

NRCS NR203A750027G006

Performance Report

Building a Network of Growers to Improve Access to Local Food

Working in collaboration with an extensive list of partners, AIPL accomplished and exceeded all deliverables, goals, and intentions. Partners included the College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Environmental Health classes at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), Biology Department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), Climate Reality, Arkansas Community Foundation (which provided interns), schools, houses of worship, community centers, and more. A complete list of partners is at the end of this report.

AIPL achieved all goals, despite a pandemic that lasted throughout the grant period. Arkansas set records for virus cases, one-day highs, hospitalizations, and deaths from Covid 19. A state of emergency was declared in Arkansas. Schools, houses of worship, community centers, and other gatherings were off-limits. We were unable to invite the overall community into garden spaces and greenhouses. Instead, we held many more small gatherings than we originally intended. We monitored and adjusted to reach our goals.

AIPL exceeded its intentions to Build a Network of Growers to Improve Access to Local Food. Those efforts continue.

Expected Accomplishments and Deliverables

Outcome 1: Increased aptitude among College of Public Health students.

Indicator 1: Number of College of Public Health students per year equipped with shared knowledge and skills to assist the established Network of Growers: 70

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light exceeded this outcome.

A total of 53 students from five colleges (Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing Pharmacy, and Public Health) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) were involved in 1) classes related to urban agriculture, personal health, and health of the planet plus; 2) volunteer activities at gardens and demonstration days; 3) creating educational material and recipe guides, 4) interviewing gardeners, 5) creating garden safety videos, 6) community building, and more.

One UAMS College of Public Health graduate student completed her Applied Practice Experience by testing garden soil and providing custom recommendations to growers about how to amend their soil to produce more and better food. Another UAMS College of Public Health student is helping the network of growers communicate about and plan for farm stands in neighborhoods as her Applied Practice Experience.

Ark. Interfaith Power & Light also was the service-learning project for the Spring 2021 Health and Racial Disparities course at the College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Over the course of the semester, 18 UAMS graduate and doctoral students worked alongside community gardeners in the network of growers. The students attended workdays, met individually with growers, and collaborated on projects which they presented to the class and AIPL garden manager. The projects included developing promotional materials, soil testing, occupational/environmental video, social media posts, and most important of all, developing relationships. Due to COVID, the students were limited on their opportunities for interactions with the growers due to UAMS policies. However, the students and AIPL growers rose to the occasion and utilized virtual methods. In addition, the students participated in two 3-hour classes on Climate Change and Health.

35 UAMS students participated in an Interprofessional Exposure Bridge on March 15, 2021, titled “Climate Change, Public Health, and Environmental Justice in the United States.” Below is the breakdown of students per their college: 4 College of Health Professions; 16 College of Medicine; 4 College of Nursing; 5 College of Pharmacy; 6 College of Public Health

Additionally, two Environmental Health classes at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) attended AIPL presentations on Environmental Justice, which included information on regenerative agriculture and plant-based diets. Several UCA students selected AIPL for a Service-Learning Project for two semesters.

Also, biology students at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) and their professors were involved in managing and maintaining the Oak Forest Community Garden.

Outcome 2: Increased understanding of the value of plant-rich diets among garden participants.

Indicator 1: Number of Pulaski County residents who reported an increase in knowledge about the benefits of local fresh plant-based diets: 10% of 17,222 impacted area residents

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light exceeded this outcome through demonstrations at community gardens and greenhouses, classes at UAMS and UCA, online presentations, virtual conferences, newsletters, instructional videos / text lessons on the Ark. IPL website, and social media postings. More than 35 organizational partners plus additional individuals helped amplify shared knowledge.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic that limited in-person gatherings throughout the grant period, Ark. IPL accomplished this deliverable through 114 garden days at community gardens, church gardens, school gardens, chicken coop demonstrations, raised bed demonstrations, mushroom log demonstrations, beehive demonstrations, and small engine repair workshops for urban farming equipment. These activities included students and adults who learned the benefits of regenerative agriculture practice and discussed the benefits of local fresh plant-based diets on site. They expressed an interest in observing regenerative agricultural practices on their own, as

well as switching to local plant-based diets. Many who attended events went home to plant their own gardens, build chicken coops, install beehives, and start mushroom logs.

Seasoned mentors shared knowledge with new entrepreneurial farmers. An example of this outreach comes from Kurtis Priebe, lead mentor. He purchased 160 organic seeds and shared them with 37 nearby urban gardens, which also produced plants. Seeds were saved and shared again, multiplying the outreach and increased knowledge.

Demonstrations resulted in 13 new chicken coops, 76 new garden beds, 25 new beehives, and 100 shiitake mushroom logs for continuing local urban farming efforts. AIPL provided entrepreneur farmers with more than 150 egg-laying chickens and ducks. AIPL's network of growers delivered many pounds of fresh local food to 8 food pantries on multiple occasions. The network and partners built 4 new greenhouses on demonstration days and refurbished or managed 3 greenhouses for shared space among network of growers. That network grew in 2020-21 from 43 to more than 240 participants who share increased knowledge and skills.

AIPL strengthened existing partnerships and developed 27 new garden partnerships at community centers, schools, houses of worship, and urban plots.

On-site learning impact included garden beds, coops, and hives plus take-home instructions that resulted in additional garden beds, chicken coops, and beehives.

Information shared at demonstration days was shared again through online instructions at the AIPL website at www.arkansasipl.com so that it is available to all Arkansans and everybody everywhere. Facebook posts by growers, students and interns directed urban growers to the website for instructions on beehives, chicken coops, garden beds, mushroom logs, and more.

In addition to in-person on-site shared knowledge, virtual conferences and presentations focused on the benefits of regenerative agriculture and plant-based diets. During the pandemic when gatherings became challenging, virtual gatherings offered opportunities for sharing information, question and answer sessions, gathering feedback, and determining knowledge gained. These virtual gatherings included Climate Reality presentations to the Jonesboro Rotary Club on January 6, 2021; the Little Rock Unitarian Universalists on Jan. 10; the Arkansas United Methodist Women on February 16; the Hot Springs Village Unitarian Universalists on March 14; the Interfaith Alliance of the Ozarks on April 12; a University of Central Arkansas Environmental Health Class in the Fall of 2020 and the Fall of 2021, and more. Because of an appreciation for knowledge gained, presentations led to invitations for similar presentations and repeat presentations which continue beyond the grant period.

“Climate Reality” and “Kiss the Ground” presentations and discussions were provided to hundreds of interested individuals throughout the USA on 12 occasions involving houses of worship, universities, and agriculturists. Ark. IPL worked with IPL National and the filmmakers of “Kiss the Ground” to enable more than 14,000 people to view this important documentary about the role that regenerative agriculture can play in solving the climate crisis.

