



Sustainable Agriculture Resources and Programs for K-12 Youth

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Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Program



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS FOR K-12 YOUTH

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM (AITC) NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The directory, launched in 2003, is an on-line database listing hundreds of preK through 12th grade educational materials about agriculture. Resources can be ordered online or through listed suppliers. Materials in the directory have been recommended by educators on the AITC National Review Team.

Agriculture in the Classroom is a USDA national program designed to help PreK-12 students acquire the knowledge needed to become agriculturally literate. Through programs and resources in every state, educators are encouraged to teach more about agriculture and the role it plays in our economy and society.

- AITC National Resource Directory, 420 Kennedy Hall, Department of Education, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.agclassroom.org

Contacts: Elizabeth Wolf, Coordinator, Resource Directory, NYAITC/CERP, eaw32@cornell.edu; (607) 254-7442 and Dr. Janet Hawkes, Director, NYAITC, Cornell Educational Resources Program; (607) 255-9252

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (AERO). AERO is a Montana-based nonprofit organization that serves the needs of people working to promote renewable energy and conservation, sustainable agriculture, and greater community self-reliance. In 1997, AERO started a youth-led education project, a national model to integrate sustainable agriculture into mainstream agricultural education. The project includes a collection of diverse resources from partners such as Cooperative Extension, Agriculture Education, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Montana Department of Agriculture.

The project also offered \$500- \$800 grants to help high school youth develop successful and sustainable economic enterprises. Eight three-year projects were funded, including the Montana Worm Farm (started as a recycling project for school kitchen waste, and developed into a

holistic recycling program that sells worms), and the Golden Triangle Crop Diversifiers, (soil-testing service to identify herbicide residue on farms that are transitioning to alternative crops).

- Alternative Energy Resources Organization, c/o Jonda Crosby, 432 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT. 59601; (406) 443-7272; fax (406) 442-9120; jcrosby@aeromt.org; <http://www.aeromt.org/>

BULLFROG FILMS. Bullfrog Films distributes independently produced environmental videos that may be suitable for youth education. Titles include:

Beyond Organic, The Vision of Fairview Gardens, produced by John de Graaf, 2000. Grades 7 and up. (VHS, 33 mins.). A model of community supported agriculture in the midst of suburban sprawl. Film is set in Goleta, Calif., but suitable for national use. \$195, Rental: \$45.

Broken Limbs, Apples, Agriculture, and the New American Farmer, produced by Jamie Howell and Guy Evans, 2004. Grades 7 and up. (VHS, 57 mins.) Looks at the plight of apple growers in the age of globalization, and points the way to sustainable US agriculture. Set in Wenatchee, Wash., but suitable for national use. \$250, Rental: \$85. Cost of production: \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Deconstructing Supper, Is Your Food Safe? Directed by Marianne Kaplan, produced by Leonard Terhock & Marianne Kaplan for MSK Productions, Inc., 2002. Grades 7 and up. (VHS, 48 mins.) A leading chef investigates food safety in the age of GMOs and industrial agriculture. For worldwide audience. \$250, Rental: \$85.

- Bullfrog Films, P.O. Box 149, Oley, PA 19547; (800) 543-3764 or (610) 779-8226; (610) 370-1978- fax; info@bullfrogfilms.com; www.bullfrogfilms.com

CENTER FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS (CIAS). CIAS brings together university faculty, farmers, policy makers and others to study relationships between farming practices, farm profitability, the

environment and rural vitality. CIAS offers education materials and programs for youth and adults. Youth materials include:

Toward a Sustainable Agriculture: A Teacher's Guide. The 152-page guide includes six teacher reference sections outlining the scope of sustainable agriculture, an instructional unit summarizing key concepts and 21 learning activities. Prepared by a task force of farmers, researchers, activists, extension staff, continuing and vocational education specialists, agriculture educators and others, it was field tested and reviewed by more than 100 Wisconsin agriculture education instructors. The curriculum is available online in six modules at www.cias.wisc.edu/curriculum/index.htm

To order a CD of the curriculum, please send a check for \$5 (includes shipping and handling) made payable to UW-Madison - CIAS to: CIAS, Curriculum Project, 1535 Observatory Dr., Madison, WI 53706. For more information, contact Diane Mayerfield; (608) 262-5200; dbmayerfield@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch. This is a joint project with the REAP (Research, Education, Action and Policy) Food Group. For details, see "REAP" in this resource list or visit the website www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmtoschool

- Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), c/o Diane Mayerfield, Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum Coordinator, 1535 Observatory Dr., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-8188; (608) 265 3020- fax; dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu; www.cias.wisc.edu

COMING UP ON THE SEASON: MIGRANT FARMWORKERS IN THE NORTHEAST. This national traveling museum exhibit includes teacher resource materials and lesson plans for grades 2 through 12. The materials prepare classes to visit the exhibit, but also stand on-their-own. Content is directed toward NY state but is applicable nationwide.

- Linda Norris, (607) 829-2501
www.farmworkers.cornell.edu/curriculum.htm (download as PDF).

