Welcome to NCAT’s fourth annual national conference!

GROWING HOPE
Practical Tools for Our Changing Climate

May 8-10, 2024
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Graduate Hotel
70 N East Ave Fayetteville, AR 72701
Near Downtown Square in the heart of historic Fayetteville, Arkansas.
Welcome!

We look forward to hosting you for NCAT’s fourth annual national conference. This conference will provide you with the practical tools to build more resilient farms, ranches, and communities, as well as the opportunity to connect with other likeminded producers and resource providers.

Our pre-conference farm tours will feature local farm operations that nurture innovative agroecosystems. During the conference, NCAT agriculture specialists, subject matter experts, and farmers from around the country will lead detailed how-to sessions on appropriate technology, climate adaptation, land stewardship, and regenerative farm businesses.
Tools and Equipment for Specialty Crop Production
Learn about the infrastructure, equipment, and tools needed for specialty crop production. We will visit the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF). The CAFF farm includes a half-acre intensive market garden and a five-acre tractor-scale model, greenhouses, high tunnels, and perennial fruit.

Regionally Adapted Fruit Production
Learn about and experience regionally adapted fruit production. We will visit Ames Orchard and Nursery and hear from recently retired, longtime ATTRA Specialist Guy Ames. This tour will also include demonstrations of various budding and grafting methods.

Sustainable Livestock Production
Join us to learn and experience sustainable livestock operation. The first stop will be Across the Creek Farm which has been producing pastured poultry for more than 10 years, and the second stop will be Mashie Farm, a diversified pasture-based livestock operation.

From Farm to Market
Learn about growing and selling to wholesale markets. The first stop is to a diversified specialty crop farm, and the second stop will be to Spring Creek Food Hub.

Farms Serving the Community
Join us to learn about ways sustainable local food systems serve the community. We will visit Cobblestone Farms and Apple Seeds, non-profit farms that are growing food, educating, and feeding the community.
8:00 AM
Registration

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
NCAT Welcome & Laura Lengnick Keynote - Brodie Payne

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM
Breakout Sessions

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<th>TRACK 1: PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR RESILIENT AGRICULTURE</th>
<th>TRACK 2: APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY &amp; ENERGY</th>
<th>TRACK 3: SOIL &amp; AGROECOLOGY</th>
<th>TRACK 4: LAND &amp; COMMUNITY</th>
<th>TRACK 5: ON-FARM RESILIENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preparing for Success when Selling to Institutions</td>
<td>Agrisolar Starting Points: A guide for starting an agriculture and solar co-location project</td>
<td>Public Policy for Development of Biochar and Biofuel Industry</td>
<td>Collaborative State Food Policy and Farm to School Education</td>
<td>Agroforestry and Farm Resiliency</td>
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<td>Tammy Howard and Robert Maggiani, NCAT</td>
<td>Stacie Peterson, Chris Lent, Marisa Larson, Jennifer Sherman, Carl Bernsten, Allen Puckett, Anna Adair, NCAT</td>
<td>Chuck Hassebrook, NCAT Biochar Policy Project; Jody Hardin, Carbon Chicken Project; and John Reese, EnviraPAC Monticello LLC</td>
<td>Maura Henn and Molly Kirkham, NCAT</td>
<td>Gina Beebe, Center for Agroforestry at the Univ. of Missouri</td>
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11:45 AM - 12:00 PM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Lunch & Workshop on Farm Bill 101 with Eowyn Corral and Jeremy Adams, NSAC Brodie Payne

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network
### AGENDA

#### 1:45 PM - 3:15 PM
Breakout Sessions

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<tr>
<td>Legal Issues for New &amp; Beginning Farmers</td>
<td>Greenhouse and High-tunnel Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>To Certify or Not Certify, That is the Question</td>
<td>Land Access</td>
<td>Integrating Crops and Livestock</td>
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<td>Rusty Rumley, National Ag Law Center</td>
<td>Chris Lent, NCAT</td>
<td>Emily Oakley and Michael Apple, Three Springs Farm; Guy Ames, Ames Orchard and Nursery</td>
<td>Courtney Owens, PhD and Erica Goodman, American Farmland Trust</td>
<td>Bill Robertson, Conservation Agronomist, CWC Farm</td>
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#### 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network

