

START WITH FOOD



**FAIR
FOOD
NETWORK**

ALL STARTS WITH FOOD. FOOD GIVES US LIFE. IT CONNECTS US TO OUR CULTURE, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR HISTORY. FOOD IS A SOURCE OF COMMON GROUND. WHEN WE GATHER AROUND A TABLE, WE BUILD COMMUNITY. EACH OF US BRINGS SOMETHING TO SHARE AND LEAVES WITH A STRONGER SENSE OF BELONGING. FOOD CONNECTS US TO THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET. IT HELPS US RECOGNIZE THE ABUNDANCE OF OUR PLANET AND REMINDS US THAT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE GROW TOGETHER. IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR MANY SHAPED SYSTEMS—AND HOW FOOD



START WITH FOOD



It all starts with food.

Food gives us life. It connects us to our culture, our communities, and our history.

Food is a source of common ground. When we gather around a table, we build community. Each of us brings something to share and leaves with a stronger sense of belonging.

Food connects us to the ground beneath our feet. It helps us recognize the abundance of our planet and reminds us that community health and environmental resilience grow together. It helps us understand the interdependence of our many shared systems—and how food is woven into each of them.

When we start with food, we can identify solutions. We can build lasting partnerships and vibrant, thriving communities. And we can find new ways to address long-standing inequities.

When we start with food, we see what unites us. When we start with food, our impact radiates outward. When we start with food, we take steps toward a fairer future—one where each of us has access to healthy food, economic opportunities, and a planet that can sustain us all.

When we start with food, everything else is possible.

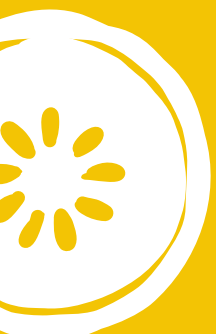
MEETING THE MOMENT



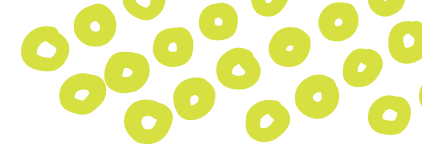
Fair Food Network began in 2009, based on our belief in the potential of food to bring people together, nourish communities, and fuel positive systemic change. From our first pilots in the local farmers market to our current work expanding opportunities for food entrepreneurs, our approach has always reflected that founding belief.

Today, food continues to serve as a starting point for solutions and a path to common ground. As we confront the threat of climate change, food is a leverage point for environmental resilience. As political divides persist, food brings us together. And as our country reckons with historical injustice and ongoing structural inequities, food can help us see new ways to address them.

In this moment, Fair Food Network is building on over a decade of impact and growth. We're also expanding our mission. With a new emphasis on environmental stewardship and a definitive commitment to equity and justice, we're continuing to champion the power of food to support thriving communities.



Start With Food



WHY WE'RE HERE



At Fair Food Network, we start with food. From there, so much is possible: collaborative solutions, lasting partnerships, vibrant communities, and new paths forward. Food touches every area of our lives, and it's a powerful tool for creating a fair, resilient future. That's the inspiration for our ongoing mission: **to grow community health and wealth through food.**

Every day, we sustain our commitment to that mission. We focus on three interconnected impact areas, each of which starts with food:

- 1** We believe that affordable, healthy food is a fundamental right, so we work to make it a choice that's accessible to all.
- 2** We know that farmers and local food businesses are engines for positive change, so we support and invest in their success.
- 3** We know that ecological resilience is an integral part of community health and wealth, so we champion food-based approaches to environmental stewardship.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

The Problem

Climate change and deeply rooted inequities—including structural racism—create barriers that limit opportunity and threaten our communities.

The Opportunity

At Fair Food Network, we start with food. Food is at the heart of every area of our lives and a powerful tool for positive change. That's the inspiration for our mission: **to grow community health and wealth through food.**

Our Approach

We transform how resources flow through the food economy to create a more fair and resilient future.

Strategies

Financial Investing

We invest in food businesses serving their communities.

Policy Advocacy

We advocate for policies that bring proven solutions to scale.

Capacity Building

We collaborate with partners to strengthen our collective capacity and impact.

Short-Term Outcomes

- 1 Community members have greater food purchasing power and access to more healthy, sustainable food options.
- 2 Farmers and food businesses increase market opportunity and sales channels.
- 3 Farmers, food businesses, and partner organizations build their knowledge and capacity.

