

Ventura County's Senior Nutrition Program Garden



Tomatoes are a great source of vitamin C!

The County of Ventura's Senior Nutrition Program Garden is a collaborative effort among local government, non-profits and private businesses to provide fresh local produce to the Senior Meals Program. The Senior Meals Program is active in every community serving over 200,000 healthy meals annually! In addition to home-delivered meals, Ventura County's Senior Lunch Programs provide an opportunity for seniors to stay active through volunteerism and to socialize. The Senior Nutrition Program Garden enables seniors to mentor youth in agribusiness practices, one of Ventura County's greatest natural resources.



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County of Ventura Area Agency on Aging

Senior Nutrition Program Garden



Located at the Juvenile
Justice Center in
Oxnard, CA.

Tel: (805) 477-7311

Fresh Local Produce

The coastal Oxnard plain is one of the most fertile areas in the nation and yet, the Ventura County Senior Meals Program was purchasing tomatoes from Chile! In order to be able to provide seniors in our community fresh local produce and to reduce the impacts on the environment and the economy resulting from purchasing produce from elsewhere, a few concerned County employees decided to establish a local vegetable garden. In 2009, the County of Ventura Probation Agency and



Oxnard is "The Strawberry Capital of the World."

the Area Agency on Aging developed a unique partnership to grow fresh produce on land behind the Juvenile Justice Facility in Oxnard. As word of the project spread, local agri-businesses became interested and have donated their time, expertise and resources. The first season we grew 29,000 cherry tomatoes! In the Garden's second season, the land available to farm increased from one quarter of an acre to two. In addition to tomatoes we have added 50 fruit trees, bush beans, carrots and lettuce.

Feeding the Future

-A Generational Project-

Senior volunteers work side by side mentoring the young farmers-to-be and at-risk youth. All of the produce grown at the Senior Nutrition Program Garden goes to feeding seniors directly through senior meal programs such as Meals on Wheels and the local food bank. One of our current projects includes building a patio surrounded by planters made from recycled concrete. In 2012 we will plant artichokes, plums, grapes and blueberries.

Commitment to Success

The following businesses have contributed generously to the success of the Senior Nutrition Program Garden: Rio Mesa Farms, Agromin, S & E Organic Farms, Harry's Berries, Luna Fertilizer, Coast Water Solutions, Seminis, Green Thumb International, Brokaw Nurseries, Bikers for Christ, City of Santa Paula, Oxnard City Corps, Quality Landscape, Vine-



yard Mutual Water District, Food SHARE, LBL Equipment, Technical Dynamix, LLC, Driscoll Farms, Sierra Cascade Construction, Corona Seed Company, Molding Corporation of America, Lioneira, Do Right Nursery.

Join Us for Lunch!

There are 14 congregate meal sites throughout the county and 9 home-delivered meals programs. There is no charge for lunch if you are 60 years of age or older, however, donations are always appreciated.



The County of Ventura Senior Nutrition Programs serve over 200,000 meals annually!

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