

Developing a Student Farm for All

Kimberly James



South Dakota State University

Student Farm

Learning to Grow, Growing to Serve

Survey Says....

- Academic Farm Site
 - Operate
 - Involved
 - Students
- Educational site
- Producers
- Other



History/Background

- Personal Background
 - Instructor of Horticulture
 - Education, Greenhouse, Public Gardens
 - Local food producer
- Support of Administration
 - Establish Student Farm
 - Additional Programming



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Purpose of the Program

Mission

- To promote the production, awareness, and use of local foods in South Dakota

Impact

- Students
 - Hands-on education
 - Projects/research
- Program
 - Food Production
 - Cross-curriculum
- Producers
 - Research, workshops
- Community
 - Awareness, demo, donation
- Agriculture
 - Broaden food message, connection



Timeline - 2013

- April
 - Official approval for the Student Farm Program
- May
 - Still snow on the ground- some crops in late
- June
 - Started CSA deliveries
- July-August
 - production
- Sept
 - Last CSA deliveries, new course in Local Food Production
- Oct-Nov
 - Review, future planning
- Dec
 - Fundraising approval
- January 14
 - New site directive



Preparation and Planting



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Preparation and Planting



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- Raised beds with plastic mulch and drip tape
- Trellises and mini tunnels



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- Completed mini hoop system
- $\frac{3}{4}$ " poly tubing, electric fence posts and woven covering
- Protects plants from sun, rain, insects, frost



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Harvesting



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Harvesting

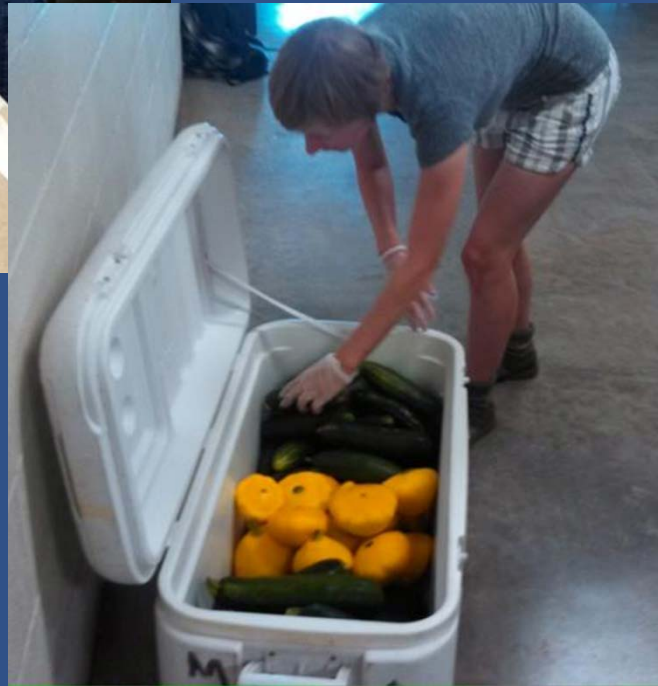


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Washing and Packaging



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Washing and Packaging



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CSA Share Market Deliveries

The farm produces 20 shares of vegetables delivered to our CSA (Community Supported Ag) members at the Brookings Farmer's Market



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First Year Numbers

- ¼ acre production
- 30 species
- 100 varieties
- 4,000 lbs produce
- 20 half shares
- 15% donation
- \$6000 gross
- 2014 goals
- 40 half shares
- 15-20% donations
- High tunnel
- Focus on organic and sustainable production



“Share a Share” Food Donations



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Interaction Across Curriculum



Ag Engineering -
irrigation



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Interaction Across Curriculum

Entomology



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Nice Crops!



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SDSU Student Farm

Pro/Benefit

- Voice/impact
- Access to grants
- Access to multiple specialist
- Interaction with producers
- Students

Con/Restrictions

- Funding constraints
- Policies
- Directive
- Community relations
- Students
- Personal convictions



What can we do for you?

- Demonstration site
- Vegetable Trials
- Educational Outreach
- Community Service and Outreach
- Student Education



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