

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

83RD EDITION

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Welcome to the **83rd 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!

For more information on Extension's local food systems activities, and to see past issues of this newsletter, go to: <http://foodsystems.colostate.edu/>.

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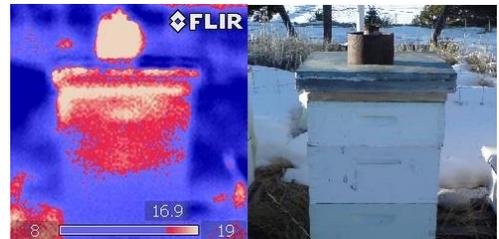
[Contact Information](#)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: CHAFFEE COUNTY



*Kurt Jones, County
Director for Chaffee
County Extension*

Chaffee County Extension local food system is buzzing. Kurt Jones, County Director, has been leading efforts to improve beekeeping and honey production in the area. The most recent project in January used IR (infrared) camera imaging to assess the health of fourteen beehives. Since it was too cold to open hives in the winter, the IR camera provided information about the temperature inside the hive, the number of bees, and whether winter feeding was necessary.



*IR image of a hive (left) and an outside view of the
same hive (right).*

Last fall, a beekeeper mentorship program was also pilot tested. Based on the Master Gardener program, the seven sessions in this course prepared more experienced beekeepers to assist newer keepers in starting and maintaining healthy hives. The vitality of all bees in the area is protected because it's, "...adding another set of eyes on the ground to recognize diseases that could affect other hives," Jones explained. This mentorship program responded to interest expressed at an introductory beekeeping course in February 2016. Out of the 100 participants in the class, fifty-five indicated they would appreciate a mentor keeper, but only three attendees felt confident in their mentorship knowledge and skills. Advanced courses and training, therefore, were developed between Extension and the local beekeeper association to address both sides of this need.

This year, Jones plans to start the program in late summer so students can open hives and participate in hands-on learning, as compared to last year's course that started too late for hive inspection. He also hopes to secure funding to purchase equipment and hives for an apiary education exhibit at the local county fair. 4-H members interested in keeping bees would be able to observe a hive in action and give it a try themselves, as well as educate other fair visitors. Jones will celebrate his twentieth year of working in Extension this upcoming May, a career marked by dedication to the people (and bees) of his community. Please visit <http://chaffee.colostate.edu/> to contact Chaffee County Extension and Kurt Jones for more information about programs and events.

Written by Rachael Latta, student in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

COLORADO MARKETMAKER: LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Connecting markets and quality food sources from farm to fork!

Whether you are a producer looking to reach new markets; a buyer wanting to connect with local or specialty suppliers; or a consumer looking for goods and services in your area MarketMaker is a must-have resource.

MarketMaker is the largest and most in-depth database of its kind featuring a diverse community of food-related businesses: buyers, farmers/ranchers, fisheries, farmers markets, processors/packers, wineries, restaurants and more. MarketMaker provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect with others across the production and distribution chain.

This month our featured business is Olde Man Granola, in Westminster, Colorado.



Email: [Contact Us](#)

Phone: (720) 320-7075

Address: 9084 Marshall Ct, Westminster, Colorado 80031

Website: oldemangranola.com

About Us

Our Granola is born from an older era, made the way foods used to be made, with traditional ingredients that satisfy and fulfill. For example, we use real butter and brown sugar. We handbake, slowly. This gives Olde Man Granola a richer and creamier taste with more flavor than other granolas. Our all natural products: Blueberry Almond Granola Raisin Almond Granola Cranberry Pecan Granola Cranberry Pecan Gluten Free Granola Original Nut Granola Chocolate Nut Granola Apple Walnut Granola Apple Cranberry...[READ MORE](#)

NEWS: LOCALFOOD APP ENTERS SECOND YEAR

In 2015, the LocalFood CS app was introduced to the Pikes Peak region of Colorado as a way to better understand and connect the local food system players in the region. It was developed by LocalMotive, a Colorado Public Benefit Corporation. This app features a database of people, producers, and businesses involved with the local food system that is frequently updated with new information.

