

# Out of our silos, into the movement

## Community food systems and Cooperative Extension in Oregon

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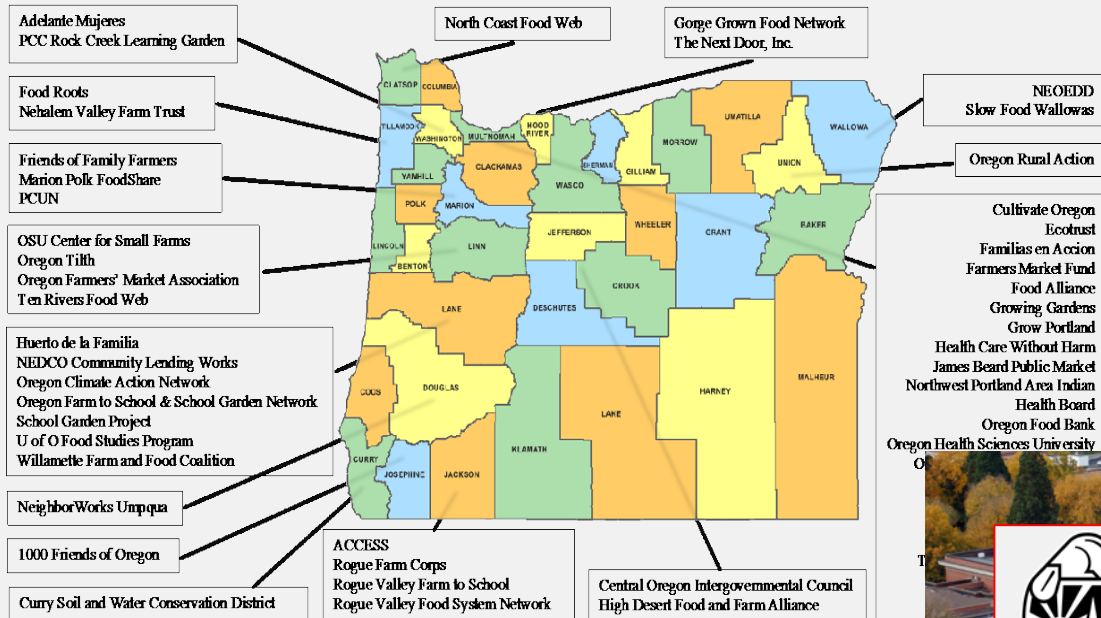


**Oregon State University**  
**Center for Small Farms &  
Community Food Systems**



# The story in short

## Oregon Community Food Systems Network



The CFS  
Movement in  
Oregon

What's next?



