



# LOCAL FOODS TOWN HALL

**JULY 26, 2023**  
**11am - 12pm**

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

Local Food  
Systems

# Welcome Poll:

- Have you attended a quarterly Local Food Town Hall in the past?
  - Yes, more than one time
  - Yes, one other time
  - No, this is my first
  - I'm not sure

# Today's Agenda:

- Lightning Presentations by:
  - Local Food Economics - Dr. Becca Jablonski, CSU Food Systems
  - Small-Scale/Urban Grower Needs Assessment – Dr. Katie Starzec, KSU Ag Communications
  - Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program – Trace Mulligan, KDA
- RFSP Grant Project Updates – Rebecca McMahon & Amanda Lindahl
  - Website
  - Fellows Program
- Discussion & Announcements of Local Food Systems efforts in Kansas
- Evaluation

# The value of faculty-Extension positions to support University food systems work

Becca B.R. Jablonski

Associate Professor | Food Systems Extension Economist  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Colorado State University

Local Food Systems Town Hall  
Kansas State University  
July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# Universities are large, complex, and can be challenging to navigate! And, food systems work happens in lots of places – across lots of disciplines.

For the latest foodsystems information, read our newsletter July 2023: [HERE](#)



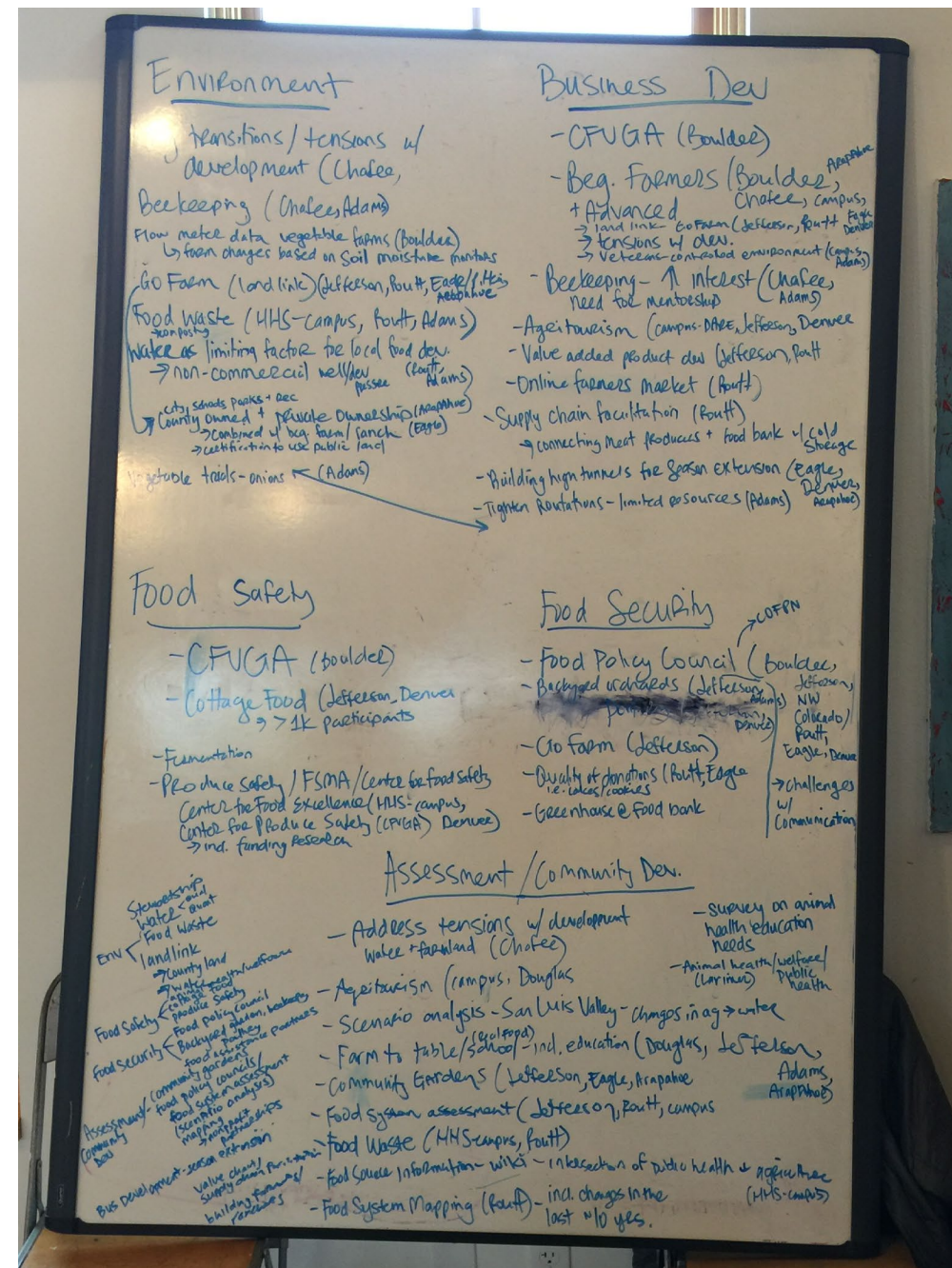
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<https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/>



