

Educators Explore Agriculture

Fourteen educators from Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Randolph counties explored more about agriculture during the Summer Agricultural Institute conducted by the Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program June 20-23. During the institute, educators toured several sites and tried hands-on activities as they learned more about the agriculture industry. Educators earned up to 30 professional development hours or two graduate credits.

Traveling workshops included Bayer Crop Science, Holzwarth Flying Service, Jarden's Dairy Farm, McKay Corporation & Distribution Center, Mennel Milling Company of Illinois, Otter Lake Water Treatment Facility, Prairie Farms Dairy, Rhodes Angus, Waldbart & Sons Nursery, and Worksaver, Inc.

Teachers completed many hands-on activities, learned more about agriculture and career opportunities, and received resources to use in their classrooms from different presenters. Presenters included Gail Bradburn from Karmak; Mallory Kahl from Area Diesel Service; Jared Ruholl & Larry Miller from Farm Service Agency; Rhonda Koehne from Macoupin County Soil & Water Conservation District; Olivia Hoots from Illinois Beef Association; Stephanie Hospelhorn from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom; and Connie Niemann from Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program

On their evaluation one teacher commented: "It is a very eye-opening experience to see what kinds of different jobs that go into different businesses and seeing what all is involved. It is very interesting!" Another teacher said, "There is so much to learn about various agricultural topics that can be incorporated into lessons and the knowledge I gained listening to the many speakers at the sights we went to." One teacher said, "It opens your eyes to how much science is in agriculture." Another teacher shared, "Summer Institute is a lot of fun and a great learning experience.

The following educators attended the institute: Anna Allen and Hallie Campbell - North Mac Elementary; Amy Bethard - Farmersville Grade School; Chad Brodbeck - Brussels School District; Kristie Bushnell and Patty Kulenkamp - Carrollton Grade School; Nicole Emery - Greenfield; Tracy Favre and Lindsey Knes - Litchfield School District; Deb Heinemann, Karen Lemon, and Linda Stone - St. Mary in Taylorville; David Raymond - Bunker Hill High School; and Jennie Satterlee - Coulterville High School.

This program and all the resources are made possible by local sponsors. We appreciate the support of our sponsors, our traveling workshop sites and presenters 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 <https://extension.illinois.edu/cjmm/agricultural-literacy>.



Educator Agventure Summer Agricultural Institute June 20-23, 2022 picture highlights

Top row left to right: Jarden's Dairy Farm, Holzwarth Flying, Mennel Milling Company of Illinois; middle row - Waldbart & Sons Nursery, Worksaver, Otter Lake Water Treatment Facility; bottom row - Rhodes Angus, Bayer Crop Science.