

# CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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Welcome to the **85<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 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/>.

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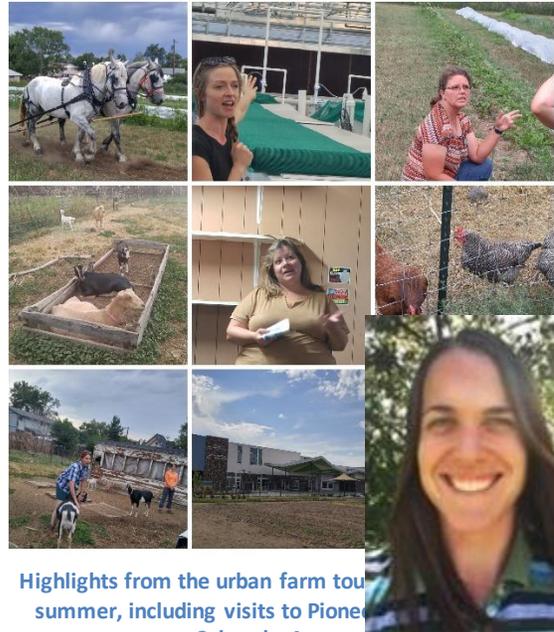
[Contact Information](#)

## REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Arapahoe County Extension offers programs that support and encourage those involved in the local food system. Danielle Ardrey, Program Coordinator for Arapahoe County, organizes events to best meet the needs of the community.

When a shift in type and number of applicants in the Building Farmers program was noticed, Extension partnered with Guidestone Colorado to present a Vision Course for aspiring urban farmers. Ardrey worked with Jennifer Visitacion, Executive Director for Guidestone Colorado, to create networking opportunities between new and established urban farmers to share experiences, as well as learn about other resources and information available for aspiring producers. The Vision Course ended with a tour of Colorado Aquaponics at the Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-being. Another response to participant feedback is the implementation of an Urban Farm Production Course in cooperation with Jefferson and Denver County Extension offices. Held every fourth Tuesday from March to September, this course teaches essential production skills through expert instruction and hands-on experiences. Professors from CSU, Extension Agents, Regional Extension staff, and other area professionals present the lectures; Pioneer Farmsteaders, LLC., hosts on-farm activities designed to put that knowledge to practical use.

Ardrey's participation in youth and collegiate 4-H, Master's Degree in Biology and Agricultural Education, and teaching middle school science fueled her passion for food systems and the people in it. When asked why she works for Extension, she shared, "I'm always learning and growing, and I appreciate the connections I've made with people in these classes who share the same passion for food systems." To learn more about how Arapahoe County Extension events and programs support the entire community, please visit <http://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/>.



Highlights from the urban farm tour summer, including visits to Pioneer Farmsteaders, LLC. and Colorado Aquaponics.

Danielle Ardrey,  
Program Coordinator  
for Arapahoe County  
Extension.

*Written by Rachael Latta, student in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture*

## COLORADO MARKETMAKER: REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS TODAY

The screenshot shows the Colorado MarketMaker website. At the top, the logo reads "COLORADO MARKET MAKER™ Linking Agricultural Markets". Navigation links include "Search", "Why Marketmaker", "Partner States", and "Buy/Sell Forum". A large banner image of fresh produce features the text "Register — Creating a MarketMaker profile gives your business immediate exposure to buyers and sellers, locally and nationwide". Below the banner is a green bar with "Home" and "Register" links. Four icons represent key features: "Specialized Profile" (Create a page to showcase your business), "Products/Services Listing" (Detail what your business has to offer), "Business Network" (Promote all of your connections), and "Buy/Sell Forum Alerts" (Receive realtime notices of posted ads).

Farms and local business are approaching the busiest season of the year in the upcoming summer months. If you are a Colorado producer, you should register on Colorado MarketMaker to market your products. You can create a specialized profile for your business, list where you are located, what you sell, and where you sell your products. You can also connect with other businesses. Lastly, you can list products for sale or buy products on the Buy/Sell Forum. A profile is easy to make and easy to use. To register and make your own profile, [click here](#).

