

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

76TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **76th 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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COLORADO MARKETMAKER: TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD



Colorado MarketMaker has been an online marketplace for Colorado buyers and sellers for over five years now, and it is also a resource for business-to-business connections. Colorado's own LoCo Foods is spotlighted for its participation on the National portal this month.



"MarketMaker makes it much easier for us to source local products. We use 'Business Connections' as a quick, easy way to link to businesses we do business with."

—Elizabeth Mozer, Owner/Operator of LoCo Foods, Fort Collins, CO

Click [here](#) to register.



Specialized Profile
Create a page to showcase your business



Products/Services Listing
Detail what your business has to offer



Business Network
Peruse all of your connections



Buy/Sell Forum Alerts
Receive realtime notices of posted ads

For more information visit co.foodmarketmaker.com.

GRANTS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

The USDA, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry is offering financial assistance for Colorado Companies with organic certifications.

- Cost share assistance payments are limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's or handler's certification cost, up to a maximum of \$750 per category of certification.
- In order to qualify for this year's reimbursement, producers or handlers must have received certification or continuation of certification by a US Department of Agriculture accredited certifying agent commencing on October 1st 2015 through September 30th 2016.

For more information and links to Organic Certification forms, click [here](#).

Contact Barbara Rosenbach for questions at (303) 869-9051.

GRANTS: MARKETING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The Colorado Tourism Office is offering a matching grant program to support marketing efforts within the tourism industry. Travel regions throughout the state are eligible for grant funding, as well as statewide associations, organizations and other nonprofit entities that engage in promoting travel throughout the entire state.

Eligible regions and organizations can apply for grants of up to \$25,000 this year, but there is a \$1 to \$1 match for those funds. Applications are due by 4pm on October 14th, 2016.

Click [here](#) for more information or contact Elizabeth O'Rear at (303) 892-3893.

GRANTS: SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced a grant opportunity supporting small business innovation research. Proposed projects should prove the scientific or technical feasibility of the approach or concept, and those can be as wide ranging as small farms, food safety and innovations to address childhood obesity. Phase I awards may not exceed \$100,000, and should take 8 months to complete (although exceptions will be made for those that may require longer pilot processes, but are capped at a maximum of 20 months).

Projects dealing with agriculturally related manufacturing and alternative and renewable energy technologies are encouraged across all Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) topic areas.

Applications are due by October 6th, 2016.

The third module for the web series 'Preparing and Submitting Your Proposal' will take place on Tuesday September 6th 12:00PM MDT. The webinar will shed light on the grant writing process,

preparing your proposal for submission, and the steps for submitting your application, and a previous webinar to assist with grant writing is linked below.

Click [here](#) for the link to the webinar.

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

NEWS: AUGUST IS THE EAT LOCAL CHALLENGE MONTH

Slow Food Denver is hosting a 30-day challenge that asks Coloradoans to dedicate most or part of their diet to eating locally for the month of September. Eating local celebrates Colorado growers, producers, and food purveyors while raising awareness of the many benefits of buying and eating locally grown products. This event is a fundraiser for Slow Food Denver to help support programming and the local food community.

Click [here](#) for more information.

NEWS: WESTERN SLOPE WINS \$90K TO SUPPORT FARMERS

In August, The Colorado Farm to School Task Force and CoBank awarded a grant of \$90k to support marketing efforts on Colorado's Western Slope, to a project headed by the Valley Food Partnership. The grant is unique in that it supports farm to school efforts through the supply side, providing Colorado farmers with support and resources to become farm to school compliant in terms of food safety.

Allocation of grant funding was determined through a regional competition between several regions including the Western Slope, the North Front Range, and the South Front Range. Each region identified a lead community-based organization, at least two school districts, and at least five local farms to apply for the grant. The Western Slope, also known as the state's "Fruit Basket," has Valley Food Partnership as the community lead partner, the Mesa and Montrose School Districts, and eight growers.

Spark Policy Institute, a consulting firm that develops innovative, research-based approaches to help foundations, government agencies and nonprofit organizations solve complex societal problems, will evaluate the impact of the pilot program to see if on-farm food safety investments help farmers participate in the school food marketplace. If successful, the Colorado Farm to School Task Force and CoBank hope to expand the program to other regions.

