

Quarter 1 Newsletter
January-March 2025

COFSAC Council Member Feature



Deb Trevor

Deb Trevor is the former District Manager of Procurement at Boulder Valley School District Food Services and a Registered Dietitian with over 22 years of experience in institutional K-12 school food and university campus dining. Deb spent two decades at BVSD helping transform the district's typical processed food environment to one producing and serving 15,000 delicious, local, scratch-cooked meals a day. Deb possesses deep knowledge in purchasing the myriad ingredients used in large scratch-cooked food operations, as well as experience with the challenges of pandemic supply chain disruptions and sharp increase in student meal participation with the passing of Healthy School Meals for All.

Deb recently retired from BVSD and formed Seed to School Consulting LLC to help school districts with local food procurement. She also moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, full time to focus on skiing as much powder this winter as possible.

Podcast Feature: Cultivation Station

As a part of its ongoing commitment to support statewide market channels, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council will be highlighting some of the producers, food aggregators, distributors, and key connectors who bring Colorado-grown and raised foods to consumers and institutions.

This quarter, we're featuring Cultivation Station*, a podcast started in 2018 by Danielle Trotta. Barb Howe, Business Development Specialist at the Colorado Department of Agriculture and host of* Cultivation Station*, shares, "The goal was to offer Colorado Proud members and others a way to get business advice, ideas, and resources in an easier way. People can find time to listen to a podcast while they are baking, cleaning, making their products, driving, etc. Our goal remains to connect our Colorado ranchers, farmers, food, and beverage producers with resources that will help them grow their businesses!"*

Explore a sample of the conversations featured on Cultivation Station *through a reflection on the top five lessons encountered, and subscribe using the button below.*

-COFSAC Communications & Strategic Relations Working Group

Cultivation Station

From the conversations you've had on your podcast, what are the top five lessons or themes that have stood out to you?

1

Connect with Resources

Tap into the wealth of resources available to you – whether it's networking with other business owners, utilizing Small Business Development Centers across Colorado, or taking advantage of state resources (like Colorado Proud).

Stay positive

2

Not every day will go as planned, but remember that your passion is what makes you great.

3

It's hard work

No one said being an entrepreneur would be easy. It's very, very hard. But it's worth the effort!

Keep learning

4

Take classes to learn something you don't know (e.g. bookkeeping), stay on top of trends, and try to learn something new every day or week.



Embrace what you are great at... and seek help for what you are not

You can't be everything to everyone and do everything in your business. Focus on what you're passionate about and excel at, and don't hesitate to seek help for the areas where you're less confident or enthusiastic.

Colorado Producer Directories

Looking to connect with local farmers, ranchers, and food businesses in your area? There are a wealth of resources available in Colorado to help you build relationships and discover local food. Below, we've highlighted a selection of statewide producer directories - but this is just the beginning!

We encourage you to use the list below as a starting point to continue exploring additional directories created by food hubs, state agencies, regional coalitions, and more, in your region and across the state.

Colorado Proud

Colorado Proud offers a regularly updated database of producers, buyers, processors, and food businesses. The search tool allows you to filter by product, business type, and other criteria.

Visit our Website

Palmer Land Conservancy Local Food Guide

A map of producers and markets in southern Colorado with icons to help identify both location and primary products offered. A corresponding, downloadable guide maps food by county and includes recipes and business features.

Visit our Website

San Luis Valley Local Roots Guide

The Local Roots Guide features farmers and ranchers in the San Luis Valley, including business descriptions and icons representing production practices. The directory is downloadable and has a corresponding digital database.

Visit our Website

Colorado Local Beef Directory

This statewide map from the Colorado Beef Council displays farms and ranches across Colorado. It has a corresponding directory as well as a guide to help buyers determine how much meat to purchase.

Visit our Website

Grain Exchange Marketplace

The Colorado Grain Chain's searchable directory allows you to filter by grain type and explore the food and

farm businesses offering each grain. For a corresponding map, visit the Colorado Grain Chain Members page.

