Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

Presentation for A Fair Food System: Community Food Systems Summit
Central Appalachian Network, August 25, 2022
TODAY’S PRESENTATION

• The ARC/KK&P Report
  • Our Assignment and Our Process
  • A Tour of the Report
  • Key Data Findings
  • Opportunity Areas
  • A Deeper Dive: An Example Opportunity and Case Study
• Adam Hudson, ReFresh Appalachia
• Katie Commender, Appalachian Sustainable Development Herb Hub
• Discussion
OUR ASSIGNMENT AND OUR PROCESS

Goals of the project

• Provide a quantitative overview of agricultural and local food activity throughout the Appalachian Region

• Identify best practices and promising models from across Appalachia, as well as elsewhere in the country, that support the development of local food systems and help farms increase revenues

• Identify emerging opportunities in agriculture throughout the Region, including types of crops and products as well as strategic and technological innovations

Our process

• 8-member advisory committee
• Literature review
• Quantitative overview
• Qualitative research
• Opportunity profiles and case studies
OUR ASSIGNMENT AND OUR PROCESS

Advisory Committee

Tabitha Barbarito
Project Manager, Pasa Sustainable Agriculture

Fritz Boettner
Food System Development Director, Center for Resilient Communities, West Virginia University; Co-Director and General Manager, Turnrow Appalachian Farm Collective

Aleta Botts
Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

Anthony Flaccavento
President, SCALE; Owner, Abingdon Organics

Laura Lauffer
Project Director for EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University

Debbie Phillips
CEO, Rural Action

Brennan Washington
1890 Land Grant Liaison and Southeastern Outreach Coordinator, Southern SARE Program, Fort Valley State University

Jerone Wiggins
Director of Educational Partnerships, Jones Valley Teaching Farm
Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

A Tour of the Report

April 2022
Executive Summary

Farm Size and Land Composition

The Appalachian Region is characterized by smaller farms and lower rates of agricultural land use compared to the United States.

Farms in Appalachia are, on average, about one-third the size of the average U.S. farm; and just 11% of Appalachian farmland is in farms 2,000 acres or larger – compared to over half of U.S. farmland in farms of that size. Appalachia also has a lower rate of land use for farming compared to the U.S. as a whole: while 40% of U.S. land area is devoted to agriculture, the same is true for just 28% of land in Appalachia.
A TOUR OF THE REPORT

A Primer on Local Food Systems and Economic Development
- Benefits to Farmers and Community
- Resilience and Sustainability
- Equity
- Examples of Local and Regional Food System Development Initiatives

ARC’s Research and Impact in Food Economies
3. The Landscape of Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

A TOUR OF THE REPORT

History and Context for Appalachian Local Food Economies

Current Trends and Dynamics in Appalachian Agriculture and Local Food Economies
• 7 key data findings

FARM SIZE AND LAND COMPOSITION

The Appalachian Region is characterized by smaller farms and lower rates of agricultural land use compared to the United States.

Average Farm Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Region</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Appalachia</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Appalachia</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Appalachia</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central Appalachia</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Appalachia</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Opportunities to Strengthen the Appalachian Region’s Local Food Economies

A TOUR OF THE REPORT

Overview of 7 Opportunity Areas with Relevant Case Studies

- **APPALACHIAN PRODUCTS AND IDENTITY**
  Elevate the Region’s unique identity through distinct Appalachian crops and products and place-based regional branding.
COMMUNITY-SOURCED INVESTMENT: GOSHEN HOMESTEAD CREAMERY

ASSORTMENT OF GOSHEN HOMESTEAD DAIRY PRODUCTS. SOURCE: Dwayne McIntyre of Credit Homestead

Dwayne McIntyre of Goshen Homestead in southwest Virginia successfully utilized a community-sourced investment strategy to fund the construction of a new Grade A microdairy with its own LLC. Dwayne turned to customers of Goshen Homestead’s Herdshare program, a variation on a subscription model, to ask for a modest equity investment in the microdairy. Upon conceiving of this investment model, Dwayne wrote a detailed business plan, pitched investors, received the necessary funds, and broke ground on the microdairy, all in a matter of months.

The Story

The McIntyre family owns and operates Goshen Homestead, a diversified farm in Elk Garden, Virginia. The McIntyres grow and sell a variety of animal products, including pastured chicken and turkey, eggs, and products from a grass-based dairy. Goshen’s grass-based dairy has been in operation for the better part of a decade, providing fresh, raw milk to members of its Herdshare program. Virginia law allows...
A TOUR OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1: Data Sources

