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### Local produce healthier, fresher, and helping the economy

By Austin Davis, Multimedia Journalist [CONNECT](#)

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GREENBRIER VALLEY - Sprouting Farms is a non-profit agricultural resource center focused on recruiting farmers and connecting them with the local economy.

"We are working to help support and establish more small farm businesses in the Greenbrier Valley and beyond," said Fritz Boettner, Project Director for Sprouting Farms.

They also have a program to guide future farmers.

"It's that real world experience. We're laying a really strong foundation doing everything we can so that if they choose to leave us, come this winter, they'll have that foundation in place and they'll be creating jobs," said Alivia Sturgill, Education Coordinator for Sprouting Farms.

Providing local produce to consumers in the Greenbrier Valley is important for everyone.

"It's going to I think help our struggling economy at some level. Now, it's not going to save our economy by any means, but I think it's one of the silver bb's that can help," Boettner said.

How exactly could it help the economy?

"If more sales are happening, more farmers are on the landscape, more investment in land in the areas. It really feeds into helping develop agricultures and other really strong sectors of our economy," Boettner continued.

Having more farmers means green grocers are truly green.

"You can minimize your travel time on any produce, you're going to get a better quality product, more fresh product," said Alex Orginz, Farm Manager for Sprouting Farms.

"People can drive past here on the way to Talcott Elementary and say 'wow, our food is coming from right there. It's not this mysterious place on a food truck. That's where things are being grown.' So, hopefully creating a connection with the community to their food," added Boettner.

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