

# CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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Welcome to the **72<sup>nd</sup> 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 three 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!
- **Write** a regional update so we can feature updates from Colorado regions in each newsletter. Contact us if you want to be a regional lead!

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: REGISTER NOW



Spring is the perfect time to register your farm or agri-business through Colorado’s Market Maker Tool.

Showcase your business with a specialized profile and detail what you have to offer with products/services listings. Don’t be left out! With MarketMaker’s new Business Network feature you can promote all of your connections with other businesses using MarketMaker. The new Buy/Sell Forum Alerts provide you with real-time notices of posted ads so you can take advantage of the rapidly growing networks developing on this powerful tool.

Click [here](#) to register.



For more information visit [co.foodmarketmaker.com](http://co.foodmarketmaker.com).

## GRANTS: USDA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is making approximately \$1 million in grant funding available to support research projects addressing challenges and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. agricultural products domestically

and internationally. The AMS is also making over \$26 million in grant funding available to strengthen local and regional food systems through the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program.

FMPP grants support direct producer-to-consumer marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism (see [FMPP grant info](#)). Past successful projects include:

- Integration of SNAP into various Colorado markets
- Be Local Northern Colorado's (now NoCo Food Cluster) Winter Markets

LFPP funding supports projects that develop, improve, and expand local and regional food business intermediary supply chain activities, including processing, distribution, aggregation, and storage of locally- or regionally-produced food products ([LFPP grant info](#)).

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP), administered by AMS, provides nearly \$1 million in matching funds to state departments of agriculture, state colleges and universities, and other appropriate state agencies. Past successful projects for Colorado have included applied research, workshops and technical assistance focused on:

- Agritourism
- Growing consumer interest in bison
- Colorado wine markets

For more information about this grant program, including program background visit the FSMIP [website](#).

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants should start the Grants.gov registration process as soon as possible to ensure that they meet the deadline. Applications for FSMIP, FMPP and LFPP are due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on May 12, 2016.

## GRANTS: VALUE ADDED PRODUCER

The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition.

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures are eligible to apply for this program.

Past grants in Colorado have included:

- Colorado Homestead Markets
- Avalanche Cheese Company
- Jodar Farms
- Rio Culebra Ag Cooperative

Applications are due June 24, 2016. The set of forms needed to apply can be found [here](#):

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>.

There are local representatives to help guide you through the grant process, and a list of those offices in Colorado can be found here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/co>. For more details and instructions for registering for the VAPG click [here](#). In addition, NSAC's "[Farmers' Guide to Applying for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program - Fiscal Year 2016](#)" is now updated and available online.

An upcoming **webinar** will cover program and funding history, an overview of the program, information about eligibility, applications requirements, the evaluation and scoring criteria, examples of funded projects and plenty of time for nitty gritty questions.

When: May 6, 2:00-3:30pm EST

Where: [www.ReadyTalk.com](http://www.ReadyTalk.com)

- Use the link above and the following ID/Passcode to login and join the webinar on May 6.
- **Conference ID/Passcode: 9268341**
- Participants will need to use their computer's audio and the "Chat" feature instead of phone lines. There will not be a phone dial-in option.

## GRANTS: WESTERN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (WSARE)

The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) program is looking for innovative proposals that help advance American agriculture by improving profitability, stewardship, and quality of life. These are a great grant program for those focused on farm-level issues, and who are using creative partnerships between producers, community groups, universities and others to research, share and implement sustainable changes.

WSARE invites proposals for the following 2017 competitive grants programs:

1. Graduate Student, due May 11, 2016
2. Research and Education (R&E), due June 1, 2016
3. Professional Development Program (PDP), due October 26, 2016
4. Farmer/Rancher Grants (FRG), due December 7, 2016
5. Professional + Producer (P+P), due December 7, 2016

For more information click [here](#).

## GRANTS: HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH

Healthy Eating Research is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The program supports research on environmental and policy strategies with strong potential to promote healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among groups at highest risk for obesity: black, Latino, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander children, and children who live in lower-income communities. Findings are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic, eliminate disparities, and help all children achieve a healthy weight.

This call for proposals (CFP) is for two types of awards aimed at providing advocates, decision-makers, and policymakers with evidence to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. The award types are: Round 10 grants and RWJF New Connections grants awarded through the Healthy Eating Research program.

Approximately \$2.6 million will be awarded under this CFP for the two award types.

#### Round 10 Grants

- The Round 10 grants represent the majority of RWJF's investment in research through this program.
- Approximately \$2.4 million will be awarded through Round 10. Each grant will award up to \$190,000 for a maximum funding period of 18 months.
- There are two deadlines for receipt of concept papers: May 11, 2016 and August 3, 2016 (both by 3 p.m. ET).

