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December 1, 2021 || Newsletter Edition 139

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## CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



**Sara Johnson**  
**Microgreens: An Emerging Food Crop  
 for Promoting Human Health and  
 Sustainably Diversifying Food  
 Systems**

**Wednesday, December 1st, 2021**

**\*Please note date change\***

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm MT with time for  
 questions

<https://zoom.us/j/4038852572>

Join us to hear Dr. Sarah Johnson, Ph.D., RDN, Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, discuss microgreens and their potential for sustainably diversifying food systems. She will share research supporting their consumer acceptability, high nutritional quality, and possible health effects.

**Register here.**

View previous Food Systems webinars **here.**



## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



**Ming Wang**

Ph.D. Student

Department of Agricultural Resource and  
 Economics

Ming is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at CSU. Ming obtained a BA in Agricultural and Forest Economics Management and an MA in Agricultural Economics and Management from China Agricultural University.

Her previous research focused on the supply chain efficiency of the vegetable industry in China. Now she focuses on soil carbon sequestration in agricultural production under agricultural conservation policies. She also conducts research on hemp production. During her free time, she likes hiking, being outdoors, and enjoying the landscape in Colorado. She also likes practicing yoga and cooking. In the

future, she hopes to continue to engage in environmental research at the university and help solve environmental and natural resource problems.

### **Darrin Parmenter**

Director and Horticulturist, CSU Extension  
La Plata County

Darrin Parmenter is the County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent with CSU Extension in La Plata County. He is a Durango native and moved back in 2007 to work with CSU, with previous Extension experience at the University of Florida and Cornell University. His interests and outreach lie in gardening, food production, farming, and local food awareness and food insecurity issues. On any given day, you could probably find him at a school garden, walking a farm, or working with community members and organizations. One of his goals is to find pathways of success for beginning farmers in southwest Colorado.



## Mark Your Calendar



**COLORADO**<sup>SM</sup>  
FRUIT & VEGETABLE  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

**December 1st, 2021**  
**2nd Annual CFVGA Produce**  
**Labor Conference**

Join the 2021 CFVGA produce labor conference at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Aurora to understand the current regulatory environment. Learn about updates to current and new programs, and find innovative solutions for Colorado fruit and vegetable growers. NOTE: our breakout session period offers many opportunities, so please consider bringing 2 or more from your farm so that your team can explore all these options.

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

Beginning farmers attend for **FREE!**

## **AMS Releases Solicitation for TEFAP Fresh Produce Packages**

The Agricultural Marketing Service has issued solicitation 2000008188, (12-3J14-21-B-0072) for the procurement of Mixed Fresh Produce under the Build Back

Better Initiative.

Please note bids are due **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Central Time**. Bids must be submitted through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM).



View the Solicitation [here](#).

View the Solicitation Tendering Text [here](#).

Questions regarding this procurement should be directed to David Cottrell, [David.cottrell@usda.gov](mailto:David.cottrell@usda.gov), 202-260-9183



## Upcoming Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting two Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings:

1. **December 15, 2021** at the Weld County Extension Office at 525 N 15th Ave, Greeley, CO. Register [here](#).
2. **February 8-9, 2022** (online only). Register [here](#).

These courses 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 <http://www.coproductsafety.org/>.



## Funding Opportunities

**CDA Now Accepting Applications for 2022 Agricultural Workforce Development Program Internships**



The Colorado Department of Agriculture is now accepting business applications for the 2022 Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP).

The AWDP provides financial incentives to farms, ranches, and other agricultural businesses to hire interns and provide them with the hands-on training needed to begin a career in agriculture. Qualified businesses may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the actual cost of hiring an intern, up to \$5,000 per internship. Internships can begin as early as April 2022.

The open application period: **November 23, 2021, to January 7, 2022**

For questions, contact Jennifer Benson, AWDP program manager, at [jennifer.benson@state.co.us](mailto:jennifer.benson@state.co.us)

[Click here for more information.](#)



## USDA Announces \$10 Million in Grant Funding Available for the Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that \$10 million is available for competitive grant funding in the 2021 **Specialty Crop Multi-State Program**.

Funding will be available for use in Spring 2022 with awarded projects taking place over a 36-month performance period. Matching funds not required. Applications must be received before 11:59 pm ET on **December 6, 2021**.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## USDA Begins Accepting Applications for New Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant Program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it 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 [here](#) through **Feb. 8, 2022**, for grants ranging from \$5 million to \$50 million.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## 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 the 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 Jan. 7, 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.](#)

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



**COLORADO**

Office of Economic Development & International Trade

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**. Those applications **received by November 30, 2021 will be reviewed for Award Period #1 and those received by February 28, 2022 will be reviewed as part of Award Period #2**. For each award period, \$1 million will be 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.](#)



## Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program

NIFA's Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) is soliciting applications to fund two types of grants.

(1) **Community Food Projects (CFP)**. CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) primary goals.

(2) **Planning Projects (PP)**. The purpose of a Planning Project (PP) is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. Projects and plans are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the plan or project.

**Applications are due December 20, 2021.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

## USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting proposals from state, local and tribal governments to procure local and regional foods and distribute them to food banks, schools, and other organizations that reach underserved communities.



**Nov 18, 2021 - Mar 19, 2022, is the proposed timeline.** The proposed dates for awards will be on a rolling basis subsequent to the announcement. This program is part of the "Build Back Better" initiative, authorized by the American Rescue Plan.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## News, Resources & Reading



### Strengthening the Public Health Impacts of SNAP: Key Opportunities for the Next Farm Bill

The USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps tens of millions of Americans afford food each month, and participation has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic. A new report identifies evidence-based opportunities that have the greatest potential to improve SNAP participants' nutrition and overall health. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## From Our Communities

### Northern Colorado Farm Business Accelerator

The Northern Colorado Foodshed Project is launching a new program to support beginning farmers in Northern Colorado! The Accelerator is a 3-year program offering beginning farmers an alternative entry point to establishing a farm business and a pathway to affordable, long-term land access.



#### Applications are open now through December 8th, 2021!

The program provides a bridge to business viability for those with existing farm skills and experience through low-cost access to everything needed to launch a successful farm business: land and water, infrastructure, technical support, marketing assistance, mentorship, and business education in partnership with CSU Extension's [Building Farmers Program](#). The program runs from mid-January to early October, and participants will have access to plots from 1/4-1.5 acres depending on experience, as well as irrigation, tools, equipment, and storage. Program fees vary depending on plot size and start at \$500/year.

Learn more and apply [here](#) by December 8th.

For questions, please email [info@foodshedproject.org](mailto:info@foodshedproject.org)



## The Old Fort At Hesperus, Farmer Training Program

Farmers-in-training (FITs) gain hands-on experience growing vegetables at high elevation. Through morning field work and afternoon classes and field trips, the FIT program provides a strong foundation for aspiring and beginning farmers. Requiring a commitment of about 25 hours per week, FITs work with program staff to tend 2-3 acres of vegetable production, learning skills and

techniques vital to farming at high elevation. FITs join the Old Fort staff and program partners in a network committing to supporting beginning farmers through incubator and other land access opportunities, business planning, and community support. The Old Fort will provide a list of short-term housing options, but housing is not provided.

Program runs from May 9 to October 7, 2022.

**Applications** are open until filled. Priority will be given to applications received by January 10, 2022.



## 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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