



Annual Review 2023

GINNFARMS CORP

Agenda

- 01.** Introduction
- 02.** 2022-2023 Timeline
- 03.** Pending Grants
- 04.** What's next
- 05.** Closing

Introduction

Big changes for GinnFarms Corp!

Join us for a review of our wins and losses in 2022 and 2023 plus an overview of what you can expect for 2024.



Timeline

Q1 AND Q2 2022



Visioning Committee

Over 100 Mayor offices, Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development groups in the Greater Wabash Region met to discuss Agriculture as an economic driver.

Q3 AND Q4 2022

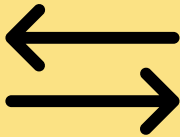


Results

We decided a planning grant for asset mapping would be a good way forward.

A grant to USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership was submitted and ultimately denied.

Q1 AND Q2 2023



Changes

GinnFarms Corp is formally moved to Illinois and registered as the (dba) of **Greater Wabash Food Council**.



Q3 AND Q4 2023



Capacity Building

An award was received for \$17,000 from NTAE to support the development of SNAP at the farmers market with double benefits project.

GWFC goal is one site in each of the six counties.

Pending grants



USDA Farm to School – Tower garden education and Harvest of the Month in 10 school districts.

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure – Launch Farm to Table delivery and create a value-added product network between five sites.

Spark Innovation Center – Convenience stakeholders to develop recipes to flash freeze local vegetables to serve the schools in the winter.

Other opportunities, pending: Food Policy Council mentorship program.

Awards Q1 2024

Mentorship with Food Systems Leadership Network



About Karen Lehman:

Karen is both a practitioner and an experienced coach. She has worked in the food system from the local to global level for over 40 years, doing everything from starting an urban youth farming organization (still going after 26 years) to developing a proposal for a Global Food Security Convention with collaborators in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. Most of her food system work is centered on racial equity and climate. She has lived in Mexico and later collaborated with campesino organizations to shape trade policy.

During the pandemic, she catalyzed the development of the Chicago Region Food System Fund (CRFSF) which has allocated over \$14,000,000 to organizations in the Chicago region since 2020, 75% of which were BIPOC-led. She then worked with Fresh Taste members to oversee the transition of CRFSF to a community-majority steering committee to carry the fund into the future with grassroots leadership. For the past 20 years, she has also maintained a leadership consulting practice focused on nonprofit, university, and foundation leaders. Her approach is strengths-based – people do their best and are happiest when they work from their strengths!

<https://foodsystmsleadershipnetwork.org/the-fsln-community-food-systems-mentorship-program-is-thrilled-to-begin-its-7th-year-supporting-36-mentees-from-diverse-regions-nationwide/>



Trough the efforts of the NTAE Capacity Building grant in 2023, we were able to secure approval from USDA FNS to accept SNAP/EBT payments at two locations in the Greater Wabash Region.

By securing funding from Experimental Station for the double voucher reimbursement We will begin offering DOUBLE SNAP BUCKS at Pete's Produce in Mt. Carmel and the Grayville Farmers Market May 1st through September 30th.

Finally, we were also awarded a grant from Market Link for free equipment to execute the program.

Most sites coming soon.



Thank you



Thanks to the commitment of our team, we know next year will be even better than the last.

We look forward to working together.

GinnFarms Corp and Greater Wabash Food Council Board of Directors