



Cooperative Extension Programs

Church-Supported Agriculture

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Church-supported agriculture involves innovative ways for church congregations and local communities to access fresh, healthy food. Some examples may include:

- ❖ **Church-Sponsored Community Gardens** allow congregations and local community residents to grow fresh produce for their own use right there at the church (similar to traditional community gardens).
- ❖ **Farmers Markets at Church Sites** allows for interaction between community growers/farmers and general public (similar to traditional farmers markets). Churches provide sites for growers/farmers to sell and community residents to purchase fresh food products.
- ❖ **Fresh Market Days at Church Sites** serve as fresh product pick-up or distribution points for congregation and local community.



How to initiate Fresh Market Days at Church:

1. Initiate meeting with local resource access to fresh produce providers, including local county extension, local farmers, etc. Discuss what products are available, when and how long they are available.
2. Designate person(s) responsible for coordinating effort and schedule dates for the activity (ex. 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month).
3. Develop and disseminate a list of products available (what and when, prices, etc) to church congregation and local community.
4. Conduct promotional activities for congregation and local community
 - o Conduct direct product promotions (product samples, presentations, etc.)
 - o Disseminate flyers and other materials advertising scheduled fresh market day
5. Congregation and local residents place orders by phone, email, fax or online to participating suppliers and growers.
6. Fresh products ordered are brought to site for pick up.

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