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November 1, 2021 || Newsletter Edition 138

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CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



James Hale

Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Sociology

James is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology, who specializes in studying the socio-cultural, community, and governance dimensions of food, agriculture, and environmental improvement efforts. He has spent time in both practitioner and research settings including working as a Peace Corps agroforestry agent in Malawi, helping spearhead alternative food projects in Colorado, and leading related research projects at Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Public Health. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Sustainability at the University of Otago where he studied social sustainability and governance in New Zealand agriculture. More recently, he has been contributing to the social dimensions of food system modeling, deploying social network analysis to study food and agriculture networks, and working on the conceptualization and operationalization of cultural capital in community development. In his free time, James enjoys hiking, cooking, camping, and music.

Matthew Wallenstein

Associate Professor
Warner College of Natural Resources

Matthew Wallenstein is a Professor and Department Head of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University. He is a soil microbial ecologist who studies how microbes drive nutrient cycling, soil formation, and decomposition, and affect crop health and productivity. His group has elucidated novel mechanisms by which plants control the assembly of the microbiome in their rooting zone, and has shown how this affects plant fitness. After working primarily in natural systems for many years, he shifted his attention to agricultural systems with the aim of applying his expertise in soil microbiomes, nutrient cycling, and plant-microbe interactions to sustainable agriculture. He led the development and commercialization of microbial biostimulants that increase nutrient availability as the Chairman and co-founder of Growcentia, Inc.



Mark Your Calendar



2021 Colorado Craft Brewers Summit

CSU and the Fermentation Science, and Technology program are co-hosting and helping to sponsor the Colorado Craft Brewers Summit. This is a conference for independent Colorado craft brewers, by independent Colorado craft brewers. The Summit will focus on the most pressing needs of our craft beer community. It's not just beer! At the Summit, Colorado brewers have an opportunity to learn from each other

about a wide variety of craft brewing topics.

This event will be held on **November 1st and 2nd, 2021** in the Lory Student Center on the CSU campus in Fort Collins.

[Click here](#) to register.

Upcoming Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings



Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting two Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings:

1. **November 2, 2021** at the Mesa County Fairgrounds Sagebrush Room in Grand Junction, CO, from 7:30 am -5:00 pm. Click [here](#) to register, or contact Beth LaShell at lashell_b@fortlewis.edu or 970-247-7189.
2. **December 15, 2021** at the Weld County Extension Office at 525 N 15th Ave, Greeley, CO. Register [here](#).
3. **February 8-9, 2022** (online only). Register [here](#).

These courses 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 <http://www.coproductsafety.org/>.

Regenerate 2021: Weaving Water, Land, and People



This fall, the Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and the American Grassfed Association will continue their collaboration to convene ranchers, farmers, conservationists, land managers, scientists, health professionals, nutritionists, educators, students, and others for a hybrid conference exploring ideas of *Weaving Water, Land, & People*.

The conference will offer a mix of virtual and in-person activities, including a handful of experiential, on-the-ground field days in the Southwest; a week filled with a variety of practical virtual workshops; and a two-day in-person gathering in New Mexico for plenary, keynote, and roundtable sessions. The in-person gathering will take place **November 3-4, 2021** in Albuquerque, NM.

Scholarships are available!

Click here for more information.



Northeastern Colorado Progressive Ag Symposium

This is a great opportunity to explore new ideas in the world of agriculture. Speakers include educators, industry professionals, government officials, as well as farmers and ranchers. Keynote speakers include Jill Clapperton, the Principal Scientist and CEO of Rhizoterra Inc.; Jimmy Emmons, who owns and manages 2,000 cropland acres and 5,000 rangeland acres in Dewey County, Oklahoma with his family; and Brendon Rockey, a third generation Colorado farmer who raises specialty potatoes and quinoa among cover crop fields, all cultivated in a living environment.

This free event will take place **November 3-4, 2021** in Greeley, CO. **Click here** to learn more and RSVP.



Meat Extension Field Day in NW Colorado

Join us for a day of conversations and demonstrations related to meat processing! The event will include fabrication and culinary demonstrations, a discussion of strategies to market beyond

the middle, and updates on food safety and meat-related policies at the national and state level. The event is free of charge and lunch will be provided.

November 5, 2021, from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM at Hayden High School (300 Breeze Basin Blvd, Hayden CO 81639)

For more info or to register, contact:

jennifer.martin@colostate.edu or **libby.christensen@colostate.edu**.

2021 Extension Internship Program Poster Session & Mixer

Monday, November 8th, 4:30 - 6:30 PM at the Canvas Stadium's Hall of Champions, on the CSU campus in Fort Collins.

EXTENSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM POSTER SESSION

Join the Extension Internship Program for the 2021 Poster Session and Mixer. Hear from CSU Extension Interns about their internship experience and connect with peers and colleagues.

**Canvas Stadium, Hall of Champions
Monday, Nov. 8th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm**

Enter through the "Premium Entrance" on the west side of the stadium and follow signage to the Hall of Champions.

intern.colostate.edu

 **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**



This is a great opportunity to learn more about students' engaged research experiences, as well as to get ideas for 2022 Extension Internship opportunities. Students: these are PAID internships, and 2021 included 60 opportunities to work throughout Colorado!

