



  
carolina farm  
stewardship association

## 2022-2023 Impact Report

# Letter From Leadership

Dear Friends,

Every time we make a choice to purchase food, we invest in a food supply chain. When we choose to invest in our local food supply chain – as individual households, businesses, government, and philanthropists – we actively promote our community's health and well-being, including our own families. It changes our relationship with how food is grown and with the farmers who grow it.

These choices are woven into the larger fabric of what it means for a just transition to a fair and inclusive food system, one that supports small independent organic farms and farmworkers who steward the land, protects the environment, and builds economic prosperity and political power from the ground up.

Our impact in these areas accelerated in 2022 and 2023, firmly rooted in the relationships we have forged with you, our members, partners, and supporters, demonstrating what can be achieved when we work together with a shared commitment to a better food and farming future.

Sincerely,

Roland McReynolds  
Executive Director



## About CFSA

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The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) is a farmer-driver, membership-based 501(c)(3) non-profit that's on a mission to bring local, organic food to your table from a farmer who shares your values.

## Our Mission

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To advocate, educate, and build connections to create sustainable food systems in North and South Carolina centered on local and organic agriculture.

## Our Vision

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A sustainable regional food system that is good for all consumers, farmers, farmworkers, and ecosystems.

## 2023 Board of Directors

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Ebonie Alexander  
Michael Brown  
Miguel Castillo  
Bonita Clemmons  
Davon Goodwin  
Robin Kohanowich

Katherine Lewis  
Ariel Miller  
Martha Mobley  
Kate Renner  
Cecilia Redding  
Clay Smith

# What We Stand For

Since our founding in 1979, CFSA has worked to unite farmers, consumers, and businesses to build a healthy, just, and sustainable food and farming system while addressing today's pressing challenges – from a loss of farmers and farmland to the need for research and resources tailored to family farms to the ongoing integrity of sustainable agriculture and a regenerative future in the face of climate change. We achieve this through our three programmatic pillars: Education, Advocacy, and Farm Services.



## **We educate communities about local, organic farming**

CFSA brings together farmers, researchers, agricultural service providers, buyers, consumers and activists through educational events to strengthen the connections and networks throughout our food system. Our annual farm tour and agriculture conferences provide educational opportunities for thousands of people from across the Carolinas each year.

## **We advocate for fair farm and food policies**

CFSA advocates for food and farm policies that benefit small and mid-scale sustainable and organic farms and strengthen local food systems through grassroots advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, and policy research and analysis.

## **We build systems that sustainable farms need to thrive**

CFSA supports growing and sustaining an environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially just food system. We provide direct technical assistance, workshops, and resources to farmers on organic production and certification, food safety and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, high tunnel production, and market access. We conduct on-farm research and provide education opportunities for the next generation of organic farmers at our Elma C. Lomax Research and Education Farm.

# 2022–2023 Highlights

*CFSA is focused on improving farmer livelihoods while assisting farmers and local food value chains in delivering climate solutions through agriculture. Our collective impact is made possible with your generous support and that of our community of partners.*

## Building Climate-Resilient Just Food Systems

How we grow food plays a big role in mitigating the effects of climate change. Improving our land use and agricultural practices has the potential to maximize land-based carbon sequestration, remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, and increase biodiversity. Over the last two years, CFSA's technical teams provided over 3,000 hours of conservation technical assistance to farmers in North and South Carolina and supported them in implementing and improving organic practices on 10,672 acres of farmland.

Growing more good food locally and creating virtuous local food value chains is not only a solution for reducing environmental impact, it improves affordability and access, contributes to place-based economic development, and nurtures community connections.

In 2022–2023, FarmsSHARE paid over \$3.7 million to participating farmers and food hubs (\$5.2 million since 2020), impacting 72 counties in North Carolina. This translates into 89,675 free food boxes – or more than 1.2 million pounds of food – distributed through grassroots community organizations to families who need them most.

*In October of 2023, volunteers, board, and staff from FarmsSHARE community partner Urban Community Agrinomics (UCAN) worked alongside staff from FarmsSHARE food hub partner Farmer Foodshare to pack and distribute fresh food boxes to local families.*





*"We greatly appreciate the generosity and support that FarmsSHARE provides to farmers and organizations focused on reducing food insecurity. UCAN would not be able to substantially help residents of Durham County in increasing food security without your assistance. We may be the face of the giver but FarmsSHARE makes the giving possible! With a heart of gratitude, we thank you!"*

**Delphine Sellars, Executive Director of Urban Community Agrinomics in Durham, NC**

## Cultivating Knowledge

6,430 people were trained and mentored through our educational programming in 2022–2023, gaining knowledge, tools, and skills in organic production, season extension, food safety, and market access.

