



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

October 2014

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council
www.cofoodscouncil.org

Council Members

Shawnee Adelson, Board Member, Colorado Farmers' Market Association
Jane Brand, R.D., S.N.S., School Nutrition Director, Colorado Department of Education
Mary Lou Chapman, President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association
Steve Ela, M.S., Producer, Ela Family Farms/Silver Spruce Partners, LLC
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)
Linda Yoder, Producer

Staff

Wendy Peters Moschetti, Principal, WPM Consulting LLC

Staff is funded and managed by LiveWell Colorado through January 2015.

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 that will be reviewed in depth in COFSAC's January 2015 report.

Meetings & Events

The COFSAC has held three quarterly meetings in 2014: in January, May, and September. A fourth will be held in early December.

To improve communication with the Governor's Office and state legislators, the COFSAC has also worked with public affairs company Aponte & Busam to develop and implement a legislative outreach plan. The COFSAC Chair and staff, along with Aponte & Busam staff, attended a September meeting with two staff from the Governor's Office. The COFSAC and Aponte & Busam are currently scheduling additional outreach meetings with local legislators.

Member Updates

In September, COFSAC Chair and Colorado Department of Agriculture Representative Ron Carleton retired as chairperson of the COFSAC. The COFSAC selected CSU Extension representative Dawn Thilmany McFadden as chairperson. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has also selected a new representative who will attend the December meeting.

Local Coalition Engagement

In February 2014, the COFSAC and LiveWell Colorado convened a two-day summit with approximately 80 representatives from local food system coalitions and state partner organizations from throughout the state. The purpose of the summit was to discuss needs for coalition building, policies that promote healthy food access, and the potential for a state-wide network of food system coalitions interested in addressing policy, economic development and community needs. For summit reports and updates on local coalitions, please see: <http://www.cofoodscouncil.org/summit-for-colorado-food-system-coalitions-feb-2014.html> and: <http://www.cofoodscouncil.org/local-food-coalitions.html>.

A steering committee of 16 local coalition representatives emerged from this summit to work with LiveWell, COFSAC, CSU, Hunger Free Colorado, and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to further develop a formal "Colorado Food Policy Network". With funding secured by CSU from Kaiser Permanente, this team of partners will meet on October 14 & 15, 2014 in Adams County to develop the priorities and organizational parameters of a Network.

To develop a collective voice and a coordinated network of Colorado food systems coalitions, this retreat will build a road map for research and action. Goals of the retreat include:

1. Adopt a common purpose, and lay the foundation for developing shared values and partnership principles for the Colorado Food Policy Network that optimizes the spirit of collective action.
2. Design the core contents of the mapping, data, metrics, and other digital shared space needed to inform, guide, and evaluate the work of the CFPN.
3. Further develop the capacity of the Steering Committee into a leadership team with the skills and tools to guide the establishment of the CFPN and help each coalition become a better catalyst for local and state policy change.

The COFSAC will describe outcomes and next steps from this retreat in the January 2015 COFSAC report.

Areas of Focus

The COFSAC will continue to explore issue areas that are consistent with the COFSAC charge to advance recommendations that strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture and local food systems and economies.

In 2014, the COFSAC heard updates and requests from the Colorado Department of Human Services' (CDHS) unit on Aging, Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Denver Water, and Denver Urban Gardens. COFSAC members are assisting CDHS staff on the development and implementation of a new policy to include locally-sourced and garden-grown foods in their older adult meal programs.

The COFSAC is developing an issue brief that will call attention to the many opportunities for Colorado to promote reuse of natural resources for food production. The brief will focus on opportunities to better leverage natural resources when addressing food access issues. It will also highlight the efforts of Denver Water and Denver Urban Gardens to amend State Regulation 84 to include farms and urban gardens as allowable uses for Carrier 3 reclaimed water.

The COFSAC will include the final issue brief in the January 2015 COFSAC report.

Next Steps

The work of the COFSAC through the end of 2014 will focus on the development of the additional issue brief on reuse of natural resources as described above as well as execution and follow-up of the outcomes from the Colorado Food Policy Network Retreat. As mandated by Senate Bill 13-174, the COFSAC will submit detailed reports to the House Health and Environment Committee; the Senate Health and Human Services Committee; the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee; and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee or their successor committees by January 31, 2015.