



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

FY 2022-2023 PERFORMANCE PLAN

COLORADO RANKS **1ST** IN PROSO MILLET

1.4 BILLION EGGS

195,000 JOBS

31,000 BEE COLONIES

\$47B
CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY BY COLORADO'S AGRIBUSINESSES

COLORADO MARKET SHEEP AND LAMBS RANK **2ND** IN THE NATION
COLORADO WOOL PRODUCTION RANKS **4TH**

COLORADO PRODUCES MORE THAN **2 BILLION POUNDS** OF POTATOES ANNUALLY RANKING THE STATE **SIXTH** IN THE NATION FOR POTATO PRODUCTION

39,000
COLORADO FARMS AND RANCHES

COLORADO AGRICULTURE FACTS

COLORADO PRODUCERS HARVEST MORE THAN **1 MILLION** ACRES OF CORN

160
LICENSED WINERIES

COLORADO FARMERS AND RANCHERS HELP TO FEED THE WORLD EXPORTING NEARLY **\$2 BILLION** IN PRODUCTS

COLORADO RANKS **6TH** IN THE NATION FOR SUNFLOWER PRODUCTION

115 MILLION POUNDS OF ONIONS

COLORADO PRODUCES **30 MILLION** POUNDS OF PEACHES

40 AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS

750,000
PIGS IN COLORADO

COLORADO HAS **2.8 MILLION** HEAD OF CATTLE

BUT, COLORADO AGRICULTURE IS MORE THAN JUST FOOD. FARMERS AND RANCHERS HELP CREATE PRODUCTS IN CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND PERSONAL CARE, INCLUDING X-RAY FILM, PAPER, SHOES, SOAPS, COSMETICS, HYDRAULIC BRAKE FLUID, BALL BEARINGS, BANDAGES, PIANO KEYS, PLASTICS, INSULATION, LINOLEUM, CRAYONS, FOOTBALLS, TIRES, PERFUME, DETERGENTS AND SHAVING CREAM.

contents



Message from the Commissioner page 4



Agriculture Landscape page 5

Climate Change page 6

Compounding Issues For Colorado Producers page 7



Strategic Priorities page 8

Investment in Agriculture page 9

Community Food Access Program page 10

Producer Led Stewardship page 11

Bureau of Animal Protection page 12

Next Generation in Agriculture page 13

Colorado State Fair Master Plan page 14



Goals, Strategies and Metrics page 15

WIG #1 Economic and Supply Chain Resilience page 17

WIG #2 Investing in Agricultural Resilience page 18

WIG #3 Building the Next Generation page 19

WIG #4 Animal Health and Welfare page 20



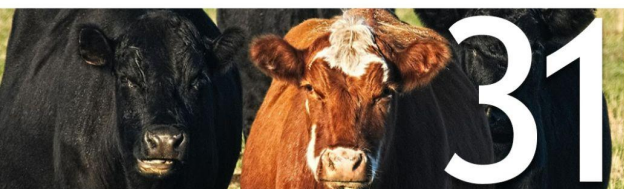
Agency and Division Description page 21

Mission and Vision page 22

Budget page 23

Organizational Chart page 24

Division Descriptions and Operation Plans page 24



Previous FY Progress Report page 31

Cover Photo by Pearce Sapphira "Baby's First Snow" [2021 Best in Show Photography Contest](#) entry.

Back Cover Photos are 2021 Best in Show Photography Contest entries from Arnold Tyson, Sara Bledsoe, Case Atchley, Zach Chapman, Adrie Barclay, Kati Hemling, Shelby Chesnut, Tatum Chase, Sapphira Pearce, DelaVista, Jes French, and Ada Vosding.

Commissioner's Message

Colorado is at a critical point in agriculture, where environmental and social pressures create unique and lasting challenges for farmers and ranchers. Today's farming families face a volatile climate, soaring costs of everything from fuel to fertilizer and equipment, and interruptions to normal operations due to supply chain issues and labor problems.

We've heard from producers about the issues they've been facing and how they're working to overcome them. Yet, throughout Colorado, we've learned that farming families focus on innovation, adaptability, and intelligent use of resources to continue cultivating and caring for the land and livestock.

CDA is taking the same approach for the projects and initiatives that improve the way our work gets done; we're solving problems and taking advantage of the opportunities given to us to help support the future of agriculture in Colorado. In total, \$96 million in the last two years has been appropriated to CDA to support Colorado agriculture. This investment offers CDA a chance to make a real, transformative difference in the lives of the people we serve.

This year, we will be implementing new programs and expanding existing programs to make significant advancements in climate resilience and conservation, food security, emerging technology, emergency preparedness, equity and diversity in agriculture, expanding market opportunities, and showcasing the role agriculture plays in Colorado. In addition, we continue to advance our work on our wildly important goals of supporting the economy and supply chain resilience, advancing stewardship, supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers, and promoting animal health and welfare. We know the work ahead, and we're ready to dig in side by side with Colorado producers.

Here's to everyone contributing to a thriving, vibrant agricultural economy and community in Colorado.

Sincerely,



Kate Greenberg
Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture



Agriculture Landscape

Agriculture Landscape

CLIMATE CHANGE

Persistent drought across Colorado is driven by absent monsoon seasons, accruing soil moisture deficits, record high temperatures, and extreme evaporative demands from winds, low humidities, and high temperatures. The conditions leading to aridification, the gradual change of a region from a wetter to a drier climate, are exacerbated by the changing environment. The effects of climate change directly impact agricultural production, quality of life, and economic prosperity across Colorado, which will only intensify in the coming years.

Farmers, ranchers, and rural communities face an increased and unequal share of the cost of reduced water holding capacity in headwaters, erosion and sedimentation, water quality management, and future natural resource stewardship planning. By 2050, drought may cost Colorado an additional \$511 million in expected annual damages from agriculture alone.

The legislature created the Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office (ADCRO) in the Colorado Department of Agriculture in 2021 to develop policy and programs that will reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate change and drought into the agricultural system. ADCRO, the State Conservation Board, Colorado Value Added Development Board through its Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ACRE3) program, and the Soil Health program, including the STAR+ program, have been driving much of the climate change work in the Department. However, the challenges of climate change and drought affect nearly every program in the Department.





Agriculture Landscape

COMPOUNDING ISSUES FOR COLORADO PRODUCERS

Market prices for corn, wheat, fat cattle, milk, hogs, and sunflower are generally higher than a year ago. Wheat, one of Colorado's staples, is substantially higher in large part due to the war in Ukraine, which is disrupting its capacity, as one of the great agricultural regions of the world, to produce and transport its wheat into market channels. While Colorado farmers and ranchers are expected to generate increased cash receipts for the crops and livestock they sell this year, significantly higher production costs are cutting into potential gains in net income and, in some instances, will mean producers could even operate at a loss.

Almost every input for farmers and ranchers costs more today than a year ago. Fuel, feed, seed, pesticides, and especially fertilizer have increased. In addition, rising costs for farm labor, trucking and shipping, repairs, and equipment are cutting potential profit margins. And more recently, we've begun to see an increase in interest rates, which will also impact producer operating expenses.

Further compounding the issues our producers face are disruptions in our food and agricultural supply chain. Labor shortages have resulted in logistical bottlenecks across our transportation systems, including trucking, rail, and the ports necessary to facilitate both the import of inputs and the export of our products. Quite simply, a result of these bottlenecks is that we're not getting the right products to the right places at the right times. And this continues to have ripple effects among food processors and manufacturers, as well as food retailers and restaurant operators. These higher input costs, coupled with supply chain disruptions, have begun to more broadly impact all U.S. consumers as the cost of food and feeding their families has increased. The Bureau of Labor Statistics just recently reported the average price of food in the United States surged 10.1% in the 12 months ended May – the highest level since 1981.

As these unsettling forces persist, the conversations about food security are becoming increasingly important, especially what can we (CDA) do to strengthen food security in Colorado. At the forefront is supporting the development of local food systems and supporting our Colorado farmers and ranchers to build and grow their production and regional markets. Equally important is the work to help our producers enhance the sustainability of their operations through soil health initiatives and efforts to engage the next generation of agriculturalists and ag leaders.



Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities

INVESTMENT IN COLORADO'S PRODUCERS

Established by SB21-248, the Colorado Agricultural Future Loan Program focuses on strengthening Colorado agriculture by providing \$30M in affordable financing to farms, ranches, and agriculturally-supportive businesses that provide economic benefit to Colorado farmers and ranchers. The program offers Colorado citizens who have the skills and drive to succeed but cannot meet standard commercial lending requirements due to issues such as a lack of operating history, historical credit, collateral, or established relationships with lending organizations. Loans are primarily evaluated based on the project's merit, operator experience, and borrower's financial discipline.

CDA's primary lending partner, 1st SouthWest Bank (FSWB), is a CDFI bank that underwrites, originates, and services the loans. CDA ensures applicants meet the requirements to participate in the program, promotes the program throughout the state, and collects and tracks program data. Lenders around the state can work jointly with FSWB to participate in the program.

A recent outreach effort by CDA confirmed that two of our target market segments, new farmers, ranchers, and producers who don't appear to fit typical commercial borrower standards, have had negative experiences with banks that shape their lending relationship. CDA aims to build trust with these critical contributors. We're engaging directly with individuals and community organizations across the state that are already trusted to act as liaisons for the program. Loans are available for up to \$750k at 4% fixed interest and flexible terms. Eligible borrowers include existing and new farmers and ranchers and food processing businesses. CDA has also conducted two grant funding rounds through the program, focusing on building farm-to-market infrastructure.



Strategic Priorities

COMMUNITY FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

The CDA will establish a new Community Food Access Program housed within the Markets Division. This new program intends to improve access and lower prices for healthy foods in low-income and underserved areas in the state.

