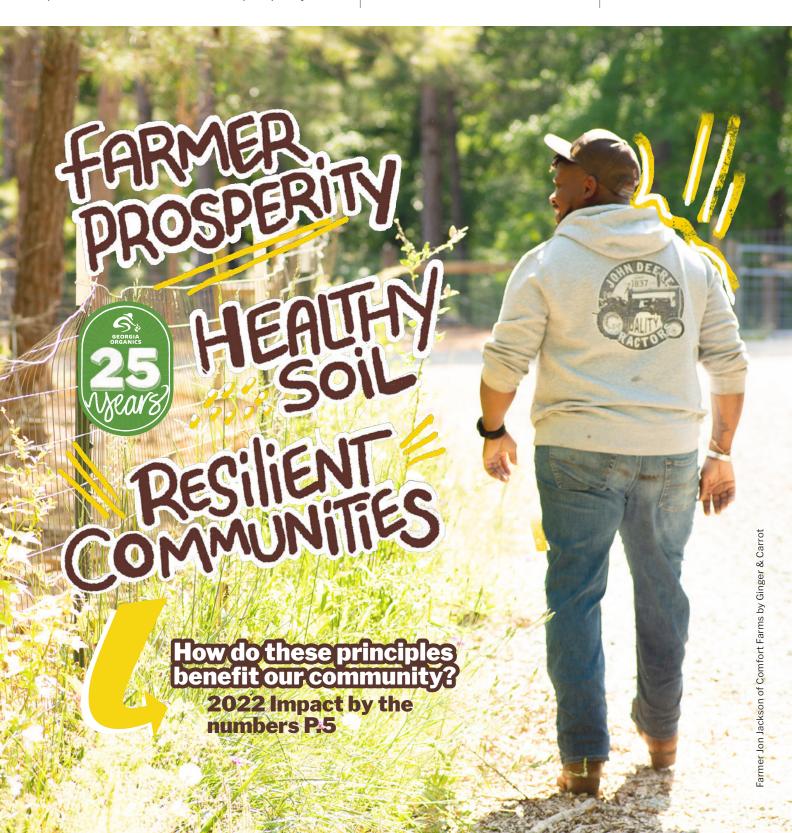


THEDIRT

Defining & Measuring Success 2022 Impact Report and the next era of farmer prosperity P. 5 **Annual Awards**Pollinator & Land Steward P. 4

Farmer Services Resources P. 9-11





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You make our impact possible. Thank you!

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Thank you to all of our Members, funders, and partners for your participation and support!

Current as of March 1, 2023.



Contact: Emmy Carter, Fundraising Manager at emmy@georgiaorganics.org

Join or donate at: bit.ly/supportgo

Dear Farmers and Friends,

We have rounded the bend from our very successful 2023 Annual Conference in February - the first in three years! While we had anticipated a smaller crowd, we were thrilled to convene nearly 500 people from Georgia and across the South! Everyone - the farmers, advocates, chefs, business and nonprofit partners, volunteers, and supporters - seemed to relish this reunion based on the numerous Cheshire cat grins on display.

We had an array of amazing speakers and exhibitors, an awesome art deco Farmers Feast and Awards Ceremony, and an unforgettable keynote from "Mama K" Karen Washington, who moved many of us to tears.

It is always a surreal period after Conference. We are exhausted but inspired as we sprint into our "regularly scheduled" goals and objectives for the year. But before we do that, we want to stop and thank you for being part of this incredible local and organic farm and food movement. Take a look at the enclosed 2022 Impact Report. Each statistic and dollar highlighted is more than a number – it represents an action taken and an investment toward a future rooted in soil health, farmer prosperity, and resilient communities. None of this can happen unless people share these values and want to create positive change together.

A perfect example of this is the recent disaster relief response for Winter Storm Elliott. In just two months, our community contributed \$230,000 to The Farmer Fund to support farmers devastated by December's deep freeze. We want to thank all of our donors and funders, as well as our partners - Food Well Alliance, Wholesome Wave Georgia, Common Market. Community Farmers Markets, and The Conservation Fund, who collaborated to raise funds and awareness on behalf of so many farmers.

