Third Grade Ag Tour

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Mifflin County Farm Bureau
State: PA
Membership Category: 0-1,000
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Program Description:
For the past 15 years, Mifflin County Farm Bureau has hosted a Third Grade Ag Tour in order to help third graders learn about many different areas of food, farming and safety. Agricultural education has been mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In order to meet this directive, the local school district allows for a field trip to a farm for students as a part of the district's curriculum. The tour strives to give an accurate and realistic image of modern farming by showing the care given to farm animals. Through the tour, students also learn how farmers are good stewards of the environment by learning about proper nutrition handling procedures, crop rotation practices, and water quality management.

Many resources are used by the Mifflin County Farm Bureau in order to make the Ag Tour a reality. They start with locating one or two farm families who are willing to host students on the field trip. Numerous stations are created at the farms where volunteers from local 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, local agribusiness professionals, soil conservation and Extension staff teach students about various aspects of farm life. Examples of different stations range from anything including milking cows and veterinary science, pesticide safety, apple grading, honeybees, farm equipment and food safety. Packets are given to teachers with items they can use in the classroom in addition to the items Farm Bureau gathers for students in take home packets.

Teamwork between Mifflin County Farm Bureau, the school district, local businesses, Extension, NRCS, Farm Bureau members, and the community provide a unique learning environment for these third grade students. A great deal of work and dedication goes into making
the Ag Tour a great success each year. The Mifflin County Farm Bureau believes it is important to create a positive hands-on experience for students to learn more about food, farming and safety.

Photo 1:

Photo 2: