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April 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 143

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## CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



### Routt County Economic Indicator Report: Past, Present, and Future

Wednesday, April 13th, 2022

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm MT

followed by a Q & A

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

Join us for a discussion about how Colorado communities can use the tools and resources created by the Regional Economic Development Institute to reflect on the past, understand the present, and project into the future around economic development opportunities. Greg Miller and Stephan Weiler from REDI will share an Economic Indicator Report for Routt County, and Libby Christensen with the Routt County Economic Development Council will review a range of topics from housing affordability to worker productivity-measures not often provided for rural counties.

[Register here.](#)

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



## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights

### India Luxton

Ph.D. Candidate

Dept. of Sociology

India Luxton is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology. India received her BA in Sociology from Western New England University in



2015 and her Master's degree in Sociology from Colorado State University in 2017. Her dissertation research investigates key factors that led to high rates of COVID-19 transmission in meat processing facilities. Her prior food system research experience has revolved around food justice, urban agriculture, meatpacking, and assessing conservation practice adoption among farmers. In these projects, she utilizes qualitative research methods and social network analysis.

One of India's key pursuits is translating science into practice and helping individuals and organizations work towards environmental and social justice.

## Andrew Jones

Senior Research Scientist  
Cooperative Institute for Research in the  
Atmosphere



Andrew Jones is a Senior Research Scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at CSU. He holds a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from CSU. He works on measuring atmospheric and soil moisture properties using networks of weather satellites and, most recently, has created a new way to improve sensor performance despite 5G cellphone interference. His data fusion methods are used for National Weather Service operations. He specializes in the application of weather and climate data analytics to the integration needs of integrated food systems, wildfire impacts, phytobiome interactions, and infectious disease propagation. He serves as a senior editor of the Phytobiomes Journal and is a member of the CSU Soil Carbon Solutions Center. CIRA continues to serve as an environmental resource to understand issues impacting food systems production, transportation, and related complex supply chain issues.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Regional Food Summits

In order to raise awareness of and lift regional voices in statewide food and agricultural visioning and policy processes, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, the Planning Committee for the Colorado Food



Summit, CSU Extension, and the CSU Food Systems Institute are holding regional gatherings across Colorado during the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022. Themes emanating from these conversations will be used to guide the content of the statewide Colorado Food Summit, which will be held in late 2022. Upcoming gatherings include:

- **Northeast Colorado** Food Summit Regional Gathering (including Yuma County): **April 1, 9am-1pm** at Red Willow on Main (124 South Main Street in Yuma. Register [here](#).
- **Northern Colorado** Regional Food Summit: **April 5, 4:30pm-8pm** at the CSU Powerhouse, with an optional tour beginning at 4:00 pm. Both in-person and virtual registration options are available. Register [here](#).
- **Southeast Colorado** Food Summit Regional Gathering (including Crowley, Otero, Las Animas, Baca, Prowers, Bent, and Kiowa Counties): April 22, 9am-3pm at the Lamar Public Library Cultural Events Center. Register [here](#).

**"The Future of Ag:  
Storytelling CAFÉ"  
April 4th, 2022  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**



We invite you to save the date for the College of Ag Science and Agricultural Experiment Station's "The Future of Ag: Storytelling Café."

Through a dynamic format of engagement, this storytelling café is designed to bring together faculty, staff, and students in a creative environment fueled by meaningful dialogue, collaboration, self-reflection, and a shared passion for Agriculture. The flavor of this year's event is "hosting conversations for inspiring the Future of Agriculture through building capacity together". During the Storytelling Café, you will have opportunities to build capacity for growing together, community-wide collaboration, connecting with others, and building energy toward co-created a Future of Agriculture that is centered in our shared Principles of Community.

We hope to see you there (virtually or in-person).

Email [Sam Holtshouser](#) or [Tori Anderson](#) with your questions.

