

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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THIRTY-SEVENTH EDITION

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Happy Spring and welcome to the 37th edition of the CSU Extension Local Food Systems newsletter! This newsletter is designed to give you up-to-date news and information from around the state and our own CSU Extension organization. Feel free to send in any events and news from your organization and from partners so that we may share them with our readers through this newsletter!

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. The Food Systems work team for CSU Extension is committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues. The distribution of this newsletter is one way to build that network.

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

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## FARM TO FOOD BANK WITH MARKETMAKER

### Georgia Pilots a Program to Help Feed the Hungry

MarketMaker has partnered with Feeding America, the Georgia Food Bank Association, the University of GA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development, and Georgia Grown to bring a unique pilot program for farmers in Georgia to donate wholesome, but unmarketable fruits and vegetables to the hungry.

New MarketMaker technology in Georgia will allow producers to select “I am interested in donating” as a notification preference choice. A farmer can text the type and amount of food they have to donate. A food bank will contact the producer within one business day to arrange pick-up.



The University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development are introducing the new MarketMaker donation platform during winter meetings with Georgia farmers. After the 2013 harvest, these farmers will be asked for feedback that will aid in the design of a farm to food bank model that will available to farmers in all participating MarketMaker states. ***Colorado is being considered as a possible next partner state, so we are excited to see how this develops.***

Phil Jennings IV, co-owner of Nature Crisp vegetable farm in Soperton, GA was the first to take advantage of the new technology. He placed a call and donated 500 heads of lettuce. “Normally we would give excess produce to friends and employees for their families, feed it to livestock, or simply throw it away. My father and I had talked about finding a place to donate the extra food we had on hand, and it was that same week when we were told about the program down in Savannah. Of course we loved the concept and jumped onboard,” said Jennings.

## CSU STUDY REVEALS OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

A newly released Colorado State University study reveals linkages that tie Colorado’s agriculture industry together, and provides an opportunity to build bridges between the different commodities and communities that make up Colorado agriculture, including the food, beverage and green industries.

"The Value Chain of Colorado Agriculture" is a joint project funded by CSU's Office of Engagement and the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The study maps the economic relationships among the various sectors of Colorado's agricultural industry, which is one of the largest contributors to the state's economy. Five broad segments were included in the study: agricultural inputs; primary agricultural production; agricultural output marketing, processing and manufacturing; wholesaling; and retailing. In all, more than 125 distinct economic activities, sub-sectors and industries were tied to the value chain.

Results of the value chain can aid with strategic decision-making on issues ranging from workforce to natural resources to regulatory policies. In the end, the study is designed to promote additional conversations that can result in calculated investments and innovative solutions for Colorado agriculture. CSU Extension personnel are being asked to partner with the Office of Engagement in helping deliver key messages to their regions and stakeholder groups, and a series of outreach meetings with various agricultural interests around Colorado are being planned. For more information, contact Jim Beers at (970) 491-2332.

The complete study and related documents are available at [www.outreach.colostate.edu](http://www.outreach.colostate.edu).

## COLORADO SPECIALTY CROP FUNDING

Colorado specialty crops range from perennial favorites like potatoes and onions to exciting innovators such as lavender and hops. To help develop and promote the state's specialty crops, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is seeking proposals for the *Specialty Crops Block Grant Program*. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, and nursery crops including floriculture and sod.

The grant program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is intended to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition. The CDA anticipates that approximately \$640,000 will be available, with approved projects starting early in 2014. Producer groups, organizations, and associations, as well as state and local organizations, academia and other specialty crops stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts. Proposals submitted by individual producers must demonstrate that the potential impact of the project will accrue to a broader group of similar producers, region or industry segment.

Proposals must be received by close of business (4:30pm) on May 1, 2013. For more information and an application, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/specialtycropgrant) or call 303-239-4123.

## COLORADO FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The CFMA Annual Meeting will be held April 5-6 in Colorado Springs. This meeting is an invaluable learning opportunity where you'll hear updates from state specialists, network with market managers, share best practices, learn new skills, and have a voice in shaping CFMA initiatives.

Friday will consist of a farm tour of the historic Venetucci Farm, presentations on local food issues in the Pikes Peak Region, and a meet-and-greet and social hour for attendees. Saturday's meeting will be held at Colorado College, and includes a full lineup of presenters discussing important issues

framing the upcoming market season.

Please see the [agenda](#) for location maps and details for the topics covered in this year's annual meeting. Register at <http://coloradofarmers.org/annualmeeting.htm>.

