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September 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 148

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## CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Join us at **2pm on September 14th** for a webinar featuring:

- Laura David, Product and Operations Director at Fresh Food Connect
- Katie Dunker, CSU Extension Grow and Give



**Fresh Food Connect** aims to grow a more local and resilient food system by connecting gardeners with their communities. Fresh Food Connect's mobile app coordinates donations from home and community gardeners to local non-profit organizations working to address food insecurity on a local level. Using the simple Fresh Food Connect mobile app, gardeners can easily arrange for extra produce to be picked up from their doorstep or delivered to a local organization providing healthy food access. They can also track the impact of their donations throughout the year. Come learn more about Fresh Food Connect, where they have been, and where they are going.

Register [here](#)

View previous webinars [here](#).



## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



### **Rebecca Wasserman-Olin**

Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

Rebecca Wasserman-Olin is a first year PhD student in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics. She received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed her M.S. at Cornell University where she investigated consumer purchasing habits of local produce. In between her studies, she worked as a community organizer and economic researcher in Minnesota helping farmers assess the economic impact of incorporating conservation practices into their crop rotations. She also worked as a researcher at Cornell University supporting regional food systems in New York State. Throughout her career she has worked on vegetable farms ranging from 1 to 25 acres and she finds herself happiest in a pack shed. She looks forward to learning about agricultural systems in Colorado and supporting the great work of the Food Systems Institute.

**Rebecca Hill**

Research Scientist  
 Department of Ag and Resource Economics  
 Regional Economic Development Institute



Rebecca Hill is a Research Scientist with the Regional Economic Development Institute and the Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project, housed in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Dr. Hill received her Ph.D in Agricultural Economics in 2012 and currently works on a variety of projects with the Regional Economic Development Institute, the Colorado AgrAbility Project and the CSU Extension Internship Program. Her current research involves topics such as hemp, Wheat Sawfly, land conservation and outdoor recreation provision among others.

**Mark Your Calendar**

## Food Safety Field Day in Rocky Ford

**September 8th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Join the CSU Produce Safety team in Rocky Ford for a food safety field day focused on onions!

This event will cover:

- Risks for pre-harvest farming activities.
- Equipment and irrigation activities.
- Pre-harvest field assessments.

Location: Arkansas Valley Research Station at 27901 Road 21, in Rocky Ford

For more information, contact Kevin Tanabe at [kevin.tanabe@colostate.edu](mailto:kevin.tanabe@colostate.edu).

Register [here](#)



## COVID Recovery and Resilience Fall Webinar

**September 9th from 10:00 - 11:30 am MT**

This webinar will start with a brief presentation from the Data and Metrics Action Team about their innovative new tool to improve access to data collection, analysis, and utilization to foster a more equitable and resilient food system.

Register for the Fall webinar series [here](#).

### Fall Webinar Schedule and Topics:

- October TBD – Live broadcast from the [2022 National Agricultural Marketing Summit](#)
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Project Wrap up and Next Steps



**Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning  
Center Solar Energy  
Development**  
September 10, 2022 from 8:00 AM - 2:00  
PM

For Colorado farm, ranch, and land owners! Come learn the key information you need to decide if building a solar array on your property is the right choice.

### Topics will include:

- Land Sustainability
- Leasing Contracts
- System Design
- Economics
- Agrivoltaics (combining solar with agriculture and grazing)

Register [here](#)

Find more Information [here](#)

## Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers 2022 courses

Learn how to safely produce food from home as a cottage food business. This online course covers a variety of topics, including: basic food safety, foods that are permissible under the updated Colorado Cottage Foods Act, ingredient labeling, special considerations for food preparation at high altitudes, and safe food sampling best practices. Registration is \$50.

Courses will be offered online on the following dates. **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program.

### CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **September 13**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **September 23**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **October 14**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **November 2**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **December 2**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **December 3**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

## Annie's Project Facilitator Training Opportunity

October 3 - 4, 2022  
Monte Vista, CO

This training will equip participants to be certified facilitators to organize and conduct classes for Annie's project, a women-focused business development program.



Register [here](#)

## Western Meat School October 11-December 6, 2022

Join the Western Meat School online to learn how to direct market niche meats. This course will provide information on production, processing, marketing and management targeted at producing high-quality meat to sell in different market channels.



Eight information-packed weeks of learning, from 6-8pm Mountain time, including opportunities to interact with national and regional experts, and participate in discussion forums. Cost is \$150.

Register [here](#)



## 2022 Regenerate Conference November 2-4 in Denver, CO

The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and the American Grassfed Association collaborate each year to convene ranchers, farmers, conservationists, land managers, scientists, and thought leaders to share knowledge, build community, and create a culture of resilience and regeneration.

