

# Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Overview

Leslie Glover  
OUAIP Program Manager

# Change or Transition?



# Urban Ag History

- Panic of 1893 – 430 acres fed 975 families
- WWI – 5 million ‘war gardens’ produced 528 million pound of food
- Great Depression –gardens fed 23 million households
- WWII – 20 million ‘victory gardens’ produced ½ the country’s produce
- Civil Rights Era– inspired grassroots movement for food justice and sovereignty



Chronicle File

WWII Victory Garden in San Francisco

# 1976 Urban Garden Program

Funded over \$23 million in projects in 16 cities with over 300,000 participants between 1976 thru 1993



# 1994 Urban Resources Partnership

Funded over 200 awards in  
13 cities worth \$20 million  
between 1994 thru 1999.



# 2018 Farm Bill History

- 2018 Farm Bill created the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)
- Secretary Fudge was instrumental in writing the legislation as Representative of Ohio's 11th District



# Background

---

- Under the leadership of Sec. Vilsack and Sec. Fudge, USDA expanded the services it offered in urban areas
- Cleveland Urban Hoop House Pilot Project



# Cleveland High Tunnel Initiative

---

- NRCS Chief Terry Cosby was the Ohio State Conservationist
- He was the first Conservationist to fund hoop houses in urban areas
- NRCS built more than 80 in the Cleveland area between 2011-2012



## Congress's Intent for the Office

- To be responsible for policy and program development.
- To use these grants to assist with costs
- Pilot projects not inhibit commercial food waste recovery efforts
- Projects consider the Food Recovery Hierarchy

# To Help People, We Must Reach People

---

- Success hinges on acceptance and engagement from local communities



# What is OUAIP?

**Urban Agriculture and  
Innovative Production Federal  
Advisory Committee**

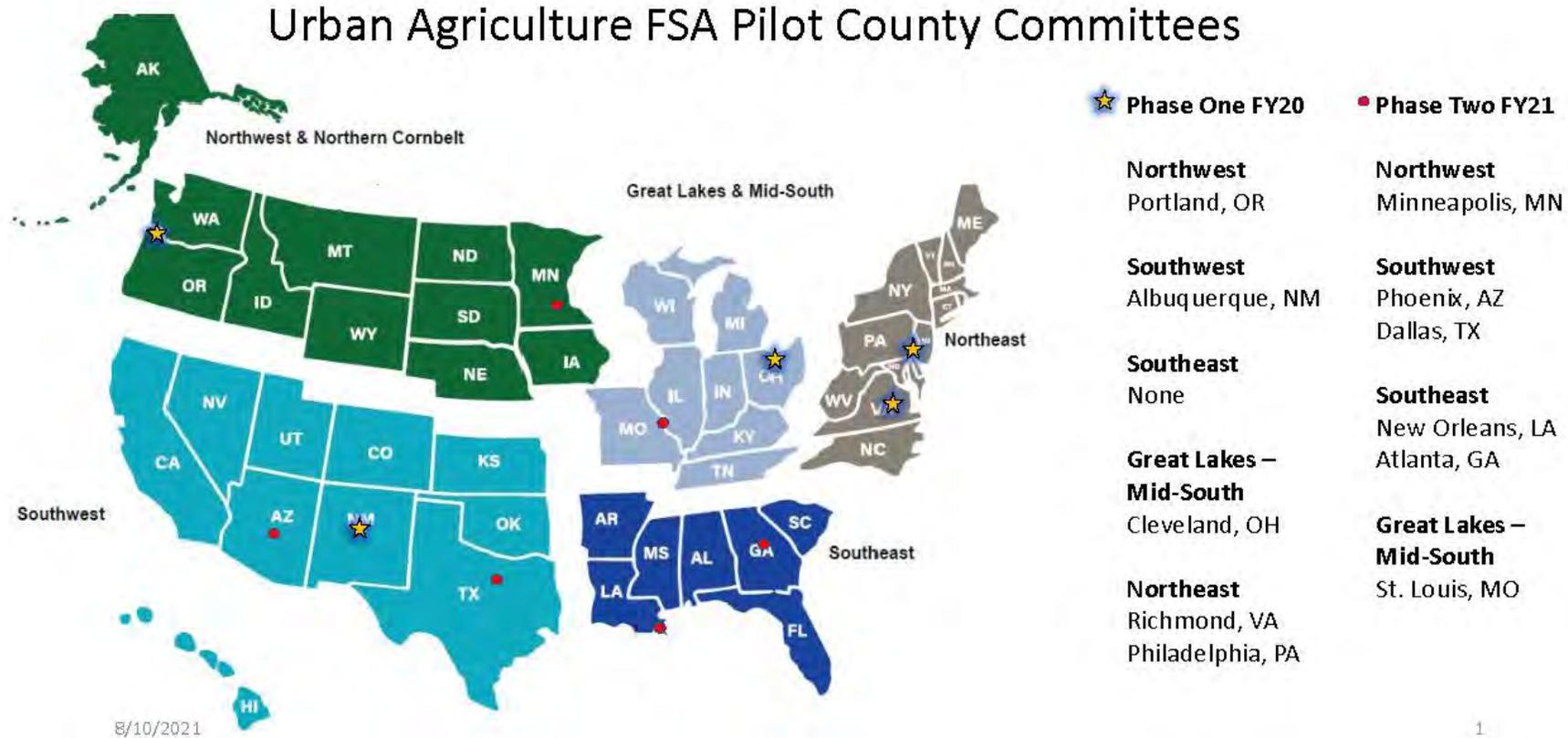
**Pilots: Urban and Suburban  
County Committees**

