

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

PHOTO © USDA



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is one of the best collaborative efforts I know. Those of us who work with the grassroots need the expert policy advice that the NSAC staff provides, and NSAC staff benefit from the “ground-truthing” that member organizations provide.

In 2015, NSAC grew its capacity to deliver unique and powerful grassroots advocacy to improve federal food and farm policy. As part of this growth process, NSAC’s Organizational Council, staff and members completed a Strategic Plan that will be implemented over the next few years. The plan outlines goals relating to organizational capacity building, grassroots engagement and policy efforts, including:

- Implement succession planning across all levels of NSAC (staff, committees, councils) and increase staff retention, satisfaction and leadership development;
- Build power by increasing diversity, strategic composition and engagement of membership;
- Increase the number of advocates and leaders for every campaign priority issue area in key states and districts;
- Develop and execute a broad, unified message and communications strategy that articulates our vision and priorities and reaches beyond the chair; and
- Establish diversified and reliable funding for all committee issue areas and incorporate into fundraising plan.

The Coalition held three farmer fly-ins in 2015, bringing voices from the farm to our nation’s capital. Farmers and NSAC staff met with dozens of decision makers to ensure that federal policies that support sustainable food and agriculture are protected and strengthened.

NSAC secured substantial program and policy “wins” in 2015:

- Our coalition’s efforts to create a farm insurance product that is effective for sustainable, diversified and organic producers that would cover the whole country became a reality when USDA’s Risk Management Agency expanded Whole Farm Revenue Protection to every state and county.
- Our hard work on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) paid off; FDA issued improved final rules, and we were successful in doubling the funding available for food safety training for farmers and food enterprises.
- We also were successful in our initial efforts to improve the expiring Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation through introduction of a bipartisan marker bill that would increase healthy food available to our schoolchildren.

We are thankful for the collaboration and support of the organizations and supporters who partnered with us in 2015. We look forward to working with new partners to further the policies and practices that strengthen sustainable food and agriculture.

**Teresa Opheim**

*Practical Farmers of Iowa*

*Chair, NSAC Organizational Council*

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is an alliance of over 100 grassroots organizations (see pages 16-17 for a list of member organizations) that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and agricultural communities. Our vision is one in which farmers can produce a healthful, affordable food supply while protecting the environment and supporting their families. This vision guides our work to advance federal policies that conserve natural resources, promote organic farming, strengthen local food systems, and help new farmers succeed.

NSAC was founded upon two shared priorities:

- To research, develop, and advocate federal policies relating to farm, food, and environmental issues, appropriations, and implementation to support and advance sustainable agriculture.
- To support, build, develop, and engage the grassroots of sustainable agriculture for the health and vitality of the sustainable agriculture movement.

Since 2009, NSAC has been a national leader in the development and implementation of federal sustainable agriculture policies. Our policy work is made all the more effective through the employment of a dual strategy: direct policy engagement combined with widespread grassroots advocacy. NSAC is based in Washington, D.C., but works with member organizations across the country to advance our shared priorities. Our experienced policy team works closely with Congress, Hill staff, and federal agencies on policies and programs that support and bolster sustainable agriculture. Working in tandem with policy staff, NSAC's grassroots team helps to organize our 100+ member organizations and provides them with resources and technical assistance to mobilize and support farmers, rural businesses, and conservationists.

For years, NSAC has brought grassroots voices and stories into the federal policy-making process. Our member organizations elevate the concerns and needs of the farmers and local citizens they serve, and NSAC develops our priorities based on how policies effect and serve those on the ground. Through our high-impact advocacy and outreach, NSAC translates those needs into substantial policy change to help create a healthier, more diverse, equitable and environmentally sound food and farming system.

## THE COALITION'S WORK

NSAC is a coalition-based organization with member groups across the United States. While many of our member organizations work at the local, state and regional levels in their own particular focal areas, we all work collectively at the national level to advocate for better federal food and agriculture policy.

NSAC develops and supports policies to create a sustainable and robust food and farm system, which in turn supports farmers, preserves natural resources, and provides healthy and fresh food to communities. This work requires deep and diverse knowledge. The NSAC staff are experts on a wide range of food and farm issues, and excel at leveraging that expertise to create real change on the ground. We are unparalleled in our work on agricultural policy; no organization to date has created more federal policies to help sustainable and organic food production and farms.

NSAC has leveraged our powerful policy/grassroots approach into the development of several landmark, federal conservation programs including: the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) buffer initiative; the Wetlands Reserve Program; Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative; and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These programs reward farmers for protecting the soil, air, and waters on their land while maintaining an active farming operation.

# ABOUT NSAC

## THE COALITION'S WORK (CONT'D)

NSAC has also led the charge to create federal programs supporting organic, beginning, and minority farmers; value-added food businesses and direct farmer-to-consumer and local and regional marketing; and sustainable agriculture research and education. Programs we have championed in these areas include: the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP), Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP), National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP), and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE).

