

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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Dept of Ag and Resource Economics

TWENTY-FOURTH EDITION

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Welcome to the 24th 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 are now a more general Food Systems work team for CSU Extension, but the topics covered in this newsletter 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

The use of Colorado MarketMaker by Colorado businesses continues to reinforce our belief that there is a need for an online database of those who want to do more business within the state. We now have over 2300 active profiles on the site, and over 30 new ag and food businesses joined the site this month. Perhaps the most interesting new use of the site is for schools that are looking to purchase locally, as they now can have their own profile. Encourage this new marketing connection and look for more information on Farm to School connections later in this edition of the newsletter.

It is CSA season, and we are happy to see some farms using the Buy-Sell forum to recruit new members. Here is one example from the site:



The screenshot shows the Colorado MarketMaker website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, SEARCH, RESOURCES, HELP, and ABOUT US. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Category View > Listing Detail". The main content area is titled "Sell: Vegetables" and features a listing for "CSA Shares available". The listing includes a "Description:" field, a logo for "LINDENMEIER FARM" with a picture of vegetables, and a detailed text description of the farm's CSA program. The description mentions that the farm is a 1-acre vegetable farm in the Fort Collins community and is excited to announce its first Farm CSA Share for the 2012 season. It also explains what a Farm CSA Share is, noting that it is a direct partnership between members and farmers, involving a pre-season financial investment and a weekly supply of specialty crops and heirlooms.

4TH HOMEGROWN RETREAT: SETTING THE COMMUNITY TABLE WITH LOCAL, HEALTHY FOOD

On February 24-25, in Durango, the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado will present the 4th Annual Homegrown Retreat: Setting the Community Table with Local, Healthy Food, at Durango's Fort Lewis College in the Student Union Ballroom. The Food Retreat strives to support and mobilize more people in the region to take action and contribute to a sustainable, local food system.

On Friday, February 24th at 7pm the event will feature a keynote from Slow Food and Farm-to-School Colorado Leader, Chef Andrew Nowak, who will address "How to Strengthen and Connect all the Pieces of a Local Food Community".

On Saturday, February 25th 9:00am – 4:00pm, programs will address how to increase local food ACCESS

for all ages and incomes, and how individuals can strengthen the growing local food system. Saturday features an All-Local Food Lunch and the following workshops and activities:

- Why We Can't Afford to Not Eat Local: A Wellness Perspective
- A Farm-to-School Panel Discussion
- Save \$100/month and Increase Vitality with Local Wild Food
- Grow Your Own Grub with a Good Garden Design
- Eating Local on a Budget: Tips for the Frugal Foodie
- The Farming Do's and Don'ts: What grows best
- Sustainable Snacking

The event is free to students. There is a \$10 suggested donation for community members. An RSVP for Saturday is required by February 14th as space is limited. For more information or to RSVP on-line please visit the Retreat's Information Page at [The 4th Homegrown Retreat: Setting the Community Table with Local, Healthy Food](#).

CSU EXTENSION'S 2012 INTEGRATED LAND AND GARDEN WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, March 6th, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, CSU Extension will hold the 2012 Integrated Land & Garden Workshop, with assistance from NMSU Cooperative Extension, Fort Lewis College, and the Durango Botanical Society.

This year's workshop will be offered in Durango, CO. With topics ranging from fruit, to gardens, to natives, to livestock, organizers hope to offer a little something for everyone. The workshop will be held at the La Plata County Fairgrounds, Durango CO. 2500 Main Ave., and the cost is \$20.00 which includes all handouts, snacks, and a local lunch.

Capacity is limited, so register soon! Registrations can be called in, mailed, emailed, or faxed. Please make all checks payable to "La Plata County Extension". For more information, contact the La Plata County Extension Office at: (970) 382-6463.

AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

On March 3, 2012 join Colorado State University Extension, the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the El Paso County Conservation District for a workshop designed to assist agricultural producers, tourism groups and community organizations grow agritourism enterprises in their areas.

The cost is \$20.00, which includes lunch, jump drive with presentations, handouts and other materials on Colorado agritourism business development. The workshop will be from 8am-3:30 pm at:

El Paso County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
3255 Akers Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80922

For more information or to register, contact:
Wendy White at Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215

Ph. (303) 239-4119, Fax (303) 239-4125, wendy.white@ag.state.co.us.

A registration form may be downloaded at [Colorado Springs Agritourism Workshop](#) on the CDA web site.