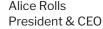


We are not slowing down -2023 promises to be even more fruitful! To grow the pipeline of new farmers, we just launched a new Farmer Apprenticeship Program with six new apprentices who will be mentored by experienced organic farmers and paid to learn and practice regenerative farming. We have launched our third cohort of Farmer Accelerator farmers, all ten who will receive cash investments and 16 months of personalized consulting and support. And finally, we are kicking off a second year of Family Farm Share in Southeast Georgia to provide families with low-cost, weekly farm fresh food boxes through early care center partners.

Again, thank you for caring. Your support is making a huge difference for our farmers and our greater food community. If I learned anything at Conference this year, it's that our spirit and tenacity are all we need to keep changing the tide of food and agriculture in this country.

In gratitude,

Alice Rolls



Georgia Organics President & CEO Alice Rolls with keynote speaker Karen Washington, and Brennan and Gwendolyn **Washington from Phoenix** Gardens during the 2023 Gerorgia **Organics Conference. Photo by** Jenna Shea Photojournalism

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P.S. - Want more good news? ATTACK IS BACK!

Join us on Sunday, July 30 for the 12th annual Attack of the Killer Tomato Festival - a high-energy food and beverage tasting with over 35 of the Southeast's top chefs and bartenders!

Annual Awards 500

Land Steward Award

Created in 1997, this award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to Georgia's organic agriculture movement. Land Steward award winners represent the farmer, ag. professional, or researcher with significant commitments to the tenets of organic agriculture, inc. soil fertility, biodiversity, on-farm recycling, and water quality.

Pollinator Award

Created in 2009, the Barbara Petit Pollinator Award is named after Georgia Organics' President from 2003-2009, Barbara Petit. Petit passed away in 2015, but her legacy of service, leadership, and community advocacy lives on through this award.





Roast & Toast Annual Awards Celebration recognizing Land Steward Award winners Juan Carlos Díaz-Pérez (2022) with Chris Jackson (2021) and Pollinator Award winners Robby Astrove (2022) and Brennan and Gwendolyn Washington (2021). Photos by Jenna Shea Photojournalism.

Farmer Champion Awards

Farmer Champion Awards recognize the culinary professionals who go above and beyond to demonstrate their commitment to local procurement from Georgia farmers.

What is Farmer Champion?

The Georgia Organics Farmer Champion campaign brings together local farmers and culinary professionals to increase sustainable and organic purchasing from Georgia producers.



Georgia Organics 2023 Annual Award Winners

LAND STEWARD **AWARD**

Mary Rigdon of Decimal Place Farm

BARBARA PETIT POLLINATOR AWARD

Bobby Wilson of Metro Atlanta Urban Farm & Fred Conrad of Food Well Alliance

We were thrilled to recognize these incredible folks at the Farmers Feast during the 2023 Georgia Organics Conference & Expo on Friday, Feb 17!

Check out our blog and e-newsletter, The Dirt for winner spotlights.

thedirt.georgiaorganics.org



Right Conference attendees enjoy a meal prepared by Avalon Catering at the 2023 Farmers Feast and Annual Awards at the historic Muse Theatre. Fred Conrad (bottom left), Bobby Wilson (bottom middle), and Mary Rigdon (bottom right) accept their awards. Photos by Jenna Shea Photojournalism.







2022 Farmer Champion Awards

Top 3 Organic Spend: Little Bear, Talat Market, Miller Union Top 3 Local Spend: Little Bear, Evergreen Butcher and Baker, The Deer and The Dove 2022 Community Award: Farm Burger













Georgia Organics 2022 Impact Report

Our impact is made possible by your support! Join or donate at bit.ly/supportgo

2022 marked the launch of our latest five-year Strategic Plan, aligning our work with four goal areas: Farmer Prosperity, Resilient Local Food Movement, Impact Capital, and Strong G.O.

These themes serve as guideposts for 2022 metrics from our current programs and initiatives: Farmer Services, Family Farm Share, Farmer Champion, Farm to School, and Farmer Advocacy.

Farmer Prosperity

Fostering farmer prosperity through one-on-one long-term support, farmer field days, webinars, technical assistance, organic cost-share, and strategic capital invesment like our Farmer Accelerator, Apprenticeship, and Kaiser Bridge healthcare programs.

Farmer Gervicer

For monthly news & resources from Farmer Services, subscribe to Grower News bit.ly/growernews

2021-2022 Farmer Accelerator Cohort:

10

10 Georgia farms participated

\$86k

\$86,600 in total infrastructure investments in 46 projects

11%

Farmers reported an almost 11% average increase in annual farm income 83%

83% of farmers cite physical, mental, and time-saving benefits

2023 Accelerator Cohort: 45 farms applied; 7 farms selected

Cooperative Purchasing

Farmer members saved an estimated **\$4,100** on harvest containers, post-harvest totes, and Winstrip trays by participating in Farmer Services' Cooperative Purchasing.

Kaiser Bridge Health Insurance

5 returning and 8 new farmers enrolled in health insurance; **87%** of participating farmers identify as BIPOC. Healthcare cost savings for participating farmers: **\$78,000**.

Farmer Education

10 Farmer Field Days,

workshops, webinars, and Accelerator events with over 130 attendees.

Explore Farmer Membership at georgiaorganics.org/membership

Resilient Local Food Movement



Waycross Family Farm Share Pilot

For 24 weeks, Family Farm share supplied 123 families a low-cost share of fresh food featuring produce, eggs, bread and value-added items sourced from 12 Waycross area producers.

Waycross sessions resume in 2023 with grant-funded expansion to follow.

Key local partners:









Bringing together bakeries, butcheries, cafes, restaurants, and (new in '22!) early care & education centers to increase sustainable and organic purchasing from Georgia producers.

5163k

With 4 weeks of invoices from 2022 Farmer Champion establishments, Georgia Organics verified over \$163,000 was spent with local farmers

Second annual Farmer Champion Week

26 Farmer Champions sold over 1,600 dishes spotlighting locally-sourced okra and peppers.

Farmer & Buver Mixer

17 individuals from 9 different Georgia businesses attended; 76% of attendees identified as BIPOC, womxn, and/or LGBTQIA+ folks.

Farmer Champion Ambassadors

21 chefs and farmers recruited, 29% of **Farmer Champion Ambassadors identify as** BIPOC, womxn, and/or LGBTQIA+ folks.

Our nationally-recognized Farm to School and Farm to Early Care programs work daily to expand the engagement of children with local, healthy food in their cafeterias and classrooms.

October Farm to School Month: Spinach to Win It!

engaged over 700,000 Georgia students

The Week of the **Child** in partnership with University of West Georgia, we connected with and provided educational kits

Farmers Market Connections

to over 400 families.

Over 600 Columbus-area students participated in farm tours, farmer markets, and agriculture lessons.

To learn more about this work and other **Community Collaboration initiatives, sign** up for our e-newsletter, The Dirt,

at bit.lv/thedirtsignup



Georgia Organics' Farmer Advocacy work officially launched in 2022.

Surveyed 128 farmers on their priorities in national and local agriculture policies and practices, in partnership with Listen4Good.

Hosted USDA Undersecretary Jennifer Moffitt for listening sessions with local farmers.

Organic Week 2022 (D.C.)

Engaged four lawmakers and/or staffers on organic priorities including Representatives Austin Scott, David Scott, and Rick Allen, and Senator Raphael Warnock.

Hosted, toured and interviewed two Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture candidates at Love is Love Cooperative Farm.



Impact Capital

\$215,000

Over \$215,000 invested directly in organic farmers and regional food systems with 50% of impact capital distributed in support of **BIPOC-identifying farmers.**

\$8.100 in infrastructure investment in cold chain and food safety equipment.

Strong G.O.

Defining organizational health through commitments to racial equity, community convening, and workplace wellness.

Over \$43,000 spent with BIPOC vendors and contractors.

Roast & Toast marked our first gathering in over two years with a hog roast and locally-sourced, Farmer Champion-prepared feast to celebrate Annual Awardees and Farmer Champions.

