



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Arizona Urban Agriculture Program – Yavapai County Master Gardeners

April 17, 2024

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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USDA, FPAC and NRCS



- **Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)**
- Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
- Food Safety
- Marketing and Regulatory Programs
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Research, Education and Economics
- Rural Development
- Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

FPAC

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FPAC Business Center

Farm Service Agency

Risk Management Agency



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Conservation Mission & Resources

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance with conservation issues that might impact the productivity or natural resources on your farm, ranch, or forest by exploring the topics below.



Soil

Soil erosion, soil quality degradation, or soil health



Water

Excess water, insufficient water, or water quality issues



Plants

Reduced health or quality of plants



Animals

Inability to meet livestock or wildlife habitat needs



Energy

Reduced energy efficiency for equipment of field operations



Air

Air quality issues such as greenhouse gases or odors





Conservation Planning

Nine step process

Phase I:

Identify Problems

Determine Objectives

Inventory Resource

Analyze Resource Data

Phase II:

Formulate Alternatives

Evaluate Alternatives

Make Decisions

Phase III:

Implement the Plan

Evaluate the Plan





USDA and the 2018 Farm Bill



The 2018 Farm Bill authorized numerous USDA resources for urban agriculture, including:

- an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP);
- an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee;
- Urban County Committees
- USDA grant authority to support urban agriculture development and innovative production

Agriculture is not defined by the location of the farm or the size of the plot. Agriculture is the **source of our Nation's food and fiber**, and it continues to grow in impact and importance in our urban areas.





Urban Agriculture



Bronx, NY. Population 1.5 million



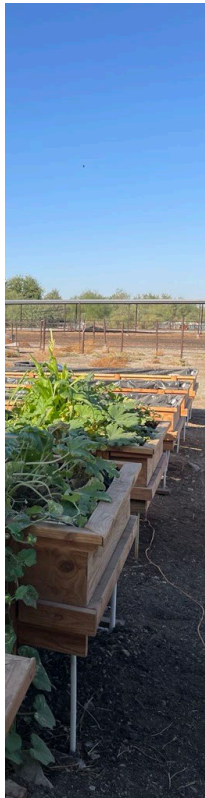
Kennebec, SD. Population 300





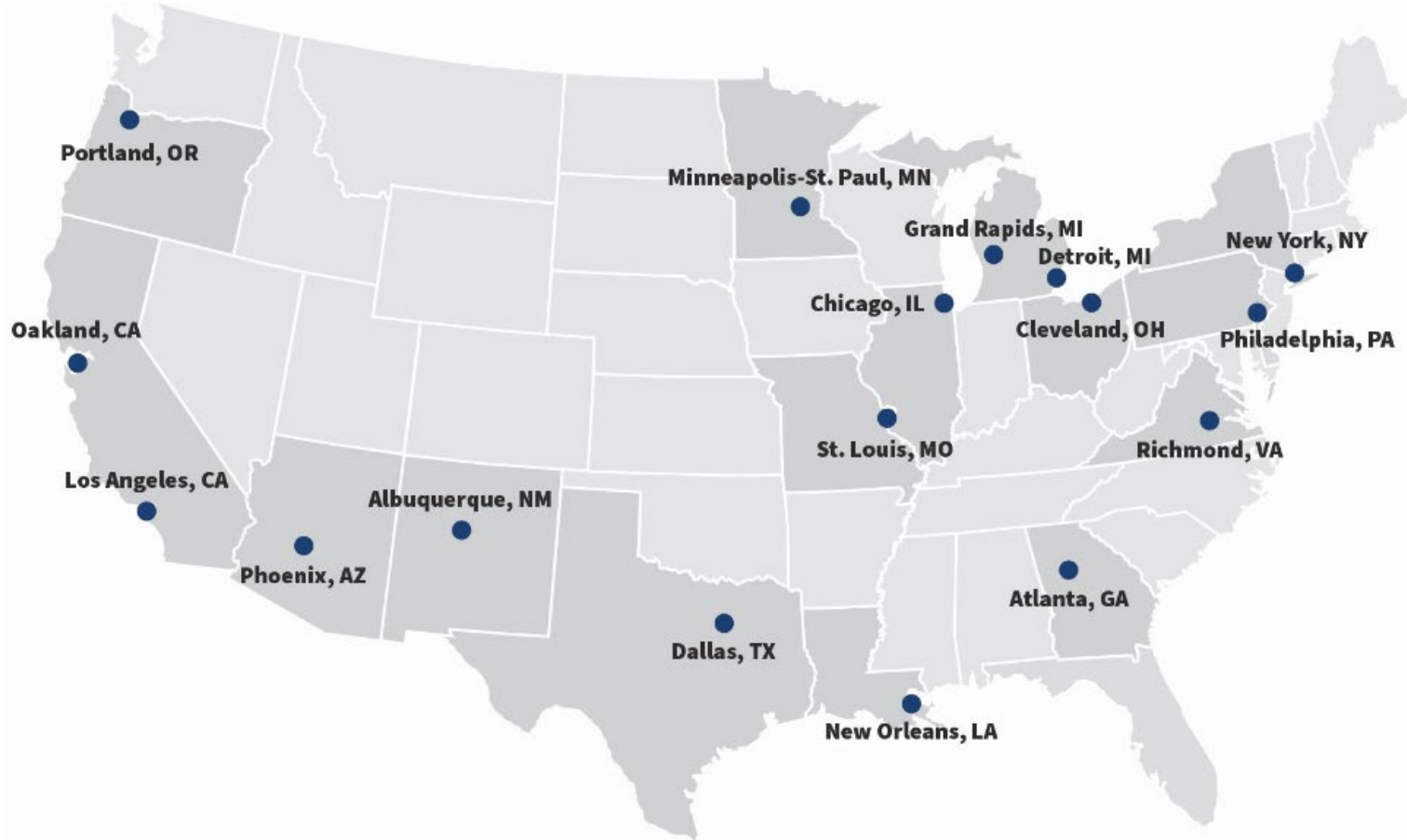
Urban Agriculture – Chief’s Priority 2023-2024

- Commitment to working with farms of all sizes and in all locations
- Working to expand conservation tools to address the unique needs of urban farmers and communities nationwide
 - Review conservation policies, practices and activities to adopt and customize to support urban agriculture
- NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for conservation practices
- Dedicated NRCS funding to develop USDA People’s Gardens to address food insecurity and promote local food economies
- Expanded USDA grant opportunities to promote partnerships and support urban agriculture development





Urban Service Centers



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EQIP Snapshot – Fiscal Year 2023



Urban & Small Farm Contracts

Total number of Urban/Small Farm contracts (67)

Total number of *new* contracts obligated in FY23 (21)

Contracts Funded in the following locations:

- Fredonia---5
- Flagstaff---3
- Avondale---3
- Yuma---2
- Tucson---3
- Douglas---1
- Willcox---3
- Holbrook---1



Yavapai County Master Gardeners



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Reflections



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Sparking a Fire



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Technical and Financial Assistance



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Challenges and a Path Forward





Questions?

Ralph Ware
Assistant State Conservationist
Field Operations
(520) 471-0418
Ralph.Ware@usda.gov

Mariela Castaneda
Urban Conservationist
(480) 815-8616
Mariela.Castaneda@usda.gov



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