Dickinson County Extension together with the Farm Service Agency and the Department of Natural Resources boosted science education for over 180 sixth-grade youth at the Annual Outdoor Classroom. Extension’s Iowa Rocks! hands-on learning station, aligned with core standards, benchmarks and grade-level indicators for Iowa earth science.

Students were provided the opportunity to better understand concepts and relationships in science. They were paired with another student to study about rocks and minerals found in the state of Iowa. As a team, they were asked to gather information; present about where the rock is found in Iowa; and what it is used for.

A large sugar cookie formed into the shape of Iowa was their canvas. They spread cream cheese on the cookie to represent limestone deposits and added fruits like strawberries, grapes, and apples to represent rocks found throughout the state.

Youth practiced communication and presentation skills, teambuilding, decision-making, and application of concepts as part of this educational day.

“Iowa Rocks!” is an example of a great partnership with the school districts and agencies in Dickinson County to help young people develop new knowledge and skills to better prepare for their future.

“When Extension provides research-based curriculum and trained staff for educational programs like this Outdoor Classroom, the result is expanded community partnerships and high quality learning opportunities for our children.”

Karen Byers, Dickinson County Extension Director

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