



Session: Connecting Local Needs with Statewide

Resources

Track: Key Factors in Resilient Food and Agricultural Systems

Sponsored by: The Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board

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SPEAKERS



Ynke de Koe

Nutrition Integration

Specialist, CO Dept of Public

Health & Environment



Nora Flynn Ag Water Specialist, CO Water Conservation Board



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Kathy Underhill
Food Distribution Programs
Manager, CO Dept of Human
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Jim Ehrlich
Executive Director
CO Potato Admin
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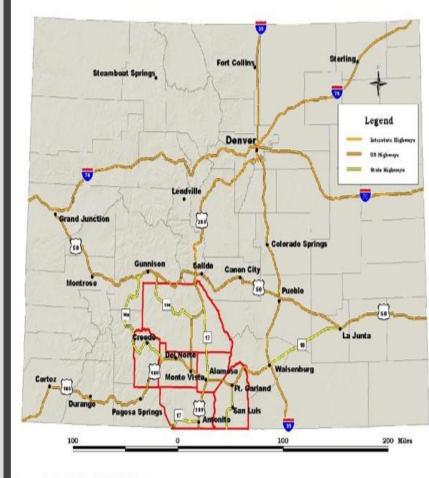
CSU FOOD SUMMIT 2023



How Can We Better Leverage Local Assets?

- •Target Sectors: Food Technologies, Health/Wellness & Value-Added Agriculture
- •Process Used to Develop......
- •Identification of <u>Assets</u> & <u>Opportunities</u> in the San Luis Valley (recognizing resource constraints)
- Opportunities for Investment

Colorado and San Luis Valley Region



Source: San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority

















Process for Development - What We Did

Creation of Key Contacts List by Industry Sector Target Areas:

- Engaged all 4 Economic Development Organizations: Upper Rio Grande Economic Development (URGED), Alamosa County Economic Development Corp., Costilla County Economic Development, Saguache County Sustainable Environment And Economic Development (ScSEED)
- Colorado State Extension Office, CSU Food Science, Water Use, and Crop Studies, Both Hospitals in the Region: SLV Health & Rio Grande Hospital, Potato Administration, & All Local Beef/Wild Game Meat Processors
- Region2Region, State & National Outreach: Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) & National Rural Economic Development Association (NREDA)



Identification of Assets in the SLV

- Interviewed over 390 mostly virtual meetings (due to Covid)
- 7 Training workshops attended
- 3 conferences hosted



Needs Identified—Value-Added Agriculture Resources Provided

Water Protection

Intergovernmental Agreement & 1041 Project

- SLVDRG Staff Sought/Attained \$100,000 in Funding for Legal Work Provided by Sullivan Green Seavy to Complete Work for the SLV Region to Protect Water from Export
- Project Nearing Completion

Hemp & Rail

- Hemp Capital Needs--Disbursement of \$750,000 USDA IRP Funds Via the SLVDRG to 2 Local Businesses
- SL&RG Railroad BK & Impending Need for Capital--\$880,000 Funded Through SLVDRG, Outcome = Job Retention for 225 Employees for more than 8 months payroll

Opportunities for Investment

Meat Processing Facility Start-Up or Expansion for Domestic and/or Exotics

- Capital for Start-Up or Expansion
 - Equipment
 - Location for Building/Real Estate Purchase
 - Operational Costs
- Workforce Needs for Addition of Employees
- Training of Workforce
- USDA Certified Inspector
- Transportation of Both Employees and Product
 - Vehicle (Employees)
 - Refrigerated Van (Product)



THANK YOU





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The Mission of CDA is to strengthen and advance Colorado Agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Resources Grant Programs

- Resilient Food System Infrastructure
- Next Generation: Ag Workforce Development, Ag Leadership & Ag Future Loan Program
- Community Food Access

Agricultural Services

- Agricultural Worker Services Program
- Resources related to health, safety, labor, and support services
- For business owners and employees



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Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant

- > To develop and administer state coordinated initiatives to build resilience across the middle of state food supply chains
- > \$4.15M available

- Expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products
- Includes specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture & other food products
- No Meat and Poultry related projects



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Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant

General Priority Areas:

- > Aggregation and Storage: cold storage, dry storage, other needs
- > Processing/Product Extension (IQF, drying, canning, institutional preparation

& packaging)

- Larger scale projects
- > Award Amounts: \$200,000- \$3 million
- > Info Session: December 11th via Zoom



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Agriculture Workforce Development

> AWDP provides financial incentives to farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses to hire interns and provide them with hands-on training needed to begin a career in agriculture

- > Businesses may be reimbursed up to 50% of costs of hiring an intern
- Application for businesses open now, closes Jan 5, 2024
- Expanded internship period from 6 months to 1 year
- Award up to \$5000 per business to offer eligible internships (to cover 50% of allowable costs)

Contact List

Community Food Access: Mickey Davis or Adonai Lopez

- mickey.davis@state.co.us
- > adonai.lopez@state.co.us

Regional Food System Infrastructure: Brian Coppom

brian.coppom@state.co.us

Next Generation Ag Leadership, Ag Workforce Development & Specialty Crop: Joanne Hernandez or Amanda Laban

joanne.hernandez@state.co.us

Agricultural Worker Services Program: Aldo Parra

aldo.parra@state.co.us



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Our Vision is for Colorado agriculture to be strong and vibrant, a key driver of the state's economy, and be recognized worldwide for our safe and abundant supply of high-quality food and agriculture products.













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WHAT'S NEXT?

REGIONAL DISCUSSION

Show Arena



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