

RC&D GROWS GARDENS

ACTIVITIES: January 1, 2020 thru March 31, 2020

Seed Distribution

Beginning in February of 2019, Cawaco RC&D delivered seeds to school/community gardens (ATTACHMENT A). Whitley Feed and Seed was not able to donate seeds during this season. Cawaco purchased seeds this year.

Beginning at the end of March and early April, schools were shut down due to the Covid-19 virus. The State of Alabama issued a 'stay at home' order effective April 3rd. Cawaco will continue delivering seeds once the 'stay at home' order is lifted.

Support of School/Community Gardens

The following outreach activities to schools/community gardens were provided by project collaborators:

Cawaco RC&D

- Seed deliveries (see above and Attachment A)
- A school/community garden newsletter was sent to 174 contacts on March 18, 2020 (Attachment B). The contacts are school/community gardens throughout the State of Alabama. The newsletter identified USDA/NRCS as a partner for the project and encouraged schools/community gardens to contact their local District Conservationist.

Ala-Tom RC&D

Ala-Tom RC&D provides works in coordination with the below ACES personnel to deliver school/community garden programs:

- Wilcox County Extension System – Tamika Dial:
JE Hobb and FS Ervin Elementary Schools are located in Wilcox County, Alabama. Both school have PK-6 grade students. The students planted fall and spring gardens and were able to eat from their harvest. Moton's Farm donated acre of land for community garden. Senior citizens were able to get access to fresh vegetables.
- Dallas County Extension System – Sean Lett:
Created a school garden for special needs students at Dallas County High School.
- Greene County Extension System – Lovie Parks
Provided basic garden trailing to seniors and provided soil to seniors for their garden

Alabama Mountains Rivers & Valleys RC&D

AMRV RC&D collected approximately 18 pallets of soil from Scott's Soil yard on October 22nd, 2019. To date it has been delivered to Riverton Elementary School in Madison County (10/22/19), Walter Jackson Elementary School (11/01/2019) and Decatur Middle School (12/13/2020) in Morgan County. (Not included in previous report October 1 – December 31, 2019).

Our partners in finding and distributing to schools and organizations in need of soil include NRCS, ACES, SWCD, and county commissions. Other schools and organizations that will receive soil in the near future include Barkley Bridge Elementary School, Athens City Schools, Limestone County Schools, WaterWorks Center for Environmental Education, and Athens-Limestone County Library.

Coosa Valley RC&D

Coosa Valley RC&D provided direct support to the below listed school/community gardens for the period October 1, 2019 thru March 31, 2020. A detailed report on their activities and partnership with USDA/NRCS is included at Attachment C.

- Randolph Park Elementary School, Anniston, AL
- Ekvn-Yefolecv Maskoke Ecovillage, Weogufka, AL
- Wadley High School, Wadley, AL
- Glencoe High School, Glencoe, AL

MidSouth RC&D

MidSouth RC&D was beginning to provide information and resources to resources that work with school/community gardens. The following resources were contacted and informed of the availability of seeds and soil:

- Elmore Soil & Water Conservation District - Patty Lambrecht
- Elmore County Cooperative Extension – Katrina Mitchell
- Autauga Soil & Water Conservation District – Paula Adams
- Autauga County Cooperative Extension – Darrue Stewart
- Macon Soil & Water Conservation District – Vickie Watkins
- Bullock Soil & Water Conservation District – Midge Putnam
- Town of Midway – Mildred Whittington
- Bullock County Cooperative Extension – Carla Elston
- Bullock County 4-H – Dominguez hurry
- Lee Soil & Water Conservation District – Leighanna Grice
- Montgomery County Cooperative Extension – Jimmy Smitherman
- Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District – Julia Precise
- Butler Soil & Water Conservation District – Rose Mary Smith
- Lowndes County Commission – Jackie Thomas
- Lowndes Cooperative Extension System – Tana Shealey
 - Provides support to Ft. Deposit Elementary, Central Elementary, Lowndes Academy, Lowndes County Middle School and Hayneville Senior Center

