BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cohosted by USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) and Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area

WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM EST

If you have any questions, please contact:
Alex Cordova at alex.cordova@usda.gov (OPPE)
Jessica Carlton at jessica.carlton@usda.gov (FPAC)
• Microsoft Teams Live Event is a one-way video and audio feed.
• A Q&A opportunity will be held after the first and second panel presentations.
• Please submit questions or comments using the Q&A function in the upper right corner of your screen. Please identify yourself when asking a question to help us best address your inquiry or you are welcome to use the anonymous option.
• For closed captions, use the “turn on live captions (preview)” function listed in the event menu.
• If you need to pause the meeting, click the pause button found in the lower-left corner of your screen. You can then click the button again to play from where you left off or jump to real-time by clicking “Live” which is located next to the play button.
• The Microsoft Teams Live Event is being recorded.
Building Resilience in Agricultural and Food Systems through Innovative and Strategic Partnerships: Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

Lee Cruz
Director of Community Outreach

February 17, 2021
Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

• Established in 1928 as the community's permanent charitable endowment
• Serves New Haven and 19 surrounding towns through funds established by donors
• Charitable assets under management: $720 million

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (CFGNH)

MISSION: To inspire, support, inform, listen to and collaborate with the people and organizations of Greater New Haven to build an ever more connected, inclusive, equitable and philanthropic community.

VISION: A community of expanding opportunity in which all people share a sense of common destiny and have the support and connections needed to build successful lives.
CFGNH, Agriculture and Food Security

• Funding community gardens that have become sources of resident food production since 1996
• Urban Agriculture and Food System work: $1.785 million over the past 20 years

As a place-based funder, CFGNH:

• Awards grants through 18 competitive grant process and in some cases, through contract for services
• Sponsors The Great Give® (a 36-hour online giving event), which raised $ 3.57 million for local nonprofits in 2020
• Offers ongoing trainings to support nonprofit staff and Community Leaders
• Collects and shares data on program effectiveness, challenges, opportunities; informs local philanthropy; acts as a conduit for other funding
The New Haven Land Trust and New Haven Farms are now:

Gather New Haven

- Initially started as two separate organizations
- New Haven Land Trust was established in 1982 to preserve open land in New Haven and find innovative ways to use open land in our neighborhoods
- New Haven Farms begins work with 40 families in 2013 as a bilingual (English/Spanish) Farm-based Wellness Program
Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

• For nearly 20 years, CFGNH has supported 50+ community gardens in partnership with the city of New Haven
• Economic and social reality of New Haven made the transformation from simply places of beauty to places of beauty where food is grown logical and necessary
• CFGNH provided grant support at key points in the re-focused purpose of the NHLT gardens
• **Lesson Learned:** Long-term stable funding matters as do relationships of trust
Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

- Idea from a Community Outreach worker at one of our federally-qualified community health centers
  - Language and culturally appropriate info about managing diabetes is necessary, but not sufficient to produce desired health outcomes
  - Engagement in food production and preparation can be the catalyst that leads to dietary changes for better health outcomes
- CFGNH was an initial funder of NHF
- **Lesson Learned:** Pay attention to frontline workers, they can be a leading indicator of what researchers later find to have merit

Former New Haven Farms (NHF)
Sowing the Seeds of Collaboration and Partnership...

- **2015** Joint NHLT & NHF incubator garden project, 20 families, individual garden beds and technical support

Continued separate innovation:

- **2016** NHF begins Community Health Ambassador Program, past graduates' mentor new participants, also starts Farm stand
- **2016** NHLT starts Growing Entrepreneurs program. High School students create businesses based on garden products, keep ALL proceeds from their own businesses
... Sowing the Seeds

• **2018** NHF & NHLT relocate to shared office space
• **2020** NHF & NHLT merge with technical and financial help from CFGNH

**Lesson Learned**: Value of long-term investing in innovative and collaborative organizations
CitySeed Farmers Markets ...

- Est. 2004 to provide urban residents access to locally-grown fresh, healthy food from local, producer-only farmers
- Grown to 6 markets since; currently operating 3 due to COVID-19
- Certified to accept Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program coupons, distributed to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP) through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards
- 1st farmers’ market in Connecticut to accept SNAP/EBT ...
Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

• 2007 USDA “Golden Grocer Hunger Champion” in the farmers’ market category for Food Stamp and nutrition education programs

• Serves 55,000 customers/year, provides space for approx. 60 vendors, half CT farmers, half food entrepreneurs sourcing from local farms

• **Lesson Learned**: Power of entrepreneurship to address social injustices, power of public/private partnerships

... CitySeed Farmers Markets
Lessons Learned by a Local Funder

City of New Haven, Food System Policy Division

• Building a just and equitable local food system by operating through a food justice framework across 3 thematic priorities: health equity, socio-economic justice & environmental justice

• Everything else to be said about the NHFPD will be said by my co-presenter, Latha Swamy, because CFGNH missed this opportunity

• Lesson Learned: When forward-thinking food-justice advocates you know request matching funds for Kendall Foundation funds to create a city position to direct food policy — support them (we did not)
New Haven Food Policy Council

- A volunteer advisory board of residents appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Alders, City of New Haven
- CFGNH provided multi-year funding to launch and staff the FPC, with the mission of strengthening local food systems
- **Lesson Learned**: It is never too late to learn from the aggregated wisdom of those who are committed to Food Justice
Lessons Learned: Summary

- Long-term stable funding matters, as do relationships of trust
- Pay attention to frontline workers, they can be a leading indicator of what researchers later find to have merit
- Value of long-term investing in innovative and collaborative organizations
- Power of entrepreneurship to address social injustices

- Power of public/private partnerships
- When forward thinking food-justice advocates you know request matching funds for Kendall Foundation funds to create a city position to direct food policy — support them (we did not)
- It is never too late to learn from those who are committed to Food Justice
Additional Lessons Learned Along the Way

• Listen for larger vision and remain focused on it.
• Be relational, take time to learn about the people, not just the program or project

• Frame in terms of opportunities not in terms of problems
• Develop metrics that recognize that diversity, equity and inclusion matter and use them
Thank you!

Eliezer Lee Cruz
Director of Community Outreach

@cfgnh
@welcominggnh
linkedin.com/company/cfgnh
www.cfgnh.org
lcruz@cfgnh.org
Aligning Urban Food and Farming Policies to Advance Public Health, Climate Resilience, and Equity

Latha Swamy
Director of Food System Policy
City of New Haven, CT
February 17, 2021
New Haven, CT

Population
~130,000

Median annual income
$38,126 vs. $71,755 in CT

~49% of residents are low-income (23% statewide)

~26% of residents live in poverty (10% statewide)

@NHVfoodpolicy
pre-COVID, ~22% of the city’s residents were food insecure (13% statewide, 11% nationwide)
Food System Policy Division Timeline

Mid 2016
- FSPD established as a new Division within Health & Human Services with funding from Kendall Foundation

Late 2018
- Latha Swamy hired as Director. Position is moved under City’s General Funds

Early 2020
- Kimberly Acosta begins working with the FSPD as a part-time Admin
- COVID-19 response efforts begin

Mid 2020
- FSPD secures its first grants

Late 2020
- Kimberly Acosta hired as Analyst (USDA funded) and Lexi Basile begins as the Admin (CARES Act funded)

@NHVfoodpolicy
City of New Haven Food Policy Priorities

Socioeconomic Justice

Environmental Justice

Anti-Racist Food, Farming, & Land-Use Policies

Health Equity
Key Collaborative Partnerships & Networks

International
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

National
- US Conference of Mayors
- US Federal Food Policy Partnership

State/Regional
- Working Lands Alliance
- CT Food System Alliance
- Senator Murphy’s Land Conservation Council
- Food Solutions New England

Local
- Witnesses to Hunger,
- REACH CDC Grant,
- Coordinated Food Assistance Network (CFAN), BOE Food Service Task Force,
- food system non-profits, food businesses, unaffiliated residents
URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture involves many different types of food-producing spaces, stakeholders, resources, and policies, and contributes to many benefits.

Health
- Access to healthy food
- Food health literacy
- Healthy eating
- Physical activity

Social
- Empowerment + Mobilization
- Youth Development & Education
- Food Security
- Safe spaces
- Socially Integrated Aging

Economic
- Local economic stimulation
- Job Growth
- Job Readiness
- Food Affordability

Ecological
- Awareness of Food Systems Ecology
- Stewardship
- Conservation
- Storm Water Management
- Soil Improvement
- Biodiversity + Habitat Improvement

Community Farms

Commercial Farms

Institutional Farms

Community Gardens

People
- Local residents
- Volunteers
- Community organizations
- Students
- Visitors
- Market customers

Soil & Compost
- Self-produced
- Purchased
- Donated

Supplies
- Seeds
- Fertilizer
- Tools
- Construction Materials
- Water
- Electricity

Key Stakeholders
- Farmers and Gardeners
- Government Officials
- Support Organizations

Financial Resources
- Sales of produce
- Grants
- Donations
- Fees for services

Support Services
- Technical assistance
- Advocacy and policy work
- Environmental education
- Networking events

Access to land and rooftops
The **Food System Policy Division** secured both the:

- Urban Ag & Innovative Production (**UAIP**) Competitive Planning Grant (**$500,000**)  
- Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (**CCFWR**) Cooperative Agreement (**$90,000**)
Urban Agriculture in New Haven

Municipal and Systemic Barriers:

