



WELCOME TO THE KU STUDENT FARM!

We are pleased that you are interested in getting involved with us. Please use this document as an overall resource. Visit our [Facebook](#) page or our WordPress [blog](#) for more information!

LOCATION: The farm is located at 1865 E. 1600 rd. in North Lawrence. Check out the [vehicular route](#) or the [bike route](#) to the farm. The site is on prime farmland, but don't be fooled, we can be best understood as a farm of many gardens!

PROGRAM AFFILIATION: We have a strong relationship with the [Native Medicinal Plant Research Program](#) which is run by Dr. Kelly Kindscher who is also the advisor to the farm. We work with the program to coordinate the general maintenance of this shared space. We are blessed to have such wonderful medicinal plants all around which bring in great pollinators and butterflies.

ADVISORS: The farm has two faculty advisors, [Dr. Kelly Kindscher](#) and [Dr. Paul Stock](#).

Dr. Kindscher is a Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey and a Courtesy Professor in the Environmental Studies Department. He heads up the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program. You can reach him at Kindscher@ku.edu.

[Dr. Stock](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department. He is a rural and environmental sociologist who also teaches Environmental Studies courses. You can reach him at paul.stock@ku.edu.

COMMUNICATION: The best way to communicate with officers is through our email address. We will utilize email to communicate to members about KU Student Farm sponsored events and information. We utilize Facebook to publicize other community events as well as our own. Please "like" us on [Facebook](#). We plan to create a Twitter account soon. Our [website](#) is informative and a place for us to blog about happenings with the farm. We welcome blog submissions!

TRANSPORTATION: Most participants drive and/or carpool to the site. We have had many members in the past bike to the farm as well. It's about a 20 minute bike ride from the bridge.

PLOTS: The plots are 4x32 square feet. You are not limited to reserving only 1 plot; simply let us know how many you would like to reserve.

NEW GARDENERS: Sharing a plot(s) allows for more flexibility and reliable carpooling options. It also eases maintenance when you need to go out of town, etc. We think it is also more fun to grow and learn with friends. We have found that those that share a plot stick with it-even through our Kansas summers! The community plot is also a great place to learn (see Community Garden section).

PLOT RENTAL PAYMENT: There is a 20 dollar deposit. The deposit is returned provided the plot is cleaned of plant materials by a stated deadline (usually in November). In addition to the deposit there is a suggested 20 dollar donation per year per plot. This helps cover materials that benefit everyone and pays for water usage. These funds also help us purchase manure, seeds, and straw. For 40 dollars, this is probably the cheapest option in Lawrence! However, we never turn anyone away for a lack of funds, everyone is welcome!

WHAT YOU CAN PLANT: We ask that no mint or perennial plants be planted in plots. We are open to perennials in other areas of the farm so if you have an interest in caring for, say a raspberry plant, we are happy to find a home for it.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: We have had a community garden for the last two years. This is a team effort where we take a collaborative approach to garden design and production. Participation varies. Some folks want to come out when they can and just volunteer and learn with others. Other folks are more involved and attend weekly work days. We are flexible, we come together to teach and learn and have fun. There is a suggested yearly 15 dollar non-refundable charge for participation. Again this goes to general maintenance/water and no one is turned away for a lack of funds.

HERB GARDEN: We have an herb garden just east of the shed that is for everyone's use. This allows you to free up space in your own plot by having herbs in another area. The community gardeners oversee the site but we ask that everyone pitch in by weeding. We are also establishing more plants so we can begin experimenting with compost teas (e.g., comfrey, nettle, etc). These plants are also great additions to our compost bins. We are revamping this space with the help of Patti Norman and Roxy McGee, two of our outstanding Community Advisors. We will be adding currants and grapes this year as well! If you would like to be more involved in helping organize this space, just let us know!

DEADLINE TO PAY: We typically have folks pay at one of the first few greenhouse work days. You will come to seed your plants in trays in the greenhouse and you can turn in your [application](#) and payment as well. Any concerns with payment can be sent to kufarming@gmail.com. Greenhouse work days will begin in March! If you want to get involved with one of our initiatives but do not want a plot there is no charge.

