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January 1, 2022 || Newsletter Edition 140

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Visit our Website



CSU Food Systems Webinar Series



Stay tuned for information about our upcoming webinar series for Spring 2022!

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



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



Skyler Schuck

M.S. Student
Department of Agricultural Resource and Economics

Skyler is a first-year master's student in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He grew up in Oregon and completed his undergraduate studies at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA with a BA in Economics and BS in Computer Information Systems. Through Skyler's studies and experience as an IT Technician at Cal Lutheran, he discovered his passion for using data systems to provide equitable solutions. At CSU he has been able to apply this passion to real-world problems as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI). His current research involves conducting impact analysis for the best utilization for equitable and inclusive outcomes of Colorado's newest State Park, Fishers Peak State Park, in Trinidad, CO. He greatly enjoys his new life in Fort Collins exploring Old Town, hiking, mountain biking, and visiting extended family.

Karen Crumbaker

Extension Agent in Agriculture and Natural Resources
CSU Larimer County Extension

Karen has been with CSU Extension since 2006 and with Larimer County Extension since 2009 as the Extension Agent in Ag/Natural Resources. One of the main focuses of her position is working with the many new landowners in Larimer County on best management practices for their small acreages. This includes pasture and grazing management, weed identification and management, and native plant identification. Three major

natural disasters have occurred in Larimer County in the past 8 years and Karen has provided educational programming and resources to homeowners affected by these disasters, and conducted programs on emergency preparedness. Karen coordinates the Native Plant Master Program and Colorado Building Farmer/Ranchers program and brings radon awareness to homeowners by providing valuable information on radon and its health effects and distributing free radon test kits.



Mark Your Calendar



Keeping Your Livestock Healthy Webinar Series

Animal Health Biosecurity Plans and Best Management Practices for Farms

FREE Weekly Webinar Series: **January 4 - March 1, 2022.**

No matter the size of the operation, understanding disease risk factors and prevention measures are crucial to the livelihood and well-being of farmers raising livestock and poultry species, and to the health of their animals. This 8-part webinar series is geared towards small-scale operations to help them prepare, prevent and evaluate their farm biosecurity plans.

Register for the free webinar series [HERE](#).

Visit Farm PPE's website [HERE](#).

Please contact Ragan Adams, CSU Veterinary Extension: radams@colostate.edu for any questions.

Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID: Recovery and Resilience Webinar Series



FREE Monthly Webinar Series: **January 4 - March 1, 2022**

Join us for the first installment of the Recovery and Resilience webinar series: **“The New Normal: How LRFS are leveraging lessons of COVID for current and future disruptions”** on **Friday, January 14, 2022, from 10:00 - 11:30 PM MST.**

By identifying the strengths and vulnerabilities of local and regional food systems in times of crisis, LRFS leaders are developing immediate-, mid- and long-term strategies for fostering equitable and resilient food systems.

Register for the webinar **HERE** and review 2021 archived webinars recordings and summaries on the **project website**.

Colorado Building Farmers Program Now Accepting Applications



BUILDING FARMERS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Starting January 12, 2022 through March 2, 2022, Colorado Building Farmers classes will begin in Larimer, Chaffee, El Paso, La Plata, Archuleta and Montezuma Counties, and run for 8 weeks. Classes times are 6:00 – 8:30 pm on Wednesdays and this year’s classes will be a combination of in-person and online meetings. Inquire with each program manager below for an application and to obtain county-specific program information:

- Larimer: Karen Crumbaker (970-498-6003; crumbakm@co.larimer.co.us)
- Chaffee: Kurt Jones (719-539-6447; kurt.jones@colostate.edu)
- El Paso: Michele Ritchie (719-520-7676; michele.ritchie@colostate.edu)
- La Plata: Darrin Parmenter (970-382-6465; darrin.parmenter@co.laplata.co.us)
- Archuleta: Robin Young (970-264-5931; robin.young@colostate.edu)
- Montezuma: Emily Lockard (Emily.Lockard@colostate.edu) and Greg Felsen (Gregory.Felsen@colostate.edu; 970-564-4155)

See the **website** for more information and to access applications.



Western Colorado Food & Farm Forum

The Western Colorado Food & Farm Forum is the Western Slope’s foremost agriculture conference. The 2022 conference marks the 10th annual event and will be a return to an in-person event! We are so excited to learn together with local, regional and international speakers sharing their latest research and innovations, on January 21-22, 2022. 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 that include: 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.