Appendix 2: Interviewees
Table 1.1. Number of Farms and Land in Farms, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farms</th>
<th>Change in Farms</th>
<th>Farmland</th>
<th>Change in Farmland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,042,220</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Region</td>
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<td>Subregions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Appalachia</td>
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<td>28,640</td>
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<td>53,820</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>36,820</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Types</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Metros (pop. ≥ 1 million)</td>
<td>21,190</td>
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<td>-2.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Metros (pop. ≥ 10,000)</td>
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<td>-2.6%</td>
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<td>Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros</td>
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<td>-12.3%</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
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<td>Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros</td>
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<td>-12.3%</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
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<td>Appalachian States</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>40,592</td>
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<td>-6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Alabama</td>
<td>26,023</td>
<td>-18.2%</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Alabama</td>
<td>14,569</td>
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<td>-6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>14,624</td>
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<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>Appalachian Georgia</td>
<td>13,894</td>
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<td>4.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Georgia</td>
<td>7,175</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>24,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Kentucky</td>
<td>8,347</td>
<td>-11.6%</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Kentucky</td>
<td>16,520</td>
<td>-13.2%</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>12,342</td>
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<td>1.4%</td>
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<td>Appalachian Maryland</td>
<td>807</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Maryland</td>
<td>11,535</td>
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<td>-1.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>34,888</td>
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<td>-3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Mississippi</td>
<td>10,767</td>
<td>-16.6%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Mississippi</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>34,928</td>
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<td>-5.0%</td>
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<td>-0.9%</td>
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<td>24,513</td>
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<td>-5.0%</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>-3.0%</td>
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<td>Appalachian North Carolina</td>
<td>14,458</td>
<td>-13.3%</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
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<td>Non-Appalachian North Carolina</td>
<td>34,837</td>
<td>-13.7%</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>77,805</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Ohio</td>
<td>27,896</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Ohio</td>
<td>49,909</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>53,157</td>
<td>-15.8%</td>
<td>-10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Pennsylvania</td>
<td>35,940</td>
<td>-17.5%</td>
<td>-10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania</td>
<td>17,217</td>
<td>-15.8%</td>
<td>-10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>24,768</td>
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<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian South Carolina</td>
<td>6,160</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian South Carolina</td>
<td>18,608</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>69,983</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Tennessee</td>
<td>37,705</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Tennessee</td>
<td>32,278</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>43,021</td>
<td>-6.8%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Virginia</td>
<td>13,347</td>
<td>-13.4%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian Virginia</td>
<td>29,674</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>23,663</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 4: State Profiles

- 2-page data profiles for each Appalachian state
Appalachian Pennsylvania

- **Land Area**: 23,323,937 acres
  - 81% of the state’s land is in the Appalachian Region. It represents 18% of land in Appalachia.

- **Population**: 5,666,957
  - 44% of the state’s population lives in the Appalachian Region. It represents 22% of the entire Appalachian population.

Farms and Farmland

- **Number of Farms**: 34,366
  - Change in Farmland, 2012-2017: -5.5% (Appalachian Pennsylvania), -2.6% (Appalachian Region), -1.6% (United States)
  - Acres of Farmland per Capita: 0.82 (Appalachian Pennsylvania), 1.42 (Appalachian Region), 2.75 (United States)
  - Vegetable & Orchard Acreage per 1,000 residents: 9.39 (Appalachian Pennsylvania), 8.55 (Appalachian Region), 34.65 (United States)

- **Average Farm Size (Acres)**
  - United States: 441
  - Appalachian Region: 147
  - Appalachian Pennsylvania: 152

- **Farmland**: 22% of Appalachian Pennsylvania’s land is in farms.
  - This represents 14% of Appalachian farmland.
## Farmers

### Number of Farmers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Appalachian Pennsylvania</th>
<th>Appalachian Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers per 1,000 Residents</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Farmer Age</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Beginning Farmers (0-10 yrs. experience)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Farms with Internet Access</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Principal Producers whose Primary Occupation is Farming</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appalachian Pennsylvania Sales

Total Agricultural Sales
$3,140,311,000

This represents 16% of the overall Agricultural Sales in the Appalachian Region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Appalachian Pennsylvania</th>
<th>Appalachian Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Direct (to Consumer) Sales per Capita</td>
<td>$12.81</td>
<td>$9.44</td>
<td>$8.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales per Acre</td>
<td>$602</td>
<td>$543</td>
<td>$432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income per Acre</td>
<td>$176</td>
<td>$143</td>
<td>$98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

73% of Agricultural Sales in Appalachian Pennsylvania are from its Top 5 Product Categories:

- Milk: $898 M
- Poultry & Eggs: $520 M
- Corn: $303 M
- Cattle and Calves: $299 M
- Hogs: $275 M

Percent of Agricultural Sales from Crops and Animals / Animal Products:

- Crops: 35%
- Animals / Animal Products: 65%

- Appalachian Pennsylvania:
  - Crops: 26%
  - Animals / Animal Products: 74%

- Appalachian Region:
  - Crops: 50%
  - Animals / Animal Products: 50%

- United States:
  - Crops: 50%
  - Animals / Animal Products: 50%
**Farm Net Profits and Losses**

46% of farms in Appalachian Pennsylvania had **net profits**.

Of those farms that had profits, the **average profit per farm** was **$74,879**.

