

# 2006 Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant Report

## Total students and adults impacted = over 6,000

**Academy for Children Elementary (Fargo)** – Funded at \$150 to be used for botany curriculum. (55 students) The study of botany began in early September with an introduction on how to care for plants and a study of apples. In October, the focus was shifted to trees. Funds from this grant program were used to purchase easy reader books on trees. Also during October, the students learned about pumpkins and were able to pick a pumpkin and bake pumpkin seeds and pumpkin muffins. In November students learned about rain forests and conservation.

**Academy for Children Preschool/Kindergarten (Fargo)** – Funded at \$150 to be used for botany activities. (25 students) Students in grades three through six participated in a unit teaching and reviewing the parts of the plant including the root, leaf, and flower parts, Children studied the names and functions of plants and plant systems and used botany materials purchased with grant funds as the major curriculum for the unit.

**Adams County Extension Service (Hettinger)** – Funded at \$150 for teaching supplies and display. (143 students and adults) The Farm Safety Day Camp 2006 was held in Hettinger, N.D. at the Adams County Fairgrounds on May 5, 2006. The eight safety sessions included food safety, animal safety, chemical safety, fire safety, water safety, electrical safety, ATV safety, and PTO/grain bin safety. The ND Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant funds were used to build a safety display called the “Wheel of Mis-Fortune,” safety brochures and activity book covers purchased through Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

**Bottineau FFA (Bottineau)** – Funded at \$125 for educational supplies. (96 students). FFA members conducted a “Food for American” program in the elementary grades for first and second graders. They discussed the “Exploding Cheeseburger” and explained to students where all of the ingredients came from and how they were processed. Each student was presented with a “Really Big Coloring Book” purchased with grant funds.

**Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary School (Burlington)** – Funded at \$150 towards an incubator. (359 students) Students in fourth grade incubated 3 dozen chicken eggs. Activities included data collection, an art project combined with science on eggs parts, a demonstration on types of chickens and how to care for them provided by a guest poultry raiser, and information on consumption of eggs and chicken in North Dakota. The intent of the unit was to involve students in a hands-on approach that laid the foundation for understanding subjects as diverse as nutrition and the circulatory system while teaching measurement and the collection and analysis of data. The project involved hatching eggs, examining embryos, and observing a beating heart. All elementary classes had access to the chickens and eggs.

**Center Public School (Center)** – Funded at \$200 towards curriculum. (240 students) The grant funds were used to enhance the program implemented by the local FFA chapter who taught students about agriculture in North Dakota. Funds were also used with the local 4-H club to plant flowers which they will care for at an exhibit at the county fair. Another activity was an educational unit on chickens.

**Dakota Science Center (Grand Forks)** – Funded at \$315 for Ag in the Classroom supplies. (645 students) The Dakota Science Center held its Annual Water Festival on September 28-29, 2006. The purpose was to help youth in the region understand the vital importance of water resources to the region's future. Topics addressed included water chemistry, watersheds, water quality, ground water, physical properties, history, water ecosystems, water conservation, and erosion.

**Fairmount Public School (Fairmount)** – Funded at \$375 to be used for botany materials. (53 students) The funds were used to purchase botany curriculum and two grow labs: one for the kindergarten teacher and one for the high school science teacher. The goal was to teach each of the groups of students about plants and their role in our lives through agriculture and its various components. This project will be expanded in the spring to create flower beds on the school grounds.

**Ft. Berthold Extension Service (New Town)** – Funded at \$250 to be used botany supplies. (20 students) With changeover in staff and administration, this project is still in the works. They plan to use the funding for a six-week gardening and nutrition curriculum.

**Grant County PTO (Carson)** – Funded at \$250 for curriculum and supplies. (140 students and adults) The Grant County PTO developed and purchased materials for a K-8 teaching unit about honeybees, honeybee farms and the importance of honeybees and pollination in agriculture. Teaching materials were purchased and used at the two school districts. Students also visited the Heart River Honey Farm in September where they learned the process of extracting the honey from the frames until it came out and went into big shipping barrels. The students were able to see and touch the equipment and tools necessary to run a honey farm. Farm owner, Kevin Jensen, discussed the agricultural importance of honey bees and answered questions. Students also made wax candles.

