



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

# SMART Act Hearing

Joint Ag and Natural Resources Committee

January 2024

Kate Greenberg

Commissioner of Agriculture

# Mission, Vision and Core Values

Our mission is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Our vision is that Colorado agriculture be strong and vibrant, a key driver of the state's economy, and recognized worldwide for its safe and abundant supply of high-quality food and agriculture products.

Our core values are Respect, Professionalism, Partnership, Service, and Proactivity.

## COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

COMMISSIONER  
Kate Greenberg  
22.1 FTE

### ANIMAL HEALTH

State Veterinarian  
Dr. Maggie Baldwin  
31 FTE

### BRAND INSPECTION

Brand Commissioner  
Todd Inglee  
59.0 FTE

### COLORADO STATE FAIR

General Manager  
Scott Stoller  
26.9 FTE

### CONSERVATION SERVICES

Director  
Les Owen  
26.7 FTE

### INSPECTION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Director  
Mark Gallegos  
46.2 FTE

### LABORATORY SERVICES

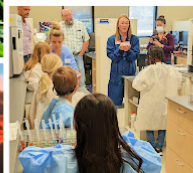
Director  
Eric Petty  
26.2 FTE

### MARKETS

Director  
Amanda Laban  
43.6 FTE

### PLANT INDUSTRY

Director  
Wondirad Gebru  
59.2 FTE



**Communities We  
Serve**



# Key Successes in 2023

- **New Ag Emergency Response Program**
  - One coordinator responded to 11 events impacting producers in 13 counties
- **Advanced Soil Health & Climate Resilience**
  - \$25 million in USDA Climate Smart funding
- **New Ag Worker Services Program**
  - Assist workers and employers in rights and services. Connected with 1,120 workers through 63 engagements
- **Expanded Community Engagement** through the creation of the Regional Assistant Commissioners, Ag Water Policy Advisor and Climate-Smart Marketing Specialists positions

# Key Successes in 2023 continued

- **Food System and Supply Chain**
  - \$13.4 million invested in local and regional food systems
- **New Wild Horse Working Group**
  - Extensive stakeholder engagement across Colorado to develop best management practices
- **Financed Land and Equipment Loans**
  - ~ \$18 million in financing to over 80 farmers; 70% are beginning farmers and ranchers
- **State Fair Record Attendance**
  - Over 500,000 attended



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

## In our agency

- CDA implemented a skills-based hiring approach.
- To address issues of equity in agriculture, we launched a quarterly speaker series called "Voices in Agriculture," available to all employees.
- We developed a year-long Inclusive Leadership Program that is now required for all supervisors. 74 leaders completed the program in 2023. We expect the program to be full in 2024 given new supervisors and a waitlist.

Governor's Executive Order [2020 175](#)

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (continued)

## In the community

- The CAF Loan Program prioritizes new and beginning farmers and ranchers and is designed to offer an alternative to traditional lending requirements.
- CDA is working to increase the diversity of applicants in its Workforce Development Program.
- The Community Food Access Program works to improve access to and lower prices for healthy foods in low-income and underserved areas of the state by supporting small food retailers.
- The Ag Workforce Program connects ag workers with resources and services related to health, safety, and career development.



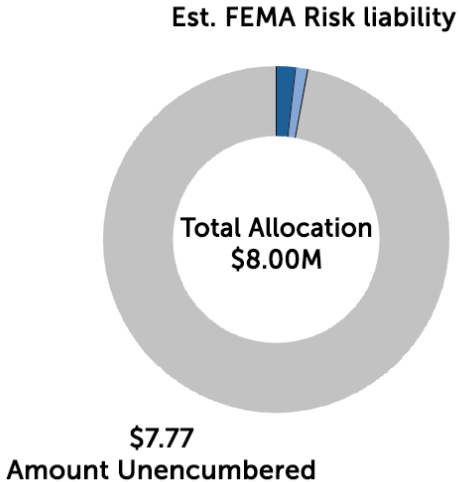
# Stimulus and Federal Funding Overview

- State Stimulus
- American Rescue Plan-State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA-SLFRF)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Other USDA Funding Direct to CDA