#### 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Breakout Sessions

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<td>Resilient Farm and Ranch Business Planning</td>
<td>Appropriate Technology Past &amp; Present: Practical Solutions for the Farm</td>
<td>Innovations in Soil Health</td>
<td>Farmer-to-Farmer Learning</td>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation &amp; Mitigation Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Lengnick, Cultivating Resilience</td>
<td>Tyler Jenkins and Bradley Todd, NCAT</td>
<td>Dr. Amanda Ashworth and Dr. Phillip Owen, USDA-ARS; Dr. Helen Amorim, Univ. of Arkansas</td>
<td>Linda Coffey and Felicia Bell, NCAT Ann Wells, DVM Zac Vann, Ling Ting</td>
<td>Dr. Rachel Schattman, University of Maine Agroecology Lab</td>
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#### 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Networking Groups & Cash Bar
AGENDA

Friday, May 10 | 8 am - 2 pm

8:00 AM
Registration

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Ncat Welcome and Keynote with Dr. Heber Brown, III - Brodie Payne

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM
Breakout Sessions

TRACK 1:
PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

Process Improvement in Farm Management
Hakeem Holmes, NCAT

TRACK 2:
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY & ENERGY

Micro-Farms, Major Impact: Building your Urban Farming Enterprise from the Ground Up
Audrey Kolde and Gabriella Soto-Velez, NCAT

TRACK 3:
SOIL & AGROECOLOGY

Farmscaping for Success
Rex Dufour, NCAT
Adam Chappell, Chappell Farms

TRACK 4:
LAND & COMMUNITY

Feeding Our Community
Dr. Heber Brown, III, Black Church Food Security Network

TRACK 5:
ON-FARM RESILIENCE

Practical Solutions for Water Quality and Conservation
Tammy Barnes and Darron Gaus, NCAT

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM
Transition Time, Visit Booths, Network

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Closing Lunch Session - Brodie Payne
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Heber Brown, III
Founder of Black Church Food Security Network

Dr. Brown has been a catalyst for personal transformation and social change for more than twenty years. For nearly fourteen years, he served as pastor of a baptist church in Baltimore where he saw and personally experienced the impacts of food apartheid. This helped to inspire him to launch the Black Church Food Security Network, a national organization of African American congregations that works to advance food justice. He serves on the board of Bread For The World and has garnered numerous awards including an Ashoka Fellowship. He is the author of the forthcoming book, Nothing More Sacred: Radical Stories Of Black Church Faith, Food and Freedom.

Laura Lengnick
Founder and Principal of Cultivating Resilience

Laura is the Founder and Principal of Cultivating Resilience and author of the book Resilient Agriculture. She has explored agricultural and food system sustainability through 30 years of work as a federal researcher, policy-maker, adult educator, private consultant, community activist and farmer to understand what it takes to move sustainability values into action on the farm, in community and as a nation.
Anna Adair
NCAT Energy Analyst
Rocky Mountain West Region
Anna began her work at NCAT as an Energy Program Assistant and quickly rose to Energy Analyst through her hard work and dedication to the work of the AgriSolar Clearinghouse. Now, along with Stacie Peterson, she represents NCAT and the AgriSolar Clearinghouse across the U.S. She also helps provide technical assistance to Montana Native Communities through the REAP Assistance for Montanans Program (RAMP) as they navigate the complexities of the Rural Energy For America Program (REAP).

Guy K. Ames
Ames Orchard and Nursery
Guy is the founder of Ames Orchard and Nursery. He has a BA from Texas A&M, Commerce and an MS in horticulture (fruit crops and pest control in fruit crops) from the University of Arkansas. He recently retired from NCAT after many years working as a Sustainable Agriculture Specialist where he authored numerous fruit publications.

Dr. Helen Carla Amorim
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
Dr. Amorim is a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences division at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Mike Appel and Emily Oakley
Three Springs Farm
Since 2004, Mike and Emily have owned and operated Three Springs Farm, a diversified, certified-organic vegetable farm in Eastern Oklahoma. They cultivate over three-dozen types of vegetables on less than three acres. Their goal is to maintain a two-person operation that demonstrates the economic viability of small-scale farming. Mike and Emily sell their produce directly to their customers through their 250+ member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.
Tammy Barnes
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Appalachian Region
Tammy is an NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist with a focus on carbon farm planning and livestock. Her specialties include water quality and conservation practices, manure management, animal nutrition and grazing, and farm management. Prior to NCAT, she was a Cooperative Extension professional and owner of a thoroughbred broodmare farm in central Kentucky for 18 years.

