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July 1, 2021 || Newsletter Edition 134

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Visit our Website



## CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

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

## Stay tuned!

The CSU Food Systems Webinar Series will pause for the summer and resume in August.

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



## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



### Shuiqin Yu

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department Mechanical Engineering

Shuiqin is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Her research interests include industrial organization, information economics, and agricultural policies. In particular, she uses

econometrics tools such as difference-in-difference and regression discontinuity design to evaluate the causal effect of public policy programs. She has also participated in the design, distribution, and analysis of research surveys. She is working on a choice experiment to design a water nutrient management policy to better serve farmers and agriculture in Colorado. Shuiqin likes to read economics papers, conduct economic analyses, and write research papers. In Shuiqin's spare time, she likes hiking, mountain biking, playing tennis, and cooking healthy and delicious food.

### Michael Carolan

Professor, Associate Dean  
Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Michael Carolan is a Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development for the College of Liberal Arts. He is also a Visiting Professor at Ruralis Research Institute in Trondheim, Norway, and Research Affiliate at the Centre for Sustainability at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He has been studying food systems since the late 1990s. In addition to having published over 200 articles and more than a dozen books,



Michael regularly writes pieces for public audiences, which have appeared in outlets such as The Conversation, Bloomberg, Mental Floss, Houston Chronicle, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Post, Popular Science, The Smithsonian Magazine, Salon, and New Food Economy. His current research projects include mapping household food mobilities, studying links between digital agriculture and rural livelihoods, understanding the rural-urban divide, examining farmer perceptions of climate change, and tracking the impacts of COVID-19 on daily household food practices.



## Mark Your Calendar

### 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.

- **July 9, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **July 14, 2021**, 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- **August 10, 2021**, 10 am - 1:30 pm
- **August 18, 2021**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **September 10, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **October 6, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Center on Network Science

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

### Food Systems Network Leadership: Lessons From the Pandemic

The past year has created pressing new demands on social service providers, including food banks, nonprofits, and other food-related organizations. While the food systems sector was already a hub for collaborative innovation, COVID-19 further accelerated the importance of network leadership skills and strategy for those working on issues like nutrition, food security, environmental justice, and more.

On **July 29, 2021** from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MT, Visible Network Labs and the CU Denver Center on Network Science will bring together a diverse group of coalition builders and network leaders focused on improving our food systems.

They'll join us for an hour of discussion on what has changed over the past 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying new challenges as well as new opportunities for network-led change.

Can't attend due to a prior commitment? Register for the webinar anyway and we'll be sure to send you an instant replay video of the webinar recording.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## HELP INFORM A NEW COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM RESOURCE

The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger and the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) are working to develop a community food system assessment toolkit. The toolkit will serve as a resource for community members seeking to: 1) assess strengths and gaps in their local food systems; and 2) push for solutions that meet their communities' needs.

CHI is holding four community listening sessions to collect input on what the toolkit should look like. The sessions are open to people who are advancing anti-hunger work in Colorado and/or who have experienced hunger.

- Session 1: Friday, July 16, 9-10am [[Register here](#)]
- Session 2, public policy advocacy and community organizing focus: Monday, July 19, 10-11am [[Register here](#)]
- Session 3: Monday, July 19, 5-6pm [[Register here](#)]
- Session 4: Tuesday, July 20, 5-6pm [[Register here](#)]

# SAVE THE DATE

JOIN PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT & PARTNERS FOR THE  
**2021 SUN SOIL WATER SUMMIT!**

The logo for the 2021 Sun Soil Water Summit. It features the text "Pueblo Food Project presents" at the top. Below that, the words "SUN", "SOIL", "WATER", and "SUMMIT" are stacked vertically in large, bold, green letters. To the right of the text is a colorful illustration of a sun rising over a landscape with mountains, a river, and a field. The year "2021" is written in small text next to the illustration.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH**  
**3:00pm to 5:00pm**  
 Sun Soil Water Pitch Series

**6:00pm to 9:00pm**  
 Inaugural Pueblo Food Systems Leadership Awards

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH**  
**8:30am - 6:00pm**  
 Sun Soil Water Conference  
 Makers Market

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH**  
 In the Field with CO Grain School  
- optional, separate registration

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

HOSTED AT  
**PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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**SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE**

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FOR INQUIRIES:  
**INFO@PUEBLOFOODPROJECT.ORG**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN JULY

Want to learn more? **Watch this!** Click the image anywhere to get connected.

## 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 to:

- 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 other stakeholder, 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 participate.

**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

### Healthy Food Incentives



Transforming Food Systems

**Double Up Food Bucks** - Not sure if there is a Double Up location near you? Check out the Double Up Food Bucks Colorado **participating sites map**. Double Up is available at over 30 counties across Colorado! The map updates as markets open, so if you still don't see a location near you, we encourage

you to **check our full site list**. Did you know that food producing plants and seeds are now eligible with Double Up!? Check out what other types of produce are eligible with Double Up **here** to help plan your shopping trip. Don't miss out on fresh, Colorado grown produce this season!

**WIC FMNP** - Nourish Colorado, in partnership with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is launching **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program** on **July 1, 2021!** WIC FMNP offers WIC participants \$30 worth of vouchers to be spent on Colorado grown, fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. In this inaugural year, 12 farmers markets in Colorado will be

participating. Recipients will receive vouchers and market date information from county WIC offices.