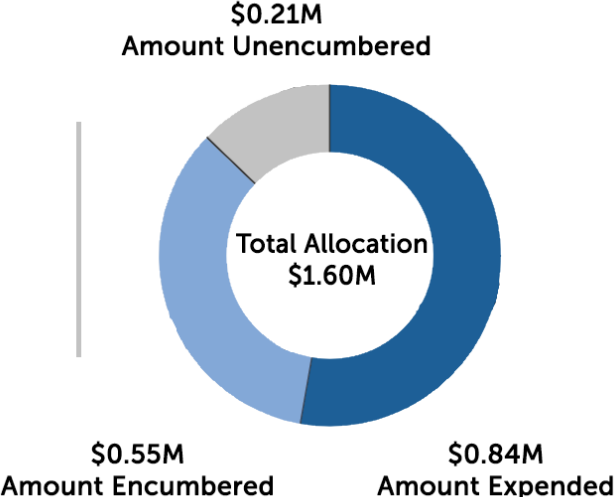


# CDA Overall Spending Status

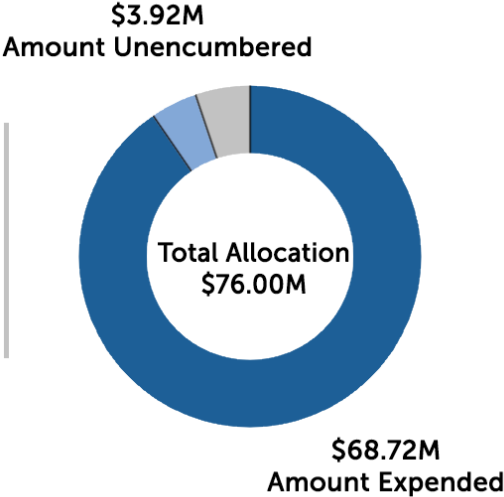
## ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)



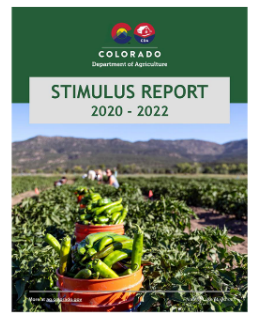
## Direct to Agency Awards (DAA)



## State Stimulus



# State Stimulus Impact by the Numbers



## CDA Total Stimulus \$76M

**\$35.5M**

HB 21-1262  
SUPPORT FOR  
LOCAL AG  
EVENTS

49 projects funded in 46 counties, including county fairs, National Western Stock Show, and State Fair.

**\$30M**

SB 21-248  
COLORADO  
AGRICULTURAL  
FUTURE LOAN  
PROGRAM

Producers in 40 counties have been provided with 82 loans and 79 grants.

**\$3M**

SB 21-234  
AGRICULTURE  
DROUGHT &  
RESILIENCY

Funded 130 projects through competitive grants to promote water stewardship in 17 counties.

**\$3M**

SB 21-235  
ADVANCING CO  
RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
(ACRE3)

There are 27 energy efficiency projects across 11 counties, including solar and small hydroelectric turbines.

**\$2.5M**

SB 21-203  
COLORADO  
PROUD MARKET  
ADVANCEMENT

Boosted Colorado agriculture with the "From Our State to Your Plate" campaign and funded global sale opportunities.

**\$2M**

SB 21-235  
SOIL HEALTH

159 producers and 42,180 acres in 36 counties are enrolled in the Colorado Soil Health Program.



# State and Local Federal Recovery Funds

## Community Food Access (\$8M)

- First-year focus on staff hiring, program compliance and providing material in multiple languages.
- Awarding \$1.8M in grants from the first round this month. Second round opened last week.
- Developing a consortium of retailers and producers to provide \$1M in local food distribution assistance.
- Spending and encumbrance projection:
  - Feb 2024: 25%
  - May 2024: 75%
  - August 2024: 100%

# Leveraging New Federal Stimulus Opportunities

**\$25M**  
(ARPA)

**Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities**

CDA's Soil Health program was one of the 70 projects selected for funding by USDA through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant. This historic investment in CO and five other western states will advance farmer- and rancher-led soil and climate solutions.