Felicia Bell
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Gulf States Region
Felicia has worked as an NCAT sustainable agriculture specialist in the Gulf States region since 2013. A fourth-generation farmer and founding member of RD&S Farm, LLC, she is fascinated by traditional agriculture strategies, especially African farming methods and techniques. She assists small-scale producers with resourceful and inexpensive solutions to lessen cost burdens and increase their viability.
Carl Bernsten  
NCAT Energy Engineer,  
Rocky Mountain West Region  
After graduating from college with a BS in Mathematics, Carl worked for a while as an intern at Lockheed Martin, but he soon realized that he didn't like the direction his career was heading. He decided to shift gears and went back to school to obtain his MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Now, Carl works as Energy Engineer at NCAT where he uses his impressive knowledge to improve the energy efficiency of homes and agricultural sites across the U.S.

Adam Chappell  
Chappell Farms  
Adam raises cotton, rice, corn, and soy. He and his brother Seth won the battle against pigweed (a.k.a. Palmer amaranth) using a combination of no-till and cover crops in Cotton Plant, Arkansas. In doing so, they saved their farm financially while witnessing amazing improvements in their soils.

Linda Coffey  
NCAT Livestock Specialist  
Southeast Region  
As an NCAT Livestock Specialist, Linda has extensive knowledge of grazing, internal parasite management in sheep and goats, small ruminants, livestock guardian dogs, and multispecies grazing. She was born on a Missouri century farm where her family has raised livestock since 1861. She majored at the University of Missouri in Animal Science under esteemed professors, Dr. Ron Morrow and Dr. Jim Gerrish.

Eowyn Corral  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Grass-Roots Co-Director  
Eowyn is the director of development and programs at Dakota Rural Action and a past NSAC Organizational Council (OC) member. She has focused on local & regional food systems and sustainable agriculture policy for the last 15 years. At NSAC she works to connect and empower grassroots food and farm groups in NSAC’s membership and the broader movement, supports the coalition’s grassroots campaigns, and stewards the Racial Justice Committee.
SPEAKERS

**Rex Dufour**
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Western Region
Rex has been with NCAT since 1994 and is responsible for developing NCAT's Ecological Pest Management Database. His work focuses on learning from farmers, writing about and training agriculture professionals on organic practices and certification, ecological pest and soil management, and farmscaping. Rex is also registered with NRCS as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) in California and Nevada.

**Darron Gaus**
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Southwest Region
Darron is a Sustainable Agriculture Specialist for NCAT out of Texas. He has 14 years of various agriculture experience in ranching and specialty crop production and has grown fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops on 105 acres for the San Antonio Food Bank. He also has working knowledge with cow-calf operations. Darron is an educator at heart and logistical problem solving is one of his greatest strengths.

**Erica Goodman**
Farms for a New Generation Director
Erica is the Farms for a New Generation Director, following roles as Deputy Director and then Director of American Farmland Trust's New York Regional program. She worked as Associate Director of Corporate Partnerships at FoodCorps. Since 2016, Erica has served on the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee and serves on the National Advisory Council for Annie's Project.

**Jody Hardin**
Carbon Chicken Project LLC
Jody is a fifth-generation farmer spearheading a groundbreaking carbon capture initiative that unites stakeholders around the concept of Carbon Negative Farming Ecosystems and integrates cutting-edge negative emissions technologies to target critical environmental challenges from concentrated CAFOs in Arkansas and Oklahoma, and nutrient runoff issues along the Arkansas River from conventional agriculture. Currently, Jody serves as the co-founder of Carbon Chicken Project LLC and is actively involved in establishing a pioneering Carbon Innovation Farm in Fayetteville, AR.
CHUCK HASEBROOK
NCAT Biochar Policy Project Director
Chuck Hassebrook is the Director of NCAT’s Biochar Policy Project. He played a leading role in the introduction of the Biochar Research Network Act and previously served 36 years with the Center for Rural Affairs, including 17 years as executive director. Chuck was elected three times to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, serving 18 years, including two terms as chair. He is a native of Platte Center, Nebraska, where his family has farmed for over a century. He now lives in Lincoln with his wife Kate.

MAURA HENN
NCAT Community Foods Systems Specialist
Rocky Mountain West Region
Maura has over 17 years of experience working with community food systems with an emphasis on farmers markets and cooperative grocery store management. She is the coordinator for the Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition and manages NCAT’s participation in the Montana Double SNAP Dollars Network. Maura also coordinates the Business and Community program of the Montana Harvest of the Month Program.

HAKEEM HOLMES
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Gulf States Region
Hakeem is a second-generation farmer from Marianna, Florida. His family has been pivotal in the Farm to School movement from 1996 until present day. He graduated from Florida A&M University, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Agribusiness. He specializes in farm business operations and planning, as well as utilizing drone technology to improve farm efficiency.

