

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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Happy New Year! Welcome to the 46<sup>th</sup> issue of the CSU Extension Local Food Systems newsletter, and the first edition of 2014. 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, events and programs 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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## TRAINING: CERTIFIED FARM SUCCESSION COORDINATOR

Guidestone will host a Certified Farm Succession Coordinator Training (CFSCT) this Spring. The International Farming Transition Network (IFTN) is offering this training for individuals interested in becoming a Certified Farm Succession Coordinator. This new training is offered specifically for agricultural professionals, service providers, and organizational leaders who work with retiring farmers and ranchers on farm transfer issues.

When: March 4-6, 2014

Where: Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort

### 2nd Annual Colorado Land Link Forum

After the Farm Succession Coordinator Training, participants will have the opportunity to stay for the 2nd Annual Colorado Land Link Forum and network with potential clients, including retiring farmers, ranchers, and other landholders. More information, including registration for both events and forthcoming agendas is available at [www.guidestonecolorado.org](http://www.guidestonecolorado.org).

## TRAINING: TOOLS FOR IMPROVING ON FARM FOOD SAFETY

Save the Date! CSU Extension will be offering two workshops for produce growers this spring:

February 26, Adams County Fairgrounds

March 12, Montrose County Fairgrounds

Agenda includes:

- Assessing worker practices & developing a training program for your workforce;
- Water sampling: how and when to take water samples, how to read water test results, & developing a management plan based on test results;
- Developing and implementing cleaning and sanitizing procedures for tools and equipment;
- Developing a product traceability, recall and communication plan for diverse supply chains; and
- Recordkeeping and budgeting.

Contact Martha Sullins, [martha.sullins@colostate.edu](mailto:martha.sullins@colostate.edu), or 970-498-6006 for additional information.

## POSITION OPEN: NYFC WESTERN PROJECT COORDINATOR

### Part-Time Western Project Coordinator-Agricultural Water Conservation Education & Outreach

The part-time Western Project Coordinator will be brought on to manage NYFC's Agricultural Water Conservation Education and Outreach project through January 2015. This project will generate farmer-to-farmer exchange across the West surrounding best-practices for agricultural water efficiency and conservation in arid regions. The project will culminate in a multi-day farm tour with 15-20 western farmers examining implementation of irrigation efficiency improvements across operation types, experience levels, generations and geographies, and will address management of conserved water.

This is a project-specific, part-time position for a one-year term which may be undertaken while maintaining existing work. [Download the complete job posting](#) for position details and qualifications. To apply, submit resume, cover letter and contacts for three references to [kate@youngfarmers.org](mailto:kate@youngfarmers.org) by January 22nd.

## COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE UPDATES

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force was created to “study, develop, and recommend policies and methods to best implement a Farm to School program.”

Colorado Farm to School Task [Intensive Technical Assistance \(ITA\) Workshops](#)

When: January 30, 2014 from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (MST)

Where: Odell Brewing Company, Fort Collins, CO

For more information or to register [click here](#).

Schedule includes:

- Larimer Local Happenings
- Evaluation Toolkit Workshop—Part I (second half presented after lunch)
- Evaluation Toolkit Workshop—Part II
- School Garden Workshop: Utilizing the school garden to foster a healthy relationship between children and food.

The Task Force meets quarterly throughout the state four times a year. The next FTS Task Force quarterly meeting will be in Pueblo on February 25, 1-5pm. For more information [click here](#).

## SNAP-ED NUTRITION THROUGH THE SEASONS

SNAP-Ed Connection recently launched a redesigned “Nutrition Through the Seasons.” [Nutrition Through the Seasons](#) highlights seasonal nutrition education materials for educators, practitioners, and consumers. You can use Nutrition Through the Seasons to learn more about seasonal eating and access information about seasonal topics, such as food preservation and indoor physical activity.

[Nutrition through the Seasons](#) also includes a seasonal produce guide, which categorizes common fruits and vegetables by season, and provides shopping, storage and preparation tips, recipes, and activities for over 50 fruits and vegetables.

