

Olivia Terry: How important it is to have the ability or at least the option to sell from the farmer's property. Native Hill Farm is an extremely amazing example of having a successful and safe farm stand. It brings in anywhere from over \$24k to \$30K from farming off of just three acres and sometimes a little more. That pays more than my salary was, so obviously it was good money for them and all we had to do was go stock it everyday and people could help themselves to the coolers. It allows convenience for customers, CSA members and communities surrounding the farm property that don't always have the means to get to the farmers markets. It is important for farmers to have multiple outlets of sales to have a successful farm and this is just one of the most essential and strait forward of the options, especially to smaller farms!

My name is **Latina McCoy**, I am a student at Aims Community College majoring in Ag. Business and I fully understand the importance of any size farm operation being able to directly sell what they produce to the consumer and I fully support HB19-1191. As the amount of affordable farm land is rapidly decreasing as well as the number of small farms, farmers have to make due with what they have available and it's not always a large plot of land, especially for new and young farmers. Denying farms under a specific land size pushes producers out of the market. As a consumer having grown up in the farm lands of NC, I value and appreciate the ability to know the local farmer, and from a business standpoint I understand the importance of being able to grow a relationship with the consumer to create a consistent and loyal customer base. Small farms, especially ones just starting out need to be able to make use of all avenues to increase the profit to put back into the farm to increase yield, more efficient input, profit and eventually expand the operation. Considering that American farmers feed America and many other parts of the world, it makes sense to make available to farmers of any land size all tools that can help them succeed with little to no gov't assistance, reducing the amount farmers depend on subsidies and increasing the amount of local produce available to individuals. Small farms and community gardens help to boost local economies by keeping the money circulating locally opposed to being funneled into big corporations. I have had the pleasure of working directly with Raisin' Roots farm in Ft. Collins and have seen the incredible impact Ben and the Raisin' Roots crew have had on the local community. I personally have been able to volunteer and increase my farming knowledge with hands on experience that would not have been available to me otherwise. Small farms are becoming a new kind of classroom, offering individuals an opportunity to learn many skills and trade work for CSA shares. Communities are designed to build relationships to grow, I think our society is becoming more invested in what we put in our bodies and more than ever we want to know where our food comes from. More often than not, these small farms provide a less intimidating experience for people to learn that farming isn't just back breaking work. Don't limit the beneficial impact farm stands can have on a community because of land size. We need more people, especially young people, to get involved with agriculture. Farmers farm so the rest of the world doesn't have to, what starts with a farm stand has the potential to grow into another farm of its own.

Karl Talbot: My name is Karl Talbot and I have been farming 1-3 acres in Larimer County for 8 years. I run a small CSA providing fresh, local produce to around 25 families each year. I have sold produce at the farmer's market, local restaurants, and to private events. I also had a self serve farm stand that operated on the honor system. That farm stand was located within the city of Ft Collins on land that I was farming in conjunction with the land in the county. Within the city of Ft Collins there is no lot size restriction to operate a farm stand. The land the farm stand was located on was ultimately sold to developers. Two years later I was able to find a different piece of land within city limits to farm and have the farm stand. That land too is now up for sale to be turned into housing.

This is a common and unfortunate story for many small farms who count on the location and a connection to the community. This may also be a necessity to accommodate the growing population along the front range. Small city plots of land are becoming harder and harder to find. The price of the land available in city limits is also forcing many farmers to find land in the county close to city limits. Many of these small farms provide access to healthy, affordable options in their community. They also serve as a stepping stone for young farmers and a place to educate the community about food production and the importance of a healthy diet.

To accommodate changing times I believe it is important to allow and encourage producers of all sizes, rather than placing restrictions on how big you have to be to compete. The size of my farm restricts the amount I am able to sell at a wholesale price. For me, the farmer's market also required selling larger amounts of produce to justify the time spent and produce wasted due to the summer heat and transportation. The on site point of sale is the most cost effective and community engaging way a producer can sell their goods.

