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Growing Farmers Initiative

Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

Project Director: Sara Elliot

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Manager, Growing Farmers Initiative

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
Award No [2015-70017-22873]



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Growing Farmers Initiative



Equipping beginning farmers to create **economically and ecologically resilient farm enterprises** in NY and beyond



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Project Audience

Future farmers and beginning farmers (up to 10 years farming experience) with a strong interest in ecologically resilient agriculture.

- Hudson Valley, Northeast, and nationwide
 - Over half of apprentices are from outside the Northeast
 - Young Farmers Conference participants from 30+ states
- Most have no family farming background
- Apprentices: Usually 22 to 33 years old, some college education, at least one year of farming experience



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Project Audience

**Apprentices,
past 3 years:**

Women – 15

Men – 9

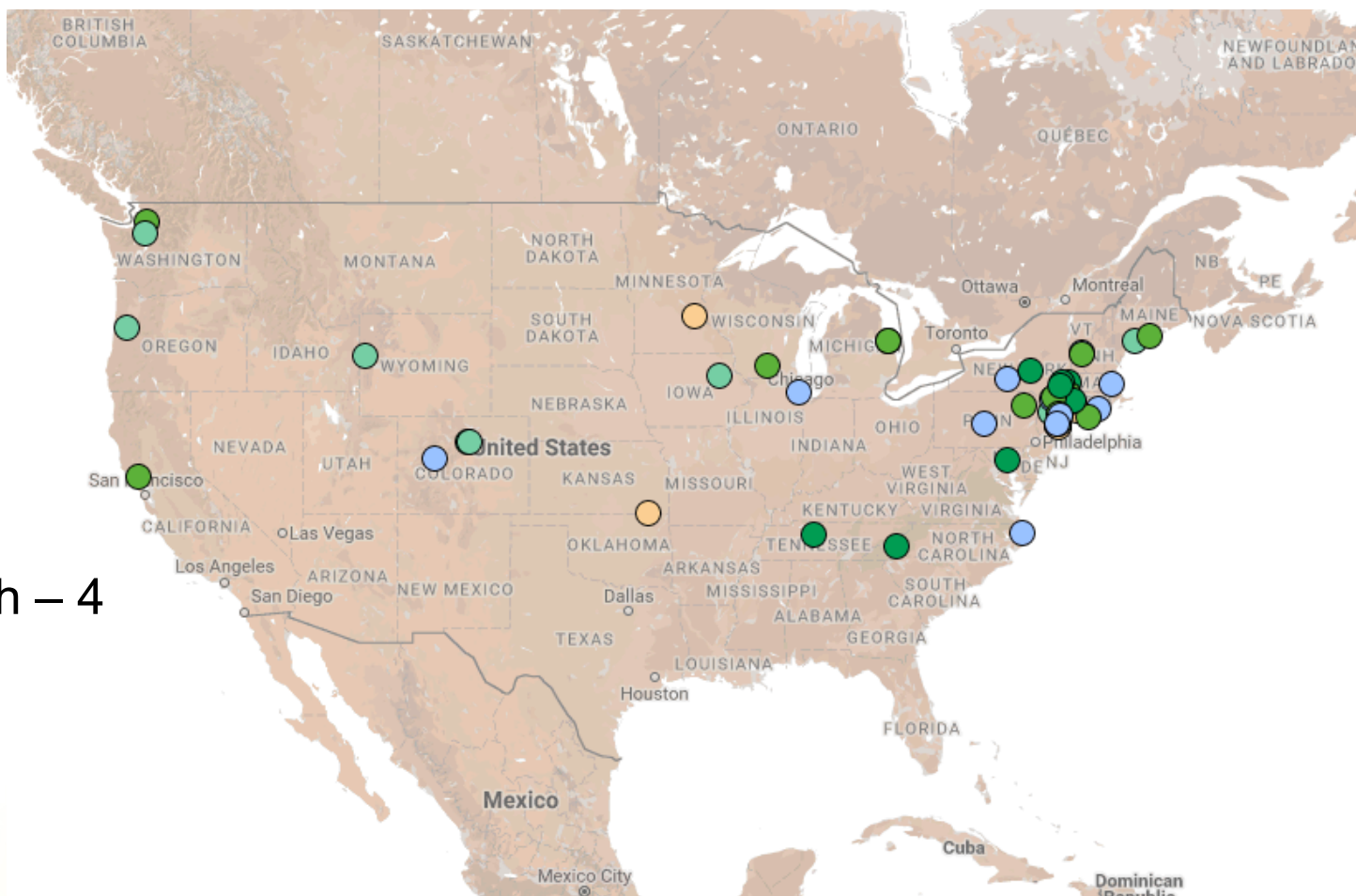
Northeast – 11

Midwest – 4

Mid-Atlantic, South – 4

West coast – 3

International – 1





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Partners and Collaborators

Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation

- Farm business planning one-on-one TA (Partner: Mary Ann Johnson)

American Farmland Trust's Hudson Valley Farmlink Network

- Land matching for beginning farmers in Hudson Valley. (Partner: Tim Biello)

Local Economies Project Farm Hub

- Incubator for beginning farmers, preparing for mid-size production



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Key Approaches

- Apprentice training
