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CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight

Adrian Card

Extension State Specialist, Specialty Crops

Adrian Card has worked in local foods in Colorado for the past 30 years as a vegetable farmer in Larimer County and as a student, instructor, and researcher at CSU. He continues that work in his current position directly with farmers, NGOs, ag value chain businesses, researchers, and public sector agencies. His Extension work focuses on produce farm labor, production and market development, public ag education, beginning farmer development, ag community development, and organizational support for the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. He builds bridges to facilitate the health of farms, businesses, people, and the planet. Adrian Card served as the CSU Extension Agent for Agriculture in Boulder County from 2004 – 2022.



Mark Your Calendar

2023 Drought Resiliency Program Tours



The Colorado Ag Water Alliance is hosting a series of tours across the state to showcase projects from the Drought Resiliency Program. Tours are free and open to all. Registration is required. Local producers are encouraged to attend and learn about the projects in their area and opportunities for future funding.

Reserve your seat by [clicking here](#).

Learn about the Drought Resiliency Program
coagwater.org/drought-resiliency-projects

Next tour: **September 5th, 8:30am** in Routt County for a Virtual Fence Demonstration.

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. **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program. For additional dates, check [here](#).

CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **September 12**, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, online
- **September 29**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, online
- **October 6**, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, online
- **October 10**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm, online
- **October 24**, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, online
- **October 27**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, online



Colorado Agrivoltaics Symposium at CSU Spur Campus

Join us for an Agrivoltaics Symposium at CSU's Spur Campus on **Wednesday, September 13th from 9am-4pm**.

The CSU Spur Campus is located at:
4777 National Western Dr. in Denver, CO 80216

RSVP is required. Please register at [this link](#).

This all day event will feature numerous speakers and facilitated discussions that will kick off with Dean James Pritchett of CSU's College of Agricultural Sciences and former Governor Bill Ritter (2007-2011).

Topics will center on Colorado's energy transition and agriculture, the current state of agrivoltaics in Colorado, an industry panel conversation, poster session discussions which will highlight developing our shared vision for agrivoltaics in Colorado and how we can coordinate our efforts. The day will conclude with an informal networking session.

*Coffee will be available at 8:30am, with speakers beginning at 9am and lunch will be served by Spur's feature cafe, Western Daughters- GF and vegetarian options available.

Thank you to our sponsors: CSU's College of Agricultural Sciences and CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension.

Webinar on US Farm Households' Social and Economic Needs and the Future of Agriculture

U.S. Farm Households'
Social and Economic
Needs and the Future
of Agriculture



Farm Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are hosting a one-day, virtual conference on September 13, 2023 focused on U.S. farm households' social and economic needs.

Through a mix of paper presentations and panel discussions, the goal of this one-day conference is to:

1. broaden the long-standing body of work seeking to understand why, how, and which farm families are able to cultivate successful farm businesses in the face of on-going changes and the inherent instability of the agricultural sector,
2. initiate the scientific debate on the linkages between farm households' social and economic needs, social policies, and farm business development,
3. develop new networks of family farm scholars and practitioners working on these topics, and
4. better understand data available to understand these relationships, as well as identify data gaps.

Conference contributors will also have the opportunity to submit a paper for inclusion in a special issue of the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*.

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



Historic Welby Days

Welby Days is an historic community event and fundraiser that dates back to the 1940s. This community event gives residents of the Welby neighborhood and surrounding unincorporated Adams County neighborhoods access to farm fresh locally grown food. The Welby area is unique in the

fact that much of the open land is still farmed, yet residents have no place to purchase the food locally. They currently host a harvest themed farmer's market once a year but hope to one day grow it into a monthly event.

In addition to produce, fall flowers, and shrubs, residents that attend can participate in a car and tractor show, a children's area, vendor booths and they have the opportunity to meet with service providers and local elected officials.

This event will take place on **September 16th, 2023 from 9am to 3pm.**

Location:
Rotella Park
1824 Coronado Pkwy N,
Denver, CO 80229
September 16, 2023 9am-3pm

[Click here](#) for vendor registration or to become a volunteer.

