Hancock County Master Gardeners collaborated with the Audubon Area Community Service Coordinator to distribute over 1,000 ears of corn to a local food pantry.

Hancock County Master Gardeners Conduct Sweet Corn Research

Master Gardeners maintained records on ten varieties of sweet corn to benefit backyard gardeners and commercial growers.

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Kentucky Master Gardeners reach an average of 54,261 contacts each year while volunteering and teaching youth and adults in their counties.

The Hancock County Extension Service acquired access to county land to conduct a Sweet Corn Demonstration Plot easily visible to local residents. The Master Gardeners (MG) planted ten varieties of sweet corn available in the area. Careful planting allowed for data collection on each variety. The MG recorded the number of days to maturity, color of kernel, amount of production, and consumer tasting results. Each variety was labeled with pertinent information for community members to observe throughout the growing season. The management practices displayed encouraged the public to adopt best practices in agriculture, pest management, and water quality. The MG project benefited backyard and commercial gardens. In addition, the project provided over 1,000 ears of corn to the local food pantry who serves the 13% of the residents living in poverty.

In addition to the demonstration plot, Hancock County Master Gardeners continue to acquire additional knowledge and skills in horticulture, volunteer at the West Kentucky Botanical Garden, and serve in leadership roles in Extension and throughout the county.

The Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program began in the late 1980’s in a few urban counties. Today the program is active in 50 Kentucky counties. Master Gardeners play a vital role in assisting local Extension offices in providing information to citizens on lawn and garden issues by phone and/or at Extension offices, public meetings, demonstration gardens, and in partnerships with civic organizations and schools in the community. Master Gardeners volunteer to assist with teaching horticulture to beginning gardeners, and help people explore environmental options for managing lawns and landscapes. The Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program is open to all adults in the community. The shared interest creates a comradery among volunteers that leads to social interaction over and above the volunteer service.

Kentucky Extension Reporting System

Master Gardeners carefully planted ten varieties allowing space for data collection. The data shared with the public enabled them to select varieties for their own gardens.

In addition to collecting data on corn varieties, Master Gardeners demonstrated various weed control methods. The row with regrowth of weeds was from a particular treatment with no residual weed control.

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