Also available: One-hour video featuring farmworker interviews. Topics include: *Apple Harvesting, Workers' Stories, Where Does Your Food Come From? Who Makes Money in Agriculture?* and *What Do We Think About Farmworkers?* \$48 plus \$5 s/h from: Galene Studios, PO Box 232, Treadwell, NY 13846; Contact: Drew Harty; (607) 829-3305; drew.harty@galenestudios.com.

- Cornell Migrant Program, Cornell University, College of Human Ecology, G-36 MVR Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853; website www.farmworkers.cornell.edu; Herbert J. Engman, (607) 255-2536; hjel@cornell.edu

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY. The mission of this Maine youth development project is to grow sustainable communities with an emphasis on urban gardening, supplying the emergency food system for low-income families and creating an engine for high-impact youth and community development programs.

High-school youth participate in a summer growers program to receive job training, leadership training, education on food systems and sustainability. They also can work in a new after-school program called Sprouts for Youth, ages 8 and up.

- Cultivating Community, P.O. Box 3792 , Portland, Maine 04104; (207) 761-GROW; (207) 541-GROW-fax; www.cultivatingcommunity.org
Craig Lapine, Executive Director, clapine@cultivatingcommunity.us
Jessica Bean, Volunteer & Garden Coordinator, jbean@cultivatingcommunity.us

DISCOVERING THE FOOD SYSTEM, AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG AND INQUIRING MINDS. This guided program is for ages 12 to 18 and anyone who is curious about food and how it gets from farm to

table. The resource, from the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University, features using our “backyards” -- the school cafeteria, local food stores, nearby canneries, restaurants and farms -- as a way to learn about the food system. Through experiential learning activities, youths meet real people that represent different parts or aspects of the food system - farmers, grocers, restaurateurs, processors, and marketers, as well as citizens.

Designed for classroom or informal use, it links to Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Music/Art and Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS). Examples focus on northeastern U. S. but can be applied to other regions and countries. The program is available at www.hort.cornell.edu/foodsys/ as a free download in PDF format, 186 pages.

DUNBAR GARDEN PROJECT (DGP). Located in Little Rock, Ark., DGP is a two-acre outdoor classroom that uses the garden to teach where food comes from and integrated lessons in environmental stewardship. The focus is on hands-on, outdoor experiential education. In addition, there is a three-season job skills program for teenagers called LifeSkills.

The DGP became a Heifer Project Partner in 2002. (See “**Heifer International**” in this resource list for details.) This partnership allows the project to expand and improve its gardening, environmental education and job training programs.

- Dunbar Garden Project, 1800 S. Chester St., Little Rock, AR 72206; www.dunbargarden.org
Sylvia Blain, Executive Director, Dunbar Community Garden;
(501) 529-8520; sylvia@blain.org

THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD. The Edible Schoolyard is a nonprofit program located on the campus of [Martin Luther King Junior Middle School](#) in Berkeley, Calif. Its mission is to integrate an organic garden and landscape into the school’s curriculum and lunch program, and involve students in all aspects of the garden – including preparing, serving and eating the food.

Garden classes teach the [Principles of Ecology](#), the origins of food, and respect for all living systems. Students work together to shape and plant beds, amend soil, turn compost, and harvest flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

- The Edible Schoolyard, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, 1781 Rose Street, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 558-1335; (510) 558-1334- fax; info@edibleschoolyard.org; www.edibleschoolyard.org

FARM & FIELD PROGRAM. Troy Gardens, a community owned and managed property in Madison, Wis., provides community- supported agriculture, community gardens, prairie restoration, and affordable housing for neighborhood residents. Teenagers from several Madison high schools learn and work at Troy Gardens during the summer in a program sponsored by The Friends of Troy Gardens (FTG).

This training helps low-income and/or minority high school age youth with sustainable farm management and natural areas restoration, such as organic farming, cooking and nutrition, restoration management principles, and marketing. Participants receive a stipend for their participation.

- The Friends of Troy Gardens, Room 171, Building 14, 3601 Memorial Drive, Madison, WI 53704; (608) 240-0409; info@troygardens.org; www.madison.com/communities/troygdn/about.php.

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM. Provides resources, assistance and information about federal legislation on farm-to-school programs. Includes how to find farmers working with school food service directors. Publications include:

Healthy Farms, Healthy Kids: Evaluating the Barriers and Opportunities for Farm-to-School Programs by Andrea Azuma and Andy Fisher, January, 2001 (62 pp). Documents the barriers and opportunities for school food

services to purchase food directly from local farmers. Case studies and policy recommendations are included. (\$12 + s/h)

- The Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC), P.O. Box 209, Venice, CA 90294; (310) 822-5410; (310) 822-1440-fax; www.foodsecurity.org Marion Kalb, Farm to School Program Director, (505) 982-3646, marion@foodsecurity.org

FEEDING MINDS, FIGHTING HUNGER PROJECT (FMFH). To help eradicate hunger and malnutrition through education, FMFH was initiated in 2000 by a group of international and non-governmental organizations such as the National Peace Corps Association and the World Bank.

