

Hancock County AG IN THE CLASSROOM



Providing Children with Agriculture-Based Curriculum

Partner: Hancock County Farm Bureau and Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District

Ag in the Classroom is an educational program aimed at supplementing children's learning in the community with agriculture activity-based curriculum. The program covers a wide range of topics such as dairy, horses, pumpkins, apples, soil, pollinators, pigs, poultry, and more. Dawn Weinberg, Ag Literacy Coordinator, visits all eight elementary schools in Hancock County, overseeing a total of 98 classrooms. In 2022-23, over 1,550 students were reached.

Arbor Day Festivities

Partners: Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District and Southeastern FFA Chapter

In celebration of Arbor Day, Ag Literacy Coordinator, Dawn Weinberg, visited every third-grade classroom in Hancock County. During the visit, students learned about proper planting techniques and placement, read a book about forestry, and discovered wood products and their uses. White Pine seedlings, donated by the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District, were distributed to each student in the visited classes, thanks to preparation by Southeastern FFA. Students were encouraged to plant their seedlings at home with care.



Prioritizing Farm Safety Education

Partners: Illini West FFA Chapter, Hancock County Farm Bureau, and Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative

Farm safety is a crucial topic, particularly for those living in rural areas. It is essential to introduce this conversation at a young age. At the Western Illinois Electric Cooperative Safety Day, 160 students from eight 5th-grade classes received a lesson about farm safety from Illini West FFA members. At Down on the Farm, an event organized by Hancock County Farm Bureau, 210 1st graders from 13 classes learned about farm safety, with an emphasis on harvest equipment and grain handling.



Teachers Summer Ag Institute - Agritourism

Partners: Hancock County Farm Bureau

Thirteen teachers from Hancock County earned summer professional development hours while learning more about the agritourism industry and its role in modern agriculture. Teachers visited Hinterland Dairy to learn about dairy cattle and cheesemaking, Harvestville Farms to gain an understanding of its history and formation, Horse 'N' Around Farms to see rare entertainment, Green Frog Distillery to learn about their corn whisky processing, and Wildlife Lakes Farm to gain knowledge of the elk industry. The institute wrapped up with hearing from Lee Deal, Education Specialist with Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.