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March 2023 || Newsletter Edition 154

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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Results from the 2022 Colorado Public Attitudes Survey

Tuesday, March 7th
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm MT
followed by Q & A



In cooperation with the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, we are hosting a Webinar on the recently released 2022 Colorado Public Attitudes survey.

Join us for an exploration of the perceptions Colorado citizens have about our ag and food sector, as well as recent trends important to specialty crops and local markets.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

View previous webinars [here](#).



Mark Your Calendar



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Webinar: Thriving Farm Families in 2023

Farm and ranch families are accustomed to dealing with challenging times, and 2023 is shaping up to be very demanding. Inflation will not only affect household budgets it will also result in rising farm and ranch input prices. Higher input costs coupled with softening commodity prices will result in razor thin profit margins being squeezed further. The uncertainty surrounding input and commodity prices and yields, combined with inflation rates not seen in more than 40 years, could result in unusual levels of stress for farm/ranch families in 2023.

In an effort to lend a hand to help farm/ranch families navigate inflation, stress, and a margin squeeze in 2023, CSU Extension will offer the “Thriving Farm Families in 2023 Webinar”. Topics to be covered include:

- Enterprise budgeting and cash flow monitoring,
- Family budgeting.
- Family and consumer science resources,
- Stress reduction and local mental health resources available to farm/ranch families.

The program will be held **Tuesday, March 2nd from 6:00-8:30pm**. The webinar is free and will be recorded. For more information contact Brent Young at 970-

580-2204 or email at brent.young@colostate.edu

To register online, click [here](#).

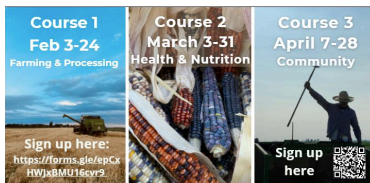
Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers 2023 courses

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 (note that all remaining 2022 classes are closed). **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program.

CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **March 7**, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm, in-person in Colorado Springs
- **March 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **March 14**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, in-person in Montrose
- **April 5**, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, in-person in Paonia
- **April 12**, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **April 13**, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, in-person in Colorado Springs
- **April 21**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Grain School Online 2023

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) is offering an online grain school in the Spring of 2023. Three courses will be offered for

\$150 each, or all 3 courses can be taken for \$400.

Online modules will be available for 12 months. Live online sessions will occur each Thursday from 4:30pm-6pm MST. Experiential sessions for UCCS students and local participants will occur each Friday from 10:50am-1:30pm MST at UCCS.

Courses offered will include:

- Health and nutrition (**March 2-31**)
- Community (**April 6-28**)

Scholarships for Colorado farmers and grain-focused businesses are available.

To pre-register, click [here](#).

Bean Summit 2023

The Colorado Dry Bean Committee is hosting the free Colorado Bean Summit on **March 2, 2023**. Participants will learn about the behind-the-scenes world of beans, learn from bean growers, enjoy some bean trivia with bean swag for prizes, and enjoy lots of delicious bean dishes prepared by professional chefs!



Register and find more details here: <https://coloradodrybeans.org/2023-bean-summit/>



Colorado Agritourism Association Annual Conference

On **March 2-4**, join the Colorado Agritourism Association and the Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association for education and networking

with the state's agritourism businesses. The conference will be held at Sylvan Dale Ranch in Loveland.

To register, click [here](#).

Colorado Farmers Market Association Annual Conference

The Colorado Farmers Market Association is hosting its annual conference on **March 3-5**, in Strasburg and Aurora. CFMA's conference is a wonderful opportunity to gather and learn with market managers from around Colorado. If you can't make it in person, however, there will be an online option available as well.



Register and find more details [here](#).



Shared Kitchens 101 Workshop

This workshop, hosted by The Food Corridor, will provide an introduction to the shared kitchen industry. The Food Corridor team will walk attendees through definitions and models of shared use kitchens, help communities identify opportunities for renters and programs, guide attendees through activities to begin planning goals and outcomes, and develop strategies and best practices for successful kitchen planning and launching.

The workshop is for community members or organizations interested in, charged with, or in the beginning phases of starting a shared use kitchen project. The workshop will be on **March 5th from 8am-4pm** at the Marina Village Conference Center in San Diego, CA. This event takes place before InTents: The Farmers Market Conference. It is in-person only, with no virtual option.

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



MEALS MATTER

FRAC Hosting a Webinar to Support Meal Programs

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) has been hosting a webinar series that communicates information about sustaining effective summer meal programs. There is one webinar left in the series. Click the link to register.

- **March 9, 1pm MT: Summer Meals: Developing an Outreach and Marketing Plan**

For more info, visit the FRAC's website [here](#).

Sun Soil Water Ag Summit

The Pueblo Food Project, CSU Pueblo County Extension, and partners are hosting the 3rd annual Sun Soil Water Ag Summit at Pueblo Community College on **March 17th and 18th**.



This will be an opportunity to gather, learn, and share delicious food! Events will include:

Friday the 17th:

- Pitch Competition 1pm-5pm
- Food Systems Leaderships Awards 6pm-9pm

Saturday the 18th:

- Community-led Summit 8:30am-6pm
 - **Session proposal form**
- Makers' Market and Idea Fair 8:30am-6pm
 - **Booth application form**

Scholarships are available. Click [here](#) for more information.



2023 Extension Risk Management Education National Conference

The 2023 ERME National Conference will bring together public and private sector educators, crop insurance agents, lenders, and

other agricultural professionals to share ongoing and emerging successful risk management education efforts that target agricultural producers and their families. Conference participants will learn about what is working to help producers effectively manage the financial, production, marketing, legal and human risks associated with their agribusinesses.

This conference will take place from **March 27-29, 2023** in Chicago, IL.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Funding Opportunities



Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

This competitive **grant program** through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture is intended to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences. Programs aim to attract outstanding students and produce graduates capable of enhancing the nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional work force. Visit their [grants.gov page](#) for a synopsis. Application is due by **March 31, 2023**.

Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) Grant Applications Available



USDA's **LAMP** is made up of the **Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)** and **Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)** and the **Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP)** grant program, all administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

FMLFPP

Two of LAMP's funding opportunities – **FMPP** and **LFPP** – together referred to as FMLFPP seek to develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food systems. FMPP supports producer-to-consumer markets such as farmers markets, roadside stands, agritourism activities, community-supported agriculture programs (CSA), and online sales. LFPP grants support local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing.

RFSP

The **RFSP** grant program supports public-private partnerships that build and strengthen viability and resilience of local or regional food economies. Funded

projects focus on increasing the availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products and alleviating unnecessary administrative and technical barriers. Projects can cover the planning and design of a local and regional food economy as well as implementing or expanding an existing one.

A Request for Applications (RFA) for each program is available on the program pages linked through the [LAMP](#) webpage. Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 2, 2023**.

AMS is hosting webinars to help applicants navigate the application process. Additionally, Frequently Asked Questions are posted on the [AMS Grants website](#).



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 Proposal

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.

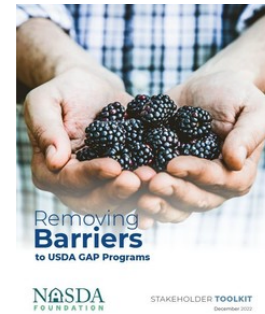
These grants will be offered to projects that are starting or expanding activities in the middle of the food supply chain. For example, the program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.



News, Resources & Reading

Stakeholder Toolkit for GAP Resources Available

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation (NASDA) has added a Stakeholder Toolkit to be used in conjunction with the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Grower Toolkit announced last month.



The Stakeholder Toolkit was created as a guide for helping individuals implement their GAP education and outreach programs. It contains templates for marketing and promotion, grower meeting materials, sample presentations, and contact lists to help develop partnerships between state departments of agriculture, cooperative extension, and non-government organizations.

The Stakeholder Toolkit is now **available online** and in **PDF form** for printing and sharing in future trainings. NASDA's website also lists a **section devoted to stakeholder resources** including a video recording of the stakeholder training at NASDA's Annual Meeting.

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL



Annual Report Now Available

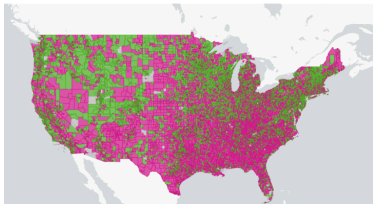
In 2022, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC) framed its annual report to revisit and report on the unique contributions COFSAC has made to Colorado's food systems landscape.

