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July 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 146

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## CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



We will return in the Fall! Have a great summer!

If you are interested in speaking at one of our Fall 2022 webinars please contact **Laney Van**.

View previous webinars [here](#).



## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



### Siwen Zhou

Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Siwen is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at CSU. She completed her undergraduate studies at Henan University of Economics and Law with a B.A. in Public Management and obtained her M.S in Labor Economics from Shaanxi Normal University in China. Her past research contributed to understanding how China's rural poor were affected by current issues, particularly as they relate to children's health and education. Her current research at CSU focuses on the determinants and consequences of health disparities and social inequality among US immigrants relative to their native counterparts. Her research interests lie at the intersection of food policy, health economics, immigrant welfare, and labor economics. The overarching theme uniting all her research is to improve the well-being of vulnerable groups through evidence-based analysis of policy impacts on those groups.

### Robin Young

Archuleta County Extension

Director

Natural Resources and  
Agriculture Agent

Robin Young has served CSUE for 12 years as a county director and natural resources/ag

agent. Robin provides learning opportunities to ranchers with programs



such as the San Juan Basin Beef Symposium and Ranching for Women. When the pandemic hit, Young responded along with the Archuleta County Food Coalition to assure residents had access to fresh food. She also provided programming on safe food practices. Currently, she is working with local residents to help them expand their knowledge in growing food in the mountains and co-teaches cottage food courses. Robin offers the Colorado Master Gardener program and also helps facilitate the Colorado Building Farmers Program. She has been a passionate mountain gardener for over 25 years. “Every year teaches us something new,” says Young about the challenges that the high country environment offers.



## Mark Your Calendar



### Food Finance Institute MVP Series

The Edible-Alpha Learning Center is offering the Food Finance Institute MVP Series. The series is targeted to food-focused businesses with the flexibility to learn how to successfully grow their business and maximize their value potential, one workshop at a time. These

workshops will help you develop the skills you need to scale and grow your business. Focused on accounting, sales, marketing, and operations the series will prepare you for the next steps for success. The cost for each course is \$100.

#### July 7th, 2022 - Financial & Accounting Processes

For more information click [here](#).

### 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:

- **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



## UCCS Grain School in the Field 2022

Join the UCCS Grain School team the weekend of **Saturday, July 23rd to Sunday, July 24th** for their annual Grain School in the Field in the San Luis Valley, Colorado! The weekend will kick off the evening of Friday, July 22nd with a Colorado Water Forum.

This immersive and all-inclusive mid-summer grain fest is hosted at Adams State University (ASU) in Alamosa, Colorado. Through hands-on grain workshops and tours with local experts, we will trace the grain value chain from farming, milling, to artisan baking, cooking, brewing, and distilling, with a focus on Colorado rye, millet, wheat, barley, and quinoa. The experience will include delicious local food and brews and an a-maiz-ing opportunity to connect with rural links of the grain chain, while learning about water, climate change, and food culture in the valley.

2-Day experience \$195 (no accommodation)

\$225 (one-night accommodation at ASU)

\$255 (two-night accommodation at ASU; recommended arrival 7/22)

All meals included.

For program updates, scholarships, and registration, visit:

[www.coloradograinchain.com/events](http://www.coloradograinchain.com/events)



## Pivot Jumpstart

CSU has a wonderful new partnership with the SLV Development Resource Group and the Small Business Development Center and will be bringing Pivot Jumpstart and mentor resources to small businesses.

Pivot Jumpstart is a FREE program built to empower and support the long-term stability of local businesses. This program is designed to help the owners and their businesses create new value and become resilient in the face of major change! By the end of Pivot Jumpstart, participants will better understand how to:

- Adapt to a changing environment and better future-proof the business to enable long-term success.

- Stay connected with developing and shifting needs of their customers.
- Create value for existing and new customers, and develop new revenue streams.
- Pivot and change directions in the business.
- Position the business in the present for eventual and successful exit in the future.

Businesses located in San Luis Valley (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties) are able to enroll in this program for **FREE**.

The first session begins Monday June 6th at Noon and registration is open today!

