

Synopsis of 2005 Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant Reports

Total Students involved = 5693

Academy for Children (Fargo) – Funded at \$240 for a botany cabinet. Students will participate in an in-depth study of the life cycle of garden plants. They will read agricultural books and complete art projects. They will also plan an indoor garden and care for it using an indoor mini greenhouse. Speakers from the ND agricultural community will also share their knowledge with the students. A field trip and Harvest Festival are also planned.

Students at the Academy researched and learned about trees and plants. They then created an indoor container garden and studied root systems and reproduction in plants. The students visited a local nursing home and shared their work with the residents. (18 students were involved).

Anne Carlsen Center for Children (Jamestown) – Funded at \$450 for gardening supplies. Students will assist in building raised beds that are wheelchair accessible. They will create and maintain a compost pile and plant vegetables that they will sell at a Farmer's Market.

Grant money was used to expand their garden program. They grew tomatoes, cayenne peppers, Serrano peppers, cowhorn peppers, sweet banana peppers, jalapeno peppers, green peppers, bush green beans, pole beans, lettuce, peas, cucumbers, birdhouse gourds, zucchini, squash, sunflowers, sweet corn, pumpkins, marigolds, petunias, kohlrabi, radishes, carrots, basil and oregano. They built three raised beds that are wheelchair accessible, taught the students about growing vegetable and nutrition and about marketing. (56 students involved).

Bottineau FFA Chapter (Bottineau) – Funded at \$150 for coloring books. High school students will hold a Food for America program to help younger students understand where their food comes from.

Eleven FFA members worked with the elementary teachers and presented a program on the ingredients in pizza and how the ingredients get from the farm to their place for consumption. Students were given a "Really Big Coloring Book" at the end. (95 students and numerous adults were involved)

Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary School (Burlington) – Funded at \$250. Teachers will establish a unit on making healthy food choices with ND products. The unit will include material from the Food, Land, and People curriculum; a garden; and a cooking unit.

The students learned about products made in North Dakota and nutrition. They built a garden area with community leaders. The local nursery provided valuable insight into the planting. Unfortunately, the late spring rains washed the garden and the timbers downhill. In the fall, the garden was once again constructed and reinforced with more rebar. (115 students and 12 adults involved)

Center Public School (Center) – Funded at \$225. Students will learn about bees, the hatching of chicks, and planting of a garden. There will also be a field trip and lessons by the local FFA chapter.

The Center FFA hosted an Ag in the Classroom day for all the elementary where they learned about food and nutrition. The students learned about the North Dakota products used to make pizza. The kindergarten class hatched baby chicks in their classroom and also learned about bees and how they make honey. These students also toured a dairy. (110 students and 7 adults involved)

Des Lacs/Burlington FFA (Des Lacs) – Funded at \$200. The objective of the project is to make homes safer and try to encourage people to install detectors and make their place of residence safer.

The FFA has been purchasing smoke alarms for home and hope to distribute them this winter. When they arrive, FFA members will hand out smoke alarms for home in the community free of charge. The FFA received these funds in September because the Ward County Library couldn't finish their project and returned their funds. (15 students involved so far)

Dickinson State University Ag Club (Dickinson) – Funded at \$100 towards materials. Students will participate in a Kids Day on the Farm that will include a petting zoo, farm safety, wagon rides, educational booth, and interactive displays about animals and grains.

Students from as far away as Mandaree and Richardton came to the Kids Day on the Farm. It was open to grades K-3, preschools, and daycares, and later in the day it was open to the public. Students learned about farm animals and their byproducts, grains, farm safety, and farm equipment. (1353 students were involved.)

Dorothy Moses Elementary Library (Bismarck) – Funded at \$300 towards agricultural books for children. This elementary school library will order and make available books and videos about North Dakota agriculture.

The school library used funds to purchase agricultural/farming books to be used as resources for the school, district, community and state patrons. After the purchase of the books, the Camp Adventure activity was held. The first through sixth graders spent three weeks learning more about North Dakota farms. (100 students involved)

Finley/Sharon FFA (Finley) – Funded at \$300 for materials. The local FFA chapter will build a tall red barn that will focus on farm safety. This barn will be used several times a year with younger students to promote safety on the farm.

The FFA students built a safety barn and created Safety Sam posters with safety slogans to put on the barn. The members used the barn and posters to teach farm safety to 2nd and 5th graders, and they also had the barn in the Finley Days parade. (45 students were involved and over 800 people saw the barn in the parade).

Gifted and Talented Program (Devils Lake) – Funded at \$350 for materials. Students will study the process of chick development and hatching as well as documenting growth after the hatch.

