

CSU Extension Local Food Systems Newsletter

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65TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **65th 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 two 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!

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 MARKET RESEARCH MAPPING TOOL



COMING IN SEPTEMBER! New mapping functionality to enhance the market research tool! MarketMaker's market research tool will be refreshed with user-friendly enhancements.

NEW MARKET RESEARCH TOOL MAPPING IMPROVEMENTS

- Expanded map size
- Increased speed and performance
- Easy-to-use graphical interface
- Business keyword searches across all types of information categories
- Text query location search
- Improved transparency for quick visualization of layered datasets
- Advanced data layering capacity, allowing for mapping of almost any future dataset

For more information [click here](#). Email content to the national MarketMaker Newsletter at newsletter@foodmarketmaker.com.

WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the expansion of the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection \(WFRP\)](#) crop insurance policy to every state and every county, making WFRP the first crop insurance policy to be universally available nationwide.

WFRP is a single crop insurance policy that insures all of a farmer's crops and animals under one policy. Since most single crop policies are not widely available, and many organic and other niche crops cannot be insured at their price premiums, this policy fills a major access gap in the current crop insurance system.

Beginning September 1, farmers can begin signing up for WFRP and will have until January 31, February 28 or March 15, depending on the spring closing date for their county, to purchase the insurance.

Farmers interested in the policy should start by reviewing RMA's [fact sheet](#) on WFRP and then talk to their crop insurance agent about the records they will need to assemble and what the purchase deadline is for their county. RMA also has [several other resources](#) available to help farmers decide if WFRP is right for them.

USDA ORGANIC SURVEY RESULTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistic Service's 2014 Organic Survey was released Sept. 17, analyzing data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

The survey finds that more than 14,000 U.S. farms grew organic produce and other agricultural products in 2012. About 3.7 million acres of land had organic products in 2012; a slight decrease from a little more than 4 million acres in 2008. California, the industry leader, reported production on 687,000 of these acres, while Colorado had more than 115,000 acres under production. Of the 14,093 certified or exempt U.S. farms (which is down slightly from the 14,540 farms reported in the 2008 survey), 2,805 were in California, and 157 in Colorado.

The value of U.S. organic agricultural products in 2012 was \$5.5 billion, with the top ten states being: 1-California, 2-Washington, 3-Pennsylvania, 4-Oregon, 5-Wisconsin, 6-Texas, 7-New York, **8-Colorado**, 9-Michigan, and 10-Iowa. California accounted for about \$2.2 billion of that total, while Colorado farmers reported selling almost \$147 million in products—nearly 3% of the nation's total sales—and an increase of 96% in real terms over Colorado's 2008 sales of organic agricultural products.

About 164,403 acres of organic vegetables, potatoes and melons worth \$1.25 billion were harvested in the U.S. in 2012, \$18.7 million of which were in Colorado. In the "other fruit, nuts and berries" category, about 3,523 farms produced \$579 million worth of product in 2012, where Colorado's total was \$2.4 million. In 2012, Colorado's most significant value of sales was realized was in potatoes (more than \$13.5 million), apples (\$2.2 million), tomatoes (\$138,337), and garlic (\$111,266), among other crops. Find the complete report [here](#).

WEBINAR: GROUP CERTIFICATION IN GOOD AG PRACTICES

[AMS' Specialty Crops Inspection Division](#), in partnership with the [Wallace Center at Winrock International](#), will present a webinar on GroupGAP, a new certification option for a Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) audit program. This alternative method makes GAPs certification more accessible to small producers by allowing multiple growers to work together to obtain a single group certification. GroupGAP certification offers growers, and especially small- to medium-sized producers, a cost-effective way to show adherence to GAPs and Good Handling Practices (GHPs).

Learn more about the GroupGAP certification option including:

- Benefits of group certification
- Program requirements
- How to form a group
- How to apply for group certification
- How to craft a Quality Management System

When: Thursday, November 12, 2015 2:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time).

Registration is required at the [AMS website](#).

Note that this audit program is currently not available through the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service.

