



PALMER LAND CONSERVANCY

LOCAL FOOD GUIDE

Southern Colorado

FIRST EDITION | 2022



Loving a place isn't enough.

**YOU MUST HAVE
THE COURAGE
TO PROTECT IT.**



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EXPLORE LOCAL FOOD

From the famed Pueblo chile, to sweet Rocky Ford melons, to local beef, the family farms and ranches in southern Colorado work year-round to produce delicious and healthy food for us. Fortunately, we are blessed with an incredible combination of sun, soil, and water providing our region with some of the most productive agricultural land in the nation.

What you'll find

This guide is your key to discovering our region's bounty. Throughout these pages you will find a comprehensive listing of producers and farmers markets where you can buy direct from farmers and ranchers.

Highlighting producers from Chaffee County to Otero County, this guide also features producer profiles, recipes, articles, and a self-guided bike tour map of some of our region's premier agricultural lands. With this unique and comprehensive guide, our goal is to strengthen relationships between community members like you, and the region's agricultural producers.

NOURISHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Our hope is that Palmer's Southern Colorado Local Food Guide serves as a source of inspiration and celebration of what makes our region so special. At Palmer Land Conservancy, our vision is to be a part of creating a healthy and vibrant future for the next generation of Coloradans. We hope you will join us by connecting with your local farmers and ranchers and discovering some of the best of southern Colorado.

Bon appetit!



HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN COLORADO

The development of agriculture over 12,000 years ago changed the way humans live. We transitioned from a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle to farming with more permanent settlements that provided a more reliable food supply. In Colorado, Indigenous peoples contended with limited precipitation by building dams, canals, and terraces to irrigate food crops in the desert Southwest, including parts of the Arkansas River Valley. When Anglo-Americans arrived in Colorado, they found plains tribes

growing the three sisters: corn, beans, and squash. The Arkansas River marked the boundary between Mexican and U.S. territories, and Spanish-speaking immigrants settled along its southern tributaries—the Huerfano, Cucharas, and Purgatoire rivers—irrigating small patches of cultivated land as their forebears had done.

Commercial agriculture developed in the Pikes Peak region after gold was discovered in 1858. Once fortune seekers began to realize the difficulty

of striking rich, many turned in their pickaxes for plows and focused on the fertile lands in the lower Arkansas Valley. It quickly became apparent that commercial agriculture would require irrigation to succeed, and construction of canals and ditches allowed farms to flourish in the drought-prone climate.

While population growth, drought, wildfires, and flooding continue to present challenges to those who steward the land today, agriculture remains a living tradition in southern Colorado communities. From the fertile farms of southeastern Colorado to the headwaters of the Arkansas River basin where cattle and hay ranches are nestled among the mountains, farming and ranching is essential to our economy, communities, and way of life in southern Colorado.

Otero County

A heavy hitter in Colorado agriculture, Otero County's Rocky Ford region is famous. Ask any Coloradan what they think of when they hear "Rocky Ford," and they'll tell you melons. The Rocky Ford cantaloupe has been a point of pride for the region for more than 130 years.

One of the founders of the Rocky Ford melon industry, George W. Swink moved to southern Colorado in 1871, where he quickly saw the region's farming potential. Swink helped construct essential irrigation ditch and canal routes, transforming the region into an agricultural powerhouse. The dramatic day to night temperature fluctuations make Rocky Ford's cantaloupe and watermelon some of the sweetest in the nation. Swink introduced honeybees in 1878, which proved crucial to pollinating mass amounts of melon crops, and established Melon Day, a festival which grew into the Arkansas Valley Fair, the oldest continuous fair in Colorado.

While focused on expanding production, Swink also paid attention to the development of quality, testing numerous varieties to identify those most appropriate to the lower Arkansas Valley. His efforts inspired others with more technical knowledge to devote their talents to local agriculture, and by 1926, farmers in and around Otero County produced 95 percent of all the cantaloupe seed grown in the U.S. and a large share of the watermelon seed. Today, melons remain the region's pride and joy.

Pueblo County

Best known as “Steel City” for its history of steel and rail production, Pueblo County has also been recognized for its premier agricultural lands for more than a century. Many of the family-owned farms in the county represent generations of families who have stewarded the land and helped solidify the county as some of the best farmland in the nation.

In 1868, while visiting farms throughout the state for Rocky Mountain News, Dr. William R. Thomas visited 86 farms along Fountain Creek near Pueblo. He found corn was the principal crop, followed by wheat, oats, barley, and other grains. As Dr. Thomas traveled around other farms in the county, including those in the Huerfano Valley, he found similar crop trends.

Historically, potato crops proliferated throughout Colorado, and in 1868, the Pueblo Chieftain reported that John J. Sease of St. Charles Mesa grew a potato weighing more than 2.5 pounds, part of a 150-bushel crop grown on 0.4 acre. But no discussion of Pueblo’s agriculture would be complete without mentioning

the renown Pueblo chile. Brought to the area by Mexicans moving to the region, chiles enjoy a long, rich history in the county. Today, the most popular strain, the Mosco, is a more recent development.

Released to growers in 2005, the Mosco chile was developed from Mira Sol plant stock by Dr. Mike Bartolo, a vegetable crop specialist with Colorado State University (now retired). Dr. Bartolo developed the Mosco chile from seed stock given to him by his late uncle, Harry Mosco (for whom the chile is named), a farmer on St. Charles Mesa.

Thick fruit walls makes the Mosco ideal for roasting, the traditional method for preparing Pueblo chiles, as it is less prone to splitting during roasting, ensuring the juices don’t seep out and evaporate. As a result, Mosco chiles maintain their rich flavor much better than other strains.

One of the largest events in southern Colorado, the three-day Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival, celebrates Pueblo chiles and Pueblo County agriculture.

In addition to chiles, crops like corn, beans, pumpkins, squash, beets,

watermelons, cantaloupes, and hay are also staples grown in the county.

Fremont County

As Thomas continued his 1868 tour of Colorado agriculture, he observed 66 well-developed farms on Beaver and Hardscrabble Creeks in Fremont County. As in Pueblo County, corn was the principal crop at that time, with wheat ranking second. Just a year before Thomas toured Fremont County, W.C. Catlin planted the first fruit trees on record in the area. Costing more than \$500, these expensive trees were delivered across the plains via wagon; however, very few survived into the 1920s. It wasn’t until Jesse Frazier’s efforts to establish apple trees that fruit production took hold in the region. His apple orchard became the largest in the state. In 1888, more than 720,000 pounds of fruit was shipped from the county, including apples, pears, grapes, plums, peaches, strawberries, and more.

