

RURAL & URBAN COLORADO

People who live in cities or towns live in *urban* areas. People who live in the country live in *rural* areas. People who grow crops, raise livestock and produce food are also called *rural*.

How would you define yourself – as *rural* or *urban*? Why?

Population density. Population density refers to the average number of people per square mile living in an area. When there are many people per square mile, an area is considered urban. When there are few people per square mile, an area is considered rural.

The population density of each of six Colorado counties is listed below. Suppose that a population density of 100 or more people per square mile indicates that a county is urban. Label each of the counties as “urban” or “rural,” based on its population density:

- _____ Dolores County. 1.4 people per square mile
- _____ Denver County. 3,050 people per square mile
- _____ Eagle County. 13 people per square mile
- _____ Crowley County. 5 people per square mile
- _____ Boulder County. 303 people per square mile
- _____ Jefferson County. 568 people per square mile

Industries of Colorado

Look at the two pie charts on this page. They show how various industries have contributed to Colorado’s economy. One chart is for the year 1929, and the other is for the year 2000.

- Which industry contributed the most to Colorado’s economy in 1929? _____
- Which industry contributed the most in 2000? _____
- What happened to construction between 1929 and 2000? _____

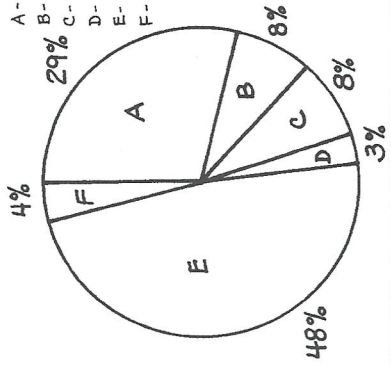
Sales and services jobs occur more often in urban areas, while agricultural jobs occur more often in rural areas.

- Was Colorado more urban or more rural in 1929? How do you know? _____

- Was Colorado more urban or more rural in 2000? How do you know? _____

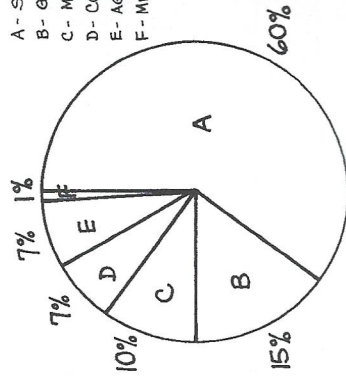
1929

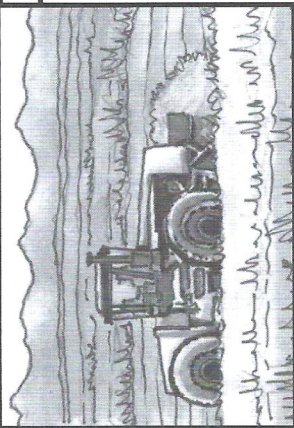
A - SALES & SERVICES
B - GOVERNMENT
C - MANUFACTURING
D - CONSTRUCTION
E - AGRICULTURE
F - MINING



2000

A - SALES & SERVICES
B - GOVERNMENT
C - MANUFACTURING
D - CONSTRUCTION
E - AGRICULTURE
F - MINING





Rural Colorado

Almost one-half (49%) of the land in Colorado is made up of farms and ranches. The people who live on the farms and ranches are involved in *agriculture*.

Agriculture refers to producing crops and raising livestock. Colorado farmers and ranchers produce crops and livestock that are used throughout the state, the nation and the world. Sometimes we don't think about the connection between a product we buy in the store and where it came from. Look at the following list of some of the animals raised in Colorado. Draw a line matching each animal with the items that we buy from a store, on the right.

Cattle

Sheep

Hogs

Chickens

- bacon
- blankets
- yogurt
- chicken nuggets
- leather shoes
- eggs
- footballs
- hand lotion with lanolin
- ham
- wool sweaters

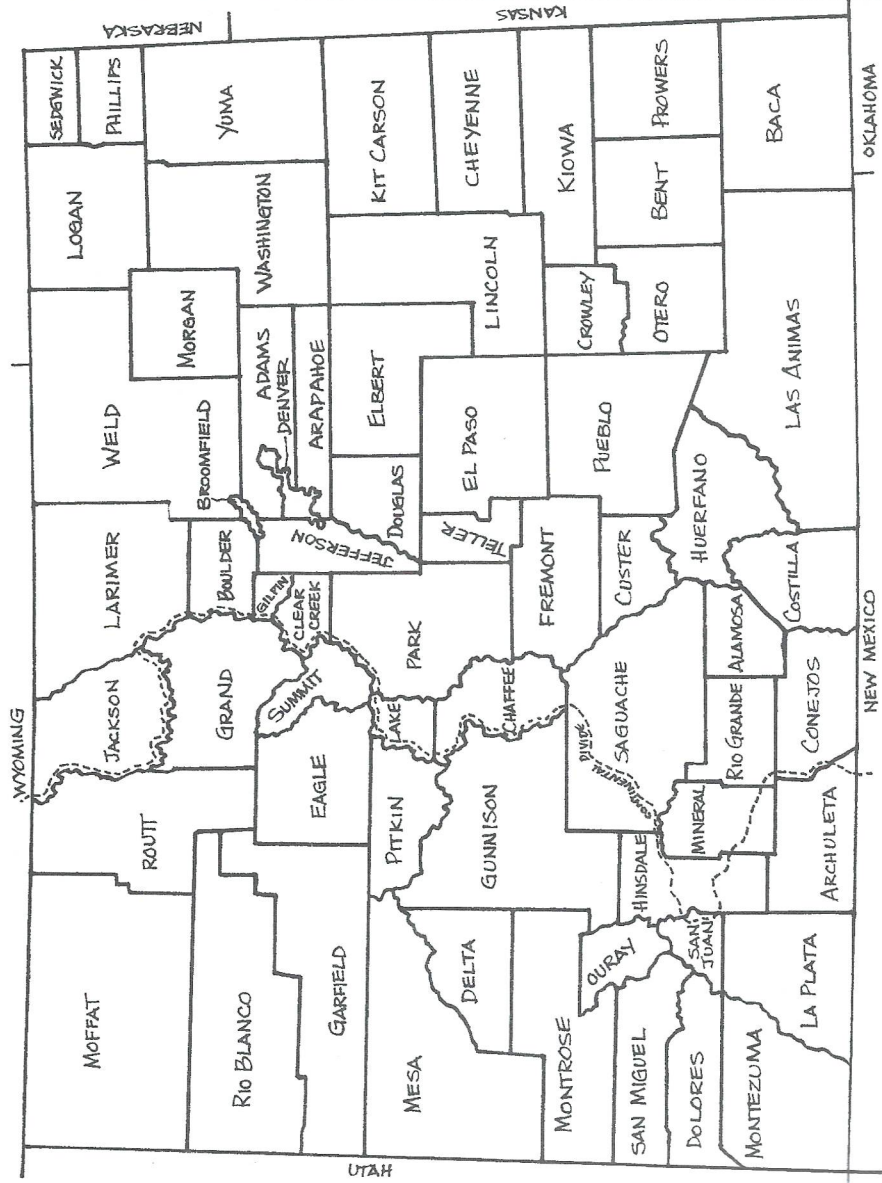
See if you can think of six more items in your home that are produced from the animals above.

Colorado farmers raise many crops. Some of the most common ones are listed below, along with the counties that produce most (not all!) of these crops. Follow the instructions after each item, using the county map, right.

- Counties where winter or spring wheat is grown: *Weld, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, Adams, Morgan, Arapahoe, Elbert, Larimer, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers, Conejos, Costilla, Saguache, Baca, Rio Grande*. Put a brown dot in each of these counties.
- Counties where corn is grown: *Weld, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, Cheyenne, Otero, Prowers, Baca*. Put a yellow dot in each of these counties.
- Counties where cantaloupes are grown: *Otero, Crowley, Delta*. Put an orange dot in each of these counties.
- Counties where sugar beets are grown: *Larimer, Weld, Morgan, Logan, Yuma*. Put a purple dot in each of these counties.

1. Count the dots in each county. Using this number as your key, which county is the most agricultural? _____
2. Look at the counties along the Continental Divide. What conclusion can you make about farming in this area? _____
3. In the counties that contain only green dots for "hay," which would you expect to see — more ranches or more farms? _____ Why? _____
4. Find the county where you live. Shade it light green. Are there crops grown in your county? If so, which ones? _____

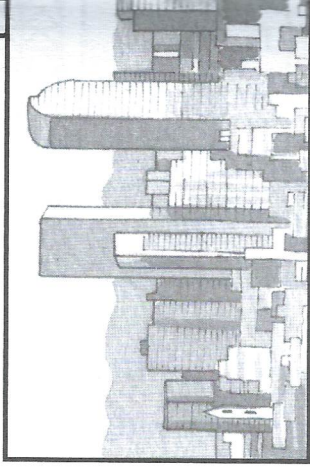
MORE RURAL & URBAN



Urban Colorado

1. In order from largest to smallest, the largest urban areas in Colorado are:

- Denver metropolitan area
- Colorado Springs
- Fort Collins
- Pueblo
- Boulder
- Greeley
- Longmont
- Loveland
- Grand Junction



Mark these cities on the Colorado map, left, and draw a large rectangle around those east of the Continental Divide. This area is called the "Front Range Corridor." Experts say that within 20 years this entire rectangle will be one big urban area.

2. Transportation plays a very big role in the location of towns and cities. Many cities grow up where a trail crosses a river, where two trails meet, where two rivers meet, or at the entrance of a canyon that leads to the mountains. Choose two of Colorado's cities. Study a map. Why do you think they might have grown up where they are?



After you have completed the instructions on page 40, create your own map key for the map above. The map key should include all the different colored dots shown on the map and the crops they represent.
