

Progress Report

Title:	The BEAN Project (Beginning Entrepreneurs in Agricultural Networks)		
Sponsoring Agency	NIFA	Project Status	COMPLETE
Funding Source	Non Formula	Reporting Frequency	Annual
Accession No.	223546	Grants.gov No.	
		Award No.	2010-49400-21789
Project No.	OHON0011	Proposal No.	2010-03166
Project Start Date	09/01/2010	Project End Date	08/31/2013
Reporting Period Start Date	09/01/2012	Reporting Period End Date	08/31/2013
Submitted By	Wendy Michel	Date Submitted to NIFA	11/20/2013

Program Code: BFRDP**Program Name:** Beginning Farmer and Rancher**Project Director**

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Recipient Organization

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Performing Department

OSUE County Operations

Co-Project Directors

{NO DATA ENTERED}

Departments

{NO DATA ENTERED}

Non-Technical Summary

The BEAN Project (Beginning Entrepreneurs in Agricultural Networks) Farms, farmland and farmers are disappearing in Northeast Ohio and the Greater Cleveland area. Since 2005, there has been a 20% loss in the number of farms and 29% loss in number of acres of farmland. Fewer and fewer farmers are producing food, further and further from the regions consumers. And less than 1% of the farmers represent a minority race. In addition, high rates of unemployment continue to plague the area, mostly affecting minorities and people with disabilities. And increasing rates of chronic disease exacerbated by the abundance of urban food deserts speak to the need for healthier food options for all residents. Despite these challenges, the development of new economic development strategies, such as farming, holds much promise in reversing these trends. The increasing number of immigrants and refugees with strong agrarian roots, greater interest by many in locally grown foods, and widely accepted knowledge that urban areas are the food production hubs of the nation provide further testament to the need for small scale farming enterprises. Cleveland, with 3,300 acres of land available and 89% of residents purchasing local foods, is a national innovator in urban land use planning and urban agriculture. Urban garden district zoning, small livestock legislation, grants for urban farmers, and the creation of an agricultural overlay district are just some of its more recent accomplishments that portray a committed community and political will that supports agriculture as a means of transforming the once rust belt into a thriving green belt. The BEAN Project plays a key role in building capacity to create and sustain economically viable small farm enterprises in the Greater Cleveland area through its unique outreach to socially disadvantaged residents (minorities, immigrants, refugees, and limited resource adults with developmental disabilities) and its ability to educate beginning farmers using methods sensitive to ones culture, language and learning style. Innovative models of teaching and learning lay the foundation. Hands-on learning modules, field trips, specialty workshops, educational materials in plain and native languages, mentorship opportunities, and model land lease agreements are some of the key strategies to create an effective learning continuum. This continuum aligns to the projects overall goal to contribute to the local food economy and promote social change by increasing the number of minority and underserved farmers who own and/or operate economically and environmentally sound small farm enterprises. Participants can and will become a part of a communitys social capital and add value to the overall health and well-being of the community. This project also has the potential for long range impacts that can inform a regional food system, enhance the self-sufficiency of traditionally underserved populations, and provide a platform for further replication that expands its scope and reach in a culturally and linguistically congruent manner.

Progress Report**Accession No. 223546****Project No. OHON0011****Accomplishments****Major goals of the project**

PROJECT GOAL: To contribute to the local food economy and promote social change by increasing the number of immigrant and minority farmers who own and/or operate economically and environmentally sound small farm enterprises. **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** 1) Increase in the number of small farm enterprises in the Greater Cleveland Area; 2) Increase in farm (land) tenure through model land leases; 3) Increase in the number of socially disadvantaged and immigrant farmers; 4) Increase in economic output (sales) of small farms; 5) Increase in agricultural output (types and volume of crop production) of small farms; 6) Decrease the average age of a farmer; and 7) Increase knowledge of crop production, intensive farming methods, and microenterprise business management. **OUTPUTS:** BFRDP curriculum (plain language and cultural enhancements), BFRDP training program (including new, applied models of teaching and learning), urban farming mentorship model, marketing products, land lease contracts, business plans, best practices for growing cultural/specialty crops in an urban area, outcomes of performance assessments and illustrative case study, replication plans for other areas/States, and other project-generated educational materials/resources.

