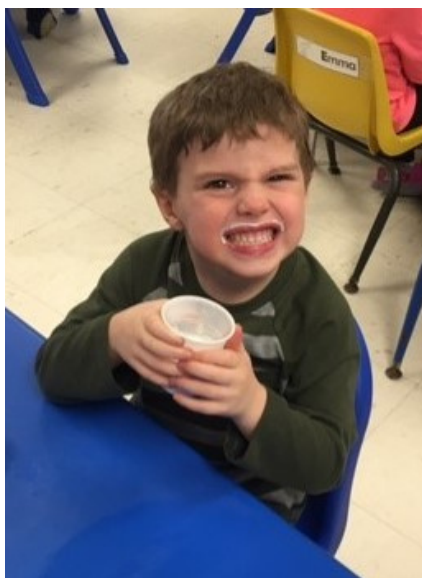




Dairy in the Classroom



In-Classroom Program Menu

CCE Cayuga's Dairy in the Classroom Program offers school enrichment lessons for Preschool through 5th grade classrooms. Each lesson is designed to meet NYS learning standards.

New lessons are offered every month with a new theme and reinforce topics featured in previous lessons. If you are interested in a topic not listed under your grade, please reach out to Erin at emw54@cornell.edu.

To register your class for any of our programs, please scan the code below and complete the registration form. Scheduling is on a first come, first served basis but we will do our best to accommodate your preferred dates and times.



Click or scan to register

Why Agricultural Education?

Throughout history, agriculture has been fundamental for our survival. “No Farms, No Food.” Today, roughly 22 million jobs are supported by the U.S. agriculture industry. However, the level of agricultural knowledge has decreased as more people have moved away from farms and rural areas.

A 2021 study by Furman University shows that many kids do not know where their food comes from. Researchers asked American children between the ages of four and seven to sort 13 foods by being plant-based or animal-based. More than a third of children in the study thought cheese, bacon, hot dogs, chicken nuggets, and hamburgers come from plants and nearly half of the children believe French fries come from animals.

The researchers propose a few different reasons for the disconnect. One reason for the poor knowledge among children could be that “so many of them have very little exposure to how food is grown”. The focus has become more about teaching children what to eat, and not about where the food comes from. The paper also suggests another reason – their parents are reluctant to have an honest conversation with them about how animal products are obtained.

Educating Students About Food

Agricultural education can help students understand where their food comes from, how it's grown, and what goes into it. This can help them make informed decisions about what to eat and how to make healthy choices. Knowing more about agriculture and farming will increase their knowledge about the nutritional value their food contains.

Helping Students Become Responsible Consumers

Agricultural education can help students develop into responsible consumers who ask questions and make thoughtful decisions about the food they eat.

Food waste is a massive problem in the US. 47.4 million people in the US don't have enough to eat, and yet nearly 50 million tons of food gets wasted annually in the country. If children know how much effort goes into producing a single morsel of food, they are less likely to waste food when they are younger and as adults. This responsible behavior can transform the food industry and encourage conversations about sustainable living.

Agricultural education also helps to clarify common misconceptions about the ag industry including environmental concerns, animal welfare, and labor conditions.

Preparing Students for the Future by Promoting Interest in Agriculture

Many young people in the US have hardly any knowledge of the ag industry. Most students are unlikely to come from farming families that can educate them. So, receiving ag education in schools may aid them in considering new career choices. The most obvious careers are directly related to the farm. But did you know that only 10 percent of Americans are involved in traditional farming? Today's agriculture offers over 200 rewarding and challenging careers.

Agriculture education can help students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the agriculture industry, which is a growing field with many opportunities.

How Does Agriculture Fit into My Classroom?

Agriculture is a topic that students can easily connect to because they encounter it often. Nearly everything we eat, wear, use -- even the fuel that powers the cars and buses we ride in -- comes from plants and animals grown on farms. Agriculture provides perfect real-world connections and makes learning relevant to students.

Agricultural education is also important because it combines the knowledge of several disciplines. Agriculture connections in science are abundant! Agriculture relates to physical science, life science, earth science, and engineering design. Also, agriculture education relates to social studies including geography, economics, and history.

About New York Ag in the Classroom

New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAIRC) is a partnership of Cornell University, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NYS Education Department, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the New York Farm Bureau.

The mission of NYAIRC is to increase agricultural literacy in K-12 education by offering hands-on, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition. By embedding agriculture into classrooms, AITC cultivates an understanding and appreciation of the food and fiber system that we all rely on every day.

The Dairy in the Classroom Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County was awarded a grant from New York Agriculture in the Classroom to integrate dairy education into our county's schools. This generous grant allows extension staff to facilitate classroom lessons in county school districts during the school year.

This interactive program will feature free lessons ranging from taste testing dairy products to educational games and activities using the National Agriculture in the Classroom curriculum. These programs will not only be engaging and hands-on, but they will provide a unique learning experience that students will remember and feel a connection to for years to come.

