

Ag Literacy Festival Funding Proposals

EMPOWERED by STATE EFFORT

PRESENTED BY

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PURPOSE

The Nebraska Extension Agricultural Literacy 4-H Signature Outcome Team has developed a funding proposal at the request of the state commodity boards. The proposal focuses on funding request for the state-wide Ag Literacy Festivals. If Extension faculty/staff choose to participate in the proposal and meet the requirements, they are eligible for the funds for their local festival.

The goal of the state-wide proposal is to have consistent state-wide Ag Literacy Festivals that increase youth's knowledge and understanding about agriculture concepts that includes a better understanding of our area's consistent supply of quality commodities and value-adding industries. By providing (and requiring) consistency of festival content in order to acquire state funds, Extension faculty/staff will be better equipped to educate youth about the role agriculture plays in the state and local economy as well as in their daily lives.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Ag Literacy Festivals across the state of Nebraska provide education to youth who will share information with their family members as well as become adult consumers.

The program's outcomes are the following:

- Youth will know where their food comes from.
- Youth will develop positive attitudes and interests regarding local agriculture.
- Youth will utilize scientific principles as they apply to agriculture.

Ag Literacy Festival FUNDING PROPOSAL REQUEST

REQUIREMENTS

1. Program is to be named "Ag Literacy Festival".
2. Utilize state-wide festival evaluation – provide to the teachers, gather results and submit to the proper state contact as well as to the state data base.
3. Focus on target audience of 3rd and 4th grade students.
4. Utilize curriculum/lessons that has been developed by the Nebraska Extension Agricultural Literacy 4-H Signature Outcome Team.
5. Complete a "Request for Funds Form" and submit with the evaluation results to the proper state contact.

CURRICULUM/LESSONS

LESSON TOPICS: (1) Agriculture Technology, (2) Corn & Soybean Production, (3) Corn & Soybean Products, (4) Dairy, (5) Beef, (6) Pigs/Pork

Lessons are 15 to 20 minutes long and include scripts, PPT, storyboard visual aids, and/or a list of other visuals.

- Additional lessons can be added based on local needs.
- If time allows, students will be briefed as an entire group after attending their final session.
- Part of the discussion may include encouraging the students (and their teachers) to be more aware of the products they consume.
- EXAMPLES: "When you are in the grocery store with an adult, look at labels and check out the ingredients - look to see if the products contain corn and/or soybeans."
- Students are also encouraged to tell at least two people two different things that they learned from attending the Ag Literacy Festival. This provides an opportunity of reflection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
dodge.unl.edu/PosterSession

Ag Literacy Festival PHOTOS

Nebraska Corn Board Intern plays an interactive BINGO game about corn and soybean products with students during the Corn & Soybean Products Session.



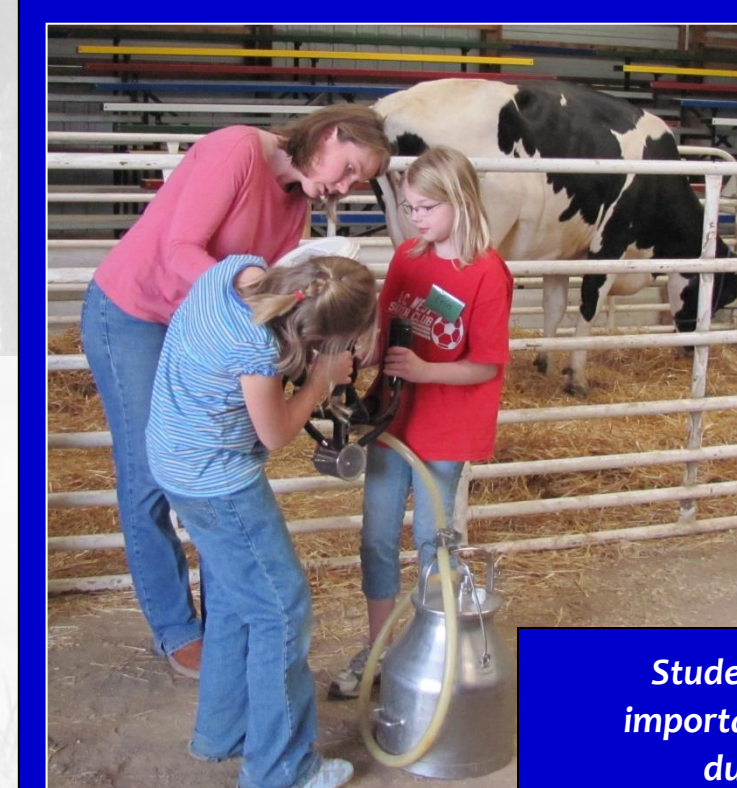
Nebraska Extension Educator presents the size of a bushel during the Corn & Soybean Production Session.



Students enjoy the view from the sprayer during the Agriculture Technology Session.



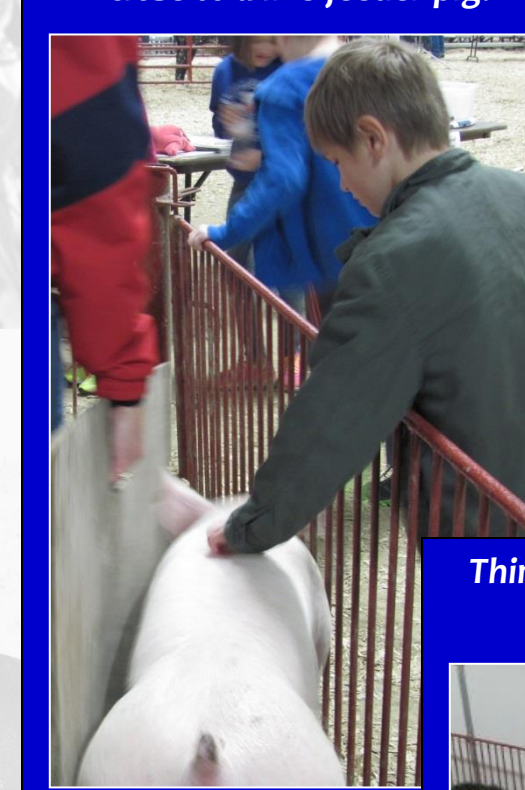
Students assist Midwest Dairy Association-Nebraska Division staff member to simulate milking a cow with current milking equipment.



Students learn more about the importance of animal medications during the Beef Session.



During the Pigs/Pork Session, students had the chance to get close to a live feeder pig.



Third grade students learn more about housing facilities during the Pigs/Pork Session.



EVALUATION

Based on one Nebraska Extension "Ag Literacy Festival" in 2014: Data was collected by utilizing a hard copy evaluation form distributed to the 33 classroom teachers attending the festival. The rate of return was 88%. Evaluation forms included a Likert scale of 1 = "no increase" to 5 = "extreme increase."

Results for the individual sessions are indicated below.

- Agriculture Technology = 3.88
- Corn & Soybean Production = 3.92
- Corn & Soybean Products = 4.00
- Beef = 3.84
- Dairy = 3.96
- Pigs/Pork = 3.81
- Overall "Increase in Knowledge" = 3.90/5.00.

When asked, "As a result of participating, what did your students learn?" teachers replied:

- "They learned so much about the benefits that exist through agriculture. They were able to identify the role that it plays in our everyday life."
- "Basic facts about the livestock in Nebraska, how corn and soybeans are used and how technology has changed farming."
- "They are still talking about the comparison of a football field to one acre."
- "What is grown and raised in Nebraska and how agriculture is beneficial."
- "Agriculture involves much more than crops in the field."
- "Food comes from a farm and not just a grocery store."