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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

The CSU Webinar Series is on pause for this fall, but you can view our September webinar and others at the link below.

View previous webinars [here](#).



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



Jorge Coronel-Bautista

M.S. Student

Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics

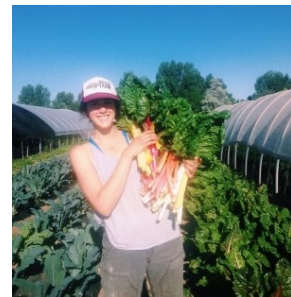
Hello! My name is Jorge and I'm a first-year master's student in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at CSU. I'm originally from Santa Maria, California which is known for its strawberry growing operations and an indigenous farm labor force. My parents are originally from Oaxaca, Mexico and have been working as strawberry harvesters in Santa Maria, which is where

I got my start in agriculture. My current research interests lie in farm labor, farmworker welfare and human capital. My research interests explore the determinants of socioeconomic mobility among farm laborers and how economic developments among the farm labor force continue to affect the agriculture sector. Additionally, I'm interested in identifying the educational, career, and economic outcomes of U.S. farmworker families.

Nicole Didero

CSU Extension Specialist, Western Region
Food & Agriculture, Expanding Rural Engagement

Nicole is one of the newly hired specialists for the CSU Extension "Expanding Rural Engagement" (ERE) initiative, focusing on rural economic well-being with an emphasis on agriculture and food. She works in the Western Region and lives in Delta County. Nicole's background is in small-scale agricultural production, natural resource conservation and management, and local/regional food systems development. She earned her M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from CSU in 2019 and has a B.S. in Natural Resources Recreation & Tourism and a B.A. in Spanish from CSU as well. Having grown up in rural communities



throughout the US West, Nicole is especially excited to dive in and help support rural voices in Colorado.



Mark Your Calendar

Farm Bill Listening Sessions October 3-5

This month, Senator Bennet is hosting listening sessions throughout Colorado in anticipation of next year's reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Colorado is impacted by many Farm Bill programs including those related to conservation, commodities, disaster programs, rural development, forestry and nutrition. In an effort to make sure that Colorado's voice is part of the national discussion, Sen. Bennet has been holding listening sessions throughout the year. If you'd like to join a listening session, see the dates and locations below. Additional details available [here](#).

October 3

Montrose, Redvale, Dove Creek, and Cortez

October 4

Durango, Del Norte, and Saguache

October 5

Salida and Denver

Attendees should RSVP to james_thompson@bennet.senate.gov with the location where they would like to attend, their name, title and organization (if applicable), and contact information.



Annie's Project Facilitator Training Opportunity

October 3 - 4, 2022
Monte Vista, CO

This training will equip participants to be certified facilitators to organize and conduct classes for Annie's project, a women-focused business development program.

Register [here](#).

Western Meat School October 11-December 6, 2022

Join the Western Meat School online to learn how to direct market niche meats. This course will provide information on production, processing, marketing and management targeted at producing high-quality meat to sell in different market channels.



Eight information-packed weeks of learning, from 6-8pm Mountain time, including opportunities to interact with national and regional experts, and participate in discussion forums. Cost is \$150; scholarships are available.

Register [here](#).



CSU FSI: Ag and Food Media in Context

Fall Event Series

Join the CSU Food Systems Institute for its Fall 2022 Event Series. The next event will be held on **October 20th** at the Lyric Theater in Fort Collins, CO for a viewing of the documentary *To Which We Belong*.

The evening will begin with a panel discussion from 3:30-4:30pm followed by a viewing of the film from 5:00-6:30pm. All events are offered for free. For more information email, Alex.Dejoy@colostate.edu.

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:

- **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

Mountain Plains Crunch Off

October 17-21



Celebrate National Farm to School Month by participating in the Mountain Plains Crunch Off - a competition to see which state can get the most folks crunching into locally grown produce. People can crunch any time during the week of **October 17-21**.

