

2020 SLV Food Asset Mapper Job Description

An Employee of the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition

Based out of the SLVLFC offices at 412 State Avenue/Home Office
Alamosa, CO 81101



Start Date: January 1, 2021 or as soon as that person can get on board. Through 12.31.21

Background: Colorado State University, the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition, and other partners in the San Luis Valley applied for and were awarded a Water Project Research Grant under the Colorado Water Plan Grant Opportunity entitled: *Food asset mapping to understand opportunities for agricultural economic development that reduce water consumption*. This project seeks to address some of the following challenges:

- creating markets and resources for potential shifts in crop production through the development a Colorado-specific protocol to support food asset mapping for local communities,
- implementing the protocol in the San Luis Valley, and
- assessing potential water conservation, job creation, and economic impacts associated with changing production, rotation, or supply chains that meet growing Front Range/Denver market opportunities for Colorado-grown products.

The opportunities available depend on existing food system assets (i.e., available irrigated acreage, kitchen incubators, distribution, cold storage, packing sheds). Thus, identifying and mapping these assets - as well as understanding their condition, capabilities, limitations, and untapped potential - before making recommendations is critical. The results of this project will include:

- 1) creation of a Colorado-specific food asset mapping tool (including technical assistance for its use);
- 2) identification of market opportunities for San Luis Valley-grown products that reduce consumptive water use;
- 3) enhanced understanding of how the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), and other state and local agencies can leverage public and private resources to support agricultural economic development and rural job creation, while also meeting Colorado's Water Plan and Rio Grande Basin goals of sustaining agricultural productivity and supporting rural economies.

To support the project objectives, the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (LFC) is looking for a half-time SLV Food Asset Mapper.

The person chosen will join a dynamic team at a grassroots non-profit working to foster an equitable local food system in the San Luis Valley. Together we can make a great contribution to agriculture, nutrition and healthy food access in the San Luis Valley. We look forward to the opportunity of working together and expect that your employment with the organization will be a mutually beneficial and gratifying one. You would be joining an organization that has established an outstanding reputation for service and hard work. Credit for this goes to everyone in the organization. As a member of the LFC team, you will contribute your talents and energies to further improve the environment and quality of our workplace and further our mission.

What is Food Asset Mapping? Food Asset Mapping is a technique that is used to understand historic changes and shifts in food assets over time. Changes in the flow and diversity of the population impact farming, food processing and manufacturing, as well as the dynamics of the food retail environment. Food assets include the local food infrastructure that maintains food-security, and economically vibrant communities and regions. Assets include farms and ranches, agricultural inputs, processing and distribution capacity, food businesses, markets, retailers, kitchens, waste treatment facilities, emergency food distribution. They also include non-physical assets such as markets, available funding, investment opportunities, services, and technical assistance support. Unlike many previous food asset mapping exercises, it is critical in Colorado and the San Luis Valley to consider natural resource assets, particularly water, which may limit potential opportunities or put other food assets at risk.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate the pilot food asset mapping exercise in the SLV, including interviewing (via Zoom or in person, depending on health and safety recommendations at the time) ag producers, food business owners and others to better understand sector strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Work with the Advisory team, including Zena Buser and Rio de La Vista of Adams State University, Kathy Woods in Economic Development with the City of Alamosa, and Colorado State University partners to develop interviewee lists and interview protocol.
- Engage the existing Value-Added Ag Sector Partnership and the Local Food Local Places stakeholders for guidance and feedback.
- Work with partners to conduct “listening session/coalition meetings” around the SLV
- Capture and organize content from the interviews and create and submit reports as required

Ideal Candidate:

- Experienced in project management and meeting coordination
- Experience working in health equity and food justice arena
- Knowledge of nutrition and local food systems
- Ability to communicate well in person, on social media, and in writing
- Bilingual in English and Spanish
- Comfortable with Word, Excel, Power Point, gmail, google docs, Zoom and other virtual platforms
- Knowledge of the SLV communities and culture
- Knowledge GIS

Education Requirements:

- College degree in related field or 3 years relevant experience

Reports to:

Liza Marron - SLV Supervisor - Director of the SLVLFC

Becca Jablonski - Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, CSU

Physical Conditions of Job

A portion of the work will be performed outdoors.

A VEHICLE IS REQUIRED

A COMPUTER IS REQUIRED

Salary and Benefits

Salary: \$20 per hour

Please apply by sending a cover letter, resume and three reference to opportunity.svlocalfoods@gmail.com

Application Deadline: Open until filled Hopefully early January