Did you know that 1 out of 8 people in Amador County are requesting assistance from the Interfaith Food Bank. We are in difficult times and many people need food to survive. I am putting in place an Independent Garden Project. 4-H members can develop a small raised bed garden at their residence and grow produce for their family and the Interfaith Food Bank. The information for putting together a raised bed garden is available in this newsletter and we may be able to access a grant to help with the materials in building one. The advantage of the raise bed garden is that it is easy to maintain and take care of in your home setting and the 4-H member learns how to develop, maintain and produce vegetables. If you are interested, just sign up by calling me at 209-223-6484.
Larry Fossen

4th Annual 2nd Generation Dinner and Auction

On June 25th, 2011 Second Generation will be hosting the 4th Annual 2nd Generation Dinner & Auction.

This event will be held right in the heart of the cause, at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth.

The evening is to include; dinner, live/silent auction, dancing, raffles, and memories to last a lifetime. All to support the Jr. Livestock Auction at the Amador County Fair.

Saturday June 25th, 2011
5:00 pm - No Host Bar
7:00 pm - Dinner followed by Live/Silent Auction & Dancing

Tickets are online and around the county now for purchase. Anyone wanting to donate can also get info from the site as well as the ticket location have donation information.

2ndGenerationDinner.com

A flyer is at the end of the Diggings.
New California 4-H Animal Science Education Advisory Committee

The State 4-H Office is seeking new representatives for the Statewide 4-H Advisory Committees, comprised of a representative group of 4-H members, adult volunteers, county and state 4-H staff. Statewide 4-H Committees offer insight, review and input for the operation and management to the State 4-H Director. Committees meet face-to-face various times of the year, and may schedule conference calls, and utilize email to conduct committee business. Travel to meetings may be reimbursed through the State 4-H Office.

Open recruitment for committee membership takes place every spring. 4-H members, recent alumni, 4-H adult volunteers, 4-H YDP program partners and collaborators, and County 4-H YDP staff are invited to apply.

Committees
1. Policy Advisory Committee
2. Incentives and Recognition Advisory Committee
3. Citizenship/Service Learning Advisory Council
4. 4-H International Exchange Advisory Committee
5. Equine Education Advisory Committee
6. Animal Science Education Advisory Committee
7. Camping Advisory Committee
8. 4-H Technology Leadership Team
9. Healthy Living Advisory Committee
10. Shooting Sports Advisory Committee
11. 4-H Military Partnership Advisory Committee

Applications are due to the State 4-H Office postmarked by May 31, 2011. http://www.ca4h.org/Administration/Advisory_Committees/

Free Online 4-H Curricula Library

http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/SETCurriculum/
Download PDF files for Veterinary Science, Rabbits, Exploring Salmon and Steelhead, Water Quality, Pollinators, Pond Mapping, Engineering, Agriculture, or DNA!

http://www.4-hdirectory.org/
The 4-H National Directory of Materials is a searchable database of educational materials currently available throughout the Cooperative Extension System. You will find group project materials, volunteer and professional development materials, as well as many other resources. You can search by topic area or keyword, then click on the links to the resources.

Topic Area: DNA & Biotechnology | Audience: Middle School | Published: 2010
This curriculum covers a number of topics relating to genetic diversity, genetic codes, genomes, DNA, organism’s building blocks, biotechnology and risks and benefits, will be introduced. Each lesson includes background, hands-on activities, word definitions, math puzzles, discussion suggestions, questions to ask and leads to finding more information.
On Sunday, April 3rd we had the pleasure of learning from David Valdez’ vast years in the swine industry. He was able to break down each component for the producers so that they may grow a better product in the end. Janet White certified many youth from Amador County for the California State Fair Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Tier III.

Thank you!

New Pens For Amador County Fair

This panel is the reformatted prototype for the fair pen panels. The open section on top will accommodate fork lift tines. FFA is manufacturing them for the fair.

