



Community Agriculture for Local Impact

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact



Garden party attendees enjoy items from the tasting menu

Annual Fresh Farm Garden Party

Community Agriculture for Local Impact's annual Garden Party was held in September and showcased the amazing work of the students who run the Cuyahoga Falls High School Fresh Farm. The tasting menu included grilled corn, chips and salsa verde, edamame, sweet potato planks, and more! We love to collaborate with other student groups and appreciated the CFHS pep band kicking off the event as well as art students who helped guests paint a mural on our shed. A few lucky raffle winners were the recipients of our eggs from the chickens we raise! This party was also an opportunity to showcase our community connections and sustainability efforts as we partnered with *Rubber City Reuse* who helped make it a zero-waste event. We can't wait to do it again next year!



Victory Davis (Woodridge) harvests hydroponically grown purple basil



Hannah Clark (Tallmadge) tends to the program's chickens

What does a day in Community Agriculture look like?



Cameron Frye (Cuyahoga Falls) and Nate Williams (Cuyahoga Falls) work in the garden

No two days in Community Agriculture for Local Impact are exactly alike. On any given day, students in the program are busy caring for the chickens, cultivating culinary mushrooms, planting and harvesting fresh vegetables in the garden, and maintaining leafy greens and herbs in the hydroponics lab. The goal of the program

is to teach students the skills needed to obtain a career in agriculture while also being good stewards of the environment and positive members of their community. Career opportunities include greenhouse/nursery manager, hydroponic grower, plant and soil scientist, environmental scientist, and more! While there are times where "traditional" classroom work is done, this program is anything but "Sit and Get." Students are outside year-round and always staying busy. To see what we do on a daily basis, follow our Instagram @CFHS_Fresh_Farm.



Six District Educational Compact

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

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Community Agriculture combats food insecurity

According to Feeding America, 12.5% of people in Summit County are food insecure. Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of regular access to nutritional food for an active and healthy life. Community Agriculture

for Local Impact students work to address this issue every single day by donating most of what they grow to students and families in need. This year alone, almost 3,500 pounds of corn, garlic, peppers, potatoes, eggplant, okra, and more have been donated to *Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors*; a local food pantry. This ensures that the people who receive our donated food have options to choose from and fresh produce that won't expire as soon as they get it. The Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm has donated over 13,000 pounds of food to those in need since 2018.

Keeping it local by selling to area businesses

One way that our students explore careers in agriculture is by setting out to local companies to become vendors for those area businesses looking to add local produce to their menu. The students of Community Agriculture are incredibly proud and grateful for their partnerships with *HiHO Brewing Company* and *Wholly Frijoles*.



Specialty Pizza from HiHO Brewing Co. featuring the program's microgreens

Throughout the year, patrons will enjoy the Fresh Farm's peppers and microgreens on various specialty pizzas created by **Baker Dave** at *HiHO Brewing Company*. If tacos and burritos are more your thing, owner of *Wholly Frijoles*, **Juan Gonzales** created a special salsa verde using our tomatillos, jalapenos, and serranos. Half of the profits from the sale went directly to the Community Agriculture program! These businesses have met with the students and shared information about running a restaurant, supporting local growers, and finding passion in what one does for a living. If any other local restaurants or businesses are looking to partner with our program, please reach out to instructors **Steve McIntosh** (cf_mcintosh@cftigers.org) or **Steve Newlon** (cf_newlon@cftigers.org).



Mateo Caponi (Cuyahoga Falls) and Gavin Hively (Cuyahoga Falls) at HiHO's Harvest Festival

Mateo Caponi (Cuyahoga Falls) teaches elementary students about chickens



Community engagement is what we are all about

One of the most important aspects of our program and one of the most rewarding opportunities that our students engage in, is outreach through educating the community and future generations. Our program places great emphasis on the value of sustainable agriculture and being of service to others. We constantly promote these ideals through speaking engagements in the community and by offering tours of our program. This year, we have had schools from across the Compact visit or work with our program including Interactive Marketing & Design, Modern Communication through Media Production, and Culinary Arts and Hospitality Studies. Most recently, we were able to participate at *HiHO Brewing Company's* Harvest Festival and give a presentation to the staff of the Cuyahoga Falls Library.

What our students are saying...

I have enjoyed the positive nature of the program. - **Mateo Caponi, Cuyahoga Falls**

Community Agriculture has shown me that everyone deserves an opportunity, no matter what their strengths and weaknesses are, and that no matter the circumstances everyone is always capable of growth. - **Hailey Testa, Cuyahoga Falls**

This program is a great opportunity to learn more about agriculture, be outside and be around people. - **Maddie McCrea, Cuyahoga Falls**