

CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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80TH EDITION

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Welcome to the **80th 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:

- **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.
- **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://foodsystems.colostate.edu/extension-outreach/local-food-systems-newsletter/>.

CONTENTS

[Regional Spotlight: Jackson County](#)

[Colorado MarketMaker: Connecting to Other States](#)

[Grants: National Farm to School Network Seeking Applications for 2017-2019 Core Partners](#)

[Grants: USDA Support for Local Foods Sector](#)

[Blueprint for Colorado Food and Agriculture](#)

[Training: MarketReady Producer Training Program](#)

[News: USDA Provides New Cost Share Opportunities for Organic Producers and Handlers](#)

[News: Oregon State Releases Market Research for Market Readiness Protocol](#)

[News: the Denver Food Vision Seeks Feedback on Draft](#)

[Events: Produce Safety And Preventive Controls Training Courses](#)

[Events: Colorado AgrAbility Workshops](#)

[Event: 5th Annual Western Colorado Food & Farm Forum](#)

[Event: Upcoming Events at Four Seasons Market](#)

[Event: Agritourism Workshop](#)

[Event: Ag Outlook and Strategy Forums](#)

[Event: Annie's Project to be Held in January and February](#)

[Event: Register Now for the 3rd Annual CFVGA Conference](#)

[Event: Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture](#)

[Webinar: Co-Op Model and Key Factors of Success](#)

[Event: Authorize Your Farm for Snap Availability](#)

[Event: Save the Date for "Changing Lands, Changing Hands" Conference](#)

[Contact Information](#)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County may have a short growing season, but the local Extension office still finds ways to contribute to and improve its local food system. The main way that Extension does this is through the 4-H program. Debbie Alpe, County Director for Jackson County Extension, said that this program makes a significant impact on the frozen meat supply in the area.



Debbie Alpe, County Director for Jackson County Extension

"When our grocery store closed several years ago, we basically became a food desert." Since then, a new grocery store and other food suppliers have increased food availability in the area, but 4-H animal projects continue to be a steady source of meat for the community. Eighty-four students enrolled in 4-H this year and raised twenty-one beef, thirty-five pigs, eight lambs, ten goats, eighteen rabbits, fourteen turkeys, and five ducks. The animals were bought by local community members through private treaty direct sale or junior livestock sale, delivered to meat processors, and then returned to the buyer.

In some cases, however, the buyer has decided to donate the animal or meat back to the 4-H member or community. In recent years, the local stockgrowers' and cattlemen's groups have participated in this "buyback" program and donated a full beef to the local school district. Extension's impact through 4-H also extends beyond food production.

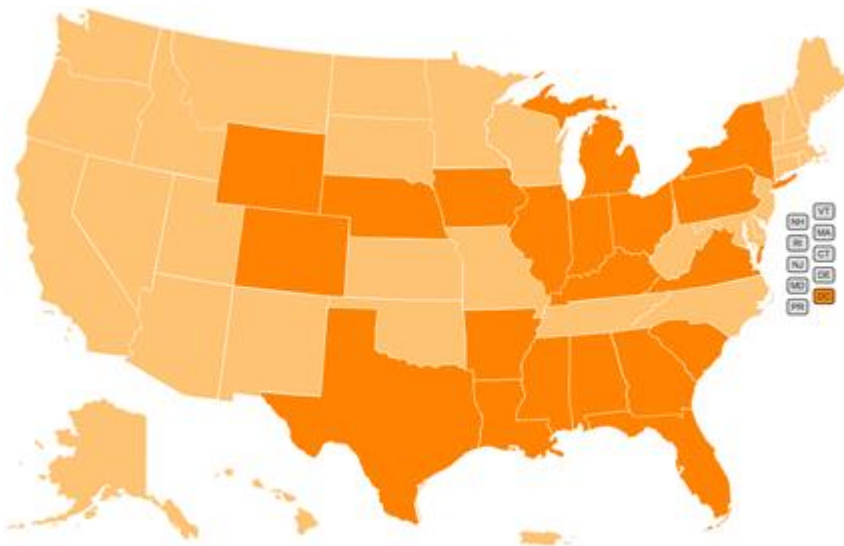
Thirty-two 4-H members also participated in Meat Quality Assurance educational activities and learned about live ultrasound, meat judging, and other aspects of livestock care. Debbie's involvement in 4-H grew over the years as her children joined the program. Her favorite aspects of her twelve years in Jackson County Extension are learning about livestock, staying involved and bettering her community, and working for an organization that plays to everyone's strengths. She shared that "Jackson County 4-H is proud to be contributing to a small but much appreciated locally-based food system by producing these high quality meat products." For more information about Jackson County 4-H, please visit <http://www.extension.colostate.edu/jackson/4-H/4h.shtml>.

