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October 2023 || Newsletter Edition 160

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CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight

Mike Gabel

Director, Food Innovation Center, CSU Spur

Mike leads the Food Innovation Center at CSU Spur in Denver with the goal of supporting food innovators through value-added services, kitchen and processing facilities and creating a space where ideas can prosper. Mike is a second-generation CSU grad in Food Science and Human Nutrition. After a master's in food engineering from UC Davis he started his 20+ year career with roles in product development, quality systems, and strategy and portfolio management. He has led innovation teams at Windsor Foods, ConAgra Foods and recently at Barilla, where he spent 5 years at their headquarters in Parma, Italy.



Mark Your Calendar

Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers 2023 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. For additional dates, check [here](#).

CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **October 6**, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, online
- **October 10**, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm, online
- **October 24**, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, online
- **November 3**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, online
- **November 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, online
- **November 29**, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, online

***Roots So Deep (you can see
the devil down there)***
**Docuseries Screening &
Reception**



**Monday, October 9
5:00 PM MST**

CSU Lory Student Center Theater, Fort Collins, CO

The Salazar Center is hosting a free screening of parts one and four of “Roots So Deep (you can see the devil down there),” a documentary series all about inventive farmers and maverick scientists building a path to solving climate change with hooves, heart and soil. **Watch the Trailer.**

Reserve your free ticket today! **Register**



19th Annual – First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) Conference

When: **October 13-15, 2023**

Where: Hilton Denver City Center, Denver, Colorado

The conference will include sessions in 1994 land-grant teaching, extension programs and research that benefit Native American students, communities, governments, and lands. There will be a strong student focus and tribal college students are especially invited to participate and present their work. The conference will also include a USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) update, training workshops, information-sharing, and networking opportunities.

Register here.

Drive Lead Succeed Conference in Grand Junction, CO

When: **Oct. 18-20, 2023**

Where: Grand Junction Convention Center

The EDCC's Drive|Lead|Succeed Conference will be taking place in the picturesque city of Grand Junction in 2023!

Attendees can look forward to quality collaboration, exchanging fresh, new ideas, and networking with leading Economic Development professionals, business and non-profit leaders, government officials, and more. Dawn Thilmany and Tim Komarek will be hosting a team from CSU, so contact them if you are interested in attending. **Click here** for more details.



2023 National Agricultural Marketing Summit



Registration for the **2023 National Agricultural Marketing Summit: Cultivating Connections** is now open!

The **Ag Summit** provides a unique networking opportunity for agricultural marketing practitioners to form new partnerships and learn new business strategies that can improve the performance of their farms and businesses. The Summit will feature resources to assist market managers, direct marketing farmers and food businesses, agribusinesses with value-added products, practitioners, and technical assistance providers in understanding and enhancing marketing strategies, including leaders of our new Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center.

The Ag Summit comprises attendees from diverse backgrounds from both the public and private sectors. These include farmers, academics, entrepreneurs, service providers, mission-focused investors, business operators, community practitioners, students, consultants, and government employees from state and Federal agencies.

The conference will be held **November 12-14, 2023** at Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport in **Washington, D.C.** Visit agsummit.org for full registration details and room booking information.



Colorado Women in Ag Conference

The Colorado Women in Ag Conference will provide an engaging and empowering two-day event focused on educational opportunities and networking for women across the state involved in all types of agriculture, from small farms and non-traditional agriculture to large cow-calf ranches.

We are inviting you to join us in our mission to empower and strengthen women in agriculture by becoming a sponsor for this inaugural event, to be held **November 17 and 18**, at the Island Grove Events Center in Weld County.

Register [here](#).

New Transdisciplinary Approaches Webinar Series by USDA NIFA: The Science of Team Science

When: Wednesday **December 6, 2023 at 12pm PT/3pm ET**



Join this webinar series highlighting opportunities and challenges of transdisciplinary approaches within agricultural research. **The first webinar in the series** looked at the what and why of transdisciplinary approaches, and **the second focuses on the science of team science**

(including some of our **CSU colleagues**). Follow the link to sign up for second webinar in the series, and stay tuned for more webinars on the horizon. If you have questions, you can reach out to **Jessica Shade**.

Register: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/about-us/events/transdisciplinary-approaches-webinar-dec2023>

Speakers:

- Jeni Cross, Colorado State University
- Anne Mook, Colorado State University



Farm to Loading Dock Support

When: **December 7, 2023** | 10am - 2pm

Where: CSU SPUR | 4777 National Western Drive, Denver, CO

Please come and share what technical assistance you have received (or provide) or would like to receive (or provide) in order to make farm to loading dock (all activities from farm to the school, institution, childcare, etc.) successful across Colorado.

