

Annual Review 2025

GINNFARMS CORP dba Greater Wabash Food Council

SERVING EDWARDS, LAWRENCE, RICHLAND, WABASH, WAYNE, AND WHITE COUNTIES IN SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

2025 Impact Highlights

- Reached 7 school districts through Harvest of the Month programming
- Increased food access through SNAP/LINK services at 6 farmers markets
- Supported the planting of 300 peach trees to advance food security and conservation
- Strengthened connections between local farmers, schools, and communities across the Greater Wabash region



Our team

Employed one full-time and seven part-time team members, adding nearly \$85,000 in wages to our regional economy



Trish Bellmore

Value Chain Coordinator



Laura Goemaat

Farm2School Liaison
Named FSD of the year 2025!
Read more [here](#):

Our team

2025 Market Managers



JESSICA HERDES
OLNEY



JILL PRUITT
CARMi



PATTI SKEES
WEST SALEM



ALISHA YOUNG
PETES PRODUCE



KAREN WORLEY
GRAYVILLE



SAM SMITH
FAIRFIELD

Timeline

Q1.



Jan - Mar

HARVEST OF THE MONTH DELIVERIES:

January: Frozen corn

March: Beef patties

SPARK OUTREACH: Taste testing in the schools

 Strengthen relationships with seven school districts, serving nearly 3,000 K–12 students each month with local food while putting over \$10,000 directly into local farms 

Q2.

Apr - Jun

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST:

Launch six Farmers Markets in six counties accepting SNAP/LINK Match.

Q3.


Jul - Sep


CORN DAYS !

4000 ears of corn frozen

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST:

Farmers Markets

 Offer vending space at six markets to 500+ vendors

 Help \$1,500+ in SNAP dollars get doubled and into the hands of local farmers

Q4.

Oct - Dec

HARVEST OF THE MONTH DELIVERIES:

August: Cucumbers

Sept: Green peppers

Oct: Apples

Nov: Cabbage

Pictures and notables

2025

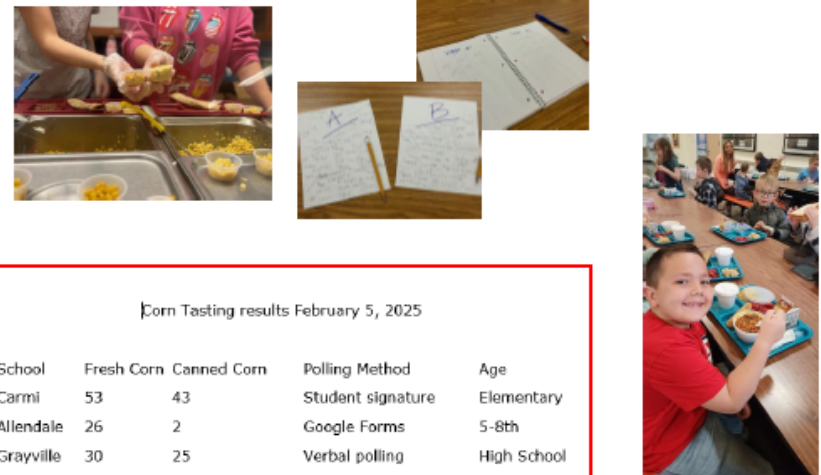
🌿 GWFC donated one tower garden to Allendale School. They loved it so much they **bought 3 more!** Now they are growing fresh food for the cafeteria.



Awarded \$232,700 across five grants, fueling programs that support farmers, families, and local food access

🏫 In January and April 2025, we held taste tests with students at: **Allendale School, Grayville School, and Carmi Schools.**

🍌 Feedback has been positive, and students are excited about trying local foods!



Corn Tasting results February 5, 2025

School	Fresh Corn	Canned Corn	Polling Method	Age
Carmi	53	43	Student signature	Elementary
Allendale	26	2	Google Forms	5-8th
Grayville	30	25	Verbal polling	High School

Vegetable soup Tasting results April 9, 2025

Tasting Item	School	Age	Yes
Vegetable Soup	Lincoln	Elementary	59
Sweet Potato Soup	Lincoln	Elementary	15
Neither Soup	Jefferson	Elementary	18
Vegetable Soup	Jefferson	Elementary	29
Sweet Potato Soup	Jefferson	Elementary	43



Corn Days 7/22/2025 - 7/25/2025



People Power:

- 34 paid team members and 6 generous volunteers came together
- 310 paid hours = \$6,175
- 125 volunteer hours
- **435 hours of community effort**
- 2 horses and 3 cows enjoyed the husks and cobs

Results:

- 3300 servings of corn off the cob or 660 pounds!
- 3570 servings of 1/2 cobs



This project was funded using US Dept of Ag grant funds via Great Lakes School Food Innovation Hub.



Cold Storage & Hot Temps:

- 7 freezers in constant rotation
- Outdoor temperatures averaged a sizzling 95°F



Production Highlights:

- 334 dozen ears of corn processed
- Packed onto 3 full pallets
- Only **1 minor finger cut** – not bad for all that slicing!



Community & Culture:

- 76 shares of our corn-tastic posts on Facebook
- 42 new followers joined our online community over three days



This project was funded using US Dept of Ag grant funds via Great Lakes School Food Innovation Hub.

Goals for 2026

Business priorities

- Increase Farm2School outreach to ten districts
- Grant writing to support outreach
- Prepare for Specialty Crop Block Grant planting efforts.
- Launch Harvest Link to support a Food Hub with co-packing kitchen and weekly delivery across the region

Goals for Q2

Business priorities

- Maintain growth in SNAP customer count 3%
- Identify more producers

Added priorities

- Launch delivery
- Develop commercial kitchen space that cottage food producers can rent

Employee opportunities

- Six planters for SCBG
- Six Market Managers for Experimental Station
- One Farm2School Liaison for Innovative School Food Systems Innovative Hub

Summary

As we close 2025, we are encouraged by the growing momentum behind the Greater Wabash Food Council's vision for a stronger regional food system. What began as a series of conversations among community leaders, farmers, schools, and partners continues to evolve into meaningful action across the region.

The progress highlighted in this report reflects the dedication of our farmers, volunteers, educators, market managers, funders, and community partners who believe that local food can strengthen both local economies and community health. Together, we are building the relationships, infrastructure, and programs needed to create lasting opportunities for future generations.

While there is still much work ahead, the foundation is stronger than ever. We enter 2026 with optimism, growing community support, and a clear commitment to expanding access to local food, increasing opportunities for farmers, and strengthening the connections that make our region thrive.



GinnFarms

We protect the honey bee by helping new farmers learn natural farming practices that encourage self-reliant communities.



Greater Wabash Food Council

Promoting agriculture and technology to secure food access and environmental sustainability in Clay, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties.

Thank you

Trish Bellmore, 618-936-8001

Executive Director | Value Chain Coordinator

GINNFARMS CORP dba Greater Wabash Food Council.

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