



Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

2018 Annual Report

April 1, 2017–March 31, 2018

"Farmers markets are places where traditions are maintained and relationships are built. They are gathering places. They build trust in communities. They are true assets to communities."

—Allison Tohme, Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance and 2018 Attendee

UNIV. OF TENN. ORGANIC FIELD CROPS TOUR



INSTAGRAM FOLLOWER FROM NC
heartstrongfarmnc

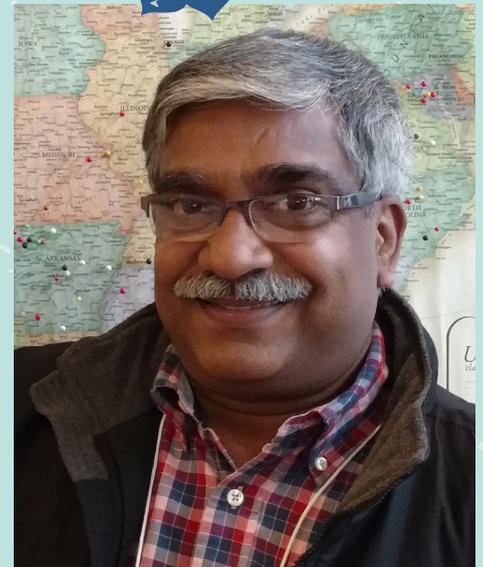


"We farm for ethics; we don't farm for economics."

"When you put your hands in the dirt, something changes you. You will never be the same again." —Devon Goodwin, OTL Farms and 2018 Presenter



TENNESSEE CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS



2018 CONFERENCE ATTENDEE FROM MICRONESIA



CRABTREE FARM FIELD TRIP



Dr. Priscilla McCutcheon, 2018 conference presenter, asks "How can you use a broader knowledge of racism to encourage people to get back to the land?" during her session on *The History of Race and Ag in the South*.

DEAR SOUTHERN SAWG SUPPORTERS,

Part of the magic of Southern SAWG is that we connect a diverse group of people from all across the South in our mutual desire to create a more environmentally sound, equitable and profitable food and farming system. Time and again I've heard that the Southern SAWG conference is unique because it brings together people from different races and backgrounds for a common purpose. For the past several years we've tracked the demographics at our conference through a survey that is provided to all participants. I encourage you to take a look at the results of our 2018 conference survey on the next page of this report. It will give you a good sense of who comes to our event. I'll be the first to acknowledge that we can still do better at building inclusion and equity in our program, but because of our commitment to diversity, we are collectively taking a more honest look at the successes and challenges for all in the Southern sustainable agriculture movement. This is critical in a region of the country that has such a difficult history linked to race and agriculture. It's also critical at this particular time when our nation is polarized around so many issues including racism. We need safe places where people from different backgrounds can share their perspectives and stories so we can learn to build a better future together. I see the Southern SAWG conference as one of those safe places.

This will be my final note to you after five years as the executive director of Southern SAWG. While I came to the organization with a solid understanding of the economic and environmental aspects of sustainable agriculture, the gift that Southern SAWG has given me is a stronger understanding of the successes and challenges of ensuring equity in agriculture. This gift has come through multiple channels. I've experienced the safe place for learning at our conference and met amazing people who, while different than I, bring perspectives that are critical to reaching a new level of sustainability. I've also learned firsthand how Southern SAWG works intentionally to put together a conference program with a diverse speaker base so that we have many different voices leading the conversation as well as participating. That leadership extends to our board which inspires me by their focused efforts to build their own diversity in order to provide a balanced perspective to our current and future work. Purposeful diversity is in the DNA of Southern SAWG and I am thankful to the organization for instilling that value more solidly in me.

Going forward I hope that all of you recognize the value that Southern SAWG brings to the table from all the aspects of sustainability and that you will continue to support the organization both financially and by adding your unique voice to the conversation that leads to a more sustainable future. You are part of the diversity that makes up Southern SAWG. Together we are creating healthier farms, people and communities. Thank you for all you do!

Steve Muntz, Executive Director



SCENES FROM THE 2018 CONFERENCE



FY2018

Southern SAWG Accomplishments

Inspiring and Empowering Southerners to Build Sustainable Food Systems Since 1991.



30 participants in *Cultivating Connections* event bringing together sustainable ag leaders from across Tennessee

Farmers assisted in FY 2018:



(566 of which meet USDA criteria for "underserved")



202 YOUNG ADULTS (<30 y.o.) participated in Southern SAWG programs this year



Launched *Seeds of Sustainability* e-newsletter—a digest of sustainable agriculture news and views from across our 13-state region



200 participants in SSAWG-NSAC Farm Bill Webinar Series

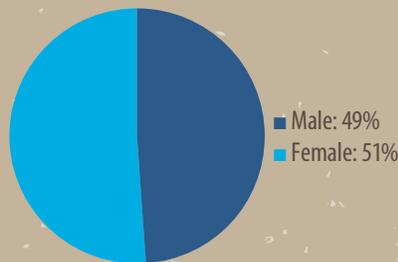
Demographic Information from 2018 Conference

(Based on voluntary survey of 523 respondents. For comparative figures to previous year, see the 2017 Southern SAWG Annual Report on our website.)

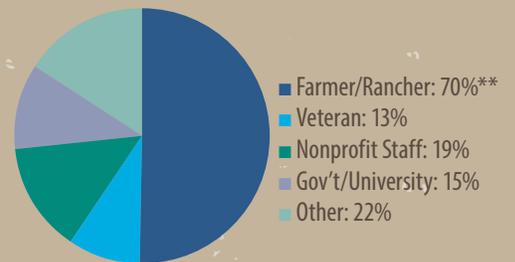
* For the occupation category, participants marked all that applied

** Of those who identified as farmers and ranchers, 80% also qualified as underserved farmers either because they were at least one or more of the following: limited resource, socially disadvantaged, beginning farmers, or military veterans who are also beginning farmers

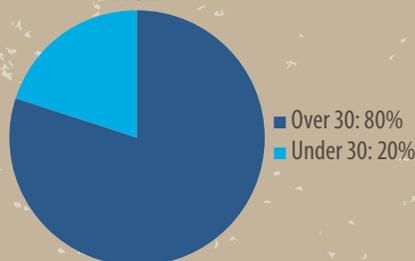
SEX



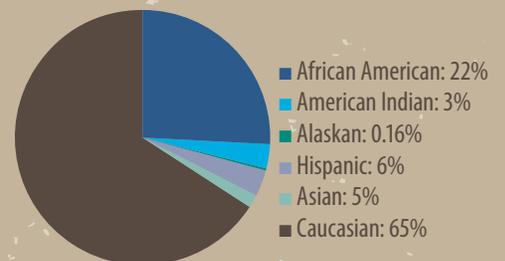
OCCUPATION*



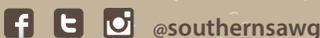
AGE



ETHNICITY

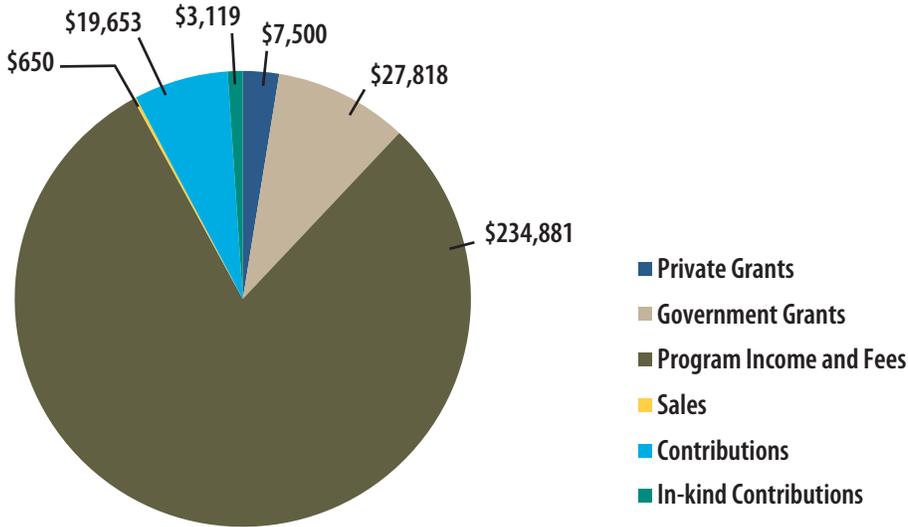


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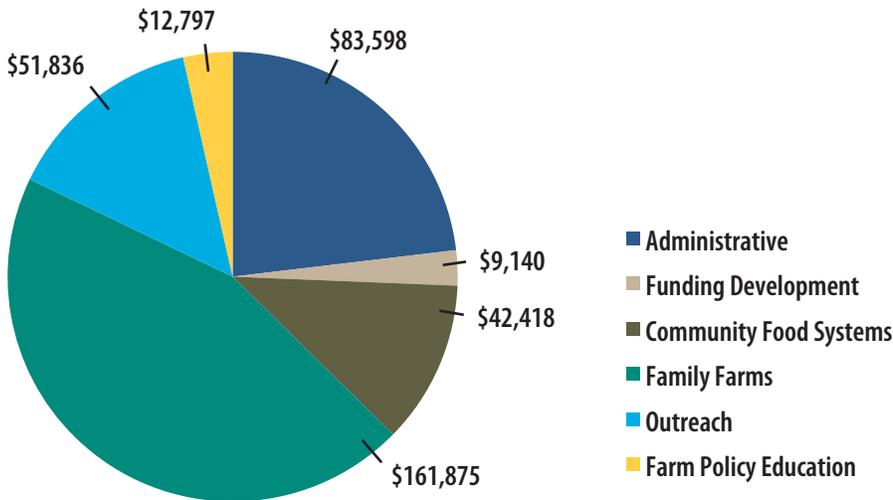


FY 2018 Financial Information

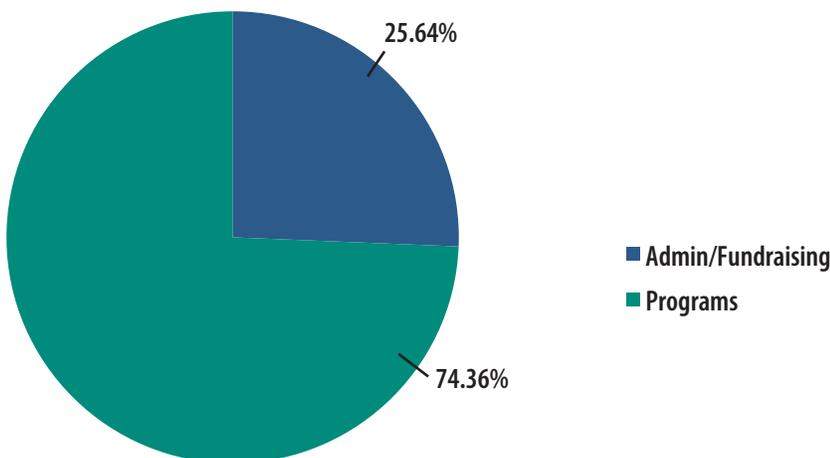
Total Income: \$293,621



Total Expenses: \$361,664



SSAWG FY 2018 Functional Allocation



Southern SAWG's mission is to empower and inspire farmers, individuals, and communities in the South to create an agricultural system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane. Because sustainable solutions depend on the involvement of the entire community, Southern SAWG is committed to including all persons in the South without bias.

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