

Agriculture Awareness Day

Summary of Grant # 2017386

Brief Overview

The purpose of this science based agricultural education program was to educate all 7th graders in Queen Anne's County. In a day long structured program held at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park the following agricultural topics were taught: technology, equipment, crops, aquaculture, nursery, produce, greenhouses, forestry, farm animals, bees, and numerous agriculture myths. 7th graders are getting ready for high school and beginning to think about career paths. Students were educated at each station about the many agricultural related careers.

The day was possible because of the following committee coming together to plan and teach: University of Maryland Extension, Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District, Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau, Queen Anne's County Board of Education, Queen Anne's County Government, Queen Anne's County High School FFA, University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center, Maryland Grain Producers, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, USDA Farm Service Agency, Young Farmers and many other volunteers in our community. The two day program included over 70 volunteers teaching 700 seventh graders, chaperones and teachers.

Results from the pre and post testing showed an increase in agricultural knowledge and dispelled several myths. A press release was prepared and sent to all county media sources. The YouTube video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/-hnMAR6cMdQ>.

Budget

Income:

Grant # 2017386	\$5,000.00
Other Income from Sponsors	\$12,800.00

Expense:

Buses	\$ 8,690.00
T-Shirts for Students	\$ 3,262.90
Lunch for Volunteers	\$ 2,120.00
Other Misc supplies	\$ 1,115.94

Total Expense: -\$15,188.84

Net \$2,611.16

Short Summary

Ag Awareness Day had all the seventh graders from five schools in Queen Anne's County learn about agriculture over the span of two days. Each day, the students were split into five groups and rotated through the five different stations set up throughout the 4-H park. The stations consisted of 1. Our Future (sub divided into Crops and Equipment & Technology), 2. Farm Animals, 3. Green Stuff (sub divided into Nursery/Landscape and Produce), 4. Aquaculture, and 5. Bees in AG. All the students were given a pre-test to take before attending the event and a post-test to take afterwards to see how much they learned from the event. They were also given a booklet that they were to fill out during the day as they moved through the stations.

The first day of the event had three schools attending. The first school, Sudlersville Middle School, arrived around 8:20am and the students were given a short introduction of what was going to take place throughout the day and what we hoped they would learn through this experience. They were then split into our first two groups and sent to two of the stations. The remaining two schools, Centreville Middle School and Chestertown Christian Academy, arrived around 9:15 am. They were given an introduction before being split into three groups and were sent to stations as the two groups from Sudlersville rotated to new stations. All the groups rotated again before stopping for a half hour lunch. The groups continued rotating through the remaining stations. Sudlersville departed at 1:35 pm while the other two schools finished up their last station and departed at 2:30pm. Before leaving, the students were asked to share their thoughts on the day with the group.

The second day of the event had the two remaining schools, Stevensville Middle School and Matapeake Middle School, attending. Both schools arrived at 8:30am, were given a quick introduction and were split into five groups. They rotated through the stations, stopping for lunch, before continuing through the remaining ones. At the end of the day, students were asked for their thoughts before getting on the buses to return to school.

Evaluation Results

Ag Awareness Day Pre-Post Test Compared (406 responses Pre-Test); (429 responses Post Test)

1. What is your level of knowledge of agriculture/farming in Maryland?
 - a. A great deal of knowledge- 16 (4%); 45 (10%)
 - b. More than average knowledge- 50 (12%); 143 (33%)
 - c. Average knowledge- 182 (45%); 190 (44%)
 - d. A little knowledge- 140 (35%); 41 (10%)
 - e. No knowledge- 18 (4 %); 9 (2%)
 - f. No answer- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)

2. Does Agriculture affect your life every day?
 - a. No- 35 (9%); 20 (5%)
 - b. Not sure- 135 (33%); 38 (9%)
 - c. Yes- 235 (58%); 371 (86%)
 - d. No answer- 1 (<1%); 0 (0%)

3. Farmers don't care about the environment.
 - a. False- 388 (96%); 420 (98%)
 - b. True- 18 (4%); 6 (1%)
 - c. No answer- 0 (0%); 3 (1%)

