

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins, Adrian Card and Marisa Bunning, Team Leads



Co-Editors: Dawn Thilmany, Martha Sullins and Ashley Colpaart
Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

FIFTY-EIGHTH EDITION

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Welcome to the 58th edition of the Colorado State University Extension Local Food Systems newsletter! We are thrilled that it has become a key resource to connect our CSU team and local and state partners about events, news and opportunities. The Food Systems work team for CSU Extension is committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues. The distribution of this newsletter is one way to build that network. You can help us be better connected in two ways:

1. Please forward this newsletter to anyone with an interest in local food systems and CSU's programs in this area, and tell them they are welcome to contact us so we can add them to our mailing list.
2. Feel free to send in any events and news from your organization and from partners so that we may share them with our readers through this newsletter!

To assist our readers in finding information, events and programs we may have presented in the past, you can find old issues at: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html>.

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COLORADO MARKETMAKER FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS



Colorado MarketMaker (CMM) is a database of food industry marketing and business data. It is also a place to help promote agritourism! Have you listed your business? Create your [profile here](#). Looking to buy more Colorado products? Or encourage businesses you shop with to carry more Colorado products? Tell food enterprises in your community to explore this site!

Recent and Updated Colorado Listings:

[Purely Elizabeth Ancient Grain Granola](#)- gluten free granola.

[High Altitude Wildflower Honey](#)- nectar of flowers that grow at 10,000-foot elevation in northern Colorado.

[Alfalfa-Clover Honey](#)- from the pristine ranches along the Yampa River Valley.

[Flavored Honey](#)- ginger, cinnamon, lemon or orange sold in ½ pint reusable Ball canning jars.

[Raw Bees Wax](#)- melted and strained only once, this wax is perfect for candles, lotions, lip balm, mustaches, and more!

[Salba Chia Seeds](#)- try their line of snacks for a tasty, healthy treat.

[Lavender Honey](#)- local honey infused in lavender blossoms.

[Grand County Free Agritourism Promotions](#)- to help promote agriculture in the region.

REPORT: TRENDS IN U.S. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

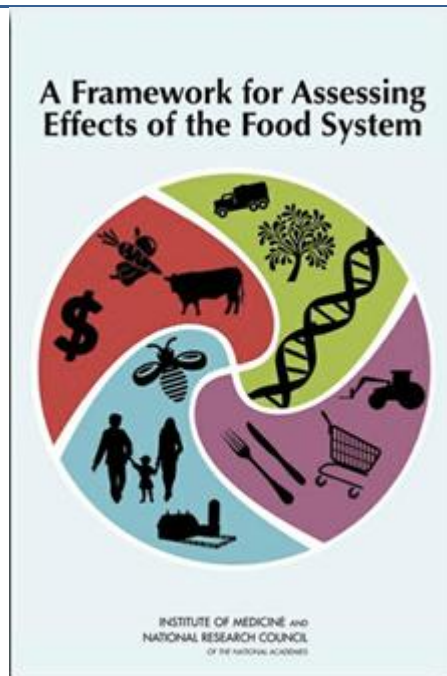
A new report published by the Economic Research Service provides an overview of local and regional food systems across several dimensions. It details the latest economic information on local food producers, consumers and policy, relying on findings from several national surveys and a synthesis of recent literature to assess the current size of and recent trends in local and regional food systems.

Several of the maps and case studies of local food activity feature Colorado, so it is worth a read, especially if you want to understand how our food system is evolving relative to national trends.

To access the report and report summary, and a recorded webinar, [click here](#).

REPORT: FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING EFFECTS OF THE FOOD SYSTEM

The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council released [a new report](#), which offers a framework for assessing the health, environmental, social, and economic effects of the US food system.



The report has four parts:

- The first is an overview of the current system and how it evolved over time.
- The second includes extensive chapters that describe the most salient effects of the food system in the health, environmental, economic, and social domains, and the interactions among them.
- The third section describes the food system as a complex, adaptive system and argues that analytical methods and understanding complex systems are most appropriate for understanding configurations of the food system and the policies that affect them.
- The fourth part is the analytical framework that the committee developed, along with the principles that would specifically apply to an assessment of a particular food system or policy.

GUIDE TO USDA FUNDING FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

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

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

1. [Quick Reference Chart](#) and [Preface](#),
2. [Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#),
3. [Conservation & Environment](#),
4. [Credit & Crop Insurance](#),
5. [Food Safety, Local & Regional Food Systems](#),
6. [Organic Production](#),
7. [Renewable Energy](#),

8. [Rural Development](#),
9. [Sustainable & Organic Research](#), [Glossary and Acronyms](#), [Additional Resources](#).

EQUIPMENT GRANTS: SNAP AT FARMERS' MARKETS

USDA has announced the availability of funding for replacement equipment for those that already accept SNAP via farmers markets. \$700,000 in funding has been allocated to those who meet USDA's criteria, which are now incorporated into the [MarketLink Eligibility Assessment](#).