Accepting Proposals for Fundraiser Food Booth at State Field Day

This is a great fundraising event for your club!

Since 2002, the State 4-H Field Day takes place annually on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at the UC Davis campus from 8:00am until 6:00pm. Between 1,000 and 1,400 people attend the event. The event has a ‘picnic’ feel (Lunch and/or snacks) as people bring chairs and socialize for the day on the Wellman Hall east lawn.

The State 4-H Office provides coordination and facility support. Each contest and activity is coordinated by a group of 4-H staff, volunteers, and youth.

If you would like to put in a proposal for snacks and/or lunch please contact Quant “Hogan” Tong at qtong@ucdavis.edu.

Help Staff the 4-H Booth at the California State Fair

The California 4-H Foundation is recruiting 4-H members and leaders to help staff the 4-H booth at the California State Fair (July 14 - July 31). This is a great opportunity for 4-H members and volunteers to share their experiences. We encourage you to bring small 4-H projects (robots, rabbits, arts/crafts, service dogs, etc.) to give the public a “feel” for the variety of experiences available to 4-H participants.

Examples of service projects also make for good stories to share with the public. Please feel free to bring photo albums or record books with you to share with visitors to our booth – these are a great way to showcase our amazing 4-H youth and volunteers. 3 Parking passes and fair admission tickets will be provided to 4-H members and adults who sign up for a 2-hour shift. A maximum of 4 youth and 2 adults per shift will be allowed. Each shift must have two adults in the booth at all times.

To sign-up, please visit http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=6119
The colors are **GREEN** and **WHITE**
The **GREEN** stands for growing, living things and the **WHITE** for purity and cleanliness

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**Final Quality Assurance Training**

If you missed the April 3rd Quality Assurance Training for fair, don't despair!

You have one more chance to attend this year.

**Date:** Saturday, May 14

**Time:** 1pm

**Where:** Pokerville Hall

If you will have an animal* at the Amador County Fair this year it is **highly** recommended that you plan on attending one of these trainings.

These trainings are free to the members, leaders & parents.

They will go over management techniques, safety issues and sportsmanship conduct.

*Rabbit, Cavy, Poultry, Swine, Sheep, Goat, Horse, Beef,

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**California History Day 2011**

History Day is coming up and we hope some 4-H kids will participate.

Amador Schools will give kids an excused absence if they attend.

The date for the third California History Day for all Amador County fifth grade students has been set for Thursday, May 19th from 9-1 at The Kennedy Gold Mine in Jackson.

Last year's event had 375 students, 75 volunteers and about 100 parents and this year we are hoping to add even more activities and presenters.

All of the presenters from last year are returning including hard to book groups like The Mormon Battalion and the Pony Express, but we have room to do more and hope you'll consider participating.

This is a fun, authentic event and I would like to personally invite you to participate.

You are welcome to present any cultural, historic skill related to Pioneer Life, The Westward Movement or Native American Culture. Re-enactors, period dress or characters are also in high demand at the event.

We are hoping to add every day skills that early settlers may have encountered including, music, dance, cooking, basket weaving and fiber arts, games, black powder weapons, horses, livestock, old-timey collections and just about anything that you may want to share with kids.

Please contact me if you'd like to participate as a presenter or volunteer to help with any of the twenty-five activities.

Thanks for considering joining us this year.

Dennis Price
Event Organizer
Cell/text: 209-304-0892
Home: 209-296-3106
Amador County Fair Works for Amador

An open letter from Troy Bowers, CEO Amador County Fair to the residents of Amador County.

Amador County Fair is an economic engine generating tangible benefits beyond educational, cultural and agricultural tradition. The Amador County Fairs generates approximately $3,577,00 in spending activity benefiting Amador County and creating a ripple effect of economic benefit for the state (view report). The network of California Fairs generates upwards of $2.5 billion dollars in economic activity benefiting the local, state and global economy. Read the full text...