By 1926, the Upper Arkansas Valley was considered one of the state’s more important regions for commercial fruit production, and orchards in eastern

Fremont County continue to produce a variety of fruit, thanks to enduring enterprises like Colon Orchards in Cañon City. The county also produces grapes, as well as other vegetable crops, and beef.

El Paso & Teller Counties

After President James Buchanan signed an act creating the Territory of Colorado, El Paso County became one of the original 17 counties created by the Colorado legislature in 1861. The county seat was located in Old Colorado City (now part of Colorado Springs), which sprung up in 1859 and boasted more than 300 dwellings by 1860. William Campbell, Hubbell Talcott, and John Bley built cabins along Fountain Creek and diverted the waters to support farmers, creating the first local water rights.

Irrigated farming in El Paso County has always been tricky. In 1865, El Paso County agriculture experienced the devastation of a “grasshopper year” with swarms not only devouring crops, but also eating leather, wood, and wool. Given the level of toil required to irrigate and raise crops in the area, local residents



were so dismayed that they halted work on the Ute Pass Road, deemed important for connecting agricultural producers with the mining districts.

Even after the grasshopper year, raising crops proved problematic. Farmers suffered another bad year in 1888 from a combination of drought and early frost, and no fruits were harvested that year except in the Fountain Valley where irrigation was possible. Nonetheless, farmers persisted and eventually managed to grow wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, potatoes, timothy, clover, and alfalfa without irrigation. However, irrigated acreage yielded 572 bushels of fruit, including 150 quarts of blackberries, 5,795 quarts of currants, 2,170 quarts of raspberries, and 890 quarts of strawberries. Animal

byproducts, such as meat, cheese, butter, and honey, were more productive. In 1888 El Paso County produced 90,500 pounds of cheese, 83,655 pounds of butter, and 4,125 pounds of honey.

Teller County was formed from part of El Paso County in 1899, the result of political differences between miners in what is now Teller County and mine owners, many of whom lived in Colorado Springs. Though once an important lettuce-producing county, its main crop today is hay, primarily for beef cattle, with a few farmers raising crops like beets, radishes, and hops.

At present, El Paso County's annual farm commodity sales exceed \$31 million with Teller County sales at over \$1.2 million. Statewide, El Paso ranks third in raising horses, goats and chickens; first in production of nursery stock; and second in sod production.

Chaffee County

In the 1920s, Buena Vista became known as the "Head Lettuce Capital of the World." Lettuce is well-suited to Chaffee County's short growing season, and Buena Vista benefited from other favorable conditions—ice and transportation. During winter and spring, workers cut large blocks of ice from

Franklin Reservoir, better known as Ice Lake, which supplied millions of pounds of ice that kept lettuce cold during transport to East Coast markets via the nearby Denver and Rio Grande rail line.

G.D. Isabel deserves much of the credit for Chaffee County's once-burgeoning lettuce industry. In 1918, he rented 10 acres on the Burleson Farm near Buena Vista. Later that year, he harvested enough lettuce to fill a train car, earning him approximately \$7,000. By 1921, local lettuce growers had organized the Colorado Co-operative Lettuce Growers' Association at Buena Vista, which also handled other produce like peas and cauliflower.

Lettuce is still grown in the region, along with produce like squash, carrots, broccoli, and herbs. Farm commodity sales in Chaffee County total \$12,237,000 annually. But now hay, including alfalfa, dominates the county's crop production, and most of the hay which supports the area's cattle ranching. In business for 70 years, Scanga Meat Co. continues to process local livestock, supplying retail clients as well as restaurants across the region.

Custer & Huerfano Counties

In 1924, Custer County was once counted among Colorado's major lettuce-producing counties along with Chaffee, Teller, Fremont, and Eagle Counties. By then, Colorado had increased head lettuce production to 5,600 acres, earning growers \$975,000. The following year, lettuce-growing acreage almost doubled to 10,500 acres with a crop value of \$2.1 million. Other high-elevation vegetable crops included cauliflower, peas, and spinach.

Today, Custer County's days as a lettuce producer have gone, replaced by hay, which supports an active ranching community. The county also has 38 active honeybee colonies.

Huerfano County's modern day agricultural roots stem largely from Hispano shepherds moving into the area in the 1860s from the San Luis Valley, bringing sheep grazing into the region. But by the turn of the 20th century, much of the rangelands were purchased by Anglo-American ranchers. Today, Huerfano County's primary commodities consist of hay and cattle.





FIND A PRODUCER

Southern Colorado is home to some of the most productive farm and ranchland in the state.

Enjoy discovering our region's locally-owned and operated agriculture operations that continue to sustain our families and communities—all day, every day.

The producers featured here, organized by region, sell directly to consumers either online or in-person at farm stands or farmers markets.

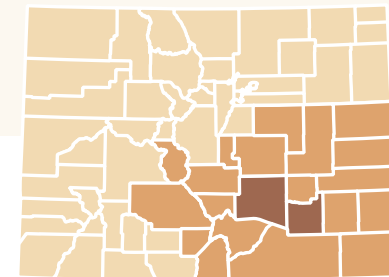
WHAT DO THEY OFFER?

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Produce |  Bread |
|  Dairy |  Seeds/Plants |
|  Milk |  CSA |
|  Eggs |  Honey |
|  Meat | |