Under this program, the CDA will establish a Food Access Consortium comprised of food retailers and Colorado family farms. The Consortium will assist in purchasing and price negotiations, financial assistance for distribution costs, and connect small food producers to small food retailers.

In addition, this program will provide up to \$6.3 million in grants to small food retailers and local farmers to advance access to healthy food in underserved areas. Through these grants, retailers will receive assistance with the necessary cost of operating, purchasing equipment, accounting, and updating their point of sales systems to allow retailers to accept payment from the food incentive program.

We'll award at least 30% of the grant funding to rural areas. CDA will create an Advisory Committee comprised of community and nonprofit organizations, small food retailers, and small family farms to assist with the grant program.



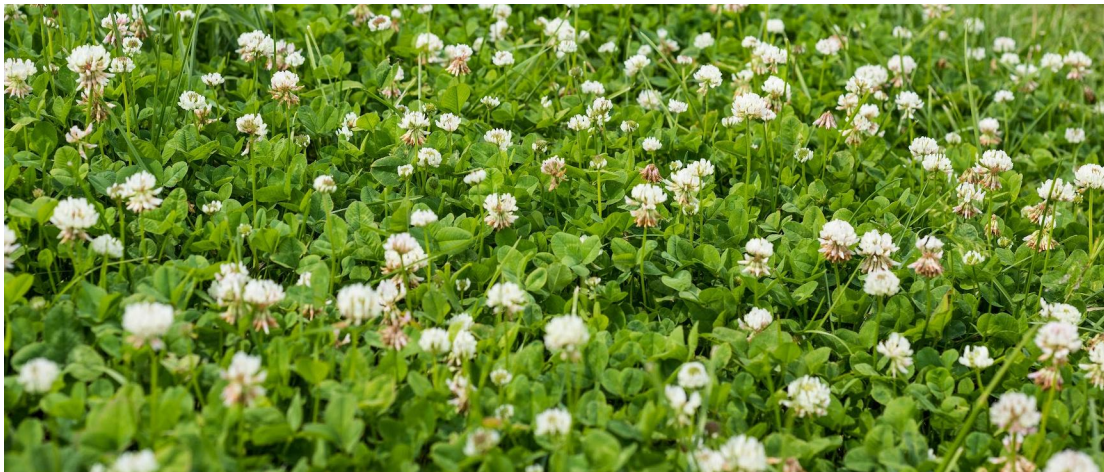
Strategic Priorities

VOLUNTARY, INCENTIVE-BASED STEWARDSHIP

CDA remains committed to supporting voluntary, incentive-based stewardship practices led by farmers and ranchers that improve soil health, advance water conservation, and help mitigate climate change. With the help of partners like the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado State University, the Water Quality Control Division, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, our team amassed around \$4 million in grants and State stimulus funding to support the new STAR+ Soil Health Program.

The program helps participating conservation districts to distribute incentive payments and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers interested in trying new crop practices to improve soil function. It means a great deal to help increase capacity to deliver the STAR+ program to Colorado's landowners.

Conservation doesn't happen without partnerships. Our relationships leverage resources to enable voluntary private lands conservation. As we work forward in 2022, we're working to position Colorado's producers to address tomorrow's conservation challenges, be more profitable and foster more resilient land.



Strategic Priorities

BUREAU OF ANIMAL PROTECTION

The CDA has expanded the resources for the Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) with the addition of a new program manager, a full-time investigative coordinator, and will be bringing on a dedicated veterinarian. With this enhanced capacity, the BAP program has several priorities for FY 2023. The first is to increase the support provided for local law enforcement agencies, BAP agents, district attorneys, and stakeholders by providing the necessary tools, leadership, and other resources needed to effectively respond to cases involving animal neglect and mistreatment. This will involve providing access to BAP program staff for investigative support; providing the expertise of the BAP veterinarian or connecting law enforcement with local veterinarians on cases; helping with the transport of and housing of relinquishing or seized animals, and conducting training and outreach for law enforcement officers and district attorneys with a focus on recognizing and responding to cases of animal neglect and mistreatment.

A second key priority is to facilitate public and stakeholder trust in, understanding of, and engagement with the BAP program through public outreach and stakeholder engagement. This will involve developing outreach materials to educate the general public on recognizing and reporting animal neglect and understanding the accepted animal husbandry standards that are followed by Colorado ranchers. The BAP program team will continue to seek advice from the BAP Stakeholder Taskforce on key priorities such as training, statistics, and public outreach.



Strategic Priorities

NEXT GENERATION AG WORKFORCE

According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2017 Census of Agriculture data, the average age of a Colorado producer is 57.6 years. In the next 20 years, 43,400 will be 75 years or older. Colorado is in the top 10 states, with 31% of all farms run as beginning producer-operated farms. According to USDA's Beginning Farmer Program, these new producers require resources for business planning, conservation practices, mentorships, and access to land and capital.

Through our Farm-to-Market Grants, and our Ag Futures loan and Agriculture Workforce Development programs, we're aiming to engage, support, and stimulate economic growth for beginning producers.

Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry. However, many job seekers are unaware of the incredible, high-paying opportunities agriculture offers. According to USDA, in 2019, 22.2 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors. The number of agriculture jobs is growing. However, only about 35,000 students will graduate annually with degrees in agriculture. CDA has many programs that offer agriculture-adjacent opportunities, including our Laboratories, which handle Animal Diagnostic, Biochemistry, and Metrology testing. Our labs are currently offering tours and educational opportunities to urban and rural schools hoping to inspire more high-school-age kids to pursue agriculture-related degrees and jobs.

CDA's investment in Family Farm Transition Plans grows each year. This program ensures the success of agricultural operations by planning the transfer of land and assets from one generation to the next. By engaging family members in a formal planning process, we can help ensure family farms last for generations.



Strategic Priorities

COLORADO STATE FAIR MASTER PLAN

With the adoption of the Colorado State Fairgrounds Facility Master Plan by the Colorado State Fair Authority Board of Commissioners in July of 2021, there is now a clear vision for maintenance and improvements on the Colorado State Fairgrounds.

Work has already begun on phase 1 of the 5-phase Facility Master Plan, thanks mainly to \$5 million of stimulus funds, \$4 million of general fund support, \$600,000 of County support, and \$6.4 million in federal funding.

Current projects include the Gate 5 (Prairie Avenue entrance) renovation, Ag Palace Plaza renovation (a multi-acre outdoor space), Ag Palace restoration and safety improvements, new Livestock Pavilion design, 4-H Complex restoration, and several smaller projects that are all outlined in the Facility Master Plan.

We anticipate the current funding allowing us to have active projects through the end of 2024. Several more projects will start soon, including the Colorado Building and Creative Arts Building renovation projects that the legislative Capital Development Committee is considering.





Goals, Strategies and Metrics

Wildly Important Goals, Strategies, and Metrics

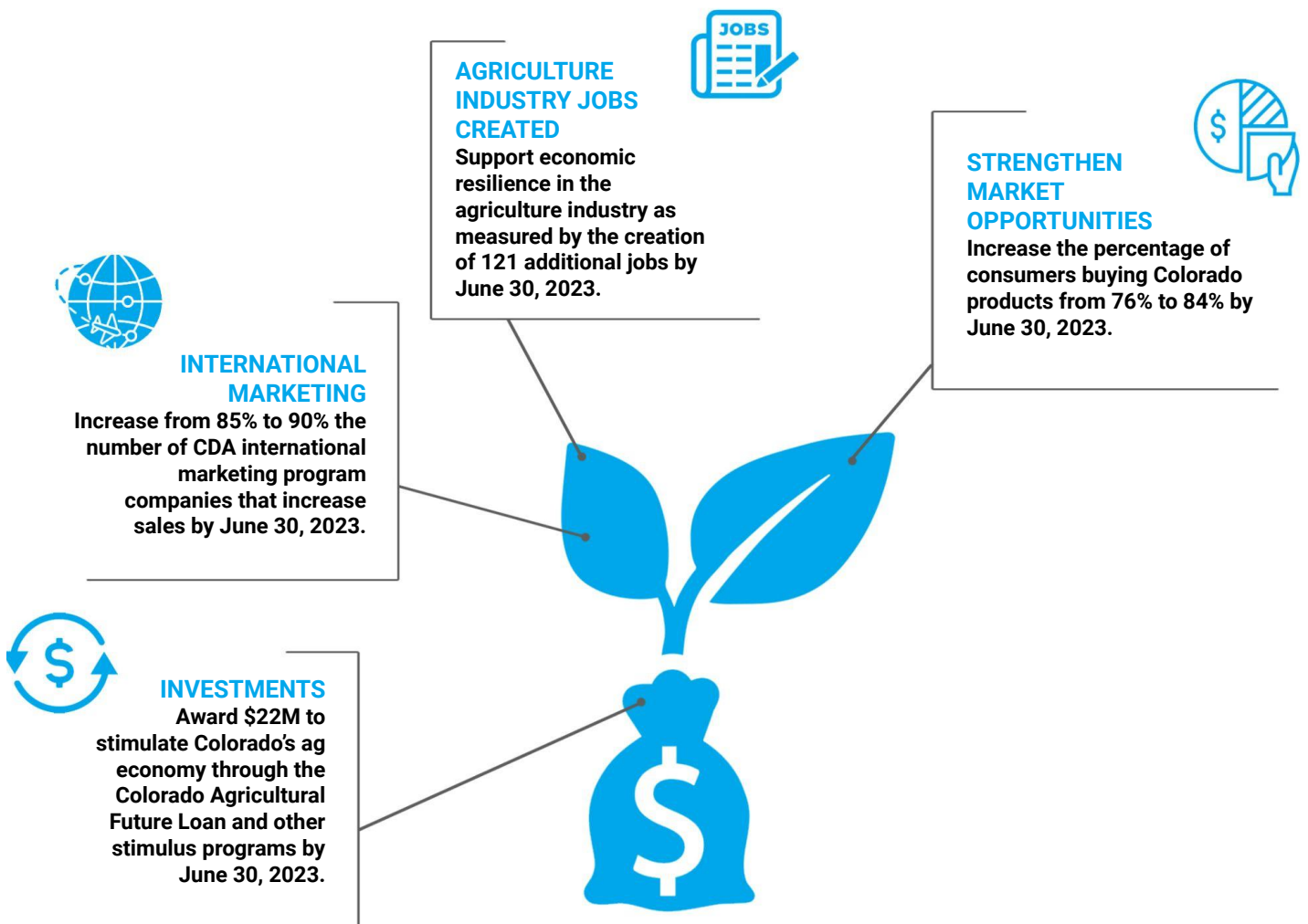
This section outlines CDA's wildly important goals (WIGs) for CDA. A WIG is a goal that moves the needle for agriculture, supports the Governor's initiatives, and requires special attention from us in the next few years to accomplish.