## **CSU Extension and Pueblo Community College Ag Welding Workshop**

CSU Extension and the PCC-SW Ag Program are partnering to offer a 4-day workshop to learn or improve your welding skills for your farm or ranch. It will be

held **every Tuesday in April from 3:00-5:30 pm** on the PCC Mancos campus in the welding building. Our instructor Rob Reed is a PCC welding teacher.

**April 5th, 2022** from 3:00 - 5:30 PM  
**April 12th, 2022** from 3:00 - 5:30 PM  
**April 19th, 2022** from 3:00 - 5:30 PM  
**April 26th, 2022** from 3:00 - 5:30 PM

Register [here](#).



Once you have registered you will receive an email with details about what PPE (gloves, proper clothing, footwear, etc.) to bring to the workshop. We will also have an opportunity to have all participants bring in something from home (not your tractor, sorry) that you want to weld on the last day!



## UCSS Grain School Online Course 3 April 7th, 2022

Starting April 7th, all are invited to UCSS Grain School Online Course 3, co-hosted by the Colorado Grain Chain. This course focuses on community by tracing trade routes and histories of grains, exploring social justice and the grain value chain from seed to field, to communities and institutions.

For a special sneak peek at the course, click [here](#).

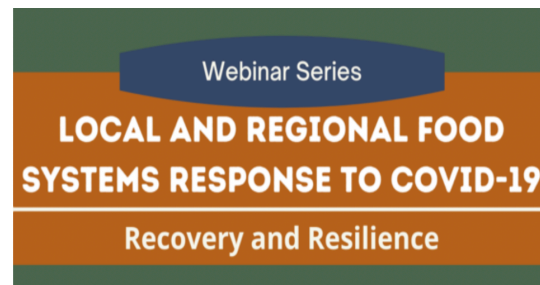
All course materials (Parts 1-3) will remain accessible for the rest of the year, and we encourage participants to engage using their hands in kitchens and bakeries while learning online.

Register [here](#).

For more information click [here](#).

## Tracking Consumer and Market Trends Webinar

**April 8th, 2022**  
**10:00 - 11:30 AM**



Over the past two years, the Local and Regional Food Systems Recovery and Resilience project distributed a consumer survey to understand shifts in consumer behavior due to the pandemic, in collaboration with their university partners. This webinar provides updates and

new findings from the fall 2021 survey, including comparisons to the 2020 survey (presented in an earlier webinar) on key trends including dynamics in regional food marketing channels, the continued shift to online shopping, and how different communities are responding. Panelists representing regional food partners will share their insights on survey results including their thoughts on: “What is most interesting about how consumer behavior/beliefs have changed over the past couple of years?”

Recordings and summaries from previous webinars are available [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Calling All Extension Interested Staff  
Offering a Sheltering Animals During a Disaster Training  
April 12, 2022 (9am – 4pm) Grand Junction, CO

## Sheltering Animals During a Disaster Training

**April 12th, 2022 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
in Grand Junction, CO**

Register now for the FEMA Emergency Management Institute training focused on sheltering animals during a disaster.

This course is limited to 70 people and is open to Extension professionals, fair officials, brand inspectors, rodeo officials, emergency managers, public health, animal control, and other interested Extension partners. This course has FEMA and P.O.S.T certifications available.

Register [here](#).

## 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.



**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](#).

## 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:

- **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

### Small Ruminant Class on Goats and Sheep- Meat, Fiber and Milk

**April 21, from 6pm-9:15pm**



Goats and sheep can be great additions for small market-farms and ranches or a way to diversify a larger agricultural operation. This online class will cover the basics of getting started raising goats and sheep; including supplies, health care, nutrition, and breeds to consider. We will also delve into specific enterprise considerations such as meat, fiber, and milk production; and, if time allows, weed & fire mitigation using your goat herd.

Register [here](#). Cost is \$60, plus Eventbrite fees.