During this convening, new resources for stakeholders and the results of work to identify existing technical assistance providers and remaining gaps will be shared. A plan will also be presented to support better state level coordination of "farm to loading dock" efforts (up until the product reaches the school, institution, childcare facility, etc.). Getting input on this plan is key! The hope is that this plan can leverage new funding that will be available from the state to better support lasting, profitable, and healthy "farm to..." initiatives and supply chain relationships. Please join if you want to be involved in this exciting and quickly developing market opportunity. All those involved in getting food and agricultural products from the farm to institution are invited – producers, ranchers, distributors, food service directors, non-profits, government. Lunch will be provided. **Registration is online at:** <http://cofoodsummit.com/>

Colorado Food Summit

When: **December 7-8, 2023**

Where: Stockyards Event Center | Denver, Colorado

The 2023 Colorado Food 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. The Summit aims to inspire collaborative action towards a more resilient and equitable food future in the face of uncertainty (e.g. pandemic, drought, inflation, supply chain shortages) through panel presentations, storytelling, creative presentations, and facilitated networking. We encourage anyone connected to



Colorado's food system to be a part of this important discussion. **Registration is online at: <http://cofoodsummit.com/>**



2023 CFVGA Produce Labor Conference

The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) is inviting farmers and anyone else who works in agriculture to attend its 2023 Produce Labor Conference, **Dec. 14, at the Pueblo Convention Center.**

In addition to networking, the conference will open with an overview of labor research, updates and compliance. Attendees will learn about changes to the federal H-2A program, new opportunities to hire farmworkers from El Salvador and the newest employer requirements under Colorado labor laws. This will be a solutions-oriented event, where those in the ag labor sector come together to learn and to discuss solutions to Colorado agriculture's acute farm labor shortage.

Additionally, break-out educational sessions include Tips for Getting Started in H-2A, Innovations in Worker Health and Safety, Mechanization for Small and Mid-Size Farms, Employer Software for Tracking Hours and Breaks, and Tapping into the New Ag Worker Services Program. The conference will wrap up with a focus on farm owner strategies to manage costs under Colorado's new overtime and other rules.

Registration for the one-day event, including lunch, is \$50 for members and \$70 for non-members. Booth space is available for vendors with products and services for Colorado produce growers. Learn more and register here: <https://coloradoproduce.org/23-labor-conference/>

2024 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Program



BUILDING FARMERS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Save the date and spread the word about the Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers program for 2024. Starting January 23, 2024 through March 12, 2024, Colorado Building Farmers will be offering an online class that 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. The class is intended for new and intermediate level farmers and ranchers in Colorado.

Learn more here: <https://buildingfarmers.com/>. Registration opening soon!



Funding Opportunities

Field Work Instagrants Applications Now Open

The **Field Work Instagrants funding opportunity** for nonprofits is now accepting applications!

To further help promote the adoption of water innovations in agriculture, the LOR foundation is providing **Instagrants** for up to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations to help share learnings about water innovations. That could mean hosting a learning event on a working farm, sharing best practices, or sharing the story of an innovative farmer or rancher. (Note: If it's of interest, LOR is happy to help make connections to researchers involved in the **61 Field Work projects**). Grants are open only to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Instagrants recipients will be notified by Oct. 23, 2023 (if not sooner). Answers to other Frequently Asked Questions can be found **here**.

Applications are open on the **Field Work Instagrants website** and will remain open through **Oct. 6, 2023**.



Grants for Farmers and Ranchers Available

The Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Research & Education Grant Program focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. This grant program involves agricultural producers (main applicants) and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture.

This program aims to honor producer innovation by funding on-farm research that benefits and is led by producers themselves.

Proposals are due October 25, 2023.

Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.

Grants for Professionals and Producers Available

This grant program involves an agricultural technical advisor (main applicant) and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of at least three producers, projects must integrate research and education aiming to advance the three components of

sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and other agricultural stakeholders.



It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be shared with other producers. \$75,000 limit/one-three years in scope.

Proposals are due **October 31, 2023**

Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA FSA's Organic
Cost Share Now Open for
2023**

This year the Farm Service Agency increased the cost share amount under the **Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)**. FSA will cover up to 75% of costs associated with organic certification, up to \$750 for crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and state organic program fees (California only). OCCSP will cover costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023.

