Annual Extension awards for exemplary service

For immediate release

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(Fort Collins, Colo.) Colorado State University Extension employees were among those recently honored for their contributions, along with partnering agencies. Each year—as part of the weeklong professional development meetings—Extension agents, staff and specialists gather for an overall awards banquet as well as individual professional organization banquets throughout the week. There, individuals are recognized by their peers for exemplary work throughout the previous year.

Among the highlights are:

Alton Scofield Distinguished Service Award

The Alton Scofield Distinguished Service Award is Colorado State University Extension’s highest honor awarded to field staff. Marlin Eisenach of Sterling/Logan County, 4-H Youth Development received the award in early November in Fort Collins.

Eisenach has spent his career dedicated to youth and livestock programs. He has worked hard to build life and leadership skills in youth always with an emphasis on livestock and agriculture. “Our awardee, Marlin Eisenach, has outstanding skills in working with people,” said
Colorado State University Extension Director Lou Swanson, in presenting the award. “He has been able to develop an excellent youth and adult livestock program, known across the state and nation helping youth develop practices that are on the cutting edge of industry standards, such as the Meat Quality Assurance Program, retinal scanning and premise ID.”

One nominator wrote, “Marlin exemplifies the qualities of extension work; taking research information from the university, working with people and using innovative methods so they will adopt new practices and change their behaviors positively.”

Team Award

The CSU Extension Team Award is in recognition of sustained superior service; it recognizes program outcomes and impacts of a team effort. This year, the award went to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Branch Peeling Group. The detection of emerald ash borer in Boulder in September of 2013 led to the development of an EAB response team comprised of federal, state and local agencies. One component of the response to EAB was a delimitation survey in the City of Boulder to determine the extent of the infestation. Over 380 trees were sampled in Boulder and this required in excess of 830 limbs/branches to be peeled to determine if the trees were infested with EAB. An interagency team, organized to complete the branch peeling, learned and perfected the art of branch peeling, which is tedious intricate work. They trained a whole cadre of workers from agencies all across the Front Range, including many CSU Extension staff, and the group peeled and surveyed all of the branches in just a few months. This work was critical to the project and provided the necessary data to make recommendations to Boulder and the Front Range landowners on management strategies. The countless hours of effort put in by all of the ‘volunteers’ to perform the work shows their enormous commitment. There are many people recognized in this award: Colorado Department of Agriculture: John Kaltenbach,
Biological Control Specialist; Micaela Truslove, EAB Program Coordinator (current); Miriam Fishell, EAB Program Coordinator (former); Ralph Lee, Seasonal Technician (former) **Colorado State University Extension**: Dr. Tamla Blunt, Diagnostics Specialist (Dept. of BioAgricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Campus); Carol O’Meara, Extension Agent (Boulder); Mary Small, Extension Agent (Jefferson); Curtis Utley, Research Associate (Jefferson); Dr. Alison O’Connor, Extension Agent (Larimer); Cassey Anderson, Horticulture Assistant, (Boulder); Dr. Tony Koski, Turfgrass Specialist (Dept. of Horticulture & L.A., Campus); Eric Hammond, Extension Agent (Adams); Sharon Moore, Horticulture Technician (Adams); Rich Guggenheim, Extension Coordinator (Morgan); Brian Kailey, Extension Coordinator (Logan); Alexis Alvey, Extension Agent (Denver, former); Zach Williams, Horticulture Assistant (Boulder) **City of Boulder Forestry**: Kathleen Alexander, City Forester; Kendra Nash, Ken Fisher, Tom Read, Patrick Bohin, Assistant Foresters **USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service**: Lisa Peraino, Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist **Colorado State Forest Service**: Keith Wood, Community Forester **U.S. Forest Service**: Sky Stephens, Forest Entomologist; Justin Hof, Rebecca Powell, Justin Backsen **Colorado State University BioAgricultural Sciences and Pest Management**: Dr. Boris Kondratieff, Professor; Dr. Whitney Cranshaw, Professor and Entomology Specialist **Boulder County Parks and Open Space**: Cathy Thiltgen, Arborist; Darrin Cole, Grounds Technician
Diversity

This year’s Extension Diversity Award was presented to Glenda Wentworth, family and consumer science agent and county director in Eagle County.

The high cost of living combined with seasonal and low-wage jobs in the rural resort communities of Eagle County presents challenges for many families; but particularly those in the Latino community, who disproportionately suffer from chronic disease. The Latino immigrants find work in low-paying, often seasonal jobs in the tourism industry and in manual labor. The health disparities that exist among the Latino population in Eagle County enabled Eagle County Public Health and Environment (ECPHE) to be awarded a three-year grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity. The resulting cooking show program, “iEstoy Sa no!” is dedicated to increasing healthy eating among the Spanish speaking population by increasing nutrition awareness and education, as well as changing the food environment.

Over the years CSU Extension has also provided leadership to other programs in nutrition outreach to the Latino community; the cooking show is a project that has provided Latinos with greater knowledge and self-efficacy around nutrition and healthy cooking. The Eagle County Health Department partnered with CSU Extension to assist with nutrition awareness and education components of the grant. Glenda organized and led an effort to produce 32 Spanish language cooking shows, which air on the local television station and are distributed via DVD at community events. The iEstoy Sa no! Cooking Show has been aired in other parts of Colorado, including Pueblo, and even as far as Manatee County, Florida. This program will continue to have impacts beyond the county borders and throughout the entire nation for many years.
Distinguished Service Award-Community Engagement

Greg Felsen, La Plata County 4-H Program Agent, is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for Community Engagement award, which celebrates the people who are creating genuine partnerships and collaborations with communities, businesses or schools, and utilize CSU resources to address or resolve community challenges.

“Our community and society are experiencing changes (technological, rural moving to more urban) that sometimes present challenges to 4-H to maintain its relevance,” one nominator wrote. “Over the last 25 years, La Plata County has seen fewer children growing up with exposure to agriculture and traditional 4-H themes. Greg has successfully helped foster growth in our 4-H programs at a time when many 4-H programs are struggling. He has done this by creating a shared vision for strong traditional 4-H clubs and nontraditional and non-club after school and school enrichment development programs.”

Colorado State University Extension provides reliable, research-based information, research capabilities and resources to Coloradans from all walks of life. Extension, which is available to residents in 61 of Colorado’s 64 counties, is dedicated to serving current and future needs of Coloradans by providing the information and programs that safeguard health, increase livelihood and enhance well-being.