

# The Alpine Science Institute Student Farm and Incubator

# What is a Farm Incubator?

- **Lack of resources to get started or scale up diversified fruit/veg farms**
- **Farm training/incubator programs reduce barriers to entry**
  - ▷ **Education: production, business skills, mentoring**
  - ▷ **Financing: access to equipment and supplies**
  - ▷ **Land: lease plots of land at below market rates**
- **Goal: Increase resiliency of the local food system**



# Why Create a Farm Incubator?

- **Lander is a small, rural town (pop. 7,500)**
  - ▷ **Produce is expensive and not amazing!**
- **Fragile supply chains**
- **Sales of fresh produce in Lander and Riverton ~\$14 million**
- **Demand for locally grown produce has risen**
  - ▷ **~40-50% growth in FM sales 2021-2023**
  - ▷ **2 local food stores**



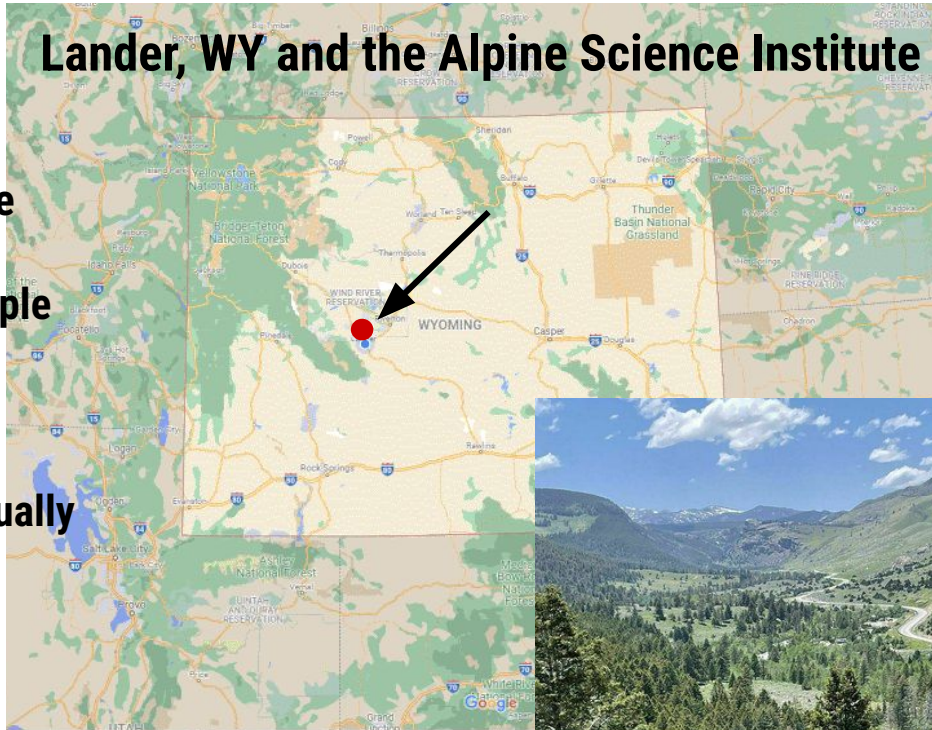
# Program Content

- **Farm training and incubator programs**
- **Several course pathways**
- **Geared towards individuals with little to no experience**
- **Credit based, housing available**
- **Foundations:**
  - ▶ **Crop production practicum**
  - ▶ **Farm business course**
- **One-off, certificate, associates**



# Lander, WY and the Alpine Science Institute

- Traditional lands of the Eastern Shoshone people
- 5,800 ft elevation
- 10" inches of rain annually
- 46" of snow annually
- ~100 frost free days
- A beautiful place to farm!



# Crop Production Practicum

- April-September
- 3x/week, total of 12 hours
- Cover all aspects of basic farm operations
- 90/10 field/classroom work, plus field trips
- “Farming lite”
- Goal: comprehensive education touching on all aspects of small farm management



# The Farm Plot at the ASI

- **Farming practices:**
  - ▷ **Crop diversity/rotation**
  - ▷ **Building soil health**
  - ▷ **Experimenting with different methods**
- **Build long term ecosystem health and resilience**
- **Learning hands on skills, but also WHY we're doing this**















# Our Funders and Partners



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



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**Questions?**

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