- City processes that are opaque and cumbersome to navigate
- Non-existent and outdated zoning regulations and land-use policies (including the remnants of racist practices such as redlining)
- Difficulty accessing knowledge and financial resources for urban agricultural initiatives
- Catalyst for displacement and gentrification
New Haven’s first Urban Agriculture Master Plan

Creating a Blueprint for Equitable Urban Agricultural Growth & Development
Urban Agriculture Community Advisory Board

- Up to 60 members
- 3-year paid advisory role ($25/hr)
- Covers 4 expert groups
  - Community Health
  - Neighborhood
  - Farming
  - Youth

Guiding Values: equity, community involvement and ownership, and protection against gentrification and displacement
Guiding Values: equity, community involvement and ownership, and protection against gentrification and displacement

1) Creating an **equitable and enabling policy environment** for urban agriculture in New Haven

1) Assessing the **socio-economic viability** of urban agriculture and its related businesses in New Haven

1) Mobilizing resources for **workforce development and training** in urban agriculture and its related businesses
Grant Objectives

● Eliminate long-standing regulatory, resource, and information barriers.

● Provide a cohesive strategy to:
  ○ create transparent, easy-to-navigate City processes
  ○ update zoning regulations and land-use policies
  ○ improve access to knowledge and financial resources for urban agricultural initiatives
  ○ and to better connect with Black, Brown, and low-income communities.
THE NEW HAVEN VACANT LOT TOOLKIT

A guidebook for starting a community garden or greenspace

Developed in Partnership between the City of New Haven Food System Policy Division and the Livable City Initiative

SEPTEMBER 2020
I am worried that my project might not be allowed in my zoning district. What should I do?


### Business and Industrial Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>BA</th>
<th>BA-1</th>
<th>BA-2</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>BD</th>
<th>BD-1</th>
<th>BD-2</th>
<th>BD-3</th>
<th>BE</th>
<th>IL</th>
<th>IM</th>
<th>IH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public access park, open space or community garden</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm &amp; garden supplies, including greenhouse, nursery,</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**

- BA: General Business
- BA-1: Neighborhood Center Mixed Use
- BA-2: Village Center
- BB: Automotive Sales
- BC: Marine Commercial
- BD: Central Business
- BD-1: Central Business/Residential
- BD-2: Central/Business/Medical
- BD-3: Central Business/Mixed-Use
- BE: Wholesale and Distribution
- IL: Light Industry
- IM: Light Industry/Marine
- IH: Heavy Industry

### Residential Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>RS-1</th>
<th>RS-2</th>
<th>RM-1</th>
<th>RM-2</th>
<th>RH-1</th>
<th>RH-2</th>
<th>RO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Playgrounds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping of Hens for Non-Commercial Accessory Use</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**

- RS-1: Special Single Family
- RS-2: General Single Family
- RM-1: Low-Middle Density
- RM-2: High-Middle Density
- RH-1: Special High Density
- RH-2: General High Density
- RO: Residence-Office
Opportunities for Change

● Staffing
● Awareness
● Funding
● Organizational structure
Visit our new website!
foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov

And follow us on social media:

@NHVfoodpolicy
Thank you!

Latha Swamy  
Director of Food System Policy  
Email: lswamy@newhavenct.gov  
Website: foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov

@NHVfoodpolicy
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cohosted by USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) and Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area

WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM EST

If you have any questions, please contact:
Alex Cordova at alex.cordova@usda.gov (OPPE)
Jessica Carlton at jessica.carlton@usda.gov (FPAC)
Building Resilience in Agricultural & Food Systems through Strategic Partnerships
ICBA Solutions

Operational Risk

Operational Risk includes risks such as cyber, data and physical security, natural disasters, pandemics or other internal and external forces that should be addressed in a community bank's disaster recovery, business continuity, incident response, or pandemic plans.

- OPERATIONAL RISK
- CYBER & DATA SECURITY
Helping Bankers Cope with Disasters

Operational Risk includes risks such as cyber, data and physical security, natural disasters, pandemics or other internal and external forces that should be addressed in a community bank's disaster recovery, business continuity, incident response, or pandemic plans.

In some cases, Operational Risk can also result from inadequate or failed procedures, systems, or polices due to employee error, system failure, fraud or criminal activity.

Please note: many of the documents on these pages are accessible for ICBA bank members only. Please login to access.
Preparing for A Multitude of Natural Disasters

Natural Disaster Training
- FEMA - 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report
- FEMA - Emergency Managers Training
- FEMA - Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
- Ready.gov - Training
- Shakeout - Earthquake Drills

All Hazards
- FEMA NBEOC - Emergency Operations Dashboard
- FS-ISAC - All-Hazards Framework
- PowerOutage.US - Outage Map
- Red Cross - Disaster Shelters

Severe Weather
- NWS - Hurricane Preparedness
- Ready.gov - Severe Weather
- FEMA - Flood Insurance

