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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EXPLORING 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!
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 chilies, as it is less prone to splitting during roasting, ensuring the juices don’t seep out and evaporate. As a result, Mosco chilies 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 chilies and Pueblo County agriculture. In addition to chilies, 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 Hispanic 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.
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
- Dairy
- Milk
- Eggs
- Meat
- Bread
- Seeds/Plants
- CSA
- Honey
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<td>11786 US-50, Manzanola, CO 81058</td>
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<td>(719) 462-5508</td>
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<td>bauserman-fruit-vegetable.business.site</td>
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<td>DISANTI FARMS</td>
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<td>29114 S Rd, Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 948-2526</td>
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<td>DITOMASO FARMS</td>
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<td>37137 US-50 BUS Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 948-3200</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>HANAGAN FARMS</td>
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<td>25388 County Rd 24.5 La Junta, CO 81050</td>
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<td>(719) 384-5067</td>
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<td>hanaganfarms.com</td>
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<td>29742 CO-71 Rocky Ford, CO 81067</td>
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<td>(719) 254-7614</td>
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<td>26020 US-50 La Junta, CO 81050</td>
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<td>(719) 469-2405</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>MAURO FARMS</td>
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<td>936 36th Ln, Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 948-3381</td>
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<td>maurofarms.com</td>
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<td>MILBERGER FARMS AT PEPPE’S</td>
<td></td>
<td>28570 US-50 BUS Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 948-3305</td>
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<td>milbergerfarms.com</td>
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<td>MUSSO FARMS</td>
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<td>35779 Hillside Rd, Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 948-3581</td>
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<td>mussofarmschileroom.com</td>
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<td>NOLA NATURALS</td>
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<td>46000 Olson Road Avondale, CO 81022</td>
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<td>(719) 942-3000</td>
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<td>nolanaturalsfarms.com</td>
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<td>PADILLA’S PRODUCE</td>
<td></td>
<td>2990 Colorado 207 Manzanola, CO 81058</td>
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<td>(719) 357-7344</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PEPPERS &amp; PETALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>2115 Santa Fe Dr Pueblo, CO 81006</td>
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<td>(719) 546-3137</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SACKETT FARM MARKET</td>
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<td>20277 US-50 Rocky Ford, CO 81067</td>
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<td>(719) 254-6559</td>
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<td>300 Market St, Rocky Ford, CO</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>THE SUMMER’S HOUSE</td>
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<td>46000 Olson Road Avondale, CO 81022</td>
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<td>nolanaturalsfarms.com</td>
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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.

Recipe Spotlight

Pueblo Green Chili

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

PUEBLO COUNTY

29114 S Rd.
Pueblo, CO 81006

(719) 948-2526

Find us on Facebook

GET THE RECIPE

Scan to view the complete recipe on our website.
FEATURED FARM

Musso Farms

In operation since the 1960s, Musso Farms represents five generations of family-owned farming. Pull into the parking area after the wagon (or in the overflow lot across the street), and head back to the farm stand. You’ll find bins of vegetables grown on-site, including Peaches and Cream corn and Pueblo chiles. They also stock Palisade peaches, Rocky Ford melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, avocados, strawberries, raspberries, local meats, Colorado honey, delicious baked goods, and all manner of chile-infused products. In the adjacent Chile Room, you’ll find spices, rubs, sauces, and even some commemorative chile keychains and lunch boxes. Stop in on the weekends and you may even find ‘The Pork Chop Lady’ slinging delicious made-to-order grilled meals. Order a delicious pork chop, bratwurst, or a bowl of the fan-favorite grilled calabacita squash.

Recipe Spotlight

Pueblo Chile Pizza Rolls

This game day snack is super easy to make and absolutely packed full of flavor. We recommend using sausage from Gagliano’s Italian Market and cheese from Springside - two Pueblo institutions.

PUEBLO COUNTY

35779 Hillside Rd,
Pueblo, CO 81006

(719) 948-3581
mussofarmschileroom.com

Recipe Spotlight

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PALMER LAND CONSERVANCY

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

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
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.

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.

