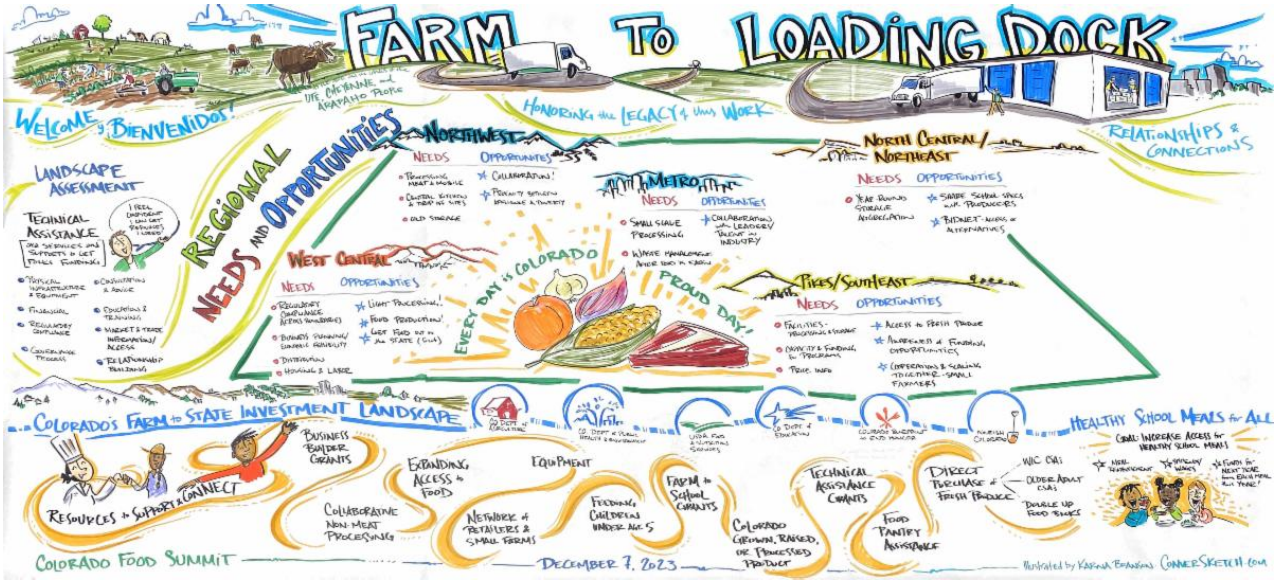


Quarter 2 Newsletter
April-June 2025



Next week on May 16th from 12:00 - 1:15 pm Mountain Time, please join us for an informative webinar about a research project that explored the partnerships, training, and resources needed to move food from Colorado's agricultural producers to wholesale institutional markets. This research, which culminated in **The Farm to Loading Landscape Assessment**, has been referenced in federal and state grant opportunities, informed statewide data collection strategies, and coalesced support for statewide coordination around training and technical assistance, among other applications. This webinar will cover the why, the how, and the process of completing this research, as well as how it is being utilized within Colorado and how it could inform strategies in other states working to make farm-to-institution the easy choice. The discussion will also focus on various policy solutions currently being implemented or considered to address pain points, increase resource allocation, and strengthen and sustain Colorado's local food economy. Please register below and we look forward to taking action together!

Register Here

COFSAC New Member Features



Brianne Snow has been a dedicated and impactful leader for nearly two decades, most recently serving as the Executive Director of the Family & Intercultural Resource Center (FIRC) in Summit County, Colorado. Throughout her tenure, she has been dedicated to enhancing the social and economic well-being of her rural community, with a particular focus on addressing food insecurity and improving local food systems.

Brianne Snow

Under her leadership, FIRC has made significant strides in tackling food security challenges by addressing both immediate needs and long-term solutions. The organization has developed community-driven programs that increase access to nutritious food, specifically tailored to underserved populations. These initiatives include food assistance, SNAP outreach and application assistance, increased visibility of food insecurity issues, and successful collaborations with local food providers—all designed to bolster the resilience of Summit County's food system. Brianne's approach is grounded in leveraging the knowledge and lived experiences of community members who have faced food insecurity, allowing FIRC to directly address the real needs of the people it serves.

In addition to her work in food systems, Brianne brings a wealth of experience in community development and engagement, enabling her to better understand and tackle the unique challenges faced by rural communities. She is acutely aware of the high cost of living, limited access to resources, and the critical importance of building strong partnerships to create sustainable food systems.

As a member of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, Brianne is eager to continue advancing her work to create a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive food future for all.

Kristina Ortiz is the Purchasing and Agriculture Manager for Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado with over two decades of procurement experience nationally and overseas. In this role, Kristina serves both farmers and Southern Coloradans experiencing food insecurity by sourcing nourishing food to distribute to communities who need it most. She has built relationships with a diverse group of local farmers through the Local Food Purchase Agreement (LFPA) USDA grant and successfully transitioned the food bank to using HER nutrition guidelines.



