



Educating Future Generations about Agriculture

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Abstract

The primary goal of the Illinois State University Agricultural Science Club (ASC) is to engage and educate the local community about agriculture through student driven outreach programs. The club has designed and participated in numerous activities to promote agriculture awareness to various audiences in our local community. Examples include Ag Day on the quad, pumpkin farm tours, and reached out to students at the local YMCA. In the Spring of 2016, club members designed an educational Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) poster that was presented on the quad for Ag Day. Club members taught 175 university students and faculty members about GMOs and how they have a positive impact in our society. Finally, we reached out to the community by visiting a local pumpkin producer and hosted tours on the seven-acre farm. Club members educated families about proper fertilizer management practices to maximize pumpkins growth, as well as, different soil horizons, conservation practices, and how water infiltration can affect pumpkin development. The ASC members have been active at university, public events, and with producers to create a positive transfer of agriculture concepts in our local community. Through our outreach approximately 3,100 individuals have been positively impacted. The outreach experience has equipped ASC members with the skills to promote and improve agriculture awareness in the Midwest and across the nation.



Objectives

- Educate the future advocates about basic agriculture principles.
- Create and implement various demonstrations and experiments to further the communities' knowledge of agriculture
- Interact with various age groups within the community

Methodology

- Educated individuals about basic agriculture practices and terminology.
- Addressed the communities questions about agriculture.
- Conducted trivia wheel challenge at Wagon Wheel Pumpkin Farm.

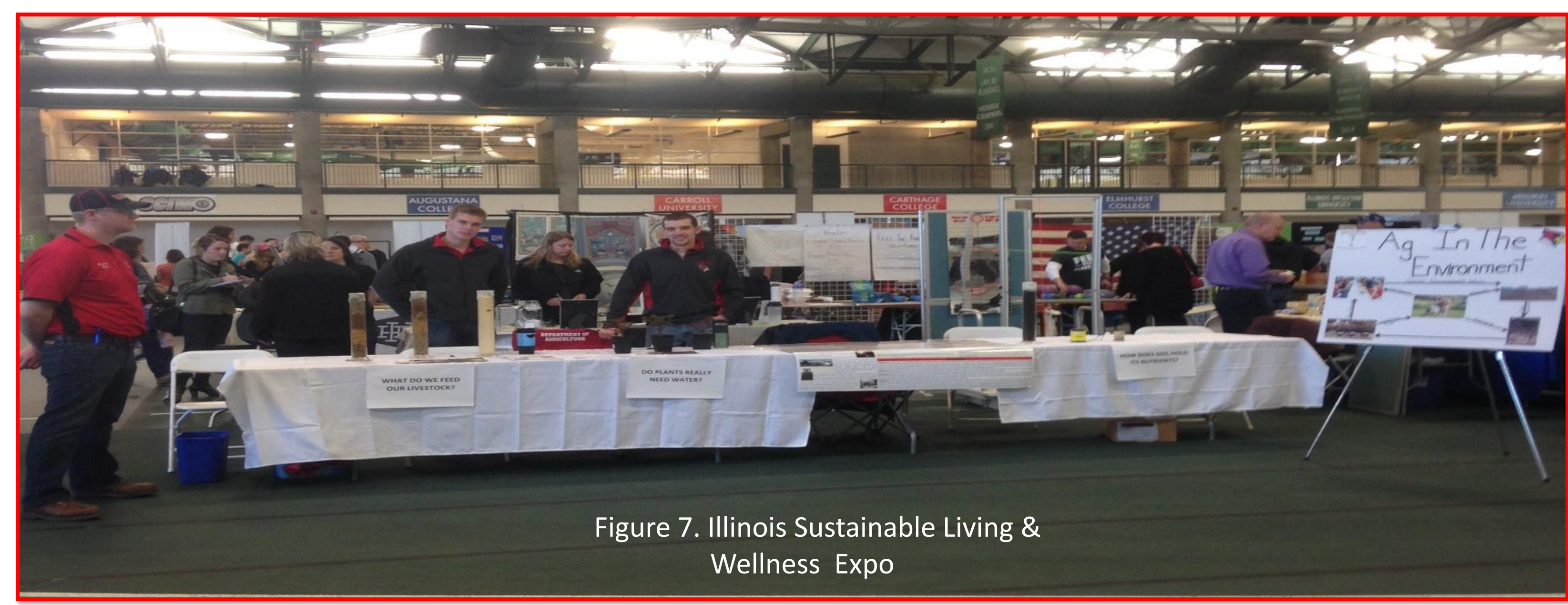


Impact to the Community

- Reached over 2000 youth and parents to answer common agriculture questions
- Brought awareness to campus about genetically modified organisms
- Better understanding of the "Farm to Fork" process

Impact to Club Members

- More experience in teaching agriculture
- Greater connection with the community
- Enhanced comradery among club members



Results

- Individuals gathered factual knowledge of many different aspects of agronomy, including fertility, tillage, soils, conservation practices, and diversified crops.