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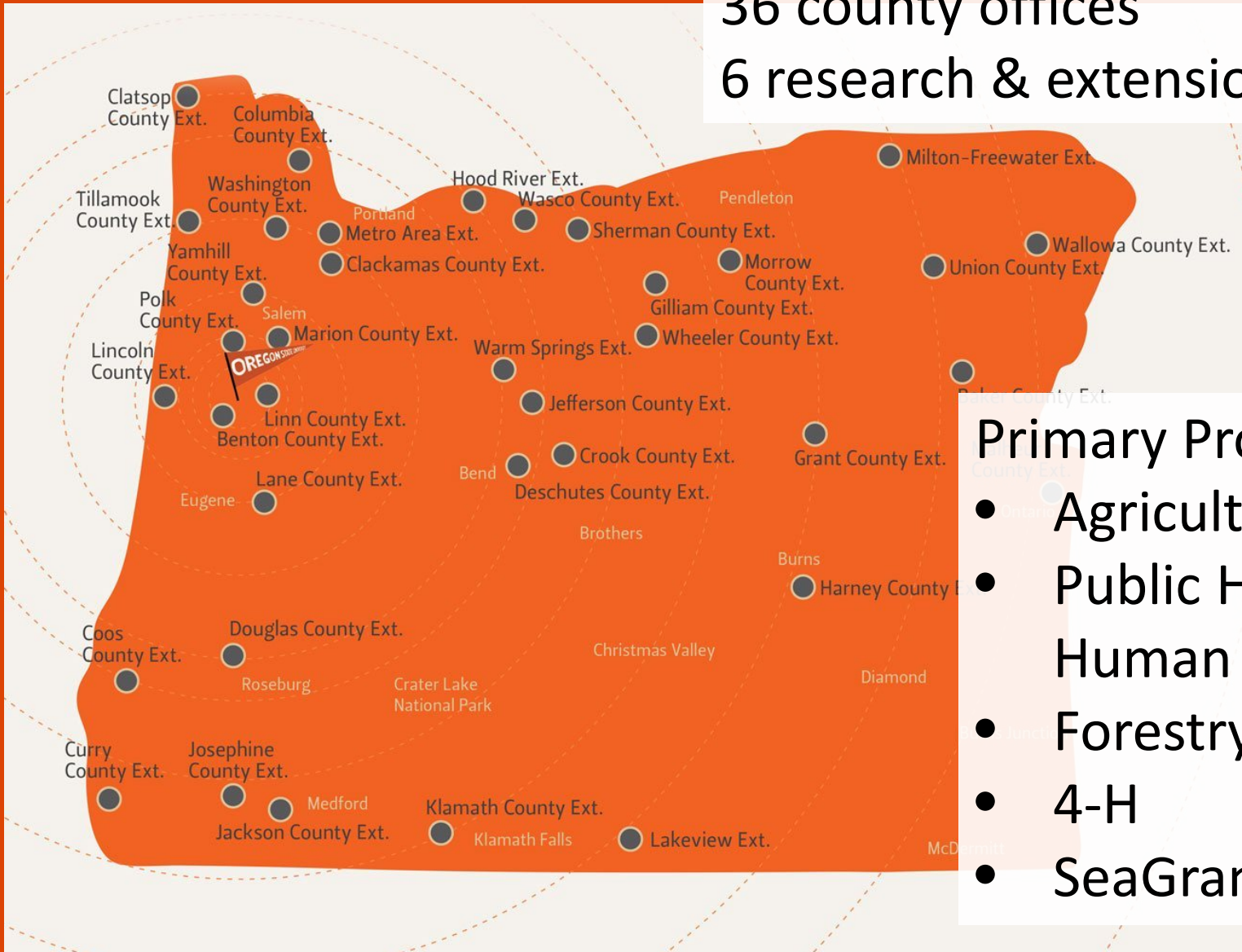
CFS in Extension