**CNIP** - The Colorado Nutrition Incentive Program -- weekly boxes of local produce for participants in either WIC or Older Adult Congregate Meal Programs - - continues to expand in 2021. Thanks to partnerships with **NextFifty Initiative**, as well as newly secured funds from the state legislature, we are launching 2021 seasonal partnerships to bring weekly local produce to older adults in rural and mountain communities, as well as WIC mamas in metro Denver, southern Colorado, and the Western Slope. This year, we are fortunate to expand our partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging, county WIC offices, Cooking Matters, and our very own Chef Jess! She will enhance this program by developing multi-media materials to correspond to the CSA products. These materials will be a mix of recipe cards and videos demonstrating how to use items everyone will receive. Everything will be oriented towards small portions, avoiding food waste, cooking for 1-2 people, and low-labor. We will share them widely when done!

## USDA NIFA Funding Opportunities

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



**1890 Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program** - closes **September 10, 2021**



## USDA AMS Upcoming Grants and Webinars

The USDA AMS has announced the following funding opportunity. Click the link to learn more.

**Regional Food System Partnerships Program:** The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) Program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination. In 2020, USDA awarded 23 partnerships in 15 states. These projects are funded for a two- or three-year period beginning September 30, 2020. Applications due: **July 6, 2021**

## \$15 Million Available for Conservation Innovation Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of \$15 million for the **Conservation Innovation Grants** (CIG) program. This funding is in addition to the **\$25 million**



**in funding** that was previously announced for on-farm trials (a CIG sub-program established under the 2018 Farm Bill). This funding announcement is the traditional CIG option that has been offered in the past and is referred to as “Classic CIG”.

The deadline to apply for fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for Classic CIG is **July 19, 2021** at 9:59 pm MT.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## **USDA Invests \$55.2 million in Grants to Increase Capacity and Expand Access in Meat and Poultry Inspection Operations**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced \$55.2 million in competitive grant funding available through the new Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program. The new program is funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers. Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises.

Applications must be submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by 9:59 pm MT on Monday, **August 2, 2021**.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## **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.](#)



## News, Resources & Reading

### “Move the Needle” Grantees Announced, Awarded \$331K+ to Support Colorado’s Food Value Chain



**COLORADO**

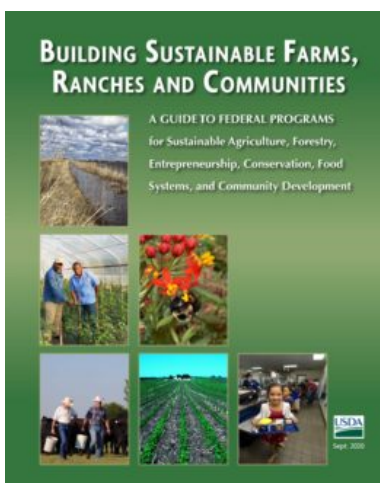
Department of Agriculture

From more than 64 applications requesting a total of \$3.5M, seven awardees were selected for the Colorado Department of Agriculture’s “**Move the Needle**” grant.

Through the Governor’s Office, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) received an allocation of \$332,000 in CARES Act funds to support Colorado agricultural processors and manufacturers.

The “Move the Needle” grants aim to help Colorado’s food and agriculture value chain, by investing in food processing and manufacturing, areas which continue to be constrained by a lack of funding for business start-up and/or expansion. The awardees range from meat processors and food manufacturers to hemp and barley processors from across Colorado:

1. Fruit for Good: A Good Food Collective - Cortez, CO \$17K - Fruit Processor
2. WO Investments - Del Norte, CO \$50K - Hemp Processor
3. Stagecoach Meat Company - Wiggins, CO \$100K - Meat Processor
4. Root Shoot Malting - Berthoud, CO \$65K - Barley/Malt Processor
5. JoJo’s Sriracha - Pueblo, CO \$35K - Chile Food Manufacturer
6. Nola Naturals - Avondale, CO \$20K - Poultry Processor
7. Homestead Natural Meats - Delta, CO \$45K - Meat Processor



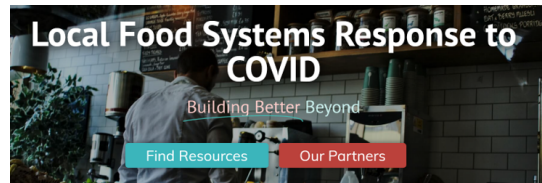
### Updated Guide to USDA Programs Opens the Door to Available Funding

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.

## 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, so check them out. [View recordings from past webinars here](#).



## From Our Communities

### Get growing: Food security blossoms in gardens statewide

By Coleman Cornelius, CSU Source

Photography by Amy Lentz, CSU Extension

After a colder and wetter spring than normal, backyard gardeners across Colorado are planting, tending, and preparing to harvest for the second season of **Grow & Give**, a program whose volunteers raise and donate fresh fruits and vegetables for statewide distribution to people in need.



Grow & Give is a project of the Colorado Master Gardener Program, a well-known part of **CSU Extension**. Volunteer participation is open to any Colorado gardener.

The project sprouted in Spring 2020 in response to skyrocketing food needs among people coping with unemployment and other hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project is modeled on backyard victory gardens that boosted food supplies and morale during the bleak years of World War I and World War II.

It was so successful in its first season that Grow & Give is back, with a broader goal of boosting food security in Colorado communities over the long term, said Katie Dunker, statewide coordinator for the Colorado Master Gardener Program, who helps lead Grow & Give.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)



## 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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