Northwest RC&D

Northwest RC&D Council contacted and provided information on the RC&D Grows Gardens Project to the following:

- Zack Brannon – Winston County Extension Coordinator

- Katernia Cole-Coffey – Franklin County Extension Coordinator
- Danny McWilliams – Colbert County Extension Coordinator
- Leslie Moore – 4-H Regional Extension Agent – Colbert County
- Lisa Murphy – Marion County Extension Coordinator
- Heidi Tilenius – Lauderdale County Extension Coordinator
- Caleb Beason – Agri-science Instructor/FFA Sponsor – Phil Campbell High School
- Jeff McKinney – Agri-science Instructor/FFA Sponsor – Haleyville High School
- Mike Tinker – Agri-science Instructor/FFA Sponsor – Deshler High School

Northwest RC&D has two USDA/NRCS District Conservationists we informed about this project.

- Wade Hill – District Conservationist – Franklin, Marion and Winston Counties
- Renea Dyer - District Conservationist – Lauderdale and Colbert Counties

Northwest RC&D informed the representatives of the Soil and Water Districts about this project.

- Brenda Real – Marion County SWCD
- Donna Garretson – Lauderdale County SWCD
- Randy Moody – Winston County SWCD
- Etta Mask – Colbert County SWCD
- Frank Mitchell – Franklin County SWCD

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic which forced everything to shut down. Northwest RC&D had plans to utilize the contacts listed above to promote this project and reach as many students and community gardeners in our five-county region as possible.

Wiregrass RC&D

Wiregrass RC&D provides assistance to Rehobeth High School FFA school garden. The garden is used as an agricultural learning lab. Produce grown is used to fight food insecurity in the Wiregrass area. Approximately six acres is planted each spring. A cold weather crop is also planted in October with the goal in mind of providing food all year long.

Rehobeth High School FFA has partnered with Love in action ministries, The Arc, and other organizations to develop multiple locations that interact with the victims of food insecurity.

Wiregrass RC&D provided a grant to help implement the newest Career and Technical Program at Eufaula High School. The Horticulture Program is now available for grades 9-12. Horticulture is an expansion of their existing Agriculture Science Program. One of the cornerstones of the new program is the greenhouse. WRC&D funded the equipment and supplies for the new program. The goal of this Program is to prepare students for careers after they graduate from high school. The Alabama Cooperative Extension Services reports that 1 out of every 4.6 jobs in Alabama is in agriculture, forestry, or a related field, and that these industries account for the second largest number of jobs in our state. The supplies and tools provided by WRC&D were essential to the implementation of this new Career Development Program.

SEED DONATIONS

Beginning in February of 2019, Cawaco RC&D delivered seeds to the below school/community gardens. Whitley Feed and Seed was not able to donate seeds during this season. Cawaco purchased seeds from Bay Farm Services (\$328.64 on February 19, 2020 and \$211.76 on March 11, 2020).

Beginning at the end of March and early April, schools were shut down due to the Covid-19 virus. The State of Alabama issued a 'stay at home' order effective April 3rd. Cawaco will continue delivering seeds once the 'stay at home' order is lifted.

MULGA COMMUNITY GARDEN	
TYPE: Community	
LOCATION: Located at 603 mulga loop rd	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters?	
Who will benefit from the garden: My children mean so much to me and we love helping others so with any extra food we will be donating it to mulga Baptist church food pantry. We have noticed a great deal of poverty in mulga(us included) and I could tell by the 6 squash from my garden that were stolen last year that the people of mulga are dealing with a food shortage for the impoverished.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? No. We will be donating any extras.	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? Yes. Mulga Baptist Church	

NEW WATER FARMS	
TYPE: Vegetable garden for teaching and sharing produce with Tallapoosa County Sherrif's Girls Ranch	
LOCATION: New Water Farms 460 Civitan Road Dadeville, AL 36853	
COUNTY: Tallapoosa	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? Church groups volunteer at our facility and host retreats on property. We also co-host a weekly worship service in our chapel (May - September) with a local church.	
Who will benefit from the garden: Tallapoosa Sheriff's Girls Ranch. Teaching basic agricultural and work skills and sharing produce with them for their food program.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? Most of the vegetable production will be consumed through events through our ministry and some is utilized for our value added products (ex. salsa)	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? Yes - Tallapoosa County Sherrif's Girls Ranch.	

