

2012 SARE Fellows Tour



May 14 – 17, 2012

Fort Collins, CO



2012 SARE Tour Itinerary

Tuesday, May 15 - North Tour – Day 1

AM

8:00 Depart Armstrong Hotel

8:30 Arrive at La Luna Dairy ◆

10:00 Depart La Luna Dairy

10:15 Arrive Seaworth Farms ◆

PM

12:15 Lunch at Seaworth Farms

12:45 Q&A with Troy and Richard Seaworth and others in Seaworth's barn

1:40 Depart Seaworth Farms

2:00 Arrive Quatrix Aquaponics

3:00 Depart Quatrix Aquaponics

3:30 Arrive Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

4:30 Dinner at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

6:00 Leave Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch for the Armstrong Hotel

2012 SARE Tour Itinerary

Wednesday, May 16 - Southern Tour – Day 2

AM

- 7:00 Depart Ft. Collins
- 8:15 Arrive at Sakata Farms
- 9:15 Depart to Lafayette
- 9:45 Arrive at Isabelle Farms ◆
- 11:45 Depart for Lunch
- 12:00 Arrive at Lookout Ridge Farm

PM

- 1:00 Depart Lookout Ridge Farm
- 1:30 Arrive at Herston Hay and Cattle ◆
- 3:30 Depart Herston's
- 4:00 Arrive at Hazel Dell Mushrooms
- 5:00 Leave Hazel Dell Mushrooms for Armstrong Hotel

2012 SARE Tour Itinerary

Thursday, May 17 - Eastern Tour – Day 3

AM

- 7:30 Depart Fort Collins
- 8:15 Arrive at JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC
- 9:45 Depart JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC
- 10:15 Arrive at Fagerberg's ◆

PM

- 12:30 Depart Fagerberg's
- 12:45 Lunch – Eaton Market Place
- 1:45 Arrive at Croissant Red Angus ◆
- 3:00 Depart Croissant Red Angus
- 3:30 Arrive at Shortgrass Steppe
- 4:45 Depart Shortgrass Steppe
- 4:30 Arrive at Terry Bison Ranch – Dinner
- 7:30 Leave Terry Bison Ranch for the Armstrong Hotel

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 1

Operation Profiles



La Luna Dairy ♦

This family farm in Wellington, Colorado is owned and founded by Jon Slutsky and Susan Moore. John and Susan, originally from California, moved to Colorado in 1972 so Susan could attend Colorado State University. While Susan majored in Animal Science, the couple started a hobby farm, raising dairy goats. When they couldn't find loans to support that business, the couple switched to dairy cows, making a go of it with 64 cows and renting dairy space. The hobby-business quickly grew, and four years later, they founded La Luna Dairy, a 60-acre farm on the outskirts of Wellington. Today, they run a successful family farm with nearly 30 employees and 1,200-1,300 dairy cows.

Case for CSU research on Livestock Air-Quality Issues in Colorado.

http://ile.colostate.edu/documents/saltlick/2009_dec.pdf

“Stakeholder of the Month”

Contact:

9003 N County Road 9, Wellington Colorado. (970) 568-7314

Seaworth Ag Enterprise, Inc. ♦

This 600 acre organic farm is owned and operated by Richard and Troy Seaworth. They also manage 2,000 acres in Nebraska and own and manage Seaworth Transportation, a small trucking fleet. The operation is innovative with strip tillage and irrigation practices.

Nominee for Outstanding Young Farmer award.

<http://www.nococd.org/page35.html>

Contact:

2707 E County Road 70, Wellington, Colorado. (970) 568-3411

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 1

Operation Profiles



Quatrix Aquaponics

The mission of Quatrix Aquaponics is “To utilize the ingenuity of aquaponic agriculture to provide fresh and organic vegetables, herbs, and fish to our local economy in an environmentally conscious way.” Construction of the 36’ x 130’ greenhouse and 30’ x 80’ steel building to house four fish tanks, each containing 1,000 tilapia, began in 2008. Quatrix Aquaponics has been in operation for approximately 1.5 years. Plants (red, green and romaine lettuce) are grown without soil in a hydroponic floating raft technique where the nutrients for the plants are provided by the fish water. In return, the plants filter the water, removing the nitrogen, and it is then returned to the fish tanks. Aquaponic systems re-circulate water, are very water conservative, and encourage vigorous plant growth. Quatrix currently markets its produce at local farmers markets and through a distributor who provides produce to local restaurants. The fish are fileted and sold at farmers markets in Fort Collins.