OSU Extension  
Community Food Systems  
Working Group

# What is Extension?

36 county offices

6 research & extension centers



## Primary Programs

- Agriculture
- Public Health & Human Sciences
- Forestry
- 4-H
- SeaGrant



# How we got here

Mid-2000s: Oregon Food Bank leadership

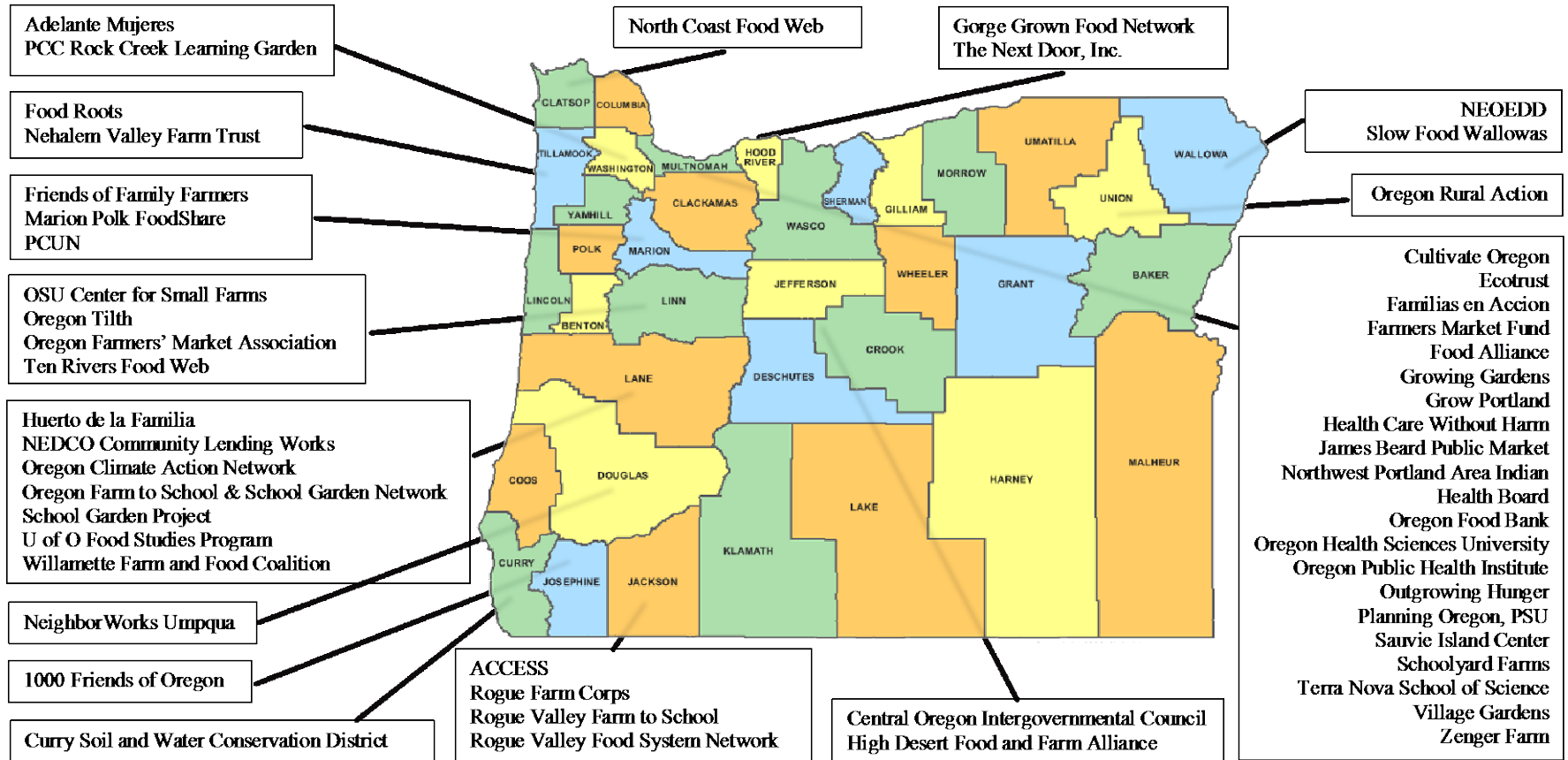
- FEAST
- Community Food Assessments (2008-on)

2011-2014: MMT Food Systems Initiative

- 13 organizations, annual convenings



# Oregon Community Food Systems Network



**VISION:** All Oregonians thrive with healthy affordable foods from an environmentally and economically resilient regional food system.



# Oregon Community Food Systems Network

**MISSION:** Bring people and organizations together to broaden understanding of issues, build relationships and trust, develop common purpose, and create collective capacity to realize our shared vision.

**CORE VALUES:** Connection, Inclusivity and Empowerment, Nourishment

**WHO:** 50 member groups across Oregon & CFS issues

## **HOW:**

- **Topic teams:** Veggie Rx, SNAP-Match, Access to Land/Succession, Wholesale Markets, Beginning Farmer & Rancher Support.
- **Process teams:** Leadership; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Communications; Policy
- **Connection:** Annual Convening, newsletter, trainings...

# Extension's Role: Guiding Concepts

*(TY to Feenstra, Dunning, Clark, et al.)*

- Participation
- Applied research: practitioner-driven
- Education & training
- Indicators
- Policy engagement
- Institutional entrepreneurship
- Look to new partners for transformational frameworks and goals.



