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## READ THE ATTRA BLOG

### [The Case for Tractor Farming](#)

"A tractor ... reduces the need for so much heavy (and expensive, if hired out) manual labor," writes Audrey Kolde in a new blog on the ATTRA website. Women farmers could seize more opportunities in agriculture by embracing mechanization, Audrey explains. This blog points out the advantages of using a tractor in place of manual labor and discusses some ways to overcome barriers that have kept women from utilizing these valuable farm tools.



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# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

## Episode 369: Functional Movement in Farming with Cynthia Flores

In this episode, NCAT Agriculture Specialist Audrey Kolde talks with Cynthia Flores, the founder of Labor-Movement, an organization that believes when you move well, you work well. Audrey and Cynthia discuss the inspiration for creating Labor-Movement and the importance of proper movement for those whose livelihoods depend on their bodies, especially farmers, fishers, foresters, and industrial athletes.



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# 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, Washington



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Northeast Agricultural Education Foundation Grants

These grants support nonprofit education and leadership training organizations dedicated to serving the interests of farmers and rural communities in the Northeast. The Foundation makes grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Applications are due each year by May 1.

## New York Farmers Market Resiliency Grant Program

New York Department of Agriculture and Markets has \$1 million available for projects that will help enhance current food system resiliency through farmers markets, including projects aimed at the development and enhancement of farmers market infrastructure, online infrastructure, marketing and outreach efforts, and/or delivery capabilities across the state.

Applications are due May 27, 2025.

## Colorado NextGen Ag Leadership Grant Program

This program provides grants to organizations and educational institutions to support educational, training, and leadership development opportunities for Colorado's emerging food and agriculture leaders.

Applications are due April 25, 2025.

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## DON'T MISS IT

### Small Acreage Expo

May 17, 2025

Vancouver, Washington

Participants have a choice of different workshops, a farm tour, and demonstrations. Learn about important topics that will help you manage your land and get to know local resources.

### Rural Mental Health Summit

May 15, 2025

Bloomington, Illinois

The Summit will bring together health professionals, faith leaders, nonprofits, and community leaders to foster dialogue, share insights, and develop partnerships to better serve rural Illinois residents.

### Forest Farming in Central Appalachia

May 14, 2025

Irvine, Kentucky

Tour BC Farm to learn about sites currently being managed for forest-farmed medicinals, including goldenseal, ramps, and ginseng, in a 20-acre hardwood forest. The tour will also cover site and species selection.

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# IN THE NEWS

- **Organic Research Hub Collects Resources for Farmers**

The Organic Farming Research Foundation has debuted a new [Organic Research Hub](#) that collects research summaries, factsheets, guidebooks, webinars, videos, tools, and other resources. The online hub is designed to support organic and transitioning farmers across the United States. Resources are searchable by keyword, region, crop category, production topic, and more. The hub also includes an Organic Extension Directory that helps connect farmers with organic experts in their state or region.

*Related ATTRA topic area:* [Organic Farming](#)

- **Cover Crops Help Reduce Soil Carbon Loss to Erosion**

A study by Iowa State University ecologist Wenjuan Huang found that cover crops planted in fields between cash crops are an effective way to [reduce soil carbon loss to erosion](#). Researchers found that cover crops were especially effective at preventing soil carbon erosion on steeper slopes. Using a model to predict the impact of planting cover crops globally, the team estimates this would reduce soil carbon erosion by an average of 25% worldwide.

*Related ATTRA publication:* [Overview of Cover Crops and Green Manures](#)

- **Symposium Showcases Role of Grazing in Fire Prevention**

The Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium showcased the [role that targeted grazing can play in fire prevention](#), reports California Farm Bureau's *Ag Alert*. Dan Macon of UC Cooperative Extension explained how producers can use targeted grazing for vegetation management that achieves fuels reduction. Symposium presenters provided examples of how livestock producers can manage grazing both to improve the fire safety of their own land and to provide a marketable service of fuels management for the broader community, on both private and public lands.

*Related ATTRA publication:* [Tips for Marketing Sheep and Goat Products: Vegetation Management Services](#)

- **Research Project on Fertilizer Value of Manure Reports Results**

The Value of Manure Project, a multi-year research endeavor led by Cornell University, reported [results from in-field trials in 2024](#). This statewide project evaluates nitrogen (N) and yield benefits of various manure sources and application methods to corn silage and corn grain. In addition to being a valuable nutrient source, manure can improve soil health, enhance nutrient cycling, and build soil organic matter.

- **Promote Pollinators by Focusing on Habitat**

A blog post from the Xerces Society suggests that the [best way to help pollinators](#) might not be getting a beehive. The authors suggest that increasing the number of honeybees could actually do more harm than good, as they compete with native bees, yet are not as effective at pollination, particularly for native plants. Instead of getting a beehive, the authors advise creating pollinator habitat to benefit both honey bees and native bees.

MORE NEWS

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## 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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