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March 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 142

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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



USDA AMS COVID-19 Analysis of Local and Regional Food Systems

Wednesday, March 9th, 2022

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm MT

followed by a Q & A

<https://zoom.us/j/94004638571>

Dr. Lilian Brislen will present an analysis of 22 focus groups conducted with Local and Regional Food System stakeholders during the summer of 2020. By attending to the material, subjective, and affective dimensions of crisis, this presentation explores the experience of simultaneous crises described by stakeholders, and an emergent understanding of the endemic and co-productive nature of underlying forces of precarity and injustice across the food system.

[Register here.](#)

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



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



Ana Altares

Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition

Ana is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Systems Thinking for Obesity Prevention (STOP) lab in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. She received her MS in Nutrition at CSU in 2018 and is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Her master's thesis investigated the use of community-based participatory research among youth to promote food access in a low-income neighborhood. Ana's current research focuses on food insecurity, primarily among households above poverty in high cost-of-living regions. Ana is enthusiastic about building food environments that make nutritious foods accessible for all. As a dietitian, Ana works with clients to promote a positive relationship with food and use it as fuel for daily activities and chronic disease prevention. She enjoys

spending time outside for all 300 days of Colorado sunshine, cooking, and hanging out with her dogs.

Amanda Countryman

Associate Professor
Dept. of Agricultural Resource and Economics



Amanda Countryman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. Her research examines the economic implications of international trade, focusing specifically on the impacts of trade reform on agriculture. Dr. Countryman investigates issues related to trade policy, bilateral and multilateral trade partnerships, nontariff barriers to trade, trade issues related to the livestock and meat sectors, as well as trade and the environment. She teaches undergraduate, graduate, and professional courses in international trade, agribusiness, and agricultural economics, and serves as the CSU Collegiate Farm Bureau advisor. Dr. Countryman completed her B.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics and B.A. in Spanish at the University of Arizona, M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University, and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. Prior to joining the faculty at CSU, she was an Agricultural Economist at the USDA Economic Research Service. Dr. Countryman grew up on a cotton, cattle, and alfalfa farm in Buckeye, Arizona.



Mark Your Calendar



UCCS Grain School Online Course 2 - Nutrition and Health Starts March 3rd

Starting March 3, UCCS Grain School brings cereal scientists and experts in microbiome and fermentation research together to explore the nutritional and health impacts of whole grains. Course 2 is focused on the nutritional benefits of whole grains, specifically highlighting the biodiversity of grains while demonstrating many approachable recipes and culinary methods.

All course materials (Parts 1-3) will remain accessible for the rest of the year, and participants are encouraged to use their hands in kitchens & bakeries while learning online.

Click [here](#) to register or learn more [here](#).

Contact [Sean Svette](#) for assistance with scholarships.

Enroll in the PFP Food Policy Bootcamp



This Pueblo Food Project (PFP) bootcamp is for any eater in Pueblo County who is ready to make long-term changes in the community by building knowledge and skills to affect policy change. This is a three-part interactive series facilitated by Terra Soma focused on Pueblo. The program begins on February 28th, and there is still time to join future sessions. Learn more and register [here](#).

Second Session:

Monday, March 7th, 2022 - 9:00 Am - 4:00 PM

Breakfasts and lunch provided

Third Session:

To be decided by the group on March 7th, 2022

Location:

**PFP Entrepreneur Room at RMSER Empowerment Center
330 Lake Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004**



Poultry Production Webinar Series

The Colorado State University Extension 4H program is hosting a Poultry Production Webinar Series this spring and early summer. Some of the webinars will be more youth-focused but are appropriate for all audience members. 4-H, FFA, and backyard producers are invited.

March 10th, 2022 - Poultry Paths

March 15th, 2022 - Market Poultry 101

March 29th, 2022 - Breeding & Show Bird 101

April 14th, 2022 - Poultry Slaughter & Food Safety

April 19th, 2022 - Poultry Marketing, Regulation, & Business Basics

TBA May 10th or May 17th, 2022 - Poultry Health & Biosecurity

June 28th, 2022 - 4-H Poultry Show Preparation & Showmanship

Register [here](#).

AgrAbility Winter Workshop Series

Join AgrAbility for a four-hour, NO-COST Agriculture/ Educational event for farmers/ranchers or/and those that serve them. These are offered in a number of regions to serve community needs.



