

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins, Adrian Card and Marisa Bunning, Team Leads



Co-Editors: Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins and Ashley Colpaart
Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

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Welcome to the 49th issue 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, 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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USE COLORADO MARKETMAKER TO FIND LOCAL PRODUCTS

The impact that Colorado MarketMaker (CMM) can have on food businesses is directly connected to how often businesses update their information for others in the food industry to find. For buyers, not

only can you use CMM to search among the more than 26,000 Colorado food and agritourism businesses listed, but there constantly updated buy-and-sell listings as well. In addition to farms, ranches and food businesses, the database includes 119 farmers' markets, 85 wineries, and 193 agritourism businesses.

CMM's Buy and Sell Forum, <http://co.foodmarketmaker.com/marketplace>, has a growing selection of products to purchase, and services available, as well as a place to list products and services you need. Check out these recently listed Colorado products for sale:

[Paleo Meals to Go](#) (new!)
[Joe's Sauce](#) (new!)
[Four Berry Rosemary Herbal Fruit Spread](#)
[Peach Ginger Herbal Fruit Spread](#)
[Blueberry Basil Herbal Fruit Spread](#)
[Strawberry Mint Herbal Fruit Spread](#)
[Salba Chia Seeds](#)
[Beef by the Whole, Half or Quarter](#)

USDA EFFORTS TO EXPAND SUPPORT FOR SMALL FARMERS & RANCHERS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced new and expanded efforts to connect small- and mid-sized farmers and ranchers with [USDA resources](#) that can help them build stronger businesses, expand to reach new and larger markets, and grow their operations.

Efforts include revised risk management tools that better fit the needs of smaller producers, additional support for hoop houses, and an expanded collection of valuable market news information. USDA is also introducing a series of education tools focusing on opportunities for farmers engaged in local and regional food systems.

In addition, USDA field staff will boost their outreach efforts to small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers. More information about tools and resources available to small and mid-sized farmers will be rolled out in the coming months on [USDA's Small and Mid-Sized Farmer Resources web page](#).

WORKSHOP: ORGANIC CONVERSATIONS (COMING SOON!)

Boulder County has developed a series of workshops designed for interested farmers, current or future, to gain knowledge about organic agriculture from industry experts. The panel includes current organic producers who will share their experiences as organic farmers. Potential local, organic buyers will also discuss markets and what they are looking for in terms of quality, quantity, timing, etc.

Agenda

6 p.m. - Dinner and Networking
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion
7:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Q & A

Date: April 22nd (Vegetables), May 8th (Field Crops) and May 15th (Livestock)

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Parks & Open Space, 5201 St Vrain Rd, Longmont

Contact Information: Meaghan Huffman, 303-678-6181,
agriculture@bouldercounty.org

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for Class 12 of the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP), which begins in Fall 2014. Individuals interested in enhancing their understanding of public affairs and developing their expertise to play a leading role in guiding the matters affecting Colorado agriculture and rural communities should apply. The program is open to any individual engaged in serving rural communities, production agriculture, all related agricultural industry and businesses, extension services and education.

CALP is an intensive 18-month program composed of seminars delivered by members of Colorado's agricultural industry. Fellows also participate in 7 days of national travel seminars and a 10-day international travel seminar. Seminars provide a comprehensive curriculum focusing on a variety of agricultural and leadership development subject matter. Participants are challenged to analyze public issues and industry matters from social, economic, cultural and political perspectives. Participation in the program helps to improve leadership skills; build confidence in leadership abilities; and expand knowledge of state, national and international affairs. CALP cultivates a robust network of agricultural leaders who are highly motivated to serve.

CALP invests approximately \$15,000 per fellow to participate in the Ag Leadership Program. The costs are underwritten by individual and industry donations. Detailed program information and the application are [available online here](#). The application is due no later than **June 1**, but individuals are encouraged to complete and submit it earlier.

SARE GRANTS WORKING IN COLORADO

Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE) has funded sustainable agriculture research and education projects on farms and ranches large and small, dryland and wetland, urban and rural, from Florida to Alaska to Guam. Since 1988, SARE has provided \$3.1 million in total funding for 72 grant projects in Colorado alone. Here is a sample of some great SARE grant projects previously funded or currently at work in Colorado:

Research and Education Grants

Farm to Fork: Connecting Our Youth with Sustainable Agriculture

Harnessing the Sun for On-farm Fertilizer Production

Supply and Market Analysis for Organic Producers in the Four Corners States

Native Seed Production for Crop Diversification

Professional Development Program Grants

Curricula and Instructional Modules for Sustainable Small-Scale Greenhouse Production

Enterprise, Environmental and Community Development to Promote Agricultural and Heritage Tourism

Education, Training and Outreach on Risk Education

Establishing Dialogue Between Alternative Agricultural Producers and the Land-Grant University in Colorado

Farmer/Rancher Grants

Alternative Crops to Diversify the Traditional Winter Wheat/Fallow Cropping System in Northwest Colorado

Expanding Small Ruminant Dairy Production

Season Extension and Crop Area Multiplication with a Moveable Hoophouse in an Organic System

Different Goat Breed Crosses to Find the Best Tasting Meat

See more [details here](#).