The goals identified for the FY 22-23 cycle reflect only a subset of high-priority Department goals. Day-to-day, we will continue to engage in our full range of work and operational priorities to support all Colorado agriculture.

Building Economic and Supply Chain Resilience

Support economic and supply chain resilience in the agriculture industry, by creating or supporting 100 new business opportunities.

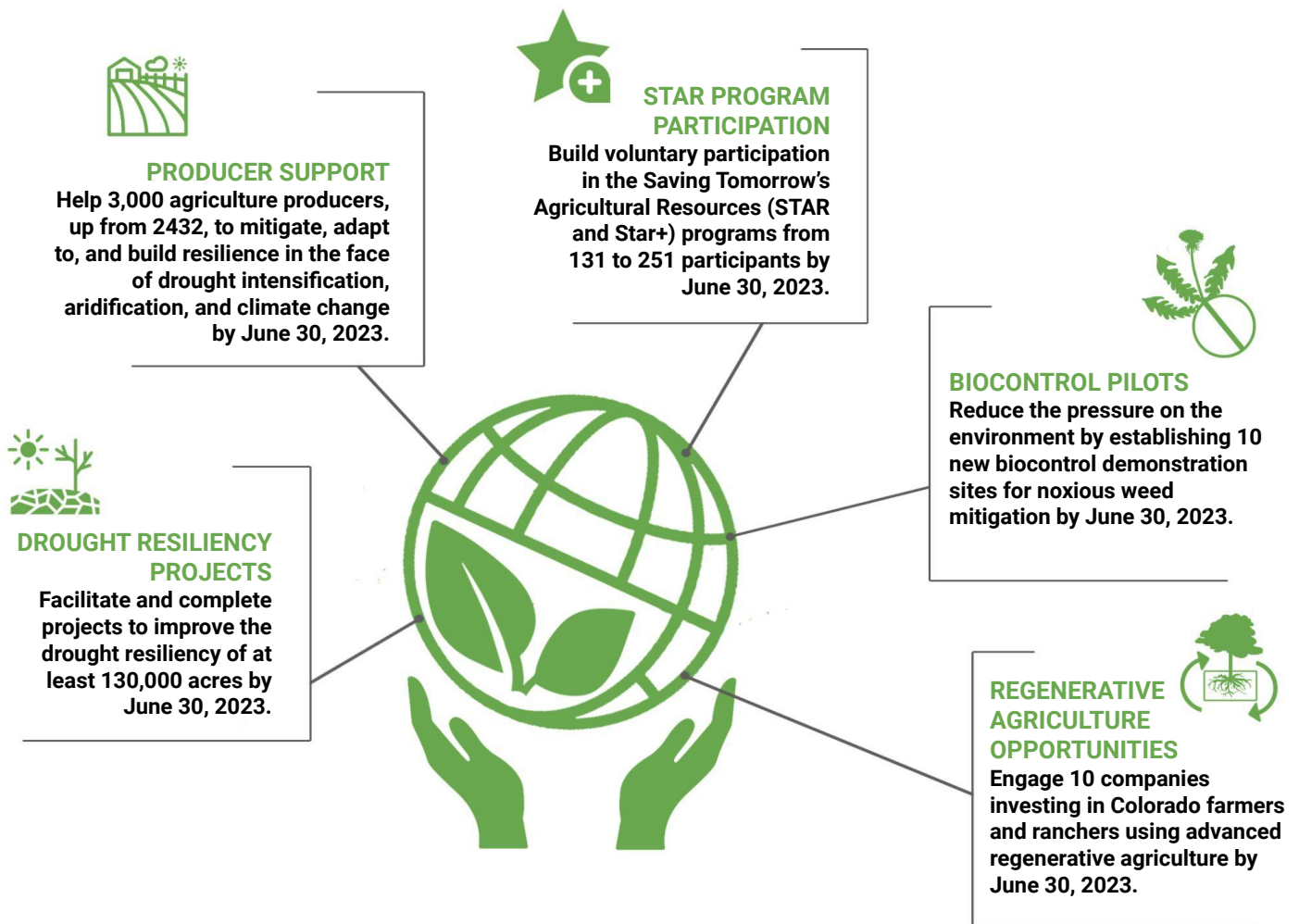
Baseline	FY 22-23 Goal	FY 23-24 Goal	FY 24-25 Goal
0	100	200	300



Advancing Voluntary Stewardship

Enhance agricultural resilience, productivity, and economic opportunity through increased participation in CDA's voluntary conservation programs, reducing CO2 emissions by an additional 5,000 tons per year.

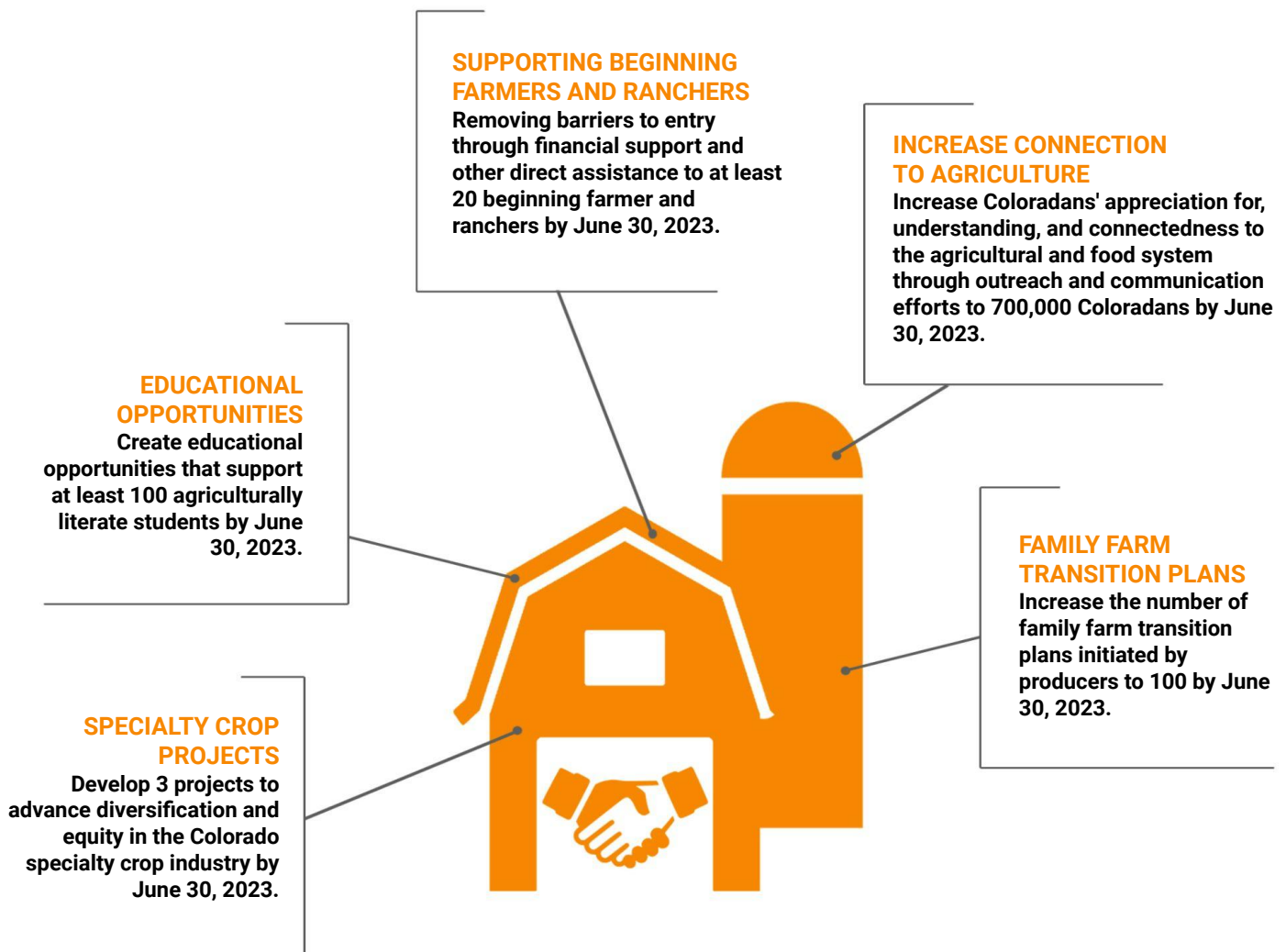
Baseline	FY 22-23 Goal	FY 23-24 Goal	FY 24-25 Goal
-1140	-6140	-7140	-8140



Supporting the Next Generation in Agriculture

Provide training and financial opportunities to 200 next-generation agricultural leaders and producers to enhance their skills or provide them access to farmland, equipment, and new technologies.

