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## FACT SHEET

### Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute

- What:** The Jefferson Institute is a 501(c3) nonprofit organization based in Columbia, Mo. The institute has two main goals: to explore diversification opportunities for farmers and to present modern agriculture in a relevant and understandable way to the public. Programs include a variety of education, research and market development efforts aimed at improving the long-term viability of family farms. The Jefferson Institute was founded in 1997.
- Activities:** The Jefferson Institute works to:
1. Provide public education programs on contemporary Midwest food, farming and gardening, primarily through a new educational facility called Jefferson Farm & Gardens.
  2. Assist farmers with diversification by providing assistance on how to grow and market a variety of alternative grains, oilseeds and other specialty crops.
  3. Deliver educational programs and workshops for farmers and other agriculturalists in Missouri on new opportunities in agriculture.
  4. Administer a national fellowship program created to support and enhance creative media and communications activities of food and agriculture leaders.
- Inspiration:** Thomas Jefferson was a strong advocate of testing new crops and incorporating them into crop rotations. The Jefferson Institute is named after Jefferson to honor his efforts to diversify and strengthen American agriculture.
- Funding:** The Jefferson Institute is funded by grants from the USDA and other state and federal agencies.
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