**USU EXTENSION GRANTS PROGRAM 2015-16 – Final Report**

**Project leader:** Dr. Brent Black, Extension Fruit Specialist

**Collaborators:** Dr. Dan Drost, Extension Vegetable Specialist

Dr. Niel Allen, Extension Irrigation Specialist

Tiffany Maughan, Research Associate

**Title:** Developing Resources and Extension Curriculum for Urban Food Producers

**Project Duration:** July 1, 2015 to May 30, 2016

**Amount:** $9,995.84

**Objectives**

1. Develop 10 brief fact sheets to address the most pressing needs of small acreage food producers, including the following topic areas:
   1. Crop specific irrigation guides
   2. Vegetable crops
   3. Viticulture and tree fruit crops appropriate for small-acreage management
2. Upgrade the Production Horticulture website to the new Omni-Update Extension template including formatting to be more easily accessed using mobile devices.

**Project Results.**

*Objective 1a. Three crop-specific irrigation fact sheets.* Prior to the beginning of this funding, we completed a fact sheet with the specific irrigation requirements of melons (Horticulture Vegetables 2015-01.pdf). This was used as a template for developing 3 additional crop-specific irrigation fact sheets: Peppers and Tomatoes, Onions, and Pumpkin and Squash. Publication dates and downloads through May 2016 are shown in table 1.

*Objective 1b. Three vegetable fact sheets.*

“Plastic Mulch Use in Vegetable Production” was published in January 2016. The monthly download information is in Table 1. Two additional fact sheets “Determining Fertilizer Requirements for Small Areas” and “Cover Crops for Vegetable Production” have been drafted and are in the final stages of coauthor-revision in preparation for publication. Major effort was put into developing a basic guide for GAP certification appropriate for small-acreage producers. This was completed and has been used in several orientation workshops.

*Objective 1c. Small acreage fruit crops.*

Fact sheets on Plums and Apricots were completed as part of this project. Initial drafts were generated by county extension faculty, with revisions and editing carried out by the research associate funded on this project. A complete draft of the Small Acreage Peach Production factsheet has been finished and is now under review by coauthors. It should be published by Fall 2016. A fact sheet on selecting blackberry cultivars adapted to Utah has completed the peer review process and is in final page layout in preparation for publication. Fact sheets on Haskap and Goji berry as alternative crops were also completed during the grant period.

A series on small acreage/home garden grape management fact sheets, including wine, table and raisin grapes, is undergoing co-author revisions. The information for the factsheets comes from collaboration with county agents from across the state and seeks to include as much first-hand knowledge of successful varieties in Utah as possible.

In order to more fully address the needs of our readers, we have decided to divide the Basic Tree Fruit Pruning factsheet into several smaller, crop-specific factsheets. The first of which, “Apple Training and Pruning”, is currently awaiting the generation of line-drawing illustrations and will be completed within the next month. This Apple Pruning factsheet will serve as a template for producing several other pruning factsheets.

*Objective 2. Migration of the Production Horticulture website to a new template in OmniUpdate – Campus.*

Migration of the Production Horticulture website is underway. The research associate working under this grant has undergone training for the new OmniUpdate program and has worked with extension marketing to create a template for the Production Horticulture website. Getting the template set up with Extension Marketing took longer than expected, but the migration is now ongoing and should be completed in 2016.

**Additional funding:**

The purpose of this grant was to bridge a gap in funding for our research assistant Tiffany Maughan and for the Urban and Small Farms Conference. In October 2015, we were able to again obtain competitive funding through the USDA-Risk Management Agency.

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| Table 1. Fact sheets completed or under development during the grant period. Publication date or current status is shown. Downloads are through May 25, 2016. | | |
| Title | Date/Status | Downloads |
| Irrigation |  |  |
| Vegetable Irrigation: Sweet Pepper and Tomato | 2-June-2015 | 287 |
| Vegetable Irrigation: Onion | 14-May-2015 | 155 |
| Vegetable Irrigation: Squash and Pumpkin | 7-July-2015 | 110 |
| Soil Moisture Measurements and Sensors for Irrigation Management | 3-Dec-2015 | 62 |
|  |  |  |
| Vegetables |  |  |
| Use of Plastic Mulch in Vegetable Production | 26-Jan-2016 | 110 |
| Determining Fertilizer Requirements for Small Areas | Co-author revisions | |
| Cover Crops for Vegetable Production | Co-author revisions | |
|  |  |  |
| Fruit |  |  |
| Plums in the Home Garden | 5-Jan-2016 | 36 |
| Apricots in the Home Garden | 5-Jan-2016 | 65 |
| Haskap in the Garden | 4-Aug-2015 | 175 |
| Goji in the Garden | 19-Nov-2016 | 61 |
| Selecting Blackberry Cultivars for Utah | In press |  |
| Small Acreage Grapes | In review |  |
| Small Acreage Peach Production | Co-author revisions | |
|  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
| Good Agricultural Practices (GAP): Certification Basics | 24-Mar-2016 | 32 |
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