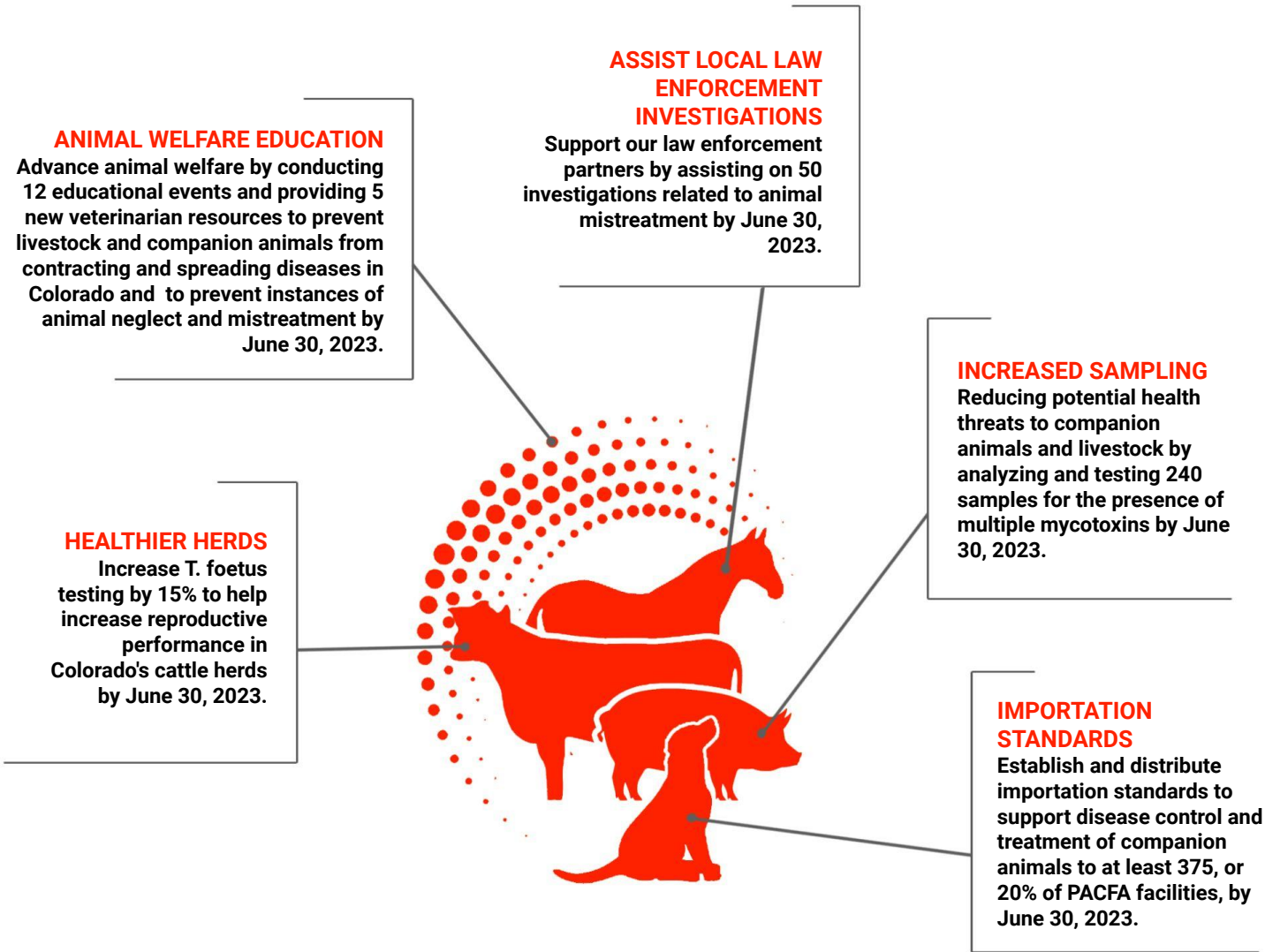
Baseline	FY 22-23 Goal	FY 23-24 Goal	FY 24-25 Goal
118	318	382	394



Promoting Animal Health and Welfare

Provide direct assistance and education to 3,000 veterinarians, shelters, rescues, law enforcement agencies, and ranchers to advance animal health and welfare.

Baseline	FY 22-23 Goal	FY 23-24 Goal	FY 24-25 Goal
0	3000	3500	3750





About Us

About CDA

Colorado's diverse agricultural and food industry contributes significantly to the state's economy generating economic activity of \$47 billion annually. Farms and ranches comprise nearly half of the state's 66 million acres and utilize additional public lands.

Colorado agriculture supports more than 195,000 jobs and is home to some of the nation's leading processed foods companies. Colorado ranks first in the country for producing proso millet and in the top ten in approximately 20 other commodities, including cattle and calves, winter wheat, market sheep and lambs, wool production, alfalfa, potatoes, onions, apples, peaches, grapes, and melons.

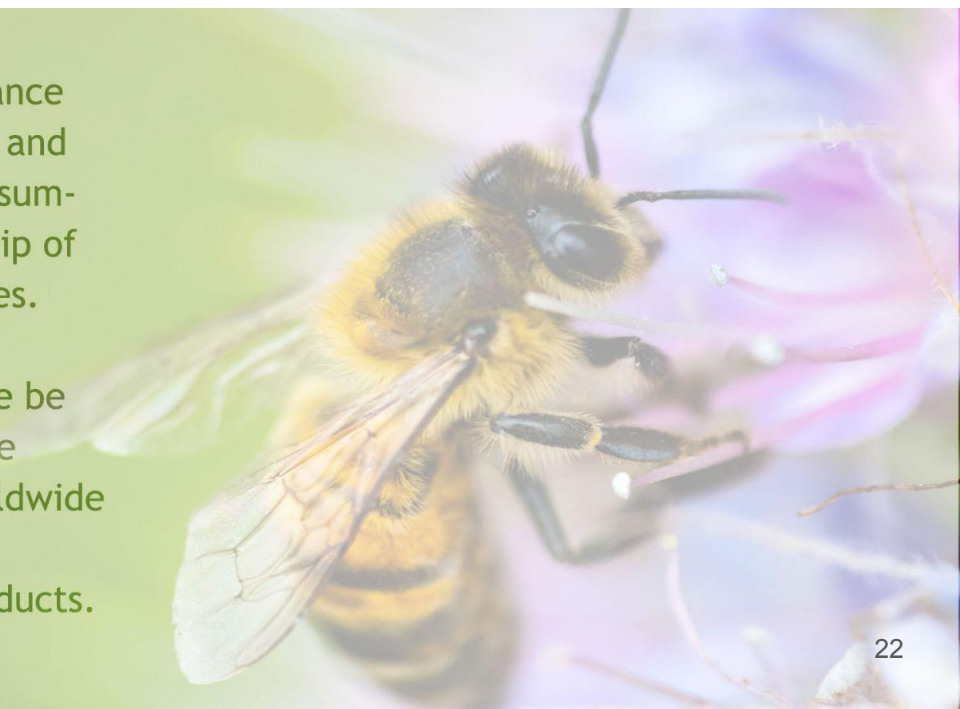
The Colorado Department of Agriculture strives to better the lives of those involved in agriculture. You needn't be a farmer or rancher to benefit from the resources this Department provides. So if you've ever bought groceries, adopted a dog, or fertilized your lawn, the Colorado Department of Agriculture has served you.

CDA performs hundreds of regulatory and support functions, including but not limited to

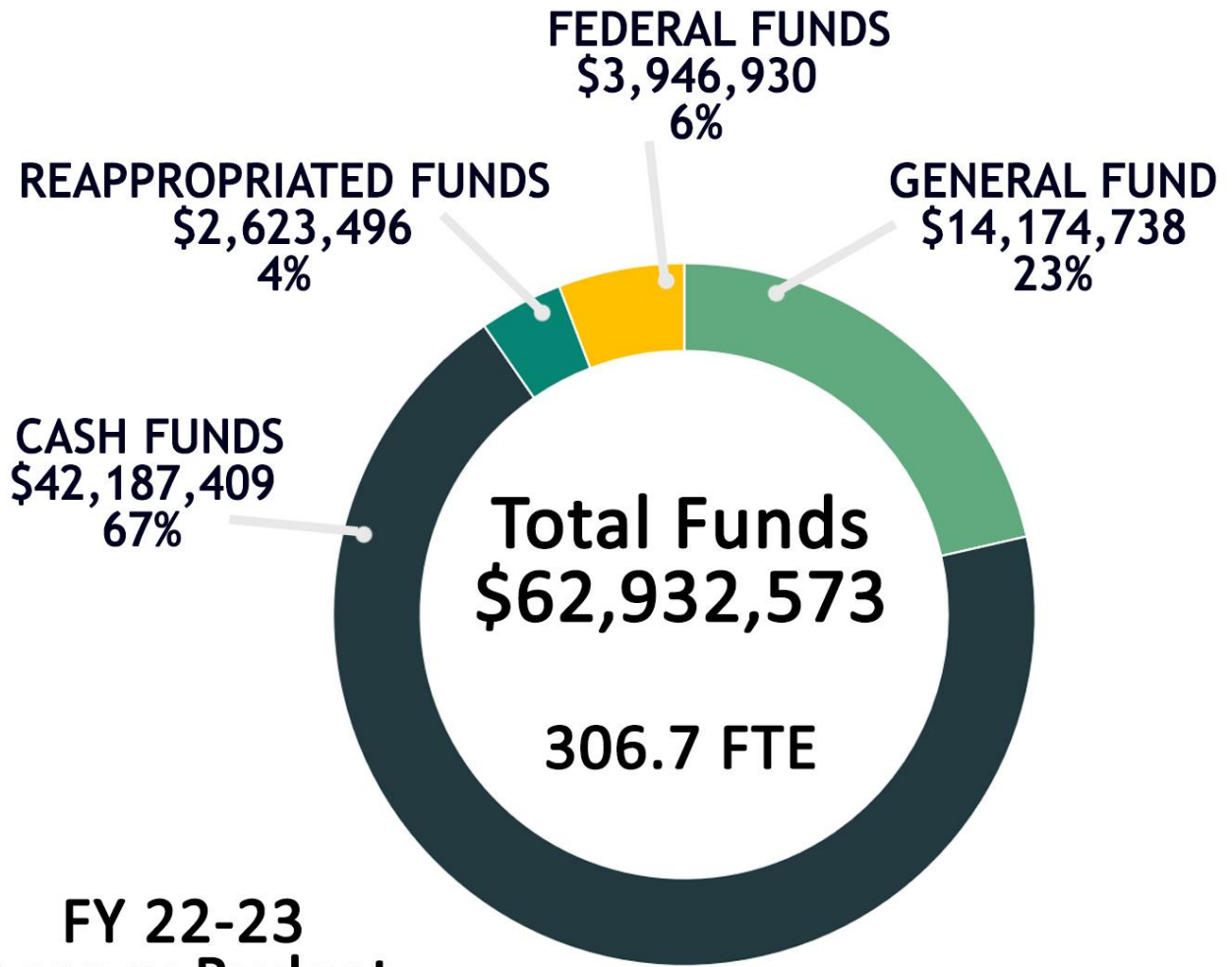
- The regulation and certification of the livestock industry, including brand inspection.
- Certification of organic crop and livestock production.
- Regulation of the use of pesticides and pesticide applicators.
- Administration of inspection and consumer services programs.
- Protection of animals and pet care facilities.
- Provision of conservation stewardship services across the state.
- Regulation of industrial hemp.
- Promotion of Colorado's agricultural industries.
- Administration of the State Fair and fairgrounds.

Our mission is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Our vision is that Colorado agriculture be strong and vibrant, a key driver of the state's economy, and recognized worldwide for its safe and abundant supply of high-quality food and agriculture products.

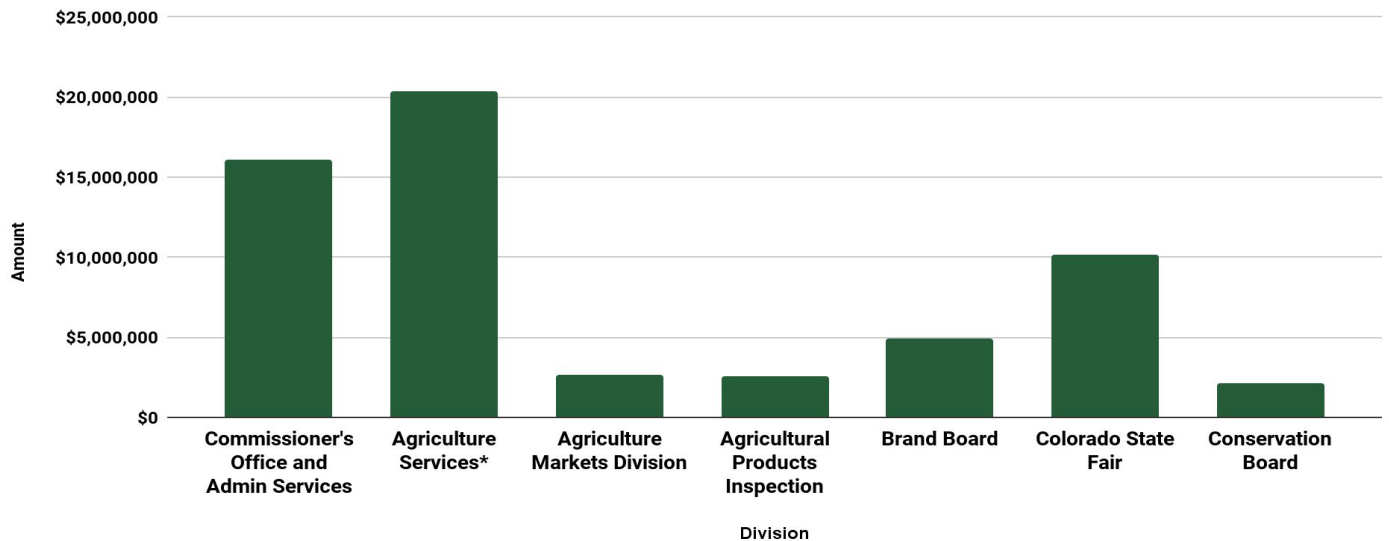


Agency Budget FY 22-23



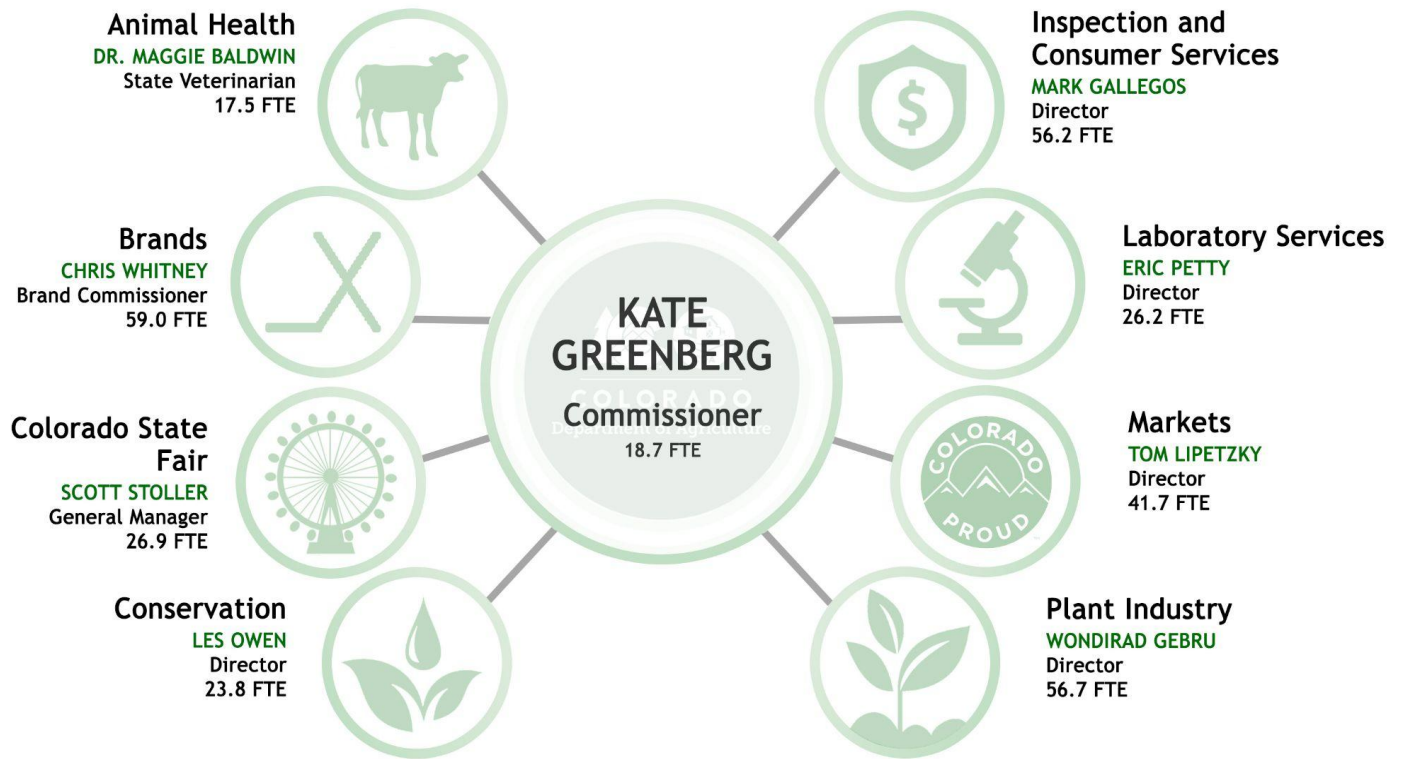
FY 22-23 Agency Budget

Amount vs. Division



*Agriculture Services includes Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Inspection and Consumers Services, and Conservation Divisions

Agency Structure



Commissioner's Office Division

The Commissioner's Office is home to the agency's financial management, legislative, human resources, communications, process excellence, continuity of operations plan, and information technology teams. In addition, we work together to provide leadership and operational support to CDA's divisions of Animal Health, Brand Inspection, Inspection, and Consumer Services, Colorado State Fair, Conservation Services, Laboratory Services, Markets, and Plant Industry.

Our office supports Colorado's entire agriculture industry by working with local, state, and federal agencies and partners and providing assistance, support, and information to and about the agricultural community. We lead CDA's Rural Mental Health Initiative, work with schools and youth ag education organizations to support their ag-related activities, and promote public awareness of agriculture through CDA's website, newsletter, events, sponsorships, and collaboration with diverse media across all regions of the state.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

CDA prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) across our agency and industry, and we are working to address inequities and discrimination wherever we find it. We finalized the first iteration of our EDI Action Plan in FY 21-22 and drove implementation forward. This plan includes reconsidering and, where necessary, rebuilding how we do business, from hiring, recruitment, and retention, to stakeholder engagement and how we administer programs and services. We are also educating ourselves on how to advance this work. We plan to continue this work through various strategies, including investing in the next generation, distributing stimulus dollars to serve historically underserved and underrepresented communities, and building and strengthening new relationships.

[CDA's Equity Diversity and Inclusion Plan](#)

EDI Major Achievements

CDA focused internally and externally on making the department more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Internally, we have examined trends and data in our workforce around our applicants, interviewees, and new hires. As a result, CDA has made strides toward our goal of having our workforce more closely mirror the makeup of the State workforce in terms of ethnicity.

