

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins, Adrian Card and Marisa Bunning, Team Leads

Co-Editors: Allison Gunter and Martha Sullins



Dept of Ag and Resource Economics

ELEVETH EDITION

DECEMBER 2010

Welcome to the 11th 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.

To assist our readers in finding information we may have presented in the past, you can now find old issues at: www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html.

CONTENTS

COLORADO MARKETMAKER	
FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE-SAVE THE DATE!	
SEASONAL HIGH TUNNELS	
SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM CALL FOR PROPOSALS	
FOODLINKS AMERICA REPORTS ON FOOD INSECURITY	
HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT PASSES THE HOUSE	
EQIP ORGANIC INITIATIVE	
2011 FSMIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY	
BUILDING FARMER PROGRAMS IN COLORADO	
RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	

COLORADO MARKETMAKER

Colorado MarketMaker is quickly being found by the public...we had over 11,000 unique visitors in November 2010, so be sure to use this resource to promote your business.

One of our current **Business Spotlights** focuses on Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy: this Colorado Proud company has been producing award winning fresh and aged goat cheeses for over 20 years. Visit their profile at: <http://co.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/main/details/10676>.

If you are a business owner or an educator, here is a tip to drive more traffic to a MarketMaker

profile. When registering a business, register under as many different profile types as you would like, it's free of charge. Think of it from the perspective of your customer, what type of business do they think you are? If you are a business that grows produce and makes salsa to sell at retail stores and wholesale; make sure you register a profile under farmer/fisherman, retail and wholesale: using all three sectors will make you easier to be found than if you choose just one.

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 [December Newsletter](#) or contact Dawn Velasquez at Dawn.Velasquez@ag.state.co.us.

FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE-SAVE THE DATE!

Farm to School meal programs connect school cafeterias with local farms, providing fresh, healthy, and appealing options in school cafeterias and providing Colorado family farmers access to institutional markets typically closed to them. Given greater interest by school districts, new grant programs to grow Farm to School efforts and perceived needs for greater information on marketing to schools, CSU Extension is partnering with RealFood Colorado, Slow Food Denver, USDA Farm Service and USDA Rural Development on a workshop to address all these issues.

Please join us Friday, January 28th and let us know you are coming by registering (at no cost) with Real Food Colorado (registration materials available and should be sent to: info@realfoodcolorado.com)

THE LOCATION for *Connecting Local Farms to Schools Conference (January 28, 2011)*:
Adams County Regional Park
9755 Henderson Road (124th Ave.), Brighton, CO 80601, 303.637.8001

For a link to the workshop agenda and the registration form, go to:
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/farmtoschoolconference.pdf>.

SEASONAL HIGH TUNNELS

Are you or a producer with whom you are working interested in extending next year's growing season with seasonal high tunnels? Eligible agricultural producers may apply for EQIP financial assistance for high tunnels, but only for manufactured tunnels covering up to 2,178 square feet (approximately 30 ft x 72 ft) per farming operation. The high tunnel will have an expected practical life of 4 years. The cover will be removed at the end of each growing season to prevent damage from snow loads or local wind, unless manufacturer warrants the structure for local wind and snow load conditions.

Note that participants will be required to submit annual reports for three years to assist NRCS in evaluating high tunnels as a conservation practice.

See the [NRCS website](#) for more details.

SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Application deadline January 14, 2011.

The Specialty Crops Program at Colorado State University is accepting applications for Grower Research and Education Grants for the 2011 production season. This request for proposals is intended for research, demonstration, and/or education projects addressing specialty crops production, processing, and marketing issues faced by one of the following in Colorado:

- Small farmers
- Beginning farmers
- Socially disadvantaged farmers

By working with a technical assistance partner from CSU and disseminating your results, you will help Specialty Crop Growers statewide in improving their practices as well.

[Click here](#) for more information.

FOODLINKS AMERICA REPORTS ON FOOD INSECURITY

FoodLinks America reports on food insecurity from the 2009 household food security survey.

- Nearly one-quarter (23.2 percent) of all children in the U.S. – an estimated 17.2 million individuals – were food insecure
- Food insecurity was substantially higher among poor households, those headed by single parents, and among African Americans and Hispanics
- Food insecurity was more common in large cities than in rural areas, suburbs, and other areas around large cities
- The typical food secure household spent 33 percent more for food than the typical food insecure one.

USDA research revealed that 17.4 million households – 14.7 percent of all households in the U.S. – were food insecure last year, only a slight statistical difference from 2008 when 14.6 percent of households met the definition. About a third of food insecure households (6.8 million or 5.7 percent of all households in the nation) were determined to have “very low food security” (what USDA used to call “hunger”), circumstances that limited food intake and/or disrupted normal eating patterns due to a lack of resources.

“The increase in SNAP benefits that was included in the economic recovery act, and took effect in April 2009, had a particularly powerful effect in keeping hunger from getting worse,” commented Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) in Washington, D.C. “Quite simply, the increase in SNAP benefits worked. The goal of the increase was to provide stimulus to the economy, help people weather the worst of the recession, and make SNAP more adequate to get through the month. The fact that hunger rates did not skyrocket as they did [between 2007 and 2008] shows just how effective and essential that increase was and still is,” added Weill.

HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT PASSES THE HOUSE

On Thursday, December 2, the US House of Representatives passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act by a vote of 264 to 157. It was sent to President Obama for his signature on December 13th. The bill

authorizes \$4.5 billion over 10 years to raise the nutritional standards of food in schools including \$40 million in mandatory funding for a new Farm to School program run by the USDA.

The Farm to School program, which was authorized in the 2004 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act but never funded, will offer competitive grants to schools or non-profit organizations to develop purchasing relationships with local farmers, plan seasonal menus, build school gardens, develop hands-on nutrition education, and provide solutions to infrastructure problems including storage, transportation, food preparation, and technical training.

More information is available at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/Child_Nutrition_Fact_Sheet_12_10_10.pdf.

EQIP ORGANIC INITIATIVE

On Monday, December 20, USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan announced \$50 million in available funding for the 2011 sign-up of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) [Organic Initiative](#).

The EQIP Organic Initiative, administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), provides financial and technical assistance to certified organic producers and producers transitioning to organic to help plan and implement conservation practices on their operations. In FY 2010, NRCS obligated nearly \$24 million through the Organic Initiative.

Under Organic Initiative contracts, producers are paid 75 percent of the cost for the conservation measures they implement. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers are paid 90 percent. The program provides up to \$20,000 per year per person or legal entity, with a maximum total of \$80,000 over six years.

The 2011 sign-up ends March 4, 2011. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis through your [local NRCS office](#).

Information taken directly from the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition blog](#).

2011 FSMIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The FY 2011 FSMIP grant opportunity has been announced. FSMIP funds a wide range of applied research projects that address barriers, challenges, and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. food and agricultural products domestically and internationally.

Eligible agricultural categories include livestock, livestock products, food and feed crops, fish and shellfish, horticulture, viticulture, apiary, and forest products and processed or manufactured products derived from such commodities. Reflecting the growing diversity of U.S. agriculture, in recent years, FSMIP has funded projects dealing with nutraceuticals, bioenergy, compost and products made from agricultural residue.

Proposals that address issues of importance at the State, multi-State, or national level are appropriate for FSMIP. FSMIP also seeks unique proposals on a smaller scale that may serve as pilot projects or case studies useful as models for others. All efforts should be coordinated with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and Colorado State University is an appropriate partner as well.

Concept papers (no more than two pages in length, not including budget spreadsheet) are due to CDA no later than **January 7, 2011**. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted. In your narrative please include the following:

- Contact Information (name of organization, contact person, address, phone, e-mail, website)
- Project Title
- Brief Description of Project including Goals and Outcomes
- Amount Requested
- Amount of Matching Funds and Source
- Budget
- Overview of Personnel Involved

Timeline:

January 7 - Two-page concept paper due to the Colorado Department of Agriculture to Wendy White at Wendy.White@ag.state.co.us or by fax (303) 239-4125.

January 14 - Notification to applicants which proposals are selected for consideration.

February 1 - Complete FSMIP application due to CDA.

February 17 - Application package and copies due to USDA.

For detailed information, see the [AMS website](#). And click here for [application information](#).

BUILDING FARMER PROGRAMS IN COLORADO

We recently completed Building Farmer programs in Boulder, La Plata and Pueblo counties, with dozens of beginning and intermediate farmers developing new or more refined enterprise plans for their businesses and organizations. Although we were unable to recruit enough producers for the Northeast region, we will be doing an intensive, one-day program to begin building awareness for this program, as well as training on Colorado MarketMaker.

Save the date of **February 18th**, for a day-long program in Sterling, Colorado. More information will be available shortly!

For more information on results or future plans related to the fall programs, please contact:

- Boulder County: Adrian Card, 303-678-6383, acard@bouldercounty.org;
- La Plata County: Darrin Parmenter, 970-382-6464, parmenterdm@co.laplata.co.us;
- Pueblo County: Emily Lockard, 719-583-6566, lockarde@co.pueblo.co.us.

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](#).