

CSU Extension Local Food Systems



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Welcome to the 27th edition of the CSU Extension Food Systems newsletter. This newsletter is distributed as a way to give our team members and partners 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, including contacts you may have with local media who cover stories on agriculture and food, 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 find old issues at: www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html.

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COLORADO MARKETMAKER

Colorado MarketMaker is CSU Extension and the Colorado Department of Agriculture's preferred 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, and we intend for this to be the first stop for anyone looking for Colorado agriculture and food enterprises.

The newest business spotlight on the Colorado MarketMaker website is the Fort Collins Food Coop. The Fort Collins Food Cooperative is your naturally local grocer's market. Anyone can shop at the Coop--the Coop seeks to serve all those in the Fort Collins community who want to support their local circle of profit through buying locally sourced grocery items.

Check out their [profile on Colorado MarketMaker](#) and for more information browse their website at www.fcfood.coop.

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](#).

CSU FOOD SYSTEMS TEAM

The CSU Food Systems team has had a successful first year under its new goals and work plan, focusing on the continued development of Colorado MarketMaker, the Colorado Building Farmers programs and networks, increasing educational and training resources for food safety that are evolving with the food system, and working with partners on programming that ranges from Farm to School projects, economic development opportunities of new food system innovations, and the increased consumer interest in producing and preserving their own food.

However, we want to stay connected, so please let us know if there are issues of concern to our members and partners that we could address through CSU-based webinars, fact sheets or workshops that we can organize during the 2012-13 program year. Currently, we hope to have new materials for Scaling up your Farm or Business, How to Use Colorado MarketMaker to link with Institutional Buyers, and the Economic Development Implications of Local Foods.

Is there an issue you want to learn more about?

Would you like to work on these webinars or workshops with CSU?

If so, please contact [Dawn Thilmany](#), [Martha Sullins](#) or [Marisa Bunning](#) by August 1, 2012.

COTTAGE FOOD INFORMATION

CSU Extension has posted some new resources pertaining to cottage food business development on: www.cofarmtomarket.com that Extension developed in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These include:

1. [Cottage Food Producer Checklist](#) for use by food producers, farmers' market managers, and ServSafe® Manager Training instructors,
2. [Cottage Food Checklist Guide](#) (instructions for using the Cottage Food Producer Checklist).

We hope that the checklist will help new food businesses better prepare for direct market sales, as well as help farmers' market managers organize the required and recommended information from vendors

proposing cottage food sales in their markets. In the coming months, additional interpretation, guidance and recommendations will be posted to this web site, so check back frequently.

USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT OPPORTUNITY

USDA has recently released a Farm to School grant opportunity as part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. There are two types of grants available: Planning grants (\$20,000-\$45,000) and Implementation grants (\$65,000-\$100,000). The deadline for submitted proposals is **June 15th, 2012**.

This is a great opportunity for schools, producers, and/or community organizations to begin forming a farm to school plan or to expand upon current farm to school efforts. The grant application process, however, is somewhat complicated as it requires numerous federal forms and submission through grants.gov. There are also many great partners across Colorado who may be able to work on the grant application and work plan with you, so contact the [Colorado Farm to School](#) team or CSU if you need some assistance.

The **Farm to School Task Force** has created a spreadsheet tool to help facilitate the process of applying for this grant. It includes instructions, hyperlinks to websites and forms, and step-by-step guidance on what each type of grant application needs to include. There are also scoring calculators for each grant type that can help you estimate whether or not your proposed activities will score well in this competition. Given that the application is intensive, we highly recommend one of your first steps is to use the scoring calculator to help decide whether or not you should apply.

The spreadsheet tool DOES NOT substitute for the Request for Application (RFA) or other supporting materials that can be found at the grants.gov site for this funding opportunity. Rather, the intention is to help you determine if the grant opportunity is a good fit for you/your region/partners and to help organize your tasks for the application.

Below are links to the RFA and the FAQ from USDA:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/pdf/F2S_Grant_RFA_04172012.pdf

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/pdf/F2S_Grant_FAQs_042712.pdf

Grants.gov page to link to this funding opportunity:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=RXJkPtpDp1cMkMrftTtTrvwFQq8T2QvXhNkGvXnkfhRWx9N0GwQ3c!-668392920?oppld=164913&mode=VIEW>

PRESERVE @ HOME ONLINE TRAINING

Colorado State University Extension and the University of Idaho Extension offer **Preserve @ Home** programs to teach individuals how to safely preserve a variety of food products. Participants learn how to produce high quality preserved foods and the science behind food preservation and food safety.

Individuals with little or no previous food preservation experience are welcome. Anyone with an interest in food preservation and food safety can enroll in **Preserve @ Home**.

Registration Cost: \$75 payable to Boulder County Extension

Enrollment & Payment Deadline
June 8, 2012

On-line Course Release/Start Date
June 14, 2012 after 1:00 pm

Chats Thursdays 12:00 – 12:45 pm
June 21st through July 26th

Registration/Enrollment form: <http://www.extension.colostate.edu/boulder/fcs.shtml>.
Click on Preserve @ Home Registration, print registration form and mail with payment by June 8th.

FARMERS' MARKET PRICE REPORTS NOW ONLINE

In April, CSU Extension began collecting price data in farmers' markets around the state, beginning with the first markets to open for the 2012 season. Please check <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/ABM/marketreports.htm> for 2012 direct market prices for fresh produce, meats and some cut flowers. Share this information in your community and encourage producers and others to use it to:

- understand how price points differ by market,
- see what products are available in other markets, and
- plan for future production by better estimating potential revenue from the products grown.

If you have any questions or comments, or know of a market that would like to participate in data collection for this season, please contact [Martha Sullins](#).

WEBINAR ON SCHOOLS IN OUR FOOD SYSTEM

The Colorado Farm to School Project has been working to develop resources and capacity in Colorado that will integrate our food systems more with our schools, their nutrition programs and educational outcomes. The following webinar is the ninth 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).

Beyond the Schoolyard Garden: Use of School Grounds for School and Community Food Production
June 12, 2012
2-3pm (MT)

[Register Now!](#)

Join the webinar to hear from the farmers growing food on school land – from urban metro-Denver to rural mountain valleys. Learn how the land is identified, how the water is secured, how contracts and

MOUs are developed between farmers and school districts, how food safety protocols are developed, and about the funding and financing end of things, too. This and much more will be shared by:

- Sprout City Farms
- Pikes Peak Urban Gardens
- ReVision International
- Agriburbia & LiveWell Chaffee County

Make sure to register before the webinar if you can join in and, if not, check out the Colorado Farm to School Website where they post all past webinars (and recording of this one if you cannot attend).

EMPOWERING WOMEN VETERANS

The USDA Risk Management Agency and the Farmer Veteran Coalition invite all women who have served in the US Armed Forces to participate in an educational symposium for women veterans pursuing careers in food and farming. A diverse group of professional speakers will equip you with the tools to mitigate risk in your agriculture venture. One hundred women will be brought together to make new friends, contacts, and form community. Join us for this unique opportunity to come together as women veterans in business and agriculture.

July 7-8

**UC Davis Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center
Davis, CA 95616**

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- RMA, 5 areas of risk: production, price (market), financial, institutional, personal
- Business structure and farm contracts
- Introduction to Quicken Software with free software
- Loans, Debt & Credit
- Direct Marketing
- Farm Labor

Visit the [farmvetco.org website](http://farmvetco.org), email wvac@farmvetco.org or call 530-756-1395 for more information.

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](#).