

**Summaries of Planned Programs/Form CSREES-REPT, FY 2006
University of the District of Columbia**

Improving Plant Food (Fruit, Vegetables and Whole Grain) Availability and Intake in Older Adults

Previous research has provided data that indicate specific behaviors related to food and nutrient intake. Studies have also revealed that food choices of elderly adults are often determined by tradition, culture, and habit, as well as food knowledge. Researchers and extension specialists will work together to determine behaviors and to provide adequate information to help older adults to make better dietary/food choices.

Sustainable Agriculture

Urban gardening is an important activity in the lives of residents in the District of Columbia, including youth and seniors. The project provides training, demonstrations, and field trips to assist novice and master gardeners, lawn technicians, teachers, and extension agents with establishing and maintaining vegetable and ornamental projects in both cool and warm seasons in the District of Columbia.

Muirkirk Farm Project

Muirkirk Farm is a 143 acre facility used for agricultural research. Several projects are planned for immediate and future implementation at the 143 acre farm. Staff from both AES and CES are involved with various efforts from research/extension to development activities.

General Administration

Assistance from AES and CES administrators and staff is required to properly plan, implement, process, procure, and report as required for research and extension projects.

Adopt-A-Block

The Adopt-A-Block Youth Environmental and Life Science Education program offers an innovative project for DC Public Schools and civic-minded individuals and organizations, and gives community members the satisfaction of making a notable contribution to their communities.

Integrated Pest Management

Many of the gardeners in the District of Columbia are reluctant to use chemical pesticides to control insects and diseases. The IR-4 project is an interregional project which deals with testing, recommending, and monitoring the use of pesticides for minor use crops (vegetables and ornamentals). The IR-4 project is closely allied with the sustainable

agriculture project in the area of integrated pest management. Findings will assist urban gardeners and businesses with disease control via the dissemination of information from the CES.

Urban Gardening

Findings from the Agricultural Experiment Station, coupled with Master Gardener and Junior Master Gardener Programs in the Cooperative Extension Service provide hundreds of DC residents with pertinent information and techniques to assist them in cultivating home and community projects. Further, specific training in gardening programs leads to the enhancement of urban agricultural services to stakeholders and the cultivation of corporate relationships with agencies.

Pelletized Poultry Manure Project

The Agricultural Experiment Station is participating with University counterparts in sustainable agriculture research on the use of chicken manure for crop production. This experiment is designed to determine the effectiveness of pelletized poultry manure as a soil amendment in vegetable production and its potential effect on DC water resources.