Backyard Food Production
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- Carroll County, Ohio
- Population of 27,000
- Largely forested
- Pasture land utilized
- Small crop production
- 145 acres average
Backyard Food Production Program

- Mission: to encourage the utilization of your backyard or unused green space for food production while creating wildlife habitat and conserving natural resources.
Monthly Meetings

Indoor class (winter)

Class at community garden (summer)

Field trips (spring/fall)
Indoor Classes

- One lengthy topic/process
  - Maple Syrup
  - Dairy Production

- Short talks on multiple topics
  - Landscaping topics: Mulch, Pruning Fruit, Edible Shrubs
  - Gardening: Starting seeds, selecting garden area, soil testing
Community Garden Classes

- Talks based on time of season
  - Getting started for the year
  - Early crops: peas, lettuce, etc.
  - Berry production
  - Pollination beds

- Other interesting topics
  - Management: raised beds, watering, pest control
  - Homemade systems: rain barrels, irrigation, composting
  - Outside of growing season: low tunnels, cover crops
Field Trips (think big)

- Always fun, even for adults!
  - Orchard during apple harvest
  - Vineyard during grape harvest
  - Small farm with greenhouse or high tunnel
  - Wooded area during mushroom season
How do we find people?

- Newspaper
- Facebook
- Newsletters
- Mailing list
- Email List
- Flyers at Local Businesses
- Community Garden Display
Finding a location

- Fairgrounds
- Park
- County Owned
- City Owned
- Prepare to do some work!
Good Foundation

- How is the soil?
- Did you take soil tests?
- Raised beds
- Small plots
- One large area
People, People, and People

It takes a community to grow a community garden!

- Employees
- Interns
- 4-H and FFA
- Scouts
“Free to a good home” items!

- Mulch (cuts down on weeding/mowing)
  - Old bags from store
  - Part of truck load from landscaping company
  - Collect/make your own

- Seeds
  - From store at the end of season
  - Save from year to year

- Plants
  - From greenhouse at end of season
  - Extras from local gardeners
  - Dig up with permission
From nothing to something:

- Three months after we started the project
Things to think about...

- Do you have enough support to get this going?
- Who is going to maintain the garden?
- What are you going to do with the food?
- Who will pay for any expenses?
- Do grant deadlines match growing season?
- Will this be a long term or short term project?
Ideas other than veggies?

Rebar + conduit + plastic = mini low tunnel

- Season extension
- Teaching tool
- Fundraiser?
Ideas other than veggies?

A pond or a plastic pool surrounded by rocks?

- Used to teach water quality
- Can add plants
- Can add fish
- Electric for pump?
Ideas other than veggies?

Container gardening series

- Pallets
- Pots
- Troughs
- Tires
- Whatever you want!
Younger Generations Effect

Needs

Affordable Food

Clean Food

Nutritious Food

Food Security

Local Food

Sourced Food
Questions?

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