NORTH JEFFERSON LIBRARY SEED BANK	
TYPE: Seed Bank	
LOCATION: Warrior, Alabama and surround communities	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? No but, seeds are available to church groups, schools and community gardens.	

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS-COMMUNITY EDUCATION	
TYPE: School (7)	
LOCATION: Pleasant Grove elementary Fultondale elementary Pinson elementary Bagley elementary Irondale community school Clay elementary Concord elementary We hope to add 7 more locations during the school year.	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? I work with Community Education an afterschool, summer, and holiday school program. I work with between 500-600 students.	
Who will benefit from the garden: My students will benefit from the garden. I want them to know where their food comes from. I also want them to know how to grow healthy food.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? No	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? If there is any extra produce it will be sent home with students what do not have adequate food for the weekend.	

GOD COVERS ALL COMMUNITY GARDEN	
TYPE: Our purpose is to provide fresh healthy fruits and vegetables to the elderly, disabled, and the low-income residents of the City of Fairfield, which has no grocery store, farmers market, or healthy food providers.	
LOCATION: 104 Jerry D. Coleman Street Fairfield, Al 35064	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? Yes. We service the neighborhood near our garden location, the Jerry Coleman Community Center, The Clyde Williams 100 unit senior apartments and neighborhood churches.	

<p>Who will benefit from the garden: We have been donating our last two crops to the elderly, disabled and the low-income residents of Fairfield because Fairfield is a food desert. They have several community gardens but no farmers market, or designated hub to purchase fresh, healthy, and affordable fruits and vegetables. Transportation is an obstacle for them and being elderly, they have many health issues making it difficult to stand or walk distances, and unable to improve their health with the lack of wholesome foods. Foods laden with salt, fat and sugar from fast food and quick markets contribute to the obesity and high health risk of our low income population.</p>
<p>Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? No plans to sell at this time.</p>
<p>Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? Yes, the elderly, disabled, and the low-income residents of Fairfield.</p>

THE LOVELADY CENTER	
<p>TYPE: The Lovelady Center is a residential rehab facility for 500 women. As a Regional Extension Agent, I oversee a 2000 square foot rooftop garden which was installed in April of this year and teach a recurring 6 week course to approximately 20 women at a time using science-based classwork and on-hands demonstrations. The garden is approximately 65% vegetables, 10% herbs, and 25% flowers. All harvested materials are used onsite for the benefit of the residents and their children. The goal is to garden 12 months a year.</p>	
<p>LOCATION:</p>	
<p>COUNTY: Jefferson</p>	
<p>Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? The Lovelady Center rooftop garden is supported by ACES, the Alabama Power Service Corporation, Lowes, Oak Street Garden Shop, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association, among others. The Lovelady Center is a faith-based organization is one of the few residential facilities that permits a woman to reside with her children during the 9 month rehab program.</p>	
<p>Who will benefit from the garden: The women residents and their children will benefit directly from the produce in the daily meals prepared onsite. Harvests go straight from the rooftop to the kitchen. In addition to beautifying the rooftop seating area, the flowers are used to brighten communal areas and are also used to decorate volunteer events. The goal for the upcoming months is to start transplants for the pre-frost fall vegetable season, establish cool weather crops and set up a hoop house for the coldest months.</p>	
<p>Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? No</p>	
<p>Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? No, it's all used on-site.</p>	

PINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY	
TYPE: Seed Bank	
LOCATION: Pinson, AL	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? We work with everyone in our community.	
Who will benefit from the garden: Everyone who comes into the library will have an opportunity to take seeds & growing information with them to start a garden at home. We want to teach people about growing food & help them provide food for their families.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? No.	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? N/A	

Bluff Park Hydroponics	
TYPE: School (Hydroponics)	
LOCATION: Bluff Park Elementary	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? No	
Who will benefit from the garden: The school and Community of Bluff Park will continue to benefit from our Hydroponic Garden.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? Potentially to raise funds to continue Hydroponics at our school.	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? We may donate the produce to organizations who support our school or possibly as a service learning project.	