This report is now available to the food community, and COFSAC has shared its priorities, which include:

- Strengthening key stakeholder relationships;

- Supporting universal school meal implementation; and
- Harmonizing food systems planning across regions, organizations and issues throughout Colorado.

Read the report [here](#).



New Tool Shows Food Access and Health Disparities in the US

The Partnership for a Healthier America, with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has released the **Food Equity Opportunity Map**.

The map provides a visual tool to convey food access and health issues in US counties, and highlights areas where improving access to nutritious food would make the greatest impact.

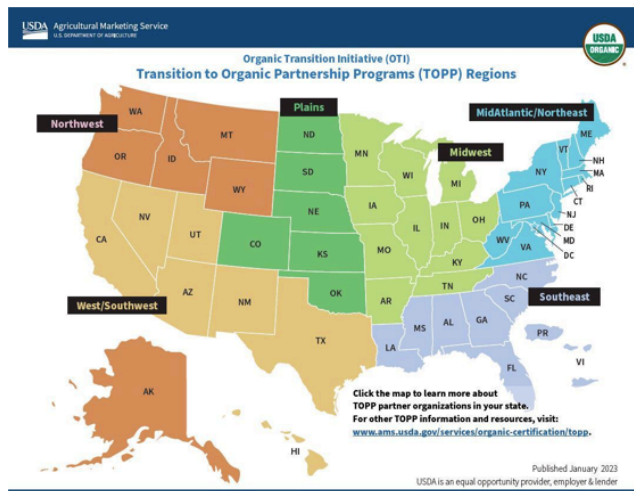
The map looks at regions around the country on a community level, conveying residents' access to food, percentages below the poverty line, and rates of Type 2 diabetes, a disease that is sometimes connected to nutrition.

Transition to Organic Program Connecting with Regional Networks

The USDA has announced partner organizations that farmers can contact to learn more about transitioning to organic. These organizations are also entry points for existing organic farmers wanting to serve as paid mentors to help establish the next generation of organic farmers.

This work is part of the Organic Transition Initiative (OTI), which supports transitioning and recently transitioned producers who face technical, cultural, and market shifts during the first few years of organic certification.

Click [here](#) to explore the PDF-based map.



From Our Communities

Request for Survey Responses from Colorado Producers and Agribusiness Owners



Take just 10 minutes to complete the survey before **March 10, 2023**.

[Click here to take the survey](#)

What is the Custom Rates Survey?

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 more.

What if I have questions about the survey?

Your CSU Extension Agriculture and Business Management Team is here to answer your questions. Learn more

at <https://abm.extension.colostate.edu/meet-the-team/>

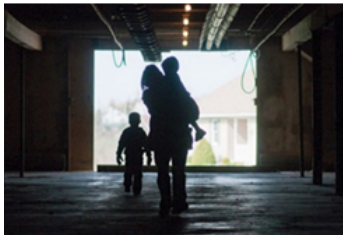


Photo credit: USDA

Request for Survey Responses from Farmers and Ranchers

Researchers at the National Farm Medicine Center and The Ohio State University are looking for farmers and ranchers who are raising children 0 to 18 to participate in an online survey. The survey asks about your family's experiences of taking care of children (age 0 to 18) while also working on and off the farm/ranch. The survey is open to part time and full time farmers, ranchers, and their partners operating in rural, urban, or suburban areas. Participants have the option to enter a raffle for one of fifty \$50 checks. The survey will close on **March 17th**.

To fill out the 15 to 20 minute survey, visit this link:

https://redcap.link/Survey1_FarmersRaisingChildren

For questions or to request a paper survey, contact Florence Becot at 715-389-9379 or becot.florence@marshfieldresearch.org

Check out the Sugar Beet!

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a planning grant to a coalition of six Fort Collins food



organizations: **The Growing Project, The Family Center/La Familia, Northern Colorado Foodshed Project, Poudre Valley Community Farms, ReKaivery**, and **CSU Extension**. This group, called the **Poudre Food Partnership**, was instructed to build a more equitable, vibrant, and resilient food system in Northern Colorado by addressing three key areas of growth and opportunity: food sovereignty and access, production growth and land access, and community outreach and education.

Sugar Beet is the latest initiative, created to highlight the important issues, ideas, events, people, and places impacting Northern Colorado's food system.

Read the Sugar Beet **here**.



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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