



EDUCATE, CREATE, AND CONNECT IN AG LITERACY

AUTHOR
Isabella Hamner

MENTORS
Kellie Enns, Jenny Bennet,
Katherine, Nathan Clark, Brooke
Carlson, and Rachel Wilderman

DEVELOP

PROJECT BACKGROUND

CAMs Ag Academy On the Road is a CSU Agriculture Education program that seeks to make agricultural education opportunities accessible to Colorado communities. Through partnerships with county fairs and events throughout Colorado, CAMs Ag Academy provides opportunities for kids and families to learn more about agriculture with games and interactive programming.



INTERNSHIP GOALS

- Build new educational activities that align with important research and projects happening at CSU ARDEC and CSU Spur
- Scaffold existing agricultural literacy lessons for age-appropriate engagements state-wide at community fairs, shows, and festivals
- Create new marketing/promotional materials to promote opportunities in agricultural literacy at CSU ARDEC and at CSU Spur in the Morgridge Learning Laboratory and the GROW Youth Institute for 4-H
- Map the Colorado GROW Youth Institute activities and other agricultural literacy programs against CO educational Standards and practices
- Collect, compile, and analyze data related to agricultural literacy educational activities for impact reporting
- Conduct educational outreach activities throughout the summer in agriculture to build relationships and encourage participation



A Cam pop-up from our scavenger hunt



Preparing for a visit from the Larimer County Cloverbuds



Beef By Product Bingo Lesson that I created

EXECUTE

INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES

Adapt engagement materials -- In preparation for our summer county fair season, I adapted previously created informational posters into smaller infographics that were placed in CAM pop-ups to help facilitate our scavenger hunt and Junior Ag Ambassador Badging program. This adaptation was extremely successful and made the program more portable, easier to set up, and more interactive.

Create new lessons and activities -- CAMs Ag Academy utilizes a variety of lessons for engagements at fairs, shows, and other events. As a part of this internship, I had the opportunity to develop lessons of my own that I could then test in the field. I developed two lessons, titled "A-Maize-ing Corn Anatomy" and "Beef By-Product Bingo." Both of these lessons were used to engage with families at CSU Spur and county fair events.



Develop promotional and social media materials -- To help share the many places the CAMs Ag Academy team would be this summer, I created promotional materials to be used on multiple social media platforms. These materials have also been used for other outreach events with local ag professionals. After engagement events, I also created fun social media posts that showcase pictures and videos from the event.

Conduct agriculture literacy outreach -- Of course, the most important part of my internship was engaging with kids and community members state-wide. I assisted with the set-up, programming, and tear-down at four county fair events. While programming at these events, I led CAMs activities (like Barnyard Bingo and Source Relay), recruited and badged Junior Ag Ambassadors, and trained 4-H and FFA volunteers to teach as well.

Engage at CSU Spur -- I also had the opportunity to facilitate in the CAMs Classroom in Mordridge Lab at CSU Spur Campus. During the 2nd Saturday event, which brings in educational opportunities and opens campus up to the public to learn more about the environment and agriculture. Using the lesson I developed, which teaches participants about the anatomy of a corn plant by creating a corn hat, I engaged with 222 kids and family members.