You're Invited to Ag Day at Colorado State University!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Celebrate our Aggie roots and traditions at Ag Day! Festivities start at the **Nutrien Ag Day Barbecue** with local food, music, and activities for all ages. Then, head to the football field to cheer on the Colorado State University Rams against the Utah Tech Trailblazers. The best part? Your participation helps support student scholarships at CSU!

Saturday, September 30th, 2023. CSU Campus, Fort Collins

1pm: Nutrien Ag Day Barbecue | West Lawn

4pm: Football Kickoff | Canvas Stadium

For those with CSU, if you want to volunteer at the Nutrien Ag Day Barbecue, you can also [click here](#) to sign up. When you volunteer, you get a free ticket for the barbecue, an official Nutrien Ag Day Barbecue T-shirt, and a code for discounted football tickets.

If you have questions or wish to purchase tickets directly, please contact the CSU Ticket Office at (800) 491-RAMS (7267).



19th Annual – First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) Conference

The conference will include sessions in 1994 land-grant teaching, extension programs and research that benefit Native American students, communities, governments, and lands. There will be a strong student focus and tribal college students are especially invited to participate and present their work. The conference will also include a USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) update, training workshops, information-sharing, and networking opportunities.

FALCON 2023 registration is now open.

What: 19th Annual – First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (**FALCON**)

When: **October 13-15, 2023**

Where: Hilton Denver City Center, Denver, Colorado

Additional **FALCON conference information** is available as a downloadable PDF.

Drive Lead Succeed Conference in Grand Junction, CO

The EDCC's Drive|Lead|Succeed Conference will be taking place in the picturesque city of Grand Junction in 2023! The aim for #DLS2023 is to provide a comprehensive platform for fostering a growing Colorado economy by equipping attendees with the knowledge, tools, and connections they need to succeed.

Attendees can look forward to quality collaboration, exchanging fresh, new ideas, and networking with leading Economic Development professionals, business and non-profit leaders, government officials, and more. Dawn Thilmany and Tim Komarek will be hosting a team from CSU, so contact them if you are interested.



[Click here](#) for more details.

When: **Oct. 18-20, 2023**
Where: Grand Junction Convention Center

New Transdisciplinary Approaches Webinar Series by USDA NIFA



Join this webinar series highlighting opportunities and challenges of transdisciplinary approaches within agricultural research. **The first webinar in the series** looks at the what and why of transdisciplinary approaches, and **the second focuses on the science of team science**. Follow the links to sign up for the first two webinars in the series, and stay tuned for more webinars on the horizon. If you have questions, you can reach out to **Jessica Shade**.

Upcoming Webinar

Title: The Science of Team Science

Date: Wednesday December 6, 2023 at 12pm PT/3pm ET

Register: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/about-us/events/transdisciplinary-approaches-webinar-dec2023>

Speakers:

- Jeni Cross, Colorado State University
- Anne Mook, Colorado State University

Farm to Loading Dock Support

Please come and share what technical assistance you have received (or provide) or would like to receive (or provide) in order to make farm to loading dock (all activities from farm to the school, institution, childcare, etc.) successful across Colorado.



During this convening, new resources for stakeholders and the results of work to identify existing technical assistance providers and remaining gaps will be shared. There will also be presented a plan to support better state level coordination of "farm to

loading dock" efforts (up until the product reaches the school, institution, childcare facility, etc.). Getting input on this plan is key! The hope is that this plan can leverage new funding that will be available from the state to better support lasting, profitable, and healthy "farm to..." initiatives and supply chain relationships. Please join if you want to be involved in this exciting and quickly developing market opportunity. All those involved in getting food and agricultural products from the farm to institution are invited – producers, ranchers, distributors, food service directors, non-profits, government. Lunch will be provided.

December 7, 2023 | 10am - 2pm
CSU SPUR | 4777 National Western Drive, Denver, CO

Registration will open September 11th: <http://cofoodsummit.com/>

Colorado Food Summit

The 2023 Colorado Food Summit will bring together food and agriculture stakeholders from across the state to help build shared understanding of the complex opportunities and challenges facing our food and agriculture systems. The Summit aims to inspire collaborative action towards a more resilient and equitable food future in the face of uncertainty (e.g., pandemic, drought, inflation, supply chain shortages) through panel presentations, storytelling, creative presentations, and facilitated networking. We encourage anyone connected to Colorado's food system to be a part of this important discussion.



