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April 1, 2021 || Newsletter Edition 131

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Visit our Website



CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Join us the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2 pm

Student Perspectives of the Benefits of Interdisciplinary Food Systems Research

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 (delayed for spring break)

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm MT, followed by time for questions

Meeting ID: **175-114-418**

Join us to hear graduate students Jordin Clark, Hailey Summers, and Pratyoosh Kashyap share their insights about the benefits of interdisciplinary food systems research.

[Register here](#)



Jordin Clark
PhD Student
Dept of Communications



Hailey Summers
GRA
Energy Institute



Pratyoosh Kashyap
PhD Student
Dept of Ag and Resource
Economics

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



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights

Nathan Palardy

Ph.D. Student
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Nathan's research interests intersect food policy, marketing, and industrial organization. His current research assesses the impact of liberalizing alcohol retail on producers and retailers, as well as on consumer behavior.



Since moving to Colorado, he has been engaged with the state's robust brewing industry. Nathan helped facilitate the Liquid Arts Research Forum, which brought together academics and industry personnel to promote collaborative research. He recently produced an industry report designed to help Colorado craft breweries navigate full-strength beer sales in grocery and convenience stores. Nathan is currently using consumer foot traffic data to investigate how allowing grocery and

convenience stores to obtain alcohol retail licenses changes consumer behavior and impacts the liquor store sector. When he is not busy being a student he enjoys biking, fishing, and brewery hopping.

Kevin Jablonski

Range Ecologist
Extension Research Coordinator
Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship



Kevin Jablonski is a Range Ecologist and Extension Research Coordinator in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship. He has an Extension appointment and is an affiliate in the Center for Collaborative Conservation. As a Range Ecologist, Kevin studies the ecology of grazing livestock—how domestic herbivores interact with their environment, how humans influence this, and the good and bad things that arise from these relationships. His research has focused on grazing management in larkspur habitat, ecological health on western rangelands, and livestock-carnivore interactions in East Africa, among others. In his new role as Extension Research Coordinator, he is working statewide to build bridges across disciplines, departments, and institutions to improve research and extension in Colorado's rangelands.



Mark Your Calendar

Stay up to date!

Please check the Food Systems [webpage](#) for updates, and refer to our [responses and resources](#) related to COVID-19. Note that late-breaking COVID-19 updates will be posted on the website but are not included in this newsletter for timeliness. **Information about Colorado's vaccine roll-out is included at the end of this newsletter.**

Food Safety Training for Cottage Foods Producers

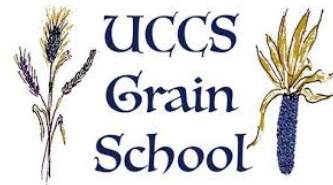
2021 courses

Learn how to safely produce food from home as a cottage food business. This online course covers a variety of topics that include: 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 \$40.

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

- **April 5, 2021**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **April 17, 2021**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, IN SPANISH
- **April 21, 2021**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **April 22, 2021**, 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- **May 7, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **May 13, 2021**, 12:00 pm - 3:00pm
- **May 15, 2021**, 9:00am - 12:00 pm, IN SPANISH
- **June 9, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Grain School Course 3 and Online Forum



Grain School

The course focuses on the grain value chain and the broad applications of culinary uses and techniques that turn whole grains into products through artisanship. Rebuilding a heritage grain economy requires everyone to work together along the grain chain from seed to field to bakery, to kitchens and at home, in communities, and in institutions. This course will highlight the role of grain in food security and sovereignty.

The online course will be available from **April 1 - 22, 2021**. The cost to enroll is \$150. **Click here** for the online brochure with more information and the link to register.

Online Forum

You are also invited to take part in a free public forum dedicated to the connections grain makes in the community, for the economy, and in celebration of culture and food sovereignty! This forum highlights community connection, cultural identity, and equity through a grain lens with an opportunity for dialogue. Alternative grain-based products will be discussed and the beauty and process of teff-based injera will inspire us to embrace the diversity of grain beyond wheats and crusty loaves.

The forum will take place on Saturday, **April 3, 2021**, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Click here** for the online brochure with more information and the link to register.

Home-Based Food Entrepreneur Virtual National Conference

Join some of the leading cottage food operators, food activists, educators, and leaders in various organizations dedicated to facilitating sales of decorated cookies, artisanal chocolates, small batch jams and jellies, hand-formed loaves of bread, cocoa bombs or numerous other "non-hazardous" cottage food products. This conference is designed to offer practical, actionable ideas and information from some of the leaders of the cottage food movement and from cottage food entrepreneurs who are running successful, and profitable, businesses from their home kitchens.

The Conference will be held **April 6 - April 9, 2021** from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. [Click here](#) to register and for additional information.



FOOD SYSTEMS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Federal Grant Webinar Series: Farmers and Food System Organizations

The CO Food & Farm System Response Team, Nourish Colorado, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, and CSU Food Systems are teaming up to host a webinar series focused on federal grants for farmers and food systems organizations. If you are interested in any of the grants listed below in this newsletter, these webinars may help you develop and refine your proposal:

- Framing and Developing Federal Food Systems Grants - **Tuesday, April 8, 2021** at 2:00 pm MDT
- Stories of Past Federal Food System Grant Applicants - **Thursday, April 15, 2021** at 1:00 pm MDT
- How to Improve the Federal Grant Process - **TBA**

[Click here](#) to learn more about each webinar and to register.

(Check [CSU Food System's grant page](#) for dates as webinars are scheduled)

Western Meat School Online

Western Meat School Online is an innovative and unique learning experience that will teach you how to successfully market and sell your meat products.



Over the course of fourteen modules, you will learn proven techniques :

- Differentiate your meat
- Manage risk
- Improve profitability

Whether you're a beginning or experienced farmer or rancher, a butcher, a meat processor, a meat distributor, livestock staff or more, you can benefit from this

class! If you wanted to take this course the last time and couldn't get in or didn't have the time, now you have a more flexible way to join in.

This course will be available in this asynchronous format through the end of 2022. At that point we hope to offer the course again in a hybrid live format.

[Click here to register.](#)



Funding Opportunities



Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Available in Colorado

Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, provides families with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and who attend a school participating in the National School Lunch Program with funds to help purchase food. This benefit is being distributed because

students missed essential meals while schools were closed due to the pandemic this spring. Families can receive up to \$279 per eligible child to supplement their food budget, regardless of immigration status.

[Click here](#) to learn more and apply (or refer others to apply) for P-EBT today!

NIFA Funding Opportunities

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced the following funding opportunities. Click each link to learn more.



- **Food Safety Outreach Program** - closes **April 1, 2021**
- **Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage System Program** - closes **April 16, 2021**
- **Veterinary Services Grant Program** - closes **April 16, 2021**
- **Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program** - closes **May 3, 2021**
- **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development** - closes **July 1, 2021**
- **1890 Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program** - closes **September 10, 2021**



Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Beginning farmer education for adult and young audiences in the United States can generally be traced back to the advent

of the 1862 and 1890 Morrill Land-Grant Acts. For the first time, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 appropriated \$75 million for FY 2009 - FY 2012 to develop and offer education, training, outreach and mentoring programs to enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka the 2018 Farm Bill) reauthorized the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and provides mandatory funds to support education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers. The funding is \$17.5 million for FY 2021, \$20 million for FY 2022, and \$25 million for FY 2023.

Applications are due **April 15, 2021**. For more information, read the **BFRDP funding opportunity**.

Value Added Producer Grant

The Value Added Producer Grant program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products. Goals of this program include generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income.



Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures are eligible to apply for this program.

CSU has some history supporting the market research and feasibility studies required for these grants, so please reach out to our team if you want to explore CSU as a partner for your project.

Applications are due **April 29, 2021**. **Click here for more information.**

Questions may be directed to the contacts identified in **this document**.



Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP) began in 1996 as a program to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community Food Projects are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs.

Applications are due **May 4, 2021**. **Click here for more information.**

View the full grant opportunity posting here.

