



**1890 Impacts**

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## 1890 Historically Black land-grants bridge the gap to empower communities

*Within the national Land-Grant University System, 19 Historically Black Colleges and Universities are bridging the gap between information and lack of resources to enhance underserved communities through research and Cooperative Extension programs. Many of these initiatives focus on healthy eating, physical activity, entrepreneurship and improving the economic conditions of small farmers.*

### Examples of this work include:

- Extension professionals at **Alabama** Agricultural and Mechanical University are educating entrepreneurs about the aspects of legally operating a business in Alabama, including selecting a business structure and filing taxes. During its first year of operation, 80 Alabamians benefited from the program.
- In **Georgia**, a Fort Valley State University Extension community garden is feeding more than 1,000 households in a poverty-stricken town each year at no cost to them. Launched in 2014, the Village Community Garden also provides a space for education and physical activity — important services in this rural community of 6,200 residents.
- **Tennessee** State University’s SNAP-Education Program launched a social media and branding campaign in 2019 to accurately represent communities of color actively engaging in healthy lifestyles. Photos and interactive media from the diversity database are being used in various marketing efforts by other organizations.
- In **Alabama**, youths are learning better eating habits, reducing sugar intake and increasing physical activity. Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University’s nutrition and STEAM programs resulted in 607 participants aged 8-12 logging 823,142 steps, burning an average of 480 calories in 2021. There were also positive changes in healthy eating and their sugar intake.

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### [www.landgrantimpacts.org](http://www.landgrantimpacts.org)

**ABOUT LANDGRANTIMPACTS.ORG** | The Land-grant University System is a uniquely American institution and has operated successfully for more than a century. The website documents the collective and individual impacts of the national system of joint teaching, research, and extension institutions.

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- The University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff is enriching students' summer experience by providing programs and 4-H nutritional activities focused on U.S. Department of Agriculture MyPlate guidelines, food science and nutrition, agricultural systems and ways to curb carbon appetite. Youths learn how to make quick, healthy snacks that can replace fast food snacks without using a heat source of any kind.
- Generational land loss has drastically affected African American families and their access to capital to build generational wealth. The Small Farm Program at the University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff received a grant to start the Sustainable Forestry African American Land Retention Program. Among its other accomplishments during the 2021-22 program year, the project team helped 18 African American forest landowners obtain \$300,000 in Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to install land-improving conservation practices on 1,316 acres of forestland.
- A **North Carolina** Agricultural and Technical State University program helped 11 new and beginning small farmers receive research-based training on small-scale market gardening practices. The 12-week course concluded with participants harvesting and selling their grown produce at a farmers market. All participants increased or anticipate increasing their revenue due to the program.
- Educational programs by **Tennessee** State University were presented on agricultural science, robotics and drones. Survey results revealed that 5,125 youths now do science activities that are not for school, and 4,376 youths would now like to have a job related to science.
- At Fort Valley State University in **Georgia**, researchers have found a combination of beneficial nematodes and a widely available insecticide provides an important tool in managing the peanut burrower bug. The insect pest poses a significant threat to the state's peanut crop. Georgia produces about 50% of the nation's peanuts.
- In **North Carolina**, researchers are finding environmentally friendly ways to better control insect infestations in stored grains. They used essential oils found in cinnamon, cloves and thyme to be the most effective in controlling the maize weevil in stored organic corn. These oils also helped reduce mold without any change in shelf-life for the corn.