

AgriSummit 2025 Presenter Bios



Attila Agoston

Attila has served as Guidestone Colorado's Farm and Food Systems Director since January of last year. Before moving to Colorado, he owned and operated a USDA Certified Organic vegetable farm for 15 years in Virginia, near the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Mountain View Farm attended three weekly farmers markets and sold produce to many fine restaurants in Washington DC.



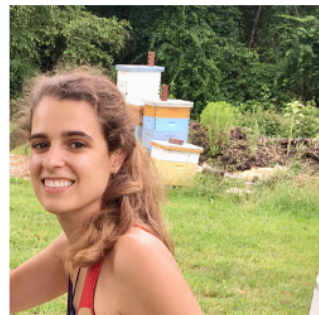
Natalie Allio

Alycen is passionate about sharing the small magic in the world around her. Living in Central Oregon, Grand Junction, and the Chihuahuan desert of West Texas she has a love for arid landscapes of all types. Moving to Salida to work as a land steward with the Forest Service and then the Natural Resource Conservation Service. She has worked with local farmers and ranchers, supporting working lands and long-term sustainability of American agriculture. She is happy to be in the mountains supporting the community of Central Colorado and discovering all the beauty of our forests, rivers and beyond.



Maria Judith Alvarez

Dr. Alvarez leads the community-based efforts to end hunger in the Roaring Fork Valley. With over 20 years of leadership experience in health, community wellness, mental health, and food insecurity she utilizes her knowledge and skills to improve the lives of vulnerable residents in the Valley. In 2022, she played a key role in the approval of the Healthy School Meals for All initiative in Colorado. Her commitment to fighting food insecurity is evident in her numerous initiatives aimed at improving health and well-being among underserved populations. She is also a provider of expert state and national testimony in support of food security policy, is on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger and is a licensed physician in Mexico. She enjoys reading, drawing, and bicycle rides.



Bradley Barrow

Bradley Barrow is the Farm to Institution Agricultural Specialist at Nourish Colorado, where she and her team collaborate with school districts across the state to integrate farm-to-school practices into everyday operations. By providing technical assistance, they help school staff build sustainable systems that prioritize local sourcing and support Colorado's producers. Bradley works closely with farmers, food hubs, and institutional partners to foster stronger more resilient food systems. With over five years of experience in food systems, she has spent the last year focusing specifically on institutional procurement.



Greg Bayne

Seafaring was the love of Greg's life until he was happily married in 2001 and moved to Salida, Colorado. The following year, and in partnership with others, Greg purchased a 1.2 acre site - formerly the Floyd Kaess Conoco, built in 1935. Inspired by the 'Back to Eden' documentary film, and having completed a Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) in 2018, Greg began developing the site to demonstrate permaculture design principles in a high altitude desert environment.



Alyssa Bentele

Alyssa is a Land Steward with Colorado West Land Trust, and part of the Land Transfer Navigator program with American Farmland Trust. Alyssa works both in preserving and enhancing the conservation values with landowners as well as helping landowners and land seekers navigate transferring land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. She is on the board of the National Young Farmers Coalition, Fertile Edge Community Land Trust, and is a volunteer DJ with KVNF Community Radio. She lives in Western Colorado since 2016 where she works, wanders, canoes, and gardens in the North Fork Valley with her husband, Ben, and dog, Chaihu.



Carla Decker

Carla graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in Geography and Urban Planning. Her diverse career path includes roles as a Business Analyst, Americorps volunteer, River Ranger, and service in the Colorado Army National Guard. Carla's professional journey led her through various non-profit organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, US-Brazil Connect, and The Cycle Effect. Currently, as the Director of Strategic Advancement at Family & Intercultural Resource Center (FIRC) in Summit County, Colorado, she spearheads initiatives like the Food Equity Coalition and serves on the Food Access Advisory Board. Carla resides in Silverthorne, where she enjoys outdoor activities, live music, and traveling with her husband and dog.



Jenny Dulmer

Jenny is simply a person concerned about the future of sustainable agriculture and local resilience. Having the time and ability to help, Jenny is particularly drawn to the Sun Mountain Farm Club for its larger social, economic, and ecological implications. Jenny is a writing and literature teacher with a strong interest in the relationship between people and place.



Brady Everett

Brady is a 7th generation rancher in Chaffee County and is willing to try new techniques with his lands, especially in regenerative grazing techniques, like virtual fence, for range management.