## COLORADO 2ND ANNUAL LOCAL FOOD SUMMIT

Join the Mile High Business Alliance on Monday, March 3rd for their [2nd Annual Local Food Summit](#) -- Denver's largest gathering of local food producers, manufacturers, growers, retailers, and restaurateurs. This conference-style event will provide industry-specific opportunities for engagement, community-building, education, and problem-solving.

When: March 3, 2014

Where: McNichols Building, 144 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO

Exhibitor spaces available now at: <https://milehighbiz.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=13>.

## CONFERENCE: COLORADO PASSION FOR FOOD

The Passion for Food [conference](#) will focus on the art of food, from backyard vegetables to cheese making. This event offers great educational opportunities for urban and backyard growers, as well as small acreage landowners. The program will include presentations on Dairy Goats, Bee Keeping, Organic Insect Management, Bread Making, Weed Management, Growing Your Own Salad Year Round, and Garden Soil Basics. The program features keynote speaker, Reagan Waskom, discussing Colorado's Water Overview.

[Colorado Passion for Food Conference](#)

When: Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Where: McKee 4-H Building; The Ranch in Loveland, CO

Product exhibitors and sponsors are available at both commercial and non-profit vendor prices. Space is limited so please respond by January 31, 2014. Contact Jennifer Cook (303.659.7004 x 3) or ([Jennifer.cook@colostate.edu](mailto:Jennifer.cook@colostate.edu)) for information on booths and sponsorships.

## CONFERENCE: 13TH ANNUAL NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH

### **Building Safe, Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Communities**

This conference will explore practical strategies for identifying and over-coming barriers to more sustainable development in the Rockies and the rest of the nation. Today, we are faced with economic, environmental and social challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart-growth solutions that will create a more vibrant economy, assure a healthy population, foster more equitable development, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans.

When: February 13-15, 2014

Where: Hyatt Regency, Denver, Colorado

Register at [NewPartners.org](http://NewPartners.org)

Related Sessions on Food Access and Healthy Communities:

- Morning Plenary – Smart Growth: A Prescription for Healthy Communities and Vibrant Economies
- When Food Deserts Become Just Desserts
- Smart Recipes for Smart Growth: Increasing Healthy Access and Local
- Growing Food Connections for Sustainable Communities
- From the Roots to the Rooftop: Bringing Healthy Food to Denver’s Communities
- Healthy Living by Design: Creating a Culturally Vibrant and Distinctive Westwood

**Pre-Conference Workshop:**

**Advancing Healthy, Equitable Food Systems: Building Capacity, Partnerships and Resources**

This half-day workshop will explore local and regional food systems through the lens of smart growth. Learn more about building the capacity of local governments to engage in food system development, including strategies for environmental and policy change at the local and regional level. Community organizations, planners, local elected officials and businesses will share how they’re forging partnerships and identifying resources to increase access to healthy, affordable food for all while also creating economic opportunities and promoting responsible land use.

Take away inspiration from innovative models and practical guidance about the process, tools, funding, resources and, ultimately, implementation that can support work in your own communities.

When: February 12, 2014, 1:00-5:30 PM

For more information, click [here](#).

## GOVERNOR’S FORUM ON COLORADO AGRICULTURE

Governor John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado State University are proud to present the 23rd annual Governor’s Forum on Colorado Agriculture.

When: February 27, 2014

Where: Renaissance Denver Hotel

Registration is open at: <http://www.governorsagforum.com/registration.html>.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION INSTITUTE

The Western Rural Development Center is excited to present the Community Development Extension Institute in Boise, designed for practitioners in not-for-profit organizations, private consulting firms, cooperative extension, and state, regional, and local governments throughout the western U.S. who have a community development component to their work.

The Institute offers two days of training, best practices, three keynote sessions, a Resource Fair, and networking opportunities.