Colorado Farm & Food Systems Resiliency Team Training & Capacity Building Fund

The CO Farm & Food Systems Response Team has launched a Training & Capacity Building fund for growers and intermediaries such as food hubs, farmers markets, and processors. The purpose of this Fund is to remove financial barriers to learning and provide growth opportunities for individuals and organizations committed to improving equity throughout Colorado's food system.

Activities must build the capacity of the applicant to actively uplift community leaders working to build an equitable and resilient food system by directing resources to underserved farmers.

The application will be open until funds are expended. [Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research

The Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research (ROAR) program provides nimble deployment of funds to support research and outreach in response to emerging or unanticipated threats to the nation's food supply or agricultural systems. ROAR participants, including university researchers, farmers or producers, commodity groups and government officials, may apply for funds in response to an outbreak for development of diagnostics, monitoring and mitigation strategies. The ROAR program fills the gap until traditional, longer-term funding sources can be secured.



Up to \$150,000 per one-year grant is available from the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), with the requirement that recipients provide equal or greater matching funds from non-U.S. federal sources. Industry participation and/or funding is strongly encouraged. **This is an ongoing opportunity. [Click here for more information.](#)**

U.S. Department of Commerce Announces Availability of \$1.5 Billion in CARES Act Funds to Aid Communities Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Economic Development Administration is now **accepting applications** from eligible grantees for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) supplemental funds (EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance) intended to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to the novel coronavirus. **Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)**

Eligible applicants include a(n):

- District Organization;
- Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes;
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State;
- Institution of higher education or consortium of institutions of higher education; and
- Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

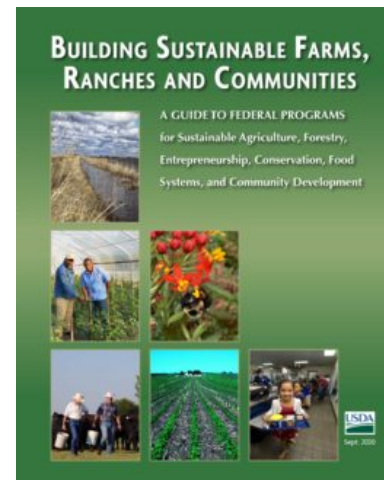


News, Resources & Reading

Updated Guide to USDA Programs Opens the Door to Available Funding

It can be difficult for farmers and ranchers to navigate the wide range of USDA resources and stay up to date with program changes after each Farm Bill.

Thanks to the newly updated Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities, producers, researchers, nonprofits and landowners can easily find USDA programs that can help them achieve their goals. [Click here](#) to download your free copy of Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities.



Visit the USDA Resource Hub and Webinar Series for Local Food Systems Response to COVID-19

Resource Hub

For the past several months, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been hosting a hub designed to assist local and regional food producers as USDA and its partners develop, share, and assess resources on local and regional food system responses to COVID-19.

[Visit the project site](#) to explore shared resources compiled from our supply chain partners and sign up for updates. This month, there were impact assessments and innovation reports shared from key organizations (Farmers Market Coalition, the CSA network, and Farm to School), so check them out.

Webinar Series

A monthly webinar series will continue on **April 19** at 11:00 am MT focused on "Integrating National Consumer Survey Results into Future Planning" with speakers from the research team, the Farmers Market Coalition, the National Grocers Association and the Kahuman Organic Farm Food hub from Hawaii.