Visit our Website

Colorado Regional Convenings Event Details

Dates for the 2025 Regional Food Convenings have been announced! Check out the website:

Colorado Food Summit



The goal of the Colorado Food Summit is to convene influencers to share understandings across scale, coordinate strategies, drive collaborative action, and foster bilateral evaluation to improve Colorado's food and agriculture system. In order to raise awareness of and lift regional voices in statewide food and agricultural visioning processes, we are holding regional gatherings across Colorado throughout 2025. Themes emanating from these conversations will be used to guide the content of the statewide Colorado Food Summit, which will be held in December 2025.

Here's what's happening:

- **Southern Region** - Pueblo, March 13
- **Eastern Region** - Fort Morgan, Feb. 11; Sterling, March 11
- **Mountain Region** - Salida, March 7 & 8
- **Western Region** - Grand Junction, Feb. 5; Craig, March 5; Please visit food summit website for additional location and date details
- **Front Range** - Denver, Feb. 1; Colorado Springs, Feb. 21; Fort Collins, March TBD
- **Statewide virtual events hosted by Liderazgo Comunitario** - Webinars, Feb. 18 and Feb. 24

For more information about these events please email mo@eptimizo.com or visit the Colorado Food Summit website.

Quarterly Food Systems Updates from Colorado State Agencies

Q1 (January-March) 2025

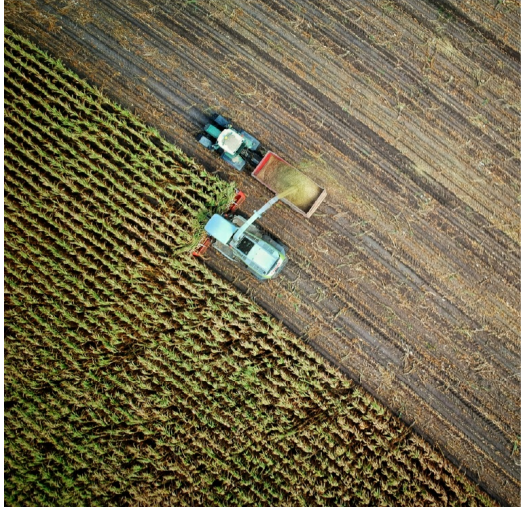
As part of the quarterly meetings of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC), our members representing state agencies provide updates on new and ongoing policies and programs related to food systems. These high-level briefings are one of the ways our council's efforts support cross-sector collaboration and coordination, and timely communication across our Colorado food system initiatives.

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)

COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Updates at a Glance

- CDA is **seeking input** on the Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit
- **Next Generation Ag Leadership Program**
    - Applications open Spring 2025
- Community Food Access Tax Credit Program Update
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
    - Accepting **2025 Concept Proposals** through Feb. 17, 2025
- CDA Rural Mental Health Toolkit and Resources
    - Information available **here**



Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

COLORADO
Department of Education

Updates at a Glance

- Local Food Program Pilot
    - **Legislative Report** available
- Farm to School Road Mapping Project
- Patrick Leahy FTS SA Grant
- Healthy School Meals for All
    - **Technical Advisory Group legislative report** released in December
- Local Food for Schools and Child Care
    - Funding update and details
- Summer EBT
    - **Outreach materials**



Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)



Updates at a Glance

- Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program
- Summer EBT
- SNAP Energy EBT
- CO SNAP Produce Bonus Program
    - eHIP (electronic- Healthy Food Incentive)
- SNAP
    - FFY24 Program participation and timeliness updates

Review the full report online:

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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)



Updates at a Glance

- Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (COWIC)
    - Winter **quarterly snapshot** available
- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
- **Colorado Food Program** (CFP)
    - Previously the Child and Adult Care F ood Program (CACFP)
- Healthy Eating Active Living
    - **2024 Colorado Food is Medicine Summit** updates
    - Farm to Child Collaborative meeting

update

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)

COLORADO
Office of Economic Development & International Trade

Updates at a Glance

- OEDIT Rural Opportunity Office Hiring Soon
  - Eastern Plains rural representative and Department Director positions
- Rural Business Development Grants
  - **Applications** due Feb. 28th
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Connect with Us!

Our council seeks to gather and lift diverse and representative voices from across the Colorado food system to help craft research, guidance and recommendations for food systems-related policy and state initiatives.

Learn how you can become a member today!

Learn More



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

cofoodsystemscouncil.org

GET IN TOUCH

Colorado State University Food Systems
1172 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523 US

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