

Ag Literacy Coalition

Current and Past Sponsorship includes:

- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Douglas County Farm Bureau
- Lancaster County Farm Bureau
- Midwest Dairy Association
- Nebraska AgRelations Council
- Nebraska Agri Business Club
- Nebraska Beef Council
- Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board
- Nebraska Extension in Saunders, Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties
- Nebraska Poultry Industries
- Nebraska Pork Producers Association
- Nebraska Soybean Board
- Omaha Agribusiness Club
- Papillion Grange No. 401
- University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center
- Waverly Grange

Our Mission... To increase youths' knowledge and understanding about agriculture concepts by cooperatively bringing together several disciplines.

Our Goal... The goal of the Ag Literacy Coalition is to help youth, primarily from urban communities, become aware of agriculture. The group develops resources and opportunities that will increase youth understanding and awareness about agricultural concepts.

Over 27,300 students learn about the importance of AGRICULTURE!

As communities continue to urbanize, youth are losing touch with Nebraska's greatest resource - AGRICULTURE. The Ag Literacy Coalition seeks to bring youth back in touch with agriculture by hosting Agricultural Awareness Festivals in the fall and spring.

The first fall festival was held in 1996 at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC) near Mead, Nebraska. The one-day event served as a pilot project for 200 Omaha Public School sixth-graders. It has since grown to four days annually and hosted up to 950 fourth-grade students, primarily from Douglas, Sarpy and Saunders Counties.

Over 16,700 students have attended the fall festival from 1996-2018. In an effort to reach more urban youth, a spring festival was added in 2001 at the Lancaster County Event Center in Lincoln. This festival is primarily for Lancaster County youth. Over 8,200 students have attended the spring festival. In 2016, additional festival days were added at Cooper Farms in Omaha, Nebraska and in Sarpy/Cass County in 2018. The addition has provided an opportunity for schools to attend that previously were not able to due to travel time constraints. So far over 1,300 have attended at Cass County and over 1,100 at the Sarpy/Cass County time constraints.

At the festivals, students learn about a variety of ag concepts, production and products. Topics vary by site and year, including: beef production/products and food safety, ruminant nutrition, dairy production/products and nutrition, grain production/products, farming technology, water resources and irrigation, swine production/products, poultry production/products, sheep, and horses. Goats, horticulture, and ask a farmer sessions have also been included, depending on the time available.

Busing continues to be a major expense, but is vital to the success of the festivals.

The festivals include hands-on activities, livestock, and food samples.

Learning about technology in ag

Learning about the role of ag in everyday living

Students and teachers consistently give the festivals excellent reviews!

Blender bikes for making smoothies

SPRING AG LITERACY FESTIVAL - Lincoln, Nebraska

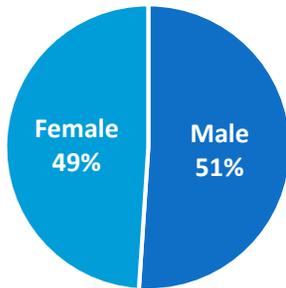
2016 Results and Impact

DATES: April 5-6, 2016

LOCATION: Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

548 FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

Cavett, Clinton, Eagle Elementary, Faith Lutheran, Lincoln Christian Messiah Lutheran, Norris, St. Joseph, and Trinity Lutheran



American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	6%
Latino/Hispanics	5%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
Non-Latino/Hispanic	28%
White	58%
Live on farms	8%
Live in rural area	25%
Live in town	11%
Live in suburb of over 50,000	9%
Live in central city of over 50,000	46%



Averages - Program Knowledge Rating

(Rating scale of 5- strongly agree to 1 – Strongly Disagree)

- 4/5- Youth are able to explain the progression of agriculture technology and how it affects corn and soybean production.
- 3.8/5- Youth are able to identify the importance of technology in agriculture to help farmers feed the world.
- 4/5- Youth are able to determine what products they use in their lives are from corn and soybeans.
- 4/5- Youth are able to explain how corn and soybeans are used for different purposes (human/animal/energy).
- 3.6/5- Youth are able to recognize the corn and soybean production cycles.
- 3.8/5- Youth are able to identify the science behind the Plant Life Cycle.
- 3.4/5- Youth are able to apply math utilizing corn and soybean production statistics.
- 3.7/5- Youth can summarize the beef production cycle.
- 3.7/5- Youth can recognize beef products and by-products.
- 3.9/5- Youth can describe how pig farmers care for their pigs.
- 3.7/5- Youth can express how pig farmers care for the environment.
- 3.8/5- Youth can identify dairy products.
- 3.9/5- Youth can tell others about the milk production cycle and how dairy farmers care for their dairy animals.