**Office of Urban Agriculture  
and Innovative Production**

**Pilot: Community Compost and  
Food Waste Reduction Projects**

**Urban Agriculture and  
Innovative Production (UAIP)  
Competitive Grants Program**

# Urban/Suburban County Committees



# Funding Opportunities

- Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements (CFWR)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants



# Composting and Food Waste Reduction Agreements

- Competitive process for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.
- Eligibility limited to entity types:
  - City or township governments
  - County governments
  - School Districts
  - Native American Tribal governments
  - Native American Tribal organizations
  - Special district governments
  - Municipal Governments



# Compost and Food Waste Reduction Agreements

- Funded 37 cooperative agreements worth \$3 million in 2020 and 2021 combined



# Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants

- Support planning and implementation projects
- Focus on urban and suburban areas where access to fresh foods is limited or unavailable.
- Eligible applicants:
  - nonprofit organizations
  - units of local government
  - tribal governments
  - schools that serve grades K-12



# Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants

- Funded 31 competitive grants worth \$7.77 million in 2020 and 2021 combined



## Other Responsibilities

- Advising the Secretary...
- Managing programs for community gardens...
- Coordinating with agencies and officials of the USDA...
- Engaging stakeholders and developing partnerships...
- Facilitating community garden and local food bank ties...
- Collaborating with other Federal agencies...

# USDA Internal Advisory Committee (IAC)

In February 2020 then FPAC Undersecretary Bill Northey established the IAC to:

- ensure collaboration across the Department
- develop recommendations on policy for USDA leadership
- provide guidance to the Designated Federal Official for the Federal Advisory Committee

# UAIP Advisory Committee Overview

Tammy Willis, UAIP Advisory Committee Coordinator

# The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 also known as the 2018 Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill opened the door for USDA to deepen its commitment to be a Department for the People. Through the Farm Bill, USDA will help the people in urban and suburban communities to improve their relationship with food and the environment.



# Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC)

## 12 Members:

- 2 individuals who are urban agricultural producers
- 2 individuals who are innovative producers
- 2 representatives from an institution of higher education
- 1 individual who represents a nonprofit organization
- 1 individual who represents business and economic development
- 1 individual with supply chain experience
- 1 individual from a financing entity
- 2 individuals with related experience or expertise in urban, emerging agriculture production practices



## 2 individuals who are urban agricultural producers



Bobby Wilson  
Owner and Operator  
Metro Atlanta Urban Farm



Jerry Ann Hebron  
Executive Director  
Northend Christian

## 2 individuals who are innovative producers



Kaben Smallwood  
President and CEO  
Symbiotic Aquaponic



Viraj Puri  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Gotham Greens

## 2 representatives from an institution of higher education



John Erwin  
Professor and Chair  
University of Maryland



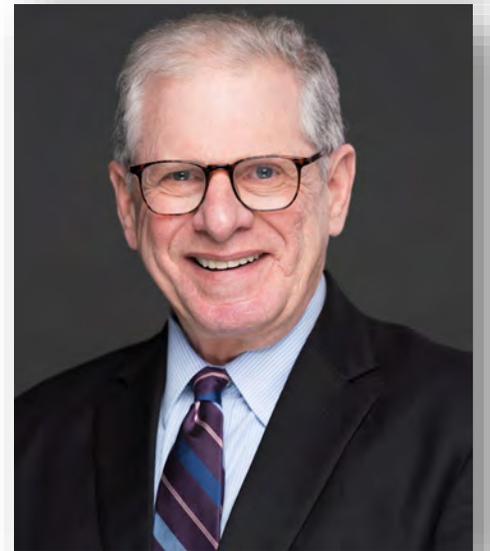
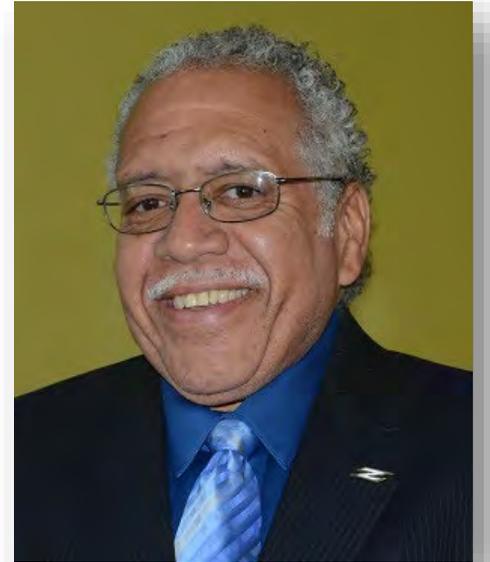
Sally Brown  
Research Professor  
University of Washington

## 1 individual who represents a nonprofit organization

- Dr. Carl Wallace  
Chief Operating Officer  
Abundant Life Farm

## 1 individual who represents business and economic development

- John Lebeaux  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)



## 1 individual with supply chain experience

- Zachari Curtis  
Operations Director  
Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.