Cristina Gair

Cristina joined WMRHA as the Alliance's first Executive Director in 2017 with a focus on developing organizational leadership, strategy, innovation and sustainability. Cristina brings more than 17 years of leadership experience working with health and human service non-profit organizations in the West Mountain region. Cristina served as the Executive Director of Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance, Program Officer of Aspen Valley Medical Foundation, and Executive Director of The Eagle River Youth Coalition, now called Mountain Youth. Cristina has also worked with a variety of nonprofits to provide fundraising, grant writing, strategic planning and board retreats. Cristina has a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Change Management from Colorado State University and a Bachelors of Journalism from the University of Missouri. Cristina is passionate about creating a community integrated health system that serves all people, and believes that this requires a focus on health equity and social determinants of health.



Al Lake

A worm-loving, soil disciple, Al is co-manager of community composting operations at Food to Power, a food justice organization working in food access, education and production. They are also a maker, working with natural and "waste" materials, and find pleasure in mending, patching, and creating to defy consumerism.



Brice Lewis

Brice is the owner/operator of Lewis Lazy L Ranch along with his wife, Kate Lewis. He has been using virtual fence on his herd, year-round, for 3 years. Brice is also the local Brand Inspector and has been for 35 years.



Lindi Lewis

Lindi Lewis began gardening as a child helping with her parents' big one-acre garden. She now lives and gardens in Salida with a small fruit orchard, trees, raised beds, and a solar geodesic dome greenhouse. Lindi works at The Triangle Oasis Farm where she grows flowers and works the Farmers Market. She practices permaculture gardening and focuses on regenerating the soil at her own one-acre home.



Emma Lietz Bilecky

Emma Lietz Bilecky has been working with Guidestone since moving back home to Colorado in 2022. Prior to directing the Colorado Land Link program, Emma learned from, managed, and taught courses on farms in the Southeast, Northeast and Midwest and earned masters degrees in environmental management and theological studies at Duke. Emma is passionate about addressing the root causes of inequity in agriculture through creative land access solutions. When not working for Guidestone, she is a writer and professor of environmental ethics.



Stacy Lischka

Stacy Lischka is a passionate advocate for the potential of local food to connect people and nature. Her interest in the connection between local food and conservation began during her childhood on her parents' hobby farm in northern Wisconsin and has grown as she moved around the US working as a conservation researcher. In 2022, she joined Poudre Valley Community Farms as a way to combine her passions for food and conservation and make a mark on the community she calls home. Stacy holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, a Master's degree from Michigan State University, and Ph.D. from Colorado State University, all in Wildlife Conservation. Outside of her work hours, you can usually find Stacy in the kitchen, sharing the joys of cooking and eating with her husband and 2 children, or looking for ways to spend time in, on, or near water in the High Desert.



Derek Lowstuter

Derek Lowstuter graduated from CSU with a degree in Natural Resource Management, with minors in Horticulture, Forestry, and History. He obtained his M.S. degree in Forest Sciences in collaboration with the Peace Corps Masters International Program. He is currently a doctoral student in Organizational Learning, Performance, and Change at Colorado State University. He previously founded and operated a 40ac regenerative farm in ND, as well as an organic soil amendment manufacturing and consulting company. Derek currently works as an Agricultural and Food Systems Specialist at Colorado State University Extension. He has directed agricultural and natural resource management projects on four continents, but now calls Colorado Springs, CO, home with his wife Claire, their daughter, and a menagerie of animals and houseplants.



Monique Marez

Monique Marez is from Pueblo, Colorado. She believes that food connects us to ourselves, each other, and our abundant planet. Monique is a food systems practitioner with experience at every scale of the sector, in every aspect of the food system: food service, community organizing, farming and animal husbandry, international trade policy and more. Monique has worked on food systems development in nearly 40 countries around the world. Her consulting practice, Eptimizo LLC, provides strategic services to food and agriculture businesses, non-profits, and governments in an effort to build a more resilient and nourishing food system. Monique holds degrees from Yale University and New York University.



Amber Martinez

Amber lives in the beautiful and rural Conejos County. She is the Food Service Director for the North Conejos School District, and will be sharing her expertise at the Local Food in Action: Creative Approaches to Integrating Local Foods and Value-Added Products into School Meal Programs Session.



Elena Miller-ter Kuile

Elena Miller-ter Kuile, a 6th generation farmer, operates Cactus Hill Farm on her Hispano ancestors' land, utilizing some of Colorado's oldest water rights from 1867. She raises sheep for meat and wool products, and produces organic grains and hay. A Cornell University agriculture graduate, Elena has served on local food and rural business committees. She previously supported migrant agricultural students at Adams State University and has been active in community water rights advocacy.



