

# 2007 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

## Horticulture Production

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### V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

#### 1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 203 100% Plant Biological Efficiency and Abiotic Stresses Affecting Plants

### V(C). Planned Program (Situation and Scope)

#### 1. Situation and priorities

There are over 5,000 small farms in Southeast and Southwest Arkansas. Most of these farms are owned by minority and limited resource farmers. Additionally, over 87% of the farmers in the region are small-scale (with less than \$250,000 in farm sales per year). These farms face a great challenge in producing row crops. Use of horticultural crops to diversify their farm enterprise and increase production profits is necessary. Southeast Arkansas, especially Jefferson county, has a growing number of retired and retiring professionals, many of whom are turning into small plot vegetable gardening. There is also a growing number of Master Gardeners in each State. They are working with county agents and establishing and supporting community gardens. The horticulture program needs to continue to support these efforts. Community gardens play a key role in inspiring low income families to grow horticultural crops and improve the nutritional level of families and expand family and producer income.

### V(D). Planned Program (Assumptions and Goals)

#### 1. Assumptions made for the Program

Horticulture is a viable means of improving income and sustainability of small farms. Production of horticultural crops can improve the nutritional level of families and expand family and producer income. Home gardening provide therapy to the aging population.

#### 2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

The ultimate goals of horticulture program are to; 1) to increase horticultural crop production by small-scale and limited resource farmers, and 2) to increase economic opportunity and quality of life for limited resource farmers by improving their farm profitability.

### V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

#### 1. Activity for the Program

1) Conduct training for county extension staff, master gardeners, small-scale and limited resource farmers, and 4-H club members, 2) write monthly news columns/articles on various production issues on small fruits and vegetables, 3) develop and review horticultural crops publications/factsheets, and 4) conduct farm visits.