AIPL Climate Reality presentations and follow-up discussions were posted at the Climate Reality website for people throughout the world to view. AIPL continues to be invited to offer

Climate Reality presentations beyond the grant period, including a presentation to United Methodist Women of Central Arkansas on September 25, 2021. Continued invitations and presentations indicate widespread success and continuing impact. AIPL was one of five organizations worldwide to present information on its regenerative agricultural and energy efficiency efforts at an international Climate Reality webinar. Also, Ark. IPL was invited to be part of a "select group of leaders" to participate in the annual 24 Hours of Reality (Climate Reality) inspirational video to run during 24 Hours of Reality (Oct. 29, 2021) and to share with global leaders at the UN's COP 26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.

Regenerative agriculture practices and local plant-based diets also were part of "Kiss the Ground" documentary presentations and follow-up online discussions that included 17 Arkansas houses of worship plus more than 100 individuals. Additionally regenerative agriculture / plant-based diet sessions were presented at a Nov. 15, 2020 "Drawdown" webinar, a collaborative Feb. 6-12, 2021 Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light conference by zoom at Vanderbilt University, and a Green Team Summit co-sponsored by Arkansas IPL, Faith In Place, and other co-sponsors attended Sept. 12-14, 2021 by more than 1,200 who registered, watched sessions during the 3-day conference, or viewed recorded sessions later. The Green Team Summit was also part of Arkansas Peace Week, September 12-18, 2021.

Three sessions on pollinators, local food, and sustainability were held for Arkansas Girl Scouts who earned badges and patches such as Making the World a Better Place, Use Resources Wisely, Eco Learner, Eco Friend, Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden, Animal Habitats, Eco Advocate, and more on three statewide zoom sessions during which Scouts and leaders discussed protecting fragile habitats through energy efficiency and earth-friendly pollinators. Scouts assembled home-made bird houses and planted pollinators. At the conclusion of each Girl Scout session, youth and adults were asked to share what they had learned; all indicated an increase in knowledge regarding pollinators, regenerative agriculture, and the benefits of local plant-based diets.

AIPL continues to be invited to offer regenerative agriculture presentations, including a presentation on "Arkansas Hot Topics: Water and Dicamba" at the 6th Annual Arkansas Climate Summit on November 5, 2021, with a focus on the impacts of flooding and drought on Arkansas farmers. Continued invitations and presentations indicate widespread success and continuing impact.

Because of appreciation for increased knowledge from past presentations on regenerative agriculture, pollinators, and local plant-based diets, Ark. IPL has been invited to make three presentations to Arkansas Girl Scouts statewide in 2022: February 26, 2022, Girl Scout World Thinking Day; April 23, 2022, Girl Scout Global Youth Service Day / Earth Day; June 5, 2022, Girl Scout World Environment Day.

These opportunities for sharing knowledge and follow-up discussions were shared through Arkansas IPL's website, as well as an electronic newsletter with 1,549 contacts, a facebook page with 506 followers, the Ark. Local Food Network electronic newsletter with approximately 600 subscribers, and the Oak Forest Community Garden newsletter with approximately 400 newsletter subscribers. Many social media posts were re-posted to personal accounts, such as the

facebook page for Scharmél Roussel, AIPL executive director with 1,532 friends. Growers, students and interns shared and repeated facebook posts.

AIPL encountered strong resistance to pre-test and post-test assessments at community garden days and demonstrations. Participants arrived for gardening at different times, ready to work and learn rather than answer questions. Instead, our shared knowledge grew organically as we worked side-by-side in the gardens. Increased knowledge can be seen below in student essays from UCA and UAMS.

Student essays following UCA class presentations in 2020 and service-learning projects indicated a great increase in knowledge. The following are only a few examples of student remarks on class essays.

UCA Student 1: “The EPA says that Arkansas will become warmer and more apt to severe floods and droughts in the coming years. This will impact agriculture and daily life in general. I had no idea that there was data supporting this, but it’s pretty alarming.”

UCA Student 2: “I learned ways that I can help out such as eating a plant-based local diet (or at least trying to.) I can get involved in activities that are energy efficient such as the ones I participated in on my Personal Conservation Project. I can also plant trees because they absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen. Using reusable water bottles and straws can also help. There are so many simple things that we can do as the human race to make a difference. If we all did it together then the impact would be huge!”

UCA Student 3: “Focusing on living an energy efficient life and eating a local and plant-based diet are two major ways that anyone anywhere can help stop negative climate change. As always, planting trees is never ever a bad thing. Planting more trees can help ‘clean the air’ and make positive changes in our environment. I love that the company Mrs. Roussel works for Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light, supports community gardens. This was something mentioned very early on in the presentation, but it stuck with me. I love the idea of community gardens. I have personally never lived in a community with a vegetable garden open to the public. However, my next-door neighbors at home have a community flower garden where anyone can come and pick flowers. There is an optional donation box, but the garden is entirely free otherwise. I think that community gardens are a great opportunity to educate young children about gardening, environmental health, and healthy eating. I think it provides an opportunity for community involvement and unity. Gardens also provide food supplies to communities that might otherwise be extremely food insecure.”

UCA Student 4: “My biggest takeaway from this video was probably how we are using pesticides that kill pollinators! We need creatures like bees just to survive and without them we literally wouldn’t be able to grow things like tomatoes, strawberries, or watermelons. This part of the presentation got me to look into the plight of the bees and realize just how fast they’re dying off. I also looked up ways to help them thrive and am going to be planting certain things in my yard to help feed them.”

UCA Student 5: “The presentation described to us what Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light is and what they stand for / are doing to help the environment. They stand for environmental justice and want to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to be safe from environmental issues. She covered a lot of topics and I like that we had covered several of them in class. I liked that she pulled in examples from real life (... because those stick with me more than just hearing statistics about how we are harming the planet).”

UCA Student 6: “I can see how eating a plant based local diet can be beneficial...”

UCA Student 7: “I never associated pollination with climate change, but they are very much connected! Save the bees is a big movement in my generation. Many people try to save them now instead of killing them. I did not know that climate change has become a humanitarian crisis.”

UCA Student 8: “My biggest take away from the presentation was how much Arkansas is affected by climate change. Such as, in the upcoming years the state will face more severe floods and drought and also their damage with crops, livestock and heat related illnesses.”

UCA Student 9: “I found it important to help people understand that if they do something small such as becoming part of a community garden, or even adding a backyard garden, then they are already helping our planet. Doing this can help move someone into a plant based local diet which is a simple choice that positively impacts our planet. These small ideas are something I found to be important parts of the presentation.”

UCA Student 10: “My biggest takeaway from the presentation was all the ways we can make a positive impact on the environment that don’t require a lot of effort. One way that I could make a positive impact is by planting a tree.”

UCA Student 11: “The one thing that also caught my attention was ways we could help the environment, and I was confused when she said a plant-based diet would benefit. My thinking was that coal, oil, and those type of businesses pumped the most greenhouse gases out into the environment, because of how large the businesses are across the world. However, animal agriculture pumps 51 percent of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. It made sense after the explanation, but it really caught me off guard...”

UCA Student 12: “I find it fascinating that there are those who find their way into these environmental justice organizations. For me, it would be a dream to fight alongside those who care about the planet as much as I do. But, needing to “fuel” my own life, I’m in a competitive, corporate world and not sure how I might segue into such a different environment. However, I did very much appreciate how our lovely guest speaker offered the advice to join a non-profit organization to get involved.”

UCA Student 13: “In the presentation the speaker provides us with several easy ways to help the planet. For example, she says if we leave the dandelions growing in our yards then we can protect the pollinators in our environment.”

UAMS students (future physicians and medical professionals) also expressed increased knowledge in their service project assessments and course evaluations at the end of the Spring 2021 semester:

UAMS Student 1: “Before this activity [Exposure Bridge], whenever I thought of climate change, I only really considered the increasing temperature of our atmosphere. ...Now I realize there is so much more to climate change than just hotter weather and tsunamis. Increasing carbon dioxide levels are acidifying our oceans and killing species that are critical for our ecosystem. Considering that 1 billion people rely on aquatic species for food this is very significant! I also learned one of the main consequences of an unstable climate is an increase in flooding which can have detrimental primary (house destruction, loss of food supply, or even death) and secondary effects (increase in mold, and insect/bacterial born illnesses, depression, decreased access to healthcare, etc.) in certain disadvantaged groups of people such as the elderly, people of color, the homeless, and people with low income.”

UAMS Student 2: “During this session I learned a lot about my unique role as a medical student and future physician when it comes to climate change/environmental justice. ...In terms of improving population health and patient care/experience, I can identify and report climate related illnesses. I can teach about climate related illnesses in a public setting and spread awareness to patients in the clinic that may be disproportionately vulnerable to such illnesses. I can teach about green practices. I can help advocate for patient energy needs when conditions worsen. I can advocate to insurance companies and more.”

UAMS Student 3: “I think the biggest take-away that I had from this activity is awareness. Do not get me wrong, I have always known and believed in climate change, but often I considered it to be a problem of the future. After watching this seminar, I realize that climate change is strongly affecting people right now as I write this sentence, and the reason that I did not realize it before was because it has not been affecting me in the way that it is disproportionately affecting certain groups of people.”

UAMS Student 4: “I will be adding climate related questions to my history and physical exam in clinic in the future. I will also gather information regarding resources and education opportunities for my patients. Climate related illness and inequality for people in less privileged circumstances are important to the health and wellness of my patients and should not be overlooked.”

UAMS Student 6: “I loved the connection between climate change, gardens, and healthcare barriers.”

UAMS Student 7: “There were so many valuable topics and speakers presented in this course. I loved learning about racial segregation, racism in medicine, and environmental justice. Topics I have heard of - but did not understand their intersectionality into health and wellness until this class. Opportunities for personal reflection was really important as well because prior courses I've taken have not allowed for that, and I truly felt a lot of personal growth overall by the end of the course.”

UAMS Student 8: “I loved everything about this course!!! The service-learning project was amazing and really put into perspective the importance of food and the environment. The guest lecturers also provided real-world examples and solutions that can be used to help reduce many disparities for black and brown people.”

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, thousands of Pulaski County and Arkansas residents gained knowledge, shared knowledge, and indicated intentions to use the information at home and in their occupations / professions. Their impact will reach thousands more. The steadfast outreach of partner organizations made this possible. Additionally, thousands more throughout Arkansas, across the USA, and around the world heard our magnified online messages regarding regenerative agriculture and plant-based diets.

Outcome 3: Increased understanding of value of energy conservation

Indicator 1: Number of Community Garden Days held for planting, garden maintenance, harvesting, shared knowledge sessions, and distribution of energy efficiency items: 12

Indicator 2: Number of events held at schools where educators, students, garden clubs, environmental clubs, or Scout troops learn about local food production and energy efficiency: 12

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light exceeded this outcome. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, AIPL held 114 smaller community gatherings for demonstrations rather than 12 large community garden days. Schools, community centers, and houses of worship were closed to outsiders, so AIPL improvised with smaller gatherings.

During the grant period, a total of 482 energy efficiency gift bags were distributed with LED bulbs, power strips, socket sealers, faucet aerators, information booklets and information tips sheets to help impacted residents reduce energy consumption. The gift bags were presented and explained at community garden days, through student projects, and through church projects.

Monthly garden days were held for science classes at Amboy Elementary School, starting in the Winter of 2020-21. The garden was maintained over the summer months, and a new group of students began learning in the Fall of 2021.

“Climate Reality” and “Kiss the Ground” presentations and discussions were provided to hundreds of interested individuals throughout the USA on 12 occasions involving houses of worship, universities, and agriculturists. Ark. IPL worked with IPL National and the filmmakers of “Kiss the Ground” to enable more than 14,000 people to view this important documentary about the role that regenerative agriculture can play in solving the climate crisis.

Additionally, AIPL worked with Arkansas Girl Scouts on three occasions on projects related to pollinators, local food, and sustainability for the planet. Scouts assembled energy efficiency gift bags for distribution through food pantries.

Students enrolled in Environmental Health at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) in 2020 and 2021 watched a presentation on energy efficiency, regenerative agriculture, and plant-based diets. For follow-up community service projects, students assembled 290 energy efficiency gift bags in 2020 with LED bulbs, power strips, faucet aerators, foam socket sealers, and “30 Simple Things You Can Do to Save Energy and Money” booklets from the Ark. Energy Office. They were distributed to food pantries at churches and community centers in Conway, Lake Village, and Ferndale. The items were provided by grants from the EPA, Climate Reality, and Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock and not from USDA grant funds. An updated presentation to a new Environmental Health class was presented on September 7, 2021; students again are assembling and distributing energy efficiency gift bags for service-learning projects in the Fall of 2021. (80 distributed as of October 10, 2021)

The energy efficiency gift bags also were distributed at community garden days and through College of Public Health students at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Also, United Methodist Women of Central Arkansas who attended two virtual Climate Reality presentations continue to assemble energy efficiency gift bags for distribution through church food pantries.