Our staff and coalition members are committed to the ongoing development of these important sustainable agriculture programs, as well as to ensuring their proper implementation and funding.

NSAC and our member organizations work in a complementary manner in order to cover a broad spectrum of activities – more than any one of us could cover on our own. We rely on our member organizations to solicit farmer and citizen input; to “groundtruth” policy proposals, testing how policies work in action on the ground; and to conduct outreach and implementation work on the local/state/regional level. In turn, our member organizations rely on the NSAC office team for first-class representation, connection to Congress and agency contacts, timely information, and expert advice.



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**Our staff and coalition members are committed to the ongoing development of sustainable agriculture programs, as well as to ensuring their proper implementation and funding.**

# OUR WORK

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## *Summary of Additions to Mandatory Funding for Select Local Food, Organic, Healthy Food Access and Rural Development Programs*

*(5-year totals)*

FARM BILL PROGRAM	2008 Farm Bill	2014 Farm Bill
Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program	+ \$33 MILLION	+ \$150 MILLION
* Specialty Crop Block Grant	+ \$224 MILLION	+ \$100 MILLION
Value Added Producer Grant Program	+ \$15 MILLION	+ \$63 MILLION
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	+ \$15 MILLION	+ \$15 MILLION
National Organic Cost Share Certification	+ \$22 MILLION	+ \$57.5 MILLION
* Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program	+ \$28 MILLION	No increase
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (SNAP Incentives)	n/a	+ \$100 MILLION
* Community Food Projects	No increase	+ \$16 MILLION
Total	+ \$337 MILLION	+ \$501.5 MILLION

\* These three programs have permanent funding. The chart therefore shows increases over previous farm bill levels only. The 10-year increase in the new bill for SCBGs is \$250 million and the 10-year increase for CFPs is \$36 million.

## FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION

NSAC fights for policies and programs that support sustainable agriculture – not just through the initial legislative phase, but also throughout the ongoing implementation and evaluation stages. Administrative, appropriations, and implementation work is often less visible to the public because it tends to be done behind the scenes and can be highly technical in nature. Despite its lower profile, this work is vitally important to ensuring the long-term viability of programs and policies.

The “farm bill” is a massive package of policies that connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources that make growing food possible. The bill is reauthorized every five years. The 2014 Farm Bill, our latest version of the legislation, was a mixed bag for sustainable agriculture. Strong progress was made on a variety of fronts, including increased and expanded funding for local and regional food systems, organic production, and programs that support training, conservation, and food safety. The final bill also built on growing levels of investment in local and regional food systems, organic agriculture, healthy food access, and opportunities for small and mid-sized farmers. While the advances for rural economic development programs were not as strong, the bill did make notable improvements to a few key programs, which will serve as a starting point for further work in future farm bills.

In total, the farm bill invested \$501 million directly into the local food, rural development, organic agriculture, and healthy food access initiatives that NSAC works on and supports. This investment represents a nearly 50 percent increase over the funding provided by the previous farm bill.

Following the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began to draft guidance and rules that provide details on the programs within it – a process that continued through 2015. Throughout this process, NSAC took advantage of opportunities for engagement. Our team regularly submitted informal recommendations and responded to formal requests for comment from nearly every agency within USDA. NSAC staff provided key insights to agencies on how to properly interpret their new statutory authority and how to improve programmatic efficiency and efficacy for such programs as: Farm to School Pilots, BFRDP, National Organic Certification Cost Share Program, Whole Farm Revenue Protection Policy, and Farmer Food Safety Training. We also widely advertised comment opportunities and supported USDA's outreach to farmers, communities, and consumers on newly available programs and resources.



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Notable highlights and victories from our farm bill work in 2015 include:

- In February 2015, NSAC published our resources and information guide, the *Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs*, summarizing programs in the new bill and identifying opportunities for farmers, producers, and advocates to engage in the USDA's roll-out process.
- NSAC published, for the fourth consecutive year, its Farmers' Guide to Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Funding. As a result of NSAC's comments and work on this issue, VAPG was prevented from transitioning from a federal to a state-administered program, preserving the program's equitable distribution nationwide. In FY 2015 \$30 million was made available for VAPG applications.
- The Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) announced \$3 million in available funding in its first Request for Proposals. Created in the 2014 Farm Bill, SCMP had been highly anticipated for its potential to help farmers and local and regional food processors develop and follow food safety practices that would comply with Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations. In response to NSAC comments, the inaugural RFA for SCMP will: 1) provide additional priority ranking points for food safety projects; 2) allow for projects to conduct training in the field (and not solely in the classroom); 3) utilize a variety of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-recognized training and resources for producer/processor training and/or education; and 4) provide for translation or interpretation services for farmers with limited English proficiency to achieve project goals.
- The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) announced \$17 million in awards to 34 organizations in 25 states for fiscal year 2015. NSAC and our members originally conceptualized BFRDP nearly 15 years ago. In June 2015 NSAC and NSAC member organization, the Land Stewardship Project, released our fifth program progress report, which analyzes BFRDP grantees and identifies historical funding trends and opportunities to improve the program.
- The Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program awarded over \$8 million in grants to provide outreach and technical assistance to minority, tribal, and veteran farmers and ranchers. NSAC was instrumental in getting the mandatory funding level up to \$10 million in the 2014 Farm Bill, and has aggressively advocated for a return to the historic mandatory funding level of \$20 million.
- 40% of the comments on the Conservation Reserve Program (CSP) Interim Final Rule for Conservation Compliance utilized NSAC templates, meaning our efforts had a huge impact on what NRCS will consider in rulemaking.
- NSAC ensured that over 2/3 of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) dollars went to wetland conservation in FY 2014 and FY 2015.