## SNAP: GET IT AT YOUR MARKET NOW

CFMA continues to support farmers' market efforts to be available to anyone, regardless of income. 2012 was a fruitful year and CFMA will continue to build food access programs in the marketplace in 2013. Last year CFMA received a grant from Share Our Strength to help markets:

- 1) apply for certification to be a SNAP vendor,
- 2) receive SNAP equipment, and
- 3) implement SNAP in the marketplace.

CFMA acknowledges support from several organizations in the anti-hunger community (government and non-profit), Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and the many farmers' markets whose efforts helped grow the number of farmers' markets offering SNAP in Colorado to increase by 19% last summer! Several farmers' markets received new equipment and had their monthly service costs paid for courtesy of the Colorado SNAP office and the USDA. CFMA received marketing support via CSU Extension's SNAP Nutrition Education Program, and Hunger Free Colorado, which helped low-income customers learn about food stamp benefits at farmers' markets across the state.

Specific opportunities for improving SNAP participation and increasing awareness of the opportunities for shopping at direct markets can be found in the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council's 2013 report on the [CO Food Systems Advisory Council website](#). If you would like more information about becoming a SNAP vendor, improving SNAP redemption, or the CO Food Systems Advisory Council, please contact Cindy Torres, CFMA Food Access Coordinator, at [cindy@coloradofarmers.org](mailto:cindy@coloradofarmers.org).

## GAPS FOOD SAFETY FIELD DAY

Join Berry Patch Farms (Brighton), CSU Extension food safety specialists, the Colorado Department of Agriculture Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service, CDA Organics Program, and others for a food safety field day on April 10, 2013 from 9am-12pm. We will discuss several current issues including:

- Recommended growing and harvesting practices for leafy greens, melons, and berries,
- Safe food marketing techniques (display, sampling, customer management), and
- Strategies for researching your own food safety questions.

Attendees may submit their own on-farm food safety questions via email (with photos, if possible) before the event. Participation is limited to 30, and the cost is \$15 per attendee or \$25 for two people from the same business. RSVP by March 29 to Martha Sullins ([martha.sullins@colostate.edu](mailto:martha.sullins@colostate.edu), 970.498.6006) with questions or to reserve a space.

## CSA WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR CHEYENNE

A workshop on starting a Community Supported Agriculture venture is planned for April 12 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a popular way for

consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. The concept is that a consumer purchases a “share” of the farm production, then, through the production season, gets a box of vegetables (and maybe other farm products) every week.

The workshop will introduce the concept and present ways to make it work in Wyoming. Insights from the 19 CSAs in Wyoming help form the basis for a new manual on CSA operation that will be available at the workshop. The workshop is organized by UW Extension and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The event will start at 9am Friday, April 12, and go to 4:30, at the Laramie County Extension Office, 310 West 19th Street in Cheyenne, Wyo. Lunch will be provided.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. To reserve a spot in the workshop, contact Catherine Wissner at [\(307\) 633-4383](tel:(307)633-4383) or [cwissner@uwyo.edu](mailto:cwissner@uwyo.edu).

## PAID INTERNSHIP: CENTRAL COLORADO FOODSHED ALLIANCE

The Central Colorado Foodshed Alliance is looking for a summer intern (paid position) to serve as the Assistant Farmers Market Manager. The stipend will be \$2100 for undergraduates or \$2500 for graduate students. For more information, students may contact Julie Hodges, Ogallala Commons Education Coordinator, at [806-445-6075](tel:806-445-6075) or email [juliehodges@prairieworkshop.com](mailto:juliehodges@prairieworkshop.com).

## GUNNISON VALLEY FARM-TO-TABLE CONFERENCE

Gunnison's first gathering of all local food industry sectors will be held April 8-9 and is presented by Western State Colorado University's Center for Environmental Studies and Business, Accounting, and Economics Department, Gunnison, Colorado. It will feature keynote speakers, local food producers, restaurateurs, food system experts and leaders. Connections will be built through conversations and will provide direction for the next steps towards a more vibrant local food economy in Gunnison Valley. See the [schedule here](#).

For more information contact Michael Vieregge ([mvieregge@western.edu](mailto:mvieregge@western.edu)) or Jonathan Coop ([jcoop@western.edu](mailto:jcoop@western.edu)).

## WHOLE FOODS ANNOUNCES SALAD BAR NATION

Whole Kids Foundation, a part of Austin, Texas-based Whole Foods Market Inc., is launching Salad Bar Nation, a public awareness and fundraising campaign committed to improving U.S. nutrition by challenging Americans to eat a salad every day.



