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January 2025 || Newsletter Edition 173

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CSU Food Systems Spotlight



Madeline Wilson

Agricultural Production Systems Specialist
CSU Extension, San Luis Valley Area

Madeline is currently completing a Master Agriculture in Integrated Resource Management at Colorado State University. Prior to coming to CSU, she received BA in Natural Resources from the University of the South. Madeline works with San Luis Valley communities to conserve soil and water resources by coordinating collaborative, producer-driven initiatives. Born and raised in Southeast Asia, Madeline's global perspective of natural resource and agricultural supply chains inspire her efforts to build resilient regional systems. Her work consists of targeted research in alternative crops and markets, and the revegetation of retired and de-watered croplands.



Mark Your Calendar



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Federal Ag Tax Update

Join CSU Extension Ag Business Management Specialist, Jeff Tranel, for a primer on filing federal taxes as a farm or ranch business. Topics covered will include:

- Farm/Ranch (Schedule F) income & expenses
- Cost recovery (depreciation)
- Reporting on Schedule C versus Schedule F
- Tax management strategies
- Updates for 2025

January 7th 5:00pm - 6:30pm, register for this online event [here](#). Registration is free.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Cottage Foods Business Training: Passion Into Profits

Join CSU Extension for a training to successfully build a cottage foods business and turn your culinary passion into profit! CSU Extension is offering a short course with tools to ensure success for cottage food producers. The training provides easy-

to-use resources for ensuring producers account for their costs of production and product-market-fit.

January 9th 3:00pm - 5:00pm, register for this online event on [Eventbrite](#) or [Facebook](#). Registration is free.

Boots to Business for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England and the USDA invite veterans, service members, and military spouses to Boots to Business Reboot for Veteran Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. This full-day virtual workshop will explore agricultural business ownership. Experts across the industry will teach participants how to develop business plans and access start-up capital and technical assistance.

- **Date:** January 13, 7am-3:30pm MT
- **Topics covered:** Entrepreneurship, Market Research, Financing, Legal Considerations, Economics of Agriculture, Business Planning, and USDA Resources

Registration is free. [Register here.](#)



Institutional Procurement: A Path Toward Food System Resilience Webinar

Join the Southwest Regional Food Business Center for a webinar on institutional procurement on **January 15th from 4-5pm MT**. Speakers will discuss their own organizations' roles in sourcing sustainable products for institutional dining operations. Participants will learn how food procurement by institutions supports small and mid-sized farms and food businesses, creating opportunities for equitable incomes for food producers and food systems workers.

Topics covered include how health care organizations and governments can reduce the impact of the health care sector on the environment, value-based food system supply chains, and local, sustainable food procurement.

[Register here.](#)



**USDA REGIONAL
FOOD
BUSINESS CENTERS
SOUTHWEST**

**USDA Southwest Regional Food Business Center
Quarterly Webinar Series**

Register

bit.ly/SWRFBcwebinar



Wednesday, January 15
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM PST

Institutional Procurement: A Path Toward Food System Resilience



Molly Riordan
Director of Institutional Impact




Maxie Blasini
Healthy Food in Health Care
California Regional Program Manager




Tim Galarneau
Food Systems Program Manager




BUILDING FARMERS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2025 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Course

The Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers program builds community and capacity in agriculture for beginning farmers and ranchers around the state. From January 14 to March 4, 2025, course facilitators and instructors will guide new and beginning farmers (those with less than 10 years of experience) through a series of eight online evening classes designed to explore agriculture as a business, including the principles of business management, developing a marketing plan, managing risk, obtaining financing, and more. The program also provides more experienced farmers and ranchers with tools and ideas to refine and enhance their business management and marketing skills. Participants are supported with group and individual exercises and coaching, which result in participants creating a business plan and presenting it to a group of peers.

When: Tuesdays evenings, 6pm-8:30pm from January 14-March 4, 2025

Where: Online, via Zoom

Who: Agricultural producers with less than 10 years of farming experience

Cost: \$250 per participant, and \$125 for each additional participant from the same farm business

Learn more [here](#); preregister [here](#) by January 10th.

USDA AMS Local and Regional Foods Resources and Research Webinar Series

A monthly webinar series highlighting local and regional foods research projects,



resources, partnerships, and programs.

Upcoming Webinar:

- **Jan. 16, 11am-12pm MT** -The Promise of Urban Agriculture: Courses for Grower and Planners: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in partnership with the [Cornell Small Farms Program](#) and Rooted has developed the Promise of Urban Agriculture courses to provide critical information for building or supporting successful commercial urban farms.

