Demand for locally produced food creates opportunity for new farmers
Farmers teaching farmers how to market and make money in current economy.

Littleton, Colo. – The farming industry is always changing with growing demands for locally grown produce and the advancements in technology every year. Whether you're new or experienced in the business or just want to harvest and sell produce grown from your back yard, one thing is for sure, there is a new place for Arapahoe County farmers to go for training, networking and business development.

The Colorado State University Extension of Arapahoe County has partnered with Denver and Jefferson County for the 2015 Building Farmers Program and is now taking applications through Dec. 3.

The program will be instructed by local farmers and will include such classes as: Strategic Business Planning, Markets and Marketing Principals, Production Planning and Record Keeping, Financial Analysis and Risk Management, and Contract, Agreements, Partnerships and Sources of Capital. The program is a series of seven evening classes designed to help farmers with up to ten years of experience explore new business strategies and ideas to enhance their business management, production and marketing skills.

The program begins Jan. 20 and classes will be held Tuesday evenings. Only 25 spots are available and applicants will need to be accepted into the program in order to participate. To learn more, come to one of our Information Nights:

- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17, Arapahoe County Lima Plaza, Arapahoe Room, 6954 Lima St., Centennial.
- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 19, Denver CSU Extension Office, 888 E. Iliff Ave., Denver.
- 5 to 6 p.m. Nov. 21, Jefferson CSU Extension Office, ECMR, 15200 W. Sixth Ave., Golden.

If you'd like to attend one of our Information Nights please RSVP with Arapahoe County CSU Extension Program Coordinator Danielle DuBois at ddubois@arapahoegov.org or 303-738-7977.

To learn more about the 2015 Building Farmers Program go to this website: http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/arapahoe/

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