PUEBLO & ROCKY FORD



A DIAMOND BRAND

Offerings: 🍷

☎ (719) 252-5973

🌐 adiamondbrand.us

1 BAUSERMAN'S FARM MARKET

Offerings: 🍏

📖 11786 US-50,
Manzanola, CO 81058

☎ (719) 462-5508

🌐 bauserman-fruit-vegetable.business.site

CRANSON ORGANIC FARM MARKET

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬 🥦

☎ (719) 469-5166

📘 Find us on Facebook

CRITE'S PRODUCE

Offerings: 🍏

☎ (719) 568-2312

📘 Find us on Facebook

2 DISANTI FARMS

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬 🥦

📖 29114 S Rd, Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 948-2526

📘 Find us on Facebook

3 DITOMASO FARMS

Offerings: 🍏

📖 37137 US-50 BUS
Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 948-3200

📘 Find us on Facebook

GREENHORN FARMSTEAD

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬

☎ (719) 485-6160

🌐 greenhornfarmstead.com

4 HANAGAN FARMS

Offerings: 🍏 🥬

📖 25388 County Rd 24.5
La Junta, CO 81050

☎ (719) 384-5067

🌐 hanaganfarms.com

HIRAKATA FARMS

Offerings: 🍏

☎ (719) 254-7614

🌐 hirakatafarms.com

5 KNAPP'S FARM MARKET

Offerings: 🍏

📖 29742 CO-71
Rocky Ford, CO 81067

☎ (719) 254-6265

📘 Find us on Facebook

LARGA VISTA RANCH AND DAIRY

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬

☎ (719) 947-0982

🌐 largavistaranch.com

6 LUSK FARM MARKET

Offerings: 🍏

📖 26020 US-50
La Junta, CO 81050

☎ (719) 469-2405

📘 Find us on Facebook

7 MAURO FARMS

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬

📖 936 36th Ln, Pueblo, CO
81006

☎ (719) 948-3381

🌐 maurofarms.com

8 MILBERGER FARMS AT PEPPE'S

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬

📖 28570 US-50 BUS
Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 948-3305

🌐 milbergerfarms.com

9 MUSSO FARMS

Offerings: 🍏

📖 35779 Hillside Rd,
Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 948-3581

🌐 mussofarmsschileroom.com

10 NOLA NATURALS

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬 🥦

📖 46000 Olson Road
Avondale, CO 81022

☎ (719) 942-3000

🌐 nolanaturalsfarms.com

11 PADILLA'S PRODUCE

Offerings: 🍏

📖 2990 Colorado 207
Manzanola, CO 81058

☎ (719) 357-7344

📘 Find us on Facebook

12 PEPPERS & PETALS

Offerings: 🍏 🥕 🥬 🥦 🍷

📖 2115 Santa Fe Dr
Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 546-3137

📘 Find us on Facebook

PUEBLO SEED & FOOD COMPANY

Offerings: 🍏 🥕

☎ (719) 250-9835

🌐 farmdirectseed.com

RANCHO LARGO CUSTOM BEEF

Offerings: 🍷

☎ (719) 738-1699

🌐 rancholargo.com

RUSLER PRODUCE

Offerings: 🍏

☎ (719) 947-3361

🌐 ruslerproduce.com

13 SACKETT FARM MARKET

Offerings: 🍏

📖 20277 US-50
Rocky Ford, CO 81067

☎ (719) 254-6559

14 SMITH FARMS

Offerings: 🍏

📖 300 Market St, Rocky Ford, CO

☎ (719) 469-6550

📘 Find us on Facebook





FEATURED FARM

DiSanti Farms

As a fifth generation family-owned farm, the DiSanti's began growing vegetables in Pueblo in 1890, just a few miles from the current headquarters on South Road on the St. Charles Mesa. With humble beginnings, the DiSanti family has evolved into a successful retail and wholesale grower and shipper that produces 26 different crops, which are marketed throughout the state of Colorado. The farm also has an on-site stand that offers a wide variety of vegetables and fruits, as well as jams, jellies, salsa, flowers, and fresh beef. Customers have been known to rave about the farm's bountiful flower market in the spring and roasted green chiles in the fall.

DiSanti Farms maintains a strong commitment to family, a rural lifestyle, and to providing the freshest and highest quality produce to their local communities. Be sure to stop by in the summer for a visit.

2

FIND DISANTI FARMS
ON THE PRODUCER MAP

PUEBLO COUNTY

📍 29114 S Rd.
Pueblo, CO 81006

☎ (719) 948-2526

📘 Find us on Facebook

Recipe Spotlight

Pueblo Green Chili

This recipe has been respectfully adapted from various sources in Pueblo, from abuelitas to restaurateurs.



GET THE RECIPE

Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.



Bessemer Farmland Conservation Project

PROTECTING LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE IN PUEBLO COUNTY

Palmer Land Conservancy is working with Pueblo County's farmers, community leaders, public water utility, elected officials, and various conservation stakeholders to mitigate the effects of an impending dry-up of nearly one-third of Pueblo County's irrigated farmland on the Bessemer Ditch.

What started as a small, grassroots community initiative has grown into a nationally recognized historic water conservation project—a project that will not only help to safeguard Pueblo County's agricultural, economic, and ecological future, but will serve as a replicable model for other water-starved regions in the West.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Watch the video to see how Palmer is protecting family-owned farms in Pueblo County



Hit the bike trail with us every fall for our annual Bike the Bessemer event.

This fun-filled and educational ride showcases Pueblo County's premier agricultural lands and important water resources. After your 11-mile ride, grab a beer and enjoy a delicious farm-to-table lunch.

palmerland.org/events

TICKETS: \$50/PERSON





FEATURED FARM | CONSERVED SINCE 2020

Hanagan Farms

Over 115 years of hard work and history make the Hanagan Farm, a Colorado Centennial Farm located southeast of Rocky Ford in Otero County, a southern Colorado treasure. The family-owned and operated farm grows a variety of vegetables for retail and wholesale distribution on over 1,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

They offer “pick your own” chiles and tomatoes when they’re in season, and they’ll roast them for you before you leave. You can also purchase their freshly grown produce through their CSA program or find them at the farmers markets throughout the summer.

In 2019, the Hanagan family chose to protect their land with the help of Palmer Land Conservancy to ensure it remained in agriculture production forever.

4

FIND HANAGAN FARMS
ON THE PRODUCER MAP

OTERO COUNTY

25388 County Rd 24.5
La Junta, CO 81050

(719) 384-5067

hanaganfarms.com

Recipe Spotlight

Rocky Ford Melon Salsa



Excellent topping for grilled chicken breasts or a white fish (such as halibut). This recipe can be adapted to your liking.



GET THE RECIPE

Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.



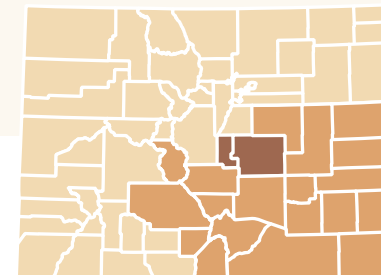
RECIPE TIP:

If using a watermelon, consider adding in some chopped-up briny cheese, such as feta or grilled halloumi.