Two years later, LocalFood CS is still working to strengthen the local food system. In two years, the organization has led to 107 retailers using the LocalFood decal, 6,000 people downloading the app, and 66,254 sessions of app usage. A partnership with the Colorado Springs Visitors' Bureau has led tourists to local restaurants, cafes, and other venues, giving them a true Colorado food experience. Learn more at: <http://localfoodnetworkpbc.org/>.

NEWS: SIGN UP AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS & RANCHERS FOR 2017 NATIONAL AG CENSUS

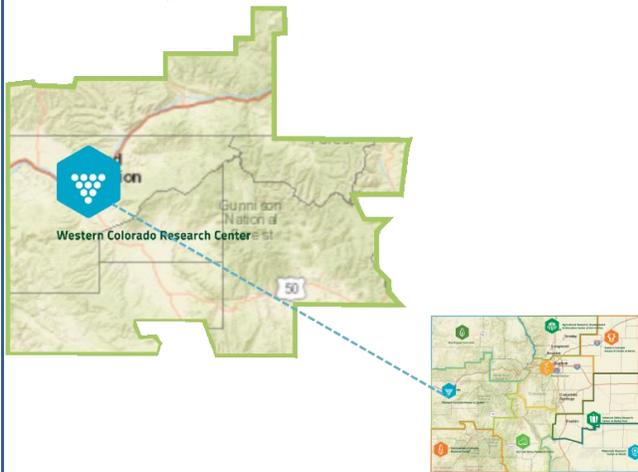
America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. The 2012 Census of Agriculture revealed that over three million farmers operated more than two million farms, spanning over 914 million acres. This was a four percent decrease in the number of U.S. farms from the previous census in 2007. However, agriculture sales, income, and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This telling information and thousands of other agriculture statistics are a direct result of responses to the Census of Agriculture.

Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov and clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data are used, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

NEWS: COLORADO BLUEPRINT UPDATE



The Colorado Blueprint project team will host their next regional town hall on the Western Slope. The event will be held on **April 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Montrose County Fairgrounds (1001 N. 2nd St., Montrose, CO 81401).

The [project's web site](#) features information about the Colorado Blueprint project, including upcoming events and opportunities to engage with the project team around the state. The newest addition to the site is the full project report from the 2016 Colorado Public Attitudes

Survey. Find the report here:

<http://foodsystems.colostate.edu/research/colorado-blueprint/publications/>.

NEWS: BAYFIELD FARMERS' MARKET TO START THIS SUMMER

The newly created Bayfield Downtown Farmers' Market (BDFM), located in Joe Stephenson Park, will open on June 15th and run from 5:00 p.m. to dusk, every Thursday through October 19th.

The BDFM is also hosting two block parties during the summer to promote the farmers' market and local vendors. The first block party will be hosted on opening day (June 15th), and the second will be hosted on July 20th. Both will be located on the intersection of Mill Street and Pearl Street in downtown Bayfield, Colorado.

Those interested in being a vendor at the BDFM can apply starting April 1st. The market is looking for all different types of vendors to sell at this season's farmers' market and, for the first season, there will be no fee for vendors. For more information on the BDFM, [click here to be directed to their website and learn more about the market](#).

COURSE: URBAN FARM PRODUCTION COURSE OFFERED

Colorado State University Extension is offering an Urban Farm Production Course from now until September. The class is geared toward aspiring farmers who would like to learn essential production skills, covering the key components that farmers must know to have a successful growing season. Sessions will include presentations from experts in the field, as well as on-farm activities at their host site, Pioneer Farmsteaders.