**Granville High School FFA (Granville)** – Funded at \$500 for gardening supplies. (32 students) Students used funds from the Ag in the Classroom grant; the State Dept. of Agriculture; DPI; the State Department of Health, and Career and Technical Education to take part in the Green and Growing Initiative. Students plowed and worked up a garden. They planted the garden in late April, fenced it, tilled it, weeded it, and harvested the vegetables. The produce was marketed three ways including the sale of fresh produce to community members, the ND State Fair, and the remainder through the school's hot lunch program.

**Hazen High School (Hazen)** – Funded at \$120 for activity books. (262 students) On April 19, 2006 the FCCLA and FFA members from Hazen High School held an Ag Safety Day for elementary students. Activities included sharing information on tractor safety, power take off safety, lawn mowing safety, ATV safety, livestock safety, farm chemical safety, equipment safety, grain safety, and ND products. The elementary students also filled out a safety activity book and were able to see farm equipment up close.

**Hettinger Head Start (Hettinger)** – Funded at \$120 for books and videos on agriculture. (13 students) Three, four, and five year olds in Head Start participated in the weeklong activity about farms and farm safety. Students put together farm puzzles, were read farm books, played with toy farm animals, made farm animal mobiles, and planted "grass heads". They also sang farm animal songs and worked on a farm safety coloring book. They had planned to go to a dairy farm but the farmer was ill, and that activity is rescheduled for the spring.

**Jamestown FFA (Jamestown)** – Funded at \$250. (113 students) The Jamestown FFA members planted pumpkins for their Pumpkin Festival in the fall but unfortunately, an area farmer accidentally plowed up the pumpkins. Instead the chapter organized and hosted a special Fall Festival where they had Halloween activities and five stations called “Special Assignment Pizza”. In each of the stations, various ag products were discussed that go into pizza. Students learned about the dairy industry at the cheese station and the wheat station at the crust station. Students were treated to pizza.

**Kindred FFA (Kindred)** – Funded at \$200. (58 students) The Kindred FFA members put together eight agricultural booths for all the third grade students. In the booths high school students described various agricultural products and their processing. The students were split up into small groups, and each group spent about 10 minutes at each station learning about different agricultural products and their processing.

**Lake Region Teacher Center (Devils Lake)** – Funded at \$300 for botany materials. (205 students) Students in third and fifth grade students learned how to test soil samples for PH, temperature, humidity, and textures. They learned about different seeds and planted a number of grains. They also baked with the crops.

**Logan County Extension Service (Napoleon)** – Funded at \$200 for supplies and camping fees. (19 students) Due to the ban on campfires, the original plan of holding the overnight camp was scrapped. Instead funds were used to buy a GPS unit and curriculum. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science class in Napoleon learned about GPS technology and how it is used in agriculture. They created and followed routes using GPS and developed small group projects on GPS technology.

**McHenry County Extension Service (Granville)** – Funded at \$200. (83 students and teachers) The Granville FFA Chapter developed a Farm Safety Day for students in grades K-6. The camp was set up with seven stations that used demonstrations, displays, and other teaching methods to keep the students interested and engaged in a safety topic. Each of the topics introduced hazards or risks that can be present on a farm and in small communities.

**McIntosh – NDSU Extension Service (Ashley)** – Funded at \$100 for educational supplies. (64 students) The extension service held a Farm Safety Camp for youth ages 5-13 where they were exposed to safety issues such as sun exposure, gun safety, lawn mower safety, fire safety, chemical safety, tobacco education, and reaction time. Funds were used to offer the program, provide lunch and goodie bags, and provide t-shirts to the students.

**Minot FFA (Minot)** – Funded at \$275 for terrarium and curriculum. (420 students) The Minot FFA Chapter mentored elementary students on agricultural topics. Students explored the world of science through the life of a plant, learned about how and where corn grows, constructed terrariums, and learned the process of a water cycle. They also learned about animal science with specific instruction about beef and horses.

**Mott/Regent Public School (Regent)** – Funded at \$100 for agricultural books. (140 students) Funds were used to purchase five hardcover books about agriculture. The local FFA chapter held a coloring contest with an agriculture theme, the local extension office held mini-sessions on four different aspects of agriculture, the library displayed ag-related books which provided information on farming and ranching, a farmer came and read one of these books to the students and answered questions, the Kindergarten class toured a farm, the first grade toured the tractor museum, and second graders learned about seed weevils and sunflowers.

**ND Farmers Union Foundation (Jamestown)** – Funded at \$500. (907 students) Through a series of individual activities at the Farmers Union Junior Camps, students learned about the importance of expanding alternative energy resources, were able to identify renewable resources and learned how they are made and used, and worked to understand the role agriculture plays in the expansion of the renewable energy industry and its potential impact on ND and rural America. These activities also helped develop young leaders with strong agricultural knowledge.