Contact:

Matthew Westenhover, Owner/Operator
3430 W. CR 54G, Laporte, CO 80535. (970) 472-2600
matthew@quatrix.us



Sylvan Dale

Purchased in 1946 by Maurice and Mayme Jessup, Sylvan Dale has a rich history and a message for all who have ever dared to dream.

“While keeping pace with the times we preserved the essence of our western heritage, offering you a meaningful escape from the pressures of everyday life. Learn more. We've been green since the beginning and we will continue to follow the example our parents set to preserve and protect our little piece of paradise. It's gratifying that the values we've held for years, doing the right thing, striving for energy efficiency, water conservation, and promoting other sustainable practices has become so popular and important in today's world.

We feel great about our eco-friendly ranch practices and are confident you'll notice the difference "green" makes when you visit us. We invite you to join us for your next green getaway or ecotourism lodge experience.”

In the News: <http://www.sylvandale.com/press-releases-news-room.html>

Participation in Conservation Land Easements:

<http://www.cclt.org/cclt/member-news/359-sylvan-dale-donates-easement-to-larimer-county.html>

Contact:

2939 N. County Road 31D, Loveland, Colorado 80538. (877) 667-3999.
<http://www.sylvandale.com/>

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 2

Operation Profiles



Sakata Farms

Located in Brighton, Colo., Sakata Farms grows sweet corn, onions and other vegetables on more than 3,200 acres of farmland. Bob Sakata, who grew up on a 10-acre farm in California, and his wife, Joanna, have built this family business with the help of their son, Robert. Sakata Farms is one of the top 100 vegetable growers in the United States.

Produce from the farm is sold from Florida to California, through retail outlets such as Safeway, King Soopers, Albertsons and Wal-Mart.

In the News:

<http://www.hpj.com/archives/2005/oct05/oct17/SakataFarmshonoredforsuppor.cfm>

Contact:

384 Bromley Lane, Brighton, Colorado 80601. (303) 659-1559



Isabelle Farms ♦

is a family-run, certified organic farm that grows more than 100 varieties of produce on 80 plus acres in Boulder County. The farm provides fresh produce through their CSA, farm stand, and to local restaurants. This year they are introducing the Farm, Garden and Nature Camp in July and August.

From the website <http://isabellefarm.com>

"2012 marks the fourth season we will be offering a CSA program. We have found the direct link to our Farm Share Members one of the most fulfilling aspects of growing organic produce for a local market. In addition to our Farm Shares, we are also excited to offer Partner Program Shares with Ela Family Farms for Western Slope Organic Fruit, Conscious Coffees for Fair-Trade Organic Fresh-Roasted Coffee and Grass-Fed Beef raised by our neighbor and longtime rancher, Jim Roberts.

We are interested in partnering with select local restaurants, food preservers and manufacturers, as well as catering companies and markets who share our vision and whose consumers value the benefits of supporting local agriculture that is grown with the health of the environment in mind. Isabelle Farm is currently partnering with 14 restaurants."

We are also open to growing hard-to-find crops, if they are suitable to our climate and the quantities are great enough."

Contact:

Jason Condon

10029 Isabelle Rd, Lafayette, CO 80026. (303) 817-9316

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 2

Operation Profiles

Lookout Ridge Farm and Bateman Farms

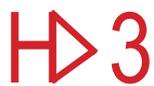
Lookout Ridge Farm offers horse boarding, training, pasture and a competition facility. Pastures are managed “grass first, horse second”, with controlled grazing time in paddocks.

Bateman Farms is a diversified farming operation, with 1650 acres of dryland crops (mostly winter wheat and fallow) and 2200 acres of surface irrigated crops (corn, alfalfa, small grains and grass hay). Water for irrigation, especially in July, is the limiting factor on some acreage. Keith and his son do all the farming themselves. One challenge is moving large equipment in an area of heavy traffic.

