

Partner Project Reports

Project Reports for Partner-led Projects were submitted to PESAI by the Lead Partner listed. The information contained in the report was not verified.

Agriculture Awareness School Tour

Lead Partner: Gringo Hogs & Moonshadow Holsteins

Allotted Funding from PESAI: \$2000.0

PESAI Funding Spent: \$1147.1

Contributors: Manitoba Pork

Background/Objectives

Gringo Hogs and Moonshadow Holsteins are agricultural operations in the Eastman region of Manitoba. Since 2009, they have partnered with local schools, PESAI, Manitoba Pork and others to increase students' agricultural knowledge through on-farm tours. Many children do not know where their food comes from. This project allows school aged children, parents and supervisors to have a first-hand experience on a Manitoba dairy farm.

Project Activities

Gringo Hogs and Moonshadow Holsteins hosted and toured two groups of students through their operations in June. Students from École Gabrielle-Roy (Ile-des-Chênes) and École Saint-Joachim (La Broquerie) schools toured on June 12 and 13, 2018. Approximately 125 students, teachers and accompanying parents participated in the tours. The kids showed interest in what they saw and were receptive to the agriculture facts that were presented to them.

Organizers had prepared take-home packages for the students and adults. Packages were filled with various informational and promotional items, which organizers were able to obtain from different agricultural organizations.

The highlights of the tours were the students being able to touch the animals, especially bottle-feeding the young calves. One group even witnessed a calf being born. Some students were given a chance to try milking a cow by hand. Students were delighted to be able to climb into real farm tractors and touch farm equipment hands-on. The barbecue lunch promoting Manitoba-grown products was enjoyed by all participants. Over the lunch hour, the kids were educated about food products that were made in part from pork and/or cattle by-products. Both students and adults were quite surprised to discover how many daily use food products comes from farm animals.

Results/Observations

The tours were a wonderful success. Both groups had a great time and went back home with more knowledge and a better understanding of the farming. In order to assess the value of the tours, students were asked to fill a short questionnaire. Overall, the comments were positive.

Conclusions

These tours provided opportunity to promote agriculture and help students experience how things are done at the farm level. It also increased their knowledge and awareness about origin of the food products. Gringo Hogs and Moonshadow Holsteins are planning to host the tours again next year.