

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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THIRTY-EIGHTH EDITION

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Happy Spring and welcome to the 38th 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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## NEW PARTNERS IN MARKETMAKER

As a new National MarketMaker initiative, Food Banks are now invited to have profiles within the

MarketMaker system. We realize many food producers already have rich relationships with these groups and may want to connect within the MarketMaker platform.

Feeding Colorado (<http://www.feedingcolorado.org/>) is our consortium of food assistance organizations in Colorado and is already present in Colorado MarketMaker. The group is meeting in Fort Collins in early May to plan for improving partnerships with the agricultural sector to secure quality foods for their clientele. Watch for updates from these partners in the near future, and be sure to look for their profiles in MarketMaker.



## MARKETMAKER UPDATE

Businesses registered with Colorado MarketMaker can now log in to their accounts and send email messages to their Business Connections by clicking on "My Connections." We highly encourage you to update your profile as this is meant to highlight the growing network and linkages within the food system.

Below is a screenshot as it looks in a business's account. If a business does not want to remain connected to another business, they have the option of deleting that connection in their account.



## PUEBLO FOOD ASSESSMENT OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

"Your Markets, Your Land, Your Health" -- Colorado State University's Department of Ag and Resource Economics, CSU Extension and WPM Consulting are collaborating with the Pueblo City-County Health Department to conduct a food system assessment for the Department's Health Disparities Program. The project runs from January through September, and the team is holding two public open house meetings on May 1, 2013 to discuss food access, use, and availability issues in Pueblo County.

Both meetings will be held at 101 W. 9th Street in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Health Department. Choose to attend from 1:00-3:00 p.m. or 5:00-7:00 p.m. To attend, please RSVP by April 29th to Christina Hopewell at 719-583-4481, or by email at [hopewellc@co.pueblo.co.us](mailto:hopewellc@co.pueblo.co.us).

## FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT Q&A SESSIONS

To increase understanding of the Food Safety Modernization Act, FDA is conducting question and answer sessions, open to the public, on specific subjects. The live sessions are recorded and posted on the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) website for review at <http://tinyurl.com/FSMA-questions>.

These upcoming sessions are all scheduled for 11 a.m. Eastern time. Dates and topics are:

- May 3: Domestic & Wild Animals;
- May 6: Growing, Harvesting, Packing & Holding Activities;
- May 8: Equipment, Tools, Buildings & Sanitation;
- May 10: Health, Hygiene, & Training of Workers; and
- May 13: Recordkeeping, Compliance & Enforcement.

Previous sessions available on the PSA website include: 1) covered exemptions to the act, 2) agricultural water and 3) soil amendments.

### Call-in Information and Instructions for Upcoming Sessions

To participate in the teleconferences, dial the toll-free number below 5 minutes prior to the presentation. No registration is required. All participants will be placed on mute upon entering the conference; however, the Q & A will be moderated by an operator who will provide instructions for how to ask questions using your telephone and individually unmute the lines of those who have questions. Call into the teleconference 5 minutes prior to the event to ensure that all participants are available to receive instructions for the Q & A process at the beginning.

\*Dial toll-free: [866-906-9888](tel:866-906-9888)

\*Enter passcode: 8140591

\*These numbers will remain the same for ALL scheduled Q & A sessions.

## FINAL REMINDER: AG CENSUS

Farmers and ranchers across the U.S. have received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) five-year agriculture census form. According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the census is a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches of all shapes and sizes, as well as the people who operate them, and an important instrument in helping shape U.S. agriculture policy in the years ahead. The data are often used by legislators when shaping farm policy, and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts. Completed forms were due to the USDA by February 4, 2013, but USDA will still accept your form!

This is a **final reminder** to **SEND IN** your ag census form. For more information visit: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.php>.

## USDA CALLS FOR ONE MILLION MORE SUMMER MEALS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking for help to serve 5 million more meals to children this summer than last. In 2012, USDA's Summer Food Service Program partners served 144 million summer meals at 38,800 sites, to about 2.3 million children daily.

USDA is offering technical assistance to expand the program's reach in five states with high levels of food insecurity or low past participation rates. They are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Rhode Island and Virginia. Arkansas, Colorado and Virginia are also targeted by USDA's StrikeForce, an initiative to improve life quality and boost economic growth in high-poverty rural areas.

[Information](#) on becoming a program sponsor or site is online. To find an existing site, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE.

