

FARMER CHERYL'S FOOD POWER

Where food knowledge makes brain power

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OVERALL PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

To develop K-5th grade students' understanding about how vitally important our natural resources (sun, water, soil, and air), plant physiology, and farmers are for providing our nation's food supply. All presentations are hands-on and/or interactive.

6-8th grade student programs are design for each individual school based on the science curriculum the students are currently studying. All presentations are hands-on and/or interactive.

Entire School Commitment: Farmer Cheryl encourages schools to integrate this program into each classroom and each grade level where appropriate. This will give the students a progressively deeper understanding of their food and how it is an integral part of the fabric of our society.

RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVE:

K-5th: In order for students to develop an understanding of the importance of natural resources, plant physiology, farmers and food production, the same students should be visited monthly over the course of a school year. This involves 8 visits to a single class to cover the role farmers, plant physiology, and each natural resource plays in the production of food.

6-8th: Meet with appropriate teacher to determine jointly what agricultural topic will be presented.

FIRST YEAR 1st-5th grade SAMPLE PRESENTATION PROGRAM:

OCT. Introduction to food production & the lifecycle of a fruiting plant, using pumpkins or apples as the theme.

NOV. The interaction of mixed plantings, using the Native American Three Sisters (corn, beans and squash)

DEC. Dormancy, Seasons and Environs (wetland environs), using evergreens, deciduous trees and cranberries as the theme.

JAN. All of our food originates from plants, even to make our meat and milk; taught through dairy and beef production.

FEB. Soil contains dirt AND A LOT MORE! 4 soil types, 2 of which are authentic farm soils are examined by students.

MAR. Plant Water Cycle: How water travels from the soil through plants and returns back to the soil.

APR. Combine the natural resources to grow: Students plant their own seeds in soil, care for them, and eat the plant.

MAY Visit an authentic farm to see our natural resources and a farmer in action growing food.

6TH-8TH GRADE PRESENTATION EXAMPLES:

Transfer of Energy: Sun's Energy into our bodies from photosynthesis.

Honey Bees: Pollination

Water Cycle by making a bead bracelet.

Cheetos: The production and economic chain

Domestication caused by genetic changes selected by humans, using corn (theosite) as the theme.

Animal kingdoms, studying the affect grasshoppers have on farm crops.

Corn Jeopardy

Soil contains dirt AND A LOT MORE!

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS SAMPLE PRESENTATION PROGRAM (1^{rst} – 5th GRADE):

Objective: Remains the same, building on the simple concepts introduce the first year.

NOV. 1^{rst}-3rd grade - Different parts of a fruit and why fruits grow in different parts of the country, using pumpkins as the theme.

4th-5th grade – How one food product can be modified for many different purposes, using corn as the theme.

DEC. 1^{rst}-3rd grade – How a certain food product can be extracted from a plant, using sugar beets as the theme.

4th-5th grades – Presentation not developed yet.

JAN. 1^{rst}-5th grades: Domestication using dairy cattle as the theme.

FEB. 1^{rst}-5th grades: Pollination, through the theme of honey bees.

MAR. 1^{rst}-3rd grades: Our nutrition and plants nutrition come from the soil. Fertilizers.

4th-5th grades: Soil review, earthworm experiment.

APR. Farm water cycle, runoff and wetlands.

MAY Authentic farm visit doing a farm project.

PRESENTATION TIME: 45-60 minutes for each classroom presentation

PROGRAM FEE: \$40 for first presentation of the day and \$20 for each additional presentation. Materials are extra, generally running at \$5 per class per presentation.

References: Nicole Sweeny, Grasslake School, 847-395-1550, ext.30