By registering, you are supporting local producers and helping Colorado become the Crunch Off Champion. Registrants will receive a Crunch Off Guide with tips on how to find local products and host a great event. Register with friends, family, co-workers, and anyone else in your community who loves local food. **Click here to register for the Crunch Off** or **click here to watch the Crunch Off video**.

Organizations can help young children in Colorado have access to local foods all year long. Use the **Farm to Child Roadmap guide** to determine how your organization can get involved. Organizations working on a range of local procurement and food access measures are well positioned to support statewide efforts. Regardless of your focus, everyone interested in connecting children to healthy, locally produced, and culturally responsive food are encouraged to complete the guide's suggested actions.

Share your Crunch stories by using any of these hashtags:

#MountainPlainsCrunchOff, #FarmToSchool, #FarmToECE, #F2SColorado, #COCrunchOff, #MPROCrunchOff, #Farm2Child, #localfood and tag @USDANutrition so your crunch event can be promoted nationally!

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

October 21 in Montrose



Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will host an in-person grower training at the Montrose Events Center, 648 S. 1st St., Montrose, CO 81401. Registration starts at 7:30 and class starts at 8 am. The training will conclude by 5pm.

The registration fee is \$35 which includes lunch, PSA materials, and a certificate of completion as required under FSMA. Additional registrations from the same farm will be discounted to \$15 per person. Note that attendees must be present for the entire course to receive a certificate.

Register here:

<https://cfvga.memberclicks.net/cpsagrowertrainingoct212022montrose>



2022 National Agricultural Marketing Summit

October 23-October 25, 2022

The National Agricultural Marketing Summit provides a unique networking opportunity for agricultural marketing practitioners to form partnerships and learn business strategies that can improve the performance of their farms and businesses. This year's AgSummit, hosted in Pensacola, Florida, will feature resources to assist market managers, food businesses, and technical assistance providers in understanding and enhancing market strategies. The slated schedule includes a variety of presentations from equitable and inclusive food markets, to managing market risk.

Click here to register!

Learn more about participating, as it is quickly approaching! For further information on conference details, hotel reservations, and more, **visit the Ag Summit website**. If in-person participation is not a possibility at this time, check out the **Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID-19 Webinars page** where they will be streaming a live broadcast in October.



2022 Regenerate Conference

November 2-4 in Denver, CO

The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and the American Grassfed Association collaborate each year to convene ranchers, farmers, conservationists, land managers, scientists, and thought leaders to share knowledge, build community, and create a culture of resilience and regeneration.

This year, the conference will explore the intersections of ecology and economy through the lenses of agriculture, science, conservation, economics, racial justice, policy, and culture.

Join **REGENERATE 2022** to co-create a vision of working together to foster restorative systems and implement practices that better serve our planet and our communities. Contribute your energy and ideas to the conversation at this year's convening, **Cultivating Restorative Economies**.

For more information or to register, click **here**.

Cold Chain Management Workshop
December 2, 2022
El Paso County Extension Office



This workshop will cover the importance of managing the temperature of your harvest for both quality and safety.

Program topics include:

- Understanding produce physiology and how precooling systems lead to improved produce quality & maintaining the cold chain
- Cold chain and post-harvest best practices
- Hands-on activities (monitoring temps. and cleaning and sanitizing)
- Mitigating risks with the system you use, from icing to hydro-cooling to different models of coolers
- Importance of keeping it clean! Food contact surface sanitation and your cold chain practices

For more information contact Michele Ritchie at michele.ritchie@colostate.edu or 719-520-7676..

2022 Colorado Food Summit

Registration is open for the 2022 Colorado Food Summit on **December 8, 2022 in Denver, Colorado**. The Summit will 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.

Click [here](#) to register!

The conference organizers invite anyone seeking financial assistance for summit participation to submit a request [here](#) before 5 pm, October 31, 2022.



BUILDING FARMERS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Registration opening soon!

Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program

From January 17-March 7, 2023, CSU Extension will teach its Building Farmers and Ranchers class. This online class covers the principles of business

management, developing a marketing plan, managing risk in your operation, obtaining financing, and more.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 pm. This 8-week class culminates in you presenting your draft business plan to a group of your peers.

Check [here](#) for registration and additional information.



Funding Opportunities

Helping Hand for Producers and Handlers Interested in Organic



Agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic, along with those 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); and
- 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 application, 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.

USDA FSA's Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program

USDA has made up to \$300,000,000 available for the **Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program**. With this opportunity, the USDA seeks to fund projects that support a diverse set of farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and

operators (producers) on the edge of viability, moving them from surviving to thriving as they address core barriers to attain land, capital, and market access. Applications are due **October 28, 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.](#)

USDA Announces Funding Available through the New Regional Food Business Center Program



The USDA Regional Food Business Centers will support a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system. These Regional Food Centers will support producers by providing localized assistance to access local and regional supply chains, including linking producers to wholesalers and distributors. They will provide technical assistance needed to access new markets, increase access to federal, state, and local resources, and assist small- and mid-sized producers in overcoming barriers to market access, with a focus on underserved farmers, ranchers, and food businesses. No match is required.

For more information about the program, visit the [website](#) or watch a recorded webinar describing the program [here](#).

You can sign up to attend a question-and-answer session [here](#).

Learn more and apply [here](#). Applications are due by November 22.



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.

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.](#)



New USDA Loan Program

As part of the American rescue Plan, The USDA **Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program** is offering loans 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.

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.](#)



News, Resources & Reading

Northern Colorado Foodshed Project Opens Applications for Farm Business Accelerator Program



Ready to start your own farm business? The Foodshed Project Farm Business Accelerator is a 3-year program offering beginning farmers an alternative entry point to establishing a successful farm

business. They provide a bridge to business viability for those with existing farm skills through low-cost access to everything needed to manage a successful farm business: land, water, infrastructure, technical support marketing assistance, and business education through CSU Extension's Building Farmers program. Participants will have access to plots starting at ¼ acre up to 1.5 acres, depending on experience, as well as shared access to infrastructure including irrigation, equipment, tools, and storage. Program fees vary depending on plot size and start at \$500 per year.

To learn more or apply, visit their website [here](#). Applications are due November 18th.



New Interactive Online Map Showcases Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP) Grants across US

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) has introduced a new interactive online map that conveys all AMS grant programs within the Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP) from 2006-2020. Users can also search by grant type and theme. Access the new tool [here](#).

New Consumer Food Insights

To better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the future of food systems, Colorado State University, the University of Kentucky, and USDA AMS conducted a national survey of more than 5,000 households in 2020 and a follow up survey in fall 2021.



The **Consumer Food Insights Series** recently added five new briefs that are now listed on localfoodeconomics.com. Use the links below to explore each area of research:

1. **2.0 Survey Overview**
2. **An Overview of Online Shopping Trends**
3. **Changes in Expenditures at Local Food Market Channels in Different Sized Communities**
4. **Exploring Awareness and Promotional Linkages to New Market Channels**
5. **Food Acquisition by School Meal Program Participants during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

For more on these trends, visit the [Consumer Food Insights Page](#).



New Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

As part of their efforts to improve equity and access to USDA programs, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has published a new guide designed to help historically underserved farmers and ranchers navigate the many available programs. The guide encompasses a wealth of information on farm loans, the conservation planning process, risk management, and the specifics of various USDA programs.

The guide, "Get Started: A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers", is available online as a **digital download**. Additionally, the guide can be downloaded in **Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese**. Other languages are available upon request.



From Our Communities

Boulder Producer Survey Suggests Solutions for the Ag Sector



A recent study conducted in Boulder County investigated the main obstacles faced by producers farming in the urban interface. The study surveyed producers in Boulder County, CO, which has 25,000 acres of farmland owned by the county and 15,000 acres of farmland owned by the city. Findings highlight the impact that public policy has on the success of agricultural businesses. Read more about the study and findings [here](#).



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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