Playing Barnyard Bingo at the Larimer County Fair

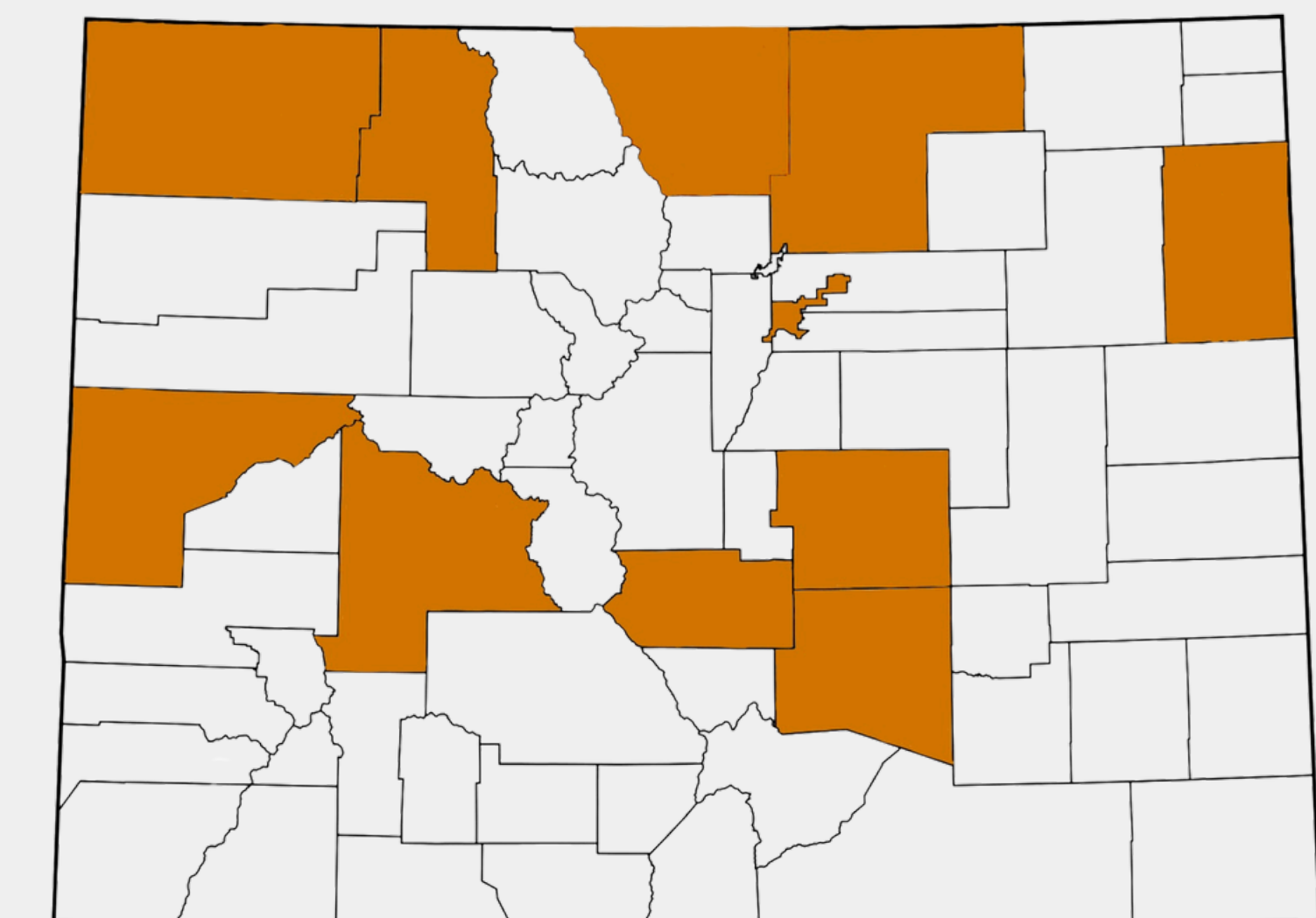
EDUCATE

BY THE NUMBERS

2180+

PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THIS INTERNSHIP

Eleven counties were impacted, including, Mesa, El Paso, Fremont, Yuma, Larimer, Routt, Gunnison, Denver, Moffat, and Weld.



LESSONS LEARNED

Curriculum -- This summer, I had the opportunity to learn another side of agriculture education--the development of ag-related curriculum. Thanks to examples from past CAMs lessons, I was able to develop my version of multiple lessons to be used during the CAMs On The Road program. This experience taught me important things about the type of activity that works most effectively in a less formal teaching setting.

Agriculture in Colorado -- I am originally from Missouri, so my knowledge of Colorado agriculture was minimal before beginning this internship. Through participating in lessons and creating programming tools intended to teach others about agriculture in Colorado, I quickly became more educated on the subject.

Engaging Outside the Classroom -- Before beginning this internship, I had only ever shared agriculture curriculum within the structure of the classroom. My experiences with the CAMs team this summer have expanded my educator techniques and allowed me to practice my skills in a less structured environment. This unique experience is vital in making me a better educator and advocate for agriculture. With these experiences, I have become a better communicator and listener.



Badging a JAA at the Larimer County Fair

