

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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84TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **84th 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!

To assist our readers in finding information, events and programs we may have presented in the past, you can find old issues at: <http://foodsystems.colostate.edu/extension-outreach/local-food-systems-newsletter/>.

CONTENTS

[Regional Spotlight: Jefferson County](#)

[Colorado MarketMaker: Related Websites](#)

[Grants: Western SARE 2018 Call for Proposals](#)

[News: Slow Food Micro-Loans from Living Soil Investments of Northern Colorado](#)

[News: Tell Us Your Colorado Farm to School Story!](#)

[News: Greeley Farmers Market is Growing, Looking for Vendors!](#)

[Project: Colorado Blueprint for Food and Ag](#)

[Webinar: Working Together on State and Federal Food Policy](#)

[Event: FSMA Produce Safety Rule Training Course](#)

[Event: Mountain Plains Regional Summit](#)

[Event: Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference](#)

[Event: 2017 Southern Colorado Tourism Summit](#)

[Event: First Annual Four Corners Horticulture Workshop](#)

[Event: Changing Lands, Changing Hands Conference](#)

[Event: Center for Produce Safety Research Symposium](#)

[Event: CSU Ag Day and Ag Innovation Summit](#)

[Event: Save the Date for Colorado Proud School Meal Day](#)

[Contact Information](#)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: JEFFERSON COUNTY

In Jefferson County, Jacki Paone is a champion for food systems and public health. Since stepping into the role of County Director for Jefferson County Extension five years ago, Paone has coordinated efforts within her office and throughout the county as well.

A strategic plan for Jefferson County Extension was recently developed with three goals to be accomplished by 2021. One of those goals is to “increase



Paone received the Public Health Champion award in 2015. Pictured with county commissioner, county manager, and Extension Front Range Regional Director JoAnn Powell.

participation in local production and consumption of healthy foods learning programs by 30 percent.” Current work by Horticulture staff Patti O’Neal and Curtis Utley has been restructured to fit in more with food systems to achieve this goal. Other steps include educational activities at the Jefferson County Fair and Festival, virtual training resources, a rooftop garden demonstration, and an achievable action plan to improve the availability of healthy food. Paone was also part of the creation of a food policy council. Along with colleagues and Jefferson County Public Health personnel, the Food Policy Council prioritizes increasing access to “local food systems, policies, programs and networks, developing a multi-year plan to...increase access to nutritious food,” and providing opportunities to “share updates, best practices and

lessons learned.” Extension, Public Health, hospitals, farmers, and other community members meet monthly to collaborate and share ideas on how to better serve residents throughout Jefferson County.

When asked why she participates in food systems work, Paone explained, “Food systems are something I believe in. As Director, I look for needs in the county and try to address them, support work that (Extension) staff are doing, and make their jobs easier. We have a greater chance of success if we work together.” For more information on Jefferson County’s Food Policy Council, please visit



Jacki Paone, Jefferson County Extension Director

<http://www.healthyjeffco.com/foodaccess>. Jefferson County Extension programs, events, and the strategic plan can be found at <http://jeffco.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Written by Rachael Latta, student in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

COLORADO MARKETMAKER: CHECK OUT “RELATED WEBSITES”



Colorado MarketMaker is an excellent resource to find information about agricultural organizations within the state. Beyond that, Colorado MarketMaker has also organized a list of related resources for users to find more information on specific items.

For example, later in this issue we discuss the National Farm to School program. Colorado MarketMaker lists the Farm to School website on their “Related Websites” area. If you wanted to learn more about what Farm to School is, Colorado MarketMaker has provided their website information, as well as a description of their activities. To get to this page, click “Resources” at the top (shown in the above picture), then click “Related Websites” within the list.