## 1 individual from a financing entity

- Allison Paap  
Vice President-Lending Manger  
American AgCredit



2 individuals with related experience or expertise in urban, emerging agriculture production practices



Angela Mason  
Senior Director  
Shangri La Botanical  
Garden and Nature Center



Tara Chadwick  
Urban Farmer/Producer  
Home Beautiful Park Civic  
Association

# Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC)

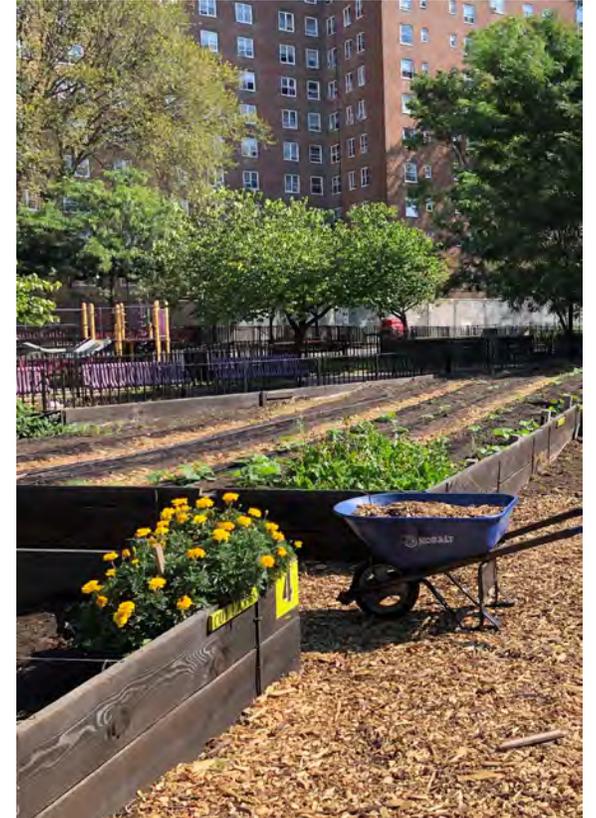
## The Committee Initial Appointments:

- 4 of the members have been appointed to a term of 3 years;
- 4 of the members have been be appointed for a term of 2 years; and
- 4 of the members have been appointed for a term of 1 year.
- Vacancies on the Committee will be posted on <https://www.farmers.gov/urban>
- Vacancies will be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

# Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC)

## Committee Duties:

- Develop recommendations and advise the Director
- Evaluate and review ongoing research
- Identify new and existing barriers
- Provide additional assistance to the Director as appropriate.



# Designated Federal Official (DFO) Role and Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act Data Base (FACA-DB)
- Call, attend, and adjourn committee meetings;
- Approve agendas;
- Maintain required records on costs and membership;
- Maintain records for availability to the public; and
- Provide copies of committee reports to the Committee Management Officer.

# UAIPAC Chair, Role and Responsibilities

- Leadership: understand FACA requirements, ethics, bylaws, key issues, etc.
- Knows the agenda and agency-needs more than any other member
- Help identify fact-finding needs
- Problems with members
- Certify minutes within 90 calendar days

# UAIPAC Vice Chair, Role and Responsibilities

- Chair Committee meetings when the Chairperson is unavailable
- Serve as a member of the Committee
- Serve as a member of subcommittee(s)
- Help maintain the Committee Operating Procedure Guide

