

CSU Extension Local Food Systems

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THIRTY-SIXTH EDITION

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Welcome to the 36th edition of the CSU Extension Local Food Systems newsletter. This newsletter is designed to give you up-to-date news and information from around the state and our own CSU Extension organization. We know many of our partners have news and events coming up in 2013, so please allow us to share with our readers and send it for us to include in the newsletter!

Please forward this newsletter to anyone with an interest in local food systems and CSU's programs in this area, and tell them they are welcome to contact us so we can add them to our mailing list. The Food Systems work team for CSU Extension is committed to building a stronger network of those who work on systems-based issues. The distribution of this newsletter is one way to build that network.

To assist our readers in finding information we may have presented in the past, you can find old issues at: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cis/localfood.html>.

CONTENTS

[MarketMaker: Looking to Buy? Wanting to Sell?](#)

[2013 Colorado Food Systems Council Report](#)

[Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network](#)

[GAPS Food Safety Field Day](#)

[Free E-Newsletter: The Food Journal](#)

[Colorado Land Link Planning Forum](#)

[Custom Rates Survey for Specialty Crop Producers](#)

[National Value-Added Conference](#)

[USDA Farm to School Program Grants](#)

[NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

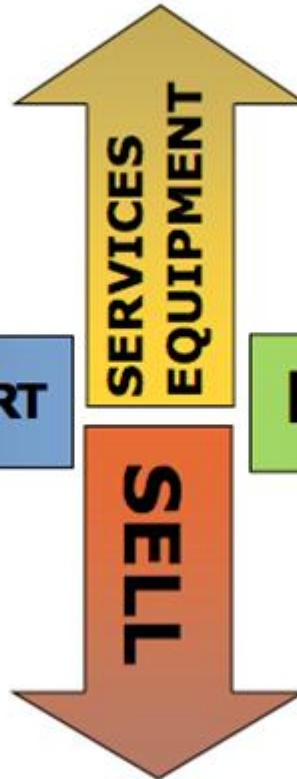
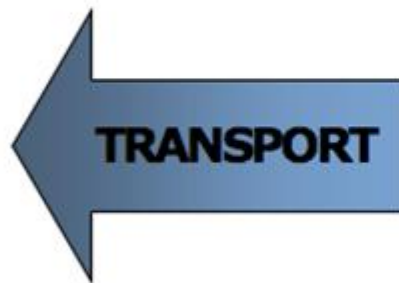
[Resources and Additional Information](#)

MARKETMAKER: LOOKING TO BUY? WANTING TO SELL?

Looking to Buy? Want to Sell?

MarketMaker's Buy & Sell Forum is an easy, no cost way to advertise!

TRANSPORTATION—If you need to have products transported or if you're in the business of transporting, look in this category.



SERVICES/EQUIPMENT
or offer processing services, added agriculture, etc.



SELL—Agricultural entrepreneurs with products to sell can list their inventory in this section.

BUY—End users in the food chain seek products from grocery stores, and from

Click the link in the box below for all the current MarketMaker Buy & Sell Forum

Buy & Sell Forum

Post your ad for products and/or services you have to sell or want to buy. The Buy & Sell Forum is available to you at no cost. See detailed ads on our website at:

www.foodmarketmaker/main/marketplace.

BUY	SELL	SERVICES/EQUIPMENT	TRANSPORTATION	OTHER
11 listings	118 listings	7 listings	0 listing	3 listing

LoCo Food Distribution—a wholesale distributor of locally grown, processed, and packaged foods to restaurants, institutions, and grocery stores along the Front Range in



Colorado—is using the Buy & Sell Forum to help locate producers with products their customers need. They also use the Business Connections area to connect with their producers and vendors. They feel it's a quick, easy way to link to businesses they do business with! Check out LoCo Food Distribution on [MarketMaker](#) or on their website: www.locofooddistribution.com.

2013 COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL REPORT

The Colorado Food Systems Council released its 2013 Report of Recommendations, which was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on January 31st. The report provides an overview of the Council's work in 2012, lists the 6 high priority recommendations identified by the Council, and outlines strategies for pursuing these recommendations. The CSU Food Systems team and many of its partners are identified for their key roles in addressing priority areas including:

1. Direct Market Technical Assistance
2. Colorado Proud
3. Food Safety Regulations
4. Healthy Food Procurement Standards
5. SNAP Infrastructure & Programs
6. Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council
7. Colorado Farm to School Task Force

View the report at <http://www.cofoodscouncil.org/january-31-2013.html>.

NICHE MEAT PROCESSOR ASSISTANCE NETWORK

The Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) is a network designed to help expand small-scale meat processing nationwide and is a very active and helpful set of resource providers and peers. By hosting a consortium of national extension experts, NMPAN provides a forum to access tools, ask questions, get answers and share ideas. Resources include an active email list (where all involved can pose questions to the group), information sessions on regulations and policy, business planning and management, mobile units, food safety, and more.

An upcoming webinar, “Educating Your Processing Customers: Customer Manuals” will be held on February 27 at 11 am MST. See <http://www.extension.org/pages/67080/educating-your-processing-customers:-customer-manuals> for more information.

Visit NMPAN's website at <http://www.nichemeatprocessing.org/>.

GAPS FOOD SAFETY FIELD DAY

Join Berry Patch Farms (Brighton), CSU Extension food safety specialists, the Colorado Department of Agriculture Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service and others for a food safety field day on April 10, 2013 from 9am-12pm. We will discuss several current issues including:

- Recommended growing and harvesting practices for leafy greens, melons, and berries.
- Safe food marketing techniques (display, sampling, customer management).
- And more!

Attendees may submit their own on-farm food safety questions via email (with photos, if possible) before the event. Participation is limited to 30 participants, and the cost is \$15 per attendee or \$25 for two people from the same business. RSVP by March 29 to Martha Sullins (martha.sullins@colostate.edu, 970.498.6006) with questions or to reserve a space.

FREE E-NEWSLETTER: THE FOOD JOURNAL

The Food Journal is offering a free e-newsletter to provide the food community with bi-monthly analysis and commentary on the most pressing food-related issues. Aimed at helping readers (farmers, agricultural companies, retailers, brands and the media) make informed decisions, their team of experts will help explain issues pertaining to the food industry as a whole.

For more information, or to subscribe, visit <http://www.thefoodjournal.com/>.

COLORADO LAND LINK PLANNING FORUM

The Colorado Land Link Initiative increases opportunities in farming and ranching by helping to create equitable, secure and affordable access to agricultural land through various management and lease agreement structures. This program is a key partner with the Colorado Building Farmers program and encompasses other Colorado programs who hope to remove barriers to entering the agricultural production profession.

The Land Link Initiative will be holding a strategic planning forum Friday & Saturday March 8 – 9 at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort in Nathrop, Colorado with a special address by Colorado Agriculture Commissioner John Salazar. This forum will:

- Provide informative speakers and workshops regarding various aspects of Land Link
- Introduce Guidestone's Land Link program, database and developing resources
- Discuss potential partners and collaboration possibilities
- Strategize for a statewide Land Link program
- Access expertise and experience of other farm and land link programs nation-wide
- Explore training and educational opportunities

For more information visit: <http://www.guidestonecolorado.org/Land-Link-Forum-2013>.

CUSTOM RATES SURVEY FOR SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCERS

If you are a producer of specialty crops, Colorado State University Extension would appreciate your input: help us collect better information to help you plan by taking 10 minutes to complete a survey on costs of production and revenues received from services performed on vegetable, fruit and other specialty crop farms in Colorado for 2012. If you are not a specialty crops producer, please forward this to any producers you know.

The results from the survey will help Extension's agriculture and business management team to develop budgets, and better understand the issues growers face in managing their costs of production.

<http://studentvoice.com/col/smallfarmspecialtycropcustomratessurvey>.

Any questions on this survey can be directed to Martha.sullins@colostate.edu or 970-498-6006.

Thank you in advance for helping us to develop tools and programming that support Colorado's agricultural producers!

NATIONAL VALUE-ADDED CONFERENCE

The theme of the 2013 National Value Added Conference, to be held in Rogers, Arkansas (May 19-21), is "**Local Economic Development Through Entrepreneurship**". The conference provides an opportunity for participants to enhance their understanding, identify resources, and network with other service providers and innovative entrepreneurs. It is targeted at University Extension & outreach faculty, rural development specialists, State department of agriculture officials, Farm Bureau program leaders, Small Business Development Centers, Agricultural Innovation Centers, Cooperative Development Centers, consultants and service providers.

Conference topics include: rural entrepreneurship, adding value to agricultural products, agritourism and rural economic development. The conference will include breakout sessions and tours to allow maximum interaction between participants and practitioners.

For more information or for conference registration, visit: <http://www.regonline.com/NVAAC2013>.

USDA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced 2014 funds available to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in schools. In this funding round, USDA is soliciting applications for three types of grants:

1. **Planning grants** are intended for school districts or schools just starting to incorporate farm to school program elements into their operations.
2. **Implementation grants** are intended for school districts or schools to help scale or further develop existing farm to school initiatives.
3. **Support Service grants** are intended for state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with school districts or schools to further develop existing farm to school initiatives and to provide broad reaching support services to farm to school initiatives.

Proposals are due at midnight EST, April 24, 2013. Webinars are available to help with the application process. For more information visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2_2013_grant_program.htm.

NRCS CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide up to \$25 million in grants to help develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to improve conservation on private lands.

Conservation Innovation Grants are available for state and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, non-governmental and educational organizations, private businesses and individuals. Of particular interest are applications for innovative demonstration partnerships on energy conservation, nutrient management, soil health, wildlife habitat and adaptive management.

For more information visit <http://go.usa.gov/4Kvx>. To apply electronically, visit <http://www.grants.gov> or contact your local NRCS office. Applications are due March 15, 2013.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Don't forget! Colorado State University Extension Food Systems and Agricultural Policy Resources:

- [Consumer Resources](#)
- [Producer Resources](#)
- [Linking Producers to Restaurants, Workplaces and Other Institutions](#)
- [Linking Producers to Schools - Networks, Directories and Guides](#)
- [Community Assessments and Toolkits](#)
- [Calculators and Databases](#)
- [Policy Articles, Resources and Case Studies](#)
- [Research and Other Resources](#)

To add your ideas and news, contact [Ashley Colpaart](#).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact [Martha Sullins](#).