GRANTS: WESTERN SARE 2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Western SARE has a call for proposals in five different grant programs, including research and education pre-proposals, professional development, farmer/rancher, professional and producer, and graduate student. **Deadlines begin June 2017, but programs run through December.**

Research and Education Grants involve scientists, producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to address issues related to sustaining agriculture. Pre-proposals for the 2018 call are due in June 2017. Applicants with exceptional applications will be asked to submit a full proposal in November 2017, with the final award announcements in March 2018. [For more information on this grant, click here.](#)

Professional Development Program Grants are focused on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Grants are limited to \$75,000 and can run for up to three years. Proposals are due in November 2017 with the final award announcements in March 2018. [For more information on this grant, click here.](#)

Farmer/Rancher Grants are one- to three-year grants for agricultural producers with support and guidance from a technical advisor. Individual farmers or ranchers may apply for up to \$20,000. Groups of three or more may apply for up to \$25,000. Producers typically use their grants to conduct on-site experiments that can improve their operations and environment, and can be shared with other producers. Grant recipients may also focus on marketing and organic production. All proposals are due in December 2017, and grant awards will be announced in March 2018. [For more information on this grant, click here.](#)

Professional and Producer Grants are similar to the Farmer/Rancher grants with a few key differences. Instead of a producer serving as the project coordinator, an agricultural professional coordinates the project. A farmer or rancher serves as the project advisor. Proposals are due in December 2017, and award announcements will be made in March 2018. [For more information on this grant, click here.](#)

Lastly, **Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture** provide a maximum of \$25,000 and may last for up to two years. Those eligible to apply are Masters or Ph.D. students enrolled full time at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. An applicant is eligible for only one grant during his or her graduate program. Proposals are due May 17th, 2017. Award notifications are made in July to August. [For more information on this grant, click here.](#)

NEWS: SLOW FOOD MICRO-LOANS FROM LIVING SOIL INVESTMENTS OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Living Soil Investments is pleased to announce its 2017 Micro-Loan Program. They are currently accepting applications from local producers and value-added businesses in the Front Range of Northern Colorado. Micro-Loans will range in funding levels from \$1,000 to \$15,000. [Applications \(and examples of past loan projects\) can be found on their website.](#)

Questions can be sent to livingsoilinvestments@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining the group of investors in supporting sustainable local food, please contact Living Soil Investments at the email above.



NEWS: GREELEY FARMERS MARKET IS GROWING, LOOKING FOR VENDORS!

The Greeley Farmers Market is growing and they are looking for mushroom and cheese vendors! This market is the real deal – most of the vendors are from Greeley and/or surrounding communities, and they all value a high quality market. If you want to be a part of a growing/vibrant market every Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM, join them in their 25th year of operation! Reasonable booth fee and no percentage of sales. Please contact Deb DeBoutez, 970-451-1711, deborah.deboutez@greeleygov.com or go to: <http://greeleygov.com/activities/fm/home>.

NEWS: TELL US YOUR COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL STORY!

LiveWell Colorado was recently selected as a Core Partner for the National Farm to School Network. Core Partner organizations build capacity for and support the expansion of farm to school and farm to early care and education efforts in their state. They also serve as liaisons for information, resources, needs, and opportunities with the National Farm to School Network.

One way you can help LiveWell Colorado is by providing your Colorado success story through the National Farm to School website. The National Farm to School organization is looking for testimonies from Farm to School Grant awardees, producers or processors using Farm to School, or a family child care provider. The more stories that are compiled, the better LiveWell Colorado will be at demonstrating the Farm to School movement in Colorado and sharing what has been learned with others. To submit a farm to school story, [click here](#).

PROJECT: COLORADO BLUEPRINT FOR FOOD AND AG

The Colorado Blueprint for Food and Agriculture has finished its statewide tour of the regions, and is now turning to industry partners to gather priorities and feedback on various sectors of the industry.

If you want to keep up to date on events, reports and information being shared from the Blueprint, 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 are regional opportunity reports that are gradually being posted...some example reports are posted at:

[Metro Denver report](#) and [Eastern Colorado report](#).

