



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Episode 368: Lessons from 'The Principal Farmer'

In this episode, NCAT Gulf States Regional Coordinator Felicia Bell talks with "The Principal Farmer," Patrick Muhammed, of Atlanta, Georgia. Patrick is the principal of the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School, where students from kindergarten through eighth grade learn about the world through the lens of agriculture, nature, and the arts. He also has a farm and enjoys helping adults learn to love the land and return to their farming roots.



NEW ATTRA PUBLICATION

Conservation Practices Fact Sheet Series: Agricultural Riparian Areas in Southern Appalachia

A highly functioning riparian area has species richness, which consists mostly of native species, writes Tammy Barnes in this brief new publication. Establishing or improving a riparian zone can help its plants take up nutrients, capture sediment from runoff, and stabilize stream banks. This publication explains the three different vegetation zones in a riparian buffer and provides examples of native species for use in riparian areas. It offers several steps for restoring or improving a forested riparian area and provides links to additional resources.



Photo: Tammy Barnes, NCAT

ATTRA EVENTS

Pastured Broilers: What they eat and their impact on arthropods

March 13, 2025

Online

Join Dr. Karina Garcia and PhD Student Kantima Thongjued from the University of Kentucky as they share findings from a multi-year study on pastured poultry management in this free webinar offered in partnership between the University of California, Davis, Iowa State University, the University of Kentucky, and NCAT.





NORTHWEST
LATINO
FARMER CONFERENCE

May 7 & 8, 2025

May 7th
Field Day: Local Farms
Transportation provided

May 8th
Conference Day:
Wenatchee Valley College

This conference brings together the Latino farming community, the agriculture industry, and advocates for sustainability and agribusinesses for two days of workshops, networking, and learning with fellow farmers.

Wenatchee, WA
 ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE PRESENTED IN SPANISH.

NCAT

Growing Together
REGISTER TODAY: WWW.NCAT.ORG/NW-LFC-2025



CONFERENCIA DEL AGRICULTOR
LATINO
NOROESTE

7 y 8 de mayo, 2025

7 de mayo
Día de Campo: Granjas Locales - Transporte Incluido

8 de mayo
Conferencia:
Wenatchee Valley College

Esta conferencia reúne a la comunidad agrícola latina, la industria agrícola y los defensores de la sostenibilidad y los agronegocios durante dos días de talleres, visitas al campo, y aprendizaje con otros agricultores.

Wenatchee, WA
 TODO SERA PRESENTADO EN ESPAÑOL

NCAT

Creando Juntos
REGISTRATE HOY: WWW.NCAT.ORG/NW-LFC-2025

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AgWest Farm Credit New Producer Grant Program

This program provides \$15,000 in start-up funds to successful applicants to support their agricultural ventures. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a full- or part-time agriculturalist with two years or less of operational experience or have plans to start an operation within two years, within AgWest's service area: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and portions of California, Nevada, and Arizona. The application deadline is May 31, 2025.

EQIP Bridge Loan Program

This flexible funding helps cover the upfront costs of installing USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practices. EQIP recipients in designated Midwest, Southeast, and Southwest states are eligible for specified conservation practices.

Massachusetts Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

This program funds projects that aim to enhance the production and competitiveness of Specialty Crop industries in Massachusetts. Socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, producer groups, industry trade associations, nonprofit organizations, and local government entities are among the eligible applicants. Eligible project types include consumer education, food safety improvements, distribution improvements, and development of sustainable and organic production practices.

Applications are due March 28, 2025.

DON'T MISS IT

Green Lands, Blue Waters Conference

April 7-9, 2025

Madison, Wisconsin

Join the community of continuous living cover in a peer-rich environment with timely educational opportunities, lively dialogue, and open networking time.

Florida Organic Food & Farming Summit

April 8-9, 2025

Tallahassee, Florida

Join Florida Organic Growers for dynamic workshops, thought-provoking sessions, and valuable networking focused on shaping a future where organic farming enhances food systems, promotes health, and safeguards the environment.

Black Belt Meat Summit

April 9-11, 2025

Tuskegee, Alabama

Tuskegee University is hosting an event to bring together farmers, meat processors, livestock producers, ranchers, researchers, industry professionals, and advocates to discuss and promote sustainable meat production practices in the region.

IN THE NEWS

- **Presentations from Cornell Organic Field Crops Conference Available Online**

Cornell University hosted its 2025 Organic Field Crops Conference in February in Geneva, New York. Videos featuring conference presentations and panels are now [available online](#). They include a presentation by Erin Silva from the University of Wisconsin on lessons learned with organic no-till and a farmer panel on reducing tillage in a diverse crop rotation system. There are also presentations by Heather Darby on oilseed production and processing and by Amara Dunn on biocontrols, biopesticides, and biostimulants.

Related ATTRA publication: [Reducing Tillage Intensity in Organic Production Systems](#)

- **Temperature Sensors Could Help Beekeepers Monitor Hive Health**

Computer scientists at the University of California, Riverside, are part of a team that developed a [system of temperature sensors and forecasting models](#) to help warn beekeepers when their remote hives may be in danger of collapse. The Electronic Bee-Veterinarian provides beekeepers with an early warning that hive health is declining, based on variation in hive temperature. Designers created

the system with low-cost components to keep it affordable.

- **[Biochar Reduces Campylobacter in Free-range Chickens in Danish Study](#)**

A field study by researchers at the Technical University of Denmark showed that [utilizing biochar as a feed additive](#) for free-range chickens achieved an 80% reduction in campylobacter. Campylobacter is naturally present bacterium in the chicken gut microbiome, but it can contaminate the meat and make humans sick from poor kitchen hygiene or under-cooked meat. The research also tested organic acids added to the chickens' drinking water, and found them effective at reducing campylobacter in the short term.

Related ATTRA topic area: [Biochar](#)

- **[Silvopasture Increases Productivity for South American Livestock Producers](#)**

A feature on National Public Radio highlighted the [benefits of silvopasture](#), or intentional integration of trees, grass, and livestock. Advocates say wider adoption of silvopasture could help reduce deforestation in the Amazon, because it reduces the amount of land needed for cattle production. In a silvopasture system, trees can provide both dairy and beef cattle with feed and shade. In addition, the trees contribute to improved soil health and reduced moisture loss, so pastures are more productive and can support more animals.

Related ATTRA publication: [Quick Tips for Agroforestry](#)

- **[Adaptive Grazing Documentary Available for Worldwide Streaming](#)**

[Roots So Deep \(you can see the devil down there\)](#), a four-part documentary that compares Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing to conventional grazing, is available for streaming worldwide. The docuseries from Carbon Nation explores the data, the people, and the impact of these grazing methods on soil health and the environment, through the lens of real farmers overcoming real challenges.

READ MORE

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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](#).

Contact

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