

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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88TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **88th 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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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: BOULDER COUNTY

Boulder County Extension uses a wide variety of programs and events to build relationships, facilitate conversations, and support food production in the county. The Boulder County Agriculture Forum, started in 2010, is an annual dinner event that promotes education, networking, and community development. This year's Agriculture Forum brought together 120 people with the intent of understanding the commonalities that everyone in the agricultural community shares.

Adrian Card, an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent for Boulder County, said that this event helped the community "to not focus on the twenty percent of things that were different, but instead focus on the eighty percent we had in common." He also coordinates the Food Systems Advisory Council for Boulder County. This group, started in 2008, influences activities in the county, refines staff projects, and makes recommendations to county commissioners regarding food production and access. In Card's twelve years of working for Extension, he has seen the development of other programs in the area as well.



Boulder County Agriculture Forum



*Adrian Card, Boulder County
Extension Agent- Agriculture &
Natural Resources*

Advanced classes on topics like agritourism are offered to graduates of the Building Farmers Program who have completed the introductory classes. Another event that Extension created was a producer networking session. This connected growers with brokers and buyers to improve relationships along the food system chain and enhance economic sustainability in the area. Card shared that, "Food systems is the nexus of production, distribution, marketing, consumption, health and policy." Boulder County Extension is certainly a contributor to the success and resilience of their local food system. For more information on the Food Systems Advisory Council, please visit <http://www.bouldercounty.org/gov/boards/pages/fapc.aspx>. Other

Extension programs, information, and events: <http://boulder.extension.colostate.edu/agriculture/>.

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

GRANT: MARKETING MATCHING GRANT ANNOUNCED

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) is accepting applications for its Marketing Matching Grant Program. All grants applications must be submitted by **4 p.m. on Friday, September 15th, 2017**. The annual competitive grant program offers financial assistance to Colorado's tourism industry for the purpose of enhancing marketing efforts to visitors.

The program will award up to \$600,000 in grants. Each grant awarded will be up to \$25,000, and for every \$1 the awarded organization allocates to the program, the CTO will provide \$1 in matching funds. The purpose of the CTO Marketing Matching Grant Program is to provide funding to Colorado non-profit organizations to promote the state or a region as a tourism destination. Travel regions throughout the state are eligible for these grant dollars, as well as statewide associations, organizations and other non-profit entities that engage in promoting travel throughout Colorado.

For more information regarding the grant program and instructions on how to apply, [click here](#). For more information or if you have questions, email [Elizabeth O'Rear](mailto:Elizabeth.O'Rear@colorado.gov) or call at (303) 892-3893.

GRANT: COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting grants for the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program. The program is designed to:

- Meet the needs of low-income people by increasing their access to fresher, more nutritious food supplies,
- Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs,
- Promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues,
- Meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs for infrastructure improvement and development,
- Plan for long-term solutions, and
- Create innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

Projects that develop links between two or more sectors of the food system, support the development of entrepreneurial projects, develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors, encourage long term planning activities, and build long-term capacity of communities to address food and agricultural problems are preferred.

These grants are intended to help private nonprofit entities that need a one-time infusion of federal assistance to establish and carry out multipurpose community food projects. Projects are funded from \$10,000 to \$400,000, for a period of one to four years. To read more about the grant and apply, [click here](#). All applications are due on **November 30th**.

GRANT: VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program is a USDA program that helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to:

- generate new products,
- create and expand marketing opportunities, and
- increase producer income.

Applicants may receive priority if they are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Planning grants can be up to \$75,000 and working capital grants can be up to \$250,000.

Parties eligible to apply are independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the program regulation are eligible to apply for this program.

Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Example of working capital expenses include processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses.

For more information on the program, [click here](#). Applications are due by **January 31st, 2018**.

GRANT: WESTERN SARE GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM

To better meet the needs of graduate students, Western SARE has changed the yearly deadlines and award dates. A supplemental [Call for Proposals for the Graduate Student grant program](#) has been released. Under this call, grant proposals are due January 12, 2018, with awards announced in April 2018.

