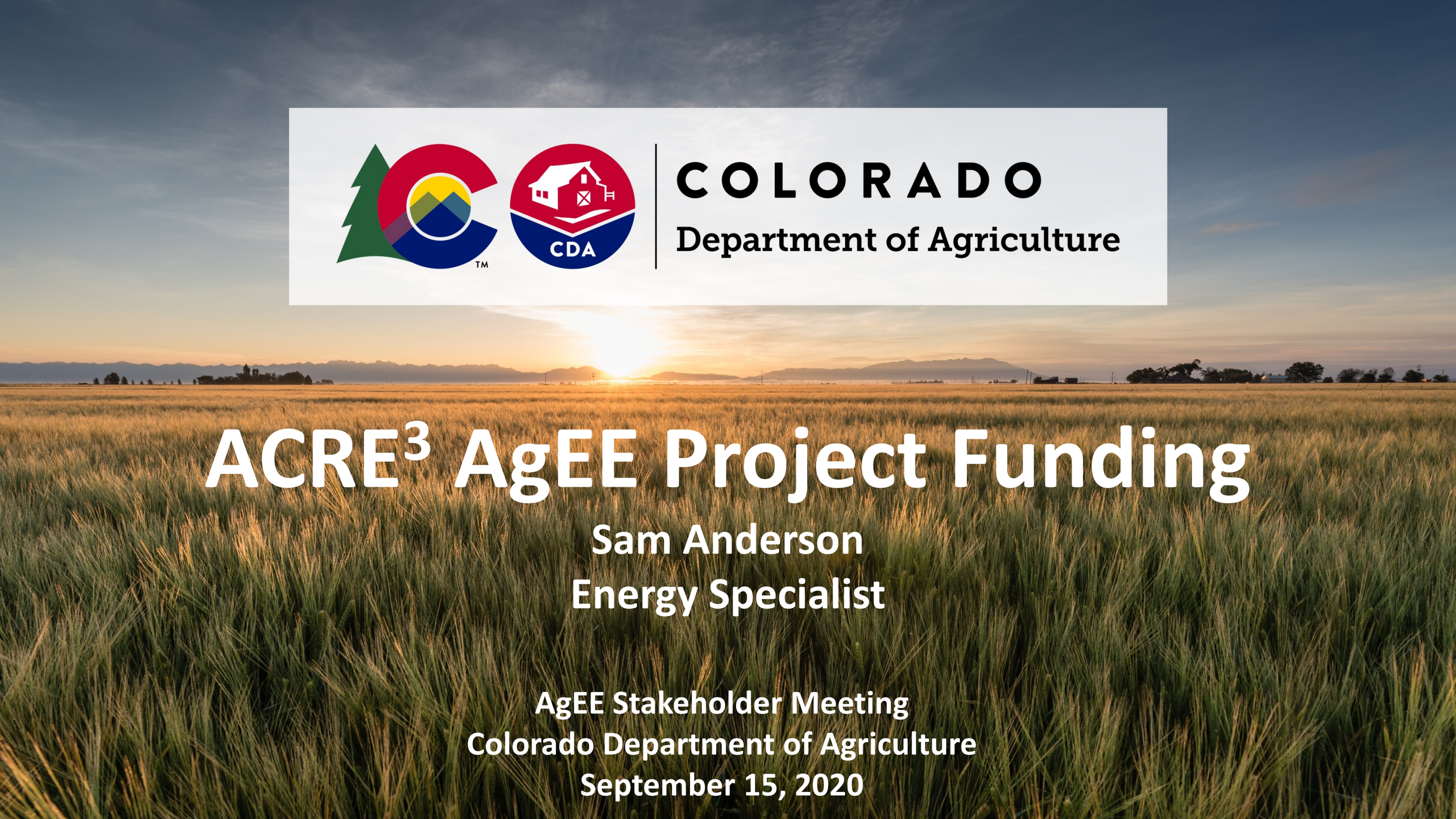

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ACRE^3 AgEE Project Funding

Sam Anderson
Energy Specialist

AgEE Stakeholder Meeting
Colorado Department of Agriculture
September 15, 2020

RCPP AgEE - CDA's ACRE³ funding

- **$250,000** per year available from CDA for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy projects
  - Now accepting applications (with full-length audit report)
- Correlated to NRCS-RCPP practice payment schedule
  - **Must choose NRCS *or* CDA funding** for EE projects
- Up to **$30,000** per producer
- Need NRCS technical assistance on some projects

