

WELCOME TO AGRILAND!



**2009 Kansas State Fair
September 11-20, 2009
Hutchinson, KS
Pride of Kansas Building**

August 2009

Dear Volunteer:

Thank you for agreeing to spend time working in the Agriland Display in the Pride of Kansas Building at the 2009 Kansas State Fair.

We should all be proud of Agriland, what it does and what it represents. It is a 15-year-old cooperative effort developed and sponsored by a number of Kansas commodity groups to create a display with impact at the Kansas State Fair. These groups have been continuously changing and improving Agriland to tell children—of all ages— where our food and other products come from, how our crops are harvested, and what Kansas agriculture means to them.

Along with the classes that visit Agriland are lots of moms, dads and grandparents who also learn about Kansas agriculture during the Fair. We think Agriland gives us a great opportunity to educate about agriculture, and we are proud that the different commodity groups can cooperate to do this important work.

Thanks again for being an Agriland volunteer at the 2009 Kansas State Fair.

Sincerely,

**Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
Kansas Beef Council
Kansas Wheat Commission
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Corn Commission
Kansas Soybean Commission and Association
Kansas Sunflower Commission
Kansas Dairy Association**

Volunteers' Guidelines

Agriland 2009

Kansas State Fair

Agriland was designed as a way to guide children through the world of agriculture and show how agriculture affects their everyday lives in many ways. Along the trip through Agriland, many adults can learn about agriculture, too. Thank you for your help as an Agriland volunteer.

Agriland Areas

Kids visiting Agriland travel through learning areas for byproducts, livestock, grains and stewardship. In those areas you can talk to them about how our crops and livestock provide for us not only with food, but also with numerous other things we use in our everyday lives – from basketballs to bubblegum.

Livestock Area – visitors can play with the cutouts and weigh themselves on the livestock scale, comparing themselves with the weights of a calf or other young animal

Grains Area – visitors can see the food pyramid, see growing crops, and play with buckets of corn, soybeans, wheat, sorghum and “drive” a combine

Stewardship Area – visitors can see how wildlife and water benefit from conservation practices and crawl through a soil tunnel

By-product Area - visitors can play a game to see how agriculture utilizes products for everyday goods and materials

Volunteer Duties

Every morning

- Plug in and turn on the power to the television and start the tape. Start the sound switch, located under the combine near the wall.
- Turn on the power to the scale and interactive game.
- If there is still grain on the carpet, vacuum. The vacuum is behind the old stage area.
- Dust and pick up trash if it did not get done the night before.
- Water the plants. The bucket is in the barn

All Day

- Check the video tape to make sure it is running well.
- When traffic slows down, clean up around the grain buckets. If the grain gets gross, throw it away and refill buckets with grain stored behind curtain.
- Pick up cups and trash people have discarded.
- Spot clean the carpet when spills occur. Supplies for spot cleaning are in the barn.
- Do not leave Agriland unattended. It must be staffed at all times.
- Interact with the children and adults who visit Agriland.
- Don't allow kids to climb on the fence, throw grain or be rough with the interactive displays.

- There will be a sign-up sheet available on the Agriculture in the Classroom table. If you get questions you can't answer, have the person leave their name and question so they can be contacted later.

Each Evening

- Do a favor for tomorrow's group. Leave Agriland neat and clean.
- Run the vacuum, dust and clean carpet spots.
- Toss discarded trash.
- Turn off and unplug the VCR and scale.
- Water the plants.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What should I wear?

- Dress should be nice pants, jeans or shorts with a plain shirt or one bearing the logo of your organization. Wear your Agriland sticker, which will be with Agriland supplies in the volunteer area inside the barn door. These stickers are for volunteers only. Check in at the volunteer area when you report to work in Agriland!

How many Volunteers are needed in Agriland?

- The best situation is to have at least one volunteer at each major station. The stations are: crops, livestock, by-products, food pyramid, and stewardship. The "spin the wheel" game and the computer game should be watched closely. Other copies of these guidelines and cheat sheets to help volunteers talk to Agriland visitors are available with the Agriland supplies inside the barn. There must be adult supervision at all times.
- If there are fewer than five people working when you are, cover as many areas of the display as possible with the volunteers you have. Especially when classes are visiting, ushering kids smoothly through the display is important. Station someone at the door to welcome the class, someone at the byproducts area, the grain area and the food pyramid, if possible.
- One person must run the timer at the combine and keep kids moving in and out of the combine cab. This is not optional when the area is busy. Rides should be limited to two minutes, or less during busy times. You may adjust the rules according to how many kids are standing in line. We have a Watch the Harvest tape. Continually monitor to see if it is working.
- In the livestock area someone also should work at the scale area to print out weights and interact with people. The scale will print out a copy of each child's weight and a brief message to take home. The sign helps you compare the children's weight with that of baby animals or bushels of grain. Volunteers should stay aware of back-ups caused at the scale during busy times. In a pinch the scale can be turned off at the power strip to get traffic flowing again.
- Large groups should be split up, if possible, keeping the number of kids in the area at one time under critical mass. (One adult to 10 kids is a good rule of thumb for maintaining order).

