

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 1

1. Name of the Planned Program

Aquaculture - Aquaponic Systems

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
205	Plant Management Systems			30%	
307	Animal Management Systems			35%	
403	Waste Disposal, Recycling, and Reuse			35%	
	Total			100%	

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

Year: 2010	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Actual	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	
Smith-Lever 3b & 3c	1890 Extension	Hatch	Evans-Allen
0	0	119458	0
1862 Matching	1890 Matching	1862 Matching	1890 Matching
0	0	60255	0
1862 All Other	1890 All Other	1862 All Other	1890 All Other
0	0	0	0

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity

- Conduct research project
- Provide training

	2010	1	3
<u>Output #2</u>			
Output Measure			
• Journal articles			
	Year	Target	Actual
	2010	1	0

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

O. No.	OUTCOME NAME
1	Number of new farmers anywhere adopting aquaponic technology

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Number of new farmers anywhere adopting aquaponic technology

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Quantitative Target	Actual
2010	2	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Interest in aquaponics is expanding rapidly and the scope is global as indicated by the number of people who took the UVI aquaponics course (92). A former student has been offering aquaponic courses in Hawaii which has led to the development 14 aquaponic farming operations there. A student from Pennsylvania offered an aquaponic training course and will be marketing systems.

What has been done

Production of two vegetable crops was evaluated in the aquaponic system. Sorrel (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) and chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) were grown and marketable product weighed to determine production per square meter. Two harvest strategies were employed for sorrel: weekly for 5 weeks vs. one complete harvest. This was to determine if harvesting mature sepals would stimulate more flowering and higher yield. Chives were grown for either 4 or 5 week periods and the biomass measured for each.

An experiment was conducted to evaluate a swirl separator versus a cylindro-conical settling clarifier for the removal of solid waste from an aquaponic system. The objective was to see if there is a solids removal device that works better and uses less space (i.e., a smaller footprint) than the clarifier. Three replicated aquaponic systems were set up with settling clarifiers and three were set up with swirl separators. Water spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*) was grown in the system during the trial. The systems were evaluated over a 10-week production period.

Results

Sorrel yielded 2.8 kg/m² for multiple harvest plants and 2.6 kg/m² for single harvest plants. The difference is not appreciable compared to the labor required and a recommendation for one single harvest can be made. Chives harvested at 4-week intervals weighed 24 g/bunch vs. 47 g/bunch for plants grown for 5 weeks. This size difference would translate into a different sales price and

higher overall revenues for the farm even with fewer annual harvests each year.

After these two devices were operated for 10 weeks in replicated aquaponic systems, there was no difference between treatments for water quality, fish production or the production of water spinach. Spinach production per unit area was 23 kg/m² over the duration of the experiment. The swirl separator was simple to operate. Flow rate through the clarifier was low and the device needs to be tested on the Commercial Aquaponic System to test the upper limits of its capabilities.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
205	Plant Management Systems
307	Animal Management Systems
403	Waste Disposal, Recycling, and Reuse

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

- Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)
- Economy
- Appropriations changes

Brief Explanation

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

1. Evaluation Studies Planned

- During (during program)

Evaluation Results

Key Items of Evaluation