The course runs on every fourth Tuesday of the month, starting on March 28th and ending on September 26th. Every course runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The entire program costs \$250. Every class is located at Pioneer Farmsteaders (7000 Garrison St., Arvada 80004). The course schedule is as follows:

- **March 28th** – production planning and seed starting

- **April 25th** – soil management
- **May 23rd** – transplanting, sowing, and bed layout
- **June 27th** – irrigation
- **July 25th** – weed and pest management
- **August 22nd** – harvesting and food safety risk management
- **September 26th** – season extension

[Click here to register for the entire course.](#)

EVENT: BENNET ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF COLORADO FARM BILL LISTENING SESSIONS

Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet will host another round of Farm Bill listening sessions with his staff in the San Luis Valley, western Colorado, and Denver. Senator Bennet is a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. He held similar listening sessions when the 2014 Farm Bill was released.

According to Senator Bennet, “The listening sessions we’ve held this month with staff and agricultural leaders have already provided helpful input to guide our priorities for the next Farm Bill.” Locations and dates/times are listed below for upcoming listening sessions.

April 4th, 2017

La Jara from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall, 521 Spruce St., La Jara, CO 81140

Mosca from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Valley Roots Food Hub, 5401 Terry St., Mosca, CO 81146

Monte Vista from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Nino’s Restaurant, 118 Adams St., Monte Vista, CO 81144

April 7th, 2017

Lakewood from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Everitt Farms, 9400 W. Alameda, Ave., Lakewood, CO 80226

April 11th, 2017

Craig from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Moffat County Extension Office, Community Room

539 Barclay St., Craig, CO 81625

Steamboat Springs from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Steamboat Springs Community Center, 1605 Lincoln Ave., Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

April 12th, 2017

Grand Junction from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Old Mesa County Courthouse, Multiple Purpose Room

544 Rood Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501

Hotchkiss from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Delicious Orchards, 39126 Highway 133, Hotchkiss, CO 81419

April 13th, 2017

Delta from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Delta County Courthouse, Room 234
501 Palmer St., Delta, CO 81416

Montrose from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Montrose County Fairgrounds, Pioneer Room
1001 N. 2nd St., Montrose, CO 81401

Nucla from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
First Park Community Center, 1045 Main St., Nucla, CO 81424

April 14th, 2017

Cortez from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Dolores Water Conservancy District, 60 Cactus St., Cortez, CO 81321

Durango from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
La Plata County Administration Building, Board Room
1101 E. 2nd Ave., Durango, CO 81301

Because space is limited, RSVPs for each meeting are required. Use this link to [RSVP](#).

EVENT: 2017 HOMEGROWN FOOD RETREAT

Join the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado for the 2017 Homegrown Food Retreat on **April 8th, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the ELHI Community Center in Ignacio, Colorado.

The keynote speaker at this year's event will be Chef M. Karlos Baca, whose presentation "Full Circle: An Indigenous Foods Tale," will cover the topics of food warfare, loss of tradition, ancestral memory, modern Indigenous foodways, and a message from the Earth.

The event will also feature a special workshop entitled 4CORE Presents Do It Yourself Rainbarrel Construction. Doug Pushard from Santa Fe will lead a workshop to teach participants how to construct rain barrels to harvest rainwater. Space for this event is limited space and has a separate registration fee. [Click here to register for this part of the event.](#)

To register for the 2017 Homegrown Retreat, [click here](#). If you are interested in setting up a table to promote your organization, [click here to register your organization](#).

EVENT: 2017 SOUTHERN COLORADO TOURISM SUMMIT

Register now for the 2017 Southern Colorado Tourism Summit, to be held on **May 17th through May 19th** in La Junta, Colorado at Otero Junior College.

The summit will feature:

- Hands on workshops
 - Tutorial on listing free business listings and event listings on Colorado.com, Colorado's official tourism website
 - Group discussions with other Colorado counties to plan itineraries and outdoor experiences for Colorado residents
- Networking and visiting vendor booths
- Koshare India Kiva presentation
- Breakout sessions featuring information on heritage/culture tourism, agritourism, and outdoor tourism
- Keynote address by Cathy Ritter, Director of the Colorado Tourism Office

General admission to the summit is \$125. [Click here to register.](#)

EVENT: FIRST ANNUAL FOUR CORNERS HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP

The Durango Botanical Society, in cooperation with CSU Extension La Plata County and others, will hold the first ever Four Corners Horticulture Workshop at Fort Lewis College on **Thursday June 8th to Saturday, June 10th, 2017.**

Presenters include:

- David Salman – horticulturist and founder of High Country Gardens and Santa Fe Greenhouses
- Mike Kintgen – Curator of the Alpine Collections at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Kelly Grummons – Rocky Mountain Cactus and Succulent Society, Horticulturalist at Brown's Greenhouse
- Mike Bone – Curator of Steppe Collections at Denver Botanic Gardens, Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
- Don and Donnie Barnett – Author and Photographer of *Cactus of Colorado*, Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society
- Andrew Hatch – Denver Orchid Society, Owner of Rikki's Tropicals
- James Klett – CSU Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- Pat Hayward – Phytologic Horticultural Services
- Jeff Wagner – Certified Colorado Nursery Professional

Registration is now open, and the cost is \$150 to attend. On March 10th, you will be able to register for individual events and presentations as well. To register, [click here.](#)

EVENT: CHANGING LANDS, CHANGING HANDS CONFERENCE

From **June 13th to June 15th**, the USDA and Land For Good will host a conference entitled "Changing Lands, Changing Hands: A National Conference on Farm and Ranch Access, Tenure and Transfer." Land For Good's mission is to "ensure the future of farming in New England by putting more farmers more securely on more land" with a focus on making land available, affordable, appropriate, and equitable. To learn more about their organization, [click here.](#)

Land access and farm succession are both a challenge and an area of focus within US agriculture. Groups such as the USDA and Land For Good are looking to find solutions to issues surrounding these topics using research, policies, programming, and professional development.

This conference is targeted at practitioners, policymakers, and advocates who work with and on behalf of farmers and landowners of all types, commodities, scales, and regions.

The conference starts at **3:00 p.m. on June 13th and will end at noon on June 15th**. It will be held in Denver, Colorado at the DoubleTree Stapleton North.

Workshops and topics will include:

- Historic and contemporary perspectives on land access and transfer;
- Paths to ownership;
- Role of easements and conservation;
- Succession advisor team building;
- Public policies: state and federal;
- Working with non-farming landowners;
- Special populations: African American, Native American, immigrant, refugee, military veteran, and women;
- Farmland investor models and other topics.

For registration, the conference agenda, and information on transportation and lodging, [click here](#).

EVENT: CENTER FOR PRODUCE SAFETY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 2017 Center for Produce Safety (CPS) Research Symposium will be held in Denver on **June 20th and 21st**. The CPS is a collaborative partnership leveraging experts from industry, government, and the scientific and academic communities to focus on providing timely research to enhance food safety.

The symposium will include topics such as agricultural water, pathogen testing technologies, packinghouse and supply chain food safety, validation of processes, processing techniques, and stakeholder sessions growers, packers, processors and buyers.

Members of the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association can apply for a scholarship to help cover symposium expenses. Details about applying for scholarships can be found on their [website](#).

Registration is now open. If you register prior to April 30th, registration is \$475 for industry and \$425 for academia. After this, prices will increase. To find more information on the symposium or to register for the event, [click here](#).

EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR “SLOW FOOD NATIONS: DENVER”

On **July 14th through July 16th** in Denver, Colorado, Slow Food Nations will gather leaders and eaters, farmers and chefs, educators and families for a weekend of tastings, tours and talks, making Denver the center of the North America food universe for three days.

Slow Food Nations is a national event that features producers, organizations, and prominent food figures from across North America, giving attendees a taste of the Slow Food movement as it occurs in different regions. The general public will have free access to tastings and installations throughout Slow Food Nations, as they experience Denver at historic sites like Denver Union Station and Larimer Square.

The Slow Food Movement was established in 1989 as a way to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of fast life and combat people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from and how our food choices affect the world around us.

[For more information on the event, click here.](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

To add your ideas and news, contact [Ellie Naasz](#).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact [Martha Sullins](#).