

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



May 2023 || Newsletter Edition 155

In this issue:

- Mark Your Calendar
- Funding Opportunities
- News, Resources, and Reading
- From Our Communities
- About Us
- Stay Connected



Visit our Website



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight

Michaela Mattes

Prowers County, Southern Region - Agronomy/Cropping Systems

Michaela is the agronomy Extension agent for the Southeast Area of Colorado. Her office is in Lamar, CO. Michaela has a Master's in Soil Science from New Mexico State University and a Master's in Extension Education from CSU. The majority of her work includes wheat variety trials, sunflowers, and corn sorghum, as well as some vegetables grown in a greenhouse. She is also part of a research project looking into cowpeas grown for forage and hay.



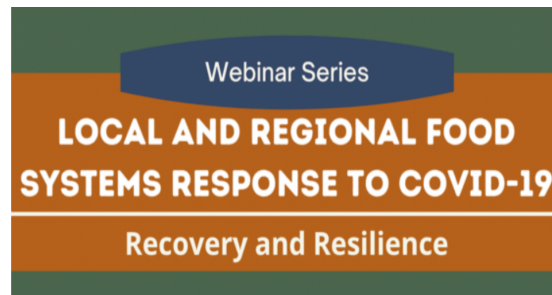
Mark Your Calendar

Webinar: Data to support your local/regional/state food systems work

Does your city, region, or state have its own food systems map, or are you considering creating one? When developing a food system map, having a clear idea of what data to include, and the processes for maintaining it are vital first steps. In this webinar, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and Colorado State University's Food Systems Institute will explore and showcase a new data resource available to you to help make some of these essential early decisions.

The new resource, at <https://localfoodeconomics.com/data>, includes more than 300 indicators developed by representatives of dozens of local and regional food systems organizations through an equity lens. These indicators cover topics including labor, community resources, nutrition security and food access, business development and infrastructure, and local food sales. Hear from members of the team that created and maintain this resource, and join in a discussion around how we can collectively support local, regional, and state food systems data and mapping efforts.

Webinar will be held **May 2nd, 2023 10:00am MST**; join here: <https://zoom.us/j/2254233117>.



Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers 2023 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:

- **May 4**, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
- **May 20**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **June 1**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **June 6**, 10:00 am-1:30 pm, in-person in Colorado Springs
- **August 28**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Workshop: Southwest Meat Field Day

Join us for an event for livestock producers interested in learning more about finishing livestock, meat quality, and the business of meat production.

The event will be held at Pueblo Community College in Mancos, CO on **May 11th from 8:30am to 3pm.**



Registration is \$15 and includes lunch and cider from Fenceline Cider.

Register [here](#).





Save the Date
Southwest Colorado Meat and Livestock Day
May 11
8:30am - 3pm
Pueblo Community College
Southwest Room 208
33057 US-160 Mancos, CO 81328

Agenda:
Feeding for High Quality Meat Certification Programs, Labeling, and Profitability
Navigating Grant and Loan Programs Business Development Lunch
Marketing Under-Utilized Cuts
Nutritional Needs of Different Livestock
Finishing Livestock in SW Colorado
Networking at Fenceline Cider

Register online:
<https://SWMeatDay2023.eventbrite.com>
\$15 registration fee includes lunch and one drink at Fenceline. Financial support is available.

Thank you to our sponsors and project partners:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
EMILY LOCKARD AT
EMILY.LOCKARD@COLOSTATE.EDU
(970) 564-4170

Webinar: All About Beans

Learn about the importance of beans within Colorado’s agriculture industry on **May 12 from 12-1pm MT!**

Chelsea Didinger, doctoral candidate in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department will discuss how beans are grown, anatomy of a bean plant, how to cook and add beans to your diet, and much more!

Register [here](#).