**Register today for: Pivot SLV!**



## 2022 Colorado Food Summit

Join us at the 2022 Colorado Food Summit on **December 8, 2022 in Denver, Colorado** as we bring together food and agriculture stakeholders from

across the state to help build shared understanding of the complex opportunities and challenges facing our food and agriculture systems. Through panel presentations, storytelling, multi-media and artistic presentations, and facilitated networking, the Summit aims to inspire collaborative action towards a more resilient and equitable food future. We encourage anyone connected to Colorado's food system to be a part of this important discussion.

Subscribe [here](#) to stay up to date!



## Funding Opportunities



### Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

USDA plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023.

USDA's new **Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops** (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

FSCSC will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agriculture Systems

This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program is designed to rapidly deploy strategies and fill knowledge and information gaps to protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains, from production through consumption, during and after extreme weather and disasters.

All applicants must directly address the effects associated with an extreme weather event or disaster that has already occurred. Applications must address one or more of the following emphasis areas:

- Agroecosystem Resilience
- Agricultural Commodity and Nutrition Security
- Health, Well-Being, and Safety

Two grant types are available:

- **Standard, FASE (Strengthening Standard):** Extension or Integrated (research and extension), Letter of Intent must be submitted within 14 days of an extreme weather event and disaster. Applications will be received on a continuous basis.
- **Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP):** Extension projects only. A Coordinated Agricultural Project is a large-scale multi-million-dollar project to promote collaboration, open communication, and the exchange of information; reduce duplication of effort; and coordinate activities among individuals, institutions, states, and regions. Applicants applying to coordinate this extension response grant program must have the capacity to promptly accept and review proposals, award projects for rapid initiation at

subaward institutions, and provide post-award management including project oversight and reporting. The application deadline is included in the FY2022 AFRI RFA.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program



The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is now accepting applications for the **Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program** (LFS). The LFS program is authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act. The program provides up to \$200 million for non-competitive cooperative agreements with state governments through the purchase of domestic local foods for distribution to schools. The program will help increase local food consumption and build and expand economic opportunities for local and regional, small, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. State governments can now apply for the LFS Program.

**Applications are due July 20th.**

[Click here to download the RFA.](#)



## Sustainable Agriculture Action Plans

Western SARE is soliciting applications to lead a consultative process and create a **Sustainable Agriculture Action Plan** to document the research, regulatory, area infrastructure, and educational needs and priorities required to increase sustainable agriculture practices in a specific industry/commodity or area of the West.

SARE seeks to fund two proposals: one focused on a specific regionally important agricultural industry or commodity; and a second focused on a specific, limited geographic area in the Western Region that includes multiple crops or production systems. Each successful proposal will be funded for a maximum of \$15,000, which will be awarded as a contracted services agreement.

[Click here for more information about all proposals.](#)

Applications due **August 15th, 2022.**

## New Funding Opportunity for Urban, Indoor and Emerging Agriculture



The Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture (UIE) program supports research, education, and extension work by awarding grants to solve key problems of local, regional, and national importance that facilitate development of urban, indoor, and emerging agricultural systems. The program includes food value chain stages: production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets.

Applications may only be submitted by entities such as state agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations, foundations, or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of two or more of the above entities.

[View the grant application here.](#)

**Applications are due September 22nd, 2022.**



## Western SARE Competitive Grants 2023 Calls for Proposals

**Farm/Rancher** - The Farmer/Rancher Program focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. **Due: November 2, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)**

**Professional + Producer** - The Professional + Producer Program provides opportunities for agriculture professionals working directly with farmers and ranchers on sustainable agriculture efforts. **Due: November 3, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)**

**Professional Development** - The Professional Development Program advances education and outreach strategies for professionals and educators who work directly with farmers and ranchers. **Due: November 9, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)**

**Research to Grassroots** - The Research to Grassroots Program involves interdisciplinary teams who take SARE research results out into the field. **Due: November 9, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)**

**[Click here for more information about all proposals.](#)**

## Helping Hand for Produce Growers Looking to go Organic



Agricultural producers and handlers, who are certified organic, along with producers and handlers, who are transitioning to organic production, can now apply for USDA's **Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program** (OTECP) and **Organic Certification Cost Share Program** (OCCSP), which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification, along with other related expenses.

