

# Sam Schmaedeka

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Versatile Technical Advisor and Analytics Engineer with 3+ years of hands-on experience at a fast-paced food-tech startup. Proven track record across the full stack — from building backend data pipelines in Rust and Python to developing React frontends and designing relational database schemas. Experienced in LLM-assisted data processing, large-scale ingredient data engineering (USDA FoodData Central), and translating ambiguous business needs into production-ready systems. Comfortable operating as a generalist on small teams where breadth and ownership matter.

## CORE SKILLS

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**Languages & Frameworks:** Python, Rust (Loco framework), SQL, JavaScript/TypeScript, React/Next.js

**Data Engineering:** ETL pipeline design, data modeling, LLM-assisted data cleaning, USDA FoodData Central integration, UUIDv7, CSV fixture workflows

**Backend & Databases:** PostgreSQL, schema design, idempotent seeding tasks, REST APIs, Cargo/crates ecosystem

**Frontend:** React, Next.js, reusable UI components, data visualization dashboards

**Tooling & Workflow:** VSCode, Git/GitHub, Figma, Notion, Slack, Google Drive, Google Sheets (advanced formulas)

**AI & Automation:** Anthropic API (Claude), LLM-based deduplication and canonicalization pipelines, prompt engineering

**Soft Skills:** Cross-functional collaboration, technical writing, translating business requirements to engineering specs

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Technical Advisor | CooksAtlas

*Remote / San Francisco, CA • Sept 2022 – Present*

- Designed and executed an 8-phase USDA ingredient data cleaning pipeline using Python and the Anthropic API, reducing ~13,590 raw records to ~2,300 production-ready ingredients via category filtering, deduplication, LLM-based variant consolidation, and canonical display naming.
- Built a Rust/Loco backend seeding task (`seed_ingredients.rs`) to populate a PostgreSQL ingredients table from curated CSV fixtures, including English translations, category mapping, and bridge table linking via `ingredient_data_links` — spanning 1,927 ingredients.
- Developed a standalone Rust binary (`generate_ingredient_ids.rs`) to stamp UUIDv7 values across ingredient fixture files, ensuring globally unique, time-ordered IDs for production use.
- Created a ZIP code–based produce seasonality engine cross-referencing 180+ fruits and vegetables against state and month, integrated into a searchable user-facing application.
- Built ETL workflows in Python and SQL to clean, normalize, and model 100k+ food and nutrition records, reducing manual cleanup time by ~60%.
- Developed reusable React components for recipe analytics cards (cook time, difficulty, data consistency checks) and analytics dashboards for ingredient and recipe insights.
- Collaborated in weekly syncs with non-technical founders to translate business questions into actionable reports, database schemas, and engineering specs.
- Implemented data governance standards, including deduplication logic, consistent schema design, and quality checks across 50+ spreadsheets and multi-source datasets.

### Bartender / Bar Manager | Workshop Food Hall

*Rochester, MN • Nov 2021 – Present*

- Crafted multiple signature cocktails featured on the permanent menu, contributing \$50,000+ in annual revenue.
- Applied analytical thinking to sales pattern analysis, seasonality trends, and inventory optimization to improve business outcomes.
- Built strong client-facing communication and problem-solving skills in a fast-paced, high-volume environment — directly applicable to stakeholder and founder collaboration.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

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- **USDA Ingredient Data Pipeline:** End-to-end pipeline (Python + Anthropic API) reducing 13k+ raw USDA records to ~2,300 canonicalized, categorized ingredients for production use. Integrated into CooksAtlas backend via dedicated research branch and PR review process.
- **Rust Ingredient Seeder:** Loco task in Rust that seeds a PostgreSQL ingredients table from CSV fixtures with idempotent exact-match logic, UUIDv7 stamping, and multi-table bridge linking.
- **Produce Seasonality Engine:** Cross-references 180+ fruits and vegetables against 50 states and any date to generate real-time seasonal availability lookups for end users.
- **Food Data Warehouse:** Modeled and standardized USDA food and nutrition datasets, linking multiple sources with gram-weight normalization and consistent schema design.
- **Portfolio Site:** Personal developer portfolio at [schmeddytheyeti.github.io](https://schmeddytheyeti.github.io) — built to showcase data engineering, full-stack, and analytics work.

## EDUCATION

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**BS in Biotechnology** | Minnesota State University

*Mankato, MN • 2015 – 2020*