



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 17, 2014

Cooperative Extension

Contact: Kenny Bailey, Extension Agent

Telephone: 910-321-6880

E-mail: kenneth_bailey@co.cumberland.nc.us

Master Gardeners, Food Bank Establish Community Garden

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program has teamed up with the Second Harvest Food Bank to establish a Community Garden designed to teach people how to grow their own food.

The project will utilize the Master Gardeners' expertise to create the garden, which will be used mainly as a teaching tool rather than a food source for the Food Bank, said Extension Agent Kenny Bailey, who coordinates the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

“What the garden produces will go back to the Food Bank, but the main goal is to teach people how to grow their own fruits and vegetables,” Bailey said. “The Master Gardener Volunteers were called for this project because of our gardening expertise.”

The garden will feature typical vegetables including cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers and squash. Bailey said a different gardening skill will be taught each month. The garden is being planted on the food bank property at 406 Deep Creek Rd. Master Gardeners and volunteers began work on the garden Jan. 11.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina provides nutritious food to those at risk of hunger in Bladen, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson and Sampson counties.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program was established in Cumberland County in 1979. Anyone interested in become a Master Gardener must complete an application, followed by an interview with Cooperative Extension. The training is 60 hours and a prospective gardener must give back 40 volunteer hours to the program to become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer. For more information, call 321-6880 or go to www.cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu.

-end-



Master Gardeners help volunteers prepare materials for compost bins at the Second Harvest Food Bank garden site on Deep Creek Road.

-end-