



Food Security

PHOTO: UMD, EDWIN REMSBERG

Strong farms strengthen local food systems

New farmers just starting out and established farmers looking to expand markets have something in common: looking to the Land-grant University System to support their growth. Strong local farms strengthen local food systems and food security.

Here are a few examples of this work:

- When participant surveys indicated a need for more in-depth and hands-on farmer education, **Idaho** Extension educators responded using a performance-based learning model to create an online course curriculum and hands-on workshop series structured around basic core competencies and skills identified as needs of beginning farmers. *University of Idaho; other USDA competitive* ([See full statement](#)).
- In **Kansas**, new small-scale farmers and in-state producers were looking to increase sales. A series of three local meat marketing workshops across the state provided guidance on regulations, strategies for business promotion and marketing best practices. *Kansas State University; Smith-Lever (3b&c)* ([See full statement](#)).
- A webinar series, Funding Your Farm: Selling Your Story in a Business Plan, enabled 142 participants in **Michigan** to explore key uses of a business plan and what lenders look for in plans. In a post-series evaluation, 88% indicated they plan to use what they learned to create a business plan for their farm. *Michigan State University; Smith-Lever (3b&c)* ([See full statement](#)).
- **Wisconsin** has many small-scale, diversified vegetable growers and farmers market vendors. To improve the success of their farms and food business, eight training events and a field day served over 175 farmers and entrepreneurs. Trainings were conducted in both English and HMoob. *University of Wisconsin; Smith-Lever (3b&c)* ([See full statement](#)).

Continued

www.landgrantimpacts.org

ABOUT LANDGRANTIMPACTS.ORG | This website documents the individual and collective impacts of the national Land-grant University System of joint research, education and Extension. Much of this work is supported by capacity and competitive funds through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Prepared by the National Land-grant Impacts Database communications team and supported by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly.



Food Security

- Seeing increased demand for local food and on-farm experiences, **Vermont** Extension partnered to organize an open farm week. Participants tested new experiences to determine the feasibility of offering them on a regular basis and made new community connections. *University of Vermont; Smith-Lever (3b&c)* ([See full statement](#)).
- **Alaska** Extension ensured the needs of local farmers and producers were considered in discussions on a new grain reserve. *University of Alaska* ([See full statement](#)).