Kristina Ortiz

She is honored to serve as Co-Chair of the National BIPOC and Local Grower Cohort, an Advisory Board Member of Nourish, and subcommittee member for the Colorado Fruits and Vegetable Grower Association (CVFGA).

As a military brat, Colorado is the first place Kristina has been able to put down roots and watch her children flourish in a community that knows how to show up for each other. Her love for her kids and the Colorado community propels her work toward nutritious food being accessible for all.

Summer 2025 Working Group Updates

Working group membership is open to everyone. Please contact Alex.Dejoy@colostate.edu if you're interested in joining the efforts of one of the groups listed below!

Institutional Procurement

Every month on the last Monday from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Ongoing Projects

- Farm to Loading Dock report results dissemination
- Values-based procurement research
    - Collaborate with Nourish Colorado, the City of Denver, state agencies, and statewide partners to better understand state level food procurement with the goal of advancing data transparency around local and nonlocal purchasing

Communications & Strategic Relations

Every month on the first Monday from 2:00 pm. - 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Projects

- Coordinate increased communication with the Governor's Office and Colorado legislators
- COFSAC newsletter content creation and subscription
- Quarterly meeting planning

Membership & Engagement

Every month on the fourth Wednesday from 10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m.

Ongoing Projects

- Identify food systems professional development opportunities
- Solicit applications for COFSAC terms expiring in Oct. 2025
- Streamline Council onboarding process

Food Access Policy

Bi-monthly on the second Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ongoing Projects

- Coordinate opportunities for education and storytelling around food and nutrition security programs to the Governor's Office and legislators
- State program landscape assessment
    - Collaborate with statewide partners to research Colorado food and nutrition programs including program funding streams, requirements, and geographic distribution

---

COFSAC Newsletter Feedback Survey

We want to hear from you! Please take this quick survey to share what kind of information you find most useful, or would like to see more of, in the COFSAC newsletter. Your feedback will help us make our updates more relevant and valuable to you.
Thank you for your time!

Feedback Survey

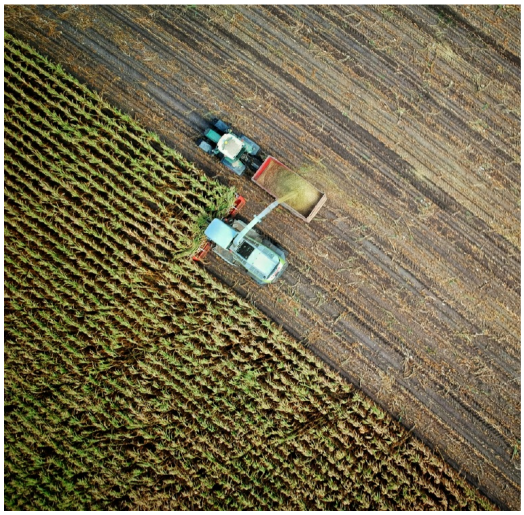
Quarterly Food Systems Updates from Colorado State Agencies

Q2 (April-June) 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

- **CO Ag Future Loan Program**
    - Online interest form available for waitlist
- **Community Food Access Program**
- **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Update**
- **Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program**
- CO Proud & Publications
    - **Colorado Proud**
    - **Cultivation Station Podcast**

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)



Updates at a Glance

- Farm to School Roadmapping Project
- The Local Food Program
    - Funding updates
- Healthy School Meals for All Updates

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
    - Program participation and timeliness updates

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)



Updates at a Glance

- Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (COWIC)
    - WIC caseload update from February to March
- Colorado Food Program (CFP)
    - Funding update
- Healthy Eating Active Living
    - Vermont Food Education Every Day (FEED) Adaptation Program participation update

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)



Updates at a Glance

- **Rural Jump-Start Program**
- Small Business Development Center
- Employee Ownership Tax Credit
    - Additional **Employee Ownership Tax Credit** starting in 2026
- **Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program**
- **Partner Outreach Program**
- **State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Grant**

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENT: Seeking New Council Members

COFSAC is beginning to accept applications for candidates in seats with terms expiring in October, 2025. These seats include:

- Member with expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs (General Assembly Appointed). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers (Appointed by the Governor's Office). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Appointed by the Governor's Office). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of a food distributor or a food hub (General Assembly Appointed). **APPLY HERE**

Applications

The council will request to review all applications submitted by October 18th, 2025, and provide recommendations to the appropriate office. The General Assembly or the Governor will then make the final decision (over which they have full discretionary power) and inform those appointed as Council members. The council will follow up with those not appointed to explore other opportunities for participation such as committee and working group initiatives.

More information is available on our website.

COFSAC Website

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!