The project was made possible by the support of New York State's dairy farmers and the Dairy Promotion Order funding. According to the American Dairy Association of the Northeast, New York ranks 4th in overall dairy production in the United States, producing 15.3 billion pounds of milk each year. In New York, the total economic impact of dairy is \$39.6 billion each year, making it an important topic for youth to learn about.

Scan the QR code to learn more about New York Dairy in the Classroom.



School Enrichment in Cayuga County

The goal of School Enrichment is to provide educational programming to complement the formal school curriculum using real-world based experiences students can relate to. Cayuga County CCE staff will work with participating teachers to adapt research-based curricula to bring agriculture concepts into their classrooms. Lessons are selected based on grade level and the classroom's curriculum needs.

The Dairy in the Classroom curriculum covers a range of educational topics including exploring food and nutrition, natural resources, conservation, farming, consumer choices, stewardship, human populations, and land use issues. Curriculum lessons and activities also address concepts in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies to align with New York State and National Common Core Learning Standards.

For more information on what we are doing, check us out on Facebook at CCE Cayuga and visit our website at www.ccecayuga.org.

To get your Cayuga County school and classrooms involved in the Dairy in the Classroom program, please complete the provided classroom registration form or email emw54@cornell.edu.



Preschool and Kindergarten lessons use age-appropriate books to demonstrate where our food comes from. Additionally, visits will include hands on activities, crafts or dairy-based snacks.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

Modern Farms

This award-winning, nonfiction picture book introduces young children to farm life and is bound to spark conversations about where our food comes from.

About Farm Animals Hands On Activity

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

Out & About at the Dairy Farm

Discusses the activities of a dairy farm, describing the machines and the process used to get the milk to our table.

Students will make cow headbands

Lesson 3

Where's the Food

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?

Step-by-step illustrations about how farmers and others do their part to get food from the farm to their lunchboxes.

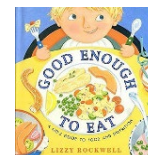
Students will share a yummy dairy snack

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Good Enough to Eat book

The only guide to kids' nutrition written especially for kids



Students will make and drink hot chocolate

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

TMR Trail Mix

This Total Mixed Ration Activity helps students learn about how farmers prepare their livestock's daily diet.

Students will make their own trail mix ration

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

Farming in a Glove

Grow your own farm in a glove! Given a few days, and some water, the glove will be alive with growing sprouts - baby plants that your students can observe.



Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

Thank a Farmer book

Infused with jubilation and warmth, this luminous, lyrical picture book celebrates the people and the work that put food on our tables.

Students will color a thank you note to send to an area farmer.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cayuga County



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Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear? Lesson

Farming is more than tractors and cows. In this lesson, students learn how farmers use different skills to keep their animals healthy, prepare the soil for crops and be ready for emergencies.

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

Clarabelle

By featuring a single cow and her calf on a large Wisconsin dairy farm, Cris Peterson describes all the latest technology that enables farmers to create by-products from their herds.

Students will churn their own butter to eat with crackers

Lesson 3

Where's the Food

Pizza Day

A young boy and his father gather ingredients in the garden to prepare pizza on a hot day in this preschool picture book.

Students will make their own lunchable-style pizzas.

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Mission Nutrition

Help students understand how dairy products and the other foods that make up the MyPlate food icon provide nutrients needed for proper growth and development.

Students will make yogurt parfaits

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

Corn an A-maizing Plant

From Feed to Fuel, the many uses of corn will be discussed.



Students will make oobleck

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

What's the Buzz about Bees

Students will watch a video on honey bees and the importance on the farm.

Students will make a bee headband to wear

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

Thank a Farmer book

Infused with jubilation and warmth, this luminous, lyrical picture book celebrates the people and the work that put food on our tables.

Students will color a thank you note to send to an area farmer.



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Cayuga County



First Grade lessons feature book readings, hands on activities, crafts and dairy-based snacks to demonstrate how the agricultural industry works.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

The Day the Farmers Quit

Farmer Bob is tired of the endless chores on the farm. He and his farmer friends decide to take a vacation. What will happen to the community without the farmers and all they provide?

Students make cow bookmarks

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

From Cow to Carton

Students learn how to milk a cow and how milk is processed during this hands on activity.



Lesson 3

Where's the Food

All in Just One Cookie

Focusing on all the ingredients used to make chocolate chip cookies, this book takes the reader on a worldwide exploration.

Students will enjoy milk & cookies

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Your Achy-Breaky Bones

This lesson demonstrates how dairy products help build strong bones and teeth.

Students will make yogurt & fruit bowls

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

Magnetic Cows

Students learn how food waste and magnets keep the cow herd healthy.

Students will sample kefir

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

Pollination Simulation

This active game will show students how bees are instrumental in the pollination of plants.

Honey straws will be provided as a treat

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

Battle of the Creams

Students use science to change heavy cream into delicious dairy treats - butter and whipped cream!





