

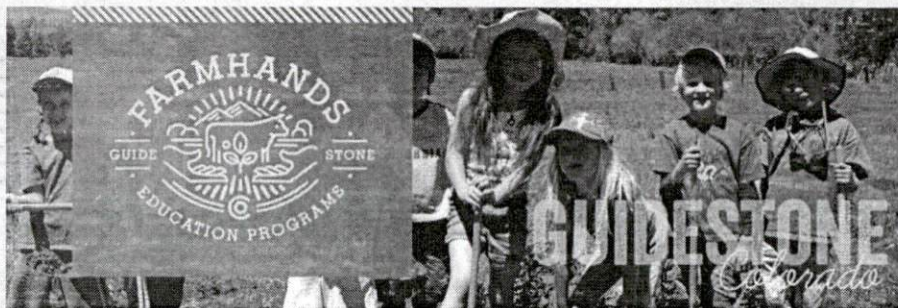


Agricultural Education

Guidestone's Home-base in the Heart of the Rockies

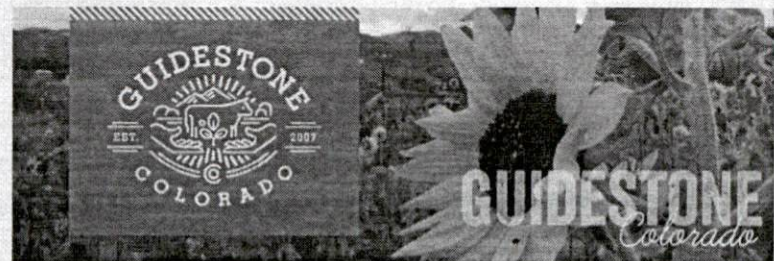


Colorado Land Link



Youth Education Programs

Learn, Connect, Grow!

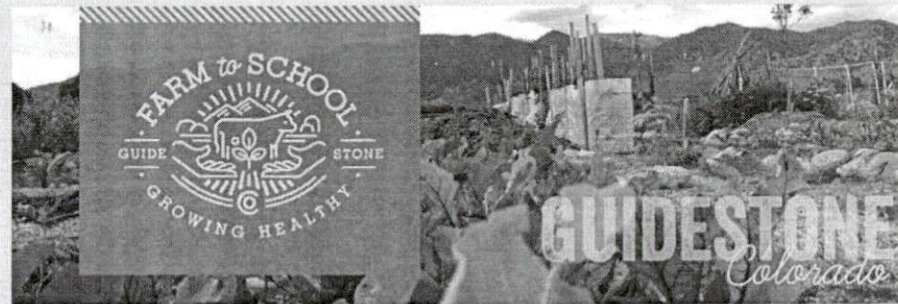


Growing a Vibrant Agricultural Future through Education, Community Building and Partnerships

Jennifer Visitacion, Executive Director
www.GuidestoneColorado.org

*The farmer has to be an
optimist or he wouldn't
still be a farmer.*

- Will Rodgers



Production- Education- Nutrition

Healthy Food, Healthy Growing

What are the Challenges?



Supporting Land Access and
Farm Succession

Growing the next generation of farmers and ranchers

As a result...

- ❖ Increased demand on natural resources- including agricultural land & water- driving up values
- ❖ Increased need for food production/ food security
- ❖ Pressure for alternative developments/ use of agricultural land

Challenge # 1 Population Growth

Challenge #2 Aging Farmer Population

Population growth rates in Colorado are

50% above national averages.

This puts an
additional

2.3
million people in Colorado by 2040.

Willing and Passionate Next Generation Farmers

Lacking Resources/Experience/Skills

The average age of Colorado farmer is

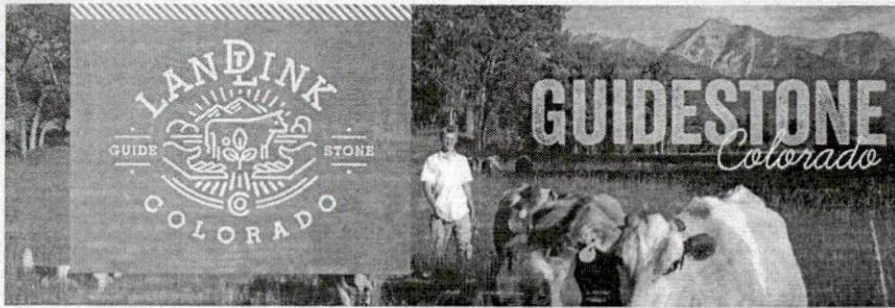
59 years
old.

