University of Kentucky

STARS Application

Letter of Affirmation for Innovation 4:

1/22/2012

To Whom It May Concern:

 The UK College of Agriculture has operated a Community Supported Agriculture program for the past five years. In addition to working towards meeting the College of Ag’s responsibilities of research and extension in organic agriculture the CSA plays an integral role in the Sustainable Agriculture Undergraduate Curriculum.

 During the 2011 growing season the CSA brought in over $92,000 in revenue from the sale of shares in the program. All financial proceeds support the production of food during the growing season and student educational activities at the Horticulture Research Farm. By striving for financial self-sufficiency the UK CSA more closely resembles working farms in the region and, in doing so, provides more relevant extension and education opportunities.

 This innovative program involves student apprentices in every aspect of the production and marketing for the CSA giving them a unique, hands-on experience that broadens their understanding of organic farming systems.

Sincerely,

Ben Abell

Organic Farm Manager

University of Kentucky