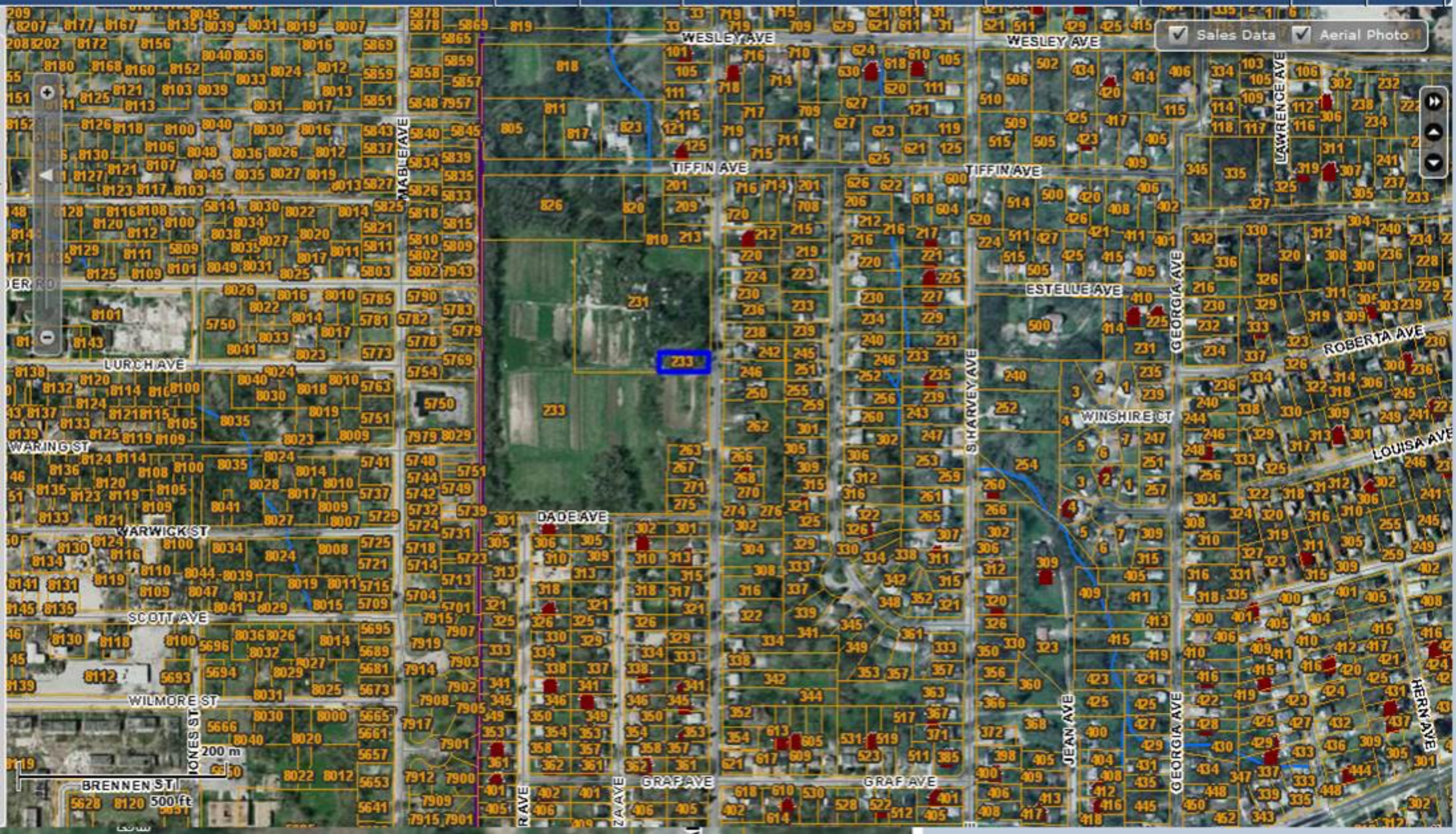


# Rooted in Ferguson Growing Food, Farmers, and Community



# Property Viewer

Tools   Zoom In   Zoom Out   Full Extent   Pan   Zoom Previous   Zoom Forward   Help   Print



Sales Data    Aerial Photo

Map navigation controls: Home, Previous, Next, Full Extent



**EarthDance was founded in 2008 to preserve the oldest organic farm west of the Mississippi & to train the next generation of organic farmers.**



Neighbors buying produce from Al & Caroline at the Mueller Farm  
(date unknown)





Image: St. Louis Business Journal

# Our Mission

To sustainably grow food, farmers, and community, one small farm at a time, through hands-on education and delicious experiences

# Our Vision

Organic farmers feeding their communities  
Communities caring for the land  
Farms inspiring creativity



