

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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86TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **86th 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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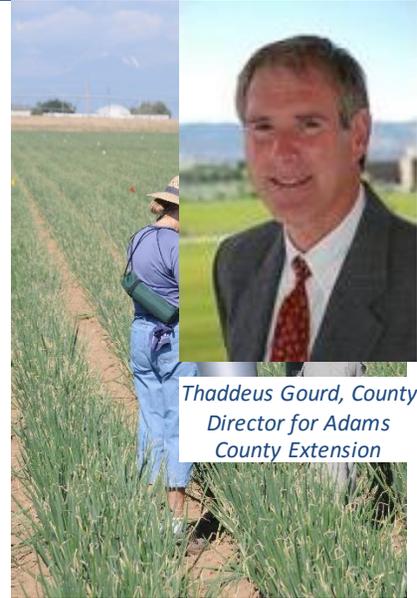
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Thaddeus Gourdeau, County Director for Adams County Extension

Adams County onion biologists, Lisa & Stu, evaluating for pink root on onions in the variety trials. Photo credit: Thaddeus Gourdeau.

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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ADAMS COUNTY

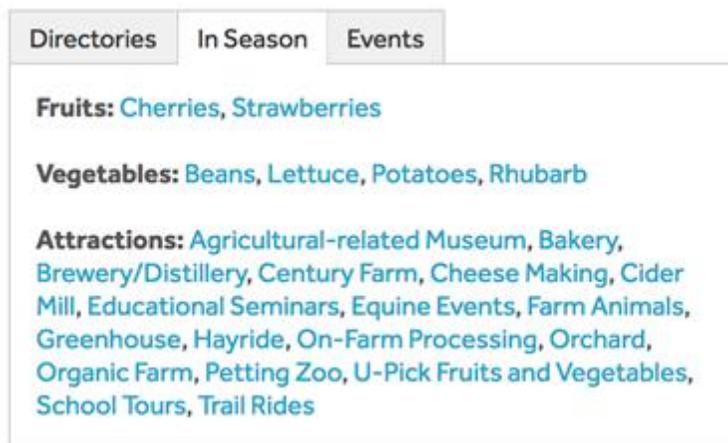
Thaddeus Gourdeau, County Director for Adams County Extension, uses his years of experience in the private sector of agriculture to support food systems in his community. For over thirty years, the Northern Colorado Onion Variety Trials have been used to research red, yellow, and white onion varieties from around the world. Gourdeau took over the program in 2002, and he works with growers in the Brighton area to assess each variety's ability to resist or tolerate the effects of weeds, insects, and diseases.

Some common problems they research are onion thrips, pink root fungus, and Iris Yellow Spot Virus. "Onions are also affected by the latitude they're grown in, so we're ground truthing how each variety grows in the Northern Colorado environment," Gourdeau described. Finding these better varieties benefits both the grower and the environment, as the grower can produce higher yields while potentially reducing the need to apply pesticides that negatively impact the environment.

Gourdeau's research also extends into testing biopesticides used to control nematodes on onions and carrots, and studies of mycorrhizae colonization on onions, presenting his findings to the National Association of Agriculture County Agents and at the National Allium Research Conference. With support from the Brighton Bee Club and Jennifer Tucker, Small Acreage Coordinator for Adams County, Gourdeau additionally helped construct a comparative beehive demonstration. Three different beehive designs were evaluated last year to discover which layout best promoted bee health and survival through the winter season. They plan to continue the study this year. Overall, Thaddeus Gourdeau's background enables Adams County Extension to support different scales agriculture in the region, one field at a time. For more information on the Northern Colorado Onion Variety Trials and other Adams County Extension programs, please visit <http://adams.colostate.edu/>.

Written by Rachael Latta, student in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

COLORADO MARKETMAKER: WHAT'S IN SEASON?



Colorado MarketMaker shows you which products are currently in season directly on its homepage. This feature allows you to click on the individual fruit, vegetable, or attraction to show which Colorado businesses are selling this product or participating in this activity. From there, you can click on the individual business and find out where to buy their products or how to contact them. Don't forget to register for Colorado MarketMaker if you are a Colorado producer or agri-business wanting to get your information to Colorado consumers! Check it out at: <https://co.foodmarketmaker.com/>.

STUDY: PARTICIPATE IN THE 2017 MARKET CHANNEL ASSESSMENTS

Are you a specialty crop producer who wants to understand the profitability of your different market channels? CSU has an on-going market channel assessment program where producers:

1. Are paid \$100 to participate,
2. Receive a customized farm report, including consulting with CSU agricultural economists, and
3. Gain the ability to compare their farm to statewide benchmarks.

Please help us to spread the word! Contact [Ellie Naasz](#) if you would like more information about this study or if you or someone you know is interested in participating. There is also additional information on our [website](#) about this project.

NEW BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM TO HELP EXPAND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS IN DENVER

The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) is launching a new business development program focused on curbing food insecurity in Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, Montbello, Westwood, Northeast Park Hill, Five Points, and other neighborhoods.

Administered by The Unreasonable Institute, the [Food Access Project](#) is designed to find new and innovative solutions to tackling food insecurity challenges. The program provides curriculum, connections, and mentorship to help 10 selected ventures—both for-profit and non-profit—improve access to healthy food across low-income communities in Denver.

The Food Access Project will provide each participating venture with a five-day, in-person bootcamp featuring world-class curriculum, six months of support from a team of committed mentors, financial modeling training from Unreasonable Financial Architects, key introductions to relevant investors, and access to a network of over 530 Unreasonable Institute ventures worldwide.

