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June 2023 || Newsletter Edition 156

In this issue:

- CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight
- Mark Your Calendar
- Funding Opportunities
- News, Resources, and Reading
- From Our Communities
- About Us
- Stay Connected



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## CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight

## Beth De Lair

Pueblo County CSU Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources

My name is Beth De Lair, and I am the Pueblo County Agriculture & Natural Resource Coordinator. Pueblo is a unique mix of traditional and urban agriculture that spans from portions of the mountains, to desert areas and then onto the plains as our county moves east. I specialize in putting on programs that focus on agriculture on a local scale, assisting in plant identification, range management, community animal response team (C.A.R.T.) education and hands-on small acreage livestock classes. I work closely with the Pueblo County Beekeepers Association and the Pueblo County Stockmen's Association.

I strive to reach people in all ages and stages of their lives to help them understand the benefits of keeping agriculture alive in my community.



## Mark Your Calendar

### 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:

- **June 1**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **June 2**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, online
- **June 6**, 10:00 am-1:30 pm, in-person in Colorado Springs
- **June 8**, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, in-person in Colorado Springs
- **June 9**, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, online
- **June 16**, 9:00 am - 1 pm, online
- **June 20**, 9:00 am -12:00 pm, online
- **July 12**, 5:00 pm - 9 pm, online

- **July 13**, 1 pm - 4 pm, online
- **August 15**, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, online
- **August 18**, 9 am - 1 pm, online
- **August 28**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



## Applications open for Colorado State Fair Food Truck Competition

Calling all Colorado food trucks! Applications are open for the third annual Governor's Plate competition, scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, at the 2023 Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. Now entering its third year, the food truck competition has quickly become a favorite activity for fairgoers and food lovers. Competing trucks must be registered as members of **Colorado Proud**. Each truck will prepare and serve 500 sample-size portions of their signature dish to Governor Polis and competition guests.

Those interested in competing can apply at [ColoradoStateFair.com/governors-plate](https://ColoradoStateFair.com/governors-plate) before the deadline on **June 16 at 5 p.m.**



**COLORADO**<sup>SM</sup>  
FRUIT & VEGETABLE  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

## Workshop: Automated Weeder Demo

Following on the heels of precision agriculture, many are dubbing the use of automated weeders in specialty crops the “next agricultural revolution”. Recent labor recruitment, retention and affordability issues are driving widespread adoption of these machines in California. Colorado growers are facing similar issues and ag tech companies are interested in engaging with growers throughout Colorado.

Join in a first-ever event for Colorado, a demonstration of industry leading vegetable farm automated weeders at the CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center (AVRC) **Friday, June 16**, hosted by CSU Extension and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Contact: Adrian Card, State Specialist, Produce, CSU Extension | 970-491-6968 | [adrian.card@colostate.edu](mailto:adrian.card@colostate.edu).

Colorado commercial fruit and vegetable growers traveling over 100 miles each way to the AVRC are eligible for travel cost reimbursement.

## Webinar: The National Meat Summits Steering Committee

NATIONAL  
EST. 2021

# MEAT SUMMITS

- BUILDING CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE MEAT SUPPLY CHAIN -

Are you working to support meat supply chains in your region? Interested in learning from other efforts happening across the U.S.? Join us for this webinar to learn about the recently formed National Meat Summits Steering Committee, which works to build connections, increase knowledge, grow collective skills and advance market opportunities for local and regional meat supply chains.

The webinar will also share lessons learned from the 2023 Mountain Meat Summit and International Livestock Forum and information about the upcoming regional meat summits (North Carolina and Montana) and future opportunities for collaboration.

This webinar will take place on **June 20th at 12pm MST**

Link for the webinar's zoom: [Click here](#)

## Webinar: Data to Support Local/Regional Food Systems

Does your CITY, REGION, or STATE have its own food systems map, or have you considered creating one? If yes, please join us for this webinar!