### Food Finance Institute MVP Series

The Food Finance Institute MVP Series offers food-focused businesses the flexibility to learn how to successfully grow their business and Maximizing [your



business'] Value Potential, one workshop at a time. These workshops will help you develop the details you need to scale and grow your business. Focused on Accounting, Sales, Marketing, and Operations the series will well prepare you for the next steps for success. Cost for each course is \$100.

**May 25th, 2022 - Developing a High-**

**Performance Organization**

**July 7th, 2022 - Financial & Accounting Processes**

For more information click [here](#).



**Meat and Poultry  
Processing Capacity  
- Technical Assistance**

USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) ensures that participants in USDA's Meat and Poultry Supply Chain initiatives have access to a full-range of technical assistance (TA) to support their project development and success. These supply chain initiatives--including the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) Program and the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP)--support the growth of domestic processing capacity and the ability of independent facilities to serve more customers in more markets.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is investing up to \$25 million to establish a nationwide MPPTA network of support focusing on four key areas, or scopes:

- **Federal Grant Application Management:** Navigating federal grants processes and procedures, from pre-award applications processes through post-award grant management compliance;
- **Business Development and Financial Planning:** Business and financial planning resources, market intelligence, and project/concept feasibility analyses;
- **Meat and Poultry Processing Technical and Operation Support:** Advice and resources to support the operational needs--including workforce development--of processing plant development and utilization; and
- **Supply Chain Development:** Support for the development and maintenance of successful supply chain and marketing relationships—between suppliers, processors, distributors, and customers.

More information is available [here](#).



## Funding Opportunities

### 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 opportunities for local and socially disadvantaged producers.

**Applications are due May 6, 2022.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

### USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities



USDA will provide \$1 billion in funds for partnerships to support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects that will provide technical and financial assistance to producers who implement climate-smart practices on a voluntary basis on working lands; pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and market the resulting climate-smart commodities. The program will be broadly inclusive with an added intention for the inclusion of small and underserved producers.

**Funding will be provided in two pools:**

- Large-scale proposals from \$5 million - \$100 million are due **May 6, 2022**
- Proposals from \$250,000 - \$5 million are due **June 10, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP)

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 **May 11, 2022, by 11:59 pm EST.**

Fact sheet available [here](#).

See the Request for Applications [here](#).



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (RCPP AFA) are open for applications. RCPP enables state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities to partner regionally with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on special projects to promote farmer adoption of conservation activities to address key natural resource concerns. Once NRCS selects proposals from these entities, farmers and ranchers are able to apply through NRCS to participate in an RCPP project. The RCPP AFA component is intended to support project structures and approaches that cannot be carried out as effectively through RCPP Classic.

**Applications are due April 13, 2022.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

## USDA Organic Transitions Program

The overall goal of the Organic Transitions Program (ORG) is to support the development and implementation of research, extension, and higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers, as well as those who are adopting organic practices. ORG will continue to prioritize environmental services provided by organic farming systems in the areas of soil conservation, pollinator health, and climate change mitigation, including greenhouse gases, as well as the development of educational tools for Cooperative Extension personnel and other agricultural professionals who advise producers on organic practices, and development of cultural practices and other allowable alternatives to substances recommended for removal from the National Organic Program's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.



It is expected that all projects will integrate research, education, and extension activities, as appropriate to project goals, although some projects may be weighted more heavily than others in one or more of these areas. However, all proposals should have activities and impacts in research and at least one of the other areas of education and extension.

Applications must be submitted by **April 21, 2022**

More information is available [here](#).

## Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)

**VAPG** provides competitive grants to create or expand value-added producer-owned businesses. "Value-added" goods are transformed or specially labeled raw agricultural products which can be sold at a higher cost than the raw input (i.e., cheese, canned goods, organic). Priority is given to projects that increase opportunities for small and mid-sized family farms, and/or for beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.



