

Teachers Explore Agriculture

Eighteen educators from Christian, Greene, Jersey, and Macoupin counties explored more about agriculture during the Summer Agricultural Institute conducted by the Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program June 10-13. During the institute, educators toured several sites and tried hands-on activities as they learned more about the agriculture industry. Educators earned 30 professional development hours or two graduate credits for the institute.

Traveling workshops included Baisch & Skinner, Corteva Agriscience Litchfield Pioneer Seed Production Facility, Danforth Plant Science Center, McDonnell Genome Institute, Ronnoco Coffee, and the St. Louis Science Center GROW exhibit. Educators learned about the wholesale flower market, seed production, plant science, genome sequencing, coffee processing, and more through these stops.

Teachers completed many hands-on activities and received resources to use in their classrooms from different presenters. Presenters included Brad Banning from IL Agriculture in the Classroom, Kacie Haag and Macie Hurst from IL Corn Marketing Board, Julie Blunier from IL Soybean Association, Jill Williams from St. Louis District Dairy Council, Beth Groves from Montgomery County Agricultural Literacy Program, and Connie Niemann from Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program.

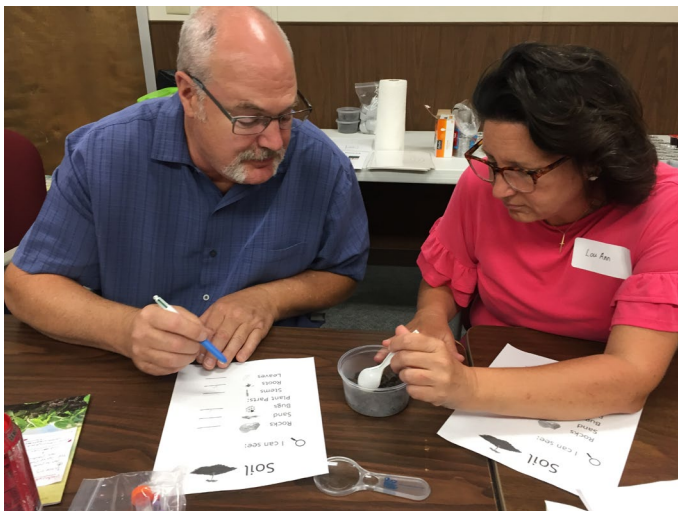
On their evaluation one teacher commented: "It is always a great institute. I learn so much and always come out inspired and have so much I am ready to share in the classroom and with colleagues." Attending a summer agricultural institute provides an educator with so many free resources," commented another teacher on their evaluation. Another educator said, "lots of great resources, great way to earn CPDU's, once in a lifetime experiences." "

The following educators attended the institute: Maggie Bick, Chad Brodbeck, and Amy Manker – Brussels Schools; Julie Breden – Jerseyville High School; Richard Cooper and Lou Ann Ibberson – North Mac Schools; Nicole Emery – Greenfield Elementary; Julie Heyen – Mt. Olive Junior High School; Jessica Kimble, Patty Kulenkamp, Kelli Rahe, Alison Sibert, Amy Steward, Karyssa Tefertiller, and Shelley Watts – Carrollton Grade School; and Karen Kinder, Becky Lorts, and Maureen Tepen – St. Mary School in Brussels.

This program and all the resources are made possible by local sponsors. We appreciate the support of these sponsors and our traveling workshop sites that helped make this institute a success. To learn more about the Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program and the resources available, please contact Connie Niemann, coordinator at 217-854-9604 or cniemann@illinois.edu. Program information is also available at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm/macoupinaglit>.



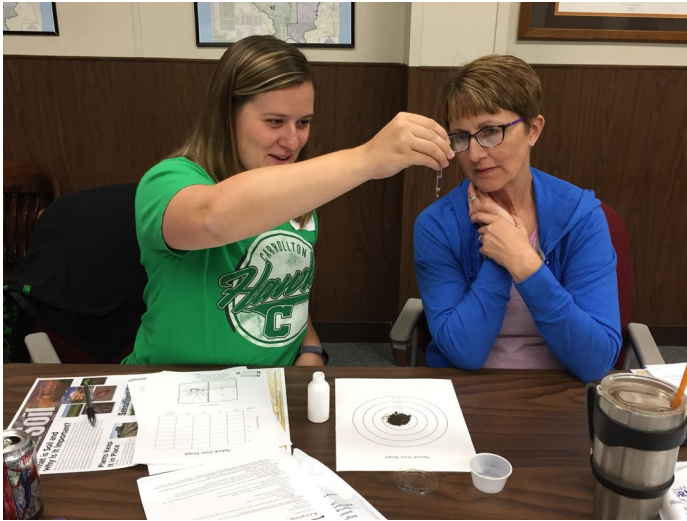
During the Summer Agricultural Institute, teachers learned more about agriculture through traveling workshops which included Corteva Agriscience Litchfield Pioneer Seed Production Facility. Pictured from left to right front row: Steve Hicks & Tony Herman – Corteva, Jessica Kimble, Shelley Watts, Kelli Rahe, Amy Steward, Maggie Bick, Alison Sibert, Karyssa Tefertiller, Becky Lorts, Nicole Emery, and Mike Tooley – Corteva. Back row: Derek Birkenkamp – Corteva, Chad Brodbeck, Amy Manker, Julie Breden, Karen Kinder, Patty Kulenkamp, Richard Cooper, Julie Heyen, Lou Ann Ibberson, Maureen Tepen, Chris Short and Kevin Clark – Corteva.



North Mac teachers Richard Cooper and Lou Ann Ibberson dig into soil exploration during the Summer Agricultural Institute.

As a part of the Summer Agricultural Institute traveling workshops, teachers learned about the wholesale flower market at Baisch and Skinner in St. Louis.





Nicole Emery from Greenfield Elementary and Julie Breden from Jersey High School dig into soil exploration during the Summer Agricultural Institute.

Maureen Tepen from St. Mary School and Amy Manker from Brussels High School dig into soil exploration during the Summer Agricultural Institute.



Shelley Watts from Carrollton Grade School and Julie Heyen from Mt. Olive Junior High School dig into soil exploration during the Summer Agricultural Institute.