

# CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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Welcome to the **108<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 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: IMPROVING HEALTHY FOOD RETAIL FOR COLORADANS

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC), in partnership with other agencies and organizations across the state, has published “Improving Healthy Food Retail for Coloradans”, which advances recommendations that strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans by increasing the number, type, and diversity of food vendors that accept the federal nutrition assistance benefits SNAP (The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women Infants and Children).

Many Coloradans, especially those in rural and low-income areas, lack convenient access to food vendors that stock nutritious food and accept SNAP and WIC benefits. Increasing the availability of SNAP and WIC authorized vendors is associated with improvements in diet quality and health for SNAP and WIC beneficiaries as well as the neighboring community. Local economies will also benefit as the influx of federal dollars used to purchase food will result in more money for Colorado farmers, producers and retailers.

This paper builds upon needs and opportunities identified in both the [Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger](#) and the [Colorado Blueprint of Food and Agriculture](#).

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

## NEWS: USDA LAUNCHES NEW FARMERS.GOV FEATURES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched two new features on [farmers.gov](#) to help customers manage their farm loans and navigate the application process for H2A visas.

### **Navigating the H-2A Visa Process**

Focused on education and smaller owner-operators, this [farmers.gov](#) H-2A Phase I release includes an [H-2A Visa Program page](#) and [interactive checklist tool](#), with application requirements, fees, forms, and a timeline built around a farmer’s hiring needs. A [video](#) is also available.

### **Managing Farm Loans Online**

The self-service website now enables agricultural producers to login to view loan information, history and payments. Customers can access the “My Financial Information” feature by desktop computer, tablet or phone.

To access their information, producers will need a [USDA eAuth account](#) to login into [farmers.gov](#). After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit [farmers.gov](#) and sign into the site’s authenticated portal via the [“Sign In / Sign Up” link](#) at the top right of the website.

## NEWS: 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA NOW AVAILABLE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture, spanning some 6.4 million new points of information about America’s farms and ranches and those who operate them, including new data about on-farm decision making, down to the county level.

Census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land and activities on U.S. farms and ranches. Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), a [new data query interface](#), maps, and [traditional data tables](#).

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: COLORADO TOURISM LEADERSHIP JOURNEY CLASS OF 2020

The Colorado Tourism Leadership Journey, a professional development and networking opportunity for those with any ties to tourism (City, County, State and Federal Government, Ski, Hotel, Restaurant, Gaming, Agritourism, Media/Marketing/Advertising, Charitable/Social Organizations, and beyond), aims to create benefits not only for participants but for employers and industry as a whole. For employers, it's a cost-effective way to develop, reward and retain top talent. For the state, it aims to strengthen our competitive advantage by developing a high-performing, more unified tourism industry that will be even better equipped to serve as one of Colorado's leading economic drivers.

This one-year program will begin and conclude at the annual Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference and encompasses:

- Attendance at two successive Governor's Conferences;
- Three experiential learning opportunities spanning three days (half day, full day, half day) at locations around the state;
- Periodic one-hour check-in meetings with small groups;
- Required readings of up to five texts;
- Regular encounters with assigned mentors; and
- Completion of an Action Learning Project.

For more information, please click [here](#). Applications are being accepted now until **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: CRAFT STUDIO 201

Part of OEDIT's Rural Technical Assistance Program, CRAFT Studio 201 provides customized support for communities or regions wishing to advance a specific tourism-related goal or strategy. CSU is able to be a partner in your application, so please reach out if that would help your community organize.

The duration of this course is 100 hours, usually completed in 6-8 months. It is recommended for groups of tourism partners within a community or region with identified tourism assets and promotional strategy.

After successful completion of CRAFT Studio 201, participating communities or regions are eligible to apply for funding to implement a key priority determined during the program. Up to \$7,500 is available for a CRAFT Studio 201 Implementation Grant. Potential outcomes of CRAFT Studio 201 are: increased visitation to the region or destination, increased awareness of region or destination, and creation of a plan for development or promotion of a region or destination.

Applications are open now through **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. For more information or to apply, please click [here](#).

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: RURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RTAP)

Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP), formerly Colorado Blueprint 2.0, is a series of technical assistance initiatives offered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development to enhance rural economic development strategies across the state. The program leverages state partnerships and

specialized resources to address the unique economic development goals of rural Colorado. This community-driven effort turns regional feedback on local economic needs into a catalyst for economic growth.