Rancher's Outlet Feed Seminar

Date: Thursday, April 28th
Time: 6:15 pm

Topic discussion will be on the Associated & Show Rite Feeding program for swine, goats, sheep and beef.

Fair Judges Announced

Hot off the presses!

Rabbit/Cavies Showmanship - Ray Stacy
Swine Showmanship/Market - Scott Williamson
Beef, Open Cattle - Mel Hansen
Sheep Showmanship/Market - Celina Johnson
Dairy Goats, Pygmy, Nigerian - Sophia Najera
Market Goats - Celina Johnson
Pack Goats - Gwen Schafer
Poultry/Eggs, Turkeys - Jim Sallee

Want to be a Sponsor?

Sponsor a stage, an event, or a single competition. It’s fun to be a part of the Fair.

To find out more, contact the fair or check out their sponsor page.
Here's a super-simple way to recycle assorted jars and bottles into colorful vases that'll look great lined up on a sunny windowsill.

Materials

- Newspaper
- Tacky glue
- Plastic cup
- Paintbrush
- Clean glass bottle or jar
- Spoon
- Colored sand (sold at most craft supply stores)

Instructions

1. Cover your workspace with newspaper (this will make it easier to clean up later). Pour 1/4 cup or so of tacky glue into a plastic cup and dilute it slightly with a teaspoon of water.

2. Show your kids how to use a paintbrush to coat the outside of a clean bottle or jar with the glue solution and then sprinkle spoonfuls of colored sand over the glued surface, rotating the bottle to spread the sand evenly.

3. Allow the glue to dry completely. Once your kids get the hang of it, encourage them to experiment with multicolored designs. Or they might apply the glue in swirls or other shapes to create interesting patterns.
Raised bed gardening is a convenient and easy way to produce homegrown vegetables. Unlike traditional in-ground gardening where lots of space is usually required, raised bed gardening is a perfect alternative for people who cannot garden due to limited garden space, poor or rocky soil, inadequate soil drainage, or physical limitations.

Regardless of family size or gardening experience, raised beds present homeowners the opportunity to grow vegetables themselves.

The idea of raised bed gardening is nothing new. For centuries, farmers and gardeners have mounded soil up to grow plants. Raised bed gardening is unique in that the soil level is higher than the surrounding soil, 6 inches to waist-high, and enclosed with materials to prevent soil from spilling out. The contained soil is formed into planting beds 3 to 4 feet wide, small enough that a person can maintain it without actually stepping onto and disturbing the planting area.
Raised bed gardens offer several advantages (and some disadvantages) over conventional garden plots:

**Advantages**

- Raised bed gardens can help maximize all available space and are typically smaller than traditional gardens, making them a more convenient option in areas with limited space.
- Raised bed gardens can be used as a solution for areas with poor and rocky soil or sloped terrains.
- Beds are usually filled with high-quality soil mixes that have large amounts of organic matter, which improves drainage and may increase yields.
- Soil raised above ground-level tends to drain better and warm up much quicker in the spring, thus allowing for faster seed germination and transplant growth.
- Higher soil levels and improved soil quality offers better access, less maintenance, and easier harvest.
- Dense planting techniques result in higher production per square foot of garden and help reduce weed seed germination.
- Raised bed gardens can be entered and maintained soon after rains or irrigations without compacting soils.
- No expensive power cultivation equipment is needed.
- The formal orderliness and arrangement of a raised bed garden can be extremely attractive and a prized addition to the home landscape.

**Disadvantages**

- Elevated beds tend to dry out more quickly in the hot summer months, thus increasing the need for supplemental watering.
- Frame and soil materials for establishing a raised bed are an added expense.
- Limited rotation of crop families may lead to increased soil-borne disease pressure and nematode problems.
- Increased plant density may increase some pest concerns, especially foliar diseases.
- They are not well suited to sprawling vegetables such as watermelons.
Location
As with any garden site, a raised bed should be located in full sun for best production. A minimum of 6 to 8 hours of direct sun is required for most vegetables and flowers. Expect less-than-optimum production and leggy plants if full sun is not available. The bed should also be located in a convenient location near the home and a water source. Regular irrigation is necessary for raised beds.

