

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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FIFTY-FIFTH EDITION

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Happy harvest season! Welcome to the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the Colorado State University 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.

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. You can help us be better connected in two ways:

1. 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.
2. 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!

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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## MARKETMAKER VERSION 4 IS LIVE!

There is something new in MarketMaker! The national team has transitioned to a new organizational home. This will allow us to broaden the types of linkages and partnerships we can build and promote in Colorado's food and agricultural system.

See the new platform at <http://co.foodmarketmaker.com/>.

Some improvements for you to explore...

- National site
  - A streamlined new appearance
  - A new limited keyword search to gain access to national data and connect with farms and food businesses in other states when you travel
  - Marketing benefits

### Start Building Strategic Partnerships

#### For Producers

Producers register their businesses in MarketMaker because food buyers of all types access our database to find products and services to meet their specific needs. Through MarketMaker, producers can reach more buyers and more efficiently form profitable business alliances.

#### For Buyers

Buyers register making their business discoverable to food producers looking to grow, source, or sell just what you need. Buyers can use MarketMaker to find more suppliers of differentiated, high-quality products leading to more efficient sourcing and higher margins.

#### For Consumers

Consumers use MarketMaker to locate suppliers selling just what they need. Search for anything—the nearest supplier of organic chick peas, specialty mushrooms or seasonal fish from anywhere in the U.S.



- State home page functionality
  - A new business directory
  - Improved search capabilities
- Registration
  - Easier registration process that allows users to give minimal information initially, with opportunities to add information later as they explore the site.
  - A new profile, General Member, has been added. All our collaborators that partner with, technically assist and want to stay connected with our farm and food businesses can now get free general membership.

### Choose Your Business Categories

Please select all that apply. With each selection you make, additional descriptive tags will appear in the following section for you to further describe your business.

<input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishery	<input type="checkbox"/> Processor/Packing Shed
<input type="checkbox"/> Eating & Drinking Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourist
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Processor	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Retailer	<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Market	<input type="checkbox"/> General Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Winery

Please consider adding a profile



## FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVE

The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program, a new Farm Bill program, brings together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system and fosters understanding of how they might improve the nutrition and health status of SNAP households. Under FINI, applicants may propose relatively small pilot projects, multi-year community-based projects, or larger-scale multi-year projects. Funded projects will test community-based strategies that could contribute to our understanding of how best to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants through incentives at the point of purchase, supported by effective and efficient benefit redemption technologies, that would inform future efforts.

All FINI projects must:

- have the support of a state SNAP agency;
- increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at the point of purchase;
- operate through authorized SNAP retailers, and be in compliance with all relevant SNAP regulations and operating requirements;
- agree to participate in the FINI comprehensive program evaluation;
- ensure that the same terms and conditions apply to purchases made by individuals receiving SNAP benefits as apply to purchases made by individuals who are not SNAP participants; and
- include effective and efficient technologies for benefit redemption systems that may be replicated in other states and communities.

[Applications](#) are due Dec. 15, 2014.

## PUEBLO ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

CSU Extension, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Produce Safety Alliance, is offering a workshop for produce growers in Pueblo on November 10 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds Auditorium, at 1001 Beulah Avenue.

The workshop will include:

- 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
- Budgeting for the costs of food safety.

To register for this workshop, call the Pueblo County Extension Office at 719-583-6566, by November 6. The cost is \$35 per person (or \$50 for 2 people from the same farm) and includes materials, lunch and certificate of completion. Payment can be made by cash or check.

## 2015 BUILDING FARMERS PROGRAM

The Building Farmers Program for Denver, Jefferson, and Arapahoe Counties is a farm business incubator program focusing on business plan development for non-profit, for-profit, and indoor farms.

Classes begin Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available November 5<sup>th</sup> and due December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Participants will be notified of acceptance on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings at the Denver County Extension Office, and final business plans will be presented to peers and key community partners on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Information nights on the program will be held in November, so check with your county extension office for locations and times. If you have questions contact Danielle DuBois, Program Coordinator at [ddubois@arapahoegov.com](mailto:ddubois@arapahoegov.com) or 303.738.7977.

## FARM BILL TRAININGS IN SALT LAKE CITY

Farm Bill trainings will be held in Salt Lake City November 10 and 11 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. The training is open to U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency staff, crop insurance professionals, consultants, credit institutions, Extension educators, and farmers.

The November 10 training will provide a Farm Bill overview in the morning and in the afternoon demonstrations of the online decision aids will be offered. The 2014 Farm Bill introduced two new safety net programs:

- Price Loss Coverage, which offsets price shortfalls, and
- Agricultural Risk Coverage, which addresses revenue declines.

