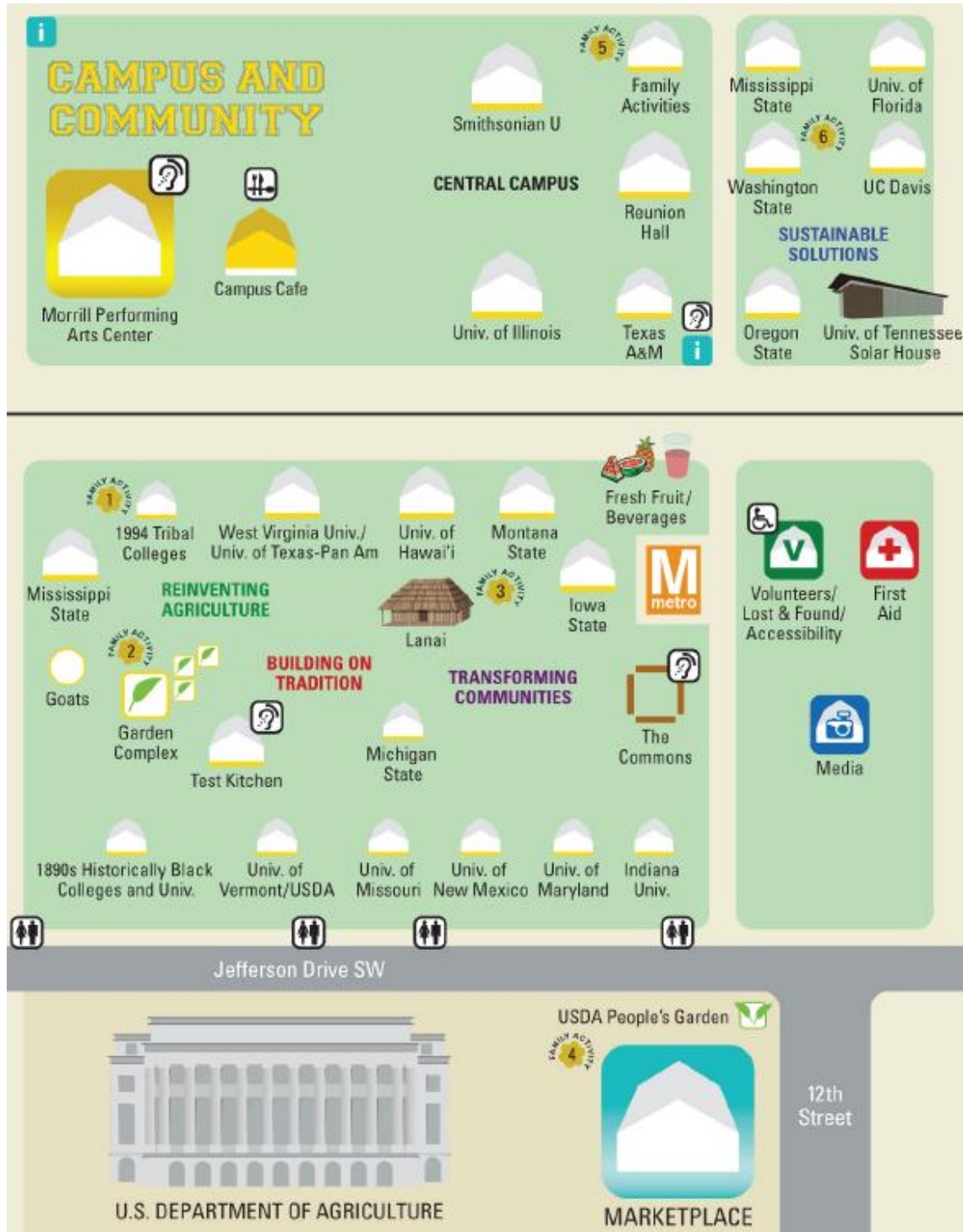


## 2012 Folklife Festival Virtual Garden Tour

The *Campus and Community* program features six beautiful gardens that showcase how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and land-grant universities from all over the nation help people learn about growing healthy foods in their communities. Explore the garden by clicking on the numbers in the Festival map.

