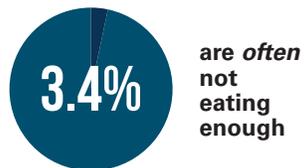
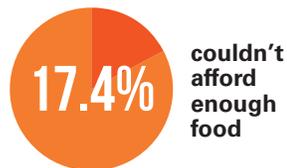


# USU EXTENSION IMPACTS: COVID-19

## THE PROBLEM

In the Survey of Mothers with Young Children, **17.4 percent** with children 12 years old and under reported that since the pandemic started, “The children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.” Of those mothers, **3.4 percent** reported that it was *often* the case that their children were not eating enough due to a lack of resources since the coronavirus pandemic began.



## HELPING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program (CFAP), administered through the USDA Farm Service Agency, began the end of May and runs through August. This is the first program directed at farmers based on impacts from COVID-19. USU held a webinar in cooperation with the Utah Farm Service Agency on June 4. A recording of the webinar is available at [extension.usu.edu/apec/farm-financial-health](https://extension.usu.edu/apec/farm-financial-health). The webinar provides details of the program and how to fill out the application. This program focuses on dairy and livestock.



For questions, contact your local county Extension office or Ruby Ward, agricultural entrepreneurship specialist at [ruby.ward@usu.edu](mailto:ruby.ward@usu.edu) or (435) 797-2323.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## Farmers Feeding Utah Performs Three Miracle Projects

In 2018, Utah State University was approved by the Board of Regents to house a Hunger Solutions Institute. The institute works with professors, agencies, and communities to solve hunger issues throughout Utah, the nation, and the world by helping those with limited resources obtain access to healthy food choices. Utah's Create Better Health SNAP-Ed mission mirrors USDA's Food and Nutrition Services mission to work with partners to provide food and nutrition education to people in need in a way that inspires public confidence and supports American agriculture.

When the food system is interrupted, as it is now with COVID-19, our food options become limited. During these unusual circumstances, it is crucial to support those who work so hard to provide us with the products we consume and require for survival. The idea of farmers having nowhere to send or process their commodities, while so many people are not sure if they will have enough to eat, is tragic. Farmers Feeding Utah is designed to avert this tragedy by supporting the livelihood of our local farmers and also making sure those in need have access to healthy food.

To date, Farmers Feeding Utah, a partnership between the Utah Farm Bureau, Utah State University, and various community stakeholders, has completed three miracle projects: 1) the Navajo Nations, 2) Northern Utah and 3) West Salt Lake. These projects are miracles for farmers, whose products are purchased, and for families in need, who receive donated food.

### NAVAJO NATION MIRACLE PROJECT:

Farmers Feeding Utah donated



**605**

live sheep



**16,000 LBS**

of frozen lamb



**10,000 LBS**

of flour



**4,000+**

individuals fed

to members of the Utah Chapters of the Navajo Reservation

The retail value of the food received was ~\$200,000

### NORTHERN UTAH MIRACLE PROJECT:

Farmers Feeding Utah donated



**42,000 LBS**

of potatoes



**20,000 LBS**

of beef



**3,000 LBS**

of pork



**19,000**

dozen eggs



**\$100,000**

of dairy

to 450 families in Cache Valley and to stock four local food pantries

The retail value of the food received was ~\$331,000

### WEST SALT LAKE MIRACLE PROJECT:

Farmers Feeding Utah donated



**16,000 LBS**

of meat



**850**

dozen ears of corn



**240,000 LBS**

of potatoes



**800 LBS**

of cherries



**350 LBS**

of garlic

to 1,200 people in Salt Lake City

The retail value of the food received was ~\$300,000

For more information about USU's Hunger Solutions Institute and the Create Better Health program, contact Heidi LeBlanc, director, at (435) 760-0925, or [heidi.leblanc@usu.edu](mailto:heidi.leblanc@usu.edu). For more information about Farmers Feeding Utah, visit [farmersfeedingutah.org/](http://farmersfeedingutah.org/).

## COVID-19 Community Efforts by USU Extension in Cache County



Weekly collection of donated produce at the Logan Gardeners Market through Create Better Health's "Buy Produce for Your Neighbor" program for delivery to the Logan Food Pantry.



Distribution of 2,500 disposable masks and 1,000 gloves at Latino markets and restaurants.



Collaboration with Logan Food Pantry director advising on the preparation of culturally appropriate food boxes to be distributed to refugee and immigrants at the Health Fair or delivered at home.



Promotion of Farmers Feeding Utah food distribution event and assisting on the day of the event. Photo includes USU administration and three Spanish-speaking USU Extension volunteers.

# WITHOUT THIS, I WOULDN'T GET TO EAT VEGETABLES

## USU Extension Senior Pop-Up Farmers Markets

According to the 2010 census

~15%

of Utah seniors face the threat of hunger

50,000+

seniors reported that they are currently struggling with hunger

"When they do things like this it helps people that live on extremely low incomes."

- West Jordan Senior Center

"Having this is good for the community. Lots of people don't eat healthy. If they could get fresh produce, they would eat it."

- Friendly Neighborhood Center

In 2019, the USU Extension Senior Pop-Up Farmers Market partnership provided

6,300+ LBS

of free produce to local seniors

=

\$14,500

value at the farmers market

1,620

seniors received produce at the pop-up farmers markets held directly at senior citizens centers

~10%

of Salt Lake County's total population is seniors

= ~110,000 SENIORS

It is anticipated that food insecurity has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The USU Extension Senior Pop-Up Farmers Market is a partnership with Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services and various other organizations that provide produce to seniors. USU has 21 scheduled farmers markets in 2020, due to anticipated higher numbers of seniors attending markets as well as a higher demand for produce.



