

# CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

*Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins, Adrian Card, Ragan Adams, Becca Jablonski & Marisa Bunning, Team Leads*



**Co-Editors: Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins and Jeremy Christensen  
Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics**

75<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

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Welcome to the **75<sup>th</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!
- **Consider writing** a regional update so we can begin featuring 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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## CSU FOOD SYSTEMS TEAM UPDATE

The CSU Food Systems team met in Fort Collins in mid-May to connect with campus partners, learn about Northeast US food systems programming from visiting expert, Kate Clancy, and do some strategic planning based on a variety of meetings held in 2015. The team revisited its mission and scope of work, and will be continuing programs and developing new initiatives. See the summary below:

**Mission Statement:** To inform dynamic initiatives and build capacity in communities by engaging networks and key partners to address emerging food system practices and issues.

**Vision Statement:** Building food systems to meet the needs of Colorado communities.

### Program areas:

1. **Stewardship**
  - Water and soil resource management
  - Food waste reduction
  - Land and water access
    - Water availability
    - Public land
  - Backyard gardening, beekeeping, pollinators
  - Animal health and welfare
2. **Business Development**
  - Food business/development curriculum
  - Food business/development program delivery
  - Forming incubator best practices
3. **Food Security, Quality, and Public Health**
  - Food assistance partners
  - Processing best practices
  - Healthy food environments
4. **Investing in Community Food Assets**
  - Community gardens
  - Food policy councils
  - Food system resiliency

The team also formed a website subcommittee, and we have a survey out to better understand utilization of web-based communication (newsletter and website) by team members, so look for a new website in the near future.

To our Extension colleagues, please join us at Extension Forum this November if you want to be involved in our programming in these areas!!

## COLORADO BUILDING FARMERS AWARD

The CSU-led Colorado Building Farmers program recently received the 2016 Western Extension Directors award. Building Farmers was launched nearly 10 years ago by Boulder County agent Adrian Card and has since been conducted in many areas of Colorado, and adapted for use in other Western states. The Western Extension Directors Association (WEDA) Awards of Excellence Program was created in 2005, and the awards were given for the first time at the joint summer meeting in that year. The purpose of the WEDA Awards of Excellence is to recognize Extension outreach education programming that has achieved outstanding accomplishments, results, and impacts in addressing contemporary issues in one or more of the 13 Western states and Pacific Island US Territories.

## COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS DIGITAL HUB

In collaboration with the Community Commons ([www.communitycommons.org](http://www.communitycommons.org)) design team, LiveWell Colorado has developed the Colorado Food Systems Digital Hub as the go-to resource for food environment data, mapping, and reporting around the state.

The Hub is designed to facilitate information sharing and to help partners identify peer activities and actions being taken in food systems across the state of Colorado. It will include support for creating customized maps and reports with national and local food systems data, and tools such as "mapping the movement" of food systems activities across the state, and a peer forum for connecting with one another. Official launch date is August 15, 2016. **Connect by:**

### 1. Joining the Hub:

- Step 1. Go to Community Commons: <http://www.communitycommons.org/>
- Step 2. In the type right corner, click on 'Register'. Then create a profile. (If you already have a user account, you can just log in)
- Step 3: Go to the "Community Commons Colorado Food Systems Hub" here: <http://www.communitycommons.org/groups/colorado-food-system/>
- Step 4. Once logged in, you can click on the tabs at the top or colored boxes in the middle. You may run into a note that says "Private Hub," in which case you'll need to click "Accept Invitation."

### 2. Participating in the Webinar:

***Colorado Food Systems Digital Hub: "It is really happening!"***

Time: Aug 15, 2016 2:00 PM (GMT-6:00) Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://livewellcolorado.zoom.us/j/645448458>

Meeting ID: 645 448 458

Here are a few tips for first time users:

- When you click the link below, you will be prompted to launch the Zoom application, which will be a temporary download. Please allow an additional couple minutes before the meeting starts to give you time to download the application.
- You will be prompted to select your audio connection after launching the application. Zoom has excellent audio quality through your computer, but if you cannot connect through your computer or device, we do have a toll free audio option. LiveWell Colorado requests that if you need to use the toll free number, use the "Call Me" option when connecting audio. This means you will enter the phone number you will be using and receive a call from the meeting shortly after.
- Select the link above to join the meeting.

Other options to join the meeting:

- iPhone one-tap (US Toll): 14086380968,645448458#
- Telephone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll); Meeting ID: 645 448 458

## **GRANTS: SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides a grant opportunity to support small business innovation research. Proposed projects should prove their scientific or technical feasibility, and deal with agriculturally-related manufacturing and business processes, as well as alternative and renewable energy technologies.

**Applications are due by October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

An 'Introduction to the Small Business Innovation Research Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program' webinar will be hosted by USDA's NIFA on **Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 12:00PM (MDT).**

The webinar will offer an introduction to the SBIR grant program, as well as eligibility requirements. The webinar will also include an introduction to the forthcoming online curriculum that will provide information on developing a business idea that is appropriate for SBIR funding, and provide help on preparing and submitting a proposal for possible SBIR funding.

Click [here](#) for the webinar link (no registration is necessary).

Click [here](#) for more information about the SBIR grant opportunity.

## **CONFERENCE: 2016 AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

The American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual conference brings together more than 12,000 public health specialists from across the U.S. and around the world to network, educate and share experiences.



