

CULTIVATE
Kansas City

GROWING FARMERS IN KANSAS CITY

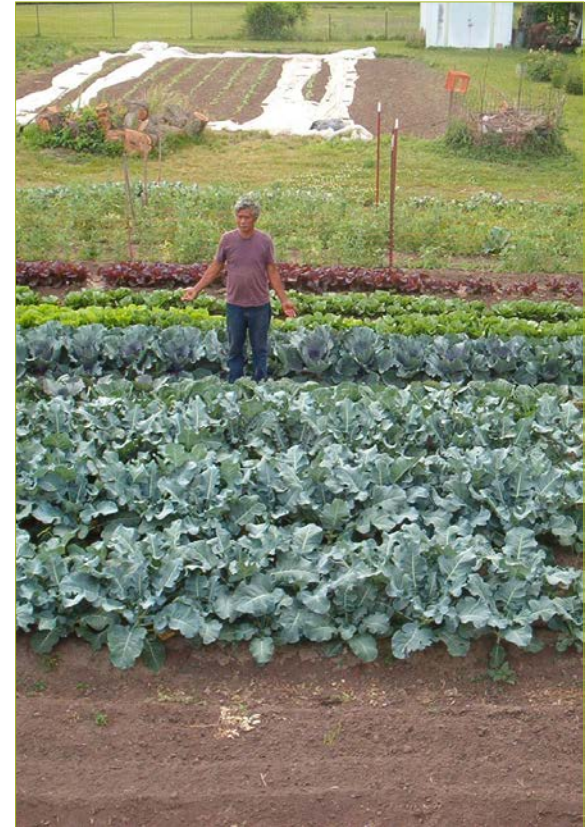
Urban Food Systems Symposium

K-State University, June 24, 2016

At Cultivate Kansas City, we grow food, farms & community with the goal of developing sustainable, healthy and local food systems. We value food-producing green spaces that are an integral part of beautiful, vibrant neighborhoods.

An Informal History of Kansas City Urban Agriculture

- Home Gardens and Peri-Urban Food Farms
- Movement of food and fertilizer- Green belt farms, City Market and Kansas City, KS Market, KC Stockyards
- Victory Gardens
- “The Reefers”
- Kansas City Community Gardens founded in 1979
- Kansas City Food Circle began in 1988
- Growing Growers Training Program began in 2003
- Cultivate Kansas City founded in 2005
- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City began grantmaking in 2005, Menorah Legacy Foundation began in 2005
- Kansas City, MO Urban Agriculture Codes in 2009/10
- KSU starts Masters Certificate in Urban Food Systems in 2010



Origins of Cultivate KC

- Founding staff and board: 7 urban farmers, K-State Vegetable Specialist, 2 community members
- First programs: Gibbs Road Farm, Urban Farmer Development
- First Urban Farm tour in 2005
- First Annual Farmers Meeting- 9 of us!
- Talked to everybody, anybody, farmed, worked with other farmers, advocated, partnered



Defining Characteristics

- Focus on **farmers**:
 - From backyard to multiple acres
 - Farming as a multiple- bottom line business
- Grassroots, **organizing** based approach
 - Listening, listening, listening, talking, prodding, persuading
- **Systems-based**
 - Farmers: growing sense of identity, power, mission, ambition
 - Community members: education, volunteer on farms, focus on neighborhoods
 - Policy-makers and community leaders: engagement, action, information, alignment with city/ county challenges and issues



Cultivate Kansas City's programs



Metro Farms & Food Systems



Gibbs Road Farm



- 2 acres, \$130k annually in sales
- 2 full-time farmers, 2-4 part-time
- Hands-on, informal, and structured training
- **60% of crew** go on to continue farming, running their own farms

Metro Farms & Food Systems



- One-to-One technical assistance
- Grants of up to \$3,000 and assistance with accessing other grant funds
- Bulk seed potato, compost buying
- Community Greenhouse
- Workshops
- Networking

Juniper Gardens Training Farm



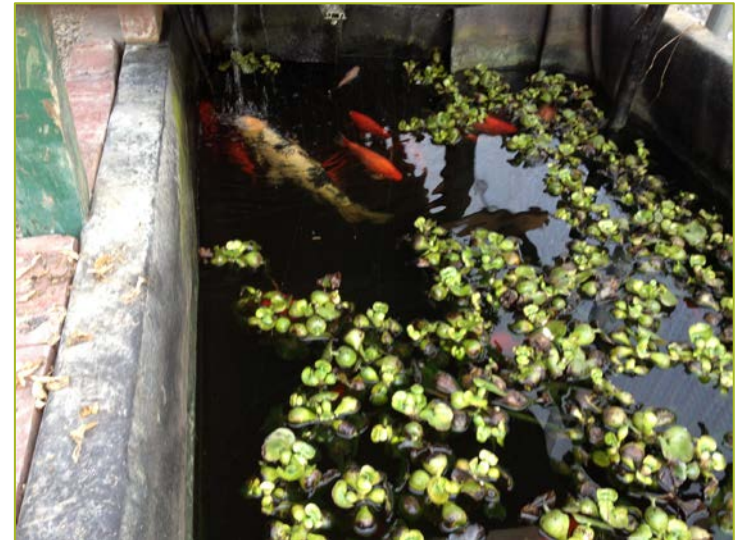
- Partnership with Catholic Charities of NE Kansas
- Refugee families with ag experience
- 4 year program
- Independent farm businesses: annual income from farm between \$3k-12k
- Graduate off farm to land (and often a home) that they purchase or lease

Kansas City Metro Farms 2015

- Number of Farms: 137
- Number of Acres: 177
- 70% participate in a Cultivate program



These numbers are an undercount and don't include gardens, orchards, urban homesteads





URBAN GROWN
FARMS & GARDENS TOUR

June 27-28

cultivatekc.org/urbangrowntour