Presenters

Devon Andrews  
Community Engagement Associate Director,  
Charleston County Public Library

Maddie Hibbs  
Children’s Librarian,  
Fairfield County Library

Heath Ward  
Library Director, Saluda County Library System

Rebecca Antill  
Independent Consultant, formerly Youth Services Consultant,  
Library Development, South Carolina State Library

Jimmy Wooten  
Community Engagement Manager,  
Greenville County Library System
South Carolina Libraries and Food Access

Seeds and Gardens and Refrigerators, oh my!
SC Read Eat Grow statewide initiative

- Statewide food literacy initiative begun in 2018 by the South Carolina State Library
- Many libraries were already participating in this programming
Where to start?

- Don’t assume!
- Ask your community what they need most, through an informal survey, a needs assessment, and through talking to other community organizations
- Reach out and network!
Contact me with any questions:
Rebecca Antill
Independent Consultant
Former YS Consultant at the South Carolina State Library
Email: rebeccaantill06@gmail.com
FREE AND FRESH FRIDGE

Devon Andrews, Associate Director, Community Engagement
FREE AND FRESH FRIDGE

- Choosing the space
- About the region
- About the library branch
FUNDING AND FILLING THE FRIDGE

- Power of partnership
- Mix of purchased and donated produce
- Expanding the project
- Community garden

Photos: Canva
QUESTIONS?

Devon Andrews
andrewsd@ccpl.org
843-805-6884
Saluda County, South Carolina

*Ranked 39th in size (out of 46)
*Ranked 40th in population size, 20,500 (out of 46)
*Average per capita income: $22,814
*Education: (2) Elementary Schools, (1) Middle School, (1) High School, (1) Technical College
*Economy: Livestock Farming, Tree Farming
*Library located in Historic Town Jail with 1,750 sqft.
*Other: (1) Grocery Store
  (1) Dollar General
  (1) Park
  (0) Activity Venues- Community must travel to neighboring counties for most necessities and activities

(statistics from SCcounties.org)
Seed Library: Starting from Scratch

**Goal:** Define the reason you want to have a seed library.

Example: Increase access to crops and educate the public, while also protecting heritage varieties.

**Location:** Decide on how you will display/store your seeds for the public to access.

Example: Card Catalogs, Filing Cabinets, etc.
Seed Library: Starting from Scratch

**Materials:** Seeds can be donated from individuals, local business, non-profit organizations, or simply purchased from a Big-box Retailer (Ex. Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot, Dollar General)

**Education:** Provide information on how to properly grow plants in your area.

Example: Clemson Extension ([https://www.clemson.edu/public/seed/vegetable.html](https://www.clemson.edu/public/seed/vegetable.html))

*local University or local Government Soil and Water District can provide most information.*
Seed Library: Starting from Scratch

Policies: Decide the rules for your seed library.

Example: Limit five seed packs per week per Library Card holder.

Some questions to ponder:

- How many seed packs can be checked/taken out per person (per day/week)?
- Are you going to Police the seed library, if so, how?
- Are you going to track any data? (i.e. number of seed packs, types of seeds, number of users, etc.)

Promotion: Get the word out! Always remember to take pictures and promote.
Fairfield County, South Carolina
Demographics

- Population: 22,000
- Average Salary: $36,000
- 56% of residents are Black or African American

Data taken from 2019 census
Economics of Fairfield County

Fairfield Vs. US Averages

Data taken from 2019 census
Food Security in Fairfield County

- Food Secure: 79%
- Food Insecure: 21%

Data taken from Feeding America
Below SNAP Threshold (130% of Poverty Level): 16%
Between SNAP Threshold (130%-185% of Poverty Level): 21%
Above SNAP Threshold (185%+ of Poverty Level): 63%

Data taken from Feeding America
FCL Seed Library

- Opened July 2019
- Repurposed Card Catalogue
- Initially started with 41 different types of seeds

Photo by Fairfield County Library
How we got started

- SNAP-Ed
- Clemson Extension
- Local Garden Clubs
Questions to Ask Yourself

- Are there government programs that assist with these issues?
  Snap-Ed, Global Food Security Program, etc.
- Are there schools or universities that have Agricultural programs?
  Clemson is one, but there are many!
- Are there resources in your community?
  Gardening Clubs, Community Gardens, 1 Farmer who you are on good terms with.
Greenville County Library System
Greenville, South Carolina

www.greenvillelibrary.org/seed-library
Planting the Seeds...

- Getting it off the ground
  - Partnerships
  - Incorporate volunteers
  - Dedicated space and distribution channels
  - Print and promotional materials
    - Drawer labels
    - Growing Guides - unique to your climate and growing seasons
    - Individualized seed packets
  - Plan a kickoff event (timed with growing season)
Digging Deeper...

- Repurposed Card Catalog with 60 drawers
- Seed packets
  - Handwritten per each variety of donated seeds
  - Logo and branding
- Information provided to library patron
  - Name of variety of seed type
  - Check box for where to start
  - Time(s) of year to plant
  - Sun/Shade
  - Spacing
  - Planting Depth
  - Days until harvest
Watching it grow...

- **Inventory Tracking**
  - Shared document or database
  - Data gathered
- **Seed Distribution**
  - Setting your limits
- **Mail Delivery**
- **Community Outreach Opportunities**
- **Bookmobile**
More to Explore...

● Outreach Opportunities
  ○ Farmers Markets
  ○ Adult, youth, and teen programs

● Highlight your collection
  ○ Cookbooks
  ○ Nutrition
  ○ Gardening
  ○ Sustainability

● Library Card

● Social Media

Photo by Greenville County Library System
Greenville County Library System
Greenville, South Carolina

www.greenvillelibrary.org/seed-library