When developing a food systems map, having a clear idea of what data to include, and the processes for maintaining it is a vital first step. In this webinar, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) and Colorado State University's Food Systems Institute will explore and showcase a new data resource available to you to help make some of these essential early decisions. The new resource, located at <https://localfoodeconomics.com/data> includes more than 300 indicators developed by representatives of dozens of local and regional food systems organizations through an equity lens. These indicators cover topics including labor, community resources, nutrition security and food access, business development and infrastructure, and local food sales. Hear from members of the team that created and maintain this resource, and join in a discussion around how we can collectively support local, regional, and state food systems data and mapping efforts.

**WHEN: June 21, 2023, noon EST / 9am PST**

**WHERE: <https://zoom.us/j/2254233117>**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Facilitator</b></p>  <p><b>ELA RAUSCH</b></p> | <p><b>Panelist</b></p>  <p><b>ANNELISE STRAW</b></p>       | <p><b>Panelist</b></p>  <p><b>ALLIE BAUMAN</b></p> | <p><b>Panelist</b></p>  <p><b>BECCA JABLONSKI</b></p>     |
| <p>Principal and Consulting Scientist, Otto Rausch Consulting</p>  | <p>Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Local and Regional Foods Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service</p> | <p>Research Scientist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University</p>                              | <p>Co-Director of the Food Systems Institute and Associate Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University</p> |



## San Luis Valley Entrepreneurship Summit

This **June 21st** Summit aims to connect entrepreneurs to one another and provide resources to strengthen regional networks and opportunities to collaborate. It will be held at Adams State University and include an:

- Analysis of local entrepreneurial resources and networks,
- Intensive workshop to dive in and build solutions, and
- Option for entrepreneurs to interface with lenders, training providers, and each other.

The San Luis Valley Entrepreneurship Summit is free for participants and will be partially funded by USDA Rural Development and Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

Entrepreneurs interested in pre-summit preparation have access to Pre-Summit Advising and Virtual Training sessions to build their vision for strengthening the San Luis Valley network and growing opportunities.

**Visit the Event's page for more information and to register!**

# JOIN US!

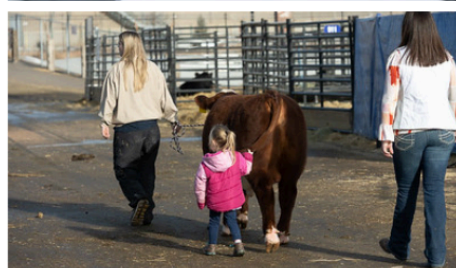
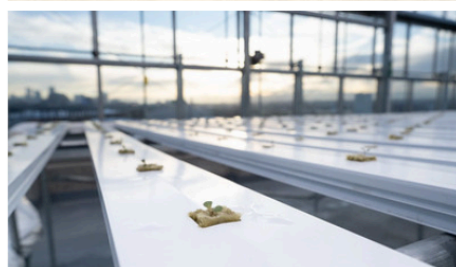
## Colorado Collision Pitch Competition and Happy Hour



Friday, July 21st  
3:30-7:30 P.M.



CSU Spur  
Hydro Building, 4th Floor  
Lounge



All are invited! Come see the champions of Colorado Food Entrepreneurship while enjoying free food/drinks!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



For more information or to reserve your free ticket, click [here](#).

## Annual Grain School in the Field - Cortez, Colorado

Join UCCS Grain School and the Colorado Grain Chain **Friday, August 4th to Saturday, August 5th** for our annual Grain School in the Field in Cortez, Colorado!



This immersive event is a summer camp for farmers, artisan makers, and everyday eaters to connect and learn more about the diversity of Colorado's grain chain.

Through hands-on grain workshops, field tours with local experts, we will trace the grain value chain from farming, milling, to artisan baking, pie making, food culture, history and more! The experience will include delicious local food and a-maiz-ing opportunities to connect with rural links of the grain chain, while learning about

food culture and history, biodiversity, and farming and culinary practices of local grains from spelt to blue corn!

