The Situation
Migrant summer school programs throughout the Magic Valley are being forced, as are many educational programs, to provide services with shrinking funds. These migrant youth educational programs provided an opportunity for Extension to offer expanded curriculum, to increase cultural diversity in our youth programs and to play a vital role in educating multicultural youth (Hispanic, Bosnian, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese).

Our Response
Faculty in the Magic Valley wanted to find a way to better reach non-traditional youth in their communities. After talking with and being encouraged by existing migrant summer school contacts we developed the Gardens to Groceries program - an interdisciplinary program to teach youth about the food they eat. This program’s multi-county scope required external funding for educational supplies and curriculum development which was requested from the University of Idaho Critical Issues Fund.

Achievements
The Gardens to Groceries program involved a team of seven Extension Educators and 10 Master Gardeners who impacted over 200 migrant summer school 2nd to 5th graders in five schools and 10 teachers in five counties.

Students had opportunities to learn about:
- gardening, food production and processing
- nutrition, food preparation and safety
- how 4-H programs provide hands-on education
- how to work as teams and assume responsibility

Over 84% of students surveyed responded that they thought the six-week program was “Super!”

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors
The program was granted $2,000 in Critical Issues Funds to purchase materials. Seminis Seeds of Filer, Idaho, donated seeds; and Moss Greenhouse of Jerome, Idaho, sold the program discounted planting materials. These donations reduced overall cost over $850!

Ten volunteer Master Gardeners from Jerome, Twin Falls, Gooding, Minidoka and Cassia counties contributed over 30 hours to provide instruction for many class sessions.

The Future
This program has received rave reviews from both students and their teachers. After seeing such success with this project similar programs will be conducted in the future in cooperation with summer migrant schools and other focused audiences.
For More Information

Rhea Lanting, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Twin Falls County Cooperative Extension System
246 3rd Ave. East
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Voice Phone: 208-734-9590
Fax Phone: 208-733-9645
E-Mail: rlanling@uidaho.edu

Meg Kevan, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Gooding County Cooperative Extension System
202 - 14th Ave. East
Gooding, ID 83330
Voice Phone: 208-934-4417
Fax Phone: 208-934-4418
E-Mail: mkevan@uidaho.edu

Joan Parr, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Cassia County Cooperative Extension System
1451 Overland, Rm. 2
Burley, ID 83318
Voice Phone: 208-678-9461
Fax Phone: 208-678-9109
E-Mail: jparr@uidaho.edu

Diane Schmerbauch, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Minidoka County Cooperative Extension System
614 7th Street
Rupert, ID 83350
Voice Phone: 208-436-7184
Fax Phone: 208-436-6889
E-Mail: dschmerbauch@uidaho.edu

Barbara Morales, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Jerome County Cooperative Extension System
300 North Lincoln, Suite 111
Jerome, Idaho 83338
Voice Phone: 208-324-7578
Fax Phone: 208-324-7562
E-Mail: bmorales@uidaho.edu

David L. Barton, Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Jerome County Cooperative Extension System
300 North Lincoln, Suite 111
Jerome, Idaho 83338
Voice Phone: 208-324-7578
Fax Phone: 208-324-7562
E-Mail: dbarton@uidaho.edu

c:\impact\97impact\y97jr01 10/97