When: February 26-28, 2014

Where: Grove Hotel – Downtown Boise

Registration is now open [here](#).

Early bird registration is \$199, and expires January 25. The regular rate is \$275.

## FOOD SYSTEMS JOURNAL

The [\*Food Systems Journal\*](#) is published by the Food Systems Development Project, a program of the [Center for Transformative Action](#), a nonprofit organization affiliated with Cornell University. It publishes four issues a year and is online only.....Colorado organizations and food system leaders should consider highlighting their research, programs and materials in this outlet.

The [\*Food Systems Journal\*](#) was founded in 2010 to fill the gap in the applied research literature on farming and food systems–based community development, such as regional food value chains, urban food systems, farmland protection, and food sovereignty. Authors include scholars across many academic fields, as well as food systems development practitioners such as educators, activists, and nonprofit and public agency staff. For more information on the *Food Systems Journal*, the Food Systems Development Project, the Center for Transformative Action, and the journal’s four sponsors, go [here](#).

## REPORT: GROWING FARM TO HOSPITAL

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) has just finished a two-year assessment of the current and potential health care food markets for North Central region sustainable farmers. They collaborated with three health systems (Fairview Health Services, Hudson Hospital and Clinics, and the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota) and an advisory committee of farmers, hospital representatives and food systems experts to gather and analyze data to provide insights into opportunities for and roadblocks to hospital sourcing of more local, sustainably produced food.

See both their [Hospital-](#) and [Farmer-Focused](#) Farm to Hospital reports, and all associated toolkits on [www.iatp.org/farm-to-hospital](http://www.iatp.org/farm-to-hospital).

## WEBINARS: COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS SERIES

**Connecting with Federal and State Resources: Does my Project or Program Fit Grant Priorities?**

Thursday, January 23, 2014 1:00—2:00pm MST

There are a number of USDA and other grants and programs intended to support the development, growth or new initiatives of local food system stakeholders. This webinar is intended to bridge the gap of knowing where to find these programs and determining if they are a good "fit" for the work you do

with enterprises or organizations. Panelists will cover key programs and the types of projects that have been successfully implemented. Register [here](#) for this upcoming webinar.

### **Increasing Fresh, Healthy Options in Early Childhood Settings**

Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:00—2:00pm MST

Along with efforts to strengthen school nutrition standards and successful programs such as Farm to School, increasing focus is placed on improving the nutritional quality of foods provided in early childcare settings. In this webinar, childcare providers as well as community organizations will discuss how they have integrated gardens, local foods, scratch cooking, and other nutrition programs with the children in their centers. Presenters will discuss resources and models applicable to early child care settings across the state. Register [here](#) for this webinar.

## **WEBINARS: WINTER SERIES FROM FARM COMMONS**

The nonprofit organization, Farm Commons, is hosting eight different free webinars this winter on a variety of legal issues faced by farmers who sell direct to consumers. Registration is now open for all webinars at ([www.farmcommons.org/webinars](http://www.farmcommons.org/webinars)). Webinars are offered through a platform that does not require any additional software or downloads, and those without an internet connection will be able to listen to the presentation over the phone.

### **Hosting On-farm Events-** January 13, 2014, 6pm CST

On-farm events are a great way to build support in the community. Make sure your farm isn't left with the short end of the stick after a good-intentioned event goes bad. From zoning compliance to guest injuries and serving prepared food, we'll work through a checklist of things a farm should address before hosting an event.

### **Workers and Employees-** January 28, 2014, 6pm CST

Farming is a lot of work, and help is often needed. Should a farm work with volunteers, trade labor for food, or hire employees? This webinar will explore the options and guide farmers through the legal considerations. Checklists, flowcharts, and model documents will help attendees move forward after they've decided on the best approach for their farm.

