**5th Graders: Farmers Today, Ag Leaders Tomorrow**

**Program Area:** Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)

**County Farm Bureau:** Simpson County Farm Bureau

**State:** MS

**Membership Category:** 1,001-3,000

**Year:** 2013

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**Program Description:** Addressing the need for children to understand how their food is made and where it comes from, Simpson County Farm Bureau organized an event where hundreds of 5th grade students and their teachers could tour stations focused on poultry, beef, forestry, livestock, row crops, safety and drug awareness. Each station was designed to emphasize the commodity using props, costumes and products to interest the students.

Most kids in the elementary school age group have minimal knowledge about agriculture. With this in mind, the program was developed to focus on four key goals: to allow farmers and agricultural professionals to "tell their story"; to teach elementary students to understand where their food comes from; to demonstrate the economic value of agriculture in their community; and to encourage students to consider a career in agriculture.

Farm Bureau volunteers and support agencies formed committees to create an eight minute activity and lesson for each of the stations. A minimum of two volunteers manned each station. The key goals of the event drove the planning of the individual station efforts to educate the students. Each station was designed to reflect the commodity, with props to demonstrate and promote the value of the commodity.

By providing the opportunity for students to observe and learn in a venue where they can see what is going on, they can better grasp concepts of agriculture and farming.