

My American Farm – “Field Story” Series

Stories to capture how My American Farm is being implemented in the field

My American Farm Expo

Horizon Elementary School

Johnston, IA

My American Farm brought some fun, variety, and agriculture to the Kids-Teens-Connection (KTC) Program at Horizon Elementary School in Johnston, IA. KTC is a special program held for students in grades 3-6 during spring break. In total, 75 students participated in the three-hour program.

To accommodate and engage a large group for three hours, resources from My American Farm were used to create four stations. This allowed the group of 75 students to be split into four smaller groups. The flow for the three hours went as follows:

- Each station started with one small group which then rotated through all four stations
- Each session is about 25 minutes allowing 5-7 min. transition time between stations (NOTE: If you try this model, it's helpful if you have one volunteer who can keep track of time and notify each group when they need to move)
- Four volunteers were identified to act as group leaders for each group

The day was a result of collaboration between Pioneer® Employees, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, Iowa Farm Bureau, Polk County Farm Bureau, and Polk County Ag In the Classroom. Below are descriptions of each station.

Station 1: My American Farm Game Show

Before beginning, students were divided into smaller teams of 3. Volunteers began by introducing themselves and My American Farm (www.myamericanfarm.org). Next, students teams were provided with a small whiteboard and marker so that they could record their answers as they played 3 of the 12 games on My American Farm. (NOTE: If whiteboards aren't available, paper would work just fine.) Small teams then competed with each other as the entire group played [Amazing Grains](#), [Farmers Market Challenge](#) or [My Little Ag Me](#) in a game show style format. Teams wrote their answer on a hand held white board.

Throughout the “game show” students learned key messages about agriculture from the games and were provided prizes for playing each round of the game such as the [My American Farm Coloring Book](#), Crayons, an [Activity Sheet](#) from the My American Farm website. To conclude, participants were provided with a copy of the [My American Farm One Pager](#).



Students learn about agricultural careers by playing My Little Ag Me!

Are you already using My American Farm? Tell us your implementation story at: http://www.myamericanfarm.org/educator_resources/



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Station 2: Garden in a Glove

At this station, two farmer volunteers directed students through the [Garden in a Glove activity](#) available on the My American Farm site Educator Resources. This is a low material, low mess activity where students make their own personal greenhouse with seeds and cotton balls in a food service glove. Students planted a variety of seeds varying from kidney beans to pumpkins. Farmer volunteers discussed an important lesson about what is needed for seed germination and how important it is to agriculture.



Students construct their very own garden as they learn about what it takes to grow crops.

Station 3: Weird Science

At this station, two scientists from Pioneer discussed careers in science and performed a fun, educational science demonstration using corn plants. The demonstration illustrated the importance of science in agriculture. While this demonstration was unique, the My American Farm educator resource section offers a number of other fun science related demonstrations that could be used such as: [Make Your Own Greenhouse!](#), [Teacher Led Erosion Demonstration](#), or [Make Your Own Rain Gauge](#).



Students learn about the parts of a corn plant with some help from a Pioneer® Scientist.

Station 4: My American Farm Moment

At this station students had an opportunity to meet a farmer from the local area. Students also had a chance to take their photo with the farmer and were presented with a small picture frame with the phrase “My American Farm Moment” as a way for them to remember the event. Students also received a “I met a farmer today” stickers available from the [Agricultural Education Resources site](#). While it wasn’t necessary during this expo students this station was also set up so that students could watch some of the [video clips](#) about American Agriculture on My American Farm provided courtesy of America’s Heartland.



Students ask questions of a local grain farmer and Polk County Farm Bureau board member.