



Volume 1, Issue 2

July 8, 2014

**COLORADO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Save the date: February 25, 2015 in Denver

SAVE THE DATE for the first annual Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference: **Wednesday, February 25, 2015.**

The 2015 Conference will be held at Renaissance Hotel in Denver in partnership with the Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture the following day, Thursday, February 26.

Your conference planning team is composed of Board members, CSU staff, and key growers representing scales and markets from urban ag/small scale direct markets to medium and large scale direct and wholesale markets, organic and conventional alike. An industry member in the

local food distribution sector is also on the planning committee.

Our goals include:

- Create inclusive sessions for all growers highlighting the diversity of growers in Colo.
- Incorporate critical trainings
- Include ample networking time and visiting time with exhibitors
- Gather demographic information and strategic planning input
- Provide for market exploration with buyers
- Encourage participants to



stay overnight at the hotel to foster deeper networking

- Bring public and private sector voice into educational content
- Conduct annual meeting and elect first round of three year term board members

Membership drive gaining speed: 49 and growing

We are full tilt into our membership drive for 2014. To date we have 26 grower members, 11 industry members, and 12 partner members with over 233 subscribers on our general interest email list.

View July [member directory](#)

If you have received this newsletter and are not currently a member, please consider joining a increasing number of commercial produce growers, industry members, and partners members interested in seeing commercial produce growers of all sizes, production practices and market-

ing channels in Colorado THRIVE!

To find out more and join online or by mail please go to <http://coloradoproduce.org>

You can now pay for membership online via PayPal

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Top level information:

- Complete [CAWA survey](#) by July 15
- Comment on [Waters of the US](#) by October 20
- Comment on WPS by August 18 (see [CFVGA resources](#))
- View 2014 [Colorado Farm Fresh Directory](#)
- Listen to **Dr. Mike Bartolo's** [radio interview](#)
- [Send us](#) your upcoming events and notices

President's Message

Welcome to our second newsletter! It's been incredibly busy not only on our family farm but with activities with our new association!



Photo Credit:
Western Growers
Association

Yup, that's a picture of me with Vice President Biden! I was one of 8 people invited to have coffee with the VP during his visit to Denver on May 27. We discussed the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables and I was extremely proud to explain to him that we had just formed the CFVGA. No, that's not why he had his arm on me...when that picture was taken the Vice President had actually just released me from

a headlock because I told him I was embarrassed that I was the only man there without a coat and tie...he said that I was the only smart one! I was invited to join the [Western Growers Association](#) board of directors in Washington D.C. as we explore partnership with CFVGA. Their staff was able to line up visits with Senators Bennet and Udall and Congressman Coffman, Gardner and Tipton.

If nothing else comes of this visit I found out that Congressman Coffman has never been on a vegetable farm before so we hope to line up a field trip

this fall. Politics are challenging to say the least. We can work hard and it doesn't seem like anything will get done, but if we aren't involved you never know what the results may be.

If you not already a member of [CFVGA](#) I hope that you will sign up now and if you are a member get other farmers to join. We all have lots to learn and share with each other which can only make us all more successful.

Best wishes and happy harvesting.

Sincerely,

Robert Sakata
CFVGA Board President
rtsakata@aol.com

Colorado Ag Water Alliance Survey

Is your irrigation water important to you?

Then follow [this link](#) to the CAWA survey about agricultural water and please take the time to fill it out **by July 15**. As the state

moves forward with the Colorado Water Plan it is important that agriculture's voice be a part of that dialog so we need your participation!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CAWAWaterSurvey>

Sponsorship Campaign Launch



Click [here](#) to listen to Dr. Mike Bartolo's radio interview on KSIR on the scope and importance of CFVGA

CFVGA is currently launching a sponsorship campaign. We welcome those passionate about supporting Colorado fruit and vegetable growers to contribute. Sponsors will be a vital part of CFVGA serving its members.

