

Invigorating Sustainable Farms and Food

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

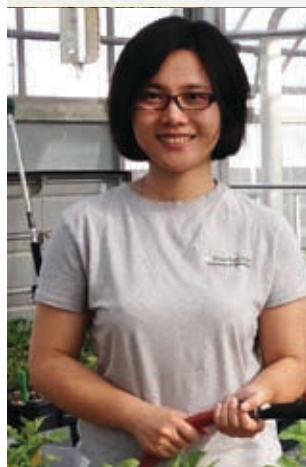
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2014 Annual Report



providing aspiring farmers with the **training** they need to start their own farms, including dairy, livestock, fruit and vegetable growers

carrying out innovative, strategic **research** in food production, marketing and distribution



supporting UW-Madison **students** who are conducting research in sustainable food systems

providing **outreach** about a sustainable food system in a variety of areas, including farm production, food system logistics and farm to school



CENTER for INTEGRATED
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS



College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Growing the future

CIAS Citizens Advisory Council

Rick Adamski, Full Circle Farm, Seymour, WI

David Andrews, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, East Troy, WI

Kat Becker and Tony Schultz, Stoney Acres Farm, Athens, WI

Andy Diercks, Coloma Farms, Coloma, WI

Mark Eslinger, Loramar Farm, Stanley, WI

Tom Ferguson, Ferguson's Orchards, Galesville, WI

Andy Gehl, Contract Comestibles, LLC, East Troy, WI

Claire Hintz, Elsewhere Farm, Herbster, WI

Kevin Kiehnau, Organic Valley East Central Division, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Sarah Lloyd, Wisconsin Farmers Union Special Projects, WI Dells, WI

Tom Lutsey, Waseda Farms, Green Bay, WI

Mark Olson, Renaissance Farm, Spring Green, WI

Laura Paine, Paine Family Farm, Columbus, WI

CIAS Staff

Nadia Alber, Dairy/livestock school

Michael Bell, Director

Sandy Bennett, Administration

Cris Carusi, Communications

Dick Cates, Dairy/livestock school

Amy Cottom, Administration

John Hendrickson, Vegetable production and grower schools

Vanessa Herald, Farm to school

Kelly Maynard, Food systems

Ruth McNair, Communications

Michelle Miller, Associate Director

Pam Porter, Perennial systems

Matt Raboin, Perennial systems

CIAS Faculty Associates

46 faculty members in 22 departments across the UW-Madison campus

CIAS Associate Staff

CIAS works closely with several people in other campus departments and in UW Extension

From the CIAS director

Dear Friends,

2014 was an exciting and special year for the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS), as we marked 25 years of bringing people together to create more sustainable food systems. While I encourage you to read about our many 2014 accomplishments in this annual report, I want to take a moment to reflect on the rewarding interactions we enjoyed with both the University community and citizens across Wisconsin—and beyond—during our anniversary year.

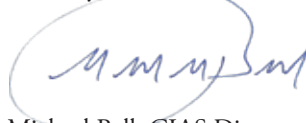
The Wisconsin Idea emphasizes that the boundaries of the university are the boundaries of the state, and CIAS puts this idea into practice. Our dynamic Citizens Advisory Council guides our work by informing us of sustainable agriculture research, outreach, and training needs in their communities. Through participatory research and outreach, our projects engage a diverse community of partners including farmers, food processors and distributors, retail businesses, K-12 schools, nonprofits, and many other collaborators. Throughout the year, you can find CIAS at conferences and events across the state.

This marked the second year of our enormously successful mini-grant program for graduate students. Through a competitive process, we supported student research on sustainable agriculture topics ranging from tomato variety trials for organic production, to improving food security and health in rural Zambia. One of this year's mini-grant recipients leveraged our funding to win a campus ClimateQuest award of \$100,000 for her research. A modest investment in student researchers can go a long way toward helping them launch successful careers in sustainable agriculture, and we are raising funds to secure the future of this important program.