For more information about this project and any partners, visit Valley Food Partnership (click [here](#)); Colorado Farm to School Task Force (click [here](#)); Spark Policy Institute (click [here](#)); and CoBank (click [here](#)).

EVENT: COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

Governor Hickenlooper has proclaimed Wednesday, September 14th as Colorado Proud School Meal Day, an event that represents a partnership between the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Education.

The event celebrates the diversity of Colorado's food and agricultural economy, and helps to encourage students to eat healthy and make sensible eating decisions that support the reduction of chronic diseases.

Materials for the event are available at no-cost to schools statewide and are provided by partner organizations.

For more information on the day's events or available resources, click [here](#).

EVENT: 5TH 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 the ride this fall as riders will experience the beautiful grasslands and pedal along the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway; visit Bent's Old Fort; befriend local farmers and ranchers; and celebrate the region's great heritage.

The tour will be held from September 16th – 18th through the Colorado towns of La Junta, Ordway and Fowler. This year they are hoping to recruit over 1,000 individuals to participate in the race.

For more information please visit: www.pedaltheplains.com.

This event is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Community Partnerships and Correspondence, as well as the Denver Post.

WORKSHOPS: COLORADO AG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP) is accepting applications from emerging leaders looking to further develop both their skills and their commitment to the future of Colorado's agricultural and rural communities.

September 30th is the deadline to apply for the next CALP class which will consist of 12 seminars, running from February 2017 through February 2019. Travel to key state, national and international agricultural sites and events is also planned.

Applications can be downloaded [here](#).

Throughout the state's history, agricultural and rural people have significantly contributed to Colorado's tapestry, and CALP enriches this culture through a hands-on, interactive program dedicated to producing graduates with the vision and commitment to lead change and ensure the sustainability of Colorado's agricultural economies and rural communities.

WORKSHOPS: CO BUILDING FARMERS AND RANCHERS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Larimer County Extension is accepting applications until September 15th for the 2016 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Program. The Building Farmers and Ranchers Program is a series of eight evening classes designed to help new farmers and ranchers explore agriculture as a business and provide intermediate and experienced farmers and ranchers with tools and ideas to refine and enhance their business management and marketing skills. Classes are taught by local experienced farmers and ranchers, giving participants the opportunity to interact with and learn from successful farm and ranch operators. This program is intended for those with experience who are serious about starting, expanding, or enhancing their farm or ranch operation in the coming year through conventional or alternative markets.

The cost is \$220 for New and Intermediate Farmers and Ranchers (\$320 for two people from the same operation) for all 8 sessions. The cost for Experienced Farmers and Ranchers (production, marketing manager or sole operator for more than 3 years) is \$140 for all 8 sessions.

Applications forms are available online [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: COLORADO EASTERN PLAINS AGRITOURISM DAY

On Thursday, October 6th the Lincoln County Tourism Board, the Colorado Agritourism Association and the Colorado Tourism Office will be hosting *Agritourism On The Plains*. This event is designed to offer tips and advice to enterprises and communities to introduce new programming and support related to agritourism marketing, insurance and the CHAMP peer mentor program which will help you improve or expand your cultural, heritage or agritourism business in order to reach more visitors.

This event will be held at Homestead Farms from 9:00AM to 2:00PM and lunch will be provided.

Homestead Farms
57920 CR 30
Genoa, CO 80818

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

SAVE THE DATE: FEEDING THE 5000 FRONT RANGE

On Sunday, October 16th The Natural Resources Defense Council, the City and County of Denver, EPA Region 8 and the Food-1-1 Coalition will be hosting Feeding the 5000 Front Range. The event will energize the local discussion about food waste and will take place in Skyline Park on the 16th Street Mall in Downtown Denver. There will also be gleaning events and a Disco Chop Party where gleaned and donated food that would otherwise go to waste will be prepared.

Click [here](#) to check out the event's Facebook page.

For questions about the event or to get involved contact [Dave Laskarzewski](#).

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](#).