

# CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

FIFTY-SEVENTH EDITION

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Happy New Year! This is the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the Colorado State University Extension Local Food Systems newsletter, and we are thrilled that it has become a key resource to connect our CSU team and local and state partners about events, news and opportunities. The Food Systems work team for CSU Extension is committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues, and the distribution of this newsletter is one way to build that network. You can help us be better connected in three 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!
3. We will be featuring updates from Colorado regions in our newsletters, so please send in a regional update you would like to share with our readership!

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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## COLORADO MARKETMAKER FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS



Colorado MarketMaker (CMM) is a database of food industry marketing and business data. It is also a place to help promote agritourism. Have you listed your business? Create your [profile here](#). Looking to buy more Colorado products? Or encourage businesses you shop with to carry more Colorado products? Tell them to explore this site!

Recent and Updated Colorado Listings:

- [Purely Elizabeth Ancient Grain Granola](#)- gluten free granola.
- [Decadence Gourmet Cheesecakes](#)- cheesecakes in a jar.
- [High Altitude Wildflower Honey](#)- nectar of flowers that grow at a 10,000-foot elevation in northern Colorado.
- [Alfalfa-Clover Honey](#)- from pristine ranches along the Yampa River Valley.
- [Flavored Honey](#)- ginger, cinnamon, lemon or orange sold in ½ pint reusable Ball canning jars.
- [Raw Bees Wax](#)- melted and strained only once, this wax is perfect for candles, lotions, lip balm, mustaches, and more!
- [Salba Chia Seeds](#)- try their line of snacks for a tasty, healthy treat.
- [Lavender Honey](#)- local honey infused in lavender blossoms.
- [Paleo Meals To Go](#)- purchase freeze-dried meals that adhere to the principles of the Paleo Diet.
- [Antler & Hemp Dog Treats](#)- large piece of elk or moose antler with organic hemp rope.
- [Grand County Free Agritourism Promotions](#)- to help promote agriculture in the region.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR COLORADANS

The Colorado Tourism Office has a fun list of resolutions for Coloradans! Bring your bucket, your loved ones, your curiosity and your dreams and indulge in the New Year....[Colorado](#) style.

1. Learn a Craft or Skill- Learn to felt alpaca wool, turn goats' milk into soap or cheese, harvest honey from a hive, butcher your own meat, hunt or can your own food!
2. Keep Moving and Get Fit- Hike one of Colorado's 42 state parks, dip and dive on a raft trip, or sip Colorado wines on a bike tour in Palisade.
3. Discover Where Your Food Comes From- Visit a you pick orchard, forage wild plants, spend the night on a farm or ranch or enjoy a farm-to-table dinner.
4. Spend Time with Someone You Love- Follow a historic trail, scenic byway or stay on a dude ranch.
5. Try the Unusual - Attend a festival, seek solitude in the woods, or subscribe to an art CSA.

For the full article and Colorado-centric links, [click here](#).

## COLORADO GRANT AWARDEE FOR FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Mancos Conservation District in Mancos, Colorado, received \$97,683 for their Local Foods4Local Schools project, serving a rural area consisting of Montezuma and La Plata counties, including two reservations. The project will develop a new model for school-based production through:

1. Hiring a school production manager and production coordinator to cultivate a farm plot on school district property;
2. Supporting the development of a producer cooperative for a regional aggregation and distribution system that will create a sustainable infrastructure to support procuring local foods in local schools and beyond;
3. Providing training and technical assistance to school districts and producers to build their capacity to engage in institutional bidding and procurement activities; and
4. Engaging students in experiential education for farm, garden and nutrition activities.

The school-based farm production and farmer cooperative represent new initiatives that would be supported by this grant.

## FARM TO SCHOOL EVALUATION TOOLKIT

The [Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit](#), created by the [Colorado Farm to School Task Force](#) and [Spark Policy Institute](#), is a resource to help farm to school programs of all sizes, in all states, undertake evaluation. Evaluation can serve many purposes for your farm to school program, including enabling you to demonstrate your program's success or progress. Evaluation information you collect allows you to better communicate your program's impact to funders, parents, school leadership, and other stakeholders. It can also be useful for program improvement. The toolkit and its webinar training series, specifically designed for non-evaluators, will walk you through each step of an evaluation, providing easy-to-follow guidance for planning, implementing, and reporting on your evaluation. Hyperlinks to the data collection tools are tied to the farm to school outcomes, making it simple to find the right tool for measuring the impact of your program.

## STUDY: FRONT RANGE AT FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION

A new CSU study, "The Emergence of an Innovation Cluster in the Agricultural Value Chain along Colorado's Front Range," shows the potential of emerging food system sectors to drive growth in Colorado's food and agriculture industry.