Long-Term Outcomes

- 1 Community members can choose to buy and eat more healthy, affordable food.
- 2 Farmers, food organizations, and food businesses increase their revenue, achieve financial stability, and create jobs for their communities.
- 3 Food waste decreases and diets are more sustainable.

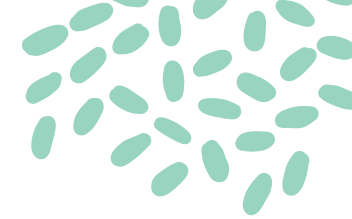
Our Impact

Thriving communities supported by improved health, increased wealth, and a resilient environment.

What We Do & How We Do It

Future Outcomes

WHAT WE DO



Nutrition Incentives

Fair Food Network builds and supports nutrition incentives that expand healthy food choices and spark economic opportunity. SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), for example, is the largest federal investment in our food and farming systems; the program distributes more than \$80 billion dollars a year. We work to ensure that those dollars provide fresh, locally grown food options for communities across the country.

Our Double Up Food Bucks program, which matches SNAP benefits spent on fruits and vegetables, began in our home state of Michigan. Since 2009, the program has been adopted by partners around the country, improving healthy food access from coast to coast; it continues to demonstrate the benefits of nutrition incentives for local farmers, retailers, and the people who need their services.

Leveraging our experience and lessons learned, we lead technical assistance and innovation work that strengthens nutrition incentives and produce prescription projects nationwide. We also advocate for policies that build up our field's collective capacity and bring proven solutions to scale. As a trusted partner for program development, technical assistance, and public policy, we aim to develop and model new approaches that create immediate impact, support community-driven progress, and change systems for the better.

Impact Investing

Fair Food Network believes that food businesses are powerful engines for positive change. Farmers, grocers, and other local food entrepreneurs provide their communities with vital nourishment, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Working at the intersection of food, health, and economic justice, Fair Food Network fuels the success of food entrepreneurs through catalytic capital, wrap-around business services, and a commitment to place-based impact investing collectives. We focus our investments on people who are most often overlooked by traditional investors, particularly people who have been marginalized due to their race, ethnicity, and/or gender. Together, we're building thriving communities and a more inclusive economy.

Our approach is designed to create immediate impact and long-term systems change. Entrenched inequities have kept critical resources from being accessible to everyone. With that in mind, our work transforms how those resources—like money, political momentum, and supportive networks—flow through the food economy, building equity in communities across the country. We use three key strategies:

Financial Investing

We invest in local food organizations and businesses that provide their communities with nourishment, culture, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship.

Capacity Building

We build collaborative relationships that strengthen our collective capacity and impact.

Policy Advocacy

We champion policies that bring proven, restorative solutions to scale across the United States.

Our efforts are currently focused in two core programs: nutrition incentives and impact investing.



WHO WE ARE



Fair Food Network is a trusted partner for programs, policies, and investments that harness the potential of food. We know that we're all stronger when we lift each other up. We foster coalitions that build collective power, leverage on-the-ground lessons learned, and encourage knowledge exchange with others who use food as a tool for equity.

Our Team

Our commitment to partnership begins with our team. Fair Food Network's staff has decades of experience in nonprofit leadership, workforce development, environmental advocacy, food and agriculture, evaluation, community engagement, policymaking, community-based impact investing, and entrepreneurship. Our team's diverse range of backgrounds and expertise sustain our interdisciplinary approach to building community health and wealth through food.

LIVING OUR VALUES



Even as we recognize that food is a unifying element of human life, we can also use it as a lens for seeing injustice and oppression more clearly. Healthy, affordable food isn't a universally accessible choice. Not every food entrepreneur has had access to traditional financing to support them in growing and serving their community. Instead of perpetuating systems of extraction, exploitation, and structural racism, we strive to model economic belonging, justice, and environmental stewardship. We seek to interrupt unjust historical patterns through our work, augmenting the powerful capacity already present in the communities we serve.

Today and every day, we affirm and deepen our commitment to equity and justice. It is an integral part of our work, and of the world we envision.

