

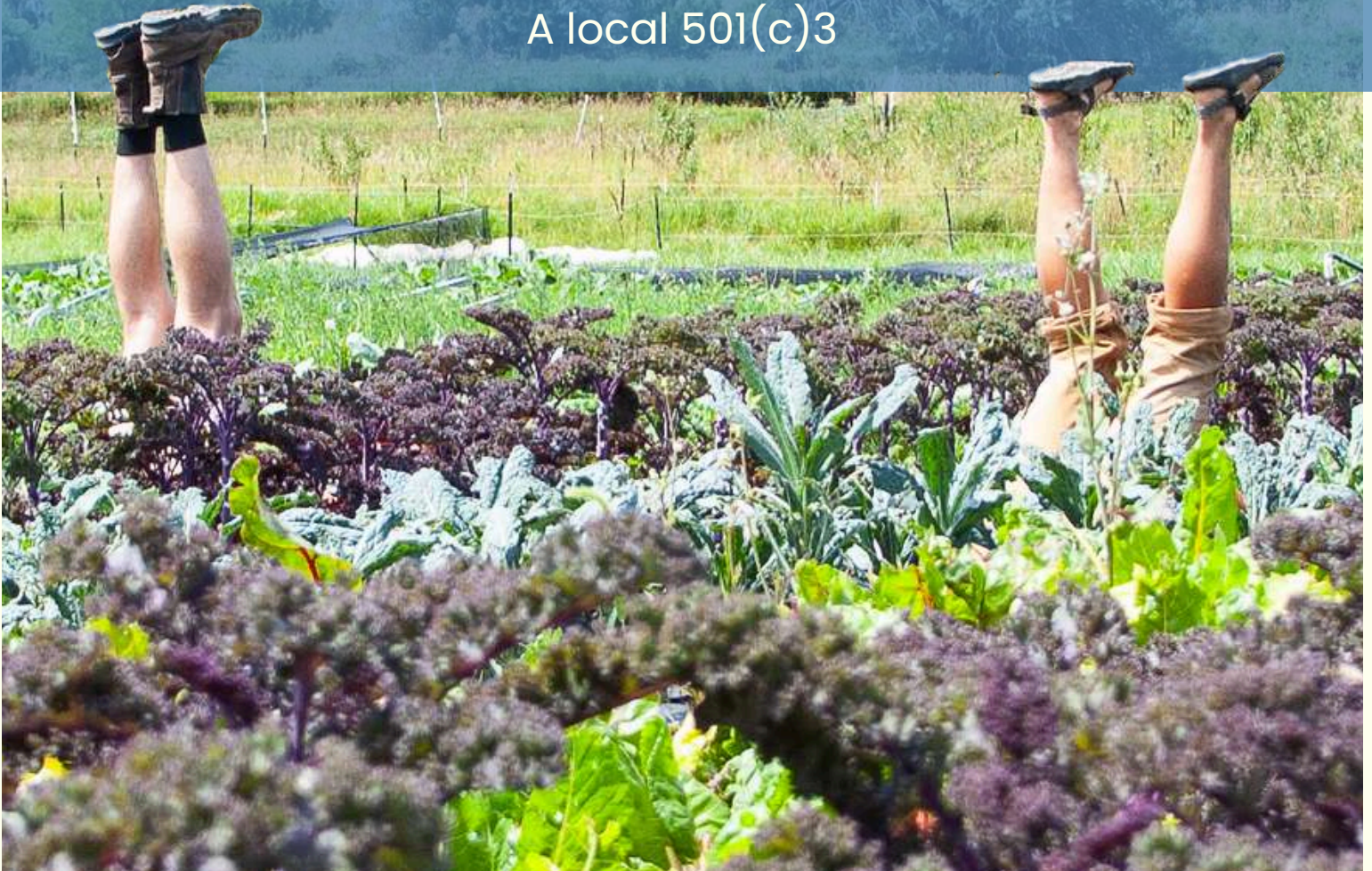


Cultivating Change

2024 Impact Report

Flatirons Farmers Coalition

A local 501(c)3



Cultivating Change: 2024 Impact Report

Written by Lauren Dunteman, Coalition Director. April, 2025



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A Year of Growth and Gratitude

A Letter from the President

As I reflect on this past year with the Flatirons Farmers Coalition, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride.