This year, the conference will explore the intersections of ecology and economy through the lenses of agriculture, science, conservation, economics, racial justice, policy, and culture.

Join **REGENERATE 2022** to co-create a vision of working together to foster restorative systems and implement practices that better serve our planet and our communities. Contribute your energy and ideas to the conversation at this year's convening, **Cultivating Restorative Economies**.

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

## 2022 Colorado Food Summit

Join us at the 2022 Colorado Food Summit on **December 8, 2022 in Denver, Colorado** as we bring together food and agriculture stakeholders from across the state to help build shared understanding of the complex opportunities and challenges facing our food and agriculture systems.



Through panel presentations, storytelling, multi-media and artistic presentations, and facilitated networking, the Summit aims to inspire collaborative action towards a more resilient and equitable food future. We encourage anyone connected to Colorado's food system to be a part of this important discussion.

Subscribe [here](#) to stay up to date!



## Funding Opportunities



### Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

USDA plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023.

USDA's new **Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops** (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agriculture Systems



This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program is designed to rapidly deploy strategies and fill knowledge and information gaps to protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains, from production through consumption, during and after extreme weather and disasters.

All applicants must directly address the effects associated with an extreme weather event or disaster that has already occurred. Applications must address one or more of the following emphasis areas:

- Agroecosystem Resilience
- Agricultural Commodity and Nutrition Security
- Health, Well-Being, and Safety

Two grant types are available:

- **Standard, FASE (Strengthening Standard):** Extension or Integrated (research and extension), Letter of Intent must be submitted within 14 days of an extreme weather event and disaster. Applications will be received on a continuous basis.
- **Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP):** Extension projects only. A Coordinated Agricultural Project is a large-scale multi-million-dollar project to promote collaboration, open communication, and the exchange of information; reduce duplication of effort; and coordinate activities among individuals, institutions, states, and regions. Applicants applying to coordinate this extension response grant program must have the capacity to promptly accept and review proposals, award projects for rapid initiation at subaward institutions, and provide post-award management including project oversight and reporting. The application deadline is included in the FY2022 AFRI RFA.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## On-Farm Conservation Innovation Grants

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the availability of \$25 million in funding to advance the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation practices on agricultural lands.

The funding is for **on-farm trials**, a subprogram of the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. CIGs are designed to support collaboration between

NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and evaluate their impacts. Participating farmers and ranchers receive payments to offset the risk and investments for testing out new conservation approaches.

**Applications are due September 22nd, 2022.**

[Click here for more information or to apply](#)

## **New Funding Opportunity for Urban, Indoor and Emerging Agriculture**



The Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture (UIE) program supports research, education, and extension work by awarding grants to solve key problems of local, regional, and national importance that facilitate development of urban, indoor, and emerging agricultural systems. The program includes food value chain stages: production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets.

Applications may only be submitted by entities such as state agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations, foundations, or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of two or more of the above entities.

[View the grant application here.](#)

**Applications are due September 22nd, 2022.**

## **Helping Hand for Producers and Handlers Interested in Organic**



Agricultural producers and handlers, who are certified organic, along with those who are transitioning to organic production, can now apply for USDA's **Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP)** and **Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)**, which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification, along with other related expenses.

OTECP covers:

- Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25% up to \$250 per category);
- Eligible expenses for transitional producers, including fees for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan (75% up to \$750);
- Registration fees for educational events (75% up to \$200); and
- Soil testing (75% up to \$100).

To apply, producers and handlers should contact the **Farm Service Agency** at their local USDA Service Center. As part of completing the OCCSP application, producers and handlers will need to provide documentation of their organic certification and eligible expenses. Organic producers and handlers may also apply for OCCSP through participating state agencies.

**Applications are due October 31st, 2022.**



## Western SARE Competitive Grants 2023 Calls for Proposals

**Farm/Rancher** - The Farmer/Rancher Program focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. **Due: November 2, 2022.** [Click here for more information.](#)

**Professional + Producer** - The Professional + Producer Program provides opportunities for agriculture professionals working directly with farmers and ranchers on sustainable agriculture efforts. **Due: November 3, 2022.** [Click here for more information.](#)

**Professional Development** - The Professional Development Program advances education and outreach strategies for professionals and educators who work directly with farmers and ranchers. **Due: November 9, 2022.** [Click here for more information.](#)

**Research to Grassroots** - The Research to Grassroots Program involves interdisciplinary teams who take SARE research results out into the field. **Due: November 9, 2022.** [Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for more information about all proposals.](#)

## Regional Food Policy Council Project Call for Applications



Toward the goal of exploring the potential of regional collaborations to create positive change, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (USDAAMS), Ohio State University, the John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, and Colorado State University have launched a cooperative research agreement to better understand regional approaches to strengthening food systems.