Lessons provide a starting point for teachers to introduce the topic of world hunger. The lessons were prepared as a framework for teachers, with the understanding that teachers will need to tailor the scope, language, discussions and activities provided for each lesson to fit their students and local conditions. Three lessons are provided for each of three school levels: primary, intermediate, and secondary. All levels cover the topics of *What are hunger and malnutrition, and who are the hungry? Why are people hungry and malnourished?* and *What can we do to help end hunger?* Includes discussions of food security, steps in the food system, and *The Story of Miguel's Tomatoes*, which follows the route of tomatoes from Miguel's field to the village market, to the big city, to the food processing factory, to homes.

- Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger; fmfh@fao.org or the FMFH Partners at www.feedingminds.org/info/info_contact.htm; www.feedingminds.org

FOOD, LAND & PEOPLE (FLP). Provides educational resources and promotes approaches to learning that help educators and students in grades PreK-12 to better understand the interrelationships between agriculture, the environment and people of the world. FLP develops and disseminates *Resources for Learning*, (55 lessons, updated and expanded in 2003), sponsors annual symposiums and is working to establish a

teaching and learning center in San Francisco's Presidio National Park. Twenty of the FLP lessons have been translated into Spanish.

- Food, Land & People, PO Box 7600, Chandler, AZ 85246-7600; (480) 963-7959; (480) 963-0187- fax; info@foodlandpeople.org; www.foodlandpeople.org

THE FOOD PROJECT. Creates a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who produce healthy food for Boston-area residents and provides youth leadership opportunities. Thousands of youth and adults grow organic vegetables that are donated to homeless shelters and sold at urban farmers markets and to families in suburban Boston. Youth workers and volunteers farm 21 acres of land in rural Lincoln and urban Boston land.

The Summer Youth Development Program employs workers who are 14 to 16 years old, and crew leaders who are 20 to 28 years old. The Food Project also operates an academic-year program, an alumni internship program, and B.L.A.S.T. (Building Local Agricultural Systems Today!). BLAST is a five-year initiative to develop global youth leaders aged 14 to 24 who create and advocate for sustainable food systems and food security in their communities. Food Project resources include:

■ *French Fries and the Food System: A Year Round Curriculum Connecting Youth with Farming and Food*, a curriculum featuring ways youth can develop an understanding of and appreciation for the land and local food systems. Lessons can be done both indoors and outdoors and can be easily adapted by instructors working in school-based plots, urban food lots, and environmental education programs. \$24.95.

■ *Growing Together: A Guide to Building Inspired, Diverse and Productive Youth Communities* (\$24.95)

■ *DIRT: The Next Generation* [youth-produced video about The Food Project] (\$15)

■ The Food Project's Manual Series: *The Academic Year Program Manual* (\$22.95), *The Rural Agriculture Manual* (\$22.95), and *The Volunteer Manual* (\$22.95).

- The Food Project Institute, c/o Greg Gale, Director of Programs, PO Box 705, Lincoln, MA 01773; (781) 259-8621; (718) 259-9659-fax or PO Box 256141, Dorchester, MA 02125; (617) 442-1322; (617) 442-7918-fax; programs@thefoodproject.org www.thefoodproject.org

THE FOOD TRUST. This food security, nutrition education and sustainable farming nonprofit advocacy group located in Philadelphia works to improve nutrition and the supply of affordable food in the mid-Atlantic region.

The Food Trust runs an initiative in Kindergarten classrooms throughout Philadelphia region that teaches children about food; eating locally grown fruit and vegetable snacks; and going on field trips to farms and farmers markets. The program also works to involve parents and grandparents in advocacy and to teach them easy-to-prepare recipes using fresh food.

The Food Trust also operates The School Market Program, a hands-on learning curriculum that teaches students to improve their diets, develop employment and entrepreneurial skills, and educate themselves about issues that affect their health and the health of their communities. Through the program, students create, own and operate farmers markets in their schools, where they sell fruit and vegetable related products to fellow students and teachers. They try to focus on local foods when possible. The goal of the program is to be picked up and used at other schools in other states.

- The Food Trust, 1201 Chestnut St., 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107; (215) 568-0830; (215) 568-0882-fax; contact@thefoodtrust.org; www.thefoodtrust.org

FOODSHED ED: PUTTING FOOD AND FARMING ON THE MAP. Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE) developed FoodShed Ed as an interactive digital mapping tool to strengthen the connection of the general public (starting at middle school level) to their regional farmland. It uses digitized maps, along with illustrations, text, and narration, to outline key elements of the natural and social history of agriculture, current

agriculture status, and future projections, in a specific region. A pilot project, Mapping the Agricultural History of Alameda County, Calif., focuses on the East Bay.

- Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), c/o Sibella Kraus, 1417 Josephine St., Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 526-1793; (510) 524-7153 - fax; info@sagecenter.org; www.sagecenter.org

GARDEN-RAISED BOUNTY (GRUB). Through its Cultivating Youth programs, designed for ages 13 through 19, GRuB focuses on building youths' nutrition, self-esteem, community connections and academic enthusiasm. These programs have both academic and employment components.

High school and middle school students participate in academic programs, which have a strong emphasis on science, reading and writing. Students earn science, community service and/or elective credit for engaging in challenging curriculum at the organization's garden.

