

'Garden for Good' sweet potato crop harvested

Twenty-four West Central Valley agriculture education students joined other community volunteers at the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center near Orient Oct. 16 to harvest about 5,000 pounds of sweet potatoes.

The crop was grown as part of the farm's "Garden for Good"—one acre of sweet potatoes donated to the Food Bank of Iowa.

This new initiative from The Wallace Centers of Iowa is helping with Iowa's food insecurity issue.

"It was a lot of work but rewarding knowing they're going to food-insecure families around Iowa," commented WCV student Justin Clarke.

More sweet potatoes are



Contributed Photo

Twenty-four West Central Valley students were among the volunteers helping to harvest the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center's Garden for Good recently.

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ready to be harvested. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Lisa Swanson at 641-337-5019 or lisaswanson@wallace.org. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves.

"Our new 'Garden for Good' helps meet some critical needs, plus give an opportunity for caring volunteers to connect to agriculture and make a difference," said Deb

Houghtaling, President and CEO of The Wallace Centers of Iowa.

One out of every eight Iowans is food-insecure, including one of every five Iowa children. The amount of fresh produce available to food-insecure Iowans — particularly Iowa-grown produce — is limited. Distributing a crop grown in Iowa reduces food miles and maximizes nutrient content.

The Food Bank of Iowa moves 1 million

pounds of food each month, partnering with more than 500 agencies for distribution. Food is distributed throughout 55 counties in Iowa, including towns such as Greenfield, Stuart, Adair, Casey, Creston and Winterset.

The Country Life Center is located at 2773 290th Street in Orient. For more information, visit www.wallace.org/garden-for-good or call the Country Life Center at 641.337.5019.