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LU Horticulture Notes October 2018

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Lincoln University Horticulture Program (LUHP) Updates

By Dr. Touria Eaton

In late September, members of the LU Students' Farming Enterprise harvested over 200 pounds of cantaloupes. They also donated 30 boxes of tomatoes to the food bank at the Samaritan Center Interfaith Agency in Jefferson City, Missouri.

In October, the Lincoln University Horticulture Program (LUHP) received a one-year, \$200,000 award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE). The funds will be used to develop and put into effect an outreach program to educate underserved Missouri farmers on sustainable crop production, protection and marketing.



200 lbs. of cantaloupe harvested by the LU Students' Farming Enterprise in their first year of production. Photo by LUHP

The LUHP received a \$50,000 award from North Central Region – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR – SARE) as a subcontract to Iowa State University (ISU). The project will research the effect of meso-tunnels



Meso-tunnel system showing muskmelon on white plastic and living mulch between rows. Photo courtesy of Mark L. Gleason, ISU

on the production of cucurbits (e.g., cucumbers, squash, etc.) and protection from striped cucumber beetles. Dr. Touria Eaton was invited to present on the LUHP research at Iowa State University from October 15 through October 17. This trip included meetings and discussion of the new grant project and how it will be carried out in both Missouri and Iowa.



Members of the LU Students' Farming Enterprise.

Apply Now for a USDA Sustainable Agriculture Grant

By Joan Benjamin, Farmer Rancher Grant Program Coordinator and Associate Regional Coordinator NCR – SARE

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has four regional offices. Missouri falls within the North Central Region (NCR) – SARE. SARE is a nationwide grants and education program to advance sustainable innovation in American agriculture. NCR – SARE offers competitive grants and educational opportunities for producers, scientists, educators, institutions, organizations and others exploring sustainable agriculture in America's Midwest.

NCR – SARE currently has six grant programs: Farmer Rancher, Youth Educator, Graduate Student, Partnership, Professional Development, and Research and Education. Four of these grants are open now and are accepting proposals, as described below.

The Farmer Rancher Grant Program is for farmers and ranchers who want to explore new and sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration and/or education projects. There are grants for individuals (\$9,000 maximum), teams of two (\$18,000 maximum) or groups of three or more farmers (\$27,000 maximum). Projects must be completed in 24 months. About 40 projects are funded each year. Farmer Rancher grants have funded a variety of topics, including pest/disease management, crop production, education/outreach, networking, quality of life and labor issues, marketing, soil quality, energy, holistic management and more. Proposals are due December 6, 2018. For more information, contact Joan Benjamin at (573) 681-5545 or BenjaminJ@LincolnU.edu.

The Youth Educator Grant Program is for educators (broadly defined) to provide programming on sustainable agriculture for youth in the North Central Region (\$4,000 maximum). Through grant projects, educators encourage young people and their parents to try sustainable practices. Thus, these youth may see sustainable agriculture as a viable career option. Proposals are due November 15, 2018. For more information, contact Joan Benjamin at (573) 681-5545 or BenjaminJ@LincolnU.edu.

The Partnership Grant Program fosters cooperation between agriculture/natural resources professionals and small groups of farmers and/or ranchers. The goal is to create on-farm research, demonstration and/or educational activities related to sustainable agriculture. Projects are funded for up to 24 months. The grant applicant and principal investigator must be a professional of agriculture and/or natural resources. Funding requests can be as much as \$40,000 per application. Proposals were due October 24, 2018. Although the deadline has passed, please keep this in mind for the future. For more information, contact Beth Nelson at BethNelson@umn.edu or Rob Myers at MyersRob@Missouri.edu.

The Research and Education Grant Program is for researchers and educators involved in projects that explore and promote environmentally sound, profitable and socially responsible food and fiber systems. All funded projects include a strong outreach component. There also must be major involvement of a farmer/rancher or other end user from start to finish. Research and Education grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$200,000. Projects can last up to three years. NCR – SARE funds 12 to 15 projects per year. Pre-proposals were due October 18, 2018. Although this grant deadline has passed, please keep this in mind for next year. For more information, contact Beth Nelson at BethNelson@umn.edu.

Bibliography

North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). www.northcentralsare.org. Grant Program Presentations. North Central SARE. <http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Write-a-Successful-Grant/Grant-Program-Presentations>.



Lincoln University Horticulture Program Trains Inmates at Southeast Correctional Center, Charleston, Missouri

By Nancy Smith, Area Educator – LUHP, and Dr. Touria Eaton

Six months ago, Dr. Touria Eaton, State Extension Specialist – Horticulture was contacted by Sue Baird, an instructor at Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston, Missouri. Baird is the developer of an effective, new training and work release program, funded by the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

She asked if the Lincoln University Horticultural Program (LUHP) would help train and certify minimum security inmates in specific horticulture areas. Southeast Correctional Center inmates range from minimum to maximum security. The training program is housed in a trailer on an outer edge of the prison, in the minimum security area.

Dr. Eaton saw potential in this project as its goal “to educate inmates to avoid recidivism [return to prison]” fits within the overall mission of Lincoln University (LU) in general and LUHP in particular to “serve the underserved.” So far, LUHP conducted two three-day training programs to benefit the inmates of Southeast Correctional Center, one in September and one in May. Twelve inmates attended the September training and eight inmates attended the May training. Every training program included a one-day training on each of the following: “Harvest and Postharvest Handling,” “Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)” and “Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FSMA PSR).”