TAMMY HOWARD
NCAT Sustainable Agricultural Specialist
Rocky Mountain West Region
Tammy came to NCAT via a long stint of farming and sustainable agriculture work in New York State and Arizona. Her work at NCAT focuses on farmers market nutrition programs, beginning farm business planning, market gardening, and other horticultural topics. She is the program manager of the Bringing the Farm to School Project, and owner of Nana Louie Farm, a flower farm and homestead in Belgrade, MT.
Molly Kirkham
NCAT Local Foods Specialist
Rocky Mountain West Region
Before working at NCAT, Molly moved to Montana in January 2020 to serve as an AmeriCorps member at the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center. She later apprenticed at Lifeline Produce, an organic vegetable farm. This position allowed her to further her education in local food systems and learn what it takes to successfully grow food in Montana.

Tyler Jenkins
NCAT Carbon Farm Planner
Appalachian Region
Tyler is an organizer and project developer who has experience in nearly every industry along the agricultural supply chain. He has been organizing innovative projects at the intersection of agriculture, public health, and economic development for various public and private organizations for over a decade. Tyler is a generation removed from the family farm in Mississippi, and has worked to build farm projects throughout the United States. He and his family reside in North Carolina.

Audrey Kolde
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Gulf States Region
Audrey grew up curious, especially about nature and history. When these passions showed her the damage done to the economy, people, animals, and the land, she found a path of hope in farming where human history and nature regenerate and thrive with joy. Audrey attended Louisiana Tech and earned an Environmental Science degree focusing on soil health, GIS, biology, and the reality of farming.

Chris Lent
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Northeastern Region
Chris is an Agricultural Specialist working out of NCAT’s Northeast regional office. He operated an organic vegetable farm for ten years and also worked in the fields of energy efficiency, solar installation, and organic farm inspection. His work at NCAT has focused on farm energy, organic vegetable production, local food systems, and high tunnel management. Chris most enjoys helping farmers find practical solutions that can help build resilience into their farms. He lives with his wife and their son in a self-built straw bale home in Pennsylvania.
Marisa Larson
LIHEAP Clearinghouse & NEAR Director
Rocky Mountain West Region
Marisa began work at NCAT in 2015 as a policy analyst, technical writer, and web designer for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Clearinghouse. Now, as the director of the LIHEAP Clearinghouse as well as the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) program, Marisa utilizes her expertise in low-income issues and her background in technical communication to help with the work of the AgriSolar Clearinghouse.

Robert Magiani
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Southwest Region
Robert’s work at NCAT focuses on food systems development, training farmers and ranchers to be wholesale-ready to sell to restaurants, schools, and other institutions. He has given presentations at hundreds of workshops and conferences about the production and marketing of agricultural products in Texas, other U.S. states, and Mexico. Prior to NCAT he was an organic vegetable grower in Texas and Mexico.

Dr. Courtney Owens
American Farmland Trust Southeast Regional Director
Dr. Owens has led and implemented community-based rural development education programs for 15 years. Before joining AFT, He worked in various leadership roles with both Kentucky State University and NCA&TSU Cooperative Extensions. Dr. Owens received his BA in political science and MS in ag education from NCA&TSU. He also received his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Florida in ag ed and communication, specializing in Extension ed.

Dr. Philip Owens
USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and the Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center
Dr. Owens is the Research Leader and Research Soil Scientist with the USDA-ARS, Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center in Booneville, Arkansas. Prior to his arrival in 2016, He was an Associate Professor of Pedology/Soil Geomorphology in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. After receiving his BS and MS at the University of Arkansas, he completed a Ph.D. in soil science from Texas A & M University in 2001. Prior to that, he worked as a Research Soil Scientist with USDA-ARS at Mississippi State University.
SPEAKERS

Stacie Peterson, PhD
NCAT Energy Program Director
AgriSolar Clearinghouse Program Manager
Stacie has been a part of NCAT’s Energy Program for 15 years and is the current director. She heads the AgriSolar Clearinghouse, a nationwide hub developed by NCAT, that connects businesses, landowners, and researchers with resources to support the growth of co-located solar and sustainable agriculture, also known as agrisolar or agrivoltaic development.

Allen Puckett
NCAT Policy Analyst I & Technical Writer
Rocky Mountain West Region
Prior to coming to NCAT, Allen worked as a Digital Media Developer producing virtual reality content and as a Social Media Manager. In his current role as Policy Analyst and Technical Writer at NCAT Allen researches issues related to the agrisolar industry as well as low-income and energy issues related to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

John Reese
EnviraPAC Monticello LLC, General Manager
EnviraPAC Monticello LLC is an industry leading manufacturer of renewable carbon powder material derived from sustainable biomass feedstock. EnviraPAC’s proprietary autothermic technology yields high carbon powders with unique performance attributes. Available in both granular and powder form, these renewable carbon powders offer environmentally sustainable solutions in the Agriculture, CASE, Personal Care, Plastics and Rubber markets.

