

Close Encounters with Agriculture Fact Sheet

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 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 10:00am until 1:30pm

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 see close up and interact with beef cattle, horses, and goats. Students will also try their hand at butter making and milk a simulated cow. Each student will 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, stream insects, local soils, wildlife habitat, soil erosion 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. A clicker quiz game will cap off the activities.

SCHEDULE (subject to change):

9:50 - 10:15a.m.	Arrival/Registration	11:55 - 12:25 p.m.	LUNCH - Rotate - Next Track
10:20 - 11:05 a.m.	Hands-on Activities	12:25 - 1:10 p.m.	Hands-on Activities
11:05 - 11:10a.m.	Rotate - Next Track	1:10 - 1:20 p.m.	Wrap-up/Departure
11:10 - 11:55 a.m.	Hands-on Activities		

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL:

1. Provide in-class activities for 4th grade students, using materials provided through the program's website. <http://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/agriculture/close-encounters-agriculture>
2. Administer the online pre-tests to your students 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 the online post-tests after the field trip.
8. Completed a post program teacher evaluation on line.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION AND CO-SPONSORING GROUPS WILL:

1. Make teachers aware of online resources for pre trip in class activities. A hard copy teachers notebook will be provided upon request.
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 Office of Agriculture
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

