**Title:** Addressing Community Issues with Entrepreneurship

**Company/Organization:** Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship

**Type of Organization:** Nonprofit

**Number of Employees:** <100

**Category:** Community

**Challenge or Opportunity:** Hannah Grimes Center (HGC) and partners including Cheshire County Conservation District and National Center for Appropriate Technology worked together to iterate our existing business accelerator program into two new programs: a FoodBiz and a FarmBiz Lab. These courses bring cohorts of farmers and food entrepreneurs together with industry specific mentors to cover business basics like marketing, financials, and more.

**Approach or Solution:** Hannah Grimes Center (HGC) and partners including Cheshire County Conservation District and National Center for Appropriate Technology worked together to iterate our existing business accelerator program into two new programs: a FoodBiz and a FarmBiz Lab. These courses bring cohorts of farmers and food entrepreneurs together with industry specific mentors to cover business basics like marketing, financials, and more.

**Impact:** As a result of these programs, HGC has helped 27 farm and food businesses bolster their business skills and create a business case and pitch. Through grant funding for the first FoodBiz Lab, HGC awarded $5,000 to Bending Branch Farm, the winner of the program’s pitch competition. Since their time in FoodBiz Lab, Bending Branch Farm has utilized other HGC resources. All of which have helped them to purchase a new farm, grow their herd of goats, and expand their cheese production.