Other gatherings included a Cast Iron & Collards Society: Cocktails & Conversations member event, a Farmer Mixer and an extraordinary 25th Anniversary Dinner with Alice Waters.

In February 2023, we're thrilled for the return of our favorite gathering...Georgia Organics' Conference & Expo!

Top Accelerator farmers Whitney Jaye & Brandon Stephens (with their littlest farmer) of Sunbird Flowers. Photo by Kiyah C. Photography **Bottom** Snapfinger Farm tour lead by farmer Rahul Anand during Roast & Toasst. Photo by Jenna Moble Photojournalism.



Our impact is made possible by your support! Join or donate at bit.ly/supportgo



FarmerGervicer

Year in Review

Farmer Services Programming

in savings from one Cooperative Bulk Purchase (25 farms saved over 19%)

\$86K

in strategic capital investment

Coaching hours

Accelerator networking events

farmers attended six Farmer Field Days across Georgia

Buyer/farmer tour for **Farmer Champions**

webinar featuring an all-female farming panel

Kaiser Bridge farmers received free healthcare for one year

team members now make up the Farmer Services team

Farmer Services Team

Lauren Cox Ain Chike Meg Darnell Lydia Hsu Kayla Williams



Top Right Attendees of September Farmer Field Day at PolyCulture Production (@ polycultureproduction) upstage tractor - KUBOTA LA463 Front End Loader. Photo by M.F. Espinoza



On the Horizon

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Accelerator Launch Kaiser Bridge Health Insurance Enrollment	 2023 Georgia Organics Conference (Perry, GA) 1st Meeting of Georgia's Certified Organic Network (GCON) Apprentice Program Meet and Greets
MARCH	APRIL
 Farmer Member Cooperative Purchase Farmer Fund Informational Meeting 	 GCON* virtual meet-up Farmer Fund Preparedness Farm Visits Accelerator Farm Visits
MAY	JUNE
 Farmer Fund Preparedness Field Day Apprentice Program begins! 2024 Conference planning begins! 	 Integrative Pest Management Farmer Field Day Apprenticeship Program continues

Programming for Farmer Members

Georgia Organics is focused on supporting farmers with more direct Farmer Services and continuing to build a portfolio of offerings that meet farmers where they're at.



One-on-one long-term support

- Accelerator Program
- Apprenticeship Program
- Family Farm Share Program



One-on-one short-term support

- Kaiser Bridge
- Organic Certification
 Technical Assistance

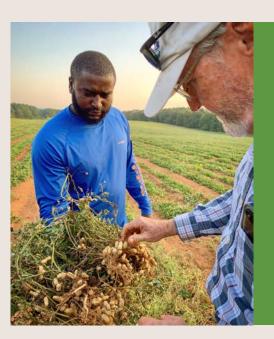


General farmer member support

- Farmer Field Days + Good Food for Thought Webinars
- Cooperative Bulk Purchasing
- Organic Cost-share
- Emergency Farmer Fund



Subscribe to Grower News to get news and updates from Farmer Services programming bit.ly/growernews



Are you a GA farmer planning on becoming certified organic for the first time this year?

We will help pay for your inspection

fees - 25% or up to \$250!

For our BIPOC farmers, we offer this year-over-year.

Email meg@georgiaorgancis for reimbursement instructions

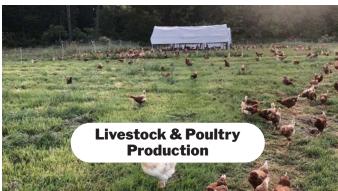
For purces In addition to one-on-one support by our Georgia Organics Farmer Services staff, we have a plethora of educational resources for farmers on our Farmer Services website. From beginning to veteran farmers, livestock to fruit and veg, there's something for almost every type of farming operation. Scan the QR code to view categories and dig in!





















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ATTACK IS BAAAACK!

Attack of the Killer Tomato Festival (#AKTF) returns to Westside Provisions District on Sunday, July 30 from 1-4 p.m. for an annual celebration of the juiciest fruit in Georgia: tomatoes.

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 18

killertomatofest.com













