



# News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## Mill Creek Correctional Facility Garden

The Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) garden continues to grow bigger each year with assistance from the hard-working garden crew. So far this year, the adults in custody have grown 24,000 pounds of tomatoes, zucchini, squash, cantaloupe, watermelons, corn, peppers, cucumbers, and many herbs – all which are used in the facility's kitchen.

The harvest is used to supplement MCCF's daily meals. When the kitchen is fully stocked with produce, the excess is shared with Marion-Polk Food Share and Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). Three loads of food, totaling around 2,400 pounds, have been taken to the Oak Creek Correctional Facility in Albany for female youth offenders. MCCF also took a few hundred pounds to Hillcrest, the male OYA facility in Salem.

Gardeners are also growing pumpkins to be used in the kitchen and for the upcoming MCCF Halloween Family Event. This event is designed for incarcerated fathers and their children to enhance their family bond. Each child will receive a pumpkin to carve while sharing treats and enjoying time with their fathers.

MCCF is an unfenced, minimum-security prison in Salem that houses approximately 290 male inmates who are within four years of release. The facility concentrates on work opportunities, most of which are in the form of work crews contracting with state agencies, local organizations, and private industries within a 60-mile radius of Salem. MCCF opened in 1929 as the Farm Annex of the Oregon State Penitentiary, housing 50 adult male offenders. The Farm Annex provided all of the milk, eggs, meat, fruit, and vegetables for the Oregon State Penitentiary and the State Hospital. The main building (as well as many of the out buildings that made up the farm) still stands today and, at 81 years old, it makes for the second oldest prison in the state.



*This giant pumpkin is one of a few Admiral Pumpkins that will be painted for the kids at the MCCF Halloween Family Event in October.*



*Delivery of produce grown at Mill Creek Correctional Facility to Oak Creek Correctional Facility in Albany.*

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