Young Farmers Convergence

Convergence 2021 will be a week-long, majority BIPOC workshopping space for a racial equity-related goal or project that you are working on in your community. Each day will guide you and your community through a series of inspirational and collaborative spaces that will introduce you to questions and frameworks to help you plan and take action. By the end of the week you will have a clear vision, strategy, and action plan for your project. You will also have a community of farmers nationwide who are doing similar work to support each other.



This virtual convergence will take place **November 8-11, 2021**.

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



Bringing Community from Land to Table: The Confluence 2021

Western Landowners Alliance and the **Good Meat Project** have teamed up to bring you the women in ranching confluence this year. They're excited to gather women working at every level of the meat supply web who care for land, animals, and community. Keynote speakers include Nicole Masters, soil health coach and author of *For the Love of Soil*, and Diane Wilson, bog steward and author of *The Seed Keeper*.

This online confluence will take place **November 11-13, 2021**.

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

SAVE THE DATE

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



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

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE

FOR INQUIRIES:

INFO@PUEBLOFOODPROJECT.ORG

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN JULY

UCCS Grain School in the Field November 13-14, 2021

University of Colorado Colorado Springs Grain School In The Field Joins the Pueblo Food Project this November!

Starting on Saturday, Nov 13th for the SUN, SOIL, WATER SUMMIT, immerse yourself in the world of corn. Then walk into the fields and kitchens on Nov 14th for Grain School in the Field!

Grain School in the Field 2021 is a 2-day event focused on restoring the food ways of corn. Day 1 is integrated with the Sun, Soil, and Water Summit with a Grain School track. Day 2 is for a small number of participants to work together on hands-on and discussion sessions at a newly forming artisan tortillería at the Excelsior Farmers Exchange in Boone, CO. While Saturday and Sunday are two events you may register for both using one registration for a total cost of \$150.

Register [here](#). Scholarships available for farmers, makers, students and community members. Contact Sean at ssvette@uccs.edu for more information.

Everything on the Table Part 3: Colorado's Food Landscape Webinar

**Tuesday, November 16,
12:00 - 1:30 PM**

Everything on the Table: Reimagining Global-to-Local Food Systems is presented by the Institute for Science & Policy at the Denver Museum

of Nature and Science, the Environmental Sustainability Initiative at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and the Colorado State University System's new Spur Campus, International Agriculture Program.



In the final episode, they will look at food production in Colorado. How are Colorado farmers and ranchers adapting to our changing climate? What impacts are they seeing, and what steps are they taking to safeguard the future of their products? They will talk to local agricultural producers and organizations about the innovative ideas and solutions they have implemented and how these innovations could be translated globally.

Register [here](#) for this free webinar.

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.

- **November 30, 2021**, 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- **December 3, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



COLORADOSM
FRUIT & VEGETABLE
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

December 1st, 2021
2nd Annual CFVGA Produce
Labor Conference

Join the 2021 CFVGA produce labor conference at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Aurora to understand the current conditions with regulatory impacts, learn updates about current and new programs, and find innovative solutions for Colorado fruit and vegetable growers. NOTE: our breakout session

period offers many opportunities, so please consider bringing 2 or more from your farm so that your team can explore all these options.

Check out the agenda and register [here](#).

Beginning farmers attend for **FREE!**



Funding Opportunities

Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program



The Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program will provide grants to food processors, distributors, farmers markets, and producers to respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19.

Food processors, distributors, farmers markets, and producers will be eligible to apply. Eligible costs include: workplace safety measures (hand sanitizer, masks), market pivots (virtual sales, curbside, delivery costs), retrofitting facilities (plexiglass, walk-up windows), transportation (delivery), worker housing, & medical (includes paid leave).

Application period closes: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on **November 22, 2021**

[Click here](#) to get started by registering for a DUNS number (complete this step as soon as you know you may want to request assistance as it takes time).

[Click here for more information](#).

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that organic producers and handlers can now apply for funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due **November 1, 2021**.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified

producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Western SARE Announces Four Calls for Proposals

- Farmer/Rancher - With the support and guidance of a technical advisor, farmers and ranchers will integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment. Due **November 1, 2021**.
- Professional + Producer - This grant program involves agricultural professionals in collaboration with producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. Due **November 3, 2021**.
- Professional Development - This grant program focuses on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Due **November 10, 2021**.
- Research to Grassroots - RGR projects take the research results from previously funded SARE projects and brings those results into the field through education to ag professionals and producers. Due **November 17, 2021**.

[Click here to learn more about each grant or to apply.](#)

Western Extension Risk Management Education Center Funding Opportunities



WESTERN
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

The **Western Extension Risk Management Education Center** is announcing three competitive funding opportunities for educational projects designed to help agricultural producers improve their economic viability through targeted risk management strategies.

Applicant webinar recording is now available [here](#) for Western Region ERME Funding Opportunity and you can view the Presentation PDF [here](#).

