January 11 Demo Crop Map Class

Objective: Review seasonal crop planning focusing on amounts relative to markets, proper use of beds, grouping, row length, spacing and timing.

Materials needed: Completed “What Did I Sell?” work sheet, Poster Board, Glue Sticks, Pens, Veggie 100 ft Strips for fall successions, Completed Demo Crop Plan labeled by month through June, Green Marker.

Lesson: Look over Demo Plan posted at front of the room. Notice plant grouping based on harvest time, quantities based on “What did I Sell?” Sheet, Timing of when Crops are Planted.

* 1. Ask Class to come to the hallway and look towards the end.
  2. This Hallway is roughly 100 ft, can everybody visualize planting a row as long as the hallway?
  3. Why would it be helpful to structure your farm in 100 foot beds?
  4. Who can tell me why I chose to plant Carrots and Beets in the same bed? Salad Greens and Radish? Cilantro, Dill and Scallions?
  5. What are other examples of grouping by time?
  6. Why is there only one row of Watermelon in this row?
  7. Look at the June maps, why are there so many vegetables shown here?
  8. Why did I plant Carrots every 2 weeks rather than all together?
  9. How many heads of Lettuce did people sell at market weekly? Does that help you decide how many to plant this coming year, why?

Activity:

* 1. Each Farmer gets 1 piece of poster board, pen, glue stick and 1 veggies strip each of all possible fall succession crops.
  2. Farmers are asked to fold paper in half and label top square JULY, bottom square AUGUST
  3. Farmers are asked first to separate veggies strips into crops to be planted in July or August
  4. Farmers are then asked to decide if they can sell 100 feet of each crop they selected for July before it is too old. Refer to worksheet if needed.
  5. If not it is time to rip the 100 foot rows in ½ or 1/3 depending on how much you think you can sell.
  6. Begin creating beds by gluing crops in July thinking about quantities, and harvest timing
  7. If more veggies strips are needed to complete crop plan for August, please ask
  8. If there is left over space in your map what should you do?
  9. PLANT COVER CROP! Use Green Marker to fill in empty spaces.