Youth also participate in a year-long employment program to grow and distribute organic produce for the local food bank & senior center, cook & serve lunch meals at the Bread & Roses Soup Kitchen, and lead educational fieldtrips for daycare programs and other youth projects. In addition, crewmembers manage a market gardening program (which includes a bouquet delivery service, potpourri, and lots of garlic). Youth are challenged through hands-on workshops to develop stronger communication, leadership and self-care practices. Furthermore, they earn school credit through their high schools.

- Garden-Raised Bounty, 711 State Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98506; (360) 753-5522; grub@goodgrub.org; www.goodgrub.org

GREEN HILLS FARM PROJECT (GHFP). This farmer-to-farmer networking group in Missouri works to improve land and animal management using an environmentally healthy system.

GHFP started the *Jim Munday Youth Grant* as a memorial in 2003, awarding a \$500 grant annually to a youth up to 18 years old.

Applicants must be GHFP members. The grant application is based on the Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Award Program application, which is based on the SARE Producer Grant application. Awards are presented at the GHFP annual winter seminar in February. The cost of the program is the \$500 per year award.

- Green Hills Farm Project, c/o Jordan Bentley, 20407 HWY U, Bucklin, MO 64631-7207; (660) 695-3482; jbentley@cvalley.net; <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sustain/ghfp.htm>

GROWING MINDS. This educational program of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), is a program for teachers and students in grades K-5 that links the garden and agriculture with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Growing Minds provides an opportunity for elementary students to enjoy direct contact with area farmers. <http://growing-minds.org/>

The Growing Minds - Healthy Bodies Initiative works to curb obesity and promote nutrition and exercise. ASAP will develop a gardening curriculum for teachers and students as a part of the initiative. Overall project goals are to 1) increase access to fresh fruits/vegetables (enhanced food pantry capacity, school gardens, EBT system at farmers' markets, fresh produce distribution to needy children/families, and on-site access to food stamp enrollment for high-risk families); 2) increase physical activity of children and adults (gardening activities at school/after school, school policies addressing obesity prevention); 3) increase awareness of obesity as a chronic disease (launch social marketing campaign, distribute information, add a nutrition component to Kids' Cafe, raise awareness of nutrition by education and food preparation help to MANNA clients).

- Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), c/o Emily Jackson; 729 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC 28806; (828) 236-1282; (828) 236-1280-fax; emily@asapconnections.org; www.asapconnections.org

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL (HEIFER). Heifer's strategy to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth is to "pass on the gift." People share their animals' offspring with others – along with their knowledge, resources, and skills – in an expanding network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that reaches around the globe.

Heifer has several youth programs and projects including:

- [Resources](#) – Books and videos especially for children.
- [Learning Center Programs](#) – Guided tours, service-learning experiences and demonstrations of small-scale farming methods for all ages. ("Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun – Heifer's Learning Centers provide working examples of the type of sustainable agriculture we support around the world.")
- [Read to Feed](#) – Creative reading incentive program with accompanying classroom curriculum. ("Optional standards-based curriculum, *Lessons from a Village Called Earth*. Developed in collaboration with The Center for Teaching International Relations, University of Denver Graduate School, www.du.edu/ctir. Five units are available for third-and fourth-grade (middle elementary) students, including an introductory module, civics, science, geography and economics. The curriculum units are built around the book *Beatrice's Goat* (New York Times bestseller about a young girl whose life was changed by the gift of a Heifer International goat.) Development of upper and lower elementary curricula is planned for subsequent years.")

- Heifer Project International, P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203; (800) 422-0474 or (501) 907-2600; www.heifer.org

INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. The program introduced gardening into school curricula in six Charleston, S.C. elementary schools; the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group took on the program and, with a SARE grant, the program was expanded in the region. Goals were to:

- 1) introduce sustainable agriculture to students and teachers K-12, college students and adults
- 2) integrate local family farmers and other farming professionals into educational activities at schools through the development of hands-on curricula

- 3) create a regional network that could expand to a national network that promotes sustainable agriculture education for young people
- 4) disseminate program results to other educational professionals and agricultural information providers

More than 90 percent of the youth in the network are from black communities in urban and rural areas. As of 2003, the intergenerational program had worked with 29 local programs in 12 states. A book about the program is currently under production and will include photos, videos and components of curriculum writing.

- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, c/o Archer Christian, Executive Director, 8200 Pine Cross Lane, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103; 734-332-9926; ahchristian@earthlink.net ; www.ssawg.org.

JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH. This continuing PBS series of one-hour prime-time specials features global environmental issues, including farming in four distinctly different countries: Zimbabwe, France, China and the United States. Of the seven programs in the series, *Land of Plenty*, *Land of Want*, focuses on sustainable agriculture.

This approach to viewing farming methods throughout the world and the different challenges facing the world's farmers allows the students to appreciate the commonality of all farmers.

The series, available on video, has accompanying educational resources on the PBS website. Individual programs cost \$149 plus s/h; a four-program set costs \$499 plus s/h; the complete nine-program set runs \$999 plus s/h. To purchase, contact: Screenscope, Inc., 4330 Yuma St., NW, Washington, DC 20016; (202) 364-0055; screenscope@screenscope.com; www.screenscope.com

The *Land of Plenty* program and accompanying teaching materials were funded in part by SARE.