- Standard Education Projects - Educational projects designed to help agricultural producers improve their economic viability through targeted risk management strategies. Proposed programs must address any of five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal or human. Maximum requested funding is \$50,000 for 18-month projects conducted between April 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.
- Exploratory Projects - Smaller, simplified grants for initiating new ideas through producer education programs that address farmer/rancher risk management education needs. These projects can be used to organize and host a producer education workshop or conference; or for development projects that lead to application for a Standard Education project in a future year. Maximum award is \$5,000 for 18-month projects conducted between April 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.
- Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects - Designated for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by the Federal crop insurance program; with proposed educational programming that aligns with one or more of five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal or human. Maximum requested funding is \$100,000 for 18-month projects conducted between April 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

Applications must be submitted by **November 18, 2021** at 5:00 pm PST.

[Click here](#) for more information. [Click here](#) to download the full RFA.



USDA Announces \$10 Million in Grant Funding Available for the Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that \$10 million is available for competitive grant funding in the 2021 **Specialty Crop Multi-State Program**.

Funding will be available for use in Spring 2022 with awarded projects taking place over a 36-month performance period. Matching funds not required. Applications must be received before 11:59 pm ET on **December 6, 2021**.

[Click here for more information.](#)



News, Resources & Reading

USDA to Send 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey This Fall



This October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first Hemp Acreage and Production Survey. The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.

The **Domestic Hemp Production Program** established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers will be able to complete the survey online or by mail.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Strengthening the Public Health Impacts of SNAP: Key Opportunities for the Next Farm Bill

The USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps tens of millions of Americans afford food each month, and participation has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic. A new report identifies evidence-based opportunities that have the greatest potential to improve SNAP participants' nutrition and overall health. [Click here to learn more.](#)



From Our Communities

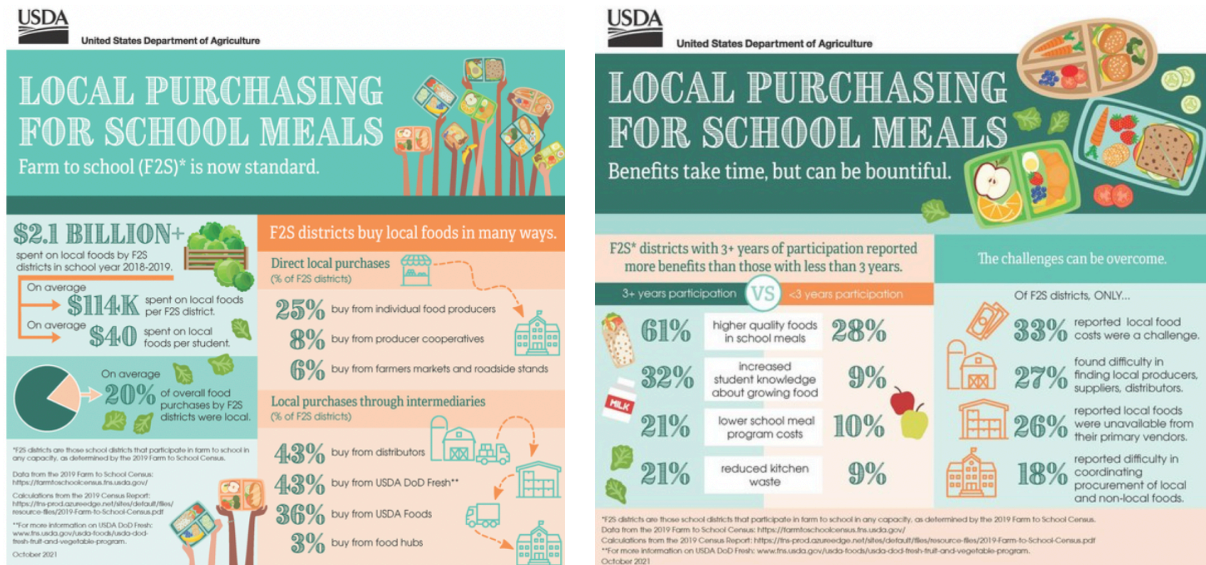


Celebrate National Farm to School Month

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, we're sharing some recent data and publications

related to school meals

Farm to school is no longer a niche program; it's now the standard. Over 42.8M students are in school districts that participate in farm to school. How do we know? The results of the 2019 Farm to School Census (2019 Census) are [here..](#)



With funding from USDA's National Agricultural Library, the National Farm to School Network and the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School published an updated **State Farm to School Policy Handbook: 2002-2020**. The Handbook summarizes and analyzes all 546 farm to school bills and resolutions introduced between 2002 and 2020 from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. It enables readers to search bills by both jurisdiction and topic and includes analysis of state policy trends, case studies, advocacy resources, and more.

Buy American in School Lunch & Breakfast Program

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is seeking feedback from a broad range of stakeholders about how the Buy American provision and guidance are currently implemented, changes FNS should make to current regulations, and how FNS can better support schools and school food authorities as they strive to purchase domestic foods and food products. The feedback FNS receives will help to inform future rulemaking and guidance on Buy American requirements in the school meals programs. Submit your comments [here](#) by November 2, 2021.



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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