FARM DAY
LEARNING STATION
PACKET

Presented by: El Dorado Ag in the Classroom

Information & Resources

Teaching a Growing Generation
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PURPOSE OF FARM DAY

Does Chocolate Milk Come From Brown Cows?

That question may seem silly to many adults, but some children may be surprised to learn that chocolate milk starts out white and is only brown because chocolate is added to it. Farm Day will help students understand where food, fiber and forest products originate and how they are used in everyday life.

The purpose of Farm Day is to educate El Dorado County’s 3rd grade students about agriculture in order to have a better understanding of the industry. *Agriculture in the Classroom* aims to correct many common public misconceptions and misunderstandings such as “Does chocolate milk come from brown cows?”.

This Farm Day Field trip is designed for 3rd grade students (2nd/3rd grade and 3rd/4th grade combo classes also accepted) in El Dorado County. Upon arrival, nearly 1,400 students are greeted by the smells and sounds of Farm Day. Classes rotate to different learning stations throughout the day. They will experience a total of 7 presentations to learn about all aspects of agriculture and farming including animals, forestry, irrigation, watersheds, invasive and beneficial insects and nutrition.

This incredible day of learning requires 300+ volunteers from all over Northern California!

Topics

- Nutrition
- Food Preservation
- Worm & Soil
- Horses
- Goats
- Poultry
- Cattle
- Pigs
- Alpaca, Llama, Sheep
- Invasive & Beneficial Insects
- Milk & Dairy
- Forests
- Organic Pest Management
- Watersheds & Irrigation
- Land Stewardship
- Bats
SAMPLE MAP & SCHEDULE
NOT CURRENT LAYOUT
PLEASE CHECK IN FOR CURRENT LOCATION

Revised 1/2023
EL DORADO FARM DAY
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9:30 to 9:45 a.m. Students arrive and wait in designated area
Teacher check in; store lunches in the Marshall Bldg.
9:45 to 9:55 a.m. Opening Ceremony - Welcome & Flag Salute
9:55 to 10:00 a.m. Rotate
10:00 to 10:20 a.m. First Station – 20 minutes
10:20 to 10:25 a.m. Rotate
10:25 to 10:45 a.m. Second Station – 20 minutes
10:45 to 11:00 a.m. Break (15 minutes) - Snack & Bathroom
11:00 to 11:05 a.m. Rotate
11:05 to 11:25 a.m. Third Station – 20 minutes
11:25 to 11:30 a.m. Rotate
11:30 to 11:50 a.m. Fourth Station – 20 minutes
11:50 to 12:25 p.m. LUNCH (35 minutes)
12:25 to 12:30 p.m. Rotate
12:30 to 12:50 p.m. Fifth Station – 20 minutes
12:50 to 12:55 p.m. Rotate
12:55 to 1:15 p.m. Sixth Station – 20 minutes
1:15 to 1:20 p.m. Rotate
1:20 to 1:40 p.m. Seventh Station – 20 minutes

El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom
www.agintheclass-edc.org
#ElDoradoFarmDay

Revised 1/2023
INFORMATION FOR LEARNING STATION LEADERS

1. **What can I expect during Farm Day?** This event is designed for third grade students and provides hands-on demonstrations and exhibits. After unloading from school buses in the Fairground’s parking area above the skate park, students will gather in the lawn area just inside the Blue/Raley’s Gate. Teachers will check in at a station at the lawn area and receive their schedule and a map of the stations the class will visit. The entire group will then participate in opening ceremonies and flag salute. The class will visit a station for twenty (20) minutes and complete the activities. Your Barn Boss will notify you at the 15-minute mark to signal it is time to begin wrapping up; if the students have handled animals, they should begin washing/sanitizing hands at this point. When the cowbell sounds at 20 minutes, classes will move to the next station. There is a five (5) minute passing period between classes. Most classes will visit eight different stations throughout the day. Each presenter/station may have a “BREAK” or two during the day as a rest period with no class presentations. Please feel free to use this time to see what other Learning Stations are doing.

2. **Will there be food available?** Coffee and a snack will be available for presenters and volunteers in the morning (at check in) and lunch will be provided at the Corker Building for presenters and volunteers. Lunch will include hotdogs, chips and ice water or lemonade. If you need drinks and snacks in addition to this, please bring them with you. Cars will not be allowed to drive on and off the grounds from 9 a.m. until students have departed after 2:00 p.m. **Don’t forget your reusable water bottle or cup!**

3. **Can we give candy or snacks out to students who visit our booth?** No. We are teaching the children about good nutrition, so candy should not be provided. Due to public health concerns, food can only be served if you are already included in the event’s health permit that is applied under the Farm Day event (must apply prior to event).