Second Grade lessons feature hands-on activities, crafts and dairy-based snacks to demonstrate how the agricultural industry works.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

My Farm Web

Students use the visual representation of a web to explore the role of agriculture in their daily lives and understand how most of the necessities of life can be traced back to the farm.

Students will receive cheese sticks

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

From Farm to Fridge

Students learn how raw milk is processed into their favorite foods.



Students make whipped cream

Lesson 3

Where's the Food

Where Is My Milk From?

Did you know there's a secret code hiding in plain sight on your dairy container that tells you where it came from?

Students will enjoy milk & cookies

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Milk: The Nearly Perfect Food

Milk is frequently referred to as the 'most near perfect food' due to its rich content of essential nutrients.

Students will make and drink hot chocolate

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

TMR Trail Mix

This Total Mixed Ration Activity helps students learn about how farmers prepare their livestock's daily diet.

Students will make their own trail mix ration

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

Planet Partners

Students will learn about the steps farmers take to keep our environment healthy while producing yummy, nutritious milk.

Students will plant seeds in cow pots.

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

Better Butter

Students make homemade butter to enjoy with crackers.



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Third Grade lessons feature hands-on activities and dairy-based snacks to demonstrate how the agricultural industry works.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

Search for the Source

Students determine that agriculture provides nearly all of the products we rely on in any given day by participating in a relay where they match an everyday item with its "source."

Students will receive cheese sticks

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

Dairy vs Beef

Students identify the differences between beef and dairy cattle and determine the commodities produced by each type of cattle.

Students will sample a charcuterie board

Lesson 3

Where's the Food

Where Does It Come From?

Students explore the connection between geography, climate, and the type of agriculture in an area by reading background information and census data about the agricultural commodities beef, potatoes, apples, wheat, corn, and milk.



Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Many Milks

Students will taste test different animal and plant-based milks and explore the nutrition of each one.

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

Making a Ruminant

This lesson focuses on how digestion works in the ruminant animal. Students will build a model of the rumen to get a hands-on visual and understanding of the ruminant process.

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

Corn an A-maizing Plant: Food, Fuel, and Plastic

Students discuss renewable and non-renewable resources and a hands-on exploration of bioplastics made from corn.

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

DIY Dairy Product

Contact Erin to schedule. Products include butter & whipped cream, ice cream or mozzarella cheese.



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Cayuga County



Fourth Grade lessons feature hands-on activities and dairy-based snacks to demonstrate how the agricultural industry works.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

Careers in Agriculture

Agriculture is more than farming. In this lesson, students explore a variety of professions essential to the ag industry.

Students will receive cheese sticks

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

Many Milks

Students will taste test different animal and plant-based milks and explore the nutrition of each one.



Lesson 3

Where's the Food

Pizza Time

Students use pizza as a basis for exploring agriculture, geography, and mathematics.

Students will make their own lunchable-style pizzas.

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Power Up Breakfast

Students perform better in school and are more alert when they eat breakfast. This lesson provides students with healthy ideas to get a jumpstart in the morning.

Students will make a healthy dairy-based breakfast bowl

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

The Remarkable Ruminant: Finding Value in Food Waste

Farmers help transform the problem of food waste by feeding their cattle damaged crops and crop by-products – canola meal, soybean hulls, or wheat chaff – upcycling it into high-quality protein for humans

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

Moo'ving Water

During this active game, students will follow drops of water as they move through the water cycle and explore the how water is used on a dairy farm.

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

DIY Dairy Product

Contact Erin to schedule. Products include butter & whipped cream, ice cream or mozzarella cheese.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
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Fifth Grade lessons feature hands-on activities and dairy-based snacks to demonstrate how the agricultural industry works.



Lesson 1

Intro to Farming & Agriculture

2 Truths & A Lie: Ag Edition

How much do you know about agriculture? This game addresses common misconceptions about the ag industry.

Students will receive cheese sticks

Lesson 2

Cows, Dairy Farming & Milk Processing

More Cheese, Please

Students will learn about cheese production and classification. Samples of cheeses will be test-tasted and compared.



Lesson 3

Where's the Food

Food Miles

Students explore the economic and environmental benefits of buying locally grown food.

Lesson 4

Got Milk: Dairy Nutrition

Rethink Your Drink

Students use Nutrition Information labels to calculate the amount of sugar different types of beverages contain.

Students will make a healthy dairy-based smoothies.

Lesson 5

Cows: The Ultimate Recycler

Rumination Navigation

A fun, hands-on activity designed to help students understand the process of rumination and how digestive systems break down food for energy.

Lesson 6

March is Ag Literacy Month

The Pie That Molly Grew

Beginning with the planting of a single seed, join Molly on the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest.

We will make Pumpkin Pie in a Bag

Lesson 7

Farming for a Better Planet

EnviroScape

This interactive lesson demonstrates how water runoff from farms affects the watershed – and the ways farmers prevent this type of pollution from occurring.

Lesson 8

June is National Dairy Month

DIY Dairy Product

Contact Erin to schedule. Products include butter & whipped cream, ice cream or mozzarella cheese.



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