## CHILD NUTRITION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Congress revisits child nutrition program legislation approximately every five years in a single omnibus bill known as the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, or the Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization (CNR) for short.

The previous CNR – known as the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 – included the most significant changes to child nutrition programs since the 1970s. The 2010 CNR expanded children's access to nutritious meals and snacks, improved the nutritional quality for school food, supported healthier school environments, and increased nutrition and food system education. It also provided first time, mandatory funding to the USDA Farm to School Grant Program. CNR authorizes all federal child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Food, Summer Food Service, and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) programs.

The last CNR expired on September 30, 2015 without agreement on reauthorization by Congress. Despite the stagnation in the legislature, some significant progress was made on this important program package.

The primary focus of NSAC's CNR campaign has been the expansion and improvement of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program. In order to achieve this goal, we have worked closely with our partners at the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) to win bipartisan support for the Farm to School Act of 2015.

In partnership with NFSN, NSAC successfully launched a CNR campaign to improve the USDA Farm to School Grant Program to benefit children, producers, and communities.

In February of 2015, our CNR campaign secured the introduction of a bicameral and bipartisan marker bill to improve the USDA Farm to School Grant, the Farm to School Act of 2015. The marker bill would: increase annual, mandatory funding for the Farm to School Grant Program; make permanent the expansion of the program to include summer feeding, preschool and afterschool; increase access among tribal schools to farm-fresh and traditional foods by prioritizing projects connecting those schools with tribal producers; and improve local food procurement through innovative approaches to aggregation, transportation, and distribution.

Senators Leahy (D-VT) and Cochran (R-MS) and Representatives Fudge (D-OH) and Fortenberry (R-NE) introduced the bill with 22 bipartisan co-sponsors from each house. NSAC worked tirelessly through the year to secure the maximum number of co-sponsors from each party for the bill, and was also successful in coordinating a letter in support of the bill with over 600 organizations signed on.

**NSAC maintains an ongoing focus on strengthening the policies and programs that develop robust local and regional food systems.**

NSAC has also, independently, been working on improving local food procurement options for schools as part of our ongoing work on farm bill implementation. We successfully secured verbal support for our local procurement proposals from several key Congress members on committees of jurisdiction, and opened a dialogue with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to improve the acceptance of SNAP and other benefits at farmers markets and other direct marketing outlets. NSAC maintains an ongoing focus on strengthening the policies and programs that develop robust local and regional food systems, promote healthy food access among vulnerable communities, and build up economic opportunities for small and mid-sized farms.



## FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2010 was the first major overhaul of our nation's food safety practices since 1938. FSMA made significant and long-term changes in the regulations governing small and midsize producers; these changes and their impacts continue to take shape as implementation of the act moves forward. Throughout this process, NSAC has been committed to ensuring that our victories during the legislative and rulemaking phases are maintained throughout FSMA's implementation.

Through 2015, FDA finalized a series of new, expansive food safety regulations for farmers and food businesses under FSMA. Without training resources, the final food safety regulations would be a significant burden for small and midsize farmers and processors and would inevitably fall far short of the goal of improving food safety. In order to prevent this, NSAC advocated for doubled funding for the FSMA-authorized Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP). FSOP was a program that NSAC championed during the FSMA legislative phase, which is designed to ensure accessible and diverse food safety training options are available for farmers and other food enterprises.

In the 2015 final omnibus spending package, NSAC was successful in securing the doubled amount (\$5 million) for FSOP. We were also able to secure Senate report language in the bill directing the Secretary of Agriculture to “ensure that nonprofit organizations, or organizations representing owners and operators of small and mid-sized farms, small food processors, or small fruit and vegetable wholesalers can compete for funding or subcontracts for on-the-ground food safety training projects that directly reach the targeted, intended beneficiaries.”