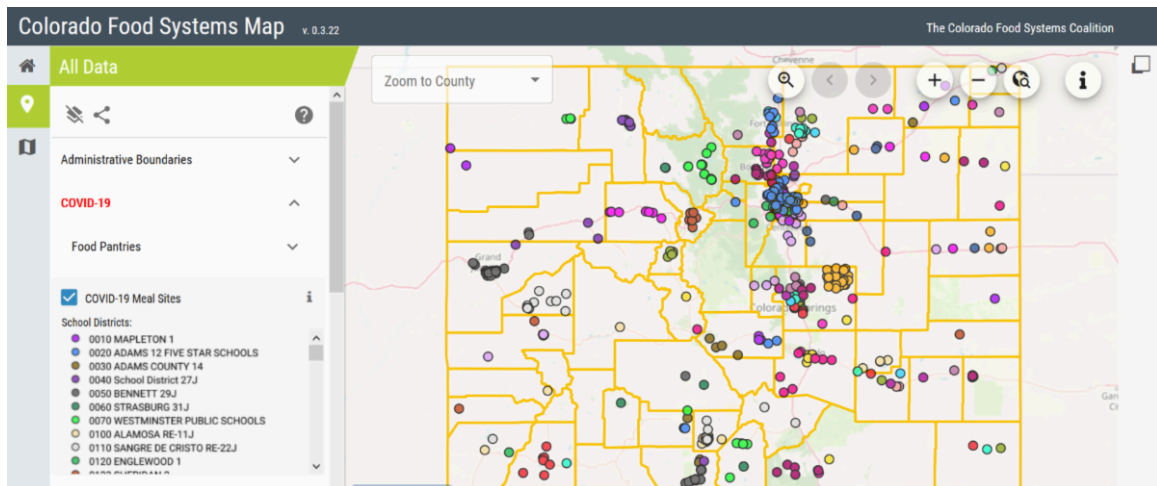
Register and view additional upcoming webinars here.

Colorado Food System Mapping Tool

Find your COVID Community-Based Food Assistance Programs

The Colorado Food Systems Map aggregates relevant food systems indicators and makes them available to all stakeholders. Most recently, there has been a rapid compilation of information on feeding sites around the state. Make sure this information is available to your community members.

The map below shows an example of COVID-related data integrated into this mapping tool. On the map you can see all the meal sites set up in response to school closures at the onset of COVID, as many became community meal sites for students (and their families).



From Our Communities

Environmental Eats Teaches Sustainable Eating

Sylvia Cranmer, CSU Source

During a typical year, Housing & Dining Services hosts a variety of programs and events designed to help students with their shift to living on campus and ease the transition to independent living. However in the midst of a pandemic, life in

general has been paused, while most campus activities have switched to virtual and digital platforms.

Environmental Eats is one program that has remained viable in a face-to-face setting in the Corbett Hall Community Kitchen. It has been a popular draw for students on campus several times each semester.



Since its introduction in 2018, the program has helped hundreds of residents learn about sustainable dining, while showcasing the talents of our HDS chefs. Different themes of this program have included sustainable seafood, insects as food, campus-grown greens and alternative protein choices.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

Colorado Covid-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Information

Friday March 5 was the beginning of Phase 1B.3 of vaccine distribution which included Colorado's frontline essential workers in food and agriculture--approximately 220,000 individuals statewide. On April 2 Colorado moves to Phase 2, where the general population, ages 16 and over, may also be vaccinated.

The Governor's Office, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and the Colorado Vaccine Equity Outreach Team are working in close partnership to ensure the successful vaccination of Colorado's food and ag workers.

Important points include:

- Eligible businesses/entities representing frontline essential workers who need assistance connecting with a COVID-19 vaccine provider or making a COVID-19 vaccination plan for their employees or members can get help by completing [this form](#).
- This [presentation](#) was included, with information on vaccine supply estimations, vaccination sites, procedures and more.

While vaccination is voluntary, COVID-19 vaccines have been proven to be safe, highly effective and the key to helping our industry and the world to recover from the pandemic. In addition:

- The vaccine is **free**. If an individual is asked to provide financial information it is a scam.
- Insurance status will not be used to deny or deprioritize any patient from getting the vaccine.

- Providers may ask, but they cannot require an individual to provide state-issued or other government-issued ID as a condition to receiving the vaccine.
- This CDC **Employer Vaccination Toolkit** for essential workers can help communicate with your employees about the vaccine.
- A large number of vaccine-related FAQs are answered **here**.
- For the most up-to-date and comprehensive vaccine information, visit the **Colorado COVID-19 Vaccine website**, or call 1-877-CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926).



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

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