



Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is an independent citizen-led environmental organization in the state of Missouri. Their focus is to bring awareness to environmental issues such as clean water, clean air, clean energy and a healthy environment. MCE began in 1969 at an environmental conference held at the Missouri Botanical Garden. In their 50+ years they’ve contributed so much to environmental causes. In 2014, MCE released the first [St. Louis Regional Food Study](#) which sought to understand the connections between food, health, and environment within 150 miles of St. Louis. In conjunction with Operation Food Search, MCE launched the [Greater St. Louis Area Gleaning Program](#). Gleaning allows farmers to donate unwanted food to Operation Food Search’s network of over 200 food pantries.

## Known & Grown STL:

The MCE program I want to focus on is the [Known & Grown STL](#) program. Known & Grown STL seeks to promote humane & chemical-free farmers within 150 miles of St. Louis. Known & Grown visits each farm to ensure they meet the standards for [Good Stewardship Practices](#) prior to promoting them. Known & Grown STL uses its platform to raise awareness of the systemic racism of the American food system and the impact it’s had on BIPOC farmers. Each farmer in the Known & Grown program is given a profile on their website. This profile lists the conservation practices, products, contact information, etc. of each farm.

On their website, there is a local food locator tool. This tool allows you to look up various food offerings by zip code.

Known & Grown STL also began a mentorship program in 2021. This program allows a beginner or traditionally disadvantaged farmer an opportunity to improve or expand their environmentally responsible practices.

They also have a podcast, Earthworms on the Farm, where they interview Known & Grown farmers.

All St. Louis citizens have a right to healthy, pesticide-free food. Known & Grown STL is doing its part to bring about a healthier, more just food system.

## To get involved:

Known & Grown STL website: <https://knownandgrownstl.org/>

Local Food Locator: <https://knownandgrownstl.org/local-food-locator/>

Volunteer opportunities are posted on their social media page: [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

To Donate: <https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/78df9b71-b3a4-4e41-8b0b-1ce51b397216>