# EarthDance Offers

Volunteer Opportunities

Farm & Garden  
Education

Fresh, Local, Certified  
Organic Produce

Tours,  
Workshops, &  
Public classes

Youth Programs





EarthDance Farm & Garden Apprenticeship



Connect with each other & the land



Learn the skills to make agricultural dreams a reality



Take home a share of the harvest



YEAH! (Youth Exploring Agriculture & Health)



## Junior Farm Crew



Field Trips



School Visits





Intergenerational Garden Program

# Service Learning



# s of Change in Ferguson



HELP PAINT  
THIS BUS  
12-2 today! AT THE FERGUSON  
4th of JULY FESTIVAL



Community Engagement

# Volunteer Opportunities





## Community Food Assessment



Public Classes & Workshops



## On-Farm Events



**Free, Family-Friendly Farm Tours**



Let's build a better food system  
for everyone, together!





You can support EarthDance & the Good Food Movement by:



# Shopping at the Ferguson Farmers Market



Bringing your friends & family out to  
the farm




# Attending Farmers Formal





Donating your time & passion

A pixelated landscape with a dark sky, a blue and green horizon, and a red and orange ground.

Spreading the word about  
importance of healthy soil, food, &  
communities

## Non-Profit Cultivates Food, Community, & Hope in Ferguson, MO

The Newsletter of the NCR-SARE Program

Summer 2015  
Issue 32

On a neighborhood street in Ferguson, Missouri, flanked by fields of spinach and beets, is a hand-painted sign announcing, "Mueller's Organic Farm, Homegrown Fruits & Vegetables." This is the EarthDance Organic Farm School—the sign pays homage to the Muellers, a pioneering organic farming family that established this farm in 1883.

In 2008, agroecologist and future farmer Molly Rockamann started a non-profit organization to support work on a small parcel of land at Mueller Farm; she called it EarthDance. Four years later, EarthDance purchased the Mueller Farm to both preserve the historic Mueller Farm and connect people with the land through community food production. Today, EarthDance farms about 3.5 acres on the 14-acre parcel.

The green fields, small brick farmhouse, greenhouse, and flowers at EarthDance stand in contrast to the Ferguson that has been depicted in the news in recent months; yet the highly diversified system of vegetables, herbs, and flowers at EarthDance is located just about a mile from the Ferguson police station. EarthDance's vision: organic farmers feeding the world, communities caring for the land, and farms inspiring creativity.

EarthDance's staff of 11 organizes and offers a wide variety of programs and activities for Ferguson and surrounding communities, some of which have been supported through NCR-SARE Youth Educator and Farmer Rancher grants. A brief history of EarthDance's SARE-supported work includes a farm apprenticeship program, a summer camp for youth in 2011 and 2012; a Junior Farm Crew Program that pays and trains high school students; the installation of a pear orchard to increase the availability of local, sustainably grown fruit; and the "greening" of a greenhouse with sustainable energy solutions. These activities focus on sustainable growing methods and quality of life for the surrounding communities, which are a priority for Rockamann.

The EarthDance Farm and Garden Apprenticeship Program teaches organic agriculture through hands-on education in fields and markets using experienced farmers and gardeners.

"I have never been more re-confirmed in my belief in humanity than to see the hard work and compassion for one another and our planet that has been so evident in our apprenticeship class each year," said Rockamann. "One of the reasons that I started our apprenticeship program was to connect more people to the Mueller Farm so that it could remain a productive organic farm. We have achieved that goal each year."

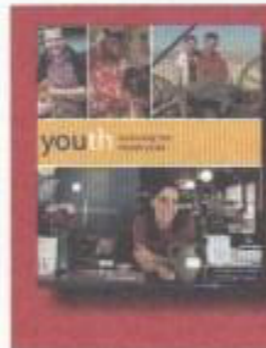
Jennifer Fleischmann, a Saint Louis native and the Marketing Coordinator at EarthDance, says that with more than 170 graduates of the program, projects like the apprenticeship program socially and economically empower Ferguson. She says SARE's support has enabled their impact on sustainable agriculture to be more widespread.

"The future farmers that the apprenticeship program trains will plant, harvest, and sell our veggies at the Ferguson Farmers Market. In a place where food deserts have become a widespread fixture, our apprentices contribute to increasing local access to healthy, organic produce," said Fleischmann.



EarthDance Farm in Ferguson, Missouri has received a variety of sustainable farming and community- including their Junior Farm Crew project. Photo

Another SARE-funded program for future food leaders is EarthDance's Junior Farm Crew, where 20 members learn skills, leadership, and job skills. Members leave with knowledge and farming that will enable them to have the conversations that need to be part of the good food movement.



Full of brilliant color photographs, *Youth Renewing the Countryside* shares remarkable stories of young people in each state changing the world through rural renewal. Read it online for free: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Youth-Renewing-the-Countryside>

Sharing this example of our community-based Organic Farm School with others



# *Thank You from EarthDance Organic Farm School!*



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

