

- WHEREAS, Community gardening provides an estimated 1 million American households the opportunity to connect with the land, while enjoying the outdoors and earning an average annual return of approximately \$500; and
- WHEREAS, Gardens may be created in both rural and urban spaces, including vacant lots, schoolyards, rooftops, and the grounds of churches or hospitals; and
- WHEREAS, The average meal in the United States travels 1,200 miles from the farm to the dinner table. By growing crops in backyards across Kentucky or buying locally grown produce, families can eliminate wasteful burning of fossil fuels and have access to fresher, healthier produce; and
- WHEREAS, Community gardens benefit communities in multiple ways, including the provision of opportunities for family and community interaction, recreation, exercise, neighborhood beautification, and education as well as ways to eat healthfully and reduce food costs; and
- WHEREAS, On February 12, 2009, in commemoration of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Department of Agriculture dedicated The People's Garden at Departmental Headquarters on the National Mall and is working to expand its People's Garden Initiative into communities as a way of promoting healthful, nutritious food; sustainable land use; and natural resource conservation; and
- WHEREAS, Inspired by the White House's commitment to homegrown produce and fueled by a desire to raise "green" awareness, First Lady Jane Beshear joined with leaders from Western Hills High School, Kentucky Proud, and Access Food Pantry to develop and grow the first ever Governor's Garden. The Governor's Garden is a part of the larger Green Team initiative, which strives to promote sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim August 23-29, 2009, as

COMMUNITY GARDENING WEEK

in Kentucky to further awareness of community gardens' importance and many benefits, and call upon the citizens of the Commonwealth to seek opportunities in their homes, schools, and communities to promote and participate in community gardening activities.