



Amador County's 4th Annual Farm Day a Huge Success!

Farm Day is a national effort to educate school-aged youth about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives. On September 29th, Amador County hosted its fourth annual event at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth. The event was open to all the third-graders in the county and was FREE of charge to the kids and the school.

Students spent the day learning about farms, ranches, and how food gets to the table. They also learned about the biodiversity of Amador's regions, from timber forests to croplands. There were 24 interactive stations that satisfied state curriculum standards, demonstrating to the children how agriculture gets from the farm to their forks.



Amador Farm Day hosted nearly 350 students to teach and show them the diversity of products that are made from agriculture, and the process of getting crops from the dirt into the packaging they see in their pantries.

Groups of approximately 10-15 students and two adults rotated to fun, age-specific instructional stations. One of the stations had a saw mill that demonstrated how timber is processed into logs for building homes and other construction materials. Another station taught kids about the importance of butterflies and pollinators in agriculture. One station had the kids learning about the different breeds of chickens and what each breed is used for. There were also stations that showed kids how ketchup, pickles and socks are made!



Local farmers and ranchers are a pivotal component of Farm Day. Many of them bring equipment and animals to the event and are speakers sharing their passion and love for farming and ranching with the youth. Others contribute financially by making donations so the schools are able to participate for free.



Amador Farm Day was spearheaded by a group of individuals representing federal, state and county government organizations, local farming and ranching organizations, local farmers and ranchers, local teachers, and a number of interested community members. The event was organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension, in cooperation and support with Farms of Amador, USDA Resource Conservation District, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Argonaut FFA, Amador County

Fairgrounds, Amador County Agriculture Department, Sierra Pacific Industries, Tumbas Vineyards, and many community members. The major event sponsors this year were the Amador County Farm Bureau and Charles Spinetta Winery and Vineyards whose donations made the event possible.

Many children, who do not come from farming families, were wide-eyed and thrilled to learn about the crops, farms and animals they see around their community and how important those things are to them personally in their everyday lives. From the paper and pencils they use in the classroom to the homes they live in, Farm Day gives kids an opportunity to not only learn about the diversity of agriculture commodities grown in Amador County, but learn firsthand from the people that grow and raise these wonderful agricultural products. Farm Day gives kids a whole new appreciation for our local farmers and the hard work it takes to get food to the table.

For questions about Farm Day, or to add your support for this and other cooperative events in the county, contact Scott Oneto with the University of California, at 223-6834 or sroneto@ucanr.edu

