

# 2015



Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council. 501(C)(3)  
3211 N. Roan St. Johnson City, TN 37601. 423-979-2581. apprcd@gmail.com. www.ARCd.org



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## Representation:

Leon Humphrey  
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## What difference does the Appalachian RC&D Council make?

As another eventful year in the mountains and river valleys of northeast Tennessee comes to a close, please take a few minutes to learn why Appalachian RC&D *matters*—and why we need you to give financially to support us this year. Highlights from 2015 include:

- Launching a 10-part training program for **beginning farmers**.
- Hosting **8 workshops on farming smarter** – including “speed-dating” events for growers to meet with buyers & to stabilize farm income year-round.
- Exposing 450 children to **scientific exploration of fresh healthy foods** at area camps, schools, and farmers market demos.
- Establishing 5 new **youth-oriented community gardens**.
- Bringing (or participating) in **\$300,000 in grant funds**.
- Reaching new audiences for our **Quilt Trail** arts & agriculture network.
- Spreading the message of smart growth and wildfire safety via **Firewise**.
- Being awarded **Outstanding RC&D** for Tennessee (above photo).

If you believe in the movement for a *strong regional* local farm and food economy in northeast Tennessee, we need your support, whether you can give \$25 or \$250. Like Jamie’s gracious quote at right shows, the ARC&D is invaluable for the movement. Rally around our network of good people and be inspired!

*“With every RC&D event we can find time to make it to, we have gotten so much out of it. The networking of really good people in all this is invaluable, and inspiring. I have never seen something that so many can, and will, rally around.”*

**Jamie Dove**

River Creek Farm / Main Street Pizza  
Johnson City, TN

# \$300,000 in grants at a glance

**\$11,400 TN Dept of Agriculture:** Buyer-Producer networking events

**\$98,700 USDA Agricultural Marketing Service:** Building a collaborative food system in northeast TN and southwest VA (2 yrs)

**\$50,000** one of 4 organizations co-awarded a **USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Grant** for a stronger food system.

**\$6,000 TN State Extension/NRCS O&A:** Beginning Farmer training

**\$5,000 TN RC&D Council Association:** Beginning Farmer training

**\$130,000 TN Division of Forestry:** Firewise communities in East TN

**COMPLETED in 2015:**

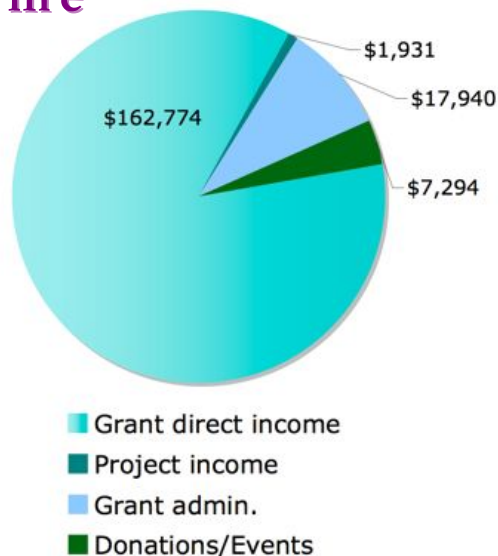
**\$750 TN Arts Commission:** Taking the Quilt Trail mobile

**\$2,500 TN Nature Resource Conservation Service:** Youth Community Gardens

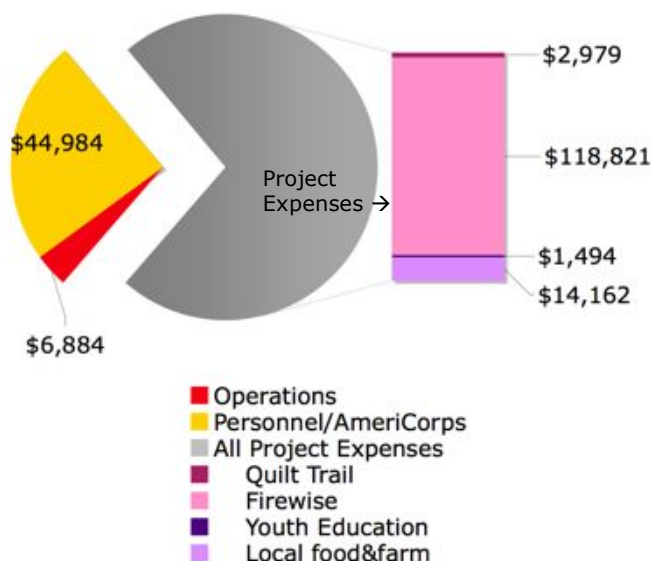
**\$8,600 East Tennessee Foundation Harris Fund:** Friends of Ag

## 2015 Financials

### Income



### Expenses



### 2014-2015 Supporters:

Soil Conservation Districts of: Carter, Greene, Sullivan, Unicoi & Washington Counties

