

# Victory Gardens in Oswego County During World War 2

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Sandy Creek News,  
January 28, 1942, page 3.

## Victory Gardens Program Planned

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“Secretary Plowing Boston Common 4/11/44. Victory Garden Program. Author unknown or not provided, April 11, 1944. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, 4079 Post Road, Hyde Park, NY; National Archives and Records Administration. This image is in the public domain in the U.S. because it is a work prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of that person’s official duties.

The Fulton Patriot  
February 19, 1942

## PROJECT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR THE VICTORY GARDEN

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An Oswego County Victory Garden project was organized at Fulton High school last Friday evening, when about 20 persons representing various organizations were present. Kenneth R. Miller, county club agent, and Miss Elizabeth Nichols, associate county agent, were in charge.

Ernest Pollard of Fulton was appointed general chairman and also chairman of the advisory committee, which is composed of Mrs. Theo Grant, Redfield; Mrs. Harris Greenman, Minetto; Mrs. H. W. Bales, Scriba; William T. Jackson, Fernwood; W. S. Gardner, Fulton; E. L. Black, Fulton, and Mr. Miller.

Another meeting to discuss a general program to be followed throughout the county will probably be held Feb. 26, with the exact date and place to be announced later.

Preliminary plans propose interesting every farmer in the county in having a vegetable garden, sufficient to provide this type of food throughout the summer with a surplus for winter canning. People in cities and villages who have vegetable garden experience will be urged to increase the size of their present gardens, if possible. Those who have no experience will be asked to contact members of the new organization for advice, which may result in the prevention of waste of valuable seed.

Among those present besides Mr. Miller and Miss Nichols were Ray-

mond Cooper, member of the state executive committee of the Grange; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Gabryels, Oswego, representing scouting interests; Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, Fernwood, county deputy and juvenile deputy of the Grange; Mr. Pollard, for the vegetable growers; Mrs. T. J. Campbell, Hannibal, Home Bureau; Mrs. Harris Greenman, Minetto, Oswego Garden club; Mrs. J. C. Birdle-bough and Mrs. VanDoren, Phoenix, Garden clubs; Nelson Mansfield and Miss Vera Caulum, Farm and Home Bureaus; Miss Helen O'Neill, Sandy Creek, representing the Home Economics teachers of the county, and Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Switzer, Pulaski, for civilian defense.

It is expected many other organizations having an interest in farm and home vegetable gardens will join the organization as soon as it is in operation.

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Above: Victory Gardens — for family and country. Frequent watering of the Victory Garden is necessary during the early stages of growth. The soil should be well watered and watering should not be done during strong sunshine. February/March 1943. Ann Rosener (1914-2012). This image is a work of an employee of the U.S. Farm Security Administration or Office of War Information domestic photographic units, taken as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the U.S. federal government, the image is in the public domain in the U.S.

## Campus School Busy Doing and Learning

The entire Campus School is on a project of planting Victory Gardens.

The Seventh Grade, in particular, has made a study of soils, plants and seeds. Along with this they have planted many window boxes with onions, cauliflower and cabbage plants. They are going to give away to individuals of the other grades in the campus some plants to transplant to their boxes provided these individuals show their gardens are well cared for.

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The Oswegonian, March 23, 1942, Page 5.

## The Editor Says —

### FOOD FROM THE SOIL

This year as never before, millions of people will toil in their newly established gardens, attempting to produce from the soil a supply of vegetables sufficient to overcome the shortage of canned foods which were once plentiful but now rationed. Many Victory Gardens will be planted with high hopes and allowed to grow without the attention and labor required to keep the weeds out. In rural communities it is to be expected that such cases would be rare; nevertheless, one would be surprised to learn of the large number of families in these communities for whom gardening has become a lost or neglected art. With the revival and care of these home gardens will come a better appreciation of the problems faced by the average farmer when he attempts to wrest a living from the soil. We hope all of the Victory Gardens will be successful; given the proper care and with the help of a favorable growing season they should produce enough vegetables to alleviate the shortage of food from other sources.

Sandy Creek News,  
April 21, 1943, page 2.

## Plant a Victory Garden

THIS YEAR OF ALL YEARS — HELP  
UNCLE SAM AND YOURSELF

### ALL KINDS OF VEGETABLE SEEDS In Bulk and 5c and 10c Packages

EBENEZER ONION SETS—For Spring and Winter Onions  
—Same high yield as previous years . . . . . 25c per lb.

VIGORO FERTILIZER—1-lb. to 100-lb. bags

LAWN SEED 35c lb. SHADY LAWN SEED 50c lb.

BROOM RAKES—29c, 49c, 79c and \$1.25

Spading Forks, Hand Cultivators, Rakes and Hoes  
and other necessary tools

Buy That Lawn Mower Now While Selections Are Complete

## JOHNSTON'S HARDWARE

5 South First Street

Fulton

The Fulton Patriot,  
April 30, 1942

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Above: Oswego, New York. A citizen working on Sunday morning in his victory garden. June, 1943. Marjory Collins (192-1985). Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. This image is a work of an employee of the United States Farm Security Administration or Office of War Information domestic photographic units, taken as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the US federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.

