

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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SIXTH EDITION

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Welcome to the 6th edition of the CSU Extension Local Food Systems newsletter. This newsletter is meant to give you up-to-date news and information from around the state and our own CSU Extension organization. If you know of any new information that would be relevant to the rest of the group, [send it to the newsletter!](#) Please forward this newsletter to anyone with an interest in local food systems and CSU's programs in this area.

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FARMERS' MARKET SURVEY RESULTS

In March of 2010, an online survey was conducted by the Colorado Farmers' Market Association in order to get a better understanding of producers' needs so as to provide effective support for farmers and farmers' market businesses.

The following are a few highlights from the survey's findings:

How important is it to you that a market sets and maintains growing standards and integrity of farm products sold?

- 62% said it was very important
- 21% said it was important

Knowing that a marketplace derives its operating costs from fees associated with vendor participation, what fee structure best supports your business practice?

- 36% said an annual flat rate
- 31% said a percentage of daily sales
- 19% said a daily flat rate

Your local CSU Extension office could provide the following continuing education items. If offered, which are important to your continuing education and improving your farmers' market sales?

Of a number of choices, the following were rated the most important:

- Understanding local food safety regulations
- Developing repeat customers
- Post harvest handling

[Click here](#) for a link to the full survey.

For more information contact [Dawn Thilmany](#) or [Martha Sullins](#).

FARMERS MARKETS ON FILM

The Colorado Farmers' Market Association just produced a video that captures producer and consumer participation at farmers markets and the role markets play in local and regional food systems. This video was captured at the Longmont Farmers Market and was produced by Cynthia Torres. View [Growing Local](#).

Be Local Northern Colorado has released a video promoting its highly successful winter markets in Fort Collins. View [Bridging the Seasons](#) to learn more about the markets and long-term plans for growing local markets in Larimer County.

COLORADO MARKETMAKER

This is a great time to update your profile on Colorado MarketMaker!

Colorado MarketMaker had over 300,000 visits in June, so make sure you help Colorado producers get found! There are 536 ag producers included in Colorado's listings, but we are sure there are more than should be told so they get listed. Help us get the word out.

For those who may want to help producers create a user account, simply go to the National MarketMaker website at <http://national.marketmaker.uiuc.edu> and click on Colorado. Once there, click on "Log In" then "Request Account Access". Complete the form and submit. The producer contact will receive an email with your user account information.

To keep up to date with listings and news, you can always go to:
<http://national.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/whatsnew.php>

For more information on Colorado MarketMaker, see the [July newsletter](#) or contact Dawn Velasquez at Dawn.Velasquez@ag.state.co.us.

"FEAST IN THE FIELD" AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Colorado Chefs Prepare All-Colorado Meal at "Feast in the Field" at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield on Monday, August 16, 6 - 9 p.m.

The American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association, in association with Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield and Colorado Proud, presents a "Feast in the Field" at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield. The "Feast" is designed for people who are excited about eating locally grown and locally produced food. Dine al fresco outside in the fields surrounded by acres of flowers and listen to the bluegrass sounds of the Highland Ramblers.

Tickets are \$100 per person, or \$150 for VIP, and all proceeds will go to the Colorado Chefs Association Education Fund to develop culinary education and to the Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield for programming.

[Click here](#) for more information and to purchase your tickets.

ROUTT COUNTY AND NW COLORADO LOCAL FOODS PROJECTS

Routt County and NW Colorado are actively considering local food issues. A community team, including members from CSU Extension, is partnering with LiveWell Colorado to identify the potential for a virtual food coop similar to [High Plains Food Cooperative](#). They are also trying to increase locally grown produce in the school lunch program by initiating greenhouses in the schools.

If you would like more information on the Routt County projects, please contact [Karen Massey](#).

NORTHERN COLORADO FOOD ASSESSMENT

The Northern Colorado Food Assessment team completed its County-based meetings in mid-July and were very happy with the attendance, active conversation and networking that occurred among team and community members. Participants were asked to come to the Food system element meetings to learn more in-depth information and meet partners and resource agencies that support the region in those areas. The themes of these open houses include:

August 12--Inputs to Production (land, water, labor, financing)

August 19--Agricultural Production

August 26--Processing, Distribution, Marketing

September 2--Consumer Choices, Food Security, Nutrition, Obesity

The open houses will all be held at the Weld County Southwest Service Complex, at Del Camino and I-25, exit 240 in the big conference room in the South wing, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. <http://www.co.weld.co.us/departments/AboutWeld/Maps.html>

The Northern Colorado Regional Food System Assessment Project is a collaboration of three counties. Larimer County is the lead agency on the project, Boulder and Weld Counties and the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority are collaborating and coordinating their County Advisory Boards. Colorado State University is providing technical assistance on framing the assessment, compiling data and completing some analyses of goals prioritized by the communities involved.

WEST SLOPE AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP

Colorado State University Extension, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and the Lavender Association of Western Colorado are partnering to hold an agritourism workshop at the Mesa County Fairgrounds on September 11, 2010. This workshop will provide attendees with information to understand niche business development, marketing and liability issues pertinent to food, farm and heritage based agritourism businesses. For more information, contact Kathy Kimbrough at info@coloradolavender.org or Wendy White at Wendy.White@ag.state.co.us or 303.239.4119. Agenda and registration information will be posted at www.coloradoagritourism.com under [Producer Resources](#).

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](#).