



# 2023 ANNUAL



# REPORT



# TWO BECOME ONE



## Logo Inspiration

This carrot represents the two organizations forming becoming the same organism, and was eaten in the process of producing this logo.

## New Building

For the first time, we moved into a permanent office, distribution, and warehousing location. Come find us at 1032 Main St. in Grinnell!!

## New Mission Statement

Grinnell Farm To Table (est. 2011) focused on local food retail and Local Foods Connection (est. 1999) focused on food access. Both were independent local food organizations in Grinnell buying food from local producers and distributing in the community.

Now one organization, **Grinnell Farm To Table (GFTT) connects Poweshiek County area residents with farmers and producers in the surrounding area to create a healthier, more environmentally sustainable, regional food system and increase access to local foods.**

## New Director

Tommy Hexter is the new director of Grinnell Farm To Table. Tommy moved to Iowa in 2017 after growing up on a 2-acre vegetable and egg farm in the mountains of Central Virginia and graduated from Grinnell College in 2021. He is a commissioner of the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District and Rural Organizer and Educator with the Iowa Farmers Union. He loves to explore the small towns and backroads of Iowa with his 3-year-old German Shepherd named Echo, and he goes trail running in his free time.

# BY THE NUMBERS

2023 was an unprecedented year in many, many ways, and we are proud to be able to report on exceptional growth in our impact compared to previous years, made possible by support and dedication from our community.

**146,143**

Dollars spent on food  
from Iowa producers

Increase from \$51,000 in  
2022

**4,000+**

Pounds of meat  
donated to Poweshiek  
County food pantries

Equivalent to 10 whole  
large cows

**21**

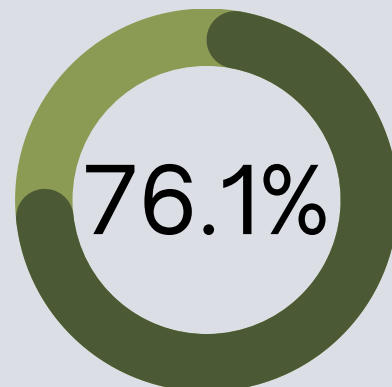
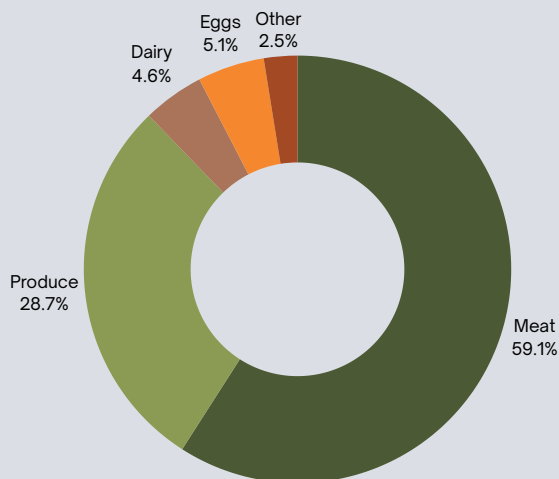
Grinnell families who  
received weekly produce  
and protein boxes

Complete with meat, milk,  
eggs, and produce from  
Iowa farms

**36**

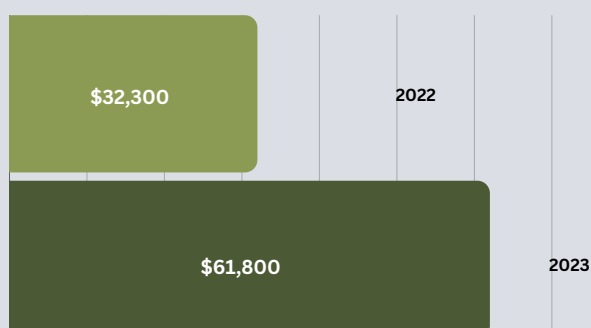
Iowa producers who sold  
to our food hub

100% of every dollar spent  
with an Iowa producer benefits  
Iowa's rural economies

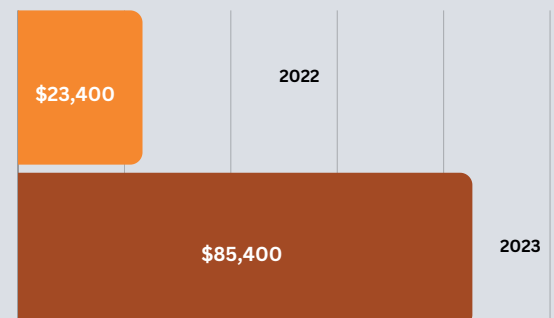


Percentage of 2023 Operating Budget  
spent directly on food purchases

**Retail Sales (\$)**



**Food Access Donations (\$)**





# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## Food Box Packing

We packed and delivered over 450 local food boxes this year, including Thanksgiving shares pictured below.



## Ice Cream Churning

We purchased a soft-serve machine to serve Radiance Dairy Organic Soft Serve from Fairfield, IA.



## Tomato Canning

We hosted a tomato canning workshop led by farmer Jordan Scheibel and canned over 200 lbs of tomatoes.



## Community Building

We partnered with the Iowa Kitchen to host a local food meal and community food access roundtable.



