



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Episode 374: Developing Farmers Market Cooperatives

In this episode, NCAT Specialist Maura Henn is joined by Blake Lineweaver, Co-op Development Program Manager at Mission West Community Development Partners. Maura and Blake talk about how farmers markets in Montana are using the cooperative business model to build resilience in their local food systems. They discuss the steps to forming a cooperative farmers market, as well as the principles that guide all cooperatives.



READ THE ATTRA BLOG

Agility in Farm Management

Farming isn't for the faint of heart, Hakeem Holmes reminds us in this week's blog. Cultivating agility—that crucial ability to quickly adapt and realign your farm's strategies in response to unpredictable forces—can be your farm's superpower. Hakeem explains some best practices for improving short-term farm agility, such as tactical sensing, competency awareness, and quick-change capability.



NCAT NEWS

International Heritage Breeds Week

Our colleagues at The Livestock Conservancy are leading the celebration of International Heritage Breeds Week this week. We're pleased to offer a selection of ATTRA's print, audio, and video resources that can inform and support the decision to become involved in raising and preserving the beautiful and valuable diversity of heritage livestock breeds.

- [Heritage Chickens: A Rare Breed in Modern Coops](#)
- [Episode 354. The Rich Heritage of Chicken Breeds](#)
- [Building Strong Foundations, Part 3. Choosing Livestock for Your Farm](#)
- [Sheep and Goats: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Episode 239. Good Things Come in Small Packages: A Look at Small-Frame Cattle](#)



ATTRA EVENTS

Grazing Together: A Gathering for Grazing Wisdom and Shared Voices

June 24, 2025

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Join NCAT, Quivira Coalition, and Flower Hill Institute for this free, community-building event. This opportunity combines a listening session, educational workshop, and peer-to-peer networking for graziers in New Mexico.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Local Food Promotion Program

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is accepting applications for planning, implementation, and turnkey project grants up to \$500,000. Eligible applicants include agricultural businesses and cooperatives, food councils, local governments, producer networks or associations, regional farmers market authorities, and more.

Applications are due June 27, 2025.

Farmers Market Promotion Program

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is accepting applications from agricultural businesses and cooperatives, CSA networks and associations, nonprofits, local governments, producer networks and associations, and others for planning, implementation, and turnkey grants up to \$500,000.

Applications are due June 27, 2025.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

State departments of agriculture can apply to USDA for funding to carry out projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Applications are due by July 7, 2025.

DON'T MISS IT

Resilience and Resistance: Cross-Pollinating Food Movements

June 22-24, 2025

Portland, Oregon

Through 27 workshops, plenary talks from food system leaders, affinity groups, and action-planning sessions, attendees will gain valuable insights and practical strategies.

Small Farms Field Day

June 20, 2025

Greensboro, North Carolina

The event offers learning, networking, and hands-on experiences, with tracks for plant and animal agriculture, as well as a new program and resource track.

Field Day at Prairiesun Organics: Exploring Regenerative Organic Agriculture

June 20, 2025

Vermillion, South Dakota

South Dakota Specialty Producers Association presents practices for soil health analysis, land management, and plant and animal biodiversity, and resources for creating resilient farming systems.

IN THE NEWS

- Report Identifies Emerging Threats to Pollinators

On World Bee Day, Bee:wild, a new science-led global campaign to save pollinators, released Emerging Threats and Opportunities for Conservation of Global Pollinators, a report that identifies threats adding further pressure to populations already declining from habitat loss, climate change, and pesticides. These emerging threats include war and conflict, microplastic particles, artificial light at night, antibiotic pollution, air pollution, pesticide cocktails, and wildfires.

- Conservation Priority List Reports Status of Livestock Breeds

The Livestock Conservancy released its 2025 Conservation Priority List, which reports the status of more than 180 endangered agricultural livestock breeds, including cattle, chickens, donkeys, ducks, geese, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits, sheep, and turkeys. The annual list drives specific conservation programs, outreach efforts and promotion of heritage breeds.

- Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment Opens

USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through June 6, 2025. CRP provides financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10 to 15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat.

- Nutrient Additions Help Grassland Plants Survive Drought

An international study on how grasslands respond to extreme drought and increased nutrient availability found that fertilizer can help plants survive short-term periods of extreme drought. Field experiments at 26 sites across nine countries showed that while drought reduced plant growth, adding nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients increased plant growth enough to result in no net change. Study co-author Amber Churchill suggests that longer-term research could reveal

that the number of plant species present might be an even more important factor in helping grasslands survive drought.

- [**Practical Farmers of Iowa Announces Field Day Series**](#)

Practical Farmers of Iowa released the schedule for its [2025 Field Day Series](#), which will visit more than 60 farms across Iowa and also in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The free, farmer-to-farmer learning events are scheduled from June through November with topics including small grains, orcharding, grazing, agritourism, weed control, and more.

MORE NEWS

SUPPORT OUR WORK



Our Mission

NCAT advances solutions in regenerative agriculture and clean energy so both people and the land can flourish.

Contact

ncat@ncat.org
NCAT.ORG



[Privacy Policy](#)

[Subscription Preferences](#)