Contact:

Julie Smith

8750 Lookout Rd., Longmont, CO 80503. (303) 530-0436



Herston Hay and Cattle ♦

Herston Hay and Cattle is a family operation, producing premium grass hay for the local horse and llama market. There are two pivots on the property and they are installing micro-irrigation systems on the corners for hop and vineyard production. Other diversification efforts include the production of specialty seed. They graze cattle and goats and are installing fences, tanks and pipelines to aid in an intensive grazing management program.

Contact:

Deb Herston

3918 E. Co. Rd. 16, Loveland, CO 80537. (303) 803-0086

<http://herstonhay.com/>



Hazel Dell Mushrooms

Mushrooms is a certified organic producer of several varieties of mushrooms, including shiitake, oyster, lion's name, portabella, button and cinnamon cap. They sell to many restaurants in Fort Collins, Boulder and Denver, to several large produce wholesalers in Denver and to Whole Foods and Wild Oats markets. They also sell at the Fort Collins, Boulder, and Longmont Farmer's Markets. Additionally, mushroom compost is sold by bag or pick-up load.

Contact:

Jim Hammond

3925 E County Rd 32 (Carpenter Rd)-Fort Collins, CO 80525. (970) 226-0978

<http://hazedellmushrooms.com/>

♦ - denotes in-depth review of operations

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 3

Operation Profiles



JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC



JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC (Five Rivers) is a wholly owned subsidiary of JBS. Five Rivers has a combined feeding capacity of more than 900,000 head of cattle with locations in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Idaho.

Five Rivers takes pride in its team of over 750 professional, skilled, and dedicated employees.

By investing in our team, Five Rivers is assured that our operations remain safe and friendly to the environment.

Colorado Ag Hall of Fame 2012:

<http://www.thefencepost.com/article/20120305/NEWS/120309984>

Contact:

Corporate Headquarters

1770 Promontory Circle, Greeley, CO 80634. (970) 506-8363

<http://www.fiveriverscattle.com/>



Fagerberg Produce ♦

was founded by Carl Fagerberg in 1882. The farm consists of 1400 acres, growing onions, beans (pinto and yellow) and wheat. Drip irrigation is used on 600 acres; this system uses 40% less

water, ensures that there is no run-off from chemical applications, and requires minimal tillage. Pivot irrigation is used on 140 acres.

Onions are the primary crop, with 400 acres on farm. Fagerberg Produce also harvests and processes 800 acres of onions from throughout the region. Colorado is centrally located making transportation much easier to ship east, west, north or south. Additional information on onion production is available at VegNet for Onions (<http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/VegNet/vegnet/onions.html>).

While onions do well in eastern Colorado, it is sometimes hard to find good ground for onions, as they require irrigation early in the season. Thus, a farm with access to well water (and not just access to ditch water) is needed.

Contact:

Lynn Fagerberg

P. O. Box 8, 17673 WCR 80, Eaton, CO 80615. (970) 834-1353

<http://www.fagerbergproduce.com/>

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 3

Operation Profiles

CROISSANT Croissant Red Angus ♦ **RED ANGUS**

BALANCED TRAIT SELECTION

“Our goal is to produce the best possible seedstock in a commercial production environment without excess feeding and pampering. We use proven AI sires, manage our cattle in large single herd contemporary groups, and collect all data from birth to harvest, providing the best described seedstock possible. Balanced trait selection is our genetic progress model. No “herd sire” regardless of popularity is perfect. Utilizing a trait leader usually results in below breed average performance in some of the other traits. Our genetic selection focuses on maintaining most traits above breed average. We are careful to avoid the generational stacking of below breed average traits.

The health plan at Croissant Red Angus was developed to ensure healthy animals, not only here but at our customers’ ranch. It is our goal to not only provide genetics that work, but also bulls and females that can go directly to work for you. In 2006, we became a certified BVD PI free herd with the Colorado Veterinary Diagnostics Lab. Continual testing will ensure our customers some of the healthiest animals that are in the marketplace.”