**ND FFA Foundation** – Funded at \$200. (over 500 students) The ND FFA Foundation used the grant funds towards the Food for America Program. The purpose of the Food for America Program is to help introduce first through six-grade students to the fascinating world of agriculture and to make elementary students more aware of the world of agriculture and how it affects their daily lives. Many chapters hold more than one activity with students to educate them about ND agriculture during the year. The funds were used for the sponsorship of awards (\$100) and a \$100 prize to the winning school. The top schools were Williston, Divide County, Kindred, New Salem, Turtle Lake/Mercer, and Minot. Williston won the traveling trophy and the \$100 prize funds.

**ND Stockmen's Association** – Funded at \$250. (100 students and adults) Funds were used to fund the Carcass Merit Program at the Junior Beef Expo Field Day in Williston on June 24. Thirty-one steers were evaluated on two separate grids; the Tyson Prime Time Quality Grid and Laura's Lean Cutability Grid. The two grids helped juniors understand that the different breeds of cattle have their own niche in the market and by specifically marketing to that niche, they can receive the steer's optimum dollar value. By exposing juniors to this contest, the goal was to give them a jump-start on value-based marketing once they leave the show ring.

**ND WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics) in Regent** – (700 students) Funded at \$120 towards printing costs. Placemats were made that included an assortment of facts about agriculture. There were fun games as well. These placemats were given out to students at the Ag in the Hallway presentations that included students from Mott, Regent, New England, and Hettinger. Other placemats were presented to students in Walsh County and Morton County as well as to Applebees, Denny's, and Perkins restaurants.

**Park River Elementary (Park River)** – Funded at \$100 for science materials. (27 students) Students in Kindergarten worked with a farm theme in September. The students learned vocabulary associated with farms, learned about crops grown on farms, and were able to see how plants grow. They were able to identify farm animals, the sounds animals make, and their babies by name by the end of the unit. Farm dads were guest readers during the unit.

**Pembina County Weed Board (Drayton)** – Funded at \$200 for supplies. (59 students) Students learned about noxious and invasive weeds. They used this knowledge to identify these weeds in the county. They were also involved with a program called Liatrix for Loosestrife Project funded by NDAD and the ND Game and Fish Department. In January some of the same children and others will participate in a class on GPS training and weed identification.

**Rhame FFA (Rhame)** – Funded at \$225 for booth rental and project rental. Funds were used for agricultural literacy books through the Minnesota Farm Bureau. The local FFA students used them until their school closed last spring. They were also used for 4-H Day at the school and used in the local 4-H club.

**St. John's Academy (Jamestown)** – Funded at \$200 for plant supplies. (23 students) Funds were used to enhance a unit on plants. Fourth graders explored plant development and hydroponics in depth. They grew radishes using hydroponics and grew some in soil. They compared the results and learned about the benefits on hydroponics.

**St. John School (St. John)** – Funded at \$250. (3 students) Students participated in three experiments on plant growth and germination. The first experiment had to do with the effect of wind on tomato pollination. The second experiment dealt with the effect of light on seed germination, and the third experiment worked with fertilizer and seedling growth. Students worked on these experiments while taking care of the ag garden and the portable greenhouse.

**Sargent County Extension (Forman)** – Funded at \$500 for a hippology kit. (60 students and adults) Funding was used to purchase the Equine Learning Kit. There were a series of summer "Horsin' Around" workshops where the kit was utilized along with guest speakers to educate youth and adults about horses and their care. Hippology workouts and contests will be held this winter to help educate those involved with horses. The kit will be used over and over in the upcoming years.

**Southeast Region Career and Technology Center (Oakes)** – Funded at \$500 for supplies. (500 students) Funds were spent on developing a mobile meats lab. This lab has all the equipment necessary to replicate an actual meat processing plant. The lab will be rotated and used by students and adults to learn about meat cutting, food safety, the importance of personal hygiene and sanitation, and cuts of meat.

**Sterling School (Sterling)** – Funded at \$150 for supplies. (37 students) Students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade were involved in the incubation of eggs. The incubator was set up in the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade room. The first experiment with a batch of eggs failed because of the extreme heat and humidity in the school. The second batch also failed because of equipment failure. The activity is planned again in the spring.