In September, 2015, FDA released the Preventive Controls Rule for Human Food. NSAC's policy staff published a multi-part blog series on this rule, breaking down the technical language to help producers, affected facilities, and advocates understand its practical implications.

Following the Preventive Controls Rule, FDA released their much-anticipated final Produce Rule in November 2015. Thanks to NSAC's advocacy work, the final Produce Rule took into account the concerns and needs of those in the sustainable agriculture community. The final language makes it clear that the Produce Rule standards neither require, nor are intended to encourage, farmers from taking any actions to avoid or undo on-farm conservation and wildlife practices. Furthermore, the rule finalizes standards that align the use of compost with the National Organic Program, reducing barriers to farmers who use compost. These changes will help to protect conservation practices and increase compost usage on working lands across the country.

In 2016, NSAC will continue to dialogue with FDA, ensuring that implementation of FSMA rules is coupled with accessible, culturally appropriate training for producers, processors and distributors.



## ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

### WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION (WFRP)

*All farmers deserve access to a farm safety net that protects them against the inherent risks of farming, no matter if they are growing thousands of acres of corn or a few dozen vegetable crops for their local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) is a crop-neutral revenue insurance policy designed to protect revenue on the whole farm, rather than just one crop.*

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized USDA to develop a new “whole farm” revenue protection policy. The full policy was released in November 2014; in August 2015 the Risk Management Agency (RMA) released a series of modifications to the program for the 2016 crop year. Unlike traditional yield or revenue insurance, WFRP is not intended for a single specific crop, but instead covers all the crops and livestock grown or raised on a particular farm. This is especially helpful to diversified sustainable and organic farms that cannot obtain the coverage they need through single crop policies.

In August of 2015, RMA announced the expansion of the WFRP crop insurance policy to every state and every county, making WFRP the first crop insurance policy to be universally available nationwide. NSAC continues to submit comments to RMA on WFRP, and we anticipate an even stronger program in 2016 due to that engagement.

NSAC has long championed risk management options that are appropriate for highly diversified farms. While WFRP is a good first step, traditional federal crop insurance still subsidizes farm consolidation, monoculture production, and the over-application of chemical inputs. In 2016 and beyond, NSAC will seek to cap subsidies, level the playing field for all farmers, and reconcile the insurance program with the nation’s natural resource protection and environmental goals.

### SEEDS AND BREEDS

An equitable food and farm system starts from the ground up: with seeds. Seeds are the building blocks of most of the food we put on our plate, and are central to the work of crop farmers. Unfortunately, over the past 25 years there has been a steady decline in investment in public sector breeding programs, which are housed primarily within our nation’s land grant universities and USDA research facilities. Because of this disinvestment, farmers are left with fewer and fewer seed choices and are ill prepared to address the challenges of changing climates in the 21st century.

NSAC is dedicated to fighting for robust, publicly funded plant breeding research. In September 2015, NSAC helped to organize a briefing on Capitol Hill for legislators and decision makers on the importance of publicly funded plant breeding. This briefing showcased the need for agricultural research, and especially the importance of funding reliability – it takes anywhere from five to 20 years to develop a new variety of a crop before it is available in the commercial seed market, making continuity essential for successful plant breeding projects.

NSAC was pleased that the omnibus appropriations package passed in December, 2015 included increased funding (from \$325 million to \$350 million) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). While this was substantially less than the President’s request of \$450 million, the increase will allow USDA to fund more public plant breeding and cultivar development, mid-size farm profitability evaluations, and regional food economy research.

In 2016, NSAC will continue to champion programs like AFRI that support on-farm seeds and breeds research. Specifically, we have urged the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which administers AFRI, to support funding for research that leads to new plant cultivars and varieties that are: locally and regionally adapted; meet the needs of farmers in adapting to a changing climate; and work in a diverse range of production systems, including organic and other diversified sustainable systems. As we move forward into the next presidential administration and the 2018 Farm Bill, NSAC will work with our Seeds and Breeds coalition members to build support for publicly-funded practical, on-the-ground research that addresses pressing food systems issues.

***All farmers deserve access to a farm safety net that protects them against the inherent risks of farming.***



## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2015 GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNS:

- Our Michigan organizer, Lindsey Scalera, worked with local NSAC member organizations to host tours of farm to school sites and in-district meetings with key Michigan legislators who sit on the House of Representatives' Education and Workforce Committee. Thanks to these engagement events Michigan's legislators now better understand the importance of increased funding for farm to school grants and local procurement in CNR.
- For the first time in years, Congress did not cut CSP funding through the appropriations process – thanks largely to a coordinated national effort to rally farmers and organizations passionate about resource conservation to speak out against the cuts. NSAC mobilized the grassroots by conducting one-on-one outreach to CSP farmers by phone, sending tens of thousands of email alerts, facilitating several joint sign-on letters with hundreds of partner organizations, and more.
- NSAC developed and published a wealth of materials to help farmers access federal resources and take action on important issues. These included the popular “Am I Affected?” flowchart, which helps farmers and food entrepreneurs determine how the FSMA rules may impact their business, as well as several updated farmers’ guides to grant and conservation programs.
- With a new Congress elected at the end of 2014, the start of 2015 was the perfect time for coalition members to sharpen their advocacy skills and begin building relationships with their new members of Congress. NSAC staff and seasoned members presented “Building Legislative Relationships 101,” a workshop for coalition members, which covered the basics of starting and maintaining relationships with legislators and their staff. The training helped NSAC members with a critical component of political advocacy: getting off on the right foot with new legislators.

### GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

NSAC is led by our members. Our ability to have such a powerful impact on national policy-making stems from our strong grassroots base: farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and everyday citizens. Throughout 2015, farmers and grassroots advocates across the country joined NSAC in holding legislators accountable and called on them to stand up as champions of sustainable agriculture. Our member organizations and supporters played an active role in ground-truthing NSAC recommendations, advocating directly for needed policy and programmatic changes, sharing news and actions on social media, growing our collective base of engaged farmers and advocates, and much more.

As always, our membership met twice in person during the 2015 calendar year – we convened first in January on Jekyll Island, GA and then in August in Iowa City, Iowa. In-person meetings are NSAC's opportunity to strategize with our membership, develop campaigns, choose priorities, and most importantly, to strengthen our relationships and shared vision for sustainable agriculture.



2015 FLY-INS  
BY THE  
NUMBERS

2 HILL  
BRIEFINGS

56  
LEGISLATOR  
MEETINGS

3 FLY  
INS

8 USDA/  
WHITE  
HOUSE  
MEETINGS

44 FARMERS,  
ADVOCATES,  
& LEADERS  
SPEAKING UP  
IN DC

1 WHITE  
HOUSE  
SUMMIT

NSAC coordinated three fly-ins in 2015 in partnership with our members. Two of our fly-ins focused on budget and appropriations while the third, organized in partnership with NSAC member organization, National Farm to School Network, focused on farm to school grant funding in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. We also helped to coordinate two hill briefings and one White House summit, which featured farmers, community leaders, and NSAC coalition members.

## COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

NSAC members made it clear in 2015 that a commitment to racial equity – an understanding and acknowledgement of historical and ongoing racial inequities and a commitment to actions challenging those inequities – should be at the forefront of the coalition’s work. At NSAC’s two in-person member meetings, the coalition hosted a number of speakers and trainings focused on racial equity in the food and farm system. Shirley Sherrod, former Georgia Director of Rural Development for USDA, discussed her lifelong work on racial equity and the need for intentional action to address discrimination in federal food and farm policy at the coalition’s meeting in Iowa City. Tamara Jones of Evident Impact, followed Mrs. Sherrod’s discussion by facilitating a half-day working session that helped coalition members put their commitment to racial justice on paper. Participants in that session worked together to draft a statement on racial equity, which detailed their vision and plan of action to address racial inequities in the food and farm system. That statement set the broad vision for the coalition’s future work on racial equity; NSAC members subsequently developed an in-depth action plan as part of NSAC’s strategic plan work. This action plan outlined steps to integrate a racial equity lens into the entirety of the coalition’s work. The efforts of the coalition in 2015 have set the foundation for ensuring that racial equity is a core tenet of NSAC’s outlook, and that it is embedded in the coalition’s structure, analysis, and policy development and advocacy process.

## SELECT PRESS

Ag for Everyone  
Agri-pulse  
Agri Marketing  
Before it News  
Beginning Farmers  
Big Picture Agriculture  
Can We Feed the World  
Cattle Network  
Cornell Chronicle  
Durango Herald  
E&E News  
Farmer and Rancher  
Farmers Advance  
Farm Futures  
Farm Policy  
Farm Progress  
FDA.gov Blog  
Federal Produce Policy  
Food & Environment  
Reporting Network (FERN)  
Food and Health Network  
Food Safety News  
FoodTank  
Fresh ProduceTalk  
Good Food on EveryTable  
Growing VA  
Hagstrom Report  
Kentucky Ag Connection  
Liveable Future Blog  
Manning Live

Michael Fields  
Michigan Food  
MI Good Food Policy  
Minnesota Ag Connection  
Minnesota Post  
Modern Farmer  
Morning Ag Clips  
Mother Jones  
National Geographic  
National Ag Law Center  
NEWSAWG.org  
News Gazette  
National Public Radio (NPR)  
Politico  
Public News Service  
Quincy Journal  
SSAWG.org  
Sun Journal  
Take Park  
Town Hall  
UC Food Observer  
US Ag Net  
USDA.gov Blog  
US News  
Vegetable Growers News  
Wall Street Journal  
The WashingtonTimes  
Wisconsin Ag Connection



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# THE ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL

The affairs of NSAC are governed by the Organizational Council. Along with the NSAC Managing Director, the Organizational Council establishes the NSAC mission, oversees strategic planning and development, evaluates NSAC's effectiveness, and provides financial oversight and approval of the annual budget. The Organizational Council also approves membership applications to NSAC. Nominated and elected by both Represented and Participating Members, Organizational Council members serve two-year terms and meet at least bi-monthly.