Please have your markets and farmers who may be in need of replacement equipment complete the newly updated Eligibility Assessment to determine if they qualify for free equipment, and to learn about next steps to obtain it.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Amy Crone, the MarketLink Project Manager at amy.crone@marketlink.org or [443-212-8084](tel:443-212-8084).

AMERICAN AG CREDIT OFFERS ACCESS AND ADVICE ON LEASING

American AgCredit has a program that may be helpful to farmers and ranchers in our communities. American AgCredit in Greeley has leasing programs that will free up capital and maximize tax benefits:

1. Save money on your equipment with special pricing.
2. Match payments to your cash flow.
3. Pay only for the value of the equipment you use.
4. Free up your cash for income-earning investments.



American AgCredit's new messaging for those with capital constraints is that profits come from the *use* of equipment, not the *ownership*. For more information on American AgCredit's Leasing for Agriculture Program, call (970) 330-4071 or (800) 799-6545 in Greeley.

WESTERN COLORADO FOOD & FARM FORUM

The 2015 Forum was another great success. If you missed the Forum, missed one presentation in order to see another, or just want to review some of the info, you can now check out many of the 2015 conference's presentations [online](#). Sample presentations available include:

- **Michelle Amriott:** [Innovative Community Based Food Systems](#)
- **Mike Callicrate:** [Pasture to Plate Meat Quality Section](#)
- **Jay Fuhrer:** [Soil Health and Covers](#)
- **Bob Hammon:** [Good Bugs Equal Good Food](#)
- **Verlin Rockey:** [Natural Potato and Garlic Production](#)
- **George Rosenbaum:** [Vertical Integration in Natural Pork Production](#)
- **Tracy Vanderpool:** [If it's not safe, it's not good.](#)

CSU EXTENSION ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

A survey of Americans found that both parents and adult children were uncomfortable discussing the one dimensional topic of leaving an “inheritance”, but both enthusiastically embraced the idea of leaving a “legacy”. People believe a legacy captures all facets of an individual’s life-including family traditions, history, sharing stories, values, and wishes. A complete legacy is built on four pillars-Values and Life Lessons, Personal Possessions of Emotional Value, Instructions and Wishes to be Fulfilled, and Financial Assets/Real Estate.

Sensitive issues, such as money, death, and family relations, are difficult issues not only to bring up but also to talk about in any depth. It is hard to approach these issues calmly when there are strong feelings about what is important. Some people avoid discussing these subjects because they believe it to be disrespectful and uncomfortable.

Colorado State University Extension is hosting legacy-succession-estate planning workshops around the state. The programs will be presented by Jeff Tranel and Norm Dalsted and are designed to help farm and ranch families to document their wishes and communicate those wishes to family members.

The next two workshops will be held in:

- February 18th in Alamosa
- March 24th in Yuma

Those interested in participating in the workshops should contact the [County Extension Agent in those regions](#).

CASE STUDY: BUILDING A FOOD HUB FROM THE GROUND UP

The USDA has another valuable resource for those considering a food hub in their community!

[Building a food hub from the ground up: a facility design case study of Tuscarora Organic Growers](#) provides technical guidance on designing and budgeting for physical food hub infrastructure. Tuscarora Organic Growers, staff architect at AMS Marketing Services, Fidel Delgado, and USDA Rural Development ‘s Jim Barham crafted this prototype guidance document that seeks to explore the relationship between physical infrastructure expansion and prudent investment over several decades of food hub development.

BID TO PROVIDE FARMING SERVICES TO DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Denver Public Schools posted a [Request for Proposal](#) for Farming Services at Bradley, McGlone and Schmitt Elementary Schools. The contractor will provide planting, growing, maintenance, harvesting and delivery of fruits and vegetables to Denver Public Schools Enterprise Management to assist in satisfying the district’s fresh produce needs.

All prospective bidders must provide a bid on all of the requirements stated in the request by **March 5, 2015**.

FRONT RANGE BEGINNING FARMERS CONFERENCE

Join the Denver Botanic Gardens, National Young Farmers Coalition, and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union for their second annual conference focused on small scale, sustainable agriculture and new farmers. This one-day conference will feature instructional workshops from regional experts, plus time to share and connect over a locally sourced lunch and post-conference social hour.

Topics for the conference include land access and financing, crop rotation and food safety, coop development, animal production, policy advocacy, and more.

Questions? Kacie.warner@botanicgardens.org

Front Range Beginning Farmers Conference
Sat, Feb 21, 9 am – 4:30 pm
At Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, a working farm at C-470 & Wadsworth

Registration here:

<http://catalog.botanicgardens.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=2086>

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS CONFERENCE



The 1st Annual Conference for this fast growing organization is coming up soon:

February 25, 2015 from 8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Renaissance Hotel Conference Center in Denver, Colorado.

This will directly precede the Governor's Ag Outlook Forum at that same venue, to encourage attendance of specialty crop growers at both events.

Details and registration are available at: <http://cfvga.org>.