- Ongoing assistance for apprenticeship alumni
- Conferences and workshops
- Resources



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Apprenticeship training





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Ongoing assistance for apprenticeship alumni





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Conferences and workshops





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Web resources and community - Virtual Grange

ALL TUTORIALS

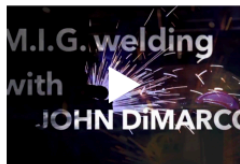
SORT BY NAME



Harvesting Tips: Cherry Tomatoes



Introduction to Torch Cutting



Introduction to MIG Welding



Farm Case Study: Pie Ranch



Farm Case Study: Soul Fire Farm



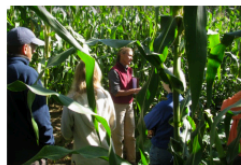
Farm Case Study: D Acres of New Hampshire



Farm Case Study: Clay Bottom Farm



Farm Case Study: Alewife Farm



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VIRTUAL GRANGE

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FARM CASE STUDY: CLAY BOTTOM FARM

From the 2015 Young Farmers Preconference — "This Is How We Do It: Learning From Successful Farm Models."

[More case studies >>](#)

Clay Bottom Farm

Ben Hartman and Rachel Hershberger
Goshen, IN

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Overall Target Outcomes (2015 - 2018)

900 beginning farmers trained (conferences, workshops etc.)

36 apprentices trained

30 new farm business plans

600 new Virtual Grange members



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Progress

(as of Sept. 2015)

580+ conference participants (Young Farmers Conference, Poultry School, 51 workshops for apprentices and other farmers)

6 apprentices graduated, all working on farms
9 apprentices currently in training – at least 3 will launch farm businesses in 2017

22 new videos and farm case studies
received over 3,000 views in 2016
3:42 – average time on page