Materials and Size
Raised beds can be made just by mounding the soil, but these beds require a lot of maintenance. Most gardeners prefer to use framing materials to contain the new soil. Old railroad ties, landscape timbers, wood planks, rock, concrete blocks, or decorative bricks are commonly used to hold and raise the soil up 6 to 12 inches. If wood products are used, they should be treated with wood preservative to increase the life of the structure.

Materials for building a raised bed can vary greatly from inexpensive to expensive. Depending on the frame materials and growing media used, one can spend as little as $30 or as much as $275 for a 4' × 4' × 12" raised bed. Construction for a 4' × 8' × 12" raised bed with twice the growing space can cost anywhere from $50 for a frame and soil to $515. Table 1 lists the common frame materials used to construct a raised bed, the quantity of materials needed, and the average costs associated with building four different-size beds.

Table 1. Frame Expenses and Comparisons for a Raised Bed*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame Materials</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 4' × 12&quot; Raised Bed</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 8' × 12&quot; Raised Bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pressure-treated lumber—planks (2&quot; × 12&quot; × 8') or (2&quot; × 12&quot; × 12')</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$20–$25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$30–$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape timbers (4&quot; W × 3&quot; H × 8' L)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$21–$25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$32–$36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled plastic composite lumber (5/4&quot; W × 6&quot; H × 16' L)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$60–$90</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$90–$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial raised bed garden kits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$75–$170</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$100–$355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retaining wall block and decorative stone (3&quot; H × 6&quot; D × 12&quot; L)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>$102–$216</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>$147–$312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame Materials</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 4' × 8&quot; Raised Bed</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 8' × 8&quot; Raised Bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used railroad ties (8&quot; W × 8&quot; H × 8' L)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$20–$27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$30–$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete blocks (8&quot; W × 8&quot; H × 16&quot; L) or (4&quot; W × 8&quot; H × 16&quot; L)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$20–$22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$30–$35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Prices based on spring 2009 retail data
The size of a raised bed depends on the gardener and can vary based on need. Ideally, frames will range in size from 4 × 4 feet to 4 × 12 feet. The 4-foot width is preferred because it allows for easy reach from either side without requiring the gardener to step into the bed, keeping soil compaction to a minimum. The length of the bed can also vary depending on the type of construction materials used and available space. A bed 4 to 12 feet in length is suitable for most home gardens.

A soil depth of 6 to 12 inches is desirable as this will allow for improved drainage and adequate root development to produce healthy plants. Beds may be higher and deeper for better access but require more soil or a porous bottom for adequate drainage.

Concerns sometimes arise over the use of treated lumber in vegetable beds. The most common wood preservative traditionally used (chromated copper arsenate, or CCA) was phased out on December 31, 2003, for virtually all residential use, including raised beds. Two other products, ACZA (ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate) and ACQ (ammoniacal copper quat) have replaced CCA and may be used for raised bed construction. Well-documented research has shown that CCA, ACZA, and ACQ may be safely used to construct vegetable beds. However, some gardeners still prefer to line the sides of beds with polyethylene plastic so that roots do not come into contact with the material. Do not use plastic on the bottom of the beds as this will prevent drainage.

**Soil Preparation**

One of the greatest advantages of raised bed gardening is the ability to amend the soil or to create new soil for the bed. This is especially important in areas where soils are high in clay and tend to drain poorly, or on newly constructed areas where severe soil compaction has occurred. Raised beds are often the best option in these situations.

