

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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104TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **104th 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 their 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: BOULDER COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS ACCEPTING NEW VENDORS

The [Boulder County Farmers Markets](#) is a nonprofit organization operating producer-only farmers markets in Colorado since 1987, whose mission is to support, promote, and expand local agriculture, making fresh products accessible to the community and strengthening relationships between local food producers and food consumers. They are currently accepting vendor applications for the 2019 market season.

The Markets:

- Boulder Farmers Market - Saturday (April 6 - Nov 23):-8am - 2pm
- Boulder Farmers Market - Wednesday (May 1 - Oct 2): 4pm - 8pm
- Longmont Farmers Market - Saturday (April 6 - Nov 23): 8am - 1pm
- Union Station Farmers Market - Saturday (May 11 - Oct 26): 9am - 2pm
- Lafayette Farmers Market – Thursday (June 6 - Sept 26): 4pm - 8pm

Please only apply if:

- You grow or produce your own product (no reselling or co-packers);
- Your product is grown or made in Colorado (preference paid to product grown/made closest to the market to which you are applying); and
- You are interested in or transitioning to using local sourced ingredients

New vendors **must apply before January 7th** in order to avoid a late fee. For more information and to apply, please [click here](#).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL FARMS

Small farms and agricultural nonprofits looking to fund environmental sustainability projects that reduce water and power use, increase pollinators, improve soil health, promote natural pest control, or extend their growing season can apply at no cost for a 2019 grant from The FruitGuys Community Fund beginning Monday, December 10, 2018.

Grants ranging in amounts from \$2,000–\$5,000 will be awarded to 10–20 farms in spring 2019. Farmers who are interested should read the [eligibility requirements](#) and submit a [letter of intent](#) describing their farm and proposed project before midnight on Friday, January 11th, 2019. Twenty finalists will be notified by February 5, 2019, and provided with a supplementary application—due by February 25, 2019. The 2019 grantees will be notified on or before April 5, 2019.

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES WORKING IN FOOD WASTE PREVENTION, FOOD RESCUE, AND RECYCLING

With continued support from The Rockefeller Foundation, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Food Matters project is working with the city of Denver to develop and implement strategies that will drive dramatic, innovative, and system-wide food waste reduction.

A critical element of the Food Matters project is a commitment to equitable, transparent and mutually beneficial partnerships. To that end, NRDC is seeking to provide resources to local organizations and groups in Denver to augment their capacity and drive sustained action.

The program will be awarding up to \$10,000 each to nonprofits and mission-driven small businesses who do work in any or all of the following areas: Food Waste Prevention, Food Rescue, and Food Scrap Recycling.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to apply, please [click the link](#) and download the [application information packet](#). ***The deadline to apply is Monday, January 28th, 2019 at 11:59pm ET.***

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: COLORADO SPECIALTY CROP GRANTS

Colorado's specialty crop producers can benefit from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). CDA is currently accepting applications for the grant program. USDA partners with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, and nursery crops including floriculture and sod. CDA anticipates that approximately \$550,000 will be available for this year's grant program, with approved projects starting early in 2020.

Producer groups, organizations, and associations, as well as state and local organizations, academia and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts. SCBGP will not award grant funds for projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

The initial phase of grant selection will involve shorter, concept proposals. Concept proposals must be received electronically by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **February 1, 2019**.

For program guidelines and an application, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant or call (303) 869-9173.

CALL FOR 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 would take approximately 5-8 years before the Stadium Arena could be 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.

To take the survey, please [click here](#).

EVENT: DOUBLE UP SYMPOSIA 2019

Double Up Colorado is hosting multiple symposia for 2019. This is an opportunity to talk about your successes and challenges in 2018 and plan for 2019. If you are a Double Up customer, SNAP participant, farmer, market manager, non-profit or agency partner, or in any way related to Double Up Food Bucks, we want to see you! Come and learn about program updates, meet fellow Double Up partners, and share your thoughts to help us improve Double Up in 2019! Lunch will be provided for everyone. Mileage, interpretation, and stipends will be provided to those who need them.

When: Please join us at the date and location that is most convenient for you (all symposia take place from 10AM – 2PM).

- **Alamosa:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 (Alamosa Presbyterian Church, 330 San Juan Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101)
- **Durango:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 (TBK Bank, 259 W 9th St, Durango, CO 81301)
- **Rifle:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 (Rifle Branch Library, 207 East Avenue in Rifle, CO 81650)

To register, [click here](#).

EVENTS: 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 over the coming months.

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.' Therefore, it 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.

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:

- January 9th in **Grand Junction, CO**
- January 31st in **Greeley, CO**
- February 15th 1 in **El Jebel, CO**
- March 15th in **Colorado Springs, CO**

For information on upcoming Produce Safety Rule (PSR) 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/>).

EVENTS: ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY PLANNING & GAPs PREP WORKSHOPS

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.

