

29. **Social and environmental dimensions of prison agriculture**

Mentors: [Josh Sbicca](#), [Brian Kailey](#), [Kurt Jones](#)

Location: Fort Collins, Chaffee, Logan and Fremont Counties

1. Mentor Team

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2. Location

Fort Collins, Chaffee County, Logan County, Fremont County

3. Internship goals and objectives

The primary goal of this internship is to research and support prison agriculture efforts in Chaffee County, Logan County, and Fremont County. Agriculture includes animal agriculture, crops and silviculture, food production, and horticulture activities. The internship will focus on the social and environmental dimensions of a new beekeeping program in Buena Vista and Sterling prisons, the gardening program in Sterling prison's Veterans Unit-32 and possibly beyond, and prison agriculture industries in several prisons in the East Cañon Complex in Fremont County. There are four discrete objectives of the internship: 1. Collect survey and interview data; 2. Process, organize, and analyze survey and interview data; 3. Provide and present findings to interested stakeholders; 4. Assist local Extension efforts.

4. PRU Activities

Environmental Horticulture; Individual, Family, and Community Well-Being; Livestock and Range

5. Learning outcomes and professional development

There are at least four learning outcomes, the last three of which will provide professional development opportunities: 1. Learn about the social and environmental dimensions and diversity of prison agriculture in Colorado; 2. Learn and refine the use of survey and interview data collection techniques; 3. Process and organize data in a publicly accessible way; 4. Present research to academic and public audiences.

6. Support of stakeholder needs

The intern needs to be at least 21 years old and willing to complete any correctional facility requirements before admittance (e.g. background check, training). The intern will support identified prison agriculture projects by Extension in Chaffee County and Logan County and by people affiliated with prison agribusiness efforts in Fremont County (e.g. prison officials, Colorado Correctional Industries, and agricultural partners).

7. Experience and approach to mentorship

This team of mentors has long worked to support both colleagues and students succeed in their respective efforts. Our approach to mentorship begins with providing clear expectations and guidance, while allowing mentees the space to learn as they develop capacity. This empowering combination of hands on support and freedom fosters the growth of confidence and skills needed to build new competencies.

8. Connections to CSU faculty

This internship will tie directly into Dr. Joshua Sbicca's ongoing nationwide project on prison agriculture.

9. Travel funds

Limited travel funding will be available to support travel to and throughout Chaffee County, Logan County, and Fremont County.