



Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America



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Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA)

is a nationwide outreach initiative that inspires and equips young people to become leaders in agriculture, STEM, and nutrition security. Through hands-on learning, community engagement, and university partnerships, YEA projects are creating career pathways for the next generation of Agri scientists, educators, and innovators.

Supported by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), YEA cultivates interest in STEM, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, and the many career pathways that connect science and food systems. YEA work is supported by USDA- NIFA through its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Education and Workforce Development Program.

YEA Projects

5 Primary Grantees

30+ Sub-grantees & Partners

The YEA initiative is composed of five innovative, university-led projects located across the United States. Each project addresses both regional and national challenges in youth education, workforce development, and leadership in agriculture and food systems:

CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUM PROJECT

★ OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

- 17 Advisory Committee Member: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- 18 Advisory Committee Member: Hawai'i
- 19 Advisory Committee Member: Northern Mariana Islands
- 20 Advisory Committee Member: American Samoa

OH YEA! 4-H GROWS TRUE LEADERS

★ UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

- 21 University of Vermont

JUNTOS YEA: ADVANCING AGRISCIENCE PATHWAYS

★ NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

- 6 Washington State University
- 7 University of Idaho
- 8 University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 9 Purdue University

1890 COLLABORATIVE

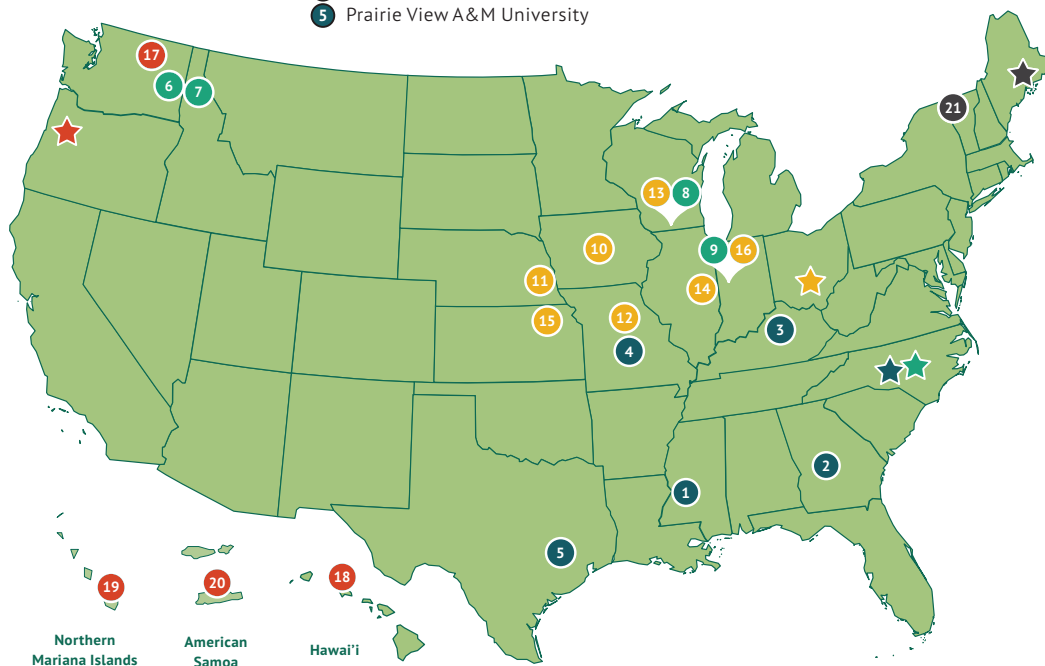
★ NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

- 1 Alcorn State University
- 2 Fort Valley State University
- 3 Kentucky State University
- 4 Lincoln University
- 5 Prairie View A&M University

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION AG & FOOD SYSTEMS WORKFORCE

★ THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

- 10 Iowa State University
- 11 University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 12 University of Missouri
- 13 University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 14 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 15 Kansas State University
- 16 Purdue University



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Youth Innovators Empowering
Agriculture Across America
COORDINATION NETWORK

Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA) Coordination Network (CN)



Oregon State University Extension Service

is proud to serve as the home of the Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA). The YEA-CN emphasizes support, collaboration and technology to ensure the success of projects that promote positive youth development in agriculture, both regionally and nationally.