As an extension of this report, there will be an "Ag Innovation Summit" March 18-20 that will build on the innovation strengths identified in the study. Learn more on their website at <http://csuaginnovationsummit.com/>.

## COLORADO AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Twenty two participants have been chosen for the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program.

The program's courses and activities focus on communications, government, policy, economics, social & cultural issues and change management. Through the program, leaders will have the opportunity to travel internationally, nationally and statewide to extend their knowledge on the global agriculture industry. The first session will begin February 25, 2015 in conjunction with the [Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture](#).

The Class 12 participants include two CSU Extension colleagues, Frank Garry and Jeff Pieper, and the full team includes:

Gregory Bloom, The Beef Pro - Lone Tree  
Eric Brown, Colorado Corn - Fort Collins  
Maria Bumgarner, Jefferson Conservation District / USDA NRCS - Evergreen  
David Collie, 5280 Culinary - Denver  
Lauren Dever, Colorado Pork Producers Council - Keenesburg  
Miguel Diaz, Martinez Farms, LLC - Monte Vista  
Lily Edwards-Callaway, JBS - Fort Collins  
Gabriel Elliott, Elliott Parts & Services, Elliott Land & Cattle, Hinterwalder Malting - Ault  
Patricia Finke, USDA Farm Service Agency - Evergreen  
Misty George, Poverty Knob Ranch - Walsh  
Jenifer Gurr, Colorado Department of Agriculture - Northglenn  
Michael Hirakata, Hirakata Farms & Produce, LLC - Rocky Ford  
Rio Jacober, Crystal River Meats, JBC Agricultural Management, LJ Farms - Carbondale  
Will Johnson, Flying Diamond Ranch - Kit Carson  
Craig McConnel, Colorado State University - Fort Collins  
Brandon McEndaffer, Compass Ag Solutions - Fort Collins  
Lisa Nichols, Loveland Products, Inc. - Loveland  
Micah Seyler, Monsanto - Joes  
Joseph Teipel, Revision International - Denver  
Kathryn Westcott, Loveland Products, Inc. - Loveland

## USDA WHOLE-FARM REVENUE PROTECTION INSURANCE

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the release of the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) program for the 2015 crop year. The 2014 Farm Bill gave RMA broad flexibility to implement a new whole-farm crop insurance policy.

The WFRP combines two popular and well-known plans of insurance in the Pacific Northwest—Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGR) and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite).

Policy enhancements include an expanded range of coverage levels, coverage for replanting, provisions that increase coverage for expanding operations, a higher maximum amount of coverage and the inclusion of market readiness costs in the coverage. WFRP is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock). CSU Extension will begin some pilot work with USDA Ag Marketing Service to collect more data in order to expand coverage for specialty crop producers.

The whole-farm premium subsidy is available to farms with two or more commodities that meet minimum diversification requirements. Producers can purchase WFRP in conjunction with individual crop policies as long as those policies are at a buy-up coverage level. See RMA's [whole farm web page](#) for additional details.

## COLORADO CHARITABLE CROP DONATION ACT PASSED

On May 30, 2014 Governor John Hickenlooper signed the Colorado Charitable Crop Donation Act ([HB-1119](#)) into law. The Act offers a 25-percent tax credit to food producers who file a schedule "F"—local farmers, ranchers and producers—for the wholesale value of the food they donate to Feeding Colorado food banks, beginning in 2015. By encouraging donations of fresh food, the Act will provide access to more locally grown fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat for the 1 in 7 Coloradans who struggle to put food on their tables.

Feeding Colorado—Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, Community Food Share, Food Bank for Larimer County, Food Bank of the Rockies and Weld Food Bank—initiated the bill and served as lead supporters for this legislation, along with Hunger Free Colorado. Efforts to pass the bill also included support from the Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Nonprofit Association, LiveWell Colorado and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. "Passing the Colorado Charitable Crop Donation Act to help our agricultural industry provide additional food for the hungry is a 'win-win' for our entire community," said Jim Baldwin, president of Feeding Colorado, the originating sponsor of the legislation. "Feeding Colorado is grateful for the bipartisan support of this bill and excited to be able to distribute more farm-fresh food through our programs and partner agencies." Those interested in donating to a Feeding Colorado food bank should check with their tax advisor and visit [www.FeedingColorado.org](http://www.FeedingColorado.org) to locate a participating food bank.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. McLachlan (D-Durango), Sen. Hodge (D-Brighton) and Sen. Roberts (R-Durango), and co-sponsored by Rep. Dore (R-Elizabeth) received widespread bi-partisan and community support. "The Act is an investment in our neighbors, communities and state," said lead bill sponsor, Rep. Mike McLachlan of Durango. "The Colorado legislature recognized this, and now a new tax credit will benefit our state's agriculture community, emergency food providers and those experiencing hunger."

