

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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105TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **105th 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 committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues. 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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NEWS: NEW AG WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is launching its new Agricultural Workforce Development Program which provides incentives to agricultural businesses, including farms and ranches, to hire interns. Qualified businesses may be reimbursed up to 50% of the actual cost of hiring an intern, not to

exceed \$5,000 per internship. The intent of this program is to support and train the next generation of Colorado farmers and ranchers. The Program is the result of legislation introduced during the 2018 Colorado General Assembly by the Young and Beginning Farmers Interim Study Committee, aimed at providing hands-on educational opportunities for individuals aspiring to a future career in agriculture.

The internships must be completed between April 1 and June 30 of 2019. Priority will be given to internships focusing on production agriculture.

The business application period will open January 2nd, 2019 and close February 15th, 2019. Businesses selected to participate in the program will identify their own candidate for the internship. Interns must be approved by the department and an agreement implemented between the business and CDA prior to the start of the internship. Approximately \$40,000 is available for internships through June 30th, 2019. Qualified internships must include at least 130 hours of work experience and provide a focused learning opportunity for the intern. The application period for businesses interested in participating in the program is now open.

For more information and to apply, please [click here](#). For further questions about the program, contact Traci Saylor at [303-869- 9171](tel:303-869-9171) or at traci.saylor@state.co.us.

NEWS: DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS MARKET AND RETAIL APPLICATION OPEN

Want your market to offer Double Up Food Bucks in 2019? Double Up Food Bucks Colorado applications are now open until February 15th!

Locations can be any food retailer that offers fresh, Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables during the summer season. This includes direct market farmers, farm stands, farmers markets, corner stores, CSAs, and any other innovative partner ensuring Colorado communities have access to fresh food!

To be an eligible location your market must:

1. Be authorized to take SNAP benefits,
2. Offer Colorado-grown produce, and
3. Be willing to attend one Double Up training in the spring (video call option available).

For any questions, please contact Amy Nelms at amynelms@livewellcolorado.org.

To fill out the application, please click [here](#).

CALL TO BUSINESS OWNERS: NATIONAL WESTERN CENTER PUBLIC MARKET SURVEY

The City of Denver is studying the feasibility of transforming an historic landmark at the National Western Center, the 1909 Stadium Arena, into a Public Market.

Public Markets are typically publicly owned and operated by a non-profit organization, so that they can fulfill a public purpose - to showcase a community's unique character and culture while also being affordable enough to serve everyday shopping needs.

With a projected 2.2 million visitors each year and easy access from downtown, I-70 and I-25, the National Western Center is an ideal central location to connect Colorado farmers, food producers and small businesses directly with local and global customers.

As part of a feasibility study, the City of Denver is reaching out to business owners across the state of

Colorado to gauge the level of interest in becoming a vendor at a Public Market located at the National Western Center. Please note that it will take approximately 5-8 years before the Stadium Arena is renovated, so there's plenty of time for businesses and vendors to plan ahead.

Please take 5 minutes to fill out this [survey](#). Expression of interest at this time will be used for planning purposes only and does not imply a commitment by the business owner to participate as a vendor. Results of the survey will only be reported in aggregate. Information about individual businesses or respondents will be kept confidential.

EVENT: COLORADO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ENTREPRENEURS WORKSHOP

The Colorado Department of Agriculture Markets division is hosting a series of workshops to help those looking to build their food businesses. On Wednesday February 13, 2019, there will be a one-day workshop that will present you with key fundamentals to establishing your food focused business. You'll hear from experts about resources available for start-up businesses, building your brand, working with retailers, and other key topics such as labeling and beginning production factors. Perfect for start-up businesses and individuals considering a path into the food product and agricultural industry!

Breakfast, lunch, and program materials included in price.

Cost: \$55 per person
(+ \$1 processing fee for electronic checks or \$0.75 + 2.25% for credit card orders)

When: February 13th, 8am-4 pm

Where: CoBank Center for Ag Education, 4492 East County Road 56, Fort Collins, CO

For more information or to register, please click [here](#).

EVENT: GARFIELD COUNTY AG EXPO

Please join us for a day of speakers, exhibitors, historical walk, and lunch! The expo is perfect for the whole family complete with vendors, a 4-H/STEM kids' corner, and a historical photo tour of western Colorado's agricultural heritage.

Pre-registration will include lunch and walk-ins are welcome with registration at the door. Children under eight are free!

When: February 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Half-day tickets are available too.)

Where: Garfield County Fairgrounds, Rifle, CO (1001 Railroad Avenue, Rifle, CO 81650)

For more information or to register, please click [here](#).

EVENT: SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION COURSES

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association that provides food safety training, exams, and educational materials for foodservice managers.

