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# Arma Community Garden succeeding in providing fresh produce to community

Though COVID-19 did change the way they approached the gardening process.

By Kaitlyn Shive Aug 16, 2020



ARMA, Ks. – What started as an empty plot of land has turned into a thriving garden to feed those in need.

“This year our spring and summer harvest were well over a thousand pounds, with a lot more food to come and it’s really great and all this food goes to the Arma City library food pantry and it’s free for anyone that needs it” said Live Well Crawford County, Community Liaison, Matt O’Malley.

The project started last summer as a way to provide nutritious produce to the Arma community, who haven’t had a local grocery store for the past five years.

“So there’s about 1400 people in the Arma area, every single one of them rich or poor is about ten miles away from a grocer who provides healthy foods, eventually poor food systems will just keep people from reaching their full health potential so anything you can do to increase access to healthy foods is going to benefit every single person in the community especially vulnerable populations” added O’Malley.

Though COVID-19 did change the way they approached the gardening process.

“We were really gung hoe this spring and we just had this great plan to get a full three season garden in with big groups. A lot of community garden work is done with groups and when COVID hit, we just had to pivot, we had to switch the way we do things and have individuals just take care of certain plantings or certain jobs or certain harvests but we adapted and it’s been a great year and we’re really proud of the work we have done” said O’Malley.

Susan Robinson, head of the garden committee, says it’s more beneficial now than ever.

“With the COVID going around, this is ideal because I can just come out here anytime and I can sit and watch it grow or I can weed or I can play in it, so I just think it’s a really good idea for every community to have.”

With hopes it will continue for years to come.

“We’re going to plant a fall garden, we’re probably going to be doing that really soon and because the produce is maturing and it’s time to take them out of there. So as far as I know were going to continue.”

The produce from the garden will start going to the Arma High School food pantry soon as well.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the garden, they work on it every Monday and Thursday morning and volunteers leave with free food. You can contact [feedarma@gmail.com](mailto:feedarma@gmail.com).