Outcome 4: Expand the Network of Growers by 25-30% each year.

a. Indicator 1: Number of Pulaski County residents with an increased knowledge of organic gardening, resulting in the ability to grow some or all of their own food: 1,722

b. Number of raised garden beds built from re-purposed wood: 24

c. Number of chicken coops with chicks provided with support: 8

d. Number of beehives provided with support: 6

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light exceeded this outcome. In 2020-2021, the network of growers expanded from 43 to 240 participants (a more than 400% growth). AIPL demonstrations provided 13 new chicken coops, 76 new garden beds, 25 new beehives, and 100 shiitake mushroom logs for their continued local urban farming efforts. AIPL provided entrepreneur farmers with more than 150 egg-laying chickens and ducks. Local growers delivered many pounds of fresh local food to 8 food pantries on multiple occasions. AIPL built 4 new greenhouses on demonstration days and refurbished or managed 3 greenhouses for shared space among network of growers who shared skills and knowledge.

Seasoned mentors shared knowledge with new entrepreneurial farmers. An example of this outreach comes from Kurtis Priebe, lead mentor. He purchased 160 organic seeds and shared them with 37 gardens, also of which produced plants. Seeds were saved and shared again, multiplying the outreach and increased knowledge.

AIPL strengthened existing partnerships and developed 27 new garden partnerships at community centers, schools, houses of worship, and urban plots.

The increase in the number of Pulaski residents with increased ability to grow some of their own food exceeded our expectations and continues to multiply. An example is Josh, who attended to demonstration days and then was hired by the Good Earth, a local nursery, where he will share knowledge of regenerative agriculture with thousands of customers; AIPL recommended Josh for the position. Another example is Mark, who was mentored by Kurtis Priebe (head mentor), and was later hired as garden manager for the Oak Forest Community Garden.

Other examples of impact include the following:

Dr. Budhaha, a nutrition enthusiast who works at Natural Grocers, attended garden day demonstrations. That connection led to an Arkansas Children's Hospital presentation on fresh food at a conference of health and nutrition professionals.

A star volunteer was Lauren, a young beekeeper who cared for AIPL hives, offered demonstrations, posted AIPL efforts on her facebook page and Instagram account, and passed on knowledge through her newsletter to dozens of subscribers. Her influence has resulted in countless beehives at small gardens throughout Pulaski County.

Another example is Kelsey, a 3rd-year medical student who said, "I am currently heading up a garden project at the nonprofit Harmony Health Clinic here in Little Rock. The food we grow goes to our patients who want to make healthy lifestyle changes."

Countless medical students, graduate students, other students, interns, young urban farmers, military veterans, beekeepers, landscapers, interviewers, videographers, writers, and other volunteers attended demonstrations, shared knowledge, shared skills, went home to build their own raised beds and chicken coops. They continue to share seeds, share plants, share tools, share skills, and spread the word.

Increased knowledge that will continue in the community could be seen from statements of appreciation, such as the following:

As a result of your help (Ark. IPL) we (Woodruff Garden) put regular locally grown healthy vegetables in the homes of 20 plus families and provided thirty pecks of vegetables to food insecure families in Central Arkansas and provided training to two students in Public Health at UALR/UAMS. We also trained five new gardeners in our community this year. Covid prevented us from working with the youth at the Boys and Girls Club. But it is on our radar for when we can. Thanks for being a part of our growing success. – Lee Bass, Woodruff Community Garden

More than 35 organizational partners plus additional individuals helped amplify the knowledge.

Because of mentorships and the steadfast outreach of partner organizations, a web of urban growers benefitted from Ark. IPL efforts during the grant period, despite the pandemic that limited large gatherings that were planned.

Outcome 5: Increase number of local growers to serve a larger community.

a. Indicator 1: Number of Pulaski County residents will participate in community gardens, urban farms: 8,611

b. Number of new beginning urban farmers who receive extensive support at small shared urban plots serving the community, specialized for their individual needs: 8

Despite the pandemic that hampered the planned large in-person gatherings, Ark. Interfaith Power & Light exceeded this outcome through 114 smaller demonstrations in community gardens and greenhouses, mentorships, presentations, virtual conferences, and extensive online sharing multiplied by those engaged.

In 2020-2021, the Ark. IPL network of growers in Pulaski County grew from 43 to 240 participants who planted, shared seeds, shared produce, shared skills, mentored other beginning farmers, and delivered excess food to 8 food pantries.

Demonstrations resulted in 13 new chicken coops, 76 new raised garden beds, 25 new beehives, 100 shitake mushroom logs, 4 new greenhouses, and 3 refurbished greenhouses managed for shared space among the network of growers. 27 new garden partnerships were established.

The impact was magnified by sharing results with the College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) Biology Department, University of Central Arkansas (UCA) Environmental Health classes, the Little Rock School District, the Fit 2 Live program, Interfaith Arkansas, the Arkansas Community Foundation, Ark. Department of Education Childhood Education Division, the Environmental Ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, the United Methodist Women of Central Arkansas, and many more who also shared information and results.

The impact also was magnified by instructional videos and text on the Ark. IPL website, the Ark. IPL electronic newsletter with 1,549 subscribers, and postings to the Ark. IPL facebook page (liked by 420, followed by 506), and shared by involved growers and colleagues; the executive director of AIPL has 1,532 facebook friends, and the garden manager has 887 facebook friends; their posts were shared by growers, interns and colleagues, multiplying the impact of urban agriculture efforts. The Arkansas Local Food Network with a mailing list of approximately 600 and the Oak Forest Community Garden with a mailing list of 400 shared information about AIPL events and efforts. The impact also could be seen by \$6,000 in donations to AIPL from individuals who read about the regenerative agricultural practices through the newsletter and social media.

Additionally, a September 12-14, 2021 “Green Team Summit” included sessions on regenerative agriculture and healthy eating; it was part of Arkansas Peace Week. More than 1,200 registered. Hundreds watched during the 3-day conference, and more watched the recorded sessions later.

Regenerative agriculture / plant-based diet sessions also were presented at a Nov. 15, 2020 “Drawdown” webinar, and a collaborative Feb. 6-12, 2021, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light conference by zoom at Vanderbilt University,

Climate Reality presentations with segments on regenerative agriculture and plant-based diets were shared with hundreds of people who attended online sessions for the Unitarian

Universalists of Little Rock, the Unitarian Universalists of Hot Spring Village, the Unitarians Universalists of Jonesboro, the Jonesboro Rotary Club, United Methodist Women of Central Arkansas (twice), the Interfaith Alliance of the Ozarks, two Environmental Health classes at the University of Central Arkansas. Some of the sessions were recorded and shared again with classes, groups, and congregations.

