

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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77TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **77th 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 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://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/local-food-systems-newsletters/>.

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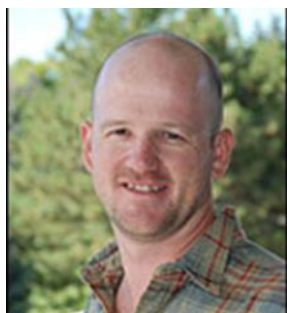
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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: LA PLATA COUNTY

In Southwestern Colorado, Durango still maintains its vibrant agricultural roots. CSU Extension of La Plata County plays a key role in encouraging food security and accessibility to all demographics of the area.



County Director Darrin Parmenter has worked for Extension since 2003, moving back to his hometown of Durango in 2007. His work at Extension covers a wide variety of events and projects, but all of them uphold the mission that he and his colleagues share: public education and advocacy for local food systems. Parmenter said, “Food is something easy that we all can get behind in the office, something we can all hang our hat on.” One of their most successful projects partners with The Garden Project. As one of the top programs in the country, the school gardens not only supply the cafeterias, but local soup kitchens as well. Local beef is also served in school lunches, thanks to an event called Food Retreat.

Starting in 2008-2009, this annual event builds relationships between farmers, restaurants, and other buyers through conversations, keynote speakers, and workshops. Extension additionally assists in balancing wildlife populations and agriculture.



In an effort to reduce bear-human interactions and reduce the fruit load from urban apple trees, Durango Apple Days was created in cooperation with the City of Durango, La Plata County, and CSU Extension. 4,000 to 6,000 pounds of fruit is gleaned from apple trees in the county and then pressed into about 250 gallons of juice during the festival attended by almost 1,500 visitors. The success of these events and many others can be attributed to support from the community and partnerships with other organizations. Growing Partners of Southwestern Colorado, Bear Smart Durango, Durango Farmers Market, USDA, school district administration, farmers, ranchers, volunteers, and community members all make food nutritious and accessible to everyone in

the area by, “working together and sharing the burden,” Parmenter emphasized. For more information and event dates, please visit La Plata County Extension websites http://www.co.laplata.co.us/government/departments/extension_offices_c_s_u/horticulture/ and <http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/outreach/LaPlata.shtml>.

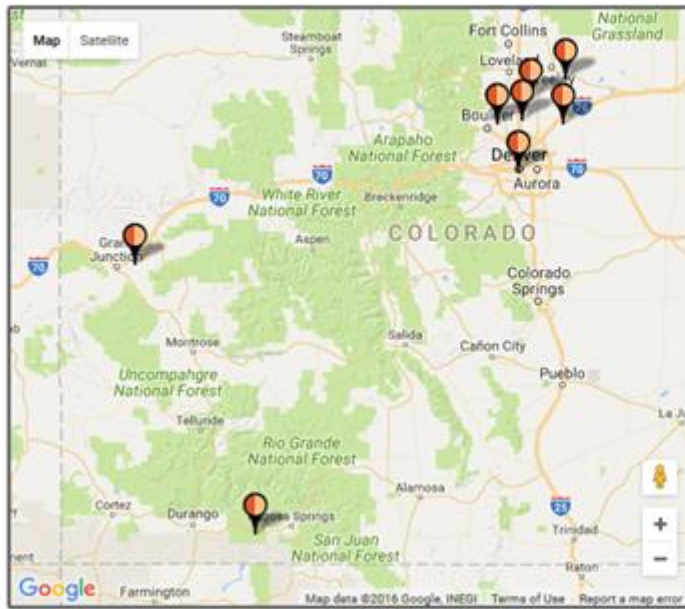
COLORADO MARKETMAKER FEATURES AGRITOURISM



Fall is a busy time for those farms and ranches that offer agritourism experiences, but it is a good time to remind your community that they can find Colorado Proud agritourism operations in Colorado MarketMaker. Instead of searching for farmers, you can use the search engine to focus the search on tourism operations in your area...there are over 200 operations registered in the system across Colorado.

Map of Results

State: CO » Type: Tourism » within 300 miles of current location



Detected Location: 80525 Change

Search Results

Sort: Relevance

227 results found.

- High Country Orchards, LLC** Palisade, CO (205 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- Miller Farms** Platteville, CO (25 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- Chimney Rock Farm** Chimney Rock, CO (262 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- Rocky Plains, LLP** Dacono, CO (34 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- The Great American Coffee Company** Denver, CO (58 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- Mazzotti Farms** Hudson, CO (42 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)
- Munson Farms** Boulder, CO (36 mi) [SEE PROFILE](#) [Get Directions](#)

For more information visit co.foodmarketmaker.com.

GRANTS: PORTABLE FARM STORAGE AND HANDLING EQUIPMENT

Portable equipment can help producers, including small-scale and local farmers, get products to market quickly, and the impact of access to such capital is now understood. To support this activity, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets. Farm Storage Facility Loans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage!

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans click [here](#).

You can also contact your local FSA county office by clicking [here](#).

