

Background

The Oklahoma State University (OSU) Agronomy Club is committed to the promotion of awareness of crop and soil sciences in the community.

Under the direction of our club advisor, Dr. Beatrix Haggard, a few of our members planted a pumpkin patch over the summer. Members were encouraged to maintain the patch- hoeing, insect scouting, and harvesting.

Club members set up a sale site outside of Agriculture Hall on the OSU-Stillwater campus.

This was a tradition for the club in years past, but current members decided to bring it back into style.

Objectives

1. Raise funds to send 4 club members to SASES in Tampa, FL.
2. Connect with the community and allow club members to speak to the public about agriculture and how they can play a part.

What did we do?

1. We planted and maintained a quarter acre patch of pumpkins, gourds, and ornamental squash .
2. We sold produce from the patch for a fundraiser, and donated excess to three campus organizations.

Pumpkin Patch



Figure 1. The pumpkin patch after a hand weeding session on July 21st, 2017.



Figure 2. Agronomy Club harvesting produce from the pumpkin patch on September 21st, 2017.



Figure 3. Club members after harvest. From left to right: Grace Ogden, Amanda Green, Melanie Gault, Josh Maples, Tyler Carpenter, Michael Schmidt, Matthew Thomas, and Darin Rotert.



Figure 4. The Agronomy Club member Amanda Green helping load the harvest pumpkins, gourds, and squash.



Figure 5. The pumpkin patch set up outside Agriculture Hall.



Figure 6. Agronomy Club members Melanie Gault, Brooke Zimmer, Tyler Carpenter, and Dalton Hahn working the pumpkin stand.

Community Conversation

- ❖ Pumpkins and gourds are a viable Oklahoma crop.
- ❖ These crops are low maintenance and easy to grow at home.
- ❖ Pumpkin and gourd uses, including decoration, baking and luffas.
- ❖ What OSU Agronomy Club does and what opportunities are available for students and community members.

Benefits to Club Members

- ❖ Interaction with community
- ❖ Improve public speaking and communication skills
- ❖ Gained experience with new crops, insects, and management systems
- ❖ Raised \$1200 for SASES travel costs

Benefits to the Community

- ❖ Excess pumpkins and gourds were given to the Shotgun Club, The OSU International Student Housing Association, and the on-campus Child Development Lab. These items were used for target practice, carving, making luffas, and for a children's sensory table.
- ❖ Increased community awareness of the Agronomy Club
- ❖ Promoted conversation about Oklahoma's agronomically viable crops for home growers