EVENT: URBAN AGRICULTURE AND THE LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

The Local Food and Urban Agriculture movement in Denver is robust and active. This webinar will provide an overview of the different elements of the Denver food system and will explore urban agriculture specifically as a niche for small scale vegetable production. Urban agriculture shows up in many diverse and interesting ways in Denver. It includes everything from backyard chickens and goats to bees on the top of a hotel; from farming fish in north Denver to farms on school public property for the cafeterias; from community and neighborhood gardens to vertically grown lettuce, and much more in between.

This webinar will also explain the value of using proactive business planning with urban agriculture-based entrepreneurial pursuits. Participants will learn about Denver Mayor Hancock's 20% Local Food Shift Goal by 2020 and how accomplishing it would create new jobs and contribute towards significant economic development.

When: Thursday, May 15, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m. MDT

Duration: 1 hour

Host(s): CSU Alumni Association

Register for [event here](#).

CLASSES: 2014 BACKYARD FOOD PRODUCTION SERIES

The 2014 Backyard Food Production Series will begin in Southwest Colorado on April 29th. This series of 12 evening classes is designed to help you grow and preserve food for you and your family, and is held throughout the food production season, starting in April and ending in September. There are 35 open slots, and if it is anything like the last five years, those slots will fill up soon!

Take your garden to a whole new level with this season-long series. Learn how to grow your own food—from design and seed-starting to harvest, storage, and preservation. All classes are taught by local experts—Extension Agents, growers, and professors—and will give you the tools to effectively and efficiently grow lots of food, whether you have a few thousand or just a few square feet.

When: Starting April 29th (with 3 classes in May, 2 in June, 3 in July, 2 in August, and 1 in September)

Where: La Plata County Extension Bldg., Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave. Durango

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Cost: \$145

Contact: [\(970\) 382-6463](tel:9703826463) or Darrin Parmenter at parmenterdm@co.laplata.co.us.

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.

- Introduction to Geographic Preference – April 24
- Using Geographic Preference – May 8
- Using USDA Foods as a Resource to Purchase Local – May 22
- Using Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh to Purchase Local – June 12
- Tying It All Together and Digging In – June 26

To register click [here](#). If you cannot attend, all webinars will be recorded and available on the USDA Farm to School website within 1-2 weeks of initial viewing.

GRANTS: FARM TO SCHOOL

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the release of a request for applications for the third round of USDA's Farm to School grants, including the addition of a new funding track for training events and conferences. These grants help to improve the health and well-being of students through school meals that incorporate locally produced foods, educate children about food, and create new and expanded markets for local food producers.

The deadline for proposals is April 30th. To see the complete request for applications, please [click here](#).

GRANTS: BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER PROGRAM

2014 Request for Applications for the [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) (BFRDP) are open. Applications are due **June 12**.

Organizations can apply to BFRDP for grants to provide education, training, technical assistance and outreach for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and managers of non-industrial private forest land who have been farming or ranching for 10 years or less and those who aim to start. Priority will be given to projects that are partnerships and collaborations led by or including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

Approximately \$19.2 million is available for 2014 awards. By law, at least five percent of available funding will be allocated to programs and services for limited-resource and socially-disadvantaged beginning farmers and ranchers and farmworkers. Another five percent of available funding will be for programming and services for military veteran farmers and ranchers.

NIFA is hosting [two webinars](#) for interested applicants, on April 30 and May 6 at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The first webinar will focus on general guidelines for the program, while the second webinar will focus on the funding set-aside for projects that serve special audiences: beginning farmers who are military veterans, and those who are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or farmworkers. CSU has successfully

competed in this program, and is willing to provide guidance to others applying from Colorado.

You can download the Request for Applications from the [BFRDP Funding Opportunity page](#) and learn more about the webinars from the BFRDP "[more information](#)" page.

GRANTS: RESEARCH AND OUTREACH ON ORGANIC AND SPECIALTY CROPS

The FY 2014 [Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative](#) (OREI) Request for Applications is now available. Closing date: **May 8, 2014**.

The OREI seeks to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education and extension activities. The purpose of this program is to fund projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics. The OREI is particularly interested in projects that emphasize research, education and outreach that assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning by delivering practical research-based information. Projects should plan to deliver applied production information to producers. Fieldwork must be done on certified organic land or on land in transition to organic certification, as appropriate to project goals and objectives. Refer to the USDA National Organic Program (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>) for organic production standards.

The FY 2014 [Specialty Crop Research Initiative](#) (SCRI) Request for Applications is now available and welcomes applications relating to research on a variety of fruit, vegetable, ornamental and minor field crops. Closing date: **May 8, 2014**.

The purpose of the SCRI program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas:

- Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics;
- Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;
- Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing);
- New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and
- Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production efficiency, handling and processing of specialty crops.

NIFTI GUIDE TO METRICS AND EVALUATION FOR FARM INCUBATORS

The National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI) just released a Guide to Metrics and Evaluation for Farm Incubator Projects provides the staff of land-based beginning farmer training programs with the knowledge, tools, and resources to create rigorous evaluation protocols for their organizations. With suggestions, guidelines, and over 65 pages of appendices including sample surveys, class evaluations, and more, compiled with the help of dozens of farm incubators throughout North America, this guide will help you tell the world all about the amazing and impactful work you do supporting new and beginning farmers. Download [here](#).

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](#).