# Urban Agriculture Toolkit and UAIPAC Feedback

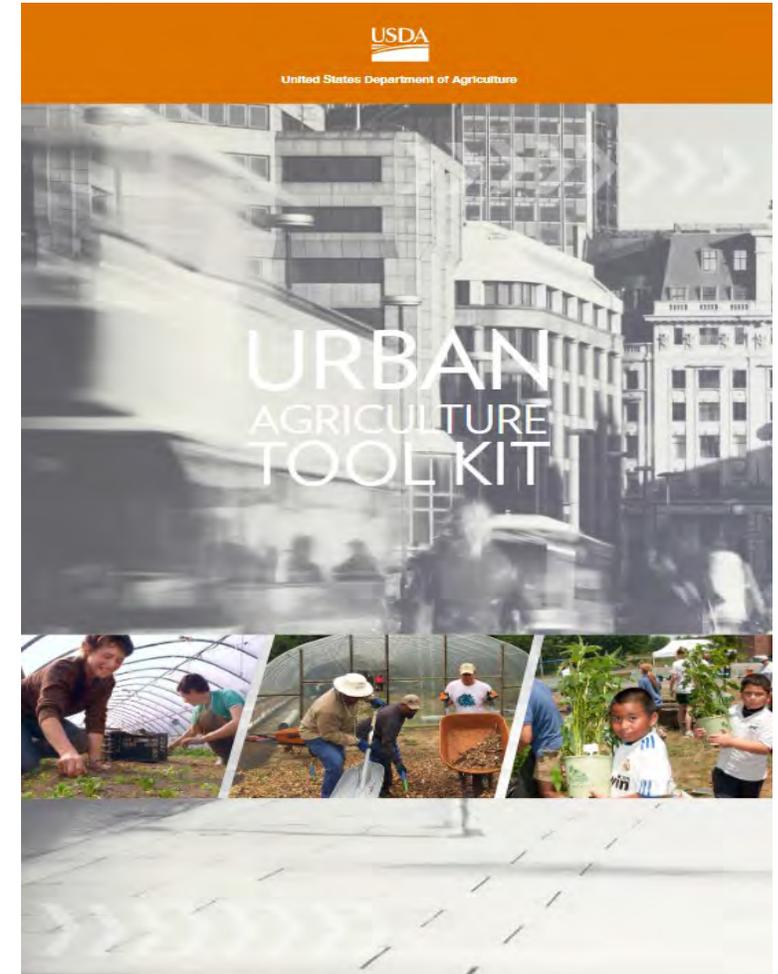
Havala Schumacher, OUAIP

Suzanne Pender, Farm Production and Conservation

# Toolkit: Prior Approach

---

- USDA Urban Ag Toolkit 1.0:
  - 18-page PDF
  - Large number of external links:
    - Challenging to validate non-USDA links
    - Resource was often printed, limiting the use of links



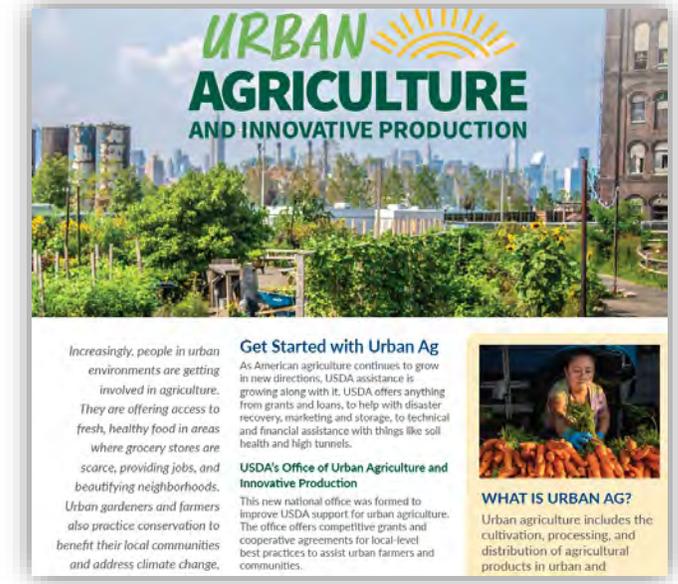
# Toolkit 2.0

## Quick-reference guides:

- Get Started (new) →
- UAIP Grants (new)
- Federal Advisory Committee (new)
- Composting and Food Waste Reduction (existing)

## Urban Agriculture At-a-Glance

- 6-7 pages
- Focus on key USDA resources available to urban producers and to others who want to support urban food systems



# Toolkit 2.0

---

## Website updates:

- Enhancements to **Farmers.gov/urban** to focus specifically on urban producers
- Develop new **USDA.gov/urban** website focusing on non-producer urban agriculture resources and USDA organizational information

# Approach Taken

---

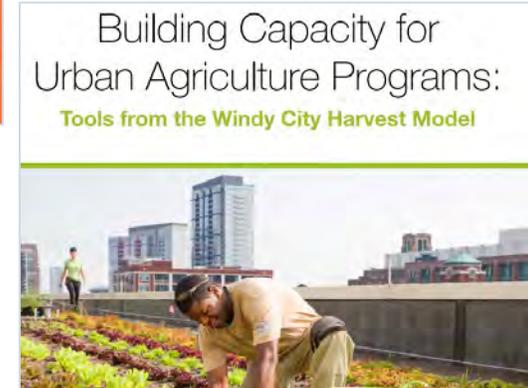
- Compile and re-organize resources gathered through:
  - Input provided by USDA counterparts
  - Existing toolkit and other USDA resources
- Organize these resources:
  - What can they be used for?
  - Who are they most useful to?
  - Where should information about them be accessed?

# Approach Taken

- Avoid duplication of other Toolkits:
  - [US Forest Service Urban Forestry Toolkit](#)
  - [US Botanical Gardens Urban Agriculture Toolkit](#)
  - [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\) How-To Guide](#)



- Focus FIRST on what USDA can provide our urban customers



# We Asked...

---

- Is this resource *directly relevant* to urban producers?
- Do the webpages for these resources clearly communicate to target audiences?
- What are our customers looking for when they visit one of our offices or websites?  
Are there barriers to entry that we can address in our communications?

# Urban Ag At-A-Glance

- Details about programs to help with financing, marketing, selling, and getting technical assistance.
- Description, type of program, and who it is most relevant to.
- Separate section for operations at the rural-urban interface

## FUNDING

**Producers** – Includes resources for farms and gardens run by individuals and those run by community organizations, school groups, non-profits, and other entities.

**Food System Partnerships** – Include resources for organizations and collaborative partnerships focused on food system issues.

