

Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day Held



In mid-September, Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau® hosted its Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day for area 5th grade students. The purpose of holding this annual all-day event is to teach students safety tips regarding various topics that do and could potentially pertain to them. Approximately 130 students and teachers from Immaculate Conception School (ICS), United North and West, and West Central attended this year's event, held at the Henderson County Fairgrounds in Stronghurst. Students rotated through ten different stations that were twenty minutes in length. The stations included: Animal Safety, Fire Safety, Internet Safety, ATV Safety, Chemical Safety, First Aid, Water Safety, Home Alone/Stranger Danger, Rollover/Seatbelt Safety, and Grain Safety. All students who attended Safety Day received a t-shirt as well as a bag full of safety information and materials.

Animal Safety was taught by Dr. Luke Deverell of Huston Vet Services in Roseville. He discussed farm animals and their unique characteristics, as well signs of a fearful dog. Craig Cozadd and Gary Carson, firefighters for the Monmouth Fire Department, taught the Fire Safety station. They spoke to students about extinguishers and detectors needing to be checked often. They also told students to get down low if fire is near, as smoke and heat rise. Teaching the Internet Safety station was Jill Cook and Shelby Carlson from our local University of Illinois Extension office. They talked with the students about the importance of being smart and safe on the internet. In as little as six clicks, a lot of personal information can be found out about a person. ATV Safety was taught by Shannon Pence of the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District and Henderson and Warren County FSA Executive County Director Garrett Lenz. Shannon and Garrett went over the proper safety gear to wear when riding an ATV or four wheeler. They also stressed the importance of checking the space around an ATV before a ride. Jessica Sayers of Helena Agri-Enterprises taught the Chemical Safety station. She had brought several jars with look-alike materials to demonstrate how some everyday items can look deceptively similar to toxic chemicals. She talked about the importance of labels and safely handling chemicals. First Aid was taught by Shannon Miller from Eagle View Community Health System in Oquawka. She explained to students what to do when common emergencies/injuries occur and had volunteers from each group practice the correct way to perform CPR and the Heimlich maneuver on a dummy. Water Safety was taught by John Carson of Macomb. John discussed how important it is to wear a properly sized jacket when in and around water, what to do in a water emergency, and had lots of props to keep the station interactive. Home Alone/Stranger Danger was taught by Keith "Doc" Patterson. Keith talked to the students about staying alert and looking for signs that a bad person may be trying to lure you away. He had FFA students in each group help demonstrate how easily someone could be 'taken' without a group noticing. Trooper Brandi Carson of the Illinois State Police taught the Seatbelt Awareness station. Trooper Carson used the Illinois State Police rollover demonstration vehicle to show the students what happens in a rollover accident with a dummy wearing a seatbelt vs. not wearing a seatbelt. Grain Safety was taught by John Lee of the Grain & Feed Association of Illinois. John discussed the strength of harvested grain and stated that it only takes a few seconds for someone to sink knee deep in grain and thus become

entrapped and unable to free themselves. He talked about the amount of dust that goes along with corn and soybeans and showed how this can be explosive. He did this by demonstrating a dust explosion in a grain bin with a simulator he had brought.

To end safety day, Steve Hancock from Live Line Demo USA performed an electrical Live Line demonstration. Steve talked about the components of electricity and how electricity always tries to go 'home' along the easiest path. Steve had staged, live equipment set up and was able to show 5th graders first-hand what happens in different situations when electricity is involved and what to do if a power line is down.

Students, teachers, speakers, and volunteers were served lunch at the fairgrounds. Amy Thompson, long-time leader of the lunch crew, along with her many volunteers helped to serve lunch for over 200 people. We thank Fareway Grocery in Monmouth for helping with the cost of shaved ham and buns for the event. Those aiding Amy were: Rebecca Dowell, Kim Long, Gene Ray, and Chuck and Joyce Peirce. Sue Campbell, Rachel Gibson, Linda McGuire, Molly Reynolds, Lori Schrock, and Donna Spears stuffed goodie bags and helped with various tasks throughout the day.

FFA students from Monmouth-Roseville, United, and West Central served as group leaders, lunch helpers, runners, and helped with set-up and tear-down. Monmouth-Roseville FFA members at the event were: Logan Corzatt, Aubrey Killely, Kendyl Kane, Mariah Reading, Addisyn Switzer, Zander Martin, and Malia Killely. Those helping from United were Isabella Colbrese, Ben Bennett, Elaina Allaman, Payton Crain, Jack Jungmann, and Oniza Royeen. Jake Ford, Clay Lafary, Carly Tate, Brady McGraw, Dexter Ricketts, Bailie Ferguson, and Connor Gibb were the chapter members from West Central. All FFA members represented their chapters very well and we are appreciative of all the heavy lifting they did!

A big thanks goes out to Sam Hilten and his crew at Nutrien Ag Solutions out of Biggsville for their help in the set-up and moving of bleachers for the event. Thanks also must go out to Mary Alice Huntoon and the Henderson Co. EMTs for being a first aid station for the event. We also thank Illinois Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial for helping sponsor and support this event. We are fortunate to have the support of these sponsors and agents and thank them for their part in making this event possible.

Besides local supporters, a multitude of nation-wide sponsors support the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, enabling the Foundation's mission of providing world-wide safety day frameworks to be possible. To see a complete list of this year's sponsors, visit www.progressiveag.org.

A grant from the Progressive Agriculture Foundation was awarded to Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau to help cover t-shirts, insurance, and other costs of Safety Day. Gina Long, manager of Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau, served as the safety day coordinator for the event and attended training in order to qualify and grant W-HFB the ability to host this event.

This year's weather for Safety Day was one for the books, it was wonderful to have blue skies and sunshine. Our goal is to host a program that is impactful to our students, we thank our area teachers and schools for their cooperation and for scheduling this event on their calendars each year. The Progressive Agriculture Foundation is determined to help provide education, training, and resources for safety days such as ours. There are Safety Days hosted all over the globe each year. If you are interested in learning more about the Progressive Agriculture Foundation and its mission, please visit their website at www.progressiveag.org.



Firefighters Craig Cozadd (left) and Gary Carson went through a description of fire equipment gear and each piece's purpose at their Fire Safety station at Farm Safety Day.



FSA County Executive Director Garrett Lenz (left) and Henderson County Resource Conservationist Shannon Pence (right) taught ATV Safety to 5th Grade Students at Farm Safety Day on September 16th in Stronghurst.



(Farm Safety Day article): Trooper Brandi Carson led the Rollover station at 5th Grade Farm Safety Day, emphasizing to students the necessity of wearing seat belts while in a vehicle.