

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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THIRTY-NINTH EDITION

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Welcome to the 39th 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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## COLORADO MARKETMAKER

One of our highlighted businesses this month is the Fort Collins Food Cooperative. The Coop seeks to serve the Fort Collins community and those who want to buy locally sourced grocery items. They are conducting a membership drive to grow their presence in the Fort Collins and Northern Colorado community. When food businesses have similar initiatives to promote, it is a great time to feature them in MarketMaker.



This is also a great time of year to explore all the farmers' market listings on MarketMaker, and make a point of visiting your local markets, meeting the vendors, and learning about food security, entrepreneurial development and other community-based programs that may be growing from your local markets.

If you know of businesses that have a profile in MarketMaker and have a new product, service or event to promote, encourage them to contact Becky Goldbach, [Becky.Goldbach@ColoState.EDU](mailto:Becky.Goldbach@ColoState.EDU), to create a Business Spotlight form.

If you have a business listed in Colorado MarketMaker, remember to update your profile whenever your products, services or contact information changes!

Martha Sullins, from the Colorado MarketMaker team, traveled to the National Value Added Agriculture conference in Arkansas during May to meet with the national MarketMaker team, learn about new innovations from other state partners and give feedback on new features and programs that are being considered. Key conference highlights include MarketMaker innovations in:

- Creating a new platform to help employers meet their agricultural labor needs (Iowa);
- Developing food hubs (Ohio);
- Leveraging community-based organizations to increase donations to food banks (New York); and
- Rapidly connecting agricultural producers to food banks to streamline donations (Georgia).

Check the [National MarketMaker](#) site for updates in the coming months!

## 2012 CUSTOM RATES SURVEY

Colorado State University Extension annually conducts a survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado. Information is collected from agricultural producers, land owners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents.

Custom rates most commonly reported for 2012 were generally similar to those charged in 2011. Increases in charged rates are noted for certain operations pertaining to hay and silage harvesting, grain harvesting, and grape pruning and picking. Reported labor costs generally increased from 2011 to 2012.

To access the report visit the ABM web site: <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/ABM/>.

## FREE EBT MACHINES FOR FARMERS TO REDEEM SNAP BENEFITS

Growing Colorado agricultural products is essential for creating and sustaining healthy communities - both nutritionally and economically. Providing an EBT machine at farmers' markets is one way to do this; people can redeem SNAP benefits to purchase produce, helping to put food on the table, *and* support Colorado producers. USDA, Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU), Colorado State University Extension, and Hunger Free Colorado have joined together to help direct market farmers receive *free* wireless EBT terminals to increase SNAP redemption at farmers' markets.

To find out more, see the [EBT Fact Sheet](#), [2013 FNS Application Guide](#), [Farmers How-To Handbook](#), and [Frequently Asked Questions Regarding EBT Grant Funds](#). Or [register here to redeem SNAP benefits](#). For additional application assistance, call Hunger Free Colorado's Hunger Free Hotline at 1-855-855-4626 (available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm), or contact Bill Stevenson of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union at 303-283-3549.

**Apply to be FNS certified by June 14**--applications are being approved on a first come, first served basis! Check [www.ext.colostate.edu/ag/snap](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ag/snap) for updates and additional resources.

## COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION WEBINAR

Please join LiveWell Colorado on Thursday June 13th, 1-2 pm for a webinar showcasing a variety of gardening projects (backyard, community, communal, landscape) to discuss how they meet neighborhood food needs and address food security; transfer and build knowledge & capacity; and remain sustainable.

Presenters include:

- Wendy Peters Moschetti, WPM Consulting, LLC
- Shannon Spurlock, Community Initiatives Coordinator, Denver Urban Gardens
- Eric Kornacki, Executive Director, ReVision International

Click [here](#) to register.

## 2013 COLORADO LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The Colorado Livestock and Colorado Cattlemen's Joint Convention "*Growing for our future*" will be held June 17-19 in Breckenridge, CO.

Sessions include:

- Sustainability: The Triple Bottom Line (Economy, Environment & Society)
- Balancing Family Expectations with Business Needs
- Developing a Business Culture for Societal Expectations

Visit <http://www.coloradolivestock.org/convention> for more information.

## BUILDING FARMERS IN THE WEST HOSTS PARTNER STATES IN FORT COLLINS

In early May, the Colorado Building Farmers team hosted partners from Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming in Fort Collins for a networking and training event for all those who will coordinate and participate in producer-targeted programs over the next two years.

To learn more about Building Farmers and the partners involved, visit:

<http://buildingfarmers.colostate.edu/>.



Sessions at the May Train the Trainers conference included:

- Best practices and keys to success to assure programs are effective and responsive to local needs
- Best of...presentations from some of our key producer-educators in Colorado on topics ranging from recordkeeping to marketing
- Brainstorming on 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses in estate planning, legal, risk, labor and leadership in your growing business.

2013 will be a busy year, with new programs being established in different regions of Colorado and our neighboring states. If you are in a region that has the capacity and partners to conduct Building Farmers programs, please contact Becky Goldbach at [Becky.Goldbach@ColoState.EDU](mailto:Becky.Goldbach@ColoState.EDU) to express your interest to the team.

## NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM INTEGRATING CLASSROOM AND FIELD LEARNING

University of Colorado Denver students are exploring how global and local models of agricultural production feed the planet through a new sustainable agriculture program. The students get hands-on study and research opportunities at a 13-acre urban farm—Five Fridges Farm in Wheat Ridge—that was first settled by Ernestine and Walt Williams in the early 20th century. Five Fridges is also the home of Amanda Weaver, a geography instructor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences. Weaver is coordinator of the four-class certificate program in Food Systems and Sustainable Urban Agriculture.

To find out more about Five Fridges Farm, see

[http://www.5fridgesfarm.com/Five\\_Fridges\\_Farm.html](http://www.5fridgesfarm.com/Five_Fridges_Farm.html). To learn more about UC Denver's certificate program, see their [graduate certificate program in urban infrastructure](#).

## WESTERN SARE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education has posted a call for proposals. Those grants that are still open include:

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

Descriptions of each type of grant, with a link to the specific application, can be found

at <http://www.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.

## CSU INITIATES FIRST AG AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS HALL OF FAME

Many of the Food Systems initiatives from this team are anchored in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at CSU. This department inducted two alumni and one emeritus into the Hall of Fame on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in front of over 100 alumni. The first class of inductees included:

- Former **Colorado Supreme Court Justice Bill Neighbors**, a 1961 graduate in agricultural economics. He served on the Colorado Supreme Court from 1983-1986. He has subsequently remained active in mediation and teaching law in the Denver area.
- **Dr. Jim H. Lewis**, served on the faculty in Economics from 1961 to 1983, and then as a faculty member in Agricultural and Resource Economics from 1983 until his retirement in 1989. He won several awards as a teacher while at Colorado State University, but his greatest legacy has been in the many students he mentored during his time as a faculty member.
- Former **Governor Roy R. Romer**, a 1950 graduate in agricultural economics. He served as Commissioner of Agriculture. Governor Romer then served as State Treasurer from 1977 to 1987, when he was elected Colorado's 39th governor. After serving three terms as governor (1987-1999), he spent five years as Superintendent of the Los Angeles School District.

It is always great to see the impact the CSU alumni have on our state...and beyond!

## 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

Past trade shows have provided a great opportunity for buyers to get to know local food companies and their products....and for local food companies to showcase their products to a wide variety of buyers (restaurants, retailers, and other institutional buyers).

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).

## 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](#).