**~\$5M**  
(ARPA)

**USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program**

CSU and CDA will partner with ID, MT, OR, WA, and WY to establish a regional food business center with a \$30M grant. The program will promote supply chains, support food entrepreneurs, assist farmers in emerging climate-resilient markets, and develop supply chain infrastructure. Each state will receive ~\$5M.

**\$4.2M**  
(ARPA)

**Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant**

Prioritize grants for food hub partnerships, increase local processing and storage, and explore co-op investments.

# Leveraging New Federal Stimulus Opportunities (continued)

**\$200k**  
(IRA)

**Climate Pollution  
Reduction Grant**

CDA is partnering with Colorado Energy Office to conduct two studies:

- Best practices for methane capture/biogasifiers
- Mapping development sites solar arrays on agricultural lands

**\$4.4M**  
(Other)

**America the Beautiful  
Challenge Grant**

Fund 34 projects for community and ecosystem resilience, improved habitat and watershed health throughout 39 counties.

**\$2.1M**  
(IRA)

**Conservation Technical  
Assistance**

Expand technical assistance capacity through Conservation Districts to enable more landowners to improve natural resources on their land with the help of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**\$300K**  
(IIJA)


**Rural Energy for America  
Program (REAP) Grant**

Helps rural businesses and farmers get USDA REAP grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

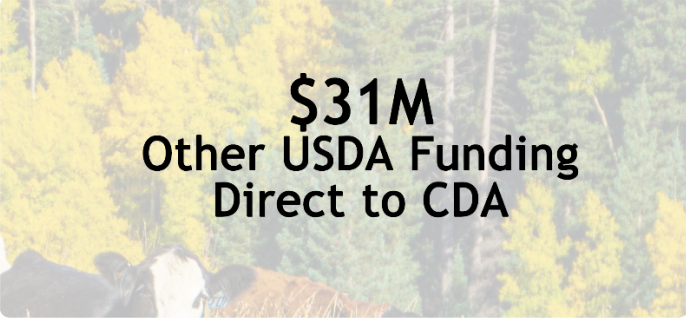
# Stimulus and Federal Funding Summary



**\$126.8M Total Impact**



**\$76M**  
State Stimulus



**\$31M**  
Other USDA Funding  
Direct to CDA



**\$8M**  
ARPA-SLFRF



**\$6.6M**  
New ARPA  
and IRA  
funding



**\$5.2M**  
ARPA and IPA  
partnering  
funding

We continue to explore opportunities that align with CDA's mission to advance Colorado agriculture.



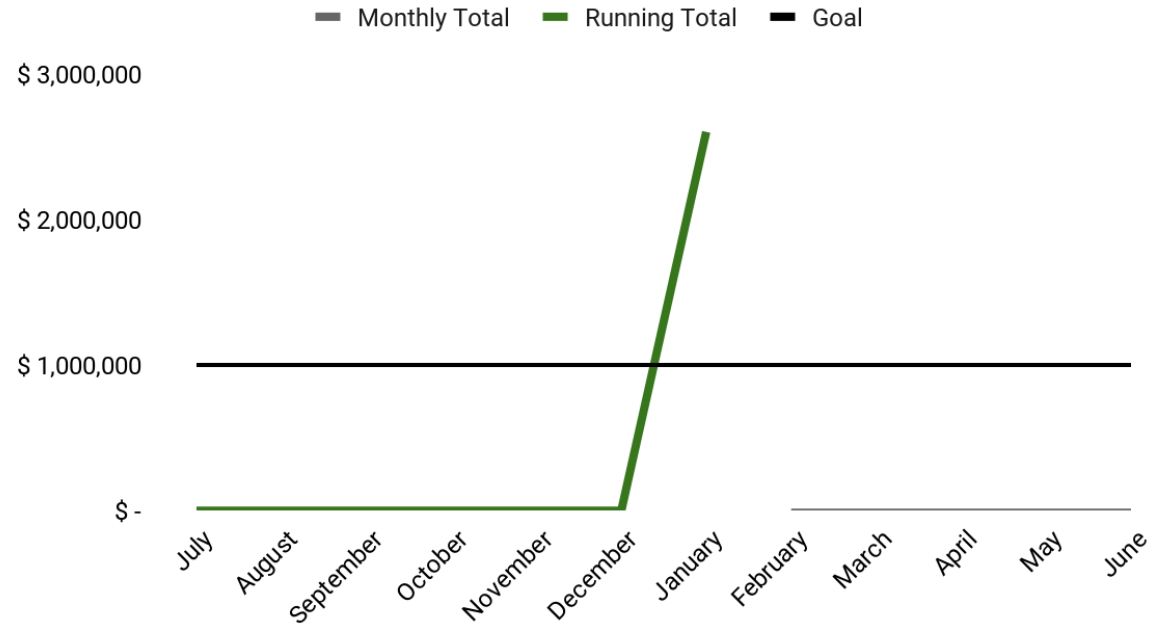
# **FY 2023-24 Strategic Plan and Wildly Important Goals**