Many growing media options are available for creating a raised bed. Any combination of purchased topsoil, compost, fine pine bark mulch or soil conditioner, and/or peat will work well for growing vegetables in a raised bed. Commercially prepackaged growing mixes that contain such items are also available. Like frame materials, new growing media can vary greatly from inexpensive to expensive. Table 2 lists the common growing media used to construct a raised bed, compares costs by bulk and by the bag, and shows the average costs associated with building a 4' × 8' × 12" bed, or 32-cubic-foot bed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growing Media</th>
<th>Bulk (Cost per Cubic Foot)</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 8' × 12&quot; 32-Cubic-Foot Raised Bed</th>
<th>Bags (Cost per Cubic Foot)</th>
<th>Cost for 4' × 8' × 12&quot; 32-Cubic-Foot Raised Bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>$0.75–$1.00</td>
<td>$24–$32</td>
<td>$1.00–$3.00</td>
<td>$32–$96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine pine bark mulch</td>
<td>$0.75–$0.82</td>
<td>$24–$27</td>
<td>$1.25–$2.10</td>
<td>$40–$68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compost or humus</td>
<td>$1.40–$1.67</td>
<td>$45–$54</td>
<td>$1.50–$2.25</td>
<td>$48–$72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushroom compost</td>
<td>$1.50–$1.75</td>
<td>$48–$56</td>
<td>$2.50–$5.35</td>
<td>$80–$172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composted manure</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$2.95–$5.00</td>
<td>$95–$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miracle-Gro garden soil</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$3.50–$4.77</td>
<td>$112–$153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peat moss</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$3.80–$4.73</td>
<td>$122–$152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sta-Green vegetable soil</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miracle-Gro Organic</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$4.00–$4.77</td>
<td>$128–$153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Prices based on spring 2009 retail data
Potting Mixes for Raised Beds and Container Gardens

The following potting mixes are widely used in the commercial horticultural industry and should be suitable for home garden trials.

Potting mix for container-grown, woody ornamentals and planting beds:

- 6 parts pine bark mulch
- 1 part sand
- 10 lb. ground dolomitic limestone per cu. yd. (½ cup per cu. ft.)
- 14 lb. slow-release fertilizer high in N (e.g., 18-6-12) with micronutrients per cu. yd. (~¾ cup per cu. ft.)

Always choose a fertilizer with about three times more N than P₂O₅ (e.g., 3:1:x ratio of N:P₂O₅:K₂O—Sta-Green 18-6-12 or Osmocote 19-6-12).

Use about 10% compost in mix.

Potting mix for tender annuals and container-gardening:

- 4 parts pine bark
- 1 part peat
- 10 lb. ground dolomitic limestone per cu. yd. (½ cup per cu. ft.)
- 14 lb. slow-release fertilizer high in N (e.g., 18-6-12) with micronutrients per cu. yd. (~¾ cup per cu. ft.)

Always choose a fertilizer with about three times more N than P₂O₅ in fertilizer.

Use about 10% compost in mix.

Potting mix with slow-release fertilizer for seedlings and tender annuals in greenhouse:

- 1 part peat
- 1 part horticultural vermiculite
- 10 lb. ground dolomitic limestone per cu. yd. (½ cup per cu. ft.)
- 3 lb. premium grade 13-13-13 with micronutrients per cu. yd. (¼ cup per cu. ft.)
- 5 lb. Osmocote (14-14-14) per cu. yd. (½ cup per cu. ft.)

Some useful measurements:

- 1¼ 5-gal. plastic bucket ≈ 1 cu. ft.
- 5-gal. plastic bucket ≈ 0.8 cu. ft.

Several types of amended soil mixes can be used, but any of them should include good topsoil and lots of organic matter (ground pine bark, peat moss, compost, rotted leaves, etc.). This gives a planting mix that drains well and is easy to till. If you wish to use a potting soil mix, several options are available. These may be mixed and added to the raised bed or mixed in the raised bed by hand or by using a small garden tiller. See above.

