**Session Name:** Town Hall Forum with Betti Wiggins

**Session Type:** Q&A  
**Date:** 04 Mar 2016 08:00AM – 10 Mar 2016 05:00PM

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**Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:29AM**  
Do you garden year-round? How do you balance the growing season with the school year and what do you feed 'em in the winter?

**Comments (1)**

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:29AM  
Also how do you implement the addition of after school programming into your gardening?

**Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:31AM**  
You mentioned a large middle-eastern population as well as a diverse community in general. What efforts do you make to engage all in the program and serve healthy, culturally-relevant meals?

**Votes:** 26

|(Facebook) Kaytee • 04 Mar 09:35AM**  
Are the lessons you developed available for others to use?

**Votes:** 25

**Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:41AM**  
Do you have a lot of food waste and how do you handle it?

**Votes:** 24
How can I convince our school board to incorporate our schoolyard garden produce into school meals?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:30AM
How is your effort funded?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:55AM
Does the MN Extension office work with a Junior Master Gardener Program, or offer similar resources?

Comments (2)

Anonymous • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes
Yes. Many Master Gardeners in Minnesota are very familiar with the Junior Master Gardeners program. The curriculum is great.

(Custom) MG State Office Team • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes
Yes, contact your local Master Gardener county coordinator to find more information on school-based projects and the Jr. Master Gardener Program.

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:54AM
Tell us more about the liability of just taking soil samples. My community is mixed industrial/Ag land-- we want test the soil. I never thought about the liability of knowing.
Can you define clean label foods?

"Clean label foods" means that the ingredient list reads as food in their most natural state- as opposed to highly processed with ingredients that we don’t recognize. Also means foods grown with chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Approximately how much has this project cost (as in if one was writing a grant how much should they aim for)?

How do you involve the students during the school day, is it part of the class or how is it implemented?

The person in our school district refuses to even consider food from gardens because the kitchen are not up to code to handle fresh veggies and the cost is too much to bring them up to code. Ideas?

The food is outsourced. Do not want to hire people to prep the veggies.
I serve with FoodCorps in Northeast Iowa. My school district and community are so supportive of my service; however, my food service director is not (yet :)! ) How do we win him over?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:32AM
Do you ever compost your food waste?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:25AM
Do you have schoolyard garden programs that are not produce based? Programs that are research based rather than agriculture?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:33AM
Have you linked your program with 4H or other such community programs?

Comments (1)

Anonymous • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes
You mentioned that you did this, but how did you make the connection?

(Linkedin) Joe • 04 Mar 09:20AM
How do you keep kids excited and interested in a full and nutritious meal? how do you create a garden program for a small school district (1400 kids), while keeping it fiscally viable?

Comments (1)

(Custom) Carla D • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes
from my experience, the food speaks for itself. kids love eating tasty food and love feeling proud to play a role in growing and preparing the food. there truly is something magical about the power of gardening and eating good fresh food together. I can't speak to the second part of your question.
Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:27AM
How do you pay for your schoolyard gardens?

Votes: 8

(Custom) Barb Mechura • 04 Mar 09:33AM
Who pays for the garden attendants?

Votes: 8

(Custom) Greg Herder • 04 Mar 09:13AM
Thanks for what you're doing for Detroit and MI. I'm a MI native and MI desperately needs leadership like yours.

Votes: 6

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:35AM
Have you partnered with Extension to teach kids/families any processing techniques like canning? ie- to help them extend usefulness of home gardens.

Votes: 6

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:34AM
What are the 3 ingredients of the stoplight salad?

Comments (1)

Anonymous • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes
Tomato, yellow squash, zucchini

Votes: 5

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:49AM
Is there anyway that you can use the summer garden produce as part of the summer feeding programs or CACFP programs?
Stop by the Bluff Creek garden table in the exhibit hall to learn more about Green Wall, a nonprofit working with schools.

We saw hoop houses and raised garden beds. What your experience with vertical gardens? In your opinion, what is the best?

Your Legacy... ? What changes need to be institutionalized for Food Service Directors to "be like Betti?"

How do teachers manage their classes when in the garden? Are there "outdoor classrooms"?

Do you use food to hogs or industrial composting to deal with food waste?

I have great memories of the lunch ladies from my formative years. Do your lunch ladies and gentlemen educate or inform their students of the healthy food they are eating?

Tell us about the art of getting reluctant school cooks to change their perspective & practice. How do we get folks to abandon cookie sheets of French fries and replace them with raw veggies?
I think it's great that you are able to use school nutrition funds, but not all school lunch programs can do this. We need Districts to invest in these efforts - just like they purchase classroom books.

Can schools which do not have a high percentage of free and reduced lunches take advantage of Child Nutrition funding?

How did you get Funding for Garden Assistants? Would it be possible to replicate this model in Minneapolis Schools?

How many high school biology teachers have garden based curricula?
GMO stands for Genetically Modified Organism. Many types of corn have been modified genetically to resist pests or perform better with certain chemical pesticides and herbicides. GMO monoculture crop agriculture is a contributor to the decline of soil quality and biodiversity.

GMO monoculture may contribute to decline of soil quality -- but without these it would be close to impossible to feed a hungry ever-growing population. Also how is cross breeding between wild and domesticated strains of plants any different than what happens in natural environments?

This might be a debate for another conference. the US destroys tons and tons of edible food commodities every year. growing enough food is not the problem for us. GMO technology is unnecessary, policy change regarding commodities and subsidies is necessary.

GMO is NOT the answer to feed a growing populations. Check out the UN report that determined the most reliable way in feeding a growing population is by small farmers. On my organic farm we produce more food than any industrial farm could ever. Get over the GMO myth.

'how is GMO different from nature?' as an example: How is human sexual intercourse different from in vitro surrogacy or cloning? there is a difference.
What do you mean "that's how I get my Food Corps money?" I thought that was already funded...

Meaning of Clean label?

Are there any grants available to help schools pay for their schoolyard gardens?

Where do you get the meat you serve?

Did you get PTOs involved in these efforts?

Do Detroit Schools partner with small local farms?

How do you incorporate these lessons in classes with already full curricula? At what "cost" do these lessons come? What lessons get cut out?

Do you have statistics on the rise of test scores or the decrease in unfavorable behavior since the food changed?
The lunch trays in the video appeared to be throw away trays. If that is so why not use reusable trays?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:57AM

Votes: 1

What's in the "Stop Light Salad"?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 09:20AM

Votes: 0

Comments (1)

Anonymous • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes

zucchini, yellow squash and cherry tomato

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:29AM

what is the hashtag for twitter again?!

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:29AM

Votes: 0

Comments (1)

Anonymous • 0 upvotes • 0 downvotes

Anonymous • 04 Mar 10:56AM

How do you make this great work happen in rural communities where there is no urban infrastructure?

Anonymous • 04 Mar 11:02AM

Votes: 0

You said all of your information is public and can be found on your website, what is your website and can we find your lesson plans there?