



Meat the Future

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"Farm-2-Table Success"

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Did you know cheeseburgers were grown in Kansas? A number of 4th and 5th grade students from Hill City and Hoxie learned this fun fact, and so much more, during the Farm-2-Table Series held over the last couple of months!

If you keep up-to-date with my columns, it is no secret that food industry knowledge is a favorite of mine to discuss. And, the goal behind the pilot year of the Farm-2-Table Series was just that – to teach our youth about the food on their tables, clothes on their backs and the agriculture that surrounds them each day.

Over the course of 8 sessions participants learned about some very important agriculture topics including: General Ag Facts, The Importance of Soil, Kansas Crops, Dairy, Poultry, Fruit & Vegetable Production, Livestock Production and the Cheeseburgers Grown in Kansas. Once a week for eight weeks, we visited 5th-grade students during school at the Hill City Elementary School and both 4th & 5th grade students after-school in Hoxie.

Throughout our series we completed a variety of educational activities, enjoyed a number of healthy snacks and learned so many fun agriculture facts! Participants were able to make their own butter, plant a garden in a glove, make a sourdough pizza starter, create their own livestock brand on an ear tag keychain, test water infiltration rates in different types of soil and more. Additionally, we enjoyed some tasty snacks such as soil horizon pudding cups and our very own version of “pig feed” trail mix. To wrap-up our series, we celebrated with a cheeseburger grand finale – which included a locally grown hamburger and a lot of knowledge on how every part of our tasty snack is or can be grown right here in the wheat state!

One of our participants said: “My favorite new agriculture fact is that dirt is what you find under your refrigerator, and soil is what we find outside and underground.”

"Farm-2-Table Success", Cont.

Another said: "I enjoyed learning the process of eggs and how it takes three weeks for a baby chick to hatch!"

"The Farm-2-Table Series was so much fun, I think everyone should do it if they can! One of my favorite parts was having a board and being able to match up all the different meat cuts and by-products of cows and pigs. My favorite snack was the cheeseburgers!", says another participant.

The Farm-2-Table Series has been a high priority of mine since starting my career in extension. Although it took some time to work out all of the fine details, I couldn't be more excited about the result of our pilot series! Twin Creeks District 4-H Program Assistant, Dana Geisinger, and I look forward to continuing this series in the future across all four counties of the district – so watch for details.

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