



**Live Green Community – Adding the AG into Sustainability!**  
**Nancy A. Irlbeck**

**Issue:** Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources

**What has been done:** Adding agriculture into LIVE GREEN! LIVE GREEN is a year- long experiential class emphasizing global sustainability and renewable natural resources. LIVE GREEN is a living and learning community (all students live in the same dorm) –and is into its second year. Grading for LIVE GREEN is based on service within sustainability and giving back to the community. The course initially evolved in the Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR) and emphasized sustainability, alternative fuels, and food production. Obviously agriculture is a strong component of this and we in the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) moved from a guest lecture to collaborators spring. Because of this collaboration, the course has become more holistic. Service projects for LIVE GREEN include harvesting food from organic gardens, planting vine food crops in a green house, trimming beetle pine and wind fall from a local state park, working at a local food bank and more. Fall field trips are used to evaluate solar and wind energy generation; and visiting a local mountain town to evaluate wildlife (elk) interactions within the city. The spring field trip is a mandatory spring break trek to the San Luis Valley where students are introduced to potato fields, organic ranching, community relations, and management of the Great Sand Dune National Park. Extension and local producers all participated in this predominantly Latino population last spring and led to the strong collaboration between WCNR and CAS. Class projects include competition between dorms on “who” uses less energy, recycling, composting food wastes, Cans Around the Oval (food collection for the food banks), and food preservation (dehydration and fermentation). The ultimate goal of the course is to emphasize the complexity of sustainability in Colorado and how the park system, open spaces and agriculture lands need to be connected for that process to be successful. And that each and every student can make a difference in this process.

**Impacts:** The impact of the class is far beyond the initial 75 students. Due to the service component, students have been immersed into the local, university and state communities. This year’s proposed dorm competitions draw in the majority of Freshman within the CSU system. Most importantly students learn that even one person can make a difference.

**Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.:** College of Agricultural Sciences; Warner College of Natural Resources and small grants. In particular Dr Gillian Bowser, Assistant Dean WCNR leader for natural resources and park management.

**Contact Information:** Nancy A Irlbeck; 121 Shepardson; College of Agricultural Sciences; Colorado State University; Fort Collins CO 80523