

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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**Dept of Ag and Resource Economics**

**NINETEENTH EDITION**

**AUGUST 2011**

Welcome to the 19th 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. We will be transitioning to a Food Systems work team in CSU Extension, but the distribution of this newsletter and focus of topics will remain consistent with past issues.

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

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## COLORADO MARKETMAKER

MarketMaker is pleased to announce the newly designed homepage! Be sure to check out [Colorado's new page](#) complete with new market and business search features, resource center, and business directory. These ongoing changes are a result of feedback we are getting from our producers and buyers (chefs, agritourism visitors, consumers) on how they would like the tool to work for them in

making their purchases. There are more changes underway as well, so continue to watch this newsletter for future updates. For now, make sure to look for and visit a new farmers' market, winery, agritourism site, roadside stand or restaurant that features local products, and note that the Colorado Proud logo is associated with those most focused on local offerings.

The newest business spotlight on the Colorado MarketMaker website is the Coda Coffee Company. Coda Coffee Company is a wholesale coffee roaster in north Denver that focuses on quality, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility. Coda's mission is to set the standard for coffee excellence through education, advocacy, and partnerships. With the belief that success is reciprocal, Coda does what it takes to exceed expectations.

Check out their [profile on Colorado MarketMaker](#) and for more information browse their website at <http://www.codacoffee.com/site/index.html>.

**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](#).

## LOCALIZATION PARTNERS INVEST IN LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES

A \$1.5 million fund has formed to nurture local food systems, starting in Boulder County, Colorado. Transition Colorado announced the launch of Localization Partners LLC, a for-profit company that will fund local food and farming enterprises, including sustainable farms, food producers that source local ingredients, and local food distribution systems.

The first phase of the project will leverage recycOil's IT logistics management system, which serves over 1,700 customers, to establish an online transaction platform where restaurant, retail and foodservice buyers can connect with local producers starting in early 2012 in support of next year's growing season. The organization is also developing the brick-and-mortar side of the system, with a distribution center including a warehouse and small fleet of refrigerated delivery trucks.

"We envision the distribution center as a connecting place where people can meet with buyers, connect with local food producers, and learn about the food business," says Michael Brownlee, co-founder of the nonprofit Transition Colorado and Localization Partners. For more information, see [sustainablebusiness.com](http://sustainablebusiness.com).

## COLORADO BUILDING FARMERS AND RANCHERS PROGRAM

The 2011 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers (CBF) programs are now accepting applications! CBF has helped over 100 new, intermediate and experienced beginning farmers and ranchers in Colorado to build better businesses by improving farmer and rancher capacity and community. The eight-week classroom programs to help new, intermediate and experienced farmers and ranchers assess their ability to start and maintain a new farm operation, or grow and improve the business management of an existing one. Five programs will be offered in Colorado this fall in Boulder, Larimer, Denver/Jefferson, Pueblo and La Plata Counties.

Application deadlines for the county-based programs are:

Larimer County – Sept 1

Boulder County – Sept 6

Denver/Jefferson County – Sept 7

Pueblo County – Oct 14

New this year is the Denver/Jefferson County program that will focus on developing the capacity of existing and start-up producers on urban farms. For this program, an urban farm is defined as a farm of less than 2 acres that grows or donates more than \$1000 of vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat, dairy, flowers, herbs and/or value added products per year. Urban farm business models include multi-plot Neighborhood Supported Agriculture systems, indoor aquaponics, and non-profit community farms.

For more information on these programs, go to

<http://www.extension.colostate.edu/boulder/ag/CBF.shtml>.

Also you can learn more about the CBF classroom and mentorship programs on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/ColoBuildingFarmers>.

## COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL PRIMER

Wondering what “Farm to School” is and how you can get involved?