GRANTS: FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in

competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

Applications are due by December 8th by 11:59PM EST and we encourage those producers, communities and organizations supporting farm to school to apply! For more information click [here](#).

On September 29th the USDA will host a webinar at 1:00PM EST to review the request for applications. Click [here](#) to register.

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.

One example that was funded in the past is the Colorado Historic Hot Springs Loop, a 722-mile driving route that leads visitors to 19 hot springs attractions in Colorado. The Loop was created by DMOs in Glenwood Springs, Ouray, Ridgway, Pagosa Springs, Chaffee County and Steamboat Springs.

Applications are due by 4pm on October 14th, 2016.

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

GRANTS: EXTENSION RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Western Extension Risk Management Education Center (Western Center), in conjunction with the Northeast, North Central and Southern Centers, announce a funding opportunity for projects that help farm and ranch families succeed through targeted risk management strategies. The maximum amount of requested funding shall not exceed \$50,000 for Education Projects and \$2,000 for Exploratory Projects. This is a program where CSU personnel can partner with producers and communities, so please reach out to CSU if you need a collaborator.

An applicant webinar will be conducted on Thursday, October 6th at 10:00AM PDT. No pre-registration is required and there is no fee to participate. Join the Adobe Connect pro meeting room [at this link](#), <http://breeze.wsu.edu/appwebinar/> 10 minutes prior to the webinar start time. Use the option “Enter as Guest” and enter your full name.

For more information click [here](#). You can also contact [Jo Ann Warner](#) (509-477-2168) or [Shannon Neibergs](#) (509-335-6360) with questions or comments regarding the request for applications.

NEWS: CO FOOD POLICY NETWORK RESOURCES

1. Food Systems Hub “Hublet” Application

Application Due Date: Friday October 21, 5 p.m.

Overview: The [Colorado Food Systems Hub](#) is a community resource designed to support healthy, resilient food systems across the state by providing relevant, reliable data—including enhanced mapping and reporting—in a collaborative environment that promotes peer-to-peer learning to increase impact and effect change. This Hub was

created by [LiveWell Colorado](#) in response to local food system coalitions' need for more relevant and easily accessible data and mapping capabilities in order to advance healthy food access at the state and local levels. [Learn more about the Colorado Food Systems Hub.](#)

Organizations can readily create Hublets (or Sub-Hubs) organized around place, theme, or issue, and link them to their parent Hub. Hublets have access to all the tools and resources in the parent Hub—in this case, the [Colorado Food Systems Hub](#). Hublets are helpful when engaging a coalition or a community group seeking more focused collaborative spaces. These hublets offer a governance and management framework for engaging regional or topical networks and can connect individuals and communities, intermediary organizations and potential funders.

[Learn more about this opportunity & view/download the complete RFP here.](#)

2. LiveWell Colorado Food Systems Peer Mentoring, Training, and Technical Assistance Opportunity

Dates Available: September 2016 - May 2017

Overview: This opportunity allows you, your organization, or your coalition to work with and learn from your peers to advance HEAL efforts in your community. Interested communities can request peer mentoring, training opportunities, and technical assistance focused on food systems work, local policy advocacy, and community engagement. Peer to peer mentoring and technical assistance can function in a variety of ways, including a community visit, phone consultations, and/or web based content.

[Learn more about this opportunity & view/download the complete project description here.](#)

NEWS: FREE PH TESTING FOR COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCERS

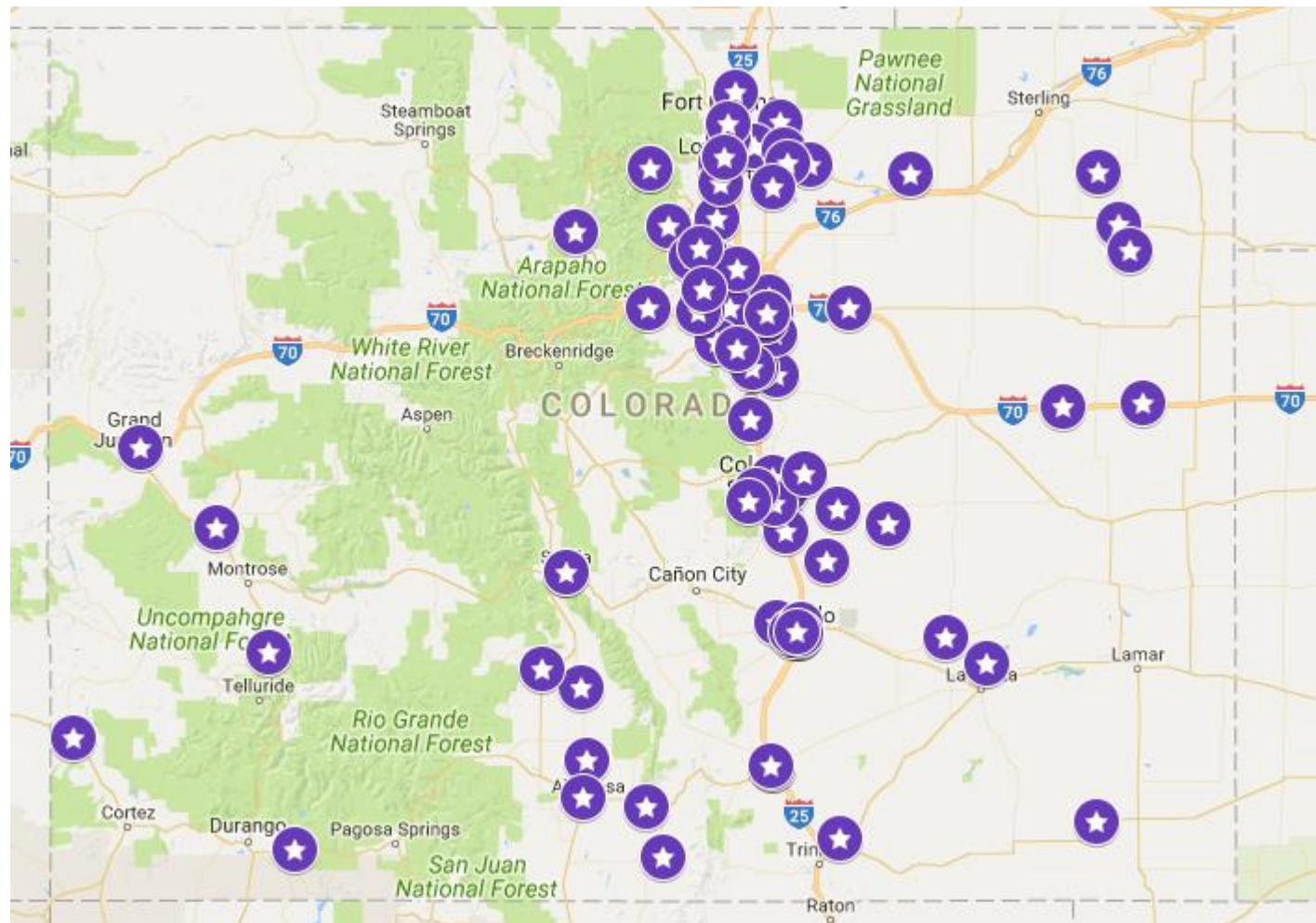
Free equilibrium pH testing of pickled fruits and vegetables is now available to Colorado Cottage Food producers through the Laboratory Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Samples can be dropped off or shipped to the lab, or left at one of the free courier pick up locations.

We encourage you to promote this free service to producers that hope to validate their standardized, personal, or family recipe(s) for pickled fruits and vegetables and verify a finished equilibrium pH of 4.6 or below. A producer may submit up to five different products for free equilibrium pH testing. Results will be mailed directly to them and will confirm if their recipe is just right or prompt them to make adjustments to assure the safety of their product for their customers.

Samples will be collected and processed on a first come, first serve basis. Funding is limited so please encourage producers in your area to take advantage of this free opportunity. Click [here](#) for more information and the forms needed to participate. Direct comments or general questions to cdphe_iepu@state.co.us.

NEWS: MAP OF COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY PARTICIPANTS

Colorado Proud School Meal Day took place on September 14th with the help of Colorado Department of Education, The Western Dairy Association, Colorado Beef Council, Slow Food Denver, LiveWell, CSU Extension 4-H Youth Development, Colorado Foundation for Agriculture and Colorado Egg Producers. An estimated 550 schools participated with 2,199 classrooms and 160,704 students (last year 100,000 students participated).



The Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division developed a map that allows you to highlight each school/school district to see how they celebrated Colorado Proud School Meal Day.

Click [here](#) to check out more details on the map!

EVENT: SLOW MONEY DECELERATOR

The Slow Money Institute is hosting the Slow Money Decelerator Event on Friday, October 21st in Boulder, CO. The Decelerator brings together a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers, food entrepreneurs, CSA members, farmers' market shoppers, co-op members, local food advocates, angel investors, donors and just plain regular folks who want to know where their food comes from and where their money goes.

General admission to the event is \$50 and a ticket to the Farm-to-Table diner is \$100.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

EVENT: 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 on agritourism marketing, insurance and the CHAMP peer mentor program, all of which are designed to help improve or expand cultural, heritage or agritourism businesses so they can 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](#).

EVENT: 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 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](#).

WEBINAR: NFU PRESENTS: GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

The National Farmers Union presents Growing for the Future. This is a unique online, interactive virtual conference focused on beginning farmer and rancher issues, including: mentorship, business planning, USDA programs, student loans, land tenure, food safety, women and veterans in farming, conservation and much more!

The conference is completely online, and features farmer-to-farmer webinars, live Q&A, a discussion board, a resource center and free giveaways! Register now for free for this unique opportunity in December!

This event will take place on December 5-8, 5pm-8pm EST. Click [here](#) to for more information and to register.

WORKSHOPS: NAVIGATE THE REGULATION MAZE WORKSHOP

Monday, October 24, 2016 in Salida Colorado. Join the Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU Extension, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and others in a workshop intended to get your food and agricultural based businesses questions answered.

Agenda and registration information coming soon. To be notified when registration opens please contact [Shaina Knight](#).

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](#).