# Identifying areas of focus:



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First Regular Session | 74th General Assembly

Colorado General Assembly

SB21-087

## Agricultural Workers' Rights

Concerning agricultural workers' rights, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SESSION: 2021 Regular Session

SUBJECT: Labor & Employment

### BILL SUMMARY

The act:

- Prohibits an agricultural employer from retaliating against any person, including an

HB19-1132

## School Incentives To Use Colorado Food And Producers

Concerning Colorado food products in schools, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SESSION: 2019 Regular Session

SUBJECTS: Agriculture, Education & School Finance (Pre & K-12)

### BILL SUMMARY

**Colorado food - school grant program - nonprofit grant program - appropriation.** The act establishes a grant program in the department of education (CDE) to encourage providers that are entitled to federal money for lunches for students (participating providers) to purchase food products from Colorado growers, producers, and processors (Colorado food). The grant program reimburses participating providers for the amount of Colorado food that the provider purchased in the previous school year. The act caps the reimbursements at \$500,000 per year.

# Funding to support programming and research:

Example programs with research-Extension components:

- Beginning farmers and ranchers
- Farm to school
- Meat supply chains
  - Meat school, meat summit, pricing calculator
- Value-added processing/infrastructure
- Market channel assessments
- Urban-rural linkages
- COVID-19, local food systems, resilience

Example funders (most of which Extension would not have been eligible for without research partner):



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



# Example programming and research: Beginning farmers

## Factsheets

The factsheets cover the following topics:

- OPERATING PROFIT MARGIN:** Analyzes the impact of input costs and market prices on profit margins for various crops.
- FINANCING STRATEGIES AMONG BEGINNING FARMERS SELLING IN LOCAL FOOD MARKETS:** Examines how local food markets affect financing needs and strategies.
- BEGINNING FARMERS & RANCHERS IN LOCAL FOOD MARKETS:** Discusses the role of local food markets in supporting new and beginning farmers.
- FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE:** Provides information on the benefits and options available to beginning farmers and ranchers.



## Welcome to Colorado Building Farmers

Join us for our 2023 program!

Starting January 17, 2023 through March 7, 2023, Colorado Building Farmers will be offering an online class that 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. This 8-week class culminates in you presenting your draft business plan to a group of your peers. This class is intended for new and intermediate level farmers and ranchers in Colorado. For more information and the full class schedule, view the registration page (<https://CBF2023.eventbrite.com>).

Register here: <https://CBF2023.eventbrite.com> or reach out for more information or get on our mailing list, [Contact Us](#).

<https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/research-impacts/beginning-farmer-research/>

<https://buildingfarmers.com/>

# Integrating students (key ingredient of campus-field connection)

## CSU Extension Internship Program 2022 Annual Report



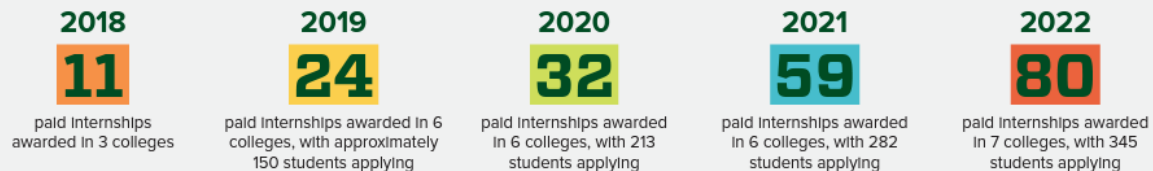
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

The CSU Extension Internship Program was started in 2018 following a request from Extension leadership to find opportunities to facilitate enhanced connections between campus and field, as well as students and Extension. In addition, there was a call to ensure that campus-based faculty were aware of emerging research needs of Colorado stakeholders, and that research conducted by faculty was communicated to Extension and applied to community issues.

The CSU Extension Internship Program is different from other internship programs at CSU in that internships are based in Colorado, include applied research, and support stakeholder engagement with regional or county-based Extension agents, including significant time in the field. Interns, who can emanate from across all colleges at CSU, glean an understanding of the complexities of working across state, county and university constructs and how to marry varying perspectives toward a common goal in addition to specific internship goals. Extension mentors benefit from the program through enhanced connections to campus, including facilitating better relationships with faculty on issues important to Coloradoans.

