

Food and Farming Focus Area Grant History

FY 2019

Macon County Public Health (as the fiscal sponsor for MountainWise) was awarded \$35,000 to expand the Double Up Food Bucks program in Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Transylvania, Swain, Graham, Clay, Macon and Cherokee counties.

Toe River Aggregation Center Organization Regional Inc. (TRACTOR) was awarded \$50,000 to increase direct-to-consumer sales channels, as well as expand the types of food-related business and overall number of farmers that TRACTOR serves.

FY 2018

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$40,000 to provide farmers and farmers markets with training and technical assistance on marketing strategies in order to increase farmer direct sales.

Eliada Homes, Inc. was awarded \$30,000 to fund a Farm Manager and to purchase supplies for two commercial growing tunnels to support Eliada Farms, Eliada's new earned revenue venture.

Isothermal Planning and Development Commission was awarded \$35,000 to support the Community Food and Health Hub in order to lower food insecurity, increase healthy food at pantries, build a stronger and more prosperous local food system, and increase access to fresh healthy food in McDowell County.

Mainspring Conservation Trust was awarded \$25,000 (contingent upon other funds) to assist with closing and transactional costs related to an agricultural conservation easement of a heritage farm in Cherokee County.

MANNA FoodBank was awarded \$40,000 to increase access to nutritious food for families in need, and to provide local, sustainable approaches to nutrition and health focused work via "Nutrition Works," an on-site nutrition education and clinic referral project.

Organic Growers School was awarded \$20,000 to support the expansion of year-round Farmer Programs and outreach into Polk County and within communities of color.

FY 2017

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$45,000 to help farmers develop personalized marketing relationships through the Building Connections: Helping Appalachian Grown Farmers Tell Their Farm Story program.

Bountiful Cities was awarded \$24,650 to support a pilot project of the Fair Food Network's Double Up Food Bucks program in Asheville and Buncombe County, which provides a dollar for dollar match when produce is purchased with SNAP dollars.

McDowell County NC Cooperative Extension was awarded \$20,000 to determine the feasibility of a Community Food and Health Hub, which would serve as a central location for MANNA FoodBank to store and distribute products to pantries throughout the county and provide a variety of services to strengthen the county's overall food system.

Organic Growers School was awarded \$25,000 for programs intended to increase the number of successful beginning and expanding organic farmers in WNC through farmer-led, farmer-driven and strategically-aligned support services.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$29,500 and \$16,000 to expand the agricultural business incubator for beginning farmers and hands-on educational workshop series at the Incubator Farm in Alexander, as well as to support WNC FarmLink, a program facilitating strong relationships between farmers looking for land and landowners aspiring to keep their land in agriculture.

Southwestern NC RC&D was awarded \$24,000 for farm assessments in order to maximize opportunities available at the farm level. Actions may include community college agriculture business classes, an Appalachian Farm School, a Rural Food Business Assistance Project and intensive agriculture workshops.

Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional Inc. (TRACTOR) was awarded \$49,660 to add a full-time sales position and part-time bookkeeping support. These two positions will expand TRACTOR's operational capacity to increase sales channels and actual sales.

FY 2016

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$45,000 to help farmers develop personalized marketing relationships through the Building Connections: Helping Appalachian Grown Farmers Tell Their Farm Story program.

Organic Growers School was awarded \$30,000 to support continued implementation or expansion of key farmer training programs serving WNC.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$30,000 to continue development of its agricultural incubator, located at SAHC's 100-acre farm in Alexander, which provides land, equipment, support and training for beginning and limited resource farmers.

Southwestern Community College was awarded \$5,500 to support the Appalachian Farm School program, which will provide at least twenty new or existing farmers with training and support to make their agribusiness successful.

Yancey County was awarded \$39,500 to support a community effort to develop a comprehensive foodshed action plan.

FY 2015

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$7,500 for financial sustainability planning to strengthen the long-term capacity of the organization to continue providing support to farmers and building the local food system.

