

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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70TH EDITION

MARCH 2016

Welcome to the **70th 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:

- **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.
- **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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COLORADO MARKETMAKER: FARM PROFILE- STAR ACRE FARMS



This month we are proud to feature Star Acre Farms. Star Acre is a small neighborhood farm in Arvada, CO featuring sustainably grown vegetables, herbs and flowers with a focus on heirloom varieties. You can access their products through various sizes of CSA shares, a farm stand and through the Arvada and Golden Farmers Markets. Visit Star Acre Farms profile at <http://co.foodmarketmaker.com/business/3623800-star-acre-farms>.

MarketMaker is a quickly growing tool to connect producers, distributors and consumers in one easy place. They also publish a monthly magazine to keep you informed of recent developments. [Check out February's edition](#).

Are you a producer in the state of Colorado? If so, join Star Acre Farms in promoting your business through Colorado Market Maker. Visit [Colorado MarketMaker](#) for more information.

GRANTS: COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT

Colorado Department of Agriculture will have approximately \$550,000 available for this year's grant program, with approved projects starting early in 2017. Producer groups, organizations, and associations, as well as state and local organizations, academia and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply either as a single entity or in combined efforts. Grants must impact the specialty crop industry as a whole and cannot be used to solely enhance an individual farming operation or business.

Proposals must be received electronically by the close of business (5:00PM) on April 15th, 2016. For program guidelines and an application, visit <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant> or call (303) 869-9173.

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 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 food, agriculture, natural resource, and human (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: NATIONAL INCUBATOR FARM INITIATIVE

Attention beginning farmers! Are you looking for networking opportunities and support services?

The National Incubator Farm Initiative (NIFTI) regional network extends to Colorado and the Four Corners area. Goals of the regional network include:

- Increased collaboration and awareness of local resources.
- Increased understanding of what makes Incubator Farm Projects successful and how they interact with local, state, and national food systems.
- Illustrate the collective impact of beginning farmer training projects through the use of shared metrics.

NIFTI will focus its work in 2016-2017 on solidifying regional partnerships with the assistance of five Regional Conveners. Conveners will oversee and report on regional activities, and increase networking capacity and collaborations among projects operating under similar geographic, political and social conditions. Beth LaShell is Colorado's regional convener based in Hesperus, CO.

Find more information [HERE](#).

What you can expect from your regional network:

- Local partnership information;
- Regional list serves;
- Quarterly web meetings beginning in March 2016;
- Quarterly activity & partnership surveys beginning in March 2016;
- One annual networking or professional development event; and
- Distribution of shared metrics for evaluation in the Fall of 2016.

NEWS: HARVESTING HEALTHIER OPTIONS

The National Conference of State Legislatures has recently released its executive summary of **Harvesting Healthier Options: State Legislative Trends in Local Foods**

The 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 report includes an overview of the following policy areas:

- 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. So make sure to read the report and share with your community...and thank the food system leaders who have helped move our state forward.

Read the complete executive summary [here](#).

WORKSHOP: ACCELERATING AFFORDABILITY WITH NUTRITION INCENTIVES

LiveWell Montrose/Olathe Coordinator Abbie Brewer is hosting the Accelerating Affordability with Nutrition Incentives: Summaries from the Transforming Food Access Summit (Wholesome Wave Conference) event. The workshop will take place March 8th from 9:30AM-11:30AM at the Crowne Plaza Denver Downtown in the Altitude Room.

Topics covered will include:

- Successful Strategies in Nutrition Incentives Across the Nation-innovation model overviews.

- Organizing for State Nutrition Incentive Policy – examples from IL, NM, and CA
- The Next Wave of Nutrition Incentives – retail incentives plans, pilots and challenges across the country.
- Amplify the Impact – building community partnerships for successful incentive programs.

Can't make the event? Join via webinar:

- PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/565440549>
- Or iPhone one-tap: 16465588656, 565440549# or 14086380968, 565440549#
- Or Telephone: Dial: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll)
- Meeting ID: 565 440 549
- International:
<https://zoom.us/join?j=565440549>

CONFERENCE: 2016 FRONT RANGE BEGINNING FARMERS

Denver Botanical Gardens, National Young Farmers Coalition and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will be hosting a one-day conference focusing on small-scale sustainable farming with instructional workshops led by regional experts!

- When: Saturday, March 19th from 9AM to 4:30PM, followed by social time from 4:30PM to 6PM
- Where: The event will be held at Denver Botanical Gardens Chatfield Farms, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80128.
- Cost: \$52 for general public which includes the event, lunch, and social hour food and beverages.

