

CSU Extension Local Food Systems



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64TH EDITION

AUGUST 2015

Welcome to the **64rd edition** of the Colorado State University Extension Local Food Systems newsletter. As a key resource connecting our CSU team with local and state partners about events, news and opportunities, we are thrilled to see the momentum and growth happening in food systems across the state. As always, 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 three ways:

1. **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. **Send us** any events and news from your organization and other partners so that we may share them with our growing readership!
3. **Consider writing** a regional update so we can feature updates from Colorado regions in each newsletter. Contact us if you want to be a regional lead!

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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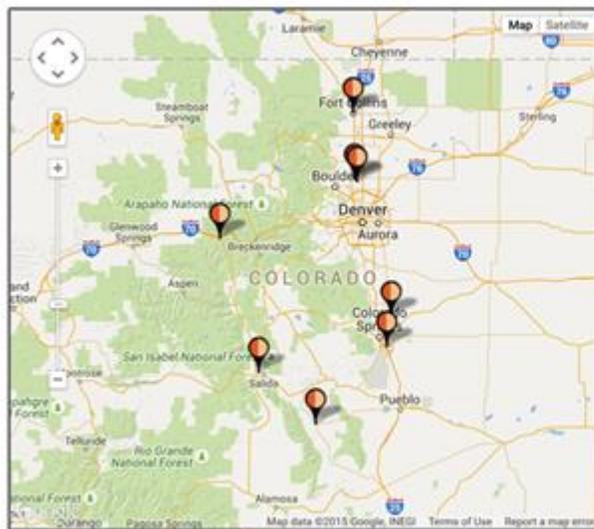
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COLORADO MARKETMAKER MARKET RESEARCH



August is Farmer's Market Month! Use the Colorado MarketMaker platform to find markets, even when you are traveling around the state. And remember, many of our businesses, like Abundant Life Organic Farms profiled below, even share the markets where you can find them.



📍 Detected Location: Unknown Change

-  **Niwot Farmers Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Niwt, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Minturn Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Minturn, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Erie Farmers Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Erie, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Central Colorado Foodshed Alliance** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Salida, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Northern Colorado Winters Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Fort Collins, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Westcliffe Farmers Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)
Westcliffe, CO [Get Directions](#)
-  **Security Farmers & Art Market** [SEE PROFILE](#)

MarketMaker Business Profile

Abundant Life Organic Farms

Hotchkiss, Colorado

Email: [Contact Us](#)

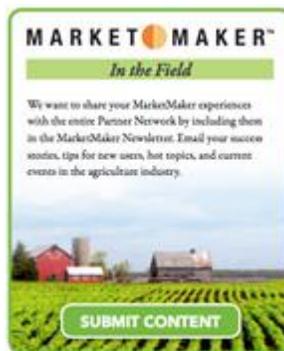
Phone: (970) 985-8842

Address: 31733 Highway 92, Hotchkiss, Colorado 81419

Updated: Jan 13, 2010

About Us

We are a family operated farm located in the beautiful North Fork Valley of Colorado, which is home to numerous organic farms and orchards. Our main income comes from direct selling of our product at our road side stand and at farmers' markets. We have a total of 90 acres, with about 4 under production. By family farm, I mean our children work with us and are an integral part of what we do. They range in age from 6-13...[READ MORE](#)



MarketMaker would like to share your business success with its partner network. Email content to newsletter@foodmarketmaker.com.

USDA NASS GATHERING DATA ON CONSERVATION-SHARE YOUR STORY!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting farmers and ranchers from now through August as part of a national survey of conservation practices.