### Scholarships available for farmers and makers!

For program updates, scholarships, and pre-registration, visit: <https://rb.gy/zts7f>



## Funding Opportunities

### Colorado Department of Agriculture Accepting Proposals for the Improvement of Food Access in Colorado Communities



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is seeking proposals from non-profit organizations with connections to communities in Colorado that struggle with access to fresh, healthy food. Submitted proposals should present a plan on how to conduct regional outreach on behalf of CDA's new Community Food Access program. Nonprofit organizations that are selected will promote opportunities for small food retailers and small family farms through the Community Food Access program.

The Community Food Access program will offer one-time grants up to \$25,000 through the Small Food Business Recovery and Resilience Grant. As contractors, the selected nonprofit organizations will ensure these opportunities reach the communities across the state who need them most.

For more information, or to register for an information session, visit [CDA's website](#).

Proposals are due on **June 14, 2023**.

### USDA's New Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) Now Open



USDA AMS will issue up to \$75 million in competitive grants to non-profit organizations, tribal governments, and state and local government entities to fund projects designed to expand and improve markets for domestically produced organic products. OMDG is intended to increase the consumption of domestic agricultural commodities by aiding in the expansion of markets or development of new markets, marketing facilities, and uses for such commodities.

AMS is accepting applications for the program through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) now through **11:59 p.m. ET July 10, 2023**. To view the press release, click [here](#).

## Zero Foodprint Grants Available

Zero Foodprint is offering grant awards of up to \$25,000 to cover costs associated with turning bad atmospheric carbon into good soil carbon on farms or ranches. If interested, consider signing up for the **info session** on **June 15th**. Click [here](#) for more information or to apply for this grant. Applications are due **July 20th**.



## 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 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 between October 25 and November 1, 2023**

Click [here](#) for examples of Colorado projects.

**Learn more and download the Call for Proposals.**

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



**Farm Service Agency**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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 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](#).

## 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.

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

### Data from the 2022 Custom Rates Survey are Now Available



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

Colorado State University Extension annually conducts a survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado. Electronic data were collected from agricultural producers, landowners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents. The results from more than 240 respondents were combined with anecdotal data collected throughout the year. View the completed report, available on the [ABM website](#).

## Twelve New USDA Food Business Centers Announced!

On May 3, USDA announced the creation of 12 new USDA Regional Food Business Centers that will provide national coverage, coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building to help farmers, ranchers, and other food businesses access new markets and navigate federal, state, and local resources, thereby closing the gaps to success.



One of these business centers includes the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center, co-led by Colorado State University and Oregon State University! The CSU Food Systems team will be an integral part of this team and the new Center will let us expand our work.

For more information, view the press release [here](#).

If you want to keep informed, sign up for updates [here](#)



## From Our Communities

## 1st Annual Food Systems Institute Student Symposium was a Success



At the 1st annual Food Systems Institute Student Symposium, CSU students presented the research that they are doing to facilitate new understandings and innovations in a many facets of our food system. Thanks to all who made the event a success, including stakeholder and faculty judges: **Julie Kallenberger** (Camp5 owner), **Abbey Stapleton** (Americorps Fellow with Larimer County), **Luis Alvarez** (Venture Capitalist in agtech industry), and, **Aryn Baxter** (Agricultural and Resource Economics); faculty panelists: **Meagan Schipanski** (Soil & Crop

Sciences), **José Chávez** (Civil & Environmental Engineering, & CSU Extension), **Elizabeth Ryan** (Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences), **Kat Caswell** (Extension & Engagement), & **Michael Carolan** (Sociology & FSI Co-Director); and outstanding student competitors. Thank you especially to **Beth Plombon**, who was the main organizer of this wonderful event.

Congratulations to the three winners of the research communication competition:

1. **Rebecca Wasserman-Olin**, DARE: *Finding community among diversified vegetable farmers and stakeholder-led research*, \$500.
2. **Pratyosh Kashyap**, DARE: *Diffusion of universal free school meals in the United States: Examining factors influencing adoption of community eligibility provision*, \$250.
3. **Jenna Bensko**, FSHN: *Associations between sustainability scores and the likelihood of offering menu items with various protein sources in the top selling US restaurant chains*, \$100.



## 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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