

## CO Blueprint of Food and Agriculture

Proposed buckets for regional advisory team meetings  
(each region should select no more than 4-5)

1. What incentives exist for CO schools/institutional food service to purchase from CO agricultural and food businesses? What are the implications of CO procurement on the local economy?
  - *Example: What are economic impacts of farm to school?*
  - *Example: Do we see changed food patterns among households?*
2. Is there scale-appropriate infrastructure for a diverse set of agriculture and food businesses? For example, access to small-scale meat processing?
  - *Example: Are there challenges with access to grain or meat processing?*
3. Are existing food safety regulations scale appropriate for all producers, processors, and sales?
  - *Example: Do audit processes affect small producers, processors, distributors and retailers more?*
4. How does food get to and move through communities and what are the implications for low-income households?
  - *Example: Does food availability influence food based health behaviors?*
5. What opportunities exist to match CO value-added products with (scale-appropriate) CO farm and ranch production?
  - *Example: Are there incentives to use Colorado ingredients (i.e., beer, salsa)?*
6. Are there opportunities/challenges to producing, processing, and distributing foods locally or regionally?
  - *Example: How can producers identify institutional buyers?*
7. How does consolidation impact suppliers and/or buyers in CO food and agricultural supply chains?
  - *Example: Are there areas with too few buyers or sellers of raw ag inputs?*
8. Is there adequate access to land and/or water to support the next generation of agriculture?
  - *Example: Are there examples of creative land transition programs that would work in other parts of the state?*
9. What are the long-term implications of producers leveraging natural resources (equity/lending, and environmental)?
  - *Example: When cash flow is tight, are conservation choices sidelined?*
10. What opportunities are there to rebalance the farm/ranch portfolio through enterprise diversification and/or off-farm income/ other workforce opportunities?
  - *Example: Is dependence on too few enterprises or marketing channels hurting farms and their communities? Do lenders play a role?*

11. What opportunities exist for new products and value added to meet the needs of changing consumer demands?
  - *Example: Are there potato, wheat, produce varieties with proven health benefits that will be of new interest to consumers? (i.e., quinoa)*
12. Are there opportunities resulting from climate-smart gardening and landscaping for key agricultural sectors (green industry, irrigators, precision agriculture)?
  - *Example: Infrastructure investments with long term environmental payoffs?*
13. How can we look beyond the dollar value to publicly beneficial aspects of agriculture and community foodscapes, landscapes and open spaces (e.g., health and environmental outcomes)?
  - *Example: What are quality of life aspects of agriculture worth to citizens?*
14. How do we best leverage Federal resources to support CO agriculture and food systems?
  - *Example: How can we increase participation in SNAP (consumers) and grant/lending programs (producers)?*
15. How can we reframe food and agriculture as a key dimension of quality of life? How does the reframing impact the food and agricultural sector? Communities?
  - *Example: How does the reframing impact the food and ag sector? Communities?*
16. Do we have appropriate workforce development and regulations to meet changing needs of the food and agricultural sectors?
  - *Example: Can the current H2-A program be reformulated to better suit the seasonality of Colorado agriculture?*
17. How can we best promote job and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and the food system to a broader set of youth?
  - *Example: FFA and 4-H as incubators for Colorado food business.*
18. How do we balance economic development strategies between cultivating our own businesses and attracting the relocation of large, job creating firms?
  - *Example: Choice between cultivating our own businesses and attracting the relocation of large, job creation firms?*
19. Can we identify opportunities within the food and agricultural sectors for “win-win” situations leveraging rural-urban linkages?
  - *Example: Barley and hops from rural Colorado sourced to microbreweries; small grains bred for drought resistance or health traits for millers/bakers.*