To learn more about volunteering for a discounted registration cost, please email [Sami Lester](mailto:Sami.Lester@denverbotanicgardens.org), or for more information and to register visit: <http://www.botanicgardens.org/farmers>.

Join us on March 20th to participate in hands-on volunteer learning opportunities at participating farms. Contact [Phil Cordelli](mailto:Phil.Cordelli@denverbotanicgardens.org) for more information.

WORKSHOP: CONNECTING CROPS TO CUISINE

Fortified Collaborations is holding a workshop entitled "Connecting Crops to Cuisine" designed to network primary producers, restaurants, and institutional purchasers in Northern Colorado. Technical assistance partners include CSU Extension, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Northern Colorado Food Cluster.

Two panels will provide expert, first-hand knowledge about sourcing locally:

1. **Food and Agriculture Regulation Panel:** This panel will address State and County food safety regulations for both restaurants and food manufacturers with local County Health Inspectors and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This panel will also offer producer-focused regulatory programs managed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. This includes Good

Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification, Good Handling Practices (GHP) and meat and egg regulations.

- 2. Industry Panel:** Learn best practices about purchaser-producer relationships from chefs, distributors, institutional purchasers and producers who have done it successfully.

In addition, technical assistance providers will be available to offer one-on-one help on marketing, accounting, design and more.

When: **Tuesday, March 8, 8:00-noon**

Where: **The Ranch, McKee Exhibition Hall**, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland CO 80538

Cost: This workshop is **free** for all attendees! Please register [here](#) in advance **so we can be prepared with snacks and materials!** Contact [Malia Ruchti](#) if you have any questions.

WORKSHOP: SNAP/EBT TRAINING FOR FARMERS MARKETS

Looking to implement SNAP at your Farmers' Market? Hoping to learn how other markets have worked with SNAP and Double Up Programs?

Join us March 23rd, 10:00am-1:45pm. Lunch provided. Workshop sponsored by CSU Extension, Colorado Farmers Market Association, Boulder County Farmers Market Association and Boulder County Public Health. Agenda includes:

Getting Started: Becoming an authorized SNAP market: This portion of the training will provide information about eligibility requirements, applying to become a SNAP retailer, and getting assistance from Food and Nutrition Services. Bring your laptop (we will also have a few available) so we can walk you through the steps of applying for an EBT machine.

Management 101: How to manage your SNAP program: Learn how to train vendors, collect data, keep records, and operate your EBT machines.

Successful Implementation: Learn how other markets have successfully implemented and promoted SNAP and Double Up programs, and get ideas to create a plan for your market.

Where: Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Register at <http://frontrangeebttraining.eventbrite.com>.

Technical assistance provided by: Zora Cobb (USDA/Food and Nutrition Service), Lauren Bell (CO Dept Human Services), Erika Moats (Boulder County Farmers Market Association), Karen Scopel (Greeley Farmers Market), Jill Strange (Boulder County Public Health).

WORKSHOPS: FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR COLORADO COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCERS

Bring Your Food Product to Market!

CSU Extension will be hosting training workshops along the Front Range to cover Colorado Cottage Food Act topics and help you safely operate a food business from your home kitchen.

You will learn:

- Basic food safety for Tier 1 foods, including proper hygiene; preventing cross contamination & cross contact of food allergens; temperature control for safe food preparation storage, transport & sales;
- Foods permissible in Colorado's Cottage Food Act;
- Ingredient labeling & disclaimer requirements;
- Special considerations for food preparation at altitude; and
- Great resources and contact information.

For training locations and dates, see:

http://www.extension.colostate.edu/jefferson/fami/fami_docs/Cottage%20Food%20Flyer.pdf.

WORKSHOPS: FARMERS MARKETS, LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION AND USDA GRANT WRITING

Interested in learning about and applying for a variety of food system grants?

If you are a farmer, rancher, food producer, food and farming organization member or broader community member, attend one of these workshops presented by CSU Building Farmers and the Extension Food Systems team.

The Extension Food Systems team will share their experience and insights on a wide range of funding programs and will present information, tips and best practices, as well as providing direct technical assistance to help you get started!

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.

For program questions contact Dawn Thilmany, CSU at <http://dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu>.

WORKSHOPS: HANDS-ON APPLE TREE GRAFTING

Come learn the science, biology and techniques for grafting woody plants.

Take home your own grafted apple tree!

- When: April 6, 7, 8, and 9th Class runs 9:00AM to 12:00PM
- Where: Jefferson County Extension Office at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds: 15200 W. 6th Ave, Golden, CO 80401
- Cost: \$25 per person

Space is limited & reservations are required. Register at <http://jeffcohort.eventbrite.com/>.