- **Reducing Food Insecurity**
- **Building the Next Generation**
- **Expanding Water-Resilient Agriculture**
- **Advancing Animal Health and Welfare**

# Advancing Local Food Access

Increase access to healthy food in Colorado by increasing the capacity of farmers to distribute and small food retailers to purchase healthy food by \$1 Million in low-income, low-access communities.

Advancing Local Food Access

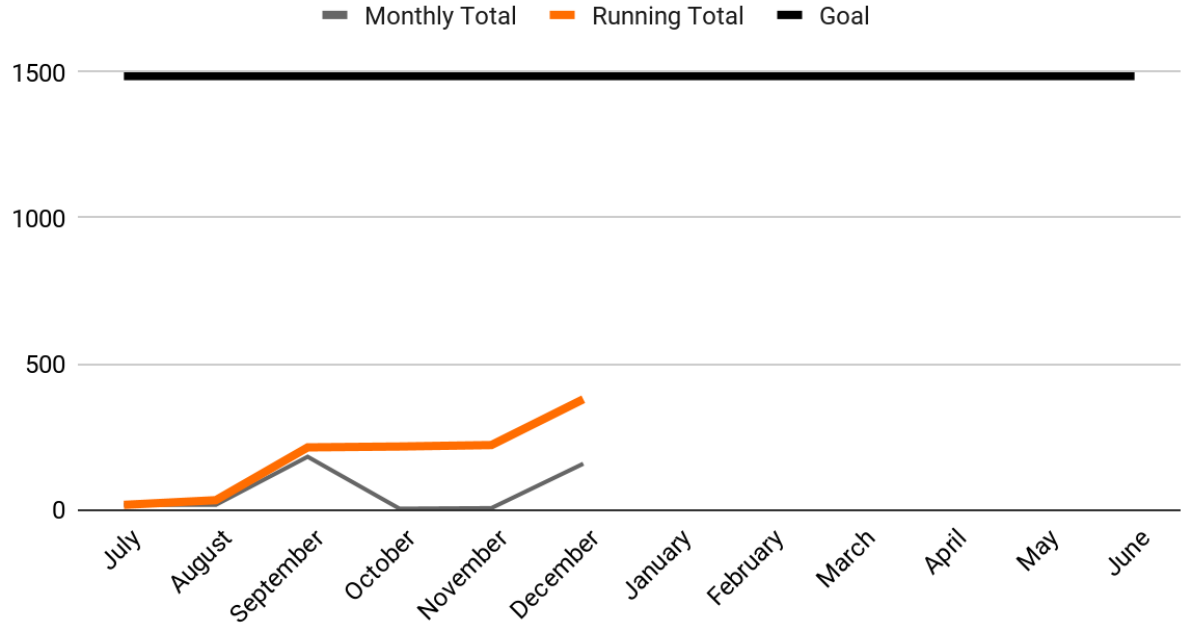




# Building the Next Generation

Reduce barriers young people face in building a career in agriculture by providing training, education, and financial opportunities to 1500 of the next generation of agricultural leaders and producers.

