



North Carolina State University Farm Animal Days



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Abstract

Farm Animal Days is an event hosted by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University (NCSU). This event is used to educate elementary age school children about where their food comes from. The program is held at the NCSU Beef Educational Unit. NCSU Agronomy Club members were present for each of the three days of the event to facilitate student learning and to answer questions from students and parents. The booth set up by the club showcased crops grown across North Carolina, from field to finished product. Crop plants growing in pots were used to show students and parents what each crop looks like while in the field. Bins of seed were displayed to let students feel what each seed was, and see what they looked like. Various food and clothing products were displayed to illustrate the diversity of products processed or manufactured from agronomic crops. Approximately 10,000 people attended the event over the three days. The students were very responsive to our visuals and presentation. The knowledge we shared with the students and parents helped to educate the general , urban society who does not have access to farm life on a day to day basis.

Objectives

Educate children on food production by:

- Showing the students various crop plants and seeds.
- Describing the importance of agriculture to the population.
- Connecting production agriculture to where their food comes from.

Discussion

- Interact with kids as they explored Farm Animal Days.
- Allow kids to touch seeds and plants.
- Describe which foods are made from each crop shown.
- Answer any questions from children and parents.

Conclusion

- Interacted with over 10,000 elementary age children over three days.
- Connected with home-school and public school children, parents and teachers.
- Enjoyed seeing children understand where their food comes from.
- Learned better ways to communicate agriculture to various age groups.



Materials and Methods

- Grew plants used for food as a demonstration.
- Collect bins of soybean, wheat and corn seeds.
- Construct a mystery seed box for a guessing game with the children.

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