6-2014

Your Organic Farm: Community Supported Agriculture

USU Student Organic Farm

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Your Organic Farm
Community Supported Agriculture

Farm News
As you know gardens can come with challenges, however being prepared with knowledge and tools can help prevent a challenge from becoming a serious problem. This spring some of our challenges have been pests. It is important to be aware of their signs and then take the proper active action to apply barriers that prevent problematic pests from causing too much damage.

Up and Coming Events
- Sustainable Baskets at the Farm: Saturday, June 7th, 10:00am-Noon
- Wednesday Campus Stand: Extra Produce, Transplants, CSA Shares
- Strawberries & Raspberries: You-Pick, June, July

Your Share
This week
- Lettuce
- Green Onion
- Pak Coi
- Chard
- Kale
- Asparagus
- Arugula
Student Profile

Hi everyone my name is Brik Anderson and I am an intern at our Utah State Student Organic Farm. To know a little more about me, I am from Wilmington Ohio. Before coming to Utah State I worked on a conventional college farm for a while. At this farm I learned the basics of gardening and implementing them on a day-to-day basis. Some aspects were conservation of the soil is the key to success at any farm. Also I learned the essence of trying to sustain a fallen community. We distributed all the produce to the local community and made the town see hope that there was a better job market coming on the new horizon.

The experiences that I had at the other farm made me realize the importance of learning new traits and applying them. Some examples are doing FFA projects on ferns, cactus, African violets, viola, mums and many more as well as competitions in Nature Interpretation.

I am excited to work at the farm and learn the organic way of farming. Farming is a way of life and is not so common any more. I have realized that I liked farming but am more of a “Cacti-holic.” So I am, crazy cacti and succulent man, but mostly cacti. I’m excited to experience all the aspects of organic farming and excited to work for the community.

Some of the things I like to do in my free time are photography, making movies, running, and being outdoors. If you have any questions about tomatoes or any other crops just ask me.

Other facts about me:

Favorite Color: Bright Lime Green
Favorite Flower: Hibiscus
Fruit: Lemon
Vegetable: Tomato
Ice Cream: Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
Farm news Continued

Our pests this year began in our greenhouse. In cold months mice move indoors for food and shelter. This spring we had a few who decided they liked our warm greenhouse and freshly seeded flats. We bought three different types of traps and they were set and checked regularly. In total we caught seven mice and lost five to six of 128 cell flats.

First noticed on the back side of leaves of trees growing in our green house, we had the chance to meet some fun aphids. It is important to remember, as part of our intreated pest management, to routinely inspect your plants. At first we began to physically remove the aphids rubbing and washing them off. We then took action by purchasing and then releasing the wrath of the almighty ladybug. Before releasing your ladybugs, water your garden. They do not fly at night, so make sure you release them after sundown because they may fly away if you do it in the day.

Ladybugs are an encouraged natural predator, a beneficial. Ideally, with the proper plant diversity on the farm you can promote habitat for beneficial insects. We can plant plants from the carrot family to encourage ladybug habitat. Plants like fennel, dill, Queen Anne’s lace, yarrow, sunflowers, deer grass and other clumping grasses all could help provide a habitat for ladybugs. Remember we are only beginning the season outside, so keep a good eye out for pests. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask. Remember, Nolo bait for grasshopper control goes on sale soon. Get yours early.

Recipe

Strawberry Spinach Salad with Strawberry Dressing
by Maria Dixon Lichty

* 1lb. fresh spinach
* 1 cup strawberries, sliced
* 1/4 cup almonds
* 2 OZ feta cheese

STRAWBERRY DRESSING
* 7 Lg. strawberries, cut in half
* 1 lemon, juiced
* drizzle agave nectar
to taste salt and pepper

-Place the spinach in a medium bowl. Top with sliced strawberries, almonds, and feta cheese.
-For the dressing, put the cup of strawberries in a blender. Squeeze lemon juice into the blender. Drizzle the strawberries with agave nectar. If your strawberries are ripe and sweet, you will only need a little agave nectar. Add according to your taste. Blend until smooth. Season with salt and pepper.
-Pour dressing over spinach and strawberry salad
Makes 4-6 servings.

Your Share

Next Week

• Lettuce
• Pak Choi
• Kale
• Asparagus
• Arugula
• Spinach
• Peas