In cooperation with the Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools program, the campaign plans to provide daily salads for up to 1 million school children by funding 2,013 salad bars throughout the U.S., according to a news release. In addition to an initial \$1.5 million company pledge, Whole Foods plans

to fund salad bars in more than 570 schools by raising \$5 million via text-to-give and online fundraising efforts, according to the release. The program expects to fund salad bars in all schools in Anchorage, Alaska, Clarksville, Tenn., and **Douglas County, Colo.**, in the Denver metropolitan area.

Those wishing to contribute can donate by texting the word “salad” to 56512.

## **WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**

The 4th National Women in Sustainable Ag Conference: Cultivating Our Food, Farms and Future will be held November 6-8, 2013 in Des Moines, IA and is hosted by the Women, Food & Agriculture Network. Presenters are invited to submit proposals for the following tracks:

- Cultivating our Food/Fiber (production-related topics);
- Cultivating our Farms (management, human relations and farm transfer topics); and
- Cultivating our Future (leadership, network development and policy topics).

Proposals are encouraged from farmers, educators, activists and agricultural professionals involved in sustainable agriculture. Women engaged in developing healthy, locally based food systems are the target audience. They anticipate offering a variety of learning opportunities including workshops, discussion panels, and round table sessions. Participatory formats are always encouraged.

Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2013. To submit a proposal go to:

[http://www.wfan.org/2013\\_national\\_conf\\_proposal\\_form.html](http://www.wfan.org/2013_national_conf_proposal_form.html). For more information on the conference and submissions visit [http://www.wfan.org/2013\\_National\\_Conference.html](http://www.wfan.org/2013_National_Conference.html).

## **PLANNING FOR FOOD ACCESS**

The American Planning Association released a report entitled, “Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans”.

Disparities in food access are influenced by geographic, economic, and social factors, but also by a community's food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste recovery policies and practices. Food access is not simply a health issue but also a community development and equity issue. For this reason, access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is a key component not only in a healthy, sustainable local food system, but also in a healthy, sustainable community.

There are many tools a local government can use to address complicated societal issues, such as food access, and plan for the future of a community. Municipal and county planning departments prepare a variety of plans to assess and address challenges in areas ranging from housing and economic development to land use and transportation. Food access and other food system issues, however, are often missing from local planning processes.

The comprehensive plan is a leading policy tool with legal significance and the sustainability plan is an emerging and innovative policy tool with promising influence on local government sustainability actions. Both types of plans are increasingly addressing food access and other food systems issues as

important plan components.

Access the full report at <http://www.planning.org/research/foodaccess/pdf/foodaccessreport.pdf>.

## COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS & ROADMAPS

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have built a tool, "County Health Rankings & Roadmaps," to help communities create solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their own communities, focusing on specific factors that we know affect health, such as education and income. The County Health Rankings illustrate what we know when it comes to what's making people sick or healthy. The County Health Roadmaps show what we can do to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play.

The data contain the ranks and scores for each county in Colorado, as well as the measures used in calculating the 2013 County Health Rankings. Details include demographics, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. These data can be very helpful in developing grant proposals and applications.

For additional information about how the County Health Rankings are calculated, please visit [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

## COMMUNITY & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM WEBINARS

There are two upcoming webinars, co-sponsored by the Community and Regional Food Systems Project and the eXtension Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems Community of Practice, that focus on the role of policy - at municipal, state, and federal levels - in building and sustaining community food systems.

1. [Why the 2013 Farm Bill and Federal Funding Matter to Community Food Systems](#) on Wednesday, April 3, 2013; 2:00 p.m. CT: learn why the 2013 Farm Bill, the budget, and appropriations are important to your work. Learn about what the current timelines for Farm Bill action appear to be and how you can easily get involved without committing time we know you don't have.
2. [Grantwriting and Using Federal Programs to Build Community Food Systems](#) on Wednesday, May 1, 2:00 p.m. CT: hear two experienced grant writers discuss how to succeed at using federal programs to support your work. This one-hour webinar is an introduction to finding federal grant opportunities and designing a project. The workshop will be followed up with opportunities to participate in more informal web-sessions to discuss proposal writing.

Connect to these webinars at <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/clrfs>.

## HOW TO FIND A FOOD DESERT NEAR YOU

The USDA continues to help illustrate the disparities in food access in the US, including a new map that shows food deserts throughout the US. This new [Food Access Research Atlas](#) lets you find out just where it's difficult to buy fresh produce in counties across the U.S. The atlas, which is a significant upgrade from the USDA's 2-year-old [Food Desert Locator](#), is intended as a tool for state policymakers,

local planners and nonprofit groups concerned about food access.

## 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 [Ashley Colpaart](#).

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