

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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69TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **69th edition** of the Colorado State University Extension Local Food Systems newsletter. As a key resource connecting our CSU team with local and state partners about events, news and opportunities, we are thrilled to see the momentum and growth happening in food systems across the state. As always, the Food Systems work team for CSU Extension is committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues.

The distribution of this newsletter is one way to build that network. You can help us be better connected in two ways:

1. **Forward** this newsletter to anyone with an interest in local food systems and CSU's programs in this area, and tell them they are welcome to contact us so we can add them to our mailing list.
2. **Send us** any events and news from your organization and other partners so that we may share them with our growing readership!

To assist our readers in finding information, events and programs we may have presented in the past, you can find old issues at: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html>.

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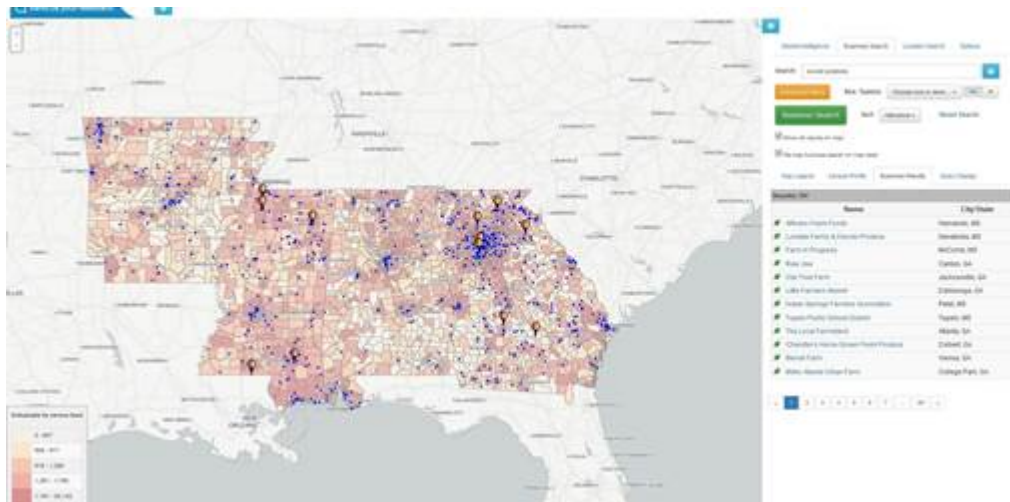
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COLORADO MARKETMAKER



There are two new features coming to MarketMaker nationwide this spring. One is an updated mapping system that will allow for crisper, faster and sometimes more detailed maps of your market area (see an example map below).



In addition, there will also be a new registration process for our users. Whether you are recommending MarketMaker as a free marketing resource for farm and food businesses, or looking to update your profile, please visit the site and make sure to explore these new features this spring.



MEET YOUR NEW FOOD SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER: BECCA JABLONSKI



Becca Jablonski has almost 15 years of experience working to support food systems-led community economic development, including four years as an Agricultural Economic Development Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County. She recently joined CSU as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Her research focuses on understanding processing of regional development, with an emphasis on assessing the impacts of food system initiatives and strengthened urban-rural linkages to farmers, supply chain participants, and regional economies.

Becca's goal for the CSU Food Systems team is to help extension educators plan and evaluate programming that supports improved farm profitability and community economic development, which will require shared measurement across programs. Becca hopes that through collaboration she can develop metrics to help thoughtfully evaluate the impacts of food system initiatives, and plan future programs that truly support farmers and the communities in which they work.

Do you have questions or ideas for Becca? Contact her at beccajablonski@gmail.com.

NEWS: USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN THE CLASSROOM

On January 20th, 2016 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced more than \$850,000 to support the Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program.

The purpose of [NIFA's SPECA Challenge Grants Program](#) is to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within a broadly defined arena of food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines.

The goals of this program are to enhance the quality of K-12 instruction in order to help meet current and future food, agriculture, natural resource, and human (FANH) sciences workplace needs and to increase the numbers and diversity of students who will pursue and complete a 2- or 4-year degree in the FANH sciences. These projects should encourage academic institutions, in partnership with organizations and employers, to work collectively to identify and address a state or regional challenge or opportunity facing the FANH sciences education and workforce community.

Applications are due March 18. Please see the [request for applications](#) for specific program requirements.

To learn more about NIFA's impacts visit www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts.

