Presented by
Tracy J. Behnken, Nebraska Extension Educator, ttheiken2@unl.edu
Nebraska Extension in Dodge County
1206 W. 31st Street, Fremont Nebraska 68025-2504
Ph: 402-727-2775 | Website: dodge.unl.edu

Cindy Brison, Nebraska Extension Educator, cbrison1@unl.edu
Nebraska Extension in Douglas/Sarpy Counties
805 W Center Road, Omaha Nebraska 68134
Ph: 402-444-7816 | Website: douglas-sarpy.unl.edu

Situation
Today’s U.S. population includes less than two percent who live on farms and less than five percent living on farms in Nebraska. With the average person three generations removed from farming and one of four jobs in Nebraska focusing on agriculture, it’s extremely important to educate youth about the various aspects of agriculture so they understand how it affects their daily lives as well as the global world. Nebraska Extension professionals understand the importance of educating youth about agriculture and developed a program to do so.

Abstract & Program Description
“WHERE DOES YOUR FOOD COME FROM?” is a program developed by Extension Educators that focuses on teaching students where their food comes from. This farm to school program evolved as a result of a newly established plant science program in a local elementary school (K-6 students). This new plant science program was named “Cultivating Plants & Minds” and was created by a local Extension Educator who provides support to the school. The program outcomes focus on (1) Youth will know where their food comes from; (2) Youth will develop positive attitudes and interests regarding local agriculture; and (3) Youth will utilize scientific principles as they apply to plant science (agriculture).

While it was easy to observe the students utilizing scientific principles during visits to the Grow Lab, it was much harder to identify their increased knowledge of where their food comes from. Therefore, the Extension Educator who helped establish the Grow Lab called upon another local Extension Foods and Nutrition Educator for guidance with nutrition education. Together, with a core team of teachers, developed the “Where does your food come from” program. The program consisted of two school assemblies (K-6 grades) teaching students where their food comes from.

A lunch menu was predetermined by the Extension Educators and was served by the lunch staff on the day of the assembly. The lunch included: hamburgers (with or without cheese) on a bun, French fries, fresh green peppers, baked apples and milk to drink. The snack served immediately after the assembly was popcorn and milk.

During the assembly, the Extension Educators discussed each lunch and snack item – tracing their origins back to the farm and beyond. Visuals for the assembly included a PowerPoint program, video clips, and supporting local and regional farmers. The assembly started off using the “GrowIt KnowIt” mobile app developed by the Nebraska University of Nebraska’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The lively free app gave students their first feed stuffs and milking equipment. The assembly started off using the “GrowIt KnowIt” mobile app developed by the University of Nebraska’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The lively free app gave students their first feed stuffs and milking equipment.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
ANNOUNCEMENT
“FARM TO SCHOOL” ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014
12:45–1:45 p.m. (Grades K–3)
1:45–2:45 p.m. (Grades 4–6)

Nebraska Extension Educators will be teaching students where their food comes from based on the school lunch served that day and how it relates to Nebraska agriculture. Students will also receive a snack of local food that includes milk and popcorn.

With the support of Nebraska Extension, Heritage Elementary School received funds from the Douglas County Farm Bureau to start a plant science program. In January 2014, “Cultivating Plants & Minds” began with students planting lettuce, spinach and other salad greens. Heritage teachers are using our unique plant laboratory to teach students about plants and agriculture science through hands-on activities. Beyond the sciences, students will be learning where their food comes from and how it connects to agriculture.

FARM TO SCHOOL is a program that connects K-12 schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in schools, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SNACK DONORS
Milk provided by Prairieland Dairy – Firth NE
Popcorn provided by Just Pop’d Popcorn – Omaha, NE

For more information, go to:
dodge.unl.edu/PosterSession

Program Evaluation
“FARM TO SCHOOL” ASSEMBLY
Presented by Tracy J. Behnken, Nebraska Extension Educator, ttheiken2@unl.edu
Nebraska Extension in Dodge County
1206 W. 31st Street, Fremont Nebraska 68025-2504
Ph: 402-727-2775 | Website: dodge.unl.edu

“CULTIVATING PLANTS & MINDS” is a program that connects K-12 schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in schools, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers.

With the support of Nebraska Extension, Heritage Elementary School received funds from the Douglas County Farm Bureau to start a plant science program. In January 2014, “Cultivating Plants & Minds” began with students planting lettuce, spinach and other salad greens. Heritage teachers are using our unique plant laboratory to teach students about plants and agriculture science through hands-on activities. Beyond the sciences, students will be learning where their food comes from and how it connects to agriculture.

FARM TO SCHOOL is a program that connects K-12 schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in schools, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers.

Special thanks to our snack donors: Nebrat Dairy (Firth, NE), Omaha Wholesale Popcorn (Omaha, NE), and the Nebraska Farm Bureau. For more information, please visit: dodge.unl.edu/PosterSession