2024 marked our first year as an independent nonprofit. Having grown out of our fiscal sponsorship with NYFC and into this independence, our leadership team and membership have stepped up in remarkable ways—supporting each other, fostering growth, and building momentum that continues to inspire new leaders to rise within our community.

I want to take a moment to highlight these examples and extend my gratitude to those who have supported our coalition:

- It is inspiring to see individuals get involved in our committees and strive for leadership positions. Witnessing this affirms that we are creating something that energizes and empowers people.
- I want to extend my deep appreciation to Erin Sullivan for stepping in when our dear friend Andie Young choose to step out of their leadership role as the Education Chair. Seeing the board come together to support Andie and Erin's transition demonstrated to me the importance of adaptation. Andie's focus on their own personal needs served as a reminder to me that through all of our commitments, we need to place ourselves first. And thanks to Erin and Lorenzo Munoz, our curriculum moved forward through another successful year. For special thanks to Andie, please see the "In Memory" section at the end.
- I want to thank our treasurer, Adam Wascholl, for maintaining our financial integrity through our nonprofit transition—demonstrating to our members that FFC is a strong, reliable organization. With Adam's support, I believe we have our feet firmly under ourselves as we walk boldly into 2025.



- I am also profoundly grateful for Lauren Kelso for her vision and leadership in launching the Boulder Valley Farm Families' Support Program (BVFF) alongside a long list of passionate donors. The collaboration and generosity within our community are truly inspiring. The BVFF has been a beautiful reminder of why we do this work—bringing people together in meaningful and joyful ways.
- Brian DeCorte and Shan Wo partnered this year to establish a boilerplate document for our organization. This work should help strengthen our ability to seek funding and grants, ensuring our continued growth. I appreciate their dedication to documenting the history, aims, and impact of the organization.



- At the annual Hoe Down and subsequent Farmer Forum events this fall, witnessing so many people gathered in one space reaffirmed how valuable and necessary our work is. It was a moment of realization: what we are building is significant, and we are only just scratching the surface of what's possible. Our community continues to show up with enthusiasm for our programming. Thank you to Wes Vaughn for stewarding our community through consistent and meaningful events.

- Our ability to reach our community and invite you all to participate in our work has thrived in the competent hands of Lindsey Beatrice, our Communications Assistant! I am so grateful for her energy, ideas, and support.
- I also want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for Lauren Dunteman, our Coalition Director. Lauren, your leadership, resilience, and dedication have been nothing short of incredible. Your presence and commitment bring a sense of grace and strength to our organization, and for that, I am endlessly grateful.

There are numerous others who supported our coalition this past year: committee volunteers, mentors, advocates, partner organizations, and donors alike have come together to make our organizational impact possible. The culture we are cultivating at FFC—one of support, inspiration, and collective vision—is something truly special. Let's continue to foster this spirit, to lift each other up, and to inspire the next generation of agrarians. There is no greater wealth than the feeling of gratitude, the support of a strong community, and the privilege of working alongside people we admire and respect.

FFC is an organization built for and by the community. Every contribution reflects the shared belief in the importance of our work. If you are reading this, please know that my gratitude for your support runs deeply through me into my 4th and final year as President.

With gratitude,

Eric Knutson
President
Flatirons Farmers Coalition



Creating A Thriving And Inclusive Local Agricultural Community Rooted In Regenerative Agriculture, Food Security, And Land Stewards

Mission and Vision

The Flatirons Farmers Coalition was founded in 2016 and remained a fiscally sponsored chapter of NYFC until becoming an independent nonprofit in 2024. FFC creates a thriving and inclusive local agricultural community rooted in regenerative agriculture, food security, and land stewardship. Our coalition is made up of farmers and ranchers of all ages and experience levels, as well as local food advocates. We welcome anyone committed to tending the land and cultivating community.



FFC supports beginning and established farmers in many ways. We provide educational and social opportunities for growers and community members to learn about agriculture and build inspiring connections. And we advocate for local, state, and national policy to ensure a sustainable and regenerative future for agriculture and land stewardship, and provide resources to our community to understand these policies.