4. **How many children will I be presenting to?** You will see 6-8 classes with about 25-30 students in each class during the day. **Plan to have enough materials for about 200-240 students.**

5. **Who do I contact if there is a problem or question during the event?** Questions prior to event day should be directed to the Farm Day Coordinator. On Farm Day, your Barn Boss should be able to help you. Or look for someone in a “red T shirt” with the Farm Day logo if you need assistance.

6. **What equipment will be provided at my station?** Each station will have a picnic table or a table and two chairs. If you need additional tables, picnic tables, chairs, electricity, or animal pens, please coordinate with the Farm Day Coordinator prior to event day.
7. **Where and when do presenters and volunteers check in?** When you arrive at the fairgrounds, check in at the Corker Building. You will receive your name badge, presenter's packet, along with the final map and layout of the Farm Day stations so you will know where to set up your station. You will also receive your station schedule for the day.
*ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST CHECK IN & WEAR AN OFFICIAL NAME BADGE*

8. **When can we set up?** The fairgrounds will open at 7:30 a.m. Cars and trailers may deliver supplies between 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 am. After 9:00 a.m. vehicles must remain parked, in designated areas off grounds; trailers may be parked behind the Henningsen Pavilion. Do not move your vehicle until the end of the day for student safety. All stations must be set up by 9:30 a.m. and be ready to start the first presentation at 10:00 a.m.

9. **What about flame retardant requirements?** It is very important that any decorative materials be flame retardant. Brochures and handouts on the tables are okay untreated. Green plants are also okay. You will be responsible for cleaning up around your demonstration area when loading your display or animals. This includes raking pens, manure and other waste. This will keep Ag in the Classroom from being billed extra for the Fair staff to clean up after us.

10. **What if we have “giveaways” or papers for students?** Students will bring their backpacks to carry extra papers, stickers, or craft items home with them. If your organization has “class sets”, you may give them directly to the teacher for distribution at school.

11. **How will I know when it’s time to end by 20-minute presentation?** The Barn Boss will notify you 5 minutes before the students rotate. The Barn Boss will ring a cowbell when it is time for the presentation to end and the students to rotate. If the students have touched/pet animals at your station, have them begin washing hands when the whistle is blown at the 5-minute warning. **Do not let your classes leave your station early!**

Additional Questions? Contact Andrea Sawyer, Program Coordinator at 530.303.8117 or a.sawyer@agintheclass-edc.org
CHECK IN PROCEDURES AND PARKING

Important: The Fairgrounds Gates open at 7:30 am. All presenters must be checked in and all vehicles must be parked in designated areas by 9:00 a.m.

Event Address: El Dorado County Fairgrounds

100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA 95667

1. Enter through the Blue Gate at the fairgrounds on Amory Drive (turn east off of Placerville Drive) near Shell Gas/Raley’s.

2. Follow signs to check in at the Corker Building. While checking in, you may park in front of the Marshall Building.

3. After receiving your packet at check in, proceed to your station to unload supplies.

4. All vehicles must be parked by 9:00 a.m. Presenters and volunteers may park in the Livestock Parking field behind the Henningsen Pavilion (Large Horse Arena).
1. All students, teachers, chaperones, and volunteers must wear a nametag at all times. Please include school and teacher’s name.

   *Students with a yellow dot on their name tag are not to be photographed.*

2. Names of accompanying adult volunteers at Learning Stations must be provided at check in on the morning of Farm Day.

3. For security purposes, "drop in" visitors are not allowed.

4. If a student becomes separated from class group, immediately alert a Farm Day representative.

   Security measures will be implemented.
**AGRICULTURE TALKING POINTS**

What is agricultural literacy?
Ag literacy is an understanding of agriculture’s history and current economic, social and environmental significance to our local community. This understanding includes knowledge of food and fiber production, processing and marketing.

Why do youth and families not understand the importance of agriculture?
The movement of the vast majority of Americans to urban and suburban areas and our general cultural evolution away from the land have caused agriculture to be severely undervalued, if not almost ignored.

Because they lived closer to the land, students of 100 years ago recognized that agriculture is literally inseparable from life itself. Indeed, most Americans were farmers or grew up on farms—they lived on the land, planted and cultivated and harvested the crops, knew the seasons and the gifts of sun and rain. They realized their dependence on favorable weather, and the dangers from drought or flood, intense heat or freezing cold. Today’s students live in an apparently different world where agricultural products appear magically in unending quantities and varieties in modern supermarkets and stylish clothing stores.

Why is it important for El Dorado County youth and families to learn about agriculture?
- Gain support for agriculture from urban residents who recognize the many values of working agricultural landscapes
- A stronger local agricultural economy
- Enhance understanding of the local food system
- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health
- Connect youth and families with their surroundings

*(Agriculture Talking Points con’t)*
(Agriculture Talking Points con’t)

Ag Concepts for Your Farm Day Presentation:
Families and residents *value* agriculture in El Dorado County because:

- Agriculture provides local food and fiber so that families have safe, secure supplies.
- Farmers and ranchers provide jobs in our community.
- Agricultural lands provide shelter and food for wildlife.
- Farms and ranches provide scenic landscapes that add to our county’s rural character. We value the agricultural “viewscapes” that can “slow us down” from our hectic daily pace. Think of...

