



From Seed to Scale: Building and Expanding Food Bank Agriculture

Presenters:

- *Donna Vick, Second Harvest Food Bank (TN)*
- *James Hoffer, Dayton Food Bank (OH)*
- *Kristen Sommerfield, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (NC)*



**SECOND HARVEST
FOOD BANK**

of MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Feeding Hope®

Project Grow

Growing Food, Building Community,
Nourishing Lives

Project Grow

- Rural Community in West TN
- Started in July of 2022
- On-site garden/farm at our food bank
- 23 acres under land management
 - Pollinator Barrier-3 acres
 - Contract Farmer - 12 acres soil amending
 - Growing Food- 4 acres



Project Grow

- Demonstration Garden- 1 acre
- Row-Style Garden 3 acres





Project Grow

- No piece of Agricultural equipment
- Volunteers- nearly 1,100 hours
- Paid summer intern
- 1 Staff person who is 50% out of 6 months





James Hoffer

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GREYFIELD SITE

- PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED
- VACANT OR ECONOMICALLY OBSOLETE
- “EMPTY” ASPHALT













Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Farm



- Leasing 16 acres on peri-urban property
 - ~15-min drive to downtown Raleigh
 - 8-10 acres in production; 2 acres added this Fall
- Highly diversified crop plan (>25 species)
 - Crops grown by volunteers & staff
 - Crop plan co-designed with Culinary & Distribution for cultural relevance, neighbor preference, & CAP
- Regenerative organic practices
 - Crop rotation, cover cropping, composting, low-till
 - IPM with OMRI-listed pesticides only; no herbicides



Meet the Team



Charles
VP of Agriculture



Kristen
Farm Manager



Lourdes
Farm Coordinator



Emma
Farm Coordinator



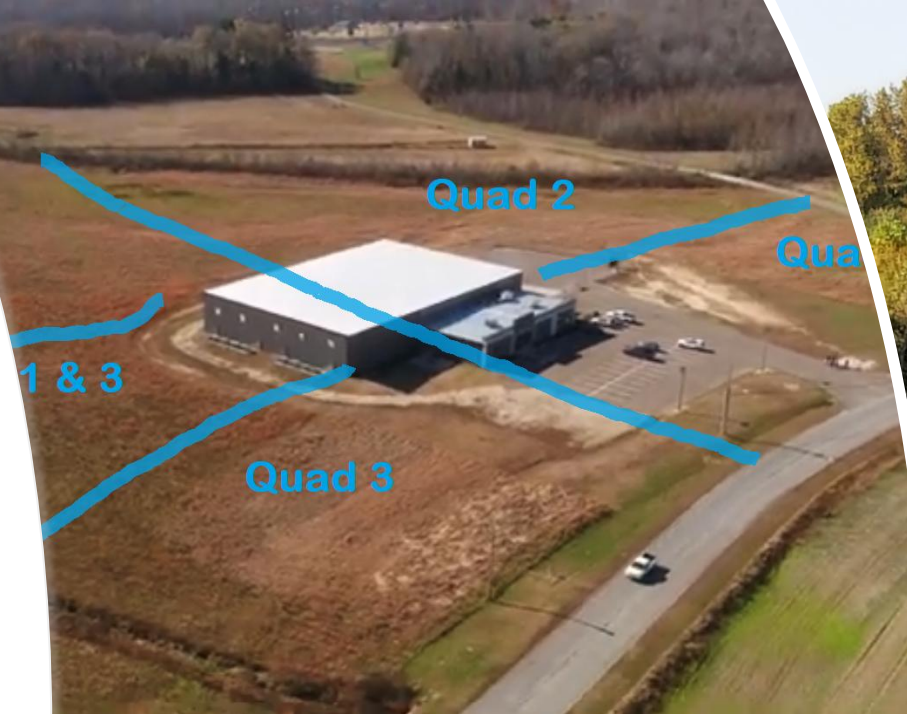
Luca
Farm Assistant (Seasonal)



Coming Soon
Farm Apprentice (Annual)

**Your CEO
asks, “What
do we do with
this land?”**

\$150,000 → \$16,000



Numbers Or Engagement?