54% of farms in Appalachian Pennsylvania had **net losses**.

Of those farms that had losses, the **average loss per farm** was **$14,911**.
Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

Key Findings: Current Trends and Dynamics in Appalachian Agriculture and Local Food Economies
KEY FINDINGS: CURRENT TRENDS AND DYNAMICS IN APPALACHIAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

The Appalachian Region and its Subregions

[Map showing the Appalachian Region and its subregions: Northern, North Central, Central, South Central, Southern, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York.]
KEY FINDINGS: CURRENT TRENDS AND DYNAMICS IN APPALACHIAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

**Farms and Farmland**

From 2007 to 2017, the Region lost farms and farmland at rates higher than the U.S. as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-162,572 farms</td>
<td>-21,878,264 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-7.4% of its farms)</td>
<td>(-2.4% of its farmland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Region:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-29,875 farms</td>
<td>-1,810,671 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-10.7% of its farms)</td>
<td>(-4.7% of its farmland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subregions:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Appalachia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-7,766 (-11.3%)</td>
<td>-503,318 (-5.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Appalachia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+237 (+0.7%)</td>
<td>+21,267 (+0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Appalachia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5,103 (-11.2%)</td>
<td>-518,921 (-8.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central Appalachia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-7,547 (-12.5%)</td>
<td>-165,987 (-2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Appalachia</td>
<td>-643,712 (-6.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Type:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Metros (pop. &gt;1 million)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-3,427 (-13.9%)</td>
<td>-158,821 (-5.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Metros (pop. &lt;1 million)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+8,197 (+10.1%)</td>
<td>-565,030 (-9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-4,795 (-12.3%)</td>
<td>-222,469 (-3.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-7,654 (-9.6%)</td>
<td>-233,486 (-2.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,802 (-10.8%)</td>
<td>-630,865 (-7.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Image: VEGETABLE FIELD AND HOOP HOUSE AT WOLF GAP GARDENS IN BEREA, KY. CREDIT: WOLF GAP GARDENS*
The Appalachian Region is characterized by smaller farms and lower rates of agricultural land use compared to the United States.
KEY FINDINGS: CURRENT TRENDS AND DYNAMICS IN APPALACHIAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Farming Participation and Farmer Demographics

With over 400,000 farmers, the Appalachian Region’s population participates in farming at a rate higher than the U.S. as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Farmers</th>
<th>Farmers per 1,000 Residents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,399,834</td>
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<td>Appalachian Region</td>
<td>405,272</td>
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<td>102,938</td>
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<td>North Central Appalachia</td>
<td>59,766</td>
<td>24.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Appalachia</td>
<td>64,635</td>
<td>34.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central Appalachia</td>
<td>87,027</td>
<td>17.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Appalachia</td>
<td>90,906</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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</table>
Agricultural Products

Animal products account for a significant majority of the Appalachian Region’s agriculture sales.
The Appalachian Region’s farms generated nearly $20 billion in sales in 2017, with sales growth that outpaced the U.S. from 2012 to 2017.
Local Food Economies

The Region’s local food economies vary widely in their level of development. Potential for growth may be slowed by limited supply in vegetable and fruit production.

Retail Direct Sales and Wholesale Direct Sales in the United States and the Appalachian Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Retail Direct (Direct to Consumer)</th>
<th>Wholesale Direct</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% of Farms</td>
<td>Total Retail Direct Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>$2,805 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Region</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>$242 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subregions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Appalachia</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$126 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Appalachia</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$24 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Appalachia</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$11 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central Appalachia</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>$55 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Appalachia</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>$26 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Food Economies

The Region’s local food economies vary widely in their level of development. Potential for growth may be slowed by limited supply in vegetable and fruit production.
KEY FINDINGS: CURRENT TRENDS AND DYNAMICS IN APPALACHIAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

SNAP Benefits and Local Foods

The Appalachian Region appears to have room for growth in capturing SNAP dollars for the Region’s farmers and food economies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total SNAP Redemptions at FMs and DMFs</th>
<th>FM/DMF SNAP Redemptions per SNAP Household</th>
<th>FM/DMF SNAP Redemptions per SNAP FM/DMF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$22,679,787</td>
<td>$1.82</td>
<td>$6,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Appalachian</td>
<td>$6,200,194</td>
<td>$1.34</td>
<td>$5,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$92,103</td>
<td>$0.38</td>
<td>$2,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>$265,733</td>
<td>$0.57</td>
<td>$3,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>$71,885</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
<td>$1,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>$164,415</td>
<td>$0.84</td>
<td>$3,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>$200,837</td>
<td>$1.24</td>
<td>$5,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$2,953,033</td>
<td>$3.27</td>
<td>$13,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>$249,442</td>
<td>$0.53</td>
<td>$2,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>$245,204</td>
<td>$0.47</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>$1,377,339</td>
<td>$2.56</td>
<td>$14,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$162,123</td>
<td>$0.70</td>
<td>$2,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>$146,069</td>
<td>$0.44</td>
<td>$2,518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>$219,058</td>
<td>$0.96</td>
<td>$2,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>$52,953</td>
<td>$0.49</td>
<td>$1,765</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities to Strengthen the Appalachian Region’s Local Food Economies

Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

April 2022
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION'S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Farmer Training, Land Access, and Farmland Preservation

Support the long-term viability of Appalachian agriculture through farmer training and land access and preservation.

