

Baz Perry

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A project management professional who has developed and expanded the capacity of collaborative food system projects by leading (a) successful private, state, and federal grant applications, (b) strategic hiring, training, and external contracting, (c) automated and user-friendly project management tools, and (d) training and technical support.

Professional Experience

Associate Director, Figueroa Interdisciplinary Group (FIG) Research Lab, Division of Nutritional Sciences, *Cornell University, Ithaca, NY* Nov. 2022–present
Promoted from Program Manager Sept. 2022–Nov. 2022

- Manage ongoing projects by budgeting resource needs, securing funding, implementing work plans and communications, delegating and supervising task completion, and managing grant obligations
- Customize internal knowledge management systems using Microsoft 365 (SharePoint, Teams, Outlook, Tasks), Box.com, Google Drive, and project spreadsheets
- Oversee external communications and brand management on the [web](#), in [social media](#), and press releases
- Develop and authored successful funding applications from federal, state, foundation, and university sources to support research and provide resources for partner organizations. Lead author and grant manager on the following awards:
 - USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, New York Food For New York Families Subaward, \$1.6 million, Jan. '23 (with ten community partners expanding farm to food assistance supply chains)
 - Cornell College of Human Ecology Faculty Sustainability Award \$35k June '23 (to evaluate Nourish NY and other farm to food assistance policies in NYS)
 - Cornell Engaged College grant \$4k May '23 (to co-host first NYS Food Policy Council Summit)
- Build partnerships with urban and rural food and health organizations, extension offices, public officials, farm and food system advocates, and peer researchers to deliver collaborative, community-driven research projects that implement best practices in sustainable food systems
- Contribute to the core FIG Lab functions of food systems research (protocols, data collection, and assessment, writing), policy engagement, and student mentorship

Grant Reviewer, *Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA* Aug. 2023–present

- Chair of grant review committee for 2024 Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) and member of grant review committee for 2023 Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG)

Agriculture and Food Systems Team Leader, *Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY* Jun. 2021–Sept. 2022

Promoted from Equitable Food Systems Coordinator Dec. 2019–Jun. 2021
Promoted from Healthy Food For All Program Assistant Nov. 2018–Dec. 2019

- Developed programs that build a healthy, equitable, and regenerative food system in Tompkins County, NY, in collaboration with agricultural producers, hunger relief initiatives, food waste prevention programs, policy makers, and adult education initiatives

- Funded new positions; developed position descriptions, hired, and supervised full- and part-time staff, MPH, and undergraduate interns and adult volunteers to carry out programming throughout Tompkins (avg. 5–7 paid staff, 3–4 interns on rolling basis)
- **Secured \$200k for local food system projects in 2021–22** in federal (USDA-NIFA), state (NYSDAM), and foundation grants (Park Foundation); managed grant obligations
- Co-authored the [*Tompkins Food System Plan*](#) (accepted by legislative resolution in July '22)
- Advised and supervised staff support for the ***Tompkins COVID-19 Food Task Force***, a collective action coalition of over 200 local community businesses and organizations
- Led ***Tompkins Farm to School*** initiatives to increase access to fresh food in cafeterias and expand food system education in eight county school districts; supervised the *Farm to School* Education Coordinator, funded through successful \$125k grant from the Park Foundation
- Led program development, project management, communications, curriculum design and delivery, data collection, and evaluation for ***Food as Medicine Tompkins*** to improve links between healthcare providers and food and nutrition services, reduce food insecurity, mitigate chronic disease severity in vulnerable populations, and build funding streams for area farmers
- Managed operations for the **subsidized CSA program, *Healthy Food For All***. Designed and maintained a custom client relations management (CRM) system to house confidential data for 400+ annual donors and 300+ household recipients enrolled in a variety of CSAs at 10 farms
- Designed and taught new ***Food Waste Reduction*** educational programming in partnership with Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management and the Cornell MPH program
- Facilitated meetings and enacted planning priorities for the ***Tompkins Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board***
- Served as a subject-matter resource in the areas of agricultural economic development and food systems by answering questions from the public, faculty, and social service agents and developing information resources for local food consumers, farmers, farm market managers, and food-insecure households
- Delivered innovative **food system, agriculture, and nutrition education programs** using situationally appropriate educational methods including one-on-one lessons, group experiences, original multimedia content, and distance learning

Small Farm Entrepreneur, 2015–18, *Comfort Farm, LLC, Ithaca, NY*

- Started small permaculture farm to sell fiber, eggs, incubated duck eggs, and value-added fruit preserves

Animal Food Manufacturing Entrepreneur, 2009–11, *Lazy Hound, LLC, Ann Arbor, MI*

- Started a local CSA dog food business using food waste reduction to build whole food meals and treats

Academic Library Positions, 2003–09, *Harvard University and University of Michigan*

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Master of Science in Information, April 2008 • Library and Information Science

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Master of Theological Studies, June 2005 • World Religions, Environmental Policy

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Arts, May 2002 • Religious Studies, Economics (focus on Agricultural & Resource Econ.)

Technical Skills

Non-profit Management

Financial accounting for non-profits (formal training through coursework at Harvard Kennedy School of Government) • Information audits • Knowledge management • Software assessment and implementation • Data collection, storage, analysis • Market research, competitive analysis, needs assessment • Intellectual property law, MOU/MOAs, vendor contracts • Successful grant applications at federal (USDA-NIFA), state (NYS DAM), and local foundations • Successful public funding requests through the NYS Assembly • Grant data management and reporting • Project budgeting • Monitoring and evaluation, IRB oversight • Public communications using traditional and social media

Human Resources Mobilization

Position description development • Recruitment and hiring • Supervision of full-time employees, part-time support staff, contracted professionals, and student interns • Staff development, technical training, and performance reviews • Adult education using in-person, hybrid, virtual classrooms, automated SMS and email courses, MentiMeter, Google Forms, and online learning tools • Mobilization and training of volunteers • Facilitation of project working groups, coalitions, and advisory and oversight boards

Computer Languages & Software

Project management with Microsoft Office 365, Teams, SharePoint, Trello, Slack, Google Groups and Drive, Box.com • Data analytics with Qualtrics, SPSS, ArcGIS, Excel • Website management with WordPress, Orchard Press, WIX, Webflow • Coding in Java, SAS, MySQL, html • Customer relations management with MailChimp, Constant Contact • Social networking tools for internal and public communication • Graphic design in Canva, Adobe • Video production and editing with iMovie, YouTube

Community Food Systems Leadership

[Finger Lakes Payment for Ecosystem Services Work Group](#), Finance & Policy Committee Chair, 2023–present

[Tompkins Food Policy Council](#), Steering Committee Member, Treasurer, 2022–present

Emergency Food & Shelter Program FEMA Board for Tompkins County, Member, 2022–present

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County, Master Gardener Volunteer, 2018–2024

Community Foundation of Tompkins County, Grant Review Committee Member, Spring 2023