Before adding the soil mix, loosen or spade the existing soil and leave it rough. This is easily done by turning the soil with a shovel when moisture is sufficient to soften the soil. By leaving the soil surface rough, roots are more likely to grow into the natural soil once they grow through the soil mix; as a consequence, the soil mix will more easily drain. Adding about 20 pounds agricultural gypsum per 100 square feet (~4 cups per 4 × 4 area) to the natural soil will help with deep root growth and will supply extra calcium to the soil. (Check soil pH and add lime as needed.)
Spade or till 6 to 8 inches deep. Next, blend about 2 inches of the soil mix into the upper few inches of native soil. This will help avoid problems that can arise from having two very different soil layers abruptly meeting. Then, fill the rest of the raised bed. Adjust the pH of the soil mix as needed. The result will be a foot or more of rich soil for plants to grow in. (You may need to replace 1 or 2 inches of the soil mix each year as the organic components begin to compost and shrink.)

If you plan to use the naturally occurring topsoil with a minimum of soil amendments, then a soil test is necessary for applying ground limestone and fertilizers. If one of the soil mixes listed on page 5 is used, ground limestone and fertilizers are already added to the mix.

**Plant Spacing**

For a truly productive raised bed garden, the gardener must relearn many aspects of planting. Gone are the long straight rows and wide spacing between rows. Raised bed gardens use space more efficiently to maximize production. In fact, rows may not even be used. Block planting, with proper spacing between plants, is used to optimize yield (see figure 1). For example, large crops such as tomatoes or squash will need to be on 24-inch centers, whereas cabbage, potatoes, or corn are spaced 1 foot apart. Medium-sized vegetables such as snap beans, peas, or onions are planted about 4 to 6 inches apart. Small crops such as the leafy greens and root crops can be planted just by scattering the seeds over a small section of the soil. Staking or caging the plants will allow for the highest plant density. Other devices can be used to increase plant density. Trellises and other structures can be made to let vine crops and other plants grow up instead of sprawling.

**Efficient Use of Space**

An efficient gardener will use the bed to its fullest potential. It is important to plan carefully to achieve maximum benefit. Try to group vegetables together based on their maturity time or their length of productivity (see figure 1). Plant all short-season crops in one area so that when they finish producing they can be replaced by another crop. This is referred to as “succession planting.” For instance, plant lettuce, spinach, radishes, and other leafy crops in one area so that the area can be replanted with beans, cucumbers, or some other warm-season crop after the first crop is harvested. Also, interplanting compatible crops to use empty bed space is a great practice. For example, you may want to plant peppers or tomatoes between rows of onions. By the time the onions are harvested, the other plants will just be reaching a large size. Succession planting and
interplanting will help you reach the full potential of the bed. Do not overlook fall and winter gardening. Most crops that produce well in the spring months will do much better in the fall (e.g., broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, rutabaga, collards, turnips).

**Planting Dates**

You might be able to plant a raised bed garden a little earlier than a conventional garden because raised beds warm up more quickly in the spring. By using mulches and row covers, you could plant as much as 2 weeks earlier than a traditional garden. Row covers can also extend your harvest later into the fall and early winter.

**Watering**

The soil mixes used in raised beds tend to drain excessively the first year after establishment. This will require more frequent watering than traditional plantings. Check the soil and water whenever it is dry, about 2 to 4 inches deep. This could require up to 2 inches of irrigation water per week if it doesn't rain. However, you might be irrigating with a soaker hose or drip irrigation rather than with a sprinkler. In this case, you should water until the entire bed is moist.

Drip irrigation offers many benefits, including less water and more efficient water use. Drip tubing or soaker hoses can be purchased at local nurseries and garden centers. The tubes or hoses are then laid out over the bed, spaced about 2 to 3 feet apart, depending on how porous the soil is. Using very low pressure (7 to 10 psi), the water slowly drips or oozes from the hose and filters down into the soil. Soaker hoses will work at typical household water pressure. Both options place the water at the root system, which allows for less evaporation and prevents water from moving to nontarget areas, such as the path. Drip tubing can also be buried below the soil surface for the most efficient delivery method and to help avoid animal damage.

