

4-H Vegetables Grow Into A New Curb Market

Under the watchful eyes of three Cumberland County 4-H club members, projects in vegetable gardening blossomed into something more than quality vegetables. Negro County Agent E. T. McNeill says that Sylvia, Bernice, and Clarence Hodges, working on a farm with their father Jim Hodges, have been able to make a good start toward establishing a permanent curb market on their farm near Hope Mills.

About three years ago the 4-H'ers selected vegetable gardening as their project. McNeill says they soon realized that their location next to the Highway provided them with a good opportunity for marketing their fresh vegetables if they could construct a building.

They talked this idea over with their truck farmer father, and plans were made to use the money made from vegetable sales to build some type of building. Last year the three children contributed \$347, and their father supplied the balance on a partnership basis. The club members, says McNeill, did much of the construction work.

To supply their new market with fresh vegetables throughout the year, they plan to plant not less than 22 different varieties at different intervals during the year. In addition to the small plots of different vegetables planted this year, they planted two acres of watermelons, and one-half acre each of lima beans, tomatoes and cabbage.

Jim Hodges says, "At first I thought it was just a bright idea, but its really working with the family pulling together."

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