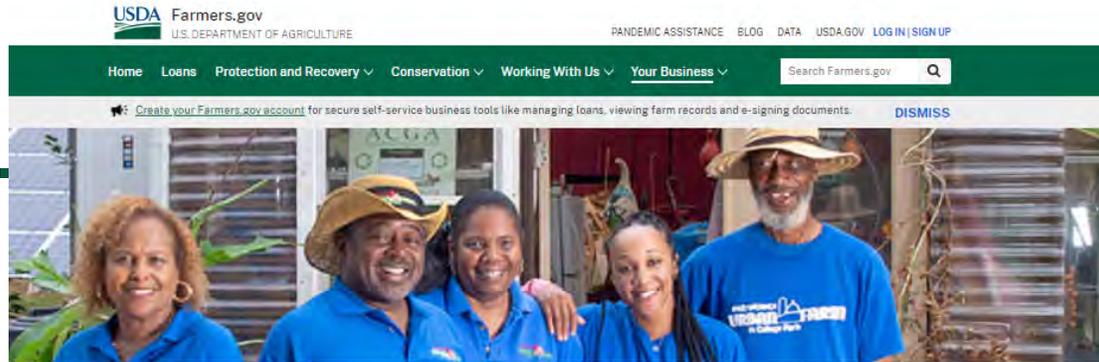
### Financing Your Farm

PROGRAM	AGENCY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PRODUCERS	PARTNERS
FARM LOAN PROGRAMS	FSA	Loans	Provide access to capital, either directly from FSA or through a third-party lender. Farm Ownership loans can help you purchase and improve land and Operating Loans can be used for other farm expenses such as fertilizer, labor, and equipment. Microloans are particularly beneficial for the unique needs of urban farms.	◆	
URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION GRANTS	NRCS	Grants	Initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and others in urban areas. Fund projects that improve local food access, support farmer infrastructure, or increase production of urban farms or food forests.	◆	◆
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM	RD	Loan to intermediary lenders who provide guaranteed loans to individuals.	RD can help producers find guaranteed financing for developing land, buildings, equipment, supplies and infrastructure. Projects may be funded in either rural or urban areas under the Local and Regional Food System Initiative.	◆	

### On-Farm Guidance and Innovation

PROGRAM	AGENCY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PRODUCERS	PARTNERS
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS	NRCS	Financial Assistance, Free Guidance	Provides technical and financial assistance for conservation practices, including high and low tunnels, soil health management systems, composting, irrigation and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat.	◆	
CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	NRCS	Grants	Supports development of new approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation.	◆	◆
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	NIFA	Technical Guidance	The Cooperative Extension System (CES), a partnership between USDA, local and state governments, and the nation's land grant university system provides education and outreach to farmers, ranchers, hobbyists, and communities of all sizes.	◆	◆

## Current Farmers.gov/Urban page



### Urban Agriculture Grants and Engagement Opportunities

Urban agriculture generally refers to the cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban settings, including things like vertical production, warehouse farms, community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and other innovations. Urban farmers and gardeners work among diverse populations to expand access to nutritious foods, foster community engagement, provide jobs, educate communities about farming, and expand green spaces.

- [Sign up for E-mail updates on Urban Agriculture](#)
- [Farmers.gov Blog: Urban Farming Posts](#)

#### On This Page

- ♥ [How to Get Funding](#)
- ♥ [How to Get Involved](#)
- ♥ [Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)
- ♥ [Resources & News](#)

### How to Get Funding

Grants and cooperative agreements are awarded annually.

#### Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production Competitive Grants

These grants initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

[Visit the Grant Projects webpage](#) for recipient lists, factsheets, webinars, and the latest news about urban grants.

#### Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreements

Cooperative agreements assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities will increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

[Visit the Cooperative Agreements webpage](#) for recipient lists, factsheets, webinars, and the latest news about urban cooperative agreements.

### How to Get Involved

Feedback from farmers is crucial to USDA's success, and USDA is working on two different networks to gather input and information.

#### Federal Advisory Committee

This committee will be composed of agricultural producers and industry professionals who will advise the USDA on policies and outreach. Nominations were due on March 5, 2021.

#### Learn How to Apply

- February 1, 2022 News Release: [USDA Announces Inaugural Federal Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture](#)
- January 6, 2020 News Release: [USDA Seeks Members for Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture](#)
- [Federal Register Notice](#)

#### Urban and Suburban County Committees

USDA has 11 selected Farm Service Agency County Committees focused on urban agriculture. Farmers who serve on committees help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and ensure the programs serve the needs of local producers. Learn more about these committees at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](#).

#### FSA County Committees News and Resources

- June 22, 2021 News Release: [Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for County Committee Members](#)
- General questions about these FSA county committees can be sent to [UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov).

### USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

The 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to create the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) to better focus on the needs of urban farmers. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) leads the USDA-wide office, including

# Planned Website Update: [Farmers.gov/urban](https://farmers.gov/urban)

---

- Producer-focused
- Will include specific sections for:
  - Starting, financing, and protecting a farm
  - Acquiring guidance and technical assistance
  - Marketing or selling products.
- Resources for specific groups (community groups, schools, and others)

# Website Update: [USDA.gov/urban](https://www.usda.gov/urban)

---

- Public - focused

## Will Include:

- Training/guidance for groups and communities
- Resources for strengthening local and regional food systems
- Programs (like WIC) designed to directly improve access to healthy foods

# Tell Us!

---

- What information does your community need most from USDA?
- How can we better inform urban producers about our assistance?
- What other kinds of tools should we add to our Toolkit?
- What has been your experience when asking USDA about Urban Ag resources? Are there barriers to entry that we can address?
- We've taken recent steps to update our websites. Let us know – how can we be even more accessible, clear, and easy to understand?