After the garden's first year, you will notice that the soil mix begins to hold more water as the organic matter gradually composts and turns into humus. You could need less irrigation as the native soil improves and plants grow deeper roots.

**Fertilization**

Fertilization needs of a raised bed garden are similar to those of a traditional garden. For mineral soils and soils based largely on the natural topsoil, start with a soil test. For a soil testing “medium” in phosphorus (P) and “medium” in potassium (K), a general recommendation would be to use about ½ cup of 13-13-13 fertilizer per 4 × 4-foot bed at planting, and an additional ½ cup of 13-13-13 a few weeks later for long-season crops. For green, leafy vegetables, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the first number on the fertilizer bag) as needed to maintain vigor and green color. Overfertilization is always a concern when raising vegetables.

If one of the soil mixes listed on page 5 is used, then the mix contains adequate fertilizer for the first few months of the bed. Afterward, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen (N), low in phosphorus (P), and high in potassium (K), such as a 15-0-15 at a rate of 1/3 cup per 4 × 4-foot bed.

Organic fertilizers such as composts, rotted manures, bone meal, blood meal, fish meal, and cottonseed meal can be used instead of the inorganic fertilizers listed on page 5.
Mulches

Summer mulches such as straw or mini pine bark nuggets should be placed around vegetable plants to help conserve moisture, cool the soil, and control pesky weeds. Apply a 2- to 4-inch layer around young and emerged plants, and over the soil after it has warmed; do not apply too early as you might keep the soil cool and slow the growth of warm-season crops. Old newspapers can also be recycled and used as free and biodegradable mulch in the vegetable garden. Layers of newspapers can be placed down prior to adding other mulch. In a year, the newspaper will break down, adding valuable nutrients back into the soil.

Raised bed gardening allows for more efficient use of space to maximize your investment of time, energy, and money. As with any gardening product, the fun and rewards come from your own experimentation and from finding techniques that work best for you. For more information, contact your local county Extension office, or visit us online at www.aces.edu.
Dinner Tickets

In advance: $25/Person, $40/Couple
At the door: $30/Person, $50/Couple
Children: (12 yrs. & younger) $10

Purchase tickets online:
2ndGenerationDinner.com

Tickets purchase locations:
Clarks Corner, Ione
Rancher’s Outlet, Plymouth
Laughton’s Feed, Jackson

Raffle Tickets

$20 each or 6 for $100

Enter for a chance to win:
- Vacation cruise for 2!
- Choice of one of the following:
  - Mossberg 300 Win Mag
  - Heritage Arms 22/22mag Combo Pistol
  - Tikka 223
  - Tristar Semi Auto 12g
- Squeeze of hay delivered and more… too many to list!

Purchase advance dinner tickets to save time and money. Tickets will be available for pick up the evening of the event. Buy raffle tickets and help support 2nd Generation even if you cannot attend the event.

Tickets, donations or other information please contact:
Seth Seever (209) 223-2140
info@2ndgenerationdinner.com

2ndGenerationDinner.com
Shenandoah Valley Health Festival

Friday, April 29th
Amador Flower Farm
22001 Shenandoah School Rd., Plymouth
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Diabetes Education & Screening
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Vision Screening
- Vaccinations *(Tdap, required for 7th-12th grade entry next school year, will be available)*
- Community Health Resources
- Information about Health Issues
  ... & More!

Dinner provided by Martha Perez
of Jose’s Restaurant in Jackson
*(small charge)*

Limited transportation will be available, call 274-4527.

Organized by local agencies, non-profit organizations, community volunteers and UC Davis Rural PRIME Medical Students.

For more information, please call Laurie at (209) 223-0442.