  ....an apple tree in blossom  
  ....a calf or new born foal playing in the sunshine  
  ....acres of green grass blowing in the breeze  
  ....ripe grapes hanging on the vine  
  ....oranges, shining against glossy green leaves in winter  
  ....geese landing on a pond

- Farmers and ranchers are good stewards of the land and help protect our precious natural resources including:
  - Water quality – crops and rangeland filter rain water and prevent soil erosion
  - Air quality – forests and other trees help keep our air clean
  - Plants and trees on farms and ranches absorb noise and emit oxygen which refreshes the air
FARM DAY AUDIENCE - 3RD GRADERS

If this is your first time going into a Classroom - Don't Worry! The students are excited to have someone besides their teacher talking to them. Besides that - The teacher has threatened the class if they don't behave!

*Remember today you are the expert.*

Suggestions when presenting to students:

1. Keep it Positive:
   - You are not in Agriculture because of long hours-no profit and government regulations. It is because you like caring for animals/working outside/playing in the soil and watching things grow

2. Take Control - Keep Control:
   - a. if you have live animals make the students listen to you before they get to touch
   - b. Explain that you will answer questions later (Watch Out For Storytellers!)

3. Remember your audience:
   - Students don't speak your Language: Use terms, but explain what the terms you are using mean - ruminant, shearing, kidding, prune, fertilize.

4. We all Learn Differently:
   - Learning Styles: Visual (drawing-graphics-photos)
   - Auditory (listening-speaking)
   - Abstract/symbolic (writing/math)
   - Kinesthetic (physical movement)

Techniques to Use to Reach different Learning Styles:

1. Presentation:
   - Tell your Story/Show Video/Read a Book

2. Discussion:
   - How is Agriculture important to You?
   - Handling the Misconceptions and Controversial Topics
   - factory farms/organic is better/vegetarianism/

3. Activity:
   - Gear it to grade level (may be as simple as passing around props)

4. Journaling:
   - (not necessarily during your allotted time - drawing picture of what they saw/writing about what they saw/searching for examples

If you leave each student with one positive thought about Agriculture - You have done your job successfully!
Suggestions for Animal Displays

- Label everything about the species including age and breed. Make sure to be clear and specific, for example – identify if a dairy cow or beef cow, age, male or female with specific terms to help them learn about the species.
- Try to avoid giving human-like characteristics to your farm animals/livestock.
- Assume your audience has little or no experience with farm animals.
- Animals should arrive to the location one hour prior to school opening so that the animals have adequate time to acclimate to the new surroundings.
- Presenters should be clear and specific about whether students can touch, feed or pick up the farm animal.
- Animals should be kept in appropriate pens with a constant supply of fresh water. It is recommended to use familiar bedding.

When Communicating to the Public or Students

- Use words that your audience will understand.
- Relate to the students’ everyday lives, make it personal, so students can relate to the agricultural topic.
- Catch their interest by using visual aids, games, fun facts, etc.
- Keep your presentations or explanations short and simple.
- Stick to the facts.

Tips for Dealing with Difficult Situations

- Stay positive, be patient and stay cool.
- Be a good listener. Listen to the other person’s concerns before addressing.
- Respect the other person’s opinion and avoid preaching at people.
- Correct false assumptions. For example, if the debate is that water is being depleted, diplomatically show that it is being recycled.

Source: Ontario Farm Animal Council
STAY INVOLVED YEAR ROUND

Donate
El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom is a local, grassroots, charitable (501c3) organization that provides quality agriculture-related educational resources, programs, and training opportunities. Our mission is supported and made possible by the generosity of our donors. Your donation can help children experience the wonder of soil, water, plants, and animals that contribute to the diverse agriculture in our community. Join the new Growing the Seed Program to support El Dorado Ag in the Classroom’s mission!

Sponsor
There are numerous events as well as unrestricted opportunities allowing your business or organization the flexibility to meet your charitable giving goals. Ag in the Classroom offers many promotional benefits to sponsors. Financial and In-Kind contributions are greatly appreciated.

Volunteer
Volunteers are needed for events, to serve on committees, to give presentations, to share their expertise or specialty, or to help with agriculture’s message at local schools.

Upcoming Opportunities
Visit www.agintheclass-edc.org for more information!

20 Mile Taste
Your taste buds will thank you for joining us at the Annual Ag in the Classroom 20 Mile Taste Fundraiser. This celebration of El Dorado County’s bounty will showcase local produce prepared by local chefs, paired with local wine. Enjoy live music on the beautiful property of Rainbow Orchards.

Event date: First Saturday in August