COLORADO MARKETMAKER: CONNECTING TO OTHER STATES



Did you know MarketMaker can connect to you other states? The National MarketMaker Partners Network is a “partnership between Land Grant Universities, Departments of Agriculture, and food and agricultural organizations investing in a coordinated effort to build a virtual infrastructure that brings healthier, fresher, and more flavorful food to the average consumer.”

In the picture below, the states shaded dark orange is a part of the Partner Network. To read more about other states’ MarketMaker websites, click [here](#) and then choose the state you wish to see.



GRANTS: NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-2019 CORE PARTNERS

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is seeking partner organizations across the United States to serve as Core Partners during 2017-2019 in the next phase of farm to school and early care and education (ECE) growth and evolution.

The NFSN is looking specifically for Core Partners who will contribute to network development, information sharing, and policy development. NFSN will support the activities undertaken by Core Partners through structured opportunities for peer learning and integration of on-the-ground activities into a coordinated national movement across the United States.

Core Partners will demonstrate the ability to accomplish the following:

- Development of a robust, multi-sectoral farm to school and ECE network in one state,
- Leverage policy opportunities to advance farm to school and ECE,
- Secure agency support through farm to school and ECE coordination positions/responsibilities and dedicated funding,
- Identify additional and diversified sources of funding for farm to school and ECE, and
- Provide equitable access to farm to school and ECE information and resources for all children and communities

Grant awards range from \$4,000 to \$12,000 based on need and farm to school and ECE growth potential over the 2017-2019 timeframe.

Applications are due **Thursday, January 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET**. To read more about the NFSN initiative, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).

GRANTS: USDA SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FOODS SECTOR

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced the availability of \$27 million in grants to fund innovative projects designed to strengthen market opportunities for local and regional food producers and businesses.

The request for applications for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program includes [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) (FMPP) and [Local Food Promotion Program](#) (LFPP) grants, and the [Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#) (FSMIP). These programs and [other resources across USDA](#) are helping to revitalize rural America by supporting local and regional food stakeholders.

AMS will host a webinar for potential FMPP and LFPP grant applicants on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, and a teleconference for potential FSMIP grant applicants on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. For more information about FSMIP, FMPP and LFPP, visit: www.ams.usda.gov/AMSgrants. The website also contains a link to a grants decision tree, "[What AMS Grant is Right for ME?](#)", to help applicants determine which AMS grant fits their project best.

The grant applications for FSMIP, FMPP and LFPP must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov/ by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **Monday, March 27, 2017**.

BLUEPRINT FOR COLORADO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

CSU is part of a team of partners formulating a Blueprint for our state's food and agriculture system over the coming year, and we are inviting all Coloradans to be a part of this effort.

The purpose of formulating a Blueprint is to:

- Continue conversations about Colorado agriculture ;
- Highlight connections of food and agriculture and its impact across the state;

- Bring Colorado's regions together around shared economic, community health, and food system opportunities and strengths; and
- Frame priorities and levers that will motivate research and programming or inform policy-making across all sectors of the food value chain.

Who should be involved: Those whose lives are touched by food and agriculture. We are hoping to hear from stakeholders along the supply chain (from the natural resources base through to consumers), no matter their scale including consumers, farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers, and food policy groups. Our goal is to get a diversity of voices to the table, recognizing that we will also be hosting commodity specific meetings later in the year.

Regional meetings are being coordinated by advisory groups in each region and begin in January. Current plans include:

Region 1: Western CO (Delta, Garfield, Gunnison, Lake, Mesa, Montrose, Garfield, and Pitkin)

- January 21: Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum Montrose Fairgrounds
<http://www.foodfarmforum.org/>
- March: Delta County Conservation District/Economic Development location TBD

Region 2: Southwestern CO (Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel)

- Working to finalize meeting details.