Making An



**Supporting Farmers And Ranchers,
Tending The Land, Building
Community, Growing Education, And
Advocating For Supportive Policy**

Our Programming and Impact:

- Education Committee
- Community Committee
- Policy Committee
- Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Fund
- Flatirons Foodshed Partnership

Programming and Impact, at a Glance



Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Fund

- *6 families funded, 1 workshop*

Education Committee

- *6 workshops, 1 Farmer Forum, 170+ attendees*

Community Committee

- *10 events, 400+ attendees, countless fun*

Policy Committee

- *2 resources generated, 2 listening sessions*

Flatirons Foodshed Partnership

- *Participated in convenings and research in partnership with 10 other organizations*



Education Committee

This year, the Education Committee put on six workshops plus our annual Farmer Forum event:

- **Small Machine Maintenance (March 30th):**
 - With Kris Korba of Lazy Acres Farm & Eric Knutson of Caribou Ranch
- **Cover Crops are a Gift to the Land (April 25th):**
 - With Krisan Christensen of Wild Wellspring Farm & Clark Harshburger of MadAg
- **Alternative On-Farm Revenue Panel (May 5th):**
 - With Alice Starek of Golden Hoof, Helen Skiba of Artemis Flower Farm, Sara Martinelli of Three Leaf Farm, and Liz Napp of Sunflower Farm
- **Growing Season Extension (July 25th):**
 - With Mark DeRespinis of Esoterra Culinary Garden
- **Aspen Moon Farm Tour (September 10th):**
 - With Jason Griffith & Erin Dreistadt of Aspen Moon
- **Trailer Driving Basics (October 6th):**
 - With Eric Knutson EK Transport and Wild Nectar Farm
- **3rd Annual Farmer Forum (November 14th):**
 - Community learning event with small group discussions at Growing Gardens



Education Committee, cont.

This curriculum reached 172 attendees and cost \$3,194 to implement. Sliding-scale donations from attendees equaled \$1,723.

At the end of the year, we released a member interest survey to inform the 2025 curriculum.

The survey yielded 36 responses, and the following topics were among those that were recommended by multiple participants:

- Composting, cover cropping, succession planting, and soil science
- HR compliance and workers rights
- Grant writing
- Market channels
- Machine operation, maintenance, and repair



Community Committee

This past year, our Community Committee hosted an all-chapter meeting, 6 potlucks, a movie showing of *Roots so Deep*, a pool party, two community hikes, a roller skating event, a community volunteer work day, a Farmer Panel at Patagonia in partnership with BCFM, our 6th Annual Hoe Down, and our first ever vegetable growing competition.

Thank you to all of the farms that hosted these events!

- Benevolence Orchard and Gardens
- Treehouse Farm Collective
- Yellow Barn Farm
- Lone Hawk Farm
- Three Leaf Farm
- Food Project Farm
- Caribou Ranch
- The Golden Hoof
- Wild Nectar Farm
- Stonebridge Farm



We estimate that these events reached a cumulative ~400 members across our community, with an average of 40 attendees per potluck.

It cost us \$2,295 to fund our community work, and thanks to the generous donors and participants who attended the HoeDown, we brought in \$7,828 to our organization.

Community Committee, cont.

While we continue to enjoy testing out new event styles as listed above, the potlucks remain at the core of our community work. We have heard that bringing a dish to pass can also be a barrier for participation for some during the busy season. As a result, this past year we got creative in a few ways. For one, was the first year we implemented a “potluck fund”, wherein individuals could opt into pooling funds for the committee to use to purchase snacks. Another successful effort was the pizza-making party, where guests were invited to bring individual ingredients as opposed to whole dishes.



This year, the Community Committee will be testing out a new event format, Farmer Roundtables, where participants convene to discuss topics of shared interest. This was born out of interest at the Farmer Forum to continue to have discussions throughout the year. Whereas our Education Committee’s workshops hire a host to serve as a point of expertise, these Roundtables encourage communal knowledge sharing.

Policy Committee

In 2024, the Policy Committee focused on creating a consistent space for members to discuss policy changes and programs that affect farmers.

Through a total of 7 committee meetings, about 10 participants helped to:

- Generate and deploy a survey to collect perspectives on the minimum wage increase, which was shared with the County Commissioners and the Boulder Valley vegetable growers group, the Community Farmers Alliance (COFA)
- Draft recommendations for the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
- Develop the Farm Families Program

We also had the opportunity to engage with public representatives.

Lauren Kelso, on behalf of the Farmers Coalition, and Emily from Grama Grass and Livestock hosted an engagement with:

- Congressman Joe Neguse, the Congressman of Colorado's 2nd District
- Crestina Martinez, the Rural Development State Director in Colorado for the USDA
- Xochitl Torres Small, the US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Lauren Kelso also participated in the Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit listening sessions in order to provide timely information to our members.