NEWS: NEW SERVICE FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

Thinking of starting a food business in 2016? Are you a current food business that needs access to commercial kitchen space? Do you have extra commercial kitchen space or equipment that you could be monetizing?

[The Food Corridor](#), the "Airbnb for commercial kitchens" is piloting in Colorado. To participate, simply fill out their application if you have [commercial kitchen space or equipment to rent](#). If you are looking for space or equipment to produce your goods, fill out the [food business application](#). Fees may apply. Email hello@thefoodcorridor.com if you have questions.

NEWS: HARVESTING HEALTHIER OPTIONS

The National Conference of State Legislatures has recently released their executive summary of:

Harvesting Healthier Options: State Legislative Trends in Local Foods

This report focuses on state legislation in all 50 states, enacted between 2012 and 2014, that aimed to strengthen various components of local food systems.

The policy areas overviewed in this report include:

- Local Foods System Approaches
- Farm-to School Programs
- Farmers' Markets
- Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture
- Healthy Grocery Retail

- Food Policy Councils

It is important to note that our state's own initiatives and efforts are highlighted throughout the report. Make sure to read the report and share with your community.....and thank food system leaders that have helped move our state forward. Read the complete executive summary [here](#).

CURRENT GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES: OPERATOR & REGULATOR TRAINING COURSE

This half day course will provide an overview of the Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) as it relates to Colorado Wholesale Food Regulations and the new State Manufactured Foods Program.

To register for one of the programs, please RSVP via email or phone to Jon Strauss (Jon.Strauss@state.co.us; 303-692-3654) or Emily Schoblaski (Emily.Schoblaski@state.co.us; 303-692-3629).

Trainings will be held on the following dates/locations:

Larimer County

Option 1: February 10, 2016

CSU Larimer County Extension Office (located on the first floor of the Health Department / Extension Building)

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524

12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Option 2: February 11, 2016

CSU Larimer County Extension Office

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Located on the first floor of the Health Department / Extension Building

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Please RSVP by February 8, 2016 for either class in Larimer County

Pueblo County

March 17, 2016

Pueblo County Health Department Building

101 W 9th St., Pueblo, CO 81003

Conference Room A-B

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

El Paso County

March 18th, 2016

El Paso County Public Health

1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Assessors Training Room #1017

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Please RSVP by March 11, 2016 for both Pueblo and El Paso County

Boulder County

Option 1: April 6, 2016

Boulder County Public Health

3450 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304

Houston Room

12:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Option 2: April 7, 2016

Boulder County Health

3450 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304

Houston Room

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Please RSVP by April 4, 2016 for either class in Boulder County

MEETING: FOOD-1-1 ADDRESSING FOOD WASTE

Food-1-1 is hosting a coffee, tea, and strategy mixer for anyone interested in addressing food waste issues throughout Colorado. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 10th from 8:30am-12:30pm in the EPA Region 8 Office at 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver.

Food-1-1 will be voting on a logo, and assigning working groups to initiate projects.

Please RSVP by February 5th by emailing Virginia Till at Till.Virginia@epa.gov or calling her at [303-312-6008](tel:303-312-6008)

SAVE THE DATE: DAY AT THE CAPITAL

On Tuesday, March 8th from 12pm-5pm LiveWell Colorado will be hosting a community meeting with lunch provided at the Crowne Plaza Denver, 1450 Glenarm Pl, in Denver. The meeting will prepare participants for Day at the Capital (DATC) which will take place the following day, on Wednesday, March 9th.

LiveWell Colorado will distribute folders with maps, legislator contact information, and bill summaries with specific details forthcoming.

Day at the Capital will take place on March 9th from 8am-12pm at 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO. DATC is an opportunity to network with other coordinators, meet with elected officials, showcase your community work, and advocate to make Colorado a healthier place to live, work, learn and play. Breakfast snacks will be provided, as well as a networking lunch.

Please RSVP for the meeting by February 12th by emailing Alexandra Kaney at alexandrakaney@livewellcolorado.org or call [720-573-3624](tel:720-573-3624) with any questions.

LiveWell Colorado is an advocacy group for a healthy, active, and equitable Colorado. For more information about LiveWell Colorado visit livewellcolorado.org.