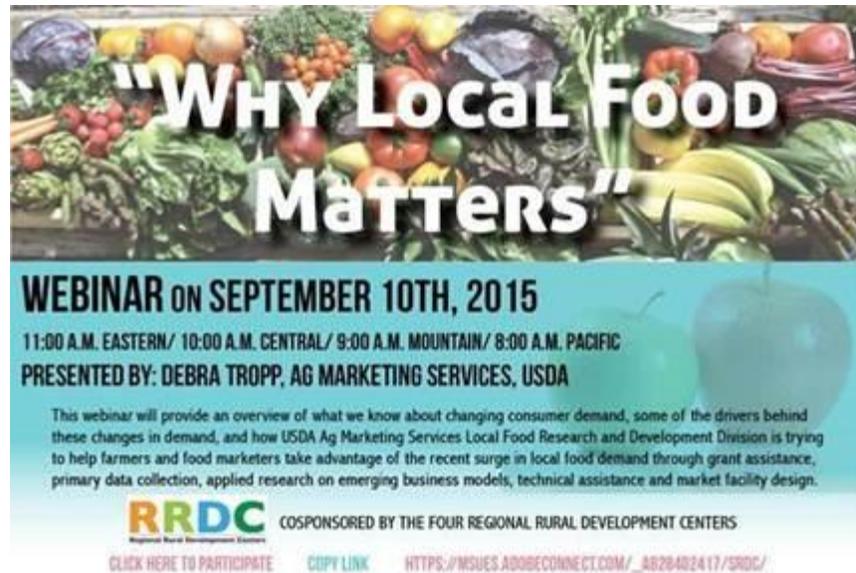
During the first phase of the National Resources Inventory – [Conservation Effects Assessment Project](#) (CEAP), NASS will contact approximately 24,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide to determine if their operations and properties meet eligibility criteria to participate in the survey. Farmers and ranchers deemed eligible may be contacted from October 2015 through February 2016 and asked to participate in the survey, part of a two-year project. The same survey process and schedule will be followed later in 2016 with a different set of producers.

Data obtained from the project may help NRCS conservationists and partners determine the efficiency and effectiveness of current conservation techniques and help identify best practices. For more information on the project and the survey, see NASS' [CEAP information](#).

USDA WEBINAR: WHY LOCAL FOODS MATTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's four Regional Rural Development Centers will host a webinar featuring Deb Tropp from the USDA Ag Marketing Service that will explore what is driving the public's interest and USDA's investments in local food initiatives.

There is no need to pre-register, but on September 10th, 9 am MDT, you can go directly to this link: https://msues.adobeconnect.com/_a828402417/srdc/. There is more information on the webinar below.



"Why Local Food Matters"

WEBINAR ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2015
11:00 A.M. EASTERN / 10:00 A.M. CENTRAL / 9:00 A.M. MOUNTAIN / 8:00 A.M. PACIFIC
PRESENTED BY: DEBRA TROPP, AG MARKETING SERVICES, USDA

This webinar will provide an overview of what we know about changing consumer demand, some of the drivers behind these changes in demand, and how USDA Ag Marketing Services Local Food Research and Development Division is trying to help farmers and food marketers take advantage of the recent surge in local food demand through grant assistance, primary data collection, applied research on emerging business models, technical assistance and market facility design.

RRDC COSPONSORED BY THE FOUR REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
Regional Rural Development Centers

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE](#) [COPY LINK](#) [HTTPS://MSUES.ADOBECONNECT.COM/_A828402417/SRDC/](https://msues.adobeconnect.com/_a828402417/srdc/)

WEBINAR: RISK MANAGEMENT IN PROCESSING FOR PRODUCE GROWERS

August 27, 12pm – 1:15 pm, MDT

The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association is presenting a webinar on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) programs for produce growers, presented by Dave Davis of Colorado HACCP. For produce growers who have processing facilities under their control or who are considering expanding their business model into food processing and packaging, learn about:

- Differences between GAPs, GMPs, HACCP.
- Controlling food hazards through HACCP--basic HACCP principles and overview on how to write a HACCP plan.
- Adapting to Preventive Controls for Human Food under the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Connect to the webinar at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/colofood> 5 minutes prior to 12 pm start time. Resources, tools, checklists, and service providers for follow-up, will be posted to the CFVGA web site (www.coloradoproduce.org).

COURSE: BREEDING CROPS FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

A great opportunity in our own backyard! Nationally renowned plant breeders from University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, Oregon State University, and Organic Seed Alliance will lead a Fundamentals of On-Farm Plant Breeding course at Colorado State University on September 11-12, 2015.

Participants will learn basic principles to evaluate, develop, improve, and maintain plant varieties for their farm. Instruction will include how to conduct variety trials, set breeding goals, develop breeding plans, and choose parents. Participants will also learn techniques and examples for breeding cross-pollinating and self-pollinating crops.

This course is intended for farmers and agricultural students. Prior experience in basic seed growing is recommended. Participants are encouraged to review Organic Seed Alliance's online tutorials on seed saving and production before the course. These resources can be found at <http://seedalliance.org/publications>.

The event will be held at Colorado State University's Agricultural Research, Development and Education Center (ARDEC) located at 4616 NE Frontage Road in Fort Collins, Colorado, on Friday, September 11, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 12, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This course is being offered free of charge, and includes the two-day course and breakfast and lunch on Saturday only. Registration is required and can be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NOVIC>.

