

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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FIRST EDITION

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Welcome to the first edition of the CSU Extension Local Food Systems newsletter. This newsletter is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information from around the organization. If you know of any new information that would be relevant to the rest of the group, send it to the newsletter! We are on the lookout for exciting new programs and information to share on the subject of local food systems. Please forward this newsletter along to anyone with an interest in local food systems and CSU's programs in this area.

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STATE FOOD POLICY

In September 2009, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that no state in the United States was meeting national goals for the amount of fruits and vegetables that Americans should be eating. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified the creation of Food Policy Councils, consisting of multi-stakeholder organizations, as an effective way to support system changes to improve on local food economies.

The Committee on Health and Human Services has created an advisory board to foster a healthy food supply available to all Colorado residents while enhancing the State's agricultural and natural resources, encouraging economic growth, expanding the viability of agriculture, and improving the health of our communities and residents. The council's role is to make recommendations to the general assembly and to the appropriate regulatory agencies, not to create policy.

For more information [click here](#) .

BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAM

As of December 2009, Colorado became one of six western states participating in the Building Farmers in the West program, with support from USDA's new Beginning Farmer Grant Program. This program is designed to build capacity among beginning farmers through education, with curriculum to be co-taught by producers and professionals. Each program site will offer a sequence of 4-8 classes covering a variety of farm business topics. For more information on the Building Farmers program in Colorado contact Adrian Card at Adrian.Card@ColoState.EDU, or for the broader Western region contact Dawn Thilmany at Dawn.Thilmany@colostate.edu .

MARKETMAKER

Colorado MarketMaker is up and running! MarketMaker is an interactive mapping system that locates businesses and markets of agricultural products in Colorado, providing an important link between producers and consumers. There are currently 18,900 businesses listed in Colorado MarketMaker, of whom 1,262 are Colorado Proud members. These Colorado businesses include:

- ◆ Producers=506
- ◆ Farmers markets=120
- ◆ Wineries=99
- ◆ Food retailers=3,920
- ◆ Processors=1,385
- ◆ Wholesalers=905
- ◆ Restaurants, etc=11,961

Check out these features:

- ◆ Buyer-seller forum, http://co.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/marketplace_home.php, lists products and services that buyers are looking for and sellers are offering. Updated daily, see listings from across the country.
- ◆ Case studies to give you ideas on innovative ways of using MarketMaker, <http://co.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/casestudies.php>
- ◆ Search for a farmers market, a producer of a specific product, a processor, retailer or wholesaler: <http://co.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/search.php>
- ◆ Post events here: <http://co.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/events.php>

For some more information on Market Maker and what they are doing, check out their [February newsletter](#) or contact Dawn Velasquez at Dawn.Velasquez@ag.state.co.us.

NORTHERN COLORADO REGIONAL FOOD ASSESSMENT

This spring the Northern Colorado community has begun a Regional Food System Assessment. This study will cover Boulder, Larimer, and Weld counties and will encompass

all areas of the food system including agricultural production, food processing and distribution, marketing, consumer choices and access, and consumption and public health. The purpose of this study is to analyze the regional food system as it exists and use that baseline to make recommendations for future enhancements.

The assessment is being conducted by the participating counties, the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority, and Colorado State University. Through Project Advisory Teams organized in each county members of the public will also be directly involved with the project. The study will incorporate focus groups, telephone interviews and public meetings. A final report will be completed by the end of 2010.

For additional information regarding the Northern Colorado Regional Food System Assessment, please visit the project website at www.larimer.org/foodassessment .

NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY

In the last year the Extension Food Safety Education Team has distributed copies of three books to county agents and regional directors. These books contain canning and preservation recipes tested for Colorado's high altitudes, conditions that can make a tremendous difference in home canning safety. The team still has a few copies of the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning. If your office did not receive a copy, please contact Marisa Bunning at mbunning@cahs.colostate.edu.

Additional information on high altitude food preservation, including altitude adjusted time tables, is available through the fact sheet series, and can be accessed at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pubs.html#nutrition>.

GROW LOCAL COLORADO

Grow Local Colorado, www.growlocalcolorado.org, is supported by community leaders, gardeners, locavores, farmers and businesses to help promote local food, local community and local economy. The website is a resource hub for information, expertise and partnership in establishing your own food garden in your home, business, or public space. Contains links for finding [garden space](#), [resources](#) on gardening, permaculture, urban gardening and more.

LOCAL FOODS GUIDE

The San Luis Valley has published a local foods guide. They also have a searchable directory at: www.slvheritage.org/localfoods with 56 producers listed. To get involved in the San Luis Valley's Local Food Movement or to get more information from the Local Food Coalition, email slvlocalfoods@gmail.com today, and ask to be added to their email list for meetings and information.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Don't forget! Colorado State University Extension Food Systems and Agricultural Policy Resources

- [Consumer Resources](#)
- [Producer Resources](#)
- [Linking Producers to Restaurants, Workplaces and Other Institutions](#)
- [Linking Producers to Schools - Networks, Directories and Guides](#)
- [Community Assessments and Toolkits](#)
- [Calculators and Databases](#)
- [Policy Articles, Resources and Case Studies](#)
- [Research and Other Resources](#)

To add your ideas and news, contact [Allie Gunter](#).

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