



# UVM Food Systems Research Summit

September 16 & 17, 2024

## AGENDA



University of Vermont  
Food Systems Research Center

in partnership with



**INFAS**

Inter-institutional Network for  
Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability



Agricultural Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Email [FoodSystemsSummit@uvm.edu](mailto:FoodSystemsSummit@uvm.edu) with questions.



# MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH

## SCHEDULE

**7:30 AM** - Poster Presentations & Breakfast

**8:30 AM** - Welcome from FSRC Director Polly Ericksen

**9:00 AM** - Plenary Session

Lived Experienced Voice in Promoting Food Justice in Communities of Color  
**Angela Odoms-Young (Cornell University)**

Adapting Agriculture to Climate Risks  
**Nathan Mueller (Colorado State University)**

A Conversation About Transdisciplinary Research  
**Analena Bruce (University of New Hampshire), Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (University of Puerto Rico), and Gillian Galford (UVM)**

**12:00 PM** - Lunch

**1:00 PM** - Breakout Sessions #1

**3:00 PM** - Breakout Sessions #2

**4:30 PM** - End of Sessions

**5:30 PM** - Trivia and Networking at [Waterworks Food + Drink](#) in Winooski. [Please register for one of the two social events.](#)



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH



### **The Importance of the Lived Experienced Voice in Promoting Food Justice in Communities of Colors**

Angela Odoms-Young, Cornell University

Dr. Odoms-Young's research explores the social and structural determinants of dietary behaviors and related health outcomes in low-income populations and black, Indigenous, and people of color. Her work also centers on developing culturally responsive programs and policies that promote health equity, food justice, and community resilience.



### **Adapting Agriculture to Climate Risks**

Nathan Mueller, Colorado State University

Dr. Mueller's research aims to achieve more sustainable agricultural production while also helping agricultural systems adapt to climate change. His research uses modelling with spatial data and AI. He is part of a new AI Institute for Climate-Land Interactions, Mitigation, Adaptation, Tradeoffs, and Economy (AI-CLIMATE), and he is the inaugural editor of the journal Environmental Research: Food Systems.



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



# MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH

## **Breakout Sessions #1**

**Case Studies in Publicly - Engaged Agroecology Research.** Sara Delaney, Ali Bello, Alex Searce, and Alaina Ring (University of Maine). This session will highlight the work of the Agroecology lab at the University of Maine. The lab is grounded in the complementary traditions of participatory research and agroecology. Case studies of our research projects will be presented using photography and short descriptions, with successes and challenges in achieving participation highlighted. Participants will then be given time to discuss ideas for how participatory elements could be more fully integrated in these projects, with a goal of sparking ideas for our own and others' research.

**Navigating the complexities of crop breeding for yield, human health, and food processing quality.** Vagner Benedito (West Virginia University), Michael Grusak (USDA), Umesh Reddy (West Virginia State University), and Eric Bishop von Wettberg (UVM). This discussion will explore the social responsibilities of crop breeders, the functional properties of food, and breeding strategies for compositional traits (e.g., nutrients) and quality traits (e.g. food processing).

**Community-engaged research for more just and sustainable food systems.** Alexis Yamashita, Dan Tobin, Ernesto Menendez, Colin Anderson (UVM) and guests. This session will bring together case studies of community-based research partnerships working on food systems sustainability issues. We will engage workshop attendees in a participatory process that will explore the reality of community engaged research. By the conclusion of the workshop, we will have gained insights into principles and practices that can fortify strong and equitable relationships along with learning from the issues and challenges in current projects to inform our future practice.