The project will involve creating a community of practice—in this case, a cooperative network of 10 food policy councils—to learn together about what

makes a regional approach work, identify what challenges they encounter, and test different solutions.

As part of this collaborative research project, your food policy council (FPC) is invited to apply to be a part of a community of practice (CoP) of 10 FPCs that work, or are transitioning to work, at the regional scale.

This CoP will be an opportunity to:

- Connect FPCs operating at a regional scale.
- Better understand FPC structures and processes that support regionalization and policy actions across multiple jurisdictions.
- Share approaches to building partnerships between urban and rural food systems stakeholders.
- Explore opportunities for regional FPCs to leverage expertise as supply chain matchmakers to support the development of food hubs and other regional food businesses.
- Learn from peer participants who commit to applying their learning and then reflecting on practice together.

**Learn more and apply here.** Applications are due by September 6th.



## News, Resources & Reading

### USDA Announces \$21.9 Million in Grants to Strengthen Meat and Poultry Supply Chains



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service announced that an additional \$21.9 million of funding is being awarded to 111 grant projects through the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program (MPIRG), bringing total funding to \$54.6 million. This year's awards will fund projects in 37 states. The funding will help strengthen and develop new market opportunities for meat and poultry processors throughout the United States.

**Three Colorado meat processing businesses** received grants of \$200,000 each to pursue obtaining a federal grant of inspection. View the complete list of awardees [here](#).

### Colorado Pinto Beans: Farm to Table!



This video showcases a project that is part of a plant-forward future campaign to help hospitals and institutions purchase and serve healthy, locally-sourced beans and bean products to their customers.

Watch this video to follow Colorado farmers who grow pinto beans for local processors who create value-added products, including Fiesta Beans (produced in Denver) and Rocky Mountain Pinto Tempeh (produced in Fort Collins).

[View the video here](#)



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**



**AmeriCorps  
Colorado**

## Developing Individuals, Growing Stewards Curriculum (DIGS!)

The AmeriCorps program at CSU Extension recently published a 4-H curriculum based in Colorado agriculture.

Introducing DIGS! A 3rd-5th grade 4-H curriculum based on the principles of Colorado Agriculture, DIGS (Developing Individuals, Growing Stewards) is the result of teamwork between CSU Extension's AmeriCorps program and faculty at the College of Agriculture. The curriculum takes youth on a journey through the world of Western agriculture, from modeling the importance of Colorado's natural resources to observing trait selection in livestock to reading basic maps... DIGS has it all! The DIGS curriculum is also fully equipped for teaching in both formal and informal settings, with each lesson containing Colorado Academic Standards, 4-H life skills, background information on the subject material, vocabulary lists, career connections, and more. Planning materials are also provided to build your own DIGS summer camp!

The DIGS curriculum is available now for FREE, in addition to a 3-part training session (11 a.m. on September 1st, 8th, and 15th) on how to teach the curriculum. Whether you are a 4-H Agent looking to build after-school programs or a homeschooling parent or classroom teacher looking for a cohesive lesson plan to teach Colorado agriculture, DIGS is your solution.

Access the DIGS Curriculum [here](#).

Sign up for the virtual DIGS Training Sessions [here](#).



## From Our Communities

### ReKaivery Opens at Odell Brewing Company



ReKaivery is the brain-child of Audrey Welsh, who has re-imagined the farmers market shopping experience with the goal of supporting the Fort Collins local food system through equitable transactions and increasing local food access.

Through a renovated shipping container, ReKaivery is a low-overhead marketplace that makes local goods available to consumers more frequently than a once-a-week farmers market. Suppliers rent out shelf space within the container, and ReKaivery will sell their goods on consignment at the vendor's own price point. ReKaivery also empowers their vendors by promoting their brands and story-telling by co-owner/Marketing Director, Austin Lammers, to bring a deeper connection with local consumers and vendors.

Currently, ReKaivery sells produce, baked goods, cheese, eggs, meat, coffee, Kombucha, and more, from local vendors all under 75 miles away.

**ReKaivery is open Wed.-Sun. from 12-8pm.**

**You can learn more or apply to be a supplier [here](#).**



## ABOUT FOOD SYSTEMS

at Colorado State University

Food systems are the connections between natural resources, the agricultural and food industries, and the buyers, consumers, and communities to which they contribute. Research, extension and education identify and inform opportunities to bridge how production, supply chains, and eaters respond to changing markets, policy, and the environment. At CSU, we focus on these key areas to train, influence, and communicate ways to connect food-related roles and foster healthy communities, economies, and individuals.





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