#### RWJF New Connections Grants Awarded Through Healthy Eating Research

- These grants are to support policy-relevant research of early-career investigators from backgrounds that are underrepresented in research disciplines supported by RWJF or historically disadvantaged. For the purpose of this CFP, only new investigators, defined as individuals who received their doctorate or terminal degree within 10 years prior to the award date for the grant (after December 1, 2006) are eligible to apply.
- Up to two RWJF New Connections grants will be awarded through the Healthy Eating Research program in this round of funding. Awards will be for 12- to 18-month grants of up to \$100,000 each.
- Deadline for receipt of concept papers: June 1, 2016 (3 p.m. ET).

Click [here](#) for more details and how to apply.

### **NEWS: FARMERS MARKETS OPENING IN MAY!**

May marks the time where many of the farmers' markets throughout Colorado are open for business. Some of the farmers' markets opening this month include:

#### Montrose

M,W,Th,F,Sa,Su from 8:30am – 1:00pm at Centennial Plaza on Main St.

#### Loveland

Mondays from 11:00am – 3:00pm at 3133 N. Garfield

#### Glenwood Springs

Tuesdays from 4:00pm – 8:00pm at Centennial Park (9th and Grand Ave.)

#### Castle Pines

Wednesdays from 2:00pm – 7:00pm at 560 E. Castle Pines Pkwy.

#### Colorado Springs

Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00pm at 7610 N. Union

Thursdays from 1:00pm – 6:00pm at 6885 Vista Del Pico Blvd.

Erie

Thursdays from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at Briggs St. (between Moffatt and Wells)

Ridgway

Fridays from 11:00am – 3:00pm at Hartwell Park

Aurora

Saturdays from 8:00am – 1:00pm at Southlands Shopping Center (Town Square)

Bennett

Alternating Saturdays starting May 21 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at 401 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

Denver

Saturdays from 8:00am – 1:00pm at 1<sup>st</sup> & University (Cherry Creek Shopping Center)

and

May 14, June 11, July 16, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 8 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. between Federal Blvd. and Eliot St.

and

Sundays from 9:00am – 1:00pm at 1500 block of S. Pearl St. between Florida and Iowa

Durango

Saturdays from 8:00am – 12:00pm at 259 West 9<sup>th</sup> St. (First National Bank Parking Lot)

Greeley

Saturdays from 7:30am – 12:00pm at 902 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Littleton

Saturdays from 8:00am – 2:00pm at 8501 W. Bowles

Louisville

Saturdays from 9:00am – 1:00pm at 824 Front St.

Monument

Saturdays from 8:00am – 2:00pm at 66 Jefferson

Highlands Ranch

Sundays from 10:00am – 2:00pm at 9288 Dorchester St.

Parker

Sundays from 9:00am – 1:00pm at 19420 Main St.

For more information and a complete schedule of Colorado markets [click here](#).

## **NEWS: NATIONAL INCUBATOR FARM INITIATIVE**

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

The National Incubator Farm Initiative (NIFTI)'s 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.

In exploring options for regional organization, NIFTI staff researched and culled best practices from existing models for regional network facilitation. Drawing heavily from conversations and materials exchanged with the National Farm to School Network, 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 Listservs
- Quarterly Web Meetings beginning in March
- Quarterly Activity & Partnership Surveys beginning in March
- One Annual Networking or Professional Development Event
- Distribution of Shared Metrics for Evaluation in the fall of 2016

## 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**

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 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](#).

## CONFERENCE: ALLIANCE FOR RESEARCH ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY (ARCS)

The eighth annual ARCS conference will bring together scholars from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives interested in advancing research on corporate sustainability.

The event will take place May 18-20 at Leeds School of Business, CU Boulder in Boulder, CO.

In addition to research presentations, the conference will feature:

- Guest Speaker: L. Hunter Lovins, Founder and President, Natural Capital Solutions
- Panel Discussion - Sustainability Through Hope and False Hope: Andy King (Dartmouth), Tom Lyon (Michigan), and Auden Schendler (Aspen Ski Company), Jonas Haertle, Head, UN PRME Secretariat

ARCS is a consortium of universities and individuals, and serves as a professional society of scholars studying the interface between business and sustainability. ARCS provides data, tools, and networking opportunities to researchers who are developing a greater understanding of the opportunities and limits of policies and strategies to foster sustainable business.

Click [here](#) to register.

## WEBINAR: AG IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Ag In Uncertain Times is a resource designed to provide current information to farmers, ranchers and educators about the challenges in today's agricultural economy.

An April 19 webinar featured:

- Outlook for U.S. Cattle Producers in 2016  
Jess Peterson, Executive Vice President of the U.S. Cattleman's Association
- The Food Safety Modernization Act: An Update  
(including our own Marisa Bunning, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist Food Safety at Colorado State University and Director for the Western Regional Food Safety Training Center)
- The 2014 Farm Bill: A Midterm Review  
Vince Smith, Montana State University

And coming up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> is a webinar on Local Foods.

To register for future webinars and access posted versions of past webinars, visit the Ag in Uncertain Times website [here](#).

