

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

EIGHTEENTH EDITION

JULY 2011

Welcome to the 18th 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 for us to include in the newsletter! (That includes partners outside of CSU as well). Please 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.

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.....	
Webinar: Integrating Local Products through Colorado Proud School Meal Day	
USDA Releases First Farm to School Evaluation.....	
CSU Ag Day	
Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)	
People's Garden Grant Program.....	
New Childhood Obesity Policy Snapshot Series	
Food Issues in the Media	
The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Learning Center	
Resources and Additional Information.....	

COLORADO MARKETMAKER

This is peak season for Colorado consumers and visitors to seek out fresh local produce and visit agritourism operations. We hope you are promoting Colorado MarketMaker as a one-stop resource to find, map and learn about Colorado farms, ranches and food businesses! If you have any questions

or need materials to help you promote and use the site, please contact us!

The newest business spotlight on the Colorado MarketMaker website is The Farm at Sunrise Ranch. They rotationally graze their 100% grassfed and grass-finished beef on 120 irrigated acres just outside of Loveland, Colorado. Meat is available in bulk (split quarter, half, and whole), in packages, and as individual cuts. They sell through their website (they do not ship but delivery within 75 miles is available), over the phone, in the on-farm store, and at the Old Town Ft Collins farmers' market. They hold educational farm tours once per month in the summer and fall. They also have a permaculture education and a work-study program.

Check out [the Farm at Sunrise Ranch profile on Colorado MarketMaker](#) and for more information browse their website at <http://sunriseranch.org/farm>.

We'd love more businesses to highlight!

The forms for Newsletter Submission, Business Spotlight, and Taste of Colorado are all available on the [Colorado Department of Agriculture website](#). This is a great way to reach out to your partners in the field and give them an opportunity to raise the visibility of their enterprise.

WEBINAR: INTEGRATING LOCAL PRODUCTS THROUGH COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

Coming Soon!!

Monday, August 1 from 11 am - 12 pm

[Register Now](#)

Do you want to participate in or partner with schools for this year's Colorado Proud School Meal Day, September 14, 2011, but need more information? Participate in this webinar to learn about the benefits of locally sourced food, how to find producers, how to promote the event, and much more! The one-hour webinar will include speakers from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Farm to School, LiveWell Colorado, and local school food service directors who will share their experiences and provide tips for making it a fun and successful day.

This is the first of a series of farm to school webinars produced by the Colorado Farm to School project. Future farm to school webinars may include:

- Introducing the Colorado School Food Primer
- Choose Your Own Farm to School Adventure!
- Student-Grown Food: School Gardens and Greenhouses
- How to Use Student Grown Produce in School Cafeteria Meals
- Farm to School & School Food Procurement in Colorado
- How to Receive and Handle Fresh Produce
- Showcasing Your Local Food

Join us for the inaugural Colorado Farm to School webinar. At the conclusion of the webinar, you will have a chance to nominate future webinar topics. Become part of this exciting movement to improve school food and support Colorado agriculture!

USDA RELEASES FIRST FARM TO SCHOOL EVALUATION

Over the past year, a team of nine government representatives visited 15 school districts operating farm to school programs to determine how these types of projects can be strengthened and repeated in other regions. "Farm to school programs are a great way to bring more fresh, local produce into school cafeterias and support local farmers as well," said Merrigan. "Many schools are also using Farm to School programs to teach students where their food comes from through nutrition education."

The team found that both farmers and school administrators are eager to expose students to fresh, local meat and produce and have formed partnerships to achieve this. However many obstacles make connecting local food to local kids a difficult proposition. Local supply chains are often not equipped to handle such large transactions. Small farm owners are concerned that they won't be able to supply enough product to meet the needs of school cafeterias.

"Everyone is concerned about food safety, and this topic is especially important to school food service directors and ... employees who are responsible for feeding thousands of children each day," said USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which along with the Agricultural Marketing Service oversees USDA's contribution to farm to school initiatives. The report recommends that school food service providers contact their local extension office, health department and universities to educate themselves on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) guidelines and safe food handling techniques, and that schools include a self-assessment tool for farmers to complete as a self-audit as part of the contracting process.

Next year, additional funding for USDA farm to school initiatives will become available thanks to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which provides funds for farm to school grants.

Taken directly from a [Food Safety News article](#).

CSU AG DAY

**Celebrating the 30th anniversary of Colorado State University Ag Day
September 10th from 9:30-11:30**

Join the festivities as Colorado agricultural growers and producers prepare Colorado's greatest outdoor barbecue before the kickoff of the Rams' first home football game against the University of Northern Colorado Bears. This is one of the most important fundraisers for CSU scholarships for students in the College of Ag Sciences.

The 30th Ag Day barbecue features live music and Colorado fare such as lamb, beef, pork, beans, potatoes, apples, dairy products, wheat bread, melons, soft drinks, Colorado-brewed beer, and flowers. In addition to the BBQ there will be beer purchases (for those 21 and over) and all proceeds will go to the Ag Day scholarship fund.

[Purchase tickets](#) online. For additional questions, the Ag Day Office phone is (970) 491-6497.

RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (RBOG)

On Friday, July 1, [USDA announced](#) the availability of funding for its [Rural Business Opportunity Grants program \(RBOG\)](#). Nonprofit corporations, public bodies, Indian Tribes, and cooperatives whose members are primarily rural residents may apply for up to \$50,000 for a project in one state, or for up to \$150,000 for a multi-state application.

RBOG awards support projects up to two years in length that promote sustainable economic development in rural areas that are experiencing natural disasters, persistent poverty, or a decline in employment or population. For fiscal year 2011, approximately \$2.5 million is available.

Priority is given to applications that propose regional economic development activities in the key strategy areas of:

1. creating or supporting **local and regional food systems** (especially supporting the creation of retail outlets of healthy foods in areas that lack sufficient outlets);
2. creating or supporting **renewable energy generation**;
3. using **broadband** or other critical infrastructure to create economic development;
4. creating or supporting **access to capital** in rural areas; and
5. creating or supporting **innovative utilization of natural resources** for economic development.

[Contact your state USDA Rural Development Office](#) for more information and to obtain an application. This information available at the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) website.

PEOPLE'S GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

NIFA announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the People's Garden Grant Program (PGGP) for fiscal year 2011 to facilitate the creation of produce, recreation, and/or wildlife gardens in urban and rural areas, which will provide opportunities for science-based informal education.

This program is a joint initiative supported by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Food and Nutritional Service, Forest Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, in addition to NIFA. Successful applicants will provide micro-subgrant support to smaller local projects. This notice identifies the objectives for PGGP projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a PGGP grant. This grant opportunity opened on July 26 and closes on August 26, 2011. The estimated total program funding is \$725,000 and the ceiling for any one grant award is \$150,000.

Eligible applicants are State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, non-profit organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the implementation of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline may result in the application being excluded

from consideration or, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

For a link to the full announcement, go to [People's Garden Grant Program](#).

NEW CHILDHOOD OBESITY POLICY SNAPSHOT SERIES

The Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) announced that it will begin to regularly release policy “Snapshots.” These one-page documents will highlight the key areas of childhood obesity by providing facts and analysis on specific health issues. These Snapshots will provide useful background data in support of farm to school programs.

The first Snapshot was recently released and highlights obesity factors in early childhood education. According to the document, early childhood (ages 0-5) is a critical time for establishing healthy behaviors. The Snapshot highlighted the following statistics in emphasize the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition in the early childhood education setting:

- Over 20% of preschool children are currently overweight or obese.
- Only 25% of children ages 2 to 11 years consume three servings of vegetables a day, and less than 50% of those children consume two daily servings of fruit.
- Only two states (MI, WV) require that child care centers serve food consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- 75% of states do not have appropriate standards for physical activity.

To learn more, visit the PHA website: <http://www.ahealthieramerica.org/about/news/447-new-childhood-obesity-policy-snapshot-series-offers-facts-analysis.html>.

FOOD ISSUES IN THE MEDIA

Lester Brown is interviewed by Terri Gross, on NPR’s Fresh Air, about his book [The Geopolitics of Food](#). [Read the article and listen to the story](#).

Food Day is an event that will be held on October 24th that seeks to bring together Americans from all walks of life to push for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way. CSU is exploring the role it may play in future Food Day activities, but it may be valuable to join in and learn about how organizers and participants are discussing food issues, and share with us how you feel CSU can bridge the distance between various interest groups who view the practices and decisions being made in the food system differently.

The organization has produced webinars to promote their event. Check out the [June 2011 Food Day webinar: Industrial food animal production and high-meat diet](#).

THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

(SARE) LEARNING CENTER

One-Stop Online Shop for Ag Educators, Farmers and Ranchers

Have you heard about the new [Learning Center](#) at SARE.org? It's a treasure trove of books, videos, online courses and other information products about sustainable agriculture from A to Z.

Perhaps you're interested in starting up a pastured poultry operation, or generating on-farm energy? Maybe you need more information about direct marketing or value-added products before you take the plunge? Considering incorporating a cover crop rotation? Well, pull up a chair, turn on the reading light, and browse the Learning Center, where you'll find free online access to hundreds of products, conveniently browsable by type or topic:

- practical [books](#), including SARE's signature cover crop and ecological soil management guides;
- how-to [bulletins](#) and [factsheets](#), such as how one SARE grantee developed a method to avoid using chemical dewormers on sheep and goats;
- [online courses](#) for ag educators help them share information with producers about best practices, business planning and more;
- a wide range of [products developed by grantees](#) during their research, including papers, presentations, tools and more;
- [videos](#) of innovative practices at work in the field, with related resources for digging deeper;
- [regional newsletters](#) with news and profiles from each of SARE's four regions;
- inspiring [profiles](#) of successful farm and ranch researchers;
- ...and so much more!

For example, several of our team members have projects included in this database and can be searched with ease. We encourage you to explore the resources CSU has already created to assist producers and communities, and search other states for ideas of what more we can be doing for our stakeholders!

Other great features at SARE.org include:

- easy navigation to grants and education information on any of SARE's four [regional sites](#);
- a nationwide sustainable ag [events](#) calendar;
- 20 years of research results in SARE's public [projects database](#); and
- purchasing hard copies of our information products at the SARE [WebStore](#).

Interested in applying for a SARE grant? To learn about grant opportunities and groundbreaking research funded by SARE, visit www.sare.org/Grants.

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](#).