Workshop dates:

- **March 1st, 2022** from 8:00 - 12:00 in Mancos/Cortez
- **March 2nd, 2022** from 8:00 - 12:00 in Grand Junction
- **March 3rd, 2022** from 8:00 - 12:00 in Steamboat
- **March 28th, 2022** from 12:00 - 4:00 in Sterling
- **March 29th, 2022** from 12:00 - 4:00 in Flagler
- **March 30th, 2022** from 12:00 - 4:00 in Lamar
- **March 31st, 2022** from 8:00 - 12:00 in Pueblo

For more information, check [here](#). Register [here](#).



7th Annual AgriSummit Conference Learning Local: Food for Thought

Wednesday, March 9th - Saturday, March 12th

Guidestone is hosting the 7th Annual AgriSummit in person! The main day of speakers and breakout sessions will be held at the Salida SteamPlant Event Center on Friday, March 11th, and will include a welcome address, breakout sessions, a boxed lunch, a keynote address, and a community open house and seed swap. The community open house and seed swap are free and open to all. Friday will also include a virtual option.

Register [here](#).

Click [here](#) for more event details.



Engaging with our State Webinar Series

Colorado State University's Department of Animal Sciences

Weekly Webinar Series: **March 1, 2022 - May 2022**

The series aims to explore and build collaborative relationships aimed at developing solutions and exploring opportunities for our state's livestock, meat, and animal industries.

This month's webinar: "**Managing High Altitude Disease**" on **Thursday, March 3rd, 2022**

Register [here](#) and view previous webinars [here](#).



Keeping Your Livestock Healthy Webinar Series

Animal Health Biosecurity Plans and Best Management Practices for Farms

Last webinar on **March 1, 2022!**

No matter the size of the operation, understanding disease risk factors and prevention measures are crucial to the livelihood and well-being of farmers raising livestock and poultry species, and to the health of their animals. This 8-part webinar series is geared towards small-scale operations to help them prepare, prevent and evaluate their farm biosecurity plans.

Register [here](#).

Visit Farm PPE's website [here](#).

Please contact Ragan Adams, CSU Veterinary
Extension: radams@colostate.edu for any questions.

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:

- **March 9**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **March 30**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- **April 15**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **May 6**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **June 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **July 8**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **August 10**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **September 13**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **September 23**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **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

Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID: Recovery and Resilience Webinar Series



Monthly Webinar Series

Join us for the Recovery and Resilience webinar: **"The Local Food Environment: Data Sharing Across Local Food Networks"** on Friday, March 11th, 2022, from 10:00 - 11:30 pm MT.

By identifying the strengths and vulnerabilities of local and regional food systems in times of crisis, LRFS leaders are developing immediate-, mid-and long-term strategies for fostering equitable and resilient food systems.

Register for the webinar [here](#) and review 2021 & 2022 archived webinars recordings and summaries on the [project website](#).

UCCS Grain School Public Forum

March 5th, 2022 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

In addition to the online course shared above, there will be a Grain School Public Forum to bring students a broad array of learning experiences. The courses cover topics along the entire grain chain, from farming and milling/malting to baking, brewing, cooking, and distilling. Course 1 focused on farming and grain processing, Course 2 on nutrition and health, and Course 3 on

community engagement. All courses encourage participants to engage using their hands in kitchens and bakeries while learning online.



In partnership with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Colorado Grain Chain, UCCS Grain School continues to foster and build a dynamic grain value chain in Colorado. Each year, UCCS Grain School enhances the knowledge and

skills of those working in grain chains around the world. The Public Forum this year will be held March 5th, 2022, is FREE, and presents UCCS Grain School's outreach to the community. While we stay online for 2022, we continue to leverage the public forum to celebrate our work together.

For more information click [here](#).



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

On **March 15-16, 2022**, Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting an online Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. The class will be conducted over 2 half days via Zoom. Registration closes March 2; register [here](#).

The course will provide a foundation on the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices, and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. For more information on produce safety training options, visit [here](#).



Funding Opportunities

Sabbatical Research and Education Grant

Sabbatical grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers in the Western U.S. region. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied geographic locations are of special interest.



Grant opens: **January 20, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)



USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

The USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. 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.

Grant funds can be used to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building new – or modernizing or expanding existing – processing facilities
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements
- Upholding occupational and other safety requirements
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Paying for voluntary grading services on value-added processed products
- Offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

The maximum award amount is \$25 million, or 20 percent of total project costs, whichever is less. There is no minimum award amount.

Applications must be submitted by **April 11, 2022 by 11:59 pm EST.**

Fact sheet available [here](#).

