

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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Dept of Ag and Resource Economics

TWENTY-THIRD EDITION

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Welcome to the 23rd 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 previous issues at: www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html.

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COLORADO MARKETMAKER

Colorado MarketMaker continues to serve as an online platform to connect Colorado producers, food enterprises, wineries, markets, agritourism operations, buyers and visitors who are seeking to find those products and businesses that match their desire to do more business in our great state. We hope that

you continue to find ways to highlight this resource to your peers and partners. To that end, a brief course is available online which outlines potential uses, how to do searches and how to get registered. We encourage our partners to use this new tool as a way to become acquainted with MarketMaker and encourage those you work with to register (or search for food system partners).

Another great piece of news is that Colorado MarketMaker is going mobile: Visit co.foodsearcher.com on your mobile device to access MarketMaker resources on the go! Although there are not as many features in this application, it is a great addition given we know that many households search for food businesses (especially restaurants, agritourism operations, wineries or farmers markets) while they are on the go. Feedback on this new tool would be appreciated!

The newest business spotlight on the Colorado MarketMaker website is Maggie's Magnificent Cakes which makes gourmet, fat free cake mixes that are rich in flavor and all natural ingredients. Maggie was inspired to create and patent her own recipe from her home kitchen for an easy-to-bake, heart-healthy, fat free cake with no cholesterol and preservatives after futilely searching for healthy dessert alternatives that would appeal to her husband. Maggie's WiseCakes is a Bundt cake mix available in two flavors that not only taste great but are good for you, too. WiseCakes can be enjoyed over morning coffee, afternoon tea, dessert or whenever your heart desires.

Check out their [profile on Colorado MarketMaker](http://www.maggieswisecakes.com/), and for more information browse their website at <http://www.maggieswisecakes.com/>.

WEBINAR TO HELP SMALL SCALE MEAT PROCESSORS WITH FOOD SAFETY

The Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network, which works to expand small-scale meat processing, will host a free webinar February 1, 2012 on microbiology basics. The free webinar will begin at 1 pm EST/10 am PST Feb 1 and will run 90 minutes. Penn State food scientists Catherine Cutter and Martin Bucknavage will give a short tour of the basic microbiological terms meat processors - and their customers - need to understand.

To join, go to the eXtension webinar website a few minutes before start time: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/nichemeat>.

WESTERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER: RURAL CONNECTIONS ISSUE

The Western Rural Development Center is soliciting articles for its May 2012 issue of Rural Connections. The topic for this issue will be "Local and Regional Food Hubs Boost Rural Economies."

Abstracts are due March 5, 2012. Information is available at: <http://wrdc.usu.edu/>.

The USDA's working definition of a food hub is "a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified local and regional food products primarily from small to mid-sized producers to wholesalers, retailers, and/or institutional buyers." Local and

regional food hubs are gaining popularity in rural communities as a viable way to boost economic development, expand market opportunities for local agriculture producers, processors and distributors, and increase a community's access to fresh healthy foods. The Western Rural Development Center is soliciting abstracts focusing on the economic development benefits of local and regional food hubs in rural communities, and success stories, best practices, and lessons learned from operating food hubs.

2012 COLORADO AGRICULTURE BIG AND SMALL CONFERENCE

Coming Soon: Wednesday, February 15 – Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the Adams County Fairgrounds (Brighton, CO) in the Waymire Dome Complex

The conference will feature sessions from farmers, ag professionals, and scientists for:

- Commercial crops and livestock producers engaged in direct market and/or wholesale and organic, biological, or low input production systems. Includes:
- Vegetable farmers
- Market farmers (farmers market, Community Supported Ag, produce stands, etc.)
- Niche livestock producers
- Urban farmers (farmers market, Neighborhood Supported Ag, SPIN farming, etc.)
- Small acreage non-commercial producers and small acreage managers

Registration costs \$45 for one day or \$70 for two days and includes a catered lunch and refreshments.

For more information, visit www.coloradoagriculturebigandsmall.com.

FEED DENVER'S 2ND ANNUAL URBAN FARMERS AND VEGETABLE GARDENERS SYMPOSIUM

"Let's Get Serious about Growing Food!"

Saturday, March 24-25, 2012 at Sustainability Park, 2500 Lawrence Street, in Denver

Early registration is \$225 per ticket. After February 29, registration increases to \$275 per ticket.

This annual Feed Denver event is a two-day, intensive, hands-on workshop will show how sustainable, healthy local food production can be developed in and around an urban setting. This symposium offers diverse groups the opportunity to learn, plan, develop, operate and sustain community food projects. Participants leave the workshop with improved skills that they can take back into their communities and pass on to others. This annual growing skills symposium presents over 30 classes in the course of two days. These workshops are for both rural and urban projects. Keynote speakers include:

- Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power, Inc.
- Gary Nabhan, author of "Chasing Chiles" and the upcoming "Food Justice in the Face of Climate Change: Resilience through Cultural and Biological Diversity"

For more information visit [Feed Denver's website](#).

GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON COLORADO AGRICULTURE

Make plans to attend this year's Forum, Exploring Ag Security and Food Safety, on February 23rd in Denver, Colorado, at the Renaissance Denver.

Register at: <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/forum>. Early registration rates are available until February 10th and there is a special rate for students who may want to attend.

In addition to hearing from some of the state's leadership, including Governor Hickenlooper and Ag Commissioner Salazar, there will be updates from the Food Policy Council and the Farm to School Task Force. Our team's own Marisa Bunning will present on Food Safety issues for at-risk audiences, following a set of presentations that explore the outbreaks which affected our melon industry this past year.

If you have not attended this event before, it is a great way to learn about current issues on Colorado's agricultural landscape, and network with leaders from across the state's agriculture and food industries.

NEIGHBORHOOD HARVEST: CREATING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE OASES IN FOOD DESERTS

There are a number of rural and urban communities throughout Ohio with limited physical, economic, and healthy access to specialty crops, as well as limited knowledge of them. Because of the retail industry's consolidation and the movement of wealth to suburban communities, many supermarket chains have closed. Corner stores are often the only option for urban consumers to purchase food or food-like products. Likewise, rural consumers only have access to a supermarket if they have access to a vehicle and drive far enough; the lack of competition, however, makes food more expensive. These situations exemplify "food deserts," or areas defined in the 2008 Farm Bill as "[areas] in the United States with limited access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly such [areas] composed of predominantly lower income neighborhoods and communities" (Title VI, Sec. 7527). Ohio has committed to understanding the extent of food deserts within the state as well as to increasing access to healthy foods (including specialty crops) in these areas. This plan is now in the process of implementation in the city of Columbus. To learn more about it and how a similar plan might be in your local community, [a report is available from the AEDE website](#) at The Ohio State University.

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 [Nick Marconi](#).

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