GETTING MORE INVOLVED: We have a number of new endeavors this year and we need your help making them a success. Participation in one or more of these means attending 1 to 2 meetings a month. Everyone has a voice and an opportunity to gain leadership skills and help us connect with others to build a strong and healthy community! If you have a great idea let us know, we love to support ideas and projects!

THE CROP MOBBIING INITIATIVE is an initiative to engage with service learning by seeking opportunities to connect student volunteers with farmers and gardeners in KS. The connections we make via this initiative are priceless, as are the experiences we have at these farms! Volunteering at these farms is considered service learning and can assist students in attaining their Certification of Service Learning (CSL) from KU. The CSL appears on your transcript and shows the University's recognition of your achievements. Learn more about getting certified [here](#). We will set up workdays at local farms as a way to connect and learn from farmers in Lawrence. If you know a farm that would be interested in having us schedule a work day, just let us know! We also need help with this initiative as there are various elements that need to be worked through. Please consider getting involved!

GREENHOUSE/SEED COMMITTEE: There is more and more need to have folks help us regularly in the greenhouse. In late winter we start plants in the greenhouse for our members and the community. Last year we donated almost 300 plants to area gardens like the Boys & Girls Club Pizza Garden and the new South Middle School garden. In order for us to grow healthy, organic plants we need help. This committee also works to source, donate, and organize our seed supply. We have regular work days on Sundays. Please consider donating your time or joining this important committee! We will begin planning in February for the 2014 season.

THE COMPOST TASKFORCE is a taskforce dedicated to all things compost. This team works to maintain, improve and expand our compost bin system. We currently need folks committed to hauling manure to the farm occasionally and to network with local groups about maintaining a constant supply of food scraps. This is a great opportunity to learn about what goes into making great compost, which is such an integral part of organic, sustainable gardening! As our compost system is a constant work in progress, we welcome your suggestions and creative ideas!

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM is dedicated to connecting and supporting KU members at local community gardens. We seek to be one piece in building a solid infrastructure for our community of gardeners. We believe that working with others helps us learn and grow more as a community. We are currently seeking out partnerships with area community gardens so we can serve as a resource in recruitment efforts, seed purchases and co-coordination of educational workshops. Please email us if you coordinate a community garden and have interest in partnering (kufarming@gmail.com). This particular task force needs underclassmen to demonstrate our commitment to this objective. If you would like to get involved let us know, all are welcomed!

THE MEDIA TASKFORCE is our public relations taskforce, if you will. We need someone to help us with social media platforms, doing fun things like posting on Facebook, blogging on our website, posting pictures, helping us figure out what Twitter is, plus many more fun and exciting tasks. We would love for our media outreach and fliers to be a platform for your artwork and creative designs!

THE VEGGIE LUNCH TASKFORCE is both an initiative and a taskforce (whoa!). Our group has committed to regularly cooking Veggie Lunch once a month at the ECM during the spring semester. Veggie Lunch is a weekly, all-volunteer run, vegetarian lunch at the ECM at KU. We need folks to help plan, prepare and cook the meals on Wednesday nights. Lunch is served the next day. The more people involved the more often we can cook and the more efficient we will be. Click [here](#) to learn more about Veggie Lunch.

THE FUNDRAISING TASKFORCE is committed to finding, planning and executing fundraising opportunities. We had a very successful fundraising event with Chipotle and will be planning a similar event soon. We will also be making seed jewelry to sell at the [Kaw Valley Seed Fair](#).

WORK DAYS: Work days are events held at the garden where members come together to attend to general maintenance tasks at the farm. This usually entails mowing, weed eating, working on the compost bins, fixing tools, or working on projects. It is a fun time for everyone to get together. If you are handy and have skills to share please let us know, as we are always in need of folks who can build and fix stuff! We follow up the work day with a potluck, often including a speaker. We get a lot of fantastic work done on these days!! Since we often have a speaker these are also considered open events to the community.