COLORADOSM
FRUIT & VEGETABLE
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Workshop: Automated Weeder Demo

Following on the heels of precision agriculture, many are dubbing the use of automated weeders in specialty crops the “next agricultural revolution”. Recent labor recruitment, retention and affordability issues are driving widespread adoption of these machines in California. Colorado growers are facing similar issues and ag tech companies are interested in engaging with growers throughout Colorado.

Join in a first-ever event for Colorado, a demonstration of industry leading vegetable farm automated weeders at the CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center (AVRC) Friday, June 16, hosted by CSU Extension and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Contact: Adrian Card, State Specialist, Produce, CSU Extension | 970-491-6968 | adrian.card@colostate.edu.

Colorado commercial fruit and vegetable growers traveling over 100 miles one way to AVRC are eligible for travel cost reimbursement.



San Luis Valley Entrepreneurship Summit

This June 21st Summit aims to connect entrepreneurs to one another and provide resources to strengthen regional networks and opportunities to collaborate. It will be held at Adams State University and include an:

- Analysis of local entrepreneurial resources and networks,
- Intensive small workshop to dive in and build solutions, and
- Option for entrepreneurs to interface with lenders, training providers, and each other.

The San Luis Valley Entrepreneurship Summit is free for participants and will be partially funded by USDA Rural Development and Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

[Visit the Event's page for more information and to register!](#)



Funding Opportunities

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is requesting applications for its FY 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. This program awards grants to state departments of agriculture for projects that enhance competitiveness of specialty crops. For eligibility information and more information, click [here](#).

Applications are due by **May 1, 2023**.



Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) Grant Applications Available

USDA's LAMP is made up of the [Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#) and [Local Food Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#) and the [Regional Food System Partnerships \(RFSP\)](#) grant program, all administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

FMLFPP

Two of LAMP's funding opportunities – **FMPP** and **LFPP** – together referred to as FMLFPP seek to develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food systems. FMPP supports producer-to-consumer markets such as farmers markets, roadside stands, agritourism activities, community-supported agriculture programs, and online sales. LFPP grants support local and regional food business enterprises that engage as marketing intermediaries.

RFSP

The **RFSP** grant program supports public-private partnerships that build and strengthen viability and resilience of local or regional food economies. Funded projects focus on increasing the availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products and alleviating unnecessary administrative and technical barriers. Projects can cover the planning and design of a local and regional food economy as well as implementing or expanding an existing one.

A Request for Applications for each program is available on the program pages linked through the [LAMP](#) webpage. Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 2, 2023**.

AMS is hosting webinars to help applicants navigate the application process. Additionally, Frequently Asked Questions are posted on the [AMS Grants website](#).

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program



This program funds projects to explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system. Eligible applicants include state departments of agriculture, state agricultural experiment stations, and other appropriate state agencies (i.e., state universities, state colleges, or state governmental entities). For more information and to apply, visit the [FSMIP website](#).

Applications are due **May 2, 2023**.

Colorado Department of Agriculture Accepting Proposals for the Improvement of Food Access in Colorado Communities



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is seeking proposals from non-profit organizations with connections to communities in Colorado that struggle with access to fresh, healthy food. Submitted proposals should present a plan on how to conduct regional outreach on behalf of CDA's new Community Food Access program. Nonprofit organizations that are selected will promote opportunities for small food retailers and small family farms through the Community Food Access program.

The Community Food Access program will offer one-time grants up to \$25,000 through the Small Food Business Recovery and Resilience Grant. As contractors, the selected nonprofit organizations will ensure these opportunities reach the communities across the state who need them most.

For more information, or to register for an information session, visit [CDA's website](#).

Proposals are due on **June 14, 2023**.



Grants for Farmers and Ranchers Available

The Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Research & Education Grant Program focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. This grant program involves agricultural producers (main applicants) and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture.

This program aims to honor producer innovation by funding on-farm research that benefits and is led by producers themselves.

Proposals are due **October 25, 2023**.

[Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.](#)



Grants for Professionals and Producers Available

This grant program involves an agricultural technical advisor (main applicant) and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of at least three producers, projects must integrate research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and other agricultural stakeholders.

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 shared with other producers. \$75,000 limit/one-three years in scope.

Proposals are due **October 31, 2023**

[Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.](#)

Colorado Clean Diesel Program



This is an opportunity that can help farms and other Colorado business owners purchase electric or hybrid equipment and transportation vehicles. Businesses interested in replacing one or more of their older diesel machines with eligible lower- or zero-emissions equivalents can apply for a grant. Grants may be up to 25-45% of the project cost, depending on type of equipment. Anecdotally, this program is not very competitive and applicants who meet program eligibility criteria are likely to receive funding.

Learn more by [visiting their website](#).



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 grants will be offered 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 at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-page/colorado-contacts>.



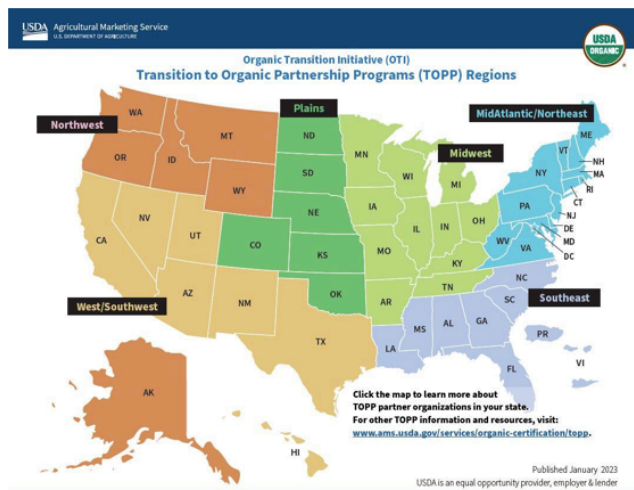
News, Resources & Reading

Transition to Organic Program Connecting with Regional Networks

The USDA has announced partner organizations that farmers can contact to learn more about transitioning to organic. These organizations are also entry points for existing organic farmers wanting to serve as paid mentors to help establish the next generation of organic farmers.

This work is part of the Organic Transition Initiative (OTI), which supports transitioning and recently transitioned producers who face technical, cultural, and market shifts during the first few years of organic certification.

Click [here](#) to explore the PDF-based map.



From Our Communities



Apply to join the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Commission!

The **Healthy Food for Denver's Kids (HFDK)** Commission is recruiting new members – especially seeking young people ages 18-25. HFDK funding for

healthy food access and food education is distributed through grants to schools, non-profits, and city agencies, with an emphasis on serving low-income youth in Denver. Funding decisions are determined by the HFDK Commission, which is made up of non-profit, government, and community member volunteer appointees who meet monthly. Apply to join the Commission by **May 17, 2023**: www.bit.ly/join_hfdk. Questions?

Email lauren.howe@denvergov.org.



Biden-Harris Administration to Expand Access to Green Spaces in Disadvantaged Urban Areas via Forest Service Grants

On April 12th, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the availability of **\$1 billion in grants** to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces in urban and community forests where more than 84% of Americans live, work and play. The announcement is part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda and the Administration's work to build a clean energy economy, advance environmental justice and create economic opportunity in communities across the country.

The grant funding is available to community-based organizations, tribes, municipal and state governments, nonprofit partners, universities, and other eligible entities as they work to increase tree cover in urban spaces and boost equitable access to nature while bolstering resilience to extreme heat, storm-induced flooding, and other climate impacts.

For information on how to apply for federal Urban and Community Forestry grants, visit the Forest Service [website](#), or www.grants.gov using the opportunity number USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01. For more information on funding to states and territories, visit the state allocations [webpage](#). To learn how to apply for state or territory-administered subgrants, contact local state forestry agencies.



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!



Subscribe

Submit Contributions

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