Heather Mills

Heather joined CCC in May 2024 to oversee the agriculture program, which focuses on projects to improve the ecosystems of grazing lands, virtual fencing, and other innovative programs aimed at keeping working lands working. Prior to joining CCC, she managed several ranches, trained horses, and guided on rivers, including a 5 year career with the Colorado Outward Bound School. First arriving to the West in Santa Fe, NM, after college, Heather has now lived in Colorado for 25 years. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her two Border Collies, running rivers, and spending time with family and friends.



Andrea Moore

Andrea is the Nutrition Manager for Salida School District. She is also an experienced Executive Chef with a demonstrated history of working in the hospitality industry. Skilled in Culinary Education, Event Planning, Customer Service, Culinary Skills, and Leadership. Strong entrepreneurship professional with a Occupational Associate Degree focused in International Baking and Pastry Technology from Florida Culinary Institute.



Cooper Moore

Cooper Moore has been living in Eagle County, Colorado for over 6 years and has been working with The Community Market for the last 3 years. Originally from Illinois, Cooper would volunteer at the local food bank with his Grandma. After moving to Colorado, he was excited to join a local food bank and help out in a new community. In his free time, Cooper enjoys snowboarding, wakeboarding, and watching soccer games.



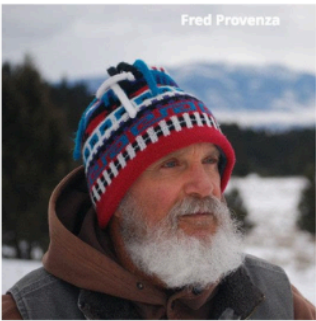
Matt Noyes

Matt Noyes enjoys farm work, solidarity economy and cooperative organizing, and translating books about the same. He studied solidarity economy and cooperative organization at Mondragon University and is co-author of *Cooperatives at Work* (with George Cheney and others). He does food rescue and helps run a local buyers' club, the farm and art market, and several cooperatives, including Social.Coop and GEO.Coop.



Bill Parker

Born with a passion for healthy lands and humanely raised livestock, Bill Parker founded Parker Pastures in 2006 after years studying and gaining experience in livestock production, ecology, and Holistic Management. He and his family run an operation in Gunnison, CO, are part of a world-wide community of holistic & regenerative ranchers and farmers, and are the co-founders of The Colorado Regenerative Network, which is a Savory Global Hub.



Fred Provenza

Fred Provenza grew up in Salida, Colorado, working on a ranch while attending school in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University. He is professor emeritus of Behavioral Ecology in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University where he worked for 35 years, directing an award-winning research group that pioneered an understanding of how learning influences foraging behavior and how behavior links soil, plants, herbivores, and humans. He is one of the founders of BEHAVE, an international network of scientists, ranchers, farmers, and land managers committed to integrating behavioral principles with local knowledge to enhance environmental, economic, and cultural values of rural and urban communities. He is the author of three books, including *Nourishment: What Animals Can Teach Us About Rediscovering Our Nutritional Wisdom*; *Foraging Behavior: Managing to Survive in a World of Change*; and *The Art & Science of Shepherding: Tapping the Wisdom of French Herders* (co-authored with Michel Meuret). He has published over 350 research papers in a wide variety of scientific journals and has been an invited speaker at over 600 conferences.



Alycen Reinhart

Alycen is passionate about sharing the small magic in the world around her. Living in Central Oregon, Grand Junction, and the Chihuahuan desert of West Texas she has a love for arid landscapes of all types. Moving to Salida to work as a land steward with the Forest Service and then the Natural Resource Conservation Service. She works with local farmers and ranchers, supporting working lands and long-term sustainability of American agriculture. She is happy to be in the mountains supporting the community of Central Colorado and discovering all the beauty of our forests, rivers and beyond.



Mercedes Rodriguez

Mercedes Rodriguez is the Executive Director of the Taos County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC), a 501(c)3 community development non-profit corporation with a long-standing history of serving its community in the food and agriculture sector. In 2024, Mercedes' focus was on solidifying partnerships, engaging with the ranching and farming community, and developing a funding platform, all of which resulted in over \$4M coming in to Taos County. In addition to securing commitments across state, federal, and private funders to invest in a healthy and self-sustaining food system model, Mercedes is focused on the development of a mobile slaughter unit and meat processing facility for Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado, which will support the establishment of a food corridor connecting these two regions. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director in 2020, Mercedes was the TCEDC Assistant Director for ten years and the TCEDC Programs Coordinator/IT Specialist for six years.



