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September 1, 2021 || Newsletter Edition 136

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Visit our Website



CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Join us the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2 pm

Todd Ballard Improving Water Use Efficiency in Silage Production

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm MT, followed by time for questions

Meeting ID: **940-0463-8571**

Colorado’s growing dairy industry creates demand for more silage production. A complete animal production system starts with the plants that feed them. Currently the most common source of this silage is corn. Reducing the stress on limited water resources requires developing a more water efficient silage production system. Forage sorghum can be part of that system.

[Register here](#)



Todd Ballard, Ph.D.
Golden Plains Extension Economist
Colorado State University



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



CSU Food Systems Team Spotlights



Laney Van
Ph.D. Student
Department of Ecology

Laney is a Ph.D. candidate in the Ecology program at CSU. Laney obtained a BA in Environmental Sustainability and Studies and an MA in Sustainable Communities from Northern Arizona University. Her previous research focused on plant-

based school lunch programs throughout the U.S. and how systematic

changes can help reduce the barriers to provide plant-based and plant-forward meal options to all school districts. She is very passionate about food systems, sustainability, plant-based lifestyles, and systems change. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, hiking, climbing, kayaking, hammocking, and practicing yoga. She also hopes to visit all the national parks one day. Laney hopes to become a professor in the future and help educate people about environmental issues and various solutions.

Adrian Card

Extension Agent
Boulder County

Adrian Card serves as the CSU Extension Agent for Agriculture in Boulder County since 2004. He has worked in local foods in Colorado for the past 28 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 cropping systems, food systems, specialty crop production, and marketing, public ag education, beginning farmer development through the Colorado Building Farmers program, ag community development, economic 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.



Mark Your Calendar

Food Safety Training for Cottage Foods Producers

2021 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 \$40.

Courses will be offered online on the following dates. **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program.

- **September 10, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **September 15, 2021**, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm
- **October 2, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00pm

- **October 6, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **October 22, 2021**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Annie's Project Facilitator Training

CSU Extension will be hosting an Annie's Project Facilitator Training in Grand Junction on **September 29 & 30, 2021**. Annie's Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational programs designed to strengthen women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. More information about **Annie's Project** is available online.

In order to host and conduct a program, you must complete a facilitator training. If you feel this would be a good fit for a program in your community, **registration is open here**.

The fee is \$25.00 for Extension employees. More information on the training is available in **this flyer** and also on our **training website**. Facilitator trainings are not offered very frequently, so you do not want to miss out on this opportunity. There are only 35 available slots for the training. You do not have to be an Extension employee to complete the training, so please openly share this opportunity with anyone who is interested.

Please contact **Jenny Beiermann** with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT &
PARTNERS FOR THE
2021 SUN SOIL WATER SUMMIT!



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

3:00pm to 5:00pm

Sun Soil Water Pitch Series

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Inaugural Pueblo Food Systems
Leadership Awards

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

8:30am - 6:00pm

Sun Soil Water Conference
Makers Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

In the Field with CO Grain School
- optional, separate registration

ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOSTED AT

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE

FOR INQUIRIES:

INFO@PUEBLOFOODPROJECT.ORG

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN JULY

Want to learn more? **Watch this!** Click the image anywhere to get connected.

Click here to register for the Summit.

Click here for information about the Pitch Competition. This year food businesses from anywhere in Colorado are welcome to join and compete for opportunities to catalyze their business vision.

Western Meat School Online

Western Meat School Online is an innovative and unique learning experience that will teach you how to successfully market and sell your meat products.



Over the course of fourteen modules, you will learn proven techniques to:

- Differentiate your meat
- Manage risk
- Improve profitability

Whether you're a beginning or experienced farmer or rancher, a butcher, a meat processor, a meat distributor, livestock staff or other stakeholder, you can benefit from this class! If you wanted to take this course the last time and couldn't get in or didn't have the time, now you have a more flexible way to participate.

This course will be available in this asynchronous format through the end of 2022. At that point we hope to offer the course again in a hybrid live format.

[Click here to register.](#)



Funding Opportunities



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

CDA Accepting Applications for Drought Resiliency Project Funding

Over the past several years, many farmers and ranchers have been affected by multi-year effects of a changing climate, including the 2018 drought and the 2019 freeze. After several years of unusual weather patterns, a warm spring, dry summer, and critically hot autumn further contributed to the 2020 record-breaking wildfire season. So far in 2021, Colorado has experienced a long lasting and severe drought in most parts of the state.

These hardships have caused deep economic and ecological costs to agriculture in Colorado and Colorado Department of Agriculture is launching a program that aims to mitigate some of those losses and prepare farmers and ag producers for the future of a changing climate.

CDA is now accepting applications for a competitive grant program to assist with projects that help Colorado anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to any event, trend, or climatological disturbance related to drought or climate.

Resulting from **Senate Bill 21-234**, this funding is intended to support drought and climate resilience efforts for agricultural producers.

CDA will award approximately \$1.5 million in grants for drought-related projects. Projects that can demonstrate long-term and widespread benefits will be the most competitive. Funding can also be used to match investments in new projects.

The purpose of the competitive grant program is to respond to Colorado's prolonged drought conditions caused by absent monsoon seasons, record-high temperatures, and extreme evaporative demands from wind, low humidity and high temperatures.

Applications must be submitted through an [online application](#) before Thursday, September 30, 2021 by 5 p.m. MT.

During your application process, you will be asked to answer the following questions. Please be prepared to add the answers to these questions to the google form, as there is no ability to save an application once you begin.