Hurricanes
- FEMA - Hurricane Incident Journal
- NWS - Hurricane Preparedness
- Ready.gov - Hurricane Resources
- Ready.gov - Hurricane Toolkit
- SBA - Hurricane Preparedness
Importance of a Business Continuity Plan for Disaster Recovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Disaster Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% OF SMALL BUSINESSES WON’T REOPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Year Later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% MORE SMALL BUSINESSES WILL CLOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Years Later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% OF BUSINESSES WITHOUT A CONTINUITY PLAN WILL FAIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2014 data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and US Department of Labor
Strategic Partnerships in Support of Resilience in Disaster Recovery

The Farm Service Agency and North South Institute
Farm Service Agency
Who we are

FSA is a farmer-facing agency serving America’s agricultural communities. We’re the front door to USDA and our programs are an engine for economic development.
FSA programs at a glance

Farm programs
- Safety net programs
- Risk management and disaster assistance programs
- Conservation programs

Farm loans
- Access to capital for farm ownership and operating expenses
- Guaranteed loans
We can’t do it alone!

Our partnership goals:
- Reach farmers
- Build trust
- Access for underserved

Unfunded
State coordinators
Presentations and events, community development teams, innovative pilot projects

Funded
Cooperative agreements
Technical assistance
Outreach
Farmer resource access

Grants.gov
Fsa.usda.gov/subscribe
Fsa.usda.gov/outreach
Partnerships in support of producer and community resilience

Federal

• Farm stress training initiative: working with experts to train our staff
• New seafood program: teaming up to reach new customers
• Coronavirus relief program: farmer guides, technical support

State/Local

• Technical assistance and workshops: funding projects to support farmer access to FSA programs
• Coronavirus relief program: supporting hyper local producer program access
Strategic Partnerships in Support of Resilience in Disaster Recovery
The Farm Service Agency and North South Institute (NSI)
How NSI partners with FSA, USDA, and Non-Governmental Partners to Build Resiliency for Farmers During Disaster Recovery - Dr. Samuel Scott - CEO/ED

CONTENTS

• What is NSI, What We Do, and How We Serve
• Beneficiaries Served by NSI & FSA Strategic Partnership
• What Framework We Use in Building Resiliency in Disaster Recovery of Farmers and Ranchers with Our Partners
• Examples of FSA and NSI Partnerships Demonstrating Results in Terms of Impact and Outcomes
• What are the Outputs and Relationships that are Strengthened as per Disaster Assistance/Evidence Tracking, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Reinvestment
What is NSI, What We Do, and How We Serve

What is NSI – A 25-year-old organization operating as an economic research and development think and do tank that serves Small and Medium Sized Farmers and Ranchers in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, Rural Small Businesses and Microenterprises; and underserved communities.

What We Do - NSI develops and facilitates solutions with sufficient clarity and understanding that assist entities served within the public and private sectors to make better informed business decisions that increase efficiency, productivity and overall profits.

How We Serve - Using a Community Based Participatory Approach NSI facilitate Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Communities by promoting and implementing strategies in Eradicating Poverty, Hunger, Illiteracy and Human Suffering through Empowerment, Education, Entrepreneurship, Enterprise Development and Economic Development.

Areas of Coverage - Our Website www.nsied.org provides data and information that allows anyone to get to know us and how partnerships are developed with FSA, USDA and Other Federal and State Agencies and NGOs in building and implement programs that support targeted beneficiaries and communities in 42 Counties in Florida, 14 in Alabama, 12 in Georgia, 7 in South Carolina, and selected overseas countries. In the US and territories in Caribbean and Pacific we serve other producers and handle referrals.
Beneficiaries Served by NSI & FSA Strategic Partnership

- Beginning Farmers & Ranchers
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
- Veteran Farmers
- Women Tenant Farmers
- Limited Resource Farmers/Caucasian Farmers
- Transitioning Farmworkers
- Cooperatives
- Rural Small Businesses and Microenterprises
- Part-Time Farmers
- Immigrant Farmers
- Urban Community Food Gardens, and
- Small Peri-Urban Farmers
What Framework We Use in Building Resiliency of Farmers and Ranchers with Our Partners

• NSI uses Four (4) Pillars to build and implement strategic partnerships.
  • These Pillars are (1) Training; (2) Technical Assistance; (3) Resource Mobilization, and (4) Risk Management/Disaster Recovery – Recordation and Evidence Tracking & Monitoring.
  • **Partnerships**
    • **Training**: Universities, NGOs, Federal and State Agencies
    • **Technical Assistance**: Federal and State Agencies, Universities, and Private Sector Industry Representatives
    • **Resource Mobilization/Funding**: Federal and State Agencies and Private Sector
    • **Risk Management/Disaster Recovery - Recordation and Evidence Tracking & Monitoring**: FSA, RMA, OPPE/OAO, NIFA, NRCS, AMS, RD
FSA and NSI Partnerships Demonstrating Results in Terms of Impact and Outcomes