EL PASO & TELLER COUNTIES



AHAVAH FARMS

Offerings: 🍎 🥕 🥬

📞 (719) 233-7828

🌐 ahavahfarm.com

BLUE SKIES ORGANIC VEGETABLES

Offerings: 🍎

📞 (719) 242-5365

📱 Find us on Facebook

COLORADO NATURAL MEATS

Offerings: 🍖

📞 (719) 433-3179

🌐 coloradonaturalmeats.com

CORNER POST MEATS

Offerings: 🍖

📞 (303) 898-0642

🌐 cornerpostmeats.com

EMERGE AQUAPONICS

Offerings: 🍎

📞 (719) 270-0889

🌐 emergeaquaponics.com

FROST LIVESTOCK

Offerings: 🍎 🥕 🥬 🥩 🥓

📞 (719) 930-0700

🌐 frost-livestock.com

GUTHRIE CATTLE CO.

Offerings: 🍖

📞 (720) 315-4938

🌐 guthriecattle.com

HERITAGE BELLE FARMS

Offerings: 🍎 🥕

📞 (970) 310-0852

🌐 heritagebellefarms.com

PBJ CATTLE COMPANY

Offerings: 🍖

📞 (719) 306-4005

🌐 pbjcattle.com

15 RANCH FOODS DIRECT

Offerings: 🍎 🥕 🥬 🥩 🥓 🥞

📖 1228 E Fillmore St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

📖 4635 Town Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80916

📞 (719) 623-2980

🌐 ranchfoodsdirect.com

16 SMITH FARMS

Offerings: 🍎

📖 8310 Blue Gill Dr Peyton, CO 80831

📞 (719) 469-2780

📱 Find us on Facebook

THE URBAN ORCHARD

Offerings: 🍎 🥕

📞 (719) 314-6902

🌐 urbanorchardco.com

17 VIGIL FARMS

Offerings: 🍎 🥕

📖 4526 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Colorado Springs, CO 80918

📞 (719) 209-4935

🌐 vigilfarms.com

BLACK SHEEP PASTURES

Offerings: 🍖 🥓

📱 Find us on Facebook

LOCKHART HONEY FARMS

Offerings: 🍯

🌐 lockharthoneyfarms.com



SMALL

INDEPENDENT FAMILY MARKETS

PUEBLO COUNTY

GAGLIANOS ITALIAN MARKET & DELI

📖 1220 Elm Street Pueblo CO 81006

📞 (719) 544-6058

🌐 gaglianosmarket.com

CHAFFEE COUNTY

SCANGA MEAT

📖 9250 County Rd 156 Salida, CO 81201

📞 (719) 539-3511

🌐 scangameat.com

EL PASO COUNTY

RANCH FOODS DIRECT TOWN CENTER

📖 4635 Town Center Drive Colorado Springs, CO

📞 (719) 559-0873

RANCH FOODS DIRECT FILLMORE

📖 1228 E. Fillmore Street Colorado Springs, CO

📞 (719) 623-2980

🌐 ranchfoodsdirect.com





FEATURED RANCH | CONSERVED SINCE 2007 BY COLORADO OPEN LANDS

Frost Livestock

A multi-generational conserved working ranch and farm in eastern El Paso County, Frost Livestock was founded in 1958 in the heart of the Fountain Valley. The Fountain Creek Ranch, home to Frost Livestock, was originally built by Jon Wallace Frost II to support his family of eleven.

Now in its fourth generation of ranching and farming, the Frost family continues to operate with a focus on local food and sustainability. They offer fresh produce, grass-fed-and-finished beef and lamb, eggs, and more through their CSA program and through farmers markets in the region.

Frost Livestock offers a hunting club, the Frost Sportsmen Club, and the property also boasts a stunning farm-to-table wedding and event venue.

EL PASO COUNTY

☎ (719) 930-0700

🌐 frost-livestock.com

LEAN & CLEAN



Grass-fed beef may contain less total fat than grain-fed beef, but a lot more omega-3 fatty acids and CLA, which are both linked to health benefits.



Ride, Stay, or Play RANCHES OF SOUTHERN COLORADO

Grab your hats and boots and head on out to experience one of southern Colorado's authentic working ranches to ride, stay, or play. These family-owned ranches have opened their gates for you to have a unique Colorado wedding, ranching, or hunting experience.

BADGER CREEK RANCH
badgercreekranch.com

FROST LIVESTOCK
frost-livestock.com

MUSIC MEADOWS RANCH
musicmeadows.com

EVERETT RANCH WEDDINGS
everetranchweddings.com

HUTCHINSON RANCH
hutchranchsalida.com

RANCHLANDS
ranchlands.com





Southern Colorado Local Food Guide



Markets

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Excelsior Farmer's Exchange | 11 Monument Farmers Market |
| 2 Pueblo Riverwalk Farmers Market | 12 Old Colorado City Farmers Market |
| 3 Pueblo West Community Marketplace | 13 Woodland Park Farmers Market |
| 4 Southern Colorado Farmers Market and Craft Fair | 14 Cañon City Farmers Market |
| 5 Backyard Market at Ridgeline | 15 Florence Farmers Market |
| 6 Backyard Market at Black Forest | 16 Buena Vista Farmers Market |
| 7 Banning Lewis Ranch Farmers Market | 17 Salida Farmers Market |
| 8 Briargate Farmers Market | 18 Walsenburg Farm and Makers Market |
| 9 Colorado Farm and Art Market | 19 Westcliffe Farmers Market |
| 10 Cordera Farmers Market | 20 Gardner Farmer & Craft Market |
| | 21 La Veta Farmers Market |

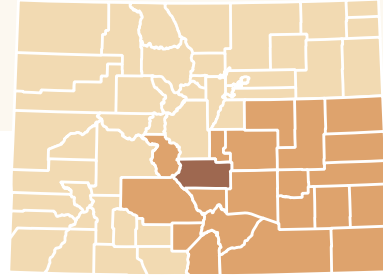
Producers

Producers featured here sell directly in-person at farm stands or markets.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Bauserman's Farm Market | 9 Musso Farms | 17 Vigil Farms |
| 2 DiSanti Farms | 10 Nola Naturals | 18 Colon Orchards |
| 3 DiTomaso Farms | 11 Padilla's Produce | 19 Desert Canyon Farms |
| 4 Hanagan Farms | 12 Peppers & Petals | 20 Our Backyard |
| 5 Knapp's Farm Market | 13 Sackett Farm Market | 21 Stately Farms |
| 6 Lusk Farm Market | 14 Smith Farms (Rocky Ford) | 22 Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy |
| 7 Mauro Farms | 15 Ranch Foods Direct | 23 L&M Ranch |
| 8 Milberger Farms at Peppe's | 16 Smith Farms (Peyton) | |