OTECP covers:

- Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25% up to \$250 per category).
- Eligible expenses for transitional producers, including fees for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan (75% up to \$750).
- Registration fees for educational events (75% up to \$200).
- Soil testing (75% up to \$100).

To apply, producers and handlers should contact the **Farm Service Agency** at their local USDA Service Center. As part of completing the OCCSP applications, producers and handlers will need to provide documentation of their organic certification and eligible expenses. Organic producers and handlers may also apply for OCCSP through participating state agencies.

**Applications are due October 31st, 2022.**



## News, Resources & Reading



### USDA Advances Food System Transformation with \$43 Million for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, Adds New Urban County Committees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces significant investments to support urban agriculture, including \$43.1 million for grants and cooperative agreements as well as six new urban county committees to help deliver key USDA programs to urban producers. These actions support USDA's efforts to strengthen the food supply chain and transform the food system to be fairer, more competitive, and more resilient.

Specifically, USDA is investing \$10.2 million in new cooperative agreements to expand compost and food waste reduction efforts and \$14.2 million in new grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. Additionally, \$18.7 million will fund 75 worthy grant proposals from the 2021 application cycle, which was oversubscribed.

For more information click [here](#).

## USDA NIFA Invests \$25M in Meat and Poultry Agriculture Workforce Training



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced an investment of \$25 million, as part of the American Rescue Plan for meat and poultry agriculture workforce training.

NIFA will invest \$25 million through new and existing workforce development programs to provide a pipeline of well-trained workers to meet the demand for increased independent processing capacity.

NIFA is leading two funding opportunities:

- **Extension Risk Management Education and Sustainable Agriculture Research Education Programs:** An investment of \$5 million will be split equally between Extension Risk Management Education and Sustainable Agriculture Research Education programs. Work in these programs will support the development of meat and poultry processing training and educational materials for place-based needs, particularly relevant to small- or medium-sized farmers and ranchers. Additionally, training local and/or regional meat and poultry workers presents a unique opportunity to address the demand from niche markets, like mobile processing units fulfilling market demand from fresh markets, on-site processing, farm-to-fork (restaurateurs), boutique grocers, and others.
- **Community/Technical College Ag Workforce Training and Expanded Learning Opportunities:** This Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT) investment makes available \$20 million to qualified community colleges to support meat and poultry processing workforce development programs. The AWT program seeks to develop a workforce ready for the field, as well as industry jobs in the food and agricultural sectors. By creating new workforce training programs, or expanding, improving, or renewing existing workforce training programs at community, junior, and technical colleges/institutes, this program will expand job-based, experiential learning opportunities, acquisition of industry-accepted credentials and occupational competencies for students to enable a workforce for the 21st century. Access the RFA [here](#).

## Farmers Market Price Reports Are Back!

CSU Extension is once again collecting and posting price reports for farmers markets in Colorado.



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**EXTENSION**

These reports capture weekly pricing information for fresh fruits and vegetables, meats and eggs.

Reports may be used to:

- understand how price points differ by market,
- see what products are available in other markets, and
- help farmers and ranchers plan for future production by better
- estimating potential revenue from the products they grow.

To see what market information is available currently, go to:

<https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/market-prices-and-information/>. More markets are being added weekly, so check back frequently!

Questions? Contact Martha at [martha.sullins@colostate.edu](mailto:martha.sullins@colostate.edu).



## From Our Communities

**NC STATE** EXTENSION

### **N.C. Cooperative Extension Local Food Program's Online Professional Development Training**

Are you an existing or aspiring local food system practitioner working for Extension, a local government, a community development organization, non-profit, or another organization with a local food system focus? After taking this training, you'll understand the structure and components of local food systems and learn how to leverage assets and resources at every stage of the supply chain, from farms through to consumers, to make food system change in your community.

Through a multi-disciplinary approach, you can develop skills for collaborating across disciplines to support local food system expansion.

#### **The Training Program includes the following courses:**

1. Foundations in Local Food Systems Development, 15 hours (*prerequisite to Courses 2 and 3 below*): Price = \$250
2. Farm to Fork: Foundations in Local Food Supply & Value Chains, 10 hours: Price = \$200

### 3. The Bottom Line: Economic Realities and Other Opportunities in Local Food Systems, 10 hours: Price = \$200

Click [here](#) 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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