Taters for Tots education program at SAREC

**Investigators:** SAREC faculty and staff

**Issue:** Community outreach and youth education are among the goals of the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC). Among the specific goals is to educate elementary school students about the importance of agriculture to our state, nation, and world.

**Goal:** Host area school groups to SAREC each fall to teach them about agriculture in our area.

**Objectives:** Educate local youths about agriculture, in general, and potato production, specifically, through a hands-on program titled Taters for Tots, in which students work with adults to harvest potatoes.

**Expected Impact:** Teaching area youths about agriculture will inform them about the importance of this industry to our communities in terms of jobs and economic sustainability, and it’s our hope that such education will encourage young people to pursue careers directly or indirectly related to agriculture.

**Contact:** Brian Lee at blee@uwyo.edu or 307-837-2000.

**Keywords:** potato, youth education, community outreach

**PARP:** IX:5,7

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Evaluating biochar in a high tunnel environment

**Investigators:** Brian Lee, Jeff Edwards, and John Tanaka

**Issue:** Growing crops in high tunnels can be an efficient means to expand food production by extending the growing season; however, growing successive crops in high tunnels takes more fertilizer and other inputs to maintain soil health. Biochar—a sustainable carbon byproduct produced from plant matter—could help producers increase production.

**Goal:** Evaluate biochar and compost mixtures in high tunnels at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC [Fig. 1]), Goshen County Resource Center, and Eastern Wyoming College. The mixes will consist of 2% biochar/98% compost, 5% biochar/95% compost, and 100% compost. A small, measured amount of fertilizer will also be added.

**Objectives:** Evaluate the use of biochar mixed with compost to determine its effect on vegetable production and quality in a high tunnel setting.

**Expected Impact:** Results could help producers improve vegetable, fruit, and herb production in high and low tunnels, and the project will also provide the opportunity for students to work in the high tunnels and carry out research.

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**Keywords:** high tunnel, vegetable production, horticulture

**PARP:** I:2, II:5,8, VII:1, IX:9, X:1

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**Figure 1.** The SAREC high tunnel will be one of the sites for a vegetable production research project evaluating compost and biochar in 2018.