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CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights

Sionegael Ikeme

Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics



Sionegael Ikeme is a half-French, half-Japanese, first-year Ph.D. student in the department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. She completed a bachelor's and a master's in Agricultural Engineering at L'institut Agro in France (also known as Agrocampus Ouest). Additionally, she received a MS in Applied Economics from Korea University, where her masters thesis analyzed the effect of EU membership on the agricultural sector of Baltic countries. She previously worked on price discovery as a research intern in the Economic Department of the French National Research Institute for Agriculture and Environment. Her current research interests involve food systems, industrial organization, market access, agribusiness, and marketing.

Dr. John Ritten

Dept. of Ag and Resource Economics



John Ritten is an agricultural economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and a member of the AgNext team at CSU. AgNext is a leader in research on animal and ecosystem health while enhancing profitability of the supply chain. Prior to joining CSU, John served as the University of Wyoming's state Agricultural Systems Extension specialist for 14 years where he worked across livestock and cropping systems. His research interests include the intersection of agricultural production and natural resource management, especially in relation to sustainability and system resiliency. He received a BS in Marketing from Arizona State University, an MBA from New Mexico State University, and a PhD in Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University.

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

Join us for an exploration of recent trends important to specialty crops and local markets.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

View previous webinars [here](#).



Mark Your Calendar

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 (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:

- **February 8**, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **February 9**, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
- **February 22**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **March 7**, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
- **March 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **March 14**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **April 21**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



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Ag Producers: Tune up Your Taxes

Join ag business management specialist, Jeff Tranel, on **February 6** from 6:00pm-7:30pm for a class on agricultural taxes.

Topics covered will include:

- Farm/Ranch (Schedule F) income & expenses
- Cost recovery (depreciation)
- Reporting on Schedule C versus Schedule F
- Tax management strategies
- Time for questions

This class is free but you must **register** to attend.

2023 AgrAbility Winter Workshops

Registration for the 2023 AgrAbility workshops is now open. The following program will be offered at each location:

- Introduction to the Colorado AgrAbility Project
- Ergonomic safety and health in agriculture
- Drought and the CO River, perspectives for agriculture
- Resiliency and stress management on the farm and ranch

Programs will take place at the following locations:

- **February 10:** 10am-2:30pm at the El Paso County Extension Office in Colorado Springs
- **February 17:** 10am-2:30pm at the Logan County Extension Office in Sterling
- **February 23:** 3pm-7:30pm at the Ault-Pierce Fire Station #2
- **March 1:** 10am-2:30pm at the Community Building in Limon

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

Grain School Online 2023

The University of Colorado 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:

- Farming and processing (**Feb 2-24**)
- Health and nutrition (**March 2-31**)
- Community (**April 6-28**)

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

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

Farm Bill Decisions Webinar hosted by CSU Extension

The deadline for farmers to make their ARC/PLC decisions for the 2023 crop year is fast approaching. In an effort to provide growers with the most up to date information needed to make this important



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decision, CSU Extension and the USDA Farm Service Agency have teamed up to conduct a Farm Bill Decisions webinar.

The webinar will be held Tuesday, **February 7th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm**. Topics to be addressed are: the mechanics of ARC/PLC and the limitations of ARC-IC for fruit and vegetable producers, the payment outlook in 2023 for ARC-CO/PLC for the major program crops in Colorado and managing the 2023 margin squeeze.

The webinar is free but you must preregister at this web link:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlduygrDMiGdHZrPz1udIQMAhvPM5eYa_Z



**PUEBLO
FOOD
PROJECT**

Ready to level up your food business? Pueblo Food Project is hosting the second season of the Entrepreneur Development Program! This collaborative effort between the Pueblo Food Project, CSU Extension and the CSU Institute for Entrepreneurship explores a number of topics, including marketing, finance, bookkeeping, supply chains and food safety.

Classes begin Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30 pm and will run through the Spring of 2023.

This course is free! Applications are open now! More information at; [Pueblo Food Project's Facebook page](#)

Email entp@pueblofoodproject.org for more information.

2023 Value Added Grant Series

The Food Finance Institute is offering a USDA Value Added Producer Grant Applications training series in preparation for the RFP to be released in February.



These sessions are timed to help you best prepare for this (or the next) VAPG cycle. This series includes [Tribal Producer VAPG Boot Camp](#) (first session – Feb 13), and [Producer VAPG Boot Camp](#) (Feb 23-24). Registration is available at the program links.



Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association 2023 Annual Conference

Register now for CFVGA's annual conference, which will take place on **February 21-22, 2023** in Westminster.

The conference kicks off at noon Feb. 21 with a luncheon and membership meeting. The Tuesday (Feb. 21) evening keynote session, "Agriculture Climate Resiliency Tools and Policy Opportunities," will feature A.G. Kawamura, former secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Conference attendees will be able to choose from a variety of educational sessions, including the latest in research and production practices, food safety techniques and exploration of drip irrigation. Sessions also will be available on the Ag Labor Rights & Responsibilities Act (ALRRRA), also known as SB21-087, and practical workforce resources gleaned from farmworker ergonomic research conducted during the summer of 2022.

The conference also will feature a full slate of exhibitors showcasing produce production goods and services. The conference will wind up on day two with the grower-buyer networking session.

For more information and to register, click [here](#). (Early bird registration ends February 15th).