**Food Systems Futures Part 1: Approaches to participatory scenario creation + Visioning/Values Exercise.** Chelsea Wentworth (Michigan State University). Chelsea has worked with a team of colleagues for several years on a process to co-create scenarios or visions for local food systems. In the first part of this double session, she will introduce the process and walk the group through a visioning and values exercise. Recommended Reading. \*This is Part 1 of 2. Please be sure to register for both parts\*



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



# MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH

## **Breakout Sessions #2**

**The sustainability paradox: experiences of farmers in Vermont.** David Conner, Josh Taylor, Lisa Chase (UVM) Sustainability holds great social significance for both consumers and farmers. Economic sustainability is much more challenging. A team of UVM researchers is working with farmers to address the tensions in trying to achieve sustainability, and understand how participatory research can help.

**New England Integrated Policy Program (NEIPP).** Karen Nordstrom (University of New Hampshire) The New England Integrated Policy Program (NEIPP) is a collaborative initiative created by Food Solutions New England (FSNE) and Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities (WWF&C) to promote integrated, region-wide policies that address the urgent need for climate resilience, biodiversity, thriving ecosystems, community well-being, and food sovereignty in New England. In this session participants will explore how to use the NEIPP to develop a regional governance framework.

**Food system vitality rooted in the Land.** Julia Valliant (Indiana University), Marie O'Neill (Indiana University), Gaby Pereyra (Farmers of Color Land Trust). This session will explore policy innovations that states are starting to implement to open access to farmland, especially for young and BIPOC farmers. Drawing on work across 9 states and work with 1300 farmers, this session will explore some of these new initiatives.

**Food Systems Futures Part 2: Hosting your own scenario workshop + Using the Recipe for a scenario method.** Chelsea Wentworth (Michigan State University). In part two of the session, Chelsea will describe the scenario process in detail, including choosing participants. She will also walk the participants through an exercise in short- and long-term priorities. \*This is Part 2 of 2. Please be sure to register for both parts\*





## Monday: Poster Presenters

Kacey La Bonte (UVM)

Local and Regional Food Production and Food As Medicine

Patrick Shafer (UVM)

Mealworms in Modern Diets

Elizabeth Espinosa-Uquillas (UVM)

Tall Medium and Large Farms Adapt in their Own Way

Tadeu Eder da Silva (UVM)

Utilizing Precision Dairy Technology (PDT) to Monitor Behavioral and Physiological Parameters in Dairy

Marine Durrenwachter (UVM)

Cow-calf contact: effects on dairy cattle health and welfare

Carlos Lopez-Ortiz (Cornell University)

Genes For Tomato Anthracnose Resistance

Teresa Mungazi (UVM)

Hemp as a 'sustainable-hyped' product : Awareness of Hemp-Based Product Categories in USA and Implications on Sustainability Transitions

Johnbosco Osuagwu (UVM)

Can Zoning and Compartmentalization Curb Outbreaks?

Madeline Beaudry (UVM)

Addressing Biosecurity Challenges to Mitigate Disease and Maintain Business in New England Milk Plants



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



# TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

## SCHEDULE

**7:30 AM** - Poster Presentations & Breakfast

**8:30 AM** - Plenary Session

Understanding Interactions Across Food System Indicators and Their Implications to Bring About Transformative Change

**Kate Schneider, Johns Hopkins University**

Reflections on Regional Food Governance from a National Community of Practice

**Jill Clark, Ohio State University**

**11:15AM** - Breakout Sessions #3

**12:30 PM** - Lunch

**1:30 PM** - Breakout Sessions #4

**3:30 PM** - End of Sessions

**4:30 PM** - Farm tour and Networking at the Intervale Center in Burlington. Please register for one of the two social events.



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH



### **Understanding interactions across food systems indicators and their implications to bring about transformative change**

Kate Schneider, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Schneider studies the policies and economics of food and nutrition across the globe. She works in interdisciplinary teams and leverages multiple data sets to better understand food security and nutritional outcomes of different food systems.



### **Reflections on regional food governance from a national community of practice**

Jill Clark, Ohio State University

Dr. Clark's research is agrifood system policy and practice, centering on community and state governance of food systems, the policy process and community engagement. Primarily using a community-based research approach, she works with local communities across the United States. She has great experience in regional governance that she will share in this talk.