In 2019, the following seven initiatives will be offered:

- Colorado Rural Academy for Tourism: CRAFT Studio 201
- Grow Your Outdoor Recreation Industry
- Coworking 101
- Certified Small Business Community
- Film Festival Initiative
- Creativity Lab of Colorado
- Community Placemaking

Communities interested in RTAP are encouraged to learn more and apply online [here](#). Applicants will be asked to demonstrate collaboration, strong local leadership and solid support for the initiative they chose to pursue. CSU is willing to be a partner, particularly if your community or organization approaches us early in the project's development. Applications are due **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019** and winning committees will be announced in July. For more information, please click [here](#). For questions, please contact Danielle Lendriet [here](#) or at 303-929-1042.

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: USDA AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is an opportunity to focus on approaches that promote transformational changes in the U.S. Food and Agricultural System within the next 25 years. Letters of intent are due **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. NIFA seeks creative and visionary applications that take a systems approach, and that will significantly improve the supply of abundant, affordable, safe, nutritious, and accessible food, while providing sustainable opportunities for expansion of the bioeconomy through novel animal, crop, and forest products and supporting technologies. These approaches must demonstrate current and future social, behavioral, economic, health, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the outcomes of the work being proposed must result in societal benefits, including promotion of rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life for those involved in food and agricultural value chains from production to utilization and consumption.

**Who is eligible to apply:** 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Other or Additional Information (See below), Private Institutions of Higher Ed, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education.

For more information and to apply for the AFRI grant, please click [here](#).

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: FOOD SAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Food Safety Outreach Program will complement and expand the national infrastructure of the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. Awardees will develop and implement food safety training, education, extension, outreach and technical assistance projects that address the needs of owners and operators of small to

mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially-disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.

**Who is eligible to apply:** Applications may be submitted by the following eligible applicants only: the Cooperative Extension Service for a U.S. state or territory; non-government organizations and/or community-based organizations; organizations representing owners and operators of farms, small food processors, or small fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers that have a commitment to public health and expertise in administering programs that contribute to food safety; federal, state, local, or tribal agencies; an institution of higher education (as defined in Section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) or a foundation maintained by an institution of higher education; a collaboration of two or more eligible entities.

The closing date is **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: USDA FARMERS MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP), authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill under the Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP), covers both the [Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#) and [Local Food Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#).

FMPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

LFPP grants support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. Both have a three-year performance period.

Funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Applications are due **June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: IMPROVING COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

To ensure we are bringing health in reach for all Coloradans, the Colorado Health Foundation (CHF) is opening funding for [Improving Community Food Systems](#), which is designed to support coalitions to develop plans focused on strengthening local food systems. Grant funding is available up to \$85,000.

This funding opportunity will support a nine-month planning process aimed at addressing one or both of the following [Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger goals](#):

- Goal 2: Increase the number of Coloradans who can access affordable, nutritious food in their communities
- Goal 3: Increase the number of Coloradans who can access food assistance and nutritious food through community-based organizations

Learn more about [this funding opportunity](#) or connect with a program officer to discuss ideas for your program or project by [email](#) or phone at 303-953-3600.

Sign up for CHF's [grants management system](#) and apply for funding by 5 p.m. MDT on **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: WESTERN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SARE)

SARE's mission is to advance—to the whole of American agriculture—innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

The 2020 Call for Research and Education Pre-Proposals is posted, and pre-proposals are due in May 2019. One aspect of this program is that you can frame this shorter pre-proposal suggesting your idea and then you will only have to develop a full proposal if your idea scores high (and has a higher likelihood of funding). CSU is open to working with your farm, organization or group, but please reach out to us early in the project planning timeline.

These projects can take place over 1-3 years and have a budget of up to \$350,000, but must involve scientists, producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to address issues related to sustaining agriculture.

Following scrutiny by a technical review panel of scientists, agency personnel, producers, and others, presenters of the best pre-proposals will be asked to submit full proposals, due in **November 2019**. Full proposals will undergo technical review in January 2020, and the Western SARE Administrative Council will select proposals for funding in March 2020.

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

## WEBINAR: APPLYING FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

Do you work in food systems? Do you want to learn about applying for federal grants?

FMLFPP, BFRPD, FINI and more...there are so many grants available. What do you do?

Hear team members from CSU Extension and LiveWell Colorado share their experience and insights on a wide range of funding programs and present information, tips and best practices for putting your grant package together! Any farmers, ranchers, food producers, food and farming organization members or broader community members interested in learning about and applying for a variety of food systems grants should participate. There will be a Q&A at the end so you can ask specific questions as well.