Applications are now open, and due **Oct. 31, 2023**. To apply, producers and handlers should contact the FSA at their local **USDA Service Center**. FSA is also accepting applications from state departments of agriculture to administer OCCSP.

Professional Development Program Accepting Grant Proposals

Professional Development Program grants focus on educating and training agricultural professionals to increase their understanding of and proficiency in sustainable agriculture so they, in turn, can educate and train other agricultural professionals. In a “train the trainer” fashion, this program focuses on increasing knowledge and capacity for agricultural stakeholders to provide further training and information to other agricultural professionals and producers.



Projects can be up to 3 years and may be funded up to \$100,000. Proposals are due **November 1, 2023**. For more information, see the call for proposals [here](#).

Research to Grassroots Program Accepting Grant Proposals



The Western SARE Research to Grassroots grant program is intended to address the barrier(s) to application/adoption of sustainable agriculture practices as identified in previous SARE research by clearly demonstrating to agriculture professionals and/or producers the environmental, social, and economic viability of the previous research and the benefits and challenges that selected previous work may present.

Successful proposals must incorporate the research results from SARE-funded research projects and bring those results into the field through education for ag professionals and producers, emphasizing the strengths and barriers to adoption of the selected previous work, ultimately helping to increase producer confidence in adopting sustainable agriculture practices.

Projects can be up to 3 years and may be funded up to \$100,000. Proposals are due **November 1, 2023**. For more information, see the call for proposals [here](#).

Small Food Business Recovery and Resilience Grant Open Now



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

The first round of the Small Food Business Recovery and Resilience Grant is open now! Check out all the details and apply on the [grant website](#).

Small food retailers and small family farms should consider applying for equipment and operating expenses that will help them expand access to healthy food for Coloradans living on a low income.

Applications are due **November 7th at 5:00 pm MST**.

[Visit the Grant Website](#)

Grant Information Session 1 [Register](#)
October 3, 2023
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MST

Grant Information Session 2 [Register](#)
October 26, 2023
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MST



**Western Extension Risk Management
Education - Competitive Grants
Program**

The **Western Extension Risk Management Education Center** (Western Center), in conjunction with the **Northeast, Southern, and North Central** Centers announced a competitive funding opportunity for educational projects designed to help agricultural producers improve their economic viability through targeted risk management strategies. The Centers expect to award grants in three program areas – Standard Education Projects, Exploratory Projects, and Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects.

Eligibility: This announcement seeks applications from qualified public and private groups, organizations, and institutions; including land grant colleges and universities, Cooperative Extension, other colleges and universities, and public and private entities with a demonstrated capacity to develop and deliver outcome/impact-based risk management education projects for agricultural producers and their families. The Western Center serves Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. RFAs have been concurrently released for each regional ERME Center – please visit the respective websites for additional information.

Proposals are due by **5 PM, PST, Thursday, November 16, 2023.**

Click here for more information about the grant applications.

USDA Announces MPEPP Round 2 Grant Program



USDA Rural Development announced Round 2 of the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). The MPPEP provides grants to help eligible processors expand their processing capacity, which creates new, better and more processing options for meat and poultry producers. USDA Rural Development designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, and to help improve supply chain resiliency.

Who can apply for this program?

Entities that engage or plan to engage in meat and poultry processing, including private, non-profit, tribal, cooperative, state or local government, among other entities. Private entities must be independently owned and operated. All entities must be domestically owned, and their meat and poultry processing facilities must be physically located and operated within the U.S. or its territories.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used for expenses during the period of performance of the grant award to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building, modernizing, or expanding existing – processing facilities, including mobile slaughter units
- Purchasing an inoperable facility
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology

- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Offsetting cost associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Staffing or operational costs specifically tied to the proposed project
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

For more information, [visit the Grants.gov page here](#).



Colorado Clean Diesel Program

This is an opportunity that can help farms and other Colorado business owners purchase electric or hybrid equipment and transportation vehicles. Businesses interested in replacing one or more of their older diesel machines with eligible lower- or zero-emissions equivalents can apply for a grant. Grants may be up to 25-45% of the project cost, depending on type of equipment. Anecdotally, this program is not very competitive and applicants who meet program eligibility criteria are likely to receive funding.

Learn more by [visiting their website](#).

Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans Available



As part of the American Rescue Plan, the USDA **Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program** is offering loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects.

These loans will be available 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.

Colorado contact information for Rural Development and its regional offices can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-page/colorado-contacts>.



