

News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Emily Tracy
ROOT Marketing & PR
919.449.4803
emily@rootmarketingpr.com

Farm to Pantry: Mountain Roots Expands Food Access in Southwest Colorado

Nonprofit expands Backyard Harvest pantry program and farm-to-school programs, hosts Feast in the Field Aug 6

GUNNISON, Colo. (July 19, 2022) – Southwest Colorado’s largest organization dedicated to local food, [Mountain Roots Food Project](#), has announced new and expanded initiatives to add to their list of innovative programs.

“Our local food systems, and those who rely on it, are struggling,” said Mountain Roots Executive Director Holly Conn. “The number of farms and farmers continue to [decrease](#) in the U.S., and [food insecurity levels are rising](#). By making it easier for people to access local produce, encouraging lifelong farming skills and introducing kids to local agriculture, we’re helping people source fresh food from their backyards and from their neighbors, which is better for our health, the economy, and the planet. Essentially, we’re getting back to our roots.”

What’s New and Popular at Mountain Roots:

[Feast in the Field](#): Mountain Roots’ can’t-miss signature event of the summer is Saturday, Aug 6 at Red Dog Ranch in Crested Butte. Locals, visitors, farmers and ranchers come together for a farm-to-table seated dinner to celebrate the summer harvest, share stories of local food and the land that sustains it, and raise funds for Mountain Roots’ local food and hunger relief efforts. Table tickets are available to [purchase](#) now.

[Farm-to-School Summer Programming](#): Mountain Roots unique summer programs for kids attract many visiting out-of-state families, as well Coloradoans. This summer’s programming (through mid-August) includes camps on how to start a food-centered business, cooking in the backcountry, bee-hotel making, and fly fishing on the Gunnison River.

Once [school is back in session](#), Mountain Roots will continue to provide hands-on environmental science lessons, nutrition education and living classrooms to more than 2,400 kids and youth, from pre-k through college.

[Expansion of Backyard Harvest Program](#): Mountain Roots’ Backyard Harvest program now serves 85 families every week with a waitlist. This food rescue and donation program connects fresh produce to nearby residents experiencing food insecurity. Produce is sourced from Mountain Roots farms and gardens as well as backyard gardeners, chicken coops, local farmers, and donations from the community. Families sign up to receive a free box of fresh food every week delivered

right to their door. The fresh produce is sourced from Mountain Roots' farms, local farmers, community donations and backyard gardeners via [Fresh Food Connect](#).

###

High-resolution imagery available [here](#), courtesy of Mountain Roots Food Project unless otherwise stated.

About Mountain Roots Food Project

Located in Gunnison in the heart of Gunnison Valley in southwest Colorado, Mountain Roots is a community-driven, grassroots food systems organization founded in 2010 by Executive Director Holly Conn. Mountain Roots supports and grows the local food system in Gunnison Valley and the surrounding areas by creating and coordinating local food programs like community gardens and CSAs, long-term farming mentorships, food distribution programs for those experiencing food insecurity, agricultural-focused kids camps, cooking classes, and many others.

For more information about Mountain Roots Food Project, visit mountainrootsfoodproject.org, and follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). For media information or interviews with Mountain Roots Executive Director Holly Conn, contact Emily Tracy at 919.449.4803 or emily@rootmarketingpr.com.