



**DAR**

**2025**

**Annual Impact Report**

**Last year**, the federal government revoked a large chunk of our operating budget mid-stream. We lost funds intended to support our Food Solidarity Garden, our Wind River Reservation partnership, our Research department, and other programs built to feed families and restore land. We made the decision to push through. Regardless of the economy or the politics, the land still needs tending and people still need healthy sustenance. Throughout the year, this land we manage, once deemed "unfarmable" by the NRCS, produced fresh food for local families.



Ryan Madson  
Managing Director

We weathered other challenges as well. We grew the team and then had to contract it again. We transitioned leadership and spun Folk Farm into its own legal entity. Through it all, one of my jobs is to monitor organizational and team wellbeing. One fact stood out to me as a clear indication that we have the right team to do this work. Not only did passion and dedication remain high all year long, but exactly at the time of year when the team was reporting their most stressful workloads, they also reported a jump in their sense of mutual respect and flow with the group. It takes a team with inner resilience to nurture resilience in the land, and I'm incredibly proud to be a part of a team that comes together to do hard things.

The rest of this report will highlight the great work this team was able to accomplish in 2025.

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# Our Purpose

**to regenerate landscapes to improve life on Earth**

# Our Vision

**a liveable future**



# DAR in Context

DAR is developing ecologically beneficial agricultural practices in and for the semi-arid West.

We work on real land in Boulder County to improve soil health and climatic resilience.

We contribute our methods and our research to the broader movement for a more just and regenerative future.



# The Team



**Marissa Pulaski**  
Founder, Director of Cultural Stewardship



**Nick DiDomenico**  
Founder, Director of Land Stewardship



**Ryan Madson**  
Managing Director



**Bella Delaney**  
Director of Operations



**Casey El Koury**  
Director of Projects & Partnerships



**Nelson Heider-Kuhn**  
Director of Research



**Nicole Goodman**  
Garden & Crops Manager



**Jessica Walters**  
Director of Folk Farm



**Carlos Piñeiro Carrascal**  
Project Manager & Digital Technician



**Katie Johnson**  
Herds Asst. Mgr



**Anastacia Archibeque**  
Garden Lead & Cultural Liaison



**Connor Allen**  
AIP Apprentice 2024



**Craig Scariot**  
Herds Manager



**Brenna St. Onge**  
Fractional Development Director



**Nina Dickenson**  
Early Childhood Teacher



**Madi Stark**  
Early Childhood Teacher



**Bee Pollicino**  
Early Childhood Teacher



**Kenleigh Vasquez**  
Early Childhood Teacher



**Brianna Federico**  
Marketing & Communications



**Skyar Wamler**  
Development Coordinator



**Anna Baeten**  
Advisor

## Advisors

## The Board



**Virginia Jordan**  
Board Memembr



**Vera Moreno-Hamm**  
Board Memembr



**Barnabas Kane**  
Board Memembr



**Alexa Rosenthal**  
Board Member



**Brett KenCairn**  
Advisor

# Land Stewardship

## Highlights

### Design & Install

- Planted 16,764 trees across 23 project sites, with a 74.7% average survivability rate across long-term research sites.
- Hosted a public volunteer planting event resulting in 2,800 trees planted at one research site.
- Planted 110,000 hazelnut trees as part of a semi-arid breeding project in partnership with Restoration Agriculture Design.
- Secured grant funds for clients and broke ground on three terrace and tree projects; secured four more grants for client projects that will begin in 2026.

### Grazing & Partnerships

- 582 acres holistically grazed; 3-year Boulder County grazing lease secured. Grazing partnership initiated with
- Processed 11 hogs; celebrated the birth of the first three calves on property.



# Cultural Stewardship

## Highlights

### Women & Girls

- Continued deep partnership with AWPC, hosting postpartum and ancestral-healing trainings for BIPOC women, including an annual training featuring a visiting teacher from Mexico.
- Provided ceremonial and cultural support at DAR sites, including Planting and Harvest Ceremonies with Elders Beverly Castanada and Debora Montoya.
- Advanced First Moon and youth rites-of-passage programming in partnership with AWPC and Community Roots Midwife Collective throughout the year.

### Food Security

- Donated over 4,000 lbs of regeneratively grown produce and apothecary bundles to Indigenous elders and community members through Boulder Food Rescue, Spirit of the Sun, and AMISTAD.

### Education

- Evolved the Folk Farm School into its own nonprofit entity; secured grant funding for the program's long-term sustainability.
- Provided \$17,129 in scholarships; held 22 parent-teacher meetings supporting student development and family engagement.
- Hosted 14 Farm Stewardship Program volunteers and two visiting college groups; completed a successful season of weekly garden volunteer days.



