

# Food Safety Training Options for Colorado Cottage Foods Producers



Per changes in 2013 to the Colorado Cottage Food law, below are various options to consider regarding food safety certification training. Additional information on Cottage Foods is available at [www.cofarmtomarket.com](http://www.cofarmtomarket.com).



## Factors to consider:

- **Attitude.** As a business owner, you want to make food safety a priority to ensure that your food product is handled safely through every step of production to sales. A home-based food producer should follow the same standards as is required by the retail food industry.
- **Risk management:** Having a higher level of food safety training may protect you from liability in the unfortunate event that someone contracts a foodborne illness that could be linked to your cottage food business. It is in your best interest to demonstrate that you have achieved a high level of food safety proficiency and are managing your food business with high food safety standards.
- **Certification on display:** Consumers and Farmers Market managers may find proof of higher-level food safety training desirable and a good marketing strategy.

**Which training is right for you?** Most basic, least costly to high level, most expensive:

**StateFoodSafety.com** online food handler training-offered on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) website. 2-year certification. Cost \$10 (Basic- 90 min.); visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DEHS/CBON/1251609769187> which says: **This training meets the requirements needed for the Cottage Foods Law.**

## **Safe Food Handler Classes:**

- a. **Food Safety Works**- 2-year certification. Cost \$30. Length: 2.5 hours; offered by CSU Extension- see contact list for county agents who offer classes in their counties.
- b. County health departments may offer *Food Safety Basics* or similar food handler classes.

**ServSafe® Manager Certification**- 5 year certification, offered by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

- a. **Self-Study/Proctored Exam.** Information at [www.servsafe.com](http://www.servsafe.com) . View materials and search for a proctor under “Students” tab.
  - Online Tutorial (\$125) + Certification Exam (\$36)+ Proctor Fee (~\$25) = ~\$186.
  - Text with exam voucher (\$68) + (\$20 S&H) + proctor fee (~\$25) = \$113.
  - To locate a registered proctor: See list of CSU Extension contacts who are registered instructors and/or proctors or search by zip code under ServSafe® website “find a class”.
- b. **Face-to-Face Training** (usually 8am-5pm), includes text and certification exam: Cost:~\$120-\$150 per CSU Extension; \$180 per Colorado Restaurant Association.