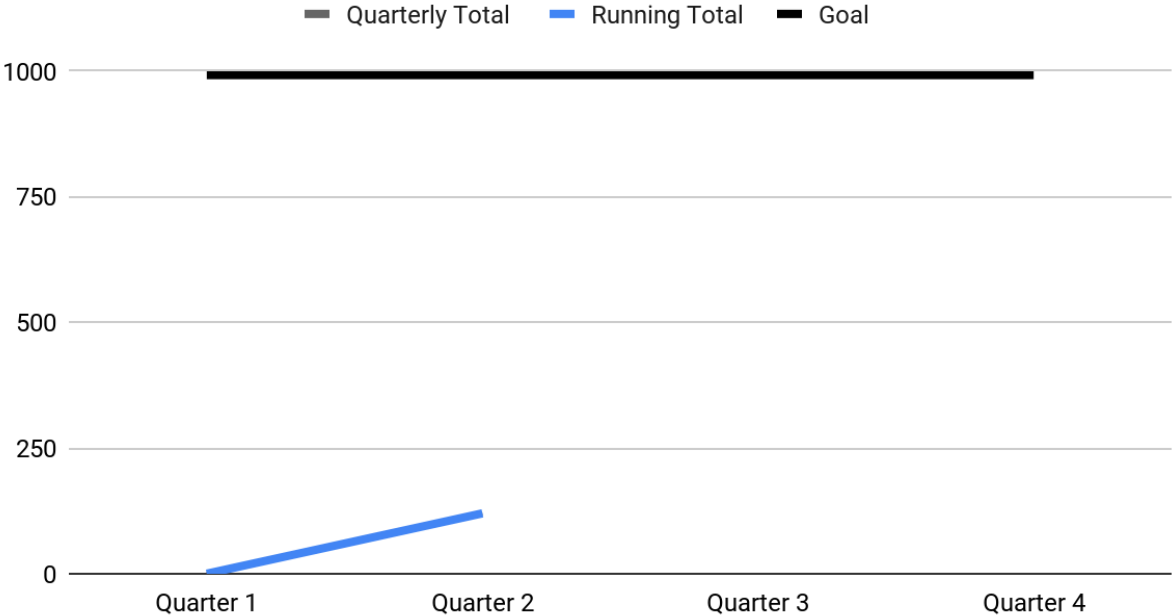
## Supporting the Next Generation



# Expanding Water-Resilient Agriculture

CDA will help 1,000 producers and water conservation leaders incorporate effective water resilience practices to maintain robust agricultural production.

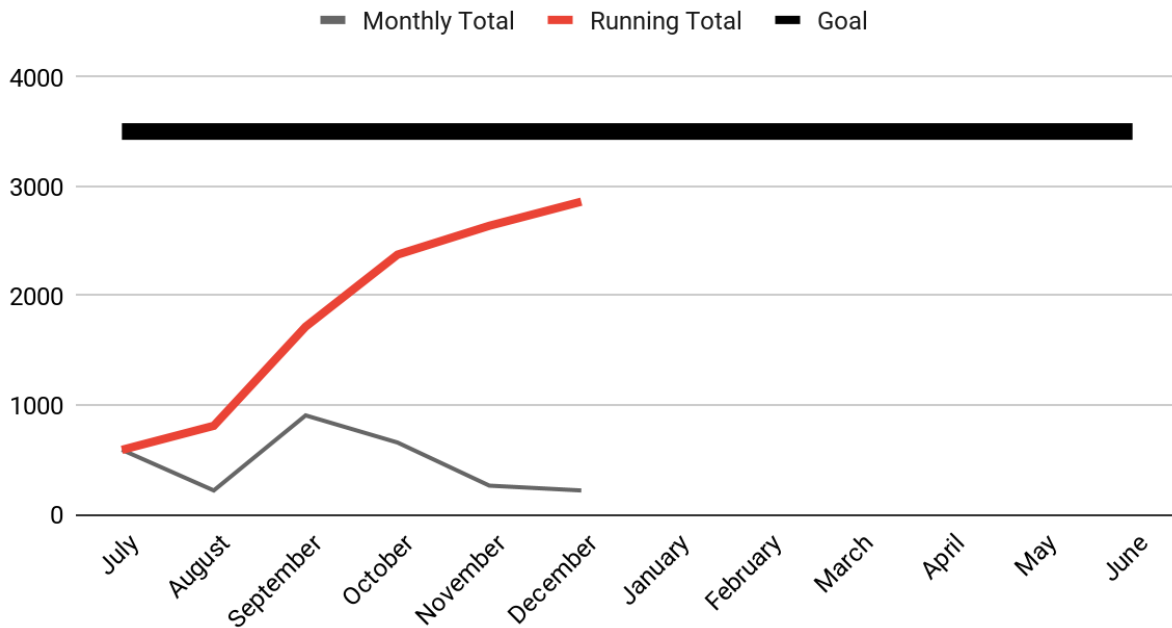
Expanding Water-Resilient Agriculture



# Advancing Animal Health and Welfare

Provide education and outreach to 3500 veterinarians, animal owners, and stakeholders to advance animal health and welfare.

Advancing Animal Health and Welfare





# CDA Strategic Plan

Our multi-year strategic plan will enable us to clearly communicate our mission for supporting Colorado producers. It will focus the diversity of CDA's work in five key directions:

1. People and Community
2. Market and Economic Productivity
3. Environmental Stewardship and Resilience
4. Animal Health and Welfare
5. Internal Operations Improvements

Through these directions we have identified 24 distinct paths, each with specific objectives, strategic actions and measurable performance benchmarks.



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

2024-2027  
STRATEGIC  
PLAN



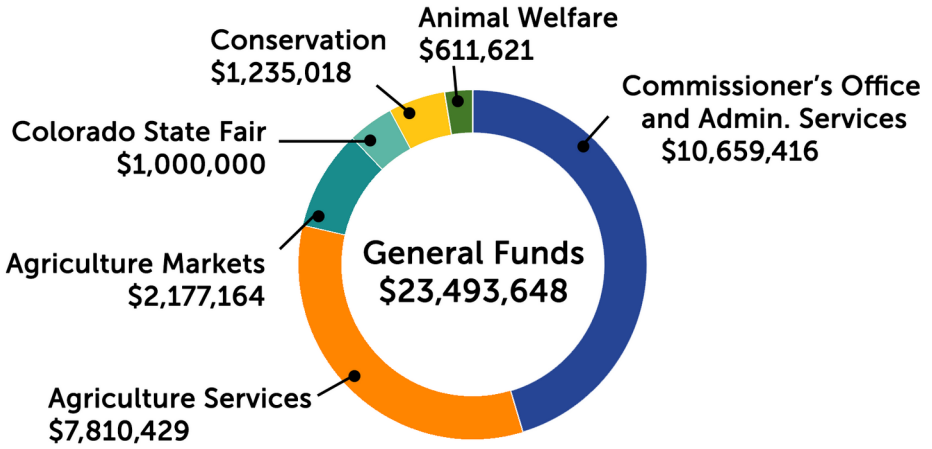
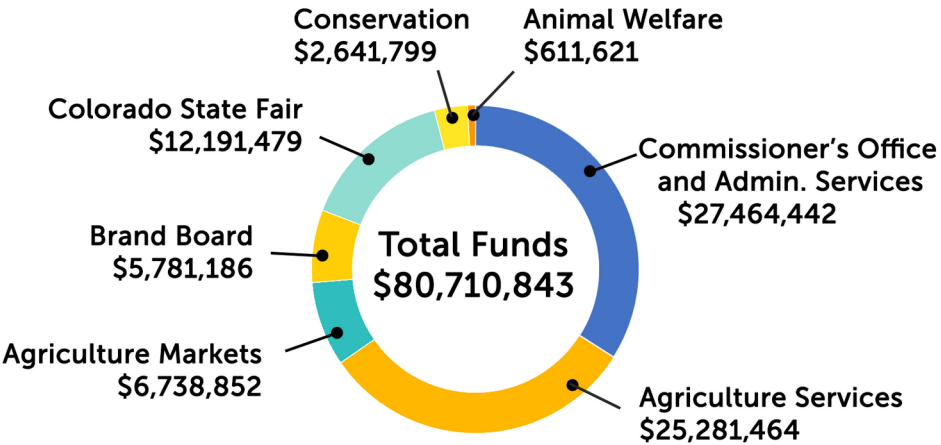
**FY 2023-24  
Budget Requests**

