



What's Happening

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Pest Friends In-Service Training

Last month TN SARE was able to provide an engaging pest management in-service for TN Extension agents. This hands-on in-service trained agents on how to educate both adults and youth audiences in about pest management in a unique way. The training featured the Pest Friends board game which was developed by Jason Thomas and Grant Loomis, Extension agents at the University of Idaho, using the Professional Development Program Grant offered by SARE. TN SARE funds were able to purchase board games and have Jason Thomas provide the training. This agricultural themed board game is focused on learning real life lessons in integrated pest management. It challenges two or more players to grow a profitable crop faced with the pressures from insects. It also includes an app that game moderators can use to easily instruct players and provide feedback after the game.

**What's
Happening
Pest Friends
In-Service
Training**

List of grants

**Funded
Projects**

**Resources &
Learning
Materials**

**Website
Information**

**How to get on
the Mailing List**

**Contact
Information**



Jason Thomas (University of Idaho) instructs participants on how to play the game.



Emily Barton moderates a game with Kathleen Davis.



Pest Friends game design.



Jason Lawson plots his next move while Matthew Anderson and John Wilson moderate.



Angela Personeni moderates a game with Adam Watson.

Grant List

- Graduate Student Grant (currently closed)
- Research and Education Grant (currently closed)
- Education Grant (currently closed)
- Professional Development Program Grant (currently closed)
- Producer Grant (currently closed)
- On-Farm Research Grant (currently closed)

Funded Projects

Title: Increasing Sustainable Agriculture and Economic Viability of Farms in Tennessee Through Education

Project Type: Education Only

Funds awarded in 2024: \$39,702.00

Projected End Date: 03/31/2026

Grant Recipient: Tennessee Local Food; SE TN Young Farmers; Rooted East; Brooklyn Heights Community Garden; Sequatchie Cove Farm; Villa Acres; Nashville Grown; Bugtussle Farm

Region: Southern

State: Tennessee

Principal Investigator: Natalie Seevers

This project information with Tennessee Local Food shows educational events in motion. This project addresses issues of sustainable agriculture, food sheds and food circles, direct marketing, slow food, chef collaborations, urban ag systems and food policy in Tennessee and throughout the region. They provide educational activities and opportunities for farmers. By conducting hands-on workshops, panel discussions, demonstrations, screenings, field days, and annual conferences. This project helps farmers increase productivity through education, enhancing the quality of land, water, and air by helping farmers to learn and implement better stewardship practices, and more.

[LINK
HERE](#)

SEE BELOW FOR TENNESSEE LOCAL FOOD, RESILIENCE FARMING EVENT (VIDEO)

[LINK HERE](#)

Resources & Learning

Resource: “Best Practices for the Sustainable Urban Farm”

For decades, urban farms and community gardens have helped meet the demand for fresh, local produce. Urban farms are diverse and creative; they range from small farms on repurposed vacant lots, to multilevel vertical farms and rooftop gardens. This resource explains how urban growers use limited space by growing crops in raised beds, under high tunnels, inside repurposed shipping containers and in greenhouses. Some use aquaponic and hydroponic growing systems. Inside this resource you will find the best ways to sustainably manage an urban farm.

CONTENTS

Land Access and Security 4

Soil Remediation, Soil Health and Nutrient Management 5

Water Access and Management 9

Season Extension and Controlled Environments 12

Sustainable Pest Management 14

Aquaponics and Hydroponics 18

Marketing in Urban Areas 19

Nonprofit Versus For-Profit Urban Farms and Farmer Training Programs 19

Looking to the Future 23

Resources 24

Best Practices for the Sustainable Urban Farm



Abu Talib is the director of the Taqwa Community Farm, which he helped establish on a vacant lot in his Bronx neighborhood in 1992. Photo by Preston Keres, USDA

FOR DECADES, URBAN FARMS AND COMMUNITY gardens have helped meet the demand for fresh, local produce. Urban farms are diverse and adaptable, ranging from small farms on repurposed vacant lots to multilevel vertical farms and rooftop gardens. Often, they combine ecological farming practices with some form of infrastructure. Urban growers make clever use of their often-limited space by growing crops in raised beds, under high tunnels, inside repurposed shipping containers and in greenhouses; some use aquaponic and hydroponic growing systems. Urban farms' proximity to large population centers allows them to tap into diverse consumer preferences and provide culturally relevant and specialty products along with more typical fruits and vegetables. These can include microgreens, mushrooms, herbs, niche crops and heirloom varieties. Many farms even incorporate fish, chickens, goats, sheep, rabbits and beekeeping.

At the same time, urban farms provide their communities with many interrelated environmental, economic and social benefits. Urban farmers revitalize neglected and underserved neighborhoods by transforming vacant lots and abandoned buildings into productive greenspaces that often double as communal areas. They increase the local biodiversity while helping to reduce the number of miles that produce travels to market. Urban farmers contribute to local economies by providing training and skill-building for volunteers, employees and aspiring farmers. This can foster entrepreneurship in the local food sector and further increase local food production and distribution. Urban producers may also actively seek to address persistent food insecurity and poverty in their communities through educational outreach and by developing marketing strategies that allow them to serve low-income families or to provide rehabilitation services.

Also available at www.sare.org/urban-agriculture, or order a free hard copy at (301) 779-1007.



[LINK HERE](#)



Contact Information

[SOUTHERN.SARE.ORG](https://southern.sare.org)

More information on the SARE program in our region:

GET ON THE MAILING LIST!

Click on the envelope below to sign up for the SARE monthly newsletter to stay informed about resources and grant openings.



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