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

### **Breakout Sessions #3**

**What is the “value” of Values-based Food Procurement?** Analena Bruce (University of New Hampshire), Fritz Bottner (West Virginia University), Betsy Rosenbluth (Shelburne Farms), Peter Allison (Farm to Institute New England). This session will explore Values-based Food Procurement. Actors engaged in these supply chains will offer thoughts on the values critical to their clients. The results of surveys on how to express these values through procurement schemes will be shared. A discussion about the financial sustainability of these schemes will follow.

**The Power of Narratives and Narratives of Power.** Molly Anderson (Middlebury College). In this session, Molly will describe her decades of work exploring food system narratives and power dynamics. She has recently written a book on this topic and will share her insights.

**Harvesting potential: developing leaders for a sustainable food system (Part 1).** Allison Spain (UVM), Lindsey Lunsford (Tuskegee University) and Brandy Phipps (Central State University) plus guests. This double session will convene mentors and young leaders in food systems research, community engagement and policy implementation. Three different graduate student programs will share their experiences developing food systems leaders. Both mentors and current/former students will share.

**Building a community-informed research agenda for the FSRC.** Andrew May, Kerry Daigle, Claire Whitehouse (UVM). This session will describe the process and findings from a year long series of “listening” sessions around New England, to help identify a community-informed food systems research agenda.





## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

### **Breakout Sessions #4**

**The challenge of measuring sustainability and resiliency across food systems.** Roni Neff (Johns Hopkins University), Kyra Battaglia (Tufts University), Tessa Lawler (UVM). Interest in exploring metrics of sustainability across food systems as well as multiple domains of sustainability has increased significantly in the last decade. UVM has invested in projects to measure sustainability; in this session we invite others to share their experiences, opportunities and challenges.

**Food, labor, and social sustainability.** Teresa Marie Mares (UVM), Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern (Syracuse University) and guests. The conveners have recently completed a co-authored book "Will Work For Food: Labor across the Food Chain". In this session they will discuss key issues raised in the book with key food system actors for whom these are pressing.

**Harvesting potential: developing leaders for a sustainable food system (Part 2).** Allison Spain (UVM), Lindsey Lunsford (Tuskegee University) and Brandy Phipps (Central State University) plus guests. This double session will convene mentors and young leaders in food systems research, community engagement and policy implementation. Three different graduate student programs will share their experiences developing food systems leaders. Both mentors and current/former students will share.

**Land use change and food systems in South America.** Gillian Galford (UVM), Steph Spera (University of Richmond), Marcia Macedo (Woodwell Climate Research Center), Ludmila Rattis (Woodwell), Lara de Macedo Monteiro (UVM), and Ane Alencar (IPAM). We need to know the transitions happening on these lands to understand the impacts for sustainability. This is particularly relevant to when considering increasing agricultural production to meet global food needs while not negatively impacting native species (i.e. Vermont's '30 by 30' target, Brazil's ABC climate plan). This session will share research on this important topic.



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center



## Tuesday: Poster Presenters

Beatrice Nyarko (UVM)  
Community Capitals and Food Resilience

Victoria Taormina (UVM)  
Fatty acid content and composition of plant-based yogurt alternatives: comparable to cow's milk yogurts

Bridget Craig (UVM)  
Exploring Northeast Dairy Producers Acceptance of Alternative Management Practices

Julia Nelson & Kyra Battaglia (Tufts University)  
Modeling the health, environmental, economic, and social impacts of shifting to U.S.-recommended dietary patterns

Robert Patane (UVM)  
Vermont Everyone Eats Program, Resilience within Covid-19

Maria J. Godoy Harb (UC Davis)  
Rapa Nui and COVID-19: Opportunities for food system transformation

Priscilla Panyin Abijah (UVM)  
Vermont Everybody Eats FEMA Response to Covid-19

Kristida Chhour (UC Berkeley)  
Cultivating Climate Resilience through Urban Agriculture



University  
of Vermont

Food Systems  
Research Center