2012 FARM TO SCHOOL BID FOR NORTHERN COLORADO

A group of school districts in Northern Colorado is working cooperatively to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local producers. This provides the opportunity to procure healthier, sustainably produced and regionally sourced foods for school meal programs. It also results in a 'win-win-win' for local farms, the community and the students that are served!

If you are a Colorado producer who is interested in working with school districts, please review their invitation to bid. The necessary documents are available online at the Rocky Mountain E-Purchasing Site (BidNet). The bid is slated to remain open until April 4, 2012. Note that to view the bid, you must be a registered vendor. To register, click on the "Proceed to Registration" button on the page where the bid is featured.

Go to <http://www.RockyMountainBidSystem.com>, then "Bid Opportunities". The Bid is titled "2012 Farm to School". Questions regarding this invitation to bid can be directed to Al Piper at alan.piper@thompsonschoools.org or 970-613-5145.

WEBINAR: THE FARM-TO-SCHOOL BID PROCESS

On Thursday, March 8th, from 2-3 p.m, LiveWell Colorado will offer a webinar entitled "The Farm-to-School Bid Process: Examples of Successful RFPs and Proposals".

You will hear from school districts as they walk through their specific bid processes for local produce and beef. One district will share a hot-off-the-presses fresh produce bid template approved by the Colorado Department of Education and USDA. You will also hear from Colorado state agencies as they explain some basic Frequently Asked Questions about applying the Geographic Preference rule as a producer and as a school district.

To register, click here [REGISTER NOW!](#)

This is the sixth in a series of Farm to School webinars produced by the Colorado Farm to School Project (www.coloradofarmtoschool.org) and LiveWell Colorado (www.livewellcolorado.org). To view archived Farm to School Webinars, [please click here](#).

To contact Colorado Farm to School staff regarding this webinar or other questions, please contact Wendy Peters Moschetti at wendy@wpmconsulting.net or Lyn Kathlene at lyn@sparkpolicy.com.

START2FARM.GOV: USDA WEBSITE SUPPORTS BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the launch of an online tool to support beginning farmers and ranchers. Start2Farm.gov, a collaboration between USDA's National Library and the American Farm Bureau Federation, provides information on funding, training, networking, and legal and technical

assistance. The site also chronicles beginning farmer and rancher success stories.

Congress has defined beginning farmers and ranchers in part as those with less than 10 years farm experience; currently 20% of the 2.1 million American farms are run by such individuals, most of whom are over 35 years of age. The majority of such farmers lack access to the necessary education, experience, resources, and/or land to successfully establish farms or ranches.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP), funded under the 2008 Farm Bill for \$75 million through FY2012, not only encourages education, outreach, and mentoring through grants, but also dictates USDA establish an online clearinghouse for curricula and resources.

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.

SPECIALTY CROPS BLOCK GRANTS APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program, with a deadline of April 4, 2012.

Specialty crops are defined as:

- fruits and vegetables,
- tree nuts,
- dried fruits, and
- nursery crops (including floriculture and sod).

To be eligible for a grant, the project must solely enhance the competitiveness of Colorado grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. See the SCBGP-FB website, for a list of eligible specialty crops and ineligible commodities.

Producer groups, organizations, and associations, as well as state and/or local organizations, academia and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts. Although proposals submitted by individual producers are allowed, grant funds will not be awarded for projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual. Applications for grant funds should describe how the project potentially impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.

To apply, submit applications to the Colorado Department of Agriculture by 4:30 p.m. on April 4, 2012:

Markets Division\Specialty Crops
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
markets@ag.state.co.us

Applications must include:

- Two hard copies of the entire proposal including original signed certification statements. Note: Colorado State University applicants must include a letter of support for their budget from the Office of Sponsored Programs.
- Applicants must also submit an electronic file containing all application materials at the same time that the hard copies are submitted. Alternatively, a disk containing all necessary files may be included along with the hard copies of the proposal.

MARKETING YOUR FOOD PRODUCTS WORKSHOP

On April 19, 2012, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division will host a one-day workshop to will boost your marketing efforts from developing a plan and building your brand to promotion and advertising. This workshop is perfect for start-up and existing food-related businesses!

Registration is \$35 per person if postmarked by April 6; \$45 per person after the deadline. Fee includes program, workshop materials and lunch. Pre-registration is required.

Please make checks payable to Colorado Department of Agriculture, and send completed registration form and payment to:

Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215

Questions? Call (303) 239-4119

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](#).