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Developing creative solutions to meet the challenges

Challenge # 3
Who's filling the shoes?

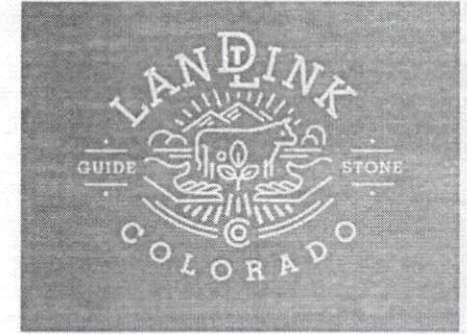


Colorado Land Link Services

*Landseeker/Landowner Matching Service
 Vision Courses & Coaching for Aspiring Farmers & Ranchers / Landowners
 Regional Advisory & Support Teams
 Annual Land Link Forum*

Colorado Land Link

- ❖ Helping Retiring Farmers/ Ranchers with Resources for Succession Strategies
- ❖ Supporting Next Generation Farmers/ Ranchers in Developing Resources/Skills
- ❖ Matching Landowners with Farmers/ Ranchers seeking Land.



DAN WALDVOGLE JOURNEY TOWARDS READINESS CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES





Farmer "Readiness"
Preparing for the Next Generation of Farmers & Ranchers

1. What does farmer readiness mean to you?
2. What are the challenges/ barriers facing next generation farmers/ ranchers?
3. What are the "pitfalls" that beginning farmers commonly experience?
4. What does a next generation farmer need from a land owner who is sharing their land?
5. What does a land owner/ retiring farmer need from a farmer who wants to share their land?



Personalized, survey approach:

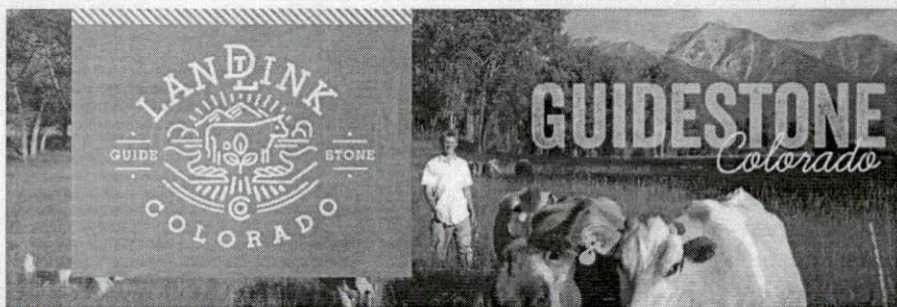
13. Other thoughts or comments on irrigation?

14. What equipment would you anticipate needing?

17. Describe your ideal Land Link arrangement

18. Which location(s) are you interested in for your ag. venture in the Central Region? Check all that apply

- All
- Arapahoe County
- Chaffee County
- Golden County
- Larimer County
- Weld County
- Adams County



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VISION COURSE

For Aspiring Urban Farmers
 December 12, 2015- 12-4pm- Cost: \$15
 Arapahoe County Extension Office

Presenters:

Stephen Cochran
 Stephen owns and operates Clear Creek Organics in Wheat Ridge, CO. Along with farming, Stephen teaches horticulture courses for Front Range Community College and the University of Colorado in Denver.

Elaine Groza
 Granite Farms is a multi-plat, 146 acre family operation farming in the core of the city, less than a half-mile from Denver's urban center.

Meg Coley
 Founder and Director of Farming Operations and Education of Sprout City Farms, an urban agriculture nonprofit with the mission of cultivating educational urban farms that engage and strengthen communities.

Nick Gruber
 Professor Daner looks at the urban environment as a unique ecosystem where people and land come together in very intimate ways.

Danielle DuBois
 Program Coordinator, Colorado State University Extension, Arapahoe County. She will be Danierle's second year coordinating the Denver Metro Building Farmers program.