- **January 20**, 12:00 - 3:30 pm
- **January 21**, 9:00 - 1:00 pm
- **February 18**, 9:00 - 1:00 pm
- **March 9**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- **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 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



CFVGA 2022 Annual Conference Registration Now Open

CFVGA is launching its first hybrid annual conference **Feb 28 - March 1, 2022**, at the newly renamed **Renaissance Denver Central Park** (3801 Quebec St., Denver, CO).

The conference will be in-person and online. Members get discount pricing. Exhibitor registration is open as well. Use the tabs at the top of the conference website to learn more and register.

Check out the agenda and register [HERE](#).

For more information click [HERE](#).

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and Colorado Department of Agriculture will be hosting two online Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings:

- **February 8-9, 2022** (2 half days via Zoom). Register [here](#).



- **March 15-16, 2022** (2 half days via Zoom). Registration opening soon.

The course will provide a foundation on the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. For more information on produce safety training options, visit <http://www.coproducesafety.org/>.



Funding Opportunities

CDA Now Accepting Applications for 2022 Agricultural Workforce Development Program Internships



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is now accepting business applications for the 2022 Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP). The AWDP provides financial incentives to farms, ranches, and other 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% of the actual cost of hiring an intern, up to \$5,000 per internship. Internships can begin as early as April 2022.

The open application period: **November 23, 2021, to January 7, 2022**

For questions, contact Jennifer Benson, AWDP program manager, at jennifer.benson@state.co.us

[Click here for more information.](#)



USDA Builds Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and

education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. USDA will make \$20 million available through the new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) as part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, which provides

new, broader, and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and producers.

Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during 2020, 2021, and 2022 fiscal years. Read the full USDA Farm Services Agency announcement for full details on how to apply.

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be **Nov. 8, 2021, through Feb 4, 2022**. Producers apply through their local Farm Service Agency office and can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

[Click here for more information.](#)

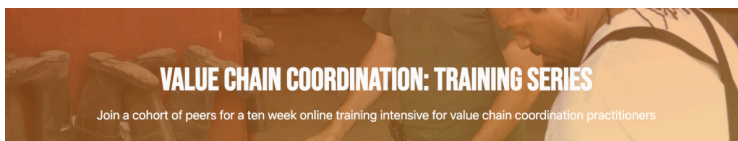
Farm to School Grant Program

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service expects to award approximately \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the **Farm to School Grant Program** in FY 2022. Each grant helps implement farm-to-school programs that increase access to local food in Child Nutrition Program meals, connect children with agriculture for better health, and inspire youth to consider careers in agriculture. Since the program's inception in 2013, USDA has awarded nearly \$64 million through Farm to School Grants, funding 896 projects across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico, reaching over 22 million students in more than 54,000 schools.



Applications due **January 10, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)



Value Chain Coordination Training Intensive Series

This five-part, virtual training series will focus on how to organize and prioritize Value Chain Coordination (VCC) activities that make local food systems more resilient. People doing VCC work are often market matchmaking, providing technical assistance, and convening stakeholders. This work doesn't always involve packing boxes or running delivery routes, but is critical to a collaborative and values-based food system. Our goal is to help you develop place-based food economies that support whole communities. Participants will gain a clear understanding of VCC history, tangible steps for coordination in your region, and

establish connection to experienced peers and mentors who are performing and supporting VCC in food systems across the country.

The training will take place **every other Friday from 11-1pm MST**. We ask that participants who apply be able to attend all five sessions.

- Module 1: Foundations of Value Chain Coordination (Feb. 11th)
- Module 2: Roles of VCC (Feb. 25th)
- Module 3: Strategies and Partnerships of VCC (Mar. 4th)
- Module 4: Mapping a Value Chain (Mar. 18th)
- Module 5: Measuring Impact of VCC (Apr. 1st)

This training is supported through Wallace Center's 2020 Local Food Promotion Program Grant so it is **FREE** to participants.

Applications due **January 10, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)

Sabbatical Research and Education Grant

Sabbatical Grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers of the Western U.S. region. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied geographic locations are of special interest.

Grant opens: **January 20, 2022**

[Click here for more information.](#)

Program Education and Outreach Enhancement Grant

These grants are for projects that enhance effective outreach and engagement among the agricultural community of the West and Pacific Islands. Current practices for producer education methods need re-evaluation and improvement to better accommodate the learning styles of diverse producer groups.