# CDA Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Requests

FY 24-25 Total Funds **\$80,710,843**

FY 24-25 General Funds **\$23,493,648**

FY 24-25 FTE **330.7 FTE**



# CDA FY 2024-25 Budget Requests

- **R-01:** Agricultural Emergency Management Resilience
- **R-02:** Division of Animal Welfare
- **R-03:** Renewable Energy Adaptation & Development
- **R-04:** General Fund Operational Increases
- **R-05:** Operational Cash Fund Increases
- **R-06:** Commissioner's Office Indirect Cost Assessment
- **R-07:** Next Gen/Ag Leadership Program
- **R-08:** Rural Mental and Behavioral Health Grant Program
- **R-09:** Workforce Services
- **R-10:** Business Operations Process Improvements
- **BA-01:** Wolf Reintroduction Technical Assistance





## FY 2023-24 Regulatory and Legislative Agenda

# Regulatory Agenda

In 2023 we conducted eight Rulemaking hearings, including:

- 7 Rule Revisions
- 1 New Rule

In 2024 we have three Rulemaking hearings planned, including:

- 1 New Rule
- 2 Rule Revisions as a result of 2023 efficiency reviews

# Legislative Agenda

Working with legislators and stakeholders to support and strengthen Colorado agriculture:

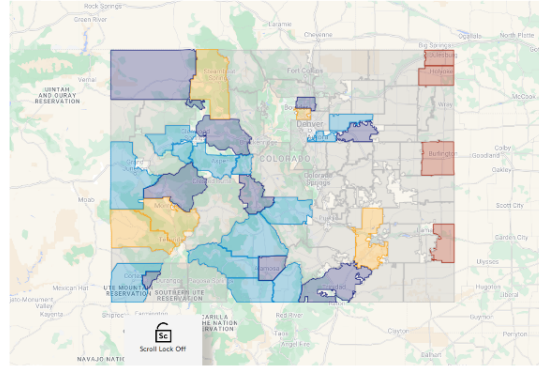
- **Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit**
- **Agricultural Land and Equipment Access Tax Credit**
- **Vet Workforce Shortage Tax Credit**
- **Division of Animal Welfare, Public Equine Facility Registration and Welfare Grant Program**
- **Gender Neutral Statute Updates**
- **HB24-1032: Wild Horse Authority Extension**

# Information Requests and Program Reporting

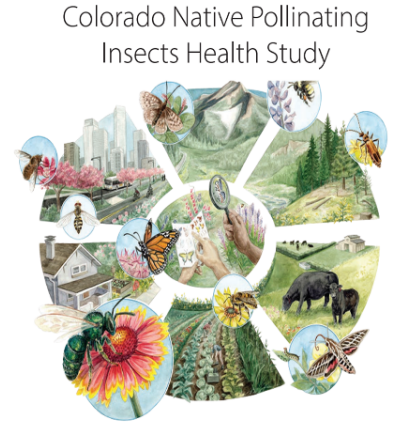


Employer	Employee
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance
<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Training

**Ag Workforce  
Services Program  
Online Portal**



**Soil Health Outreach**



**Pollinator Health  
Study**



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

# Thank you!

Kate Greenberg, Commissioner  
Colorado Department of Agriculture

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[ag.colorado.gov](http://ag.colorado.gov)

*All of the photos in this presentation are entries in  
CDA's "Best in Show" photography contest.*

