**Retail and Farmers Market Price Reporting Internship**

**Internship mentors:**

* Martha Sullins, Extension specialist in Agriculture, Business Management and Food Systems
* Dawn Thilmany, Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics

**Internship location:**

Primarily Larimer County with possibility of travel to some Front Range farmers markets for price data collection. No housing is provided with this internship, but travel will be covered.

**Internship overview:**

This internship has two goals: 1) collect prices for meat, fruits, vegetables and eggs in farmers markets around the state. The intern’s responsibility will be to collect data in Larimer County and supervise data collection at 7-10 other sites throughout Colorado; 2) collect a defined set of retail food product data at several outlets in Larimer County in order to compare to farmers market product pricing and to incorporate into beginning farmer marketing plans.

Through this internship, the intern will learn to collect farmers market and retail-level meat and produce pricing data, including updating methodology, and build a database that supports and informs farmers, ranchers and other supply chain intermediaries. The mentor will meet weekly with the intern, and will cover any travel expenses required to complete the price reporting in farmers markets and at retail stores. The intern will also have the opportunity to review literature on price analysis in different retail contexts and help develop tools in the form of reports and analyses for dissemination online and at workshops and conferences.

The intern will work farmers market managers to set up a weekly price reporting schedule, and work with farmers market vendors to collect the information. The intern will then have the opportunity to present this information to farmers and farmers market vendor groups to help them use the data effectively.

From this internship, the student will learn best practices in data collection, database construction and management and how to present price data in a way that helps producers make decisions about Community Supported Agriculture program pricing, farmers market product pricing (taking seasonality into consideration), and how retail product pricing compares to farmers market pricing. As an extension, the intern may be able to use these data to look at how pricing in different direct-to-consumer outlets makes food more or less accessible to lower income individuals. The student will have the opportunity to present these data to farmers and farmers market managers so they have an enhanced understanding of market and pricing dynamics in their areas. Lastly, the intern will have the opportunity to visit a number of farmers markets and understand more about their role in Colorado’s food system.