GREENHOUSE WORK DAYS: We will schedule work days in the greenhouse on Sundays, TBA. You select your seeds and start plants in designated trays. Each plot is allotted half a tray which is approximately 34 plants (plenty I promise). You are free to bring in your own seeds but please do not leave them in the greenhouse. There is limited access into the greenhouse and for this reason we have one or two officers coordinate general maintenance of your plants during the week. Sundays are a time for you to come tend to them and help us in fertilizing and caring for plants being donated to the community. If you need to check on your plants on a different day just send us an email and we will arrange something with you. We have been fortunate to receive a number of seed donations this past year to offer our members!

EQUIPMENT: We have a toolbox on the west side of the shed which belongs to the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program. On work days equipment from the shed will be made available, this includes a tiller, wheel barrows, a mower, and a weed eater. One wheel barrow is left outside at all times during the growing season. You will receive the code to the toolbox. We have been fortunate to receive funding for some great tools. Please be conscientious and remember to put tools back in the toolbox and to scramble the code prior to leaving. Do not give the code out to non-members. There is a mulch pile, straw, and compost bins available for your use. We recommend you bring in some additional amendments for your plot, namely manure and compost.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: We recommend the “[Kansas Garden Guide](#)” as an easy resource for planning your garden. Please use this as a general reference and primer for growing vegetables in our area. It is published by K-State Extension. For five dollars you can pick up a hard copy at the K-State Extension office at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

We also have an education account with [Grow Veg](#). The site provides tons of information on growing food and links to some great videos! Go to the website to get started using the garden planner program. This program allows you to plan your garden out and provides planting dates and information. You are free to create multiple plans! It is really a phenomenal tool. Follow these steps to log on:

1. Go to <http://www.growveg.com/Default.aspx>. From this page you can view the demo video prior to starting the planner.
2. When you feel ready to start click on “start garden planner” at the top right of the page.
3. Log information:
 - a. Email: kustudentfarm
 - b. password: kufarm
4. If you have issues launching the planner try deleting your temporary internet files.

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ADVISORS: Folks that are not a KU student, faculty, or staff but want to get involved have two options. *Volunteers* can come and help out at general work days or community garden work days. *Community Advisors* provide regular educational or professional services to our members. Events and work days are always open to the public! Email us if you are interested in becoming a volunteer or a community advisor!

CURRENT ADVISORS:

Patti Norman: A Lawrence resident with over 20 years of companion gardening experience. She is an expert in moon phase gardening and has been a tremendous resource to our community the last two years. You will often find her in the community garden and she loves to assist others or answer questions.

Jason Hering: A true foodie and one of the founding members of the farm! Jason is involved in many local garden/farm-related endeavors. He is co-operator of [The Blissful Bite](#), a cooperatively-owned mobile kitchen specializing in providing organic wholesome local fair. You can often find the truck at local events like the Cottin’s Farmer’s Market. He advises us in purchasing decisions and helps us connect to other folks and happenings around town.

Roxy McGee: A new community advisor who recently moved back to Lawrence after living in Michigan for many years. She is a [Master Gardener](#) with the K-State Extension Program. Roxy loves to work with plant dyes and she also donates her time to the Monarch Watch garden on West Campus. Roxy is graciously offering her expertise to help us revamp the herb garden.

Raven Naramore: A past student farm member and owner of a local whole foods catering business, [Hearthkeeper](#). Raven has worked for many years as a remote sites caterer for the Student Conservation Association. She has travelled in the U.S. extensively and loves to teach others how to cook with local fresh ingredients. You can find her teaching classes at the [Merc](#). She will be helping us with Veggie Lunch once a month this semester!

Let us know if you have questions! The application also provides more detailed information for some of the items discussed here. Please spread the word and let your friends know about the farm. We are looking forward to a great year of growing!

2013-14 KU STUDENT FARM OFFICERS

Facilitator/Treasurer: Katrina McClure

Garden Manager: Becky Crook

Greenhouse Manager: Gina Beebe

Maintenance Manager: Daniel Walker

Events Coordinator: Rachel Richmond