- Preserve Existing Farmland
- Support Access to Farmland
- Meet Market Opportunities

CASE STUDY
- Pasa Sustainable Agriculture: Farmer Apprenticeships
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Funding

Pursue innovative funding and financing models that open new streams of capital for local food businesses.

- Community Capital
- State Investments in Local Foods

CASE STUDIES
- Goshen Homestead Creamery: Community-Sourced Investment
- State Investments: KY, NC, and PA
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Value Chain Coordination and Networking

Enhance the efficacy of the Region’s distribution networks through strategic regional collaboration.

- Leverage Existing Assets and Resources
- Fund Value Chain Coordination
- Targeted Infrastructure Investments

CASE STUDIES
- Turnrow Appalachian Farm Collective: Collaborative Food Hub
- ACEnet: Farm and Food Business Incubation
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Animal Agriculture

Build and strengthen supply chain networks and partnerships supporting animal-based agriculture.

- Expand the Capacity of Infrastructure
- Support Regulatory Compliance

CASE STUDIES
- Marksbury Farm Market and Hickory Nut Gap: Supply Chain Partnership
- Homestead Creamery and Joyce Farms: Breed Selection
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION'S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Appalachian Products and Identity

Elevate the Region’s unique identity through distinct Appalachian crops and products and place-based regional branding.

CASE STUDIES
• Herb Hub, Appalachian Beginning Forest Farming Coalition, ForestHER: Forest Crop Production
• Hickory Nut Gap Meats, VT Dairy Marketing: Leveraging Regional Identity
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Food Access

Capture more public and private food assistance dollars to support local food producers while enhancing community food security.

- SNAP (Food Stamps)
- Food Bank Innovation

CASE STUDIES
- Local Produce Prescription Programs
- Mountaineer Food Bank, Food Bank of NE GA: Food Bank Innovations
Support the viability of farms into the future through cultivating place-based entrepreneurship and climate-resilient enterprise models.

- Entrepreneurship, Diversification, Meeting Local Demand
- Climate-Resilient Production Systems

CASE STUDIES
- Agricultural and Economic Diversification
- AgLaunch Initiative: Cultivating Agricultural Innovation
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Animal Agriculture

Build and strengthen supply chain networks and partnerships supporting animal-based agriculture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Number of Beef Processing Facilities</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Concentration</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Expand the capacity of infrastructure in the Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in Animal</td>
<td>9.5 small or very small beef</td>
<td>• Support regulatory compliance (TA, education, and training)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture: 75%</td>
<td>processing facilities in the United</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>of Region ag</td>
<td>States and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sales</td>
<td>1.3 small or very small beef</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Challenges in</td>
<td>processing facilities in the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>processing</td>
<td>Appalachian Region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Challenging</td>
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<td>regulatory</td>
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<td>environments –</td>
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<tr>
<td>especially for</td>
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<tr>
<td>small producers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE APPALACHIAN REGION’S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Animal Agriculture

CASE STUDY
Supply Chain Partnership: Marksbury Farm Market and Hickory Nut Gap

• Partnership between meat processor Marksbury (KY) and meat producer HNG (NC)
• The collaboration has allowed both to grow in tandem since 2014

Key Takeaways
Partnerships and relationships are critical for successful regional meat supply chains.

Successful small-scale animal agriculture business models must be both environmentally and economically resilient.

Successful growth requires scaling up to meet the demand of committed wholesale buyers.
Agriculture and Local Food Economies in the Appalachian Region

Find the report at: tiny.cc/ARClocalfoods

A follow-up project focused on food security is currently underway.

ben@kkandp.com
Rebuilding the Appalachian Economy From the Ground Up

PRESENTED BY: ADAM HUDSON
DIRECTOR OF REFRESH APPALACHIA
About Coalfield

- Founded in 2009 in Wayne, West Virginia
- Vision: Resilient rural communities with **socially, environmentally, and financially thriving economies** which create the community conditions for all kinds of people to unlock their full potential, power, and purpose.
The Need

West Virginia now has:

• The nation’s lowest labor participation rate
• The nation’s second lowest higher education rate
• The nation’s third highest poverty rate
• High need for economic diversification
• Severe environmental degradation
Refresh Appalachia is a program of Coalfield Development founded in 2015 with a focus on developing, shaping, and supporting the regenerative and sustainable agriculture sector in Central Appalachia.

4 Objectives:

• Expand agricultural knowledge, understanding, and opportunity through paid on-the-job training experiences.