The members of the Organizational Council are:

**Dr. Bonnie Bobb**  
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

**Brian Depew**  
Center for Rural Affairs

**Faye Jones**, Treasurer  
Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service

**Bob Junk**  
Republic Food Enterprise Center

**Jeanne Merrill**  
California Climate and Agriculture Network

**Qiana Mickie**  
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
(NESAWG)

**Michelle Napier-Dunnings**  
Michigan Food and Farming Systems

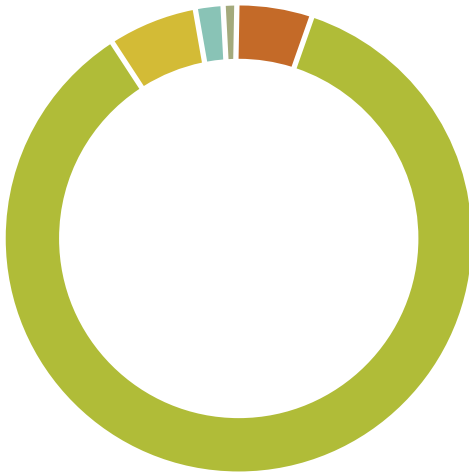
**Teresa Opheim**, Chair  
Practical Farmers of Iowa

**James Robinson**  
Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA

**Ricardo J. Salvador**, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Brise Tencer**, Secretary  
Organic Farming Research Foundation

## INCOME STATEMENT



*Revenue and Support*

Donations	\$80,817
Grants Revenue	\$1,325,383
Membership Dues	\$89,750
Registrations	\$30,441
Other Income	\$13,138

**Total Revenue and Support** **\$1,539,529**



*Expenses*

Salaries	\$586,403
Temporary Salaries	\$42,207
Benefits	\$245,533
Consultations and Professional Services	\$101,228
Grants and Subcontracts	\$47,592
Registrations and Staff Development	\$3,248
Travel	\$33,034
Travel Scholarships	\$19,168
Meeting Expenses	\$96,016
Insurance	\$596
Printing	\$8,807
Publications / Subscriptions	\$25,762
Phone / Internet	\$11,934
Postage	\$705
Office Expense	\$25,334
Occupancy	\$89,379
Advertising	\$574
Miscellaneous	\$5,325
Reserve Fund Expense	\$76,897
Fiscal Sponsor Fee	\$99,874

**Total Expenses** **\$1,519,636**

# STAFF/ MEMBERS/ SUPPORTERS

## STAFF

Alyssa Charney, Policy Specialist

Jeremy Emmi, Managing Director

Emma Ertinger, Operations Coordinator

Shavaun Evans, Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator

Greg Fogel, Senior Policy Specialist

Sarah Hackney, Grassroots Director

Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director

\*Eugene Kim, Policy Specialist

\*Wes King, Policy Specialist

\*Reana Kovalcik, Associate Director for  
Communications and Development

Sophia Kruszewski, Policy Specialist

Juli Obudzinski, Senior Policy Specialist

Paul Wolfe, Policy Specialist

\*(not pictured)