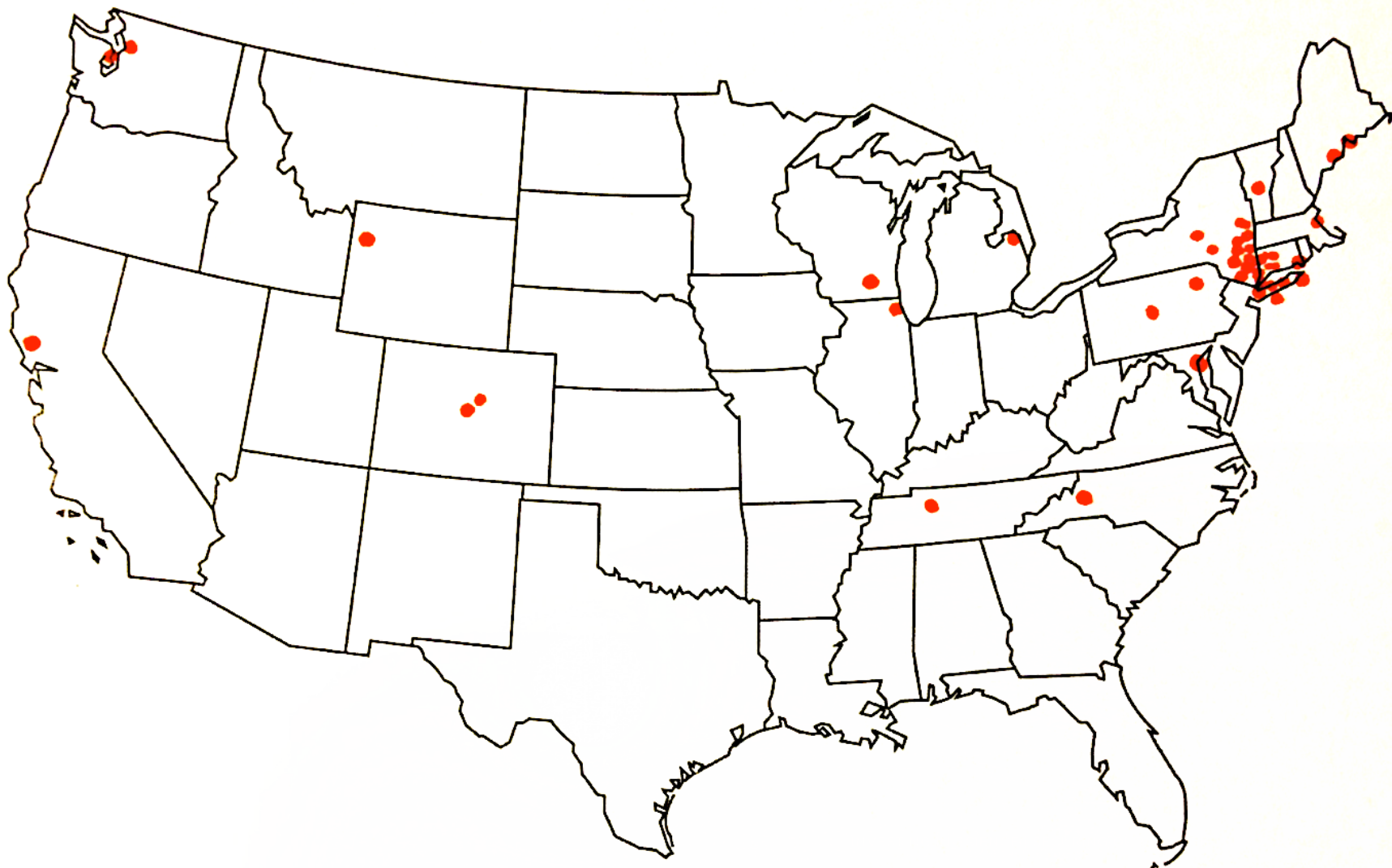
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Alumni tracking