• Strengthen and develop the agricultural sector through creative and collaborative partnerships and projects.

• Promote and facilitate aggregation and distribution for agricultural producers.

• Explore, experiment, and implement innovative and regenerative agriculture practices on degraded lands
OBJ 1: Knowledge and On the Job training

WRAPS Trainees

33-6-3 Crew Members
OBJ 2: Creative and collaborative partnerships

Systems Change

Capacity Building

Collaborative Approaches
OBJ 3: Aggregation and distribution

SUPPORTING APPALACHIA
Through Regional Food System Partnerships

For generations, our families have worked, nurtured, and cultivated the land. Appalachia’s hills and hollows may not make it easy, but we’ve always found a way. We’ve used

to relying on ourselves and doing the hard work.
Our traditions of independence and innovation are our strength—and they’re also our future.

By joining forces to create a network of farmers, food hubs, and buyers throughout Appalachia, we have the power to spark a rural revolution. To increase market access for farmers and food producers of every size region-wide. To build a local food system that thrives.

The time for a new rural is now, with the demand for delicious, locally-grown food steadily on the rise.
We have an opportunity, if we stand together, to each come out stronger. Because when Appalachian farms feed Appalachian families, our entire region will prosper.
OBJ 4: Regenerative agriculture on degraded lands

Highwall Site, Mingo Co. Wv.

Former 22 Mine Road Project Site (2018)

One Year of Rotational Livestock practices at the Highwall site in Mingo Co Wv
What does the system need?

- Climate Resiliency
  - Introduce and create practices that reduce environmental damage along the agriculture value chain

- Food Security
  - Increase locally and regional production and sourcing for local markets

- Infrastructure Improvements
  - Increase green technology use at warehouses, farms, and agriculture enterprises
  - Increase sustainability and viability of distribution, hybrid electric/electric delivery methods
Continuing the story

- Replication
- Capacity Building
- Increase Investment
- Building Relationships
The story left to be told...

“It means that I have an opportunity to do something with my life and to help teach others what I have learned.” Carlos (Refresh Trainee)

“I think of it as being a caterpillar. At the time you really can't tell a difference in who you are, but you can feel that you're supposed to be more than you have been.” Megan (Refresh WRAPS Graduate)
The Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub™
Creating a Sustainable Herbal Economy in the Appalachian Mountains

Katie Commender
Agroforestry Program Director
Appalachian Sustainable Development
Forest Farming

“the cultivation of high-value specialty crops under a forest canopy that is intentionally modified or maintained to provide shade levels and habitat that favor growth and enhance production levels”
Opportunities

• **Biodiversity hot spot** with over one-half of native U.S. medicinal plants found in Appalachian forests

• Deep rooted **cultural heritage** of wild harvesting forest botanicals, dating back to the 18th century

• Market value for forest-based medicinal plant products exceeds **one billion dollars** annually

Challenges

- Plants are slow growing with small roots
- Population declines from over harvesting and habitat loss
- Prices are low, based on inequitable wild harvest model
- Farming and home-scale processing are labor intensive
- Planting stock shortages
- Buyers can have large volume minimums

Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub™
Est. 2017 Duffield, VA
Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub

OUR VISION

Appalachian Sustainable Development envisions a thriving and sustainable herbal economy in Central Appalachia, where plant conservation is achieved through cultivation. The Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub in Duffield, VA is a shared use facility that helps medicinal herb farmers sustainably grow, harvest, process and sell forest botanicals and field grown herbs to premium markets.

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- **Trainings**: Workshops on propagation, processing, certifications and more to guide you from seed to sale
- **Cost-Share**: Limited funding available for planting stock and certifications that offer premium market access
- **Processing**: Commercial washing, drying, and resizing equipment to reduce costs and increase efficiencies
- **Marketing**: Aggregation and marketing services to meet volume minimums and connect with premium markets

GET INVOLVED. CONTACT US!
Phone: 276-623-1121
Email: rсужес@asdevelop.org
Web: https://asdevelop.org/herbhub
ABFFC Trainings

Annual hands-on forest farming training across Appalachia
Site Visits

On farm technical assistance, site assessments & best practice recommendations
FARM Mentorship

200-hour on-farm internship with an experienced forest farming mentor

FARM IS NOW RECRUITING MENTORS AND INTERNS!

If you are a beginning farmer looking for hands on experience or a seasoned farmer looking to share your knowledge, this is the program for you.