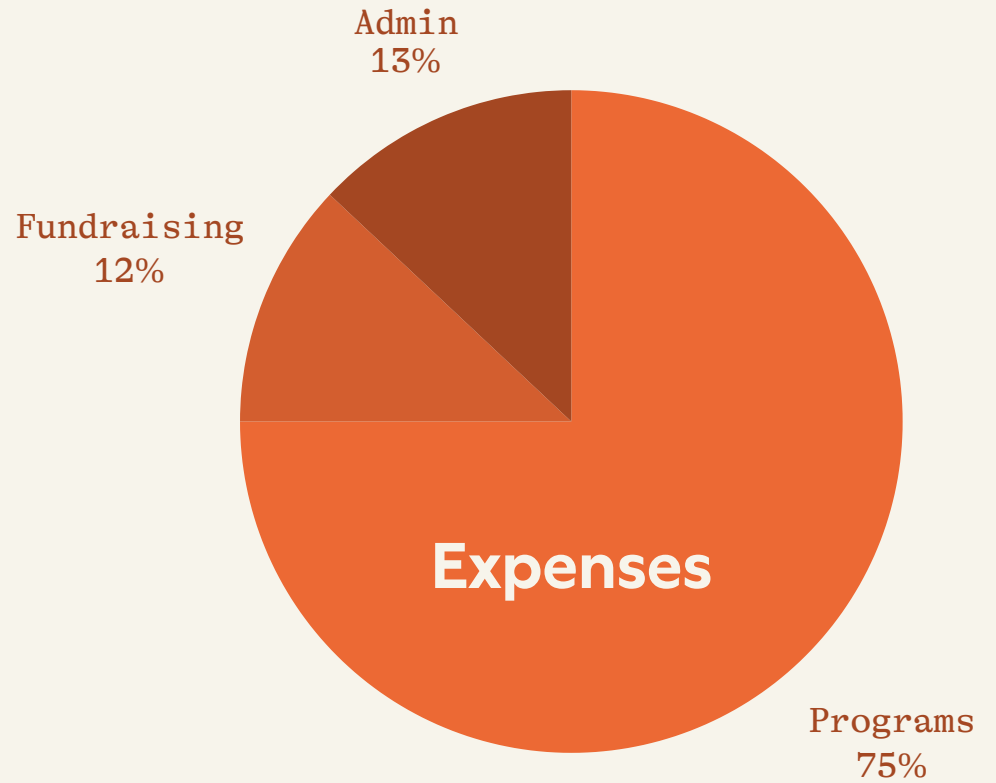
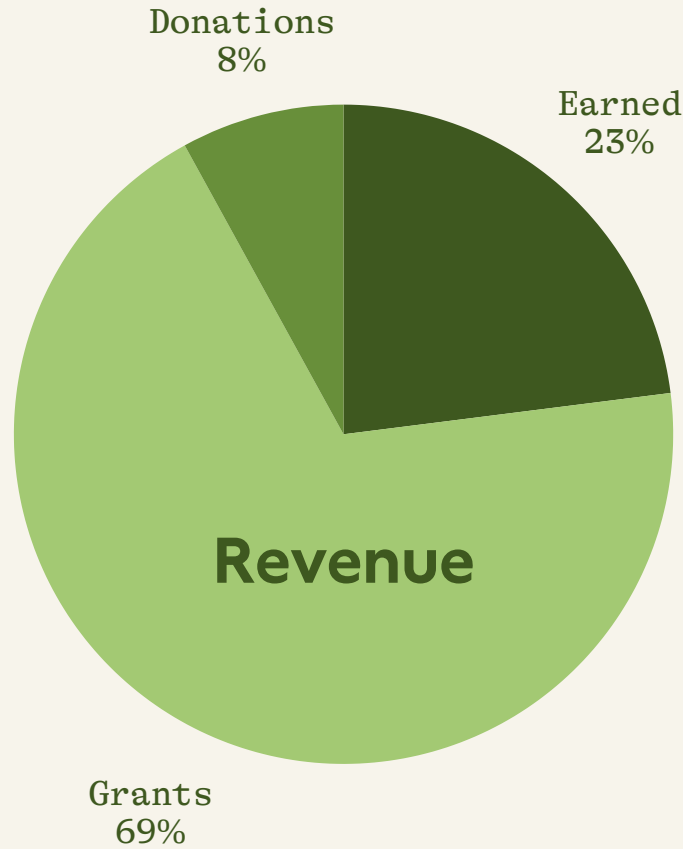
# Research

DAR's research program evaluates the impacts of scaled agroecology on hydrology, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and soil health. This work strengthens our design and implementation practices, equips land managers with effective tools for assessing ecosystem health, and advances understanding of the ecological outcomes of dryland agroforestry systems.

- Secured \$300,000 over three years for the CASCADE long-term study; invited by FFAR to apply for a high-impact matching fund to expand the program.
- Began construction of IoT-based environmental monitoring sensors with CSU across all four CASCADE research sites.
- Developed four new university partnerships across three institutions; received endorsement of DAR's methodologies from two international researchers.
- Completed multi-site studies on predator insect biodiversity (2022-2025), soil water holding capacity, and grassland health across DAR research sites.
- Built advanced ecological models projecting carbon, water, and organic matter impacts of DAR's tree planting and swale construction.
- Hosted a Patagonia × DAR public education event; delivered research presentations at UNC and CSU.

**Dive in with the 2025  
DAR Executive  
Research Report!**

# 2025 Financials



# A Look Ahead<sup>8</sup>

In 2026, DAR is distilling a decade of practice into two concrete pilots, bolstered by an in-depth, peer-reviewed study.

[The Soil-Water Stewardship Pilot](#)

[The Perennial Integration Pilot](#)

[The CASCADE Study](#)

[Learn more at DAR.eco](#)



# Thank You!

## **None of this exists without you.**

Not the crops or the livestock, not the harvests, not the conversations, or even the relationships this community has developed with this land. Every meal shared, every seed planted, every young farmer who found their footing this year, it traces back to a decision you made to invest in something with no guaranteed return.

**To our foundation partners:** you stepped up when organizations like ours couldn't count on government funding. Your belief in our work, especially in a year when belief cost something, meant everything.

**To our individual donors:** your gift is personal and we cherish it. We know the generosity behind giving what you can, and we receive it with both honor and a sense of responsibility.

You trusted us with your resources. We'll put everything we've got into regenerating landscapes to improve life on earth.

Sincerely,  
The whole DAR crew



For life on Earth.