- In addition to the Department of Personnel & Administration (DPA) training for current employees, CDA provided training on inclusivity to 80% of staff and has begun deepening our professional development offerings through unconscious bias training.
- CDA's external efforts include Workforce Development, whose minority applicants increased from 26% to 55% in 2021. Our Loan and Grants program has begun making awards and aims to make these opportunities available to traditionally underserved agricultural community members.
- CDA increased its outreach to Spanish-speaking constituents by holding four Ag Worker meetings throughout the state in Spanish to gain input on pay rules. The Communications team hired a Spanish-speaking communications specialist and now creates press releases in Spanish and English. We published the Farm Fresh Directory publication for the first time in Spanish.
- CDA is also working to make our facilities, especially the planned renovations for the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, safe and accessible to all Colorado residents. All 12 current projects at the State Fair include measures to make facilities ADA compliant. CDA is partnering with the State Architect's office to accomplish these goals.

By focusing on these internal and external efforts, CDA strives to become an attractive, welcoming agency for applicants, employees, and Colorado constituents.

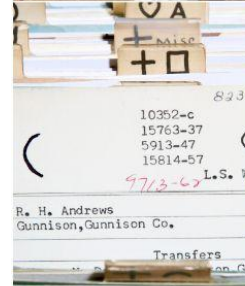
Divisions

Animal Health Division

The Animal Health Division works closely with livestock producers, private practicing veterinarians, industry associations, and other state and federal agencies to promote Colorado livestock's health, welfare, and marketability. We provide livestock disease prevention and control, animal disease traceability, coordination of livestock emergency incident preparedness and response, disease surveillance, collaboration toward wildlife damage management services, licensing of aquaculture facilities, and overseeing the Bureau of Animal Protection.

Brands Division

The Brand Inspection Division, part of Colorado's history in one form or another since 1865, inspects and verifies ownership of approximately four and one-half million head of livestock annually, investigates cases of stolen or missing livestock and assists in their recovery and return, and assists in criminal prosecutions as necessary. Our main job is to protect Colorado's more than \$4 billion livestock industry from loss by theft or straying. Brand inspection serves several essential purposes, including deterring theft, facilitating commerce, protecting livestock producers and lenders, providing accurate tracking of livestock movements for use in disease traceability, facilitating the return of stolen or stray livestock, and helping keep the livestock industry healthy and viable. We also record and administer approximately 30,000 livestock brands, license public livestock markets, and certified feedlots, inspect and verify ownership of alternative livestock (i.e., domestic elk and fallow deer), and inspect and license approximately 50 alternative livestock facilities.



Divisions

Colorado State Fair

The Colorado State Fair Authority's mission is to celebrate Colorado's vibrant and diverse industries, emphasizing agriculture. Our three highest priorities are:

- 1) Coloradans participate in a premier annual celebration of Colorado's diverse cultures, communities, and traditions. We aim to provide a wholesome, informative family entertainment event that expands knowledge of agriculture, Colorado Proud food products, and Colorado's industries.
- 2) Showcase and celebrate Colorado's agricultural industry through a year-round agriculture education exhibit.
- 3) Create a "Gathering Place" for the Pueblo and Southern Colorado communities through year-round targeted utilization of venues for public and private events.

Conservation Division

The Conservation Services Division provides leadership on land and resource management issues, including federal lands. We're composed of ten programs - Agricultural Water Quality Program, Agricultural Energy, Biological Pest Control, Chemigation, the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), Natural Resource Policy and Planning, Noxious Weed Management, Pesticide Data Program, Soil Health Program, and Weed Free Forage. Together, these programs provide voluntary technical and financial support and incentives, leadership and coordination, and regulatory oversight to public/private landowners and agricultural businesses statewide on various natural resource management challenges.



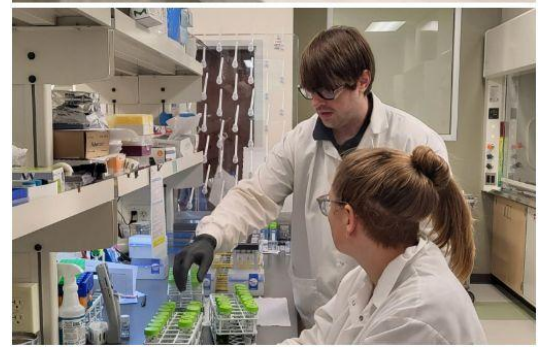
Divisions

Inspection and Consumer Services Division

The Division of Inspection and Consumer Services (ICS) conducts regulatory inspections, product sampling, and complaint investigations designed to protect agricultural producers and provide confidence to Colorado consumers. ICS's mission is to promote good health and safety by confirming agricultural products and services are safe, fair, and transparent. ICS regulates livestock feed, pet food, commercial fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia tanks, farm products dealers, commodity handlers/grain warehouses, pet animal care facilities, commercial scales and other measuring devices, egg dealers, and custom meat processors, and produce farmers. In any given year, ICS inspectors conduct more than 21,000 inspections across Colorado.

Division of Laboratory Services

Our Mission - The Division of Laboratory Services supports consumer protection by providing valuable services and consistent, reliable results with integrity, professionalism, and impartiality. CDA's laboratory facility comprises three laboratory operations: Animal Health (AHL), BioChemistry (BCL), and Metrology (MTL). The laboratory conducts approximately 160,000 individual analyses annually, including; weight or volume calibration, laser speed devices, regulated animal disease detection, surface and groundwater, cannabis, and environmental samples such as soil or vegetation for pesticide residues, commercial fertilizers, and animal feed analysis of minerals, nutrients and pathogens to ensure label guarantee and product safety. All three laboratory units maintain individual ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation. DLS was the first Government Laboratory to achieve my green lab certification.





Divisions

Markets Division

The Markets Division helps increase marketing opportunities for Colorado's farmers, ranchers, and food and beverage producers; champions the advancement of value-added business ventures, and supports the development of the next generation of agriculturalists and agricultural leaders. Division staff manager programs such as the Colorado Proud program help identify and purchase food, beverage, and agricultural products grown, raised, or processed in Colorado. We also assist producers and companies in developing new markets and sales domestically and globally. Additionally, we collect and disseminate livestock market news, provide size and grade inspection services, and conduct Good Agricultural Practices verification audits for fruit and vegetable producers and shippers. These services include the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Section in Monte Vista, CO, which provides phytosanitary, seed potato, and late blight quarantine inspections.



Division of Plant Industry

The Division of Plant Industry provides a broad range of programs that offer services related to consumer protection, protection of environmental and public health, and protection of Colorado's plant industry from damaging diseases and insect pests. Our programs provide certification for the state's organic industry, export of Colorado's agricultural commodities, registration and administration of industrial hemp, seed, and nursery programs, testing and licensing of commercial and private pesticide applicators, licensing of restricted use pesticide dealers, registration of pesticide products, and the inspections and enforcement necessary to support those programs. In addition, we register and regulate the hemp program in the state, which is one of the leaders in the nation.



A detailed close-up photograph of industrial machinery, featuring several large, interlocking metal gears of various sizes. The gears are made of a dark, possibly steel, material and are arranged in a complex, overlapping fashion. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic textures and the intricate details of the gear teeth. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the foreground components.

Process Improvements

CDA's focus on innovating to deliver the most value has resulted in the following improvements over the past year.

- The Brands Division helped develop and implement a digital program that enables the Brand Recorder to conduct research for new brand applications electronically, thus reducing customer turnaround time.
- Division of Plant Industry held Rapid Improvement Events for the Organic and Nursery Programs. The assembled teams for these events focused on reducing the licensing or certification cycle time. Improvements included application form efficiencies, establishing Standard Operating Procedures, investing in technology to support current program needs, and cross-training.
- ICS has expanded samples taken to identify possible threats of various adulterants that can harm human and animal health. Specifically, the Feed Program has begun sampling feed for mycotoxins; the Custom Meat Program has already started taking environmental samples at meat processing facilities to identify the presence of harmful pathogens, such as salmonella, listeria, and e-coli.
- Biochemistry Laboratory Analytical Work Plans developed for each internal division customer program have been expanded and utilized by other laboratory units such as the Metrology laboratory and their internal ICS customers.
- Laboratory Services implemented a work group to investigate training improvements resulting in training checklists, core competency matrices, and the development of training resources such as videos.
- Markets made vital process improvements to the launch of the new ColoradoProud.com website, providing a more user-friendly public interface for consumers to search for Colorado-grown, raised, or made food and agricultural products.
- The Markets Division continued to evolve its business development programming, shifting what mainly had been in-person business development workshops to online webinars and podcasts. This format change allowed more producers and companies to participate in the training. Saving them time and money in travel time and fees.