Region 3: South Central CO (Alamosa, Chaffee, Costilla, Conejos, Custer, Fremont, Rio Grande, and Saguache)

- February 6: 2 to 4 pm at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds
- February 7: 10:30 am to noon at the Monte Vista Theater

Region 4: Eastern CO (Cheyenne, Crowley, Kit Carson, Kiowa, Lincoln, and Pueblo)

- March 1: 9:30-11:30 am in Pueblo (possible satellite location at the Kiowa County Extension Office)

Region 5: Southeastern CO (Baca, Bent, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers)

- February 27th 10:30 am-12 pm in Las Animas

Region 6: Northeast CO (Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma)

- February 13: 9-11 am in Sterling

Region 7: Front Range CO (Boulder, Larimer, and Weld)

- March 13: 1-3 pm and 6-8 pm at the SW Weld Services Building

Region 8: Northwest CO (Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit)

- February 14: 2-4 pm at the Routt County Extension Building

Region 9: Denver MSA (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, Park, and Teller)

- February 13: 2-4 pm at the Douglas County Fairgrounds

Find out more about the blueprint, our regional efforts, and how to provide feedback at:
<http://foodsystems.colostate.edu/>.

TRAINING: MARKETREADY PRODUCER TRAINING PROGRAM

Please join the Colorado Department of Agriculture for a MarketReady Producer Training Program designed to support farmers, ranchers, food hub managers, Extension Agents and other business development service providers.

The training will be held on **February 15th and 16th, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, at the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Broomfield office.

Program topics are focused on building core business skills to enter new wholesale markets or improve current market channel success, including:

- Packaging,
- Labeling,
- Pricing,
- Supply,
- Delivery,
- Storage,
- Invoicing,
- Insurance,
- Quality assurance
- Temperature control, and
- Communication strategies with buyers

Registration fees vary, based on background and dates, with group discounts for farmers available. Visit [here](#) for details, registration and agenda.

Attendees will receive comprehensive program materials, and have the opportunity to meet with retail and wholesale buyers, Colorado Department of Agriculture staff specializing in meat and egg regulation, and with farmers who have built successful businesses using diverse market channels. Participants will be provided a lunch on both days. For more information, contact Shaina Knight (shaina.knight@state.co.us) or Martha Sullins (martha.sullins@colostate.edu).

NEWS: USDA PROVIDES NEW COST SHARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS AND HANDLERS

The USDA announced on December 21st that, starting March 20th, 2017, organic producers and handlers will be able to visit over 2,100 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices around the country to apply for federal reimbursement to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic or transitional certification.

According to FSA Administration Val Dolcini, "USDA is committed to helping the organic sector grow and thrive through a wide variety of programs, and part of that commitment is making it easy for stakeholders to access our services. That's why, starting March 20th, producers will be able to visit their local FSA offices to access organic certification cost-share reimbursements for up to 75% of the cost of organic certification. This will provide a more uniform, streamlined process nationwide; and it will give

organic producers a chance to learn about other valuable USDA resources, like farm loans and conservation assistance that can help them succeed.”

This is in response to the USDA’s effort to encourage participation in the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program, while also providing more opportunities for organic producers to access a larger range of USDA programs, such as disaster protection and loans for farms, facilities, and marketing. To read more about the latest announcement from the USDA, click [here](#). To contact a local FSA office, please visit this [website](#).

NEWS: OREGON STATE RELEASES MARKET RESEARCH FOR MARKET READINESS PROTOCOL

Oregon State University has recently released its Market Research for Market Readiness (MKTRD) Protocol. This tool is designed to help entrepreneurial food makers and value-added producers evaluate the products they are developing for market, and allows them to:

- Evaluate a product’s sensory qualities,
- Investigate how much consumers will pay,
- Get new marketing ideas, and
- Demonstrate market readiness for retailers and investors.

Since this test is conducted by the individual themselves, it will cost much less than professional testing. The materials include a manual, and Excel workbook, and several training videos. To find more information on how to download the manual, click [here](#). If you have questions on the Market Research for Market Readiness Protocol, please contact [Cathy Durham](#).

NEWS: THE DENVER FOOD VISION SEEKS FEEDBACK ON DRAFT

The Food System Development team in Denver’s Office of Economic Development seeks public comments on a draft of the Denver Food Vision. The Denver Food Vision seeks to put into words a 15-year, aspiration of direction and key goals for Denver’s food system. It is based on the ideas and dreams that hundreds of people have shared with the organization through the 22 community and industry events that were held in early 2016. To read the Denver Food Vision, click [here](#).

The Vision is the first of a two-part Denver Food Plan. Part two is the Denver Food Action Plan 2020, which will be released in mid-2017. The Action Plan will outline specific projects the city will undertake with community partners to further the Vision by the year 2020.

Feedback can be provided in four different ways:

1. Respond with comments through the survey, found [here](#).
2. Attend one of two public engagement events on **January 12, 2017** at:
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Mile High United Way, 711 Park Ave. W
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Commons on Champa, 1245 Champa St.
RSVP for events by clicking [here](#)
3. Invite the Food System Development team to present at any scheduled community meeting in January
4. Email any other questions or comments to the [Denver Food Plan](#).

All public comments must be made by **January 31, 2017**.

EVENTS: PRODUCE SAFETY AND PREVENTIVE CONTROLS TRAINING COURSES

1. Trainings on the Produce Safety Rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act:

- a. January 16 at the Orchard Mesa Research Station, 3168 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction. This full day program is being offered to 35 participants for a fee of \$100 (includes lunch and training materials) The course will satisfy the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule - requirement outlined in subsection 112.22(c). Register [here](#).
- b. February 20th at the Denver Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street. CFVGA will be hosting this full day program on FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Registration closes on February 16th. Register [here](#).

2. Training on the FSPCA Preventative Controls Rule for Human Food:

February 1st to February 3rd at the Adams County Extension Office, 9755 Henderson Rd, Brighton, CO. The new FDA Preventive Controls for Human Food rule is intended to ensure safe manufacturing/processing, packing and holding of food products for human consumption in the United States. The regulation requires that certain activities must be completed or overseen by a “preventive controls qualified individual.” One way to meet the requirements for a “preventive controls qualified individual” is to complete the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Preventive Controls for Human Food Course. This course, developed by the FSPCA, is the “standardized curriculum” recognized by FDA. It will feature examples relevant to produce packinghouses covered by this rule; however, fresh-cut produce operations and other food facilities will benefit from this course, as well. Register by January 25 [here](#).

EVENTS: COLORADO AGRABILITY WORKSHOPS

Join the upcoming workshops with the CSU Extension AgrAbility Project. These workshops will focus on the topics of AgrAbility, mental wellness in rural Colorado, and how to work well with agricultural lenders and bankers. These workshops are particularly geared toward Colorado farm families and individuals who are dealing with barriers created by illness or other limitations.

The presenters include Dr. Norm Dalsted, Candiss Leathers, and Dr. James Craig. The dates and locations for each workshop are listed below. All workshops are from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** with a free box lunch provided for those who pre-register at least a week in advance. To register, email [Candiss Leathers](#) or [Norm Dalsted](#).

Upcoming workshops include:

Date: January 18, 2017

Location: County Courthouse
501 Palmer Street
Delta, CO 81416

Date: February 8, 2017

Location: Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Room 1
25690 E. Quincy Avenue
Aurora, CO 80016

EVENT: 5TH ANNUAL WESTERN COLORADO FOOD & FARM FORUM

Please join the 5th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum: Healthy Land, Food, People on **January 20th and 21st, 2017** in Montrose, CO. This event will feature an array of breakout sessions which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops.

This conference is for anyone interested in the future of agriculture, including ranchers, farmers, gardeners, students, and ag professionals. There will also be plenty of opportunities for networking throughout the conference. Conference highlights will also include presenters Ray Archuleta, Brendon Rockey, Greg Judy, a water boot camp, and a Rodale Institute Workshop.

The Food and Farm Forum is hosted by Colorado State University Extension, Shavano Conservation District, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and the National Young Farmers Coalition. To read more about the event and register online, click [here](#).

