

Acquainting Agriculture Newsletter

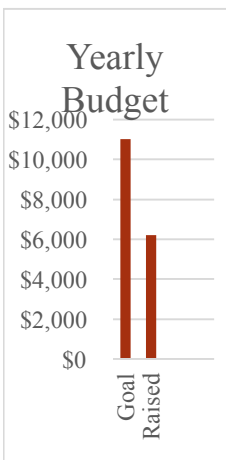
“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth, And make it bear and sprout, And furnish seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

-Isaiah 55:10 NASB

Covering Our Rows with Frost Protection and Plastic



Our crops were safe and sound under a layer of frost protection and in some cases a plastic layer over top. The frost protection allows the microclimate around the plants to remain around 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit by forming an igloo-type covering and trapping heat close to the plants. Our cold weather crops tolerated the freezing temperatures very well. The only trouble was having to wait for the covers to thaw before removing them or they would tear. Ideally each four rows of crops would be covered by a higher caterpillar tunnel that would prevent snow accumulation directly on the row covers and that you could walk under, making the whole process much less time consuming.



Students Voice Spiritual Lessons Learn

“Ellen White is the ‘god-farmer.’” - Logan	“Frost protection over plants = God’s protection over us.” - Yancey
“Gardening was God’s original idea for us.” - Joe	“The less time you have with the Light the less you grow.” - Odalis
“Rabbits = Satan” - Christian	“The peace and quiet of nature lets you hear God’s voice.” - Emily
“Soil = Heart, be careful what you put in it” - Mia	“Don’t let Satan discourage you with failure, keep growing” - Connor
“God forgives us so we too need to forgive the lazy students” - Francisco	“God can take our rubbish (compost) and turn it into beautiful soil” - Anthony

Biggest Need: 100’ Caterpillar Tunnels x3 (Gothic-style), \$1700 per tunnel at farmersfriendllc.com

Testing Our Crops for BRIX Content



BRIX CHART

“If people only knew the value of the products of the ground, which the earth brings forth in their season, more diligent efforts would be made to cultivate the soil. All should be acquainted with the special value of fruit and vegetables fresh from the orchard and garden.”

-E. G. White, Counsels on Food and Diet p. 312

PLANT	POOR	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Alfalfa	4	8	16	28+
Apples	6	13	14	18+
Apples (Sweet)	10	14	18	22+
Apricots	6	12	16	20+
Asparagus	2	8	11	15+
Avocados	4	8	8	10+
Bananas	8	13	12	14+
Beans (green)	4	6	8	10+
Beets	6	8	10	14+
Blackberry	6	8	12	16+
Blueberry	6	8	12	14+
Billberry	6	8	12	15+
Broccoli	6	8	10	12+
Cabbage	6	8	10	12+
Capsicum	4	6	8	12+
Carrots	4	8	12	18+
Canalope	8	12	14	16+
Casaba	8	10	12	14+
Cauliflower	4	6	8	10+
Celery	4	8	10	12+
Cherry (sour)	6	8	14	16+
Cherry (sweet)	10	15	20	25+
Chilli	4	6	8	12+
Coconut	8	10	12	14+
Corn Stalks	4	13	18	20+
Corn (sweet)	6	8	18	24+
Corn Young	6	13	18	20+
Cow Peas	4	8	10	12+
Cucumbers	4	6	8	12+
Eggplant				
Elderberry	4	5	7	9+
Endive	4	6	10	12+
Escarole	4	6	8	12+
Garlic	28	32	36	40+
Gooseberry	5	7	9	11+
Grains	6	13	14	20+
Grapefruit	6	10	14	18+
Grapes (regular)	8	12	16	20+
Grapes (sweet)	8	15	20	26+

PLANT	POOR	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Herbs (most)	4	8	10	12+
Honeydew	8	10	14	16+
Kohlrabi	6	8	10	12+
Kiwifruit	8	12	14	18+
Kumquat	4	6	10	12
Lemons	4	6	8	12+
Lettuce	4	6	8	10+
lettuce romaine	4	6	10	12+
Limes	4	6	8	12+
Mangoes	4	6	10	14+
Nectarines	6	12	16	20+
Onions	4	6	8	12+
Onions (sweet)	6	8	10	16+
Onions (green)	6	12	16	20+
Oranges	6	12	16	20+
Papayas	6	10	18	22+
Parsley	4	6	8	10+
Passionfruit	6	9	12	18+
Peaches	6	12	16	20+
Peanuts	4	6	8	10+
Pears	6	12	16	20+
Peas (black-eyed)	4	6	10	12+
Peas (english)	8	10	12	14+
Peas (sweet)	8	10	12	14+
Pineapple	12	14	20	24+
Prunes	10	12	16	20+
Potatoes	4	6	10	12+
Raisins	60	70	75	80+
Raspberries	6	8	11	16+
Red Current	6	8	12	14+
Rutabaga	4	6	10	12+
Spinach	4	6	8	12+
Sqaush	6	8	12	16+
Strawberry	6	10	12	16+
Sweet Potato	6	8	10	14+
Tomatoes	4	6	8	12+
Tomatoes (cherry)	10	14	16	22+
Turnip	4	6	8	10+
Watermelon	8	12	14	16+



Although our crops were not up to standard to sell to local restaurants or markets, we were able to collect each crop and test it with our BRIX meter. Each student crushed a drop or two of juice out of their vegetables onto the BRIX meter and looked into the field of view with delight as each crop showed a reading close to or right on the mark of “excellent” according to the above chart.

It is very encouraging, even though there were a few setbacks, to know that all the work put into building up our soil paid off. We successfully grew nutrient dense foods that will be a healthful blessing to all who consume them.

Next semester we will continue with the same goal and add the knowledge we gained this year to reach a productive agriculture program.

Special Thanks:

A very special thanks to all our donors that helped make this semester possible! The students want to express their deepest gratitude to you who gave so graciously and allowed us the opportunity to learn in God’s classroom. Happy Holidays!