For information about the markets and where they will be held, seniors can contact their local Salt Lake County senior center, the Salt Lake County Adult and Aging Services, or Meals on Wheels at (385) 468-3200. For more information about how the program works or to re-create this program in your own area, contact the USU Extension Salt Lake County office.

## Utah State University Botanical Center

The mission of the USU Botanical Center Gardens is twofold: to teach specific horticulture skills to the public demonstrating varieties that can be grown in Utah, and to distribute locally grown, quality produce to food insecure populations in Davis County. A partnership with the Bountiful Food Pantry started in 2018 to identify at-risk groups in Davis County that could benefit from fresh produce being delivered every other week. The program delivers to a subsidized housing area and to an elderly care facility. Any excess produce is donated to the Bountiful Food Pantry where it is distributed to clients who are food insecure.



### URBAN FARM DEMO GARDEN:

1/8 ACRE planted intensively, includes vegetables, cut flowers, small fruits, and tree fruits

Produce donations

2019

1,502 LBS = \$2,397 value

2020

2,000 LBS of produce projected

### EDIBLE DEMO GARDEN:

1/2 ACRE tree fruits

1/4 ACRE small fruits

1/4 ACRE vegetables

Produce donations

2019

3,453 LBS = \$7,710 value

2020

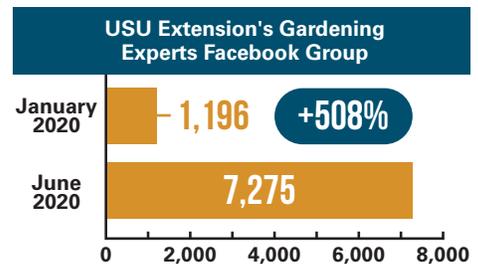
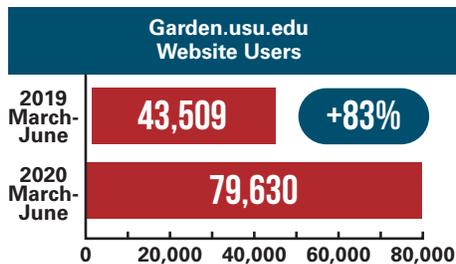
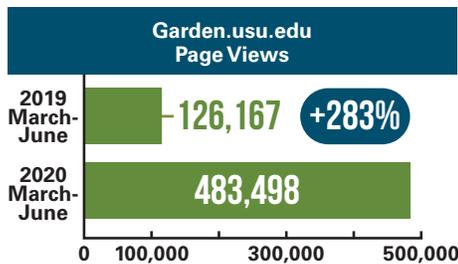
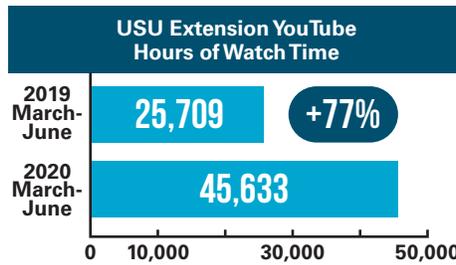
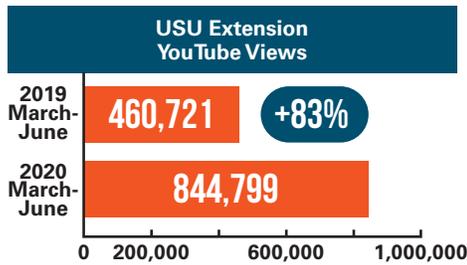
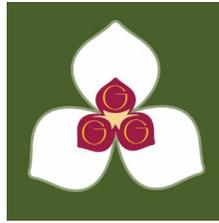
4,000 LBS of produce projected



For more information about how the program works or to re-create it in your own area, call the USU Extension Davis County office at (801) 499-5370. You can also help volunteer at the garden by participating in the Davis County Master Gardener program. Contact Stacie Stone at (435) 919-1323 for information. For more information about the Bountiful Food Pantry, call (801) 299-8464.

# INCREASED DEMAND FOR GARDENING INFORMATION

USU Extension offices statewide have seen a massive increase in the demand for basic gardening information, especially related to growing edibles. In response, USU faculty members in Davis and Cache counties have teamed up to create “The Garden Guys and Gal” social media group as a means to address many common questions that are being asked statewide. The page launched April 17 on social media and quickly gained over 500 followers on Facebook and 116 on Instagram. The faculty have made 87 posts on both platforms and have received a great response from the public.



Garden.usu.edu provides a wealth of resources and information about online and local classes, specific growing information, access to social media resources, and more.

# A SENSE OF SECURITY FROM PRESERVING FOODS AT HOME

There are many reasons home food preservation is popular. Some preserve food to save money, for food security, or to have more control over ingredients and production practices. Food preservation popularity has been accelerated by the current COVID-19 pandemic, and online resources and Facebook Live events have seen a marked increase in use. Whatever the reason for preserving food, it is important to remember to follow research-based, tested, and food-safe recipes and processes.



[extension.usu.edu/foodpreservation/](https://extension.usu.edu/foodpreservation/)