More than 30 Triangle area farms welcomed 3,875 visitors during the 25th and 26th annual Piedmont Farm Tour, held in partnership with Weaver Street Market, to raise awareness about sustainable agriculture and help attendees better understand what it takes to produce local vegetables, fruit, meat, flowers, and more.

In partnership with NC State, CFSA hosted 165 attendees at the 2023 Organic Commodities and Livestock Conference in Raleigh, NC.

Essential peer-to-peer and expert-led educational resources were provided for over 800 farmers and food system professionals at CFSA's 37th and 38th annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference.

65 scholarships from the William Dow Scholarship Fund were awarded to farmers of color and beginning farmers in 2022–2023. The William Dow Scholarship Fund supports beginning farmers and Black, Indigenous, and farmers of color of all experience levels to attend the annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference. Each scholar receives a complimentary one-year membership to CFSA and free technical assistance from our farm services team.



Fairshare Farm in Pfafftown, NC



At CFSA, education spans from hands-on training and on-farm demonstrations for farmer-to-farmer learning to consumer education, enhancing knowledge and appreciation of local, organic agriculture.

Braeburn Farm in Snow Camp, NC



Gullah Farmers Cooperative Association in St. Helena Island, SC



CCCC Farm in Pittsboro, NC



**"CFSA does a really good job at focusing on education. We look to you to provide that, especially the food safety angle and high tunnel meetups. It's been super helpful for us."**

**Madeline and Elvin Eaton of Fairport Farms in Kitrell, NC**



## Lomax Farm

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At CFSA's certified organic Elma C. Lomax Research and Education Farm in Concord, NC, we provide land access and research-based education to farmers, students, and community members to foster a food system that supports the local community and protects our natural resources for future generations.

In 2022-2023, five farmers participated in the Farmers-in-Training (FiT) program, which grows and supports the next generation of organic farmers. The FiT program provides affordable access to land and equipment and supports each participant through mentorship, one-on-one technical assistance, and a strong local community of growers.

As a research and demonstration farm, the hard work that goes into cultivating a wide variety of organic vegetables pays off in teaching and training the 708 participants who attended workshops in 2022-2023. It also forms the basis of Lomax's Grow-to-Donate program that provided 9,561 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to families in need through area partners like The Bulb and Cooperative Christian Ministry.

*Lomax Farm Manager, Dylan Alexander, plants crops for the Grow-to-Donate program.*

## Advocating for Fair Farm and Food Policies

In a major win for both grassroots and grasstops advocacy by our members, Congress passed a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill in November. This provides vital support to programs such as the National Organic Cost Share Certification Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Local Agriculture Market Program. It gives us additional time to continue advocating for CFSA's policy priorities in the Farm Bill with fellow National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition members.

We successfully advocated for an investment of \$20 million in South Carolina to fund local and regional food system improvements. This will strengthen rural communities, support crop diversification, and increase market access for small farms.

CFSA's Member Advocacy Program activated 41 grassroots advocate-leaders through an intensive four-month leadership academy to train farmers and community members on how to organize effective campaigns for food and agriculture reform. MAP has trained 72 advocate-leaders since 2021.

In 2022, we delivered on a collaborative advocacy campaign and won passage of a bill modernizing South Carolina law on home-based food businesses, expanding the types of foods that can be produced by such businesses and where they can be sold. CFSA worked with several state agencies and partners to produce a [handy guide](#) navigating the new changes to South Carolina's cottage food law.

*In March 2023, CFSA staff and members, along with hundreds of farmers and food systems advocates from around the country, gathered for the Farmers for Climate Action: Rally for Resilience, part of a mass mobilization calling on lawmakers to prioritize climate solutions in the 2023 Farm Bill.*





## Looking Ahead to 2024

In the coming year, CFSA will broaden our partnerships to promote sustainable agriculture as a solution to climate change while assisting farmers in adapting to and mitigating its effects. One of our initiatives involves working with vegetable farmers in the Southern Piedmont region to help them adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, better understand the climate impact of their operations, and improve their marketing strategies to reach consumers effectively.