The Food Access Project represents OED's latest effort at boosting the availability of healthy food options throughout the city. Other efforts include:

- Dedicated gap financing funds to support prospective full-service grocers in the Globeville/Elyria-Swansea, Montbello and Westwood neighborhoods. Along with partner organizations, the OED has pledged \$1 million for each of the three neighborhood areas.
- Provided a \$76,720 grant to the Focus Points Family Resource Center, to support a new business support center for Globeville/Elyria-Swansea food businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Awarded a \$66,213 grant to The GrowHaus to support a door-to-door *promotora* (community health worker) program, educating residents on healthy eating habits, cooking methods and nutrition.
- Completed the Denver Food Vision, which sets forth an ambitious, comprehensive approach to further develop Denver's food system.

Although applications are closed at this time, you can still follow the progress of these new ventures at increasing access to healthy foods in low-income Denver communities at [Food Access Project](#).

GRANT: FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT TRAINING FOR FARMERS OF COLOR & VETERAN FARMERS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of \$8 million in Section 2501 grants to help organizations conduct targeted outreach and provide technical assistance to minority, veteran, and other underserved farmers. The grants are available to support a range of outreach and assistance activities, including farm management, financial management, marketing, and grant identification/application.

Organizations can apply for up to \$200,000 for a one-year grant. Organizations must have demonstrated expertise in working with underserved, socially disadvantaged, and/or veteran farmer communities. Grants are awarded to three categories of applicants:

- Category 1 – Minority-serving academic institutions

- Category 2 – Non-profit and community-based organizations and Indian Tribes
- Category 3 – Other academic institutions and organizations

The USDA is soliciting project proposals that address the following program priorities:

- Assist socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches,
- Improve participation among socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs,
- Build relationships between current and prospective socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers and USDA's local, state, regional, and national offices,
- Introduce agriculture-related information to socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers through innovative outreach and technical assistance techniques, and
- Introduce agricultural education targeting socially disadvantaged youth and beginning farmers and ranchers, in rural and persistent poverty communities.

For application information, please see <https://www.outreach.usda.gov/grants/>. All applications must be submitted via [grants.gov](https://www.outreach.usda.gov/grants/) by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, August 7th**.

NEWS: LOOKING FOR LOCAL? FIND FARMERS' MARKETS IN ANNUAL PUBLICATION

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) recently released their annual Colorado Farm Fresh Directory to help consumers find farmers' markets, roadside stands, u-picks, wineries, and agritourism activities. CDA marketing specialist Wendy White says, "If you are looking for local foods, Farm Fresh is the perfect guide. We hope the publication helps connect consumers with local products."

The 2017 guide features over 200 farms, ranches, roadside stands, u-picks, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, as well as 100 farmers' markets across the state. Farm Fresh also includes farmers that offer tours, restaurants using local ingredients, wineries, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, and farm and ranch vacations.

The directory is available online by clicking [here](#). For more information on the 2017 Colorado Farm Fresh Directory, visit this [website](#) or call (303) 869-9174.

EVENT: 2017 SUMMER HOPS TOUR

The 2017 hops tour will take place on July 29th and 30th at farms in Palisade, Paonia, Delta, and Montrose. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- **Saturday, July 29th**
 - 7:00 a.m.: Depart from the Durango High School
 - Arrive in Palisade for lunch at a brewery
 - Tour hops yards near Palisade and Paonia
 - Dinner in Delta
 - Stay at the Quality Inn in Delta

- **Sunday, July 30th**
 - 9 a.m.: Tour hops yards near Olathe until 12 p.m.
 - Lunch in Montrose
 - 6 p.m.: Return to Durango High School

Cost to join the tour is \$25. This price includes fuel and hotel costs. Individuals are responsible for their own meals. There are only 20 spaces available. To register, contact [Beth LaShell](#).

EVENT: OLD FORT OPEN HOUSE

Join the Fort Lewis College for their Old Fort Open House on **Thursday, July 20th from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.** The following projects will be on display for visitors to see:

- Hops variety trial,
- Education garden,
- Incubator market garden,
- Farmer-in-Training Program,
- Red Angus, Murray Gray, and Square Meater cow herds,
- Physics observatory,
- Historic county store, and
- Renovated picnic grounds.

Food concessions will be available. There will also be a preview for a silent auction to raise funds for the 2018 Farmer-in-Training Program. Fort Lewis College is located 4 miles south of Hesperus on Highway 140. For more information contact Beth LaShell at (970) 385-4574.

EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

Mark **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.

EVENT: AG TOUR TO SPAIN

Join Pueblo County Extension Director Michael Fisher and Horticulture Coordinator Sherie Caffey as they explore both the agriculture and the history of Spain's Andalusian region, from November 26 to December 8, 2017.

This is a diverse tour with stops ranging from seed and grafting propagation to greenhouse vegetable production. You'll learn about olive oil production and marketing, avocado exports, and fruit production in Spain. Our group will have the opportunity to look at how a cotton cooperative has spread their risk by diversifying into tomato concentrate production and the cut flower business, marketing over 70 million carnations annually. Some of Spain's famous equine and cattle operations are going to open their gates & barns for our group to learn about livestock production in the region. And of course our travel group will have the opportunity to experience the tastes of the region both through our meals and planned stops where we will learn about cheese, honey, and wine production. In addition to all of

this, our group will be exposed to Spain's culture and history with visits ranging from gardens to architecture, cathedrals to palaces, and fountains to a Flamenco show. Space is limited!

For more information, please contact Michael Fisher at 719-583-6566 or fisher@pueblocounty.us.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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