Bill Robertson
Cotton Agronomist
Bill retired as the Cotton Extension Agronomist with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture with over 20 years of service. He provided leadership for educational programs in cotton production and agronomic systems that improve yield, profitability, and sustainability. Bill and his wife, Carey, have a livestock farm where they raise sheep and many other livestock species using prescribed grazing techniques.
SPEAKERS

**Rusty Rumley**
National Ag Law Center

Rusty was born and raised on a family farm in Cogar, Oklahoma. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2004 with a B.S. in AgriBusiness and in 2007 earned his juris doctor from the University of Oklahoma. After law school, Rusty earned his LL.M in Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Oklahoma and Michigan.

**Rachel Schattman**
University of Maine Agroecology Lab

Dr. Schattman is an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Maine School of Food and Agriculture, a Fellow with the George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, and also an Associate of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute. She owned and managed a diversified vegetable farm in Vermont for 11 years and has been working on vegetable and dairy farms since high school. Her academic background is in agroecology, with a focus on sustainable management in vegetable production systems, sociology, community food security, and farm-based adaptive practices to climate change.

**Jennifer Sherman**
NCAT Energy Administrative Assistant, Rocky Mountain West Region

Jennifer joined NCAT as a phone operator for the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) program where she assisted households struggling with paying their energy bills find the help they needed. Today she provides support to the NCAT energy team as administrative assistant where she maintains the accuracy of the NEAR database of assistance-providers and the AgriSolar Clearinghouse.

**Gabriella Soto-Velez**
Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Gulf States Regional Office

Gabriella earned her M.Sc. in Agriculture Science in the Tropics and Subtropics from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. Her research spanned seven months in Laikipia, Kenya, delving into the intricate dynamics of land-use change and its effects on soil structure in the Guinea Savannah. She has over eight years working as a farm manager on an organic vegetable farm in Auvergne, France.
SPEAKERS

**Bradley Todd**
NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
Appalachian Region
Bradley is a Marine Corps Veteran, who has spent the last 18+ years focused on sustainable agriculture practices and products, ranging from design, consultations and on-site management to development, marketing, and managing multiple agriculture-based product brands/companies. His areas of experience include agroforestry, aquaculture, aquaponics, hydroponics, alternative energy (solar, wind, geothermal, gasification), construction, high-value crops, woodland medicinals, and homesteading.

**Ling Ting**
Grassroots Grazing Group
Ling Ting and her husband raise cattle and poultry near Lincoln, Arkansas. Ling is a member of the Grassroots Grazing Group and NCAT’s Women, Livestock, and the Land.

**Zac Vann**
Rafter V Ozark Farms
Zac is a Fayetteville native, who returned to the area after his retirement from the Army. Following multiple deployments, Zac turned his swords into plowshares and focused on farming full time. He is utilizing regenerative agriculture, to revitalize the family farm. Rafter V Ozark Farms is a regenerative farm raising lamb and flowers, uniquely located within the city limits of Fayetteville. Zac is a member of the Grassroots Grazing Group and is an alumni of NCAT’s Armed to Farm program.

**Ann Wells, DVM**
Ann graduated from OSU School of Veterinary Medicine and has more than 30 years of experience in livestock production, including producing and selling natural lamb and grass finished beef through Ozark Pasture Beef. Ann is one of the founders of the Grassroots Grazing Group. She served as an instructor and mentor for NCAT’s Women, Livestock, and the Land. Ann has mentored countless producers in the areas of livestock production and marketing, grazing, and holistic animal health.
Thank you!

To our generous sponsors for your support and investment in sustainable agriculture

This conference is hosted by the National Center for Appropriate Technology through the ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture program, under a cooperative agreement with USDA Rural Development.

NCAT has been helping people build resilient communities through local and sustainable solutions that reduce poverty, strengthen self-reliance, and protect natural resources since 1976.

Committed to the future of rural communities.
ATTRA is a trusted source of sustainable agriculture information and maintains a knowledge base of practical multimedia resources for farmers, ranchers, and educators. NCAT’s agriculture specialists work directly with farmers, ranchers, land managers, and others across the country to provide individualized technical assistance, offer practical learning opportunities, and facilitate meaningful connections among producers, experts, researchers, and industry professionals.

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