

# CSU Extension Food Systems Newsletter

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Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

82<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

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Welcome to the **82<sup>nd</sup> 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 that is 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:

- **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!
- **Consider writing** a regional update so we can begin featuring 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>.

## CONTENTS

[Regional Spotlight: Denver County](#)

[Colorado MarketMaker: Farm Spotlight](#)

[Grants: Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#)

[Grants: Local Food Promotion Program](#)

[Grants: Farmers Market Promotion Program](#)

[Loans: Slow Food Denver Micro-Loans](#)

[News: Local Food Economics Toolkit Project](#)

[News: NSAC Highlights Information for Farmers](#)

[Event: Colorado Farmers Market Association Annual Meeting](#)

[Event: Meat-to-School Informational Webinar](#)

[Event: 2017 Front Range Beginning Farmers Conference](#)

[Event: Statewide Agritourism Event and Expo](#)

[Event: 2017 Homegrown Food Retreat](#)

[Event: 2017 Southern Colorado Tourism Summit](#)

[Event: Save the Date for the First Annual Four Corners Horticulture Workshop](#)

[Contact Information](#)



Dan Goldhamer, Denver County Extension Agent-Horticulture

## REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: DENVER COUNTY

Denver residents want to be involved with their local food system, and Denver County Extension is helping to grow that interest. Dan Goldhamer, a Horticulture Extension Agent for Denver County, shared that he enjoys getting people excited about growing food and helping them learn something along the way.

One event that contributed to this mission was the construction of a small high tunnel at the Dahlia Campus for Health & Well-Being. Extension agents from across the state gathered to share information about construction methods and season extension with the community and with each other. The new caterpillar-style tunnel will add more food production to the 1 acre outdoor farm already present.

As part of an interdisciplinary team headed up by former CSU Extension team member Blake Angelo, now Manager of Food System Development for the City of Denver, Dan also helped in developing the Denver City Food Vision. This process was one of the largest city-wide community engagement efforts in the history of Denver. Extension helped by preparing documents, sharing information, facilitating conversations, and conducting outreach events.



Completed high tunnel at the Dahlia Campus for Health & Well-Being.

Goldhamer is currently serving on the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council (SFPC) as an ex-officio member, which was also a major partner in creating the Denver City Food Vision. The purpose of the SFPC is “to educate, raise awareness and build support for our food system; advise the city on laws, policies and programs; and promote food security and foster a Sustainable Food System.” A Denver native, Goldhamer’s favorite part of working for Extension is giving back to his hometown city and helping to develop a healthier, inclusive, and more resilient

community. He credits the success of his local office to listening to what people need, building relationships, and collaborating with other Extension agents both within and outside the Denver office. For more information on the Dahlia Campus for Health & Well-Being, please visit

<https://mhcd.org/dahlia-campus-for-health-well-being/>. Information on the Denver City Food Plan and

Sustainable Food Policy Council can be found at <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-office-of-economic-development/housing-neighborhoods/HealthyFoodandFoodVision.html> and <http://www.denversfpc.com/#purpose-1>. Other Denver County Extension programs can be found at: <http://www.denverext.colostate.edu/>.

## COLORADO MARKETMAKER: FARM SPOTLIGHT



Colorado MarketMaker features many different farm and agritourism organization across the state. Later in the newsletter, an event sponsored by Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms is featured, so it is a great time to highlight their MarketMaker Business Profile. This profile gives them an opportunity to be found by those searching across all Colorado farms and businesses, and shows information on the farm's location, information on the farm's programming, the types of agritourism attractions offered, venues available, accommodations, and hours of operation.

### MarketMaker Business Profile

#### Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

Littleton, Colorado

Email: [Contact Us](#)

Phone: (720) 865-3552

Address: 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd., Littleton, Colorado 80128

Website: [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

Updated: Nov 26, 2013

#### About Us

Denver Botanic Gardens has three other locations including Denver Botanic Gardens on York Street in Denver, Mount Goliath near Idaho Springs and Centennial Gardens in downtown Denver.



## GRANTS: FEDERAL-STATE MARKETING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) supports those organizations interested in exploring new market opportunities in food and agricultural products throughout the United States.

These grants are targeted toward state Departments of Agriculture, state agriculture experiment stations, and other appropriate state agencies. This could include anything from a state university to a department of forestry, natural resources, or energy.

Applications for FSMIP grants are due by **11:59 EST on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

These applications have specific guidelines that can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip/apply>.

## GRANTS: LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) offers 25% matching grants to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises, increase domestic consumption and access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets.

Two different types of projects are accepted under LFPP.

- LFPP Planning Grants – used in the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise. Activities can include market research, feasibility studies, and business planning.
- LFPP Implementation Grants – used to establish new local and regional food business enterprises, or to improve or expand an existing local or regional food business enterprise. Activities can include training and technical assistance, outreach and marketing to buyers and consumers, and non-construction infrastructure improvements to facilities or IT systems.