### **Selling Products to Larger Buyers-** February 10, 2014, 6pm CST

Now that hospitals, food service operations, and grocery stores have caught on to the merits of local food, farmers are learning how to work with these operations. A good relationship between buyer and seller is key to making these sales worthwhile. Learn how the right sales agreement can help keep everyone happy. Also, learn how to protect the farm business if the relationship goes south.

### **Starting a Farm-** February 25, 2014, 6pm CST

A beginning farmer has to find financing, lease or buy land, coordinate equipment, establish a website, and so much more, all while growing crops or raising livestock. The legal issues abound, but this webinar

will help beginning farmers understand the fundamental issues that should demand attention while the farm gets started.

**Adding Value to Farm Products-** March 10, 2014, 6pm CDT

Although starting a processing operation, improving packaging, and developing new products are great ways to make the farm more profitable, these activities have a huge legal impact. Employment laws, liability potential, state/federal regulations, and tax factors all change when a farm begins to process product. Farms relying on cottage food laws should make sure to attend- we'll talk about what these laws do not do to protect farms.

**Food Safety Liability and Regulations-** March 25, 6pm CDT

We've been hearing all about the upcoming regulations under the Food Safety Modernization Act. But, as important as it is, farm liability for food safety goes beyond this new law. Learn all the latest on how farms can comply with the FSMA as it goes into effect and how they can protect their operations from liability in general.

## WEBINAR: FOOD HUBS

The Healthy Food Commerce Investments program of Wholesome Wave has been studying food hubs, and the viability of several individual hubs. This webinar presents a distillation of their work - what makes a solid, invest-able hub business? One key element of food hubs is that they are businesses. Food hub managers, potential investors, and food hub supporters will all benefit hugely from this work, and this presentation

**Getting Your Bucks In A Row - the Food Hub Due Diligence Toolkit webinar**

When: Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM MST

To register [visit here](#).

## WEBINAR SERIES: FINDING, BUYING AND SERVING LOCAL FOODS

The USDA Farm to School Program is hosting two webinars each month to showcase the variety of ways school districts can purchase local foods. The webinars will be held at 12:00 p.m. MST on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

- Conducting a Local Procurement Baseline Assessment – January 23
- Finding Local Producers – February 13
- Using the Informal Procurement Method – February 27
- Using Specifications to Target Local Products – March 13
- Working with Distributors – March 27
- Using a Forward Contract – April 10
- Introduction to Geographic Preference – April 24
- Using Geographic Preference – May 8
- Using USDA Foods as a Resource to Purchase Local – May 22

- Using DoD Fresh to Purchase Local – June 12
- Tying It All Together and Digging In – June 26

To register click [here](#). All webinars will be recorded and available on the USDA Farm to School website within 1-2 weeks of initial viewing.

## GRANTS: COLORADO AGRICULTURE

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for funding through its new “Enrich Colorado Ag Grant Program.” Grant funds will help Colorado companies conduct research and develop new uses and markets for food and agricultural products that are grown, raised or processed in Colorado.

Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, feasibility studies and technical projects such as assessing the potential of establishing an agricultural value-added business project; and marketing and sales promotion projects such as first-time participation in trade shows, new product launches and promotions supporting the development of new sales channels. The maximum award per project is \$17,000.

A matching contribution of cash and/or in-kind resources equal to at least 50 percent of the total project budget is required. *Applications are due by 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2014.*

For more information including an application and program guidelines, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Markets Division at (303) 239-4371 or visit [www.coloradoagriculture.com](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com).

## GRANTS: VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS

The [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) program from USDA is available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working capital grant is \$200,000; the maximum planning grant is \$75,000.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Funding priority is given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers, and to small- to medium-size family farms, or farmer/rancher cooperatives.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is one of many USDA programs that support the development of strong local and regional food systems as part of the *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative. Launched in 2009, the initiative strengthens ties between agricultural producers and their local communities, helping meet growing consumer demand and creating opportunities for small business development.

*Grant applications are due by February 24, 2014.* More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the [November 25 Federal Register](#), or by contacting any [USDA Rural Development office](#).

## 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](#).