

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:

Alex Lord, Student Intern
Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
(785) 532-7946 (voice)
ksfac@ksu.edu

KFAC, Cargill and Kansas Soybean Commission host successful spring assemblies for Kansas City area students

This spring, the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) was busy providing Cargill and Kansas Soybean Commission sponsored assemblies. The “Speak Out for Agriculture” assembly programs were well received by a number of schools in the Shawnee Mission and Olathe school districts. Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, visited Neiman Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas on Wednesday, May 18.

The Cargill and Kansas Soybean Commission sponsored assemblies provide students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in three areas of agriculture and natural resources. Musick gave presentations on farm animals, grains and oils, and natural resources. The programs reach a large variety of students.

“The presentations give a chance for Title 1 students to have hands-on experience with agriculture, because they don’t have the opportunity,” said Mary Carr, third grade teacher at Neiman Elementary.

During the farm animal assemblies, kindergarten, first, and second grade students learn about the different food sources in Kansas, including beef, dairy, pork and poultry. During the grains and oils presentations, third and fourth grade students learn about corn, wheat, sunflowers, soybeans, cotton and grain sorghum in Kansas. Fifth, sixth and seventh grade students learn about Kansas grasslands, wetlands, biomes and fuels from renewable resources during the natural resources presentations.

Principal Stan Anderson of Neiman Elementary was in support of the assemblies. “We need to do more to enhance students’ understanding of science,” said Anderson.

The students aren’t the only benefactors of the assemblies. The assemblies also serve as a model for teachers on how to incorporate information about agriculture into existing classroom curriculum.

“We provide additional tools, such as lesson plans, teachers can use to connect their students to the sources of food, fiber, food and other items they use daily,” Musick said.

Over the course of the spring semester, the Cargill and Kansas Soybean Commission assemblies presented by KFAC have reached 1,354 students at six different elementary schools in the Kansas City area.

If you would like more information on the assembly program, contact the KFAC office at (785) 532-7946 or visit the website at www.kssagclassroom.org.



Cathy Musick, KFAC Executive Director, and Nancy Carr, School Enrichment Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension – Johnson County, present on grains and oil seeds to third and fourth graders at Neiman Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas on May 18. Courtesy photo.

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