What was accomplished under these goals?

- Thirty-eight (38) beginning farmers attended 12, 2.5 hour classes of the Market Gardener Training Program.
- Eighteen (18) beginning farmers attended one field trip.
- Two (2) beginning farmers were matched with a mentor.
- Twenty-eight (28) refugees completed 6, 2-hour Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training sessions.
- 12 hands-on agriculture workshops were held to complement classroom training programs.
- A 6-acre urban, incubator farm, Kinsman Farm, was enhanced and housed 13 new farming microenterprises.
- A second high tunnel was erected on Kinsman Farm to extend the growing season for additional farmers.
- The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (subaward) cultivated 10 acres of land for their Cleveland Crops enterprise which resulted in \$90,000 in sales of fresh, local produce. Forty-two (42) consumers were employed by Cleveland Crops.
- Catholic Charities (subaward) cultivated 2.5 acres of land (two urban farms) which resulted in \$8,870 in sales of fresh, local produce. Fourteen (14) refugee farmers jointly tended to these farms.
- OSU Extension maintained a half-acre demonstration site on Kinsman Farm; Over 500 pounds of vegetables from this site were donated to an assisted housing complex for seniors/disabled.
- Farmers sold their produce at seven local farmers' markets.
- Thirteen (13) varieties of specialty crops were grown and harvested by participating beginning farmers.
- Seven (7) tours of Kinsman Farm were held for national and international visitors.
- One national presentation was done on the BEAN project ("Building Better Bridges: Opportunities and Inclusion for All," 2013 Tri-State Diversity Conference)
- Twenty-seven (27) volunteers assisted with site preparation and maintenance of Kinsman Farm.
- Over 300 students from local schools visited Kinsman Farm to learn about agriculture.
- Five (5) new partnerships in 2013 enhanced the BEAN project's scope and goals.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

- A 12-week Market Gardener Training Program for beginning farmers.
- A 6-week Refugee/Immigrant Farm training
- A 4-week series of applied agriculture topics for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- A series of 12 hands-on workshops to complement the content/learning of training programs.
- GAPS training (Good Agricultural Practices) and Market Ready training

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

An annual report is created each year and shared with project partners and a diverse cadre of stakeholders, including local and state government offices. Project specific outcomes are listed on the county's annual 'highlights' document that is shared with state and federal legislators. Project outcomes are also disseminated through the county's Food Policy Coalition.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

This is the last reporting period for this program (i.e. end of year 3 of 3-year funded project).

Participants

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Actual FTE's for this Reporting Period

Role	Non-Students or faculty	Students with Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	1.7	0	0	0	1.7
Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Computed Total	1.7	0	0	0	1.7

Student Count by Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code

{NO DATA ENTERED}

Target Audience

Individuals with developmental disabilities, refugees, immigrants, and minority populations (including women) were the target audience. Specialized training programs (Market Gardener Training Program, Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training, and hands-on agriculture training for individuals with developmental disabilities) were held and tailored the target audiences' needs. All trainings were complemented by workshops and field trips.

Products

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Conference Papers and	Accepted	2013	YES

Citation

"Building Better Bridges: Opportunities and Inclusion for All" Presentation given at the 2013 Tri-State Diversity Conference in Hebron, KY

Other Products

Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

Training materials and educational aids were created for all three training programs: Market Gardener Training Program, Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training, and Cleveland Crops Training Program (for individuals with developmental disabilities).

Product Type

Evaluation Instruments

Description

Pre- and post-assessments were created and used with both the Market Gardener Training Program and Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training. A year-end evaluation was created for and completed by the project's two sub-recipients. This tool evaluates the economic and other benefits (i.e. health) by project participants.

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Changes/Problems

{Nothing to report}