Download our garden activity guide (link to PDF of family activities pamphlet) for a fun family activity!



**Format:**

The virtual garden tour will be a separate tab on the left-hand navigation column on the Campus and Community program section of the website. The general description and the above map will be at the top of the page. Below the visual will be descriptions of each garden (shown below), numbered appropriately. The “Family Activity” numbers (1 through 6) on the map will be clickable links that direct the user to the appropriate description on the same webpage. For instance, if a user clicks on Family Activity number 3, the webpage will automatically scroll down to University of Hawai’i’s Taro Garden description, located on the same webpage.

**Descriptions:**

The descriptions will include pictures of the gardens at the Festival and of the individual plants. The associated tent with each garden will have a link to the tent’s main webpage on the Festival website. To expand the descriptions further, they could also include additional links to other online resources or books that have more information about the particular plant species.

**(1) Three Sisters Plants – [1994s Consortium](#)**

For many centuries, Native Americans have been planting corn, beans, and squash—known as the “Three Sisters”—together to form a small ecosystem. Through this type of companion planting, the crops benefit from one another. Squash leaves funnel moisture to the plant roots; beans stimulate bacterial colonies releasing nitrogen into the soil, feeding the other plants; and the tall corn provides a trellis for the squash and beans to climb. The Three Sisters also represent the importance of family and farming in Native American communities.

**(2) High Tunnel Greenhouse – [1890s Consortium](#)**

A high tunnel is an unheated greenhouse that protects plants from extreme weather while allowing the sun’s rays to warm them. High tunnels are often referred to as hoop houses because of their simple design—basically a metal frame covered with plastic. Unlike traditional greenhouses, the high tunnel allows the crops to stand straight up while planted in the ground and to grow without the use of pesticides or threat of disease. The size and shape of the structures can be adapted, providing the most beneficial amount of sunlight for the crop being grown beneath the structure.

**(3) Taro Garden – [University of Hawai'i](#)**

Taro, the tuberous root of *Colocasia esculenta*, is also known as coco yam or dasheen. Probably native to Malaysia, it is grown in tropical and temperate climates around the world and eaten in most countries. Taro is central to Hawaiian culture. Best grown in well-watered upland plots, the root of taro (known as *kalo* in the Hawaiian language) is a staple of the Hawaiian diet. Taro is considered the manifestation of Hāloa, the ancestor of native Hawaiians, and respected as a food that brings all people, however distantly related, together as family.

**(4) People's Garden – [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack jackhammered an asphalt parking lot to create this garden on February 12, 2009, honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday. Lincoln established the USDA in 1862, calling it "The People's Department." Today, there are more than 1,700 People's Gardens across the United States, in 3 U.S. territories and 13 foreign countries. All People's Gardens are collaborative efforts that benefit their communities and incorporate sustainable practices. All produce grown at a People's Garden on USDA-owned or -leased property is donated to help those in need. The food grown in this garden is harvested by volunteers and donated to a local community kitchen every Tuesday.

**(5) Pizza Garden – [Michigan State University](#)**

The Pizza Garden was located in the Family Activities area. Kids of all ages love pizza, which can be a healthy choice for lunch with fresh toppings like those grown in our pizza garden, inspired by a similar one at Michigan State University's Children's Garden.

Our pizza garden features fresh tomatoes, basil, oregano, peppers, and onions. Cheese—the favorite ingredient of many—is represented at our pizza garden by yellow marigold flowers.

**(6) Power Plants – [Washington State University](#)**

Camelina is a genus within the flowering plant family *Brassicaceae* with an oil content that can reach as high as 40 percent. The species of camelina grown here and at Washington State University is *Camelina sativa*, which has been used as a source of oil since 600 BCE. Today, the oil derived from camelina is used to power farm equipment and other vehicles. Studies show this oil can reduce carbon emissions by as much as 80 percent. Camelina can also serve as animal feed, making it even more useful.