The objective of this project was to educate young people about the importance of agriculture and give them a chance to meet a farmer that grows the food they eat.

"FarmSCool" was a week-long event that they conducted at their local elementary schools. It is fun (farm's cool) and educational (farm school). Each day focuses on a different agriculture theme, the children wear a different color, and there are different worksheets for use in the classroom. The highlight of the week is a day of livestock, machinery and crops on the playground for all the children to see.

Members of the Farm Bureau wanted to make more of an impact than a simple, single day of fun, so they immediately began to plan a week-long event. Each of the five days were assigned a different theme and topic, for example Grow Green Monday, when students wear green to show support for farmers who protect the environment while growing the food. Teachers were provided with worksheets and materials to reinforce the day's theme and lessons. They also wanted to make sure every student had the opportunity to talk to a farmer and see farm products and livestock up close. Local farmers, FFA and 4-H students were enlisted to share their knowledge and display their farming products one day at each school. Displays included beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, machinery, poultry, horses, corn, wheat and soybeans.

The family resource center at each elementary school was contacted, as they are in charge of field trip planning, assemblies and other out-of-classroom learning experiences. One day at each school, Farming on the Playground is set up, where live farm animals, machinery and grains are featured, accompanied by the farmer who raised the products. Every student in the school has the opportunity to visit Farming on the Playground to see the farm products and talk to the farmers and hear a presentation from each farmer about how the
products are raised and what they are used for.

Photo 1:

Photo 2: