



# 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](mailto:alex.cordova@usda.gov) (OPPE)  
Jessica Carlton at [jessica.carlton@usda.gov](mailto: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.
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- The Microsoft Teams Live Event is being recorded.



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation *for* Greater New Haven  
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

# The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven (CFGNH)



- 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

**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

## Former New Haven Land Trust (NHLT)

- 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



## Former New Haven Farms (NHF)

- 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



## 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> farmers' market in Connecticut to accept SNAP/EBT ...



## ... CitySeed Famers Markets



- 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

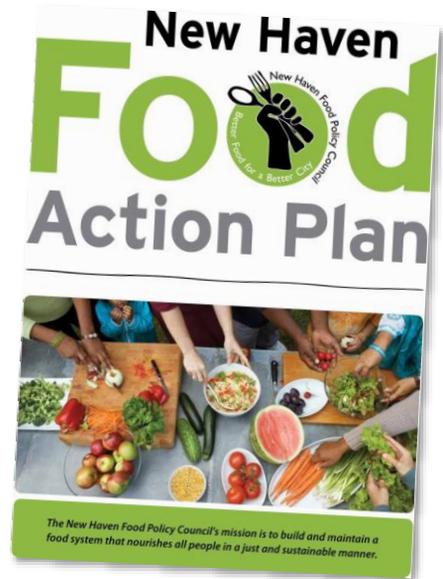
## City of New Haven, Food System Policy Division

- 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

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 [www.cfgnh.org](http://www.cfgnh.org)

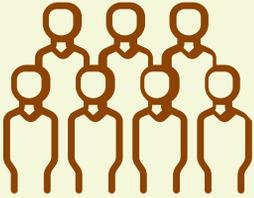
 [lcruz@cfgnh.org](mailto:lcruz@cfgnh.org)

# 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





## Population

~130,000



## Median annual income

\$38,126 vs. \$71,755 in CT



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

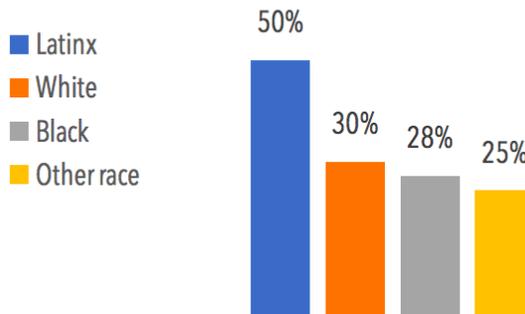


~26% of residents live in **poverty** (10% statewide)

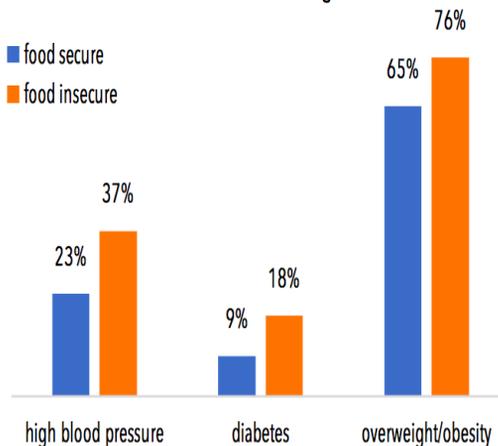


pre-COVID, ~22%  
of the city's  
residents were  
**food insecure**  
(13% statewide,  
11% nationwide)

prevalence of food insecurity in 6 low-income  
New Haven neighborhoods by race/ethnicity



food security and health outcomes among adults in  
6 low-income New Haven neighborhoods



# 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

Elicker  
Administration  
starts Jan 2020

Mid  
2020



FSPD  
secures its  
**first grants**

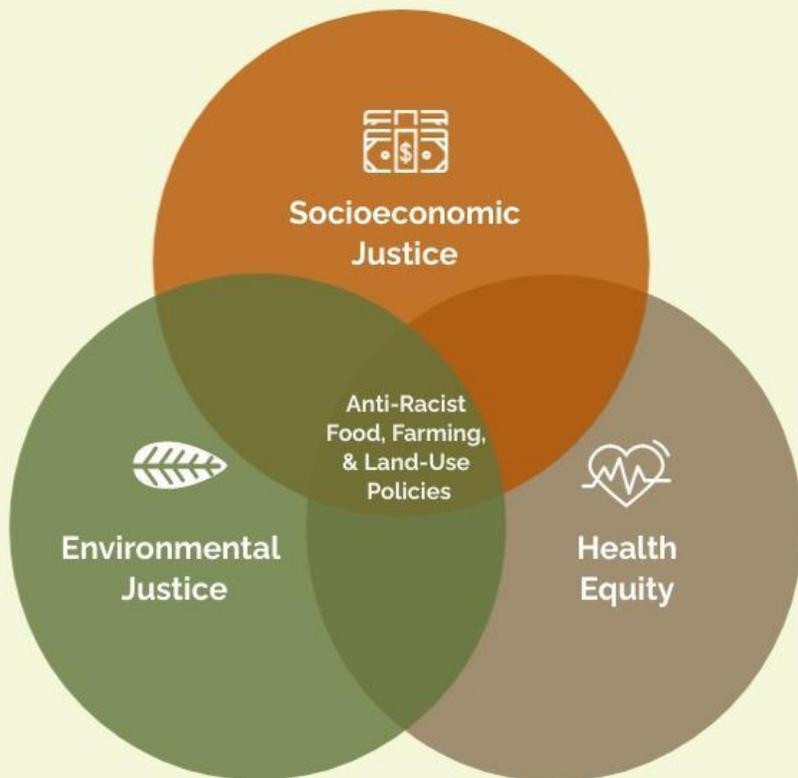
**COVID-19**  
response  
efforts  
begin

Late  
2020

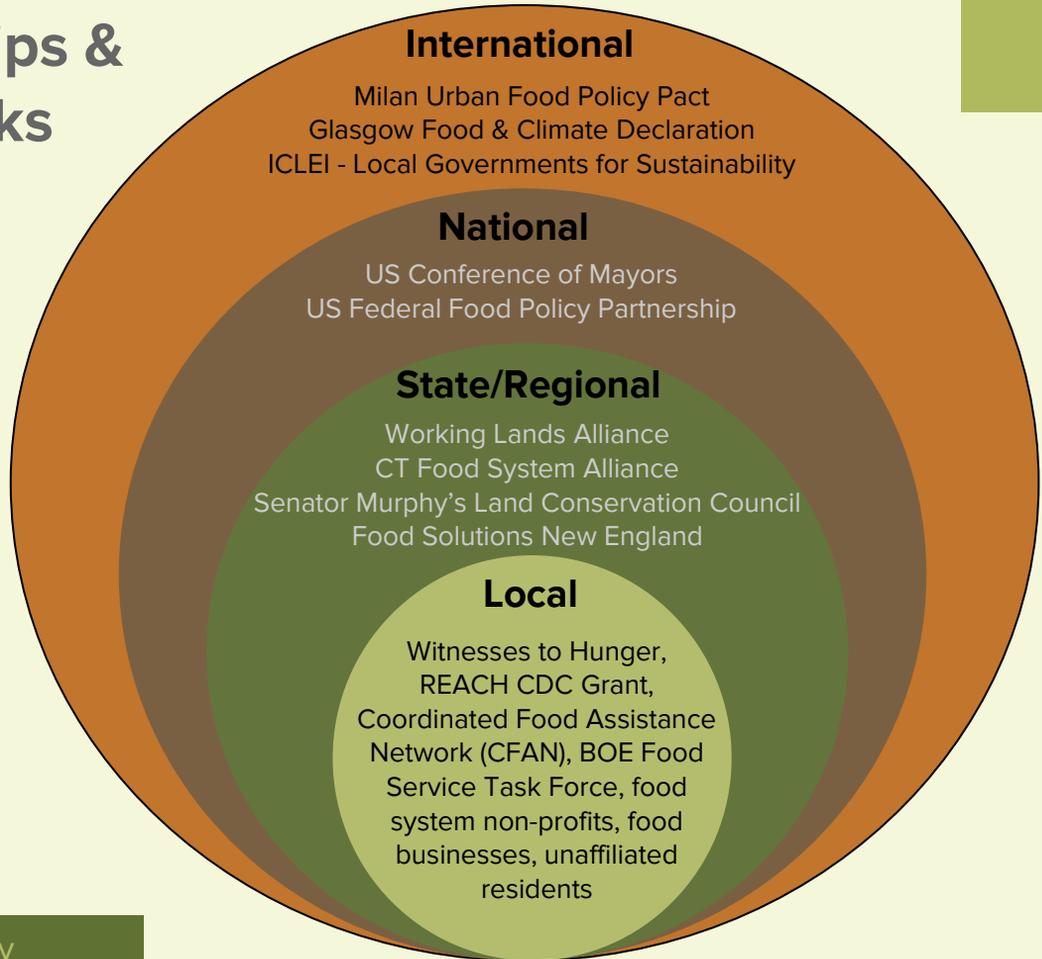


**Kimberly  
Acosta** hired  
as Analyst  
(USDA funded)  
and **Lexi  
Basile** begins  
as the Admin  
(CARES Act  
funded)

# City of New Haven Food Policy Priorities



# Key Collaborative Partnerships & Networks



# URBAN AGRICULTURE

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

## Benefits

### Health

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

### Social

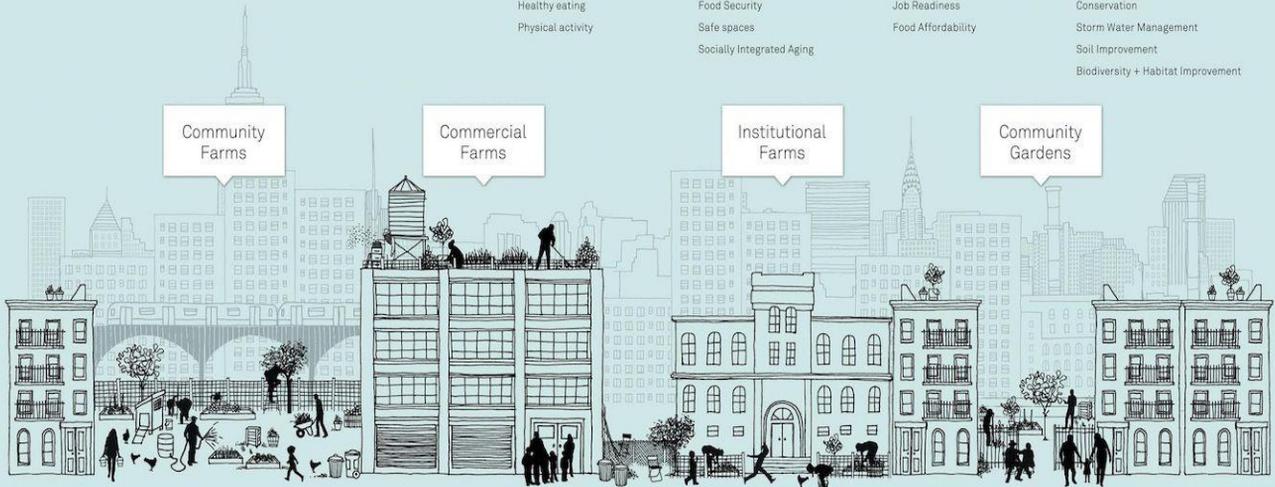
- Empowerment + Mobilization
- Youth Development & Education
- Food Security
- Safe spaces
- Socially Integrated Aging

### 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



## 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
- Funders

## 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

A close-up photograph of several green, unripe tomatoes hanging from a vine. The tomatoes are in various stages of growth, with some showing slight yellowing at the top. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a garden or farm setting. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green rectangular area.

# **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

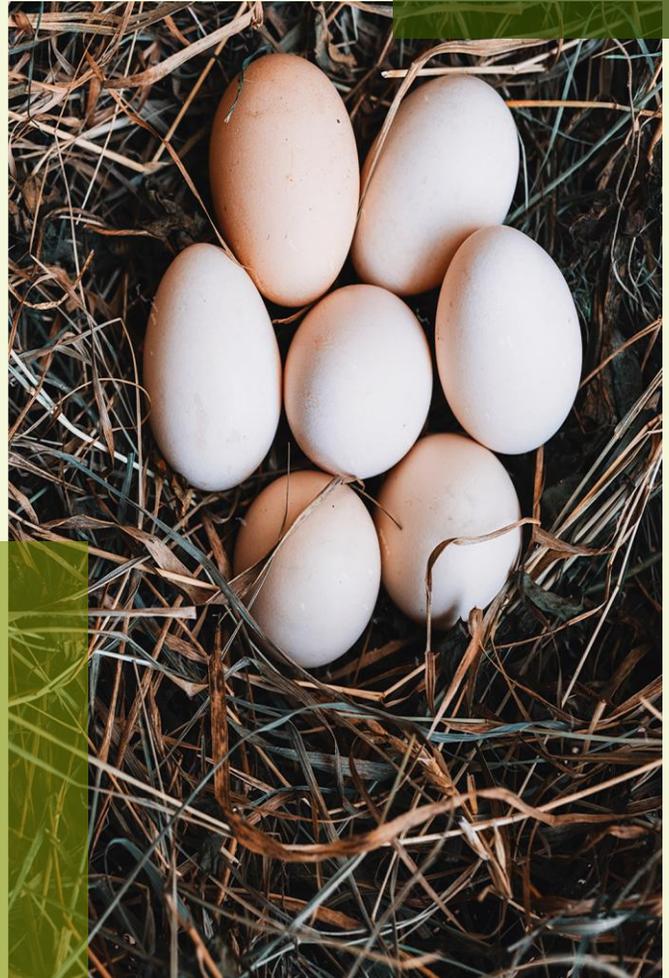
## Guiding Values: equity, community involvement and ownership, and protection against gentrification and displacement

- 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.



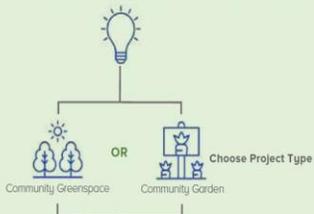
# THE NEW HAVEN VACANT LOT TOOLKIT

A guidebook for starting a community  
garden or greenspace

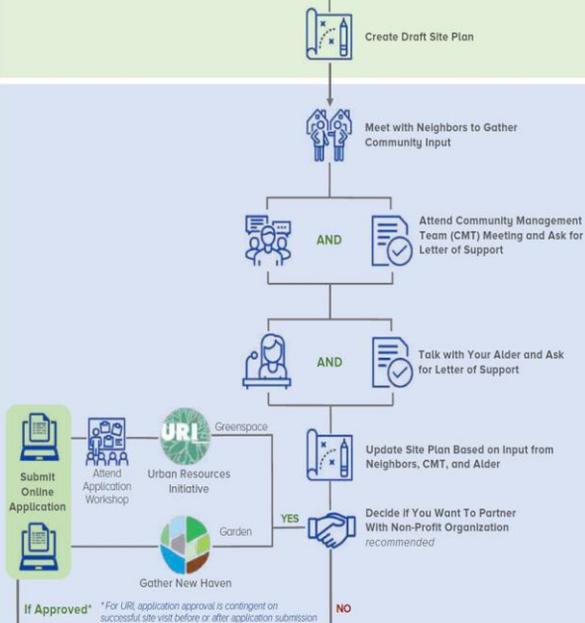


# VACANT LOT PROJECTS: THE PROCESS

## Stage 1 Develop Your Idea



## Stage 2 Build Your Coalition



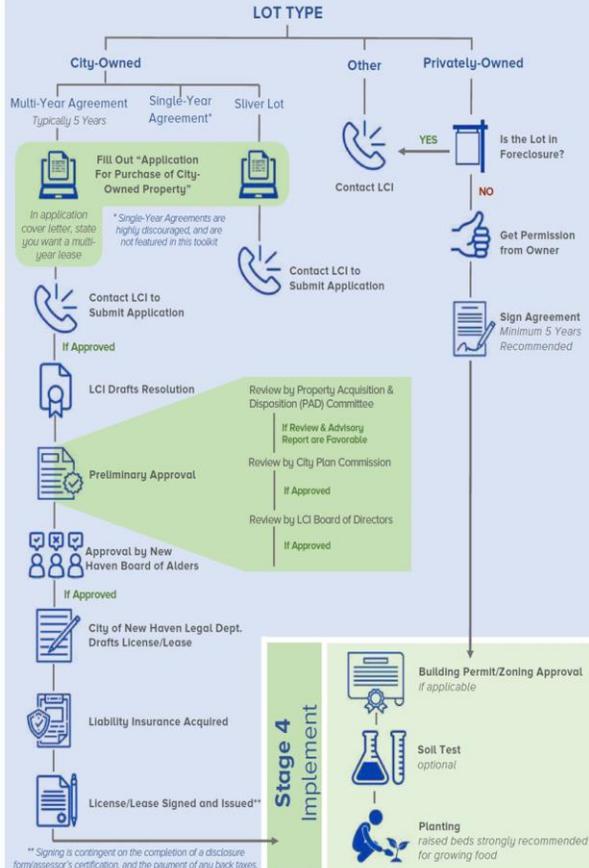
**Move to Stage 4**

*Continued on Next Page*

**Move to Stage 3**

*Continued on Next Page*

## Stage 3 Acquire Your Vacant Lot



**Stage 5: Renew Agreement**

- If working with **Gather New Haven** or **URI**, resubmit online application
- If working **independently**, contact LCI to resubmit application

# ZONING RESTRICTIONS

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

The following charts show which types of projects are allowable in each Business/Industrial and Residential Zoning District. If you are unsure if your project is permissible, you may wish to cross reference your vacant lot address with the Zoning Map of the City of New Haven found here: <https://bit.ly/27GtV6e>. More Information can be found in the New Haven Zoning Code (Business and Industrial Districts – Article V; Residential – Article III): <https://bit.ly/35JccuG>.

Business and Industrial Districts													
Use	BA	BA-1	BA-2	BB	BC	BD	BD-1	BD-2	BD-3	BE	IL	IM	IH
Public access park), open space or community garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Farm & garden supplies, including greenhouse, nursery.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No



**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							
Use	RS-1	RS-2	RM-1	RM-2	RH-1	RH-2	RO
Agriculture	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Parks and Playgrounds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Keeping of Hens for Non-Commercial Accessory Use <i>No more than six (6) hens may be kept on any property</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No



**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](http://foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov)



And follow us on social media:



@NHVfoodpolicy



# Thank you!

**Latha Swamy**

Director of Food System Policy

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Website: [foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov](http://foodpolicy.newhavenct.gov)

    @NHVfoodpolicy



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## Building Resilience in Agricultural & Food Systems through Strategic Partnerships

**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN  
AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SYSTEMS  
THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND  
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**REGISTER**

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# ICBA Solutions

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 policies 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.



**Cyber &  
Data  
Security**



**Natural  
Disasters**



**Pandemic  
Response**



**Physical  
Security**

# 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



## NATURAL DISASTER IMPACT

IMMEDIATE

**40%**

OF SMALL  
BUSINESSES WON'T  
REOPEN

ONE YEAR LATER

**25%**

MORE SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
WILL CLOSE

THREE YEARS  
LATER

**75%**

OF BUSINESSES  
WITHOUT A  
CONTINUITY PLAN  
WILL FAIL

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*

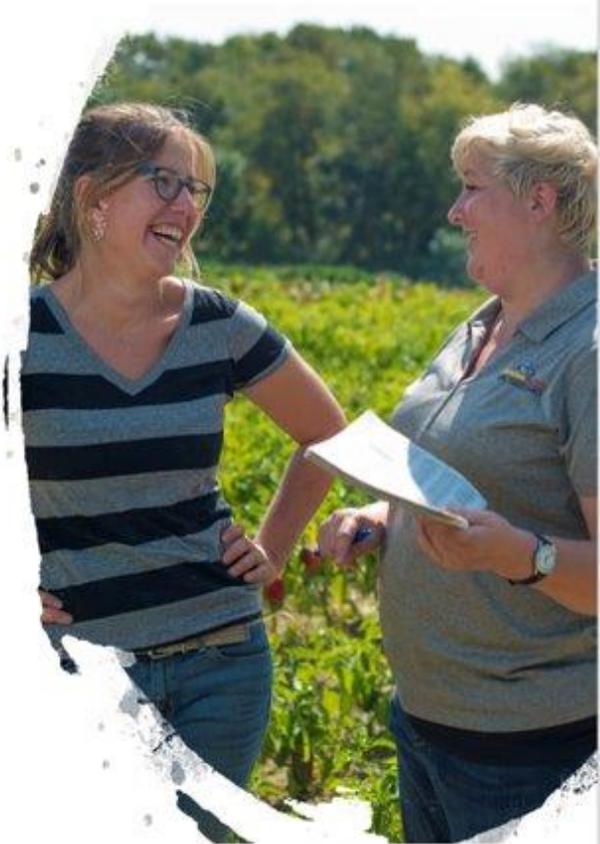
**Farm  
Service  
Agency**

**fsa.usda.gov**

# 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***

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# 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)*

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## 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](http://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.



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**[fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov)**

## 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**

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## 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



NSI Extension Connections	2020	2019	2018	2017
 NSI Training Events	13	19	55	49
 Website Visits and Social Media Engagements	1,992	13,653	20,887	5,838
 Group Learning Participants	191	307	195	125
 E-mail Consultations	83	80	453	253
 Phone Consultations	520	408	109	52
 Office Consultations	49	85	98	71
 Field or Site Visits	171	96	194	175
 Educational Material Produced	4	41	22	7
 Number of Producers Served as Direct Beneficiaries	200	181	166	151
 Number of Indirect Household Beneficiaries Served in the Communities	1,000	905	830	755
 Online Course Participants/Webinars	14/1	123/20	57	47
<b>NSI Service Delivery</b>				
 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* (Microloans, Operation, Land Purchase)	5N/OR	6N/OR	3N/2R	12N/7R
 Loan Applications Approved*	3N/OR	3N/OR	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: NAP, CFAP-1, CFAP-2, ECP, & WHIP***	259	224	631	200
 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

Farm  
Service  
Agency

[fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov)

## 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, Rodriquez, 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**





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# 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

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- 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

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- 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.



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# 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](mailto:alex.cordova@usda.gov) (OPPE)  
Jessica Carlton at [jessica.carlton@usda.gov](mailto:jessica.carlton@usda.gov) (FPAC)

# U.S. Food Systems & the UN Food Food Systems Summit

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

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February 18, 2021

# What are we talking about?

## **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 are we talking about?

## **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.

# UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

- 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.**

## PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- 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



## **AMS Local and Regional Food Systems Resources and Grants**



**Local and Regional Food Systems**



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



## LAND CONSERVATION



## PRODUCTION



## PROCESSING



## AGGREGATION/ DISTRIBUTION



## MARKETS/ CONSUMERS



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)

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)

Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (RMA)

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)

Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)

Value Added Producer Grants (RD)

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)

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (NIFA)

Farm to School Grant Program (FNS)

Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS)

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly FINI) (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 and Regional Food Systems

# 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



# Local Food Systems Response to COVID

Building Better Beyond

Find Resources

Our Partners

Visit the Resource Hub at <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>



Local and Regional Food Systems

# Project Partners





# 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](mailto:Christina.conell@usda.gov)

202-657-8647

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional>



**Local and Regional Food Systems**



# Your Partner in Prosperity

USDA Rural Development

Presented by Kellie Kubena, Innovation Center,  
Deputy Chief Innovation Officer

# USDA Rural Development Innovation Center

**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>

## 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.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**NEW**   
**FARMERS**



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>
- Agencies not designated as the State Coordinator lead identified champions to serve as key POCs



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# What does USDA offer Beginning Farmers?

Programs	Disaster Assistance
	Conservation Programs
	Safety Net
	Risk Management
	Conservation Planning
Loans	Ownership Loans
	Operating Loans
	Microloans
	Loan Guarantees
Risk Management & Growth Opportunities	Value Added Producer Grant
	Renewable Energy Cost Share
	Crop Insurance
	Organic Cost Share





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





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## What stakeholders should know: *Working with your BFR Coordinator*

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- 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





**United States Department of Agriculture**

# **Partnerships with USDA Agricultural Research Service**

Cathy Cohn  
Office of Technology Transfer  
[cathleen.cohn@usda.gov](mailto:cathleen.cohn@usda.gov)



**Agricultural Research Service**

# 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](http://www.ars.usda.gov)**

# Agricultural Research Partnerships (ARP) Network Notes



September 2020

## 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 sanitizer solution, to remove organic exudate foreign materials and microorganisms from fresh-cut produce immediately after the produce exits the cutter blades. The system is designed so that as the produce falls, it is impacted, reoriented, 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 exudate, field debris and soil particulates from freshly-cut produce

ARS Docket nos. 42.19 + 161.15. Please contact Jim Poulos: [jim.poulos@ars.usda.gov](mailto: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

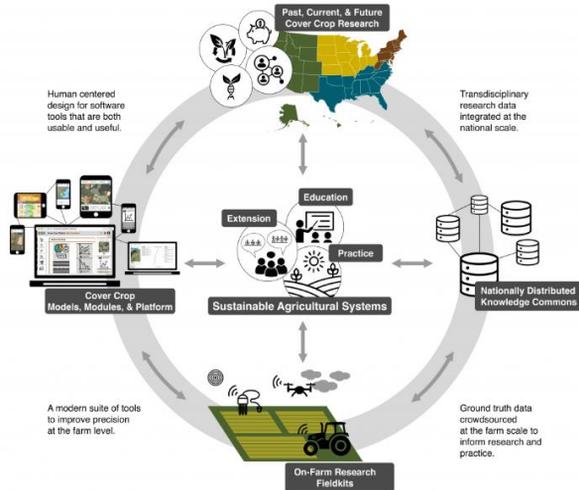


ReGrained products are created from the spent grain that is over after brewing beer. *Photo courtesy of ReGrained.*

# 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

## An Information Ecology for Sustainable Agriculture





**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**Cathy Cohn**

**Office of Technology Transfer**

**[cathleen.cohn@usda.gov](mailto:cathleen.cohn@usda.gov)**

**Website: [www.ars.usda.gov/ott](http://www.ars.usda.gov/ott)**

**Agricultural Research Service**





United States Department of Agriculture

# Building Resilience in Agriculture & Food Systems Through Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

## Volunteering



Farm Production and Conservation  
National Volunteer Program

# Who We Are

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:elise.golan@usda.gov)
- Hope Bigda-Peyton, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), [hope.bigda-peyton@usda.gov](mailto:hope.bigda-peyton@usda.gov)
- Christina Connell, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), [christina.Connell@usda.gov](mailto:christina.Connell@usda.gov)
- Kellie Kubena, Rural Development Innovation Center (RD IC), [kellie.Kubena@usda.gov](mailto:kellie.Kubena@usda.gov)
- Sarah Campbell, Farm Service Agency (FSA), [sarah.Campbell@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.Campbell@usda.gov)
- Cathleen Cohn, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), [Cathleen.cohn@usda.com](mailto:Cathleen.cohn@usda.com)
- Toni Flax, Farm Production and Conservation Volunteer Team (FPAC), [toni.flax@usda.gov](mailto:toni.flax@usda.gov)



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

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