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Morgantown planning projects receives \$50,000 USDA grant on organic crop initiative

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Morgantown, W.Va. — A Morgantown planning project has been awarded a \$50,000 federal grant for an organic crop initiative.

Downstream Strategies LLC will receive one of 23 grants awarded in 18 states from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The group's project will survey organic, transitional and conventional farmers in West Virginia to discover current organic fruit and vegetable commodity production and real and perceived barriers to the adoption of organic practices.

The funding for the Morgantown project is through the USDA's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.

The USDA says more than two-thirds of U.S. consumers purchase organic products at least occasionally, and 28 percent buy them weekly.

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