

Ag Education Day

At a Glance

The purpose of Ag Education Day is to provide a meaningful hands-on agricultural learning experience for youth in Carroll County.

Our goal is to educate our children on the importance of agriculture to their everyday lives, while showcasing facets of agriculture that are a critical piece of our county's economy.

Ag Education Day was held Tuesday August 23rd through Thursday August 25th from 9:00-2:15. Second and third grade students were transported to the Carroll County Fairgrounds by bus. Opening remarks were followed by a play. Students rotated through educational stations that were run by volunteers. 2022 stations included: Dairy, Equine, Barnyard, Equipment Safety, Beef, Sheep, Horticulture, Beef Cuts, Natural Resources, Fair Exhibits, and Storytelling.

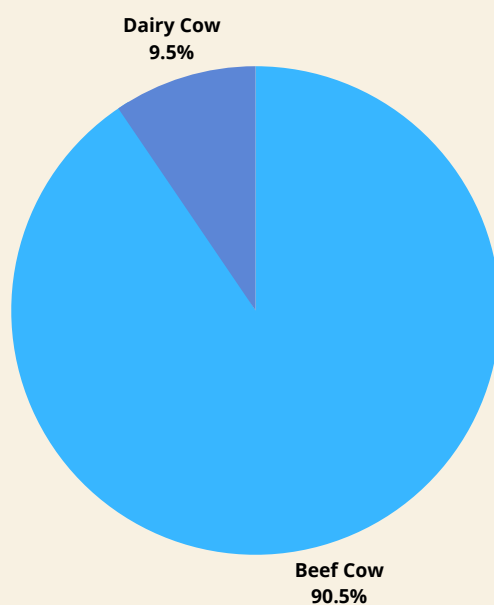
Students should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is agriculture?
2. What do farms provide?
3. Which is a beef cow?



Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Carroll County Agricultural Fair partnered to host Ag Education Day. All second and third graders in Carroll County and second graders in Galax attended this field trip. The theme of 2022 Ag Education Day was "Beef." An opening play showcased dancing Holsteins, and a beauty pageant of Herefords, Charolais, Texas Longhorn, Brahman, and Angus Cows to help students learn to differentiate between types of cattle. Additionally, there were "Beef" and "Dairy" Stations to reiterate this educational piece.

Approximately 200 second and third grade students from Hillsville Elementary School, Laurel Elementary School, Galax Elementary School, Gladeville Elementary School and St. Paul School completed a survey. Youth were asked to choose their favorite Ag Education Day station, distinguish between a beef and dairy cow and draw/write three things they might see on a farm.



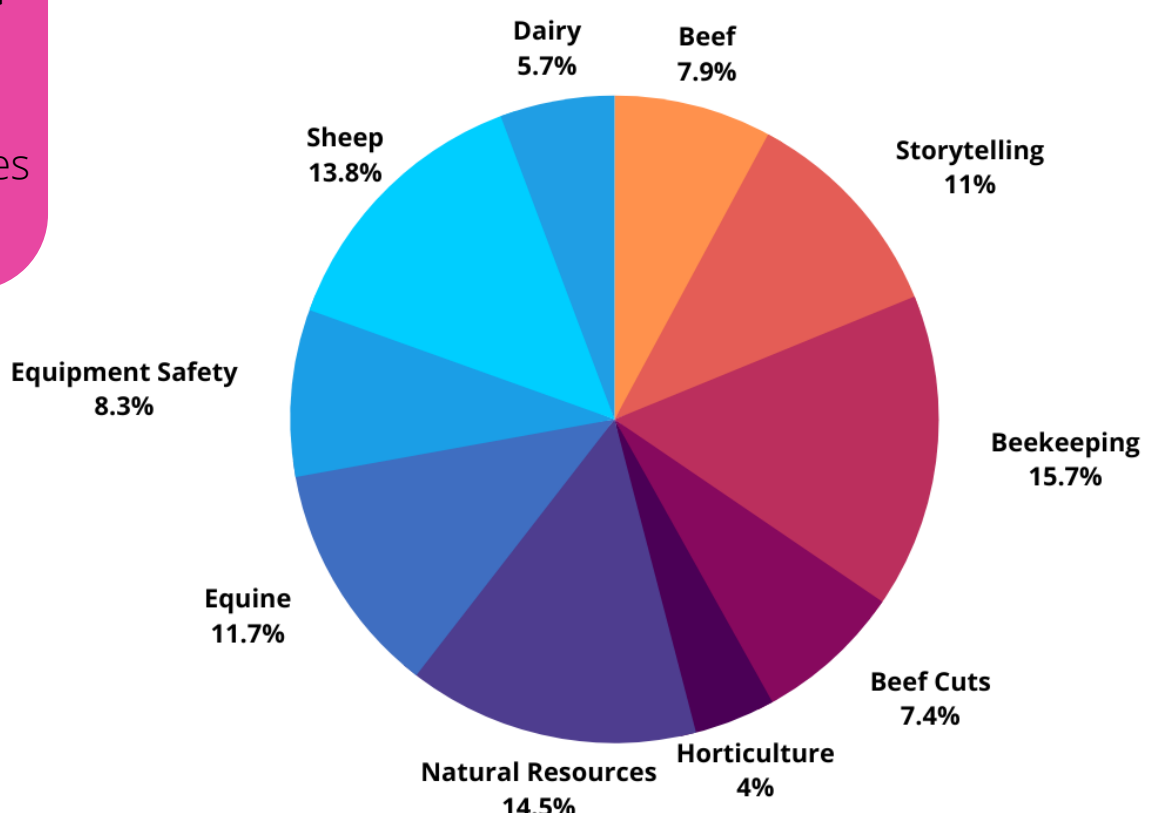
90.5% of students surveyed could properly identify a beef cow.

Common drawings/words



Top 3 favorite stations:

- Beekeeping
- Natural Resources
- Sheep



Teacher Feedback

100% of teachers surveyed felt that the Beekeeping/Pollinators, Natural Resources and Sheep Stations were appropriate and educational for students. 96.7% agree or somewhat agree that students benefit from attending Ag Education Day and 82.8% will consider continuing to use agriculture education in the classroom. Overall, station feedback was positive. Teachers enjoyed the interactive aspects of stations and live animals and would like to see this continue in the future.



Oh Those Holsteins! Or Proud To Be Beef Cattle, an original play written by local Storyteller Vicky Town was performed during the Ag Education Day opening remarks.

The Natural Resources Station allowed students to be hands-on as they learned about erosion and waterways.



Students learned about beekeeping and the importance of pollinators. Many enjoyed taste-testing honey.



The Sheep Station gave youth the opportunity to see and feel sheep to supplement the knowledge that they were gaining.

