



# IOWA MASTER GARDENER SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

## APPLICATION EXAMPLE

### COVER PAGE:

County/Counties Involved: Story

#### Master Gardener completing application

Name: Fred Texas

E-Mail: FredTX@email.com Phone: 515-555-5555 Check one: **Work** Home Cell

Extension Staff approving this application (Master Gardener Coordinator or Supporting Staff)

Name: Gina Mississippi

Title: Buckwheat County  
Master Gardener

E-Mail: gina@email.com

Work Phone: 515-555-  
5554

Address: 123 Bloomington Ave.  
Buckwheat, IA 50044

I, Extension Staff, approve of this application. Initial here:

Category for Submission (choose one):

Youth/School Garden

Demonstration/Research Garden

Workshop or Presentation

**Underserved Audience**

Mass Communications

**Name of Project: Summer Meals for Kids and Teens Program**

**Project Start Date: 01/02/2014**

**County Name: Buckwheat**

**Number of Master Gardeners involved in project: 6**

## **NARRATIVE:**

### **1. Who was the target audience for this project? How were they identified?**

The target audience of this project was youth under the age of 18. We focused on young individuals from low income households in the Buckwheat County area that are need food assistance during the summer months. The summer meal assistance program is a collaborative project that is facilitated out of the Buckwheat Public Library. The Master Gardeners of Buckwheat County attended the ISU Extension Webinar of Local Food Volunteers. Following this session, our group identified a need in the community for our experience, expertise and resources to assist with the summer school meal program.

### **2. What were the goals of this project? (Maximum of five goals)**

1. Increase the amount of fresh, local produce donated and used for the Summer Meals for Kids and Teens Program.
2. Connect local growers with the volunteers that prepare and distribute the meals, and form lasting connections.
3. Conduct an interactive learning event to teach youth about the vegetables and fruit, where they come from, how they are grown, how to prepare them, and why they are important.

### **3. Describe the project results? (150 words or less)**

1. We increased the amount of fresh, local produce donated and utilized in the meal program from a total of 50 pounds in 2015 to 500 pounds of produce donated and used in the summer of 2016. Each week we kept track of the amount of produce brought in and utilized in the meals.
2. We connected three local growers that expressed interest in donating their leftover produce each week; (Allium Acres, Buckwheat Community Garden, and Bee's Greens) with the volunteer chefs at the meal program. Our Master Gardener volunteers established a weekly produce pick-up schedule to eliminate the transportation cost for the farmers.
3. On Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> we held an educational and interactive event at the Buckwheat public library. This event was a collaborative effort with the farmers, Americorps service members, local chefs, as well as our Master Gardener group. We had 46 attendees which included children as well as some of their family members. We had stations including an educational presentation from the farmers and our gardeners, a cooking lesson from the chefs, a produce tasting activity, as well as some vegetable-themed games.

The parents that were surveyed, said that their children were more interested in fruits and vegetables as a result of the meal program.

At the produce tasting activity, the youth voted on their favorite foods. They cast their vote by placing a bean next to their favorite item on a plate.

### **4. What are the impacts and significant learning for the target audience?**

(Maximum of 5 outcomes -quantitative measures of outcomes and impacts rather than anecdotal evidence).

1. The Summer Kids and Teens meal program increased the amount of fresh, local produce used in their meals from 50 lbs to 500 lbs, up 450 lbs since the previous year.
2. Two local farmers and three community gardeners became involved with this program and committed to helping again in the next harvest season.
3. 46 local citizens attended our educational event in July.  
The parents that were surveyed, said that their children were more interested in fruits and vegetables as a result of the meal program.  
At the produce tasting activity, the youth voted on their favorite fruits and vegetables.

**5. What was the total budget for the project and how was it funded? (If applicable, list funding sources).**

The project budget was \$400.00. The funding primarily was used to cover transportation costs of delivering the produce from the farms and to the community kitchen. The other major expense was the educational event. The funding was donated by community donors, the Buckwheat Public Library, McFarmland Clinic, and the Buckwheat County Master Gardeners.

**6. List any partnerships associated with the project and partner's roles.**

The success of this summer meal program project was made possible by collaboration with several community organizations and resources.

- The Buckwheat Public Library generously donated their space to facilitate the meals as well as the learning event.
- The growers from Allium Acres, the Buckwheat Community Garden, and Bee's Greens were instrumental in the success of this project. They generously donated their leftover produce at the end of each week to our effort. We worked with them to glean, while helping feed youth in the community. The growers also attended the event and helped with the educational portion of our event.
- Three Americorps service members that work on school gardens provided activities for participating youth at the educational event.
- McFarmland Clinic has provided funding for educational events.

**7. Names of active Master Gardeners directly involved in the project.** If the project is selected as an award winner, this list will be used to generate the award certificates.

Andrew Washington

Barbara Oregon

Charlie California

Jan Flan

Diego Utah

Evie Arizona

Fred Texas