

[www.larimer.org/foodassessment/](http://www.larimer.org/foodassessment/)

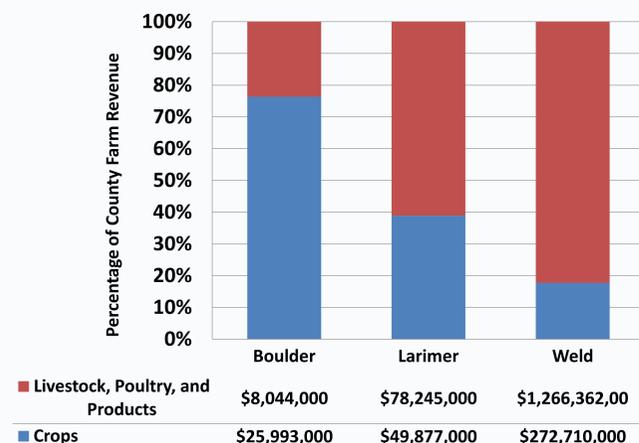
### Production Issues

- First, it should be noted how significant agriculture is in each county in terms of land base and economic activity
- Boulder and Larimer counties have 29% of total land in farms, while Weld county has 81% of its land in farms
- Regional producers created \$34 million, \$128 million and \$1.5 billion in market sales in 2007
- As a comparison this is equal to 0.8%, 1.3% and 118% of wholesale trade shipments in each county, respectively

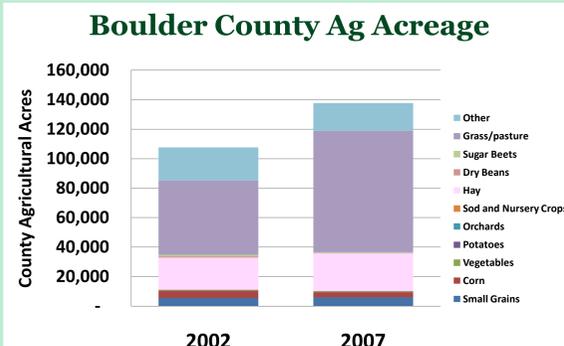
### Project Overview

The food system is like any other system — it has a lot of parts. A Northern Colorado Regional Food system assessment looks at the various components of the food system and determines where it is working well and which parts need strengthening. The Northern Colorado Regional Food System Assessment will study the food system as it exists. Using that baseline, recommendations can be made for enhancing the food system for our community's benefit.