The Policy Committee's work cost less than \$100. In 2025, we plan to engage in state and federal agriculture listening sessions, deliver written recommendations for the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, and continue to advocate with public land managers and County Commissioners on topics including housing access and affordability for farmers, the effects of minimum wage increases, and building and land use code policies that effect our members.

Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Program

The Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Program (BVFF) was a new program initiated in the second half of 2024. This fund was founded in recognition of many members across our community beginning to start their families and experiencing a loss of farm labor in this transition.

Young farmers are small business owners, and many don't have access to the things other professions take for granted: paid maternity/family leave, adequate health insurance, easy access to healthcare/hospitals, and labor support to assist while new moms are recovering.



Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Program, cont.

Thanks to the collective support of many donors, we were able to raise \$53,000. Of this, \$43,000 was allocated in grants to a total of 7 families.

These funds also supported an educational workshop (co-funded by a mini SARE grant).

The educational workshop covered:

- How to access Colorado's FAMLI leave insurance program
- Financial and practical resources for childcare with a representative from the Early Childhood Council of Boulder
- Pre and Postpartum expectations in farm work
- Time management strategies and expectations
- Balancing the stressors of parenting, with those inherent in our work
- Creating a safe on-farm environment for young children



The remainder of funds will cover operational costs and rebuild the fund for future families.

Congratulations to all of the recent new parents in our community!

Flatirons Foodshed Partnership



FFC is also a participating member of the Flatirons Foodshed Partnership (FFP).

FFP was initiated in 2021 with the aim to collaborate amongst other local organizations to generate long lasting, systemic changes to our local food system. Participating in FFP is valuable to our coalition as it enables us to ensure our work to support producers does not take place in a silo.

The Flatirons Foodshed Partnership's aim is to leverage the power of broad collaboration to identify and launch policies and programs that benefit agricultural producers in the Boulder, Left Hand and St Vrain watersheds.

Flatirons Foodshed Partnership, cont.

FFC currently serves as a fiscal sponsor of FFP. We express gratitude for Andy Breiter, Krisan Christensen, and Lauren Kelso for their work organizing and facilitating this partnership.

Our coalition participates alongside representatives from the following organizations:

- Mad Agriculture
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Boulder and Left Hand Valley Conservation Districts
- Boulder County Parks and Open Space
- City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
- Boulder County Community Planning and Permitting
- The Community Foundation of Boulder County
- Slow Opportunities For Investing Locally (SOIL)
- Boulder County Farmers Market
- Right Relationship Boulder



A Budding Membership

Building a Community of Farmers, Ranchers, and Advocates for Sustainable and Local Food

Following the official designation as an independent non-profit, 2024 marked the first year of our formal membership. We launched this membership in the fall and eagerly encourage all in our network to become members.

So far, 76 individuals have joined as FFC Members!



A Budding Membership, cont.



Upon joining, farmers, ranchers, and advocates shared the following anecdotes as their reasons they become members and/or how they plan to uphold FFC's mission and vision:

"I'm committed to supporting people that heal the land, and do everything in my power to connect and empower them" – *Emily KenCairn*

"I have committed to regenerative, mission-driven, food-access centered farming in Boulder County as a farmer in the past, AND I will continue to support local regenerative farmers and ranchers in word and deed going forward" – *Liza McConnell*

A Budding Membership, cont.

"I believe communities do best when lead by peers and their fellow neighbors/folks with lived experiences. I welcome the voices of all into the solutions we create in food access and food justice" – Stefanie Briggs

"We are seeking to achieve net-zero or net-negative carbon emission farming as we explore regenerative agriculture with our Boulder County farm" – Richard Wolniewicz



"Regenerative systems are the future and people are the keystones of those systems" – Randy Pistacchio

A Budding Membership, cont.