2015 NATIONAL SURVEY: ORGANIC FARMERS

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is kicking off its [2015 National Survey of Organic Farmers](#). This survey will ask all certified organic farmers in the U.S. to share their experiences, and let the scientific community know what areas of research are most needed to advance organic farming.

The 2015 National Survey of Organic Farmers will be emailed to every certified organic farmer with a listed email address on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's certification database which lists a total of 13,352 certified organic farmers. Farmers without a listed email address will receive a mailed postcard asking them to access the survey via OFRF's website at www.ofrf.org. Organic certification organizations nationwide have also agreed to help distribute the survey to their members. Survey results will be used to update OFRF's National Organic Research Agenda, an influential roadmap for the USDA and other research institutions, identifying the issues most critical to the success of organic farmers.

GRANTS: USDA SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION

USDA Small Business Innovation Research Program is soliciting applications for **Phase 1 projects**. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality, advanced concepts research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits.

Eligibility: The Project Director has to be affiliated with a for-profit business. Members of academic institutions can serve as Co-PDs, and may partner with private businesses. The application deadline for Phase 1 projects is October 8, 2015. Funding is limited to \$100,000, with a project duration of 8 months.

Topic areas are:

1. Plant Production & Protection—Engineering
2. Forests and Related Resources
3. Air, Water & Soils
4. Small and Mid-Size Farms
5. Rural Development
6. Biofuels & Biobased Products
7. Aquaculture
8. Plant Production and Protection—Biology
9. Animal Production & Protection
10. Food Science & Nutrition

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

GRANTS: WESTERN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) is now offering up to \$2,000 per mini grant for educational programming and training. These grant applications will be reviewed and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. There are two types of applications for professional development travel scholarships and professional development mini-grants for projects. Please visit <http://www.westernsare.org/> for more information.

Other open grant programs include:

- Professional Development (Due October 28th)
- Farmer/Rancher (Due December 2nd)
- Professional + Producer (Due December 2nd)

This program has a longstanding role in supporting on-the-ground projects in Colorado! Descriptions of each program and links to the full Call for Proposals can be found at westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants. The Western SARE Administrative Council will select reviewed proposals that are innovative; diverse in content, subject matter, and geography; demonstrate tangible outcomes; and provide readily adaptable technologies and information suitable to the adoption of sustainable farming and ranching systems by producers in the western region.

COLORADO BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS FARMERS MARKET

The Colorado Business-to-Business (B2B) Farmers Market is an annual opportunity for food and farm businesses to meet, greet, and create new business relationships. The event is a no-cost, no-frills, no-hassle way to connect Colorado food producers to Colorado food buyers.

The B2B Farmers Market is a wholly independent and collaborative statewide project comprising organizations working with restaurants, caterers, farmers, food and beverage producers and buyers, and distributors.

Date: November 3rd, 2016 from 10 am to 3 pm

Location: Rhino Art District, [3600 Wynkoop St., Denver, CO](#)

For more information and registration: [click here](#)

USDA OPERATIONS GUIDE: RUNNING A FOOD HUB

USDA Rural Development is introducing a new technical report series called [Running a Food Hub](#). Developed in partnership with the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability ([VA FAIRS](#)) and [Matson Consulting](#), *Running a Food Hub* offers new and existing food hubs valuable information on how to plan for success, address challenges, and achieve viability. The first report in the series, [Running a Food Hub: Lessons Learned from the Field](#), details best business practices for starting or expanding a food hub, including operational profiles of several existing hubs.

From the report:



CONTEST: 2015 AGRICULTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



The Colorado Department of Agriculture is hosting its 18th annual agricultural photography contest!

All entries must relate to Colorado agriculture in some way. Entries representing all types of agricultural enterprises, scenes and people are encouraged. Amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to enter; however, professionals may only enter agriculture-related photographs in the "Open Professional" category.

Prizes will be awarded in five subject areas:

1. Agritourism (activities, events and services related to agriculture that connect consumers with heritage, natural resource or culinary experiences),
2. Crops,
3. Livestock,
4. People, and
5. Open Professional.

All images must have been photographed in Colorado during the 2015 calendar year. Entries must be received (via e-mail to Wendy.White@state.co.us) by December 31, 2015. Winners will be announced January 2016. For [official rules visit here](#).