### By the Numbers:

Since its inception in 2018, there has been growth in interest for the Extension Internship program by faculty/staff, Extension agents/specialists, and students, which can be seen in the year to year growth in participation outlined below:



# Raising statewide profile of food systems research, Extension, engagement @ CSU



**COLORADO FOOD SUMMIT**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7-8, 2023**  
**STOCKYARDS EVENT CENTER | DENVER, COLORADO**

# Small-Scale/Urban Grower Needs Assessment

57 Kansas participants from 17 counties in spring 2023

## Key takeaways for **NRCS programming** (funding source):

- Water and irrigation
- Natural growing style
- Soils
- Energy needs

## **Other key takeaways**

### Challenges with:

- Capital (start up and growth)
- Information overload
- Financial and legal management
- The need for regional experts
- Help navigating grants

Full report: <https://kacd.net/urban-tribal-focus-group-results/>  
Katie Starzec, agricultural communications; [kstarzec@ksu.edu](mailto:kstarzec@ksu.edu)

The seal of the State of Kansas is partially visible on the left side of the image. It features a circular design with the text "THE STATE OF KANSAS" around the perimeter and "ER ASPERA" at the bottom. The central part of the seal depicts a landscape with a sun, a river, and a plow.

# **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

**Kansas Department of Agriculture**

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **KDA has been awarded \$6,459,356 to build resilience in the middle-of-the-supply-chain and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for our state's producers of human consumption products.**
- **KDA will work in partnership with USDA to subaward competitive infrastructure grants to Kansas food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.**
- **Eligible food products are crops and products meant for human consumption (specialty crops, dairy, grains, etc.), excluding meat and poultry products.**
- **Individual applicants can apply for infrastructure grants for a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$3,000,000. Recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match.**
- **KDA can reserve up to \$1,000,000 for state-led supply chain coordination activities.**



# INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

- **Expanding processing capacities, including adding product types, increasing production volumes, and supporting new wholesale/retail product lines;**
- **Modernizing equipment or facilities through upgrades, repairs, or retooling;**
- **Purchase and installation of specialized equipment, such as processing components, sorting equipment, packing and labeling equipment, or delivery vehicles;**
- **Modernizing manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems;**
- **Enhancing worker safety through adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment or facility improvements;**
- **Construction of a new facility;**
- **Increasing packaging and labeling capacities that meet compliance requirements under applicable laws;**
- **Increasing storage space, including cold storage;**
- **Develop, customize, or install climate-smart equipment; and**
- **Modernize equipment or facilities to ensure food safety.**

# QUESTIONS?

**Trace Mulligan, Agribusiness Development Manager**

**785-477-8258**

**[Trace.Mulligan@ks.gov](mailto:Trace.Mulligan@ks.gov)**





# Questions for our speakers?

# Regional Food System Partnership Grant Updates

- Welcome to Amanda Lindahl, our new Program Coordinator!
- Website is live!
  - <https://www.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods/>
- Community Roundtables
- Local Food Fellows Program

# KANSAS LOCAL FOODS BUILDING COMMUNITIES



**Get Involved**



**Learn More**

## KANSAS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Building resiliency, health, and economic vitality for Kansas communities – from food production on farms to food on every plate.

**Cultivate Community**

**Grow Your Business**

**Produce Food**

**Find Local Food**

# GET INVOLVED

# JOIN US

[Learn More](#)[Sign Up for Our Mailing List](#)

## JOIN US

Local food systems are successful when they have many diverse partners working together for a common goal. We invite you to join in our virtual or in-person events to help us continue building a thriving Kansas Local Food System.

Quarterly Virtual Town Halls

Community Roundtables

Local Food Fellows

Local Food Summit

# Local Food Community Roundtables

- Will be held in 12 locations around the state in November
- Virtual options will also be available
- Hope to have locations, dates, times finalized in the next few weeks
  - Colby, Hutchinson, Wichita, Topeka, Ottawa are set locations
  - Meetings to finalize additional SE, NW, NC locations in the coming weeks
- We are still looking for local partners to help co-host and sponsor these events – especially SW and NC Kansas!
  - Contact me at [rmcmahon@ksu.edu](mailto:rmcmahon@ksu.edu)

# Local Food Fellows Program

- Apply now to host a fellow for a 320-hour local food system project
- Project of your choosing to increase local food system capacity
- Our grant provides \$17 hourly rate
- Funding for 16 KSU student fellows (summer of 2024 & 2025)
  - Apply by Sept. 30
- Funding for 18 Independent fellows (spring, summer, fall 2024 & 2025)
  - Apply by Aug. 31 or Nov. 30

Learn more and apply on our website!

# Discussion and Updates

# Closing Poll:

- Did you learn something new today?
  - Yes
  - No
- What topic was most valuable to you?
  - Impact of local food system economists – Dr. Becca Jablonski
  - Urban & small-scale grower needs assessment results – Dr. Katie Starzec
  - Resilient Food system infrastructure program – Trace Mulligan
  - Updates on RFSP grant projects – Rebecca McMahon & Amanda Lindahl



# Closing Poll:

- How many people will you share something with from today's town hall?
  - None
  - 1
  - 2-5
  - 6 or more
- Do you have suggestions for speakers or topics at our next Town Hall?
  - Yes (please submit suggestions in the chat)
  - No

# Next Town Hall: Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.



Register at: [bit.ly/Oct23townhall](https://bit.ly/Oct23townhall)

Notes & Recordings of all Town Halls can be found at:

<https://www.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods>