



# C.A.L.P Class 15

## Biographies



Aly Kruse works with cattle feeders and commodity contracts to ensure product safety and commodity traceability. Aly is certified in feedlot food safety programs in Oregon, Washington and Idaho working towards extending that in Colorado. She believes that detailed organization and customer transparency are important items that aid in success when tracking commodities involved in cattle feeding. Kruse has worked in the cattle feeding industry for five years and specialized in food safety programs, specifically the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Program (HACCP). Kruse holds a Bachelor's Degree from Oregon State University (OSU) in Animal Science and furthered her education at OSU with a Masters of Agriculture emphasizing on Agriculture Education, Animal Science and Applied Economics.

**Aly Kruse**  
Fort Collins, CO



Annaliese Danckers is a regenerative livestock farmer who works with consumers and farmers to appreciate the importance of a personal connection to food. Annaliese believes agriculture is a powerful tool in fighting climate change and adapting to a resilient future. Annaliese is a Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program student with recognition in Boulder County's National Young Farmers' Coalition chapter. She manages a thirty-acre farm in Longmont and has helped build and manage regenerative farms from Alabama to Colorado, teaching children and adults alike about food production, history and cultivation.

Annaliese holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Environmental Sociology and German Language from Vanderbilt University.

**Annaliese Danckers**  
Longmont, CO



Anneliese Phippen is an officer manager and executive assistant to the CEO at the National Western Stock Show. In this role, she supports the board of directors, committees, and staff to carry out the organization's mission of agricultural education.

Anneliese believes that agriculturalists can most effectively advocate by being unified for the good of the industry and seeks to further strengthen opportunities to collaborate with youth and peers alike. A Colorado native, her passion for agriculture advocacy developed through involvement in 4-H programs and growing up on her family's hobby farm.

Her work has been recognized as the 2019 Colorado Farm Bureau Emerging Leader and a 2021 Denver Business Journal Who's Who in Agriculture.

Anneliese is certified in event management and is a fellow in the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program.

**Annelise Phippen**  
Denver, CO



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**Blake Ferris**  
Wiggins, CO

Blake Ferris partners with his father to maintain the family's ranching and farming operation, outside of his hometown of Wiggins, CO. There, they oversee the diversified family business with a predominantly Red Angus, commercial cow-calf herd as the cornerstone of the enterprise. An insatiable passion for production agriculture, particularly beef cattle, has long been a pillar of his interests from a very young age. However, Blake understands the challenges the modern beef industry is confronted with and strives to advocate for the field he cares so deeply about. He has held numerous leadership positions in agriculture organizations throughout his educational career and looks to continue his involvement in the future.

Ferris graduated with a B.S. in Animal Science and a minor in Agricultural Business from the University of Wyoming.

Carrie Hackenberger is Associate Director of American Petroleum Institute Colorado, an organization that represents all facets of the natural gas and oil industry. Prior to joining API Colorado in September 2016, Hackenberger spent three years working for Rockwell Automation, an industrial automation company, in various roles.

Hackenberger has received recognition for her role as a leader within the energy industry, including being named a 2019 Experience Energy GRIT Award Winner and a 2020 Denver Business Journal Outstanding Women in Business - Energy Finalist. She is also currently participating in the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program.

Hackenberger is a Colorado native and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University. She continued on her education to receive a Master of Science in Global Energy Management from University of Colorado Denver and is currently working on her Master of Business Administration from CU Denver.



**Carrie Hackenberger**  
Denver, CO



**Cullen Stevens**  
LaSalle, CO

Cullen Stevens farms for Schmidt & Sons Farms in LaSalle producing corn, sugar beets, onions, and alfalfa hay. When not irrigating and working the fields, Cullen spends his time volunteering around Colorado to advocate for agriculture and the preservation of western heritage. With an associate degree of Animal Science from Laramie County Community College, Cullen is currently attending University of Northern Colorado for a degree in Economics and plans on continuing a career in the agriculture industry.



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**Daniel Ray**  
Joes, CO

Daniel Ray is a first-generation farmer that specializes in pork production for Whole Foods Market supplying pork to Colorado as well as a custom haying operator working with local hay growers in all aspects of hay production.

Daniel has been operating his custom haying operation and hog farm on his own since 2014 and has grown his operation to over 1700 acres a year custom haying for numerus customers and a 30 sow farrow-to-finish herd.

