



NUag News Blast

Fall Edition

The NUag team is back with our Fall newsletter! Get the most updated information about our project as we work with producers, cooperators, and the USDA to advance urban agriculture.

Website Updates: NUag Impact Snapshots

The NUag Project team is rolling out our version of impact statements based on interviews conducted at the National Urban Agriculture Conference, held in Detroit August 4-6, 2024. Overall, 48 interviews were conducted across various participant groups to highlight key insights.

Our first snapshot amplifies perspectives on *Land Access and Policy Advocacy*, focusing on relevance, response, and results.

Land Access & Policy Advocacy Snapshot



Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these videos are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of NUag, its partners, or any federal agency.

Learning Exchange Highlight:

Measuring What Matters: Sharing Impact Through Data and Storytelling



South Carolina State University

During our August NUag learning exchange, Dr. Thomas Nyatta, an Urban Agriculture Scientist at South Carolina State Extension walked us through their urban ag programming and key focuses. Dr. Nyatta highlighted the process of soil testing on vacant lots and the strategic establishment of raised beds for growing fresh produce in areas that lack access to healthy foods. The data collected during soil testing will be used in the future as the team explores the phytoremediation potential for polluted land.

[Read More About Their Project Here!](#)



University of Nevada Reno Extension



At our August NUag learning exchange, Dr. Sabina Malik, Extension Specialist at the University of Nevada Reno Extension and Chair of the Southern Nevada Food Council introduced a systemic collection of urban agriculture datasets that, when combined, give a holistic view of their landscape. Their Healthy Food Access Map, focused on raising awareness and being a user-friendly tool, was just updated with 2025 resources. Dr. Malik also highlighted the intentional strategies used for reengaging the community including a Food Access Landscape Assessment which maximizes and streamlines local resources.

[Read More About Their Work Here!](#)

Cooperator Calendars

[Allegheny County Conservation District](#)
[Black United Fund of Texas](#)
[Community Alliance for Family Farmers](#)
[Cultivate KC](#)
[Ecotrust](#)
[Farm School NYC](#)
[Farm to table New Farm to table New Mexico](#)
[Grow North Texas](#)
[Keep Growing Detroit](#)
[Mentorscope Community Outreach](#)
[Ohio State Extension](#)



[Oklahoma Conservation Commission](#)



[Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#)
[Renewing the Countryside](#)
[Sprout Nola Farm](#)
[Widget Business Training Company](#)
[University of Arizona Extension](#)
[University of Illinois Extension](#)
[University of Missouri](#)
[Virginia State Small Farms Outreach](#)
[Virginia Tech CFSC](#)
[West Michigan Environmental Action Council](#)



NUag's Youth Ambassador 1890 Tour Recap: Full Ride From South Carolina State University!

Kendall Rae Johnson, as NUag's Youth Ambassador and youngest certified farmer in the country, traveled to several different 1890 Universities using her book "[My Farm Biz](#)" to educate youth on financial literacy, urban farming, value added products, and USDA FSA Youth Loans.



Virginia State University

Kendall Rae Johnson kicked off her Youth Ambassador 1890 Tour at Virginia State. Attending the university's annual AgFest, Kendall set up a table at the farmers market selling books, merch, teas, honey, and more. She networked with university leadership as well as local farmers and students.



Disclaimer: The students featured in this video participated in a specific outreach event at G.W. Carver Elementary. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs are open to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or any other status protected by law.



Tennessee State University

Kendall Rae Johnson visited Tennessee State University's College of Agriculture (TSUAg) as the second stop on her Youth Ambassador 1890 Tour. Kendall first did a public Q&A session with Dean Dr. Chandra Reddy, that was attended by students, faculty, and staff. She then toured their newly renovated research lab, and explored the innovative greenhouses on the TSU farm. She also met with President Dwayne Tucker and recorded her very own podcast episode.

Southern University A&M
 The Southern University Ag Center



welcomed Kendall to talk to their JAGcation Summer Camp students about agribusiness and youth farming. Receiving a copy of Kendall's book "My Farm Biz", the students had an

amazing time thinking of farm names and business ideas. They also got to try Kendall's value-added products such as her tomato sauce and honey.



Prairie View A&M University



Prairie View A&M

University, CAFNR hosted Kendall Rae Johnson for a full day of agriculture learning and sharing. Poppy Johnson, CAFNR's Community Services Coordinator, coordinated an entire college tour as well as an in depth tour of the greenhouse, poultry facility, meat science lab, and goat research center. Kendall joined children her age to explore the wide possibilities of youth agriculture and share her agribusiness journey.



South Carolina State University

Going out with a bang, Kendall Rae and the NUag Team ended the 1890 Tour at South Carolina State with Kendall receiving SC State's 1890 Agriculture Innovation Scholarship. Kendall spent three days with staff and local farmers exploring what her future at SC State could look like while sharing her journey with their summer camp attendees.



[Read More About the 1890 Tour and Kendall's Journey](#)

Urban Insights

[ZONING FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE | Healthy Food Policy Project](#): This beginners guide to zoning for urban agriculture covers background, definitions, and different examples of urban zoning across the nation. This document takes the reader through the ins and outs of zoning codes and new emerging trends in urban ag work.

[Detroit's Pilot Compost Program Aims to Reduce Food Waste – Planet Detroit](#): Laying the groundwork for a city-wide composting program, 200 residents of Detroit have begun composting in the city's new composting pilot program giving residents a curbside compost pickup.

[26 DIY Ideas for Creating an Urban Garden | Extra Space Storage](#): Discover innovative ways to enjoy growing your garden and enjoying plants in small spaces.

[Urban Harvesting Guide | Get the Most from Your Small-Space](#): Tips for maximizing harvest in your small-scale garden or farm.

[What to Plant in a Fall Garden & How to Plant One | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#): Step by step guide to making the most out of your fall urban garden.

[Cornell Urban Agriculture Courses Turn Research into Action for Cities](#): Cornell hopes tiered pricing makes urban courses more accessible. Course takes deep dive into understanding the practices and policies that support successful urban farming endeavors.

[Cover Crops Benefit Both Commercial Farmers and Urban Gardeners | Farmers.gov](#): Urban farmers find that the many benefits of cover cropping also extend to small scale producers.

[Cover Crops To Help Urban Growers of All Scales Improve Soil Conditions](#)
MSU Extension releases resources to help urban growers implement cover-cropping practices.



Relevant USDA Links

<https://www.farmers.gov/blog/fridays-on-farm-journey-community-building> : Inspirational veteran family builds community using NCRS and USDA programs.

<https://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/2024/07/31/be-the-link-driving-positive-change/>: FSA Library hours give Cleveland residents a chance to learn about opportunities in urban agriculture.

[Fridays on the Farm: Urban Youth Loan Borrower Grows Lettuce and a Passion for Hydroponics | Farmers.gov](#): 11-year-old builds and operates hydroponic business from USDA youth loan.

[RMA Offers New Resource for Specialty and Small-Scale Farmers | Farmers.gov](#): RMA created searchable directory for quality vetted crop insurance agents.

[Fridays on the Farm: Growing Urban Opportunities in the Ozarks | Farmers.gov](#): CoxHealth and Springfield Community Gardens are collaborating to grow a unique opportunity within the Springfield limits.

[Be the Link: Driving Positive Change | FSA Fence Post Blog](#): Local urban growers get involved with urban county committees.

Stay Informed

Sign up at the bottom of the USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production page for updates

Stay up to date on current FSA news and programs

Keep in contact with your local Urban Agriculture Service Center, FSA office and NCRS office

Local service



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