- Journey to Planet Earth, Outreach Department, South Carolina ETV, PO Box 11000, Columbia, SC 29211; (800) 277-0829; www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/landofplenty.html

KIDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE (KIDS). This educational program for middle and high school students focuses on the root causes of hunger and poverty, the people most affected, solutions and how students can help. The major goal is to stimulate students to take follow-up actions as they begin to realize that one person can make a difference.

There are three components of the KIDS program: (1) The innovative teacher guide, [Finding Solutions to Hunger: Kids Can Make A Difference](#) (published in September 1997 and updated in 2001 and 2005), (2) [newsletter](#) (started in 1994) and (3) the KIDS web site.

The teacher guide is used worldwide by organizations such as: Peace Corps, food banks, schools, Oxfam, and Heifer Project. The curriculum was designed for middle and high school students but is being used in elementary through graduate schools. It contains 25 lessons that provide valuable background and creative suggestions to help students answer the difficult questions dealing with hunger and poverty. Includes fund-raising ideas, and a listing of available videos and books for use with lessons. To order the guide (\$24 per copy + \$6 s/h) use the [online form](#) or contact KIDS.

- KIDS, 1 Borodell Ave., Mystic, CT 06355; (860) 245-3620; (860) 245-3651-fax; kids@kidscanmakeadifference.org; www.kidscanmakeadifference.org
KIDS organization funds are derived from receipts from the sale of the guide and contributions from individuals. There are no paid staff members.

KIDS COOK FARM-FRESH FOODS. This activity guide for grades 2-7 consists of recipes, activities and farm profiles, and is designed to allow teachers flexibility in using it within their curriculum. Authored by Sibella Kraus of Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAE) and published in 2002 by the California Department of Education, the publication was

offered to schools throughout California in fall 2002. (For details on SAE, see “**FoodShed Ed: Putting Food and Farming on the Map**” in this resource list or visit <http://sagecenter.org>)

The guide is designed to introduce students and teachers to fresh, seasonal locally grown produce. The guide links food and nutrition to the concept of organic and sustainable agriculture. \$15 plus s/h from California Department of Education, CDE Press, Sales Unit, 1430 N. Street, Suite 3207, Sacramento, CA 95814; 800-995-4099; 916-323-0823-fax; sales@cde.ca.gov;

www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/rc/ap/pubdisplay.aspx?ID=001547

- California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division, 1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 445-0850 or (800) 952-5609; (916) 445-4842-fax; www.cde.ca.gov

THE LINKING FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM. LiFE is a two-year, inquiry-based science education and nutrition program for 4th through 6th grade urban children, teachers and parents. The program uses the study of food and food systems to teach life sciences and nutrition.

LiFE encompasses:

- a student curriculum that addresses many national science education standards and nutrition guidelines
 - a teacher component that provides education and support to teachers
 - a parent component that provides workshops and opportunities to assist in the classroom
- Teachers College, Columbia University, c/o Isobel R. Contento (Principal Investigator for LiFE project), Program in Nutrition and Science Education, 525 West 120th Street, Box 137, New York, NY 10027; (212) 678-3480; (212) 678-8259-fax; LiFEatTC@columbia.edu; www.tc.columbia.edu/LIFE/

LISTENING TO THE PRAIRIE: FARMING IN NATURE’S IMAGE. A traveling exhibition about agricultural alternatives on the North American prairie for pre-K through 12th grade students. The exhibit investigates the history of the North American prairie and exciting new approaches to agriculture in America. It includes stunning photographs of some of the most productive agricultural lands on earth and features the stories and insights of four progressive farmers and ranchers who reinvented their work to preserve their way of life. Educational materials for teachers, school group leaders and families are available to accompany tours of the exhibit.

The exhibit was created in 2001 by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, Forces of Change Program (<http://forces.si.edu/>), with partial funding from SARE. The exhibit tour is coordinated by the American Library Association, www.ala.org/publicprograms

- Smithsonian Institution, c/o Barbara Stauffer, Special Exhibits, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), PO Box 37012 Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., 20013-7012 (202) 357-2377, forces@nmnh.si.edu; www.mnh.si.edu

LOCAL FOOD TO LOCAL PEOPLE: ENLARGING A REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM THROUGH NUTRITION EDUCATION. This project (by the Community Mercantile Education Foundation Inc. or CMEF) has coordinated an extensive education program with the goal of increasing consumption of locally grown and produced foods, thereby expanding the market for local producers. This goal has been achieved through a partnership of educators, businesses and growers who have coordinated a multi-faceted approach to education, utilizing presentations, samplings, demonstrations, cooking classes, farm tours, and special events. The project was partly funded by SARE.