The Fulton Patriot, May 27, 1943.

#### **STORAGE EXHIBIT**

Victory gardeners can see the sort of storage facilities that can be built in any cellar if they will stroll into the lobby of the Oswego County Trust company and proceed to the east end of the lobby space. There, built on Tuesday by Kenneth Miller of Pulaski, 4-H club agent, is a replica of the planned storage bins, etc., as built at Cornell university for Victory Gardens.

It will pay anyone who is troubled about proper storage facilities to inspect this practical exhibit.

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Left: War Food Program. 1944.  
 "Grow More...Can More...in '44."  
 Special Collections, USDA National  
 Agricultural Library. [https://  
 www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/  
 items/show/244](https://www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/items/show/244).

The Fulton Patriot, August 5, 1943

### CANNING DEMONSTRATION

The Fulton Victory Garden council announced the conclusion of the food canning course, of which Mrs. Hobart Coles has been instructor, with two more sessions.

Aug. 11 — Several pickle recipes; preserves.

Aug. 18 — Tomato catsup and chili sauce.

Additional features will be presented each day. Mrs. Coles will answer canning questions.

There has been no change in the food outlook since the victory gardens were planted. It is very important that vegetables and fruits be preserved by some process for family use during the next year.

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## **Gives Report of Victory Gardens At Council Meet**

Kenneth R. Miller, county club agent and county Victory Garden coordinator, presented his report of gardening activities in Oswego county at the War Council meeting last week.

He reported that while only 2,105 gardeners had actually signed up last spring, it was estimated from a survey that there were 2,500 rural and 2,800 urban gardens of the victory type in the county last summer.

Through the Civilian Mobilization department, 15,000 circulars were sent out and 4,500 were sent out through the 4-H office. Soil testing sessions were held in the cities of Oswego and Fulton, and in the villages of Hannibal, Mexico, Central Square, Williamstown, Pulaski and Sandy Creek.

Late this fall questionnaires were sent out to gardeners who had registered and from these returns the following statistics show general results: Acres planted, 421; vegetables raised, 52,624 bushels; canned, 263,125 quarts; stored, 232,602 pounds; adults working, 3,789; children, 1,263; adults in families with gardens, 5,052; children, 2,105; times of spraying or dusting, 9,683; average number of varieties of vegetable per garden, 13.

Taking the canned vegetables at 30¢ per quart, and stored vegetables at 5¢ per pound, each garden produced \$43 without counting the value of vegetables consumed direct from the garden.

It is expected that the Victory Garden project will be developed on an even greater scale next year, the work of organization and registration starting earlier, and carried out more intensively.

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Mexico Independent, December 23, 1943

The Pulaski Democrat,  
December 23, 1943, page 1.

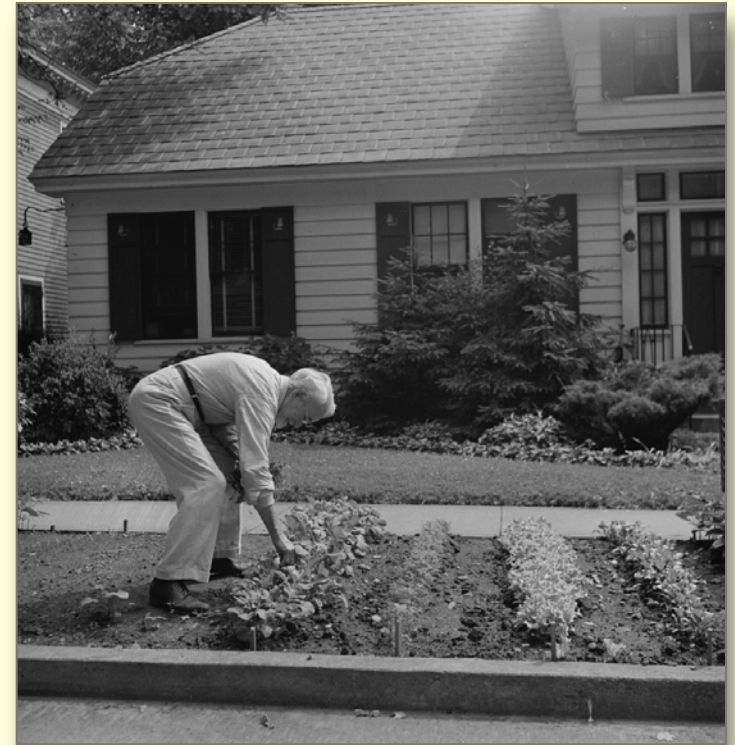
## MILLER REPORTS ON VICTORY GARDENS

A report from Kenneth R. Miller, Oswego county 4-H leader and executive secretary of the victory garden council here, indicates that residents in the county should be well supplied with vegetables this winter. The report was based on replies from approximately 2000 questionnaires which were sent to victory gardeners in November.

