Growing Local: Training New and Beginning Urban Farmers in New Orleans, LA (and beyond)

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Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
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Project Audience

• We work with a wide range of community members, with an extra focus on:
  – Women
  – Vets
  – Historically low income, underserved neighborhoods/individuals

• Come from mainly LA, but also elsewhere – Tenn, Miss, AL, AR
  – Hydroponics, aquaponics, honey bees, fruit orchards, greens, community programs (vets, at risk youth, seniors)
  – All beginning, under 10 years experience – new wave of growers!
Partners/Collaborators

• Who are the key people on your team?
  – Marianne Cufone, RFC, Project Director
  – Emily Posner, RFC, Policy/Legislation Asst Project Director
  – Tracy Koy, RFC, Surveys, Monitoring, Data collection
  – Micheal Crumpler, RFC, Administration and Operations
  – Growing Local NOLA volunteers

• Regular Community Partners
  – New Orleans Food and Farm Network
  – NOLA Fruit Tree Project
  – Capstone 118
  – LA Master Gardeners Program
  – Universities (Xavier, UNO, Delgado, Loyola, Tulane)
  – USDA (FSA, NRCS, LSU Extension)
Key Approach(es)

• How are we helping?
  • Workshops/courses/demonstrations
  • Community farm
  • Internships
  • Mentorship program
  • Technical assistance
  • Legal assistance
  • Policy/legislative changes
Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will (based on our data):
• Directly reach over 4000 people
• Host at least 500 people per year in person, in classes
  – 50% socially disadvantaged (including women)
  – 20% veterans
• We expect at least 150 of in-class or distance learning participants will start or improve a farm
• Early-stage farmers improve their operations by:
  – expanding farms/practices
  – altering behaviors - resource use, organics, business
What do you have to share?

We are very successful with:

- Outreach/participation
- Expanding interest in and use of water-based growing (hydroponics/aquaponics)
- Baseline data collection/surveys and monitoring
What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Connecting our growers with other beginning farmers
- Expertise in certain topics – e.g.: economics of farming, best sales practices, solar
- Curriculum development
Keep in touch!

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