**Agriculture Awareness Day**

**Crystal Folger-Hawks**

**2018-2019 Kenan Fellows Project**

* Purpose: For 2nd Grade children in Surry County Schools to:
  + Understand how food, fiber, and renewable resource products are produced.
  + Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
  + Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
  + Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resources industries.
* Implementation Plan:
  + Form an Agriculture Awareness Committee. Consider the following to serve:
    - Agriculture teachers, Career Development Coordinators, Elementary School Director, High School/CTE Director, Agriculture Extension Office Agents, Agriculture Business/Farm Leaders, Farm Bureau Representative
    - Meet regularly to plan the event. Make this a school and community event.
  + Secure a large location that allows agriculture/animals.
  + For our plan, we organized the day into 2 areas: Rotations and Free Choice.
  + Rotations:
    - First you should see how many classes of children there are. We selected 2nd grade, so looking at each 2nd grade class I determined that we could combine a few and have 28 classes. Therefore we made 14 morning and 14 afternoon rotations.
    - Rotations were divided into 8 minutes each.
    - Rotation ideas are:
      * Horse, Cattle, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Poultry, Butter, Animal By-Products, Soybeans, Small Grains, Snacks/Restrooms, Horticulture, Soil and Water, Careers, Literacy, Fibers
    - Committee members along with FFA high school students find volunteers to lead these sessions.
  + Free Choice Area:
    - Start off with a group presentation from Southland Dairy. They will do a cow milking demonstration.
    - Then students and teachers have options to visit different stations at that their leisure.
    - Free Choice Areas are:
      * Local farms, Community College Horticulture and Animal Science Programs, Farm Equipment and Safety, Petting Zoo, Hayrides, Barrel Rides, NC State Creamery, NC Forest Service, Picture Booth, NC Department of Agriculture, Obstacle Course
* Sponsorship:
  + Our event cost around $2,500 and we had local farms and agriculture businesses sponsor the event.
  + Working with the Extension Office and local businesses is the best way to raise money.
  + Expenses included: Petting Zoo, T-shirts for all volunteers and high school students to wear, breakfast and lunch for volunteers, handwashing stations (for petting zoo), hand sanitizer for each rotation, butter making supplies, ice cream from NC State, and wristbands for all adults to wear.
* Need Help?
  + One of the best ways to plan this event is to go and see one in action! Here are a few you can go to:
    - Iredell-Statesville Schools hosts an Agriculture Day for all kindergarten children in May. Contact AG teacher Bryant York at [bryant\_york@iss.k12.nc.us](mailto:bryant_york@iss.k12.nc.us). He was a tremendous help in planning our event.
    - Surry County Schools now hosts an annual AG Adventures Day for all 2nd graders in April. Contact Crystal Folger-Hawks at [hawksc@surry.k12.nc.us](mailto:hawksc@surry.k12.nc.us).
    - Stokes County Schools offers a Farm Day in April/May for all 2nd graders. Contact Doug Rose at doug.rose@stokes.k12.nc.us.