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April 24, 25 and 26, 2015



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West Holt Third graders celebrate Ag Month with educational field trip



Checking out a combine.



A map at the school shows Nebraska agriculture products.



Dave Frerichs explains feed rations.



A bucket calf gets fed.



These students got to pet a baby calf.



Students watch as the cattle get fed.

Article and Photos
by Mary Flannery,
Third Grade Teacher

The West Holt third graders observed National Agriculture Month during March.

They spent several days learning about the impacts of agriculture on their everyday lives. Their focus was on Nebraska's top agricultural commodities including corn, soybeans, cattle, and hogs.

Here is a peek at a few of the facts the 3rd graders learned about each commodity.

Corn

A single bushel of corn can sweeten more than 400 cans of pop.

There are about 800 kernels of corn on each ear.

Nebraska ranks #1 in popcorn production.

Soybeans

George Washington Carver discovered over 300 uses for soybeans.

The U.S. grows about 70 million acres of soybeans annually.

Soybeans are used in products like oils, soaps, cosmetics, plastics, ink, and fuel.

Cattle

Cattle drink about 25 gallons of water a day.

Cattle outnumber humans in Nebraska.

Nebraska ranks #1 in red meat production.

A cow hide can produce 144 baseballs.

Hogs

A pig can run a 7-minute mile.

A piglet weighs about 3 1/2 pounds at birth and doubles its weight in seven days.

Heart valves from hogs are used to replace damaged heart valves in humans.

At the end of the week, the third graders were invited to visit the Frerichs' Farm north of Atkinson to experience agriculture hands-on as a culminating activity.

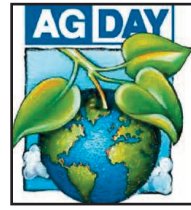
At the farm, the third graders were able to watch the feed ration being mixed and the cattle being fed. This helped them see how the crops and livestock tie together.

They were able to see the cows and their new babies. The highlight of the trip was seeing the two bucket calves.

They got to see how the milk was mixed and they took turns holding the bucket while the calves sucked. Some of the kids were even willing to let the calves suck their fingers!

The trip finished with a stop to see the combine. They were able to take turns climbing into it and listening to how it is used.

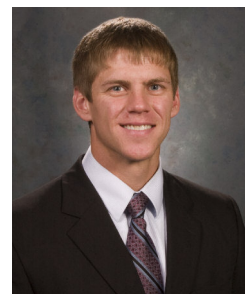
By the end of the week, the third graders had many new and interesting facts to share as well as a better understanding of how agriculture impacts them on a daily basis.



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Graphic Gleanings

In 1965 -- 50 years ago . . . Jimmy Poessnecker was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday after two years of instruction. He received Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Atkinson firemen answered a call to a fire on the John J. Dvorak farm south of Atkinson. The barn was lost, but firemen kept a granary from being destroyed.

Mrs. G.E. Gonderinger has a new location for the Atkinson Flower Shop in the Gonderinger Motor Co. The spacious quarters feature wood paneling, display windows and enlarged cooler facilities.

Dennis Braun, Larry Schunk, and Clyde Davis won a superior rating in Livestock Judging at the Voc. Ag Livestock Judging Contest in Lincoln. The team placed 8th out of 102 teams.

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