OUTREACH TO FARMERS BEGINS ON NEW FOOD SAFETY RULES

With the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) poised to release [new food safety rules](#) for produce growers and food facilities this fall, Members of Congress are drawing attention to the urgent need for outreach, education, and training – particularly as many small-scale farms are newly subject to food safety requirements. The food safety training grants program received \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, but funding for FY 2016 [remains in question](#). The current House appropriations bill contains \$5 million.

The Agriculture Marketing Service is conducting a webinar on October 7th entitled: [FSMA Is Here.....Are You Ready](#) to discuss the new requirements for compliance with FDA's recently revised 'Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Foods.'

To read more about the Food Safety Modernization Act, visit the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) to access the following resources and more:

- [FSMA 101: Overview and Background](#)
- [For Farmers and Processors: Am I Affected?](#)

Check for full text of the rules as they are released, as well as fact sheets and other information, at <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/>.

COURSES: FOOD PRESERVATION, COTTAGE FOODS

Colorado State University Extension is offering upcoming classes and trainings in food preservation, fermentation, and Cottage Food safety during October and November. Upcoming events will be held in Golden, Longmont, and Centennial.

[Visit here](#) for more details and to sign up.

Questions? Phone: 303-678-6238 or Email: azander@bouldercounty.org.

LOANS: FARM STORAGE FINANCING FOR MEAT, DAIRY AND EGGS

Just weeks after [expanding financing options for produce growers](#), USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) last week expanded the [Farm Storage Facility Loan](#) (FSFL) program yet again, to provide affordable financing to farmers to build or upgrade storage for meat, dairy, and eggs.

The [FSA notice](#) makes the following commodities eligible for facility loans: unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, floriculture (flowers), hops, rye, and aquaculture. Most grains and oilseeds have been eligible for the FSFL program since the program's beginning, and pulse crops, peanuts, hay, biomass, and honey were added later.

This USDA loan program provides financing for farmers to build or upgrade on-farm cold storage, packing, washing, and handling facilities, including:

- Packing sheds
- Walk-in coolers
- Electrical, cooling, monitoring and food safety equipment
- Graders, sorters, conveyors, washers and drying tunnels
- Shipping, preparation and installation costs

These needed changes will help farmers of all kinds keep food safe, facilitate new markets, and better serve the expanding customer base for healthy, local and regional food.

To read more about the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program, check out NSAC's [Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](#) or download this [FSFL fact sheet](#) that can be used at upcoming farmer conferences.

GRANTS: TO DECREASE FOOD INSECURITY

Kaiser Permanente is excited to announce the release of a request for proposals (RFP) to decrease food insecurity. Kaiser Permanente is investing up to \$1,000,000 over two (2) years with awards up to \$100,000 per organization. Food insecurity refers to the degree to which food intake is reduced, or normal eating patterns are disrupted, because of lack of money and/or other resources.

The intended outcomes of this funding opportunity are to:

- Increase enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and
- Increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program.

Organizations may submit proposals that focus on one or both of these outcomes by implementing best practices. Eligible organizations must be a 501c(3) with an annual operating budget of \$1.5 million or less or a Colorado health care Safety Net organization with an operating budget of any size. **See the RFP for more specific eligibility criteria.**

Organizations interested in applying for funding should review [the frequently asked questions](#) and read the RFP in its entirety. The funding opportunity is currently released on the [open funding opportunities](#) page. They presented one webinar on September 15 to provide more information, and slides can be found here: http://share.kaiserpermanente.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Decreasing-Food-Insecurity-Webinar_9_11_2015_FINAL-PDF.pdf.

If there are questions after the webinar, please direct them to co-contributions@kp.org

Applications are due October 30, 2015 and the grant period is March 1, 2016-March 1, 2018.

GRANTS: EXTENSION RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

The Western Extension Risk Management Education Center (Western Center) announced a funding opportunity for projects that help farm and ranch families succeed through targeted risk management strategies. The maximum amount of requested funding shall not exceed \$50,000.

Proposals are due by 5 PM, PST, Monday November 16, 2015.

Application Information: Go to the [Western Center](#) website and select “[Competitive Grants Program](#)”. The grants application process is fully explained in the Western Center's 2016 Request for Applications (RFA). The online application system includes a user-based access within the Results Verification System (RVS).

Eligibility: This announcement seeks applications from eligible organizations with a demonstrated capacity to develop and deliver results/outcome-based risk management education and training programs for agricultural producers and their families. All organizations serving agricultural producers, especially those serving the special emphasis audiences identified on page 3 of the RFA, are strongly encouraged to apply.

An applicant webinar will be conducted on Friday October 2nd at 10:00AM PDT. No pre-registration is required and there is no fee to participate. Simply join the Adobe Connect Pro meeting room at <http://breeze.wsu.edu/appwebinar> 10 minutes prior to the webinar start time. You will be presented with a login screen that has the option to “Enter as Guest”.

Questions or comments regarding the RFA may be directed to:

JoAnn Warner, [509-477-2168](tel:509-477-2168), warnerj@wsu.edu or
Shannon Neibergs, [509-335-6360](tel:509-335-6360), sneibergs@wsu.edu.

GRANTS: USDA SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION

USDA’s 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 AG RESEARCH & EDUCATION

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)

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](#).

NAVIGATING AG THROUGH THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

This symposium is a unique opportunity to hear from a distinguished panel of experts as they discuss these and other issues facing agriculture and the rural communities that support this vital industry. The program is aimed at Extension educators, technical service providers, regulatory agencies, academic institutions, agricultural commodity groups, producers and agricultural science teachers.

Some questions to be addressed at this November conference are:

- What are the linkages between water, energy, and food systems?
- What are the inter-dependencies and trade-offs that will influence future policy and sustainability of agriculture?
- How does the water-energy-food nexus function from local to regional scales and can it be a useful tool for future planning?
- Is agriculture prepared to manage risks from climate variability and does it have a voice in climate change policy?

The \$125 registration fee is waived for Extension county/regional agents/educators. Venue capacity is limited to the first 200 individuals who register. On-site registration will not be accepted.

Registration ends November 6. For more information (announcement & agenda) and to register, [click here](#).

TRANSFORMING FOOD ACCESS SUMMIT

Wholesome Wave is hosting a national summit entitled *Transforming Food Access Summit: Accelerating Affordability with Nutrition Incentives* in Atlanta, GA on January 11 - 13, 2016. The Summit is designed to bring together key stakeholders, from the national level to community-based organizations, to engage around building food system change through affordable access to healthy food.

Nutrition incentives have played a transformational role in providing affordable access to healthy fruits and vegetables for hundreds of thousands of low-income consumers. This is an event you won't want to miss. From national policy makers to community-based organizations engaged in incentive programs and local and regional food supply chains, attendees will take away practical and innovative tactics to improve access to healthy food.



Summit overview and information can be found at:

<https://www.wholesomewave.org/2016-summit/>

CONTEST: 2015 AGRICULTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY



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](#).

ISSUE BRIEFS FOR ADVANCING FOOD SYSTEMS IN COLORADO

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council recently released four new issues briefs on advancing food systems in Colorado. They are available for [download here](#).

The briefs include a 3-part series on the reuse of natural resources to promote edible crop production and a brief examining the issue of the recovery and redistribution of fruits and vegetables:

Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part I: Water

Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part II: Land Use

Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part III: Energy

Barriers & Opportunities for Healthy Food Recovery From Grocery Retail to Hunger Relief Organizations

Each brief provides an overview of the issue in Colorado, key data describing the importance to a healthy and health-promoting food system, existing models from Colorado and across the country, and recommendations for local, state, and national partners to help achieve COFSAC's charge to "strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture and local food systems and economies."

Local food policy councils, public health departments, or other community organizations can use the data and case studies provided to inform local efforts, while the briefs highlight research and policy actions that state partners to take.

For more questions about COFSAC or these briefs, please contact:
Dawn Thilmany McFadden at Dawn.Thilmany@colostate.edu or
Wendy Peters Moschetti at wendymoschetti@livewellcolorado.org

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**.

COLORADO PRODUCE DAY

Colorado Produce Day at the [Colorado Farm Show](#) is Tuesday, January 26th 2016 from 9am-3pm and will feature the latest cultivation tips, federal policy updates, on-farm food safety tools, best practices for labor compliance, business development tools and more!



Stay tuned to the [Colorado Fruit and Vegetables Growers Association website](#) for more information.

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](#).