On May 21, 2018, Nancy Smith and Richard Rickman, Area Educators in the LUHP, presented a successful, intensive, all-day training on “Harvest and Postharvest Handling.” This training included information on handling produce from the time of harvest through the transportation of cleaned produce to the wholesale or retail buyer. This training allowed for maximum engagement with the participants.

The next day, Lindsey Pender, also an Area Educator in the LUHP, trained the participants on the different aspects of HACCP needed in any food-processing facility. Then, on May 23, Rickman and Pender partnered with FSMA Lead Trainer Sarah Denkler, Horticulture Specialist with University of Missouri

Extension (MUE). They provided the complete Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training program, which was developed to equip farmers and farm workers to comply with new and strict food safety regulations.

The inmates who finished the program graduated on June 6 and received their FSMA certificates, which were sent to them directly from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). The heartwarming ceremony was attended by all the LU educators who had given trainings, the Workforce Development personnel and inmates’ families and friends.

Jason Lewis, the warden, thanked LUHP in general and the trainers in particular. He expressed his gratitude for all the certificates that were presented to the proud graduates. Lewis stated that the program will be very helpful in preventing recidivism and allowing the participants to become valuable members of their communities.

The Workforce Development Board of Southeast Missouri collaborated with Baird to develop this training program for inmates. Their goal was to provide high-quality training for inmates with an aptitude and ability in agriculture, to give them an edge in getting jobs. The certificates given to the inmates will prove their qualifications to work in the farming industry and will give them credentials once these inmates are released and looking for jobs.

Shortly after graduation, the inmates were able to obtain work release program jobs through Workforce Development. They now work at Amanzi Farms in the Bootheel. Steve Hamra, the owner of Amanzi Farms, is thankful for the hard-working and knowledgeable employees who are helping him to expand his business.

During the May training, the prison social workers visited the classroom, while the postharvest handling class was being taught. They announced that Southeast Correctional Center has decided to make the program permanent because of its benefits to the inmates, the prison and the community.

Visit the Bootheel Area of Missouri for Fresh Produce and More

By Richard Rickman

The Bootheel area of Missouri, like many other parts of the state, gives travelers and locals a chance to connect with agriculture. Within Missouri's four southernmost counties, farmers' markets and roadside stands help consumers learn where and how local foods are grown.

Agribusiness is extensive in Southeast Missouri. AgriMissouri™ is an outreach program of the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) that supports the sale of items grown and made in Missouri. The MDA and AgriMissouri™ make it a priority to connect Missourians to farms. AgriMissouri™ helps all producers, whether they make, grow or raise agricultural products, or operate a farm, business or farmers' market in Missouri. AgriMissouri™ also helps with agritourism and other ventures. Producers can sign up for membership in AgriMissouri™. This membership allows producers to use of the Missouri Grown logo and barcode options, and to benefit from other services. To learn more, go to <https://agrimissouri.com/>.

This fall, Weaver Farms & Produce, south of Holcomb, Missouri, encourages visitors to take a field trip to the farm and experience fall fun, a maze and farm education for kids of all ages.

The Bootheel welcomes you. Maybe you're looking for Bader Farms Inc. in Campbell, Missouri, or shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables at Sara's Produce, just south of Malden, Missouri. Or, you might shop at one of the many roadside stands of watermelon along the highway. Stop in or stay for a while!



Sarah's Produce stand just south of Malden, MO.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- November 6: Importance of Soil Testing Workshop, Jackson, MO
- November 15: FSMA vs. GAP Discussions, Location TBD
- December 4: Getting Your Farm Number; First Step to Success, Sikeston, MO
- December 6: PSA Grower Training, St. Peters, MO
- December 7: PSA Grower Training, Kennett, MO

We Thank Our Sponsors

The events and activities of LUHP are possible because of the collaboration of our colleagues and partners and because of the generous funding from USDA – NRCS; USDA – OPPE; USDA – FSA; USDA Evans-Allen Research Program; USDA – OREI; MDA; and NCR – SARE. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR | JANUARY 10-12, 2019

Keynote - Transitioning Your Farm to the Next Generation

Alex and Betsy Hitt run Peregrine Farm, an extremely diversified operation of cut flowers, small fruit and vegetables on 2.5 acres outside Chapel Hill, NC. They have worked on the farm full-time since 1990, with revenue generated through direct sales and one farmers' market. In 2006 they received the Patrick Madden Award for Sustainable Agriculture. In 2010 Peregrine Farm was included in the National Academy of Sciences report "Toward Sustainable Agriculture Systems in the 21st Century."

Thursday, January 10 Workshops: Food Safety • Hops Potential • Honey Bees & Beekeeping • Selling Local Foods • Cover Crops & Soil Health

Friday, January 11 Tracks: Tree Fruits • Organic Farming I • Drought in the Midwest • Herbicide Injury in Horticultural Crops • Technology: Tractors, Implements, Apps & More • Season Extension • Vegetable IPM

Saturday, January 12 Tracks: Greenhouse & Hydroponic Production • Organic Farming II • Cut Flower Production • Small Fruits • Vegetable Production • Technology: Tunnels, Mulch, Sprayers & More



Available soon! Conference agenda & registration:

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