The Promise of Urban Agriculture courses represent an innovative and holistic approach to support robust urban farming businesses and communities by addressing city planners, policymakers, and farmers alike.

The courses, now available on the [Cornell Small Farms Program website](#), educate participants through unique video content and materials about topics including, Accessing Urban Land for Farming, Urban Farm Planning and Management, and Sources of Urban Farm Income.

[Click here to register.](#)



Food Safety Training for Colorado Cottage Foods Producers

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; times are all in Mountain Standard or Daylight time. Click each date below to register and learn more about the program. For additional dates, [check here](#).

The next CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Trainings will take place on:

- January 23rd, 12:00pm - 3:30pm, [online registration](#)
- January 24th, 9:00am - 12:30pm, [online registration](#)
- January 27th, 12:30pm - 4:30pm, [online registration](#)

Old Fort at Hesperus 2025 Farmer in Training Program

The Old Fort at Hesperus is now accepting applications for the 2025 Farmer in Training (FIT) program. Work and class schedules require at least a 22-hour work week.

- Program graduates complete:
 - Six farming courses (T/Th, 1-3 pm)

- Over 200 hours of paid field work (on T/W/Th mornings)
- Participate in four field trips throughout the program (W 1-4 pm)
- Field work and compensation available through Americorps or through a direct stipend

See [the webpage](#) for additional information. [Apply here.](#)



2025 Offal Party at CSU Spur

The CSU Ag Innovation Center invites all people who support regenerative, circular food systems that promote human, animal, and environmental health to the 2025 Offal Party. This event offers an opportunity to learn more about why consuming offal, or organ meat, and

wearing leather are key to supporting Colorado's soil health.

Who: All are welcome to attend, including foodies, ranchers and cattle feeders, fashionistas, pet owners, processors, and entrepreneurs.

Why: Ranchers and cattle feeders provide nutritionally dense meat for consumers and steward our rangelands with responsible grazing and, to break even, they must ensure that they have a market for all parts of the animal. Offal is the most nutritionally dense part of the animal. Additionally, leather made from hides is a high-performance material used in clothing.

When: Saturday, January 25, 2025, 5:30-10pm.

Where: Stockyards Event Center (5004 National Western Drive, Denver, CO 80216).

Featuring:

- Genuine Leather Fashion Show
- Offal Business Plan Competition
- Chef prepared farm-to-table offal delicacies
- Line Dancing

Get your Offal Party tickets [here](#).

For any questions, support, or ideas, schedule a meeting with Jordan Lambert [here](#).

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course

CSU Extension, Fort Lewis College, and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be hosting an online-only Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course over two days. The course will take place on January

28th from 7:30am-12:30pm and January 29th from 7:45am to 1:30pm. View the course agenda [here](#).

Register for the course here.



Specialty Crops Procurement Division Industry Meeting



Members of the specialty crops industry are invited to a virtual meeting hosted by the AMS Procurement Program's Specialty Crops Procurement Division to discuss USDA's specialty crops purchase programs. This is an opportunity to hear about upcoming changes to the purchase program and allow collaboration with other supplier and contractor stakeholders. The meeting will take place on **January 29, 10am MT**.

Register for the meeting here.



Grant and Grow

Looking to fund your 2025 farm projects?

Stop digging between the couch cushions and join us for CSU's 2nd Annual Grant and Grow! Discover grants that can help you grow your farm or ranch business, expand production, increase soil health practices and more!

At Grant and Grow, you'll hear from government and non-profit organizations about their 2025 grant opportunities for producers. You'll also gain valuable insights from local farmers and ranchers who have successfully secured these grants in the past.

The day will also include breakout discussion groups and a hands-on grant writing workshop led by the CSU Food Systems team.

After last year's success we're now extending this opportunity to producers across Colorado through virtual registration! The event will be held on Jan 31st at CSU's Lory Student Ballroom A from 8:30am-3pm.

Register here - <https://form.jotform.com/243505087393157>



Entrepreneur Development Program

Pueblo Food Project's Entrepreneurship Development Program educates, cultivates, and advocates for aspiring food, beverage, and farm businesses. The third annual program will be held

in-person beginning February 19th, meeting weekly. This is a semester-style course where participants will create a business plan and prepare for a pitch competition in June.