SPRING AG LITERACY FESTIVAL - Lincoln, Nebraska

2016 Results and Impact

- continued

Which session best complements what you teach in the classroom? Please explain.

- "It was all good for what we teach in the fourth grade curriculum, but the crops and livestock was probably the most beneficial".
- "I felt like there was something in each session that tied to our Nebraska studies. It was a great opportunity for those kids who do not live on a farm to get to see the animals first hand".

In your opinion, what was the one thing students were most excited about learning?

- "Animals and how they are used on the farm"
- "Students loved seeing the animals and learning about them. They also were quite intrigued by the products made from soybeans, corn, beef, and hogs".

Please explain why you would or would not participate in the program again.

- "The students were highly engaged and enjoyed the hands on learning experience they had at the festival".
- "It was very educational! Not all of our kids are from farming families. I even learned stuff I did not know! :)"

As a result of participating in this program, what did your students learn?

- "What animals look like in real life, the impact that agriculture has on them in Nebraska even if they have never seen a farm before and the chance to experience agriculture first hand".
- "They learned about the many aspects of agriculture. From where food is grown to how it is made into other products".

As a result of participating in this program, how do you think your students will apply what they learned?

- "They will probably be more aware of products and where they came from when they are at the store with their parents".
- "I think they will be more aware of where their food comes and how certain foods are better for you. They will also understand that farmers are using most of all the crops and livestock for something that is either edible or useable".

Please make suggestions and/or comments.

- "It was great"
- "Everything was well-done! Thanks for the opportunity!"



Find us on the web:

<http://ardc.unl.edu/agawareness.shtml>

Ag Literacy Coalition and Current and Past Sponsors:

- Douglas County Farm Bureau • Midwest Dairy Association
- Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom • Nebraska AgRelations Council
- Nebraska Agri Business Club • Nebraska Beef Council
- Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board
- Nebraska Extension in Saunders, Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties
- Nebraska Pork Producers Association • Nebraska Soybean Board
- Omaha Agribusiness Club • Papillion Grange No. 401
- University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center at the Agricultural Research and Development Center

ADDITIONAL DONORS & IN-KIND SUPPORTERS FOR THIS FESTIVAL

INCLUDE: Lancaster County Farm Bureau: \$2500 (applied to 2017), Waverly Grange: \$300, Nebraska Poultry Industries: \$1,000.

For more information contact:

Cole Meador, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County
Phone: (402) 441-7180
E-mail: cmeador2@unl.edu.

FALL AG LITERACY FESTIVALS

- *Near Mead, Nebraska*
- *Omaha, Nebraska*

2016 Results and Impact



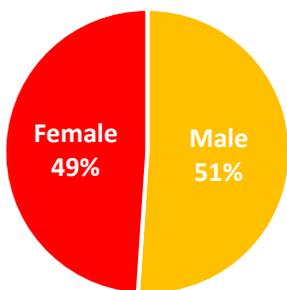
DATES/LOCATIONS: Oct. 3, 4, & 6, 2016 at the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center (ENREC) located at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead, Nebraska and Oct. 19 & 20, 2016 at Cooper Farms in Omaha, Nebraska

SCHOOLS ATTENDING: Ackerman, Blumfield, Indian Hill, Karen Western, Lothrop Magnet Center, Mary Our Queen, Meadows, Mockingbird, Rohwer, Sandoz, Seymour, St. Robert's Bellarmine, St. Wenceslaus- Wahoo, Willowdale, Wilson Focus, and Yutan

ATTENDANCE:

- 558 – ENREC (ARDC)
- 285 – Cooper Farms
- 50 – 3rd Graders
- 793 – 4th Graders

American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Asian	2%
Black or African American	12%
Latino/Hispanics	12%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Non-Latino/Hispanic	21%
White	53%
Live on farms	1%
Live in rural area	13%
Live in town	6%
Live in suburb of over 50,000	54%
Live in central city of over 50,000	27%



Averages - Program Knowledge Rating

(Rating scale of 5- strongly agree to 1 – Strongly Disagree)

- 3.6/5- Youth are able to explain the progression of agriculture technology and how it affects corn and soybean production.
- 4.1/5- Youth are able to identify the importance of technology in agriculture to help farmers feed the world.
- 4.1/5- Youth are able to determine what products they use in their lives are from corn and soybeans.
- 4/5- Youth are able to explain how corn and soybeans are used for different purposes (human/animal/energy).
- 3.5/5- Youth are able to recognize the corn and soybean production cycles.
- 3.6/5- Youth are able to identify the science behind the Plant Life Cycle.
- 3.5/5- Youth are able to apply math utilizing corn and soybean production statistics.
- 3.5/5- Youth can summarize the beef production cycle.
- 3.9/5- Youth can recognize beef products and by-products.
- 3.9/5- Youth can describe how pig farmers care for their pigs.
- 3.7/5- Youth can express how pig farmers care for the environment.
- 4.3/5- Youth can identify dairy products.
- 3.9/5- Youth can tell others about the milk production cycle and how dairy farmers care for their dairy animals.

FALL AG LITERACY FESTIVALS

- *Near Mead, Nebraska*
- *Omaha, Nebraska*

2016 Results and Impact

- continued

Which session best complements what you teach in the classroom? Please explain.

- "All sessions did because they teach about the NE economy and agriculture."
- "Most of them match up with our Nebraska History curriculum, but the one with the Soy beans and corn game probably did the most. They learned what products Nebraska produces and what they are used for."
- "What crops we grow in Nebraska and their uses. The students are amazed with the number of products that are produced from the animals and crops and byproducts that are not commonly known."

In your opinion, what was the one thing students were most excited about learning?

- "I think they learned a lot and liked any station that had visuals or something to touch."
- "They were shocked about how much it costs to irrigate a field. They were amazed that it take 6,000 gal. of water to raise an acre of corn."
- "My class was most excited about learning about the animals and getting to see the animals. Some of them have never actually seen farm animals up close, so they were very excited to get to see them."

Please explain why you would or would not participate in the program again.

- "It fits perfectly with our curriculum & we love that it is free."
- "I will always choose to participate in this program because it allows our "city" kids to get up close and personal with agriculture."
- "Our children are farther and farther removed from agriculture because there are fewer family farms. People especially children need to know where their food comes from and how it is raised. Ag Festival does a good job during this."
- "For my inner city students this is an experience they will never get unless the schools takes them."

As a result of participating in this program, what did your students learn?

- "They got a good idea of how agriculture affects the state and the country. They understand that a farmer's life is very hard work."
- "My students learned how agriculture affects their lives and where exactly their food comes from everyday."

As a result of participating in this program, how do you think your students will apply what they learned?

- "They will be more aware of where their food comes from and how it is produced."
- "I know that many of them went home last night and shared with their parents all of the items in their homes that are made from beef, corn, and soybeans. They are just more knowledgeable now about where things come from."

Please make suggestions and/or comments.

- "The festival experience was very rewarding and well planned. All of my students had a fantastic time and learned a lot and so did I!"
- "We love everything you do to make this an exciting day for the "city" kids."



Ag Literacy Coalition and Current and Past Sponsors:

- Douglas County Farm Bureau • Midwest Dairy Association
- Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom • Nebraska AgRelations Council
- Nebraska Agri Business Club • Nebraska Beef Council
- Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board
- Nebraska Extension in Saunders, Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties
- Nebraska Pork Producers Association • Nebraska Soybean Board
- Omaha Agribusiness Club • Papillion Grange No. 401
- University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center at the Agricultural Research and Development Center

For more information contact:

Monte Stauffer
Nebraska Extension
in Douglas/Sarpy Counties
Phone: (402) 444-7804
E-mail: mstauffer1@unl.edu

<http://ardc.unl.edu/agawareness.shtml>