Fourth-graders learn ag industry

Before Wednesday, many Terry County fourth-graders could trace their food only to the supermarket.

They now know, though, that their milk, meat, bread and vegetables come all the way from farms, thanks to the Kids, Kows & More field trip.

The annual all-day agricultural-education program brought Brownfield, Wellman-Union and Meadow fourth-graders to the county showbarn for a morning of presentations about cotton, cows and everything in between. After a lunch provided by staff of West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility, they went on to Reddy Vineyard that afternoon for a tour of the local grape industry.

"We're introducing the fourth-grade students to agriculture and what it means to our community," said Mary Collier, Terry County extension agent for family and consumer sciences. "This is our primary business in Terry County."

KKM's various demonstrations focused on agricultural issues relating to the local economy, which depends heavily on cotton, peanuts and dairies. Other presentations educated the groups about insects, rainwater harvesting, soil conservation, dairy products and more.

"I learned that there's only 1 percent fresh water in the world," said Zarriya White, 9.

"I learned that cows make two gallons of milk in one day," said Devin Jackson, 10.

"I learned that you need to drink eight ounces of milk a day, and milk is healthy for you," said Aganetha Ham, 9.

"Cows give us milk and cheese and butter," said Rheauna Reyna, 9.

Guest instructors included Dan Jackson of Meadow Co-op Gin, cotton; Scott Russell of Texas AgriLife, entomology; Sandra Pierce, Texas AgriLife El Paso, vegetables; Scottie and June Cooper, Terry County 4-H, dairy foods; Adeline Fox, South Plains Underground Water Conservation District; Martin Lefevere, Farm Bureau, lean beef; Natural Resources Conservation Service, soil and Cody Lightfood, Southwest Dairies.

KKM began in 1992 in El Paso. It now consists of 36 programs throughout Texas and New Mexico. Each program varies, however, depending on location. For example, instructors might teach kids in El Paso about the local pecan industry, and students in Terry County might learn about cotton or peanuts.

Alma Aguirre, the nurse at Bright Beginnings, was honored last week as the Brownfield ISD Employee of the Month. Aguirre was recognized at the school board meeting and is pictured above with board president Wayne Taylor.

Oak Grove fourth-grader Damaris Rodriguez samples some dairy products with help from teacher Susan Brisendine, right. Terry County fourth-graders traveled to the county show barn and Reddy Vineyards Wednesday for the annual Kids, Kows and More field trip.

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