FARM TO SCHOOL: POLL SHOWS HIGH PUBLIC SUPPORT

A new national survey shows that people in the United States overwhelmingly support current efforts to keep school meals healthy. As a follow up to its 2010 School Food Poll, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation commissioned the 2015 School Food Poll to understand how attitudes have changes since the implementation of the new school food nutrition standards. Polling more than 1,200 adults around the county, the survey found that people are more committed than ever to improving healthy foods in schools.

Among the findings:

- 9 out of 10 people in the U.S. support the national school nutrition standards.
- 88% support increased government funding to expand farm to school programs.
- 85% support increased government funding to expand farm to school programs to reach more schools with large populations of American Indians.
- 78% support expanding farm to school to preschools and day care.

Read more about the survey and how the National Farm to School Network supports local food in school cafeterias in [this USA Today article](#). A full summary of the 2015 School Food Poll can be found [here](#).

WORKSHOP: CONNECTING THE GARDEN TO LITERACY

Denver Urban Garden's (DUG) presents: Helping Kids Get Healthy: Connecting the Garden to Literacy.

Instead of adding to educators' already full plates, this workshop will show teachers and other educators how to incorporate gardening into their existing lessons! In this workshop, DUG will explore ways to utilize the garden as an engaging subject to enhance literacy education.

Location: DUG Headquarters at 1031 33rd Street.

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Time: 5:30

For more information and to sign up, [register here!](#)

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY AG DAY

Since 1981, [Ag Day](#), a celebration and fundraiser for undergraduate scholarships has been hosted by Colorado State University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Department of Intercollegiate Athletics! Join us for a celebration of Colorado's rich agricultural heritage before the first home football game.

With support from Colorado agricultural organizations and associations, this nonprofit event commits all proceeds for scholarships to Colorado State University agricultural science students. Colorado agricultural producers prepare Colorado's premier outdoor barbecue from quality Colorado food products.

To learn more or purchase tickets, visit <http://agday.agsci.colostate.edu/>.

COLORADO STATE FAIR

Colorado became a state in 1876 and before the Colorado flag flew high, the State Fair was already earning its place in history. In 1869, approximately 2,000 people converged on what is now Pueblo for a horse exhibition; and from that meager beginning was born the [Colorado State Fair](#).

The Fair continues to call Pueblo home and, in fact, has only cancelled once during its entire history (in 1917, during World War I, the Fairgrounds' horse stables and open space offered an ideal training facility for the Army National Guard).

Since then, the [Colorado State Fair](#) has developed into the largest summer event in Colorado and offers families a fun, educational summer vacation! Save the date for the 2015 [Colorado State Fair](#) in Pueblo, August 28th-September 7th.

WORKSHOP: THINKING BIG ABOUT SHORT CHAIN FOOD SYSTEMS



September 28-29, 2015 at the Lory Student Center at Colorado State University!

Participate in Colorado State University's One Health Food Systems workshop featuring two days of creative conversation with local and national voices around the dynamics of food production, distribution, marketing, and health and consumer issues. Workshop is limited to 100 attendees, so register at <http://extension.colostate.edu/food-systems-conference> to assure your spot!

Also, the American Grasslands Conference will be held following the One Health workshop, at CSU from September 30 - October 1st. Find more information here:

<http://sustainability.colostate.edu/opportunities/americas-grasslands-conference-partnerships-grasslands-conservation>.

SEPTEMBER: COLORADO PROUD SCHOOL MEAL DAY

Seeking chefs, farmers, and industry professionals interested in educating students about the industry, food, and/or nutrition—your expertise is needed for **Wednesday, September 30, 2015!**

Give back and get back. Help local schools statewide educate, showcase local product, and celebrate Colorado Proud School Meal Day on Wednesday, September 30. Your efforts will be recognized! Receive promotional opportunities and recognition from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. If you are interested in volunteering and making a connection with our state's youth by promoting Colorado agriculture please contact Shaina Knight at (303) 869-9176 or Shaina.Knight@state.co.us.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Everyone can celebrate National Farm to School Month, and it's never too early to start planning! If your organization would like to become a Farm to School Month outreach partner through the National Farm to School Network, [sign up here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference is a biennial event that convenes a diverse group of stakeholders from across the farm-to-cafeteria movement who are working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America.

The conference is hosted by the National Farm to School Network, in partnership with a local host organization. Save the date for the 2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, to be held **June 1-4, 2016** in **Madison, Wisconsin**.

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](#).