When is Agriland open to the public?

- Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The building closes at 7 p.m. on the last Sunday. The area must be staffed constantly when the building is open.

Is there information to hand out?

- The Agriculture in the Classroom desk has brochures and educational packets. These are to be given to teachers, to adults or interested older children, not handed indiscriminately to all the kids. If you have Ag in the Classroom questions you can't answer, there will be a sign-up sheet available so staff can contact them after the fair.

Can we bring food and drink into Agriland?

- No food or drinks in the display while working. Take a break if you need a drink or a snack.

What about safety?

- Don't let kids (or grown-ups, for that matter!) climb on the fence or throw grain or be rough with the interactive displays. It is important for the kids to have fun, but it also is important to keep the area in control and make sure no one gets hurt. We don't want Agriland to have a reputation as a place where parents can park their out-of-control children.

Where is the restroom?

- The restrooms are on the way to the building exits at either side.

Know the Agriland cooperators...

Agriland is the shared work and creative product of the following organizations:

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
Kansas Beef Council
Kansas Wheat Commission
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Corn Commission
Kansas Soybean Commission and Association
Kansas Sunflower Commission
Kansas Dairy Association

And our helpers:

John Deere
Hammel Scales
Kansas FFA chapters
And many more.

CONVERSATION OPENERS

When in doubt, volunteers can always use the information from one of the signs or displays to interact with the children.

AT THE BARN

Welcome to Agriland.

Do you live on a farm or in town?

Did you know that basketballs are made from cows?

(Direct them toward the byproduct display)

AT BYPRODUCTS

The interactive game should take care of itself in the teaching area, but sometimes kids will be pushing buttons just for fun. Sometimes you need to read a question for them or move them on to another exhibit.

AT THE MYPYRAMID AREA

Have you seen the new food pyramid?

Start a conversation about one of the food items, what crop/animal grown in Kansas is used to make it, how good it is for you, what the food pyramid means. Kids can toss the “food item” bean bag into the right “food group.” Encourage the kids to place the more “nutrient-rich” food items in the lower holes and the less nutrient-rich food items in the higher holes within each food group.

MyPyramid is based on a foundation of making the best choices for the calories that you have. Nutrient-rich foods like lean beef, whole fruits, dark colored vegetables, low-fat dairy and whole grains are the nutrient-rich choices and should form the base of your pyramid. Food choices like fried chicken, juice, iceberg lettuce, whole milk and cheese and pasta/rice are less nutrient-rich and should be chosen less often and fit at the tip of each food group pyramid.

Direct the children to the BIG TIRE Stewardship area.

AT STEWARDSHIP AREA

Have you ever seen a tire this big? It comes from a piece of equipment which farmers use to protect the soil. Farmers work hard to care for the soil, air and water.

AT THE GRAIN AREA

Ask the students to identify the different grains or if they know what they are used for.

AT THE COMBINE

Have you ever ridden on a combine or a tractor? Do you know what a combine does?

By-Product Scramble Game

Q. How many of you know what a by-product is?

A. A by-product is something produced in the course of making something else.

Many of us are familiar with the primary uses of agriculture products grown right here in the state of Kansas. But I bet a lot of you don't truly realize how well agriculture utilizes these products, mainly through the use of by-products.

Objective

The By-Product Scramble helps children realize how close they really are to agriculture and how important agriculture is in their everyday lives.

Purpose

The purpose of the game is to figure out which household goods/materials are made from the by-products of which agricultural products.

Directions

1. Take a look at the top cube on each pillar. These cubes contain by-products.
2. Below each by-product cube are 3 additional cubes. These cubes contain pictures of agricultural products grown in Kansas.
3. Stand in front of a pillar and choose a by-product you would like to know more about. Turn one of the three top cubes to see the various by-products. (You may need to ask for assistance.)
4. Next, try to pick which agricultural products can be found in that particular by-product. Do this by turning each of the three cubes below the by-product cube.

Hint: The cubes are color-coded. Match the color-coded triangles on each picture to make sure you have a correct line-up. Ask the game representative for assistance if needed.

Other Displays

Children can answer questions and be rewarded with a light or buzzer when they select the correct answer at the other interactive by-products display. Put their hands in buckets of grain, and harvest a field from the combine cab.

We also will have growing crops and examples of conservation methods and wildlife in the stewardship area. Children can crawl through the soil tunnel to get a worm's-eye view of the land and crops that sustain us.