Additionally, we're expanding the network of organic producers in the Carolinas. CFSA is helping farmers transition to organic practices through technical assistance, mentoring, and educational resources.

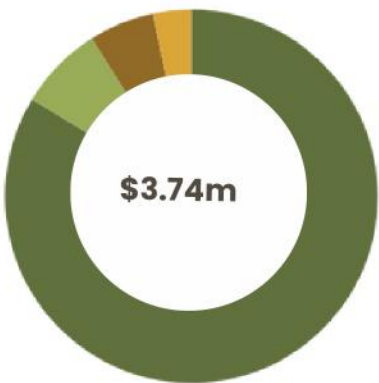
On the policy front, we're continuing our efforts to ensure that the 2023 Farm Bill fully addresses the needs of small sustainable farms and protects the gains we have already made. We're also advocating for the extension of the FarmsSHARE program beyond 2024, continuing our focus on building local food value chains, supporting BIPOC farmers, and promoting local food sovereignty.

*"CFSA has been instrumental in supporting my healthy food & farm advocacy and activism through their member advocacy training program. Without their support, little to none of my community organizing and advocacy for more regenerative policies in farming would be possible. They also do a lot of impactful advocacy work at the federal and state level in support of regenerative and organic farmers, a sustainable and resilient food system and racial equity, diversity and inclusion in farming. Before being introduced to them, I was ineffective as change maker. By supporting CFSA's efforts you are supporting farmers like me to make meaningful change in farming and food systems."*

**Mike Hansen, Ozark Akerz Regenerative Farm in Coleridge, North Carolina**

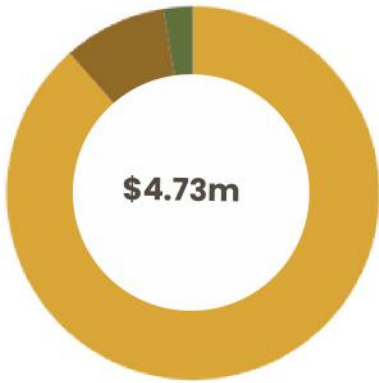
# Financials

2022



**Income**

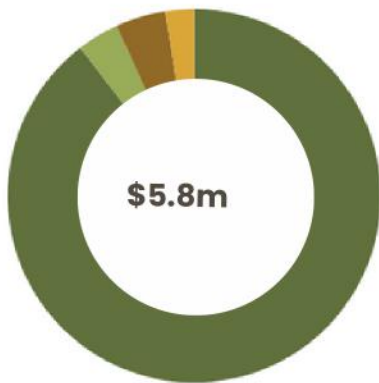
**83.6% Grants**  
**7.3% Gifts & Dues**  
**5.6% Conferences**  
**3.3% Consulting & Misc**



**Expenses**

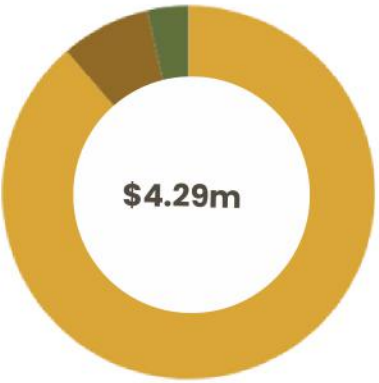
**88.5% Program Services**  
**8.9% Administration**  
**2.5% Fundraising**

2023



**Income**

**89.5% Grants**  
**3.6% Gifts & Dues**  
**4.4% Conferences**  
**2.5% Consulting & Misc**



**Expenses**

**88.7% Program Services**  
**7.7% Administration**  
**3.6% Fundraising**

Note: In 2022 and 2023, FarmsSHARE accounted for \$1.98m in Program Services.  
FY22 audited financials; FY23 projected financials.





## Join Us

Become a [member](#) today and connect with a vibrant network of farmers, consumers, businesses and organizations working together for a just, healthy, and sustainable food system.

## Support Us

Set up a monthly [donation](#) or make a gift to sustain and grow our movement.

## Advocate With Us

Join us in [advocating](#) for a better food and farming future. Sign up for federal and state alerts about policy affecting local food and farms.

## Amplify Us

Connect with us on social media and subscribe to and share our [newsletters](#).



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Front cover: Open Door Farm in Cedar Grove, NC  
Back cover: Little Meadows Farm in Providence, NC

