

ABOUT GOOD FARM FUND



THE GOOD FARM FUND IS FUNDING OUR LOCAL FOOD FUTURE.

Our volunteer-led organization is 100% funded by and for our community. We minimize overhead and maximize impact by keeping it simple: fund farms to grow more food.

We make it easy for our community to invest in our foodshed by funding small projects that have a big impact.

We strengthen & build community through hosting the best farm-to-table events of the year, bringing farmers, chefs, and the public together to celebrate the joy of real food.

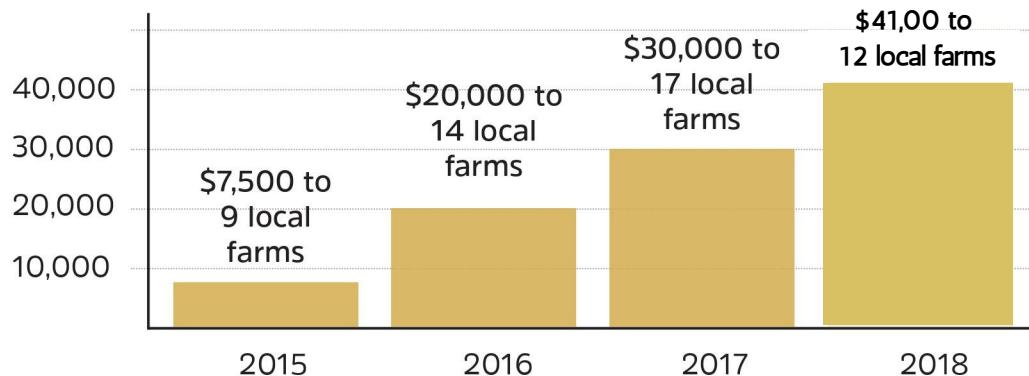
We seek to be a model for other communities who want to grow a stronger food system.



Good Farm Fund is a nonprofit community organization founded in 2015 with the mission of providing direct support to small farmers in Mendocino and Lake Counties and increasing local food security for all members of our community.

FARMER GRANT PROGRAM

Annually we award economic-development grants to local farms, based on their financial need and impact on our local food system. Farmers apply via a one step application and are vetted by a farmer-led peer review panel. Our grants provide crucial support that directly increases local food production in our community.

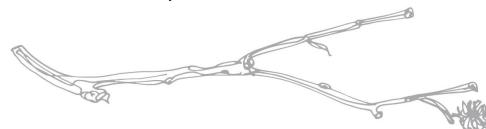


2018 GRANT EXAMPLES

- Forest People - mushroom house to increase production
- Green Uprising Farm - cold storage unit to help preserve food
- Irene's Garden - larger, more efficient tractor
- Mendocino Grain Project - soil amendments for new grain fields
- Mendocino Meats - new livestock to repopulate grazing areas & replace post-fire fencing
- Nature's Tune Farm - transplanting hardware

FOOD STAMP MATCH

Our program gives CalFesh families an additional dollar for every dollar they spend at local farmers' markets. By helping families stretch their food dollars, the program supports access to fresh, healthy food for all - a win/win for farmers and low-income families in our community.



DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

In the wake of the Redwood Complex Fires in 2017, we launched our Disaster Recovery Fund. This effort to support local farmers in times of crisis distributed over \$7,500 in 2017 and \$4,500 in 2018 to farms impacted by the fires.

The Good Farm Fund is a fiscally sponsored program of North Coast Opportunities, a 501(c)(3) Community Action Agency serving Lake & Mendocino Counties.

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Did you know that every \$1 spent at a locally owned business has 2-4 times the impact of the same \$1 spent at an equivalent non-local business?

This means that every dollar spent locally produces:

- 2-4 times the local jobs
- 2-4 times the local income and wealth effects
- 2-4 times the local taxes
- 2-4 times the local charitable contributions.

The economic development case for investing in local food is clear. Investment:

- supports local businesses,
- create jobs,
- and circulate money in the local economy.

Access to financial capital persists as the chief obstacle for farm start-ups and, according to a recent USDA Economic Research Service report, a leading factor for why so few beginning farmers are young. Those working on national projects to help build small farm viability attest to the inadequacy of existing capital.

THE FASTEST WAY TO SEE A COMMUNITY THRIVE IS BY ORGANIZING A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM THAT CAN PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE FRESH, HEALTHY, LOCAL FOOD TO ITS PEOPLE.

LOCAL FOOD = LOCAL MONEY

Buying and eating local means more money stays within our community. Every dollar spent generates twice as much income for the local economy.

LOCAL FOOD ALLOWS YOU TO TRULY KNOW WHERE YOUR FOOD COMES FROM

When you buy local food, you know more than what the sticker on your apple tells you. You have confidence about where your food comes from and how it was grown because you've met some of the people involved in its production. You're a part of the community and so are they. You can ask questions directly and get clear answers. This connects you to your food and allows you to make the right choices for your family.

LOCAL FOOD IS FRESH & BETTER FOR YOU

Local food is fresher and tastes better than food that has been trucked or flown in from thousands of miles away. Think you can't taste the difference between lettuce picked yesterday and lettuce picked last week, factory-washed, and sealed in plastic? Think again. Fresh food also preserves more of its nutrients so you get more of what is good for you with every bite.

LOCAL FOOD USUALLY HAS A SMALLER ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Buying local food reduces waste from packaging and the use of fossil fuels. Food miles consume enormous amounts of energy and contribute to poor air quality worldwide. Those thousands of miles some food is shipped? That leads to a big carbon footprint for a little basket of strawberries.

LOCAL FOOD PRESERVES FARMLAND & GREEN SPACE

The environmental question of where your food comes from is bigger than its carbon footprint. Buying foods grown and raised close to where you live helps local farms stay viable which preserves the beautiful open agricultural areas that help make this a special place to live.

LOCAL FARMS OFFER MORE VARIETY

Farming is dominated by big industrial agriculture and its reliance on monocropping. Many small, local farmers grow heirloom varieties of produce supplying you with a wider variety of fruits and vegetables than typically found at the average supermarket.

LOCAL FOOD CREATES COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

When you buy local foods, you create a more intimate relationship with the people who grow your food because they're your neighbors. This connection you create with the people who grow local food makes you feel good about where your money is going and who you are choosing to support.