Tuition is \$200 per student. Students who complete the semester will receive a variety of financial incentives to help propel their businesses. The program meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:30pm, from February 19th to June 4th. The application closes on **January 31st**.

Apply here!

Subjects covered include: Understanding Your Brand, Financing, Bookkeeping, Legal Requirements, Sales Tax, Packaging and Labeling, Sales and Markets, Food Safety, Branding, Marketing, and Production.

Contact Jolene Collins at entp@pueblofoodproject.org to learn more.

COURSE STARTS FEBRUARY 3, 2025
Have ACCESS ALL YEAR
Includes all parts of UCCS Grain School with Kick Off Orientation Session Feb 4, 2025 at 4:30 - 6pm MST
#GrainSchool25 #CCSBL14163077

Farmland Processing February

Nutrition & Health March

Community April

Rocky Mountain Farmstead Union

UCCS Grain School

COLORADO grain chain

University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)
Grain School Online 2025
Take the Full Course (\$395) starting February 3, 2025
LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS AND MAKERS. PLEASE INQUIRE NMeyer2@UCCS.EDU

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Grain School

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs is offering an online, asynchronous course focusing on heritage grains. This course covers the basics of crop science and improvement, history and culture, soil health, climate change, production, processing, infrastructure, quality, economics, the role of whole grains and culinary applications in nutrition, health, disease and sports performance, community related aspects of the grain value chain and cooperatives, grain sovereignty and justice, and artisan baking and cooking.

The course begins on February 3, 2025. The cost of attendance is \$395, however there are limited scholarships available for producers and makers. For more information about scholarships, contact nmeyer2@uccs.edu.

Register [here](#).

Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) Annual Conference



Join the 11th Annual Conference hosted by the **CO Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association**. This event will include two days of business networking with over 30 exhibitors and 25 buyers, 19 educational sessions, and social events.

When: February 18-19th

Where: 10600 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CO

Register for the event here!

CFVGA grower members get a free membership with reduced registration at member rates. To do this, first join as a member and then register for the event. Additionally, a limited number of beginning farmer conference scholarships are available for free registration.

Learn more about the conference here. For any questions regarding registration, contact Marilyn Bay at admin@coloradoproduce.org or **(303)-594-3827**.



The Colorado Grain Summit

The Colorado Grain Chain and NWRM Regional Food Business Center invite those who grow, produce, handle and buy grain products to the Colorado Grain Summit. This conference features networking sessions, expert panels, and keynote speeches, aiming to inspire businesses using local grains to envision pathways for sustainable growth and increased market impact. The summit will take place on

March 8th from 8am-5:30pm at the SteamPlant Event Center in Salida, CO.

Early bird pricing is available until February 1st. **Learn more, buy tickets, or apply for a scholarship here.**

If you represent an organization that provides resources and information that support grain stakeholder attendees and would like to have a resource table, reach out to audrey@coloradograinchain.com for more information.

Sun Soil Water Summit 2025

The Sun Soil Water Summit is a weekend-long gathering focused on bringing the community closer to the food system. There will be a variety of events to celebrate local leaders, educate peers, and uplift local entrepreneurs.



Main Events

- Pueblo Food Systems Leadership Awards & Gala | Friday, March 14th, 6-8pm
- Sun Soil Water Summit | Saturday, March 15th, 8am-4:30pm
- Makers' Market and Happy Hour | Saturday, March 15th, 4:30-7pm

Additional Events

- Brewery Walk | Friday, March 14th, 8:30-10pm
- Fly Fishing on the Arkansas | Friday, March 14th, TBD
- Bird Crawl | Saturday, March 15th, 7:30-8:30am
- Gagliano's Sausage Making | Sunday, March 16th, TBD

These community events are a fundraiser for the Pueblo Food Project. Scholarships are available for the main events only. Dual translation will be offered for all events except fly fishing. **Get your tickets here!**



Farm Resilience Online Course

Asynchronous, self-paced course now open for enrollment!

Learn practical strategies and tools to boost your farm's resilience amidst the challenges of climate change. This self-paced, online course is designed specifically for farmers and ranchers in the West, focusing on real-world solutions and hands-on techniques. Join a community of like-minded individuals and gain the knowledge you need to secure your farm's future. CSU was fortunate to partner with this program to develop some of the content and decision tools.

Enroll today and deepen your journey towards climate resilience and sustainability.



