

Dallas Youth Garden 2016 Program Summary

The Dallas Youth Garden is a non-traditional 4H jobs program that provides summer internships to teens. Each intern in our program is responsible for developing a 25'x50' market garden using sustainable gardening principles. Interns gain job and leadership skills, learn agricultural practices and become aware of hunger in our community. All produce from our garden is donated to local food programs.

Program Goals

1. Provide paid summer internships to Dallas High School students.
2. Donate fresh produce to feed the hungry in our community.

Program Objectives

1. Interns learn job skills by planning, developing and maintaining market gardens using sustainable gardening methods.
2. Interns learn leadership skills by participating in leadership exercises that focus on communication, education, civic engagement, and garden improvement.
3. People served by Dallas-area food assistance programs have increased access to fresh produce.

Community Need

1. Our youth need summer jobs and need to learn soft job skills to prepare them for the job market.
2. Our youth need to learn leadership skills.
3. Many families in Polk County need food assistance and experience hunger.

Primary Accomplishments for 2016

1. Summer jobs and learning soft job skills: Our program provided job application and interview experience to sixteen Dallas youth and provided job experience to nine interns and one alternate. Interns learned about time management, managing job expectations, and team leadership. Interns maintained a monthly time sheet, managed vacation and sick time, tracked progress with a weekly blog, and recorded harvest totals. Interns were evaluated at the end of the season and their performance discussed.
2. Leadership Skills: Interns completed at least three leadership projects; one each in education, community communication and garden improvement. Projects included opening a bank account, researching hunger needs in Oregon, public speaking, bee keeping, cooking with garden produce, and reviewing garden pesticides. Weekly leadership projects were discussed by the interns and garden supervisors. Interns entered exhibits in both the Polk County and Oregon State Fairs winning many ribbons including three champion and one reserve champion ribbon. Each intern supervised a work crew to learn about supervising. Interns also sold peaches and discussed the garden at our booth at the Polk County Fair.
3. Food assistance: We delivered over 5600 pounds of produce to the Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program in weekly deliveries from July to October. Our fresh produce deliveries positively impacted the 300 families who are members of the Food Assistance Program.

2016 Partners

4H Youth Development Program, Dallas High School, Polk County Family and Community Outreach, City of Dallas, Polk County Master Gardeners, Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program, Trinity Lutheran Church

A Quick Review

We had a great season this year. Garden productivity was up, we added another intern, and help from the master gardeners was great! Interns better understood what quality produce was, thanks in part to fair exhibits. The new time sheets worked and interns tracked time off much better. Alternating watering times each day made better use of limited water pressure and time. As always we can improve the garden experience with additional equipment (see last page). Leadership projects were interesting and we had some good discussions as a result. Interns found group work projects valuable and we will need to do more of them. The new job evaluation worked well and we will do two next year instead of just one. Offering bonuses to recognize outstanding work was beneficial and will continue to evolve. Offering extra pay for post season support really helped and will be continued. We had an OK harvest from our bean experiment but the beans and small tomatoes took too much time to harvest. We could lime tomatoes more and do better working with interns on weed control. Some interns were really on top of the weeding while others really struggled. Finally, we made a good start on a new governance model.



Polk County Fair Ribbons

First Half of the Season

We made a great start to the 2016 garden season. We hired nine interns, expanded the garden and continued to focus on job training and gardening skills.

- 3/10 Tree Pruning at the Polk County Fair Grounds
- 4/12 Job Applications Due
- 4/22 Intern Job Interviews started
- 4/26 Nine interns hired and one alternate selected
- 4/29 Tarps removed from the garden
- 5/3 Interns started their first day of work
- 5/7 Interns helped the Polk County Master Gardeners
- 5/10 Started receiving plant start donations
- 5/12 Garden prepared for planting
- 5/14 Interns started planting
- 5/21 Bee project started
- 5/31 Interns barked garden paths and borders
- 6/4 Interns started mulching their gardens
- 6/18 Interns finished planting their gardens
- 6/20 First harvest delivered to WVFP
- 7/1 Interns finished mulching their gardens



Planting



Bee Project



Mulch and spreading bark on paths



Garden July 1st

Second Half of the Season

The second half of our season went well. Interns had great exhibits at both the County and State Fair. Our open house was well attended and the drainage project was completed on time and on budget. Garden productivity was excellent.

