



June Dairy Month Event Ideas

Tables and Display Area:

- You can purchase light-weight plastic 8 foot tables that are easy to carry and store. Tables can also be rented or you can use several card tables.
- Table top displays can be ordered from display/office catalogs. You can also use the tri-fold boards that are less expensive. A table top display board is not necessary for a nice display. AFBF also offers table top displays for fairs that may be appropriate.
- Use eye catching colors, pictures and items in your display that will attract people to the area. Computer generated signs will enhance the display and offer a variety of creative touches.
- A table skirt or tablecloth that goes to the ground will help cover your boxes and stored items under the table.
- Keep in mind that wind and the elements may blow your papers or get them wet (unless in a shed or under a tent). Be prepared for the weather by having holders for papers and a plastic covering if necessary.

What to put in your display area:

- Have as many samples and hands-on experiences as you can. People will remember more if they can hold, touch, feel or smell something. See other side for activities and ideas.
- Keep in mind that many people have limited time and want to keep moving through the displays. Short, hands-on activities work best with items that are prepared in advance (i.e. cutting strings, punching holes in plastic bags, measuring out supplies).
- Instruction sheets for activities will make the activity a lasting educational experience if they can take it home and read it again.
- Information about your county Ag in the Classroom program including contact information of committee members, what resources or activities you offer, and other AITC information.
- A sign asking "Are you a Teacher?" so that you can build your database of contact teachers. Have a sign up sheet or card so they can fill out their name, address, school, grade taught, phone number and email.
- Wisconsin and USDA brochures are available upon request.
- Sign up sheets or cards for volunteers that may be interested in helping with AITC

Serving food and Biosafety concerns:

- If you pass things out to eat, keep it simple and fast. If your display is part of an event that offers a meal, it may be easier to have your display concentrate on information and activities.
- Keep food and animals separate. It is important to have an area for hand washing.
- Special care is needed with small children that can't keep their hands out of their mouth or who don't understand the importance of washing hands before they put food into their mouth. This can be an issue with pre-school and daycare children.
- Don't serve any raw, unpasteurized milk or any dairy products made from raw milk. Each year people get sick from this and there are certain groups of people (young kids under five years old, pregnant women, the elderly and people with damaged or weakened immune systems) that are more at-risk from these products.
- Check with other resources for current biosafety and farm safety suggestions.
- Consider pre-wrapped items such as fortune cookies.

Hands-On Activities & Places to Get Information and Ideas

- Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Website Resources www.wisagclassroom.org
- Plastic Bag Ice Cream - This classroom favorite is a great activity to make ice cream with freezer bags, rock salt, whipping cream and milk.
- Snacking Across Wisconsin – Make a trail mix using Wisconsin commodities!
- Beanie Baby – This unique activity gives students an opportunity to watch soybean seeds in various stages of germination and growth. It can also be done with corn seeds to make a Corn Baby.
- Homemade Butter – A simple activity that demonstrates how butter is made using pint jars and heavy whipping cream.
- The Farm Charm – An assembling activity that reminds us that farms are the source of the food that we eat, many of the clothes we wear, and materials we use for shelter.
- Circles of the Earth Bracelet – A unique craft project for kids that uses colored pony beads to represent how agriculture and the environment are connected.
- Pumpkin Patch Pie – A simple yet delicious classroom recipe using pie filling, baggies and graham crackers.
- “Wisconsin Farm Facts” can be ordered from Wisconsin AITC in bulk quantities.
- “Fun Facts about Wisconsin Agriculture” can be copied and handed out.
- Link to the USDA Website and visit other state’s web sites for ideas and activities. Illinois AITC has an excellent section on hands-on activities and zip lock bag activities.
www.agclassroom.org
- You can order Ag Mags (30 newspapers in a bundle) with an emphasis on dairy, pizza, careers, beef or biotechnology.
- Watch for upcoming “Fun Faces of Wisconsin Agriculture” project for additional resources.
- Don’t forget about the other Wisconsin commodities that can be highlighted and promoted. Use the Wisconsin AITC Resource Guide for more information, educational resources and websites to visit.
- www.agfoundation.org – American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. Lots of great resources including Farm Fact pencils, “I met a farmer” stickers and other give away products.
- <http://www.wmmb.com/wdc/overview.aspx> - Wisconsin Dairy Council – lots of excellent resources, downloadable products and contact information.