

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SPECIALTY CROPS AT SCCC?

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**Growing the Growers: Increasing  
Specialty Crops in Kansas**

**November 18, 2016**

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# Agenda

- **SCCC Agriculture Program**
- **Unique Aspects with the SCCC Specialty Crops Program**
- **Let's Look at What is Happening at SCCC**



# SCCC Agriculture

- **KNOW-OBSERVE-DETERMINE-DO**
- **Four Emphasis Areas**
  - | Animal Science
  - | Agronomy
  - | Agriculture Business
  - | Specialty Crops
  - | (Drones, Robots in 2017)

# Specialty Crops Classes

- Vegetable Production
- Marketing Specialty Crops
- Integrated Pest Management
- Greenhouse Operations
- Value Added Agriculture Marketing
- Summer Research Practicum

# SCCC Grants

## STEM \$4.2 million 2011-2016

- | Specialty Crops emphasis (approximately \$1.8 million)
- | 2 Greenhouses (30 x 60)
- | 4 High Tunnels (20 x 48) (one moveable HT)
- | 4 acre Garden Field
- | Equipment

## SCBG Grants

- | 2015 and 2016: Specialty Crops Incubator Program
- | 2015: Enterprise Budgets

# Specialty Crops Incubator Program

- 8 quarter acre plots plus high tunnel space
- Participants
  - | 8 hours college credit (spring, summer, fall)
  - | \$2500 commitment
  - | SCCC provides all inputs, equipment, personnel, expertise, potential market
  - | Participants own vegetables produced (\$5000)
  - | Potential 3 years in SCIP
- Designed to foster specialty crop growers

# SCCC 2015 SCBG Enterprise Budget Grant

- Full time position (Natalya Lowther, February 2016)
- Develop enterprise budgets that could be used as templates to expand the number of crops with budgets
- Grant was extended to March 2017
- Disseminate at conferences, online, hard copy



# Enterprise Budget Grant

## 2016: Develop 8 Templates

- | High Tunnels (1000 square feet) tomatoes, salad greens
- | Market Garden (10,000 square feet) turnips, beets
- | Large Field (acre) sweet corn, sweet potatoes
- | Tiny Crops (100 square feet) basil, sprouts
- | Small Fruits (acre) strawberries, blackberries
- | Tree and Nut Fruits (acre) apples, pecans
- | Grapes (acre) table
- | Hydroponic Greenhouse (1000 square feet) tomatoes

# Conferences and Workshops

- Specialty Crops: Production, Marketing, Management
  - | 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in February (Feb. 7, 2017)
  - | 8 educational sessions (Postcard)
- Specialty Crops: High Value and Sustainable
  - ú 3 day Workshop in June
  - ú Audience: Public School teachers interested in learning about Specialty Crops
  - ú \$100 Scholarship to attend (first 30)
  - ú 15 hours Continuing Ed, 1 hour undergraduate credit (SCCC), 1 hour graduate credit (KSU)

# Prime Pickins

Tuesdays, April to  
November (\$70,000)

Weekly educational and  
pick your own produce

2015: 24 weeks with 3000  
people participating

2016: 28 weeks, 3000  
people

2017: Pick Your Own,  
SCCC Farmers Market



# 2016 Prime Pickins



# Pumpkin Activities



# SCCC Farmers Market



# Demo Areas

- 2 Greenhouses
  - | Hydroponic demo systems
  - | Propagation
- 4 High Tunnels
  - | Moveable
  - | Small Fruit
- 4 acre Garden Field
  - | 8 half acre sections
  - | 1 Fruit
  - | 7 Vegetables





# Garden Plot (8 sections)

## Fruit Section (2016)

- | Strawberries (750)
- | Asparagus (2015)
- | Rhubarb (2015, move few)
- | Horseradish (20)
- | Raspberries (90)
- | Blackberries (70)
- | Blueberries (50)
- | Grapes (32)
- | Fruit Trees (32)



# Specialty Crops Equipment

- .. Around 20 “presents”
- .. 2 Tractors
- .. No till drill
- .. Raised bed, drip tape, plastic mulch layer
- .. Transplanter
- .. Plastic Remover (sweet potato digger)
- .. Lettuce harvester
- .. Air Blast Sprayer
- .. Vegetable Washer
- .. 2 Coolers
- .. Numerous tillage equipment, etc.





# Greenhouses

20,000 TRANSPLANTS



STUDENTS SEEDING



# Garden Field

- .. About 100 (65 on spreadsheet) different crops
- .. Intensive cropping
- .. Drip irrigation
- .. Black plastic mulch
- .. Successive plantings
- .. IPM



# Garden Field

SCIP Area

Fall Garden



# Garden Field

COOL SEASON SECTION

LOW TUNNELS:

2016: 3 WEEKS ON, 3 WEEKS EARLIER

2017: OVER ONE ACRE LOW  
TUNNELS





# Garden Field

CHERRY TOMATOES,  
EGGPLANT



PRIZEWINNER PUMPKINS  
OVER 100 POUNDS, BEAUTIFUL



# Garden Field 2015



- .. \$70,000
- .. 2500 Watermelons
- .. 3000 Pumpkins
- .. 1000 dozens sweet corn
- .. Cantaloupe crop failure
- .. Tomatoes (5000+ pounds green tomatoes)

# High Tunnels

## High Tunnel North

- | Raised beds
- | Plastic Mulch
- | Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers, Yard long Beans, Misc.
- | Free Space:
  - ú Lettuce
  - ú Brassicas



# High Tunnel North



# High Tunnels



## High Tunnel East

### ┆ Fruit Tunnel

- ┆ Raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries

### ┆ Free Space

- ┆ Walkways: lettuce, brassicas

# High Tunnels

APRIL



NOVEMBER



# Salad Growing



# QUESTIONS?

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