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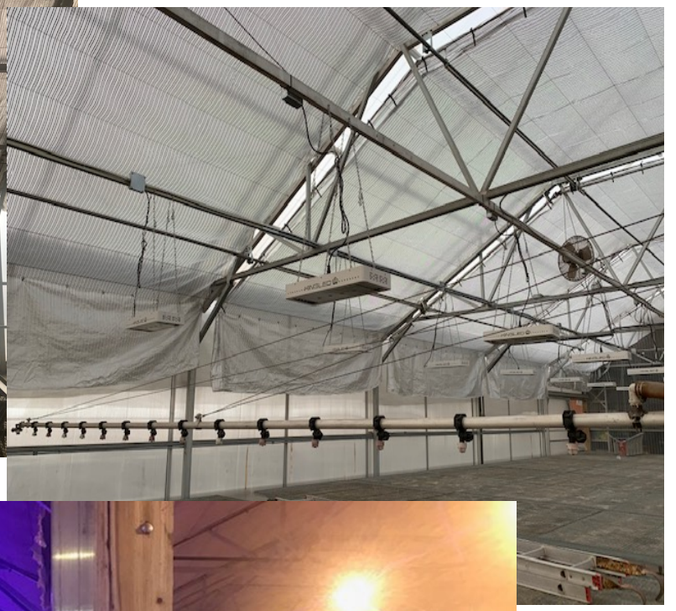
ACRE³ funding – Application screening

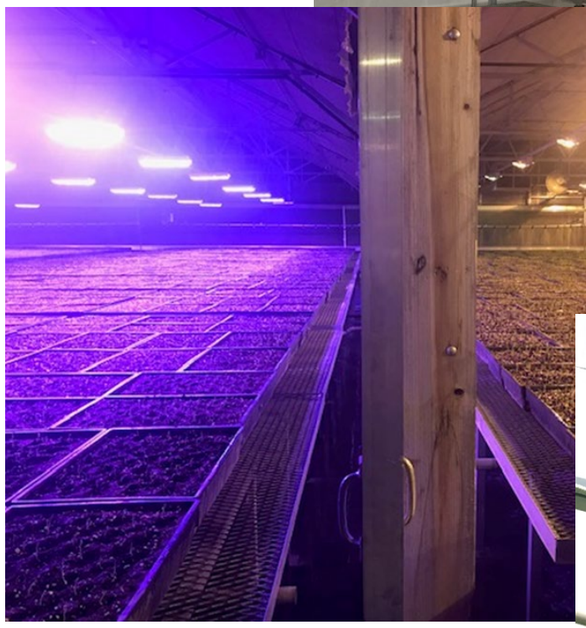
6 reasons why applicants did not receive funding for practices

- Lack of applicant interest
  - Applicant never completed the contracting process
- Practice was funded by another source
  - Applicants were encouraged to apply to multiple sources and choose between awards
- Practice was a low priority for the applicant
  - These applicants selected funding for high-priority projects
- Practice was already installed
- New or planned agricultural enterprise
  - Applicant may receive technical assistance for specifications
- Funding cap
  - Applicants had already received significant funding from the program

ACRE³ funding – Project challenges

- **Shortage of rural contractors**
- Actual project quotes much higher than initial cost estimates
  - Lighting projects are much more expensive than expected
- Financing large projects (>$50,000) may be burdensome
- Not “shovel ready”
  - Mismatch with existing infrastructure
  - Lack of utility access
- Sometimes difficult to coordinate with NRCS field offices





Replacing old HPS lights with 36 new LED lamps has doubled the crop production at this potato seed greenhouse. They also replaced thermal curtains and installed LEDs in the growth rooms.

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“Cold season greenhouse” in Gunnison has “earth tubes” and 12”-thick thermal-mass walls. New LED lamps improve yield of seed starts. High-efficiency ventilation fans and phase-change material for thermal storage improve temperature management.