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems and the Union of Concerned Scientists cordially invite you to a public webinar:

"Economic Analysis of Local and Regional Food Systems: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead" on Monday, May 20th – from 3:00 to 4:30 pm EST.

To address the current state and future direction of economic analysis with regard to local and regional food systems, Michigan State University's Center for Regional Food Systems and the Union of Concerned Scientists' Food & Environment Program convened a meeting of a group of economists and local food researchers on January 31 and February 1, 2013. This webinar will provide a brief synopsis of the meeting outcomes, with a focus on questions one should consider when conducting or commissioning a study on the economic impacts of local and regional food systems. There will be adequate opportunity for participants to weigh in with comments and questions to continue to inform the discussion on future economic impact studies of local and regional food commerce.

To participate in the webinar, go to: <https://connect.msu.edu/richpirog>. If you have never attended an Adobe Connect webinar meeting before, please test your connection in advance by going to the link below. You may need to download a small, harmless plug-in and update your version of flash player.

[https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm). The webinar will be recorded for those who are not able to participate on May 20th. For additional information please contact:

Rich Pirog – Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems  
[rspirog@msu.edu](mailto:rspirog@msu.edu)

Jeff O'Hara – Union of Concerned Scientists  
[johara@ucsusa.org](mailto:johara@ucsusa.org)

## CENTENNIAL FARMS AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Colorado Historical Society is seeking Colorado Centennial Farms nominations for 2013. Families who have owned and operated their farm or ranch for 100 years or more are encouraged to submit a nomination to receive a Colorado Centennial Farms award. Selected nominees will be honored at the 27th Annual Centennial Farms Celebration at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colo., in August 2013.

Farmers and ranchers nominating their property for this award must submit an application providing

information about the history of their farm and its buildings by close of business on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. Nominees must meet the following requirements to be honored as a Colorado Centennial Farm: Farming or ranching properties must have remained in the same family continuously for at least 100 years.

- Each property must still operate as a working farm or ranch
- Farms or ranches must have a minimum of 160 acres
- Properties with fewer than 160 acres can qualify if they gross at least \$1,000 in annual sales

For more information, download a Colorado Centennial Farms application at <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/centennial-farms>, or call Lyle Miller at (303) 866-2779.

## WESTERN SARE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education has posted a Call for Proposals. These include:

- \* Research and Education
- \* Farmer/Rancher
- \* Professional Development Program
- \* Professional + Producer
- \* Graduate Student Research & Education

Descriptions of each type of grant, with a link to the specific application, can be found at [westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants](http://westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants). There are also instructions for the on-line application process. CSU Extension personnel are quite commonly partners on grants for these programs. Please call the office at [\(435\) 797-2257](tel:4357972257) for a hard copy of the application.

## LOCO FOODS FALL TRADESHOW

Inviting all chefs, grocers, restaurant managers, institutional buyers and other wholesale purchasers from around the Front Range:

Tuesday October 15  
8:30am – 12noon  
Mile High Station  
I-25 & Colfax in Denver

Watch for registration details coming soon at [www.LoCoFoodDistribution.com/tradeshow](http://www.LoCoFoodDistribution.com/tradeshow) or contact the Fort Collins Office at 970-493-FOOD (3663).

## 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.

Presentations are invited 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. This conference will offer 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 proposals 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).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The 10<sup>th</sup> Colorado Brownfields Conference, "The Future is Now" will be held April 30 & May 1, 2013 at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel.

Conference sessions include:

1. Emerging trends (Fracking – Questions, Answers, and the Unknown; Renewable Energy on Contaminated Sites; The Business of Urban Agriculture; Colorado Economic & Demographic Outlook; Brownfield Innovations Across the Nation; Recent Developments in Environmental Due Diligence)
2. Site reuse (South Platte River Corridor Redevelopment Project; West Haymarket Rail Yard Project; Urban Redevelopment; Rural Revitalization; Historic Preservation 101; Make Your Market - Real Estate Update & How to Leverage Opportunities with Brownfields Funding; Construction Surprises – How NOT to Get Bit!; Brownfields 101)
3. Funding (Financing Roundtables; Creative Funding Solutions for Capital Projects; Public/Private Partnerships; Project Funding For Cost Recovery)

Continuing Education Credits: Legal/CLE (12 hrs approved), Real Estate (10 hrs approved), American Planning Association-CM (pending), Appraisal (pending). For more information, see: [www.ColoradoBrownfields.org](http://www.ColoradoBrownfields.org).

## 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](#).