## CSU EXTENSION TO HOLD ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Sensitive issues, such as money, death, and family relations, are difficult issues not only to bring up but

also to talk about in any depth. It is hard to approach these issues calmly when there are strong feelings about what is important. Some people avoid discussing these subjects because they believe it to be disrespectful and uncomfortable.

A survey of Americans found that both parents and adult children were uncomfortable discussing the one dimensional topic of leaving an “inheritance”, but both enthusiastically embraced the idea of leaving a “legacy”. People believe a legacy captures all facets of an individual’s life-including family traditions, history, sharing stories, values, and wishes. A complete legacy is built on four pillars-Values and Life Lessons, Personal Possessions of Emotional Value, Instructions and Wishes to be Fulfilled, and Financial Assets/Real Estate.

Colorado State University Extension will host six legacy-succession-estate planning workshops around the state. The programs will be presented by Jeff Tranel and Norm Dalsted and are designed to help farm and ranch families to document their wishes and communicate those wishes to family members.

Upcoming workshops are:

- February 10th in Grand Junction
- February 11th in Steamboat Springs
- February 17th in Durango
- February 18th in Alamosa
- March 24th in Yuma

Those interested in participating in the workshops should contact the [County Extension Agent in those areas](#).

## 2015 COTTAGE FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

This training covers specifics of the Colorado Cottage Food Act and how to safely operate a food business from a home kitchen.

You will learn:

- Basic food safety- including proper hygiene; preventing cross contamination and cross contact of food allergens; temperature control for safe food preparation, storage, transport and sales
- Foods permissible under Colorado’s Cottage Food Act
- Ingredient labeling and disclaimer requirements
- Special consideration for food preparation at altitude

Friday January 23, 2015 1-4pm  
Littleton Conference Rooms B & C  
Centre Point Plaza  
14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora, CO 80012

More 2015 training dates will be available in Longmont and Golden. Cost is \$30 and registration is required through [Eventbrite](#). For more information, please contact: Anne Zander, Boulder County Extension (303) 678-6228 or [azander@bouldercounty.org](mailto:azander@bouldercounty.org).

## WEBINAR: GRANT-WRITING AND FOOD POLICY UPDATE

Join us for an overview of how to apply for USDA grants now available through the 2014 Farm Bill (in-depth workshops will be offered in Greeley, Denver, Durango and Montrose—see schedule below). We will also provide a brief update on the proposed Farm to School bill and other relevant legislation for this session.

When: Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4:30 pm.

Where: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/colofood>. Login as a “Guest” 5 minutes prior to the webinar start time.

## WORKSHOPS: FOOD SYSTEMS AND POLICY GRANTS

Any interested farmers, food producers, food and farming organization members, or broader community members interested in applying for a variety of food system grants should attend one of the:

### **Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) Project: Farmers Market, Local Food Promotion and USDA Grant Writing Workshops**

All workshops are free to attend; details are below.

#### **Greeley**

Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

9:30-2:30 pm, with light lunch served

Greeley Recreation Center, Room 101C.

[Northern Colorado Food Cluster](#) Partners will be invited to participate in discussion about their potential for a regional Community Food Projects proposal.

[Please RSVP here](#) by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Denver Metro Area**-A Partnership between Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties.

Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

12:30-4:30 pm with light snacks

Jefferson County CSU Extension Office

15200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Golden, CO 80401

Please RSVP to Danielle at: [DDuBois@arapahoegov.com](mailto:DDuBois@arapahoegov.com)

This is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> year program for Colorado Building Farmer graduates.

#### **Durango**

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

12-4 pm, with light lunch served

La Plata County Fairgrounds, Pine Room

2500 Main Ave.

Durango, CO 81301

Please RSVP to Darrin at: [Darrin.Parmenter@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:Darrin.Parmenter@co.laplata.co.us)

This is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> year program for Fort Lewis Incubator and Colorado Building Farmer graduates.

## Montrose

Monday, March 16th

4-8 pm, with light dinner served

DMEA Community Room,

11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO

(970) 249-0705 or questions on location and Valley Foods Partnership

Please RSVP to [valleyfoodpartners@gmail.com](mailto:valleyfoodpartners@gmail.com) to assure we have enough space.

Dawn Thilmany, Becca Jablonski and Martha Sullins, CSU Extension, will share their experiences and insights on a wide range of funding programs and will provide a presentation and direct technical assistance to help you get started! Please contact Dawn Thilmany at CSU if you have questions ([dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu](mailto:dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu)).

## 2015 COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Call for proposals for the 2015 American Community Gardening Association annual conference (to be held August 13-16 in Denver) is now open! [Click here](#) for submission instructions and proposal forms.