THE FOUNDRY	
TYPE: To help provide the community with fresh produce and connect them to ways to give back.	
LOCATION: Bessemer, AL	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
Do you work with church groups or homeless shelters? The Foundry provides men and women the tools they need to break the chains of addiction and helps individuals and families struggling with poverty.	
Who will benefit from the garden: Residents in the program will tend the garden. Produce is used in the cafeteria which is staffed with residents. They learn how to cook and become self-sufficient. The cafeteria is also used to train residents in food service skills which will allow them to become employable after they complete the program.	
Will you sell the produce? Where will it be sold? The produce will not be sold.	
Will you donate the produce, if so, who will receive the donation? Any produce unused by the cafeteria is donated to families who are experiencing food insecurity.	



Seed and Soil Donations

Last Saturday it was 70 degrees and I couldn't keep out of the garden. Even though it was just a few squash and cucumber seeds started in the cold frame, it felt good to be outside (without a rain jacket!).

I'm sure you have 'the bug' too !!! **If you received a seed or soil donation, please let us know how you are doing. I know this takes a little effort but, it validates to the donors (The Scotts Company and RC&Ds) that their contribution of seeds and soil is making a difference. Pictures of smiling faces are GREATLY appreciated!**



[Click HERE to submit your report.](#) This will keep your garden in the database for future donation opportunities.



By the way..... last year The Scotts Company donated over 20,000 bags of soil to school and community gardens. Help us let them know how much they are appreciated !

Partners Make the World Go 'Round



Coosa Valley RC&D
Report for 10/1/2019 thru 3/31/2020

1.) October 11, 2019

- **“ABC’s to Gardening”**
- **Randolph Park Elementary School, Anniston, Alabama (Calhoun County)**
- **Principal, Teresia Moore Hall**
- **20 bags of Scott’s donated soil for 4 previous installed raised beds (partnership with Coosa Valley RC&D, Calhoun SWCD and USDA-NRCS)**
- **Planted Collards (Eddie May is a retired USDA-NRCS personnel as well as with Coosa Valley RC&D) and also Men-to-Men Fellowship (a mentoring group) assisted with planting**



2.) January 9, 2019

- Marcus Briggs-Cloud with Ekvn-Yefolecv Maskoke Ecovillage, Weogufka, Alabama (Coosa County)
- 55 bags of Scott's donated soil for 4 previous installed raised beds (partnership with Coosa Valley RC&D, Coosa SWCD and USDA-NRCS)
- They done their own planting for their Indian community



FY2019 4 Raised Beds. Shown in photo are folks from the Village as well as Annette Spivey, USDA-NRCS



FY20 With the donated soil, the Village is growing food for their consumption.

3.) January 28, 2020

- 4 pre-cut Raised Beds delivered to Wadley High School, Wadley, Alabama (Randolph County)
- Students assembled and filled with 52 bags of Scott's donated soil
- USDA-NRCS aware of project and photos made available to them
- Plans were to purchase plants and/or donate seeds for Spring planting; but, due to COVID-19, we will try to assist with Fall planting or see about mailing out seeds IF teacher is going to work in raised beds while school is out



February 26, 2020

- Glencoe High School, Glencoe, Alabama (Etowah County)
- Lumber for 4 Raised Beds
- Students cut out and assembled
- Filled with 52 bags of Scott's donated soil
- Photos available and USDA-NRCS was invited to a Photo Shoot for several school projects in Etowah County on April 6, 2020 which was Cancelled
- Will try to assist with Fall planting or see about mailing out seeds IF teacher is going to work in raised beds while school is out