This year the theme “**Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health**”, will focus on moving toward equity, promoting prevention and zeroing in on the social determinants of health. Thousands of public health professionals come together for this event and create many opportunities for participants, including:

- Learning new skills-stay up to date with the latest trends and best practices
- Networking with peers-get inspired to do something new or get encouraged that you’re already on the right track!
- Earning [Continuing Education credits](#) (additional fees apply)
- Upgrading your career-whether you’re just starting out in public health or looking to make a change, [APHA’s Public Health CareerMart Career Guidance Center](#) can help.

The APHA Conference will take place at the Colorado Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Denver from October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information click [here](#).

## EVENT: 2016 DURANGO TOUR DE FARMS



CSU Extension, along with The Garden Project of SW Colorado, will be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Tour de Farms in Durango, CO on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>. The tour will feature a short bike route (approx. 6 miles) and a long route (approx. 25 miles). The 2016 Tour de Farms participants will visit backyard gardens, community gardens and farms around Durango. The tour will conclude with an after-party at Ska Brewing with music, special local food lunch by Zia Taqueria, and beer from Ska.

For more information and to sign up for the tour click [here](#).

This event is organized by La Plata County CSU Extension and the Growing Project.

## **EVENT: 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PEDAL THE PLAINS**

The 5th annual Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour features the open range and star-filled nights of Southeast Colorado; a region steeped in history and bound together by its hometown values! Join us this fall as we roam vast beautiful grasslands and pedal along the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway; visit Bent's Old Fort; befriend local farmers and ranchers; and have a boot-stomp'n good ol' time!

The tour will be held from September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> and include the Colorado towns of La Junta, Ordway and Fowler. This year organizers hope to recruit over 1,000 individuals to participate in the race.

For more information please visit: [www.pedaltheplains.com](http://www.pedaltheplains.com).

This event is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Community Partnerships and Correspondence as well as the Denver Post. CSU Extension always has a group riding in the tour....join us and learn about agriculture in Southeastern Colorado!

## **WORKSHOP: POLLINATOR CONSERVATION SHORT COURSE**

This full day workshop will focus on concepts around protecting and enhancing populations of pollinators, especially bees, in agricultural landscapes. The course will provide an overview of bee natural history and identify practices such as protecting and creating habitat and modifying horticultural practices, as well as provide advice on how to manage pests while protecting pollinators. In addition to receiving the latest cutting edge scientific findings, course participants will be guided on a field tour to practice identifying bees and their habitat.

The workshop will take place at the Lamar County Fairgrounds (Home Economics Building) on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-4:30pm.

For more information and to register click [here](#).

This course is provided by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

## **WORKSHOP: COLORADO BEEKEEPER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The Colorado State Beekeepers Association will pilot the Colorado Beekeeper Mentorship Program in Chaffee County from September through November, 2016. This program is designed to teach more advanced skills for beekeepers, help participants understand current and emerging research, and gain skills in mentoring novice beekeepers.

The Beekeeper Mentorship program will also aid agriculture professionals in working with clientele responding to nuances of beekeeping. Accepted volunteers will attend 7 classes beginning in Mid-September through the end of November (21 hours total of classroom instruction).

This program is sponsored by a Western SARE PDP mini-grant, Salida Sunrise Rotary, and CSU Extension. For more information or if you are interested in participating, please contact Kurt Jones at (719) 539-6447 or [kurt.jones@colostate.edu](mailto:kurt.jones@colostate.edu).

Information about the Master Beekeeper certification can be found [here](#).

## WORKSHOP: URBAN FARM WORKSHOP SERIES

Throughout August Colorado State University Extension will be hosting a series of urban farming workshops in the Denver metro area. The cost is \$10 per workshop and they are all open to the public.

### Dairy Goats and Laying Hens

**August 2, from 5 – 7pm, 11100 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO**

Farmer, professor and owner of Five Fridges Farm, Amanda Weaver, will present the basics of how to get started with dairy goats and laying hens. She will discuss livestock care, feed, health considerations, housing, labor, and breeds. Amanda will explain her successes and failures as she grew her farm business. She will also describe her business model and general costs of these livestock operations in an urban environment. Click [here](#) to register.

### Urban Agritourism

**August 9, from 5 – 7pm, 7000 Garrison St. Arvada, CO**

Beckie and Ken Anderson's Pioneer Farmsteads, LLC is a 2-acre agricultural leased farm located at the historic Kennedy Farm Property now owned by the City of Arvada. The land is tilled with draft horses in 40 inch-wide beds that are 120 feet long, and produce is distributed as a CSA and from the on-site farm stand. Participants will tour and discuss the farm with Beckie and Ken. The second half of the workshop will be a presentation by CSU Agricultural Economist, Dawn Thilmann on agritourism trends, producer issues, producer and traveler data related to agritourism, and how to incorporate agritourism into an urban agriculture business. Click [here](#) to register.

### Starting an Urban Farm

**August 16, from 5 – 7pm, 3401 Eudora St, Denver, CO 80207**

Come down to the newest Sprout City Farms community farm at the Mental Health Center of Denver's Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-being (MHCD) to learn about how this amazing new farm was envisioned, designed and constructed. You will also hear stories about what Sprout City Farms has learned from starting three urban community farms throughout the Denver Metro Area. The farm at MHCD is being built this growing season, so it is unique time to come and see how to build a farm from scratch. The tour will touch on farm infrastructure from field to sale. Sprout City Farms will also tell us about how it functions as a thriving non-profit urban farming organization and how this unique partnership between Sprout City Farms and MHCD was formed to realize this new model of urban farming. If you are thinking about starting your own farming educational organization and how to be successful, this tour is not to be missed! Click [here](#) to register.

For more information and other upcoming events, visit Extension's [Small Acreage Website](#).

## 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](#).