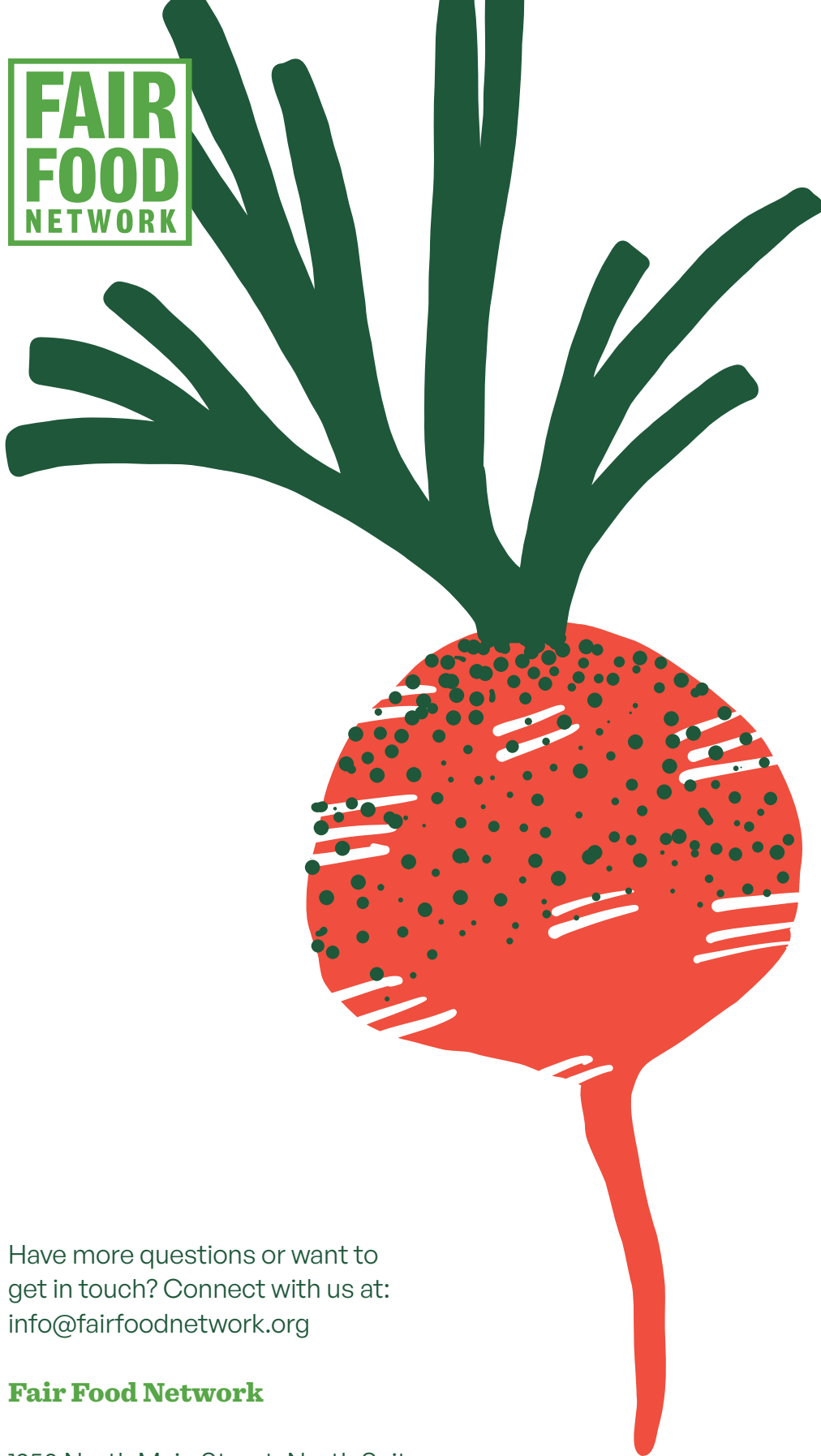
JOIN US



Whether you're a food entrepreneur, donor, funder, investor, policymaker, frontline practitioner, or another interested collaborator, we're here to partner with you in building a fair and resilient future.

Learn more and connect with us at:
fairfoodnetwork.org

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Have more questions or want to
get in touch? Connect with us at:
info@fairfoodnetwork.org

Fair Food Network

1250 North Main Street, North Suite
Ann Arbor MI 48104

P 734 213 3999 F 734 213 0834