EVENT: UPCOMING EVENTS AT FOUR SEASONS MARKET

Join Four Seasons Market for events coming up within the next month. All events will be held at **7043 W. 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO.**

- Four Seasons Farmers & Artisans Market
 - **Date/Time:** Saturday, January 14th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 - **Description:** This event will consist of a community potluck and vendor info share. Local producers and growers are invited to come give quick presentations on what they do and how community members can access their products.
- Colorado Lark Flute & Guitar Duo
 - **Date/Time:** Saturday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.
 - **Description:** The Colorado Lark Flute & Guitar Duo will be performing classical music on January 21st. The duo is comprised of guitarist Lorian Bartle and flutist Jennifer Pauley. Sound samples and additional information about the duo can be found on their [webpage](#).
- 2nd Annual Four Seasons Art Show
 - **Date/Time:** Saturday, January 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - **Description:** A great showcase of artists from the Front Range! Paintings, photography, jewelry, and more. A limited number of vendor spaces are still available. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- Kids Workshop: Make an Alpaca Bookmark
 - **Date/Time:** Saturday, February 4th and Saturday, February 12th, both at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Description:** Just in time for Valentine's Day, bring your kids to join Susan Olson with Evening Star Farms to make a bookmark with alpaca

wool (from alpacas raised in Arvada) and a coloring project to go with it. Cost is \$7 and includes all materials.

- Seed Demo, Seed Swap, and Pot Luck (sponsored by Localworks)
 - **Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 8th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - **Description:** Come learn some tips and tricks on good indoor seeding practices with a few local experts. Once inspired by how easy it is to grow a bounty of fresh vegetables right outside your own front door, swap your favorite seeds with your fellow community members. Bring a dish to share!

EVENT: AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP

New Insights, Opportunities, and Barriers for Agritourism in the West
Friday, January 27th 12:00-4:30pm
The Farm House at Breckinridge Brewery, Littleton CO

Agritourism can provide additional income for beginning farmer businesses and, in some instances, may become a primary income source. Management of an agritourism enterprise requires understanding of consumer interests and behavior, marketing strategies, business risks, and leveraging available resources.

Join Colorado Building Farmers for an intensive class in Arapahoe County that will help you understand how to start or refine an agritourism enterprise. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

EVENT: AG OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY FORUMS

CSU Extension's Ag Business Management team will host six outlook and strategy forums throughout Colorado in January and February. Producers participating in the forums will learn about the outlook for commodity prices, production costs for each area, current Farm Service Agency programs, and various strategies for being profitable when prices are low.

Presenters include Dr. Stephen Koontz, CSU agricultural marketing expert, and Brent Young, Jeff Tranel, and Jenny Beiermann, CSU agricultural and business management economists. January 11th was the first event, and future event dates and locations are as follows:

- **February 7th** in Sterling, CO at the NJC campus
- **February 8th** in Burlington, CO at the Community Center
- **February 15th** in Limon, CO at the Hub City Senior Center

All programs run from **11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** with lunch provided. To register, click [here](#) or call (970) 522-7207, and ask for Rebecca. The cost is \$30 to register online and \$35 to register by phone.

EVENT: ANNIE'S PROJECT TO BE HELD IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Annie's Project is a six-week, discussion-based workshop on agriculture, bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and the legal field.

Each event is from **6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** at Northeastern Junior College, Beede-Hamil Hall. The cost is \$60 to register for all six sessions. Space is limited to only 20 participants. Registration needs to be completed by January 13th. To register for the event, call Rebecca May at (970) 522-7207.

Event dates and topics are:

- **January 17th**; human resources and real colors
- **January 24th**; estate planning, insurance for farm families, and farm leasing
- **January 31st**; women and money, enterprise analysis, and web soil survey
- **February 7th**; Farm Service Agency, NRCS, and crop insurance
- **February 14th**; basic financial documents, grain marketing, and interpretation of financial documents
- **February 21st**; other topics of interest, what have we learned, and graduation

EVENT: REGISTER NOW FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL CFVGA CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 3rd Annual Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Conference. It will be held on **February 21st** at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel.

This event is targeted at Colorado fruit and vegetable growers of any scale and type, as well as companies and organizations interested in the produce industry in Colorado. Organizations, individuals interested in the industry and students are also encouraged to attend.

The conference will feature educational and networking sessions, including:

- "Produce Fresh Trends Quiz Show" by Pamela Reimenschneider, Editor of Produce Retailer magazine
- "The Latest in Food Safety Research Impacting the Produce Industry" by Dr. Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli
- The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association annual meeting
- Break-out sessions and roundtable discussions
- Workshops on labor, food safety, business development, production, and nutrition and wellness

The address for the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel is 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207. Early registration pricing ends on **February 7th**. To register for this conference click [here](#).

