

School Garden Scenario(s) Activity

Scenario 1:

Sally is a consumer and family sciences teacher. She has started a school garden with her 8th grade class. There is a great spot for the garden on the school campus just off to the side of the main garbage area. There is even a stream running by that will be a great source of water. A large volume of dirt is available from a construction project near the school, so Sally is able to get a large truckload at no cost. She was also able to get some wood to build the garden beds donated from the local lumber yard.

What may Sally want to consider?

Scenario 2:

Jack teaches agricultural technology. His students have been using school property to raise animals to sell for slaughter as a fundraiser for the last five years. Next year, they would like to build a greenhouse to use for a garden. They are planning to provide lettuce and grape tomatoes to the school foodservice staff to add to the salad bar. They may even be able to sell some of the produce at farmers' markets. They are really looking forward to extending the growing season and received a grant from a home improvement store for greenhouse materials. The greenhouse will also be great for the animals when the weather turns cold. They will be able to let the chickens roost in a corner of the greenhouse during the winter.

Would you have any concerns about serving this lettuce on your salad bar?

School Garden Scenario(s) Activity, Continued

Scenario 3:

The school garden at Jefferson Elementary has been very successful. Students are able to learn about produce hands-on and also incorporate some of the food that they have grown into nutrition education lessons. Rainfall has been very heavy this year, so the master gardener placed old plastic garbage cans on several areas of the school property to collect rainwater. Students can then apply water to the garden by transporting the collected rainwater using 1 gallon milk jugs, since rainwater is more environmentally friendly than using the municipal water supply.

What might the master gardener need to think about before using the rainwater?

Scenario 4:

The school foodservice manager has been involved in the 3rd grade classroom's school garden. Because there are so many trimmings leftover from preparing apple wedges for school meals, she has been collecting the cores for the compost pile. The custodian placed a bucket near the trash cans in the cafeteria so that students could put their food scraps in the bucket. He also provides those food scraps to the classroom teacher for the compost pile.

What do you think of this situation?