



APPALACHIAN
R&D COUNCIL

GROW
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PRESERVE
FOSTER

2023 ARCD IMPACT REPORT

ARCD envisions a resilient, sustainable, and equitable regional food system for Northeast Tennessee where all people have access to healthy local food, farmers are supported, and the natural beauty of our community is preserved for future generations.

LEAD SUPPORTERS



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME - \$ 1,087,106.18

Grant Income	\$ 878,110.23
Earned/Admin/Project Income	\$ 183,053.09
Donations & Fundraising	\$ 25,942.86

EXPENSES - \$ 918,158.10

Conservation programs	\$ 222,395.53
Training programs	\$ 161,273.54
Markets and Food access programs	\$ 357,189.68

ARCD invested \$918,000 and leveraged another \$4 million in infrastructure loans into Northeast Tennessee’s community and economy. As we are 97% government grant funded, our financial priority is to partner with more local donors and investors, so that we can be more nimble and responsive to local needs. Contact us to get involved in 2024!

REFLECTION ON 2023

“Grateful is an understatement.” Thank you for supporting the ARCD and the exciting resurgence of local food, which is necessary for the future of our economy, health, and community. **Because of your support, the local food economy is stronger, more diverse, and more accessible to all.**

Take Rain Crow Farm, who we celebrated with in 2023. Operators, Dylan and Rachel, moved back to Johnson City in 2018 to farm full time. They graduated from ARCD Field School in 2019 with a finished farm plan and used their new knowledge to strengthen their business and apply for USDA cost-share funding to scale up. They grew their CSA audience through the ARCD CSA fairs, and saw first hand how various ARCD produce incentive programs at farmers markets increased their customer base. In 2023 they were awarded an FSA loan thanks in part to the diligent recordkeeping learned through Field School. And then the incredible happened: a CSA member asked Dylan and Rachel if they wanted to buy their farm. Soon Rain Crow Farm will host Field School workshops at their new home!

When you support the ARCD, you thank a Farmer not only with words, but with services, support, land access, and empowerment.



“Grateful is an understatement. We often sit down for dinner and look at our plate that only contains things that we grew or raised. To know where your food comes from is a huge privilege, one we do not take for granted. Thank you ARC&D for guiding us, teaching us and walking with us.”

- Participant in the backyard garden program

CONSERVATION

ARCD worked with **18 communities** in Northeast Tennessee to implement **\$152,173,173** in wildfire mitigation and prevention efforts and weather monitoring.

\$86,000 invested into streambank restoration in Carter County.



280 farm seekers registered and **50 farm properties** were listed in 2023 at TNFarmlink.org

34 women attended Women Preserving Farmland for the Future Workshops in Sullivan County and Greene County, representing **2,095 acres** of farm and forestland.

Stewarded several existing conservation properties in partnership with the Land Trust for Tennessee. Counseled 4 landowners through the process of protecting their farmland under voluntary conservation easement, totaling **525 acres** that will be preserved as farmland forever.



Tennessee has lost 500,000 acres of farmland over the past five years. ARCD believes our economy and our community is stronger when we protect water and natural resources and permanently conserve working lands for the future.

BEGINNING FARMER & GARDENER TRAINING



In 2023, **52 farmers** attended Summer Field School – learning about various production methods and farming techniques. In addition, **16 farms** graduated from Field School's Winter Business Intensive, ARCD's course which focuses on the business, financial, legal, and marketing aspects of farming.

Women Farmer Learning Circles connected **200 women farmers** for monthly meetings to learn about professional topics, creating an empowering space for women farmers to learn from one another. **86%** of participants report having implemented or are planning to implement a new practice on their farm.

Build It Up, ARCD's backyard gardening program, celebrated its 11th year of service. In 2023, **258 participants** harvested over **39,262 pounds** of food.



The average farmer is approaching 60 years old and nearly half of U.S. farmland will change ownership over the next two decades. ARCD empowers the next generation of growers with a solid foundation and continues alongside them in their journey to ensure success for the long haul.

FOOD ACCESS



Appalachian Pharmacy treats food as medicine and seeks to improve community health outcomes by making fresh fruits and vegetables more accessible to local community members.

ARCD produce incentives programs, including Farmacy Fit, connected local folks with local food, providing **\$53,552** of fresh fruits and vegetables directly from area farmers markets and area growers.

Food Rx launched in 2023, partnering with health clinics, the Healthy Equity Task Force, UT Extension, ETSU, the TN Department of Health, farmers markets and Food City. In 2023, **163 qualifying patients** enrolled to receive a prescription for fresh fruits and vegetables, spending **\$43,200** worth of produce and advancing personal health goals.



“This is not just free food for me, this will change my life.”

- Produce Prescription patient

Given that 1 in 8 northeast Tennesseans are food insecure, resilient and healthy local food systems, where everyone has access to local food, form the backbone of ARCD’s work.

APPALACHIAN PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE



In 2023, The Appalachian Producers Cooperative (APC) broke ground on a game-changing state-of-the-art meat processing facility for livestock farmers in the region. The APC is the first farmers cooperative founded in the state in over 50 years. ARCD continues to provide grant writing and technical support to catalyze this project and ensure this generational investment in our local food economy gets up and running.

By the numbers:

- 16,000 square foot facility (Jonesborough)
- 6,000 head of cattle, hogs, and lambs will be processed annually
- 26 new jobs projected
- Will be owned and operated by farmer-members



The APC's cooperative structure and branded sales will provide a greater return of profits and access to larger scale markets for small livestock farmers in the region.

CONNECT WITH US



Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council
302 Sunset Drive Suite 105 Johnson City, TN 37604
arcd.org // info@arcd.org // 423-427-0560



Aubrey Baker
Operations &
Finance Director
aubrey@arcd.org



Emily Bidgood
Program Director
emily@arcd.org



Ashley Cavender
Program Director
ashley@arcd.org



Lexy Close
Program Director
alexis@arcd.org



Rosie McVeigh
Agriculture
Education Director
rosie@arcd.org



Rachel Slaughter
Program Director
slaughter@arcd.org

Board of Directors 2024:

Roy Settle
Lynice Broyles
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