Applications are due **April 25, 2022**.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP)



**FMLFPP** is a competitive grants program that funds efforts to develop and strengthen direct-to-consumer marketing strategies and support local and regional food businesses acting as intermediaries between producers and consumers. It consists of subprograms with two

separate RFAs:

**Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP):** Awards funding for capacity building, community development, training, and technical assistance. These grants can be used for market startup, operation, infrastructure, training and education, outreach, market analysis and planning, customer and producer surveys, vendor and customer recruitment, and new venue establishment. [Click here for information on how to apply to FMPP.](#)

**Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP):** Assists in the development, improvement, or expansion of local and regional food business enterprises, meaning organizations or business entities that function as intermediaries between producers (farmers or growers) and buyers.

[Click here for information on how to apply to LFPP.](#)

**Applications are due May 16, 2022.**

### Regional Food System Partnerships Program (RFSP)



RFSP supports public-private partnerships focusing on increasing the availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products and alleviating administrative and technical barriers. The goal of RFSP is to encourage landscape-level approaches to planning and developing regional food economies through the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships supporting on-the-ground projects. Projects can cover the planning, design, implementation, or expansion of local and regional food economies.

**Applications are due May 16, 2022.**

[Click here for more information.](#)



### Western SARE's Research & Education Pre-Proposals are Now Being Accepted

This grant program involves scientists, agricultural producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to advance sustainable agriculture at local and regional levels. With the collaboration of producers, projects must integrate rigorous 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 students, 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 documented in scholarly journals and disseminated throughout teaching and educational outreach activities with students, producers, and other agricultural stakeholders.

**Applications are due May 19, 2022.**

**[Click here for more information.](#)**

## **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)**



The primary goal of BFRDP is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and management of nonindustrial private forest lands, through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations and enhance their sustainability. The term “farmer” is used in the broadest sense and may be interpreted to include agricultural farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial private forest owners and managers.

Applications from partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in agricultural training and outreach for beginning producers will be given priority in funding. For more information, refer to the Request for Applications **[here](#)**.

A BFRDP 2022 RFA Webinar will be held on April 06, 2022, 12-2pm MT. Join **[here](#)**.

**Applications are due May 19th.**

**[Click here for more information.](#)**



**USDA Now Accepting  
Applications for the Local  
Food for Schools  
Cooperative Agreement**

## Program, Providing Up To \$200 Million to Purchase Local Food for Schools

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is now accepting applications for the **Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program** (LFS). The LFS program is authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act. The program provides up to \$200 million for non-competitive cooperative agreements with state governments through the purchase of domestic local foods for distribution to schools. The program will help increase local food consumption and build and expand economic opportunity for local and regional, small and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. State governments can now apply for the LFS Program.

**Applications are due June 17th.**

**[Click here for more information.](#)**



### USDA Announces \$35 Million Funding Opportunity to Support Underserved and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced approximately \$35 million in available funding to community-based and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and tribal entities that help historically underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through the USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program). The 2501 Program is administered by the USDA Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement (OPPE).

Eligible 2501 Program applicants include not-for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and a range of higher education institutions serving African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Visit the **2501 Program page** for more information on the 2501 funding opportunity.

Upcoming webinar on **May 2, 2022** - Register **[here](#)**.



## News, Resources & Reading

## USDA Supply Chain Report



In response to President Biden’s Executive Order on “America’s Supply Chains,” USDA published its one-year report on February 2 that outlines the risks and resilience of the US supply chain. The study assesses the opportunities, including today’s significant investment in the meat and poultry sector, that USDA, other Federal agencies and Congress have made over the long-term to infuse stability, improve equity, diversify and expand infrastructure and markets, and transform the food system. The report specifically outlines opportunities to expand local and regional supply chain programming.

Read the report [here](#).



## USDA Resource Guide for Rural Entrepreneurs

USDA Rural Development unveiled a resource guide to help people in rural America start and grow businesses, create good-paying jobs in their communities and strengthen America's economy. The guide features information on how rural entrepreneurs can use USDA and other Federal programs to access financing and other assistance to help start and expand their businesses.

Check out the new resource [here](#).



## From Our Communities

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



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.

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.

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



# 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!



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