



Catherine O'Neil

**Cathy O'Neill** is a Resource Soil Scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For over 27 years she has worked with hundreds of farmers and ranchers to help create a world with healthier soils, more resilient landscapes, and thriving ag communities throughout the states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma as well. Cathy is in the business of shifting paradigms regarding healthy soil and the future of agriculture. She's most proud of the work she's done with the historically underserved –women farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, western tribes, Latinos, disabled veterans, and small-scale land stewards. Cathy holds a BS degree in Soil Science from New Mexico State University with an emphasis in Environmental Resources Management. In her free time, she has raised four kids, written a young adult novel, and enjoys traveling to the backwoods of foreign countries with her fellow soil scientist husband, Patrick.



Jennifer Scharpe

**Jennifer Scharpe** is the executive director of the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture (CFA). Jennifer started her position in November of 2017 and has a strong passion for the agriculture community and educating the public on their connection to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Scharpe is a Minnesota native and grew up on a small beef cow-calf farm. She moved to Colorado in 2009 and has worked in communications and public relations for two different national beef cattle breed associations, the American Gelbvieh Association and the North American Limousin Foundation. She has been involved with the American National CattleWomen, Inc., and was a member of their executive committee. In 2005, Scharpe joined the United State Peace Corps as a sustainable agriculture/animal production volunteer, living and working in Ecuador for two years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in animal and range

science from North Dakota State University, and a Master of Science degree in journalism and mass communications from Iowa State University.

Jennifer has a small herd of Gelbvieh and Angus cattle that live on a ranch near Deer Trail, Colorado. Her family continues to raise Angus and Balancer cattle in Minnesota. Jennifer's brother Peter is the fifth generation to live on one of the original family homesteads in southern Minnesota. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her cattle and working on the ranch. Her hobbies include photography, providing media and graphic design services, quilting, gardening, and making home-made pickles, salsa, and jellies.



MJ Pickett

**MJ Pickett** is a farmer who works with her husband Blaine and daughter to grow pasture raised hogs and mixed vegetables in Gunnison, Colorado. She believes that food brings people together across cultures, knowledge, skills, and status. MJ has helped to co-found her local producers' guild, works as the Colorado Hub Leader for the Savory Institute, and is the Executive Director of Coldharbour Institute in Gunnison. She is a 2019 awarded Breakthrough Leader in Sustainable Food Systems and holds her Masters degree in Environmental Management with a focus on local and regional food systems from Western Colorado University.



Meredith Rose

**Meredith Rose** passionately supports local agriculture in Steamboat Springs, CO. She is the CAA Market & Program Coordinator at the Community Agriculture Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the agricultural heritage in the Yampa Valley. Meredith believes that supporting local ag is important because everybody eats, and therefore every dollar we spend on food either helps or hurts our local farmers and ranchers. Meredith started her own business this year, Rose West, an ag marketing & resource business that helps the land steward share their story. She is a member of the Organics Recycling Task Force and Northwest Colorado Food Coalition and was recently recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her work in reducing and recycling food waste in Steamboat. Meredith holds a B.A. in Geography with an emphasis in Community and Environmental Planning from the University of Montana. She has lived in Steamboat for six years and counting. The

curse of the Yampa Valley has kept her there year after year to enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, and participating in local agriculture at every opportunity.



Zoe Finn

**Zoe Finn** is the farm manager at Native Hill Farm, an organic, CSA-supported vegetable farm in Fort Collins, Colorado. She believes that farmers are the pillars of their communities and can play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges of our future, primarily mitigating climate change and improving social and economic equity. Zoe has worked at many farms and ranches across the United States and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a special focus on localist movements in the United States. In addition to her farm and farm-advocacy work, Zoe owns and operates Fireside Threads, upcycling scrap material into artwork.



Tim & Christen Brown

**Tim Brown** joined FUSA Insurance Agency in 2019, the insurance agency of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. Tim is District Manager for Eastern Colorado, which comprises 19 agencies that include the Eastern Colorado Planes (Wray, Sterling, Ft. Morgan, Haxtun, Holyoke) and Southeast Colorado (La Junta, Lamar, Cheyenne Wells). The district also includes agencies in the Greeley area and Castle Rock and Colorado Springs. Prior to joining FUSA Tim was an agent and District Manager for companies that include Farmers Insurance and State Farm. Tim comes from a multi-generational farming family that grew crops in Kentucky. Tim became interested in the Fellows Program through his experience with the agricultural insurance interests that make up a significant portion of his district at FUSA. Tim and his wife Christen, who is also a member of the 2020 Fellows class, have 4 children and reside in Thornton, CO.

**Christen Brown** is a Colorado native born and raised in the Boulder-Louisville area. A graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder, Christen is the Next Steps & Membership Director at Crossroads Church, a multi-campus church that serves the Thornton, Northglenn, and Ft. Lupton communities. She is active in several community outreach programs through the church, and also has also been a licensed real estate agent since 2015. Christen became interested in the Fellows Program through her husband Tim Brown, a District Manager for FUSA Insurance Agency. Christen and Tim have 4 children and resides in Thornton, CO.



Gillian Joyce & Barry Weinstock

**Gillian Joyce** is the Principal at Rio Chiquito Research and Consulting, and is owner/operator of Little River Flower Farm. She works in communities throughout New Mexico on rural resilience in areas of economic, community, cultural, and agricultural vitality. She has worked in areas ranging from community comprehensive planning, to downtown revitalization, to opioid epidemic response strategies, to rural housing strategies. Her passion, however, is for agriculture, and she is always happiest out in a field. Gillian holds a master's degree in sociology with a graduate minor in community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico. She was born and raised in Taos, New Mexico, where she still lives with her husband, Barry Weinstock, niece, and two dogs.

**Barry Weinstock** is a ranger with the Bureau of Land Management out of the Taos New Mexico Field Office. He holds master's degrees in both water resource management and community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico. He has spent most of his adult life working on and along the water, mostly the Rio Grande River in northern New Mexico, as a river guide, biology technician, and park ranger supporting the BLM Rio Grande del Norte Monument river program. He is certified in swift water rescue and permaculture planning, he is a certified dive master and certified water operator in New Mexico. He has guided more than 30,000 miles on rivers across the United States and Latin America and hopes to have many more miles on the water in his future. He lives in Taos, New Mexico with his wife, Gillian Joyce, niece, and two dogs.



Sara Tymczyszyn

**Sara Tymczyszyn** is the director of a small acreage vegetable farm and non profit youth program based in Silt, Colorado. She has worked in organic vegetable farming in Utah, Colorado, and Massachusetts, and has always strived to better connect communities to their farmers and food. Sara's experience running a farm-based job training program for teenagers in Salt Lake City is the foundation of her current work at Highwater Farm. Outside of farm development, Sara enjoys biking and skiing with her husband.