WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH SPECIALTY CROPS AT SCCC?

Growing the Growers: Increasing Specialty Crops in Kansas
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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
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
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
  ° 1st Tuesday in February (Feb. 7, 2017)
  ° 8 educational sessions (Postcard)

® Specialty Crops: High Value and Sustainable
  ° 3 day Workshop in June
  ° Audience: Public School teachers interested in learning about Specialty Crops
  ° $100 Scholarship to attend (first 30)
  ° 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
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
About 100 (65 on spreadsheet) different crops
- Intensive cropping
- Drip irrigation
- Black plastic mulch
- Successive plantings
- IPM
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 Tunnel North

- Raised beds
- Plastic Mulch
- Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers, Yard long Beans, Misc.

Free Space:
- Lettuce
- 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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