All materials were ordered and ready for school in the fall. Thirty-six eggs were hatched and students and teachers got to see the chicks and care for them. Fifth grade students at Central Middle School used a balance scale and an old egg scale to weight the eggs and kept track of the weight of the chicks over time.

Students also got to compare goose, duck, guinea, and hen eggs as far as shape, color and size. (900 students and 30 adults)

Grant County 4-H Council (Carson) – Funded at \$350 for curriculum and plants. Youth will develop a community garden where they will prepare the soil, choose suitable plants and seeds, maintain a healthy growing environment, harvest their produce, and have a farmers market where they will sell their produce.

Students planted seeds in a hot box and then moved them to a greenhouse and then to earth boxes that they constructed. Extra boxes were made and shared with senior citizens. Students and senior citizens worked together taking care of the gardens and learning about plants. The vegetables when grown were enjoyed by the children and senior citizens. (75 students and 80 adults were involved)

Hettinger County Extension Office (Hettinger) – Funded at \$100. Students will participate in Ag in the Hallway and Farm Safety Camp. The Ag in the Hallway unit will focus on beef, soybean, and canola production with a healthy grain snack. The Farm Safety Camp will focus on skin safety, PTO and grain bin safety, lawn mower safety, electric safety, first aid safety, animal safety, ATV safety, and food safety.

Farm Safety Day Camp was held in Mott with 5th and 6th graders from public schools in Adams and Hettinger Counties along with students from Lemmon, SD. Sessions on skin safety, food safety, lawn mower safety, first aid safety, electrical safety, ATV safety, animal safety, machinery safety, and grain bin safety were held. (114 students, 37 adults were involved)

Community Action Headstart (Hettinger) – Funded at \$150 towards computer software and books for the library. Students will participate in a Family Farm Safety Night where guest speakers will educate parents and children about farm safety issues.

Farm related materials were placed in the classroom. There was also blocks to build farm buildings, play horses, and wheat for children to play with at the sand table. The teacher had a play barn and some child size farm machinery. A farm safety night was held with families and students to discuss the importance of keeping safe on the farm. Students were able to choose two farm books to take home and read. The students concluded the farm unit by touring a dairy farm. (13 students, and various family members)

James River Soil Conservation District (Ellendale) – Funded at \$100 towards trees and testing materials. Experts will explain to students runoff and water pollution possibilities from agriculture practices. Students will plant trees along a farmed waterway.

The Riparian Restoration Project started as an idea to educate local students on the importance of riparian health. Seventh grade students learned about riparian zones and planted willow cuttings along a creek bottom. The student also learned about vegetation, microinvertebrates and other elements of the area. In all students planted 300 willow cutting and were tested on the activities. (27 students and various adults were involved).

Jamestown FFA (Jamestown) – Funded at \$250. The Jamestown FFA Chapter will grow pumpkins and host a Pumpkin Festival for area elementary students.

The Jamestown Ag Ed Program and FFA Chapter conducted its annual Pumpkin Festival the week of October 11th. Funding was used to bus elementary students to come to the festival. At the festival there was a scavenger hunt, a maze of pumpkins, stories, and activities in the classroom. Students were able to pick out their own pumpkin to take with them and got a bag of treats. Many teachers used the pumpkins later in their classrooms. (Over 500 students were involved.)

Kenmare FFA (Kenmare) – Funded at \$160 for materials. FFA members will teach elementary students about ag machinery and safety, natural resources, ATV safety, ND products, and large animal safety.

FFA members held an Ag in the Classroom day for elementary students. They had several sessions with topics that included large animals, farm machinery, natural resources, dairy foods, plants, ATV's and small animals. (110 students involved)

Logan County 4-H (Napoleon) – Funded at \$100 for educational materials. Students will tour a local dairy operation and learn about the care, feeding, and maintenance of a dairy herd.

Students toured a dairy operation where they learned about the washing and preparation of the dairy cows for milking and the actual milking process. The children also learned barn etiquette, assisted with feeding the dairy calves, and observed the milk removed from the tanks and loaded onto the milk truck. (15 students involved)

Louis L'Amour Elementary (Jamestown) – Funded at \$250. The purpose of the project is to teach students the responsibility of caring for baby animals, life cycles, and how to use tools to track growth. There will be a unit on plant care and a unit on baby chick care.

Students learned about plants and chicks. There were two agriculture units for the students. The first unit focused on plants and seeds. Students learned the names of plant parts and their jobs and identified the part of the plants they eat. They experimented with growing seeds in different conditions and in different types of soil and learned about the plant cycles.