Applications due: **February 1, 2022**



[Click here for more information.](#)

\$700K in Specialty Crop Block Grants available for Colorado Producers



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

The annual application period is now open for the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program (SCBGP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). CDA is accepting applications for the grant program in the form of a concept proposal.

Concept proposals must be received electronically, at cda_scbgp@state.co.us, by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022.**

USDA partners with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade, and nutrition. Priorities for Colorado's specialty crop program include: supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers, scaling-up high-value agriculture and diverse market opportunities, and promoting and incentivizing soil, water, and climate stewardship.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant (FFWR)



USDA is accepting applications for the new Farm and Food Workers Relief (FFWR) grant program. The program will provide \$665 million to fund competitive grant applications to provide relief to farmworkers and meatpacking workers who incurred pandemic-related health and safety costs. Eligible state agencies, tribal entities, and non-profit organizations serving farmworkers and meatpacking workers can apply now for grants ranging from \$5 million to \$50 million.

Grant is currently open and is due **February 8, 2022.**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance to the FFWR grant program at FFWRGrants@usda.gov.

Graduate Student Research and Education Grant



This grant program involves full-time graduate students enrolled in an accredited university of Western U.S., their academic advisor, and at least one producer implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture.

Projects must integrate rigorous research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture—environmental, economic, and social. 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 educational outreach activities.

Grant program is currently open and applications are due **February 22, 2022**.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Farm-To-Market Grants to Help Create Greater Resilience in Colorado's Food Supply Chain



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will distribute up to \$2 million in grant funding for agricultural processing projects to help farmers, ranchers, food processors, and manufacturers improve local food systems and drive the development and expansion of agricultural value-added projects.

Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural processing businesses are eligible to apply if they are residents of and operate in the state of Colorado. The maximum grant award amount for any one project is \$150,000.

Applications will be reviewed in **two award periods**. The first award period closed on **November 30, 2021**, and the second award period is open through **February 28, 2022**. For each award period, \$1 million is available for grants, with up to \$2 million to be awarded by June 30, 2022.

To apply, businesses must submit an [online application form](#). Applications will be received on a rolling basis during the two award periods outlined above.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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. The 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 opportunity for local and socially disadvantaged producers.

Applications are due April 5, 2022.

[Click here for more information.](#)



News, Resources & Reading



USDA Distributes \$1.5 Billion to Strengthen School Meal Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is providing up to \$1.5 billion to states and school districts to help school meal program operators deal with the challenges of supply chain disruptions brought on by the pandemic. As the administration continues to work towards Building a Better America by investing in communities, the funding announced today will help to provide our nation’s children with the nutritious foods they need to thrive.

With funding made available through **USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation**, USDA will provide \$1 billion for schools to purchase food for their meal programs and another \$300 million for states to purchase foods to be distributed to schools. An additional \$200 million will be used for cooperative agreements to purchase local foods for schools with a focus on buying from historically underserved producers. A state-by-state breakdown of funds can be found in [this table](#).

National Center for Appropriate Technology Launches the AgriSolar Clearinghouse



Solar developments are expected to cover 3 million acres of land in the next ten years. Under traditional solar development, some of these lands could be taken over for energy-only production and this could impact pollinator habitat, food production, soil health, and cultural landscapes.

However, there is a tremendous opportunity for low-impact solar development that is complementary to sustainable agriculture. This co-location, when designed and managed with best practices, can increase pollinator habitat, promote native species, and include grazing and specialty crop production, all while diversifying revenue streams and increasing public acceptance. To support this, the **National Center for Appropriate Technology** has developed the Department of Energy funded the AgriSolar Clearinghouse at the [website](#).

For more information click [HERE](#)



From Our Communities



The Old Fort At Hesperus, Farmer Training Program

Farmers-in-training (FITs) gain hands-on experience growing vegetables at high elevation. Through morning fieldwork and afternoon classes and field trips, the FIT program provides a strong foundation for aspiring and beginning farmers. Requiring a commitment of about 25 hours per week, FITs work with program staff to tend 2-3 acres of

vegetable production, learning skills and techniques vital to farming at high elevation. FITs join the Old Fort staff and program partners in a network committing to supporting beginning farmers through incubator and other land access opportunities, business planning, and community support. The Old Fort will provide a list of short-term housing options, but housing is not provided.

The program runs from May 9 to October 7, 2022.

Applications are open until filled. Priority will be given to applications received by **January 10, 2022.**



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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