

UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

Farms and Food for the Future

2019-2020 Annual Report



August 18, 2020

Hello CIAS friends,

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, we immediately began to hear from our farmer collaborators about disruptions in the agricultural and food system. Some of the dairy farmers that we work with saw dramatic decreases in the price they receive for their milk due to supply chain issues as consumers stopped eating at restaurants and schools, and instead purchased food for home use. The craft cider makers shared that they had to close down their tap rooms, losing critical income for their operations. At the same time, the CSA farmers we work with said that they sold out of pre-sales for the season faster than ever.

We began to see the outlines of a massive shock to the current system—one of unprecedented challenges for some and unique opportunities for others. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed critical weaknesses and inequities in the food system. The pandemic's financial repercussions for farms and other food businesses—as well as the State of Wisconsin and the entire University of Wisconsin System—are uncertain.

Over the past 31 years, CIAS has been fully engaged in bringing together farmers, researchers and others to study and provide outreach for resiliency and viability in Wisconsin agriculture and food systems. CIAS seeks to be a key organizer and

CIAS is working toward a diverse, sustainable agriculture and food system in Wisconsin.

Your support makes this work possible.

Thank you.



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College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

facilitator in the transformation needed to address critical ecological, economic and social issues in Wisconsin and beyond.

Your support of CIAS is needed now more than ever to keep our work relevant and responsive. CIAS staff members are:



- convening a Wisconsin Local and Regional Food COVID-19 response group which has weekly calls to discuss strategies to maintain or create supply chains and markets for small- and medium-sized farms and other food businesses;
- engaging with the media about local and regional supply chains and logistics and carrying out participatory research on dairy supply management and a multi-tenant wholesale food terminal for the Madison area;
- working to offer alternative delivery methods of training and outreach on farm viability to farmers and food businesses; for example, the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers Pasture Management Class is now being offered online; and
- re-affirming our organizational commitment to creating a more equitable food system, and taking further steps to address systemic racism in food and agriculture.

Can we count on your support to expand these efforts and continue our work to improve the food system? Highlights from the 2019-2020 fiscal year are shown at right. Your support has made these accomplishments possible, and it is especially appreciated at this time. Visit supportuw.org/giveto/cias to make an online donation, or make a check out to **UWF-CIAS Fund** and note **Fund number 132040681** on the memo line. Mail your check to **University of Wisconsin Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807**. Gifts of any amount are much appreciated. With your help, we can build a more resilient, diverse and vibrant food system.

Sincerely, Michel Wattiaux, Interim CIAS Director

CIAS summary of accomplishments

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

<p>Trained 115 beginning farmers</p>	<p>Administered \$2.5 million in grants</p>	<p>Reached 2,625 participants at conferences, workshops and webinars</p>
<p>Reached 74,067 people through website, email lists and social media</p>	<p>Involved 1.8 million participants in the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch</p>	<p>Partnered with 37 departments and centers on campus</p>
<p>Partnered with 131 off-campus organizations</p>	<p>Produced 33 new outreach items and journal articles</p>	<p>Received \$84,060 in donations</p>

CIAS Citizens Advisory Council

Kat Becker, Cattail Organics, Athens
 Dan Cornelius, Intertribal Agriculture Council
 Andy Diercks, Coloma Farms, Coloma
 Mark Eslinger, Loramar Farm, Stanley
 Andy Gehl, Contract Comestibles, LLC, East Troy
 Greg and Wendy Galbraith, dairy, Aniwa
 Clara Hedrich, LaClare Farms, Malone
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 Chris Holman, Nami Moon Farms, Custer
 Kevin Kiehnau, Organic Valley, Sturgeon Bay
 Joel Kuehnhold, Lonely Oak Farm, Milladore
 Laura Paine, Paine Family Farm, Columbus
 Tony Schultz, Stoney Acres Farm, Athens

CIAS Staff

Nadia Alber, dairy/livestock school
 Cris Carusi, Associate Director of Communications
 Lindsey Day Farnsworth, food systems
 Brianna Fiene, farm to school/institutions
 Jacob Grace, managed grazing
 John Hendrickson, farm viability, schools
 Vanessa Herald, farm to school/institution
 Mriil Ingram, participatory action research
 Sarah Lloyd, food systems
 Kelly Maynard, food systems
 Ruth McNair, communications
 Michelle Miller, Associate Director of Programs
 Gregg Sanford, cropping systems
 Michel Wattiaux, Interim Director
plus 57 faculty associates across campus



Support from a generous donor allowed CIAS to provide summer mini-grants for 11 graduate students, including Hanna McIntosh who studied controlling fruit pests.



The second annual Wisconsin Chili Lunch resulted in 48,454 students across the state enjoying chili made from locally grown beans, sweet potatoes and onions.



CIAS' beginning farmer schools, including the Midwest School for Beginning Apple growers, rely on experienced growers and UW faculty as instructors.



CIAS published results from a research study that helps hard cider growers and makers select apple varieties for a high-quality, artisanal finished product.

Our 2019/2020 Supporters

Michael Bell and Diane Mayerfeld

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CIAS made its best effort to include all donations made between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. 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!

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our donors! Your generosity allows us to continue our programs.

Donate online at supportuw.org/giveto/cias. If you'd like to speak with us directly about your gift, or if you would like information on including CIAS in your long-term giving plans, please contact Jodi Wickham at jodi.wickham@supportuw.org or 608-206-6058.