Registration: \$20 per person, includes materials, coffee and lunch.

Upcoming workshops:

- February 1st, in Estes Park Room of the McKee Building at The Ranch (5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538). To register, [click here](#), and see agenda [here](#).
- February 13th in Durango, CO. Registration coming soon!

EVENT: UCCS GRAIN SCHOOL

The Grain School is a concentrated weekend of learning about ancient grains, how to produce them and how these crops are amazing alternatives for production systems, consumers, bakers, and brewers. The conference has experts attend from all over the world to talk about how they use ancient grains and what the benefits are.

Where: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Colorado Springs, 80918)

When: January 18-20, 2019

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

EVENT: WESTERN COLORADO FOOD AND FARM FORUM

This year's forum includes twenty workshops focusing on innovative crop, livestock, specialty crops, marketing and regenerative management practices that will help farmers increase profits, create a sustainable future and lower stress. Featuring **Joel Salatin**, "the most famous farmer in the world". Salatin will attend all day Saturday, delivering the Keynote, participating in breakouts, hosting a Hot Tamale Roundtable and all conference, community presentation of *Dancing with Dinner: Healing the Nutritional Deficit in the Urban, Rural Divide*.

The **Farmer to Farmer Invention Convention** returns with \$500 in cash prizes.

Half-day workshops are also available on Friday January 25th at the Montrose fairgrounds:

Ben Hartman, author of "The Lean Farm: How to Minimize Waste, Increase Efficiency and Maximize Value and Profits with Less Work," provides an in-depth half day workshop and breakout session.

Bill Parker, Parker Pastures presents, **Performance Based Planned Grazing**: Determine stocking rates, create drought reserves, and maximize livestock performance using regenerative planned grazing techniques in a half-day workshop.

Western Water Workshop – Understanding Colorado water law, local administration and enhancing water stewardship – half day workshop.

When: January 25th - January 26th, 2019

Where: 1800 East Pavilion Place, Montrose, CO 81401

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

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 at the following times and locations:

All seminars will be from 9:00am – 3:00pm

January 16 – Grand Junction, CO Grand Vista Hotel (2790 Crossroads Blvd.)

January 24 – Durango, CO La Plata County Fairgrounds (2500 Main Avenue)

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

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

Registration fee: \$25.00 per person

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.

January 17th – Delta, CO

Bill Heddles Recreation Ctr. 531 N. Palmer Street Delta, CO

10am - 3pm (*lunch provided*). **Please register by January 11th at 5:00PM**

January 31st – Colorado Farm Show Island Grove Regional Park Greeley, CO

9am - noon

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 per person

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

EVENTS: 2019 COTTAGE FOOD SAFETY TRAININGS

CSU Extension is hosting a series of Cottage Food Safety Trainings at various locations for Colorado Cottage Food producers. These trainings cover specifics of the Colorado Cottage Food Act and how to safely operate a food business from a home kitchen. Registration cost is \$40, pre-registration required. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). Upcoming trainings include:

- February 1st 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Centennial
- February 5th 4:00PM – 8:00PM, Steamboat Springs
- March 22nd 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Golden
- April 26th, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Longmont
- May 9th, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Eagle
- May 17th, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Centennial
- June 21st, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Longmont
- August 23th, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Golden

EVENT: 2019 COLORADO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) will hold its 5th annual conference February 25-26, 2019, at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel. It will feature a two-day format including the Produce Innovation Business Pitch introduced in 2018.

Added to the lineup for 2019 are deep dives, which are educational sessions formatted for day one of the conference to allow participants to choose a topic and spend more than an hour learning about it. Planned deep dive topics include 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 deep 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](#).

EVENTS: OLD FORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

The Old Fort at Hesperus is a growing and multi-faceted answer to farmer training in the Four Corners region. Welcoming everyone from college interns for brief summer experiences to incubator farmers ready to start a business, the Old Fort offers good (and challenging) growing conditions, supportive and knowledgeable staff, a lively farming community, and rich resources for high elevation market farming.

Their three primary programs are:

- [Education Garden & Internship Program](#)
- [Farmer-in-Training Program](#)
- [Market Garden Incubator Program](#)

Check the links above for the application for the Market Garden Incubator Program for the farmer-in-training program. Internship applications will be available in Spring, 2019.

Also see their [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#) for up-to-date information!

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. They have developed this educational series over the last six years for our 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](#).

SAVE THE DATE: COLORADO FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date for the CFMA Annual Meeting at Chatfield Farms (Denver Botanic Gardens) in Littleton

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

Join CFMA for a day and a half of connecting with others passionate about farmers markets in Colorado! The Annual Meeting will include tours of local farmers markets and farms, an evening Meet-and-Greet with local farmers, 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. Registration is opening soon!

For more information, contact CFMA Executive Director Rosalind May at cofarmersmarketassociation@gmail.com or 970-493-4361.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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