Free Online Bean Class



Join CSU Extension on **Friday, February 24th from 12- 1 pm**

MST for a lunch and learn. In this class, we'll discuss beans from field to table. For example, did you know that Colorado is one of the top bean-producing states? Or maybe you wonder whether you actually need to soak beans? We'll also share some creative and tasty recipe ideas to get you thinking outside the box on how you can enjoy more of this delicious, nutritious, and sustainable food.

This class is part of a PhD project and was supported by a Colorado Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Please register

here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LFfnKMDiSsCmZmMF5Ae0ig and share with your networks.

Contact chelsea.didinger@colostate.edu with any questions.

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 emerging 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 [here](#) for more information.

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

New Agrarian Leadership Grant

Quivira Coalition's New Agrarian Program is excited to offer its first **Colorado New Agrarian Leadership Grant**. Thanks to the Colorado Department of Agriculture's NextGen Ag



Leadership Grant, Quivira is offering up to \$1000 to any beginning agrarian (with ten or fewer consecutive years of experience as an operator of a farm or ranch) across Colorado to participate in leadership opportunities that will further their careers in agriculture. A total of \$12,000 is available to be awarded. This can include registration for workshops, conferences, field days, webinars, or other training opportunities that expand your leadership capacity.

Applications will open on **February 6th, 2023**, and will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funds are distributed.



Funding for Innovative Water Usage

LOR's Field Work initiative will provide funding for research into innovative approaches to using water in agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers in rural parts of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming are eligible for up to \$10,000 to implement innovative water projects in the face of unprecedented drought. Applications will open will be accepted from **Feb. 1, 2023 to Feb. 22, 2023**.

To apply, click [here](#).

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Grant Funding



The Denver Department of Public Health & Environment provides healthy food access to children through the **Healthy Food for Denver's Kids program**. Nonprofits, schools and city agencies can apply for grants to improve access to healthy food and food-based education. The fourth funding round for HFDK is **open now**. The deadline to submit the eligibility form and a letter of interest is **February 6, 2023**. **Sign up for the HFDK email list** to receive updates. Email jessica.murison@denvergov.org with questions.



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

The CO Dept. of Agriculture
Offering Funding to Businesses

Hiring Interns

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) **Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP)** is offering funding to businesses hiring interns for the 2023 growing season. The AWDP provides financial incentives to Colorado farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses to hire interns and provide them with the hands-on training needed to begin a career in agriculture. Qualified businesses may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the actual cost of hiring an intern, up to \$5,000, in exchange for providing an educational experience to the intern. Since the program was created in 2018, CDA has funded more than 75 internships at farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses across the state (25 in 2022 alone).

To apply, qualifying agricultural businesses must complete [an online application](#) found on CDA's website (ag.colorado.gov/awdp). Applications are **open now** and will be accepted **through February 10, 2023**.

Fellowship Fund for Beginning Veteran Farmers



The Farmer Veteran Coalition has opened applications for their Fellowship Fund, which is a grant program designed to purchase equipment for veterans in the beginning years of launching an agricultural business. The application will remain open until **February 14**.

For more info and eligibility details, visit the [Fellowship page](#).

Rural Business Development Program Grants Available



Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development is seeking applications for **grants that will support entrepreneurs and create jobs in rural America**. These projects will use local rural materials or human resources, and must be consistent with local and area-wide community and economic development plans. Applications must be submitted by 4:30pm local time on **Feb. 28, 2023**.

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



Committed to the future of rural communities.

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

Summer Benefits Included in Congress's Consolidated Appropriations Act

The recently passed government spending bill for fiscal year 2023 includes a permanent nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program and a non-congregate summer food option in rural areas with no existing congregate meal service. The Summer EBT Program will begin in summer 2024 (as summer 2023 will continue to be covered by the Pandemic EBT Program) and will provide \$40 per summer month to eligible students.



More information on this and other provisions can be found [here](#).



MEALS MATTER

The FRAC Is Hosting a Webinar Series to Support Summer 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 are three webinars left in the series. These webinars are held at 3pm ET on the dates below. Click the links to register.

- February 9: **Summer Meals: Recruiting and Retaining Meal Sites**
- February 23: **Summer Meals: Planning and Partnerships**
- March 9: **Summer Meals: Developing an Outreach and Marketing Plan**

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



From Our Communities

Collaborative grant will bring new funding to food systems in El Paso, Pueblo, and Fremont counties



The Central Colorado Foodshed Partnership is making substantial efforts to support the regional economy and Coloradans' health by developing an understanding of the area's food systems and enacting a strategic plan that will encourage connections between farmers and consumers. The partnership is a collaborative effort led by El Paso County Health and supported by a \$147,000 USDA planning grant that includes CSU Extension, El Paso County, JH Consulting, LLC, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and the City of Colorado Springs Office of Innovation.

Read more about these efforts [here](#), and stay tuned for ways to participate in community discussions for this project.



CSU Extension Summer Internships: Applications due soon

Applications for the CSU Summer Extension Internships are due **Feb. 10th**. These are open to CSU undergraduate and graduate students. Please share with CSU students from your region or in your network who may want to work on community-based projects.

The internships are an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience learning about and participating in food system development. Over 90 opportunities are available for summer 2023. For more information, visit intern.colostate.edu.



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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