



READ THE ATTRA BLOG

[How Syntropic Agriculture Restores Soil and Farms](#)

People have been practicing syntropic agriculture for thousands of years, writes Gabriella Soto-Velez in this week's blog. She goes on to explore the origins of the modern adaptation of syntropic agriculture and explain what differentiates it from other types of agroforestry. Like some other systems, syntropic agriculture is based on multi-strata planting, but, unlike many other systems, it can deliver yields in as little as three months after planting. Gabriella's blog concludes with information on where to learn more about implementing syntropic agriculture on your own farm.



Photo: Florian Kopp.

NCAT NEWS

You Spoke and We're Listening

Special thanks to everyone who participated in our annual survey of ATTRA users! Ten lucky survey respondents won raffle prizes of \$50 gift cards for their choice of books, seeds, equipment, and other agriculture-related products. We're using the feedback to improve ATTRA's service to the agriculture community. Watch for your chance to participate and win a prize next year.



ATTRA EVENTS

- **Food Summit**
April 22, 2025
Brownsville, Texas
(NCAT is a co-sponsor of this event.)
- **Beekeeping Basics and BEEyond**
April 24, 2025
Online
(Eric Fuchs-Stengel is presenting.)
- **BCS Tractor Training**
April 28, 2025
Westmoreland, New Hampshire
(NCAT is a co-sponsor.)
- **Northwest Latino Farmer Conference**
May 7-8, 2025
Wenatchee, Washing



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

North Central Region SARE Graduate Student Grant Program

This program supports projects by graduate students that address sustainable agriculture issues and are part of the student's degree program. Projects must benefit agriculture in the 12-state North Central Region.

Applications are due May 29, 2025.

Utah Invasive Species Mitigation Weed Control Grant

UDAF is looking for projects that target high-priority weed species and will reduce the number of outlier populations. Eligible applicants include universities, cooperative weed management areas, county weed boards, federal or state government agencies, landowners, and conservation districts, nonprofits, and/or other political subdivisions.

Applications are due by May 2, 2025.

Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Alachua County, Florida, is offering grants for county-based farms and ranches that earn between \$1,000 and \$250,000 annually. Mini-grants up to \$5,000 are available for capital and equipment expenditures that will positively impact an operation's income.

Applications are due by June 6, 2025.

DON'T MISS IT

California Agritourism Summit

May 14-15, 2025

San Diego County, California

This event features expert panels, roundtable discussions, presentations, networking opportunities, and tours of successful agritourism operations.

Arkansas Grazing Coalition Grazing School

April 23-24, 2025

Beebe, Arkansas

This school is a deep dive into setting up and operating a managed grazing program, focusing on pasture, fencing, and water layouts. Learn to budget for annual forage and apply pasture allocation techniques.

IN THE NEWS

- [Small Farm Innovation Challenge Competition Announces Winners](#)

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) announced the winners of the 5th Annual [Small Farm Innovation Challenge](#), which recognizes groundbreaking solutions aimed at making small farms more viable and sustainable in an increasingly AgTech-driven world. The winning projects include an all-in-one workstation, a DIY mulch blower, on-farm cold storage, a small-farm monitoring system, and an electric tractor with two wheels.

- [Solar Grazing with Sheep Gaining Popularity](#)

Grazing sheep underneath the panels at solar installations, one form of [agrivoltaics](#), is gaining popularity, according to a feature in *Western Farm Press*. Sheep producers across the country are getting involved in offering solar grazing services, and this story describes operations in Washington, California, Colorado, and Texas that are practicing agrivoltaics.

Related NCAT resource: [AgriSolar Clearinghouse](#)

- [USDA Announces Repriorization of Funding to Farmers](#)

USDA has announced the [cancellation of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities initiative](#) and its reformulation into the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) initiative. USDA explained that “select projects may continue if it is demonstrated that a significant amount of the federal funds awarded will go to farmers.” USDA will contact current partners individually to provide information about their future participation.

- [Survey of Virginia Farmers Reveals Views on Solar Development](#)

American Farmland Trust (AFT) [released findings of a survey](#) of Virginia farmers and ranchers that explored their views on solar energy development on agricultural lands. A majority of respondents want solar projects to be thoughtfully sited, taking into account the scale, location, and potential for negative impacts on rural communities. Farmers also expressed strong interest in learning about agrivoltaics, the practice of intentionally designing and operating a solar energy facility that enables and sustains viable agricultural production.

- [Study Warns of Elevated Extinction Risk for One-Fifth of Native Pollinators](#)

A study led by NatureServe revealed that more than 22% of [native pollinators in North America are at an elevated risk of extinction](#). The wide-ranging study evaluated nearly 1,600 pollinator species, including bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, flower flies, bats, and hummingbirds. NatureServe points out that pollinators are vital for food production and ecosystem health, contributing over \$15 billion annually to North American agriculture, and that their decline threatens not only biodiversity but also the stability of food systems and human livelihoods.

MORE NEWS

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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).

ncat@ncat.org

[ATTRA.NCAT.ORG](https://attra.ncat.org)

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