- 9-Jul Minion – Group garden work went well
- 19-Jul First weekly harvest to exceed 200 pounds
- 26-Jul Open house held – Interns gave lots of tours
- 12-Aug Interns sold peaches at the fair
- 14-Aug Great exhibits at the County Fair including champion, 18 blue, 7 red, 2 white ribbons
- 16-Aug Largest weekly harvest over 800 pounds
- 23-Aug Intern job reviews completed
- 30-Aug Interns finished leadership projects
- 3-Sep Drain tile project started and finished
- 6-Sep Great exhibits at the State Fair including champion, reserve champion, blue and red ribbons
- 6-Sep Seasonal harvest exceeded two tons
- 10-Sep Interns last official day
- 20-Sep Season harvest exceeds 5000 pounds
- 24-Sep Continued to harvest – started cleaning up
- 4-Oct Last harvest day – almost 5700 pounds total
- 8-Oct Clean up day



Minions - Group Garden Work



County Fair Booth



Drainage Project



Largest Weekly Harvest – Over 800 Pounds!

Donations

Intern Sponsors

Christine Chute
Dallas Lions Club
Dallas Rotary Club

Polk Co Family & Community Outreach
Polk County Economic Development Program
Templeton Foundation

Contributors

Anderson Mobile Service - Rock
City of Dallas - Water
Clyde Freeborn - Seeds
Dallas High School – Plant Starts
Dallas Community Foundation – Drainage Project
Dean Anderson - Supplies
Eileen Shaffer – Plant Scale
Don Fleming - Tractor Work
Graphic Latitude - T-Shirts
Intern Donations 2016 - Cash
Linda Fox - Plant Starts

Mark Fancey - Cash
Monmouth Library - Seeds
Nan and Gary Cordy - Supplies & Tractor Time
Old Mill Feed Store - Supplies
Perryhill Farms - Peaches
Polk County Master Gardeners - Plant Starts & Tools
Polk County Fair - Orchard
Susan Busler - Cash
Teal Creek Farms - Plant Starts
Trinity Lutheran Church – Land & Fruit Trees
Wilco – Garden Supplies

Expenses

Expenses	Amount
9 Intern Salaries (May-August)	4725
Drainage Project	700
Fruit Trees & Plant Starts	700
Garden Supplies	720
Equipment Rental	300
Water (estimated)	500
Total	\$7645

2017 Plans and Budget

- Continue to offer our application and interview process to Dallas High School and Morrison Students
- Hire 9 interns and an alternate
- Continue to develop governance and a sustainable funding model for the garden
- Continue with job training skills
- Continue to evolve the leadership aspects of the program and expand intern supervision roles
- Continue to improve the garden by improving drainage
- Improve processing time by adding a produce table and purchasing 1 more scale
- Explore how to obtain a tractor so it can be used for tractor certification and to reduce operating costs.
- Deliver >5000lbs of produce to the Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program

Expenses	Amount
9 Interns (\$550/each)	4950
Garden Drainage System 2	300
Expand Produce Table	400
Seeds and Starts	600
Water	500
Garden Tools & Supplies	700
Total	\$7450

If you are interested please send donations to:

*Polk County 4H Leaders Association/DYG
OSU/Polk County Extension
289 East Ellendale, Suite 301
Dallas, OR 97338*

We are a 501(c)3 Nonprofit. Thank you!

2017 Equipment Needs

9 Additional Picking Buckets	newspaper	1 50lb. scale	6 hand clippers	1 gallon fish fertilizer
4 Shovels	4 rakes	1 ton straw	4 hand trowels	300 lbs of lime

Why this program works

"Last year when I applied for a fall job I was told they would not hire me because I did not have any job experience. This fall when I applied I have experience and I got the job." Lindsey (2016 intern).