



For Immediate Release
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Agriculture Awareness Day at the State Fair of Texas®

Imagine having a day full of exciting contests, giving back to the community, winning prizes and celebrating agriculture all in one day. This is exactly what thousands of students were able to do when they came to the 2009 State Fair of Texas®.

The first ever Agriculture Awareness day was held on October 6, 2009. FFA, 4-H and FCCLA students from all over Texas attended this event. According to SFT Livestock Coordinator Laurie Freeman, approximately 2,837 students ages 8 to 18 were in attendance.

Agriculture Awareness day was not only designed for students to come enjoy the fair but to also learn about agriculture, and is fully based on an educational aspect. This was all made possible by the Youth Educational Activities Committee.

The fair is big on giving back to the community. Therefore, a food drive was organized and students were asked to bring can goods for the North Texas Food Bank. The top two contributors in each organization received rewards. First place won \$150 and second place won \$100. In fact, Leon County 4-H donated the most can goods weighing 1,019 pounds!

Lydia Rudy, from the North Texas Food Bank, stated that the food drive collected 5,255 pounds, which was 3,000 pounds more than last year.

In addition to the food drive, there were two educational contests going on, which were the Public Speaking contest and the Agricultural Science Fair. The Agricultural Public Speaking Contest consists of a junior and senior division and different

agricultural related categories that they can choose. As for the Agricultural Science Fair, students are responsible for conducting an experiment dealing with agriculture and giving a complete explanation to the judges. Both of these contests are aimed at supporting agriculture awareness.

The main event that took place was the AgriQuest, which is an educational “scavenger hunt” designed so that the entire fairgrounds would be used to educate students about culture and how it is used in everyday life.

Freeman said the students would be gathering information, which in turns promotes awareness.

After registering for the scavenger hunt, the first station to find was the Creative Arts building to see the butter sculpture. This is where they found the answers to five of the questions in their workbook.

Next were the Trains. Here students learned about three different fuels that have been used to power train engines.

In total, there were 8 stations that students were required to stop. Once they went to the trains they were responsible for visiting Natural Resources, Alternative Fuels, “Take a Load Off Texas”, Texas Beef Council, Planet Agriculture Water Conservation and Planet Agriculture Commodities.

After completing the scavenger hunt, awards for this competition were given to individuals from a random ticket drawing on the Chevy main stage.

This was a successful day at the State Fair of Texas®. All of the events that took place contributed to whole idea of Agriculture Awareness Day. When asked about next year, Freeman said they will absolutely be having another Agriculture Awareness day at the fair.

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