Kiri Saftler: I ran farmers markets in Fort Collins for 15 years and I was the first president of the Colorado farmers market Association for two years back in the 80s. I live in your neighborhood. I like being able to walk and not use any fossil fuel to get vegetables. I also know disabled people who benefit by having local farmstand's near them. Small growers are huge asset and need to be rewarded instead of restricted by random Acreage classifications. Reducing the footprint of our locally grown vegetable distribution is very forward thinking and Colorado needs to remain forward thinking.

Dana Guber, The Growing Project: removing barriers for small scale growers is crucial in encouraging sound agricultural practices. The only way to be good stewards of a farm/piece of land is if that land is manageable for those who are taking care of it. Having more eyes per acre helps eliminate the need to use big machines, chemical pesticides and herbicides, bad manure management practices, etc.

Since small scale farms are usually unable to enter into big economic markets, more reasonable means to generate some income such as a farm stand or farmers market or food co-op are logical, economically sound, and easy ways to support small farms.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the integrity of the financial system and for the ability to detect and prevent fraud. The text also mentions the need for regular audits and the role of independent auditors in ensuring the reliability of financial statements.

The second part of the document focuses on the role of the accounting profession. It highlights the need for accountants to adhere to high standards of ethical conduct and to maintain their professional competence through continuous education. The text also discusses the importance of transparency and the need for accountants to provide clear and concise information to their clients and the public.

The third part of the document addresses the challenges faced by the financial system in the current global economy. It discusses the impact of technological advancements, such as digital currencies and blockchain, on traditional financial institutions. The text also mentions the need for regulatory bodies to adapt to these changes and to ensure that the financial system remains stable and secure.

The fourth part of the document discusses the role of the government in the financial system. It emphasizes the need for government intervention to prevent systemic risks and to ensure that the financial system serves the interests of the public. The text also mentions the importance of government oversight and the need for government agencies to work closely with the private sector to address financial issues.

The fifth part of the document discusses the role of the media in the financial system. It highlights the need for the media to provide accurate and unbiased information about financial matters. The text also mentions the importance of the media in holding financial institutions and government officials accountable for their actions.

The final part of the document provides a conclusion and a call to action. It emphasizes the need for all stakeholders in the financial system to work together to ensure its integrity and stability. The text also mentions the need for continued research and innovation in the financial system to address the challenges of the future.

By supporting small farms and removing barriers to sell and distribute produce, a deeper sense of community and economic vitality are create between farmer and consumer. Relationships are made when consumers purchase directly from the producer rather than a supermarket or large distributor.

In supporting small farms and their ability to sell their products, more jobs and entrepreneurs are created as well as more opportunities for farm apprentices and workforce training.

Dryden Goss, Executive Chef *Locality* As a consumer, I love connecting with my neighbors over produce that they grow. This connectivity between neighbors is the woven fabric that creates and harnesses the community I am so passionate about here in Northern Colorado. It astonishes me how diverse our soil can be from one plot to another, it is within this diversity that I, as a professional chef, can create some truly memorable dishes for my guests. We need to give full support to our farmers, for they provide so much more than nourishment and education within our community here in Northern Colorado. A farmer is extremely busy with a hard days work, the farm stands allows the farmer to connect with community whilst maintaining ones field and crops. This farm stand multitasking is a must for a prosperous farm, farmer and community.

Thank you for your consideration

Craig D Rockey, San Luis Valley

Our homeowners assoc. tried to shut down our business with new covenants but their own lawyer said they had to grandfather us in. The Farm Stand Bill would've been helpful in this situation.

Alex Zeidner

Owner

Folks Farm & Seed

Eat your Folkin' Vegetables: Increased urbanization, especially in Fort Collins, has provided an opportunity for more urban growers to meet demand for local produce. On the same note it has limited land access for many growers as large farms either consolidate or become housing divisions. By offering urban farms the opportunity for direct marketing through farmstands we offset the loss of growers and grow a sustainable local food system.