The /Colorado Farm to School Primer will be the focus of a webinar on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. MDT. To register, go to:

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?CSGPR/5b6db7f4b8/66cc9d310c/d53f7bb83e>

This webinar will describe Farm to School; orient you to the Primer; share stories of how a school, a producer and a parent each got started with Farm to School initiatives in Colorado; and make you aware of resources so you can started or expand your involvement in Farm to School. The Primer is a new publication from LiveWell Colorado that provides a comprehensive introduction to Farm to School in Colorado including:

- \* What is Farm to School all about?
- \* How does school food work now in Colorado?
- \* What is happening in Farm to School in Colorado schools now?
- \* How can gardens and educational activities support better local food in schools?
- \* What is the potential of Farm to School for our children, farmers and ranchers, and communities?
- \* How can you help?

To contact Colorado Farm to School staff regarding this webinar or other questions, please contact Wendy Peters Moschetti at [wendy@wpmconsulting.net](mailto:wendy@wpmconsulting.net) or Lyn Kathlene at [lyn@csi-policy.org](mailto:lyn@csi-policy.org).

## DENVER SEEDS INITIATIVE

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock invited farmers and business owners to city hall to discuss ways to improve an urban farming initiative he proposed, Denver Seeds. The goal of the program is to promote economic development, community development and access to fresh food through a network of urban farms.

“The program speaks to opportunities to take existing open space and find ways to leverage its ability to engage citizenry activity and grow home grown, healthy food,” said Jeff Shoemaker, executive director of Greenway Foundation.

Read more at the [denverpost.com](http://denverpost.com).

## CALL FOR PAPERS: HIGHER EDUCATION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

*Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD)* call for papers. Deadline for manuscripts: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

In this special topic call for papers, the Editor encourages researchers, administrators, graduate students, NGO staff members, and others to submit manuscripts featuring results of surveys, case studies, policy analyses, review articles, reflective essays, and commentaries in which they examine the ways colleges and universities are pursuing their food system sustainability goals and the extent to which they are finding success.

Examples might include:

- Survey of campus sustainability coordinators related to best practices in food system–related activities
- Focus group of food service directors
- Census of student farms and gardens
- Survey of student organizations to inventory and assess student-led programs and activities
- Comparative analysis of food system curriculum within and across disciplines or institutions
- Innovations in programming by institutions of higher education, including private and community colleges in addition to land grant colleges
- Comparison of institutional use of local food
- Employment prospects for graduates of food system sustainability programs
- Analysis of trends in tenure track positions and funded research
- Analysis of food systems education and the liberal arts
- The role of higher education social networks related to food and agriculture
- Case study of university-based local food system projects or community-university partnerships
- Analysis of food system education curricula and course syllabi

For more information on JAFSCD, visit [www.AgDevJournal.com](http://www.AgDevJournal.com). Dawn Thilmany, one of the team leaders, is a member of the Editor’s Advisory Board and would like to encourage more partners from Colorado to showcase their work.

## FOOD ACCESS FOR MILLIONS OF UNDERSERVED HOUSEHOLDS

First Lady Michelle Obama joined leaders from major retailers, foundations and small businesses today to announce commitments that will provide access to healthy, affordable food to millions of people in underserved communities. The commitments from SUPERVALU, Walgreens, Walmart and regional retailers will include opening or expanding over 1,500 stores to serve communities throughout the country that currently do not have access to fresh produce and other healthy foods. It is estimated that these stores will create tens of thousands of jobs and serve approximately 9.5 million people in targeted communities throughout the country. Currently 23.5 million Americans – including 6.5 million children – live in low-income areas that lack stores likely to sell affordable and healthy foods. Studies have shown that limited access to healthy food choices can lead to poor diets, higher levels of obesity and other diet-related diseases.

The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report to the President identified access to healthy, affordable food as key to solving childhood obesity. In February 2010, Mrs. Obama traveled to Philadelphia where she announced the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a multi-million dollar public and private investment to improve access to healthy food. The President's 2012 Budget proposes funding for the multi-year initiative to increase the availability of affordable, healthy foods in underserved urban and rural communities. The Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Treasury are proposing \$330 million in financing to community development financial institutions, other nonprofits, public agencies, and businesses with sound strategies for addressing the healthy food needs of communities.

## 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](#).