Sue Ellen Rodwick

Sue Ellen Rodwick joined Food Bank of the Rockies in December 2018 as the Western Slope Director following a five-year tenure at Goodwill of Colorado. A Colorado native who grew up in the Colorado Springs area, Sue Ellen has heartfelt compassion for Food Bank of the Rockies' mission. When she transitioned to being a single parent shortly after moving to the Western Slope, Sue Ellen received meaningful help from various nonprofit organizations. Now, she is grateful to be in a position to give back and help other families thrive. In addition to her role with Food Bank of the Rockies, Sue Ellen serves on the Executive Council of AARP as the sole Western Slope representative.



Kaylee Romero

Kaylee Romero serves as the Community Relationship Manager for the South-Central region of Colorado for the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). This region encompasses Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Lake, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Kaylee is a proud native of the San Luis Valley, and a current resident of Alamosa. Prior joining CHFA, she served as the Project Director for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at Adams State University, where she supported migrant seasonal farmworker youth and their families. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for La Puente Enterprises and Home Board, The Young Professional Association of the San Luis Valley, The San Luis Valley Migrant Seasonal Agricultural Coalition, Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce, Advocates of Lake County, and the Colorado Non-Profit Association Board.



Angela Safranek

Angela was raised on a cattle ranch in eastern Colorado and is now a partner in the family operation. After completing her education in rangeland ecology, Angela began her now 40+ year career with the Forest Service, partnering with ranchers in South Dakota, Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado to sustain healthy rangelands. Despite the many differences between people and operations across the West, Angela has learned that strong relationships between livestock owners and public lands managers is the essential ingredient for making a positive difference to our rangelands and the communities that depend upon them. Currently, Angela serves as the Rangelands and Invasives Program Lead for the Pike & San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.



Collin Sibertz

Collin enjoys the beach and received a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. He spent the next several years as a ranger with the Florida Park Service, patrolling beaches for sea turtle nesting activity, and protecting the ecosystem that he cares for dearly. In 2020, he began working for the Bureau of Land Management and relocated to Gunnison. The high country provided a change of scenery and climate, while allowing him to expand his role in environmental protection. When the Hydroponics opportunity presented itself, the decision was easy to pursue his passion for growing food. The Hydro program continues to grow, and he looks forward to expanding production and local connections while addressing food security in the Gunnison Valley.



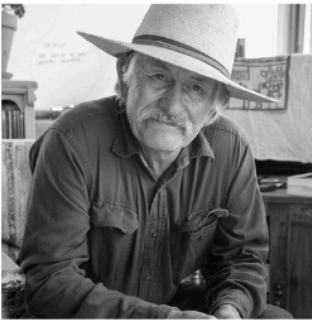
Hannah Snaza

Hannah Snaza is the Volunteer Program Manager for LIFT-UP, an organization dedicated to providing equitable food security for individuals and families, educating and building support to end hunger from Parachute to Aspen. A resident western slope resident for the past 13 years, Hannah is passionate about serving her local community and making a meaningful impact on those facing food insecurity. Having spent much of her life working alongside those facing food insecurity, Hannah joined LIFT-UP a year and a half ago. She leads volunteer coordination and collaborates with dedicated teams to further the organization's mission. Driven by compassion and a personal understanding of the challenges faced by her neighbors, Hannah is dedicated to empowering individuals in her community and ensuring that all have the resources and support they need to thrive.



Wendy Weiner

Wendy Weiner has been a gardener by trade for more than 20 years, most recently running a gardening service installing vegetable gardens and mentoring new gardeners. A graduate of Seed School and Seed School Teacher Training, Wendy is a founding member of The Salida Seed Library and is spreading the good word about why, now, more than ever, it is time to save seeds.



George Whitten

George Whitten was born into ranching in Saguache, Colorado. Knowledgeable in all phases of sheep and cattle production, he specializes in grass finishing techniques, genetics, soil health, organic production and certification, restorative ranching practices and marketing, including Sweet Grass Cooperative. He has been applying Holistic Management principles to his ranch for 40 years. George has served on the Colorado Department of Agriculture as a board member for four years and was appointed as a Regional Ag Commissioner in 2023. As he gets older, George believes more and more in finding whole solutions to whole problems.



William Wilkins

William Wilkins is a Community and Economic Development Specialist at Colorado State University Extension. He has been with CSU Extension since 2018 and has been serving the Mountain Region since 2022 working with communities to build resilience, foster belonging, and enhance well-being. His leadership, communication, and mentoring skills have strengthened local initiatives and professional development efforts across Colorado and beyond. Willie's work ranges from community-centered projects addressing local priorities to statewide training programs. His current focus includes capacity building and advancing equitable and resilient communities.