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

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

OTERO COUNTY

25388 County Rd 24.5
La Junta, CO 81050
(719) 384-5067
hanaganfarms.com

FIND HANAGAN FARMS ON THE PRODUCER MAP
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

RANCH FOODS DIRECT
Offerings:
(719) 623-2980
ranchfoodsdirect.com

SMITH FARMS
Offerings:
(719) 469-2780
Find us on Facebook

THE URBAN ORCHARD
Offerings:
(719) 314-6902
urbanorchardco.com

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
ranchfoodsdirect.com

RANCH FOODS DIRECT FILLMORE
1228 E. Fillmore Street
Colorado Springs, CO
(719) 623-2980
ranchfoodsdirect.com
Frost Livestock Co.

A multi-generational conserved working ranch and farm in eastern El Paso County, Frost Livestock Company 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.

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  
everettranchweddings.com

HUTCHINSON RANCH  
hutchranchsalida.com

RANCHLANDS  
ranchlands.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.
Producers

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

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

Markets

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

BADGER CREEK RANCH
Offerings: 🍃
(719) 837-2962
badgercreekranch.com

OSWALD GRASS FED BEEF
Offerings: 🍃
(719) 942-4361
oswaldgrassfedbeef.com

COLON ORCHARDS
Offerings: 🍃 🍃 🍃 🍃 🍃
3175 Grandview Ave
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-6359
colonorchards.com

OUR BACKYARD
Offerings: 🍃
1614 Ash St.
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719) 276-3703
ourbackyard-canoncity.com

DESSERT CANYON FARMS
Offerings: 🍃
1270 Field Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-0651
desertcanyonfarm.wordpress.com

STATELY FARMS
Offerings: 🍃
1607 Sherman Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-3936
statelyfarms.com

HIGH COUNTRY GREENS
Offerings: 🍃
(719) 744-2894
high-country-greens.business.site

VIRESCO FARM
Offerings: 🍃
(719) 204-5052
virescofarm.ecwid.com

NEW ROOTS FARM
Offerings: 🍃 🍃
(719) 671-4273
newrootsfarmllc.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.

Recipe Spotlight

Boozy Apple Turnovers

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.

FREMONT COUNTY

3175 Grandview Ave.
Canon City, CO 81212

(719) 275-6359

colonorchards.com

18 FIND COLON ORCHARDS ON THE PRODUCER MAP

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

Recipe Spotlight

Boozy Apple Turnovers

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18 FIND COLON ORCHARDS ON THE PRODUCER MAP

GET THE RECIPE
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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.

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.

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.

CHAFFEE COUNTY

iquement 31700 US-24, Buena Vista, CO 81211
(719) 395-4646
jumpingoodgoats.com
A Night on the Ranch
BENEFIT EVENT FOR LAND & NATURE

Grab your hat and boots and join Palmer Land Conservancy for their annual fundraiser to support land and nature. This festive evening out on the land and under the stars includes a farm-to-table dinner, live music and dancing, farm tours, and an evening film and program to celebrate conservation.

CUSTER & HUERFANO COUNTIES

FUNGUS AMONG US MEDICINALS
Offerings: fungusamongusmedicinals.com

IDEAL GARDENS
Offerings: (719) 738-9919
Find us on Facebook

JW RANCH
Offerings: (719) 373-1895
jw-ranch.com

L&M RANCH
Offerings: 198 Co Rd 440
La Veta, CO 81058
(719) 890-4848
lmranch.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
westcliffecheesecompany.com

FOR MORE INFO
palmerland.org
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.

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.
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.

**SELF-GUIDED**

**Pueblo Farm Bike Tour**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

DI SANTI 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.
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
- Dairy
- Milk
- Eggs
- Meat
- Bread
- Seeds/Plants
- CSA
- Honey
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

FREMONT COUNTY
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

CUSTER & HUERFANO COUNTIES
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
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
## Guide to What’s in Season

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<td>BELL PEPPERS</td>
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<td>CANTALOUPE</td>
<td>CARROTS</td>
<td>CHILE PEPPERS</td>
<td>GREEN BEANS</td>
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* Information gathered from Colorado Proud website: coloradoproud.com. See their website for a full listing of Colorado produce.

* Many meat producers may have a ‘fall order’ where you can buy in bulk. Check with your favorite local supplier in summer and fall to see what options are available.
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.
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

Be a Land Lover

What you love, you protect.

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
palmerland.org

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

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

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

Thank you