to be reminded that if internships, apprenticeships and the like are done here in Chaffee County, it is **vitally important** that all parties be aware of the legalities of such relationships and that they are done properly. Education and advising on these issues would be critical for all parties involved.

6. The local organization Guidestone offers many different resources regarding internships, apprenticeship and beginning farmer training programs. To me, it makes sense to work with this group to find out and do more in the area to also support the labor needs of Chaffee County’s local ranchers and farmers. Seems like it could be a win/win solution for all.

7. This Civic Network process appears to have a larger, broader than Chaffee County, agricultural civic canopy group which would makes sense, to me to connect with to see what solutions they might be coming up with or to share resources. . .

Any reports or maps or web links the team should read/review?

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