The Graduate Student Grants provide a maximum of \$25,000 and may last for up to two years. Those eligible to apply are Master's or Ph.D. students enrolled full time (as determined by the institution's requirements) at accredited colleges or universities in the Western region. An applicant is eligible for only one grant during his or her graduate program.

LOANS: MICROLOANS FOR START-UPS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Office announced the launch of the new Colorado Microloans program (CML), a special initiative of the Colorado Economic Development Commission designed to provide small loans to start-ups and entrepreneurial small businesses that are underserved by traditional debt markets.

The microloans program is meant to provide capital to small businesses through small, character-based loans, particularly in rural Colorado regions. Eligible businesses must be a for-profit entity that meets the following conditions:

- The recipient business can have no more than 15 employees at the time the loan is made.
- The recipient business must be documented by the lender as an “underserved small business.”
- The recipient business must be located in Colorado with a majority of employees working in Colorado.
- In the judgement of the lender, the recipient business has a substantial possibility to become a long-term viable business in Colorado that can grow to employ more than its owners.
- The recipient business does not meet underwriting standards for banks and other more traditional lenders.

These loans can range between \$5,000 and \$50,000, with a maximum interest rate of 2%, plus the prime rate the day the loan is made. The loan term may be up to 8 years. Businesses interested in participating in CML may contact:

Colorado Lending Source
Mike O’Donnell, Executive Director
(303) 657-4812

First Southwest Community Fund
Roxanne DeMarco, Director of Community Partnerships
(970) 731-1300

Region 9 Economic Development District of SW Colorado
Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director
(970) 247-9621

For more information about the program, [click here](#).

NEWS: LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR AG OR FOOD BUSINESS WITH HELP FROM CSU STUDENTS

Are you a business in food, drink or agriculture? Do you want a FREE analysis of your business from marketing to market access, lowering costs and improving performance AND support CSU students working towards their agribusiness degree?

Agribusiness management is the capstone course taken by all students majoring in the Agribusiness program at Colorado State. The students in this class must work closely with a business operating in the agribusiness sector to provide an in-depth analysis of the business’ current marketing, financial and strategic position. Furthermore, the students will undertake a feasibility study to assess one or more potential opportunities for the business to improve its performances, find new markets, lower costs, undertake new investments etc.

For the completion of the capstone project, the students need to have access to some financial data and marketing information about the company. All the data received will be treated confidentially. The instructor and the teaching assistant for the class may see part of the information, where it is pertinent to assignments and the project report. The students will present some of their findings to the rest of the

class, however any sensitive information can be omitted from the presentations, if the business manager/owner prefers.

For additional information please contact the instructor of the course, Alessandro Bonanno at alessandro.bonanno@colostate.edu.

NEWS: FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS RELEASES REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PUBLICATION

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis has published *Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food Systems Investments to Transform Communities*, a partnership between the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Systems, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agencies of Rural Development and the Agricultural Marketing Service. This publication focuses on the regional food system as a way to increase economic opportunity.

Harvest Opportunity focuses on the increased interest from consumers about where their food comes from and the insights into economic growth. The publication explores the findings within this space, highlights models for collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, and the financial sector, and discusses research, policy, and resource gaps that have the potential to contribute to the success of regional food system strategies.

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

NEWS: LAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD INNOVATION WEBSITE

In partnership with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Wallace Center at Winrock International, and Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, the Community Food Innovation website has been launched. This site highlights work happening across the country to change the way food is grown, processed, distributed, and marketed. People and organizations are creating innovative solutions to rebuild local, more equitable food systems that increase access to healthy food for children, families, communities, and tribes. In this way, they are improving community health, protecting our environment and generating local wealth.

The site includes an interactive map of food projects, stories of innovation, and information and resources to support community-led food projects. The site is a way for the three organizations to share their knowledge and make it actionable. To view the website, [click here](#).

WEBINAR: NAVIGATING THE FARM BILL

Join the John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future Food Policy Networks project on **September 7th at 11:00 a.m. Mountain time** to hear about "Navigating the Farm Bill: What's at Stake for Food Policy Councils."