Presenters:

- Becca Jablonski, Assistant Professor, Colorado State University
- Dawn Thilmany, Professor, Colorado State University
- Martha Sullins, Front Range Regional Specialist, Colorado State University
- Wendy Peters Moschetti, Director of Food Systems, LiveWell Colorado

Hosted by David Hutabarat, Food Systems and Digital Marketing Specialist, LiveWell Colorado

**When:** May 29, 2019 1:00 PM

For registration, click [here](#).

## **SURVEY: NATIONAL INCUBATOR FARM TRAINING INITIATIVE**

Please take the annual [NIFTI survey](#) if you haven't already, which helps NIFTI capture data from incubator projects around the country to compile into infographics (infographics from their 2017 survey are [here](#)).

NIFTI collects data annually and uses it to promote the work of incubator projects nationwide, and to develop useful and relevant resources, training and events. They are currently working to update their [incubator map](#) listings. If you complete the survey, you will be asked if you would like to update/add your incubator program to the map. This allows NIFTI to maintain an accurate listing of potential and current incubator farm projects around the country.

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

## **EVENT: BEEKEEPING ON THE FRONT RANGE WORKSHOP**

Get **hands-on** experience working with honey bees! Join Colorado State University students, faculty, and Extension professionals to learn what the buzz is about and gather tips and tricks for best hive management practices, monitoring hive health, and overwintering strategies.

Specific topics that will be included in this workshop:

- Bee biology and colony activities
- Equipment needs for getting started
- Apiary sites and how to obtain and install your bees
- Diseases and pests of honey bees and management options
- Seasonal management objectives for hive health and longevity
- **Hands-on** hive examination and Varroa mite scouting
- **Hands-on** small-scale honey extraction

**When:** Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. & Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Colorado State University Campus Lory Student Center – Room 328

**Registration fee:** \$50.00 which includes all course materials, snacks for Friday and Saturday, and lunch on Sunday

Class size is limited! To register, please click [here](#). For more information or questions, please contact Arathi Seshadri [here](#).

## **EVENT: FARM FIELD DAY AT THE OLD FORT**

Come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Farm Field Day at the Old Fort in Hesperus!

The Field Day offers agricultural seminars, demonstrations of a variety of equipment used for seeding, planting, weeding and cultivating along with exhibits of equipment, supplies and services. Activities will include:

- Drone usage in agriculture and natural resources
- Drone flight demonstrations (weather permitting),
- CO Farm Bureau farm safety trailer,
- NRCS rainfall simulator,
- Horsedrawn field cultivation,
- Display of different type of seeders (no-till, cone, plotmaster, brillion),
- Tree planting demonstration with water-powered Stinger,
- Exhibits featuring the latest in farm machinery, supplies and services,
- Field demonstrations of seeding, tillage, planting and harvest equipment,
- Cattle demonstration of synchronization and artificial insemination,
- Old Fort plant sale and concessions,
- Historical walking tour at 1 pm and opportunities to interact with other farmers who have similar interests.

**When:** Monday, May 13, from 10am-3pm

**Where:** Old Fort at Hesperus; 18683 Hwy 140; Hesperus, CO 81326 (4 miles south of Hesperus)  
Concessions available! For more information, click [here](#).

## EVENT: FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR COLORADO COTTAGE FOODS PRODUCERS

Learn how to safely produce food from home for a cottage food business. Courses cover a variety of topics that include but are not limited to:

- Basic food safety (proper hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, and temperature control for safe food preparation)
- Foods that are permissible under the updated Colorado Cottage Food Act
- Ingredient labeling requirements
- Special considerations for food preparation at higher altitudes
- Safe food sampling best practices

Cottage foods safety courses will be offered on the following dates and locations throughout 2019:

- May 1<sup>st</sup>, Gunnison
- May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Colorado Springs
- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Eagle
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Centennial
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am – 1:00pm, Park County Fairgrounds
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cortez
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Steamboat Springs
- June 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Longmont
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Golden
- September 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Centennial
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Longmont

- November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Golden
- December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Centennial

**Registration:** \$40.00. To register, please click [here](#).

## EVENT: LOCO FOODS TRADE SHOW

Join LoCo Foods for their 8<sup>th</sup> annual tradeshow, with over 70 vendors featuring their local products. LoCo Foods is a Fort Collins-based food distribution company that delivers local food along Colorado's Front Range. It is also a great way to get acquainted with local food offerings if you are working with commercial food buyers who want to carry more Colorado goods.

**Where:** Jefferson County Fairgrounds 15200 West 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Golden, CO 80401

**When:** May 7, from 11am-4pm

**Registration:** Vendors, register [here](#); Wholesale customers, register [here](#); Non-wholesale customers, register [here](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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