News, Resources & Reading

Colorado Food System Advisory Council Seeks New Members



COLORADO
FOOD SYSTEMS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

COFSAC is seeking nominations for candidates for our current open seats. These vacant seats include:

- Recipient of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of statewide anti-hunger organization – **APPLY HERE**
- Academic specialist in economic systems, agriculture, or health care – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of a local nonprofit community organization engaged in farm-to-school programs or local food systems – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of a food bank – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of a statewide healthy food systems organization – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of specialty crop production – **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of institutional procurement from an educational setting – **APPLY HERE**

This is a time sensitive opportunity. Regular appointments happen in the fall of each year. New members will be provided with travel support and conference registration for the Colorado Food Summit to be held in Denver, CO on December 7th, and 8th.

USDA Offers Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program Office Hours

Rural Business and Cooperative Service is pleased to provide office hours for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP 2). RBCS staff will be on hand to address questions that you have.

Office hours will be held bi-weekly on Thursdays from 3 to 4 pm EST and will start on September 28, 2023. Register using the links below!

- [October 12 Registration](#)
- [October 26 Registration](#)
- [November 9 Registration](#)

Learn more about the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP 2) by clicking [**here**](#).

Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship Accepting Applications

The HSFP Fellowship Program will develop the next generation of diverse leaders in scratch-cook school food operations that can support a sustainable program and drive school food reform. Over a 12-month period, operators will grow their skills, knowledge and abilities



through live, virtual learning sessions; in-person site visits and training; asynchronous, self-led instruction; and engagement within their own districts to implement their new ideas.

Fellows will graduate from the program empowered to operate successful self-run, scratch-cook meal programs and advocate for serving fresh and healthy meals to students. If you have an interest in advancing your career in school food service leadership, the Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship is the program for you. The fellowship program is open to school food professionals across the country thanks to our founding partners Whole Kids Foundation and the state of CA.

The application for the national Fellowship is open now until **October 1, 2023**. Click [here](#) for more information.



From Our Communities

CSU Summer Study Abroad Course Regarding Food, Culture, and Politics



Politics of Food in Spain and Morocco

Explore the intersection of food, culture and politics in Spain and Morocco. This class offers many exciting opportunities via cultural workshops and field trips. Learn more about how political and cultural systems deeply influence food, its production and consumption, and shape people's lives in these countries.

Students will gain hands-on experience through homestays, visits to local markets and businesses, and cooking workshops. By comparing the food systems in Spain and Morocco, student will develop a better understanding of their food systems here at home.

CITIES VISITED: Granada, Spain, Rabat, Morocco

PROGRAM TERM: Summer

COURSE REQUIREMENT:

POLS482D or HONR 392/492

Politics of Food in the Mediterranean
(3 Credits)

PROGRAM LEADER:

Gamze.Cavdar@colostate.edu

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**

Scan the QR Code
or visit col.st/SMa70



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

explore • engage • discover

CSU Food Science & Human Nutrition Department Distributing Survey to Coloradans

Tell Us Your Interests and Needs

Researchers from Colorado State University in the Food Science & Human Nutrition Department are conducting a needs assessment to determine nutrition education interests and needs of Coloradans.

You can participate if you are 18 years or older and live in Colorado.

We would like you to take an anonymous online survey. Participation will take 5 -10 minutes. Your participation is voluntary. You may withdraw your consent and stop participation at any time without penalty. We will not collect your name or personal identifiers. When we report and share the data to others, we will combine the data from all participants. There are no known risks.

So We Can Provide Nutrition and Health Programs to Serve You

To indicate consent and complete the survey, scan the QR code or go to the link below.

<https://col.st/zhF6j>



If you have any questions about the research, please contact Jessica at Jessica.clifford@colostate.edu.

If you have any questions about your rights as a volunteer in this research, contact the CSU IRB at:

CSU_IRB@colostate.edu; 970-491-1553.



FOOD SCIENCE AND
HUMAN NUTRITION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider. | Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. | CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English. Col.su/EOC

Connect with the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center

As one of the USDA's 12 Regional Food Business Centers, the Colorado State University and Oregon State University teams are laying the groundwork for the first technical assistance and grant programs to emerge from this new regional Center. Libby Christensen, CSU Extension, and Brian Coppom, Colorado Department of Agriculture, are the Colorado state leads for this Center.



The Center's web site will launch in October and provide information on educational and technical support programs for small- and mid-sized food and farm businesses, beginning in January 2024.

To receive updates about the NW and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center sign up here: <https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/>.



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!



Subscribe

Submit Contributions

Food Systems CSU | <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu>

