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Farm Kids & City Kids

If you grew up in the 1950's there was an 82% chance that you either lived on a farm or lived in a farming community. In the year 2050, it is estimated that only 18% of the population will live in such a rural setting.

While agriculture is growing as an industry, children's understanding of where their food and fiber come from is gradually diminishing. In the old days, if you asked a child where butter comes from, they would have pointed to the cow in the pasture because they had seen the cow milked and the butter churned. Today, a growing number of children may think no farther than the refrigerated section at Wal-Mart.

The truth is, both children and adults use consumable and non-consumable products that come from agriculture every day. It just takes a little education and perhaps a little fun to help us realize how connected we are to farms and ranches.

For inquiries or to reserve the MAC trailer for your school or organization, please contact the following:

Regional Managers

Southeast Idaho - Ott Clark
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Counties: Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Bear Lake, Oneida, Power

Upper Snake River - Camron Hammond
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Counties: Bonneville, Madison, Jefferson, Fremont, Teton, Custer, Lost Rivers, Lemhi

Southcentral Idaho - Zack Lanier
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Counties: Cassia, Minidoka, Twin Falls, Gooding/Lincoln, Jerome, Blaine/Camas

Southwest Idaho - Naomi Dalley
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Counties: Ada, Canyon, Payette, Gem, Washington, Valley/Adams, Owyhee, Elmore

North Idaho - Bob Smathers
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Counties: Latah, Kootenai/Shoshone, Benewah, Clearwater/Lewis, Boundary, Bonner, Nez Perce, Idaho

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What is the MAC Trailer?

The **MAC** (Moving Agriculture to the Classroom) trailer, funded by the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, brings a fun and interactive experience for children to learn more about agriculture.

What is the target age group?

This program was specifically designed for children in grades 1-5. However, many of the visual aids could be used for all ages.

Where is the program held?

Lesson modules can easily be transported from the trailer into a school classroom or other buildings. Because of the size and weight of some of the visual aids, it is recommended that access to the room not require extensive stairs.

Is there any cost for this program?

In most cases there is no cost to have this program at a school or other functions. However, some activities will allow children to actually make their own food which requires a few basic ingredients. Providing those ingredients will be coordinated with local Farm Bureau members and the school or organization requesting the programs.

How long do the modules take?

The MAC program is flexible depending on how many interactive activities are desired. Typically an organization should plan for about 45-60 minutes per activity. However, lessons can easily be adapted to a class period.

How large a group can participate in each activity?

Again, the program is flexible, but optimal capacity is between 10 to 30 kids per activity. This program allows for two or three activities to be going on simultaneously depending on the availability of supervising adults.

Are there limited reservation dates?

There are no date limitations for when the trailer can be reserved, but Farm Bureau's coordinator will try to schedule schools or organizations in the same region together to save on fuel and travel expenses. See back of brochure for reservation contact information.

Meet Miss Maggie



Maggie is a state-of-the-art milking cow that not only gives people the chance to test their milking abilities, but has a circulating system that pumps the "milk" from the bucket back up into the cow allowing for a greater number of people to participate without having to take breaks to refill the udder.

Milking is only the first step in this lesson. Children will be taught the importance of dairy and then each child will be given a small container to shake to turn the milk into butter or ice cream.

The BIG Book of Wheat

Have you ever seen a book that opens up to be 8 feet wide and 5 feet tall? This section teaches children how the world's most widely eaten food is produced. Each page comes with fun and intriguing questions about the process and machinery.



After a brief lesson on wheat, the children will get the opportunity to grind wheat using individual grinders and then watch as that wheat is turned into pancakes. For safety reasons only adults will be allowed to cook on the griddles.

Earth Is An Apple

This shorter module shows how 31/32 of the current earth is nonconductive to grow the food that we eat. A large 3 x 3 foot apple with removable slices demonstrates our current states. A discussion is launched how farmers will have to continue to rely on technology to grow more food with less area.

This is a great presentation to allow students to think about current strategies to grow food as well as efforts that will be required from future generations.



WATERWAYS

A large 8 x 4 foot diorama of a valley water basin allows the children to see the importance of dams and where rain and snow go after they fall on the mountains. This display has real running water and shows how this water makes it to mountain streams, rivers, reservoirs, canals, ditches, and farm fields.

Facilitators will show the children different ways to use the water for both agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