4. Today farmers use less chemicals, fertilizer and fuel with the aid of GPS (Global Positioning Satellites), Drones, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) devices and computers.
 - a. False- 249 (61%); 86 (20%)
 - b. True- 156 (39 %); 341 (79%)
 - c. No answer- 1 (<1%); 2 (<1%)

5. Why are bees important to agriculture? (select all that apply)
 - a. Bee sales to farmers- 1 (<1 %); 0 (0%)
 - b. Bee sales to farmers, Produce honey- 1 (<1%); 3 (1%)
 - c. Bee sales to farmers, Reduce Odors- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
 - d. Pollination of crops- 19 (5%); 21 (5%)
 - e. Pollination of crops, Bee sales to farmers- 4 (1%); 4 (1%)
 - f. Pollination of crops, Bee sales to farmers, Produce honey- 42 (10%); 141 (33%)
 - g. Pollination of crops, Bee sales to farmers, Produce honey, Reduce Odors- 8 (2%); 46 (11%)
 - h. Pollination of crops, Produce honey- 281 (69%); 181 (42%)
 - i. Pollination of crops, Reduce Odors- 4 (1%); 4 (1%)
 - j. Pollination of crops, Produce honey, Reduce Odors- 3 (1%); 20 (5%)
 - k. Produce honey- 8 (2%); 1 (<1%)
 - l. Produce honey, Reduce Odors- 3 (1%); 1 (<1%)
 - m. Pollination of crops, Bees sales to farmers, Reduce Odors- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)
 - n. Reduce odors- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
 - o. No answer- 1 (<1%); 4 (1%)

6. Farmers do not care about their animals.
 - a. False- 390 (96%); 419 (98%)
 - b. True- 13 (3%); 8 (2%)
 - c. No answer- 3 (1%); 2 (<1%)

7. Select 4 items we can make from a dairy cow's milk.
 - a. Cheese, Yogurt, Ice Cream- 34 (8%); 30 (9%)
 - b. Cheese, Yogurt, Ice Cream, Pudding- 331 (82%); 355 (83%)
 - c. Cheese, Yogurt, Steak- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)
 - d. Cheese, Yogurt, Steak, Ice Cream- 27 (7%); 15 (3%)
 - e. Cheese, Yogurt, Steak, Ice Cream, Pudding- 5 (1%); 7 (2%)
 - f. Yogurt, Steak, Ice Cream, Pudding- 3 (1%); 1 (<1%)
 - g. Cheese, Yogurt, Ice Cream, Soda- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)

- h. Cheese- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)
 - i. Cheese, Yogurt- 1 (<1%); 0 (0%)
 - j. Cheese, Yogurt, Pudding- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)
 - k. Cheese, Steak, Ice Cream, Pudding- 1 (<1%); 1 (<1%)
 - l. Yogurt, Steak, Ice Cream- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
 - m. Yogurt, Steak, Pudding- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
 - n. Cheese, Yogurt, Steak, Ice Cream, Pudding, Soda- 0 (0%); 3 (1%)
 - o. Yogurt, Ice Cream, Pudding- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
 - p. Cheese, Yogurt, Steak, Pudding- 0 (0%); 1 (<1%)
8. Is there a difference in the health benefits of organic vs conventionally produced fruits and vegetables?
- a. No- 50 (12%); 67 (16%)
 - b. Yes- 355 (87%); 360 (84%)
 - c. No answer- 1 (<1%); 2 (<1%)
9. Aquaculture is agriculture: the farmer farms the water instead of the land: depending on the species, the water may be fresh or brackish or salty.
- a. False- 176 (43%); 83 (19%)
 - b. True- 228 (56%); 343 (80%)
 - c. No answer- 2 (<1%); 3 (1%)
10. Meat from the grocery store is filled with hormones that are unnatural and unhealthy for people.
- a. False- 199 (49%); 247 (58%)
 - b. True- 207 (51%); 179 (42%)
 - c. No Answer- 0 (0%); 3 (1%)
11. Nurseries are only for raising babies?
- a. False- 341 (84%); 364 (85%)
 - b. True- 65 (16%); 65 (15%)