

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

FIFTY-NINETH EDITION

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Spring is in the air! This is the 59th 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. 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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COLORADO MARKETMAKER



Start building strategic partnerships to enhance your role in our food system!

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 can register their businesses, making them discoverable to food producers looking to grow, source, or sell just what the buyer needs. 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 producers, markets, wineries, agritourism, Colorado Proud restaurants and other locally-linked food businesses.



CSU RECEIVES PLATINUM RATING IN SUSTAINABILITY

Colorado State University, including our CSU Extension programs across the state, has received the first Platinum rating and the highest score ever submitted in STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment

& Rating System. STARS is provided by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and is considered the most comprehensive and well-respected sustainability assessment for colleges and universities.



CSU Extension was highlighted for their contribution in:

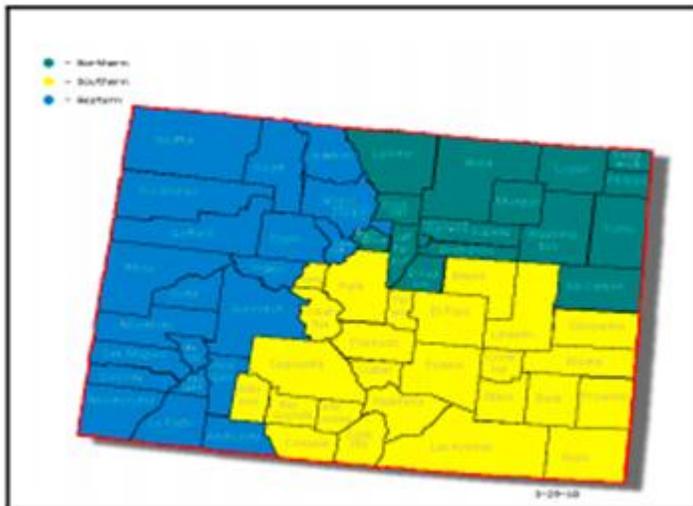
- Sustainability-related continuing education courses
- Native Plant Master Certification
- Colorado Energy Master Certification

For more information visit [CSU's Green Initiatives](#) page.

2014 CUSTOM RATES SURVEY RESULTS

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, landowners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents. The survey results are reported by region:

- Northern – generally those counties north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains,
- Southern – generally, the area south of I-70 and includes the San Luis Valley, and
- Western – generally those counties west of the mountains.



The 2014 custom rates for Colorado farms and ranches can be [accessed here](#).

GUIDE TO USDA FUNDING FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's [Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](#) walks you through dozens of the federal programs and policies that are most important to sustainable agriculture and shows how they can be used to secure resources by farmers, ranchers, communities, and grassroots organizations nationwide.

It is organized into nine chapters, along with a quick-reference overview chart, glossary, and other resources –

1. [Quick Reference Chart](#) and [Preface](#),
2. [Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#),
3. [Conservation & Environment](#),
4. [Credit & Crop Insurance](#),
5. [Food Safety](#), [Local & Regional Food Systems](#),
6. [Organic Production](#),
7. [Renewable Energy](#),
8. [Rural Development](#),
9. [Sustainable & Organic Research](#), [Glossary and Acronyms](#), [Additional Resources](#).

GRANTS: COLORADO'S SPECIALTY CROPS

Colorado specialty crops range from perennial favorites like potatoes and onions to exciting innovators such as chilies and hops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture and sod).

To help develop and promote the state's specialty crops, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is seeking proposals for the [Specialty Crops Block Grant Program](#). Proposals are due on May 1, 2015 and application materials are available at the site. All proposals must be emailed to Glenda.Mostek@state.co.us.

To be eligible for a grant, the project must **solely** enhance the competitiveness of Colorado grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Past projects that CSU has partnered on include support for the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, wine market research, and work on specialty crop food safety concerns.

GRANTS: GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The 2016 [Call for Proposals](#) for the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program's Graduate Student Grants has been released and proposals will be accepted until **1 pm MDT May 13, 2015**. The full CFP can be downloaded at the [SARE website](#).

The Graduate Student Grants provide a maximum of \$25,000 and may last for up to two years. Those eligible to apply are Master's or Ph.D. students enrolled full-time at accredited colleges or universities in the western region. Proposals must address issues in sustainable agriculture of current and potential importance to the western region.

The primary focus of Graduate Student projects should be to:

- Conduct research and education, not research or education. Both elements are required.
- Demonstrate measurable impacts and outcomes that can increase the body of knowledge on sustainable agriculture.
- Produce scholarly works and educational materials to assist others in acquiring new knowledge.
- Communicate the project goals, activities, and findings to producers and other stakeholders.
- Consult with farmers and ranchers throughout the life of the project (germination through completion) to help ensure these results.

