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February 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 141

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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



Colorado AgrAbility Project Information and Resources

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm MT
followed by a Q & A

<https://zoom.us/j/94004638571>

Join us to hear Chad Reznicek and Candiss Leathers discuss the vision of the Colorado AgrAbility Project: how it enhances the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, and promotes behavioral health services and support for farming and ranching families in rural America. They will also discuss how Extension professionals can connect to and utilize the services of AgrAbility for their communities.

[Register here.](#)

View previous Food Systems webinars [here](#).



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



Annika Weber

Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition

Annika is a second-year Ph.D. student in Food Science and Human Nutrition. After graduating from California Lutheran University with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, she went on to complete an MSc. in Human Nutrition from The University of Sheffield. Annika's master's research project explored

potential toxic exposure through the consumption of crops grown on contaminated soils. Here at CSU, Annika currently is part of the NSF's Interdisciplinary Training, Education, and Research in the Food-Energy-Water Systems Program working on the development of rice bran as a nutritious food ingredient. Annika is also part of Dr. Elizabeth Ryan's research group where she is studying the gut microbiota and metabolome

changes associated with rice bran in the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. Annika grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and in her free time, loves yoga, reading in the sun, and exploring the bike paths around Fort Collins.

Rebecca Cleary

Assistant Professor
Dept of Agricultural Resource and Economics



Rebecca Cleary is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at CSU. She holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin. Her work focuses on health economics, consumer behavior, and food policy. She is interested in understanding what drives consumers' food-purchase decisions, why households do not fully adhere to nutrition recommendations, and how we can design effective policies to increase nutrition quality, particularly for households most at-risk for diet-related diseases. Dr. Cleary is also committed to undergraduate instruction and teaches the introductory course on agricultural and resource economics as well as a course on agricultural commodity marketing. As a proponent of undergraduate engagement, she has served as a judge for Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity, a contributor for Rams Read and the Signature Works program, and loves being (safely) back on campus in person.



Mark Your Calendar



Keeping Your Livestock Healthy Webinar Series

Animal Health Biosecurity Plans and Best Management Practices for Farms

FREE Weekly Webinar Series: **January 4 - March 1, 2022.**

No matter the size of the operation, understanding disease risk factors and prevention measures are crucial to the livelihood and well-being of farmers raising livestock and poultry species, and to the health of their animals. This 8-part webinar series is geared towards small-scale operations to help them prepare, prevent and evaluate their farm biosecurity plans.

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

Visit Farm PPE's website [here](#).

Please contact Ragan Adams, CSU Veterinary
Extension: radams@colostate.edu for any questions.

2022 Farm Bill Decision Webinar

CSU Extension and The Farm Service Agency
February 7th, 2022 from 6:00-8:00 PM



**AGRICULTURE AND
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The March 15th deadline for farmers to make their ARC/PLC decisions for the 2022 crop year is fast approaching. In an effort to provide growers with the most up-to-date information needed to make this important decision, CSU Extension and the USDA Farm Service Agency have teamed up to conduct a Farm Bill Decisions webinar.

Topics to be addressed are: the mechanics of ARC/PLC and the limitations of ARC-IC for fruit and vegetable producers, and the payment outlook in 2022 for ARC-CO/PLC for the major program crops in Colorado.

Register for the FREE webinar [here](#). Contact **Brent Young** with questions.

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:

- **February 11**, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **February 18**, 9:00 - 1:00 pm
- **March 9**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **March 30**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **April 15**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **May 6**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **June 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **July 8**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **August 10**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **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



Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID: Recovery and Resilience Webinar Series

FREE Monthly Webinar Series

Join us for the Recovery and Resilience webinar series:

“Making Lemonade out of Local Lemons: Innovative Multi-Sector Strategies for Leveraging Emergency Supply Chain Funds” on Friday, February 11th, 2022, from 10:00 - 11:30 PM MST.