December 7-8, 2023
Stockyards Event Center | Denver, Colorado

Registration will open September 11th: <http://cofoodsummit.com/>



Funding Opportunities

USDA Seeks Partner to Evaluate Impact of Food Supply Chain Funding



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is inviting proposals to evaluate the impact of the agency's grant and loan programs on regional food supply chains.

The agency is making \$750,000 available to measure how well USDA Rural Development programs are creating market opportunities for small- and mid-sized farmers and independent agricultural businesses throughout the food supply chain.

The agency is making funds announced available to show how the USDA Rural Development's investments in local and regional food supply chains have:

- Created a more resilient, diverse and secure food system.
- Resulted in more fair and accessible food systems with more and better market opportunities.
- Led to more economically viable farm and food businesses and healthy rural communities.

To be eligible for the funding, an organization must be a public or private sector institution with five or more years of experience conducting research on U.S. food systems or evaluations of federally funded programs to strengthen food supply chains.

Additional information on this funding opportunity is available at [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov). Completed applications must be submitted via Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on **Sept. 8, 2023**.

Wine and Grape Industry Processing Grant

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will award a total of \$250,000 in competitive grants to fund projects that increase the processing capacity in the Colorado wine industry. Funding for this program comes from [Senate Bill 21-248](#).



The Markets Division's Farm to Market Infrastructure Program has worked with CDA's Colorado Wine Industry Development Board to create this program to benefit the wine grape industry as broadly and as fairly as possible, by increasing the industry's processing capacity.

This grant will help winegrowers purchase new equipment and invest in facilities to increase productivity and improve the quality of both grapes and finished wines.

Applications are due by **11:59pm on Friday, September 29th**. For more information, or to apply, [click here](#).



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. Adrian Card works alongside SARE and can answer questions on the program

Proposals are due October 25, 2023.

Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.

Grants for Professionals and Producers Available

This grant program involves an agricultural technical advisor (main applicant) and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of at least three producers, projects must integrate 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 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 shared with other producers. \$75,000 limit/one-three years in scope.

Proposals are due October 31, 2023

Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA FSA's Organic
Cost Share Now Open for
2023**

This year the Farm Service Agency increased the cost share amount under the **Organic Certification Cost Share Program** (OCCSP). FSA will cover up to 75% of costs associated with organic certification, up to \$750 for crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and state organic program fees (California

only). OCCSP will cover costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023.

Applications are now open, and due **Oct. 31, 2023**. To apply, producers and handlers should contact the FSA at their local **USDA Service Center**. FSA is also accepting applications from state departments of agriculture to administer OCCSP.

Professional Development Program Accepting Grant Proposals



Professional Development Program grants focus on educating and training agricultural professionals to increase their understanding of and proficiency in sustainable agriculture so they, in turn, can educate and train other agricultural professionals. In a “train the trainer” fashion, this program focuses on increasing knowledge and capacity for agricultural stakeholders to provide further training and information to other agricultural professionals and producers.

Projects can be up to 3 years and may be funded up to \$100,000. Proposals are due **November 1, 2023**. For more information, see the call for proposals [here](#).



Research to Grassroots Program Accepting Grant Proposals

The Western SARE Research to Grassroots grant program is intended to address the barrier(s) to application/adoption of sustainable agriculture practices as identified in previous SARE research by clearly demonstrating to agriculture professionals and/or producers the environmental, social, and economic viability of the previous research and the benefits and challenges that selected previous work may present.

Successful proposals must incorporate the research results from SARE-funded research projects and bring those results into the field through education for ag professionals and producers, emphasizing the strengths and barriers to adoption of the selected previous work, ultimately helping to increase producer confidence in adopting sustainable agriculture practices.

Projects can be up to 3 years and may be funded up to \$100,000. Proposals are due **November 1, 2023**. For more information, see the call for proposals [here](#).