### NSI Annual Impact
**January - December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSI Extension Connections</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSI Training Events</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits and Social Media Engagements</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>13,653</td>
<td>20,887</td>
<td>5,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Learning Participants</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Consultations</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Consultations</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Consultations</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field or Site Visits</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Material Produced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Producers Served as Direct Beneficiaries</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Indirect Household Beneficiaries Served in the Communities</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Course Participants/Webinars</td>
<td>14/1</td>
<td>123/20</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NSI Service Delivery                                          |        |        |        |        |
| Technical Assistance Provided                                 | 316    | 336    | 699    | 400    |
| Material Distributed                                          | 486    | 1,499  | 8,031  | 2,693  |
| New Producers Registered with FSA, RD, NRCS                  | 18     | 0      | 35     | 16     |
| Loan Applications Submitted to USDA*                         | 5N/0R  | 6N/0R  | 3N/2R  | 12N/7R |
| (Microloans, Operation, Land Purchase)                       |        |        |        |        |
| Loan Applications Approved*                                   | 3N/0R  | 3N/0R  | 5N/2R  | 8N/7R  |
| Total Loan Values Approved (New Loans Only)**                | $4,750 | $1,700 | $650,000 | $475,000 |
| Producers Applied for NAP Coverage                           | 21     | 23     | 12     | 11     |
| Crops selected for coverage under NAP                       | 11     | 14     | 12     | 5      |
| Registration, Contact, and Tracking:                         | 259    | 224    | 631    | 200    |
| NAP, CFAP-1, CFAP-2, ECP, & WHIP***                          |        |        |        |        |
| Loan Applications Submitted to Non-USDA Institutions****     | 4      |        |        |        |
| Loan Applications Approved**                                  | 2      |        |        |        |
| Total Loan Values Approved*                                  | $62,000|        |        |        |

* (N = New Loans / R = Rescheduled Loans) ** Producer Home Loans & SBA PPP Loans to Assist During COVID-19 Pandemic
** Loans in 2017 & 2018 include land purchases. *** ECP and WHIP not applicable in 2017

Please Note: Training, Outreach, and Technical Assistance activities were impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions in 2020
What are the Outputs and Relationships that are Strengthened

- **Federal Level:** Technical Assistance/Outreach Support – COMAS, Davis, Falcone, Hill
- **State and Locally Offices in 42 Counties:** Training, Technical Assistance/Outreach – Wright, Fletcher, Blackwood, Mundo, Rodriguez, Mendez, Brown, Hoover, Stokes, Brandenburg, Sweeney, Lapradd, Cotrell, Onuoha, Sudeen
- **Resource Mobilization:** Microloan (Concept Paper on Microloan Initiative); Farm Ownership Loans, COC
- **Disaster Assistance/Evidence Tracking & Monitoring & Evaluation and Reinvestment** - NAP, ECP, CFAP
Building Soil and Resilience in the Mississippi River Basin

Walton Family Foundation
February 17, 2021
Making cover crops and diverse rotations work

- Build soil health and improve farmer resilience by diversifying the corn/soy rotation
- Improve water quality to benefit people and nature in the Mississippi River Basin
- Build resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, both on farms and downstream
Small grains and cover crops: types of projects

- Working with farmers to:
  - Facilitate peer to peer learning
  - Provide technical assistance needed to transition to cover crops
  - Collect data on the economic and risk reducing value of changed rotations as well as environmental outcomes

- Working with other value chain partners to build demand:
  - Train CCAs and other farmer advisors
  - Explore other “payers” including down-stream water users and supply chain companies
  - Support NGOs to partner with to develop on-the-ground projects with companies and other partners

- Build a better enabling environment
  - Expand and make better use of Title 2 funds
  - Connect state and federal programs to leverage investments
  - Explore how to create incentives based on reducing risk through conservation
Cover crop
– crop insurance incentive

• Philanthropic support to:
  • Develop the partnership between the state and federal agencies
  • Raise awareness of program, assess implementation and results

• Since 2017, partners have included:
  • USDA RMA, national and local partners (NRDC, PFI, American Farmland Trust)
  • Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship; Illinois Department of Ag

• Results:
  • In Iowa, over 3 year pilot, more than half a million acres were enrolled
  • In Illinois, 50,000 acre cap was met in 24 hours; unmet demand of at least 135,000 additional acres
  • Other states exploring similar pilots
Soil and Water outcomes fund

- Philanthropic support to:
  - Scope the potential to create and sell credits
  - Raise awareness of program among farmers, develop contractual mechanism for them to get paid
  - Develop partnership with cities and supply chain companies

- Since 2019, partners have included:
  - Quantitative Ventures, Cities of Cedar Rapids, and Ames, Cargill, Iowa Soybeans, and Sand County Foundation

- Results:
  - In Iowa, enrolled 10,000 acres in 2020 to produce 6,750 tons of carbon sequestered, 100,000 lbs. of nitrogen and 10,000 lbs. of phosphorus captured
  - In 2021, the program is anticipated to expand to 100,000 acres and up to 5 million acres by 2027
Resilience in Rural Areas

How Strategic Partnerships Can Support Disaster Recovery
Why Are Rural Communities Vulnerable?

- Lax mitigation practices due to lack of local government capacity and fiscal resources from an undiversified economic base
- State and federal grants (to bolster resilience) based on population size may be biased against rural communities
- Less robust infrastructure
  - Weaker structures like mobile homes and older houses that are non-conforming to newer building codes are more susceptible to damage
  - Rural areas may lack the resources to rebuild stronger infrastructure or undertake recovery efforts that do not result in a large financial burden
- Rural populations often include greater proportions of individuals with lower incomes and lower education levels, relatively older populations, and people whose livelihoods are dependent on resource-focused occupations, such as farming.
Overview of Issues For Disaster Recovery

► Smaller tax bases can cause financial constraints
► Limited population can affect the way state and local mitigation and recovery funds are distributed
► Training opportunities and equipment for disaster response might be lacking
► Organizational capacity to manage potential resources
► Lack of economic diversity and reliance on agriculture as the predominant economic driver exacerbates recovery challenges
► Reduced access to technology can prevent communication before, during, and after disasters.
Overview of Issues For Disaster Recovery

► Smaller tax bases can cause financial constraints
► Limited population can affect the way state and local mitigation and recovery funds are distributed
► Training opportunities and equipment for disaster response might be lacking
► Organizational capacity to manage potential resources
► Lack of economic diversity and reliance on agriculture as the predominant economic driver exacerbates recovery challenges
► Reduced access to technology can prevent communication before, during, and after disasters.
Examples of Palm Beach County Partnerships in our Rural Areas

► Contracts with local growers for food supply
► Partnerships with distributors for transportation needs
► Storage and packing house contracts
► Food bank partnerships
► Relaxation of restrictions of truck size and weight on roads during disasters
► Palm Tran transportation partnerships for sheltering and evacuations
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cohosted by USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) and Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area

WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM EST

If you have any questions, please contact:
Alex Cordova at alex.cordova@usda.gov (OPPE)
Jessica Carlton at jessica.carlton@usda.gov (FPAC)
U.S. Food Systems & the UN Food Systems Summit

Presentation for FPAC/OPPE
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of the Chief Economist

February 18, 2021
What is a food system?

Many definitions – all describe an extensive system

• A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of these activities, including economic, social and environmental outcomes.
What is a sustainable food system?

Many different definitions, all of which integrate objectives related to the three dimensions of sustainable development:

- Economic sustainability – Example: Farming must be profitable to ensure that farmers have decent standards of living and that new farmers are drawn to the profession.
- Social sustainability – Example: Food must be accessible and affordable to ensure food security for all.
- Environmental sustainability – Example: Natural resources must be sustainably managed to ensure resilient agricultural production and other ecosystem services.

Each dimension of sustainability—economic, social and environmental—is essential to agricultural and food system sustainability.
The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General will convene a Food Systems Summit in September 2021 as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Summit has the stated goal of transforming the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about foods within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to meet the challenges of poverty, food security, malnutrition, population growth, climate change, and natural resource degradation.

The Summit offers a unique opportunity to build cohesion around the goals of meeting the food and nutrition needs of current and future populations, while safeguarding and improving farmers’ livelihoods, creating jobs, conserving natural resources and biodiversity, and contributing to sustainable development across all three pillars: environmental, social and economic.
• Organize or participate in an Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue
• Engage in the Cross-Cutting Levers for Change, such as Innovation or Finance
• Get involved in the five Action Tracks:
  • Participate in a UN-hosted Public Forum Dialogue, including submitting questions/ideas
  • Submit Game-Changing Solutions via a Summit survey, found within each Action Track
• Join the Food Systems Summit Champions and Heroes Network
• Join a Food Systems Community Platform
• Stay up to date on USDA’s Food Systems Summit website
• Form coalitions to amplify your voice
• Use social media to convey your priorities and message @FoodSystems
### USDA Programs in the Local Food Supply Chain

USDA is committed to supporting robust regional food economies across the food chain through the programs noted below.

#### Land Conservation
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (NRCS)
- Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreements (NRCS)
- Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Solid Waste Management Grants (RD)

#### Production
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Farm Microloans (FSA)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Grass Fed Small and Very Small Producer Program (AMS)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Other Disaster Assistance Programs (FSA)
- Organic Cost Share (FSA)
- Rural Energy for America Program (RD)

#### Processing
- Agricultural Innovation Center (RD)
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)

#### Aggregation/Distribution
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)

#### Markets/Consumers
- Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA)
- Farm to School Grant Program (FNS)
- Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly FNS) (NIFA)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FNS)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FNS)

---

**Research, Education, and Technical Assistance Programs Along the Supply Chain**

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (NIFA)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (NIFA)
- Community Prosperity Funding Opportunity (OPPE)
- Conservation Technical Assistance (NRCS)
- Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AGVETS) (NIFA)
- Extension Risk Management (NIFA)
- Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (AMS)
- Food Safety Outreach Program (NIFA)
- Organic Research & Extension Initiative (NIFA)
- Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 Program) (OPPE)
- Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RD)
- Small Business Innovation Research (NIFA)
- Socially Disadvantaged Group Grant (RD)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (NIFA)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NIFA)
Facility Design

Services include:

• Site selection (space planning, layout, etc.);

• Initial design concept (sketches, programming, floor plans, elevations, etc.);

• Coordination with local design professionals as a non-contracted third party.

https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional
Local Food Local Places

- Partnership with EPA
- Supports cities and towns reinvest in existing neighborhoods by developing local food systems
- Community driven
- Facilitated planning process
Visit the Resource Hub at https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/
Project Partners

Local and Regional Food Systems
National Farm to Institution Metrics Collaborative

Good Food, Good Data, Big Impact

- University of Kentucky Food Connection (cooperator)
- Farm to Institution New England
- Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems
- Center for Good Food Purchasing
- Health Care Without Harm
- National Farm to School Network
- Community Health Improvement Partners (San Diego)
- Real Food Generation
- USDA FNS
- USDA AMS

https://ftimetrics.localfoodeconomics.com/
Reach out!

Christina Conell
Deputy Director
Marketing Services Division
Agricultural Marketing Service
Christina.conell@usda.gov
202-657-8647

https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional
Working together to develop fresh, creative solutions – Innovate!

- Centralization of key **Reg Management** functions to better support RD programs
- Building and leveraging **Strategic Engagement** and Partnerships to increase impact
- Using **Data Analytics** to enhance evidence-based decision making

Website for more information: [https://www.usda.gov/topics/rural/rural-development-innovation-center](https://www.usda.gov/topics/rural/rural-development-innovation-center)
Connect Consumers with Local Producers to Create New Economic Opportunities for Communities

- Community Facilities Program
- Rural Cooperative Development Grant
- Value Added Producer Grant Program
Resiliency through Relationships and Connections

Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge

Rural Workforce Innovation Network

https://www.rd.usda.gov/
Contact Information

Assistance under USDA Rural Development programs is available to applicants in areas designated as “rural.” Under law, the definition of “rural area” is different for each program.

Contact your local USDA Rural Development office for more information.

https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator

Or call 1 (800) 670-6553 (toll free)

Innovation Center: Website for Toolkits and newsletter:
https://www.usda.gov/topics/rural/rural-development-innovation-center

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: Sarah Campbell, National Coordinator
2018 Farm Bill: New BFR roles

• **State Coordinators:**

  • Educate beginning farmers and ranchers as well as stakeholder organizations about USDA programs and services,
  • Eliminate participation barriers,
  • Increase program participation from potential and current BFRs.
  • Providing technical support and assistance to BFRs in navigating USDA resources at the local level
  • Engaged in meetings sponsored by stakeholders and outside organizations including but not limited to: community based organizations, Extension, Tribal Councils, as well as state and local governments.
Regional Coordinators, State Coordinators and Champions

• There are three regional BFR coordinators who support states
  • South, Mid Atlantic and Northeast
  • Upper Midwest, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest
  • Southwest, West Coast and US Territories

• [https://www.farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators](https://www.farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators)

• Agencies not designated as the State Coordinator lead identified champions to serve as key POCs
What does USDA offer Beginning Farmers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Disaster Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation Planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loans</th>
<th>Ownership Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Microloans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loan Guarantees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Management &amp; Growth Opportunities</th>
<th>Value Added Producer Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renewable Energy Cost Share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crop Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organic Cost Share</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What farmers should know:

Working with your BFR Coordinator & Local Office

- Your state BFR coordinator can help you get connected with your local office, share information about USDA programs, connect you with experts and make recommendations for getting started.

- Develop a relationship with your local office—your loan officer, loan technicians, soil conservationists, and program staff are part of your bench!

- Get a farm number if you are farming and don’t have one.
What stakeholders should know: Working with your BFR Coordinator

- Your state BFR coordinator can help you get connected with your local office, share information about USDA programs, connect you with subject matter experts and collaborate on outreach with other USDA agencies and organizations.

- Coordinators are encouraged to collaborate, build relationships with and leverage partners in service of shared goals.

- Coordinators can help disseminate information to producers and stakeholders.
Partnerships with USDA
Agricultural Research Service

Cathy Cohn
Office of Technology Transfer
cathleen.cohn@usda.gov
USDA ARS

Mission

ARS delivers scientific solutions to national and global agricultural challenges.

Vision

Global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

ARS research solves real problems, focusing on impact
National Programs

Animal Production and Protection

Nutrition, Food Safety and Quality

Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture Systems

Crop Production and Protection

ARS website: www.ars.usda.gov
Agricultural Research Partnerships (ARP) Network Notes

Welcome to ARP Network Quarterly Notes! Our goal is to keep you informed about ARP Network and Agricultural Research Service's current information. We hope that the notes build networking opportunities for businesses to connect with ARP Network Members.

Please help us spread the word by sharing ARP Network Notes with your company contacts, colleagues, other organizations, etc. Thank you!

ARP Network

The ARP Network enlists the help of partners to spark economic development, entrepreneurship, and community development. USDA ARS founded the ARP Network to expand the impact of ARS research and provide resources to help companies grow. By combining ARS research expertise with complementary capabilities and talents of partnering organizations, the ARP Network helps stimulate economic growth through technological advancements. The ARP Network matches business needs with ARS innovations and research capabilities and provides business assistant services to help companies and startups solve agricultural problems, develop products and create new jobs. Learn more by visiting us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/agricultural-research-partnerships-arp-network-3863a8147

System for Cleaning Fresh and Fresh-Cut Produce

A system and method for cleaning and sanitizing fresh-cut produce. The approach is to use an upwardly-directed spray, with one or more water jets of sanitizing solution, to remove organic material and microorganisms from fresh-cut produce immediately after the produce exits the cutter blades. The system is designed so that as the product falls, it is impacted, remounted, cleaned, and/or sanitized by the produce-washing liquid.

Benefits
- Minimizes the use of chlorine (or other sanitizers) and reduces the volume of water used

Applications
- A system and method to quickly and efficiently remove organic material and soil particulates from freshly-cut produce

ARS Docket nos. 42.15 + 151.15. Please contact Jim Poulos: Jim.poulos@ars.usda.gov

Method for Killing Insects Using Methyl Benzoate

Natural compounds that provide alternatives to conventional synthetic pesticides to control the populations of brown marmorated stink bugs and other insect pests. The compounds could reduce threats to natural ecosystems and human health caused by application of conventional synthetic pesticides.

Benefits
- Environmental-friendly green pesticide as an alternative to synthetic pesticides

Applications
- Botanical pesticide for controlling spotted wing drosophila, Drosophila suzukii and other pest species including brown marmorated stinkbug Halyomorpha halys, diamondback moth Plutella xylostella and tobacco hornworm Manduca sexta
Brewing up Nutritious Ingredients

ReGrained products are created from the spent grain that is over after brewing beer. *Photo courtesy of ReGrained.*
Precision Sustainable Agriculture

- Network of researchers, farmers and ag professionals
- On-farm monitoring and on-station research
- Technology (remote sensing, machine learning and sensors)
- Decision support tools, models and analytical tools
- Communication and data sharing platforms for research, extension and education
Cathy Cohn
Office of Technology Transfer
cathleen.cohn@usda.gov

Website: www.ars.usda.gov/ott

Agricultural Research Service
Building Resilience in Agriculture & Food Systems Through Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

Volunteering

Farm Production and Conservation National Volunteer Program
Who We Are

Business Center

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Risk Management Agency

Farm Service Agency
National Volunteer Program

Multiple Agencies

Every State & Territory

Infinite Opportunity
Volunteer Opportunities

• All Service Types
  • Individual
  • Group

• All Frequencies
  • One Time
  • Recurring

• All Skill Levels
  • Beginner
  • Specialized

• All Environments
  • Indoors
  • Outdoors
All Position Types

- Conservation Aid
- Video Editors
- GIS/ Mapping Assistant
- Education Assistant
- Administrative Assistant
- Web Design Assistant
What You’ll Get

Rewarding experiences
Friends & contacts
Work skills
Community connections
Annual awards
Contact Us

Toni Flax
Farm Production & Conservation
Acting National Volunteer Program Coordinator
Toni.Flax@usda.gov
785-421-8373
USDA Strategic, Short-Term Partnership Opportunities

• Elise Golan, Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), elise.golan@usda.gov

• Hope Bigda-Peyton, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), hope.bigda-peyton@usda.gov

• Christina Connell, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), christina.Connell@usda.gov

• Kellie Kubena, Rural Development Innovation Center (RD IC), kellie.Kubena@usda.gov

• Sarah Campbell, Farm Service Agency (FSA), sarah.Campbell@usda.gov

• Cathleen Cohn, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cathleen.cohn@usda.com

• Toni Flax, Farm Production and Conservation Volunteer Team (FPAC), toni.flax@usda.gov
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cohosted by USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) and Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area

WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM EST

If you have any questions, please contact:
Alex Cordova at alex.cordova@usda.gov (OPPE)
Jessica Carlton at jessica.carlton@usda.gov (FPAC)