## 2015 INTERNS AND FELLOWS

Alexandra Beresford

Kelliann Blazek

Carla Curle

Erin Lowe

Katie Merritt

Kelsey Minyon

Erin Pickens



## REPRESENTED MEMBERS

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association *Salinas, CA*  
Alternative Energy Resources Organization *Helena, MT*  
CCOF *Santa Cruz, CA*  
California FarmLink *Santa Cruz, CA*  
C.A.S.A. del Llano (Communities Assuring a Sustainable Agriculture) *Hereford, TX*  
Catholic Rural Life *St Paul, MN*  
Center for Rural Affairs *Lyons, NE*  
Clagett Farm/Chesapeake Bay Foundation *Upper Marlboro, MD*  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers *Davis, CA*  
Dakota Rural Action *Brookings, SD*  
Delta Land and Community, Inc. *Almyra, AR*  
Ecological Farming Association *Soquel, CA*  
Farmer-Veteran Coalition *Davis, CA*  
Florida Organic Growers *Gainesville, FL*  
GrassWorks *New Holstein, WI*  
Hmong National Development, Inc. *St Paul, MN and Washington, DC*  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance *Springfield, IL*  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy *Minneapolis, MN*  
Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative *Sebastopol, CA*  
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation *Des Moines, IA*  
Izaak Walton League of America *St. Paul, MN/Gaithersburg, MD*  
Kansas Rural Center *Topeka, KS*  
The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture *Poteau, OK*  
Land Stewardship Project *Minneapolis, MN*  
MAFO *St Cloud, MN*  
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute *East Troy, WI*  
Michigan Food & Farming Systems – MIFFS *East Lansing, MI*  
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance *Lansing, MI*  
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service *Spring Valley, WI*  
The National Center for Appropriate Technology *Butte, MT*  
National Hmong American Farmers *Fresno, CA*  
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society *Ceresco, NE*  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance *Deerfield, MA*  
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society *LaMoure, ND*  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides *Eugene, OR*  
Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association *Columbus, OH*  
Oregon Tilth *Corvallis, OR*  
Organic Farming Research Foundation *Santa Cruz, CA*  
Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA *Pittsboro, NC*  
Union of Concerned Scientists Food and Environment Program *Cambridge, MA*  
Virginia Association for Biological Farming *Lexington, VA*  
Wild Farm Alliance *Watsonville, CA*  
World Farmers *Lancaster, MA*



## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Agrarian Trust *Great Barrington, MA*  
 Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network *Montgomery, AL*  
 Angelic Organics Learning Center *Caledonia, IL*  
 Berkeley Food Institute *Berkeley, CA*  
 California Climate and Agriculture Network *Sebastopol, CA*  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association *Pittsboro, NC*  
 Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems – University of Wisconsin *Madison, WI*  
 Center for a Livable Future – Johns Hopkins University *Baltimore, MD*  
 Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems, Oregon State University *Corvallis, OR*  
 Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources – Washington State University *Puyallup, WA*  
 Central Appalachian Network *Asheville, NC*  
 Certified Naturally Grown *Brooklyn, NY*  
 Community Farm Alliance *Frankfort, KY*  
 Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship *Medford, WI*  
 Fair Food Network *Ann Arbor, MI*  
 Family Farm Defenders *Madison, WI*  
 Farm Aid *Cambridge, MA*  
 Farm to Table – New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council *Santa Fe, NM*  
 Farmers Market Coalition *Kimberton, PA*  
 Food Animal Concerns Trust *Chicago, IL*  
 Friends of Family Farmers *Molalla, OR*  
 Future Harvest – CASA (Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture) *Fairplay, MD*  
 Georgia Organics *Atlanta, GA*  
 Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly Michigan Land Use Institute) *Traverse City, MI*  
 Growing Power, Inc *Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL*  
 Healthy Food Action *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Heifer USA *Little Rock, AR*  
 The Humane Society of the United States *Washington, DC*  
 Innovative Farmers of Ohio *Cleveland, OH*  
 Iowa Environmental Council *Des Moines, IA*  
 Iowa Farmers Union *Ames, IA*  
 Island Grown Initiative *Vineyard Haven, MA*  
 Just Food *New York, NY*  
 Land for Good *Keene, NH*  
 Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture – Iowa State University *Ames, IA*

Maine Farmland Trust *Belfast, ME*  
 Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association *Unity, ME*  
 Maine Rural Partners – University of Maine *Orono, ME*  
 Michigan Farmers Market Association *East Lansing, MI*  
 Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems *East Lansing, MI*  
 Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture – University of Minnesota *St. Paul, MN*  
 Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network *Oxford, MS*  
 MSU Center for Regional Food Systems *East Lansing, MI*  
 National Farm to School Network *Chicago, IL*  
 National Young Farmers' Coalition *Tivoli, NY*  
 Nebraska Wildlife Federation *Lincoln, NE*  
 New England Farmers Union *Shelburne Falls, MA*  
 Northeast Organic Farming Association – Interstate Council *NY, MA, RI, VT, CT, NH, NJ*  
 Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing, Inc. *Brussels, WI*  
 Organic Valley *LaFarge, WI*  
 Partners for Rural America *Nationwide*  
 PCC Farmland Trust *Seattle, WA*  
 Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture *Millheim, PA*  
 Pesticide Action Network North America *Oakland, CA*  
 Practical Farmers of Iowa *Ames, IA*  
 Republic Food Enterprise Center *Republic, PA*  
 Roots of Change *San Francisco, CA*  
 Slow Food USA *Brooklyn, NY*  
 Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture *Pocantico Hills, NY*  
 Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota *Princeton, MN*  
 Tilth Producers of Washington *Seattle, WA*  
 Wallace Center – Winrock International *Arlington, VA*  
 The Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network *Mount Vernon, WA*  
 West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition *Mount Hope, WV*  
 Wholesome Wave *Bridgeport, CT*  
 Women, Food, and Agriculture Network *Ames, IA*  
 The Xerces Society *Portland, OR*

