



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

2016 Annual Report

CC:

Governor John Hickenlooper

Commissioner of Agriculture

House Health and Environment Committee

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council

www.cofoodsystmscouncil.org

Council Members

- Jody Beck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Colorado Denver
 - Rep. an academic institution that specializes in economic systems, agriculture or health care
- Louis Swanson, Ph.D., Vice President for Engagement and Director of Extension, Colorado State University (Appointee: Dawn Thilmany McFadden, Professor and Extension Economist, Colorado State University)
 - Rep. Director of the Colorado State University Extension Services Program
- Karen Falbo, C.N., Director of Nutrition Education, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage
 - Rep. food wholesalers or food retailers
- Wendy Peters Moschetti, Director of Food Systems, LiveWell Colorado
 - Rep. nutrition and health
- Meighen Lovelace, Producer
 - Rep. agricultural production
- Joyce Kelly, Producer
 - Rep. agricultural production
- Sandra Stenmark, M.D., Physician Director at Kaiser Permanente
 - Rep. nutrition and health
- David Carter, Market Manager, Broomfield Farmers Market
 - Rep. food wholesalers or food retailers
- Trudy Kareus, State Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
 - Rep. knowledgeable about a local, state, or federal agency
- Cate Blackford, Director of Public Policy, Hunger Free Colorado
 - Rep. anti-hunger and food assistance programs
- Tom Parks, DVM, producer
 - Rep. agricultural production
- Tracy Miller, MSPH, RD, Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Prevention Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 - Rep. nutrition services and WIC, Dept of Public Health and Environment
- Chris Wiseman, Deputy Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture
 - Rep. Department of Agriculture
- Brehan Riley, MS, RD, SNS, Director, Office of School Nutrition, Colorado Department of Agriculture
 - Rep. Department of Education

Staff

- Becca Jablonski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Food Systems Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University

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, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and House Health and Environment Committee, Senate Health and Human Services Committee, House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee, and Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Meetings & Events

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council met four times in 2016: March, June (by conference call due to conflicting schedules of members), October, and December. Each of these meetings was hosted by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (except the conference call in June).

Additionally, several members of COFSAC participated in a convening of the Colorado Food Policy Network in November 2016 (more details provided below).

Member Updates

The COFSAC welcomed many new members in 2016, and the recruitment and seating of so many members was a large part of staff's support time for the first half of the year, and highlighted the need for a better time frame for those members who will gradually roll off (mostly due to term limits) over the next few years:

- Jody Beck, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Denver
- Sandra Stenmark, M.D., Physician Director at Kaiser Permanente
- Brehan Riley, MS, RD, SNS, Director, Office of School Nutrition, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Tom Parks, DVM, producer
- David Carter, Market Manager, Broomfield Farmers Market
- Joyce Kelly, Producer

COFSAC also supported a successful grant application, led by LiveWell Colorado, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant. The grant was and will continue to be used to provide double-up buck coupons at farmers' markets across the state. Importantly, the grant includes dozens of partners from across the state. This grant was motivated by past discussions and an issue brief framed by the council in an earlier year.

Areas of Focus

During COFSAC's March meeting the idea was raised to frame, guide and innovate a blueprint of the food and agricultural sector's key assets, emerging issues and priorities for future investments. Accordingly, following the March meeting COFSAC membership conducted an inventory both of blueprints, food plans, and assessments from other states in an effort to glean best practices, as well of previous research and assessments from within the state. Given that there was no other comprehensive effort in the State to identify opportunities to support the entire food system, the COFSAC decided to move forward with the Blueprint. It was decided that

the Blueprint would integrate several key data-driven initiatives, including: 1) the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Public Attitudes Survey; 2) the Colorado State University Office of Engagement's Value Chain of Colorado Agriculture Survey; 3) LiveWell Colorado's Community Commons. In addition, the COFSAC council determined to participate in a key community engagement process through participating in 9 regional townhalls across the state in 2017 and to integrate findings into the Blueprint.

COFSAC decided on five key objectives for the CO Blueprint of Food and Agriculture:

- Understand opportunities and challenges resulting from changing public attitudes;
- Assess opportunities for CO food system policy to address challenges and needs;
- Document, assess and highlight key linkages in Colorado's food supply chain and infrastructure;
- Develop priorities for capacity building, investment & innovation across CO agriculture and food stakeholders;
- Enhance CSU's knowledge of Colorado-specific research and engagement needs to support opportunities for all research and outreach units (on and off campus).

Given the large scope and time needed to engage our communities in this process, it was decided this would be the primary focus of the Council's work in late 2016 through 2017.

Local Coalition Engagement

In conjunction with LiveWell Colorado, the COFSAC supported an Annual Meeting of the CO Food Policy Network (COFPN) (November 2016). COFPN now includes 18 member organizations (local food policy councils) across the state. COFPN exists to build the capacity of local organizations and to help them come together in an active way. As COFSAC has not had budget to support these groups, LiveWell has provided staff support. As part of the 2016 annual meeting, Wendy Peters Moschetti, Meigan Lovelace, and Becca Jablonski (COFSAC staff) presented plans for the CO Blueprint of Food and Agriculture on behalf of COFSAC and solicited COFPN's engagement in the process. COFPN membership agreed to participate in the Blueprint, including serving on the regional advisory teams. Additionally, COFPN and LiveWell worked together to create the Community Commons, which includes key food systems and public health data that will be integrated into the CO Blueprint of Food and Agriculture and used to support the development of handouts and presentations for the regional Townhalls.

COFSAC Recommendations

Findings from the CO Blueprint of Food and Agriculture will be released in draft form as part of the Colorado State University-led Agricultural Innovation Summit in September of 2017. At that time, COFSAC will also consider what aspects of that blueprint will be appropriate for the Council to lead and collaborate on, following feedback from the townhall process.

Next Steps

In 2017, the COFSAC members will each participate in at least one regional advisory team for the Colorado Blueprint of Food and Agriculture and participate in the region's Townhall. This will provide additional opportunity for COFSAC's membership to better understand strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats throughout the state that pertain to food, agriculture, and the charge of COFSAC.

All recommendation, as always, will be provided in consultation with the Governor's office and the Colorado Department of Agriculture's state food system priorities.