Gardens Challenge Faculty

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Faculty members are aiding food production by Victory Gardening this year, says Lois Stewart

THE garden rake has become the symbol of America's newest battle of production. Center of a nationwide campaign to increase the food supply, the Victory Garden program offers Americans an opportunity to combine pleasure and profit with patriotism. Home economics professors have joined almost 200 other Iowa State faculty members in a college-sponsored garden project, which represents Iowa State's contribution to the nation's goal of eighteen million Victory Gardens by the end of this year.

Iowa State is opening 30 acres of college land south of the college residence section to those who wish to go into the gardening program more thoroughly than their own back yards will permit. Standard plots measure 40 by 100 feet, although some of the amateur gardeners have joined forces to increase production and make possible the raising of large-scale crops such as potatoes. Properly cultivated, each plot should provide enough food to feed an average family for one year. The plots are rented from the college until late November.

After the ground has been broken, the gardener is responsible for his own plot. He must furnish his own seeds, plant and cultivate the garden and keep the weeds under control. The college has indicated that only vegetables will be raised but the choice of specific crops is left to the gardeners. Common but versatile vegetables such as tomatoes, kale, onions, peas and carrots are leading in popularity.

Although the program has attracted a high percentage of faculty members, it is open to all residents of Ames. Among the interested groups are the Iowa State home management houses; each house will add a Victory Garden to its summer projects.

One of the first to sign up for the program was President Charles E. Friley, originator of the project, who has won nationwide prominence in the Victory Gardens Campaign through addresses on state and national radio networks. Other prominent staff members cooperating in the project are Mrs. Edith Barker, extension 4-H club director; Mrs. Madge I. McGlade, women's residence director, and Mrs. Eleanor Wilkins, Martha Duncan of Station WOI.

Members of the Home Economics Division participating in the program are Miss Lydia Swanson, head of the Child Development Department; Mrs. Elizabeth K. Sweet, of the Foods and Nutrition Department; Miss Iva L. Brandt and Mrs. Lois Strassburg, of the Textiles and Clothing Department, and Miss Regina J. Friant and Miss Mary Lyle, of the Home Economics Education Department.

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