# OUAIP Contact Information

---

Leslie Glover, Program Manager, [leslie.glover@usda.gov](mailto:leslie.glover@usda.gov)

Tammy Willis, UAIP Advisory Committee Coordinator, [tammy.willis@usda.gov](mailto:tammy.willis@usda.gov)

Havala Schumacher, Management Analyst, [havala.schumacher@usda.gov](mailto:havala.schumacher@usda.gov)

Suzanne Pender, Strategic Communications, [suzanne.pender@usda.gov](mailto:suzanne.pender@usda.gov)

General OUAIP Staff Email Box: [UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov)

# Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture Grant

Bradley Rein, National Science Liaison  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



## RESEARCH

Provides answers to complex issues facing our nation and our world



## EDUCATION

Strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers and citizens.

## EXTENSION

Takes knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it the most.

## Pub. L. 101-624, title XVI, §1672E. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

### (a) COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED:

- In consultation with the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee established under section 222(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994
- Secretary may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of facilitating the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural
- production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets
- including by – (next slide)

- “(1) assessing and developing strategies to remediate contaminated sites;
- “(2) determining and developing the best production management and integrated pest management practices;
- “(3) identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production;
- “(4) analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs;
- “(5) exploring new technologies that minimize energy, lighting systems, water, and other inputs for increased food production;
- “(6) examining building material efficiencies and structural upgrades for the purpose of optimizing growth of agricultural products;
- “(7) developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets; or
- “(8) examining the impacts of crop exposure to urban elements on environmental quality and food safety.

# Preparation for Advisory Committee Consultation

- Solicit stakeholder input on most critical and urgent research education and extension needs to support urban, indoor, and emerging agriculture through Federal Register Notice and four Listening Sessions
- Analyze results of stakeholder input of most critical and urgent needs
- Prepare draft request for applications based on stakeholder input and SEC. 172E. authorization guidelines

# UIE Federal Register Notice [FR Doc 2020-08402](#)

- Developed NIFA webpage with information on the new urban agriculture initiative, link to the Federal Register Notice (FRN), and links to related NIFA and USDA programs
- Published FRN 04/21/2020 with written comments due by 06/22/2020
- Stakeholders were given the authorizing language Pub. L. 101–624, title XVI, § 1672E(a). They were asked to prioritize the food system stages (production through marketing) and which of the 8 priority areas listed in the authorization have the most urgent unmet needs that could be addressed through research, extension and/or education.

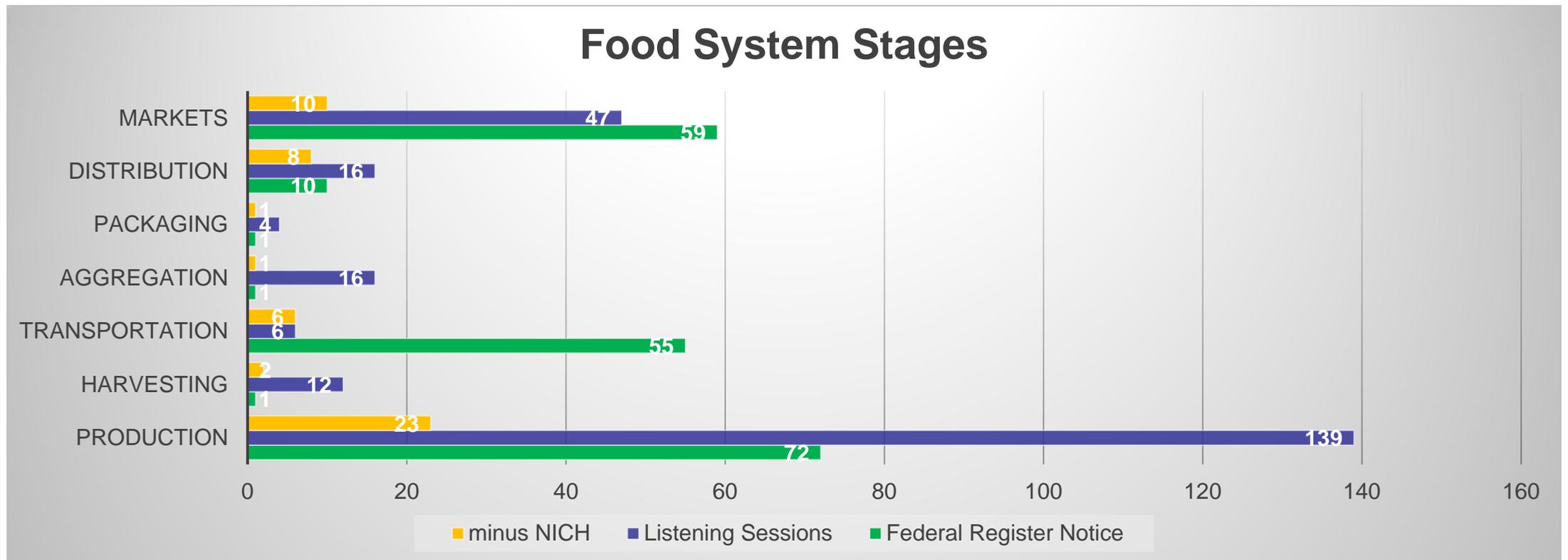
**Question # 1** Considering agricultural production through marketing; which phase has the greatest and most urgent research, education and Extension needs in developing urban and indoor agriculture?