FREMONT COUNTY



BADGER CREEK RANCH

Offerings: 🍌 🥚

📞 (719) 837-2962

🌐 badgercreekranch.com

18 COLON ORCHARDS

Offerings: 🍌 🥚 🥛 🥦 🥕

📖 3175 Grandview Ave
Cañon City, CO 81212

📞 (719) 275-6359

🌐 colonorchards.com

19 DESERT CANYON FARMS

Offerings: 🥦

📖 1270 Field Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212

📞 (719) 275-0651

🌐 desertcanyonfarm.wordpress.com

HIGH COUNTRY GREENS

Offerings: 🍌

📞 (719) 744-2894

🌐 high-country-greens.business.site

NEW ROOTS FARM

Offerings: 🍌 🥦

📞 (719) 671-4273

🌐 newrootsfarmllc.com

OSWALD GRASS FED BEEF

Offerings: 🥩

📞 (719) 942-4361

🌐 oswaldgrassfedbeef.com

20 OUR BACKYARD

Offerings: 🍌

📖 1614 Ash St.
Cañon City, CO 81212

📞 (719) 276-3703

🌐 ourbackyard-canoncity.com

21 STATELY FARMS

Offerings: 🍌

📖 1607 Sherman Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212

📞 (719) 275-3936

🌐 statelypharms.com

VIRESCO FARM

Offerings: 🍌 🥚

📞 (719) 204-5052

🌐 virescofarm.ecwid.com

LOCAL FOOD at your fingertips

Keep a copy of this food guide in your car and your house, but when you're on the go, explore the digital version online!

palmerland.org/find-local-food



GET THE FOOD GUIDE

Scan to visit Palmer's interactive online food guide.





FEATURED FARM

Colon Orchards

For over 85 years, Colon Orchards has been a farming icon of Cañon City offering a variety of Colorado grown farm fresh products. During the height of season you will find an abundance of fresh Colorado grown and produced products at this 4th generation family-run farm stand including roasted chiles, apples, peaches, melons, corn, squash, and tomatoes. They also carry a great selection of local dairy and meat products, beans, jams and jellies, eggs, and more. Who needs a conventional grocery store?

Experience a classic Colorado farm stand, and don't miss out on their fun corn maze and pumpkin patch for the kids in the fall.

18

FIND COLON ORCHARDS
ON THE PRODUCER MAP

FREMONT COUNTY

3175 Grandview Ave.
Canon City, CO 81212

(719) 275-6359

colonorchards.com

Recipe Spotlight

Boozy Apple Turnovers



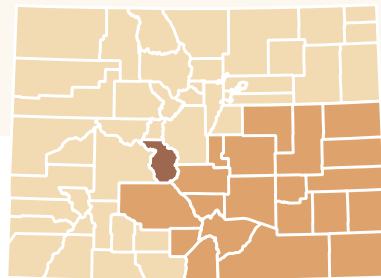
GET THE RECIPE
Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.

This recipe is perfect come apple harvest season. Granny Smiths are the old classic, but if you can find anything in a Cortland, Jonagold, or Empires, those are even better. Remember to always refrigerate your apples to make them last longer.





CHAFFEE COUNTY



ARROWPOINT CATTLE

Offerings: 🥩
 📞 (303) 618-3135
 🌐 arrowpointcattle.com

22 JUMPIN' GOOD GOAT DAIRY

Offerings: 🧀
 📖 31700 US-24
 Buena Vista, CO 81211
 📞 (719) 395-4646
 🌐 jumpingoodgoats.com

PONCHA CREEK GARDENS

Offerings: 🍅
 📞 (720) 380-2121
 🌐 ponchacreekgardens.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GARLIC

Offerings: 🍅
 📞 (719) 221-6943
 🌐 rockymountaingarlic.net

VALLEY ROOTS FOOD HUB

Offerings: 🥕 🥬 🥦
 📞 (719) 206-2839
 🌐 valleyrootsfoodhub.com

THE TRIANGLE OASIS

Offerings: 🍅 🥕 🥦
 📞 (719) 221-9072
 🌐 thetriangleoasis.com

WORTH THE WAIT

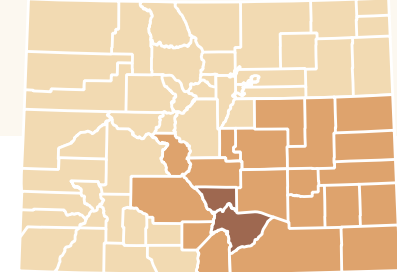
Asparagus takes three years to develop from seed to harvest.

They gain strength in year two and by the following spring, some of the spears are ready to harvest.

Once mature, asparagus plants can be cropped each spring for 15 years or more.



CUSTER & HUERFANO COUNTIES



FUNGUS AMONG US MEDICINALS

Offerings: 🍄
 🌐 fungusamongusmedicinals.com

23 L&M RANCH

Offerings: 🍅 🥕 🥦
 📖 198 Co Rd 440
 La Veta, CO 81058
 📞 (719) 890-4848
 🌐 lm ranch.us

SANGRES BEST BEEF

Offerings: 🥩
 📞 (719) 783-2222
 🌐 sangresbest.com

THARROS ACRES GRASSFED BEEF

Offerings: 🥩
 📞 (719) 371-3482
 🌐 tharrosacres.com

WESTCLIFFE MEATS

Offerings: 🥩
 📞 (719) 373-0196
 🌐 Westcliffemeats.com

WESTCLIFFE CHEESE COMPANY

Offerings: 🧀
 📞 (719) 640-7730
 🌐 westcliffcheesecompany.com

SPICY CHILES

Pueblo chiles range between 5,000 and 20,000 Scoville Heat Units. For reference, the jalapeño ranges between 2,500-8,000 and New Mexico's Hatch chile comes in between 1,000-8,000 SHU.





FEATURED FARM

Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy

With a goal to combine her love for goats and cheese-making with supplying sustainable food to her community, Dawn Jump founded Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy. Since 2008, this dairy and creamery has worked to supply the Upper Arkansas River Valley with handcrafted artisan cheese. Their award-winning cheese combines a flare for the modern with old-world cheesemaking traditions to provide customers with bright, unique flavors and cheese styles. Their flavors range from Rocky Mountain Dawn Chevre to Buena Vista Blue to Queso de Colorado, a traditional cheese wheel that incorporates dried chipotle peppers.

Stop by their country store to pick up some of their delectable goat cheeses and other locally-made provisions, or stay longer and enjoy an educational tour of their process and even meet some of the goats.