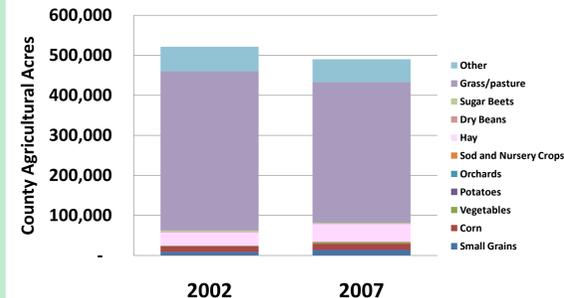
### Market Value of Products Sold



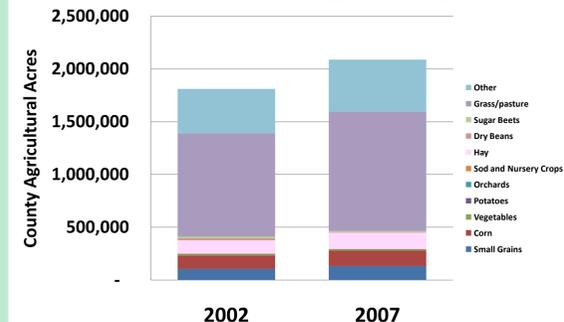
### Crop Production Trends



### Larimer County Ag Acreage

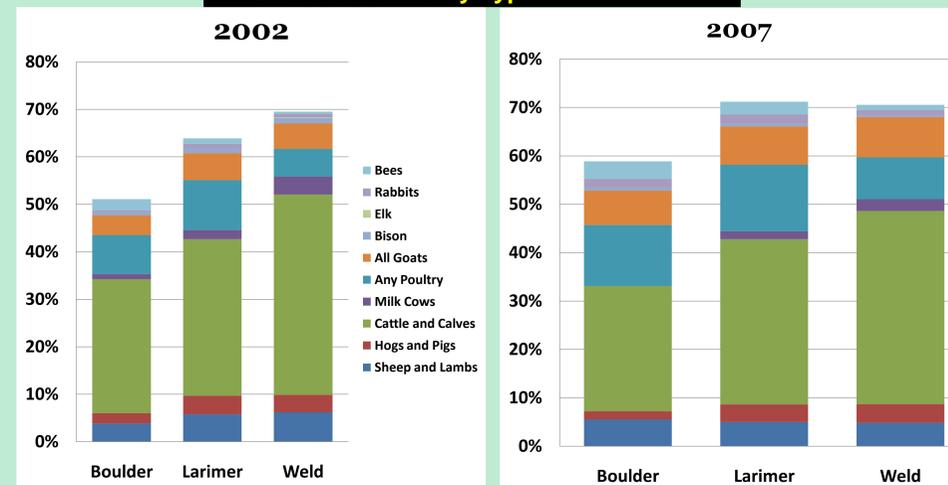


### Weld County Ag Acreage



### Livestock Production Trends

#### Share of Farms by Type of Livestock



#### Key Findings

- Grass, pasture and hay are raised on the majority of acres in all counties, and are growing in significance in all but Larimer county
- It is not noticeable in the graphs, the County profiles show that there is a growing number of acres in fruit and vegetable production in all three counties, possibly a response to strong growth in farmers markets
- Cattle are the primary livestock enterprise, but each county has seen a growth in diversity with more bees, goats and poultry being raised

### Gross Revenue Per Acre by Crop Type

	Boulder	Larimer	Weld
Small grains	\$ 173.29	\$ 202.59	\$ 177.28
Corn	\$ 353.89	\$ 367.46	\$ 454.41
Vegetables	\$ 3,798.08	\$ 2,510.70	\$ 3,867.86
Orchards	\$ 6,037.04	\$ 2,931.82	\$ 5,200.00
Sod farms		\$ 5,804.98	\$ 4,195.48
Alfalfa	\$ 248.92	\$ 156.59	\$ 275.70
Dry beans	\$ 716.01	\$ 716.77	\$ 714.44
Sugar beets	\$ 1,051.20	\$ 890.61	\$ 1,018.09

#### Key Findings

- Livestock and animal products are significant in Colorado, especially in Weld county; it is 75% of all ag sales in the region
- The gross economic revenues created on an acre of land varies greatly, but some land is only suited for certain crops (or there are water constraints to what can be grown)
- As expected, some of the cropping mix is influenced by the need for livestock feed in the region



### Acknowledgement

Funding for this project through Colorado Department of Local Affairs Heritage Planning Grant #00192 is gratefully acknowledged.

### Local Agriculture Related Organizations

**USDA FSA Farm Service Agency**- is equitable serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective and efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. The primary tasks of the FSA are the implementation of farm bill programs. The FSA also implements many loan and financial/disaster assistance programs.  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/colorado](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/colorado)  
 Local Offices: Fort Collins, Greeley, and Longmont

**RMFU Rocky Mountain Farmers Union** - is a progressive, grassroots organization dedicated to achieving profitability for family farmers and ranchers; promoting stewardship of land and water resources; delivering safe, healthy food to consumers; strengthening rural communities through education, legislation, and cooperation; and being the voice for family agriculture and rural communities. [www.rmfu.org](http://www.rmfu.org)  
 Local Offices: Denver

**Colorado State University Extension**- offers research based information and programming, usually based on food issues and agricultural production. In particular, CSU Extension offers programs in 4-H Youth Development, Water Quality and Water Saving Education, Native Plant Masters, Nutrition Education, and a Clean Energy Strategic Initiative Team, to name a few. [www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)  
 Local Offices: Longmont, Fort Collins, Greeley

**Colorado SBDC Network** - are dedicated to helping small businesses throughout Colorado achieve their goals by providing free confidential counseling and various training programs. The SBDC combines information and resources from federal, state and local governments with those of the education system and the private sector to meet the specialized and complex needs of the small business community. [www.coloradosbdc.org](http://www.coloradosbdc.org)  
 Local Offices: Boulder, Longmont, Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley

**Colorado Farm Bureau**-Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve education improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and thereby, to promote the national well being. Farm Bureau is local and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, non-sectarian, and non-secret in character. [www.colofb.com](http://www.colofb.com)  
 Local Offices: Longmont, Fort Collins, Eaton