

Haskell Ag Lab Raised Beds

The raised beds are the first piece of the urban agricultural puzzle at Haskell Ag Lab. They are intended to demonstrate different techniques for backyard food production.

Three filling methods

- Hügelkultur
- Local soil mix
- Commercial topsoil (control)

Three design types

- Stock tank (on-hand)
- Full depth bed (\$315 each)
- Bed on legs (\$340 each)



Cedar planks milled from trees harvested at Niobrara State Park and provided by the Nebraska Forest Service.

Special thanks to Ashlyn Boeckenhauer for building the raised bed on legs as a 4-H project to be used for teaching.

What's in the beds?

	Hügelkultur <i>base layer (see image) then mixture of local soil, commercial topsoil, and commercial compost</i>	Local Soil Mix <i>mixture of local soil, organic materials (leaves/discarded feed), and commercial compost</i>	Commercial Topsoil <i>100% commercially available topsoil</i>
Stock tank	\$22	\$8	\$84
Full depth bed	\$39	\$15	\$152
Bed on legs	\$22	\$14	\$104

Top Layer: Rich Soil



Layer 3: Organic Material / Compost



Layer 2: Twigs



Base: Logs



image credit: whyfarmit.com

What's growing?

2024: Green beans and cucumbers

Future plans: pasta sauce fixings, pickling produce, smoothie ingredients, etc

Lessons Learned

- Turkeys like newly seeded raised beds
- Cucumbers can choke out green beans
- Hügelkultur seems to be most productive so far