Local Food Systems

A growing group of people are interested in getting more local foods into the hands of consumers—and providing additional marketing channels for farmers to produce sustainable, local foods. “Scaling up” local food refers to the process of building the system necessary to make local food available to a wider segment of the population than currently possible. NCR-SARE has supported research and education in some of the key challenge areas to scaling up local foods including agricultural production, storage and transportation, and marketing and sales.

NCR-SARE Project Sampler

To view SARE’s entire local food systems portfolio, or just the North Central region’s, visit https://projects.sare.org. For selected North Central region local food systems grants, see the reverse side.

University of Wisconsin researchers worked with producers to improve tomato varieties specifically for hoop house and open-field production under organic conditions. They also tested lower-cost mobile alternatives to high tunnels. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number LNC17-388.

Researchers found that food hubs can develop human and social capital by facilitating communication between participants and providing continuing education opportunities. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number GNC12-156.

A Michigan farmer developed a curriculum for small, food-producing farmers so they can add a teaching component to their farming business. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number FNC12-896.

Fieldhands and Foodways project participants learned how to cultivate vegetables at Alice’s Garden and create menus reflecting cultural food traditions. They learned about the Great Migration and historic agricultural practices of African Americans. They also created narratives about their ancestors’ migrations to Milwaukee and the cultural traditions accompanying them. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number YENC10-034.

Discover a wealth of educational materials for farmers, ranchers, ag professionals, community organizers, and others who are striving to reconfigure the nation’s food system so more value stays in food-producing communities with SARE’s online Farm to Table Topic Room at www.SARE.org/Local-Food.

SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance—to the whole of American agriculture—innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of...
**Research and Education Grants**

Improving Farmer Options for Sustainable and Profitable Direct-Market Tomato Production and High Tunnel Management in the Upper Midwest
Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin, LNC17-388, $199,915

A Local Pasture-Based Production Systems for Northwest Michigan
Jason Rowntree, Michigan State University, Michigan, LNC12-345, $181,342

**Farmer and Rancher Grants**

Rebel Earth Farms’ Value-Added, Direct Marketing Lakota Herbal Tea High-Tunnel Productions
Patricia Hammond, Rebel Earth Farms, South Dakota, FNC18-1124, $7,500

Building the Local Food Economy in Ozark County, Missouri
Amelia LaMair, Flotsam Farm, Missouri, FNC17-1082, $7,436

Formalizing Partnerships to Scale-Up Value-Added Local Food in Rural Ohio
Jeanine Seabrook, Glass Rooster Cannery, Ohio, FNC16-1056, $7,500

Keeping Traditions Alive: Creating Food Security in Northwest Wisconsin’s Tribal Communities
Amber Marlow, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Wisconsin, FNC13-919, $21,551

Rural Food Network: Growing and Keeping Food in Gasconade County, Missouri
Jennifer Miller, River Front Produce, Missouri, FNC12-883, $22,405

Direct Marketing Non-Traditional Perennial Berry Varieties: Expanding Eater Preferences and Grower Connections
Clare Hintz, Elsewhere Farm, Wisconsin, FNC12-864, $17,530

An Internship Curriculum for Food Farmers in the North Central Region
Therese Zimmerman-Niemier, Bertrand Farm, Indiana, FNC12-896, $22,319

**Youth Educator Grants**

Grow Healthy, Lansing! Nutrition Education in the Edible Schoolyard
Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Northwest Initiative, Michigan, YENC18-130, $2,000

Urban Farming as a Sustainable Business
Tommy McDoniel, Asbury Community Development Corporation, Michigan, YENC18-127, $2,000

Engaging Youth in Sustainable Farming and Benefits of Direct Marketing
Skylar Falter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska, YENC17-116, $2,000

Field Hands and Foodways
Venice Williams, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska, YENC10-034, $2,000

**Professional Development Grants**

Soil Health Bootcamp and Applications to Sustainable Vegetable Cropping: Professional Development for Local Agriculture Educators
Megan Kennelly, Kansas State University, Kansas, ENC15-146, $64,307

**Graduate Student Grants**

Needs Assessment for the Establishment of Food Hubs Using Geographic Information Systems
Kevin Duerfeldt, Iowa State University, Iowa, GNC12-156, $9,902

For information on many more SARE-funded local food systems projects, search the SARE project database: https://projects.sare.org.

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