“Kiss the Ground” documentary presentations and follow-up sessions were attended by more than 100 Arkansans, countless individuals at 17 Arkansas houses of worship that hosted screenings, and approximately 1,400 IPL observers nationwide.

Three sessions on pollinators, plant-based diets, regenerative agriculture, and energy efficiency were presented to Arkansas Girl Scouts earning badges in topics such as Making the World a Better Place, Use Resources Wisely, Eco Learner, Eco Friend, Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden, Animal Habitats, Eco Advocate, and more.

The impact of AIPL urban agriculture efforts could be seen in information sharing that grew organically over the year. This is a link to the updated map of involved urban growers in Central Arkansas:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=14J9rMF7jTT0e_zFWOJ6Vm5-IEPxlw8G0&usp=sharing

Increased knowledge that will continue in the community could be seen in statements of appreciation, such as the following:

As a result of your help (Ark. IPL) we (Woodruff Garden) put regular locally grown healthy vegetables in the homes of 20 plus families and provided thirty pecks of vegetables to food insecure families in Central Arkansas and provided training to two students in Public Health at UALR/UAMS. We also trained five new gardeners in our community this year. Covid prevented us from working with the youth at the Boys and Girls Club. But it is on our radar for when we can. Thanks for being a part of our growing success. – Lee Bass, Woodruff Community Garden

New urban farmer relationships that benefitted the community include the following.

Mentors: 1 Lead Mentor, 30 Total

1) Kurtis, lead mentor, provided leadership for multiple mentors who work with entrepreneur urban gardeners in the 12th St. to 18th St. area with more than 20 nearby urban plots. He has been a passionate educator and role model for interns and entrepreneur farmers. He organized and distributed hundreds of plants and hundreds of seeds. With the knowledge and experience he shared, he has made our soil and our local environment more natural and more fruitful. He has connected us to resources across town. He participated in and led many workdays and demonstrations.

2) Lee is a mentor and manager of the Woodruff Garden in the shadow of UAMS and the Boys and Girls Club. He worked with NLR Fit2Live (Anna) to plan garden beds for a new Habitat for Humanity neighborhood in Porter Cole neighborhood. We didn't use USDA money for this but it's an example of the influence of our mentors. He's advising us on improvements to the shop at

the Rose City farm. He gave us access to land for securing mushroom logs for the log plugging demonstrations. He was lead instructor for two picnic table building demonstration days. He was the main contact for one of our UAMS College of Public Health graduate student practical experiences. They tested soil and made custom recommendations to growers about how to amend their soil to produce more and better food. He introduced the network of growers to Lauren, who has become our bee expert and young local food entrepreneur. Lee hosted several workdays and meetings at the Woodruff Garden.

3) Pat has a farm in Rose City and has mentored most of our interns and several other young/beginning farmers. He taught us about using the tractor and delivered tractors and other equipment to sites of our demonstrations and new gardens, including New Africa, Western Hills, Gabriyel's, Azalea Garden, and more.

4) Laverne was a mentor who worked with interns to produce hundreds of starts that were distributed to growers. She connected young people to paying jobs related to gardens and farmers' markets. She hosted demonstration/workdays about native plants. She loaned and managed a portion of the Children's Library greenhouse for the use of our network.

5) Meenakshi is a gastroenterologist who worked with Kurtis, Laverne, and Ben Pope at the greenhouses and gardens. Audrey, a dietician at Ark Children's Hospital, invited Meenakshi to speak about fresh food and nutrition at a conference of health/nutrition workers. She worked with a UAMS student to prepare an informational, recipe handout.

6) Kim, a law professor at UALR, advised us on several occasions. LeRoi spoke to her about his interests in an urban farming business. She provided direction on how to operate after the grant funding ends.

7) Wally was a mentor through Crump Garden. He hosted garden and chicken coop demonstrations and worked with interns.

8) Engine John, who we met through Steve at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock community garden, conducted Small Engine Repair demonstration days. He is willing to lead future workshops and lend a hand with equipment repairs. He helped repair machinery and got an old tractor running. He gave us some small engine parts. He worked with Marthella, Oba, and many other new farmers.

9) Agnes is a master gardener who connected us to free plants at the State Hospital greenhouse. She also mentored Hunter, an intern, about the Master Gardener program. She worked with UAMS students on our projects. She donated fresh local food.

10) Anika, a local physician, provided connections and started working parttime on a farm in McAlmont a few miles from Rose City. She attended workdays, took seed, shared seeds, and worked with Sarah, Marthella, Linda N, and many more.

11) Amanda at Bernice Garden has chickens. We connected her to Dorothy, who gave her fertilized eggs. She hired Josh, Arjo and others to work at the Bernice Garden and Farmers' Market.

11) Anita, who owns Bernice Garden, hired LeRoi, Josh, Mary, and others for garden/market-related jobs.

12) Dorothy at Crump Garden worked with us on chickens and gardens. She has traded chickens, given away fertilized eggs for others to hatch, donated egg cartons, and donated materials to be repurposed. She hosted demonstration days and worked with interns.

13) Lauren, beekeeper, provided beehive demonstrations and installations in Spring-Summer-Fall of 2021, including two hives for a military veteran and his family. Lauren is a young beekeeper who cared for AIPL hives, offered demonstrations, posted AIPL efforts on her

facebook page and Instagram account, and passed on knowledge through her newsletter to dozens of subscribers. Her influence has resulted in countless beehives at small gardens throughout Pulaski County. She took struggling hives and turned them into a little local empire with more than 40 hives now spread across the county. She reinvigorated our partnerships with Mount St. Mary, The Van, Ark. Children's Hospital, Central High school, and more. She helped existing beekeepers keep their bees, worked with interns, and worked with other young people. She taught beekeeping and marketing. Lauren is working with our latest student, Nadia, to prepare for local markets this spring. Lauren is working with Linda, Lee, and Jimmy to make improvements on the Rose City shop and consider other ways to organize demonstrations there.

14) Louis and Janese worked with Lauren on bees at their farm. They attended several demonstrations; they connected us to a good low-cost resource for barrels, which we repurposed for water saving planters. They work closely and creatively with Lauren on workdays and farm stand ideas.

15) Nancy passed on a formal mentor role but was a mentor, nonetheless. She has a garden, worked with Lauren on bees, connected us to at least two new gardeners in her neighborhood, pointed others to us for demonstrations and workdays. Nancy donated seeds, plants, scrap materials, and ideas. She helped at demonstrations.

16) Linda N bought figs starts just before the grant period started. During the USDA grant term, she worked with interns and other young growers. She's hosted many workdays/demonstrations. She came up with the water-saving wicking barrel planters from repurposed materials. She donated and gave away fig trees and other starts. She continues to help at the UALR garden, where she is helping formulate a sustainability plan, improve the Rose City space, and make connections to other resources.

17) Danny came to us from Lauren after she helped him start bees. He has been a helpful mentor and worker at Gabriyel's farm and at Rose City workdays. He has worked with Jimmy, LeRoi, Gabriyel, Arjo, and others.

18) Chris H has been a huge help with the walk-in cooler and the greenhouse at Gabriyel's shared farm space. He worked with interns, participated in demonstration/workdays, loaned and gave us tools. Chris mentored Luke and others.

19) Douglas at El Zocalo Hispanic Migrant Resource Center helped arrange drop offs of fresh produce for their food pantry and also connected us to several people in southwest Little Rock who hosted chicken coop demonstrations. We had originally planned to rejuvenate the garden there, but it was not in production this year; instead, we worked with individuals who come to the food pantry. Douglas provided translation, when needed. All of the coop demonstrations were at homes where children lived. Lots of new people have eggs every day now because of Douglas.

29) Rachel – she has been our main connection to the students and UAMS. She taught classes, arranged garden projects, organized meetings, set up zooms, and kept us all connected. She started a garden in her back yard. She was home bound for much of the year (because UAMS was closed to classes because of the pandemic) but was very active and helpful to us electronically and virtually.

30) Sarah F – she has been one of a wise and gently mentor for interns and young people. She connected us to BJ, Clarence, Billy, Kim, Wally, Crump Garden, and other neighbors. She's on the board for The Village Place and works with Gabriyel at his garden. She is connected to UAMS and has a strong civil rights background. She has limited mobility but comes to workday/demonstrations and actively participates in those and the planning meetings we have.

Interns

- 1) Maddy – UALR student
- 2) Mary – aspiring farmer and chef
- 3) Ebony – UCA Department of Philosophy student
- 4) Hunter – UCA student
- 5) Casey – UAMS student

Young People Interested in Growing Local Food – New Connections: 35 Engaged & Sharing

1. Gabriyel – young urban farmer, marine veteran
2. Lauren – beekeeper
3. Arjo -- young person with FarmCorps, who lives in Rose City. Arjo worked at most of our gardens and also worked with bees and chickens. He helped at demonstrations and continues to work with us at Gabriyel's place. We helped him get several paying farm/garden jobs.
4. LeRoi – young landscaper interested in growing and selling local food in local markets. He worked extensively at Gabriyel's farm and with Lauren at beekeeping. He gained experience building and managing greenhouses and gardens, using shop tools, teaching kids at an elementary school, building community gardens, refrigeration, irrigation, etc. He spoke to Kim at the UALR Law School Business Clinic about his plans for a small garden-related business and was given some prep work for getting more formal help from the Business Innovation Clinic. He is meeting with us to plan the farm stands/markets for the spring.
5. Mark – young farmer who worked at Kurtis's orchard this summer and helped with grant work. He was effectively an intern with Kurtis but didn't do the paperwork or get paid directly from the ACF grant. Kurtis, Ben Pope and Jimmy referred him for the full-time Oakforest Garden Manager job, where he was placed. Mark's success is an example of how connections to AIPL's network of growers is creating opportunities for young people to be in the business of producing local food. Mark will be passing his knowledge on to the Oakforest Garden mailing list with more than 400 people. In his position he will strengthen our network by collaborating with UALR garden and our other local gardeners to produce, share and market more local food in local places.
6. Josh T—young farmer/chef worked with us on demonstrations. He was effectively an intern but didn't do the paperwork or get paid directly from the ACF grant. He gained experience on a large tractor, building and managing greenhouses and gardens, teaching kids at an elementary school, building community gardens, refrigeration, irrigation, etc. He was placed a job in October 2021 at Good Earth, a local nursery, where he will be sharing knowledge with many customers throughout Central Arkansas.
7. Anna -- young but experienced writer/editor who took an interest in what we are doing is now meeting with us about plans to improve the Rose City shop and farm. She is volunteering to help us write grants and communicate within the network.
8. James A - we helped him turn his yard into garden space. We helped him find a grant that he applied for and earned. He worked with Lauren on bees and attended many of our workday/demonstrations this year.
9. Kelsey – is a third-year medical student at UAMS, who says, "I am currently heading up a garden project at the non-profit Harmony Health Clinic here in Little Rock. The food we

grow goes to our patients who want to make healthy lifestyle changes.” AIPL helped Harmony Health Clinic with weeding, new soil, plants, and a new irrigation system. Kurtis, Josh, Mary, Jimmy, and Hunter worked there with Kelsey.

10. Portia – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Wally at Crump Garden
11. Christy – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked to create a list of farmers’ markets for future connections for our growers
12. Cheryl – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Steve and Nancy at the UALR garden
13. Mallory – UAMS College of Public Health student who conducted an interview and told the story of an elderly lady in Lonoke, Arkansas who still grows her own food and had advice for growers. She described the food landscape in that small town...including a faith-based community garden and food pantry.
14. Samantha – UAMS College of Public Health student who partnered with Mallory to conduct an interview and tell the story of an elderly lady in Lonoke Arkansas who still grows her own food
15. Arina – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Kurtis at the greenhouse and orchard.
16. Nadia – UAMS College of Public Health medical student who worked with Lauren and Ben Pope on social media; she is now doing her graduate project with AIPL’s network of growers. For her Applied Practice Experience, she is helping the network of growers with future plans for farm stands in neighborhoods.
17. Daniel – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Lauren and Ben Pope on social media; he attended bee education demonstrations
18. Taiwo – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Marthella and Yolanda at Promise Garden Park
19. Heather – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Sam at his new community garden to develop a flyer for community outreach
20. Taylor – UAMS College of Public Health student who worked with Lee at Woodruff to create garden safety videos
21. Tony – UAMS College of Public Health student who interviewed Read A about composting.
22. Gina – UAMS College of Public Health student who interviewed Nancy, a grower in Southwest Little Rock
23. Patricia - graduate student UAMS College of Public Health. For her Applied Practice Experience, she tested soil and made custom recommendations to growers about how to amend their soil to produce more and better food.
24. Anna Lee – teenager who attended demonstrations. (Marthella’s daughter)
25. Malachi -- teenager who attended demonstrations. (Marthella’s son) He took welding classes from Linda N, learned to build picnic tables, chicken coops, small greenhouses. He worked in gardens at Rose City and the Promise Garden.
26. Bree and Caleb - beginning farmers started making a new garden on Pat’s property in Rose City area of North Little Rock; they used a tractor provided through AIPL's network of growers.
27. Addison - UAMS student working at the 12th Street Health and Wellness clinic who helped coordinate drop offs of fresh local produce for their food pantry

28. Robert is Louis and Janese's grown son who has worked with Lauren on developing bee-related products and marketing ideas
29. Connor is a UALR student who has been studying the way community gardens operate. He has worked with Jimmy, Steve (UALR garden), Lee (Woodruff), Kurtis, and others. He volunteers some labor and interviews us about what/why we're doing.
30. Ned (FarmCorps) – worked with Read A on composting, volunteered at demonstrations, and actively participated in planning meetings
31. Kenny (FarmCorps) -- worked with Read A on composting, volunteered at demonstrations, and actively participated in planning meetings.
32. Rachel P – (FarmCorps) worked with us at Chicot Elementary. She came to workday/demonstrations at Rose City, helped Read A with compost, learned to use our tractor, coordinated our garden demonstrations at the school.
33. Sarah -- (FarmCorps) worked with us at Chicot Elementary. She came to workday/demonstrations at Rose City, helped Read with compost, coordinated our garden demonstrations at the school.
34. Stephen - connected with Heifer International. Stephen helped with a community garden and is interested in farm stands. He met with BJ and others about starting a farm stand in South End.
35. Starr (FarmCorps) - she actively participated in demonstrations and initiated projects on her own. She helped with chickens, bees, the shop, gardens, mushrooms, etc.

Groups and Organizations Who Collaborated: 35 Total and Sharing

1. New Africa Garden at Islamic Center for Human Excellence; broke ground for community garden in the Fall of 2020; expected to expand to multiple acres in the vicinity of a planned mosque for community; collaborated to make compost onsite to share with other gardens. Madere introduced us to a people, let us use land to store leaves and compost, attended workdays, worked on the Western Hills Elementary School Garden revitalization. Madere has a food truck and has connected with Gabriyel and many others about how to grow and sell local food. Daniel, AK, Queen Z, Rasheed, and others also helped at the New Africa Garden.
2. Azalea Neighborhood Garden in Southwest Little Rock - garden beds prepared, maintained; vegetables harvested; high interest in beehives, two beehive boxes in Spring 2021. Azalea Garden members attended chicken coop demonstration and built their own chicken coop. Owen and Steve took a little help and ran with it. Their neighbors were picking greens just a few weeks after they had the idea. They share facebook posts about their flourishing garden. Owen repaired equipment for us, acquired a stand for the trailer we share, shared expenses with us on tractor parts, built chicken coops, taught people how to use tools at demonstrations. Steve also has contributed to our workdays.
3. Military Veteran Gabriyel's Urban Garden on Arch St.- assisted with installing water lines; procured greenhouse parts; tested land for hazardous waste; leveled ground for large greenhouse; erected greenhouse, using some repurposed parts, on a multitude of demonstration days with numerous neighbors. Gabriyel and AIPL have plans for showcase urban garden that will collaborate with the Village Place on Arch St. and other nearby gardens. All interns and most other young growers worked on demonstrations at his shop on Arch Street. Gabriyel has a house in the same neighborhood that we are assessing for the potential to be a certified kitchen where we can preserve food and create

value-added local food products. Gabriyel has energy, humor and the capacity to let strangers come in and share his space. We are also producing rabbits...for their excellent manure for gardens.

4. No Closed Door Youth Group (Marthella) working at the Promise Garden on 12th St. - greenhouse repaired; old chicken coop removed; canning demonstrations; soap-making demonstration in April 2021 for outreach to nearby homeless community with health & hygiene kits in May 2021. Marthella has been involved in some aspect of everything we've done this last year. She and her family and friends have been a part of most of our workdays and demonstrations. She is currently working with us on projects with Gabriyel at his greenhouse, Linda at her shop, Benjamin H on community connections, Billie Jean on learning experiences, Kurtis on gardening, workdays, etc. Marthella improved the Promise Garden and worked at several other sites throughout the year. She's helped connect people to each other and passed on a lot of local knowledge.
5. OK Program with Little Rock Police Department and local pastors - at-risk youth learned to build garden beds from scrap cedar; OK is an established city program with liaison Rev. Malik Saafir at Philander Smith College.
6. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services; Field Office in North Little Rock; Troyce Barnet in Mountain View has high tunnels for urban farmers who apply; information was shared.
7. Aaron at The Van works with bees with Lauren; he attended demonstration days, donated a magnet to pick up nails at Rose City. We bought more than 100 chickens and some feeder/waterers from him and distributed them around the county. Glenn, Lauren, Ebony, Maddy, Jimmy met at his bee yard and made plans for spring. Aaron gave us a rooster so we can have fertilized eggs to incubate. Hunter, LeRoi, Josh, and many other young people participated in workdays/demonstrations at his farm in Rose City.
8. Arkansas Community Foundation provided funding for part-time interns for January – July 2021.
9. North Little Rock Fit2Live Program directed by Anna. We collaborated with them on several garden workday/demonstrations. She was assigned 2 FarmCorps members, who also participated in several demonstrations and introduced us to gardeners in NLR.
10. Woodruff Community Garden - Lee Bass served as a mentor, garden leader, farm owner; he worked with interns and mentors in 2021 to refurbish Woodruff Garden in an urban Little Rock location. He introduced many new people to AIPL's network of growers.
11. College of Public Health at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences - students volunteered at garden workdays. Students participated in an extra credit program regarding connections between environmental health and community health; one student served as an intern. A graduate student enrolled in Environmental and Occupational Health collected and analyzed soil samples from gardens as an Integrated Learning Experience that benefits our urban gardens.
12. The Village Place – a community resource center in central Little Rock; representatives attended chicken coop demonstrations and gardening workdays; they have a new community garden installation. They also purchased a vacant lot across the street from the Rose City Urban Farm to expand the urban farming infrastructure in North Little Rock.
13. Caterpillar / Waste Management – renewed relationship to pick up used pallets and crates to repurpose as garden beds and chicken coops

14. St. Joe's Farm Center in North Little Rock – collaborated on sharing strawberry plants with gardeners
15. North Little Rock Housing Authority – collaborative demonstrations of garden bed construction at Porter Cove low-income housing project; working with Fit2Live, Second Presbyterian Church, Over-the-Hill Gang (retired carpenters).
16. Habitat for Humanity – partnered to repurpose lumber for garden beds and chicken coops.
17. PATH (Physicians Against Trafficking Humans) - collaborative demonstrations and instructions on building garden beds and growing healthy food
18. Hillary Clinton Children's Library – collaboration on education workdays in onsite greenhouse and started hundreds of new plants to share with gardens
19. Seventh Day Adventists Food Pantry – demonstrated and provided a chicken coop so that fresh eggs may be shared
20. Sam's Urban Garden on Jones St. – a new community garden currently under installation.
21. The Dream Center - Marius and others worked with us to rejuvenate their garden beds and repurpose their old chicken coops and beekeeping equipment
22. Crump Community Garden – we provided demonstrations there with Dorothy, Bianca, Wally, Minnie, and others. They now have chickens and bees and are working on a duck area. They are now connected to Gabriyel, BJ, the Village Place and are expected to be a part of reinvigorating the South End (Arch Street) area.
23. Amboy Elementary School Garden – we provided several educational garden demonstrations there. Most interns spent at least some time there working with the children.
24. Amboy Church Garden – members are older and not meeting there regularly now so they decided to donate their blueberry plants and raised beds to others. Some will go to the Village Place on Arch St. We produced greens and a few other vegetables there this past spring which we donated to food pantries.
25. Zep's Garden is on Coach Abdullah's property. Interns worked with her, and we provided one of our first greenhouse demonstrations there. She helped us with social media and connections. We shared seeds and plants and repurposed lumber for some of the other garden projects she has in progress. Ebony worked with her several times.
26. UALR Garden – Steve donated hundreds of pepper and tomato starts that were distributed to almost all of the growers in our network and others around Little Rock and North Little Rock in the course of our USDA grant work. Steve, Nancy, Engine John, Dr. D and others there have been excellent UALR partners. We share tools, experiences and plants. They help us acquire repurposed lumber. They introduced us to Linda N and many students who worked with us during this last year. They participate in workday/demonstrations. They helped UAMS students with their garden-related projects. Our interns helped revitalize their garden beds. They worked with most of our interns and several other young people.
27. Shiloh Baptist Church Garden (NLR) – help with a garden renovation demonstration. We gave them tools, seeds, plant starts. We helped fix two of their tillers. Anna (Fit2Live) partnered with us on this. Several young people and interns helped.
28. El Zocalo Hispanic Migrant Resource Center and Food Pantry – Douglas facilitated sharing fresh local produce.

29. Harmony Health Clinic - Kelsey and Esmeralda. We provided garden revitalization and irrigation demonstrations there and dropped off food. We also connected them to Chris who was looking for a place to donate fresh food.
30. Grace Baptist Church's East 2nd Street Community Garden (North Little Rock) – we held a garden revitalization demonstration there along with Anna, Mr. Cox and Fit2Live. We brought blackberry plants, other starts, seeds, tools, and helped repair some of their equipment. Interns and others participated.
31. Western Hills Elementary School Garden – we helped Laura-Anne revitalize this garden
32. Chicot Elementary School Garden – we provided demonstrations and helped Rachel and Sarah construct a new garden for this school
33. Pulaski Heights Elementary School Garden – we helped Read and FarmCorps with their educational garden here by loaning them tools, providing some soil, and advising them
34. Ellen Smith Elementary School Garden (Conway) –we worked with them on their educational garden, provided seeds, fruit trees, other starts, irrigation items, garden tools, youth gloves, soil amendments. We connected them to Laverne and others about native plants and herb gardens. Hunter and Ebony dropped off garden items for them since they were in Conway.
35. First Presbyterian Church (Conway) – we provided fruit trees, plants, bushes, garden tools for a community garden that is part of feeding meals to low-income neighbors

Arkansas IPL continues to receive reports of AIPL workshops and presentations that are duplicated and shared.

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light expects the network of growers to continue to expand. Starting in the summer of 2022, growers will begin moving produce to farm stands. Our pilot project (funded by the Arkansas Community Foundation) will help asset-limited, income-constrained neighbors climb the sustainability ladder by providing resources that improve self-sufficiency. Our growers are ready to advance their earning power by moving products to farm stands in low-wealth areas with limited access to fresh food. Our pilot project will establish farm stands in 3-5 areas (final locations to be determined), accessible to low-wealth neighbors (often without vehicles to transport them to supermarkets) who could use SNAP benefits and Double Up Food Bucks for purchases and also to working clientele in downtown Little Rock on at least one weekday.

AIPL will continue to collaborate with a vast network of partners to share knowledge regarding regenerative agriculture and plant-based diets.

Our partners include the following.

Partners: Arkansas Community Foundation, Interfaith Arkansas, Network of Growers (Central Arkansas), The Van (Pulaski County), University of Arkansas at Little Rock, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Amboy United Methodist Church Garden (North Little Rock), Amboy Elementary School Garden (North Little Rock), Rose City Urban Farm (North Little Rock), Fit2Live (North Little Rock), Ellen Smith Elementary School Garden (Conway), First Presbyterian Church Garden (Conway), Interfaith Power and Light at the national level

Little Rock Partners: Second Presbyterian Church, Islamic Center for Human Excellence Garden, Hillary Clinton Children’s Public Library and Greenhouse, No Closed Doors Community Youth Group, The Village Place Community Garden, The Dream Center Garden, Azalea Neighborhood Garden, Greater Christ Temple Pentecostal Church Promise Garden, Woodruff Neighborhood Garden, Oak Forest Neighborhood Garden, Dunbar Junior High Garden, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Booker Elementary School Garden, PATH (Physicians Against Trafficking Humans), OK Project (Little Rock Police and Pastor Mentors), El Zocalo Hispanic Resource Center Garden, Hope Rises Garden (for previously incarcerated women), Crump Neighborhood Garden, East Second St. Garden, Pulaski Heights Elementary School Garden, Kurtis Priebe’s Urban Orchard & Greenhouse, and many more.

The following emailed letter from the Arkansas Community Foundation in October 2021 indicates the foundational success from the one-year USDA grant that will lead to continued growth of the urban agriculture infrastructure in Central Arkansas: “We have total confidence in your work. Our organization is really making an effort to learn more about the landscape of food systems in Arkansas so we can be better partners... Sounds like you have some really exciting work planned for the year! I’m so glad we could support it.” - Lauren Morris, Affiliate Director, Arkansas Community Foundation

Here is an example of how the impact of USDA funds continue to share community learning.

This evening we'll be covering Native Bees vs. Our Honeybees, Arrival of Honeybees to the Americas, "Africanized" Bees, and Strategies for Strong Hives.
Conversations with Calm+Confidence - Tuesday, October 12, 2021 · 7:00 – 8:00pm
(Video Call Link)

WHAT TO DO



ELIMINATE UNFRIENDLY HIVES

Extremely deffensive hives are eliminated if requeening doesn't work



REPRODUCE STRONG HIVES

Colonies that maintain low mite numers and produce ample honey are bred



PROMOTE ALL POLLINATORS

Our honeybees are spread out so native bees are not outcompeted