The reauthorization of the Farm Bill next year will influence many operations of state agricultural programs and local food policies. While the impact of the national legislation may not be directly or immediately apparent at the local level, food policy councils have a stake in shaping the next Farm Bill.

Speakers at the webinar will include Alan Hunt, owner and principal of Local Food Strategies, LLC and Parke Wilde, Associate Professor at Tufts University in the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. These speakers will address what matters most in the bill to community food systems and mechanisms by which to shape the contents of the Farm Bill.

To register for this webinar, [click here](#). If you have any questions related to the webinar, email [Karen Bassarab](#).

WEBINAR: REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS: DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Join the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for a webinar entitled “Regional Food Systems: Driving Entrepreneurship and Small-Business Development” on **Thursday, September 14th at 1:00 p.m. Mountain time**.

Field experts will discuss technical support that can be provided to entrepreneurs, as well as creative tools for financing regional food enterprises. This webinar will pull research from the new publication *Harvesting Opportunities*, which is described earlier in this newsletter. The event will also focus on how organizations can ensure that opportunities are being equally created through regional food investments for all populations.

Presenters include:

- Lisa Benson, Director, Rural Development, American Farm Federation
- Donna Leuchten Nuccio, Director, Healthy Food Access, Reinvestment Fund
- Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director of Sustainability, The George Washington University

There is no cost to participate in the webinar, however, registration is required. [Click here](#) to register for the event.

WEBINAR: HOW REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM INVESTMENT CREATES MORE EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

Also connected with the *Harvest Opportunities* publication, a National Good Food Network webinar will be hosted on **Thursday, September 21st from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. MT** entitled “How Regional Food System Investment Creates More Equitable Communities.” This webinar will look at regional food system actors that have been proactive and thoughtful in how they incorporate equity and inclusion considerations into their efforts, including where those have been successful, and where there is opportunity to improve.

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

EVENT: CSU AG INNOVATION SUMMIT & COLORADO BLUEPRINT 2.0

Please join us for a release of the draft Colorado Blueprint of Food and Agriculture on **Thursday, September 7th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**, at the Lory Student Center in Fort Collins. The Blueprint documents key assets, emerging issues and priorities for future investments in food and

agriculture around the state, based in part on 12 regional town hall listening sessions and meetings with key industry groups. The event is free and open to the public.

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

EVENT: COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

The Colorado Departments of Agriculture and Education invites Colorado schools to participate in the annual **Colorado Proud School Meal Day on Wednesday, September 13, 2017**. This is a day to celebrate Colorado agriculture and to educate schoolchildren about healthy eating.

In order to encourage eating habits that will promote a lifetime of optimal health, it is essential to teach children about the importance of eating foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats and low-fat dairy products. Proper nutrition is critical if our educational programs and our students are going to continue to excel.

Colorado farmers and ranchers produce food items that provide the nutrients children and adults need to thrive. Agribusinesses contribute more than \$40 billion to the state economy annually and provide more than 170,000 jobs. With over 37,000 farms and ranches encompassing 31 million acres, it is easy to understand the value this industry adds to Colorado.

If you have any questions or if you need additional supplies, please contact [Shaina Knight](#) at (303) 869-9176. Links to download materials, meal day ideas and more are available [here](#).

EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR LIVEWELL COLORADO'S HEAL SUMMIT

Mark your calendars for the LiveWell Colorado's HEAL Summit which will take place on Thursday, **November 30th and Friday, December 1st**.

The HEAL Summit is the premier annual convening that brings together Health Eating and Active Living (HEAL) leaders from throughout the state of Colorado and beyond. The purpose of the summit is to share expertise and provide learning and practical experience for those focused on improving access to healthy living in Colorado. A wide range of participants, including leaders from municipalities, public health, non-profits, the private sector, and the philanthropic community gather to share expertise, challenges, and exciting new developments regarding HEAL.

The event will be hosted at the DoubleTree Denver – Stapleton North in Denver, Colorado. Registration will open in early October. For more information and to watch for updates, [click here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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