- Describe how the area/region associated with the project has been impacted by drought.
- Provide a brief narrative description of your project (what do you want funding to do, and why?)
- Provide a description of the expected impacts below. Is there evidence (studies, reports, maps, etc.) to support your proposal? You may email additional supporting documents to: cda_agstimulus@state.co.us
- Does the project involve multiple stakeholders/partners? Please describe.

More information about applying can be found at ag.colorado.gov/stimulus. You can also contact cda_agstimulus@state.co.us if you have any questions.



USDA to Invest \$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities for two-year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on **October 25, 2021**.

[Click here for more information or to apply.](#)

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that organic producers and handlers can now apply for funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due **November 1, 2021**.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related

to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Western SARE Announces the Opening of Four Calls for Proposals

- Farmer/Rancher - With the support and guidance of a technical advisor, farmers and ranchers will integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment. Due **November 1, 2021**.
- Professional + Producer - This grant program involves agricultural professionals in collaboration with producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. Due **November 3, 2021**.
- Professional Development - This grant program focuses on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Due **November 10, 2021**.
- Research to Grassroots - RGR projects take the research results from previously funded SARE projects and bring those results into the field through education to ag professionals and producers. Due **November 17, 2021**.

[Click here to learn more about each grant or to apply.](#)

USDA Announces \$10 Million in Grant Funding Available for the Specialty Crop Multi-State Program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that \$10 million is available for competitive grant funding in the 2021 **Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP)**.

Funding will be available for use in the Spring of 2022 with awarded projects over a performance period of 36 months. Matching funds are not required. Applications must be received before 11:59 pm ET **December 6, 2021**.

AMS will be hosting an informational webinar on **September 9, 2021** at 11:30 am MT. [Click here to join.](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)



Healthy Food Incentives

Double Up Food Bucks - Not sure if there is a Double Up location near you? Check out the Double Up Food Bucks Colorado [participating sites map](#). Double Up is available in over 30 counties across Colorado! The map updates as markets open, so if you still don't see a location near you, we encourage you to [check our full site list](#). Did you know that food producing plants and seeds are now eligible with Double Up!? Check out what other types of produce are eligible with Double Up [here](#) to help plan your shopping trip. Don't miss out on fresh, Colorado-grown produce this season!

WIC FMNP - Nourish Colorado, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has launched **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program**. WIC FMNP offers WIC participants \$30 worth of vouchers to be spent on Colorado grown, fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. In this inaugural year, 12 farmers markets in Colorado will be participating. Recipients will receive vouchers and market date information from county WIC offices.

CNIP - The Colorado Nutrition Incentive Program - weekly boxes of local produce for participants in either WIC or Older Adult Congregate Meal Programs - continues to expand in 2021. Thanks to partnerships with **NextFifty Initiative**, as well as newly secured funds from the state legislature, we are launching 2021 seasonal partnerships to bring weekly local produce to older adults in rural and mountain communities, as well as WIC mothers in metro Denver, southern Colorado, and the Western Slope. This year, we are fortunate to expand our partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging, county WIC offices, Cooking Matters, and Chef Jess. She will enhance this program by developing multi-media materials to correspond to the CSA products. These materials will be a mix of recipe cards and videos demonstrating how to use items everyone will receive. Everything will be oriented towards small portions, avoiding food waste, cooking for 1-2 people, and low-labor. We will share them widely when done!



News, Resources & Reading

USDA to Send 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey This Fall

This October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first Hemp Acreage and Production Survey. The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.



The **Domestic Hemp Production Program** established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers will be able to complete the survey online or they may complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope that will be provided.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Strengthening the Public Health Impacts of SNAP: Key Opportunities for the Next Farm Bill

The USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps tens of millions of Americans afford food each month, and participation has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic. A new report identifies evidence-based opportunities that have the greatest potential to improve SNAP participants' nutrition and overall health. [Click here to learn more.](#)

2020 Report on Guidance and Outreach to Small and Very Small Meat Processors



This report was authorized by Congress in section 12107 of the 2018 Farm Bill. Its purpose is to assess the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) interactions with small and very small meat processors in the following three areas: outreach, information tools, and responsiveness. Small and very small (SVS) meat processors are very different from large processors in fundamental ways, not just their scales of operation. These differences have implications for the effectiveness of FSIS communication with SVS plants.

Assessments of outreach, information tools, and responsiveness were conducted by compiling feedback from SVS processors about their experiences with the FSIS and comparing those experiences to FSIS policy and its recent efforts in the relevant topic areas. Processor feedback was collected via round table discussions, surveys, interviews, and key informant reviews of early versions of this report.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

From Our Communities

'The Color of Food' announced as this year's RamsRead book

By Maggie Hall Walsh, CSU Source

Don't forget to pick up this year's RamsRead book: *The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming* by Natasha Bowens.



Colorado State University President Joyce McConnell launched the all-CSU RamsRead initiative last year with the intent to bring all members of the CSU community together – literally on the same page – for common conversation about an important and timely topic. Community members are encouraged to read the book this summer and participate in events, lectures and related discussions that will be scheduled for the fall.

In *The Color of Food*, Bowens recounts stories of more than 75 North American farmers of color. She weaves together her interviews and photographs of them to tell the often forgotten and misunderstood history of agriculture for people of color, their rich culture and the agrarian identities and the incredible challenges they face in modern farming.

Bowens describes her book as a study of the critical issues that lie at the intersection of race and food.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)



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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