

MISSION

The Tool Library, LLC, supports producers with a stable of equipment and expertise to aid in the economic development and prosperity of Colorado farms and ranches.

VISION

A local food system where farmer, rancher, farm hand, and ranch hand have access to the logistical support and knowledge base necessary to create resilient businesses rooted in regenerative land management.

STRATEGIC PLAN (SUMMARY)

The Tool Library is a network of geographically distributed hubs providing equipment, professional services, and training to local producers, land managers, and those looking to upskill. Each hub has the equipment and services based on the needs of producers in the area.

Providing appropriate equipment, knowledge, and skills helps producers implement regenerative and/or indigenous and organic methods of food production and land management.

Initially, private philanthropists and/or Angel investors, private and community foundations, and direct donations from the community will help subsidize both start-up and operating costs, helping to support the hiring, staffing, educational opportunities, administrative costs, and the potential building and/or renting of structures.

Staff of The Tool Library are paid a living wage, have access to healthcare (including dental, vision, and mental health benefits) and have pathways to furthering their career aspirations.

TENENTS

- Enhance local Regenerative Organic food-production capacity
- Increase number acres of drought-tolerant perennial landscapes
- Encourage good land stewardship for entire farm or ranch property (e.g., weed management)

- Promote the education, training and testing of land-management processes -- including Indigenous land-management practices -- that work with nature, using intentional methodologies, tools, and equipment to complete tasks in a safe and efficient manner while laying the foundation for resilient, drought-tolerant soils and nutrient-rich food
- Collaborate with existing organizations to maximize impact in our community and beyond
- Provide stable jobs, training, and additional examples of lands under Regenerative Organic management

WHY

The Tool Library, LLC (The Tool Library) was formed to establish a platform for tool sharing, specifically for agricultural-related “specialized tools” within the Boulder County community.

WHAT

The Tool Library seeks to:

- A) Create affordable access to capable, specialized tools
- B) Provide education for safe and efficient tool usage to support profitable farming and ranching operations
- C) Help land managers become more efficient with their time and resources
- D) Promote healthy soils, support holistic land-management processes, and provide local examples of different techniques
- E) Create a library promoting access to the “right tool for the right job, at a community-shared cost”
- F) Provide a benefit for producers by offering ag-related services when equipment-sharing is not feasible (e.g., incorporate drill seeding or keyline plowing)
- G) Promote the development of workforce training and project implementation related to local food with regenerative land-management and/or Indigenous land-management techniques
- H) Collaborate with existing groups on projects that support A thru G (above)

Current Capacity

4 Trailers

Water; Small-sized equipment; Medium-sized equipment; Bulk materials

2 Implements

Bale forks; Crimp roller

Program Directions

- Rent tools and equipment
- Provide hands-on and/or consultancy services
- Provide education, trainings, and follow-up support to upskill and train beginning farmers, veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals on the safe and efficient use of tools and equipment

Examples of equipment for rent (organized by size)

- Bulk Hand Tools for on-farm volunteer days & workforce use; e.g., shovels, rakes, specialized weeders, etc.
- Market Garden Tools
 - Small plot tools
 - 8hp-13hp walk-behind tractor (e.g., BCS)
 - Implements such as broadforks, finger weeders, Jang seeders
- Land Management
 - Medium plot tools
 - 25hp-45hp (electric) tractor + implements
 - Large plot tools
 - 50hp-130hp tractor + implements
 - Weed control
 - Handheld weed wackers, ride-on (electric) mowers, tractor mowers
 - Animal Management
 - Livestock trailers, chutes, scales
- Animal Processing
 - Small

- Chickens, rabbits, ducks, turkeys
- Medium
 - Sheep, pigs, goats
- Large
 - Cattle, yak, buffalo
- Value Added Food Processing
 - Grinders, freezers, dehydrators

Timeline

1-year goals

- Engage farmers and supporters to determine how to best help the farming community today
- Establish main hub location for storage, maintenance and day-to-day operations
- Create legal documents for rental agreements, liability agreements, and membership agreements
 - Set dues for membership

5-year goals

- Better understand the equipment needs of active participants/members
- Determine if one hub is enough for Boulder County. If not, what geographic spacing is ideal?
- Determine the most effective business structure(s); e.g., Nonprofit, Cooperative, Worker-owned, B Corp, etc.

10 year goals +

- 2 to 10 hubs with adequate resources to supply demand in respective locale
- 30-minutes or less drive time to access small-scale to medium-scale equipment
 - Potentially longer commutes to access large-scale equipment
- Numerous cohorts of apprentices
 - Hundreds of individuals upskilled
- Thousands of acres positively impacted