GRANTS: RESEARCH ON MARKETING IMPROVEMENTS

The [Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#) (FSMIP) provides matching funds on a competitive basis to State Departments of Agriculture, State agricultural experiment stations, and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system.

FSMIP funds a wide range of applied research projects that address barriers, challenges, and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. food and agricultural products domestically and internationally. Eligible applicants include universities, trade organizations, producer and commodity organizations, economic development organizations and local government entities.

All FSMIP applications are submitted through the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). CDA serves as the agency that oversees FSMIP-funded projects. CDA will review all proposals and may select up to two (2) to submit to USDA for consideration.

A two-page project idea concept paper is due to Shaina Knight, Shaina.Knight@state.co.us, by 3:30pm on Thursday, April 9, 2015.

GRANTS: FARMERS MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the Farmers Market Promotion Program to fund farmer-to-consumer direct marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism. The 2014 Farm Bill also expanded its funding and scope to include the promotion of local and regional food business enterprises that do not provide products directly to consumers, but rather serve as intermediaries to process, distribute, aggregate, and/or store locally or regionally produced food products. The 2014 Farm Bill provides \$30 million in funding for the FMLFPP through fiscal years 2014-2018—approximately \$15 million for the [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#), and approximately \$15 million for the [Local Food Promotion Program](#).

Grant applications for FMPP and LFPP must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 14, 2015. Applicants should start the Grants.gov registration process as soon as possible to ensure that they meet the deadline.

For more information about SCBGP, FSMIP, FMPP, and LFPP, including program background and webinar information, visit the AMS grants website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSGrants>.

GRANTS: ORGANIC COST SHARE PROGRAM

AMS administers two [organic certification cost share programs](#). Each program provides cost share assistance, through participating states, to organic producers and/or organic handlers. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent (ACA).

Colorado producers and handlers should contact:

Amy Stafford
[Colorado Department of Agriculture](#)
303-869-9074
Amy.Stafford@state.co.us

GRANTS: FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

USDA Announces \$160 Million Available for Food and Agriculture Research, Education, and Extension

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the availability of more than \$160 million in funding for research, education, and extension projects that address key challenges affecting U.S. agriculture production. NIFA will fund the awards through the [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#) (AFRI).

NIFA released six separate requests for applications (RFA) through the AFRI program. Five RFAs will support AFRI's challenge areas: food security, water, childhood obesity prevention, food safety, and climate. The challenge areas fund integrated and applied science-based studies that seek to find solutions to societal challenges that impact our ability to feed, clothe, and shelter a rising global population. An additional RFA for the AFRI Foundational program will address the six Farm Bill priority areas:

- 1) plant health and production and plant products;
- 2) animal health and production and animal products;
- 3) food safety, nutrition and health;
- 4) bioenergy, natural resources and environment;
- 5) agriculture systems and technology; and
- 6) agriculture economics and rural communities.

Application deadlines vary by program area. See the [request for application](#).

WORKSHOP: WRITING NSF PROPOSALS

A Writing/Designing NSF Proposals Workshop will be held at the University of Colorado Boulder, April 2, 2015. This one-day comprehensive workshop is geared for those who wish to submit winning research proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is taught by experienced faculty who have received various NSF grants and serve as evaluators on NSF review panels.

Participants will understand how to navigate the FastLane (NSF's Internet interface), focus on the key sections of successful proposals, and demonstrate that their projects merit the excellence and innovation that bring them to the top of other submissions. All sessions engage the attendees in interactive exercises, writing, lectures and discussions so that all participants will leave the class understanding how to research, write and develop a proposal for their specific project.

Space is limited and, since this class fills-up quickly, it is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Workshop Fee: \$375.00 (including tuition, materials, certificate of completion, and continental breakfast)

To register visit the [Grant Training Center website](#) or call toll free at [\(866\)-704-7268](#) or [\(571\) 257-8864](#).

WORKSHOP: GRAFTING WOODY PLANTS

Curtis Utley of CSU Extension, Jefferson County, and Mike Bone of the Denver Botanic Gardens are presenting a workshop on how to graft woody plants, specifically apple trees.

This workshop will be taught 3 different times: March 31, April 1, and April 2 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. each day. Workshop attendees will get hands-on experience bench grafting apple trees and will take home their very own dwarf apple tree. The cost for this workshop is \$20.00.

The rootstock provided is Geneva 41, which is resistant to: Fireblight, Woolly Apple Aphid, Replant Disease, and Phytophthora Crown and Root Rot. Geneva 41 is also cold hardy, has a low potential for suckering and is as productive as M.9. Many apple cultivars will be available to choose from. People interested in this workshop must register on-line at: <http://jeffcohort.eventbrite.com>.

WORKSHOP: FUNDAMENTALS OF FOOD PRODUCT SUCCESS

The Colorado Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Aurora Small Business Development Center, has developed a new workshop entitled [Fundamentals for Food Product Success](#).