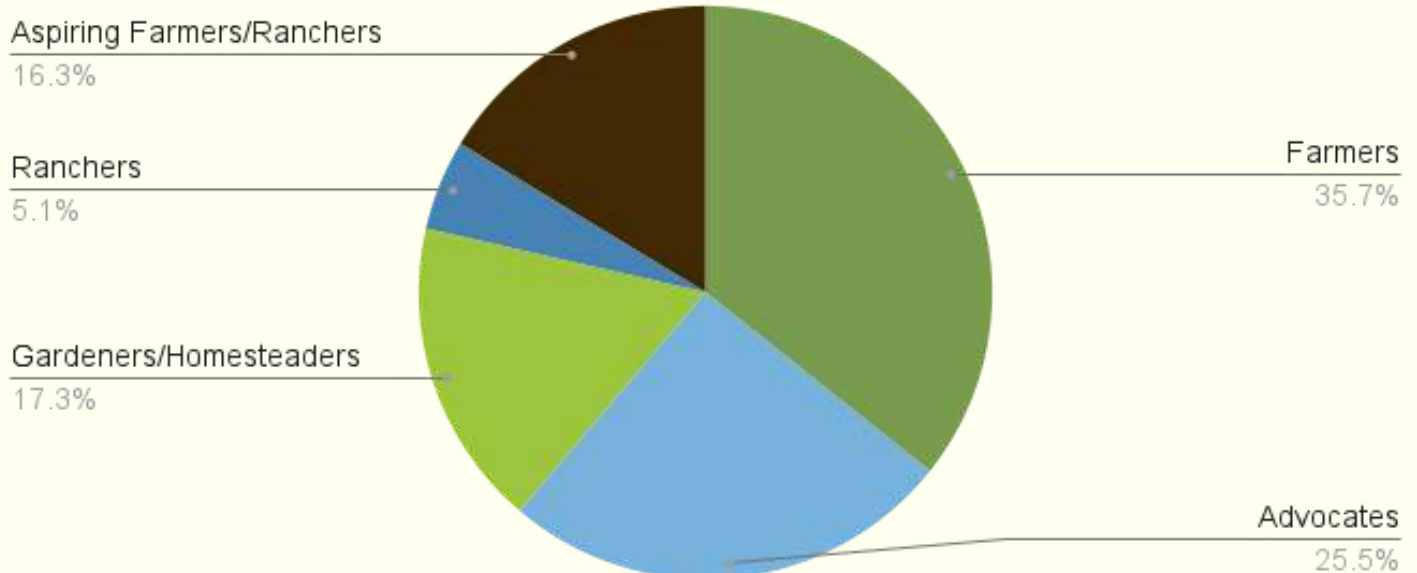
"I have learned the vitality and interdependence of our human systems within land stewardship. I have had the privilege of being taught by many incredible mentors and continue to share access to everything I have available" – Casey El Koury

"I have found lovely community connections in many of the FFC member CSAs I've joined, and I enthusiastically spread the word to people in my local community who aren't aware of the great work being done in local Ag (especially ranchers!)" – Megan Smith

"I am a regenerative farmer in Longmont, Colorado who wants to connect with more farmers and contribute more to the community" – Steven Larrea

"I will learn! And, when the time comes, teach!" – Mark Phillips

A Budding Membership, cont.