## Pop-Up Marketing

We set up 3 'Free Farmstands' and 3 'Pay-What-You-Can' markets around Grinnell.



## Burger Flipping

We partnered with Whippoorwill Creek Farm to sell All-Iowa Burgers during RAGBRAI 50.



# HOW WE DID IT

Several funding opportunities and generous grants from community partners emboldened us to expand our scope of work and start building permanent physical infrastructure to make Grinnell Farm To Table a sustainable institution in Iowa's future.

Timely federal funding gave us the opportunity to dream bigger. In 2022, the **Iowa Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA)** and the **Iowa Local for Schools (LFS)** programs were funded through the USDA and administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. From April 2023-March 2024, Grinnell Farm To Table was granted \$100,000 for food procurement and \$15,600 for staff time through the LFPA. For the 2023-2024 school year, Grinnell-Newburg Community School District and Montezuma School District were given grants to purchase local food from Grinnell Farm To Table. Both of these programs are set to expire by March 2025, but we are advocating with the **Iowa Food System Coalition** for continued funding.



Delivering breakfast sausage from Compass Plant CSA to Grinnell High School



## Community Funding

In addition to the influx of federal funds to pay for food procurement and staff time, our building expansion was made possible by generous grants from **United Way of Grinnell**, **Green State Foundation**, **Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation**, and **100+ People Who Care Grinnell**, and the **Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors** through American Rescue Plan Funding. These grants helped fund costs like insurance, rent, and infrastructure upgrades (many of which are set for early 2024 - stay tuned)!



# MEET OUR GROWERS

**More info about specific producers available upon request.**

Abundant Provisions Farm\*

B&B Farms\*

B&J Vegetables

Back Forty Honey\*

Barker Foods

Bear Creek Piggery\*

Bobb Family Farm\*

Compass Plant CSA\*^

Doty Cattle Company\*^

Durr Farms\*

Farm Story Meats\*^

Firefly Ranch

Flint Ridge Organic Produce\*

Grazin' Cattle\*

Hedge Apple Kombucha

Latcham Farms

Little Bud Farm

Lovig Farms

Middle Way Farm\*

Milton Creamery

Monarch Meadows

Old Capitol Food Co

Olson Garden Market\*

Organic Greens, LLC

Paul's Grains

Pleasant Grove Homestead\*^

Radiance Dairy, LLC\*

Red Earth Gardens

Sandhill Acres\*

Sunset Hills Bison Ranch

Tangled Roots Farm\*

TVR Beef, LLC\*

Whippoorwill Creek Farm, LLC\*

Wild Rose Pastures\*

WW Homestead Dairy

Yellow Table Farm

**denotes producer who participated in food access program \***

**denotes producer who participated in farm-to-school program ^**

**Please contact us to if you are interested in being a producer through Grinnell Farm To Table.**



# THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### DONORS

Green State Foundation

United Way of Grinnell

Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation

100+ People Who Care Grinnell

Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurel Lacina - President

Vicki Nolton - Treasurer

Madeline McCabe - Secretary

Susan Sanning

Ann Brau

Kerri Olson

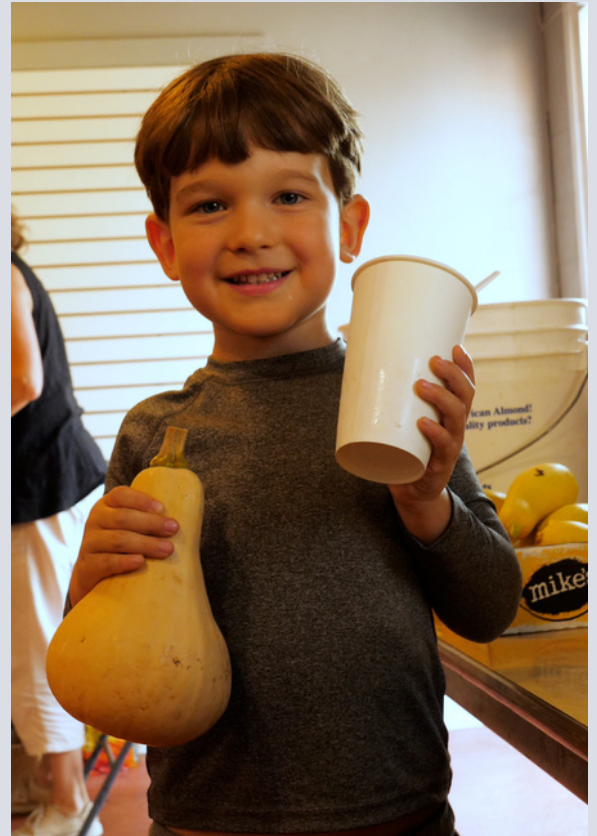
Mark Levandoski

Jordan Scheibel

Lisa Bacon

Mike Storbeck

Kathlyna Osborn



### GRINNELL COLLEGE SUMMER INTERNS

Julianna Vajda '23

Tristan Davis '24



### SUPERSTAR VOLUNTEERS

Sue Kolbe

Kathy Jacobson

Tara Shukla-Jones

Angela Winburn

Jon & Carolyn Hexter

Tanner Alger

Eli Brotman

### PARTNERS

The Iowa Kitchen

Grinnell Food Coalition

Blessed Community Meal