FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF) Launches “United for the Foodshed-- Carbondale Grows” Food Resiliency Campaign with Resources for Home Gardeners and Advocacy for Local Agriculture

CARBONDALE, Colo. (May 7, 2020) – As the Nation’s agricultural leaders including American Farming Bureau recognize the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic health crisis on the food supply chain, the Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF) today unveils a campaign to support local food resiliency with toolkits and resources for the community to increase garden capacities throughout the town, while advocating the needs of local farmers looking to expand their operations to provide increased production. The CETF is partnering with Roaring Fork Food Alliance and Roaring Fork Permaculture Guild to lead this initiative.

Expansion of Existing Valley-Wide Agriculture Operations
Recognizing the greatest potential for increasing local food supply will come by expanding local agriculture production, the Task Force is working with local farmers and ranchers such as Erin’s Acres, Sunfire Ranch, and Wild Mountain Seeds; institutional food buyers such as Roaring Fork School District, Aspen School District, LIFT-UP, and Aspen Family Connections; and local county governments to secure funding for urgent projects that enable local producers to meet increased demand locally, especially supporting local food banks and schools. Roaring Fork Food Alliance and Roaring Fork Permaculture Guild are partnering with the Aspen Community Foundation to establish a fund that will direct grants to local, for-profit, and non-profit agriculture organizations. The Task Force has also gathered a team of volunteer grant writers to help research financial resources and write grant applications for local agriculture operations. There are currently 6 proposals seeking support for financial resources through this initiative.

Unified for the Foodshed: Promotion of Community and Home Gardening
The Town of Carbondale, in conjunction with local volunteers, has produced several simple guides to encourage local residents to develop back (or front) yard gardens, install chicken coops, and even farm year-round with a greenhouse. The guides provide a comprehensive, but simple instructions to all town permitting and ordinances residents need to follow. They can be downloaded from the Task Force resource webpage: https://www.carbondalegov.org
Carbondale Building Projects Exempt from Permitting: Build a Chicken Coop. Build a Greenhouse. You may not need a permit! This Quick Guide outlines structures exempt from permit which includes greenhouses and chicken coops under a specific size.

Carbondale Residential Garden Quick Start Guide: Includes tips on where residents can put a greenhouse, chicken coop, or garden in their lot. This QuickStart Guide will help locate areas for all these items with confidence.

Garden Quick and Easy Guide (page 2): Provides plant recommendations: food that grows and produces well in the Roaring Fork Valley under 7,000 feet, sample garden layout: make the most of the space you have with this planting map. Prepare your ground: Choose the right location on your lot and prepare your soil for success.

Where to buy “plant starts”: In the spirit of the canceled annual Dandelion Days, many residents consider the start of their spring planting season, there are still plant start sales taking place in town: “Dandelion Days!” hosted by Mana Foods, will be selling plant starts and seeds from a variety of our local growers starting Sunday, May 3rd, 2020. The CRMS Plant Sale will begin on May 8 and run through May 30. Landmark Café’s Pop-up plant sale with Wild Mountain Seeds is May 9th, 2020, 10 AM-3 PM. The Beat is selling both soil and plant starts.

The Task Force is working with the Roaring Fork Food Alliance, which is providing a support service for local gardeners, who can request help in exchange for committing to donate a portion of produce to LIFT-UP. Support services include gardener mentoring in conjunction with the Garfield County Master Gardener Program, materials including top-soil and compost, installation support, gardening tools, and other supplies. Aspiring home gardeners can request garden support here. The Task Force encourages homeowner associations to join this effort by reviewing and supporting the quick start guides.

#ShopEatLocalCarbondale

While Carbondale is already home to an enthusiastic local food movement, many community restaurants and food retailers have been able to pivot during the Stay-at-Home phase of the crisis, to ensure an array of choices, and services for residents. Carbondale Chamber of Commerce continues to champion small businesses who use local producers, farmers, and makers and offers an updated online business guide which includes service hours for Carbondale food and dining businesses, available at www.carbondale.com Some of Carbondale COVID-19 small business survival stories include:

The Beat Carbondale has reoriented to become The Beat Grocery, offering a grocery delivery service that includes local and regional produce, dry goods, and even starter plants. Pick-up or delivery is available. Order online at www.thebeatgrocer.com

A local food pillar of Carbondale, Allegria has created special daily menus and offers an up-valley delivery service to Aspen and Snowmass, as well as surrounding neighborhoods like Missouri Heights. Order by phone or online: www.allegriacarbondale.com

Carbondale’s best-loved distillery team, Marble Distilling Company, launched one of Colorado’s “small batch” hand sanitizers. This is available for purchase, along with favorite Marble Distillery products at the tasting room. www.marbledistilling.com

Batch went curbside to offer its best brews and hard seltzers to-go in growlers and “crowlers”—which include flavors like “Dust Gold Woman” and “Ramble on Rose”. Residents can either pick-up at Batch’s front porch on Main Street, or order for delivery via The Beat Grocery. https://www.facebook.com/BatchCarbondale/
Mana Foods has continued to be a vital retail hub for local produce and is also selling masks and plant starters. [https://www.facebook.com/manafoodscarbondale/](https://www.facebook.com/manafoodscarbondale/)

Bonfire Coffee has remained open seven days a week since the shutdown began, continuing to serve the best coffee in town, along with breakfast and lunch, for curbside collection. Order online: [www.bonfirecoffee.com](http://www.bonfirecoffee.com)

“This is another call to arms as the Carbondale Emergency Task Force starts to look further ahead at the impact of the pandemic on our community and how we can face those challenges. Food security is critical and there are so many things we can all start to do, including buying local, supporting local farmers and producers, as well as starting our own gardens,” said Dan Richardson, Mayor of Carbondale.

“All urgent need has emerged to increase our immediate local food supply. With LIFT-UP and other food resources struggling to meet dramatically increasing demand, and entities from the American Farm Bureau to the United Nations sounding alarms around unprecedented disruptions to our food supply chain, we have sought out the most effective ways to increase local food production in this growing season,” said Gwen Garcelon, director of the Roaring Fork Food Alliance. “Both parts of this two-pronged approach are dependent on getting seeds in the ground in the next few weeks. We especially call on the community to roll up your sleeves and start in your own yards. If you need help, there is a wide network of support for beginning gardeners.”

The Town of Carbondale established the Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF), a collective group of volunteer and organizational expertise from across the community to provide support and guidance to the town in key areas of the potential impact from the COVID-19 global pandemic public health crisis. The community is encouraged to visit the CETF webpage and the English and Spanish language CEFT Facebook pages for all public announcements and updates from the Task Force:
[https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/](https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/)
[https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleETF](https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleETF)
[https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Trabajo-de-Emergencia-de-Carbondale](https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Trabajo-de-Emergencia-de-Carbondale)

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