Register at https://asdevelop.org

Questions? Email jroop@asdevelop.org
Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub

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Aggregation and marketing services to meet volume minimums and connect with premium markets

GET INVOLVED. CONTACT US!
Phone: 276-623-1121
Email: rsargas@asdevelop.org
Web: https://asdevelop.org/herbhub
Producer Mini-Grants

Cost-share to offset start-up costs
Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub

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GET INVOLVED. CONTACT US!
Phone: 276-623-1121
Email: csuages@asdevelop.org
Web: https://asdevelop.org/herbhub
Root Washing
Drying
Milling
Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub

OUR VISION

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Processing
Commercial washing, drying, and resizing equipment to reduce costs and increase efficiencies

Marketing
Aggregation and marketing services to meet volume minimums and connect with premium markets

GET INVOLVED. CONTACT US!
Phone: 276-623-1121
Email: csuages@asdevelop.org
Web: https://asdevelop.org/herbhub
Aggregation

Farmer network harvests for advanced purchase orders and contract farming agreements.
Average Wild Harvested Prices

### Average Reported Botanical Prices in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical</th>
<th>Average Price 2014</th>
<th>2014 Harvested Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA SNAKEROOT</td>
<td>$19.13</td>
<td>$76.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALSE UNICORN</td>
<td>$14.50</td>
<td>$62.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRUE UNICORN</td>
<td>$6.85</td>
<td>$59.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLDENSEAL</td>
<td>$2.38</td>
<td>$12.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOODROOT</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK COHOSH</td>
<td>$0.63</td>
<td>$3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYAPPLE</td>
<td>$0.55</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETHROOT/TRILLIUM</td>
<td>$1.08</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIPPERY ELM</td>
<td>$0.55</td>
<td>$2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRANESBILL</td>
<td>$0.55</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD YAM</td>
<td>$0.71</td>
<td>$2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE COHOSH</td>
<td>$0.58</td>
<td>$1.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Herb Hub™ Forest Farmed Prices

### FOREST FARMED BOTANICALS

- BLACK COHOSH, ROOT: $45
- BLUE COHOSH, ROOT: $45
- GOLDENSEAL, ROOT: $130
- GINSENG, LEAF: $350-700
- GINSENG ROOT: $1,150

*Based on historic pricing for sustainably forest farmed botanicals. Prices may vary based on certifications and form required by buyers. ALL botanicals MUST be legally and sustainably grown and harvested.*
Impact

Building an equitable market to make forest farming profitable

"...using the Herb Hub, with all the streamlined processing and the quality of the equipment they have, we were basically able to save an immense amount of time and we actually made money forest farming."

Michelle Pridgen
Windy Hill Farm
#plantingforthefuture
Black Cohosh Case Study

2016 Break Even Prices

Price ($US/dry lb)

Price Received: $25
Actual: $78
No FGV/OG: $64
No Equip: $71
No Labor: $20

2017 Break Even Prices

Price ($US/dry lb)

Price Received: $60
Actual: $44
No FGV/OC: $41
No Labor: $20
2016 Labor: $88
No Hub Costs: $42
Now Hiring!

HERB HUB ASSOCIATE
PART TIME | DUFFIELD, VA

Katie Commender
Email: kcommender@asdevelop.org
Phone: 276-623-1121
Fundraising Campaign: https://www.gofundme.com/plantingforthefuture

Questions?
Outline

- Intro & Background
- GrowOV Overview
- Urban Farms
- Education Programs
- *BWAC - 25 Acre Rural Farm Incubator
- *Edible Mountain Community Health Coalition
- Public Market Grocery Store
- *Wheeling Food Hub Project

*Start-up phase projects

It’s an honor to be here.
Vincent DeGeorge, PhD
vincent@growov.org
wheelingfoodhub@growov.org

Dr. Vincent DeGeorge is a lifelong West Virginian and since 2018 has been with Grow Ohio Valley where he is currently the Site Operations Director & Wheeling Food Hub project lead. Vincent's pursuit of community impact, opportunity, and innovation spans a scientific research background in advanced magnetic materials (PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and R&D in LA's aerospace hub), environment- and peace-focused advocacy and freelance writing (from local media to the front page of the Sunday New York Times), before transitioning into urban farming & local food in the Upper Ohio Valley. Vincent's projects at GrowOV include the 2018 ARC POWER grant opening the Public Market in 2018-19, the Restaurant-to-School COVID meal relief program, and currently the Wheeling Food Hub startup. Vincent also serves at the House of Hagar homeless outreach house and on the Wheeling Human Rights Commission.

Jodi Adams
marketmanager@growov.org

Intro & Background

Jodi is from the Ohio Valley, growing up in Shadyside, OH. After attending The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, Jodi went on to build a career in multi-store/business in the retail and restaurant industries. In her last few roles, she has led the process to scale brands from the start up phase to established businesses. Jodi plays a dual role at Grow Ohio Valley, acting both as the General Manager of The Public Market and the Chief People Officer of the organization. Her passion lies in driving results through the development of people and their leadership skills.
Founded 2014  
Wheeling, WV (Upper Ohio River Valley)

Mission:  Build a food system in which farmers flourish and local & healthy food is a way of life.