# How we got here: OSU Extension

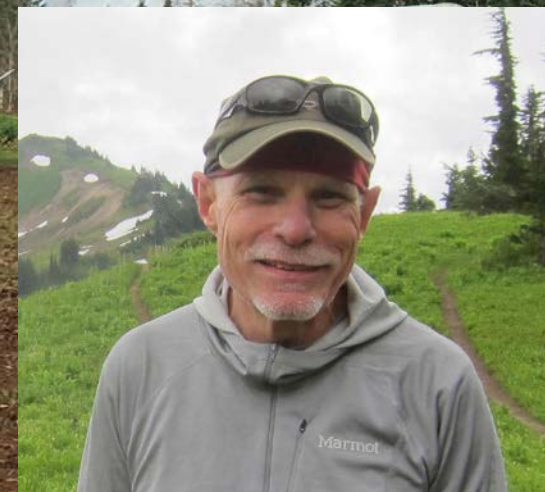
Late 1990s: Ninjas

- Extension Small Farms Program
- FCH, MG, 4H one-offs

2013: Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems

2015:

- CFS Working Group
- Extension CFS Specialist
- Invited as OCFSN "backbone"



The first OSU hub linking sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and healthy communities.



# Extension CFS Working Group

- 2015: Est. by Extension Director to “guide, advise, and coordinate” Extension CFS initiatives in Oregon
- Now: 22-member working group: Small Farms, Rural Studies, Master Gardener, 4-H, Family & Community Health (w/SNAP-Ed), SeaGrant.
- Info hub, peer learning, interdisciplinary applied research & education projects, systems thinking



# How we engage with OCFSN

- Backbone support
- Funding
- Leadership team
- Participate in all content teams
- Policy team
- Indicators team
- Gateway to OSU
- Local partnerships, projects

Democratizing data →  
“CFS by the Numbers”

## The Future of Oregon's Agricultural Land



Oregon State  
OSU  
Center for Small Farms &  
Community Food Systems

Portland State  
UNIVERSITY  
Center for Small Farms &  
Community Food Systems

Robust Farm Corps

## Economic Impact of Local Food Producers in Central Oregon

A survey based IMPLAN model incorporating the USDA AMS Toolkit guidelines

October 2017

Mallory Rahe, Oregon State University Extension Service  
Katrina Van Dine, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council  
Jesse Welland, High Desert Food and Farm Alliance  
Lauren Gwin, Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems, Oregon State University



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## Community Food Systems



A collection of indicators sponsored by the Oregon  
Community Food Systems Network.

Explore Community Food Systems Data >

Download CFS Indicators for Oregon: An Introduction (2018)



# CFS Working Group Project Examples

- Food preservation curriculum + small farmers → new food enterprises
- Veggie Rx incentives → increased local demand for fresh produce
- Farm to school & youth garden statewide strategy for Extension

Local, regional, state food system coalitions:

What is our role?

What is our impact?

Migrant farmworkers & food insecurity →  
immigration →  
farm profitability →  
regional economy →  
food prices → ?



# The Future: Transformation

**Vision:** “All Oregonians thrive with healthy affordable foods from an environmentally and economically resilient regional food system.”

