

The *Rural Living Guidebook* Internship: Creating an educational resource for new landowners in rural Colorado.

The goal of the *Rural Living Guidebook* internship is to create a template for an informational workbook that helps landowners answer questions related to land management. Several counties have *Guides to Rural Living* or similar documents, but a cohesive, CSU Extension-branded piece has not been created in several years, and the template design for the previous piece is outdated and not user-friendly. The goal of this internship is to obtain the various guidebooks used by county offices and partners, ascertain what information is most necessary for new landowners to know, and develop a template that can be customized with local photos and information by Extension offices across the state to tell the story new landowners need to hear.

The success of the *After the Disaster Guidebook* internship (and subsequent use of the tool created by the internship) helped inspire this project. Extension personnel in some areas have been asked by local stakeholders for new/updated versions of the book and some have been approached with funding to help cover the costs of printing. Creating a template for Extension offices across the state will increase the effectiveness of the book while allowing it to still be completely customizable for specific locales while potentially lowering costs of production.

The successful intern has an opportunity to increase their skills in communicating with diverse audiences, determine the best ways to deliver information to those audiences, and hone their creating, editing, and writing skills. In addition, students will research:

- Who is moving to rural areas of Colorado, what they know and don't know about land management, and what information they need to be successful land managers;
- What non-profit, governmental, and educational partners Extension works with in various areas around the state and how to work with them;
- What land management issues are most pressing to address with new and existing landowners in order to have healthy, functioning landscapes.

Additionally, students will meet and work with new landowners, community non-profits, land management educators (local conservation district managers, NRCS soil conservationists, etc.), and county planning, building, public works and elected officials.

Mentors for this project are varied and include both regional specialists (Small Acreage Management specialists) and county agents/directors, allowing the successful candidate to experience and explore multiple positions in Extension.

A location-neutral internship, this opportunity allows a candidate to work from anywhere with internet and phone service; there is potential for travel to rural areas of the state, including but not limited to Steamboat Springs and Routt County, negotiable between the intern and advisory committee. Mileage reimbursement and donated housing may be available for these optional trips.

Mentor Name	Title	Location
Todd Hagenbuch	Routt County Extension Director and Ag Agent	Routt County
Kara Harders	Regional Small Acreage Management Specialist	Peaks and Plains Region
Kat Caswell	Regional Small Acreage Management Specialist	Front Range
Kurt Jones	Chafee County Extension Director and Ag Agent	Chafee County
Susan Carter	Tri-River Area Hort and NR Agent	Mesa County
Michele Meyer	Executive Director, Community Agriculture Alliance	Routt County