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
Budget	\$16,700	\$21,400	\$23,000	\$80,650
Spent	\$16,463	\$6,681	\$9,220	\$3,325
Hours	520	618	1,044	
Pounds	2,432	2,782	7,219	

In-Kind	Over \$6,000
Money Raised	\$124,000
Volunteer value	\$67,424

Field Operations



- Mechanized for field prep, bedding, & spraying
 - Medium tractor, small tractor, & BCS
- Volunteer-reliant
- Biodegradable plastic mulch aka bedding
- Leaf mulch between rows
- Crops started from seed on-site
- Drip irrigation from rain-fed pond
 - Field and high tunnel crops
- Well irrigation
 - Nursery GH and hydroponics GH

Harvest

- USDA Pre-GAP Certified
- Volunteer work teams
- Empowering Volunteer Leaders



Post-Harvest



- USDA Post-GAP Certified
- Empowering Volunteer Leaders
- Traceback systems
- Prioritizing Culinary Programs
- Donation-only, on-site Farm Stand





Partnerships

Who do you know?

Start with your inner circle.

Look at your donors.

Who has the same passion for your project?





Partnerships

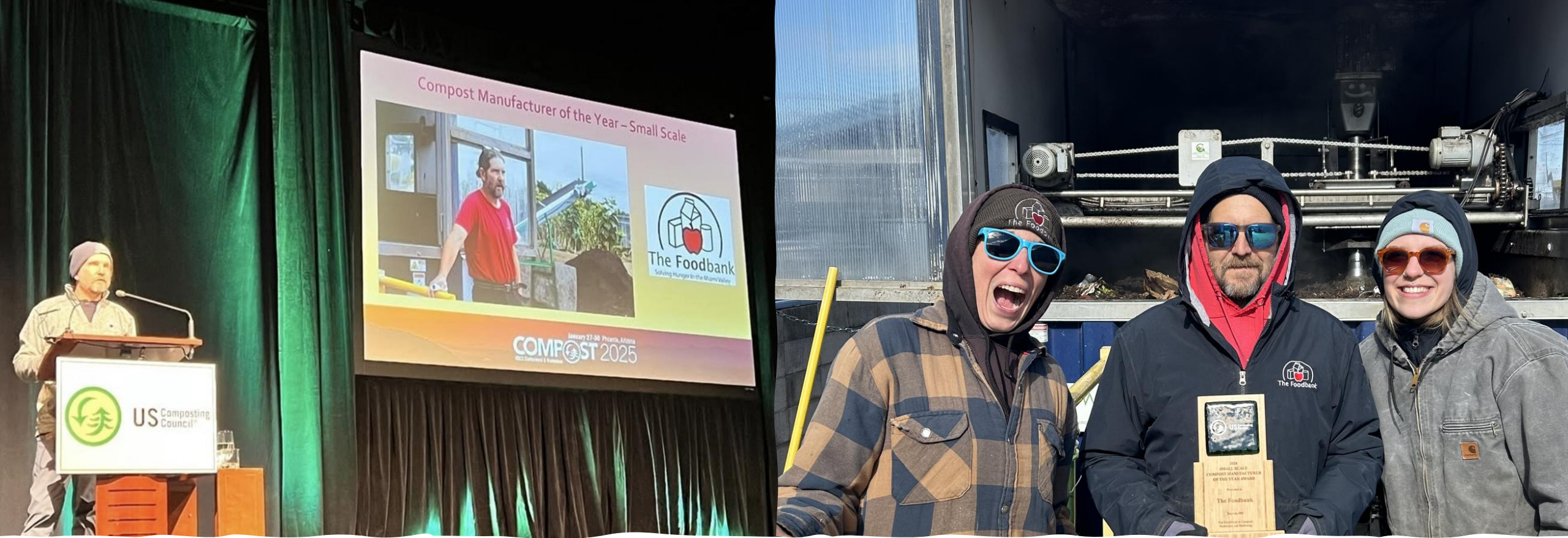
Who are the experts?

Just Ask.

Ask me about a TRACTOR!







Questions

Table Time

Report Out



INTER-FAITH FOOD SHUTTLE

**Growing Stronger
Communities**

ANNUAL AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Thank you & Contact Info

From Seed to Scale: Building and Expanding Food Bank Agriculture

Presenters:

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