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$47,000 for the Filling the Distribution Gap: Using Appalachian Grown to Connect Farmers and Distributors program.

MANNA FoodBank was awarded \$29,000 for the Network Capacity Improvement Project, which helps partner agencies in rural communities increase their ability to distribute healthy food to people in need in WNC.

Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council was awarded \$4,500 to research and define a grazing strategy for reclaiming and regenerating mountain pastureland.

Organic Growers School was awarded \$7,500 to improve branding and funding in order to expand their mission of inspiring, educating and supporting people to farm, garden and live organically.

Organic Growers School was awarded \$15,000 to support development of a comprehensive, regionally-informed farmer training curriculum tailored to maximize economic possibilities for WNC farmers.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$34,500 for its Incubator Farm, launched in 2014, that serves beginning and limited resources farmers. Funds will purchase equipment and provide infrastructure.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$16,500 for operating expenses for the WNC FarmLink program, which facilitates strong relationships between farmers looking for land and landowners aspiring to keep their land in agriculture.

Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council was awarded \$22,500 to support the introduction of "high tunnel" production for family farms.

Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional (TRACTOR) was awarded \$20,000 to secure new markets and expand its core group of large growers to increase the volume of produce aggregated and distributed through the Burnsville food hub.

WNC Communities was awarded \$25,000 to transition Blue Ridge Food Ventures (BRFV) from AdvantageWest to WNC Communities. Funding will ensure continuation of BRFV operations, including expanding the successful co-pack program and securing additional funding for operational sustainability.

FY 2014

AdvantageWest Economic Development Group was awarded \$20,000 to implement and maintain a contract packing program at Blue Ridge Food Ventures on the Enka A-B Tech campus, allowing clients to shift staff and resources from production to other key business functions.

Macon County Public Health Department for MountainWise Partnership was awarded \$30,000 for the Healthy Corner Market effort, which improves nutrition by making healthier foods and beverages available in convenience stores in rural areas.

Mayland Community College Foundation was awarded \$12,324 for the Mayland Berkshire Project, a pilot pig farming program for high school students in Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$25,500 to help create the first WNC agricultural business incubator for beginning and limited resource farmers.

Southwestern Commission was awarded \$25,000 to complete a Master Plan for the WNC Farmers Market, which will benefit 1,000 WNC farmers and agricultural producers. CFWNC funding will help match a \$50,000 grant by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

FY 2013

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) was awarded \$35,000 to support a major expansion of ASAP's Appalachian Grown regional food branding and certification program, which promotes locally-grown farm products in the marketplace to enable consumers to easily identify and support local food and farmers.

MANNA FoodBank was awarded \$50,000 to build the capacity of MANNA's 16-county food distribution network. Funds will be used to train network volunteers, provide customized technical assistance to partners, and assist local food pantries in implementing best practices.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was awarded \$10,000 for operating expenses for a recently funded Farmland Access Service coordinator, who will link landless farmers to farmland in WNC. AgriVentures, a joint undertaking by the AdvantageWest Economic Development Group and Land-of-Sky Regional Council, has committed to pay the salary of the part-time staff member for three years.

FY 2012

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association was awarded \$25,855 for start-up staffing for Carolina Ground to mill NC grains for WNC bakeries and restaurants.

Land-of-Sky Regional Council/WNC AgriVentures was awarded \$75,000 for a "Growing our Agricultural Sector" project, which includes regional approaches to local food systems and value-added products, especially in rural countries. CFWNC committed \$75,000 in matching funds over 3 years, in addition to \$815,000 from the USDA Rural Jobs Accelerator Program.

Mitchell County was awarded \$25,000 for the TRACTOR Food Hub Project's purchase of shared farm field equipment for new/transitioning farmers in Mitchell and Yancey counties. Co-funded by The Fund for Mitchell County and The Yancey Fund.

UNC Asheville Foundation was awarded \$22,200 for a Farm-to-School project connecting five Haywood County Schools with ASAP and UNC Asheville Center for Health and Wellness. Co-funded by Fund for Haywood County.