Daniel has been in the haying business since 2003 working for different operations through different regions of the country.

Daniel holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Agronomy and Animal Science.

A native of the San Luis Valley, Dr. Deanna Bartee is a passionate advocate for this region of Colorado, which includes three of the poorest counties in the state. Her life goal is to help the people of the San Luis Valley find opportunities to advance themselves and their communities. To accomplish this, Deanna devotes her time to the three major industries of the valley: agriculture, education, and business. Currently, Deanna is a member of the faculty of the School of Business at Adams State University and she and her family also own and operate businesses in the area including a generational, organic farm and ranch on the north end of the valley.

In preparation for these roles, Deanna earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in business education, both from Adams State University. She then went on to earn a doctoral degree in organizational leadership and development from Grand Canyon University. Deanna's primary goal in life is to serve and inspire those around her to be the best version of themselves. Stemming from her belief that everyone has a unique super-power that develops from their past experiences and simply who they are, it is her hope that through her hard work and dedication she will enable others to identify and develop their own unique super-powers.



**Deanna Bartee**  
Center, CO



**Morgan Weinrich**  
Arvada, CO

Morgan Weinrich is the Events and Logistics Manager at the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust where she coordinates fundraising and outreach events, manages grants, and provides administrative, logistical, and organizational support. Morgan grew up in Yuma, Colorado where she developed her passion for agriculture through her involvement in 4-H and FFA. Morgan holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science with a minor in Agriculture Literacy from Colorado State University. Prior to joining CCALT, Morgan was a member of the team at the National Western Stock Show.



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Jeramy McNeely is the Fremont County Extension Director for Colorado State University with a focus in 4-H, Ag, and Horticulture Programming. After spending nearly a decade in K-12 education, Jeramy adjusted his career focus to join his passions for agriculture and positive youth development.

He has garnered regional and national recognition with the National Association of County Ag Agents in multimedia educational programming.

Jeramy holds a MA in Educational Leadership from Adams State University.

**Jeramy McNeely**  
Canon City, CO

Jessica Crowther is the Assistant Director for the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, partnering with 150 San Luis Valley Potato Growers to provide quality product, education and promotion. Jessica believes that transparency and quality are important standards for promotion production ag. Focusing on consumer education, Jessica has obtained Specialty Crop Block Grant funding for K-12 Potato Nutrition Education projects within the Denver Public Schools System.

Jessica holds a B.S. in Small Business Management and is currently obtaining a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in Leadership.



**Jessica Crowther**  
Monte Vista, CO



Lacey Taylor is an Extension agent with Colorado State University Extension in Cheyenne County focused on agriculture and 4-H youth development.

Taylor has 12 years of experience in Extension program design including curriculum development, workshop delivery, event planning, and evaluation. Prior to her time with Extension she worked with Texas Farm Bureau in their state legislative affairs office helping coordinate with the Texas Agricultural Council to raise commodity awareness with the state legislature.

She has been recognized for her Extension work by the Colorado Association of Extension 4-H Agents Distinguished Service Award, the Western Region Natural Resources teamwork award for AgFest, and her feature story "Showring Rookie to National Western Stock Show Carcass Contest Winner."

She holds a master's of agriculture and bachelor's degrees from Colorado State University and Kansas State University in agriculture education and agriculture communication and journalism.



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Lauren Kolb is a soil health coordinator for the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks department. In this role, Lauren manages agricultural leasing on the city's 17,000 acres of agricultural land and collaborates with these lessees to incorporate practices that improve soil health on their leaseholds. Supporting growers in better land stewardship ensures that this public resource can be enjoyed in perpetuity. Lauren is a former president of the state's noxious weed advisory committee and a founding planning committee member of the award-winning Soil Revolution conference series. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University in animal science and a Ph.D. in sustainable agriculture from the University of Maine.

Lauren Kolb  
Boulder, CO

Matthew (Matt) Lopez serves as the Pesticide Enforcement Manager for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, responsible the administration and enforcement of the Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act and its associated rules and regulations. Matt understands that the role of a state employee charged with the enforcement of an environmental law is not just to be protective of people, their property, and the environment; it is also to be informative and offer education when appropriate; to be consistent in the application of the law; and to be protective of the industries regulated.

Matt was the EPA Region 8, State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group representative to the US EPA in Washington, D.C., where he presented regional concerns with the definition of Waters of the United States and the lack of suitable pesticides for cannabis crops. Matt is currently an At Large member of the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials' executive board of directors, and a nationally certified investigator through the Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation holding certification in both the NCIT Basic and Specialized programs.