- Community Mercantile Education Foundation, c/o Nancy O’Connor, Executive Director, 901 Iowa, Lawrence, KS 66044; (785) 843-8544; (785) 331-0842-fax; cmef@themercooop.com; <http://communitymercantile.com/>

NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ECOSYSTEMS. This booklet contains several activities that can be used by students to become more aware of how plants, animals and humans interact within ecosystems, and how one influences the other. The activities can be used singly with other projects, but completion of all activities should give students an understanding of how ecosystems work and how all aspects of an ecosystem are interrelated. Includes six teacher guides on ecosystems, climate, wildlife, integrated pest management, soil and sustainable agriculture. Targets 7th and 8th grade students. Available free on the Urban Programs Resource Network website at: www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/ecosystems/overview.html

- University of Illinois Extension, Office of Urban Programs, c/o Chris Tidrick, Extension Specialist, 547 Bevier Hall, 905 S. Goodwin, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 265-6410; (217) 244-0191-fax; ctidrick@uiuc.edu; www.urbanext.uiuc.edu

NORTH CENTRAL REGION (NCR) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EDUCATION (SARE) YOUTH & YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANTS. These grants provide opportunities for youth in the North Central Region to learn more about Sustainable Agriculture. The Call for Proposals is available on the NCR-SARE website at: www.sare.org/ncrsare/cfp.htm This call is for youth, ages 8 – 18, and youth educators. There are two options:

1. Youth Grants: Grants for on-farm research, demonstration, or education projects by youth ages 8 – 18. Research and demonstration projects are for hands-on efforts to explore sustainable agriculture issues and practices. Education projects can involve teaching others about sustainable agriculture or attending a sustainable agriculture conference, workshop, or camp. \$400 maximum.
2. Youth Educator Grants: Grants for educators to provide programming on sustainable agriculture for youth. \$2,000 maximum.

NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION VERMONT (NOFA VERMONT). Provides agricultural education opportunities for Vermont

school children to learn about Vermont food and farms and eat local food in their school cafeteria.

The Farm to School Mentor program was started in 1999 to expand agricultural awareness and education by developing a community understanding of agriculture and to develop ongoing relationships between schools and their local farms. Farm to School mentors are farmers and educators who facilitate links between other farmers, gardeners, educators, children and community members. Each mentor receives a salary of \$2,500 per year. The program was partly funded by SARE.

Vermont Food Education Every Day (VTFEED) started in 2000 and is a collaborative project of NOFA Vermont, Food Works (www.tworiverscenter.org) and Shelburne Farms (www.shelburnefarms.org). This program for K-8 youth focuses on “Curriculum, Cafeteria and Community.” Goals include: 1) improving direct marketing opportunities for locally produced foods; 2) improving the diets and eating patterns of school children through the development of local purchasing contracts; 3) increasing students’ knowledge of sustainable farming systems. The Program includes a five-day summer training institute for teachers and a 10-week mentorship. All participants receive stipends (teachers, food service staff, farmers). The program was partly funded by SARE.

- NOFA Vermont, PO Box 697, Richmond, Vermont 05477; (802) 434-4122; (802) 434-4154-fax; info@nofavt.org; www.nofavt.org

ORGANIC VALLEY YOUTH RESOURCES (OV). Organic Valley™ has become the largest organic farmers' cooperative in North America. The organization serves more than 750 farmers in 16 states. Check the Just for Kids website for youth resources such as Ovie’s Underground. www.organicvalley.coop/kids

- Organic Valley Family of Farms, CROPP Cooperative, 507 West Main Street, LaFarge, WI 54639; (toll-free) (888) 444-6455; (608) 625-2600-fax; <http://organicvalley.coop/>

OCCIDENTAL ARTS AND ECOLOGY CENTER (OAEC). A nonprofit organization, education center and organic farm in Sonoma County, Calif., that addresses the challenges of creating democratic communities that are ecologically, economically and culturally sustainable. For youth, OAEC developed the [School Garden Program](#), which provides a setting for integrated whole-systems curricula and an educational framework for children.

The core of the OAEC School Garden Program is a five-day intensive summer training program. Teams of teachers and parents receive training about organic gardening, permaculture, nutrition, team building, fundraising, art in the garden, and more. The training is followed by 18 months of technical support offered to each participating school by OAEC staff, including site visits, phone consultations, and several half-day skills-building workshops on specific school garden topics. In 2004, the OAEC School Garden Program will focus on a number of schools located in low-income communities.

OAEC produced *The Guide for Linking School Gardens to California Academic Content Standards*, which demonstrates how California state educational standards can be taught with garden-based education. The guide offers specific curricula enabling teachers to link their school gardens with state standard subject matter.

- Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC), c/o Lisa Preschel, School Garden Program, 15290 Coleman Valley Rd, Occidental, CA 95465; (707) 874-1557 ext 202; oaec@oaec.org; www.oaec.org

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA (PFI). PFI researches, develops and promotes profitable, ecologically sound and community-enhancing approaches to agriculture. Current activities include a [Youth and Family Summer Camp](#) and a [Student Leadership Program](#). PFI is also working in partnership with several organizations to develop an appropriate

sustainable agriculture curriculum for high school teachers. The Youth and Family Summer Camp provides hands-on learning about the relationships between food, farming, the environment and communities. At this 3 ½ -day camp, outdoor sports and crafts are combined with activities and guest speakers that highlight opportunities for young people to pursue careers in sustainable farming and related natural resource fields. The Youth Leadership Program offers young adults training as camp counselors along with more in-depth field-based experiential education, skill building and career exploration opportunities in sustainable agriculture and ecology-related fields. This 3-day summer program is for youth ages 14 – 18.

