



Educator Agventure Summer Agricultural Institute June 20-21, 2023 picture highlights of activities and traveling workshops

Top row left to right: hands-on activities, Macoupin Veterinary Services

Middle row: Sloan Implement Company, Illinois Department of Agriculture Weights & Measures and Seed Germination Lab

Bottom row: DICKEY-john and Springfield Plastics

Educators Explore Agriculture

Ten educators from Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Greene, and Randolph counties explored more about agriculture during the Summer Agricultural Institute conducted by the Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program June 20-21. During the institute, educators toured several sites and tried hands-on activities as they learned more about the agriculture industry. Educators earned 14 professional development hours.

Traveling workshops included DICKEY-john, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Macoupin Veterinary Services, Sloan Implement Company, and Springfield Plastics.

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 Kevin Daugherty from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom; Lydia Oker from Illinois Pork Producers; and Connie Niemann from Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program

On their evaluation one teacher commented: "I would encourage all educators to attend a summer ag institute." Another said, "It is awesome. I love the field trips-you learn so much more when you actually see and experience it." One teacher shared: "It's hands-on and engaging." When asked how they plan to use what they've learned, one teacher said: "help my class understand how agriculture is a part of everyone's life." Another teacher shared: "inform kids of area products and careers around them."

The following educators attended the institute: Chad Brodbeck from Brussels School District; Nicole Emery and Janice Meyer from Greenfield School District; Karen Kinder, Becky Lorts, Maureen Tepen, and Rachel Wilschetz-Hartman from St. Mary School - Brussels; Jennie Satterlee; Cathy Schaeffer from St. Mary - Taylorville; and Breanna Winkelman - Trinity Lutheran 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>.