The workshop will be held:

Tuesday, April 28 from 8am to 4pm
Community College of Aurora,
16000 E. Centretech Pkwy., Aurora

This new one-day workshop is perfect for start-up businesses and individuals considering a path into the food product industry. This workshop is organized to be fast-paced and packed with vital information needed to begin a food business. The workshop will include topics such as resources available for start-up businesses, building a brand, working with retailers, and other key topics such as labeling and beginning production factors.

COLORADO BUILDING FARMERS ADVANCED COURSES

Chaffee County is offering the following advanced courses for the Colorado Building Farmers program.



April 7 – Agriculture Business Leadership and Resiliency
Presenter – James Pritchett, Assistant Vice President for Engagement
Website: <http://outreach.colostate.edu/index.html>

April 14 – Agritourism Opportunities
Presenter—Kelli Hepler, Colorado Agritourism Association
Website: <http://coloradoagritourismassociation.org/>

April 21 – Template for Success & “To Lease or Not to Lease”
Presenter--Erin Oliver Presenter – Seth Roberts, Weathervane Farms, & Producer panelists
Website <http://www.weathervanefarmbv.com/>

April 28 – Advanced Risk Management (Insurance, Workmans Comp., Employees, Agriculture Taxes and Audit Risks)
Presenter -- Rachel Walke, Walke and Associates
Website: <http://walkecpa.com/>

Presenter – Justin Storms, State Farm Insurance
Website: <https://www.statefarm.com/agent/US/CO/Buena-Vista/JustinStorms-NHSNN1YS000>

Please contact Kurt M. Jones, County Extension Director, at Kurt.Jones@ColoState.EDU or [\(719\) 539-6447](tel:(719)539-6447) to register.

FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE: 3 OPEN SEATS OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The number of schools engaged in farm to school activities continues to increase with 98 schools/districts participating in farm to school efforts, up from 22 in 2010. The Task Force meets quarterly at locations across Colorado, and helps identify communities for Intensive Technical Assistance workshops to address opportunities and challenges facing schools and producers. The Colorado Farm to School Task Force is currently seeking applicants to fill three open positions to continue its work.

The Task Force’s open seats are in the following positions:

- a foodservice director or manager at an institution of higher education,
- a K-12 food services director, and
- a food distributor.

The application deadline is April 3, 2015, with successful candidates beginning their service on the Task Force at the spring quarterly meeting. Visit www.coloradofarmtoschool.org for information about the Task Force. To apply for a position on the Task Force, visit <http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/colorado-farm-to-school-task-force/task-force-application/>.

WEBINARS: LUNCHTIME WEBINARS ON FOOD POLICY COUNCILS

The Colorado Food Policy Network invites you to a series of three, 30-minute lunchtime webinars this spring:

"Fostering Community-Led, Action-Oriented Coalitions that Change Community Policies and Conditions For Health: Research, Tools and Case Studies from the Field"

Webinar #1:

Coalitions and Networks for Active Living: Lessons Learned on **Thursday April 2, 2015 12:00 PM MDT**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7427212406131142914>

Presenter: Dr. Jill Litt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Colorado School of Public Health and Environmental Studies, University of Colorado Boulder

This webinar will describe a recent research study, Coalitions and Networks for Active Living (CANAL), and share some of the lessons learned on collaborative effectiveness. This webinar will introduce frameworks and methods for understanding coalition effectiveness and serve as the foundation for Webinar 2 (tools) and Webinar 3 (community practices).

Webinar #2:

PARTNER: A Tool for Collecting and Utilizing Data to Build, Manage, and Evaluate Networks on **Wednesday April 15, 2015 12:00 PM MDT**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4543670594521191426>

Presenter: Dr. Danielle M. Varda, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs (SPA), University of Colorado Denver and Department of Health Systems, Management, and Policy, Colorado School of Public Health

In this webinar, Dr. Danielle Varda will introduce PARTNER (www.partnertool.net), a social network analysis tool funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that provides a framework and mechanism for collecting data on the quality and quantity of partnerships among a group of organizational partners. PARTNER is used by over 600 communities around the US. The tool can be used to demonstrate the impact of collaborative activities to stakeholders, funders, and policymakers. Dr. Varda will present an example of how the PARTNER tool has been used for Quality Improvement in communities across Colorado.

Webinar #3:

Building Diversity to Change Policy and Conditions in Community and Organizations on **Thursday April 30, 2015 12:00 PM MDT**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7787574043599921922>

Presenter: Molly Hanson, Health Policy Analyst, Jefferson County Public Health

Ms. Hanson will discuss cross-cutting practices that can be applied in multiple settings to help coalitions build diversity in their leadership, identify organizing principles and implement core strategies to change policy and conditions in community and organizations. She will draw on her experience from working with healthy eating active living and tobacco-free community coalitions.

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](#).