CIAS's cutting-edge work brings together experts from across campus to tackle environmental, economic, and social issues in agriculture. In 2014, we launched a new effort to create more resilient farms, communities, and ecosystems by incorporating perennial crops such as forages, apples, hazelnuts, and cover crops. Looking into 2015, we are increasing our efforts to help growers successfully incorporate perennial crops through research and outreach on the production, economic, and environmental benefits of perennial agriculture.

Just over a quarter century ago, CIAS was established with strong support from citizens who care deeply about the sustainability of Wisconsin's family farms and food businesses. Thanks to your continued support, we are ready for new opportunities and challenges well into the future. Thank you for being a part of CIAS.

Sincerely,



Michael Bell, CIAS Director



Current and past CIAS Citizens Advisory Council members attended the 2014 summer meeting at Ferguson's Orchards near Eau Claire.

Highlights of our 2014 accomplishments

Student research and experience

CIAS sustainable agriculture mini-grants funded **11 graduate student researchers** working on natural virus resistance in potatoes, breeding sweet corn and tomatoes for organic production, and more.

Supported the efforts of the **F.H. King Students for Sustainable Agriculture** to lead student workshops on sustainable agriculture and provide campus with fresh produce from their organic garden.

New and diverse farmers

Trained **91 beginning farmers** through the CIAS grower schools, with courses on grass-based dairy and livestock production, production and marketing of fresh-market vegetables and cut flowers, and growing grapes sustainably.

Provided groundwork to help **Latino, Hmong and other diverse farmers** grow their businesses through the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative.

Agricultural innovation

Launched an effort to **clean up lakes and streams in the Yahara watershed** through sustainable farming practices that reduce phosphorus and sediment runoff.

Researched and mapped **perennial crop production** across Wisconsin.

Documented growth and challenges in **Wisconsin's organic industry** in a report titled *Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin: 2014 Status Report*.

Delivered **16 presentations, workshops and webinars** on farm business planning, profitability, recordkeeping and crop storage to about **600 vegetable and fruit growers**.

Farm to school

Updated **two farm to school toolkits** that are helping schools and farmers work together to serve more locally grown produce in lunchrooms.

Provided networking and information to **500 people** working on farm to school in the Great Lakes region, and provided schools with **19 trainings and 16 publications** on farm to school.

International agriculture

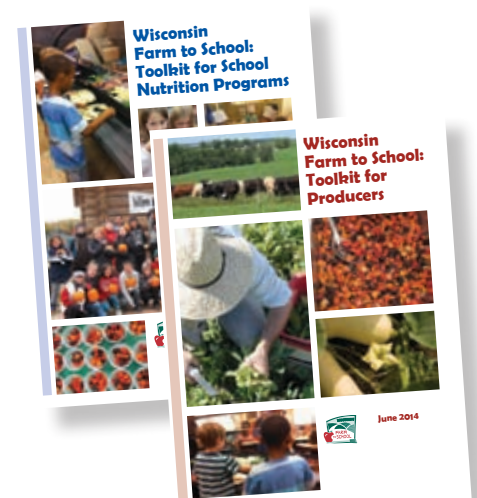
Led **10 UW-Madison undergraduates** in a service learning course with CIAS Director Michael Bell to improve health, nutrition and agricultural practices in South Africa.

Hosted **two international scholars** from Gaza and France.

CIAS 25th anniversary

Hosted **six events attended by 545 people** to celebrate the 25th anniversary of CIAS, including lectures, a concert, a poster session and a barn dance.

Raised **\$76,700 for the CIAS 25th anniversary fund**, and grew our donor base by 686 percent.



Many thanks to our 2014 CIAS supporters

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Gary and Rosemarie Zimmer

CIAS makes its best effort to include all donations made between November 1, 2013 and January 1, 2015. If your name has been omitted, please contact us so we may properly show our appreciation. Thank you to our past and present donors for your generous support!



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