USDA Announces MPEPP Round 2 Grant Program

USDA Rural Development announced Round 2 of the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). The MPPEP provides grants to help

eligible processors expand their processing capacity, which creates new, better and more processing options for meat and poultry producers. 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.



Who can apply for this program?

Entities that engage or plan to engage in meat and poultry processing, including private, non-profit, tribal, cooperative, state or local government, among other entities. Private entities must be independently owned and operated. All entities must be domestically owned, and their meat and poultry processing facilities must be physically located and operated within the U.S. or its territories.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used for expenses during the period of performance of the grant award to expand processing capacity by supporting activities such as:

- Building, modernizing, or expanding existing – processing facilities, including mobile slaughter units
- Purchasing an inoperable facility
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Offsetting cost associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Staffing or operational costs specifically tied to the proposed project
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

For more information, [visit the Grants.gov page here.](#)



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 loans will be available 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.

Colorado contact information for Rural Development and its regional offices can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-page/colorado-contacts>.



News, Resources & Reading



September 18-24 is Colorado Bean Week!

The Colorado Dry Bean Committee is thrilled to announce the first official Colorado Bean Week! Governor Jared Polis has proclaimed September 18 – 24, 2023 as Colorado Bean Week. Join us in celebrating!

If you are looking for ways to join in the celebration of Colorado Bean Week, here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Enjoy Colorado beans in the kitchen. If you're looking for recipe inspiration, the Colorado Dry Bean Committee has you covered! [Explore our delicious recipe ideas here.](#)
- [Watch this farm-to-table video about Colorado beans.](#) This video shares the story of Colorado beans being made into tasty, healthy, local products.
- Browse past [events](#) to see what Colorado Beans has “bean” up to. The Committee has done some fun events, like the [Bean Summit](#) and participating in [CSU Ag Day](#). Come join in future events!
- Follow beans on social media. The Committee shares photos from the field and recipe ideas, keep you up-to-date about upcoming events, and more. You can find them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Continue the celebration! Colorado Bean Week is a reminder of how important beans are to local food systems, and how they can support both human and environmental health. The party shouldn't stop after September 24th, though. Consider making Colorado beans a regular part of your routine.

Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship Accepting Applications

The HSFP Fellowship Program will develop the next generation of diverse leaders in scratch-cook school food operations that can support a sustainable program and drive school food reform. Over a 12-month period, operators will grow their skills, knowledge and abilities through live, virtual learning sessions; in-person site visits and training; asynchronous, self-led instruction; and engagement within their own districts to implement their new ideas.



Fellows will graduate from the program empowered to operate successful self-run, scratch-cook meal programs and advocate for serving fresh and healthy meals to students. If you have an interest in advancing your career in school food service leadership, the Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship is the program for you. The fellowship program is open to school food professionals across the country thanks to our founding partners Whole Kids Foundation and the state of CA.

The application for the national Fellowship is open now until **October 1, 2023**. Click [here](#) for more information.



SNAP Online is coming to a farm near you!

Thanks to a new pilot program from the USDA, farmers across the United States can now accept SNAP/EBT payments online through **GrownBy**.

Interested farmers can start the process or learn more by completing this survey: <https://forms.gle/TWyorDhJkzqqoHBt9>.



From Our Communities

Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center news

As one of the USDA's 12 Regional Food Business Centers, the Colorado State University and Oregon State University teams are laying the groundwork for the first



technical assistance and grant programs to emerge from this new regional Center.

Our web site launch in October will provide information on educational and technical support programs for small- and mid-sized food and farm businesses, beginning in January 2024, as well as an update on the new Business Builder Grant Program (financial assistance through subawards of up to \$100,000 to support projects focused on regional needs and businesses that are working towards expansion and other investment. These subawards may support staff time, business planning activities, software implementation, the purchase of special purpose equipment, such as food safety, processing and packaging equipment, and value chain coordination, and other expenses).

To receive updates about the NW and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center sign up here: <https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/>.

For other press, see the links below:

- [CSU's announcement](#)
- [The Coloradan](#)
- [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#)



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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Food Systems CSU | <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu>

