



Fresh Thoughts From the Farm

Newsletter for the Farm, Orchard & GRUB
programs of the food bank

December 17, 2020

From the Director: As we wrap up an unforgettable year, we have so much to be thankful for. While 2020 has been extremely difficult for all of us to stay positive and keep our focus on the goal, we were able to keep the GRUB Farm summer program going strong this year while most other farms around the nation cancelled their youth programs. I credit our staff and the cooperation of the youth for making this a safe and still enjoyable year. Our Academic Year Program has had an incredible attendance all things considered. We are so thankful for their presence and to see how a diverse group of youth can team up and be productive and creative. As GRUB Youth Chris Shipman has said, “all are welcome at the GRUB Farm, here you are family.”

Speaking of family, today marks Cody's two year anniversary, and I am happy to say he has blossomed into a great farm manager and will only get better. I could not be happier with my entire FOG team's comradery. We have all been stepping up to help each other. We've also been carving some time to help the Food Bank Distribution Center where the rubber hits the road during our busiest season. We also helped with U Can Share this month, proud to see GRUB highlighted.

Many folks think we have downtime during the dormant season, but it's quite the opposite. We have been constructing a greenhouse, beginning the aquaponics installation, restoring trailers and tractors and this week we finally started the pruning at the orchard. We are currently accepting 2021 CSA Shares. Feel free to visit the website to join our community supported agriculture program that directly benefits our youth farm where we fight hunger, enrich lives, and give hope. <https://www.spfb.org/farm-orchard-grub/>

Please feel free to sign up to volunteer at the orchard this winter and help us clean up our pruning debris (free apple firewood, nsjs).

As always it's our pleasure to serve you and the South Plains Food Bank community. We are all counting our blessings for surviving this year and look forward to a great 2021. Best wishes to all of you over the next couple of weeks and holidays and we will be back in touch in January.

Reverisco- Matthew



One kind word can warm three winter months.-Japanese Proverb



Winter either bites with its teeth or lashes with its tail.



"In the depths of winter I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." - Albert Camus

Our Orchard Manager Cameron Garza sent this to our Team Group Text after we had a very rewarding teambuilding meeting last week and thought I would share it with y'all.

"After we left the farm Luis and I worked on irrigation lines. There were nozzles that weren't getting very much water at a certain point. It took us awhile to figure out why, to the point I was getting very frustrated. I then suggested we strip it because it's been there for so long untouched and put a whole new line but then Luis saw something I didn't. The line was pinched in certain places. After making them straight boom, line was working fine. All it took was one little adjustment to solve the problem. The point is when we get angry we tend to lose focus. We can't think straight and let things get the best of us. I told Luis thank you. I realized every big problem starts out small. If it doesn't get fixed when it's small it becomes big. More often than not all it takes is one tiny adjustment to something that seems big and you'll see drastic improvements. Just thought I'd share. Fitting that we watched a 40 min long video about life lessons lol." -CG