Previous Fiscal Year Progress Report

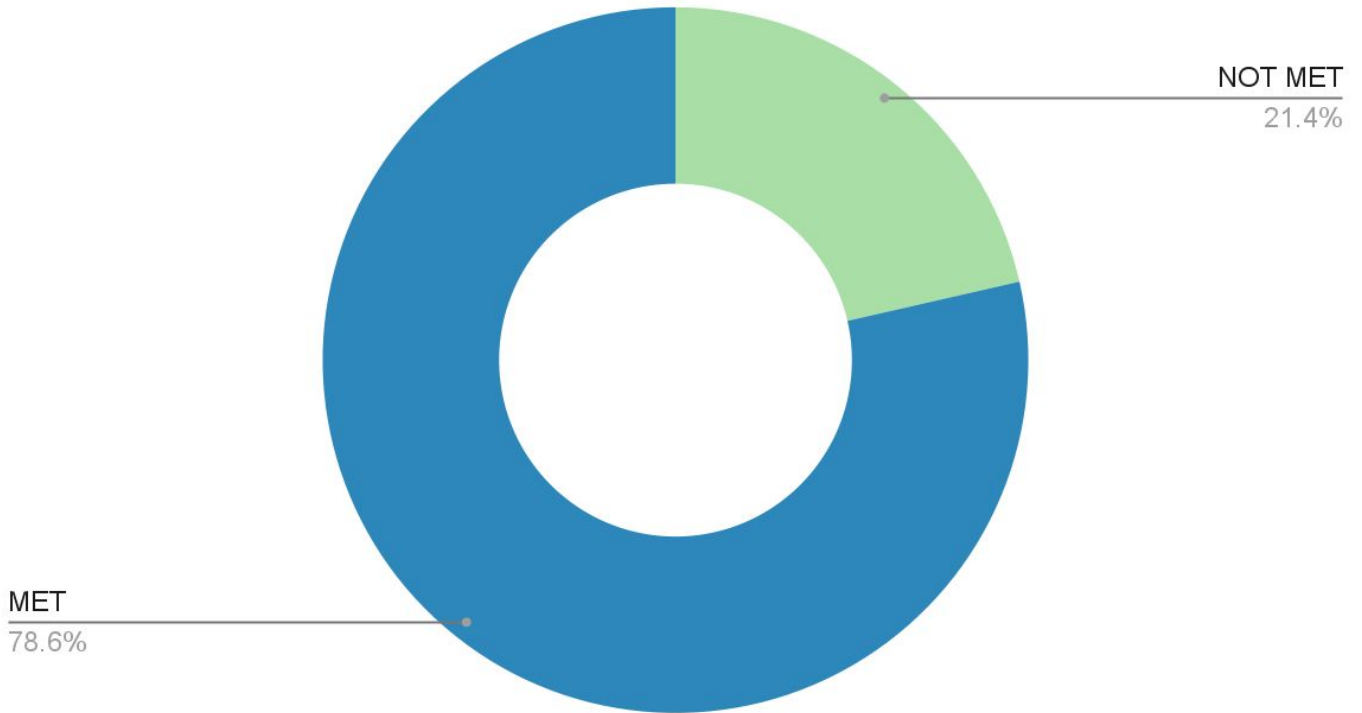
Performance Plan Summary

Thanks to our employees' solid efforts, we've met 78% of our WIG lead measures or goals in 2021-2022. However, as outlined in our FY 21-22 Performance plan, as a result, this performance review also reflects a few goals that fell short of our high expectations.

We are proud of our efforts to overcome obstacles and adapt to the challenges that came our way. Through it all, we successfully advocated for agriculture at every step and recognized the accomplishments, partnerships, programs, services, and improved customer experiences we advanced during this year.

Please read on and share our successes and progress.

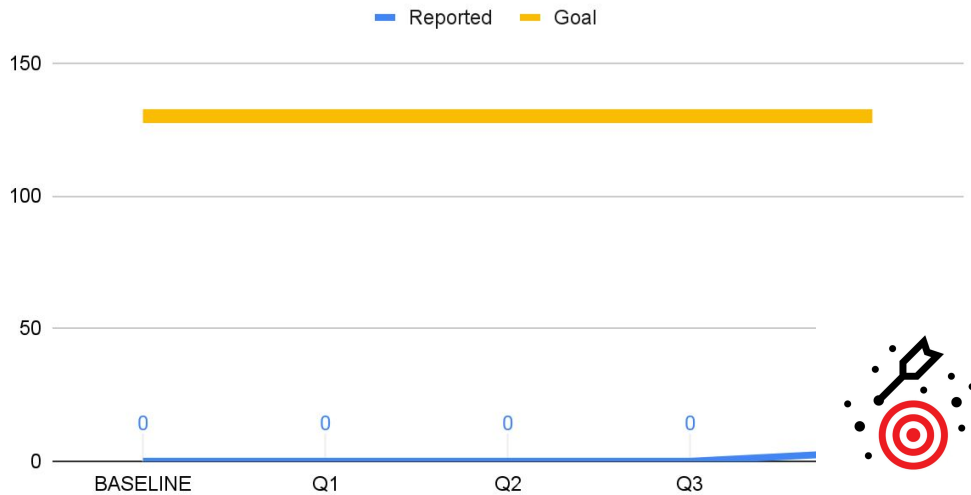
FY 21-22 Breakdown of Goals*



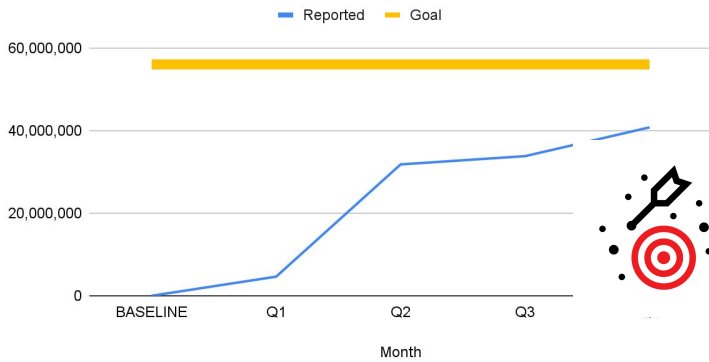
*Graph includes both WIG and lead measures

WIG #1: Support economic and supply chain resilience in the agriculture industry, as measured by the creation of 130 jobs by June 30, 2022.

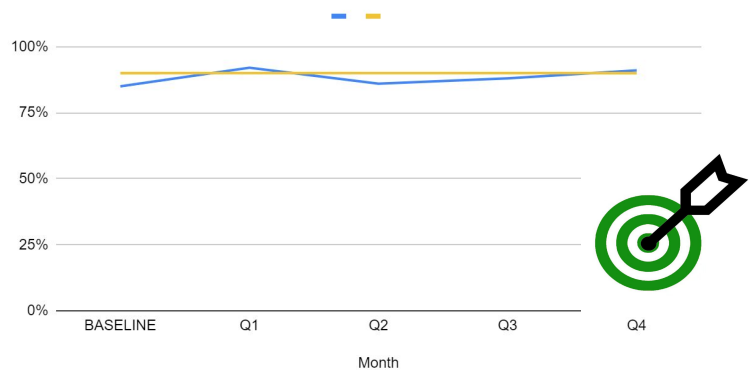
Support economic and supply chain resilience in the agriculture industry, as measured by the creation of 130 jobs by June 30, 2022.



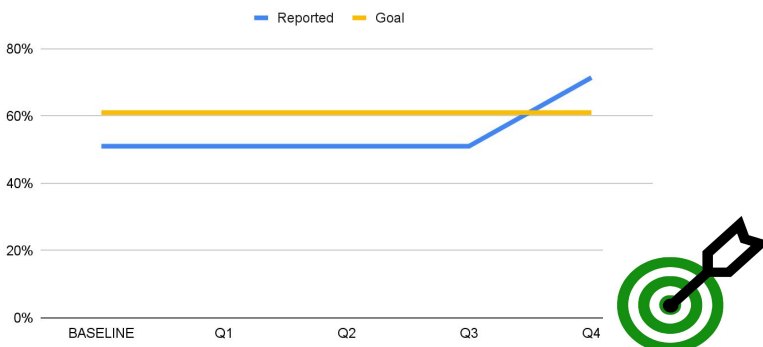
Award \$56M dollars allocated through all of CDA's stimulus grant programs including the Colorado Agricultural Future Loan and Grant Programs.



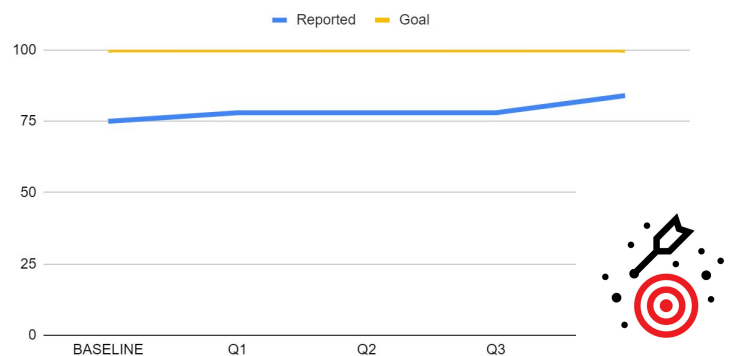
Increase from 85% to 90% the number of companies participating in CDA international marketing program developing sales due to their participation.



Increase the number of Colorado Proud businesses using the CO Proud Logo on packaging or marketing materials from 51% to 61%.

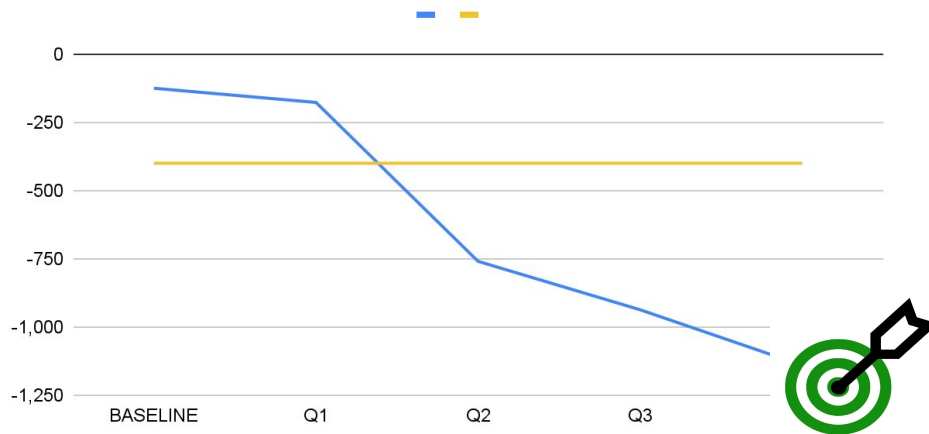


Support the development of 25 new Secure Food Supply plans, increasing the total from 75 to 100.

