



Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

Calendar Year 2009
Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of Arial 11 point, retain form formatting, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **April 7, 2009**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2009, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. **Project Title: Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces**
2. **Funding Requested: \$ 500.00 (portable kiosk & materials)**
3. **Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County): Dean Volenberg, Crops and Soils Educator Door & Kewaunee Counties**
- a. **Project Collaborator(s): Jenny Spude – WNEP Coordinator Door and Kewaunee Counties, Pam Peterson – Door County UWEX Family Living Educator, Dawn Kuelz – Door County UWEX Youth/4H Educator, Door County Master Gardeners, Peninsular Agricultural Research Station (PARS), and Door County Government Center Maintenance Staff.**

4. **Signature:** _____
Grant Applicant/Lead

5. **Project Description**
- a. **Situation Statement** (Describe how this relates to the UWEX strategic plan and/or your plan of work), and outline the following criteria that relate to your project.
 - i) Fosters teamwork and collaboration with other agencies, campuses, or colleagues
 - ii) Incorporates the use of other funders
 - iii) Includes a new program direction that may be replicated
 - iv) Focuses on reaching new audiences
 - v) Exposes potential employees to UWEX
 - b. **Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes** (include plan for sharing results with colleagues and show how project had a net economic impact on the community)
 - c. **Project Timeline** (include planned responses/activities)
 - d. **Evaluation Plan**

Situation Statement: The faltering U.S. economy has resulted in many Americans evaluating their budgets for potential cost savings. Some Americans have cut back on their food budgets by purchasing foods locally or are considering growing their own vegetables this season. Interest in home gardening has also been elevated by recent food safety issues, which has made Americans question whether our food production infrastructure is safe. Most people converting from their primary role as vegetable consumer to vegetable producer, have little experience in vegetable production. Furthermore, many of these new converts often have little usable space for vegetable production.

To promote the value of UW-Extension in Door County and address the need for educational resources for beginning gardeners and gardening in small spaces, our team will convert gardens normally used to produce flowers at the Door County Government Center to productive vegetable gardens. To inform the public of the garden's purpose and UW-Extensions educational capacity, this grant asks for funding to purchase a portable kiosk. In addition, the gardens will be replicated at the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station and from these gardens, production records will be kept.

The gardens will provide an opportunity to educate the public about various aspects of gardening (soil preparation, plant selection, mulch, and fertilization), food preparation/preservation, diet/nutrition, local food production and sustainability efforts, as well as highlighting local food insecurity, food pantries and meal programs. Lunch and Learn demonstrations for Government Center employees will include such topics as soil testing, garden preparation, soil amendments, preparing the garden for winter, and food preservation.

A major component of the grant applicant's plan of work and educational programming is focused on local food production, sustainability, and building markets for local food production systems. This project is collaborative and fits well into WNEP's theme in promoting nutrition and creating awareness for food insecurity issues. The project described above adds value to community members as they learn to take control of their own food security.

i,iii) Teamwork/New Program Direction: This project involves most of the Door County UWEX- faculty. Each faculty member will play a role in educational activities as the project encompasses program areas of agriculture, family living, 4H-youth development and WNEP. This project will encompass a new program area that could be replicated at other areas with slight modifications.

ii) Other funding: This project will receive in-kind funding from the Door County Master Gardeners and PARS.

iv) New Audiences/Exposure to potential employees: This project will have direct public access and therefore have great visibility to those entering the Door County Government Center. Educational programming that takes advantage of the site location should appeal to county employees, beginning gardeners, and even young children groups.

b) Expected Outcomes: This proposal, if funded, provides Door County community members an opportunity to learn about a range of topics that focus on food security. This project has the potential to empower people to take control of their food production, preservation and their health/nutrition. All of these tactics, food production, food preservation, and health and nutrition have the propensity to increase the standard of living.

c) Project Timeline: The project will start in April, 2009 as participants learn about soil testing. Planting and maintenance of the gardens will continue through September. The last educational program will be in September and the topic will be food preservation.

d) Evaluation Plan:

Since this project involves a variety of educational programs, individual educational programs will survey independently using pre and post questions as well as polling participants using interactive polling software.

6. Budget

Resource Management Funds

\$400.00 for portable kiosk to be used at the Door County Government Center site

\$100.00 for seeds and transplants to establish the gardens at the Door County Government Center and the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station

Door County Master Gardeners, Door County Government Center Maintenance Department, and Peninsular Agricultural Research Station staff

In-kind labor to help maintain gardens at both locations

Estimated value 20 weeks x 2 hours per week x \$10.00/hour x 2 locations = \$800

7. Past Resource Management funds:

Table Grapes for Northeast Wisconsin \$750. This grant was research based and the results and education directed at different clientele. Project collaborators were PARS