



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136
Phone: 303-795-5467 | Fax: 303-734-5470
TDD: 303-795-4644
www.arapahoeqov.com

News Release

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Contact:

YVETTE YEON

Communication Services Specialist II

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 720-785-0714

Email: yyeon@arapahoeqov.com

Arapahoe County provides assistance to disabled farmers and ranchers *CSU professors help citizens run successful agricultural operations despite personal challenges.*

Littleton, Colo. – Colorado State University Extension of Arapahoe County is offering a free workshop to help farmers and ranchers dealing with physical or mental issues.

The workshop is a part of the Colorado AgrAbility Project that promotes success in agriculture for people with disabilities and other physical and mental challenge. As part of a nationwide network of programs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the goal is to inform, educate and assist farmers, ranchers, farm workers and their families with disabilities, so they can continue to have successful careers in agriculture.

Thanks to a four-year grant of \$720,000 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, two Colorado State University professors will continue assisting those struggling with disabilities continue farming and feeding millions of Americans every year.

Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics Norm Dalsted and Professor of Human Development and Family Studies Robert Fetsch will travel throughout Colorado and lead multiple workshops that provide assistance, networking opportunities and education for affected farmers and ranchers.

"It is often hard to get farmers and producers to admit that they have disabilities such as back and hearing problems, arthritis, and PTSD," said Dalsted. "The fact that there has been so much interest in these workshops over the years testifies to their continued service to a sizable community."

The workshops were developed in partnership with CSU Extension and Goodwill Industries of Denver. For the past 16 years, CSU has led the AgrAbility Project and has served 436 clients. Now, with another four-year renewal, the university will have led this program for a full 20 years.

In addition to working with individuals with physical and emotional disabilities, Dalsted said that the workshops will also target veterans in need of assistance.

"We know that we can do more to help veterans who have returned to family farms and businesses. Our outreach will target that group more directly in this grant cycle," Dalsted said.

The workshop in Arapahoe County will be held Feb. 2 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Avenue, Aurora. It will run from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and will include a box lunch for those who pre-register.

Those interested call Jonathan Vrabec (303) 738-7940 or email him at jvrabec@arapahoeqov.com. We ask you pre-register for this workshop by Jan. 26.

For information on other workshops, visit: www.agrability.chhs.colostate.edu/workshops/Default.aspx.

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Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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