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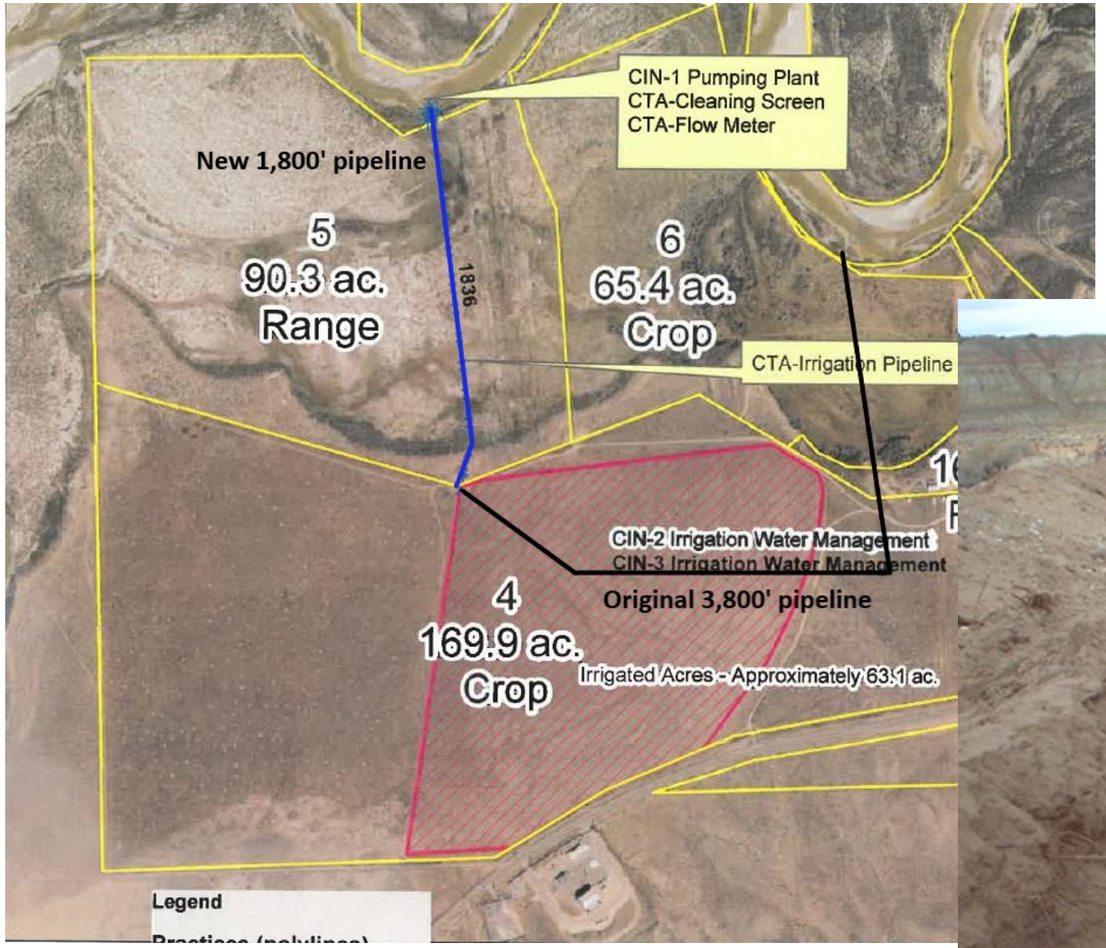
Farm shop renovation in Meeker includes full insulation (R12 walls and R38 ceiling) and three R8 insulated garage doors. Wood stove was replaced with infra-red radiant heater. Next: new irrigation pumping plant - Diesel-to-electric conversion with VFD and solar PV.

This farmer in Craig saves >1,400 gallons (50%) of diesel fuel per year because he replaced an old pipeline and reduced his diesel pumping plant from 158 hp to 75 hp.



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Dairy in Fort Lupton installed a high-efficiency vacuum pump & VSD and LED lighting.
New high-efficiency receiver jar pump & VSD and plate cooler come next.


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CDA