Top Crops

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A new garden project at the WKU Farm offers much more than fresh fruits and vegetables.

Amy Bingham reveals the life lessons associated with Top Crops in this week’s View from the Hill.

When a special needs adult reaches the age of 21 and is no longer in school, the system of education and support essentially stops. Tapping into that potential and making a positive impact in the community

Bill Greer \ Co-founder, Top Crops

Johnny Nichols \ Top Crops worker

Ginna Greer \ Top Crops worker

 “We are Top Crops, we’re a garden for special needs adults.”

 “I like to help Coach Bill plant stuff.”

 “They see it growing from seed, they can pull the tomato off the vine and know they did that, they accomplished that.”

 “Learning how to plant, how to grow them and having a lot of fun at it.”

 “Some of it is the camaraderie. They get to come out and be with their friends. They get a chance to enjoy it together as a team.”

 “They go to the Farmers Market on Nashville Road, Community Farmers market on Saturday morning and they’re out selling their locally grown healthy vegetables and herbs.”

 “kale, radishes and green leaf lettuce.”

 ‘We’ve worked for special needs adults for many years through special Olympics. We’ve got a daughter with special needs, we just see potential in these individuals.”

 “It’s an opportunity for special needs adults to learn gardening, to learn sales skills, business skills. To learn how to change a five dollar bill.”

 “If you come to the Farmers Market and buy from Top Crops, the lessons are the ones you walk away with.”

Greer says the WKU farm, where the garden is located, has played a huge role in getting Top Crops off the ground. Be sure and stop by the Top Crops booth on Saturday mornings between 8 am and 1 pm at the Community Farmers Market on Nashville Road.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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