Vision:  We will achieve regional food sovereignty!
Urban Farming, Local Food Start-Up Non-Profit in Wheeling, WV (2014)

- ~20 Staff, ~20 Americorps (Av age 30)
- Offices & Hub/Pack house
- 4 Urban Farm Sites
  - Under-interstate-farm,
  - 2 Greenhouses, 2 High Tunnels,
  - Urban Apple Orchard (350 trees)
- Education - Yurt/Outdoor School
- *BWAC -25 Acre Rural Farm*
- *Edible Mountain Health Coalition*
- Public Market Grocery Store (2019)
- *Wheeling Food Hub Project*

*Start-up phase projects
Urban Farming

Programs
- 2 CSAs (Summer, Winter)
- FARMacy (Sistersville)
- Farm 2 School
- Volunteer Prog 100+ vols
- Popup markets
- Apples - Cider, sauce, etc

Hub * Orchard * Meadow * Farm 18 * 14th Street Greenhouse
We design and implement educational programming in service to the mission of Grow Ohio Valley and its partnering organizations.

**Education Programs**

- Food Justice Immersions
- Food Literacy Reverse Field Trips
- Cooking Classes - Children & Adults
- Hydroponics in Schools
- Grow Appalachia Backyard Gardening
- **Project Tipi & Yurt** - trauma informed education
- **Budding Wheeling** - Youth Flower Farming
  Entrepreneurship
- Community Volunteer Program: 10-50 vols/wk
25 Acres - Produce, Grain, Hay, Livestock (Chickens, Pigs, Dairy Cows)

Goals:
- FULL-DIET, YEAR-ROUND, LOCAL FOOD FOR FIFTY FAMILIES
- Incubate the next generation of local farmers!
Edible Mountain - Community Health Coalition

Working to make Ohio County one of the healthiest communities in Appalachia.

- Placemaking - Developing Wheeling’s “Edible Mountain” (ie. Vineyard Hills) – its forests and public spaces – while celebrating the rich community history of this hill.

- Public Health - A public health initiative that promotes evidence-based best practices within six key focus areas known to improve health and wellbeing.
Public Market
Markets & Food Access

1. Locally grown
2. Whole and minimally processed
3. Organic, naturally grown or biodynamic
4. Produced using methods that respect people, animals, and the environment
5. Non-GMO
6. Fair Trade
7. Minimally packaged
8. Pollinator-friendly or using methods that regenerate ecosystems

CORE VALUES:
1. Support local farmers and artisans.
2. Make good food the norm.
3. Commit to ethical sourcing.
4. Everyone is welcome.
Public Market - Quick Numbers

2019 - Public Market Opens (just pre-pandemic)

$1,826,257 - sales thus far | ‘22 +30% from ‘21 (188k)

$267,000 - Returned to local farms and vendors

54 - Number of local vendors currently

14 - Jobs created

$450,022 - SNAP Sales | $206,353 SNAP Stretch

+40,000 Meals given to local students during COVID
(restaurant 2 School Meal Relief Program)
The Wheeling Food Hub
Grow Ohio Valley's Local Food Business Accelerator, Shared Commercial Kitchen

Farm
Processor
Distributor
Grocer
Consumer

GrowOV & Local Farms
Wheeling Food Hub
Public Market
GrowOV Programs
WFH Progress & Timetable

2021

Q1: Building Acquisition
WFH Working Group, Feasibility Study Begun
Startup Fundraising - ~$900k

2022

Q1: Feasibility Study Complete, Business Plan Complete, Architectural Report
Major Fundraising Push - ~$2m
Q2: WFH Manager Job Posting
Q3: Funding Announcements → Commence Buildout
Q4: Program Development - Business Development, Marketing, Etc

2023

Q1: WFH Activity (Phasing in)
Q2: WFH Operation - *Phased

2024

Year 2

2025

Year 3

2026

Year 4

2027

Year 5

WFH Steering Committee:
- Vincent, Danny
- Leslie Schaller
- Kacey Gantzer (WVDA)
- Jodi Adams

Potential:
- Farmer 1
- Food Service 1

*Phase I - Cold Storage Cross docking
*Phase II - Offices, Basic Kitchen
*Phase III - Full Kitchen, Product Dev, Etc
Self-Sustaining Shared Food Hub & Business Accelerator
Grateful Acknowledgement

- Benedum Foundation
- Appalachian Regional Commissions
- Hess Family Fund
- Senators Capito & Manchin
- CCHD
- Congregation of St Joseph
- USDA - Rural Development, etc
- City of Wheeling
- WV DEP
Thanks CAN!

Vincent DeGeorge
vincent@growov.org

Jodi Adams
marketmanager@growov.org
Story of Grow Ohio Valley
Outline

● Intro & Background
● GrowOV Mission & Story
  ○ Farm, Market, Education
● Regenerative Agriculture
  ○ Urban Revitalization
    Market
    Orchard
    Meadow
  ○ Future
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    Market
    Orchard
    Meadow
  ○ Future
Why Regeneration
Appalachia and the "Rust Belt"
Why Regeneration

Consequences in:
- Economy
- Environment & Safety
- Health
- Addiction
- Food security
Agriculture & Local Food as a counterbalance to the effects of extractive industry.