Coordination Network (CN)

The YEA-CN emphasizes support, collaboration and technology to ensure the success of projects that promote positive youth development in agriculture, both regionally and nationally. Learn more on our website: youth-ed-network.org/



YEA Projects

YEA Projects lead to a reimagined youth development outreach system that will prepare young people for careers in agriculture and food sciences, and support youth programs like 4-H. Learn more at: youth-ed-network.org/yea-projects



The YEA Collective Story

The five YEA projects bring together diverse partners and regions, unified by common themes and shared goals. These threads connect our efforts, fostering meaningful impact across the nation and globe. Explore To learn more about the strategies, stories, and successes that shape our impact. Learn more at: youth-ed-network.org/yea-collective-story



In The News

Explore the latest headlines of YEA-CN coverage from external reports. Learn more at: youth-ed-network.org/in-the-news



Research and Evaluation

Through data gathering and reflection, we have compiled our findings into reports which are available to access. Learn more at: youth-ed-network.org/research-and-evaluation



YEA-CN LinkedIn

Stay up to date with the YEA-CN on LinkedIn. Learn more at: linkedin.com/company/yeacn/



Learn more about each project on the following pages.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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1890 COLLABORATIVE

1890 Collaborative

North Carolina A&T State University



This project will leverage strengths of the 1890 Land Grant Universities (LGU) system to prepare youth



in middle and high school with leadership skills necessary for agricultural-related careers. The major outcome will be an enhanced system of outreach for 4-H Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs that reaches all youth.

The 1890 YEA Collaborative is a project led by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University that spans six states in partnership with Alcorn State University, Fort Valley State

University, Kentucky State University, Lincoln University, and Prairie View A&M University. Together, they are working to develop programs that make college more accessible, and aims to provide the youth with the necessary leadership skills for agricultural-related careers. It includes a youth mentorship program, exposure to college campuses, increased accessibility to college, and youth engagement through 4H programs.

Spotlight

Dr. Misty Blue-Terry

Remarkable Leadership

"To be successful, you must love to work in the community and be innovative with how you use resources. Many people who love what they do and love the community often are a great asset and resource, but it's good to learn work/life balance and self-care early in your career to prevent burnout."



Partner Resources:

Professional Development Workshop:

<https://oregon-state.box.com/shared/static/8ys-j1ilqlvwwpydad-by2u1u38910xzc.pdf>



Affiliates:





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**JUNTOS YEA: ADVANCING
AGRISCIENCE PATHWAYS**

Juntos YEA: Advancing Agriscience Pathways

North Carolina State University



Juntos YEA: Advancing Agriscience Pathways is a transformational, interdisciplinary, collaborative project that will prepare youth to become the next generation of leaders and workforce in STEM and Agriscience.

Led by NC State, Juntos YEA supports the following:

- A. Implementation of the Juntos Program in five states, while launching the program's fifth component: Career Pathways | Caminos A Carreras (CaC).
- B. Establish the National Juntos Consortium (NJC)

This project also launched the **National Juntos Consortium (NJC)**. The consortium, comprising six universities, promotes program fidelity, scalability, cooperation, and professional development among Extension professionals to strengthen and sustain the Juntos Program.

The mission of the Juntos program is to help students and their families gain knowledge, skills, and resources to ensure high school graduation and broaden post-secondary academic and career opportunities. Juntos YEA Career Pathway component provides students with the opportunity to learn about various careers

in agriculture and offers various benefits:

1. Career Exploration
2. Guidance and Support
3. Mentorship Connections
4. Internship Opportunities
5. Skills Development
6. Confidence Building
7. Networking

This project expands Juntos' impact beyond North Carolina, focusing on workforce development and building partnerships with industry and community leaders to support scalability and sustainability.

