



Steamboat
IN THE SUMMERTIME

steamboatsummer.com

For Immediate Release:

Summer 2008

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Authentic Horse Power

Our Home Town Ranching Heritage

Local Products and Local Passion - Routt County Organizations are making an impact

Just above a photo of the stunning wide open Yampa Valley and three curious looking sheep on the front of the 2008 Routt County Woolens calendar, it reads, "We're Not Just Here to Groom the Hillside: Preserving a Bit of the West."

Founded in 1997, Routt County Woolens has become an excellent example of a local business keeping its Yampa Valley roots and traditions alive in a modern era. Sheep ranching, which is a way of life for many in this region, is not simply meant to look good. In fact, sheep wool produces some of the most attractive merchandise available in the Yampa Valley.

Nancy Mucklow, co-owner of Routt County Woolens, is one of the leaders in our community setting the example of using local renewable resources to create products that signify what Colorado represents. "We produce some of the nation's cleanest wool here in Routt County," says Mucklow. "It's really wonderful that we are able to keep this tradition alive." As Routt County Woolens mentions on their website (routtcounty-woolens.com), their product is, "Noted nationwide for its cleanliness and quality, our wool is produced from locally owned sheep nourished by the green grass, fresh mountain air and clear, cold waters of Colorado's high country." Wool is a beautiful product created by Mother Nature, grown right here in Northwest Colorado.

But why are local products crucial to keeping our community tied to our past?

A local organization, Community Agriculture Alliance, and their initiative program Northwest Colorado Products, are bringing product and agriculture issues to the forefront of community agendas. Nancy Kramer, the Northwest Colorado Products Project Coordinator, and Marsha Daughenbaugh, Executive Director of the Community Agriculture Alliance, are teaming up with other local organizations to spread the word about locally produced goods.

"We are spearheading something special with Northwest Colorado Products. There is a national movement for local food and local production and we are just starting to see what an impact this can make," says Kramer. "As a community we are pulling together for our common goals and this is what will make these efforts sustainable. We are all growing and learning together to work towards a regional strategy to promote local products."

More



This is the West



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An Arts Town with Altitude

Making an Art Mark

Celebrating Artistic Steamboat Originals

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“The reality is that our community is changing. Buying local and supporting local producers is a great link to the process of support and awareness. It is a cooperative effort to preserve what is rooted here in the valley,” noted Marsha Daughenbaugh. “All of us need to ask ourselves what we can do to preserve and protect our heritage and our communities.”

In keeping with the theme of local production, staying true to our roots and keeping our community’s heritage alive for years to come, Vision 2030 “a collaborative citizen’s effort to define the future of the Yampa Valley,” has been reaching out and posing the hard questions to Routt County citizens. Asking fellow neighbors what the heart and soul elements are to this area and what they want to see happen in the next 20 years and what the big picture items are including transportation, recreation and education.

To date Vision 2030 has compiled over 1,200 surveys asking what people value most, what they would like to see in 20 years and what can be done to make sure that those items will happen. Agriculture, open space, and viability of working/family owned ranches ranked among the top three topics discussed in the Routt County survey. It was reported that this is what differentiates the Routt County communities and what makes us stand out in contrast to other mountain communities.

With local products, open space and working ranches listed as very important components to our communities, seeing these projects in action is what it is all about. Starting June 14th and running every Saturday until August 30th. The Mainstreet Steamboat Springs Farmers Market will be a local gathering of producers, including arts and crafts, food, handmade goods and a telling of our stories.

This is where all of the issues surrounding local products comes full circle. By supporting local agriculture and buying local products, we are weaving our cultural traditions with our natural heritage together. As Vision 2030 states, “This is our valley, our future and our visions.” It is our time to buy local and support the foundation of our thriving communities.

Have questions regarding the mentioned organizations?

Northwest Colorado Products - Nancy Kramer at (970) 879-4370, Routt County Woolens - Nancy Mucklow at (970) 871-6363, Routt County Vision 2030 - Tammie Delaney at (970) 846-1404



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