22

**FIND JUMPIN'
GOOD GOAT DAIRY**
ON THE PRODUCER MAP

CHAFFEE COUNTY

31700 US-24, Buena Vista, CO 81211

(719) 395-4646

jumpinggoodgoats.com



Recipe Spotlight

Spring Greens Salad

with Goat Cheese Medallions

Enjoy this refreshing salad as a light main course or as a side, just measure your leafy greens accordingly.



GET THE RECIPE

Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.





FEATURED RANCH | CONSERVED SINCE 2007 BY COLORADO OPEN LANDS

Sangres Best Grass-Finished Beef

Founded by third-generation rancher Elin Parker Ganschow, Sangres Best Grass-Finished Beef combines traditional agricultural knowledge with the latest science to grow the best possible grass for their cattle. Operating on the conserved 3,800-acre Music Meadows Ranch in the small Wet Mountain Valley town of Westcliffe, Sangres Best knows that good grass is the secret to great beef and boasts over 60 varieties of forage in their pastures.

Sangres Best ships nationwide and offers various beef shares and options as well throughout the year. Head to their website for recipes and tips if you're seeking a little inspiration for your burgers, roasts, and steaks.

CUSTER COUNTY

(719) 783-2222

sangresbest.com



Recipe Spotlight

Smoked Chuck Roast

RECIPE COURTESY OF SANGRES BEST BEEF

From Sangres Best: This isn't the traditional method of preparing this underrated cut, but it is by far our favorite. This one is meant for you to get creative. Use your favorite spice rub or fruit juice to obtain the flavors you're trying to achieve.



GET THE RECIPE

Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.





SELF-GUIDED

Pueblo Farm Bike Tour

While the chile reigns king, Pueblo County grows some of the best produce in the state. Delicious melons, sweet corn, tomatoes, beans, zucchini, squash, and pumpkins are just some of the many fruits and vegetables you can buy directly from the farm or farm stand. The great weather and bountiful produce combined with miles of flat, paved, and gravel roads make biking a perfect alternative to exploring Pueblo's breadbasket during the harvest season.

Here is Palmer's self-guided bike tour through St. Charles Mesa and Vineland in eastern Pueblo County—two of the county's premier agricultural communities. Stop in at the Great Divide Bike Shop to get squared away with your bike needs before venturing out. You can visit the six highlighted farm stands on this map in under 17 miles round-trip, but you can extend your ride to over 22 miles by riding Cortner Road. Most of the highlighted roads here are paved, but a couple are well-maintained gravel (Cortner and Jersey Roads).

Remember to be respectful and use standard road and cycling safety equipment and practices. Always wear a helmet and proper clothing, and obey traffic rules.



1 MILBERGER FARMS

28570 US-50 BUS, Pueblo, CO 81006

With crops ranging from asparagus to zucchini, Milberger Farms has something for anyone. Grab lunch at their deli with a cup of homemade Green Chili.

2 MUSSO FARMS

35779 Hillside Rd, Pueblo, CO 81006

This fifth-generation family farm sells a wide variety of produce, but it also boasts a "Chile Room" that's packed with chile-infused products, including everything from pasta to to pickles.

3 MAURO FARMS & BAKERY

936 36th Lane Pueblo, CO 81006

In addition to a bounty of produce, this fourth-generation family of bakers sells a wide variety of from-scratch baked goods, including their delicious potica.

4 DITOMASO FARMS

37137 US-50 BUS, Pueblo, CO 81006

Operating for over 100 years, DiTomaso Farms carries a wide variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables for you to take home, including a cornucopia of chile varieties to meet any taste bud requirements.

5 PANTALEO FARMS

39651 S Rd Pueblo, CO 81006

Well known for its fall pumpkin patch and corn maze, Pantaleo Farms and Pueblo Chili Company have a plethora of products from which to choose, including award-winning chile pepper sausage.

6 DISANTI FARMS

29114 S Rd, Pueblo, CO 81006

The DiSanti family started farming in 1890 and have kept the tradition going. With more than two dozen crops grown on their farm on St. Charles Mesa, DiSanti Farms has a strong background in providing high quality produce to the local and statewide communities.



FIND A MARKET



Southern Colorado is home to a large selection of fresh food markets.

Enjoy discovering our region's locally-owned and operated fresh food markets.

The markets featured here, organized by region, sell directly to consumers in-person at farm stands or farmers' markets.

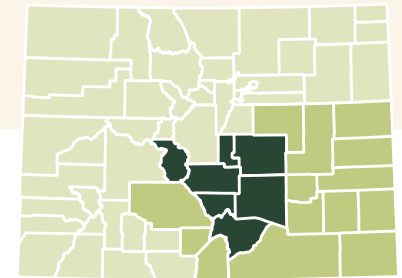
WHAT YOU WILL FIND:

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| Produce | Bread |
| Dairy | Seeds/Plants |
| Milk | CSA |
| Eggs | Honey |
| Meat | |





SOUTHERN COLORADO FARMERS MARKETS



PUEBLO & ROCKY FORD

1 EXCELSIOR FARMER'S EXCHANGE

📖 Pueblo, CO
 ☎ (719) 947-1087
 🌐 Find us on Facebook
 🌐 co.springsidecheese.com/excelsior-csa

2 PUEBLO RIVERWALK FARMERS MARKET

📖 101 S. Union Ave
 Pueblo, CO
 🌐 puebloriverwalk.org/events/farmers-market

3 PUEBLO WEST COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

📖 61 E. Civic Center Dr.
 Pueblo West, CO
 🌐 Find us on Facebook

4 SOUTHERN COLORADO FARMERS MARKET & CRAFT FAIR

📖 1600 N Santa Fe Ave.
 Pueblo, CO
 🌐 Find us on Facebook

EL PASO & TELLER COUNTIES

5 BACKYARD MARKET AT RIDGELINE

📖 11631 Ridgeline Dr.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 thebackyardmarkets.com

6 BACKYARD MARKET AT BLACK FOREST

📖 12530 Black Forest Rd.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 thebackyardmarkets.com

7 BANNING LEWIS RANCH FARMERS MARKET

📖 8833 Vista Del Pico Blvd.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 springsfarmersmarkets.com

8 BRIARGATE FARMERS MARKET

📖 7610 N. Union Blvd.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 springsfarmersmarkets.com

9 COLORADO FARM AND ART MARKET

📖 235 S Nevada
 Colorado Springs, CO
 📖 7350 Pine Creek Rd.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 farmandartmarket.com

10 CORDERA FARMERS MARKET

📖 11894 Grand Lawn Cr.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 springsfarmersmarkets.com