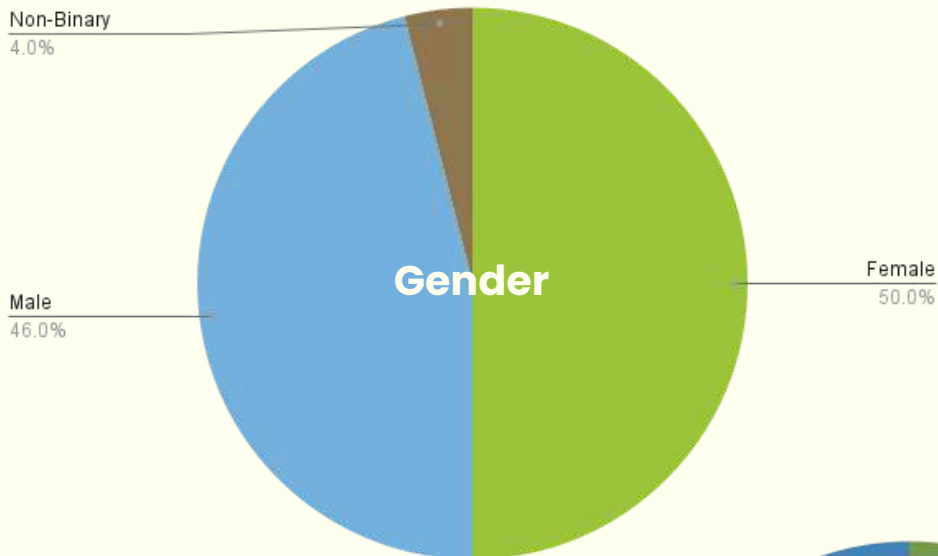


Roles of our Members

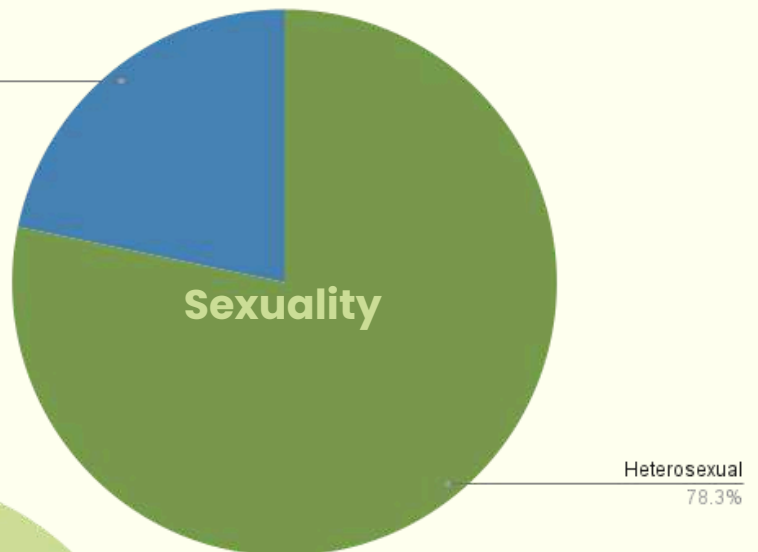


A Budding Membership, cont.

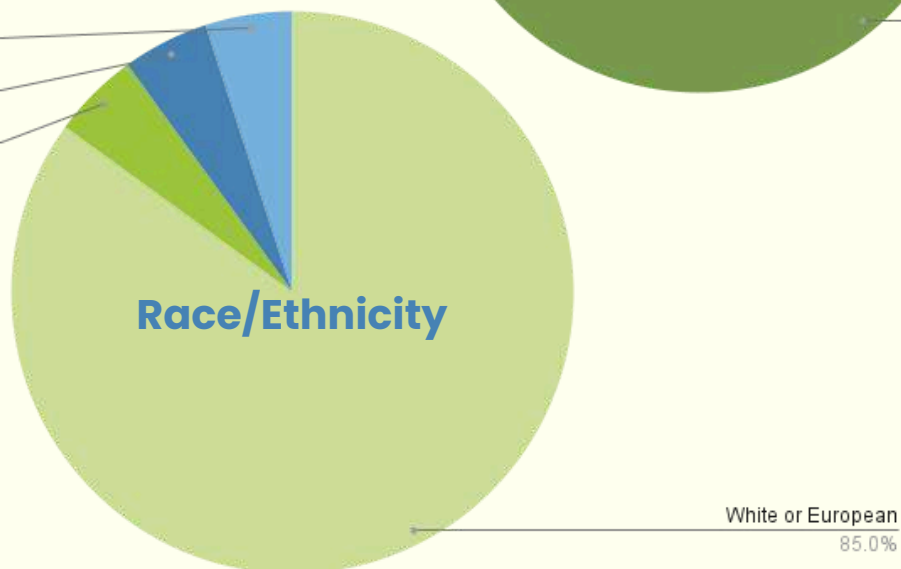
At present, our membership enrollment self identifies in the following ways:



LGBTQ+
21.7%



Middle Eastern or North African
5.0%
Asian or Asian American
5.0%
Hispanic or Latino/a
5.0%