Funding Opportunities

Small Business Builder Grants for Colorado Farm and Food Businesses

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to support small and mid-scale Colorado farms, ranches, and value-added businesses. This program is specifically for businesses that are producing in, sourcing from, and focused on local and regional markets, or serving multiple small- and mid-scale food and farm businesses.



Grant funds are intended to be used to improve business skills, strengthen the viability of your business, expand your access to markets, or strengthen local and regional food and agriculture supply chains.

Access the following links for the upcoming sessions:

- Colorado Small Business Builder Final Session – **Monday, January 6th, 5pm – 6pm – [Register Here](#)**

Applications are due **January 10, 2025**. Awardees will be announced in February 2025.

[Visit the website to learn more and apply for funding.](#)

USDA Program to Expand Specialty Crop Storage and Marketing Assistance



The USDA launched two new programs — the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops and the Commodity Storage Assistance Program — to help specialty crop growers overcome market barriers for products and unlock pre-market storage for crops following severe weather events.

Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops

The Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops initiative will provide \$2 billion to assist specialty crop growers to maintain a strong domestic supply and expand market opportunities. The program will help specialty crop growers with specialized handling and transport equipment with temperature and humidity control, packaging, moving perishables to market quickly, and higher labor costs.

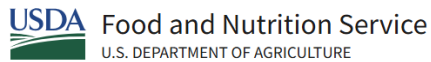
The program covers the following crops: fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops, Christmas trees, floriculture, culinary and medicinal herbs and spices, honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass, and grass seed. Eligible producers or legal entities must submit a complete **Form FSA-1140** to any FSA county office by **January 8th**. For more information, see the related USDA website **[here](#)**.

Commodity Storage Assistance Program

The Commodity Storage Assistance Program will provide \$140 million to help producers gain access to a packinghouse or other facility necessary for the marketing of agricultural commodities. This is designed for farmers across the nation due to disaster-related challenges.

To read more about these programs, **[see this article](#)**.

Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program



Each year, the USDA awards Farm to School grants that support the planning, development, and implementation of farm to school programs.

These grants help state, regional, and local organizations initiate, expand, and institutionalize farm to school efforts. The fiscal year 2025 request for applications is now open. It has been split into three separate solicitations:

- Implementation Grant
- State Agency Grant
- Turnkey Grant

The deadline for applications is **January 10th, 2025**.

To learn more, [visit the Patrick Leahy Grant Program page](#). For helpful resources, visit the [Applicant Resources page](#), where you can find links to webinars that provide assistance on applying for a Farm to School grant.

Diverse Markets Business Builder Grant Program

The NWRM Regional Food Business Center Diverse Markets for Climate Resilient Agriculture team is offering grants between \$3,000 and \$50,000 that are designed to support small- and mid-scale farms and food businesses working with grain, pulse, and/or pseudocereal products within local and regional value chains. These grants are intended to increase business viability, improve market access, and strengthen local and regional supply chains. For eligibility details and more information, see the flyer below and visit the [webpage](#).



There will be a series of webinars during the grant application period.

- Information Session 1: Prerecorded - [Recording here](#)
- Informational Session 2: January 9th, 5-6pm MT - [Register here](#)
- Office Hours 1: January 29th, 1-2pm MT - [Register here](#)
- Office Hours 2: February 13th, 4-5pm MT - [Register here](#)

Applications are due **March 1, 2025**. [See the Request for Applications here](#).

Ongoing Assistance for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency is offering the [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program \(FSCSC\)](#) again this year. The FSCSC program provides financial assistance for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification.



For calendar year 2024 this assistance starts July 1st and goes through January 31, 2025. The application period for calendar year 2025 will be January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans Available

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the USDA **Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program** is offering loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects.

These loans will be available to projects that are starting or expanding activities in the middle of the food supply chain. For example, the program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

Colorado contact information for Rural Development and its regional offices can be found [here](#).

Robert McElroy, the Rural Business & Cooperative Services Program Director with the Colorado State Office is eager to discuss this opportunity with anyone who has a potential project. His email is: robert.mcelroy@usda.gov.



News, Resources & Reading

Values-Based, Equity Centered Farm to Food Assistance Report



The Wallace Center's Food Leadership Network has announced 4 years of research, peer learning, and field building in the report **"Farm to Food Assistance: A Model for Values-Based, Equity Centered Approaches to Transforming the Food System"**. This report makes the case for how farms can transform food systems through food assistance programs. The Food Leadership Network highlights the most pressing challenges and offers recommendations for people looking to advance Farm to Food Assistance efforts across the country.

