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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Climate Smart Agriculture

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MT

followed by Q & A

Join us for a discussion to explore the intersection of food production, processing, and marketing in the face of climate change. Hear about different initiatives and programs across the state, helping Colorado farmers and ranchers prepare for and respond to greater climate uncertainty. Panelists will include Adrian Card, Jim Ippolito, John Ritten, and a team member from the Drought Advisors team.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

View previous webinars [here](#).



CSU Food System Team Spotlights

Stephen Lauer

CSU Extension Specialist
Southern Region
Agriculture & Food
Expanded Rural Engagement



Stephen Lauer is one of the newly hired specialists for the CSU Extension Rural Initiative supporting thriving communities and food and agriculture production in Colorado's southern region, which includes 15 counties stretching from Mineral County in the west to the eastern border of the state. Stephen is excited to work with county and regional extension educators on community engagement, relationship building, and expanded programming in southern Colorado.

Stephen's professional experience includes helping communities in Kansas and Iowa manage groundwater, alleviate food insecurity, and expand and sustain civic engagement.

Stephen earned a PhD in sociology from Kansas State University, and a Master's degree in sustainable agriculture and community and regional planning from Iowa State University.



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:

- **January 27**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **February 22**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **March 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **April 21**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Cold Chain Management Workshop

This workshop will cover the importance of managing the temperature of your harvest for both quality and safety and will be held on **December 2, 2022 from 10am-3pm** at the El Paso County Extension office.

Program topics include:

- Understanding produce physiology and how pre-cooling systems lead to improved produce quality & maintaining the cold chain
- Cold chain and post-harvest best practices
- Hands-on activities (low-cost technology for monitoring temperature; cleaning and sanitizing coolers)
- Mitigating risks with the system you use, from icing to hydro-cooling to different models of coolers
- Importance of keeping it clean! Food contact surface sanitation and your cold chain practices
- We will have a modified trailer on site with Cool-Bot technology for an "on-site field trip"

For more information contact Michele Ritchie at michele.ritchie@colostate.edu or 719-520-7676.

Register [here](#).

Looking Ahead: Innovations and Programs Supporting Local and Regional Supply Chains Webinar



The COVID Recovery and Resilience fall webinar series will wrap up on **Friday, December 2nd from 12:00 - 1:30 pm ET**.

For the past two years, the USDA AMS COVID Recovery and Resilience Project has been working hard to distill key lessons learned from sectors across the food system in response to the pandemic. The four action teams - Resiliency Playbook, Data and Metrics, the Network of Networks and the Consumer Food Insights - will share key deliverables and next steps. Project leadership will reflect on how this project can help inform LRFS supply innovations and programs in the future.

Register [here](#).

Recordings of previous webinars can be found [here](#).

2022 Soil Revolution Conference

The 2022 Soil Revolution Conference will be held in Boulder, CO on **December 6th**. This conference will present on-the-ground solutions from producers spanning a variety of climate and soil conditions across the county. Speakers include Elizabeth Kaiser, Bob Quinn, and Joe Lanier. This event is hosted by Boulder County Parks & Open Space, CSU Extension, the City of Boulder, USDA-NRCS, and the Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation Districts. Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities are available.



To register or to find more information, go to <https://soilrev.org/>.



Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program

Registration is open for the Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program. This online class covers

the principles of business management, developing a marketing plan, managing risk in your operation, obtaining financing, and more.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 pm, from **January 17-March 7, 2023**. This 8-week class culminates in you presenting your draft business plan to a group of your peers.

Check [here](#) for registration and additional information.



International Livestock Forum and the Mountain Meat Summit

On **January 11-12, 2023** the 9th annual International Livestock Forum and the first Mountain Meat Summit will bring together industry leaders, government professionals, and members of academia to discuss domestic and international livestock and food production. Participants will be invited to join on a unique tour of Colorado's livestock and meat enterprises, behind-the-scenes access to the National Western Stock Show and the new CSU Spur campus.

The event is hosted by Colorado State University's Department of Animal Sciences, the National Western Stock Show, and the National Meat Summit Committee. Register [here](#).

Western Colorado Soil Health, Food & Farm Forum

Connect with farmers, ranchers, and experts in soil health, crops, livestock, and water management. Sessions will focus on maximizing regenerative crop and livestock production, innovative marketing and financial management strategies, soil, health, labor and water issues.



Keynote speakers will include:

- Jim Howell, CEO of Grasslands LLC
 - "Livestock + Management of the Whole = Soil Health"
- Dr. David Johnson, Molecular Biologist at New Mexico State University

- "Regenerating the Diversity of Life in Soils"
- Dr. Lucinda Stuenkel, Owner/Manager of Sunny Day Farms
 - "Serving Cattle a Cover Crop Buffet"
- Zach Wright, Soil Health Educator at Living Soil Compost Lab, LLC
 - "Be a Least Cost Producer. Really."

The Forum will be held **January 27-28** in Montrose, CO. **Register [here](#).**



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.

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 & Processing (Feb 2-24)
- Health & Nutrition (March 2-31)
- Community (April 6-28)

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

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



Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association 2023 Annual Conference

Registration is now open 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 (ALRRA), 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](#).