The second unit focused on chicks. Students learned to care for chicks and calculated their mass using a balance. Students also tried different types of foods and learned about the responsibilities of caring for babies and pets. (20 students involved.)

Minot FFA (Minot) – Funded at \$275 for terrarium and curriculum. The local FFA Chapter will mentor young children. Topics taught by high school members will include Terrarium for Life, Animal Instincts, and the Honey Industry.

The Minot FFA program is very active in PALS, Partners in Active Learning Support. FFA members went into elementary schools with after school programs and presented on different areas of the ag industry. The topics were: 1) Terrarium for Life, where the students were able to have a hands-on experience in producing a terrarium and understand how they form their own ecosystem in the small enclosed container. 2) Animal Instincts; where students learned the different eating, growing and living habits of animals. 3) The Honey Industry; where the students learned how honey is made and other facts about the industry and got to sample a snack made with honey. 4) Fun Farm Facts; FFA students prepared educational displays with fun farm facts on them and presented them to the students. (620 students were involved).

Mott-Regent Public School – Funded at \$200 towards nonfiction books. Students will learn about agriculture in North Dakota through a variety of books and activities. The books will be available in the elementary library.

Nonfiction books on agriculture were displayed at the elementary and junior high library. Mr. and Mrs. Gary Honeyman spent a week, visiting library classes, talking about farm/ranch life and reading the farm books to children. The books are now housed at the elementary library and have been continually checked out since being put out on display. (115 students involved)

ND FFA Foundation – Funded at \$200. Funding will be used towards encouraging FFA chapters to get involved with the Food for America program to help introduce first through sixth-grade students to the fascinating world of agriculture and to make students more aware of the world of agriculture and how it affects their daily lives.

Several FFA chapters participated in various activities for the Food for America Program. At least 30 schools used some curriculum to help with agriculture literacy in their schools and/or community. The Divide County FFA Chapter won the traveling trophy and the \$100 prize funds. (at least 500 students involved.)

NDSU – Fort Berthold – Funded at \$200 for curriculum materials. Students will be involved in a six-week dairy education curriculum that will include field trips and a study of dairy foods.

Extension agents from Fort Berthold conducted a series of dairy agriculture and dairy nutrition lessons with 5th grades of Edwin Loe Elementary School in New Town. Instructors used websites, pre and post tests, Ag Mags, and other lesson plans to include dairy in math, science, and reading. Students even got to make ice cream in a bag and got to participate in the dairy quiz bowl. (52 students were involved and several adults)

ND Stockmen's Association – Funded at \$250. Funds will be used to help fund the Carcass Merit Program at the Junior Beef Expo field day held in Williston. Steers are evaluated by a computer program to calculate the yield grade and actual dollar value of each steer.

The funds from the mini-grant went towards helping fund the Carcass Merit Program at the Junior Beef Expo field day held in Williston in June. Thirty steers were evaluated using a Carcass Merit computer program to calculate the yield grade and the actual dollar value of each steer based on the Nebraska Weighted Average price for that week in June. Each junior received a copy of the spreadsheets from their grids at the show and also in their premium packets which were mailed out the following field day. The achieved goal was to educate the youth in the beef industry on the importance of producing quality carcass animals, not only for person profit gain but for the value and pride of a quality product in the industry. (97 students were involved)

ND Vision Services/School for the Blind – Funded at \$200 for materials. Students who are visually impaired will learn about the various grains in the state. Projects will include art projects using commodities, cooking, eating, and taking field trips to the local implement dealers to touch the large machinery.

The ND Vision Services/School for the Blind obtained five different grains grown in North Dakota. A fiction story was developed in accordance with a lesson plan on the feel, sound, taste and sight of these crops. Some food was prepared and a scientific experiment was developed on the preparation and identification of the grains. A journal was kept each day about daily activities and was turned into a memory book that included pictures and each student's writing about their entire camp adventure. (7 students and 3 adults were involved)

NDSU Extension (Washburn) – Funded at \$100 for curriculum. Curriculum from the Food, Land, and People unit will be used to teach students about wheat, animals, and corn. There will be many hands-on projects and a field trip.

Sheila Vander Wal from the NDSU Extension office visited first and fourth grade classrooms at Washburn and shared information about corn and prepared hush puppies for the students. The next trip focused on wheat where students played games and talked about harvesting. They also made noodles from semolina and eggs. (80 students and 5 adults)

Ransom County Extension (Lisbon) – Funded at \$200. Students will participate in a Mini Living Ag in the Classroom day. They will learn about the benefits of commodities grown in the state and the many products that come from the commodities.