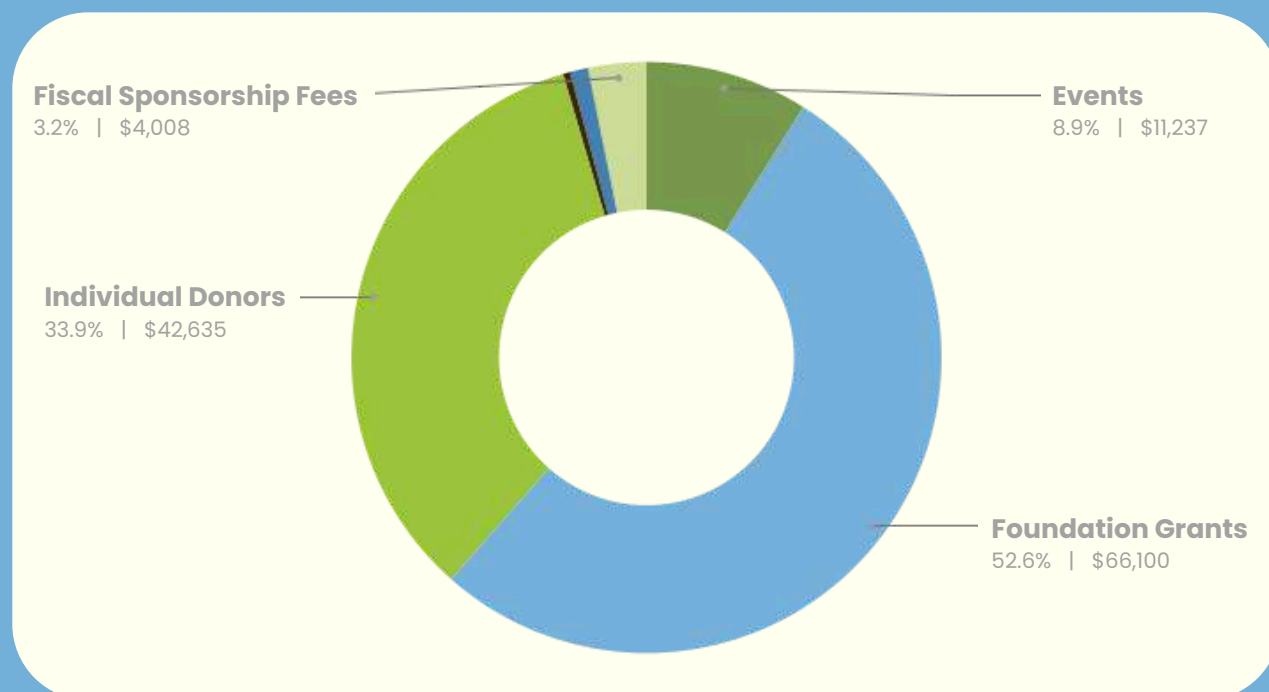


The degree to which these numbers are representative is largely dependent on the abundance of membership registrations. To become a member and see yourself represented in these statistics, please [join us here](#).

Investing in a Sustainable Future of Agriculture

Budgetary Breakdown

Income:



A few notes on our income sources:

- The Tumbleweed Fund has generously pledged continuous support to FFC over our transition to organizational independence. This foundational grant accounts for a majority of the funds we receive. Its unrestricted nature enables us to cover expenses that are otherwise difficult to fund, such as operational costs. Their generous support has been pledged through 2026. Over the next two years, we aim to grow our capacity to operate independently from their support.

We welcome any recommendations or support in diversifying our network of donors.

- We are a fiscal sponsor for the Flatirons Foodshed Partnership and the Boulder Valley Farming Families Support Fund. Dollars raised specifically for these programs incur a fiscal sponsorship fee to help our leadership team manage the additional administrative burden.
- FFC applied for 3 grants in 2024 but did not receive them.
- Corporate Sponsorship (the brown slice, above) is an untapped opportunity to build financial resilience. We will be investigating this further in 2025.
- Memberships (the blue slice above) are a sliding scale from \$1-\$50. Join us!