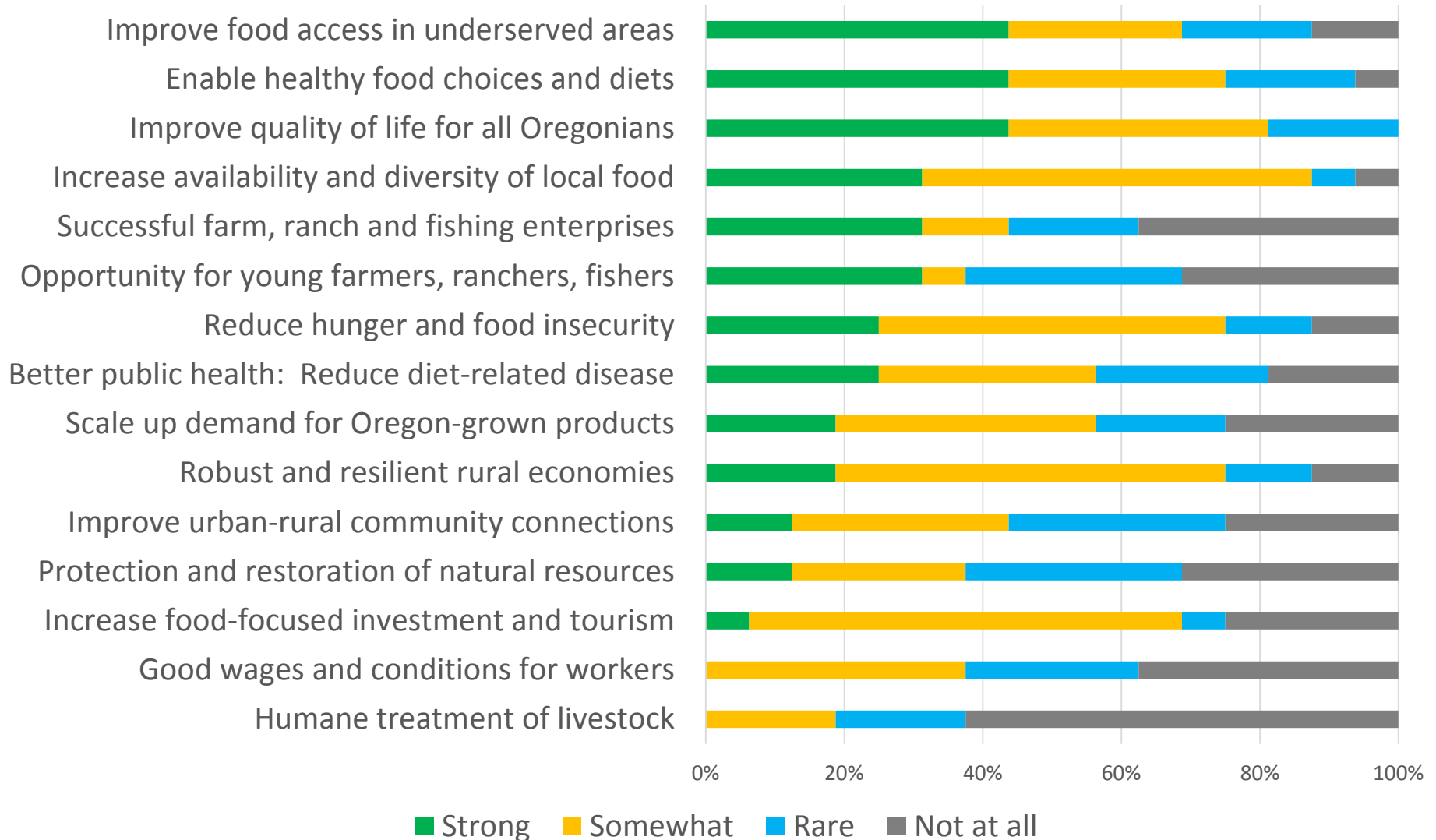
## **Our path with the CFS movement –**

- Shared understanding: adopt OCFSN vision & desired outcomes; broaden & deepen engagement
- Use OCFSN outcomes as a guiding framework
- Look to OCFSN as key stakeholders & experts
- Fund OCFSN members as applied research partners
- Continue to build relationships and trust
- Transformative thinking: *Communities, Food, Resilience*



# Mapping Extension Across CFS Goals

How connected are you to each outcome?



# *Communities, Food, Resilience*

## Rethink “we feed the world”



The Challenge of Change (APLU)  
A Deeper Challenge of Change (INFAS)

CAS + OSU Extension event for OSU150

“...to spark bold and visionary conversations around food systems and community food resilience.”

- David Lewis, Ethnohistorian, Past Tribal Historian, CTGR
- Shorlette Ammons, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, NCSU

**OCFSN + CFSWG = 10 local events**





# Questions? Guidance for us?

I'm listening.

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