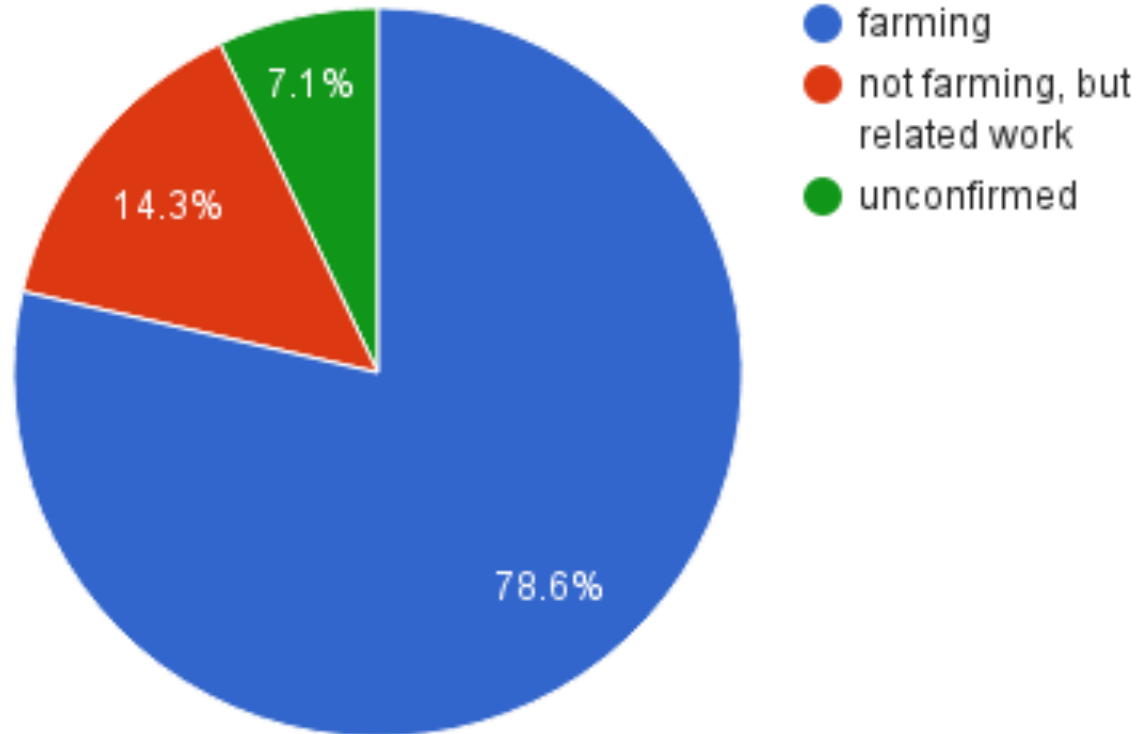
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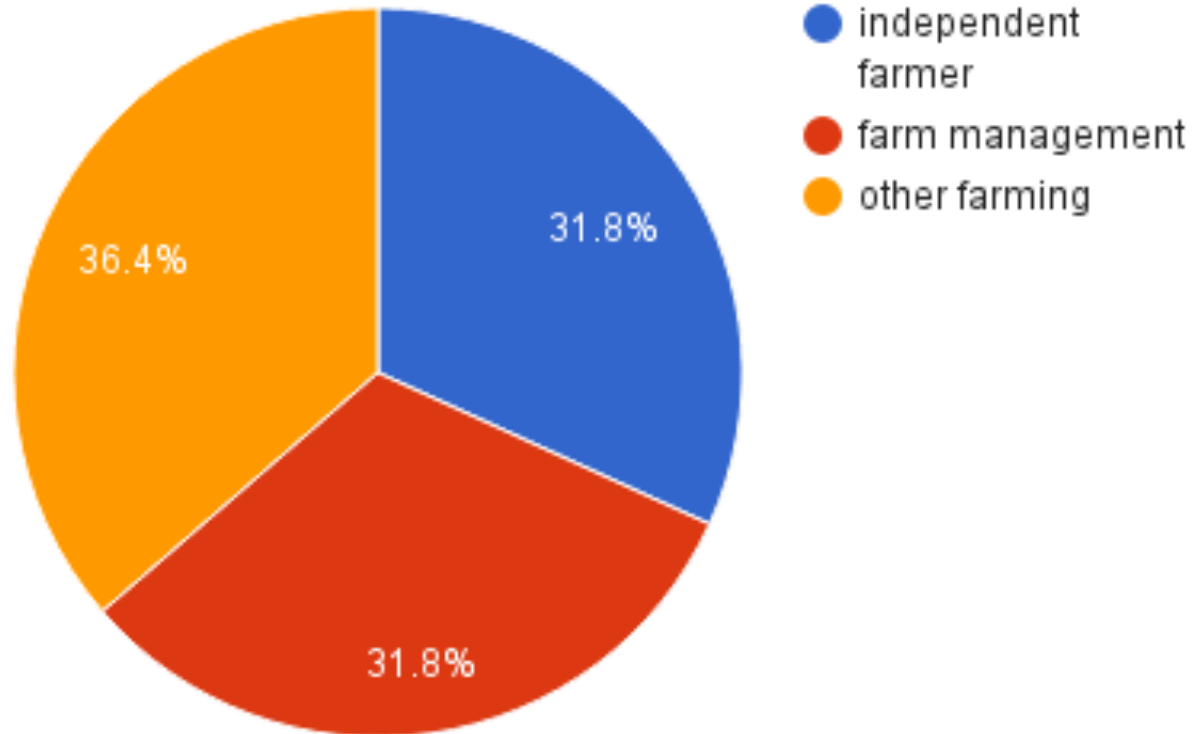
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What do you have to share?

- Apprentice program curriculum
- Culinary connection, farmer-chef exchange
- Young Farmers Conference processes (speaker lineup, registration lottery, content capture)
- Training farmers to be farmer-educators



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What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Alumni tracking/relations – keeping up with past trainees
- Young farmer dilemma: Need training & farm experience to get started, but also need to be making enough money to save up
- Farm business planning – for a theoretical future farm (rather than a current one)



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