11 MONUMENT FARMERS MARKET

📖 66 Jefferson Street
 Monument, CO
 🌐 springsfarmersmarkets.com/monument

12 OLD COLORADO CITY FARMERS MARKET

📖 24th St. & W. Colorado Ave.
 Colorado Springs, CO
 🌐 pikespeakfarmersmarkets.com

13 WOODLAND PARK FARMERS MARKET

📖 Memorial Park
 Center St. & Henrietta Ave.
 Woodland Park, CO
 🌐 wpfarmersmarket.com

FREMONT COUNTY

14 CANON CITY FARMERS MARKET

📖 Main Street (4th - 7th St.)
 Canon City, CO
 🌐 greenthumb-initiative.com/farmers-market.html

15 FLORENCE FARMERS MARKET

📖 Florence Pioneer Park
 3rd St. & Pikes Peak
 Florence, CO
 🌐 Find us on Facebook

CHAFFEE COUNTY

16 BUENA VISTA FARMERS MARKET

📖 McPhelemy Park
 Buena Vista, CO
 🌐 foodshedalliance.com

17 SALIDA FARMERS MARKET

📖 Alpine Park
 5th and E Streets
 Salida, CO
 🌐 foodshedalliance.com

CUSTER & HUERFANO COUNTIES

18 WALSENBURG FARM & MAKERS MARKET

📖 Heritage Park
 Walsenburg, CO
 🌐 Find us on Facebook

19 WESTCLIFFE FARMERS MARKET

📖 315 Main Street
 Westcliffe, CO
 🌐 westcliffefarmersmarket.com

20 GARDNER FARMER & CRAFT MARKET

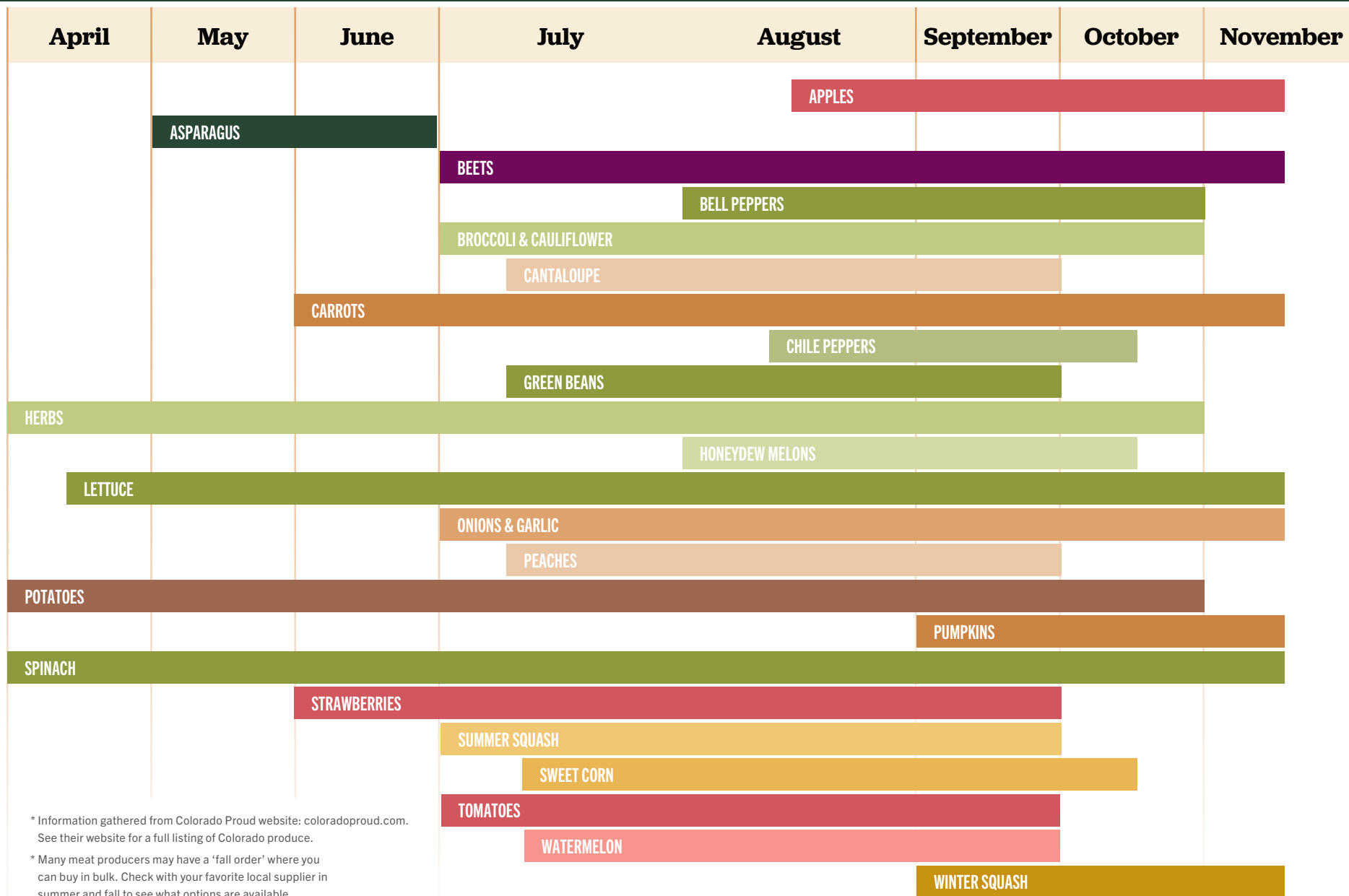
📖 Pavilion next to
 Gardner Methodist Church

21 LA VETA FARMERS MARKET

📖 310 S Main St.
 La Veta, CO
 🌐 Find us on Facebook



TOP 25 SOUTHERN COLORADO FOOD Guide to What's in Season





ESTD



1977

Land FOR Life

Since 1977, Palmer Land Conservancy has worked with individuals, private and public partners, and various communities to protect over 137,000 acres of land.

We exist to ensure that the reasons we love southern Colorado—its locally grown food, natural beauty, and outdoor spaces—can be enjoyed by everyone now and for future generations.

However, we're losing farm and ranchland at an alarming rate, and multigenerational agricultural families and communities are facing unprecedented challenges. For the health and wellbeing of people and nature, we need to support Colorado's working lands, rural communities, economies, and food supply. Palmer's farm

and ranchland protection work is a critical piece to that puzzle.