Announcing the Launch of Native Grown + Gathered



Native Grown + Gathered is an online platform supporting indigenous food sovereignty across the Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. This platform brings together Native food producers, traditional food gatherers, and those committed to revitalizing traditional indigenous foodways to strengthen communities.

Through Native Grown + Gathered, you can explore

- A directory of Native-owned food businesses and producers
- Information on the upcoming Native Foods Expo
- Funding opportunities and educational resources to support Indigenous-led food systems

Visit the Native Grown + Gathered platform [here!](#)

Subscribe to *Rooted* Digital Magazine

Subscribe to *Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty*, a new international magazine featuring frontline experiences and perspectives from farmer leaders, indigenous people, researchers, and advocates. *Rooted* highlights transformative ideas and actions related to agroecology and food sovereignty and lifts the voices, perspectives, and knowledge of those at the forefront of action to transform food systems.

Rooted
in Agroecology and
Food Sovereignty

Read the first issue on Policymaking for Agroecology [here](#). In this issue, authors from Brazil, Kenya, the Indian Himalayas, and Switzerland share lessons learned and perspectives from movement leaders.

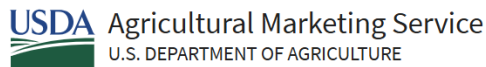
[Subscribe to the magazine here.](#)



Colorado Organic Grains Microgrant Awardees Announced

This past year, the Colorado Grain Chain distributed six \$5,000 grants to awardees of the Colorado Organic Grains Microgrant Program. The awardees are businesses in the middle phase of the organic grain supply chain. This round of grants is the first of a three-year Microgrant program. Each recipient shared innovative concepts that help make organic grain usage reach a larger audience and underscore the importance of organic grains in the food system.

[Learn more about each project and stay tuned for updates here.](#)



USDA Announces an Additional \$1.7 Billion in Funding for Local Food Purchases

Coloradans were instrumental in fighting for continuation of the **Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA)**.

Colorado Rep. Caraveo and Sen. Bennet co-led letters from the House and Senate to the USDA urging for continued funding for these pandemic-era programs. All Colorado Democrats (Reps Crow, Neguse, DeGette, Pettersen and Sen. Hickenlooper) signed on. Also, the **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition** led a country-wide organizational sign-on letter in support of LFPA and out of 580 national signatures — 101 were from Colorado.

Here are more details:

Secretary Vilsack and USDA announced an additional \$1.7 billion in funding for local food purchases. Specifically,

- \$500 million for Local Food Purchase Assistance Program
- \$500 million for Local Food in Schools
- \$200 million for a new, local food in childcare facilities initiative
- \$500 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program

You can read the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's press release [here](#). You can read USDA's press release [here](#).



List Your Business in USDA AMS Local Foods Directories

The USDA **Local Foods Directories** allow you to market your local food business to a wider nationwide audience. In particular, make sure your winter-season agritourism venture is featured on the USDA Local Food Directories! To create a new listing, answer quick and easy questions about the status of your business so consumers can learn more about you.

[Click here to sign up for the directory.](#)

Manager Fellowship Available for Mid-Career Agrarians

The New Agrarian Program has launched its first-ever **Manager Fellowship**, a year-long training program to develop business, finance, and leadership skills in aspiring ranch managers and entrepreneurs. While the program was initially

designed with our apprenticeship alumni in mind, we are excited to now offer limited spots to additional mid-career agrarians who are interested in joining us!



The Manager Fellowship began with a kick-off event on **November 21-24** at Paicines Ranch in California, and continues virtually as fellows attend Zoom workshops, chat with experienced mentor-coaches, and participate in cohort discussions. Ideal candidates have at least two years of production experience in agriculture, a serious drive for either entrepreneurship or higher-level ranch management, and a commitment to the program for the upcoming year.

Applications are currently open and are accepted on a rolling basis, so we encourage you to apply soon! Feel free to contact us with any questions at newagrarian@quviracoalition.org.



Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Promise of Urban Agriculture Courses Now Available

USDA AMS, in partnership with the Cornell Small Farms Program and Rooted, is offering the Promise of Urban Agriculture courses. The courses represent an innovative and holistic approach to support urban farming businesses and communities.