By identifying the strengths and vulnerabilities of local and regional food systems in times of crisis, LRFS leaders are developing immediate-, mid-and long-term strategies for fostering equitable and resilient food systems.

Register for the webinar [here](#) and review 2021 archived webinars recordings and summaries on the [project website](#).

Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Health Symposium

Virtual Symposium on February 16th & 17th, 2022

8:00am – 11:30am AKST

9:00am – 12:30pm PT

10:00am – 1:30pm MT

11:00am – 2:30pm CT

12:00pm – 3:30pm ET



This conference will orient researchers and public health practitioners to Indigenous food sovereignty, its value in facilitating health in Indigenous communities, and ways to connect food sovereignty initiatives with health data in your communities! For more information visit [here](#).

Register for February 16th [here](#).

Register for February 17th [here](#).



Agricultural Outlook Forum - Local and Regional Food Systems Data Sessions

Virtual Event from February 24-25th, 2022
 "New Paths to Sustainability and Productivity Growth"

As a part of a larger agenda covering a variety of current events in food and agriculture, the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum will include a session titled, Leveraging Data to Build Resilient Local and Regional Food Systems, which will highlight local food system practitioners who incorporate data into their regular business strategy. Panelists will discuss how they use data and explore how stakeholders can grow their businesses and create more connected supply chains.

Given it is virtual, registration is free for all. Register [here](#).



COLORADO
FRUIT & VEGETABLE
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

CFVGA 2022 Annual Conference Registration Now Open

CFVGA's first hybrid annual conference will take place from **February 28 - March 1, 2022**, at the newly renamed **Renaissance Denver Central Park** (3801 Quebec St., Denver, CO).

The conference will be in-person and online. Members get discount pricing. Exhibitor registration is open as well. Use the tabs at the top of the conference website to learn more and register.

Registration is free for first-time attendees, so if you always wanted to join or participate, this virtual offering is a great opportunity!

For more information click [here](#).

Check out the agenda and register [here](#).



UCCS Grain School Online and Public Forum

March 5th, 2022 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) is offering Grain School Online 2022 this winter and spring! Three online courses and one Grain School Public Forum will bring students a broad array of learning experiences. The courses cover topics along the entire grain chain, from farming and milling/malting to baking, brewing, cooking,

and distilling. Course 1 focuses on farming and grain processing, Course 2 on nutrition and health, and Course 3 on community engagement. All courses encourage participants to engage using their hands in kitchens and bakeries while learning online.

In partnership with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Colorado Grain Chain, UCCS Grain School continues to foster and build a dynamic grain value chain in Colorado. Each year, UCCS Grain School enhances the knowledge and skills of those working in grain chains around the world. The Public Forum this year will be held March 5th, 2022, is FREE, and presents UCCS Grain School's outreach to the community. While we stay online for 2022, we continue to leverage the public forum to celebrate our work together.

For more information click [here](#).

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

On **March 15-16, 2022**, in 2 half days over Zoom, Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting an online Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. Register [here](#).



The course will provide a foundation on the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices, and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. For more information on produce safety training options, visit [here](#).



Funding Opportunities



USDA Builds Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. USDA will make \$20 million available through the new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) as part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, which provides new, broader, and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and producers.

Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during 2020, 2021, and 2022 fiscal years. Read the full USDA Farm Services Agency announcement for full details on how to apply.

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be **Nov. 8, 2021, through Feb 4, 2022**. Producers apply through their local Farm Service Agency office and can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Sabbatical Research and Education Grant

Sabbatical Grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers in the Western U.S. region. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied geographic locations are of special interest.



Grant opens: **January 20, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)

\$700K in Specialty Crop Block Grants available for Colorado Producers

The annual application period is now open for the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program (SCBGP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). CDA is accepting applications for the grant program in the form of a concept proposal.



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

Concept proposals must be received electronically [here](#) by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022**.