Classes are offered the following days at the following locations:

- Gunnison, CO – February 27th (email Erin Durant [here](#) to register)
- Grand Junction, CO (GJ Business Incubator) – March 7th (Register before February 7th)

- Gunnison, CO – April 9th (email Erin Durant [here](#) to register)
- Grand Junction, CO (GJ Business Incubator) – October 8th (Register before September 9th)
- Montrose, CO (Montrose Fairgrounds) – November 13th (Register before October 14th)

Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and will conclude with testing the same day at 5:00 p.m. Space is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

For more information or to register, please click <https://tra.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/01/2019-ServSafe-Brochure-2.pdf>

EVENT: FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR COLORADO COTTAGE FOODS PRODUCERS

Learn how to safely produce food from home for a cottage food business. Attending this course meets the requirement for food safety training according to the Colorado Cottage Foods Act.

Cottage foods safety courses will be offered on the following dates and locations:

- February 1st: Centennial, CO azander@bouldercounty.org
- February 6th: Steamboat Springs, CO lchristensen@co.routt.co.us
- February 8th: Garfield, CO carla.farrand@colostate.edu
- February 13th: Montrose, CO ann.duncan@colostate.edu
- February 22nd: Centennial, CO azander@bouldercounty.org
- February 27th: Colorado Springs, CO michael.Lucero@ColoState.Edu
- March 1st: Glenwood Springs, CO carla.farrand@colostate.edu
- March 4th: Craig, CO lchristensen@co.routt.co.us
- March 8th: Greeley, CO awebb@weldgov.com
- March 12th: Colorado Springs, CO michael.Lucero@ColoState.Edu
- March 13th: Business Incubator, Grand Junction, CO ann.duncan@colostate.edu

Please contact the person at the email address listed above for more details including time and fee.

EVENT: FOOD SAFETY PLANNING WORKSHOP

Some form of GAPs audit is becoming a standard requirement for produce buyers across market channels. To support Colorado growers, we are offering an opportunity to get a head start writing their plans through a day-long workshop that will include: a grower overview of different GAPs schemes, updates about the current audit and regulatory framework, insight from Colorado Department of Agriculture GAPs and Produce Safety Rule Program staff, and hands on writing assistance to help you craft a food safety plan for your farm. The food safety plan writing component will focus on the most daunting topics of a food safety plan; mitigating and documenting risk associated with wildlife, water quality monitoring and management, cleaning and sanitation, and worker health and hygiene. The format will be very interactive with ample opportunity to discuss challenges and find solutions with experts.

Where: February 13th in Durango, CO at the La Plata County Fairgrounds (La Plata Room).

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 includes lunch and course materials

Registration: www.tinyurl.com/oldfortmarketplace.

EVENT: PRODUCE SAFETY RULE GROWER TRAINING COURSES

The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, CSU Extension, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and the Produce Safety Alliance will be supporting and sponsoring several FSMA Produce Safety Rule Grower trainings.

This course satisfies the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires ‘At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.’ Individuals will 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;
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information;
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm; and
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one.

Registration: Generally about \$50 per person, and \$15 for each additional registrant from the same farm business. Includes all training materials, lunch and certificate (mailed to you following the training).

Locations:

- February 15th in El Jebel, CO
- March 15th in Colorado Springs, CO

For information on upcoming Produce Safety Rule Grower trainings and other educational opportunities and resources, go to <http://freshproduce.colostate.edu/produce-safety-events-training/>. For other information on the PSR, go to www.coproductsafety.org (<http://freshproduce.colostate.edu/>).

EVENT: 2019 FARMING EVOLUTION EVENT

Make plans to join farmers and ranchers at the 2019 Farming Evolution event in Holyoke, CO. Farming Evolution will host a variety of special guests to provide information, resources, and platforms for discussion regarding topics in modern agriculture. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about building new top soil, nutrient cycling, water behavior on soils with a rainfall simulator, and much more!

When: Wednesday February 20th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Thursday February 21st from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Event Center, Phillips County Fairgrounds, Holyoke, CO (221 S. Interocean Avenue, Holyoke, CO 80734)

Price: Before February 8th, registration is \$30.00 for one day or \$40.00 for both days. After February 8th, registration is \$40.00 for a single day or \$50.00 for both days.

For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

EVENT: VISION COURSE FOR ASPIRING URBAN FARMERS

Guidestone Colorado, in partnership with the Colorado Building Farmers Program, is offering a Vision Course for Aspiring Farmers who are hoping to start an urban farm. Participants undergo an in-depth exploration of their own vision and the core competencies and resources needed to launch a

farm business. This course examines current trends, resources, case studies, and stories from experienced farmers while digging into a framework to begin strategic business planning.

Where: Arapahoe County CSU Extension Office, Centennial, CO (6934 South Lima Street, Suite B, Centennial, CO 80112)

When: Sunday, March 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$60.00

For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

EVENT: STRENGTHENING ECONOMIES IN THE WEST: COAL-RELIANT COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE

Is your county or region experiencing economic challenges due to the contraction of the coal industry? Are you seeking effective approaches to support economic diversification, workforce development, and improved quality-of-life in your community?

Join the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation for a team-based challenge workshop that will convene county and regional leaders from Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Participants will learn more about economic diversification planning and strategies, build out a diversification road-map, network with peers from across the four-state region, and engage with staff from a mix of federal agencies focused on diversification and economic resilience.