This project is informed by **The Promise of Urban Agriculture**, a 2019 national study of commercial farming in urban areas conducted by AMS and the **Cornell Small Farms Program**. With information from this study, the project team created The Promise of Urban Agriculture courses designed to educate both growers and planners on urban agriculture and the impact of city plans and policies.

The Promise of Urban Agriculture courses are available online and are free to those who register for the courses **by January 31, 2025**.

Click [here](#) to access the courses.

From Our Communities

Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center Survey

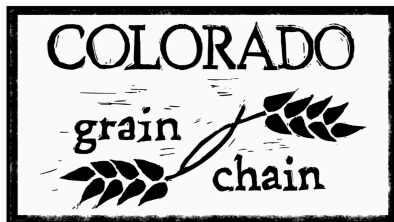
Have you worked with the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center over the past 9 months? The Center would love your feedback!

The NWRM Regional Food Business Center has been working alongside incredible partners and stakeholders to support the success of the region's food systems. Now, the Center is asking for stakeholders' input. This feedback is invaluable in shaping programs, aligning efforts with the region's needs, and ensuring impactful support is delivered to our communities.



If you have connected with the Center, its programs, or grants, please:

[Take the survey here.](#)



Join the Colorado Grain Chain

Consumers and businesses are encouraged to join the Colorado Grain Chain (CGC). Heritage and heirloom grains are a great way to diversify, build soil, and add value to Colorado's agricultural abundance. Through the Colorado Grown Grains

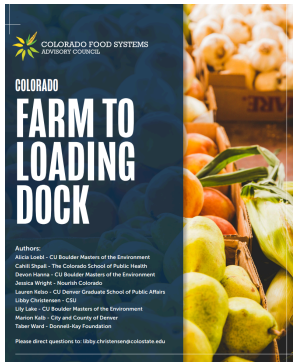
Co-Brand strategy, the Colorado Grain Chain supports producers and makers with co-branded marketing materials, grain chain business access, and networking opportunities. For more information, contact **Audrey Paugh** at connect@coloradograinchain.com or apply to become a member [here](#).

Black, Hispanic, and Tribal Producer Wholesale Marketing and Technical Assistance Survey

Farmers and ranchers who identify as Black, Hispanic, or Tribal and sell wholesale, either now or in the past, or plan to access wholesale markets, are encouraged to take this online survey. This project aims to understand the specific technical assistance needs of Black, Hispanic, and Tribal producers when accessing and scaling into wholesale markets. Responses from the survey will support identifying best practices, challenges, gaps, and associated issues to inform technical assistance providers, programs, policies, and institutions.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete: [click here to take the survey.](#)

If you are an individual, organization, or institution providing technical assistance to Black, Hispanic, and Tribal producers, and are willing to participate in an interview, contact pratyoosh@vt.edu or washton@iit.edu. Please contact the project team with any questions or comments.



Farm to Loading Dock Report

This **report** from the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council explores the partnerships, training, and resources needed to move food from Colorado’s agricultural producers to wholesale institutional markets. The report highlights big and little policy recommendations to expand institutional markets in Colorado.



Check Out a Podcast by the North American Food Systems Network!

Check out the "Finding Your Future in Food Systems" Podcast Hosted by Vivian Le of the North American Food Systems Network! Episodes feature guest speakers who have carved out their own unique niche in the local food systems space. You can **click here** to listen to episodes.

New Consumer Food Insights Series Available

A new series of **Consumer Food Insights is now available**. The survey, conducted in Winter 2023, captured current food shopping trends as well as changes in U.S. consumer food behaviors since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Click **here** to access the new series, and in November, they will start posting regional data on market usage.

Local Food Systems Response to COVID Consumer Food Insights 3.0

Post COVID-19 Food Spending and Channels: A Look at Trends and Consumers' Changed Behaviors



Connect with the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center (RFBC) is one of 12 Regional Food Business Centers funded by USDA, with the goal of improving local and

regional food systems and better serving underinvested farm and food businesses. The Northwest and Rocky Mountain RFBC serves Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Read our latest newsletter [here](#).

AND, the Colorado Biz Builder and Diverse Markets grant programs are now live (see above for all the details), and stay tuned for more funding opportunities in the future.

Learn more about the Center's educational and technical support programs for small- and mid-sized food and farm businesses, and sign up for updates here: <https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/>.



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.





Stay Connected

Find us on social media, get farm or food systems related questions answered via email, forward to a friend, or submit your contributions to our newsletter!



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Submit Contributions

Food Systems CSU | <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu>



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