



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Episode 373: Exploring Syntropic Agriculture with Roger Gietzen and Mauro Rosito-Weber

Did you know that anyone can go syntropic? Syntropic agriculture is a type of agroforestry that uses the principles of natural succession to build soil health and create productive, diversified, resilient farms. Whether you are growing food in the warmest zones or the coldest, you can adapt syntropic agriculture principles to your location. In this new episode, NCAT Specialist Gabriella Soto-Velez talks with two syntropic agriculture educators and practitioners, Roger Gietzen and Mauro Rosito-Weber, to learn all about this nature-based farming approach.

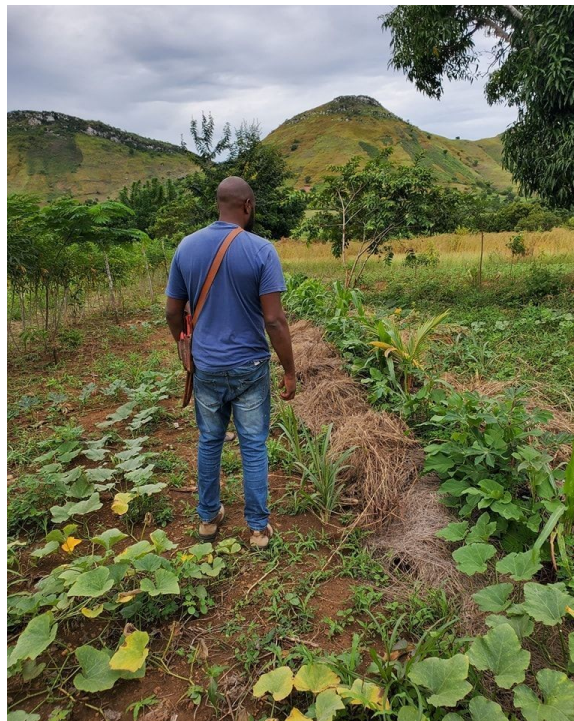
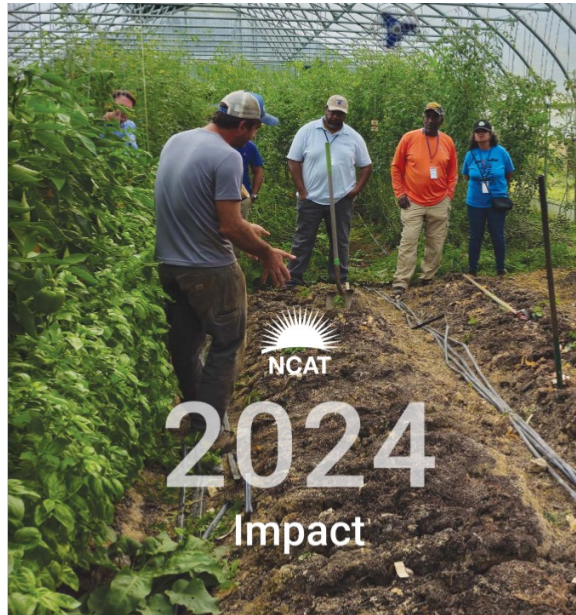


Photo: Roger Gietzen. Syntropic agriculture system in progress in Haiti.

NCAT NEWS

NCAT 2024 Impact Report

NCAT's 2024 Impact Report is here! It's been a challenging year, but together, we're building the world we all want to live in. Dive in to explore all the ways we've worked this year with farmers, ranchers, and other land stewards to build vibrant, economically strong communities that provide all people with healthy food and clean energy, soil, and water.



FREE WEBINAR!

**From Scarcity to
Sustainability: A Vision
for the Southern Great
Plains**

**Friday, June 13
11:00 a.m. CT**



REGISTER AT
[BIT.LY/ABUNDANT-OGALLALA-WEBINAR](https://bit.ly/abundant-ogallala-webinar)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Food Systems Partnership

This program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local and regional food systems. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is offering Planning and Design matching grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000, as well as Implementation and Expansion matching grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

Applications are due June 27, 2025.