- (a) Agricultural Production
- (b) Harvesting
- (c) Transportation
- (d) Aggregation
- (e) Packaging
- (f) Distribution
- (g) Markets

**Question #2:** Of the eight priorities listed below, which priority has the greatest and most urgent REE need in developing urban and indoor agriculture that is not being adequately addressed in other Federal REE programs?

- (1) assessing and developing strategies to remediate contaminated sites;
- (2) determining and developing the best production management and integrated pest management practices;
- (3) identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production;
- (4) analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs;
- (5) exploring new technologies that minimize energy, lighting systems, water, and other inputs for increased food production;
- (6) examining building material efficiencies and structural upgrades for the purpose of optimizing growth of agricultural products;
- (7) developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets; or
- (8) examining the impacts of crop exposure to urban elements on environmental quality and food safety.

**Question # 1** Considering agricultural production through marketing; which phase has the greatest and most urgent REE needs in developing urban and indoor agriculture?

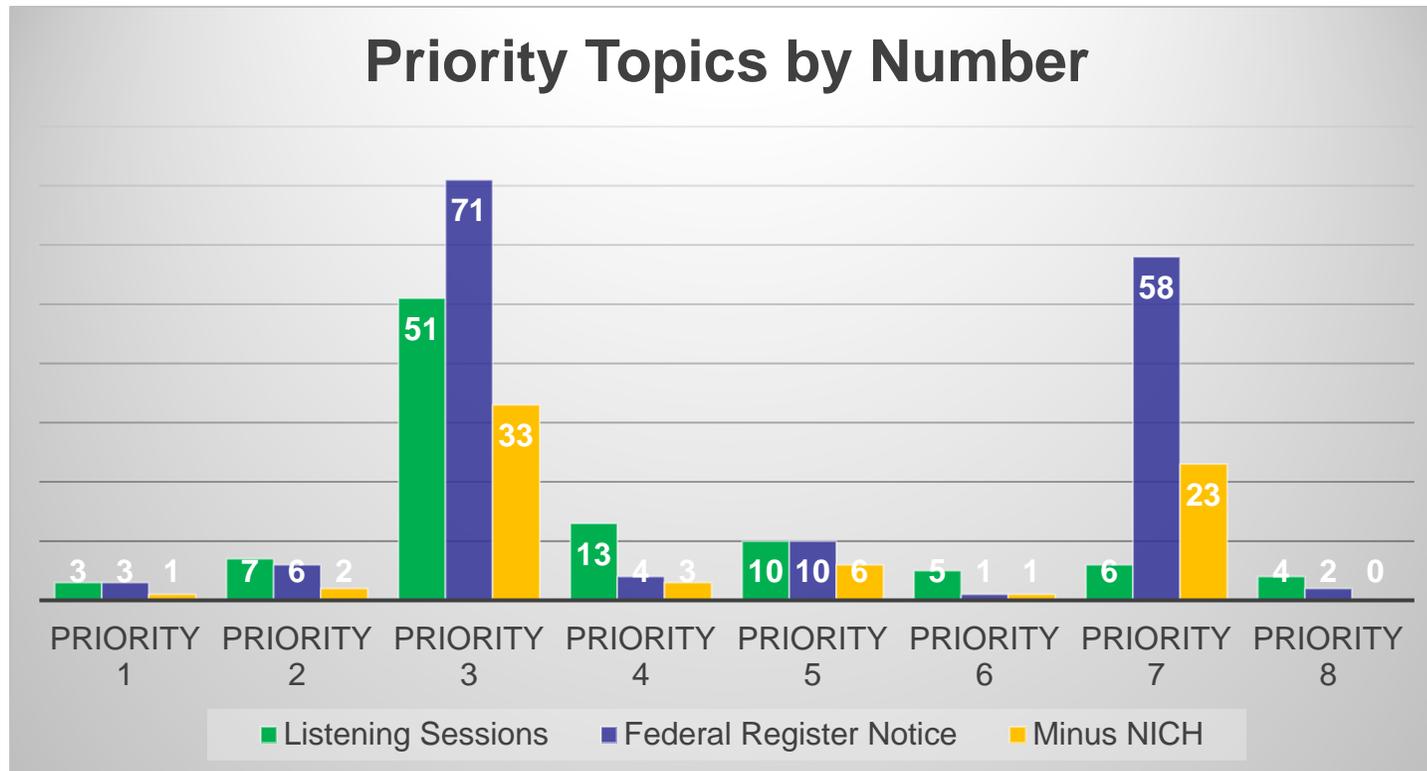


**Question #2:** Of the eight priorities listed in the authorization, which priority has the greatest and most urgent REE need in developing urban and indoor agriculture that is not being adequately addressed in other Federal REE programs.

