

South Dakota Agriculture In The Classroom

2009 Program Achievements

South Dakota Mission Agriculture Ag Mag

Two issues were sent during the school year to all public and private schools in South Dakota, at *no charge* to the third and fourth grade teachers. Topics for 2008-2009 were “*Cattle and You*” sponsored by the South Dakota Beef Industry Council, and “*Soybeans, The Miracle Crop*” sponsored by the South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council.

28,000 student and 1500 teacher editions are printed for *each issue*.

Ag Literacy Workshops

SDAITC presented various 2-day workshops through out the year.

“Seeds of Science, Roots of Reading”

Beresford Elementary (30) Winner Elementary (15) Outdoor Campus 2 Sessions (50)

95 teachers from SD were trained through these hands-on workshops.

Summer Symposium

AITC presented 4 sessions that were 90 minutes in length at the 2009 Summer Symposium in Sioux Falls. *Science and Art of SD Soil* session was attended by **25 teachers**. *Hands On Minds On* had **47 teachers** packed into a room set up for 25! *Fuel Up and Get Fit* (nutrition education) had **22 attended**. The *Very Hungry SD Caterpillar* had a full session with **25 teachers**.

SDAITC also had an informational booth in the vendor area of the conference. 700+ teachers from across the state attended the Symposium.

119 teachers from SD were reached through these hands-on sessions.

Environmental Education for Early Childhood

This distance learning opportunity was a collaboration of Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree and AITC via the Dakota Digital Network. The Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls facilitated the course. The 8 week course could be taken for 2 graduate credits. This course was for PreK- Grade 2. A entirely new program was created for this audience, using *Project Seasons* as the main curriculum, supplemented with other materials and resources covering topics including “*What is Agriculture*”, “*Soil the Basis of Life*”, “*What Does a Farmer Do*”, “*Animals on the Farm*” and “*Plant Parts We Eat*”.

The course was presented to 90 teachers across the state

Pre-Service Agriculture Literacy Presentations

This program is designed to prepare future educators to integrate agriculture into core curriculum. By introducing future teachers to resources and training prior to entering the work force, we feel that our materials will be something that they will utilize from the start of their careers.

75 student at Dakota State University

105 students at Black Hills State University

Black Hills Stock Show

SDAITC and the Black Hills Stock Show partnered to provide “*Agriculture In The Black Hills*”—and educational program for elementary students. The Rapid City Journal did a great article about the program. They interviewed students and teachers as they shadowed them through the morning’s programs.

16 classrooms, over 500 students grades PreK through 5th attended.

National Agriculture Day Celebration

In recognition of National Agriculture Day the Washington Pavilion and the SD Celebrates Ag Day Committee hosted the sixth annual celebration of National Ag Day. The theme was "Celebrate Science in Agriculture." There were three floors of events, demonstrations, and over 30 exhibitors with samples of agricultural products. **Over 1,500 kids and parents** attended

390 fourth graders from three counties got a chance to learn more about agriculture at the annual "Agriculture Field Day" in Pierre. They visited eight different stations representing various aspects of South Dakota agriculture – beef, swine, dairy, grape growing, natural resources, organic farming, renewable fuels and electric safety. The field day is sponsored by the Pierre Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Interest Committee.

212 fourth graders spent a day learning about agriculture at the Davison County 4-H Grounds in Mitchell. The event taught students about hogs, cattle, horses, dairy cattle, honeybees, electricity, farm safety and topsoil conservation. Even though we live in a farming community, for many of these students, this was their first exposure to food production.

The Aberdeen Chamber's Ag Committee uses Pizza as the theme of their Ag Field Day. **425 fourth grade students** learned about the origins of the ingredients in one of their favorite foods. At the end of the day, they were all treated to pizza!

Expanding Your Horizons

SDAITC was involved with the local planning committee for the 2009 Expanding Your Horizons Conference held in Pierre. SDAITC assisted in obtaining Agriculture and Biological Science related speakers for the Pierre conference as well as agricultural career information at the trade show. The presentations for this year included Renewable Fuels and Horticulture careers.

Over 300 girls participated in the event for grades 6-12.

Earth Day

AITC worked with the SD Discovery Center, Project WET, SD Game Fish and Parks and Project WILD to host an Earth Day event for 8th grade science students in Pierre. On April 21st, **180 8th grade science students** experienced interactive activities related to Earth Day. AITC & NRCS's program, "Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt" presented information about the technology advancements that have helped reduce soil erosion and compaction.

Big Sioux Water Festival

AITC had a display in Teacher Resource Room at the event promoting Ag Mag, new website and our sessions at the Summer Symposium in Sioux Falls.

54 teachers from 34 area schools attended

Other Highlights

- ◇ *Dakota Connections* was piloted with SDARL Alumni in Arlington and Aberdeen in May.
- ◇ Booth at the *SoDakSACA* (after school programs) conference in Watertown. The Farmer Grows a Rainbow curriculum **75 programs** were represented from across the state.
- ◇ Sioux Falls' *Eugene Field Elementary MI Day*—**150 1st through 5th grade** students learned about Agriculture in our Community.
- ◇ *SDAHPERD*—(association of Health, Dance, PE teachers) conference. AITC presented a 1 hour session using The Farmer Grows a Rainbow curriculum. **15 teachers participated**
- ◇ **Soil Painting Training**—AITC & NRCS worked with Senator Julie Bartling, President of the SDFU Foundation, to train SDFU summer interns in Soil Painting. All of the SDFU Summer Camps featured this activity. At the **65 county camps this summer, 1,600 kids learned about soil science using the soil painting concept.**
- ◇ *Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Training*— Had a booth at the training for schools that have received this Federal Grant. Used the “Farmer Grows a Rainbow” kit and offered a sign up for free materials. **50 staff** from across the state attended.
- ◇ *Environmental Education Guidelines Training*—AITC participated in the initial meeting with the SD Environmental Education Connections. Agriculture needs to be represented in this process to ensure that our use of natural resources is portrayed accurately and to establish a place for AITC in the plan. SDAITC partners with many of the groups members currently for workshops and student events.
- ◇ *Ag Fest*—participated in the legislative event hosted by Ag Unity. Approximately **80 legislators** attended in addition to lobbyists, interns, and public guests. AITC partnered with NRCS and Association of Conservation Districts for “Agriculture Stewardship Jeopardy”. It was a very successful promotion that helped educated attendees about agriculture and it’s importance to South Dakota.
- ◇ Presented at *National ATIC Conference*
- ◇ Presented Mother Nature’s Recycling Machines at *SRM Bird Tour*
- ◇ *ACE Grant* funding for Soil Science Workshops
- ◇ *Monsanto Grant, SD Commuting Foundation Grant and CHS funding* for Making Connections Ag Literacy Project
- ◇ AITC participated in *Legislative Beef Day* at the Capitol o to share the importance of the Beef Industry with legislators and Capitol visitors.