

Making a Difference

2013 Motley County Science of Agriculture Program Developed by Ryan Martin, Motley County Extension Agent

Relevance

As today's youth are further removed from farming, they do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. This program was presented to 2nd graders at Motley County ISD to educate them on the importance of agriculture, where products come from and how agriculture affects our daily lives. Students learned where each part of a bacon, lettuce, and tomato cheeseburger comes from, along with learning about eggs and hatching eggs in their classroom. The curriculum from AgriLife Extension, "Hatching Eggs in the Classroom" along with Texas Farm Bureau's "From an Egg----to a Chick" was used.

Response

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Motley County developed the following activities to address this relevant issue. These activities were targeted towards 2nd graders at Motley County ISD (11 students).

- Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato Cheeseburger – Where does it come from
- Storing Fertile Eggs
- Incubating Eggs
- Candling Eggs
- When Chicks Hatch – Caring for Chicks
- Why Eggs didn't Hatch – Determining if Eggs are Fertile
- How Agriculture Affects Our Daily Lives
- Other Products Grown by Farmers

Eleven students completed the classroom series that involved hands-on learning through weekly assignments including hatching eggs and caring for hatched chickens.

Results

In order to determine the results of the 2012 Motley County Science of Agriculture program, participants completed an in person post evaluation instrument. A total of 11 out of 11 (100%) completed the survey. The results are as follows:

- 11 out of 11 (100%) responded they "Understand how agriculture touches my life everyday"
- 11 out of 11 (100%) responded they "Understand how agriculture affects what you eat or wear"

Making a Difference

- 11 out of 11 (100%) responded they "Understand agriculture is more than food"
- 11 out of 11 (100%) responded they "Understand where all parts of a cheeseburger come from"
- 11 out of 11 (100%) responded they "Understand how to incubate eggs"
- 8 out of 11 (72%) responded they "Understand how to candle eggs and the developmental stages of eggs"

Conclusion

Due to the positive impact this program has made on participants, the need to educate youth on the importance of agriculture and at the request of teachers at Motley County ISD, this program will continue to be presented to students. Programming efforts in the future will also address emerging issues and needs that may be identified. The results of the program will be interpreted to the Motley County ISD School Board, Administration and Faculty as well as the Motley County Commissioner's Court and program area committee.