These programs will be discussed, as well as two web-based decision aids developed to help producers choose which program is best for their operations. If you cannot attend, the NAAFP decision aid can be accessed at <https://usda.afpc.tamu.edu/>. There is no cost to attend the training, but registration is required.

To register, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/tuI9ja9CAs>.

The November 11 training is an in-depth workshop on the NAAFP decision aid where participants will be instructed on how to set up multi-client accounts and how to manage multiple farms for developing education programs and producer meetings. Participants should bring their case farm data and a laptop computer for the interactive workshop. To register, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/Fbl3VVuuvv>.

## A NEW RESOURCE! GROWING FOOD CONNECTIONS POLICY DATABASE

The Growing Food Connections Policy Database (<http://growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/policy-database/>) is a searchable collection of local public policies that explicitly support community food systems. This database provides policymakers, government staff, and others interested in food policy with concrete examples of local public policies that have been adopted to address a range of food systems issues: rural and urban food production, farmland protection, transfer of development rights, food aggregation and distribution infrastructure, local food purchasing and procurement, healthy food access, food policy councils, food policy coordination, food system metrics, tax reductions and exemptions for food infrastructure, and much more.

## WESTERN COLORADO HORTICULTURE/VINCO CONFERENCE

The Western Colorado Horticultural Society (WCHS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the future development of agriculture in Western Colorado through the association and combined efforts of its members. Membership is open to anyone interested in the advancement of horticulture and includes admission to WCHS and VinCO Annual Conference.

Their annual conference will be held January 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction, Colorado with tours, speakers and organizational meetings. You can register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-wchsvinco-conference-registration-13373429287>



Western Colorado  
Horticultural Society

## SAVE THE DATE: FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS CONFERENCE



The CFVGA will hold its 1st Annual Conference, February 25, 2015 from 8:30 am - 6:00 pm at the Renaissance Hotel Conference Center in Denver, Colorado. This will directly precede the Governor's Ag Outlook Forum at that same venue, to encourage attendance of specialty crop growers at both events.

Details and registration will be available Nov 15 at: [www.coloradoproduce.org](http://www.coloradoproduce.org). Potential sponsors and exhibitors should email [info@coloradoproduce.org](mailto:info@coloradoproduce.org) by Nov 15 for inclusion in print materials.

If you haven't already, consider joining CFVGA as a producer or affiliate member, and like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CFVGA>.

## AMERICAN PASTURED POULTRY PRODUCERS SCHOLARSHIP

The American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA) is now accepting applications for its annual \$500 scholarship/gift. The scholarship will be awarded to an individual, farm, or organization that can demonstrate an educational need directly related to pastured poultry. Full details can be found [here](#). *Application deadline: December 15, 2014.*

## SAVE THE DATE: LOCAL FOOD BUYERS EXCHANGE

If you are a commercial scale food buyer OR seller sourcing or providing sustainably produced local food, then you may want to attend the inaugural Local Food Buyers Exchange on **November 6, 2014** at the Hyatt Regency - O'Hare in Chicago!

Representatives of sectors including institutional food service, restaurant, hotel, grocery and food distribution will join commercial-scale local food sellers in this day-long conference dedicated to the further development of a viable, sustainable and profitable local food market in the upper Midwest.

Participants will roll up their sleeves at this new kind of business meeting—an interactive gathering featuring educational sessions for buyers, a structured forum for sharing best practices and challenges in local food procurement, and even a structured "speed networking" reception to cap off our day. Expect a day of education, networking and discussions with decision makers in food service, food distribution, grocery, hotel and restaurant management, as well as local food producers and sellers.

More information and registration will be available soon at [www.localfoodassociation.org/Events](http://www.localfoodassociation.org/Events).

## SAVE THE DATE: NORTHERN COLORADO FOOD CLUSTER



You're invited to the next [Northern Colorado Food Cluster](#) Community Meeting. The Cluster is ready to celebrate obtaining their 501(c)(3) status, unveil their membership structure, and update the community on the food system work happening in Northern Colorado.

**The event will be on November 6, 2014 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Lincoln Center's Columbine Room.**

**The** reception includes light food and a cash bar. Save the date and invite members of the community who are interested in joining the Food Cluster. Others from the food policy network of Colorado are welcome to come and learn what we are doing in the North Central region. More details will be sent out via our email list and posted on our website and social media! We can't wait to see you!

Please [click here to RSVP](#).

If you are a business interested in sponsoring this event, email Ashley Colpaart at [nocofoodcluster@gmail.com](mailto:nocofoodcluster@gmail.com).

## 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](#).