

Field Trip to the Agricultural History Farm Park

4th & 5th Graders went to The Agricultural History Farm Park for their “Close Encounters with Agriculture” program. The students walked to different stations while learning about the environment, nutrition / diet / health, and the production of Agriculture.

Station descriptions:

1. **Soil:** Students learned the difference between soil and dirt, and had the opportunity to feel 3 types of soil found in Montgomery County (sand, clay and silt). They discussed why the soils feel the way they do.
 - **FUN FACT:** We would not have computers without silt.
2. **Stream Life:** Why clean water is important; Students looked at 4 different bowls of stream water, each with different creatures, and discussed how they are important because they support the growth of other natural resources.
3. **Stream Buffer:** Plants form to create buffers; Students helped to make it “rain” as they poured water onto 4 surfaces, which then ran off into buckets. They then looked into the buckets to see why plant buffers are so important: The buckets that were lined with plants had clean water and those that did not, were dirty.
4. **Food Chain Hunt:** Each student relay team was assigned an animal, each with different food, water and shelter needs. The teams raced to gather enough resources (represented with red, blue, white chips) for their animal to survive. They were able to see how larger animals need more to survive.
5. **Potomac River / Chesapeake Bay Experiment:** While listening to a story, students added “pollution” to the Potomac River (represented by a jug of water) each time specific words were mentioned. Students were able to see who plays a role in impacting the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.
6. **Relay Race:** Students relayed with grocery store products, sorting them out into baskets (grains, animals, fruits / vegetables)
 - **FUN FACT:** The number 1 use of corn (besides for human consumption) is to feed livestock.
 - **FUN FACT:** As a farmer that produces and sells corn to a grocery store → the grocery store sells a box of cornflakes for \$4, the farmer only makes 5 CENTS from that.
7. **Animals:**
 - **Mini Horse:** Horses are measured in “hands” 4 inches = 1 hand.
 - Betty, the mini horse we met, is 9.38 hands & 25 years old

- Horses are monocular and binocular (they can see 350 degrees)
 - one eye can look right while the other eye looks up / down / to the left
 - **Lamancha Goat:** small ears and no horns
 - make milk and cheese
 - foragers; they eat with their heads up
 - **Cows:** 600 hamburgers can come from 1 cow / 12 baseball gloves can be made from the leather of their hide
 - students played a game where they had to pick out the 5 items on a table of 12 that did NOT include cow products. They were able to see how farmers use the ENTIER cow.
 - Students had the opportunity to milk a “cow” (water bucket and nozzles)
 - students shook a jar of milk as the woman spoke about milking cows... by the end the group had turned that into butter.
 - **FUN FACT:** Cows can produce 150 ½ pints A DAY
8. **Grain Station:** Students learned about grains and how important they are to our nutrition
- we need 6 servings of grains, daily
 - we need 3 servings of whole grains daily
 - students broke down a whole grain: bran, germ, endosperm
9. **Seeds / Veggies:** Students learned about the life cycle of vegetables—starting from the seed to the vegetable we eat at our tables.
- students played a game sorting different vegetable by their base (flower, seed, fruit, bulb, etc)
 - students also learned about photosynthesis



