



ATTRA WEBINAR RECORDING

Composting 101 with Sundiata from Compost Community

In this recorded webinar, NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist Gabriella Soto-Velez teams up with Sundiata from Compost Community in Tallahassee, Florida, to dive deep into composting techniques, soil health, and the power of the soil-food web. They offer a step-by-step how-to guide for composting, including tips and tricks to make the process efficient. In addition, Sundiata explains the soil food web, the importance of microbial life in soil, and how composting supports a thriving ecosystem. There's also an extensive question-and-answer session addressing composting, soil health, and organic practices. Whether you're a beginner looking to start composting or a seasoned grower wanting to improve soil microbiology, this webinar has something for everyone



NCAT NEWS



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.)
- **Northwest Latino Farmer Conference**
May 7-8, 2025
Wenatchee, Washington



Beekeeping Basics and BEEyond

WITH ERIC FUCHS-STENGEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

6:30PM-7:45PM | ONLINE



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Southern SARE Graduate Student Grant

This program provides grants up to \$22,000 to Master's and PhD students at accredited institutions across the Southern region who are interested in exploring areas of sustainable agriculture through quantitative and qualitative research projects.

Applications are due May 16, 2025.

Cynthia Hayes Memorial Scholarship

The Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition are accepting applications for this \$5,000 scholarship for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students who self-identify as Black and/or Indigenous.

Applications are due by May 1, 2025.

Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Program

This program will provide cost share assistance for 75% of promotional activities designed to boost community and regional engagement at Arkansas farmers markets, up to \$575.

Applications will remain open until funds are no longer available.

DON'T MISS IT

Conservation in Action Tour

May 6-7, 2025

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Travel to innovative farms that showcase best practices in conservation agriculture, hear from inspiring speakers, and experience behind-the-scenes industry stops on this 18th annual tour.

Arkansas Grazing Coalition Grazing School

April 23-24, 2025

Beebe, Arkansas

This school offers 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.

Cover Crops, Perennials and Diversified Plantings: Sustainable Practices for Long-Term Farming

April 24, 2025

Lexington, Kentucky

The Organic Association of Kentucky's on-farm Field Days highlight Kentucky farms doing great work in organic agriculture and conservation. This field day takes place at Seedleaf's Headwater Farm.

IN THE NEWS

- **Research Summarizes Results of Using Cover Crops for Phytoremediation**

The Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research summarized the results of more than 100 scientific studies to identify cover crops that could be useful for [phytoremediation of agricultural lands](#). Researchers focused on identifying cover crops that could perform six different types of soil remediation: nitrate, salts, metals, pesticides, plastics, and antibiotic resistance genes. Depending on which contaminants the plants are removing, they may be used as green manure in the field, harvested for food or feed, or used in biogas production.

- **Long-term Study Explores Impact of Management Practices on Soil Organic Carbon**

Michigan State University scientists published results of a [long-term study](#) at the Kellogg Biological Station. “Soil carbon change in intensive agriculture after 25 years of conservation management” explores best practices for building soil carbon through differing management strategies. This study observed soil organic carbon change across 10 different management systems, including annual row crop rotations, managed perennial crops, and conservation lands.

- **Researchers Ask Livestock Producers Grazing Grassland to Complete Survey**

Researchers from South Dakota State University, West Texas A&M University, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research are inviting [producers with livestock grazing on grassland to complete an online survey](#). The survey relates to pasture cropping, asking users their perception of the benefits, costs, and challenges of adopting pasture cropping and asking non-users of pasture cropping about their willingness to try it in the future.

- **Natural Predators Could Help Control Spotted Lanternfly Pest**

Research led by Penn State evaluated the effectiveness of various predator insects in [controlling spotted lanternfly populations](#). This study found that spined soldier bugs, Carolina mantises, and Chinese mantises were particularly effective in feeding upon spotted lanternflies. Researchers say the findings suggest that conserving and promoting these natural predators could provide sustainable and strategic biological control of the pest.

Related ATTRA publication: [Tipsheet: Organic Pest Management](#)

- **Farmer Involvement Key in Developing Effective Biodiversity Strategies**

Researchers from the University of Exeter wrote in *The Conversation* about how the Burren Life project in Ireland is [involving farmers in developing effective strategies](#) to promote biodiversity on agricultural lands. The Burren Life project offers a model for success because farmers and scientists worked together to co-design environmental targets, and the farmers choose the activities they wish to undertake to improve conditions on their own land. This model utilizes farmers’ valuable on-the-ground knowledge and led to long-term behavior change and major changes in habitat quality, the authors say.

MORE NEWS



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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](https://ncat.org).

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