



## **Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus**

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### **REP. SCOTT, DOVER HIGH STUDENTS PLANT COMMUNITY GARDEN IN DOVER**

*Produce to be donated to Food Bank of Delaware*

DOVER – Brandishing shovels, hoes and rakes, Dover High students and teachers and Rep. Darryl M. Scott joined together to plant a community garden in Dover on Wednesday.

The garden is Rep. Scott’s brainchild, borne from a Food Bank of Delaware event last year. The Dover Democrat and former Capital School District board member said he wanted to find a way to combine educating children with helping the less fortunate.

“The Food Bank asks people who plant vegetable gardens to plan an extra row for the hungry, so I thought, ‘Why not plant an entire garden for them?’ ” Rep. Scott said. “After talking with Dr. Michael Thomas at Capital School District, we decided to make it a project for Dover High’s FFA students. This is a great learning experience for them and allows the students to make a positive impact on their community.”

After securing an agreement with a local farmer on Forrest Avenue at the west end of Dover to use a 1/4-acre plot, the group enlisted the help of Delaware State University Cooperative Extension agricultural agent Margaret Moor-Orth, who designed the garden. The crops include sunflowers, tomatoes, flowers, herbs, cucumbers, sweet peppers, zucchini, yellow summer squash and sweet potatoes. The garden is bordered with buckwheat, which Ms. Moor-Orth said would invite pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Dover High agri-science teacher Lacey Dixon, who along with fellow agri-science teacher Amy Imler are the school’s FFA advisors, said about 25 students assisted with the planting on Wednesday and will continue to tend to the crops throughout the summer.

“This will provide a hands-on learning experience for the students,” Ms. Dixon said. “They will be able to see where food comes from, benefit the community and earn hours for their supervised

agriculture experience. Donating the food to the Food Bank will help them see the bigger picture with helping the community and less fortunate.”

Ms. Dixon noted that the 1/4-acre plot is adjacent to the site of the future Dover High.

The project includes numerous partners, such as the City of Dover (donated mulch and water tank), Southern States (seeds and garden equipment), Tractor Supply (garden supplies) and Clark Seeds (seeds). The Delaware Department of Agriculture also provided supplies and support.

“I really like projects that help young people understand where their food comes from,” said Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee. “Planting a garden, watching it grow and finally eating the fruits of their labor is a perfect way to foster agricultural literacy in the next generation. I am glad that I could help Dover High School with their community garden and hope that others will follow.”

Late in the summer, the students will plant fall crops – collards, kale and broccoli – to continue the garden into the school year. The harvested crops throughout the summer and fall will be donated to the Food Bank of Delaware.

“The wonderful produce we will receive from Dover High School and Rep. Scott’s garden will be a blessing and will stay in the community provide nutritious and homegrown produce to Delawareans in need,” said Food Bank of Delaware Milford branch manager Crystal Timmons. “Food Bank of Delaware is happy to partner with Dover High and Rep. Scott on this awesome venture.”

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