USDA partners with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade, and nutrition. Priorities for Colorado's specialty crop program include: supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers, scaling-up high-value agriculture and diverse market opportunities, and promoting and incentivizing soil, water, and climate stewardship.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant (FFWR)



USDA is accepting applications for the new Farm and Food Workers Relief (FFWR) grant program. The program will provide \$665 million to fund competitive grant applications to provide relief to farmworkers and meatpacking workers who incurred pandemic-related health and safety costs. Eligible state agencies, tribal entities, and non-profit

organizations serving farmworkers and meatpacking workers can apply now for grants ranging from \$5 million to \$50 million.

Grant is currently open and is due **March 10th, 2022**.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance to the FFWR grant program at FFWRGrants@usda.gov.

Graduate Student Research and Education Grant

This grant program involves full-time graduate students enrolled in an accredited university of Western U.S., their academic advisor, and at least one producer implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture.



Projects must integrate rigorous research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture—environmental, economic, and social. It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be documented in scholarly journals and disseminated throughout educational outreach activities.

Grant program is currently open and applications are due **February 22, 2022**.

Click [here](#) for more information.



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Farm-To-Market Grants to Help Create Greater Resilience in Colorado's Food Supply Chain

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will distribute up to \$2 million in grant funding for agricultural processing projects to help farmers,

ranchers, food processors, and manufacturers improve local food systems and drive the development and expansion of agricultural value-added projects.

Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural processing businesses are eligible to apply if they are residents of, and operate in, the state of Colorado. The maximum grant award amount for any one project is \$150,000.

Applications will be reviewed in **two award periods**. The first award period is closed, and the second award period is open through **February 28, 2022**. For each award period, \$1 million is available for grants, with up to \$2 million to be awarded by June 30, 2022.

To apply, businesses must submit an [online application form](#). Applications will be received on a rolling basis during the two award periods outlined above.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program Grant



The LFPA program is part of the “**Build Back Better**” initiative, authorized by the American Rescue Plan. The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. The program will award up to \$400 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the purchase of domestic local foods. Local and regional farmers and ranchers are those within the state or 400 miles of delivery destination.

The cooperative agreements will allow for state and tribal governments to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages that are healthy, nutritious and unique to their geographic area. The food will meet the needs of the population, and serve feeding programs, including food banks, schools and organizations that reach underserved communities. In addition to increasing local food consumption, funds will help build and expand economic opportunity for local and socially disadvantaged producers.

Applications are due April 5, 2022.

[Click here for more information.](#)



News, Resources & Reading



Remarks by President Biden During a Virtual Meeting to Discuss Boosting Competition and Reducing Prices in the Meat-Processing Industry

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the Biden-Harris Administration held a press conference on January 3rd about increasing competition in the meatpacking sector and supporting the expansion of meat processing in this country. Here is a **fact sheet** that the USDA published and here are the **remarks** made at the press conference. Stay tuned to hear more about Colorado's work to address these issues and opportunities for market development.

National Center for Appropriate Technology Launches the AgriSolar Clearinghouse

Solar developments are expected to cover 3 million acres of land in the next ten years. Under traditional solar development, some of these lands could be taken over for energy-only production and this could impact pollinator habitat, food production, soil health, and cultural landscapes.



However, there is a tremendous opportunity for low-impact solar development that is complementary to sustainable agriculture. This co-location, when designed and managed with best practices, can increase pollinator habitat, promote native species, and include grazing and specialty crop production, all while diversifying revenue streams and increasing public acceptance. To support this, the **National Center for Appropriate Technology** has developed the Department of Energy funded the AgriSolar Clearinghouse at the **website**.

For more information click **here**.



From Our Communities

Rocky Mountain Research Data Center - CSU Information Center



February 9th, 2022 from 1:00-2:00 PM at the Lory Student Center at CSU

The Rocky Mountain Data Center allows for the statistical analysis of

health, population, geographic, and economic data collected by federal statistical agencies. These data are NOT otherwise available for public use. This session will provide an overview of the restricted data available and steps for gaining approval for projects. This session is open to the public.

Contact: **Anita Pena** for more information.



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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