A teacher resource book was developed utilizing the material that is used in the Fargo Living Ag Classroom. In addition to the material, the Ransom County Farm Bureau donated a video and brochure to put in the binder. They also developed an Agriculture Jeopardy game and gave these materials to each of the fourth grade teachers in Ransom County. (150 students were involved)

Sakakawea Girl Scouts (New England) – Funded at \$200. Girl scouts will have a better understanding of agriculture, soil, plants, trees, and their world by attending a two day camp. One day will focus on soil and conservation and the second day will focus on products grown in North Dakota.

The girl scouts learned about community beautification by planting flowers and trees in the city park. They also learned about the importance of plants, the full process of food from the field to the table, the importance of recycling, types and uses for soil, and the importance of weather for crops. (16 girl scouts and 10 adults involved).

Scranton FFA (Scranton) – Funded at \$100 towards equipment. The Scranton FFA chapter will hold a ag awareness day for elementary students. Lessons will include a petting zoo, ATV and PTO safety, and tractor safety.

The Scranton FFA set up pens in the back parking lot of the school, which held beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, hogs, sheep and goats. FFA members demonstrated safety precautions and facts about each animal. They also had a tractor set up and demonstrated PTO safety. FFA officers also had stations where they talked about ATV and lawn mower safety. (over 100 students were involved).

Sioux County Extension (Fort Yates) – Funded at \$300 for seeds and curriculum. Students will tour a greenhouse, plant a garden, harvest the produce, evaluate their progress, and sell the produce. Students will also learn about nutrition and food preservation.

FUNDS WERE RETURNED.

Sterling Elementary (Sterling) – Funded at \$300. Sterling elementary students will raise a calf and take turns caring for the calf from April until it is sold in October. Field trips to dairy operations and the auction barn are also planned.

The Sterling School District purchased a Holstein calf in May. The students were actively involved in the raising and care of the calf through the summer months. In October JaNell Gnirk gave an educational presentation on livestock and the experience. The calf was sold on Nov. 2. (33 students and 6 adults were involved).

Turtle Lake/Mercer High School (Turtle Lake) – Funded at \$250 for equipment. Students will participate in a horticulture unit. The unit will be used to teach students about growing plants and seeds and help students understand light and soil requirements that plants need. Focus will also be on careers in the horticulture field.

Equipment and supplies were purchased in the spring of the year and the horticulture unit was taught in the fall. Students learned about growing plants and weeds and learned about light and soil requirements. Approximately 180 students were able to have access to utilize the equipments and the concepts. This project will help promote the interest in horticulture and agriculture as a career field after high school for students in our district. (180 students were involved.)

Wahpeton FFA (Wahpeton) -- Funded at \$100 for perennials. Students will plant flowers for a butterfly garden in the community. Students will be responsible for caring of the plants in the summer, and science classes will study insects from the garden in the fall.

FFA students planted flowers and shrubs in improve the landscape of the school grounds and the agriculture building. This was done in two flower beds and in front of the greenhouse and school building. The students put plastic with rock on top also. Students cared for these beds during and after class. (26 students and 3 adults + gardens were used by middle school students and teachers)

Ward County Library (Minot) – Funded at \$200. The Ward County Historical Society will prepare a historical collage of the region’s agricultural past with photographs of ranching, threshing, plowing, and farmsteads and families. Speakers will also talk to students about agriculture in the past and students will sample homemade bread and churned butter.

RETURNED FUNDS – gave funds to Des Lacs/Burlington FFA

Western 4-H Camp (Washburn) – Funded at \$400 for equipment. Students participating in the tractor safety school will learn about farm safety by an extensive course dealing with driving skills and safety practices.

Rick Schmidt used funds for developing a PTO stationary drive. It was used at the Tractor Safety School and at the Western 4-H Camp near Washburn. Dummies are run through the PTO, and student can calculate time and speed. The objective is to reduce accidents on the farm and to make sure to practice safety first. (6 students involved and 4 adults) This device will be used in the future over and over again.

Western 4-H Livestock Camp – Funded at \$400 for curriculum. Students will learn all about sheep, swine and beef. The event includes livestock breed identification, noxious weed identification, feed identification, equipment identification, and parts of the animal identification.

The sheep kit was purchased which included laminated 8 X 10 photos of breeds of sheep cards, proper sheep injection site activity, and other activities. The livestock camp had 30 youth who participated and learned about sheep handling, showing sheep, and studying breeds of sheep. (30 students were involved).