Jennifer Tucker Valticich, MBA
 Executive Director of Guidestone Colorado and Business Leadership & Strategy Coach with Mountain Ventures, LLC. She and her family own Macaroni Farm and Retreat Center in Saltillo.

Course Description:

Guidestone Colorado, in partnership with the Colorado Building Farmers Program, is offering the *Vision Course for Aspiring Farmers* who are dreaming about starting an urban farm. Participants undergo an in-depth exploration of their own vision and the core competencies and resources needed to launch! This course examines current trends, resources, case studies, and stories from experienced farmers while digging into a framework to begin strategic business planning.

Presenters and Panelists

Schedule and Registration:

12:00pm	Registration/Lunch (included)
12:30pm	Welcome/ Introductions
1:00pm	Visioning/ Self Assessments
1:30pm	Urban Agriculture in CO
2:00pm	Producers Profiles Panel
3:00pm	Resource Inventory/ Planning
3:45pm	Resources/ Next Steps
4:00pm	Adjourn

Register Now!
 Visit www.araphoeeextension.org
 Danielle DuBois, CSU Extension
 303.738.7977 - DDuBois@araphoegov.com

Successes

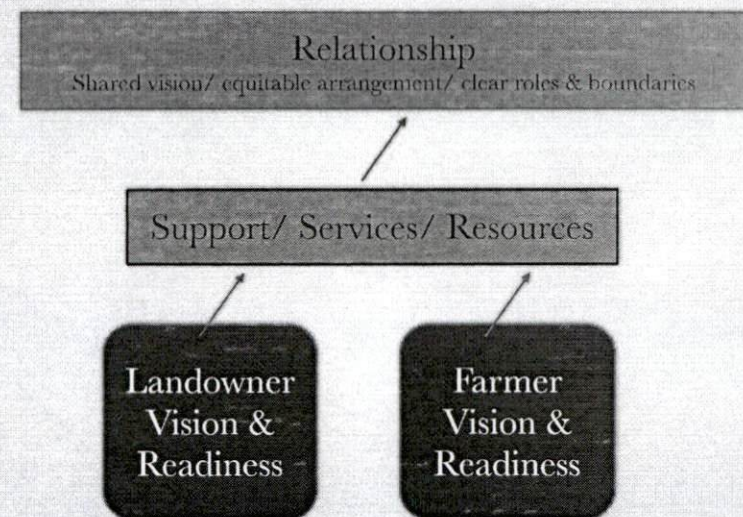
- ◊ Over 250 land seeker applications since our inception from all over the state/ country- enabling us to learn more about needs & readiness issues.
- ◊ Increase in landowner contacts (unsolicited).
- ◊ Regional and statewide partnerships and support from CSU Extension- Building Farmers Program, RMFU, NYFC, Colorado Tourism Office, FSA, CDA, Conservation Districts, & Land Trust Organizations.
- ◊ Hosted dozens of open houses, workshops, vision courses and Land Link Forums around the state including Southeast Colorado, Southwest Colorado, Northwest Colorado, Central Colorado, and the Front Range. The 2018 Land Link Forum is slated for Northeast Colorado.
- ◊ Current NIFA Funding through BFRD Grant in partnership with Colorado Tourism Office and RMFU to support three years of vision courses and ongoing coaching support.

Components of a Success Land Link Relationship

- ◊ Viable business model with shared vision
- ◊ Partnership mindset
- ◊ Open/ honest communication
- ◊ Equitable lease arrangement (a win win- written down!!!)
- ◊ Shared land ethic
- ◊ Clear established boundaries
- ◊ Mechanism for reviewing and evolving
- ◊ Camaraderie and shared achievement

Challenges

- ◊ Landowner/ farmer succession planning tools and support network.
- ◊ Incentives for landowners to transition land.
- ◊ Legal and professional services support network.
- ◊ Organizational capacity to meet program demand and provide ongoing services and imbedded support.
- ◊ Slow process- not one size fits all.
- ◊ Measuring impact of connections- tracking & telling the story!



Thank You!



Jennifer Visitacion, MBA
Executive Director

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www.GuidestoneColorado.org