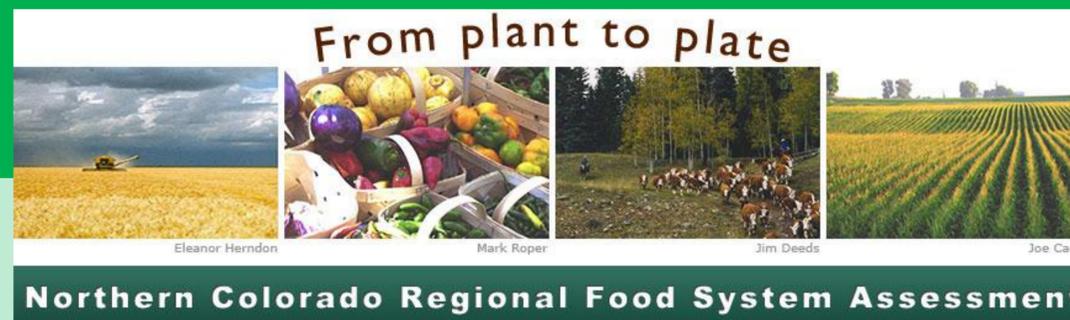


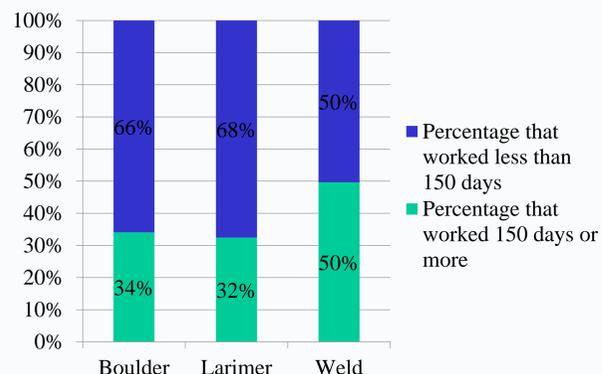
# Northern Colorado Regional Food System Assessment : Agricultural Inputs: Labor and Purchases



Northern Colorado Regional Food System Assessment

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

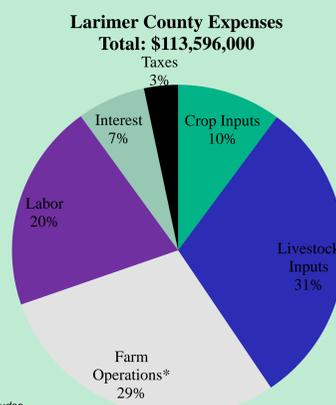
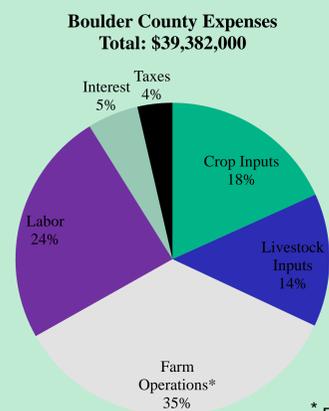
## Hired Labor



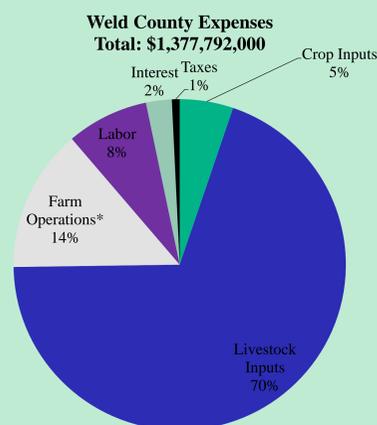
**Hired Labor in 2007:**

- On average, Weld County farms spent more per worker than Boulder or Larimer County farms
- On average, Boulder County farms spent slightly more per worker than Larimer County farms
- Weld County farms hired 7x more workers than Boulder County farms, and 3x more workers than Larimer County farms

## 2007 Census of Agriculture Reported Farm Expenses



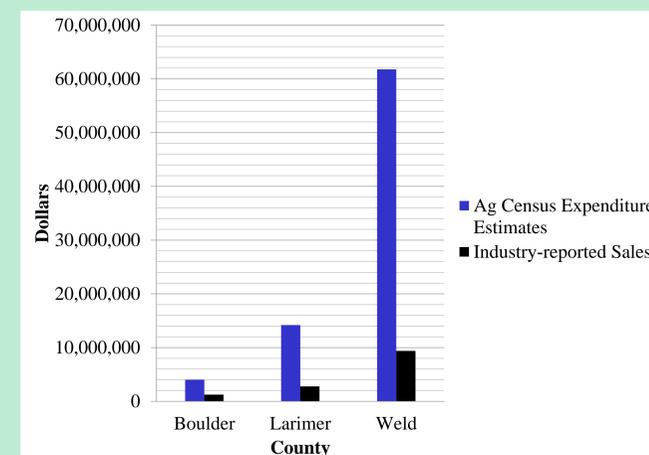
\* Farm Operations includes rent on land, buildings, pasture, machinery, and vehicles, as well as maintenance, supplies, utilities, fuels, and other costs



## Farm Expenses:

- Livestock Inputs included purchases of livestock for breeding and finishing, as well as feed
- The large share of Weld County's farm expenses categorized as livestock inputs reflects the concentration of livestock feeding in the county
- 2009 expense estimates fell 6.4% from 2008 levels for the U.S. as a whole
- Fuel expenditures fell 22.5% from 2008 levels across the U.S.
- Farm expenditures decreased in all major categories across the U.S.

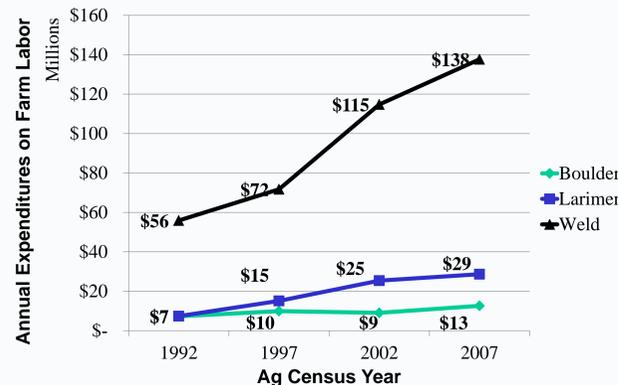
## Farm Equipment Sales



This graphic illustrates the dependence of regional agriculture on inputs obtained from other parts of the state and country.

Ag Census expenditure estimates reflect the amount of money that farmers spent on machinery and equipment, from any source. Industry reported sales reflect the dollar amounts of new equipment sold by dealers.

## Inflation-Adjusted Expenditures on Farm Labor



## Key Findings:

- From 1992 to 2007, farm labor expenditures increased faster than the national rate in Larimer County, slower in Boulder County, and similarly in Weld County
- Since 1992, the number of farm workers hired has fallen in Weld and Boulder Counties and risen in Larimer County

## Questions for Discussion

- What data were most surprising to you?
- Given the increase in expenditures on hired farm labor, what is a priority for future research and action?
- Can you think of programs in other areas and/or industries that would have a positive impact on this element of the food system?

## Acknowledgement

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## 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 conservation and regulation of agricultural laws. 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

**Mountain Plains Farm Credit Services** - customers are considered partners - shareholders, with everyone invested in a successful future. The organization not only provide affordable financing and valuable country living insight, they intend to build relationships that grow along with the families served for years to come. And at the end of each year, when a profit is made, the company repays their customer partners with a dividend check. [www.ifeedtheworld.com](http://www.ifeedtheworld.com)  
Local Offices: Greeley

