Cooperative Extension is the off-campus educational arm of Colorado State University. The Cooperative Extension system, a nationwide educational network, is a partnership of county, state and federal governments working cooperatively with the private sector. The Smith-Lever Act established state Extension Services as a third program branch, along with resident instruction and research, of the land-grant universities in each state. Cooperative Extension agents and specialists are faculty of Colorado State University. They work with local constituents throughout Colorado in planning, developing and implementing the educational programs of Cooperative Extension. Volunteers also have an important role in the delivery of Extension programs. Cooperative Extension programs serve Coloradans wherever they live.

Funding for Cooperative Extension is provided from multiple sources: federal, state, county and non-tax monies. Federal funds are allocated to the states on the basis of law and formula. Additionally, some federal funds are earmarked to meet special national priority needs. Cooperative Extension receives state funds from Colorado State University’s allocation through the Colorado Commission on Higher Education as part of the state’s higher education budget. County commissioners appropriate annual budget funds to support the operation of the Cooperative Extension office in their county. Some funds are received from non-tax sources such as program grants and cost recovery fees.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension is a dynamic flexible organization dedicated to delivering quality, relevant programs most needed by people throughout the state. Extension engages a responsive network of citizens, scientists and educators who can anticipate and address local needs and problems. We focus on programs in the areas in which we have a research base and can make significant contributions. Our six statewide priority programs are:

* Enhancing Families and Communities
* Growing Horticulture in Colorado
* Improving Nutrition, Food Safety and Health
* Integrating Natural Resources
* Strengthening Youth Development
* Sustaining Agriculture and the Environment