Matt holds a B.S. in Biology with a Botany concentration and Chemistry minor from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a Masters of Public Administration with two areas of emphasis: Environmental Policy, Management, and Law; and Emergency Management and Homeland Security from the University of Colorado Denver.



Matthew Lopez  
Broomfield, CO



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Michelle Kardokus is a Health and Fitness Coach who co-manages a High Altitude Agriculture-Tourism Resort. Kardokus advocates Agriculture, Fitness, and Nutrition as a Lifestyle Entrepreneur. Kardokus has worked with her family at Grey Wolf Resort to bring practices such as homesteading skills, outdoor fitness challenges and nutritional Farm-To-Table experiences. A Colorado Native, Kardokus is a Certified Level 1 Crossfit Trainer, member of the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program and is currently enrolled in the American College of Healthcare Sciences to become a certified Holistic Nutrition and Herbal Medicinal Consultant. Her entrepreneur endeavors gives her board experience in the Recreational Outdoor Industry, Clothing Design, Hospitality, Natural Product Development and Youth Mentorship.

**Michelle Kardokus**  
Victor, CO



Shelby Rich is the Education Manager for the National Western Stock Show, overseeing programs that serve to advocate and educate the public about the importance of the agriculture industry. She has worked in multiple capacities at National Western, including rodeo operations, year-round complex events and serving as the Denver County Fair Manager.

A Colorado native, Rich's passion for agriculture began in her hometown of Sterling, where she was active in 4-H, showing and judging horses. Rich serves on the Colorado Association of Fairs & Shows Board of Directors, and was recognized as a recipient of the International Association of Venue Managers 30 Under 30 Program.

Rich earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Wyoming.

Preston Schow is an Operations Associate at Farmland Partners who partners with tenant farmers to implement and administer strategic farmland leases on over 25,000 acres in Colorado and 155,000 acres across the country.

Preston believes that landowners have the opportunity and obligation to be stewards in a manner that promotes sustainable and profitable agriculture. His focus on solving long term water and soil issues will ensure future generations to have access to high quality farmland in our quickly growing state. Preston manages a farmer lead purchasing program, allowing Colorado farmers to use their collective power to stabilize and minimize their input costs.

Preston is a member of the CO Chamber of Commerce's EXECs Advocacy Program where he campaigns for policies that promote agricultural industries in the state. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder.



**Preston Schow**  
Denver, CO



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Travis Grant  
Denver, CO

Travis Grant is an Area Representative for Congressman Ken Buck, serving Colorado's 4th Congressional District. Grant serves the 8 southern counties of the district immersing himself in the agriculture and rural lifestyle unique to Southeastern Colorado. Grant has also worked closely with state elected officials, legislative staff, and stakeholder groups to push for and support legislation that promotes improvements to education, healthcare, and agriculture in rural Colorado. As a Colorado native, he believes rural Colorado needs advocates and works to ensure that the concerns and needs of Southeastern Colorado are brought to the conversation in Denver and DC.

Travis Grant is a member of the Colorado Ag Leadership Program, Class 15.

Travis Grant studied Political Science at Colorado State University.

Stacey Crouch is a wool and lamb producer in Southeast Colorado. She is dedicated to all aspects of the family's operation from production to management and marketing. Stacey serves as the Colorado Women Involved in Farm Economics membership chair where she helps build the capacity of volunteer chapters and increase organizational membership. Being involved in commercial livestock production, community organization, and advocacy gives Stacey a broad perspective of agriculture's strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. She is committed to promoting Colorado agriculture through engaging in conversations through activities like Pedal the Plains, livestock shows and speaking to school groups. Stacey also serves the community through acting as both the horse show and fashion revue superintendent in the local 4-H program. As a member of Class 15 Stacey is dedicated to enhancing her ability to represent agriculture as an effective communicator and advocate.



Stacey Crouch  
LaJunta, CO



Trevor Birk  
Fort Morgan, CO

Trevor Birk is the operations manager for his family's large scale row crop, feedlot and cow calf operation located in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Evolving from a fourth generation family farm in southeast Nebraska, he specializes in growing corn and alfalfa to supplement the feedlot, as well as local dairies.

Birk holds a Bachelors degree in Animal Sciences and Industry from Kansas State University.