## COMPETITION: FARM BUREAU RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

The Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working in food and agriculture businesses. Businesses across agriculture are eligible, including farms, ranches, agritourism, CSAs, food hubs, aquaponics, farm-to-table businesses, local food production, and craft breweries. Rural entrepreneurs compete for \$145,000 in startup funds.

- Ten entrepreneurs will share \$145,000 in startup funds.
- Four finalists will each be awarded \$15,000 and compete for an additional \$25,000
- Six best-in-show winners will each be awarded \$10,000 in the categories of:
  - Best Farm Startup
  - Best Agritourism Startup
  - Best Farm-to-Table Startup
  - Best Ag Tech & Support Services Startup
  - Best Craft Beverage Startup
  - Best Local Product Startup

Applications will close on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. To apply, [click here](#). If you have questions, contact [Lisa Benson](#).

## NEWS: POLICY REPORT ON SHARED-USE KITCHENS

The Food Corridor, a Colorado-based software company that connects food entrepreneurs with commercial kitchen space, has released an in-depth report on the state of national shared-use kitchen policy. Based on surveys and interviews with more than 30 incubator and commissary kitchen operators from across the United States, the policy report concludes that inconsistencies in municipal, county, and state food codes may be limiting growth in local food systems. The report includes insights about kitchen clientele, best practices for onboarding clients, health department procedures and relationships, insurance considerations, and the future of incubator kitchen policy.

According to Ashley Colpaart, co-founder of The Food Corridor, “The concept of shared-use kitchens has grown considerably in recent years, stimulating an increase in food entrepreneurship and the creation of expanding local food economies. However, the overall landscape of shared-use kitchens is suffering from unclear and inconsistent government regulations at local and regional levels. By adopting common definitions and eliminating regulatory redundancy, start-up food businesses will have increased opportunity to thrive.”

To read the entire report, [click here](#).

## NEWS: CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR AMERICA’S FARMERS AND RANCHERS

America’s farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to strongly represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the USDA’s 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.

According to the NASS Administrator Huber Hamer, “The Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every county in the nation. As such, census results are relied upon heavily by those who serve farmers and rural communities, including federal, state, and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, researchers, and farmers and ranchers themselves.”

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. 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).

If your farm did not receive a 2012 census or are new to farming and would like to have your farm represented in the census, [click here](#). Farms can register through June.

## EVENT: FARMERS MARKETS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS WEBINAR

Join LiveWell Colorado for a webinar entitled “Farmers Markets & Community Partners: Opportunities to Integrate Nutrition Education, Market Tours, Food Budgeting, and Community Engagement into Your Market.” The webinar will be held on **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. MT.**

This is the second webinar in a series of three. The series is designed to examine different ways to build connections between federal and community food assistance programs and farmers markets in Colorado. To view the first webinar entitled “Farmers Markets and Food Assistance Programs,” [click here](#).

This webinar will feature presentations from Cooking Matters and other non-profit partners that work with markets to expand consumer reach, engage families of all different incomes, and provide supportive programming at markets.

To register for the event, [click here](#).

## EVENT: MOCK FOOD SAFETY AUDIT TO BE HELD IN MONTROSE

The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be hosting a Mock Food Safety Audit on **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Montrose, Colorado**. The event will start at High Desert Seed + Gardens for an overview. Then, a walk-through of the farm will be led by Colorado Department of Agriculture fruit and vegetable inspectors. They will be focusing on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and the Field Review, Field Harvest, and Field Packing sections of the USDA GAP/GHP audit process.

Participants will learn how to adapt their growing, harvesting, and handling practices to produce safer food crops and document those practices in a food safety plan. Once you have signed up, event organizers will contact you with additional event information.

If you are a CFVGA member, the cost to register is free. If you are not a member, the cost to participate is \$30. Registrations will be accepted until June 6<sup>th</sup>. To register for the event, [click here](#).

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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](#).

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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](#).