Lynice Broyles

Harvey Burniston/Mtn View Nursery & Landscaping

Joe DeLoach

Marcella Epperson

Dane & Mary Faulkner

Frank Gibson

Maria Gonzales

Jacob and Kelly Grieb

Jane Hillhouse

John & Holly Hope

Bill & Marilyn Kearney

Shara Lange

Becky Mallory

Leah & Bradley Neas

George Prewitt

Doug Richardson

Roy & Amy Settle

Clara Thomas

*in memorial of Joe K. Thomas*

Carol Transou

Dana York



Growers talk with Rooted in Appalachia distributor at February farm-to-buyer mixer



# Tales from the Quilt Trail



happen! This year we estimate **150** volunteer hours.

In 2015 the Quilt Trail reached new audiences and got more people out on the Trail: through the East Tennessee Shop Hop; an old fashioned bed quilt turning (40 attendees); the mobile app for smart phones and tablets (300 downloads); the downtown Kingsport brochure (20,000 distributed). Plus we added 2 quilt barns and 2 new downtown Greeneville sites.

The Quilt Trail is dependent on your financial gifts. You can also contribute to the project by purch-

asing notecards & mugs, through downloading the mobile app, and now through buying our own quilt barn photo-fabric via Tennessee Quilts. See this newsletter insert. ([www.QuiltTrail.org](http://www.QuiltTrail.org) | [facebook.com/FollowtheQuiltTrail](https://facebook.com/FollowtheQuiltTrail))

We hope you are as excited as we are that on August 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the National Quilt Trail Gathering will bring 225 ambassadors from sister quilt trails across the country HERE to see our trail and learn from each other (and stay in our hotels and support our businesses). Greeneville's General

Morgan Inn is the site of the conference and the ARC&D is hosting and coordinating ([www.NationalQTGathering.com](http://www.NationalQTGathering.com)).

*Pictures (top to bottom): Linda Crouch at Quilt Turning; Andrew Johnson quilt at Cave Law Firm, Greeneville; Linnie Greene painting.*



Your donation goes directly towards keeping our AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps provide an infusion of dedicated volunteer service to the community: writing grants; working with kids; coordinating trainings; organizing volunteers. They focus on giving back, and we focus on supporting their professional leadership development.

## Notes from the Field ~ Rachel Wheeler, AmeriCorps VISTA

"At the first Field School session, Adam Hopkins, UT Extension, stated, *"Farmers are asset rich and cash poor."* This principal can easily be applied to our whole region. We are asset rich. But how do we use these assets in a positive and sustainable way? Local food and tourism initiatives are proving to pay off. Our new Field School, the Boone Street Market, and Build It Up's market garden program among others, have given the local foods movement a strong push to becoming sustainable and economically sound. The Quilt Trail also has a key role to play in growing agritourism. It creates an inviting environment, drawing in visitors and creating a better living environment. According to the World Tourism Organization, 37% of global tourism is culturally based—and the rate is increasing 15% annually. We have everything we need to be a part of that expansion. Our job now, as a regional community is to continue to support and expand these initiatives. We are all in this together and we ARE asset rich!"

## Recognizing with gratitude:

AccelNOW

Appalachian Sustainable Development

Boone Street Market

Brushy Fork Environ. Consulting

Drop Collaborative

Extension Service of UT & TSU

Farm Bureau Jonesborough

Farm Credit Mid-America

First Bank & Trust Ag Lending

First Frontier Quilters Kingsport

General Morgan Inn

Green Earth Connection

Greeneville Partnership-Tourism

Greeneville-Greene County History Museum

Heavenly Stitches Quilt Shoppe

Holloway Quilts

Jennings Accounting Group

Johnson City Country Club

Johnson City Press

Main Street Cafe

Mize Farm & Garden Supply

Rural Support Partners

Rural Resources

Second Harvest Food Bank

Tennessee Quilts

TN RC&D Council Assoc.

Johnny and Pat Lynch / Farmhouse Gallery & Gardens

Conservation Legacy VISTA Team

Emerging Technology Center at East Tenn. State University

Office of Professional Develop. at East Tenn. State University

Walters State Community College



## Introducing a Beginning Farmer Training Program for those ready to take their passion for farming to the next level.



The first of 10 sessions of the Field School began on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Jonesborough. Many supporters and volunteers made that day happen. Our goal was 10 new farmers, but the fact that we needed to cap enrollment at 30 participants (age range 27 to 71) demonstrates **beginning and aspiring farmers need community support.**

Shae Keane, a Field School participant who is in the early stages of her farming journey and was kind enough to share *why* the Field School is important to her:

**"I am not quite sure when the seed was first planted in me—a longing to be closer to my food, to participate carefully in the multitude of relationships woven into every bite I eat, or to know and trust my food's story of origin. Perhaps it was, most of all, a longing to press single seeds into the earth with dreams of ways it might nourish our local community.**

**It was this seed in me that led me to apply to The Field School, an educational and experiential program hosted by the RC&D Council, with the purpose of supporting local growers to create or improve their own farm plans and provide a space for learning and connection for those with shared visions and goals.**

**On November 19<sup>th</sup> at the first session, with enrollment capped at 30 participants and excitement swirling in the room, it took but a few moments upon entering for me to realize this same seed has been sown in many—with hopes of growing in efficiency, in local reach, in capacity, and in collaboration with others who share similar visions in support of providing foods to our communities."**



Donate to the Field School program today and sow the seeds of the next generation of farmers in northeast Tennessee! Given that the average age of a farmer in our region is 60-years...who will grow our food and manage our lands 20 years from now? Farming is not for everyone. But everyone needs Farmers. And every new farmer needs the right resources tailored for today's challenges. The Field School is the right step towards training knowledgeable and prepared agricultural entrepreneurs for East Tennessee. As you help us this year, you will show our first year recruits that there is generous support for farmers who protect land and water and serve our communities. *See the back of this insert for a donation slip.*



The Field School consists of applied and interactive training in the classroom and field, taught by area experts (Extension; NRCS; etc.) as well as mentor farmers. Over the course of 10 sessions (Nov. '15 – Aug. '16), participants will learn:

- **Critical Thinking:** farm long/short terms goals
- **Marketing:** choosing your markets, formulating strategies, talking directly with buyers
- **Financial literacy:** creating a business plan, assessing debt, financial record-keeping, calculating profit and loss
- **Regulations:** requirements for farms in Tennessee,
- **Crop Planning Year-round:** preparing for the seasons
- **Production Techniques:** crop rotation, soil health management, sustainable pest and weed control, post-harvest handling
- **Grant and Resource Opportunities**
- **Advocacy and leadership:** how to advocate effectively for small farms and for locally-based agriculture
- **Whole farm planning:** be mentored through a plan that integrates production, marketing, and finances
- see [www.arcd.org](http://www.arcd.org) for more details

More scenes from Nov 19<sup>th</sup>; and a mentor farm, Rogersville, hosts a workshop in March.



## SPONSORS:



Cooperator Magazine

Farm Bureau Jonesborough



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ packs of  
Quilt Trail cards for \$6.50 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am enclosing a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

For a specific program? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like my donation to be in (please  
circle one) tribute or memorial  
of: \_\_\_\_\_

to be recognized in the ARCD's next  
newsletters

☐ I am interested in volunteering:  
(circle any that apply):

Writing	Graphic Design
Photography	Oral history collection
Web services	General office admin

"YES! I am delighted to play a role in  
improving rural economy while  
conserving natural resources in  
beautiful northeast Tennessee"

TEAR OFF AND COMPLETE THIS FORM TO DONATE TO THE  
ARCD IN GENERAL OR TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

MAKE DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:

**"APPALACHIAN RC&D COUNCIL"**

3211 N. Roan St. Johnson City, TN 37601

(423) 979-2581 / [apprcd@gmail.com](mailto:apprcd@gmail.com)

(Your stamp will help us keep our cost down. Thank you!)



**Emily Bidgood**  
Executive Director



**Alexis Close**  
Local Foods Promotion  
Coordinator



**Rachel Wheeler**  
AmeriCorps VISTA



**Brenna Fouts**  
AmeriCorps  
Summer Associate

## Upcoming Events

- **December 14<sup>th</sup>** – You are Invited to our **Holiday Open House!** A time to thank volunteers and friends of the RC&D at the Embree House & Farm (on the quilt trail). 142 Matthews Mill Rd Telford. 2:00-4:00pm. All welcome.
- **December 19<sup>th</sup>** – Field School Session #2: Year-Round Production, Joe Couch Farm, Rogersville.
- Field School continues monthly Jan. through Aug. 2016.
- **Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** – Tricities CSA Fair. Meet farmers face-to-face and learn more about Community Supported Agriculture. Location TBD.
- **April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Envirothon High School Competition.
- **July 20<sup>th</sup>** – Bed Turning & luncheon for the Quilt Trail.
- **Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** National Quilt Trail Gathering in Greeneville

**DETAILS: [www.ARCd.org](http://www.ARCd.org) | 423-979-2581**

**[facebook.com/AppRCD](https://facebook.com/AppRCD)**

**VISIT [www.ARCd.org](http://www.ARCd.org) TO SIGN UP FOR OUR \*2\* e-NEWSLETTERS FOR STORIES, EVENTS AND MORE:**  
*"THE FAT QUARTER: NEWS FROM THE QUILT TRAIL" ...and... "WHAT'S LOCAL TRICITIES"*

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