

Extension... “Ag-Citing” Youth About Agriculture

Rooted in changing demographics of fewer and fewer people living on farms (less than 2% of Americans) and young people becoming one or more generations removed from the farm, the “Ag-Citing” experience at the Clay County Fair came to be.

This past year “Ag-Citing” had a complete make-over. New interactive stations including: DNA extraction from bananas, retinal imaging of livestock, renewable energies such as Iowa wind farms, and identification of grains and value-added products produced in Iowa were part of the makeover. Additionally, nearly 1000 students donned new red “Ag-Citing” vests for their barn-walkabouts with 50 volunteer Ag Ambassadors. They could be spotted throughout the 261 acre fairgrounds learning about new technologies in farm equipment, livestock productions, and conservation & natural resource practices.



New classroom activities were created to help prepare students for the experience and additional activities were provided to teachers to enrich the experience after the fair. A new web-link and monthly newsletters completed the make-over to “Ag-Cite” Youth About Agriculture!

Teachers reported that “Ag-Citing” increased student knowledge in agriculture; enriched classroom curriculum; impacted youth skill development; provided valuable pre/post-curriculum; and was a vital component of meeting classroom standards.

Students commented: “I had an Ag-Citing time...I can’t wait to go back so I can show my parents.” “It was fun when we made soil. I didn’t know that sand, silt, and clay made soil.” “We learned that milk comes from a dairy cow. Corn is gold to farmers. Bacon comes from pigs, and once a bee stings it dies.” “Thank you for showing & teaching me stuff. It was so cool! I hope to come back next year!”



“Ag-Citing provides truly unique opportunities for youth (and adults) to learn about the importance of agriculture in Iowa through partnerships with the agri-business industry. Many thanks to Monsanto for being a major contributor to this program.”

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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Clay County Extension Office at 712-262-2264. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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