Groups eligible to apply include:

- Agricultural businesses and cooperatives,
- Producer networks and associations,
- Community supported agriculture networks and associations,
- Other agricultural business entities (for-profit groups),
- Nonprofit and public benefit corporations,
- Economic development corporations,
- Regional farmers' market authorities, and
- Local and tribal governments.

Priority areas for this year's grant program include projects that:

- Benefit communities in areas of concentrated poverty with limited access to supermarkets
- Support agri-business in rural areas or towns that have populations of 50,000 or less
- Involve Promise Zone Lead Applicant Organizations

Applications are due on **March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. EST**. To find more information on these grants, go to Grants.gov. For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

## GRANTS: FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) was created to increase consumption of and access to locally and regionally produced agriculture products and to develop, improve, or expand market opportunities. Market opportunities can include farmers' markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

Groups eligible to apply include:

- Agricultural businesses and cooperatives,

- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks,
- CSA associations,
- Economic development and Nonprofit corporations,
- Local governments,
- Producer networks and associations,
- Public benefit corporations,
- Regional farmers' market authorities, and
- Tribal governments.

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## LOANS: SLOW FOOD DENVER MICRO-LOANS

Slow Food Denver is pleased to announce its 2017 Micro-Grant Program to support innovative and sustainable food initiatives in the Denver area. They are accepting applications from growers, producers and community organizations that aim to better Colorado's food system and support the needs of the communities they serve.

Call for applications and timeline:

Now through March 31, 2017. Finalists announced April 17, 2017.

Micro-grants will range in funds from \$1,500 - \$4,000.

<http://www.slowfooddenver.org/microgrant-application/>

After applications are submitted, three finalists will be selected. Each finalist will then present their projects to community members at a dinner where attendees will vote on the distribution of funds.

## NEWS: LOCAL FOOD ECONOMICS TOOLKIT PROJECT

The Local Food Economics Toolkit project has been busy with training events throughout the country. The previous weeks have seen the team in New Mexico and Tennessee, with future events planned for Florida, Washington D.C., and Maryland. To stay up to date with the team's activities, new materials being shared in this Community of Practice and see presentations from the events, [click here](#).

In relation to the Local Food Economic Toolkit, articles have started to emerge showing how communities are using the toolkit to evaluate their programs and challenges that still need to be addressed in the next steps of this toolkit. Papers include "Do Farm-to-School Programs Create Local Economic Impacts?" and "Critical Reflections on the USDA Local Food Economics Toolkit." These, as well as others, can be found at the following [link](#).

## NEWS: NSAC HIGHLIGHTS INFORMATION FOR FARMERS

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) recently released blog posts that could be useful to local farmers in Colorado.

The first is a report on how farms can participate in on-farm research. The USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has published a revised version of their publication, *How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch*. This publication provides an easy-to-use guide to on-farm research, with instructions on how to establish a SARE experiment. Things producers should consider before getting involved in research are:

1. Time and effort required to conduct research,
2. How this research will fit into the scope of a farmer's farming activities,
3. The cost associated with experimentation and testing, and
4. Whether you are equipped with the right resources and advisors to guide experimental design and analysis.

To read the full blog post and find links for the USDA publication, [click here](#).

The second is an update on information for farms registering with the FDA. Over two years ago, the FDA proposed a rule that would require local food businesses and value-added products to register as "food facilities." The FDA since then has established The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) with rules for produce farms and rules for food processors. The blog post from the NSAC helps farms understand if they need to register with the FDA or not. If this is something you as a producer are unsure of, this blog post may be a good place to start reading to understand more. [Click here to read the complete post](#).

## EVENT: COLORADO FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Join farmers market managers and Double Up Food Bucks program staff on March 17 & 18, 2017 at the Altona Grange Hall in Longmont, for the Colorado Farmers Market Association annual meeting.

The program includes:

### Friday March 17 (12:00 – 5:30pm)

- "The State of US Farmers Markets and Implications for Colorado" and "AMS Farmers Market Manager Training: Knowing Your Markets" with Carlos Coleman, USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service, DC
- "Understanding & Managing Liability: Best Practices and Business Structure" with Kathie Riley, Attorney
- Double Up Food Bucks: reception and Year 1 celebration with LiveWell Colorado

### Saturday March 18 (8am – 5pm)

- CFMA Business Meeting
- "News from the Capitol" with Ben Rainbolt, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and Wendy Moschetti, LiveWell

- Workshops on 1) “Marketing on a Shoestring”; 2) “Food Safety Update”; and 3) “ManageYourMarket software demo
- “Double Up Food Bucks – General Session” with LiveWell Colorado
- “Double Up Food Bucks Training for Year 1 and Year 2 Participating Markets” with LiveWell Colorado

For more information or to register, check [here](#).