Practical Farmers of Iowa, P.O. Box 349, Ames, Iowa 50010; (515) 232-5661; (515) 232-5649-fax; www.practicalfarmers.org/
Contact summer camp coordinator, [Brad Meyer](#); (515) 232-5661 ext. 109; pfifarmer@hotmail.com or PFI Teresa Opheim; (515) 232-5661 ext. 102; teresa@practicalfarmers.org

PROJECT SUSTAINING OUR AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (PROJECT SOARS). This is a high school level program for experiential learning in sustainable agriculture and food systems. An introductory module was pilot tested in 13 Iowa high schools in May 2002. Titled, Sustainable Agriculture Basics, the pilot is designed to take five classroom hours. Free lessons, activities and resources on the web. Project SOAR is being developed at Iowa State University by a partnership between Vision 2020, the ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program, and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

- Iowa State University, ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program, c/o Shellie Orngard, Vision 2020, 1011 Agronomy Hall, Ames, IA 50011; (515) 294-2698; (515) 294-5976-fax; sorngard@iastate.edu; www.cias.wisc.edu/curriculum/index.htm

Diane Mayerfeld, Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum Coordinator, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and

Life Sciences, 1535 Observatory Dr., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-8188; (608) 265-3020-fax; dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu

REAP (RESEARCH, EDUCATION, ACTION AND POLICY) FOOD GROUP. An informal grassroots organization that promotes the development of an environmentally sustainable, economically just, and healthful food system in and around Madison, Wis. REAP runs projects that shorten the distance from the farm to the table, encourage sustainable agricultural practices and address community food security.

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch Project. Enhances the Madison public schools' existing meal programs by introducing fresh, nutritious, local and sustainably grown food to children, beginning in the city's elementary schools. The SARE-funded program provides an opportunity for children to reconnect with nature and will help establish a stable market for local farmers and processors in a partnership of Madison educators, school food service staff, and local food producers.

- REAP Food Group, c/o Brent Kramer, Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch Education Coordinator, PO Box 5632, Madison, WI 53705; (608) 294-114; brentk@reapfoodgroup.org; www.reapfoodgroup.org

RETHINKING SCHOOL LUNCH. The Center for Ecoliteracy has launched the Rethinking School Lunch initiative as part of the national effort to restore the connection of farms to communities, meals to culture, and health to environment. Rethinking School Lunch is a web guide that supports the business planning process for innovative school lunch programs.

The program offers a comprehensive overview of the 10 key components vital to the success of any school lunch program. Based on a food-systems approach that links student health and well-being with improved performance, the components include:

1. Food Policy
2. Curriculum Integration
3. Food and Health

4. Finances
5. Facilities Design
6. The Dining Experience
7. Professional Development
8. Procurement
9. Waste Management
10. Marketing and Communications

- Center for Ecoliteracy, c/o Jim Koulias, Director of Communications, 2528 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702; info@ecoliteracy.org; www.ecoliteracy.org

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY (RIC) NETWORK. RIC is a diverse movement of youth and adults who are committed to building healthy communities through urban and rural agriculture, environmental justice, community gardening and food security.

- Rooted In Community, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 359-7324; (630) 982-1679-fax; ric@lejoyouth.org; <http://www.earthisland.org/ric/index.html>

SCREECH OWL FARM SCHOOL. This community education center focuses on bridging the rural world and the 21st century. They identify the confluence of agricultural and environmental understanding through farm ecology and teach life skills related to rural living. On-farm youth programs serve 80 students annually and include the following:

Farm Ecology Camp. This traveling camp features summer courses in farm ecology for ages 6-12. Students visit farms throughout Chatham County, N.C., so they can work and learn alongside local small farmers.

Sustainable Agriculture Curricula. Screech Owl Farm School partners with area farm organizations to help develop farm-based curricula. Lessons are tied to local, state and national curriculum standards and come with extensions of up to 6 hours on each topic so that they can be used by 4H (www.farmschool.com). Projects include: Future Garden, a sustainable agriculture initiative for grades preK-5; Smart Farm, distance-learning

offering in sustainable agriculture for high school students; and Rare Breeds, a partnership with American Livestock Breeds Conservancy in a curriculum focused on promoting and saving endangered livestock breeds.

- Screech Owl Farm School, c/o Cecelia Carver, Director, 185 Screech Owl, Moncure, NC 27559; (919) 542-0333; farm@screechowl.com; ceceliz@screechowl.com; www.screechowl.com

SEATTLE YOUTH GARDEN WORKS (SYGW). SYGW runs a market gardening program for homeless and low-income youth ages 14-22 in Seattle's University District and South Park neighborhoods. The program connects youth to housing, health care, education, jobs and community.

The *University Gardens Project* has developed into a youth-run organic garden. Youth crews ages 14-18 grow a wide variety of organic vegetables, flowers, herbs and berries on a 1-acre garden plot. The South Park Project garden is located at Marra Farm, a 4-acre plot in Southwest Seattle. The neighborhood was originally farmland, and Marra Farm is the last remaining piece of agricultural land.