Miller says that a total of 2,105 victory gardens were registered but it is believed from a general survey there were at least 5,000 gardens in the county. Taking this as a figure it would mean that the vegetables for winter use alone were worth \$215,000. It is believed that a value of a half million dollars would not be too high for the total for the small home gardens.

In going over the reports there were some interesting facts disclosed. From the 2,105 registrations, it is estimated 421 acres were under cultivation, 263,125 quarts were canned, and 232,602 pounds of vegetables stored. A total of 3,789 adults and 1,263 children worked in gardens and the average garden produced 13 varieties of vegetables. Taking the estimated 5,000 gardens, these figures would be more than doubled.

Right: Oswego, New York. A citizen working on Sunday morning in his victory garden. June, 1943. Marjory Collins (192-1985). Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. This image is a work of an employee of the United States Farm Security Administration or Office of War Information domestic photographic units, taken as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the US federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.



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## Victory Gardens To Be Topic

A garden course will be given at Sandy Creek Central school at 8 p. m. next Wednesday evening, it has been announced by Nelson Davis, local teacher of agriculture. Both men and women are urged to attend this meeting, which will be held in the agriculture room at the school, as garden planning for family needs will be the main topic.

Soil testing and seed and soil treatment will also be services of the course. With authorities advancing the opinion that a couple of million new Victory gardens will be needed this year in addition to the number in production last year, every possible assistance and encouragement is to be given to the home gardener.

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Above: Author unknown or not provided. Office of Emergency Management, Office of War Information, Domestic Branch, Bureau of Special Services (1943-1945). "Shoot to Kill - Protect Your Victory Garden," between 1941 and 1945; National Archives and Records Administration. This image is a work of the United States Department of Treasury, taken or made as part of an employee's official duties. As a of the U.S. federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.

## City Youth Train To Work on Farms

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All farmers recognize a universal war problem—labor shortage. Several programs of training youth to help on farms were tried last year and were proved successful.

A program of recruitment of young men between the ages of 15 and 17 years in the New York City area and instruction for farm work in up-state rural centers has again been started by the Farm Cadet Victory Corps.

Mexico Academy and Central school has been selected for one of the training centers. Early in June the first group of trainees will arrive in Mexico for a two weeks' training program. Local farms will be used during this training period. The boys will be instructed in farm work skills on the farms by local farmers. The program plans for the instruction and supervision of 36 city boys during the 1944 season. After the completion of a two weeks training program the young men will be employed on Oswego county farms for the summer.

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Oswego, New York. Children, recruited for farm work, waiting outside the U.S. Employment Service to start work for the summer. June, 1943. Photographer: Marjory Collins (1912-1985). United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. This image is a work of an employee of the United States Farm Security Administration or Office of War Information domestic photographic units, taken as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the US federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.

Mexico Independent, June 8, 1944



Mexico Independent, March 15, 1945

## Oswego County's Victory Gardens To Be Expanded

More and large Victory gardens in Oswego county will be the slogan this spring and summer, according to announcement of Kenneth R. Miller, county club agent, who is also county co-ordinator for Victory gardens.

He expects an intensive campaign will be started soon to interest all persons, whether city or rural dwellers to cultivate as much land as possible to meet the great threat of a shortage of fresh vegetables during the summer and canned fruit and vegetables next winter.

Plans are being made to register all home gardeners in the county this year so that an accurate estimate may be made of their activities. Instructive pamphlets and other services will be given to them. It is expected that cards will be distributed shortly in schools of the county and to 4-H clubs, Grange members and other interested organizations.

These cards are self-addressed and require no postage. All persons planning home gardens are asked to fill in their names and addresses and mail in the cards.

It is expected that headquarters for the Victory gardens this year will be maintained again in the 4-H club offices in Pulaski courthouse. All garden clubs, 4-H clubs, Grangers, Dairy League locals and similar organizations will be asked to cooperate fully in the work, which will all be of a voluntary nature.

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Above: Oswego, New York. A citizen showing his wife vegetables from his victory garden as she starts her way to church. June, 1943. Marjory Collins (192-1985). Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. This image is a work of an employee of the United States Farm Security Administration or Office of War Information domestic photographic units, taken as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the US federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.

### **Questions for further research and discussion:**

1. Why were food shortages a concern?
2. Why were they called Victory Gardens?
3. Name at least four factors that played a role in food shortages.
4. Where did people buy seeds during the war?
5. How large was the average Victory Garden?
6. Make a list of all the vegetables that were grown in a typical Victory Garden. Which vegetables would you eat?
7. Find someone who gardens. What types of vegetables do they grow? What problems do they encounter in their own gardens?
8. Find someone who knows how to can. What are the steps needed to can?
9. How long can canned goods be stored?
10. How many farms existed in Oswego County during World War 2? How many exist today?
11. Besides Victory Gardens, what other ways did civilians help the war effort during World War 2?