Project P.A.I.L.

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Livingston County Farm Bureau
State: IL
Membership Category: 3,001-5,000
Year: 2013
Phone: (815) 842-1103
Email: tvlcfb@frontier.com

Program Description:
"Project P.A.I.L.-Promoting Agriculture In Literature-" provided 2nd grade classrooms with an opportunity to experience agriculture through reading, listening and participating in hands-on activities that complement a factual ag-based book. They carried their supplies in bright red pails to provide a visual connector to the P.A.I.L. acronym. An activity booklet was developed to extend the experience to the home.

Project P.A.I.L. was implemented for National Ag Month. A letter and e-mail to explain the program was mailed to all 27 second grade teachers in the county. Letters and e-mails were also sent to all FFA chapters to offer them the opportunity to participate as guest readers. The book "Seed, Soil, Sun" by Cris Petersen was selected and research was done to find hands-on activities that were grade level appropriate and correlated with the book's text. An activity booklet entitled "Seed-Soil-Sun Companion" was developed to extend the classroom lessons. Enough supplies for eight programs to be done simultaneously were purchased. Each 2-gallon red pail contained the book, activity supplies and "companions" for each student. The supplies included seed matching games (12 sets per bucket) and enough supplies for each student to make a "Kernel Kid" germination necklace (jewelry bag, cotton balls, water bottle, corn kernels and yarn).

This program was multi-disciplinary and showcased agriculture not just in the language arts, but also social studies, science and math. It was very visual, hands-on and interactive; and reached almost 400 second grade students throughout the county.