Funding Opportunities



Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

USDA plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023.

USDA's new **Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops** (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible

expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, **through January 31, 2023**, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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.

Healthy Food Incentive Program Funding Opportunity (RFA #41106)

RFA #41106 is to fund a statewide not-for-profit organization to provide healthy eating incentives to Colorado's low-income populations. These funds are to be used for improving access to fresh Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables ensuring more families have access to healthy food, local farmers gain new customers, and more food dollars stay in the community. It is the General Assembly's intent that the statewide not-for-profit organization awarded can use a portion of this appropriation for administrative expenses up to 5% (e.g., personal services,

supplies, and operating expenses). The remainder of these funds are solely for healthy eating incentives.

The deadline to apply is **December 30, 2022**, 5 p.m. MT. Download the RFA [here](#).

Please reach out to [Ynke Jetske de Koe](#) for more information.



News, Resources & Reading



USDA AMS holds Virtual Workshops on the Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm Insurance Options

In an effort to increase participation in crop insurance options, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) is offering virtual workshops, the last of which is on Dec. 13 – for producers and other stakeholders to learn about recent improvements to the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](#) (WFRP) and the [Micro Farm](#) insurance programs. These insurance options are particularly important to specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers.

RMA will host its final workshop of 2022 via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. MT** ([join the workshop here](#)).

USDA Ag Census Opens in December

Data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture has officially begun. The census is conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service every five years to collect information from all American farmers and ranchers.



USDA is mailing the 2022 Census of Agriculture to producers in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November, followed by paper questionnaires and a prepaid return envelope in **December**. Keep an eye out for this important paperwork!

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

Northern Colorado Foodshed Project Still Accepting Applications for Farm Business Accelerator Program



Ready to start your own farm business? The Foodshed Project Farm Business Accelerator is a 3-year program offering beginning farmers an alternative entry point to establishing a successful farm business. They provide a bridge to business viability for those with existing farm skills through low-cost access to everything needed to manage a successful farm business: land, water, infrastructure, technical support marketing assistance, and business education through CSU Extension's Building Farmers program. Participants will have access to plots starting at ¼ acre up to 1.5 acres, depending on experience, as well as shared access to infrastructure including irrigation, equipment, tools, and storage. Program fees vary depending on plot size and start at \$500 per year.

To learn more or apply, visit their website [here](#).

Application deadline has been extended to December 2nd.



New Interactive Online Map Showcases Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP) Grants across US

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has introduced a new interactive online map that conveys all AMS grant programs within the Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP) from 2006-2020. Users can also search by grant type and theme. There are several Colorado-based projects highlighted in this map, including some very recent winners from our state announced in October 2022.

See various Colorado winners for 2022 here:

[Regional Food System Partnerships](#)
[Local Foods Promotion Program](#)
[Farmers Market Promotion Program](#)

Access the new tool to see all past and current awardees [here](#).



New Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

As part of their efforts to improve equity and access to USDA programs, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has published a new

guide designed to help historically underserved farmers and ranchers navigate the many available programs. The guide encompasses a wealth of information on farm loans, the conservation planning process, risk management, and the specifics of various USDA programs.

The guide, "Get Started: A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers", is available online as a **digital download**. Additionally, the guide can be downloaded in **Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese**. Other languages are available upon request.



From Our Communities

Researchers Recruiting BIPOC Producers' Voices in the Mountains and Plains Region

The USDA AMS has collaborated with Florida A&M and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on a project that seeks to understand how to best support BIPOC farmers in the US. More specifically, the project will:

- evaluate barriers to AMS grant opportunities for socially disadvantaged communities;
- invest in building trust and confidence between these communities and the USDA; and
- take action to rectify inequalities in program access through targeted outreach, training, and technical assistance.

Project leaders are conducting listening sessions and have been able to hear from Black farmers thus far, but are still hoping to hear from Asian, Native American, Hispanic, Japanese, and African farmers or farmer organizations.

For more information or to participate, please **contact Dr. Virginie Zoumenou** at vmzoumenou@umes.edu.



Colorado Passes Universal School Meals for Schoolchildren

Colorado voters passed the Healthy School Meals for All Act, which reimburses school meal providers for free breakfasts and lunches served at public schools. The legislation also creates the "local school food

purchasing technical assistance and education grant program", a statewide nonprofit organization that will distribute grants to fund the supply of Colorado grown, raised, or processed products to public schools. This organization will also

give schools training, equipment, and technical assistance to prepare healthy school meals using less processed and more nutritious ingredients, and will facilitate collaboration between schools, communities, and local food growers.

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



ABOUT FOOD SYSTEMS

at Colorado State University

Food systems are the connections between natural resources, the agricultural and food industries, and the buyers, consumers, and communities to which they contribute. Research, extension and education identify and inform opportunities to bridge how production, supply chains, and eaters respond to changing markets, policy, and the environment. At CSU, we focus on these key areas to train, influence, and communicate ways to connect food-related roles and foster healthy communities, economies, and individuals.



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