

PLANT A ROW, WATCH COPE GROW FOOD DONATION GARDEN

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS EXTENSION

2022
REPORT

Our Story

At the end of 2021, we formed a new partnership with the Regional Office of Education #21 located in Metropolis. We were offered the opportunity to move our garden to the lot next door to the ROE, which would improve visibility and allow us to have a fenced in location.

In mid-March, Extension staff were joined by Jenny Bergmann's ag students from Massac High School, students from StarQuest Academy, and community volunteers to re-locate the garden. The City of Metropolis installed a new water meter and continued to cover the cost of water used at the garden. We finished off the fence with the help of Joppa FFA.

We planted a summer crop this year, with tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, and okra growing the most weight. Our volunteers gave 235 hours of time, and we grew 650 pounds of produce.

All produce continued to be delivered to COPE, our food pantry partner. SNAP Ed staff continued to work with COPE food pantry staff to improve storage and display of donated produce in addition to other nutrition messaging to help nudge clients to choose those healthier items. Educational materials were shared at both the garden and pantry site, including recipes & recipe videos, to learn ways to store and prepare the fresh garden produce.

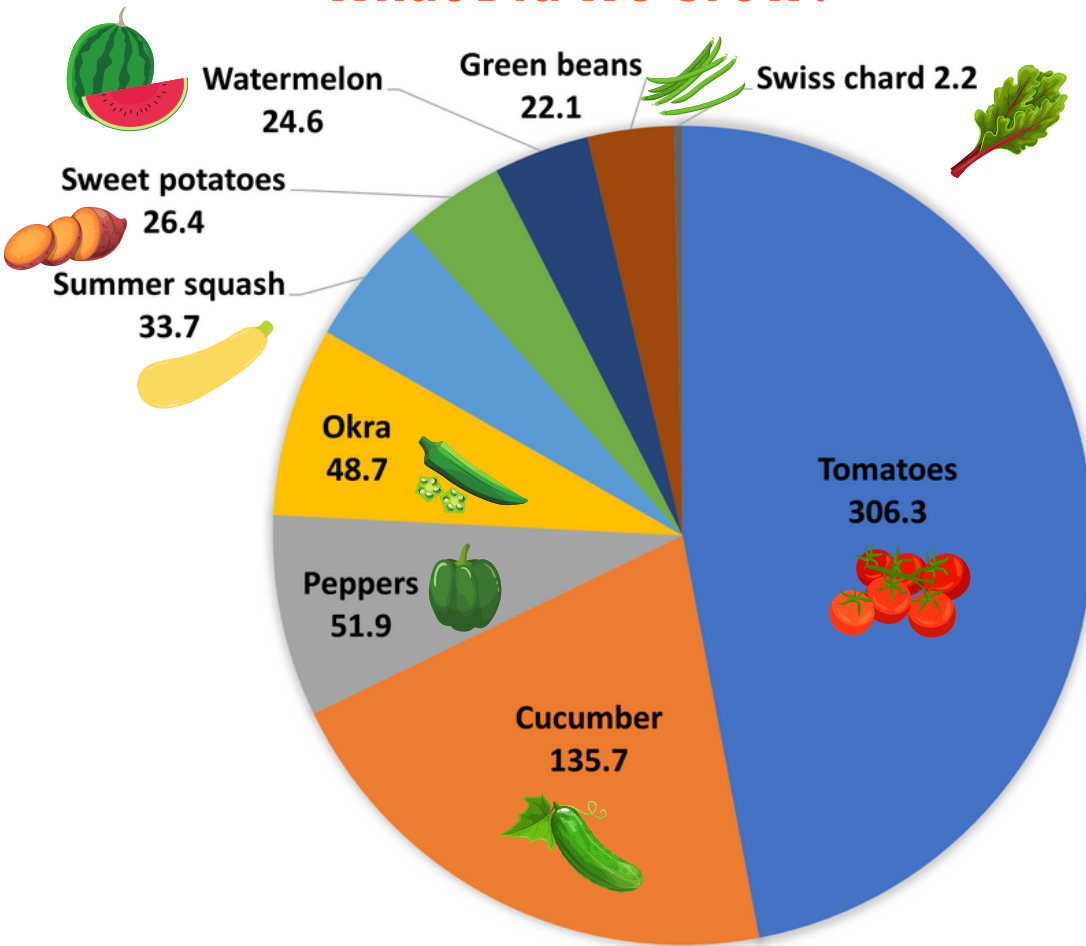


**650 pounds of produce
grown and donated!**



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

What Did We Grow?



Our Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who gave of their time to plant and tend the garden! Special thanks to:

Rebecca Hannum

Joyce Casper, Megan Henderson, Robin Mizell, Sean Pegram, Molly Stephens, Kim Wilkins, Laurie H, Amanda Joiner, Jane Sheehan, Zach Rowatt, Rick Street, Willie Wells, Stacy Wells Westbrooks

StarQuest Academy, Massac High School, and Joppa FFA students

235 hours of volunteer time recorded, valued at \$7,035

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