Our hope is that Palmer's Southern Colorado Local Food Guide serves as a source of inspiration and celebration and helps to create a vibrant and hopeful path for the next generation of Coloradans committed to local agriculture.

When we look back in five, ten, and fifty years, our vision is that we continue to feel proud to call southern Colorado home and know that, together, we took bold and swift action to protect the land today and for the future.

A LEADER IN COLORADO CONSERVATION 45 Years of Impact



Conserved over 100,000 acres of critical farm & ranchland ensuring local food production



Permanently conserved over 137,000 acres of land



Achieved an estimated \$136 million in on-the-ground conservation*



Protected 20 public parks and open spaces



Partnered with over 300 private & public landowners, funders, and partners



For every \$1 invested in conservation in the region, returned \$12 of ecological & economic benefit**



Led a historic water initiative aimed to solve the West's most pressing water issues

* Based on today's dollars and an average price per acre of \$1,000 in southern Colorado

** Based on Colorado State University's "Investing in Colorado: Colorado's Return on Investment in Conservation Easements" 2017



Be a Land Lover



What you love, you protect.

If you have strolled in a public park, explored a trail, eaten locally grown food or taken beautiful photographs outdoors, then you love the land.

But loving a place is just the beginning; you must have the courage to protect it. Together, we can ensure the Colorado we enjoy today is here forever.

YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT

➤ **Become a Member**

Donate today and join a passionate community of land lovers. In addition to our gratitude, receive exclusive invitations to member-only events, a copy of Palmer's field guide to protected properties, and more.

➤ **Get Social**

Support the conservation movement and learn more by following us on social media. Help us raise awareness about the importance of land and nature by sharing your stories and tagging us every time you enjoy outdoor recreation, local food, and beautiful views.

➤ **Explore & Discover**

Get to know our work better. There are a few good places to start online: Download our Field Guide and explore Palmer's 20 protected public parks and open spaces, or sign up to receive *Colorado Good Life*, Palmer's biannual magazine that features hidden gems, great hikes, delicious eats, and more throughout southern Colorado.

    **@palmerlandco**

Share with us! Tag your posts with: **#BEALANDLOVER**

palmerland.org

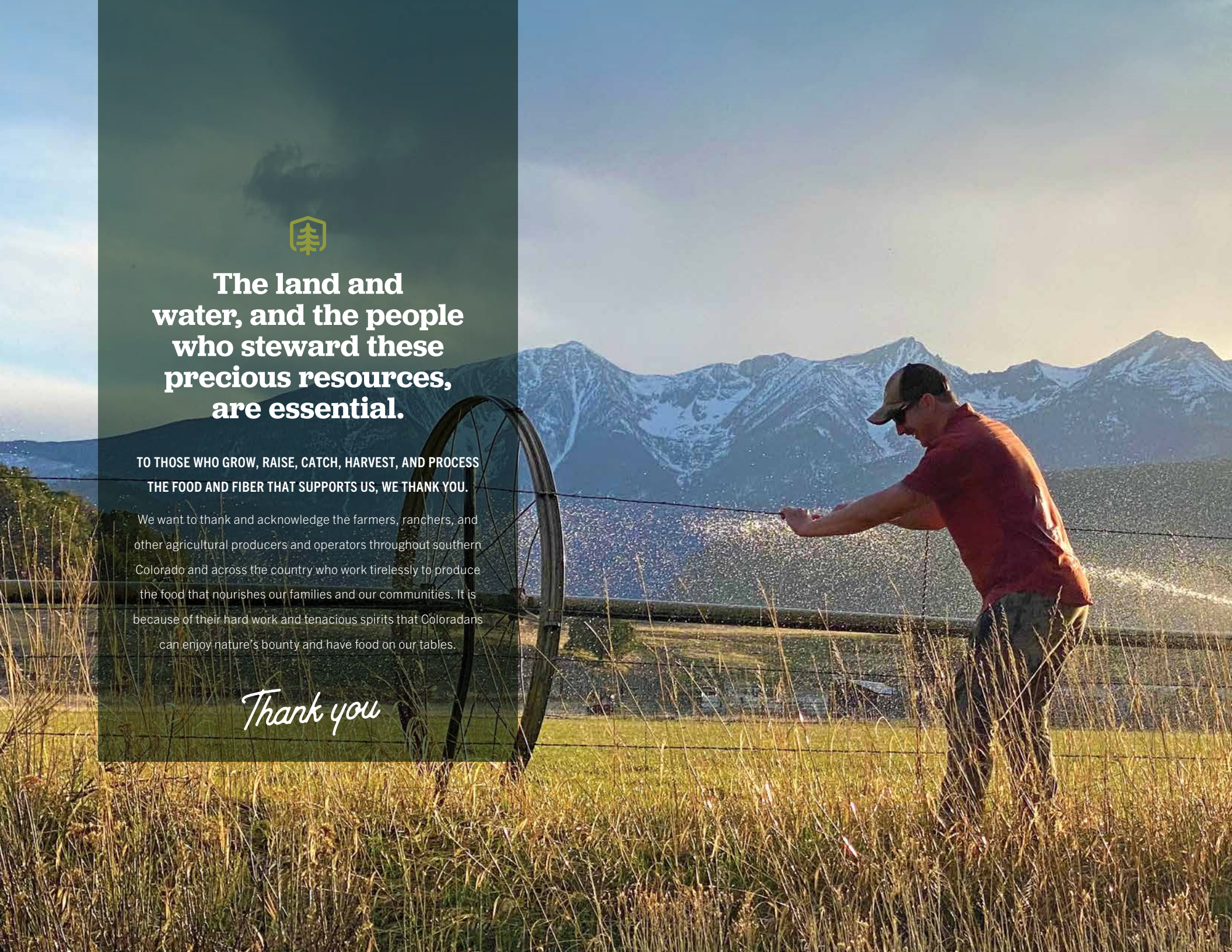


**The land and
water, and the people
who steward these
precious resources,
are essential.**

**TO THOSE WHO GROW, RAISE, CATCH, HARVEST, AND PROCESS
THE FOOD AND FIBER THAT SUPPORTS US, WE THANK YOU.**

We want to thank and acknowledge the farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers and operators throughout southern Colorado and across the country who work tirelessly to produce the food that nourishes our families and our communities. It is because of their hard work and tenacious spirits that Coloradans can enjoy nature's bounty and have food on our tables.

Thank you





COLO SPRINGS OFFICE

102 S. Tejon Street, Suite 360
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

PUEBLO OFFICE

121 W. City Center, Suite 200D
Pueblo, CO 81003

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