



A Little Patch of Farm Life in the City




Susan Johnson, Ph.D. in the midst of the Urban Farm's greenery.

of Americans live in urban zones, nearly a 2 percent increase from 2000. Yet, there persists a desire to regain the simplicity associated with rural life away from the stress and faster pace that often accompanies city living. You can find Facebook pages and websites devoted to that issue.

On the campus of the Medical University of South Carolina, there is a half-acre devoted to this agrarian concept that has drawn crowds by the dozens. They come from all walks of life, are male and female, young and old, outdoor types and office workers itching to get their digits off a keyboard and get dirt under their fingernails. Since its opening in March 2012, MUSC's Urban Farm has attracted many volunteer "farmhands" who plant, maintain and cultivate the farm's 40 varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Susan Johnson, Ph.D., director of the Office of Health Promotion, which includes the farm, marvels at the result.

"It's been much better than I imagined," she admits.



"We thought the farm needed to be - in keeping with our mission - a place where people could come together and learn and grow."