Minnesota Dairy Business Planning Grant

This grant pays 50% of the cost for dairy farmers in Minnesota to develop a business plan, up to \$5,000.

Applications will be funded on a first come, first served basis until funding is expended or until June 1, 2025.

North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Program

This program offers funding for developing and conducting educational programs and materials to help young people understand the importance of agriculture in North Dakota and in their own lives.

Proposals must be received by June 6, 2025.

DON'T MISS IT

Composting on Rangelands

June 20, 2025

Salida, Colorado

Join Quivira Coalition and partners at Badger Creek Ranch to learn how to both produce compost and apply organic amendments for rangeland soil health.

Equipping a Diversified Vegetable Farm

June 22, 2025

Clarksville, Ohio

Fair Share CSA Coalition presents this conversation with the Ashmore family on what systems have worked for them, what changes they are anticipating, and which equipment is essential to their success.

Sinkholes and Raising Chickens for Eggs

May 21, 2025

Guthrie, Kentucky

This free workshop in the Farming for Cash series address sinkhole development, as well as producing and selling eggs and building a portable chicken house.

UPDATED ATTRA PUBLICATION

Sorghum Syrup Production

Sweet sorghum is produced commercially in 26 states, and sorghum syrup is a natural sweetener made by processing juice squeezed from the stalks of this sorghum. NCAT Agriculture Specialist Lee Rinehart has revised and updated a classic ATTRA publication that provides information on sweet sorghum cultivation and processing. It also includes extensive resources for further reading.



IN THE NEWS

- **Minnesota Highlights Link Between Agricultural Conservation Efforts and Higher Profits**

Farmers enrolled in the [Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program \(MAWQCP\)](#) saw [nearly double the profits](#) of non-certified farms, according to the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence. A 2025 study examined financial and crop and livestock production information from farmers enrolled in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management education program. The 153 MAWQCP farms in the study saw more gross cash farm income and net farm income in 2024 than non-certified farms, a result that has been consistent for all six years of the study.

- **Partnership Furnishes Michigan State University with Methane-powered Tractor**

Michigan State University (MSU) announced a new partnership with CNH agricultural machinery that will provide researchers and students access to New Holland's T6.180 [Methane tractor](#) for a year. This tractor, the world's first 100% methane-powered production tractor, will be utilized for educational and research purposes on campus, offering students, researchers, and the public an opportunity to see it at work in the field. This state-of-the-art tractor will be powered by refined gases produced by the MSU Anaerobic Digester, creating a closed-loop system.

Related ATTRA blog: [A Mid-Scale Anaerobic Biodigester Creates On-Farm Renewable Energy](#)

- **Research Adds Details on Tarping for Weed Control**

Research conducted by Virginia Cooperative Extension with funding from Southern SARE tested the amount of [time required to kill a variety of annual and perennial weeds](#) with a light-blocking silage tarp. The study found that perennial weeds can be killed in half of the growing season, allowing producers to use the ground for either production or cover cropping during the second part of the season. Virginia Cooperative Extension released a factsheet that highlights results of the project for more than 30 weed species, *Tarping and Occultation Techniques in Gardening and Farming*.

Related ATTRA publication: [Soil Solarization and Biosolarization](#)

- **Farm Aid Announces 40th Anniversary Festival**

Farm Aid announced that its [40th anniversary festival](#) will take place September 20, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The event will launch a year-long celebration of four decades of impactful advocacy, historic cultural moments, and unforgettable music. Farm Aid 40 will include a full day of music, family farmers, HOMEGROWN food, and agricultural experiences.

- **Southern SARE Seeks Nominations for Administrative Council Seats**

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is seeking two producers and two NGO representatives to fill [vacant seats on its Administrative Council](#), the governing body for the SARE program in the Southern region. Producers and NGO representatives would serve for a three-year term beginning in February 2026. The application deadline is July 11, 2025.

MORE NEWS

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About Us

NCAT has been helping people build resilient communities through local and sustainable solutions that

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*reduce poverty, strengthen self-reliance, and protect
natural resources since 1976. Learn more and become a
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