## EVENT: MEAT-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

If you are a local meat producer interested in selling meat to schools, join the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) for a free, one-hour webinar on **Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. MT.**

The webinar focuses on what is currently happening in Montana with the Montana Beef to School Project, a three-year collaborative project with Montana beef producers, processors, schools, and other stakeholders. The webinar will include information about:

- The creative ways schools and producers are collaborating to procure local Montana beef,
- How to bring tested beef to school strategies to your own community through lessons learned from case studies across six beef to school partnerships in Montana, and
- Processing equipment, ordering systems, distribution, pricing, and other logistics of selling beef to schools.

The event is asking for people to register prior to the webinar. Click [here](#) to register and to join the webinar on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## EVENT: 2017 FRONT RANGE BEGINNING FARMERS CONFERENCE

Join Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms and CSU Extension Jefferson County on **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for the 2017 Front Range Beginning Farmers Conference.

The conference will include events such as:

- Morning Keynote: What does it take to farm in 2017?
  - Presented by Amy Gales, Executive Vice President for Regional Agribusiness at CoBank
- Session 1: You Can Get There!
  - Local experts and professionals in the field will explain the capital, budget needs, and business plan elements required to start various farming models on the Front Range
- Afternoon Keynote: Agritourism – The New Farm Frontier
  - Presented by Dawn Thilmany, CSU Agricultural Economics Professor
- Session 2: Identify Your Niche
  - Learn from experts in the field on identifying your niche, sustaining your farming business, and how to remain viable

- Session 3: Know the Rules
  - Information on permits, licensing, and other rules a beginning farmer in Denver needs to know prior to getting started

A Social Hour will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 after the day's conference events. The Social Hour is sponsored by Breckenridge Brewery. The cost to register is \$52. [Click here to register for the event.](#)

## EVENT: STATEWIDE AGRITOURISM EVENT AND EXPO

The Colorado Agritourism Association will be hosting a statewide Agritourism Event and Expo at the National Western Center in Denver on **March 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

Event specifics include:

- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> (morning) – education and networking for agritourism providers
- Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) to Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – expo booths by agritourism providers and organizations to promote their activities and facilities to the general public

Special room rates are also available at the Quality Inn for \$87 per night. Call (303) 296-4000 to book. [Click here to register for the event.](#)

## EVENT: 2017 HOMEGROWN FOOD RETREAT

Join the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado for the 2017 Homegrown Food Retreat on **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the ELHI Community Center in Ignacio, Colorado.

The Keynote Speaker at this year's event will be Chef M. Karlos Baca. His presentation is called "Full Circle: An Indigenous Foods Tale." This presentation will cover the topics of food warfare, loss of tradition, ancestral memory, modern indigenous foodways, and a message from the Earth.

The event will also feature a special workshop entitled 4CORE Presents Do It Yourself Rainbarrel Construction. Doug Pushard from Santa Fe will lead a workshop to teach participants how to construct rain barrels to harvest rainwater. This event has limited space and a separate registration fee.

To register for the 2017 Homegrown Retreat, [click here](#). If you are interested in setting up a table to promote your organization, [click here to register your organization](#).

## EVENT: 2017 SOUTHERN COLORADO TOURISM SUMMIT

Register now for the 2017 Southern Colorado Tourism Summit on **May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>** in La Junta, Colorado. The event will be held at the Otero Junior College.

Initial information on the agenda has been released. The summit will feature events such as:

- Hands-on workshops



- Tutorial on free business listings and event listings on Colorado.com, Colorado's official tourism website
- Group discussions with other Colorado counties to plan itineraries and outdoor experiences for Colorado residents
- Networking and visiting vendor booths
- Koshare Indian Kiva presentation
- Breakout sessions featuring information on heritage/culture tourism, agritourism, and outdoor tourism
- Keynote speaker Cathy Ritter, Director of the Colorado Tourism Office

General admission to the summit is \$125. [Click here to register for this event.](#)

## EVENT: SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL FOUR CORNERS HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP

The Durango Botanical Society, in cooperation with CSU Extension La Plata County and others, will hold the first ever Four Corners Horticulture Workshop at Fort Lewis College on **Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Presenters include:

- David Salman – Horticulturist and founder of High Country Gardens and Santa Fe Greenhouses
- Mike Kintgen – Curator of the Alpine Collections at Denver Botanic Garden
- Kelly Grummons – Rocky Mountain Cactus and Succulent Society, Horticulturalist at Brown's Greenhouse
- Mike Bone – Curator of Steppe Collections at Denver Botanic Gardens, Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
- Don and Donnie Barnett – Author and Photographer of Cactus of Colorado, Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society
- Andrew Hatch – CSU Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- Pat Hayward – Phytologic Horticultural Services
- Jeff Wagner – Certified Colorado Nursery Professional

Registration is now open, and the cost is \$150 to attend. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, you will be able to register for individual events and presentations as well. To register, [click here.](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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