

CIAS a catalyst for sustainable agriculture and food ideas in Wisconsin

Building partnerships to

incubate innovative ideas in agriculture **research new specialty crops**
build markets for local food **train the next generation of farmers**
survey organic agriculture **reduce pesticide use on farms**
increase profit on family farms



“CIAS provided outreach about the specialty fruit project I am involved in and allowed me to take this project to the next level. Nobody else provides this service.”—Dale Secher, Carandale Farm, Oregon



“If it weren’t for the school, we never would have been able to get a start at dairy farming.”
 —Jim and Julie Schweers, ‘99 WSBDF students, Greenwood



“CIAS is the bridge between faculty and farmers and is respected in the farm community.”—Sue Wrchota, Cattleana Ranch, Omro

Examples of our work ...

CIAS is launching

A program to scale up local food efforts by building partnerships between grocers, distributors, farmers, chefs and UW faculty. These groups are working together on aggregation and distribution of sustainable Wisconsin food.

A Driftless region culinary identity effort for sustainably grown, high value perennials, fruits and organic vegetable crops; identifying markets, providing economic analysis and evaluating grower and processor capacity to meet demand.

CIAS is working on

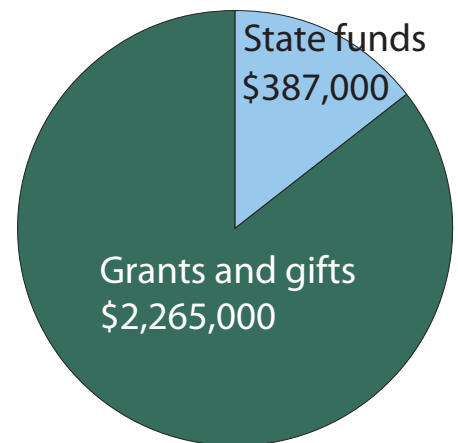
Reducing pesticide use and increasing integrated pest management (IPM) by linking growers to each other and University expertise on Wisconsin fruit farms. In the Eco-Apple project’s first five years, 45 growers reduced pesticide risk by 58% and increased their reliance on IPM strategies by 33%.

Developing farm-to-school programs and researching the best ways to link schools with farmers and the food they produce. With local, statewide and national staff, CIAS is creating a range of tools to help Wisconsin school districts develop farm-to-school programs.

Teaching the next generation of farmers with practitioner- and faculty-led classes in dairy, livestock and vegetables. The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDF) has had over 270 graduates since its inception; over 80 percent are farming. The School for Beginning Market Growers, focusing on organic production, had 60 students in its 2009 class. New schools will be based on these models.

CIAS is monitoring

Managed grazing research at UW-Madison and elsewhere, and providing a link between farmers and the University. CIAS has completed 20 years of research and outreach with over 30 research projects in managed grazing. Our grazing work covers economics, production, the environment, labor and quality of life.



CIAS funding sources, 2/09

For every dollar of state general purpose revenue received, CIAS receives and administers about \$6 of grants and gifts.

UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

In 1989, farmers, farm and environmental groups, researchers, educators and other citizens joined forces to start the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems in the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Over the past twenty years, we’ve worked across the state to put the Wisconsin Idea to work. **Learn more about our history and future at www.cias.wisc.edu**