(3) identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production

(4) analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs

(7) developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets



# Eligible Applicants in Authorization

- Applications may only be submitted by the following entities:
  - (A) State agricultural experiment stations;
  - (B) colleges and universities;
  - (C) university research foundations;
  - (D) other research institutions and organizations;
  - (E) Federal agencies;
  - (F) national laboratories;
  - (G) private organizations, foundations, or corporations;
  - (H) individuals; or
  - (I) any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

# NIFA Competitive Funding Attributes

## Integrity

Authorization compliant

Purpose and priorities

Fairness/screen conflicts of interest

Reviewer confidentiality

## Quality

Peer review

3 reviews/application minimum

Peer rating and ranking

Evaluation process and criteria

## Applicant Support

Program fit guidance

Applicant webinars

Reviews and summaries

Stakeholder input



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

# Questions & Comments

Brad Rein PE  
National Science Liaison  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
Email: [brein@usda.gov](mailto:brein@usda.gov)

# Meeting Adjourned

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

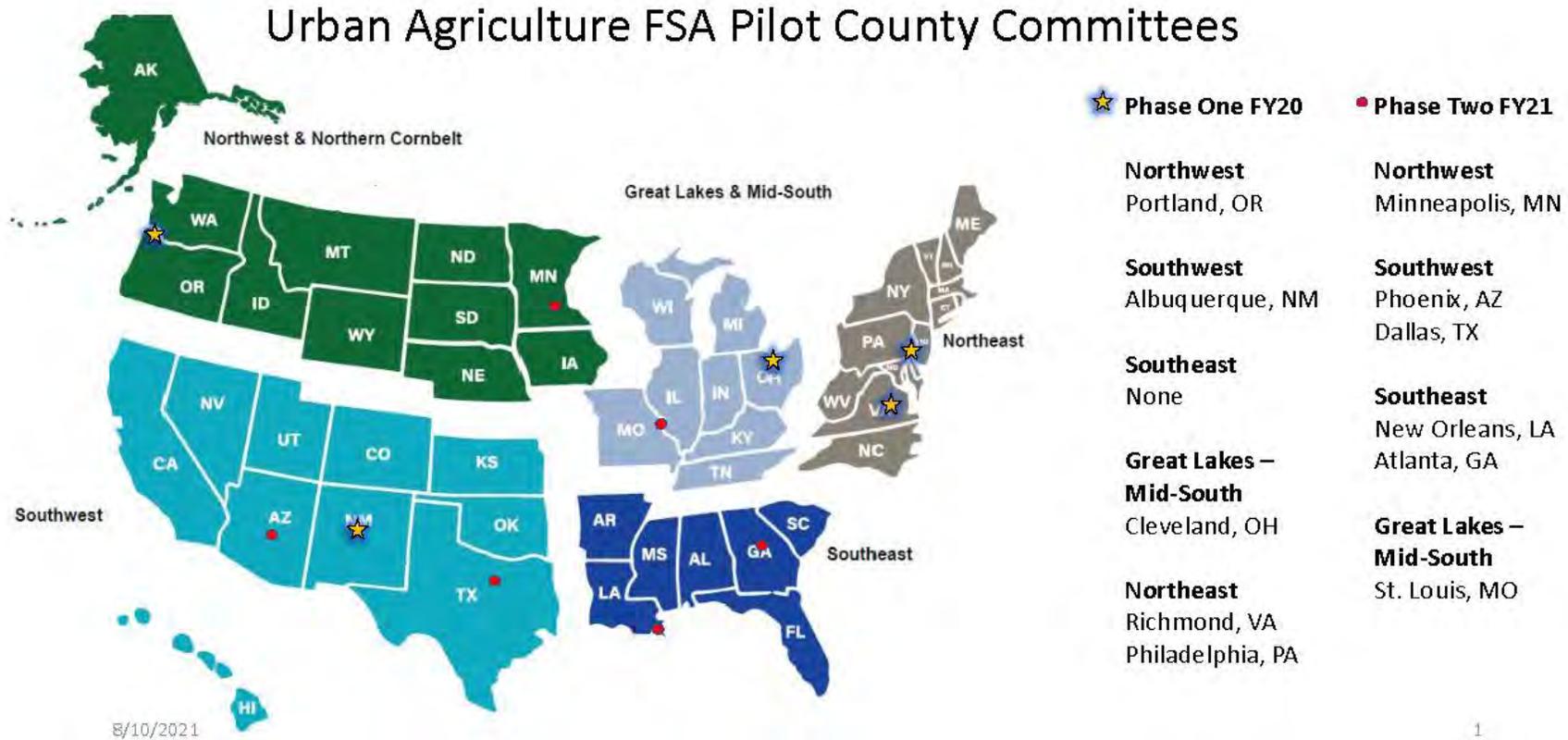
<https://www.farmers.gov/urban>

# Urban County Committees and Service Centers

Jenna Segal, FSA

Arthur Hawkins, OUAIP

# Urban/Suburban County Committees



## Urban County Committee Roles

- Outreach to local Stakeholders to promote USDA programs.
- Understand Programs within USDA and how they impact the producers.
- Identify the needs of the growing urban agriculture market within the defined urban area.
- Engage with a new customer base.
- Make recommendations on training needs.

# Urban Service Center Establishment



Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Contact Information

---

Jenna Segal, Acting Urban Agriculture Lead, Farm Service Agency  
[jenna.segal@usda.gov](mailto:jenna.segal@usda.gov)

Arthur Hawkins, Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production  
[arthur.hawkins@usda.gov](mailto:arthur.hawkins@usda.gov)

# Closing Remarks

- April 1<sup>st</sup> public comment overflow session
- Next meeting details will be posted at [www.farmers.gov/urban](http://www.farmers.gov/urban)
- Contact the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Committee members at:
  - [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov) or
  - Find their email addresses at [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov)

# Thank you for attending

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

<https://www.farmers.gov/urban>