Check the Request for Applications at <https://www.grants.gov/>.

Webinar: On Tuesday, February 22nd, the Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University hosted representatives from the USDA in a webinar aimed at discussing the future of meat and poultry processing in the United States. Speakers discussed the recently announced 'Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain' and explored federal programs that are aimed to assist meat and poultry processors in the U.S. View the recording [here](#).

Stay tuned for additional information from CSU on technical assistance for these grants.



Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant

USDA is accepting applications for the new Farm and Food Workers Relief (FFWR) grant program. This program will provide \$665 million to fund competitive grant applications to provide relief to farmworkers and meatpacking workers who incurred pandemic-related health and safety costs. Eligible state agencies, tribal entities, and non-profit organizations serving farmworkers and meatpacking workers can apply now for grants ranging from \$5 million to \$50 million.

Grant is currently open and is due **March 10th, 2022**.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance to the FFWR grant program at FFWRGrants@usda.gov.

Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program Grant



The LFPA program is part of the “**Build Back Better**” initiative, authorized by the American Rescue Plan. The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. The program will award up to \$400 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the purchase of domestic local foods. Local and regional farmers and ranchers are those within the state or 400 miles of delivery destination.

The cooperative agreements will allow for state and tribal governments to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages that are healthy, nutritious and unique to their geographic area. This food will meet the needs of the population, and serve feeding programs, including food banks, schools and organizations that reach underserved communities. In addition to increasing local food consumption, funds will help build and expand economic opportunity for local and socially disadvantaged producers.

Applications are due April 5, 2022.

Click [here](#) for more information.



News, Resources & Reading

USDA Commits \$215 Million to Enhance the American Food Supply Chain

Department Will Make Available \$215 Million for Projects That Promote Competition and Increase Resiliency and Create Economic Opportunity in Rural America.



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is making available up to \$215 million in grants and other support to expand meat and poultry processing options, strengthen the food supply chain, and create jobs and economic opportunities in rural areas.

This funding opportunity announced on the one-year anniversary of President Biden's **Executive Order 14017 "America's Supply Chains"**, is one of many **actions** that the USDA is taking to expand processing capacity and increase competition in meat and poultry processing to make agricultural markets more accessible, fair, competitive, and resilient for American farmers and ranchers.

USDA also published a one-year report that outlines the risks and resilience of U.S. agri-food supply chains and identifies potential solutions to address vulnerabilities. This assessment involved extensive input and review by USDA subject matter specialists, consultations with other Federal agencies, and recommendations obtained through a public comment process. The report outlines actions to:

- Strengthen data and market intelligence to enhance USDA's understanding of supply chains and address disruptions early, reducing impacts on individuals and communities;
- Diversify critical supply chain infrastructure, expand local and regional programs, and enable more and better markets for producers and consumers;
- Support a level playing field to enable competition;
- Improve working conditions and overcome critical labor shortages in farm and affiliated agri-food industries;
- Help farmers adapt to climate change;
- Strengthen response preparedness to animal and crop pest and disease threats;
- Rebuild critical transportation infrastructure for moving bulk commodities and specialty products;
- Boost agricultural exports, which stimulates local economic activity, helps maintain our competitive edge globally, and supports producers' bottom lines; and
- Embed equity principles throughout our actions to ensure that our programs, services and decisions reflect the values of equity and inclusion.

View the report online [here](#).



From Our Communities



Farm to School Initiatives - Colorado Department of Education Survey for Colorado Producers

This survey is for Colorado producers who are interested in selling products to schools and other organizations providing meals to children in Colorado.

Link to the survey [here](#).

Survey responses are available in list form on the [Farm to School and Summer webpage](#) for school districts and other organizations to easily access.

Colorado school districts and Early Care and Education (ECE) providers are large and stable buyers for Colorado-grown, raised, and processed products. In the 2019-20 school year, Colorado school districts spent \$117 million on food, while ECE providers received \$22.5 million on meals served through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. We want to make it easier for school districts, charters, schools, ECEs (sponsors, collectively), and local producers to connect to increase local procurement. There are additional funds and incentives available now for sponsors to spend on food, making it easier to support local food purchases.

Contact: [McKenna Pullen](#) for more information.

Attention Colorado Producers and Agribusiness Owners



Colorado State University Extension conducts an annual survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado in the preceding year. Data are collected from agricultural producers, landowners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents. Results of the survey are used by producers, ag lenders, county assessors, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, land appraisers, and others.

Link to the survey [here](#). Respond by **March 11, 2022**.



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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