- Seattle Youth Garden Works, 5700 6th Ave S, Ste 207, Seattle, WA 98108; (206) 632-0352 ; (206) 632-0355-fax; www.sygw.org

SLOW FOOD U.S.A. This nonprofit educational organization is dedicated to supporting and celebrating the food traditions of North America. Slow Food U.S.A. supports and promotes the activities of 70 local chapters, each called a "convivium," that carry out the Slow Food mission on a local level. Each convivium advocates sustainability and bio-diversity through educational events and public outreach that promote the appreciation and consumption of seasonal and local foods and the support of those who produce them. Education efforts include a variety of garden, summer camp, and school programs for youth.

Slow Food in Schools aims to instill the values of Slow Food by fostering projects nationwide that introduce children to sound food production and an enjoyment of wholesome meals. It provides children the opportunity to connect with their food by planting seeds, harvesting crops, preparing meals and rejoicing in conviviality. Inherent to these projects are fundamental life lessons-developing an awareness for quality food choices, understanding food traceability, and creating a direct relationship to the land. By participating in these programs, children learn values that come from working together while producing something they can truly benefit from and enjoy.

- Slow Food U.S.A. National Office, 20 Jay St., Suite 313, Brooklyn, NY 11201; (718) 260-8000; (718) 260-8068-fax; info@slowfoodusa.org; www.slowfoodusa.org. For a list of Slow Food in Schools programs see http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/programs/details/in_schools/ or contact Cecily Upton, Slow Food in Schools Coordinator (718) 260-8000.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SARE) PROGRAM. Since 1988, SARE has helped advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities through a nationwide research and education grants program. The program, part of USDA's [Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service](#), funds projects and conducts outreach designed to improve agricultural systems.

SARE Outreach publishes books, bulletins and online resources highlighting SARE-funded project results and other innovative research. Most of SARE Outreach's information is available in print and online. SARE Outreach publications appropriate for youth include:

The New American Farmer, 2nd Edition, a collection of in-depth interviews with farmers and ranchers across America. www.sare.org/publications/naf.htm. To order the book (\$16.95) contact (301) 374-9696 or sarepubs@sare.org.

Exploring Sustainability in Agriculture, a 16-page full-color brochure defining sustainable agriculture. The brochure contains one-page profiles of 10 sustainable farmers, a list titled: *How can you support sustainable ag in the marketplace?* and a drawing of a sustainable farm with a list of the *Elements of Sustainability*. The lists are available as a separate one-page handout. Available free on the website and as a print version on request. www.sare.org/publications/exploring.htm

Several SARE Outreach publications are posted on the Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) National Resource Directory. They have been evaluated by educators on the AIRC National Review Team and recommended for the grade levels listed: *Building Soils for Better Crops* (grades 9–12), *The New Farmer's Market* (for educators).

- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, BARC West, Bldg. 046, Beltsville, MD 20705; website www.sare.org Contact: Dena Leibman, Communications Specialist, (301) 504-5230, (301) 504-5207-fax, communications@sare.org

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS OF THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION.

The Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Award Program is a grant program for farmers who want to try sustainable agriculture practices on their own farms. The staff of the two programs work together to provide sustainable agriculture education programs for youth and adults, including *Corn Story* and *Our Daily Bread*.

- Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program, c/o Jose Garcia, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 203 Gentry, Columbia, MO 65211; (573) 884-3794; (573) 882-5127-fax; GarciaJL@missouri.edu; <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sustain/sustainkids.htm>

- Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Award Program, c/o Judy Grundler, Missouri Department of Agriculture, 1616 Missouri Blvd, Jefferson City, MO 65102; (573) 526-9548; Judy.Grundler@mda.mo.gov; <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sustain/demo/index.htm>

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION (WFU) CAMP PROGRAM. WFU is a member-driven organization, committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement. Kamp Kenwood, is WSU's summer camp program for youth ages 8–18. For nearly 75 years, the program has taught kids from all over Wisconsin – and beyond – about: cooperatives, leadership, family farms, rural communities, cultural awareness, social justice, active local & global citizenship conservation and sustainability, all in a camp environment.

- Wisconsin Farmers Union Camp Program, 117 W. Spring St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; (800) 272-5531 or (715) 723-5561; cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com; <http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/>

YOUNG AGRARIANS – CHANGING THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE. A 25-minute educational video and accompanying 9-page Resource Guide produced in 2003 by Glory B. Media, Inc. (an independent video production company specializing in communicating concepts in sustainable agriculture to diverse audiences). The materials are appropriate for all ages, but are geared toward high school and college-age youth with an interest in agricultural careers. Includes: *Just the Facts*, *Questions for Discussion*, and *Suggested Activities* (e.g. Plan a school garden, Where is my foodshed? What's growing around here? How has U.S. agriculture changed?). The guide is available as a free PDF download at:

<http://www.environment.nau.edu/youngagrarians/>

- To order a copy of the video, contact Johanna Divine/Glory B. Media at johanna.divine@gmail.com