CONFERENCE: COLORADO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

2nd Annual Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference
February 17, 2016 | Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado



The 2016 conference features sessions and networking opportunities for growers and other professionals from across Colorado, including:

- *Welcome and remarks:* CFVGA President Robert Sakata, Commissioner of Agriculture Don Brown, Colorado Department of Agriculture's Tom Lipetzky;
- *Farmers on the Frontline: Fueling our Forces*, with Maj Gen Gary Dylewski;
- *What the New FDA Food Safety Rules Mean for your Operation*, with USDA's Leanne Skelton and Deputy Under Secretary Elvis Cordova;
- *The Ins and Outs of Colorado Water Policy*, with Justice Hobbs
- *Lunch roundtables on:* land access; organic soil; organic certification; Colorado Department of Agriculture – Markets Division; community supported agriculture best practices; CSU specialty crops; FSMA regulations; National Young Farmers Coalition.
- Grower/Buyer networking
- Exhibitors
- *Two breakout tracks:*
 1. Trends in Human Resources: Adapting to Market and Regulatory Challenges ; Farm to Food Bank; Produce Distribution Think Tank; High Tunnels for Winter Vegetable Production in the Southwest
 2. Creative Channels for Finding New Farm Workers; Making Farm-to-School Part of your Business Model; Insurance Options for Small-Scale Growers; Latest & Greatest in Colorado Vegetable Crop Research and Production Technology

Who should attend? Commercial fruit and vegetable growers throughout Colorado of all scales, marketing channels and production practices, and those interested in commercial fruit and vegetable production in Colorado including exhibitors, media, policy enthusiasts, students, and wellness organizations.

For more information and to register, go to <http://cfvga.org/>.

CONFERENCE: GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON COLORADO AGRICULTURE

**25th Annual Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture
February 18, 2016 | Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado**



Governor John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado State University, are proud to present the 25th annual Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture. The [program](#) and [registration](#) are available for this conference focusing on issues influencing the future of agriculture in Colorado.

CONFERENCE: HIGH PLAINS ORGANIC FARMING

February 23rd-24th, 2016 : LCCC : Cheyenne, WY

An Organic Farming Conference focusing on dryland grain, irrigated crop & forage, and livestock production!

The 3rd Annual High Plains Organic Farming Conference will be held in the Laramie County Community College Conferences and Institutes Building in Cheyenne, WY; February 23rd-24th. This conference targets dryland crop, irrigated crop and forage, and livestock producers in the High Plains region of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska. This year, the conference will offer a variety of sessions that focus on crop, soil, pest, and livestock management as well as marketing and USDA National Organic Program updates.

The conference will begin at 12:30 pm on February 23rd with a half day Organic Certification workshop that will provide an overview of the National Organic Program as well as a hands-on session. On February 24th, the conference will continue from 8 am-5 pm. There will be a "Meet the Researchers" poster gallery in addition to 10 speaker sessions provided throughout the day, including four organic producers sharing their experiences, and a panel discussion on marketing or other topics from the audience. Topics will include beneficial insects, soil fertility and compost, cattle health, and more.

For more information and to register, see <http://uwextension.wix.com/organicfarming>.

CONFERENCE: NEW MEXICO ORGANIC FARMING

**2016 New Mexico
Organic Farming Conference
February 19 & 20, 2016
Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque**

This is one of our region's premier organic production gatherings, and addresses many of the challenges of producing on the high plains.

For more information and the conference program visit:

<http://www.farmtotablenm.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2016-Organic-Conference-proof-final2.pdf>.

WORKSHOPS: FARM TO SCHOOL

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force (Task Force) and Real Food Colorado (RFCO) are offering two more Intensive Technical Assistance (ITA) workshops this year to support local food access and procurement by institutional kitchens. The next workshop will be held from 8am -2pm on:

- **February 5 in Brighton** at the Adams County Fairgrounds in the Al Lesser Building (9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601).
- **February 12 in Pueblo** at the Colorado State Fairgrounds Pueblo Fairgrounds in the Auditorium (1001 Beulah Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004).

Register [here](#). This year's workshop curriculum will include:

- **FTS Networking:** a forum for Producers and Food Buyers to meet and discuss potential purchasing programs.
- **FTS Food Safety:** an overview of processes, training and knowledge needed to successfully and safely build your FTS program.
- **FTS Regional Grant Program:** a competitive grants program to support regional producers' and food hubs' ability to meet food safety standards in order to sell to school districts. This program is made possible by funding from CoBank.
- **FTS Marketplace:** offering insight into school food procurement and FTS purchasing programs supporting access to and use of local food in school meals.
- **[FTS Mentor Program:](#)** a unique Producer peer-to-peer program that pairs producers new to the school food institutional marketplace with a seasoned FTS producer. This program's mission is to increase the number of Colorado's fruit and vegetable producers who are willing and able to sell to Colorado schools and bolster the FTS marketplace. This program is funded by a USDA FTS grant.

