

Step 1: Outcomes

- Combine the gardening program with the Harvest of the Month program, developing an annual calendar of activities which summarizes monthly activities by January 2025. **Completed on time.**
- Write a curriculum, describing the activities that will be done each month, creating a toolkit of monthly lesson plans for county use by January 31, 2025. **Completed May 1st, 2025.**
- Expand from 9 classrooms to 15 by the end of the 24-25 school year. **Expansion did not happen due to losing the 2 AmeriCorps. We actually ended up doing fewer than 9 classrooms per month for April and May, 2025.**
- Train two AmeriCorps, hired by the Nutrition Director, on toolkit and activities for 24-25 school year implementation by January 2025. **Training was conducted on the job. If the written curriculum had been ready in time, we could have conducted training in a less hectic setting, which might have been more effective.**

Step 2: Assess what happened

Not having the written curriculum completed in January made training the AmeriCorps harder and subsequently losing both AmeriCorps was detrimental to our goal of expanding the program. If I had known that it would just be me conducting the program I might have been able to arrange my work schedule to better accommodate additional classrooms, but by the time the AmeriCorps were gone my schedule had already been set.

Step 3: Give us your actual budget!

Budgeted		Actual
	Trays w/lids, spray bottles, zip lock bags, etc. (Dollar Tree)	\$33.75
	Compost (Walmart)	\$49.40
	Tomato seeds and trays (Walmart)	\$45.44
	Edamame (Kroger)	\$16.14
	Trays w/lids, hydrogen peroxide (Dollar Tree)	\$9.75
	Paper towels, glue sticks, radish & spinach seeds (Amazon)	\$64.11
	Cover crops, carrot seeds, trellis (Amazon)	\$34.14
	Cover crop seeds (Amazon)	\$14.92
	Pumpkin seeds (Amazon)	\$10.65
	Pepper seeds (Amazon)	\$4.27
\$298.50		\$282.57

Step 4: Give us the numbers!

We created one annual calendar of activities, ten lesson plans (June, July and Aug were combined into one) and trained two AmeriCorps. We developed a good (but not foolproof) system of capturing the number of students participating in the taste tests (see below), but didn't do as well capturing the numbers of students participating in the garden activities.

Food of the Month Taste Test numbers	Jan (Sweet Potatoes)	Feb (Edamame)	March (Peach Smoothies)	April	May	Totals
Ansted	84	61	82	0	0	227
Divide	124	85	132	0	0	341
Valley	215	184	95	0	0	494
Fayetteville	180	153	228	0	0	561
New River P.	124			0	0	124
Totals	727	483	537	0	0	1747

Step 5: Words of Advice

I would be happy to share my curriculum/tool kit with anyone who wants it, and am always available for a consult!

Step 6:

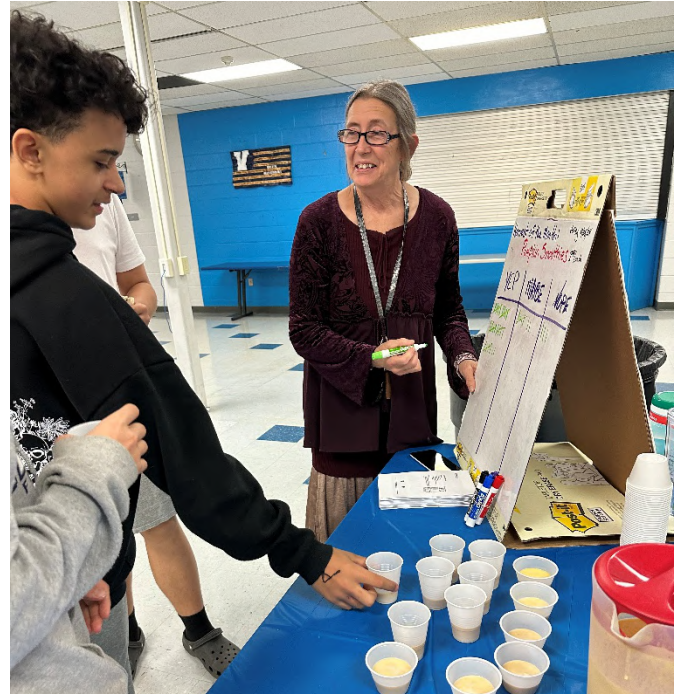
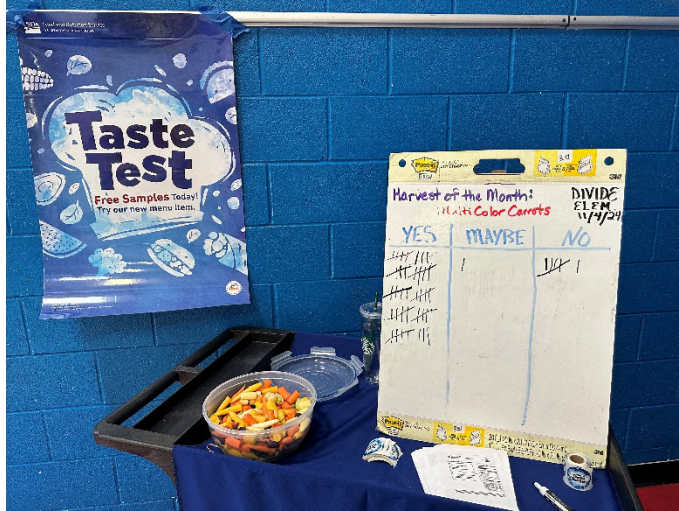
We contacted the local Master Gardeners and asked them if they would like to help with our gardening projects. Two or three came to help on a couple of occasions. 😊

Step 7: Share your final project timeline!

Task Completed	Who is Responsible	Due Date
Come up with an annual calendar of activities, pairing gardening activities with the Harvest of the Month. (See attached.)	Noel	December 2025
Secure additional funding for the sustainability of the programs. (This covers any expenses involved in the Harvest of the Month taste tests.)	Andy	December 2025
Hire AmeriCorps	Andy	December 2025
Develop a budget.	Noel	Jan 21 st January 2025

Write a page for each month, describing the Harvest of the Month food to be taste tested, and a correlating gardening activity. (See sample attached.)	Noel	Jan 31 st	May 2025
Develop survey questions.	Noel & Andy	March 3 rd	May 2025

Step 8: Send us photos!





Step 9: What's next?

We will continue to provide Harvest of the Month and School Gardening next school year (2025-2026). The New River Primary school high tunnel will hopefully be in place by then, with two more high tunnels to follow at Oak Hill High School and Fayetteville PK-8th. I will be doing some gardening at New River Primary over the summer so that some crops are ready for the students to harvest in the fall. With a completed curriculum, we should have better success with training the AmeriCorps, should we get them again. If it is just me next school year, expansion to additional schools may not happen. I might suggest to Andy that rather than two AmeriCorps, he hire one part-time Farm 2 School worker.