

Agricultural Support & Farmland Preservation

POLK COUNTY
OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- 1. TO RECONNECT THE COMMUNITY WITH AGRICULTURE
- 2. TO ENHANCE EXISTING AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES
- 3. TO CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE
- 4. FARMLAND PRESERVATION

PHILOSOPHY

- 1. THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE FARMLAND IS TO KEEP IT ECONOMICALLY SOUND
- 2. THE RESIDENTS WANTED TO KEEP THE COUNTY RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL
- 3. DEFINE WHAT IS NEEDED IN POLK COUNTY, NOT THE STATE OR THE NATION.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE!



FIRST YEAR

- FARMERS MARKETS – 2 EXISTING & 2 NEW ONES
OVER 100 VENDORS PER WEEK AND 130+
VENDORS HAVE PARTICIPATED
- FRIENDS OF AG BREAKFASTS
- KEEP THE FARM WORKSHOP
- COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES
- SPECIAL MEETINGS –CROPS AND OPPORTUNITIES
- AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT WITH BIZ WORKS

Columbus Farm Festival



CONTINUING

- PARTNER WITH ON GOING PROGRAMS SUCH AS ASAP, HERITAGE COUNCILS, MARKETING GROUPS, UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF AG ETC.
- AGRICULTURE IS PART OF THE ARTS, COMMUNITY EVENTS, HISTORY, CIVIC GROUPS, REAL ESTATE, COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
- SCHOOLS
- OUTREACH MINISTRIES
- AMERICORPS

Stoney Knoll Community Garden



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 8 NEW GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS
- 50 ACRES OF INTENSIVE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
- 12 GRANTS – 2 DIRECTLY TO GROWERS
- NEW FARMERS
- 14 COMMUNITY GARDENS
- NEW CROPS
- FARM FESTIVAL
- INTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE
- THREE CSAs
- NEW/OLD TRUCK AND TRAILER
- MILL SPRING SCHOOL

Have Fun!



YEAR TWO: WHAT NEXT?

- VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS
- MARKETS BEYOND POLK COUNTY
- TWO YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS
- AGRI-TOURS
- INCREASE SKILLS
- INCREASE RESOURCES

Mill Spring Agriculture Development Center



Community Spirit



DO WHAT FITS YOUR COUNTY



Take Action

Thank You

