PROJECT SUMMARY

Instructions:
The summary is limited to 250 words. The names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PD/PI) should be listed in addition to the title of the project. The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should focus on: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the goals of the program. The importance of a concise, informative Project Summary cannot be overemphasized.

Title: Outdoor Low-Cost Volumetric Urban Farming

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CO-PD: Peterson, Steven, S.	**Institution:** University Of Idaho
CO-PD: Putnam, Gabriel	**Institution:** Individual
CO-PD: PD/PI 4 Name (Last, First, MI)	**Institution:**
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CO-PD: PD/PI 7 Name (Last, First, MI)	**Institution:**

Our proposal is to install a low-tech, vertical system for growing food crops and gathering volumetric output, social science, and economic data. The purpose is to help low-income growers install a simple, low-cost system and produce their own food. The education component would include presenting results and training growers on using the system as well as presenting at conferences and writing at least one journal article on the project. The project results can be applied to USDA priorities including identifying and promoting horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, outdoor vertical growing. The project will also innovate automated volumetric data collection. Social scinece data sets will be used to inform and improve the educational program and adopatbility of the system. The project will include an Economic Impact Analysis and financial forecasting for the sytem so growers can utilize the system to start new business lines or new businesses. The project fits the definition of “emerging agricultural production systems” and will be applicable to rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls.

Key words: vertical farming, volumetric farming, emerging agriculture, low-cost, automated data collection