Sponsors will receive benefits based on their sponsor level and may include:

- Logo on our sponsor page
- Recognition at CFVGA events and in outreach materials

- Free booth and attendance at the annual conference
- Opening remarks at the annual conference

If you are interested in sponsorship or know someone who may be, please email Vickie Root, Administrator, at:

admin@coloradoproduce.org

Stay tuned for the addition of a new "Sponsors" section of our [website](#).

Current Members Opt-In Listing

Members are given the option for newsletter and website listing

Grower Members		Industry Members		Partner Members	
Arkansas Valley Organic Growers	Beki Guion	AgFinity, Inc.	Chip Marks	Colorado Dept of Agriculture	Tracy Vanderpool
Berry Patch Farms	Tim Ferrell	Cairnstack Software	Reid Hanson	Colorado State University	Mike Bartolo
Cure Organic Farm	Anne Cure	DuPont Crop Protection	Elizabeth Parker	Colorado State University	Howard Schwartz
Fossil Creek Farms LLC	Steve Maitland	Hort Americas	John P Frey	Colorado State University	Adrian Card
Milberger Farms LLC	Shane Milberger	Hortau Simplified Irrigation	Doug Larson	Colorado State University	Marisa Bunning
Native Hill Farm	Katie Slota	Rocky Mountain Bio Products	Darren Klotz	Colorado State University	Addy Elliott
Prima Plant Services	Kim Bock	SOURCE Local Foods	Aaron Perry	Skyline Potato Company	William Alderete
Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch	David Asbury	Western Growers	Matthew McInerney		Lane Requist
Sakata Farms	Robert Sakata			USDA-APHIS-WS	Alan B. Franklin
Southern Colorado Farms & Nature Fresh Organics	Amy Kunugi				
Talbott's Mountain Gold LLLP	Bruce Talbott				
Turn-key Aquaponics, LLC	James W. Frasche				

For more details on these members including websites, contact info, products and services, see our July [Member Directory](#)

Thanks to all members for helping CFVGA start-up in 2014!



Colorado Legislative Update- Robert Sakata

The last day of the Colorado legislative session was May 8. And although behind the scenes work continues on reaching a compromise on local control of oil and gas well drilling the likelihood of that happening diminishes as the November election approaches.

Bills of interest to CFVGA:

HB14-1280: Agritourism – assumption of inherent risk-notice. The act adds “agritourism” as a form of agricultural recreational activities under Colorado law that currently limits civil liability. The Act authorizes the operator of a agritourism facility to provide notice of the inherent risks by a signed statement or a posted sign.

SB14-017: Reduction of municipal outdoor water consumption – study by water resources review committee. The bill as introduced would have put strict limits on the amount of irrigated landscape that a new housing development could put in. The bill was amended and is now a study by the Water Resources Review Committee to investigate how to minimize agricultural dry-up by limiting municipal water consumption.

HB14-1052: Ground water management districts – enforcement authority. This act authorizes ground water management districts to enforce well pumping permits in their districts, enforce rules with regard to those permits, and issue orders requiring compliance with the rules of the district and the permits they issue.

SB14-023: Agricultural Water Conservation. This bill passed the state legis-

lature but was vetoed by Governor Hickenlooper. The proposed legislation was directed to areas of the west slope and the goal was to provide incentives for agricultural water diverters to leave more water in the streams. The Governor was concerned with the consequences of this legislation and plans to have follow up conversations about possible future legislation on this topic.

SB14-115: Hearings Concerning Colorado Water Plan. Interim Water Resources Review Committee will be busy this coming year as many of the water bills were deferred to them as well as outreach for the Colorado Water Plan. Besides their normal 6 committee meetings they will be holding 9 additional meetings around the state to take testimony on the Colorado Water Plan. To see their schedule and agendas go to the [Colorado General Assembly website](#), click on the Interim Committee tab and click on the link for the Water Resources Review Committee.

Ballot Initiative Update

A series of Ballot Initiatives are working through the system to see if they can meet the requirements to be placed on the November ballot. The latest information can be found on the [Colorado Secretary of State website](#)

#103 Public Trust Doctrine: The Colorado Supreme Court ruled on Monday June 30 that Initiative #103 would not proceed to the No-

member ballot because the Title Board lacked the authority to proceed with a substituted designated representative when one of the original proponents count not attend the rehearing. Although it won't be on this coming ballot it will be important we continue the important educational and outreach efforts to explain how important the Doctrine of Prior Appropriations is for all of Colorado's citizens. To find out more about these efforts to the [Colorado Water Stewardship Project website](#).

#75 Right to Local Self Government. The title has been set and petitions are due by August 4. This initiative gives broad control to local government and although the focus of this initiative is on the gas and oil well industry this has the potential to increase the patchwork of regulatory requirements and even outright prohibition of agricultural activities as well.

#48 Labeling Genetically Modified Food. The title has been set and the required signatures are due to the state by August 4. If this initiative becomes law it would require that by July 1, 2016 labeling of most food items that are or contain genetically modified or engineered product would be required.

Gas and Oil Wells

There are numerous initiatives that could be on the ballot.

CFVGA Proposal for Specialty Crops Block Grant Dollars



CDA is now located at
305 Interlocken Parkway
in Broomfield

Your CFVGA board and affiliates recently submitted a proposal to Colorado Department of Agriculture for their Specialty Crops Block Grant dollars from USDA. That proposal was selected as one of several that will be included in the CDA submission of proposals recommended for funding.

The proposal is titled: “Serving Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers through Educational Outreach, Promotion and Networking”. If funded, it will allow the CFVGA team 2015—2016 to:

1. Assess Grower and Consumer Needs

2. Develop and Implement Educational Outreach and Promotional Products
3. Develop and Implement Educational Outreach and Networking Opportunities

Stay tuned for details!

Organic: Seed supply a grower opportunity - Crystal Andrews, Organic Certification Specialist, CDA

The [National Organic Program](#) requires that organic seed be used in certified organic operations unless the seed is not commercially available in the equivalent variety. Price of organic seed is not an allowed reason for using conventional seed.

Sourcing organic seed can be challenging and even though organic seed use is improving among producers nationwide according to the [Organic Seed Alliance](#), the organ-

ic seed sector has not caught up with the demand. Organic seed resources are increasing and a few are highlighted as follows: [Organic Seed Finder](#) is a site hosted by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) that unites vendors and potential customers. Searches should be conducted often as the seed listings are dynamic and change frequently. The site also allows customers to record what seed they couldn't find which helps to build a

database of organic seed breeding and production needs. There is an [eXtension website](#) that provides technical information, references, and resources to support the development of a viable organic seed sector. [The Organic Variety Trial Reports](#) helps producers research organic crop performance for their location. Other helpful resources include: Organic Seed Alliance at and [Organic Seed Growers Conference](#).



The Colorado Department of Agriculture has moved! Please note our new contact information:
Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021. Main Phone number: 303-869-9000

Senator Bennet Talks with Commodity Groups

US Senator from Colorado, Michael Bennet, discussed agricultural issues and his work on them with representatives from the major commodity associations in Colorado on Friday, June 27 via conference call.

CFVGA Board President,

Robert Sakata, moderated the call and also started the group with the first question: labor on farms is increasingly challenging to recruit and retain. How can we better create opportunities to hire seasonal workers on Colorado's fruit and vegetable farms?

Senator Bennet acknowledged the business challenges for produce growers and described his work to advance an immigration reform bill, concluding immigration reform is needed because "people will start to lose farms to Mexico where the labor is."

Young & Beginning Farmers: National Young Farmers Coalition Update - Kate Greenburg, NYFC Western Organizer

The NYFC is connecting young and beginning farmers across Colorado. With established chapters in Mesa County and Fort Collins, and emerging ones in Denver/Boulder, Salida and Southwest CO, we are planning mixers, crop mobs and harvest parties, and partnering with allies such as the [Rocky Mountain Farmers Union](#) and the Quivira Coalition's [New Agrarian Program](#).

We continue to focus on western water management that supports viable

agriculture and the environment. We are bringing together agricultural stewards as part of our Water Resiliency Project to share best practices on soil health and discuss this as a nexus between agricultural resilience and conservation. Film, case studies and a fall farm tour to come.

We are taking on policy and administrative improvements at the federal level. After successful advocacy for Farm Bill programs such as the Beginning Farmer and

Rancher Development Program, we are assisting the USDA in improving its support for beginning and sustainable farmers; ensuring new FDA food safety rules protect diversified growers; developing tools for land trusts to protect working, affordable farmland; and identifying opportunities for student loan forgiveness.

We depend on your voice! To become a member visit youngfarmers.org. Want to get involved? Email kate@youngfarmers.org



**The Dynamics of Colorado Agriculture:
A Focus on Fruit and Vegetable Producers
Dawn Thilmany, CSU Dept of Ag and Resource Economics**

As the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association kicks off its first year, we are fortunate to have a new Agriculture Census available to help us benchmark the state of the industry, how it sizes up among agricultural sectors, and some key

counties that lead our production in fruits and vegetables. The agriculture census presents more than 6 million pieces of information, which provide a detailed look at the U.S. farm sector at the national, state and county levels.

2012 Census data provide valuable insight into the U.S. farmer demographics, economics and production practices. Some of the key findings include:

A Closer Look at the Fruit and Vegetable Sector in Colorado:

- Between 2007 and 2012, the number of farms reporting vegetable sales increased from 738 to 780 (a 6% increase), while revenues declined from \$289 to \$281 million (a decrease of 2.5%). Vegetables represent about 12% of all crop revenues.
- There was a little over 83,000 acres in vegetable production (all irrigated) in 2012, down from 95,160 acres in 2007. (These numbers are a bit higher if you consider crops grown over Winter months, for example greens planted in late 2011 harvested in the Spring of 2012. The majority (79,000 acres) were harvested for fresh market, with the remainder going for processing.
- Potatoes represented over 59,000 acres (71% of all vegetable acres), but there was a decline from 62,700 acres in 2007. Onions made up another 6,400 acres. Potatoes and onions are two of the vegetables that had some acreage devoted to the processing industry.
- The number of farms reporting fruit and berry sales decreased from 767 to 696 (a 9% decline), but revenues modestly increased from \$23.2 to \$24 million. Fruits represent only 1% of crop revenues.
- There are 6,080 acres of noncitrus fruit in Colorado in 2012, and 4,874 is of bearing age. Of those acres, 1,387 are in apples, 1,088 are in grapes, 2,776 are in peaches, 244 are planted in pears and 276 are in sweet cherries. Nonbearing trees (more recently planted) suggest there continues to be a transition to peaches in Colorado, and to a lesser degree, grapes (which are likely for the growing wine industry).
- In 2012, there was about 85 acres planted in berries, up slightly from 75 acres in 2007.

Where are the “Hot Spots”?

- The top counties for vegetable sales in 2012 were Saguache (\$58.9 million), Rio Grande (\$53.7 million), Alamosa (\$51.2 million), Weld (\$44.2 million), Costilla (\$12.1 million), Larimer (\$6.1 million), Pueblo (\$5.7 million), Montrose (\$4.9 million) and Delta (\$3.4 million). Together, these 8 counties represent about 80% of the state's sales.
- Fruit production is even more concentrated, with the top five counties producing over 95% of the state's total sales. Mesa reported \$14 million in sales, followed by Delta (\$7 million), Fremont (\$693,000), Montezuma (\$513,000), and Montrose (\$502,000)

Organics, Direct Sales, Agritourism and Local Foods

- In the US, 144,530 farm operators reported selling products directly to consumers. In 2012, these sales totaled more than \$1.3 billion (up 8.1 percent from 2007). In Colorado, 2,896 producers sold \$19.2 million, down from \$22.6 million in 2007. Although this may be surprising, the number of operations reporting revenues related to agritourism, sales direct to retailers and Community Supported Agriculture is growing. This may suggest a diversification of income streams.
- Organic sales were growing, but accounted for just 0.8 percent of the total value of U.S. agricultural production. Organic farmers reported \$3.12 billion in sales in 2012, up from \$1.7 billion in 2007. In Colorado, 176 farms reported \$68.2 million in sales, up from \$50.6 million in 2007.

For access to the complete data series and tools to analyze this information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov

Clean Water Act jurisdiction: A brief overview of the new proposed rule on Waters of the U.S.

On March 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released a proposed rule to clarify the jurisdiction of the agencies in administering the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The agencies' proposal has muddied the waters of an issue already rife with complexity and legal ambiguity. Two U.S. Supreme Court rulings (issued in 2001 and 2006 respectively) have exposed a lack of clarity in the statutory definition of "Waters of the U.S." under CWA. EPA and the

Corps have taken it upon themselves to clarify their jurisdiction through regulation. While EPA and the Corps claim their proposed approach will expand their authority only incrementally, many agricultural stakeholders – as well as states, industry groups, and counties – see the possibility for substantial increases in regulation and potential for lawsuits.

The CWA has traditionally applied to "navigable waters," meaning bodies of water that can be used for interstate commerce. The proposed new definition of WOTUS would

increase this jurisdiction to include **tributary, adjacent, and other** waters. Those waters include:

- **Ephemeral streams** would be considered tributaries and thus jurisdictional.
- **Ditches** would be considered tributaries if they carry water that eventually flows to a navigable water.
- Adjacent waters would include "waters located within the **riparian areas** or **floodplain** or water with a surface or **shallow subsurface connection.**" This definition creates new questions as to what those terms will mean in practice.
- The "**other waters**" category has some agricultural interests concerned that isolated wetlands, ponds, and other features common to farms will newly fall under the CWA.

You can submit comments at federalregister.gov until **October 20, 2014**.

EPA: Worker Protection Standard Proposed Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing revisions to the Worker Protection Standards (WPS) to increase protections from pesticide exposure after more than a decade of extensive input from government agencies and from across the agricultural community, including farm workers, farmers, and industry. Proposed changes include in-

creased frequency of mandatory trainings, expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs, a first time-ever minimum age requirement, no-entry buffer areas, measures to improve the states' ability to enforce, personal protection equipment, label and Safety Data Sheets for farmworkers, and continued exemptions for family farms. EPA is seeking your input on the

proposed rule changes. **Comments must be received on or before August 18, 2014 (extended from June 17).**

CFVGA and CSU have created factsheet and recorded webinar resources.

See webinar and factsheet on the [CFVGA Labor page](#) to comment.

Any pesticide (including National Organic Program and OMRI approved) with an "Ag Use Requirement" box on the product label requires compliance with the WPS.

Western Slope Fruit Forecast - Bruce Talbott

The 2014 Western Colorado Fruit crop has experienced weather related crop reduction caused by a December winter kill event and three successive spring frost events which occurred in April and May. This translates to very few surviving apricots and relatively few cherries. Higher elevation orchards did a little

better than Mesa County. The bright spot however is that we are estimating the peach crop for this year to be 85-90% of tree capacity and both pears and apples have good crops. There are a few plums and nectarines. There appears to be about 1/3 of a crop of wine grapes and we are starting to see growers

remove vineyards or convert production to hybrids varieties.

Harvest dates are a little later than average with estimated commercial volumes of peaches starting about July 26th and running into the middle of September. Quality looks very good at this point with good size on a clean crop. Apples and pears both appear clean as well. There will be a few of the early peach varieties available through all of July but middle to late August will be the heart of the deal. In summation, it looks like a good year for the major fruit varieties for both consumer and producer.

CSU/CFVGA Seasonal Labor Survey Highlights

-Adrian Card and Marth Sullins, CSU

Colorado
State
University

Extension

Colorado State University collaborated with CFVGA to better understand labor conditions on specialty crops farms, including recruiting and retaining farm labor in 2014. The online survey was open from May 15 – July 1.

Thirty three commercial fruit and vegetable growers (>\$1000 ag receipts) replied with the most respondents in the Upper South Platte River basin and Gunnison-Delores River basin regions. Most respondents (66.4%) employ less than 10 seasonal workers, 9.1 % employ 11-30 workers, 18.2% employ 31-100 workers and 6.1% employ more than 100 seasonal workers.

Ninety-one percent of fruit growers said recruiting and retaining labor were a high to moderately high risk, compared to 69% of vegetable growers. Only 9.1% overall said it was low or no risk.

Both fruit and veg growers ranked their greatest recruiting issue as finding workers when needed. Fruit growers next identified the seasonal nature of the work, followed by the complexities of H2A as their most challenging issues.

In contrast, veg growers listed their main challenges as lack of worker experience with physical demands of farming, local workers unwilling or unable to do farm work and the increasing worker training needs due to regulations (food safety, worker protection, etc.).

For 2014, 43% of fruit growers said worker recruiting challenges were the same as previous years (compared to 32% of veg growers), while 36% of veg growers are finding it harder to recruit this year (compared to 29% of fruit growers).

Both groups noted the top issues impacting their

ability to retain workers as: 1) workers prefer to draw unemployment benefits, and 2) good workers move on to better jobs as. Fruit growers next identified the need to pay good managers higher wages, while veg growers said the repetitive nature of the work was their third greatest challenge.

About half of fruit and vegetable growers note that worker retention this year is about the same challenge as in prior years, while one-fourth of veg growers said it is more difficult.

According to survey respondents, the majority of workers who leave jobs on fruit and vegetable farms move to other jobs in the area—mostly in food service and construction.

A full report on the survey will be available in August on the [CFVGA website labor page](#).



Nanci Avery of Windsor, Colo. created the artwork for the 2014 Colorado Farm Fresh Directory.

Annual Farm Fresh Directory Available Now!

- Wendy White, CDA

The sights, sounds and smells of summer are here as is the annual Colorado Farm Fresh Directory. The Colorado Department of Agriculture publication helps consumers find farmers' markets, roadside stands, u-picks, wineries and agritourism activities. Farm Fresh includes farms that offer tours, restaurants using

local ingredients, corn mazes, pumpkin patches and farm and ranch vacations. In addition, the free directory includes county fairs, a crop calendar, food and agricultural festivals and tips for picking Colorado produce. The directory is available for free at participating libraries, chambers of com-

merce, welcome centers, visitor centers, CSU Extension offices and other businesses as well as online at www.coloradoagriculture.com/farmfresh.

A mobile app version of Farm Fresh will be available soon!

Colorado Potatoes into Mexico's Markets - Jim Ehrlich, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee

On May 19th, 2014, after a decade of negotiating, the Mexican market opened for U.S. fresh potato shipments. Since 2003 shipments were limited to the first 26 km along the Mexican border. The trade negotiation between the countries was complex and rose to the highest political levels to reach the new agreement. Now shipments can be made to cities with populations greater than 100,000 and must be in bags of 20 lbs. or less. The U.S. also allowed Mexican potatoes to enter the U.S., but without similar restrictions. As a result Mexican consumers could consume healthy, affordable fresh U.S. potatoes. Shipments began immediately and U.S. potatoes

were displayed in Mexican supermarkets.