EVENT: GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON COLORADO AGRICULTURE

Joining a wide range of speakers at the 2017 Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture, Gov. Hickenlooper and Commissioner Brown will help lead this year's Forum entitled "Label It: Agriculture," focusing on how collaboration and cooperation have made agriculture in Colorado the state's second-largest driver of our economy, and how similar efforts will be critical in moving the industry forward.

The Forum will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. To learn more and to register, go to www.governorsagforum.com.

For those who need accommodations, information for booking rooms at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel can also be made at the Governor's Forum website.

WEBINAR: CO-OP MODEL AND KEY FACTORS OF SUCCESS

The Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association is hosting a webinar in its Business Strategy Series: The Co-op Model and Key Factors of Success

- **Date/Time:** Thursday, January 12th from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m.
- **Description:** Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) Co-op Developer and organic farmer Dan Hobbs and RMFU Co-op Center Director Bill Stevenson will provide a detailed look at the cooperative business model, key factors of successful co-ops, and three examples of real live producer co-ops at work – Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, Arkansas Valley Organic Growers and Olathe Producers Co-op.

EVENT: AUTHORIZE YOUR FARM FOR SNAP AVAILABILITY

The USDA Food & Nutrition Services, Colorado Department of Human Services, LiveWell Colorado, Colorado Farmers Market Association, and local partners are hosting four “SNAP Sign Up” days in early 2017 for direct market farmers.

Markets or farmers can become SNAP-authorized by USDA staff on-the-spot, and complete an order form for the EBT machine that day. This can greatly decrease your time with the process. Sessions will include an overview of how EBT works by USDA staff, information on signing up for Double Up Food Bucks, and how farmers can become authorized to receive WIC benefits with eWIC.

You must register for the events no later than **January 16th**. Register [here](#). The event times and locations are as follows:

1) Montrose, January 21st:

Montrose Pavilion
Pavilion Dr., Montrose 81401
Local contact: Abbie Brewer: 970.417.6313

2) Alamosa, January 23rd:

San Luis Valley Local Food Coalition Offices
412 State Avenue in Alamosa.
Local contact Liza Marron: 719-937-2319 or 719-539-5606

3) Lakewood, January 24th:

CSU Extension Office
ECMR meeting room
On the Jefferson County Fairgrounds
15200 W 6th Ave
Golden 80401
Local contact Jacki Paone, Director, CSU Extension: 303.271.6620
OR Jenna Metzinger, jmetzing@co.jefferson.co.us

4) Loveland, January 25th:

Mount Audubon room, Medical Center of the Rockies

2500 Rocky Mountain Avenue

Loveland 80538

See attached directions and map.

Local contact:

Brad Christensen

Executive Director

Northern Colorado Food Cluster

608-692-5231

EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR “CHANGING LANDS, CHANGING HANDS” CONFERENCE

From **June 13th to June 15th**, the USDA and Land For Good will host a conference entitled “Changing Lands, Changing Hands: A National Conference on Farm and Ranch Access, Tenure and Transfer.” Land For Good’s mission is to “ensure the future of farming in New England by putting more farmers more securely on more land” with a focus on making land available, affordable, appropriate, and equitable. To learn more about their organization, click [here](#).

Access to land and farm succession are focus areas and challenges for US agriculture. Organizations, such as the USDA and Land For Good, are looking to find solutions to issues surrounding these topics using research, policies, programming, and professional development.

This conference is targeted at practitioners, policymakers, and advocates who work with and on behalf of farmers and landowners of all types, commodities, scales, and regions.

The conference starts at **3:00 p.m. on June 13th and will end at noon on June 15th**. It will be held in Denver, Colorado at the DoubleTree Stapleton North. Workshops and topics will include:

- Historic and contemporary perspectives on land access and transfer
- Paths to ownership
- Role of easements and conservation
- Succession advisor team building
- Public policies: state and federal
- Working with non-farming landowners
- Special populations: African American, Native American, immigrant, refugee, military veteran, and women
- Farmland investor models, and more!

Registration will open on **February 1st**. Look for the registration updates as well as updates on lodging and other logistical information on the conference’s webpage, found by clicking [here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

To add your ideas and news, contact [Ellie Naasz](#).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact [Martha Sullins](#).