## MAPPING THE MOVEMENT-YOUR INPUT REQUESTED

LiveWell Colorado is busy developing the Colorado Food Systems Digital Hub with partners at the Community Commons ([www.communitycommons.org](http://www.communitycommons.org)). This hub will serve as a central location to gather and distribute information on what projects food systems councils & other groups from across the state are working on.

**In order to provide that information, however, LiveWell will need your help to gather it!**

To build a clearer picture of what work is going on in Colorado, please provide information about your current projects. Information will be used to create an interactive map on the digital hub where you can search for food systems activities by topic or by county.

The Hub will also include a simple web-based form you can fill out in the future to add, delete, or amend project information. LiveWell is committed to working with partners across the state to maintain a "Mapping the Movement" tool that remains current.

Please provide your information here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/foodsystemshub>

After completing basic information about your organization, you will be asked to provide information about project/s you are actively, currently working on. A project can be any program your organization runs, an annual event, or an assessment you have completed. You have space to include up to 5 of your primary projects.

Please contact Wendy Moschetti with any questions (720) 353-4120 x 216;  
[wendymoschetti@livewellcolorado.org](mailto:wendymoschetti@livewellcolorado.org).

## **NATIONAL NUTRITION ROADMAP**

A large, federal Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR) released the first Nutrition Research Roadmap designed to guide federal nutrition research. The 2016-2021 National Nutrition Research Roadmap encourages an increased focus on research that can lead to more individualized advice for promoting health and preventing disease.

The group recognized that, "Nutritional needs differ according to a number of factors, including an individual's age, their health status and their level of physical activity," said committee chair, Dr. Catherine Woteki. "Those needs can be tailored according to personal preferences, enabling each person to choose the foods that are right for them. The priorities outlined in the Roadmap will help us identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities that can help consumers make healthy choices."

By mapping out priorities for the future, ICHNR seeks to encourage more effective collaboration among their agencies as well as with government, academia and the private sector. The Roadmap identifies three key questions that cover a broad spectrum of research:

- How do we better understand and define eating patterns to improve and sustain health?
- What can be done to help people choose healthy eating patterns?
- How can we develop and engage innovative methods and systems to accelerate discoveries in human nutrition?

The Roadmap emphasizes addressing research gaps concerning nutrition-related chronic diseases and health disparities, particularly for at-risk groups such as pregnant women, children and older adults. It

gives special consideration in understanding the role of nutrition for optimal performance and military readiness. The full [Roadmap](#) is available online.

## **WORKSHOPS: BACKYARD FOOD PRODUCTION – EAT WHAT YOU GROW!**

Colorado State University Extension is hosting a 12 week workshop series to help you take your garden to a whole new level! Local experts will teach topics such as:

- May 3: Garden Planning and Design
- May 10: Seeds and Variety Selection
- May 17: Crop Culture
- May 31: The Irrigation System
- June 7: Weed Management
- July 12: Soil Types and Amendments
- July 26: Small Fruits and Berries
- August 16: Tree Fruit Production and Pruning
- August 23: Season Extension
- August 30: Food Preservation
- September 13: Harvest and Post-harvest Storage

Classes will be held Tuesdays, from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the La Plata County Fairgrounds in Durango, CO. The cost is \$130 for all 12 sessions.

For more information and to register go to: [www.laplataextension.org](http://www.laplataextension.org); for questions call: [\(970\) 382-6464](tel:9703826464).

## **SAVE THE DATE: CSU EXTENSION FOOD SYSTEMS RETREAT**

The CSU Food Systems Extension Program Reporting Unit Retreat will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Fort Collins CO. This will be a great opportunity for the team to plan for the next 2-3 years of programming, and learn more about campus initiatives that may strengthen field-based efforts.

Planned topics for campus updates, discussion and planning include:

- food safety and quality (including updates on the new Food Safety Center);
- food assessments and policy issues;
- business development (including Building Farmers); and
- the interface between the environment and food (pollinators, land/water use).

Please reach out to the team if there are issues and content you feel the Colorado food system would benefit from having developed, delivered or made more visible with our team efforts.

Watch for information on new initiatives and opportunities to engage with CSU Extension in future newsletters.

## SAVE THE DATE: LOCO FOODS TRADESHOW

The LoCo Foods Tradeshow is a fun opportunity for vendors to demo their product to and connect with current and potential LoCo Foods wholesale customers. It's also a wonderful time for customers – chefs, grocers, coffee shop managers, and institutional buyers to meet the vendors in the LoCo Foods Catalog and try the amazing things they have to offer.

The Tradeshow will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-5:00pm at  
2027 West Lower Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80204

Register [here](#). For more information visit: <http://www.locofooddistribution.com/tradeshow>.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: WEBINAR ON EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

*[The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices](#)*, developed by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with Colorado State University, uses real-world projects, experiences, and applied research to help community leaders, planners, economic development specialists, public agencies, and private businesses or foundations evaluate the economic benefits of local and regional food systems.

Find an archived webinar on this toolkit on the Local Food Economics [web page](#), as well as calendar of trainings on the toolkit, and other resources of interest.

Find the toolkit [here](#).

## 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](#).