Three weeks later, on June 9th, 2014, the Mexican market closed again after Mexican potato growers in the state of Sinaloa filed a legal injunction against the Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture, SAGARPA. As a result SAGARPA closed the border to shipments immediately. This resulted in a great deal of difficulty for U.S. potato shippers as many shipments were already at the border or in transit. USDA APHIS worked diligently to see that most of these shipments entered Mexico.

The week of June 16th several U.S.D.A. officials traveled to Mexico City to

meet with SAGARPA and gather information about the pending legal case.

The case alleges that U.S. potatoes pose some type of quarantine threat to the Mexican potato industry. There is no basis for this claim. The potatoes being shipped are destined for consumption only, not planting, and must meet previously agreed upon stringent phytosanitary inspection to be shipped.

While the opening of the Mexican market is a great opportunity for U.S. and Colorado potato growers one has to wonder how serious Mexico is about being an honest and willing trade partner based on these actions. Time will tell.

On May 19th, 2014, after a decade of negotiating, the Mexican market opened for U.S. fresh potato shipments. Three weeks later, on June 9th, 2014, the Mexican market closed again ...

Colorado Proud Hits the Road in August for "Choose Colorado Tour" - Wendy White, CDA

August is Colorado Proud Month, a great time to celebrate the bounty of Colorado agriculture and Colorado Proud's 15th Anniversary! From Denver and Colorado Springs

to Grand Junction and Alamosa, the Colorado Proud car will be traveling the state's roadways this summer making stops along the way to educate consumers about Colorado produce and encour-

aging them to buy local.

More information about Choose Colorado Tour events and locations will be available soon at www.coloradoproud.org



The Colorado Proud car will be coming to a town near you as part of the Choose Colorado Tour.

Upcoming Events, Notices and Resources: send us your events

- Arkansas Valley Research Center Field Day, Rocky Ford, Thursday, September 4th at 3:30 pm, michael.bartolo@colostate.edu (719)254-6312
- OFRF seeks [Research Program Director](#)
- Cofarmtomarket.com for info for produce growers on federal, state and local food licensing regulations and best practices
- [CSU Small Farm and Specialty Crops Ag Business Management Resources](#), marketing, value-added, business planning, food systems, on-farm food safety
- [CSU Extension Building Farmers](#) fall 2014 programs
- [CSU Farm to Table](#) grower food safety resources

**COLORADO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

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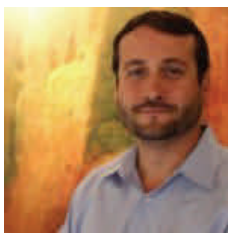
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Issues or ideas to us:

We want to hear from you on issues you are having in the produce business AND with ideas you have for CFVGA. Two ways to connect with this info:

1. Contact Vickie (her info is above)
2. Submit an issue and/or idea in this online form: click [here](#)

Meet a board member - Aaron Perry, industry member



Aaron Perry
SOURCE Local Foods

Aaron Perry is Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of [SOURCE Local Foods](#) and [recycOil](#), where his primary duties include new business opportunity development, executive management, finance and administrative

management, government relations, risk management, strategic planning, deployment and optimization.

Previously, Mr. Perry held key positions with both non-profit and for-profit companies in the sustainable development sectors. He also owns Bainbridge Consulting, LLC, which provides accounting, financial management, and strategic planning services to a number of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and real-estate development companies.

After studying as a Gallatin Scholar at New York University,

he earned a Master's degree (M.A.) with distinction, in German Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he also studied Environmental Policy, Philosophy (Germanistik) and Sustainable Economic Development. He holds a Permaculture Design Certification from the Permaculture Drylands Institute in New Mexico.

He is the proud father of his teenage daughter, Osha, and son, Hunter. Outside of raising his kids and working, Aaron really enjoys backpacking, skiing, painting, writing and traveling.