



**THERE'S NO PLACE
LIKE NEBRASKA 4-H!**

2011 Winter 4-H Warm Up
Training for Volunteer Leaders





COMMUNITY GARDENS

Elizabeth Killinger



WHY COMMUNITY GARDENS

- *Let's Move* Initiative was started by First Lady Michelle Obama to solve the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation.
- *Let's Move Faith and Communities* is designed to support local efforts and highlight accomplishments in communities across the country.



WHY COMMUNITY GARDENS

- As a part of the *Let's Move Faith and Communities* initiative 4-H has committed to:
 - Developing 2,600 school gardens in 2011 that will yield over 650,000 pounds of fresh produce, which will be provided to local families in need.
 - One million young people get involved in community gardening.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

- What are Community Gardens
- Community Garden Benefits
- The Basics to Starting Community Gardens
- Fun Garden Ideas



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY GARDENS?

- According to the American Community Gardening Association, a community garden is

“Any piece of land gardenened by a group of people.”



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Improves the quality of life for people in the garden
- Provides a catalyst for neighborhood and community development
- Stimulates Social Interaction
- Encourages Self-Reliance
- Beautifies Neighborhoods
- Produces Nutritious Food
- Reduces Family Food Budgets



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Conserves Resources
- Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education
- Reduces Crime
- Preserves Green Space
- Creates income opportunities and economic development
- Provides opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections



THE BASICS TO FORMING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Forming a Planning Committee
- Choosing a site
- Preparing and Developing the Site
- Organizing the Garden
- Insurance
- Setting up a New Gardening Organization
- Managing Community Gardens



FORMING a Planning Committee

- Decide if there is a need for a garden, pick the type of garden based on the need
- Organize a meeting of interested people
- Form sub-committees: Funding, Resource Development, Youth Activities, Construction, Communication
- Approach a sponsor(s)- look for contributions of land, tools, seeds, fencing, soil improvements, or funds



CHOOSING a Site

- Pick a site that gets at least 6-8 hours of sunlight a day for vegetables
- Identify the owner of the land, secure lease for at least 3 years
- Do a soil test
- Find an accessible source of water
- Consider the lands past uses



PREPARING the Site

- Clean up the site
- Organize volunteer work crews
- Gather resources
- Decide the layout of the garden, plan plot sizes, and mark clearly
- Arrange for land prep such as plowing and tilling, or will it be up to the individual gardeners



ORGANIZING THE GARDEN

- Decide:
 - How are the plots assigned?
 - How will the group deal with vandalism?
 - Will the gardeners meet regularly?
 - Will the gardeners share tools?
 - Will there be a set of written rules which gardeners will be expected to uphold? If so, how will they be enforced?



INSURANCE

- Liability insurance may be necessary to obtain a lease from a landowner
- Some insurance carriers are reluctant to cover community gardens
- Know what you want before talking to agents



SETTING UP A NEW GARDENING ORGANIZATION

- Know the purpose of the garden, have long term and short term objectives
- Decide how decisions are made and how leader are chosen
- Are you going to charge membership dues to raise funds
- Draw up as set of formal bylaws



Managing a COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Written rules spell out exactly what is expected of gardeners and make it easier to get rid of those individuals that don't comply.
- Application forms allow you gather information about potential gardeners contact information, gardening history, specific needs, etc.



FUN KIDS GARDEN IDEAS

- Alphabet garden
- Story book garden
 - Jack and the Beanstalk
 - Princess and the Pea
- Pizza or hamburger garden
- Pollinator garden



FUN KIDS GARDEN IDEAS

- Native American Garden (Three Sisters Garden)
- Lunchbox Garden
- Itty bitty or Giant garden
- Rainbow garden





RESOURCES

- Horticulture information: local Extension offices, Garden Clubs, Horticulture Societies, Master Gardeners, and Garden Centers are great sources
- Seeds: local garden centers and hardware stores, area gardeners, American the Beautiful Fund Operation Green Plant offers free seeds

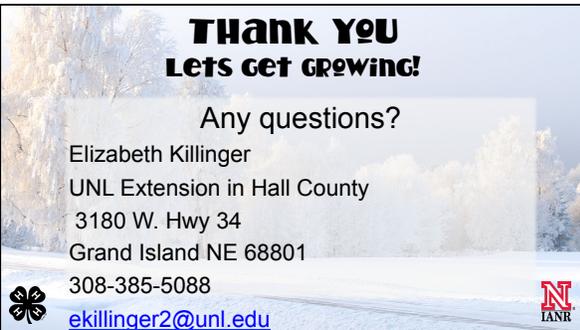




RESOURCES

- The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA), <http://www.communitygarden.org/about-acga/>
- American the Beautiful Fund Operation Green Plant, http://www.freeseeds.us/free_seeds/index.php
- ACGA Rebel Tomato; useful, interesting information about youth gardening and interactive components that are designed to get people excited about gardening. <http://communitygarden.org/rebeltomato/>



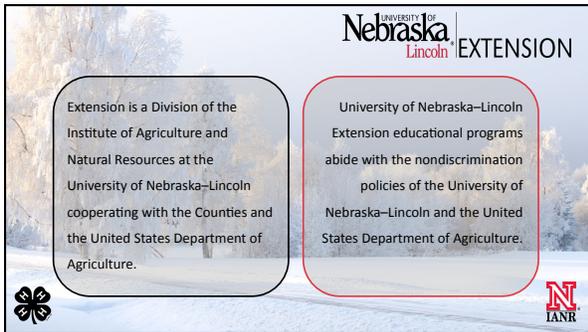


THANK YOU Let's get GROWING!

Any questions?

Elizabeth Killinger
UNL Extension in Hall County
3180 W. Hwy 34
Grand Island NE 68801
308-385-5088
ekillinger2@unl.edu





UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln | EXTENSION

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.