

Expanding the footprint of 4-H urban agriculture through program promotion, education and/or partnerships

Extension agent/specialist mentor name and county/region.

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Are there any other identified mentors (e.g. campus-based faculty/staff or other Extension personnel) associated with this project?

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In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region)?

Jefferson County, with potential to expand into the Front Range Region

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.

Agriculture takes on a different look in Jefferson County, Colorado. The county is diverse with a strong urban population complementing the vast foothills. While agriculture is not an integral part of life at the forefront for the majority of the population in Jefferson County, those of us involved in agriculture know that without it we'd be naked and hungry.

Our vision for this internship is to help expand 4-H livestock projects through any of the below avenues:

- Promotion of urban farming and raising livestock in urban settings
- Investigating current public knowledge of agriculture, plus how to expand, improve and make knowledge more prominent
- Expanding our community presence through communication, visibility and/or locations
- Keeping farm-to-plate education and public engagement alive
- Exploring and developing new partners for animal housing for urban 4-H youth
- Supplemental outreach programming as needed
- Connecting rural Jefferson County with 4-H resources

How was this applied research project identified?

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, red meat flew off the shelves at stores, small producers quickly sold out of inventory, and local butcher shops had appointments booked for animal harvest 1-2 years out. The trickle-down effect of this has been that more 4-H youth are interested in raising animals for meat – either for personal use or to sell to the public at the completion of their project.

This research project is designed to determine ways to involve more Jefferson County youth in the 4-H livestock program, to educate the public on urban farming practices, or to strengthen connections with the Extension Office, depending on the successful applicants strongest interests.

With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work?

The local community, schools, parks, partners and more based on intern's interests.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?

The intern will gain knowledge in planning, organizing, delivering and evaluating Extension programs for youth and broad-community audiences. They will also gain skills to develop new partnerships, interact with the community and design useful materials. Depending on professional development availability and current budget, opportunities may be available.

Do you have a specific mentor style that you would like to share with potential interns?

The guidance for this internship can be as hands-on or as hands-off as the student would like. If more guidance is needed, it will be provided; if not, check-ins will occur regularly to ensure progress is being made.

Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?

Travel funds will be available for expenses incurred while performing the duties of this position.