

Food Systems Workforce Development Program Year Two Report

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners Meeting
August 26th, 2025



Young Chefs Program Summary



Farmer Value Add Program



Farmer Engagement

- 20 farmers surveyed
- 17 expressed interest
- 9 entered contract phase
- 5 enrolled in the program
- 4 currently participating

Biggest Hurdles for Participation

- Time
- Regulatory Requirements

Program Benefits

- One-on-one consulting to navigate product regulation and inspection
- Specialized equipment purchases
- 100% Kitchen and Storage Subsidy: 12 months
- 75% Kitchen and Storage Subsidy: 6 months
- 50% Kitchen and Storage Subsidy: 4 months
- 25% Kitchen Subsidy: 4 months



Participating Farms

- **Bambi's Organic Country Farm and Store:** Plant-based soups, salads, and side dishes; vegan baked goods; iced teas
- **Eggsotics:** Pork cuts, artisan sausages, bacon, lard
- **North Florida Elderberry:** Elderberry juice, immune syrup, elixirs with honey, jelly, and balsamic vinegar
- **Oystercatcher Shellfish:** Mignonette, yuzu mignonette, clam dip, smoked mullet dip, hot sauces, and jellies
- **Caraway Farms:** Artisanal pork sausages
 - Caraway Farms withdrew from the program in June 2025 due to time constraints.

Farm Products



Sales Outlets

Farmers sold value-added products at over 20 regional markets and retail outlets, with products going as far as Georgia and Tennessee.



Key local farmers markets included:

- Alachua County Farmers Market
- Grove Street Farmers Market
- Haile Farmers Market
- High Springs Farmers Market
- San Felasco Farmers Market

Outcomes and Impacts

From July 2024 to June 2025, participating farmers collectively used **576 hours of kitchen time** and generated **\$95,045.34 in gross revenue** from their value-added products.

- One farmer reported a **10–15% increase** in gross annual sales, despite facing hurricane-related crop losses in 2024.
- Another saw a **20–30% sales increase**, allowing them to hire additional staff to meet demand.
- A third farmer transitioned primarily to value-added products, reporting a **300% increase in gross annual sales** and significantly reduced farm waste.

2024 Figures

2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	TOTAL
Kitchen Hours	10	27	56	25.5	50	45	213.5
Products Made	0	0	1213	434	954	582	3,183
Paid Staff Hours	0	0	20	0	62	8	90
Value Added Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,279.36	\$7,403.00	\$10,834.82	\$8,466.48	\$34,983.66

2025 Figures

2025	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	April 2025*	May 2025*	June 2025	TOTAL
Kitchen Hours	89	61.5	99.5	20.5	48	44	362.5
Products Made	1059	949	1148	325	751	981	5,213
Paid Staff Hours	54	38	50	30.5	27	66	265.50
Value Added Revenue	\$11,665.76	\$11,057.47	\$11,797.26	\$8,810.50	\$7,189.25	\$9,541.44	\$60,061.68

** The kitchen was closed from April 12 to May 17, 2025, due to repeated sewage intrusions in our leased building. This closure impacted both kitchen bookings and revenue for April and May.*

