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**USU Extension Sponsors Farm and Food Tourism Workshops**

LOGAN, UTAH — Utah State University Extension sponsors Farm and Food Tourism workshops in West Jordan, UT on February 20 and in St. George, UT on February 21.

 The workshop is designed for Educators, Extension, agency, government and industry representatives looking to assist growers and small food producers in expanding their agritourism or food tourism operations by taking advantage of the growing tourist demand for farm and local food experiences. Growers, small food producers and tourism operators should also attend. Workshop speakers include a variety of academic and industry professionals.

 According to Kynda Curtis, USU Extension agricultural marketing specialist and workshop organizer, “There is an increasing demand for local foods, especially among travelers.” The National Restaurant Association's 2013 Restaurant Industry Forecast reported that seven of 10 consumers were more likely to visit a restaurant offering locally produced items.”

 Workshop topics include: agriculture and food tourism product and service options, value-added food issues and considerations, cottage food production and local regulations, assessing the economic feasibility of agriculture/food tourism enterprises, accessing and serving the tourism market, agritourism enterprise development and considerations, marketing value-added products, and agriculture and food tourism as a diversification strategy.

 The workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Viridian Center 8030 S 1825 W., West Jordan, UT and at USU Extension Washington County 475 South Donlee Drive, St. George, UT. Cost for the workshop is $30 and includes all workshop materials, lunch and breaks.

Registration for the West Jordan location on Friday February 20 is available at <http://diverseag.org/>

Registration for the St. George location on Saturday February 21 is available at <https://farmfoodtourism-stgeorge.eventbrite.com>

For further information, contact Kynda Curtis at 435-797-0444 or kynda.curtis@usu.edu.

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