Spotlight

Diana Urieta

Engaging Families, Building Future Leaders

"The joy of my work with Juntos is watching students become the leaders they were born to be and watch families gain the resources needed to guide them through the path to educational success."



Partner Resources:

National Juntos Consortium:
<https://juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu/national-juntos-consortium/>



Contact Us:
<https://juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu/people/diana-urieta/>



Fast Facts:
<https://juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu/about-juntos/>



Affiliates:





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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION
AG & FOOD SYSTEMS WORKFORCE

Empowering the Next Generation Ag & Food Systems Workforce

The Ohio State University



Empowering the Next Generation
Ag and Food Systems Workforce is a
multi-year collaboration with The Ohio



State University, Iowa State University,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
University of Missouri, University of
Wisconsin at Madison, The University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kansas
State University, and Purdue University.
Together, they are undertaking a
research project to engage youth and
adults to increase their understanding
of career and employment pathways in
agriculture and food systems.
By increasing awareness of career and
employment pathways and improving

place-based practices, these partners
will be able to reach and welcome more
audiences with no on-farm experience,
make meaningful enhancements to
LGU youth development programming,
catalyze system growth, and ultimately
inspire future generations to choose a
career in food and agriculture.

Spotlight

Solomon Garner

Inspirational Youth Leadership

“Nature is such a healing place for many people. You can escape from the craziness of the world. You can escape from certain feelings. You can just release and let go,”



Partner Resources:

Regional Youth Leadership

Advisory Team:

[https://oregonstate.box.com/
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ftzdwv9ibsuif787mnyc.pdf](https://oregonstate.box.com/shared/static/rgj4e8733kg-ftzdwv9ibsuif787mnyc.pdf)



Workforce Needs Assessment:

[https://www.youth-ed-
network.org/research-
and-evaluation/
workforce-needs-
assessment](https://www.youth-ed-network.org/research-and-evaluation/workforce-needs-assessment)



Promising Practices Executive Summary:

[https://oregonstate.box.com/shared/
static/bus8wqhsqdvx8ts0afayvhl-
nzuz1eqy.pdf](https://oregonstate.box.com/shared/static/bus8wqhsqdvx8ts0afayvhl-nzuz1eqy.pdf)



Affiliates:





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OH YEA! 4-H GROWS TRUE LEADERS

Oh YEA! 4-H Grows True Leaders

University of Maine

An innovative, culturally competent-driven project which will involve teens, youth, and adults in designing



place-based learning. The project reflects the unique needs and gifts of underrepresented communities, including new Americans, rural youth, and non-traditional learners. This project will produce future leaders and advocates of food production and healthy living regionally, nationally, and internationally. The research data will inform Extension and other youth development professionals how better to include all youth and adults. The University of Maine, in partnership with Somali Bantu Community



Association, Khmer Maine Cambodian Community and Mano en Mano, and The University of Vermont, in collaboration with SEA (Student Education Assistance) and AALV, provides experiential learning, practical knowledge and life skill development to hundreds of youth.

Spotlight

Jacob Holzberg-Pill
Making Connections

“We also will follow local ingredients to value-added businesses like bakeries, cheese makers, fermenters and ice cream shops, so the teens can gain a more complete understanding of our food systems.”



Partner Resources:

Fall Community
Food & Farm
Series:

<https://oregonstate.box.com/shared/static/t0jnmf8juey8ki-f2zwi5wlpq52lc9uwx.pdf>



Annual Report
2023-24:

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Project Map of Oh
YEA with Emails

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Affiliates:



Breaking Barriers, Building Opportunities:
Expanding 4-H Access through YEA Projects

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**Youth Innovators
Empowering Agriculture
Across America**

**STAY INFORMED,
EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES**



youth-ed-network.org/



linkedin.com/company/yeacn/