Contact:

Larry, Jean & Kevin

49316 WCR 83, Briggsdale, CO 80611. (970) 656-3545

E-mail: lcroissant@wigginstel.com

<http://www.croissantredangus.com/>



Shortgrass Steppe

The Shortgrass Steppe Research and Interpretation Center sits under the big sky in northern Colorado, surrounded by unbroken vistas. Located near Fort Collins, Greeley, Denver, and Cheyenne, the site has full-circle views of the rolling grasslands, the Chalk Bluffs and Wyoming to the north, and the Rocky Mountains to the west. Abundant wildlife – pronghorn antelope, meadowlarks, lark buntings, mountain plovers, migrating and resident hawks, coyotes, swift fox, badgers, burrowing owls and prairie dogs – live in the area. Ecologically sensitive building design integrates the site into the rolling hills and short vegetation of the surrounding grasslands. The SGS-RIC is ideal for a wide variety of visitors interested in getting away for workshops, small conferences, retreats, and opportunities like bird-watching, viewing wildflowers, and star-gazing.

Radio News Report:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kunc/news.newsmain/article/6/0/1735277/Science/.Colorado.State.University's.Shortgrass.Steppe.Research.and.Interpretation.Center.Advances.Science.and.Culture>

Reservations Contact:

Lindsey Hoffner, CSU Conference Services,
(970) 491-7501 or via e-mail at lindsey.hoffner@colostate.edu

[http:// www.sgsric.colostate.edu/](http://www.sgsric.colostate.edu/)

SARE 2012 Tour - Day 3

Operation Profiles



Terry Bison Ranch

Terry Bison Ranch is located on the Wyoming/Colorado state line. Ron Thiel bought the Terry Ranch in 1993 in order to raise bison. The grazing operation is managed holistically. It is a family oriented resort that provides western adventure, food and entertainment and educates guests about Wyoming history and culture. Bison meats are available at the Trading Post. Other activities include bison hunts and horseback riding. A new addition to the property is the Chicken Bus, a movable vehicle that will be home to egg-laying hens, with organic eggs available for purchase.

In the News for their interesting livestock:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/239417/630/Wyomings-interesting-animal>

In the News for their partnership with Cold Creek Buffalo Company

<http://www.thefencepost.com/article/20120220/NEWS/120229979&parentprofile=search>

Contact:

Terry Bison Ranch Resort

51 I-25 Service Road East, Cheyenne WY 82007. (307) 634-4171

wesleyammons@terrybisonranch.com

<http://www.terrybisonranch.com/>

◆ - denotes in-depth review of operations

SARE 2012 Fellows - Bios

Marlin Bates Marlin has been a Horticulture Specialist with University of Missouri Extension for 4 years. In his work, Marlin focuses on increasing the local food supply by working with new and existing producers of specialty crops in and around the Kansas City Metropolitan area. He also works intensively with community and neighborhood groups interested in food production. Marlin leads several Master Gardener projects that are focused on demonstrating best practices in Midwest food production, including several summer-long youth gardening programs. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in greenhouse management and vegetable production, respectively, from Kansas State University.

email: batesma@missouri.edu

Jack C. Boles, Jr. (Arkansas 4-H Faculty - ATV Safety, Division of Agriculture, Research and Extension) Jack began his career with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in 1987 as the agriculture agent for Independence County. He has since worked in a variety of positions during his time with Extension. Jack has spent the last 14 years as County Agent in Newton County. Jack left Newton County in November 2011 to become a member of Arkansas 4-H Faculty, overseeing the Arkansas 4-H ATV Safety Program.

Jack is a lifelong resident of Arkansas. He was born in Little Rock and graduated high school in Cabot. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University having earned a Bachelors' Degree in Animal Science and a Master's Degree in Agriculture.

email: jboles@uaex.edu

Bradley Burbaugh Brad serves as the agricultural and natural resources agent for Duval County, Florida. His areas of expertise include forage management, direct marketing and small-scale poultry production. Brad is a former vocational agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. He received a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Florida and a master's degree in public policy from the University of North Florida.

email: Burbaugh@coj.net

SARE 2012 Fellows - Bios

Aaron Esser Aaron is a Lincoln-Adams Area Extension Agronomist with Washington State University. His program is focused on assisting growers in the adaptation of minimum tillage and no-till systems, and more intensive crop rotations that improve overall economic profitability. He grew up on a farm near Genesee, Idaho, and he received his Bachelor's Degree in agricultural economics and Masters Degree in plant science at the University of Idaho.

