



Meat the Future

JENILEE GODSEY, YOUTH AGRICULTURE AGENT

“Celebrating a Successful Kid’s Ag Day”

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Have you ever asked your child where the hamburger on a wheat bun comes from, what corn has to do with their favorite package of fruit snacks, or about how bees play an integral part in the tomatoes used to make ketchup? Are they familiar with the tremendous role that agriculture plays in their everyday lives?

Teaching our youth where our food comes from and how it is produced, how the clothes on our back and shoes on our feet relate back to agriculture, and that so many other every day products used across the world are by-products of agriculture is becoming more and more important each day... and is the focal point of the Kid’s Ag Day event held in Selden, KS. As future lead consumers, teaching our youth about food, farming and agriculture ensures educated, smart decisions later in life!

Kid’s Ag Day is as a labor of passion with Twin Creeks Extension District Youth Agriculture Agent, Jenilee Godsey, Dave Neff of Neff Family Farms, and the Geisinger family who joined forces in 2022 to start up a day on the farm full of agriculture knowledge, hands-on activities, and fun! The 2023 event was held on September 13th at Neff Family Farms in Selden, KS.

Approximately 150 fourth grade students and teachers from Golden Plains, Hoxie, Northern Valley, Norton and Oberlin School Districts were in attendance with an additional 50 volunteers who led stations, led groups, assisted with lunch and more. Students participated in sessions throughout the day such as agronomy, ATV safety, beef, bees, butter, drones, entomology, horses, ice cream made with an antique tractor, Kanas Corn with germination necklaces, tractors and implements, and water. These stations featured farmers, ranchers and agribusiness men and women from their part of the world – giving them a relatable idea of the importance of agriculture in Northwest Kansas and the opportunity for agriculture careers available to them here.

"Celebrating a Successful Kid's Ag Day", Cont.

Our event is special because of the people who make it happen, the passion they have for educating the next generation about agriculture and the young man our event honors, Jake Geisinger. Jake's passion for agriculture was undeniable. From a very early age, it was apparent this his world revolved around every aspect of farming, and that he would never venture away from the family farm. From raising Red Angus cattle to maintaining his own impressive potato patch, Jake was a tried-and-true agriculturist. We believe that he would have loved to see local youth learning about the agriculture industry and the benefits of a life in rural Kansas in his honor.

We are incredibly thankful for those who invest their time into this event, but also to those who financially support our day. From a "Farm-2-Table" focused lunch to the t-shirts and goodie bags our participants receive, donations and sponsorships play a huge role in the success of our event – so, thank you again to those who supported Kid's Ag Day in any capacity!

If you are interested in providing sponsorship towards the 2024 event, please feel free to reach out to our Twin Creeks District - Graham County Office and visit with Jenilee Godsey any time. We hope to host many more years of Kid's Ag Day in the future!

The saying, "It takes a village.", most certainly applies to an event like this. And, I couldn't be lucky to have a village such as the one I have in my corner to help bring a vision of area youth spending a day soaking up everything agriculture to fruition. To the Geisinger Family, Dave Neff and his crew, the sponsors, volunteers of all depths, and the students who participated – thank you again!

Jenilee Godsey is a Youth Agriculture Agent for the Twin Creeks Extension District which covers Decatur, Norton, Graham and Sheridan counties. Email her at jenileem@ksu.edu or reach her by telephone at the Graham County Office, (785) 421-3411.