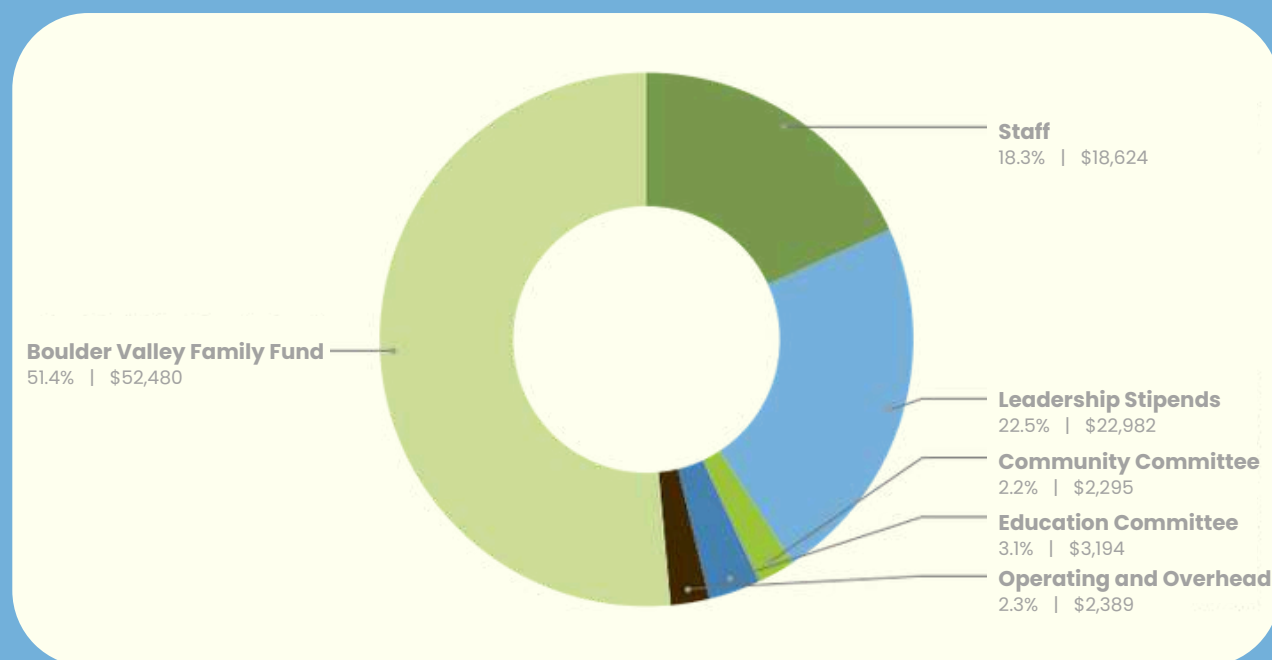




Investing in a Sustainable Future of Agriculture

Budgetary Breakdown

Expenses:



A note on our spending:

- Our operational expenses, staff, and leadership stipends are at the core of our work and are necessary to make the exciting programmatic work – such as the BVFF, education curriculum, community events, and participation in the FFP – happen. Many funding sources, particularly grants, limit our ability to cover these expenses. It is thanks to individual donors and foundational support that we are able to continue to invest in these core activities.

In Memory

And with love

One thing farmers and ranchers know all too well are the gifts and tragedies of life and death.

In 2024, babies were welcomed into this world with open arms. Guardian livestock dogs protected lambs from the eager hunger of a coyote. Piglets were born, eggs hatched, seeds planted, and crops harvested to nourish the continuation of life.

With these moments of glimmering vitality, there have been equally heartbreaking losses. Precious herd animals have been laid to rest. A coyote or two have outwitted the great pyrenees. And most tragically, we've said goodbye to mentors, friends, and loved ones all too soon.

It is in the moment that we want to take a special moment to honor and cherish the lives of Emery Golson and Andie Young. Both individuals contributed to this community in ways we have yet to completely experience. Emery, with her love of medicinal plants, care of others, and passion for the well being of families through her support of the Family Fund, and Andie, with their never-ending commitment to craft, care, and community, both as a member of the FFC board and as a steward within our community.



Our hearts go out to others who have been lost, whose names are not listed here but hold no less significance to the dear members of our community.

With Gratitude

This work would not be possible without you

As this report started with gratitude, we end with gratitude.

We thank Lorenzo Munoz, Andie Young, Azuraye Wycoff, Shan Wo, Sarah Salsich, Marion Murphy, Elise Berlin, Abby Belson, Shana Parker, Andy Breiter, Krisan Christensen, Kayla Gray, Ben Sargent, Mikayla Drost, Byron Kominek, Andrew Nowak, and Shana Parker for their dedication to our committees over the course of 2024; the work highlighted above could not have happened without their generous time and effort.

We thank each of our donors, with special thanks to the significant support of The Tumbleweed Fund, The National Young Farmers Coalition, Patagonia, Pine Melon, The Lyons Farmette, and countless individual contributors who remain anonymous.



Lastly we want to thank all the farmers for the fight that they live day in and day out to ensure the next generation of farmers can maintain a vibrant future of agriculture in Boulder County.

With Gratitude

This work would not be possible without you

With deep thanks, The 2024 Leadership Team:

Eric Knutson	 President
Adam Wascholl	 Treasurer
Erin Sullivan	 Education Chair
Wesley Vaughn	 Community Chair
Brian De Corte	 Development Chair
Lauren Kelso	 Policy Chair
Lindsey Beatrice	 Communications Assistant
Lauren Dunteman	 Coalition Director



Contact Us

Email us at flatironsfarmers@gmail.com

Check out our [website](#). Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Sign up for [emails](#)

Donate [here](#) or via check to 6525 Gunpark Dr. STE 370, P.O. Box 406, Boulder, CO 80301

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