Where: Denver, CO

When: May 1st – 3rd

The community team application and more details will be made available soon. Please check [here](#) for more information or contact Jack Morgan at jmorgan@naco.org.

EVENT: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES SEMINAR

Colorado State University Extension will be hosting a financial management strategies seminar covering a variety of topics including: risk management, business planning, enterprise budgeting, record keeping, and more. ***Since lunch will be provided, please register 5 days prior to the seminar you select to attend.*** The seminars will be offered from 9:00am to 3:00pm at:

February 18 – Sterling, CO, NJC-Hays Student Ballroom (100 College Avenue)

February 21 – La Junta Inspiration Field (612 Adams Avenue)

Registration fee: \$25.00

To register, please [click here](#).

EVENT: 2019 AG OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY FORUMS

This forum will include market outlook, breakeven analysis, using commodity insurance as part of a comprehensive marketing plan, and using futures and options to manage risk. It will be led by CSU agricultural and business management economists: Brent Young, Steve Koontz, and Jenny Beiermann.

Pre-registration is required and it is asked that attendees register before the listed deadlines. The forums will be held at the following times and locations.

February 8th – Southeast Crop & Livestock Expo Lamar Community College Wellness Center
Lamar, CO

8am - noon

February 19th – Hays Student Center Ballroom NJC Campus Sterling, CO
10am - 3pm (*lunch provided*). **Please register by February 15th at 5:00PM**

February 22nd – Limon Community Building 477 D Avenue Limon, CO
10am - 3pm (*lunch provided*). **Please register by February 18th at 5:00PM**

Registration Fee: \$15.00

To register, please [click here](#).

EVENT: 2019 COLORADO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association will hold its 5th annual conference **February 25-26, 2019**, at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel. The Conference organizers invite all commercial produce growers in Colorado to attend. The event has grown into a two-day program, and the second day will feature the Produce Innovation Business Pitch introduced in 2018.

Added to the lineup for 2019 are 1.5 hour educational sessions. Participants will choose from topics including food safety, succession planning and scaling up for beginning and small farmers.

More information on the CFVGA conference, including a link to register at <https://cfvga.org>.

EVENT: WATER IN THE WEST SYMPOSIUM

Join leaders from diverse disciplines to dive into water issues affecting the region and to explore innovative solutions to water challenges. The Symposium will feature nationally renowned speakers, and showcase the efforts of various sectors in leveraging research, innovation, education, and creative policies to address the most pressing global water issues. Confirmed speakers include Gary Knell, Chairman of National Geographic Partners, and Tom Vilsack, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Producers can attend at a discounted rate by [contacting CAWA](#).

When: March 13th – 14th, 2019

Where: Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center, 6700 North Gaylord Rockies Boulevard, Aurora, 80019

For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

EVENT: OLD FORT MARKET GARDEN EDUCATION SERIES

The Old Fort is making its Market Garden Education Series available to specialty crop producers who wish to take one, two, three or all eleven classes. The Old Fort has developed this educational series over the last six years for their incubator farmers and farmer-in-training participants, and will accept a limited number of outside farmers who would benefit from this information about developing a specialty crop business at high elevation.

When: Monday evenings from January 28th to April 22nd from 6:00pm until 8:30pm.

Where: LaPlata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Avenue, Durango, CO

Registration Fee: Each class costs \$25.00 (includes nightly handouts) or \$250.00 for the entire series which includes printed CAFSS curriculum, supplemental books and nightly handouts.

To view the curriculum of the classes, please [click here](#). To register, please [click here](#).

EVENT: COLORADO FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

This annual gathering of the state's farmers market managers will include tours of local farmers markets and farms, a networking happy hour, and presentations on topics including: Getting Involved in Food Access/Food Systems Advocacy, EBT Machines/Double-Up Food Bucks, and Promoting Farmers Markets. Throughout the two days there will be time built in for small group sharing and problem-solving, as well as informal networking.

Dates: Friday, March 1st, 1pm – 7:30pm and Saturday, March 2nd, 8am - 4pm

Registration fee: \$75

For more information, please [click here](#) or contact CFMA Executive Director Rosalind May at cofarmersmarketassociation@gmail.com or 970-493-4361.

EVENT: EAT COLORADO FOOD SHOW

The Eat Colorado Food Show is back for its fourth edition, bringing Colorado's diverse and innovative food and beverage producers together with buyers from restaurants, caterers, grocers, hospitals, municipalities, and school systems to create more connectivity, understanding and meaning within our dynamic food system.

The Food Show will showcase Colorado produce, grains, meats, preserves, condiments, honey, spirits, wines, beers, baked goods, and more, with over 120 producer booths. And don't miss the Speaker Series inside the exhibit hall's restaurant.

Dates: Tuesday, May 12th 12:00-4:00pm

Registration fee: Free

The food producer vendor category is currently SOLD OUT – email april@eatdenver.com to be added the waitlist.

For more information, please [click here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

To add your ideas and news, contact [Belle Parra](#).

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