

An Outlook To Our Future

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In June REEU fellows had the opportunity to help set up the Marigold Farmers market in Winterville GA. We had the pleasure of working at the Co-Op table. This table is a space where different farmers sell their products in the same area. One of the people we met was Amy. She is the owner of Amy's Sunflower Garden @amysunflowergarden . Amy is an urban farmer, she uses her own land at her house for cultivating. While Amy had always been intrigued by farming, she decided to start selling her produce and flowers at the farmer's Market this year to be able to pay for her farming. Amy has seven children, ages ranging from one to eleven years old. Her goal is to be able to pay for the food she uses on her table at home. Amy's enthusiasm with her farming was undeniable as she talked to customers who asked about her plants. Additionally, her passion showed through as we asked questions about her procedure. Amy explained that she does not use any insecticides or pesticides on her plants. When asked how she dealt with insects, she chopped it down to luck for not having any problems. However, she mentioned that she practices intercropping. All of her herbs, flowers, cabbage, and squash are all planted together. She also stated that the position of every plant has a purpose. Sunflowers are planted on the outside of the farming area to help with pollination; while squash bushes are on the other side to help keep deer out. Little things like not dealing with sprays and keeping animals and insects out of her garden allow her to focus on



other things going on in her life, like a vacation that she took last week. Despite her being absent at the market last Saturday, the co-op table still sold her produce. Moreover, Amy set up jams that were from a farmer that was not able to come that day. The co-op table had a great sense of community and belonging behind it, everyone was welcoming and helped when they could.

