

Contact:
Mary Pat Adams
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
Front Range Marketing
(303) 271-6634
marypat.adams@colostate.edu

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Dale Edwards named Cooperative Extension Director for Arapahoe County

LITTLETON, Colo. – Dale Edwards is the new Director for the Arapahoe County office of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Formerly the Eastern Region Director for Cooperative Extension, Edwards replaces Gale Loeffler, who retired this year after 33 years with Cooperative Extension in Arapahoe County.

Cooperative Extension, which has offices in 58 of Colorado's 64 counties, takes research-based information from Colorado State University into the communities it serves, Edwards said. In Arapahoe County, six agents and five assistants and support staff, along with hundreds of volunteers, run programs in 4-H, Master Gardening, nutrition education, Wildlife Masters, Small Acreage Management, consumer and family education and others related to life in both urban and rural communities.

"I'm pleased to be the Arapahoe County Cooperative Extension Director and am very excited about the quality of programming by our staff," Edwards said. He added, "I look forward to working with our partners throughout the County and surrounding area to find opportunities to expand our educational programming, especially in community resource development. We'll also be looking at additional opportunities to market Cooperative Extension as well as development of a long-term strategic plan that addresses the critical issues of the county."

Edwards previously was Southwest Regional Director and also served as Director for the San Luis Valley area, both with Colorado State Cooperative Extension. He was an Extension agent in agricultural economics and engineering in North Dakota for 13 years and designed and taught vocational agriculture programs for five years prior to that.

Justin Hamel, Arapahoe County Director of Community Services, said, "We're very excited to have Dale join us. He brings a wealth of invaluable experience to the leadership of our Cooperative Extension office." The Arapahoe County Cooperative Extension office is a division of the Community Services department.

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Colorado State University Cooperative Extension in Arapahoe County provides unbiased, research-based information about consumer and family issues, gardening, natural resources, agriculture and 4-H youth development. As part of a nation-wide system, Cooperative Extension brings the research and resources of the University to the community. In Arapahoe County the Cooperative Extension office is at 5804 S. Datura St., Littleton. For information, call (303) 730-1920, or visit the web site at www.arapcsuext.org.