email: aarons@wsu.edu

Lauren A. Hunter (Program Focus: Crops, Organic and Sustainable Farming, precision agriculture) Lauren Hunter is the Crops Extension Educator for county and district-wide programming for University of Idaho's Extension. Hunter has been with the University of Idaho since 2009. Her educational programs focus on sustainable and organic farming, with a focus on sustainable soil management. Hunter is a primary investigator and collaborator on a number of research projects in southern Idaho. These include dairy compost use for organic soil management, dairy compost soil mineralization, cover crop and green manure variety trials, developing an Idaho Cover Crop Calculator, and geospatial water management. Her programs include a Hay and Cereal School, Small Farm Conference, Sustainable Soil Management Workshop, and Geospatial Technology Workshops.

Hunter is the county chair for the Blaine County Extension office and oversees 2 employees as well as a Research Assistant.

Before her time with the University of Idaho, Hunter worked as the Assistant Director of the Appalachian Center for Mountain Winegrowing with Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. As Assistant Director, Hunter primarily worked on grant writing and research development for mountain and steep slope vineyards. Since graduating with her M.A. in Geography, Hunter has been working in extension and outreach.

email: lhunter@uidaho.edu

Thomas R. Maloney (Cornell University) Tom Maloney is a Senior Extension Associate in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. He received his Bachelors and Masters in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. He began his career as a Cooperative Extension Agent working in Cortland County New York. He then joined Cornell University and since 1985 has been responsible for Extension programs in human resource management, Hispanic workforce issues, and agricultural labor policy.

email: trm5@cornell.edu

SARE 2012 Fellows - Bios

Suzanne Mills-Wasniak Susanne is an Ohio State University Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, in Montgomery County and a SARE Fellow. Her current Extension specialization is sustainable agriculture with an emphasis on urban agriculture, small farms, and local food systems. She is presently working with the City of Dayton on their “Welcome Dayton, Immigrant Friendly” initiative. Many of the immigrant participants in the initiative were farmers in their native country. One of the initiative’s goals is to establish urban agriculture within the existing “food deserts” on vacant lots to increase economic opportunity for the immigrants and to increase neighborhood access to fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables. Urban residents, both youth and adult, are exposed to sustainable agriculture and the food system through field days, stop by conversations at the establishing lots, and programming.

Her Masters Degree is in Biological Sciences from Wright State University with a major concentration in Environmental Sciences. Her Bachelor Degree is in Agriculture from The Ohio State University with a major in Animal Science. Prior to Extension she was a licensed grade 7 through 12 science teacher, worked on a swine CAFO, and was an elected local public official. She is still actively involved with the family farms.

email: mills-wasniak.1@cfaes.osu.edu

Jim Ochterski (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, Agriculture and Natural Resources Issues Leader)
Jim Ochterski has been an Extension agent in the Finger Lakes region of New York for more than 15 years, and currently leads the Agriculture Team at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. Jim’s academic background includes a BS in Cell Biology from the University of Rochester and a Master’s degree in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan.

Although Jim assists farms in many areas of production and sales, his areas of expertise include farm marketing, business development, sustainable farming, and community relations.

Jim lives in Farmington, NY, and serves on the Town of Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee; he also volunteers at Sonnenberg Gardens, at the Finger Lakes Wine Center, and at various athletic events in the region. Jim and his wife Amy spend many hours outdoors biking, gardening, and birdwatching.

email: jao14@cornell.edu

SARE 2012 Fellows Tour Planning Team

Dennis Lamm, Chair
Professor and Extension Specialist, CSU

Jerry Alldredge, Weld Co. Extension Agronomist, retired

Todd Boldt, NRCS, Larimer County

Boyd Byelich, NRCS, Boulder County

Adrian Card, Boulder County Extension Agent, CSU

Karen Crumbaker, Larimer County Extension Agent, CSU

Ernie Marx, Natural Resource Ecology Lab, CSU

Jeanine Neskey, Graduate Student, CSU

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Gregory Sundstrom, Colorado State Forest Service

Dawn Thilmany, Professor and Extension Specialist, CSU

Bill Wailes, Professor and Extension Specialist, CSU

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