Questions? Call or email Curtis Utley [\(303\) 271-6620](tel:3032716620) or cutley@jeffco.us.

WORKSHOP: BREAKFAST WITH THE PROS

Grow Your Food Business!

Join the Colorado Department of Agriculture on **Wednesday, April 6 from 7:30am -1pm** at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway in Broomfield.

Featured speakers include:

- investment banker from The Forbes M+A Group,
- commercial lender with Colorado Business (CoBiz) Bank,
- venture capitalist group,
- Colorado Enterprise Fund,
- Boulder Organic Ice Cream on investment,
- Shawn Irvine from Waypoint on local food brokers,
- Dr. Dawn Thilmany McFadden of CSU on consumer market trends and marketing tips, and
- Loren Martinez with Little Man Ice Cream on organizational culture.

Registration is \$30 per person before March 25, and \$40 after the deadline. Registration includes the program, workshop materials, and catered breakfast. Space is extremely limited and expected to fill fast. For more information or to register, visit www.coloradoagriculture.com or contact [Shaina Knight](mailto:Shaina.Knight@coloradoagriculture.com) at [\(303\) 869-9176](tel:3038699176).

TRAINING: CURRENT GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES: OPERATOR & REGULATOR 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:

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

WEBINAR: VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT PROGRAM

The Southern Rural Development Center is pleased to host:

Value-Added Producer Grant Webinar

March 10th 11:30AM-12:45PM

Rural Development staff will provide an overview of the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program, including purpose, basic program requirements, and resources to prepare participants for introductory outreach to potential applicants and stakeholder groups.

Presenters include:

Tracey Kennedy, VAPG Program Lead, Rural Business Cooperative Service.

Tracey has been involved with the RBS Grants Division since 2006. Prior to that she served as an Agricultural Economist specializing in international trade and horticulture and specialty crop marketing in Agricultural Cooperative Service.

Shantelle Gordon, Management Analyst, Rural Business Cooperative Service.

Shantelle has been with the VAPG program since 2014. Prior to that she served as a Program Analyst for Rural Development's Single Family Housing Programs including Section 502 Loans, 504 Grants and 523 Technical Assistance Grants.

Preregistration is not required. Simply join the session through the link provided. Type in your name, then enter as guest.

https://msues.adobeconnect.com/_a828402417/srdc/.

MEETING: COLORADO FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Colorado Farmers Market Association (CFMA) is hosting their annual meeting at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, CO on April 1-2.

Friday April 1st Afternoon Tours and Dinner:

- Tour the Western State Greenhouse and Gardens, followed by a visit to Mill Creek Ranch
- Dinner at local brewery with live bluegrass music and local ingredient pizza!
- Details [here](#).

Saturday April 2nd Meeting:

- **Cooking Matters** -- Mayra Ramirez, Program Associate, Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters Colorado;
- **FINI Grant & SNAP Updates** -- Wendy Moschetti, Director of Food Systems LiveWell Colorado;
- **SNAP/EBT Training** -- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Two tracks (Getting Started: Accepting SNAP at your Market -- become authorized at this session; and Tools for Administering your SNAP Program);
- **AmeriCorps/VISTA Connections with Farmers Markets** -- Karen Fleming, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, Program and Mentoring Coordinator, Broad Based Universal Gardening Support (BBUGS);
- **Insurance Q&A** -- Larry Spilker, Campbell Insurance;
- **Cottage Foods Act Update** -- Cary Ruble and Jeff Lawrence, CO Dept of Public Health and Environment;
- **Food Systems and Markets Legislative Update** -- Wendy Moschetti, LiveWell Colorado;
- **"Manage My Market" software** -- demo and user panel; and
- **CMFA Board Meeting with New Officers**

\$40 for Registration and Saturday lunch and refreshments.

\$15 for family member/second person from the same market for lunch and refreshments.

Register [here](#). Want to join the CFMA? Click [here](#). Questions or comments? Contact cofarmersmarketassociation@gmail.com or call [\(970\) 493-4361](tel:9704934361).

MEETING: LIVEWELL'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL

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, Denver. The meeting will prepare participants for Day at the Capital (DATC) which will take place the following day, Wednesday, March 9th. LiveWell Colorado will distribute folders with maps, legislator contact information, and bill summaries.

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 March 4th by contacting Alexandra Kaney at alexandrakaney@livewellcolorado.org or [720-573-3624](tel:7205733624).

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

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](#).