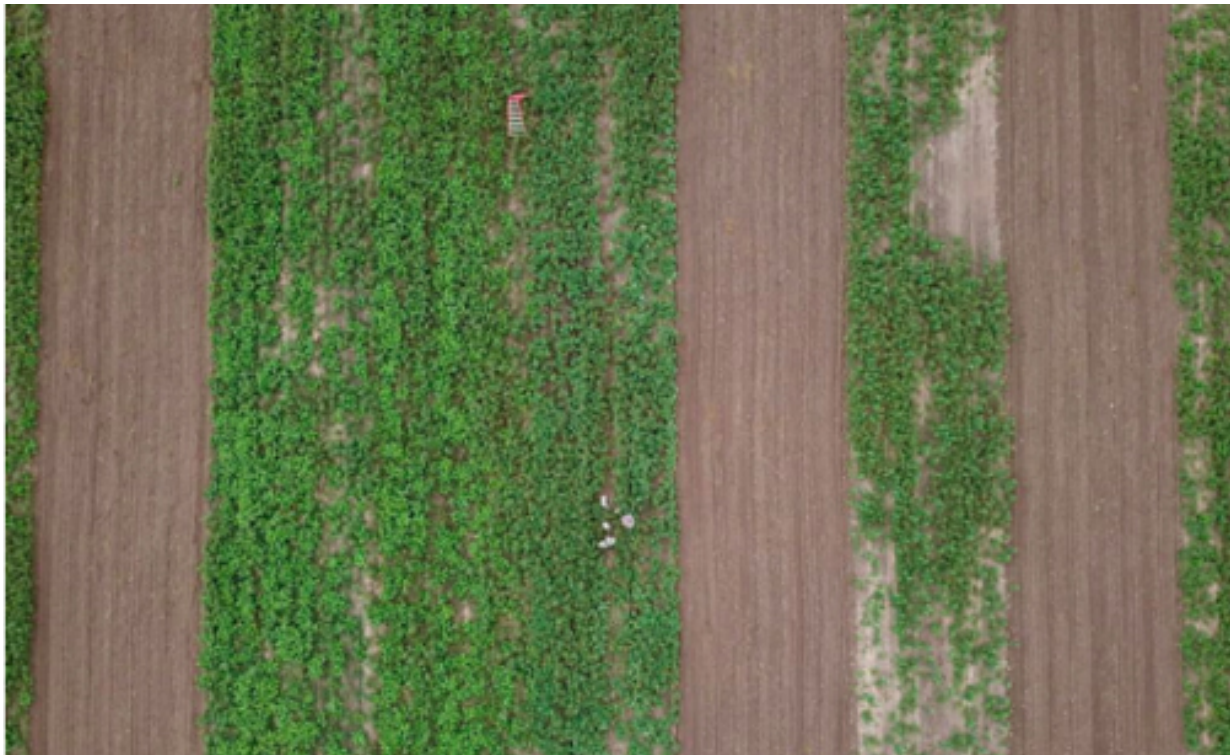




NEW ATTRA VIDEO

Cultivating AI One Byte at a Time

This video presentation by NCAT Sustainable Agriculture specialists Hakeem Holmes and Gabriella Soto-Velez explores the transformative power of artificial intelligence (AI) in agriculture, demonstrating how AI can enhance farming practices at any scale. Whether you're designing a small farm, optimizing crop layout, managing pests and nutrients, or utilizing advanced tools like drones for precision agriculture, AI has a role to play. The video covers practical applications for everyday farmers and gardeners, as well as high-tech innovations like spectral drones for large-scale operations. Learn how AI can streamline farm design, improve pest management, boost nutrient efficiency, and elevate productivity — helping you cultivate smarter, more resilient crops.



ATTRA EVENTS

- **Food Summit**
April 22, 2025
Brownsville, Texas
(NCAT is a co-sponsor of this event.)
- **Northwest Latino Farmer Conference**
May 7-8, 2025
Wenatchee, Washington



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Regenerative Farmer Assurance Fund

Healing Soils Foundation launched this fund to provide critical financial relief to organic and regenerative farmers facing delays in public funding. Farmers in Midwest states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) who have executed contracts for programs like EQIP, CSP, and RFSI and are experiencing public funding delays causing immediate financial needs can apply for grants up to \$50,000 per farmer. Applications are rolling with funds distributed as available.

Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program

Grants from \$5,000 to \$40,000 allow Maryland's food banks, charitable emergency food providers, and nonprofits to request funding to purchase agricultural/seafood products listed in the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program.

Applications are due by May 2, 2025.

Minnesota Meat Processing Train and Retain Grant

This program awards one-time funding to partner organizations that will work with small- to medium-sized

meat and poultry processors in hiring and training new employees. Grants from \$10,000 to \$250,000 support the development of incentive projects like tuition reimbursements, sign-on and retention bonuses, and childcare stipends.

Applications are due by April 28, 2025.

DON'T MISS IT

[Saving America's Working Lands National Conference](#)

April 23-25, 2025

Dallas, Texas

This conference hosted by American Farmland Trust will feature three days of workshops, field trips, discussion groups, and conference sessions that elevate successes and respond to practitioner needs for approaches to save the land that sustains us.

[Farm Dreams](#)

April 10, 17, and 24, 2025

Online

Kansas Rural Center is offering a three-part, virtual Farm Dreams course. Talk with experienced farmers and other new and prospective farmers about your farming dreams. The course focuses on clarifying your values and quality-of-life goals, assessing your readiness to start and run your farm business, and creating plans to move forward.

[Targeted Grazing Workshop](#)

April 24-25, 2025

Hopland, California

American Lamb Board offers Targeted Grazing Workshops in locations across the country, addressing vegetation management for solar arrays, vineyards, and fire suppression.

IN THE NEWS

- [Farmers Invited to Share Stories of Funding Freeze Impacts](#)

Several organizations and entities are [inviting farmers to share stories](#) of how the federal funding freeze has affected them. The House Ag Committee is seeking stories from farmers on real-world impacts to their work related to program and personnel loss. In addition, Farm Aid has a survey for farmers and organizations impacted by the funding freeze. Farm Aid will use the responses for its advocacy work. Meanwhile, National Farmers Union is also collecting stories from farmers and organizations that it will use for advocacy work.

- [Understanding Ag Offers Adaptive Grazing Tips](#)

Dr. Allen Williams shared [adaptive grazing tips](#) to kick off the 2025 grazing season in a post on the Understanding Ag website. Williams offers a wide-ranging list of considerations, addressing disruption, rest and recovery, epigenetic selection, and monitoring, as well as discussing specific strategies like bale grazing and stockpile grazing.

Related ATTRA resource: [ATTRA Grazing Planning Manual and Workbook](#)

- **[‘Cattle Voltaics’ Combine Grazing and Solar Panels](#)**

A Colorado-based cattle operation is demonstrating the [feasibility of “cattle voltaics,”](#) according to a blog from the Center for Rural Affairs. Huwa Enterprises conducted a successful test in 2023 with 100 yearling cattle grazing among solar panels. Since then, the company has completed three successful utility-scale solar grazing projects and is now helping other solar projects integrate livestock.

Related NCAT publication: [Best Practices in Agrisolar](#)

- **[Appalachian Farms Feeding Families Supports Hurricane Recovery](#)**

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project re-established its [Appalachian Farms Feeding Families](#) program as part of its response to Hurricane Helene. The program gets fresh, locally grown food to people impacted by the storm, while at the same time providing cash flow for farms that are in the process of rebuilding or have lost market outlets. The program currently is focusing on providing local food to Early Childhood Education sites and restaurants.

Related ATTRA blog: [Hurricane Helene and Western North Carolina: New Year, New Challenges and Available Resources](#)

- **[New Hampshire Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan Released](#)**

New Hampshire Food Alliance, in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; UNH Extension; and more than 89 other food system organizations and hundreds of individuals deeply committed to New Hampshire’s food system, released the [New Hampshire Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan](#). The plan proposes more than 140 recommendations that address 27 agriculture and food-related topics through product, market, and issue briefs.

MORE NEWS

SUPPORT OUR WORK



About Us

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. Learn more and become a friend of NCAT at [NCAT.ORG](https://ncat.org).



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