WEBINAR: WORKING TOGETHER ON STATE & FEDERAL FOOD POLICY

Join LiveWell Colorado for a webinar entitled "Working Together on State & Federal Food Policy" on **Thursday, May 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The webinar will provide a brief overview of how the federal and state government systems work, as well as a discussion of ways to build your capacity and that of your community to leverage your knowledge and expertise for policy gain. You will also learn about the work that LiveWell is doing in the policy arena and how everyone can combine their efforts to make their voices for change even stronger.

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

EVENT: FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE TRAINING COURSE

Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be hosting a Produce Safety Rule training for growers, under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), on **Thursday, May 11th from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The event will be held at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway, in Broomfield, Colorado.

This course will provide a foundation on FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. Individuals are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them;
- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm;
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm;
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one.

The registration fee is \$100 for CFVGA members and \$200 for all other participants. However, the **1st five CFVGA members** who register will receive **free registration** (enter the code "CFVGA_member" to receive a 100% discount on registration). Registration includes a light breakfast, lunch, PSA materials, and a certificate of completion as required under FSMA. **Registration closes on May 8th.** [To register or read more information about the event, click here.](#)

EVENT: MOUNTAIN PLAINS REGIONAL SUMMIT

Join The Root Cause Coalition and The Alliance to End Hunger for their regional summit on addressing hunger as a health issue and other social determinants. Diagnosis: Hunger will be hosted on **May 18th at the Rita Bass Trauma and EMS Education Institute at 190 West 6th Avenue, in Denver, Colorado.**

The summit will feature perspectives from an array of experts, including a keynote speaker from the USDA. Leaders from local and national healthcare organizations, faith-based groups, the education community, service organizations, and nongovernment organizations will gather to discuss current best practices and policies being used in the promotion of food security and improved food systems. Additionally, the event will offer community connections and resources; align efforts to improve access to healthy affordable foods; and advocate for food insecure individuals and families in the region and across the nation.

For questions, contact [Monique Brigham](#), Manager of Operations at The Root Cause Coalition. [To learn more about the event and register, click here.](#)

EVENT: ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2017 Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference! The conference will be held on **May 23rd and 24th at the Johnson & Wales University Academic Center, 7150 Montview Blvd., Denver, Colorado.**

The conference brings together professionals in the food industry and food safety community, providing a unique annual opportunity for updates, networking, and new ideas. National and local experts will present information and views on current issues, problems, and developments, and conference participants gain an updated, broader view of the field and their role in securing and protecting a safe food supply.

Topics will include current trends in food safety, industrial lab tests, global food defense, functional food trends, and sustainable food manufacturing.

This conference is geared toward food safety professionals, restaurateurs and chefs, retail managers, food processors, students, health educators, quality assurance directors, cooperative extension personnel, and representatives from state and federal agencies with food safety education, training, or regulation responsibilities.

[For more information and to register for the conference, click here.](#)

EVENT: 2017 SOUTHERN COLORADO TOURISM SUMMIT

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

Initial information for the agenda has been released. The summit will feature events such as:

- 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 Indian Kiva presentation
- Breakout sessions featuring information on heritage/culture tourism, agritourism, and outdoor tourism
- Keynote speaker Cathy Ritter, Director of the Colorado Tourism Office

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

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

The cost is \$150 to attend. 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: CSU AG DAY AND AG INNOVATION SUMMIT

A CSU ag tradition continues on Saturday, September 9th, and this year it will be on campus where we will have the traditional BBQ and then proceed to the new CSU stadium for a football game that afternoon. Also watch for the 2nd CSU Ag Innovation Summit, to be held the week before Ag Day on CSU campus.

Watch for more information in the coming months!

EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

Mark down Wednesday, September 13th on your calendar! The Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting the Colorado Proud School Meal Day. Information and the material order form will be available soon.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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