*Puts in* or *adds* to Community Health, Environment, Local Economy!
Outline

● Intro & Background

● GrowOV Mission & Story
  ○ Farm, Market, Education

● Regenerative Agriculture
  ○ Urban Revitalization
    Market
    Orchard
    Meadow
  ○ Future
Regenerative Agriculture
Soil Health & Composting
Follows Natural Circular Economies

Carbon Cycle

- Plants (Leaf/Stalk)
- Product

Inputs: Air
Outputs: Dirt
Recycled: Browns (Carbon Rich)
Greens (Nitrogen Rich)
Compost

Nitrogen Cycle

- Manure (poop)
- Product

Inputs: Plants (fruits)
Outputs: Soil
Recycled: Compost

Browns (Carbon Rich)
Greens (Nitrogen Rich)
Outline

● Intro & Background

● GrowOV Mission & Story
  ○ Farm, Market, Education

● Regenerative Agriculture
  ○ Urban Revitalization
    Market
    Orchard
    Meadow
  ○ Future
Urban Regeneration

Earth Oven & Railroad Tie Structure

Roof/Structure: Railroad Ties

“Urbanite” Base: Foraged Brick

Cob Oven: Clay, Sand, Straw
Outline

- Intro & Background
- GrowOV Mission & Story
  - Farm, Market, Education
- Regenerative Agriculture
  - Urban Revitalization
    - Orchard
    - Public Market
    - The Meadow
- GrowOV Future
The Vineyard Hills Orchard

Vineyard Hills Public Housing - 1937

Demolished in the 1990’s

Now urban orchard: 300+ trees
Apples, pear, peach
The Lincoln Meadows

Lincoln Meadows Public Housing 1960’s
Housing Demolished 1990’s
Vacant/unused for +20 years
GrowOV The Meadow - 2015
The Intermodal Center Public Market

Intermodal Center Parking Garage - 1998
Greyhound bus station until - 2011
Vacant/unused for 8 years
GrowOV Public Market Grocery - 2019
Future Opportunities in Urban Agriculture

Future 17th St HQ & Hub

12th Street Garage Possibilities
May 11, 2019 - FreshWater Accountability’s first Better Vision for the Valley

A lot has happened in 2 years…
ORVI and Roxby were established...
Grow Ohio Valley has GROWN!
Summary

Thank you
Molly Sowash: Sustainable Agriculture Manager

Katie Lloyd: Beginning Farmer Outreach Specialist
Serving Appalachian Ohio since 1994 as a membership-based economic development organization focusing on asset-based community development.

Our **Mission** is to build a more just economy by developing the region’s assets in environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways.
Program Areas

- **Sustainable Agriculture**
- Sustainable Forestry
- Environmental Education
- Watershed Restoration
- Zero Waste
- Sustainable Energy
- Leadership & Service
- Resilient Communities
- Social Enterprise

Processing, Aggregation, Distribution, and Education
Whole Farm Project

Provides wraparound support for beginning farmers, including:

- Access to capital
- Land Access
- Peer-to-peer mentorship
- Professional services
- Site visits
- Management plans

We aim to uplift the voices of experienced farmers in serving as mentors and peer educators to help build a strong small farm community.
Whole Farm Planning & Mentoring

Tell Your Story

February 15, 2022

8-Week Winter Whole Farm Business Planning Series (screengrab from Zoom)
Farm/Forest Management Plans and Site Visits
Who are we?

You may have noticed I refer to Big Time Bookkeeping as "we." But mostly Big Time Bookkeeping is me: Candida Stamp. (My husband Bill is a partner in the business as well, but he's pretty much a silent partner at this point... although he is a bookkeeper too.)

We've both lived in Athens since the 1990's, attending Ohio University and working in various local businesses, so we know a thing or two about this community.

Here's me taking a walk around my neighborhood.

(Bill not pictured.)

- Accounting Consultations with Candida Stamp
- Access to a lawyer - Jonathan Sowash
Ramp Cultivation Workshop at United Plant Savers
The Advantages of Farmers Markets

“A farmers’ market is the only business I know where you can show up with a case of produce and you’re in business.”

--- Frank Beckwith, Beckwith Gardens
Beekeeping Workshop Series with Central State University
Whole Farm Field Days (Peer to Peer farm learning experiences)
Zero-Interest Micro Loans through KIVA

We loan because...
We want to see small businesses and entrepreneurs grow and succeed in Appalachian Ohio.

About us
We are members, staff, AmeriCorps alumni, volunteers, and supporters of Rural Action, who want to show the collective impact of our support to small businesses in Appalachian Ohio.

Location: The Plains, OH

Team website

- Example: Farmer mentor with $10,000 loan for equipment for his farm
REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) Grant Writing Assistance
Incubator Farm at Chesterhill Produce Auction
Silvopasture Support
Who are your essential partners in the agricultural space?