



## WEED RACES

The WEIGHING STATION is equipped with a hanging spring scale and a bar graph mounted on a strip of plywood. The team places its bucket handle on the spring scale hook. With the help of the WEIGHING STATION adult, the team learns to read the scale and records the number of pounds of weeds on the bar graph.

- Nothing goes to waste on the Farm. So the team delivers their weeds to a poultry pen. The team opens the gate, walks into the pen, and pours the weeds on the ground. Poultry gobble them up as their "salad". The team goes back to weed in the same area again.
- The bar graph may be taken back to class for follow-up analysis.  
Follow-up questions might include:  
What team pulled the most weeds?  
What team pulled the least weeds?  
Were any teams tied? Which ones?  
How much did team A and B pull altogether?  
How much did team A, B and C pull altogether?  
How many pounds of weeds did our class pull in all?

You may want to have a series of weed races on different days and/or in different areas of the garden to compare graphs. The graphs could be duplicated for homework and other follow-up activities.

- During weed races students have first-hand experience with the basic parts of a plant: roots, stem, leaves, flower. You may want to take one of your weeds back to class to discuss these parts and to make a chart.
- As weeds are pulled, students often notice the different root systems. You may want to discuss the different types of roots: fleshy, fibrous, tap. You may want to have a weed race focusing on kinds of roots:

LONGEST  
(tap roots)

FATTEST  
(fleshy roots)

MOST  
(fibrous roots)