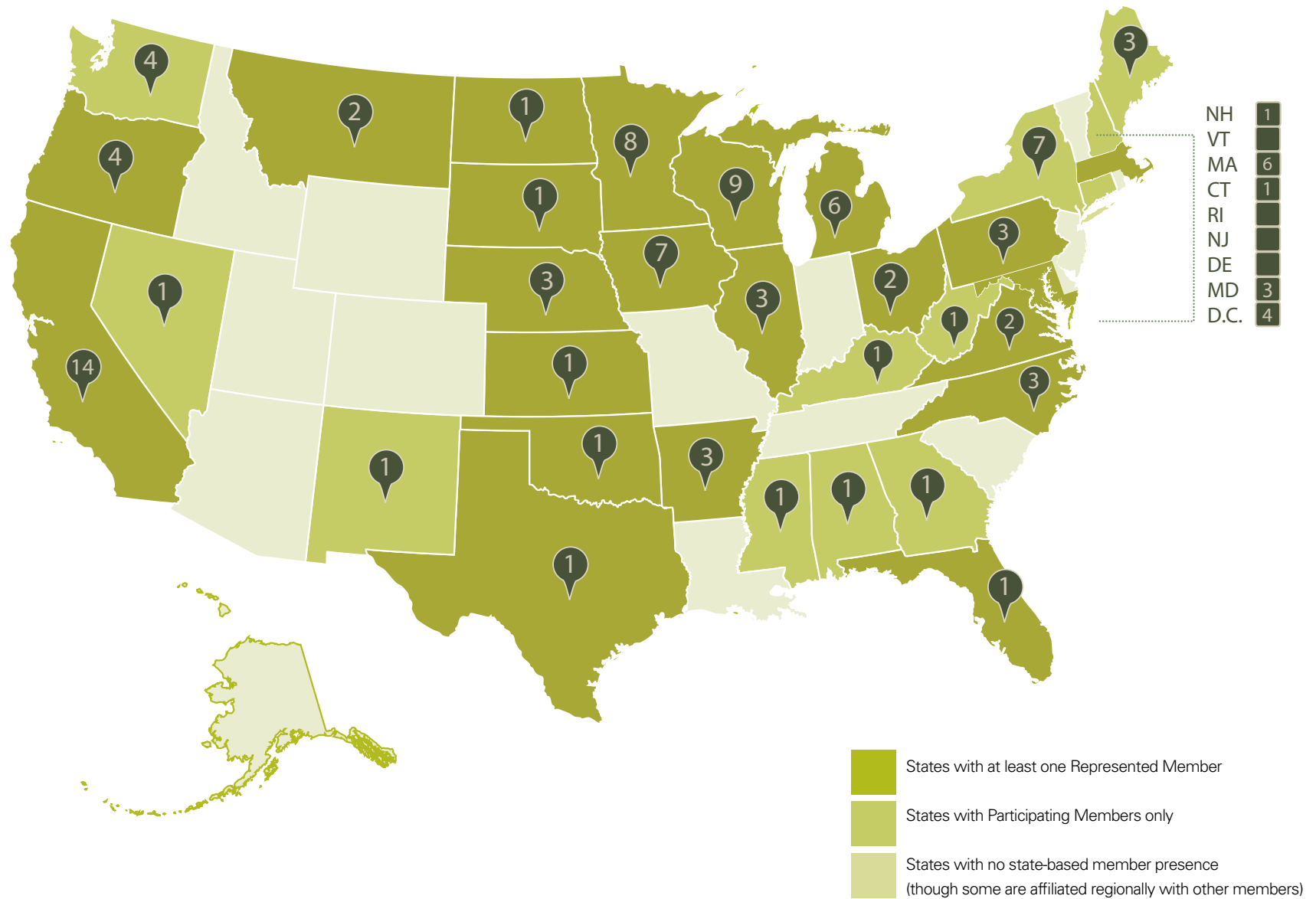
## AFFILIATED REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
 Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
 Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

## SUPPORTERS

The 11th Hour Project  
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 UNFI Foundation  
 Wallace Genetic Foundation, Inc.  
 The Walton Family Foundation

## OUR MEMBERSHIP



## ACRONYMS GLOSSARY

ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program  
AFRI – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative  
BFRDP – Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program  
CNR – Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, or the Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization  
CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
FMPP – Farmers' Market Promotion Program  
FNS – Food and Nutrition Service  
FSMA – Food Safety Modernization Act  
FSOP – Food Safety Outreach Program  
NFSN – National Farm to School Network  
NIFA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
NOCCSP – National Organic Certification Cost Share Program  
NSAC – National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
RMA – Risk Management Agency  
SARE – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program  
SCMP – Specialty Crop Multi-state Program  
SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture  
VAPG – Value-Added Producer Grant  
WFRP – Whole-Farm Revenue Protection  
WIC – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children



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**National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**

*The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is an alliance of over 100 grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities.*



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