



**COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Update to the Governor, Commissioner of  
Agriculture, and the General Assembly

October 2015

**Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council**  
[www.cofoodsystmscouncil.org](http://www.cofoodsystmscouncil.org)

## **Council Members**

Shawnee Adelson, Board Member, Colorado Farmers' Market Association

Cate Blackford, Policy Director, Hunger Free Colorado

Jane Brand, R.D., S.N.S., School Nutrition Director, Colorado Department of Education

Mary Lou Chapman, President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association

Karen Falbo, C.N., Nutrition Program Manager, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage

Trudy Kareus, State Director, USDA Rural Development

Pat Kendall, Ph.D., R.D., Professor Emeritus, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Colorado State University

Jill Litt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Colorado School of Public Health; Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, CU-Boulder

Levetta Love, Director, Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services

Barbara Marty, Producer

Tracy Miller, MSPH, RD, Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Prevention Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Louis Swanson, Ph.D., Vice President for Engagement and Director of Extension, Colorado State University (Appointee: Dawn Thilmany McFadden, Extension Economist, Colorado State University, Chair)

Chris Wiseman, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Deputy Commissioner

Linda Yoder, Producer

Per the requirements of Senate Bill 13-174, this update on the work of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC) is being provided to update Governor John Hickenlooper and his office, Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar, and the State of Colorado's General Assembly.

This brief summary of recent activities highlights several efforts of the COFSAC since January 2015.

## **Meetings & Events**

The COFSAC has thus far held three of their quarterly meetings in 2015: in April, June, and September. The September COFSAC meeting was held at CSU during the OneHealth Initiative food systems workshop: Thinking Big About Short Chain Food Systems.

## **Member Updates**

As of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, there will be four COFSAC positions opening. Two of the positions are producer seats, one from the retail market, and one from the health/nutrition sector. Current COFSAC members are disseminating information through their networks to fill the position by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **Local Coalition Engagement**

The Colorado Food Policy Network continues to be active. This network of local food policy councils, which was launched as part of COFSAC's outreach to and engagement with local councils, has developed a formal peer mentoring program and is holding two "action institutes" in October: one in Walsenburg on October 13<sup>th</sup> and one in Rifle on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. These events will bring together members from local councils across the state to help build the capacity of local groups to effect food policy change at the local level and will help identify a shared statewide policy platform for mobilization of participants.

## **Areas of Focus: 2015 Issue Briefs**

Each year, the COFSAC releases one to two, "Advancing Food Systems in Colorado Issue Briefs," that highlight pressing issues relevant to the COFSAC charge to "strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture and local food systems and economies."

In September 2015, the COFSAC released four new issue briefs on advancing food systems in Colorado. The briefs include a 3-part series about the reuse of natural resources to promote edible crop production, and a brief examining the issue of the recovery and redistribution of fruits and vegetables:

- Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part I: Water

*This issue brief is one of three that explores aspects of our natural resources – water, land,*

*and energy – and the steps necessary to balance Colorado’s need to feed its growing population and the sustainable use of its natural resources to support production. This brief focuses on reclaimed water. It encourages regulatory agencies to consider approval of reclaimed water in food production and recommends integration of reclaimed water in the State Water Plan as one strategy to leverage the state’s water resources.*

- **Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part II: Land Use**

*This issue brief focuses on the steps necessary to balance Colorado’s need for increased agricultural production and our rapidly increasing development pressure as a high growth state. It explores land-based issues constraining production, examples of innovations in maintaining land in food production and recommendations for improving access to land for food enterprises.*

- **Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources Part III: Energy**

*The issue brief on energy justifies recommendations for additional research to encourage and support innovative energy conservation and development ideas, evaluates the potential impacts of adopting a state tax incentive program for on-farm agricultural efficiency and renewable energy programs, and encourages collaboration among state and local partners to take advantage of unprecedented investment and interest in energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities in Colorado.*

- **Barriers & Opportunities for Healthy Food Recovery From Grocery Retail to Hunger Relief Organizations**

*This issue brief focuses on healthy food recovery in Colorado. It provides an overview of food waste issues within the state, the current and potential role for grocery retailers in decreasing waste and increasing healthy food distribution, and the role of food assistance programs, such as food banks and pantries, along with direct redistribution models in facilitating the movement of healthy food from retail to food redistribution.*

These briefs are available for download here: <http://dare.agsci.colostate.edu/outreach/outreach-resources/>.

Each brief provides an overview of the issue in Colorado, key data describing the importance of a healthy and health-promoting food system, existing models from Colorado and across the country, and recommendations for local, state, and national partners to help achieve COFSAC's charge.

The briefs highlight research and policy actions that state partners can take. They also provide useful data and case studies that local food policy councils, public health departments, and other community organizations can use to inform local efforts.

## **Next Steps**

The COFSAC, in partnership with LiveWell Colorado, will host two webinars, one in November and one in December 2015. These webinars will highlight content from the 2015 issue briefs and showcase speakers from local groups that are directly working on the issues covered in the briefs.

To inform the next set of issue briefs, the COFSAC will highlight key take-aways and next steps from the CSU OneHealth Initiative food systems workshop that members of the Council attended in September 2015. Once CSU issues the priorities that emerge from that workshop, COFSAC will consider how it can support and participate in new initiatives developed under those priorities.