WORKSHOP: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A BEEKEEPER

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a beekeeper? Thanks to the Central Colorado Beekeepers Association (CCBA), in cooperation with CSU Extension, you can find out!

The class is titled "A Year in the Life of a Beekeeper" and will be held on February 27th from 9am to 2pm at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds. The cost is just \$35 per person and includes: hands-on displays of beekeeping equipment, all course material, a catered lunch, an opportunity to connect with a mentor, and a 2016 membership in the CCBA.

All levels of beekeepers are welcome, and there will be valuable information for everyone.

To register, phone the CSU extension office at [719-539-6447](tel:719-539-6447).

WORKSHOPS: GRANT WRITING

Back by popular demand for 2016! Join CSU Building Farmers and the Extension Food Systems team for **3 upcoming grant writing workshops:**

1. **Monday, March 21**, 12:00 pm-4:30 pm at the Washington County Annex Building conference room across the hall from the Washington County Extension Office (181 Birch Avenue County Courthouse Annex, Akron CO 80720-1513). Cost: \$15- includes lunch. RSVP: Linda Langelo at 970-474-3479.
2. **Wednesday, March 23**, 12:00-5:00 pm at the CSU Extension Office in Arapahoe County (6934 S. Lima St, Suite B, Centennial, CO 80112). Cost: \$15- includes lunch. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-farmers-market-local-food-promotion-and-usda-grant-writing-workshop-tickets-21278946903>.
3. **Monday, March 28**, 12:00-5:00 pm at the CSU Extension, Chaffee County Office (10165 County Road 120, Salida, CO 81201). Cost: \$15- includes lunch. RSVP: Chaffee County Extension at 719-539-6447.

Learn how to identify, develop and write successful grant proposals! Participants will learn about federal and state grant opportunities, and receive coaching on how to develop a project idea into a grant proposal. Participants will also receive worksheets to help them prepare an effective grant application.

Who should attend? Any farmers, ranchers, food producers, food and farming organization members or broader community members interested in learning about and applying for a variety of food system grants. Register early to receive lunch + homework that they can bring to jumpstart their grant writing and get immediate feedback from those with experience in this area.

WORKSHOP: APPLE GRAFTING

One of the most fantastic horticultural techniques discovered by man has to be the art of grafting!

If you are interested in learning how to graft woody plants, join a hands-on grafting workshop open to the public on **Wednesday, April 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Extension Center Meeting Room (ECMR), Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue Frontage Road, Golden, CO 80401.



Cost to participate is \$25.00 per person, but space is limited and reservations are required. **This workshop will be repeated Thursday, April 7; Friday, April 8; and Saturday, April 9, 2016.** Register at: <http://jeffcohort.eventbrite.com>.

Participants will be producing their own grafted apple tree to take home and plant. Attendees will be able to select from dwarfing rootstock and a variety of apple cultivars.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AG RESOURCES

CSA Day is February 26, 2016 — a whole day dedicated to the celebration of community-supported agriculture! Check out these resources for Community Supported Ag programs:

- To participate in Small Farm Central's CSA Day Promotions, sign up here: <http://csasignupday.com/farmers/>.
- Access the CSA Day 2016 Promotional Packet [here](#), which includes shareable graphics for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts; Facebook cover photos; sample post text for Facebook and Twitter.
- If you are new to CSA, download the CSA Membership Starter Pack [here](#) and learn how to store your CSA produce; when to expect different produce in your share; the basics of canning for preserving the harvest all year; how to be a great CSA member and more.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Don't forget! Colorado State University Extension Food Systems and Agricultural Policy Resources:

- [Consumer Resources](#)
- [Producer Resources](#)
- [Linking Producers to Restaurants, Workplaces and Other Institutions](#)
- [Linking Producers to Schools - Networks, Directories and Guides](#)
- [Community Assessments and Toolkits](#)
- [Calculators and Databases](#)
- [Policy Articles, Resources and Case Studies](#)
- [Research and Other Resources](#)

To add your ideas and news, contact [Jeremy Christensen](#).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact [Martha Sullins](#).

