FACT SHEET - AGRICULTURE AWARENESS ACTIVITY

THEME: Close Encounters with Agriculture – applicable to the Social Studies, Science and Health curriculums

AUDIENCE: 4th Grade Students - 160 to 240 students per day

DATES/TIME: October 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 10:00am until 1:15pm

LOCATION: Agricultural History Farm Park (M-NCPPC)
18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855

GOALS:
• To promote and increase the visibility of agricultural science and related fields
• To demonstrate the interrelationship between agriculture, the environment and nutrition
• To increase the understanding of agriculture with youth and their families
• To involve volunteers in promoting agriculture and related fields

EDUCATIONAL TRACKS:

1. Production Agriculture

Children will better understand agriculture production by matching raw products (animal, grain and specialty) with finished products using a relay race and discussion. They will get a close-up view of dairy cattle, beef cattle, pigs, a miniature donkey and pony learn about the products they produce. Students will also take home a goody bag of donated agricultural and promotional items, plus a pansy for planting.

2. The Environment

Children will better understand how agricultural soil conservation best management practices affect water quality and our environment. Hands-on activities will help children learn about water quality, Maryland soils, wildlife habitat, and things students can do at home to help keep water clean and safe.

3. Nutrition, Diet and Health

Children will study grain products and their relationship to nutrition, diet and health. Students will learn about parts of vegetables we eat through hands-on activities. Demonstrations, displays and games will enhance their understanding of the importance of good nutrition. All activities are based on the latest federal guidelines.

SCHEDULE (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:50 - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Arrival/Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 - 10:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Hands-on Activities</td>
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<td>10:55 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Rotate - Next Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Hands-on Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50 - 12:20 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH - Rotate - Next Track</td>
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<td>12:20 - 1:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Hands-on Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:05 - 1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Wrap-up/Departure</td>
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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL:
1. Provide in-class activities for 4th grade students, using materials provided via email.
2. Administer pre-tests to your students (enough copies for your class will be provided) prior to the field trip.
3. Recruit and coordinate adult chaperones who will accompany students on field trip (suggested: 1 adult to 5-10 children).
4. Arrange for bus transportation/cost, insurance coverage, bag lunches and permission slips for participating children. **Please box and label lunches by teacher!!**
5. Inform Extension staff of any special needs children *prior to the program.*
6. Establish time for an orientation session for teachers, to be conducted in the participating schools by Extension staff members *note: if you are a returning school from a previous Close Encounters Program an orientation is not necessary unless you specifically request one*. 
7. Administer post-tests (enough copies for your class will be provided) after the field trip.
8. Return completed pre and post-tests along with your program evaluation in the interoffice envelop provided.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION AND CO-SPONSORING GROUPS WILL:**

1. Provide teacher’s education materials prior to the field trip. In-class activities will include pre & post tests, games and activity sheets.
2. Provide pre and post-tests for all students.
3. Conduct an orientation session for participating teachers, if requested.
4. Provide, together with volunteers, hands-on educational activities in agriculture production, the environment and nutrition, diet and health at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, MD.
5. Furnish each child and teacher a take home goody bag of promotional agricultural materials.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the program in cooperation with participating schools.

**HELPFUL HINTS:**

Children and adult chaperons should dress appropriately for the weather and, if conditions are wet, should wear waterproof shoes and outerwear. Most activities will be under cover but groups will be walking outdoors during part of the day. Children and adult chaperons should bring a **labeled** bag lunch and drink - we are unable to provide refrigeration or cooking facilities. **LABEL AND PACK ALL LUNCHES IN COOLERS, BOXES OR LAUNDRY BASKETS, MARKED WITH THE TEACHER’S NAME!!** Trashcans will be available on the grounds.

**CO-SPONSORING GROUPS:**

Montgomery County 4-H, FCE, Master Gardener, and Farming Community Volunteers
University of Maryland Extension – Montgomery County Office
Montgomery County Department of Economic Development - Agriculture Services Division
Montgomery Soil Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Agricultural Center (Fair Board)
Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park

Questions? Call Doug Tregoning 301-590-2809, email at dwt@umd.edu, or write to: University of Maryland Extension, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855