

Putting Knowledge to Work

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October 17, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WANTED: FARMERS INTERESTED IN SMALL FARM OPERATIONS ON BOULDER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND

Boulder County is home to many farming operations less than 40 acres. These produce vegetables, fruit, flowers, and herbs, some organically. Many sell to their produce through local farmers' markets. Land costs make entry into agriculture in Boulder County prohibitive for most farmers. Leasing county ag land can provide critical access for farmers.

The Parks and Open Space Department of Boulder County leases 13,000 acres of irrigated farmland, owned by Boulder County, to farmers in a competitive bid process, administered by the Agricultural Resources Division. All of the leases currently are for farmland greater than 40 acres.

During recent meetings of the Boulder County Food and Agriculture Policy Council, local farmers expressed an interest in creating greater access to smaller parcels on Boulder County ag land. Parks and Open Space (POS) also acknowledges the need to create this access for small farm operators.

The POS-Ag Small Farm Committee was formed at the beginning of October, composed of small farm operators and others interested in this process, to develop a mechanism for farm operations less than 40 acres on county ag land.

The committee requests all farmers interested in this to attend the next meeting and express their needs: **Thursday, November 3, 2005, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Extension Meeting Room in the Natural Resources Building on the Boulder County Fairgrounds at Hover and Nelson in Longmont.**