If you haven't already, consider joining CFVGA as a producer or affiliate member, or like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CFVGA>

GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON COLORADO AGRICULTURE

The 24th annual [Governor's Forum on Agriculture](#) is February 26, 2015 at the Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado. Participants will hear from leading water experts about the challenges facing Colorado in meeting the water demands of a diverse state with competing needs. The program, "Water, Colorado's Treasure" is intended to provide agriculture producers and professionals with a greater insight into the challenges we face as a state in meeting increased water demands, balancing competing interests and agriculture's role in today's "water wars."

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

Any interested farmers, food producers, food and farming organization members or broader community members interested in applying for a variety of food system grants should attend one of The [Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance \(AMSTA\) Project](#): A Farmers Market, Local Food Promotion and USDA Grant Writing Workshops. Details for those workshops are below. All workshops are free to attend.

Greeley

Friday, February 20th

9:30-2:30 pm, with light lunch served

Greeley Recreation Center, Room 101C.

[Northern Colorado Food Cluster](#) partners will be invited to participate in discussion about their potential to build a regional Community Food Projects proposal.

[Please RSVP here.](#)

Durango

Saturday, March 14th

12-4 pm, with light lunch served

La Plata County Fairgrounds, Pine Room

2500 Main Ave.

Durango, CO 81301

Please RSVP to Darrin at: Darrin.Parmenter@co.laplata.co.us

This is also a 2nd year program for Fort Lewis Incubator and Colorado Building Farmer graduates.

Montrose

Monday, March 16th

4-8 pm, with light dinner served

DMEA Community Room,

11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO

(970) 249-0705 or questions on location and Valley Foods Partnership

Please RSVP to valleyfoodpartners@gmail.com to assure we have enough space

Dawn Thilmany, Becca Jablonski and Martha Sullins, CSU Extension, will share their experiences and insight on a wide range of funding programs and will provide a presentation and direct technical assistance to help you get started! Please contact Dawn Thilmany, CSU if you have program questions at dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu.

2015 SPECIALTY CROP SYMPOSIUM

With an emphasis on small-scale niche market production, this year's Specialty Crop Workshop will feature topics on Specialty Berry Production, Grain Fodder, Integrated Pest Management, Food Safety, insects, herbicide carryover, and more.

When: Tuesday, March 10th, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Where: Lewis-Arriola Community Center, 21615 Road S (1 mile west off HWY 491 in Arriola)

Cost: \$20

Contact: Darrin Parmenter, (970) 382-6464 or Darrin.parmenter@colostate.edu.

2015 COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Call for proposals for the 2015 American Community Gardening Association annual conference is now open! [Click here](#) for submission instructions and proposal forms.

All proposals must be submitted by e-mail to Denver2015ACGA@gmail.com by 11:59pm Mountain Time, March 15, 2015. Applicants will be notified by May 1st, 2015.

Those submitting proposals for workshops and panels are encouraged to use the following themes or related topics:

- **Growing Lifelong Gardeners** The path to garden sustainability begins by inviting the next generation to join in the fun. Tell us about your successful school gardening programs and garden education, both formal and informal.
- **Lean on Us!** Gardens both small and large benefit from connections with other gardens and community partners. Putting the “community in community gardens” begins with human interaction.
- **Measuring Healthy Outcomes** We all know that gardeners tend to eat more fresh produce than their peers, but can you prove it? YES! Share your research and outcomes that prove the impact and worth of community gardens.
- **Not Quite Community Gardening** More and more, the world of community gardening is intersecting with the food system and the urban agriculture movement to form lasting partnerships that can feed, involve, and educate larger segments of the population.
- **Working with City Hall** Successful policy changes at the local and state level are sweeping the nation influencing everything from zoning regulations to the cottage food industry. Share your story of a policy change that kept your city on the cutting edge of the urban food movement.
- **Hort 101: Seeds and Weeds, Pests and Other Garden Guests** Community gardens play host for many functions; not least of which is horticulture! Do you have tips on crop selection or pest management or weed mitigation you’ve been dying to share? Now’s your chance.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM DEADLINE

With a February 27 deadline approaching, farmers and ranchers have limited time left to apply to enroll in the federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for 2015. The [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) (NSAC) has released two free resources to help farmers and ranchers nationwide learn how the program works and navigate the application process: a brief Information Alert with application and deadline details for this year, and the more comprehensive [Farmers’ Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program](#). Both resources provide producers with detailed information on how to apply for and utilize the program to benefit their farms.

ENRICH COLORADO AGRICULTURE GRANT DEADLINE



Colorado Proud is accepting application for the Enrich Colorado Agriculture Grant.

Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to feasibility studies and technical projects, such as assessing the potential of establishing an agricultural value-added business project; and marketing and sales promotion projects such as first time participation in trade shows, new product launches and promotions supporting the development of new sales channels. The maximum award per project is \$15,000.

A matching contribution of cash and in-kind resources equal to at least 50% of the total project budget is required. Applications are due by **3:30 pm on February 27, 2015.**

For more information including application and program guidelines, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Markets division at (303) 869-9176 or visit www.coloradoagriculture.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To add your ideas and news, contact [Ashley Colpaart](#).

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