All proposals must be submitted by e-mail to [Denver2015ACGA@gmail.com](mailto:Denver2015ACGA@gmail.com) by 11:59pm Mountain Time, March 15, 2015. Applicants will be notified by May 1st, 2015.

Those submitting proposals for workshops and panels are encouraged to use the following themes or related topics:

- **Growing Lifelong Gardeners** The path to garden sustainability begins by inviting the next generation to join in the fun. Tell us about your successful school gardening programs and garden education, both formal and informal.
- **Lean on Us!** Gardens both small and large benefit from connections with other gardens and community partners. Putting the “community in community gardens” begins with human interaction.
- **Measuring Healthy Outcomes** We all know that gardeners tend to eat more fresh produce than their peers, but can you prove it? YES! Share your research and outcomes that prove the impact and worth of community gardens.
- **Not Quite Community Gardening** More and more, the world of community gardening is intersecting with the food system and the urban agriculture movements to form lasting partnerships that can feed, involve, and educate larger segments of the population.
- **Working with City Hall** Successful policy changes at the local and state level are sweeping the nation influencing everything from zoning regulations to the cottage food industry. Share your story of a policy change that kept your city on the cutting edge of the urban food movement.
- **Hort 101: Seeds and Weeds, Pests and Other Garden Guests** Community gardens play host for many functions; not the least of which is horticulture! Do you have tips on crop selection or pest management or weed mitigation you’ve been dying to share? Now’s your chance.

## FRONT RANGE BEGINNING FARMERS CONFERENCE

Join the Denver Botanic Gardens, National Young Farmers Coalition, and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union for their second annual conference focused on small-scale, sustainable agriculture and new



farmers. This one-day conference will feature instructional workshops from regional experts, plus time to share and connect over a locally sourced lunch and post-conference social hour. Topics include land access and financing, crop rotation and food safety, co-op development, animal production, policy advocacy, and more. Questions? [Kacie.warner@botanicgardens.org](mailto:Kacie.warner@botanicgardens.org)

Front Range Beginning Farmers Conference  
Sat, Feb 21, 9 am – 4:30 pm  
At Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, a working farm at C-470 & Wadsworth

Registration here:

<http://catalog.botanicgardens.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=2086>.

## NOXIOUS WEED GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Colorado Department of Agriculture announces requests for proposals for the 2015 grants for noxious weed management to local entities. This year, the Department has over \$600,000 in grant funds available for projects based in Colorado to battle noxious weeds. [Visit here](#) for more information.

## NEW LOCAL FOOD BUSINESS SERIES

Colorado continues to be an incubator for a variety of food entrepreneurs. To help Colorado food businesses expand, an educational workshop entitled Breakfast with the Pros: A Food Business Series will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015, from 7:30am to 1pm.

The workshop will be at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO. [Visit here](#) for more information.

## ENRICH COLORADO AGRICULTURE GRANTS



Colorado Proud is accepting applications for the Enrich Colorado Agriculture Grant program.

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 \$15,000.

A matching contribution of cash and in-kind resources equal to at least 50% of the total project budget is required. Applications are due by **3:30 pm on February 27, 2015**.

For more information, including application and program guidelines, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Markets division at (303) 869-9176 or visit [www.coloradoagriculture.com](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com).

## COLORADO FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS CONFERENCE



The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will hold their 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 specialty crop growers to attend both events.

Details and registration are now available at: [coloradoproduce.org](http://coloradoproduce.org). Early registration ends January 26<sup>th</sup>. Hotel rates are available for those traveling to Denver.

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

And register [here](#) for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Ag Outlook Forum, to be held on February 26, 2015!

## MYPLATE FOR MY FAMILY: SNAP NUTRITION EDUCATION

[SNAP-Ed Connection](#) is excited to announce the release of *MyPlate for My Family: SNAP Nutrition Education*, an updated educational kit and replacement for the nutrition education curriculum *Loving Your Family, Feeding Their Future*.

[MyPlate for My Family](#) is a MyPlate resource offered especially for SNAP-Ed nutrition education and obesity prevention efforts based on recommendations from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. It is designed for parents and caregivers who are SNAP participants or people eligible for SNAP who play a key role in planning, purchasing and preparing food for their families. These materials can also be used in other settings with similar target audiences, such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

The Toolkit includes educator and participant resources to assist community providers, educators, and professionals in their efforts to improve eating and physical activity behaviors. Participant handouts are available in both English and Spanish.

The curriculum is currently [available for digital download](#) at no charge at the SNAP-Ed Connection. Print copies may become available in the future. **To receive SNAP-Ed Connection news, including an**

announcement if print copies of *MyPlate for My Family* become available, please [subscribe to the e-Bulletin](#).

## 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](#).