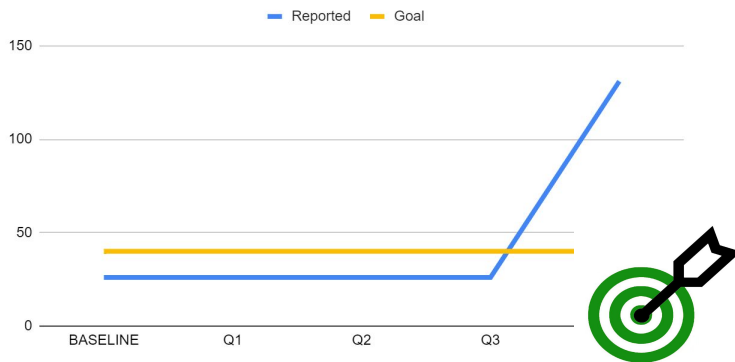


WIG #2: Enhance agricultural resilience, productivity, and economic efficiency through participation in CDA's voluntary conservation programs, reducing CO2 emissions by 400 tons per year by June 30, 2022.

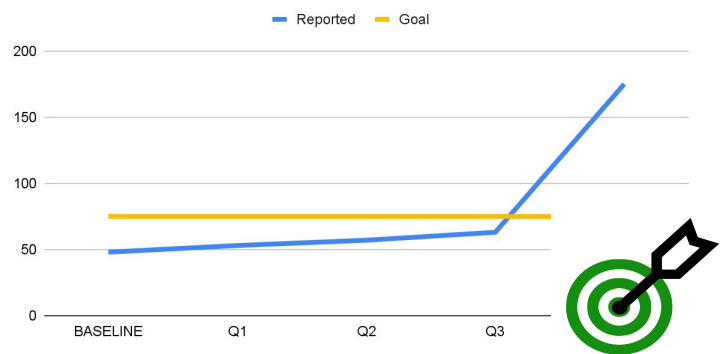
Enhance agricultural resilience, productivity, and economic efficiency through increased participation in CDA's voluntary conservation programs, reducing CO2 emissions by 400 tons per year.



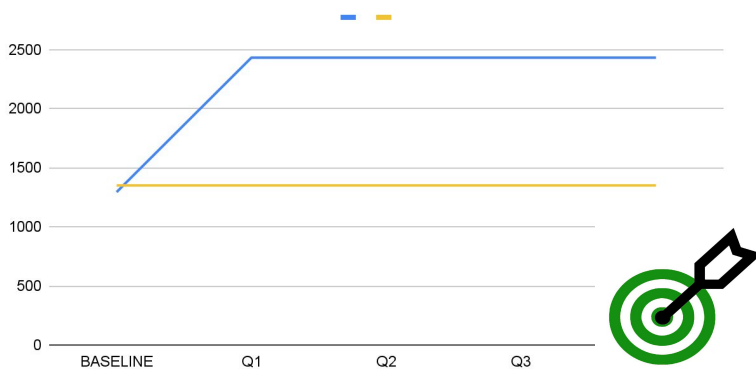
Build voluntary participation in the Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources (STAR) program from 0 to 75.



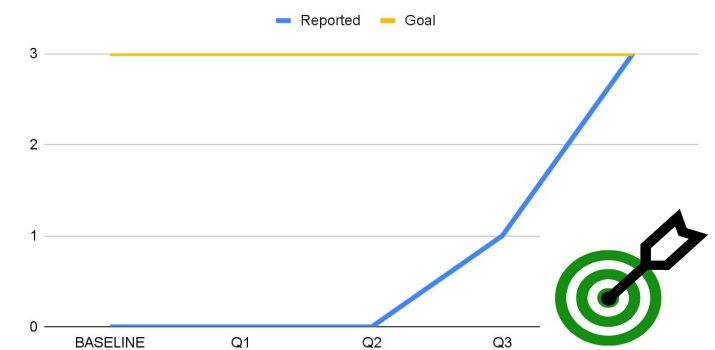
Complete 27 soil, water and climate stewardship projects increasing the total from 48 to 75 projects.



Increase voluntary conservation practices by private landowners by increasing the number of matching conservation district grants from 1294 to 1350.

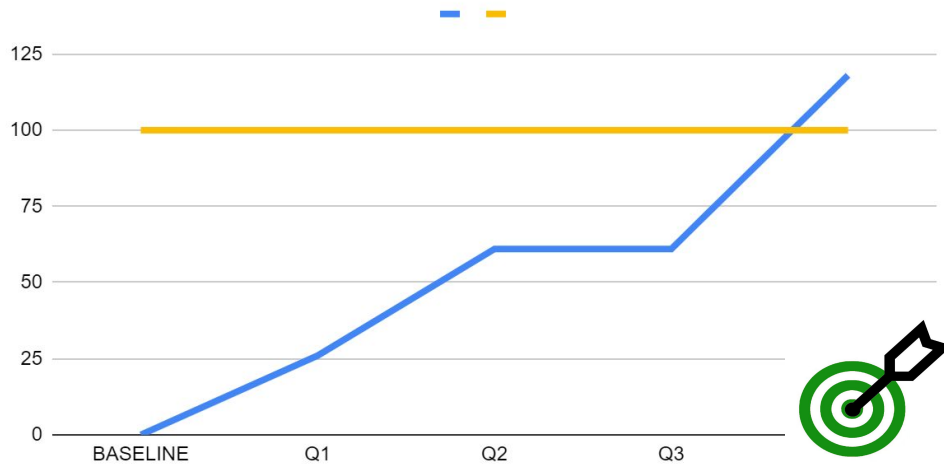


Identify 3 companies that have committed to purchasing products from Colorado farmers and ranchers participating in CDA's STAR program to advance regenerative agriculture and market opportunities.

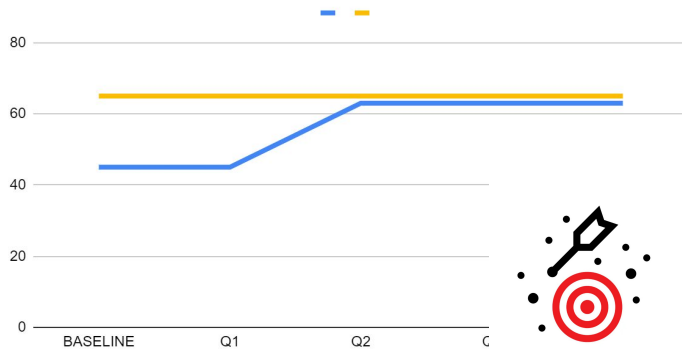


WIG #3: Provide training, education, and financial assistance to 100 of the next generation agricultural leaders and producers to enhance their skills and provide them the access to farmland, machinery, and equipment they need by June 30, 2022.

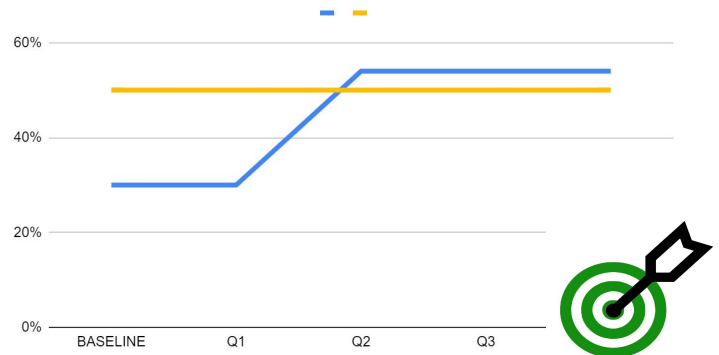
Provide training, education, and financial assistance to 100 of the next generation agricultural leaders and producers to enhance their skills and provide them the access to farmland, machinery, and equipment they need.



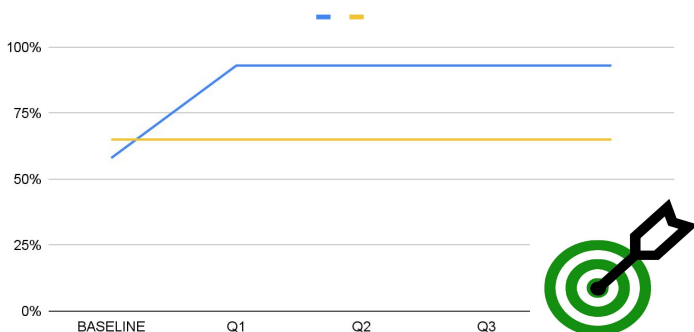
Increase the number of applications from agriculture businesses looking for internships from 45 to 65.



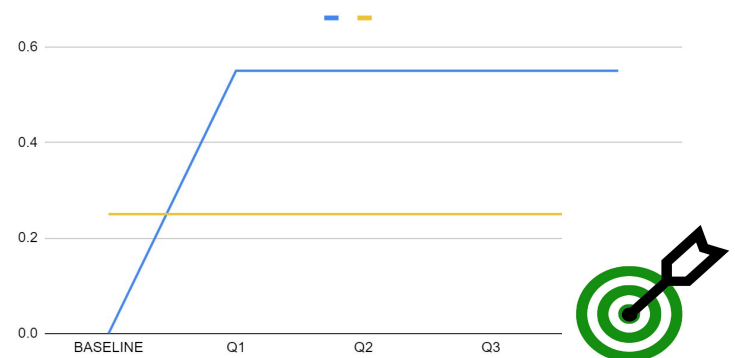
Increase the number of returning businesses hiring interns from 30% to 50%.



Increase the number of returning businesses hiring interns from 30% to 50%.



Increase the number of returning businesses hiring interns from 30% to 50% by June 30, 2022.





“

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROCK, BUT INSIDE I WAS CRUMBLING.

When I reached out, I was seconds away from ending my life. Financially, things on our ranch were falling apart—and I felt like a failure. I didn't want my problems to burden anyone else, so I buried 'em inside. And that's what almost buried me. Thankfully, I picked up my phone and called Colorado Crisis Services. I was able to finally get out everything I'd been holding inside, and I realized that trying to be a rock of strength for everyone else had actually caused me to start crumbling inside.

No matter what you're going through, you don't have to go through it alone.



COLORADO
CRISIS SERVICES

844-493-TALK (8255)
OR TEXT TALK TO 38255

REACH OUT FOR FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, 24/7 SUPPORT

Thank you for supporting
Colorado agriculture.



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture
www.colorado.gov/ag