

4/14/2012 12:05:00 AM

Down on the farm

Students continue tradition of learning about agriculture

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MIDDLETOWN - Friday morning was sunny and clear as hundreds of first-graders from across Henry County descended on a local farm for the annual Henry County Ag Day.

Sponsored by the Henry County Farm Bureau and Henry County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Trennepohl Farms once again allowed students to get their hands dirty and dig into the culture of farming.



Shenandoah FFA member Adrienne Trennepohl gets a friendly hand-licking from a cow as she explains the difference between dairy and beef cows to students from Parker Elementary School at Henry County Ag Day. (Elizabeth Lundblad / C-T Photo)

Teaching the first-graders were FFA members from Shenandoah, Tri and Knightstown high schools. Learning stations covered a range of topics including cows, pigs, chickens, tractors and various crops.

"It's fun for the kids to come out who have never been on a farm and learn about how a farm works," said Lane Young, a sophomore from Shenandoah.

Ag Day teaches the first-graders how to approach, handle and care for farm animals, said Taylor Real, a senior from Shenandoah. The animal stations are always favorite stops during the trip.

Shenandoah sophomore Devin DeBruhl said Ag Day is important because it introduces kids to agriculture.

As one of the oldest industries in the world, there will always be farmers, he added.

Nodding her head, Real said, "That's a job that will never die."

The general focus of this year's Ag Day was corn, and how the grain is used in several different branches of farming including raising animals and growing crops.

Young, DeBruhl and Real said they all had memories of going to Ag Day as first-graders themselves.

"It rained," Young said. "It's a tradition. It always rains."

"We got lucky this year I guess," Real said.

By the close of Ag Day 2012, more than 500 first-graders experienced a small taste of farm life. If the cooing over baby chicks and the staring contest with beef cows were to be believed, then Ag Day was a success.

After visiting with a young goat, one girl in a pink coat dusted off her hands and declared, "I want to be a farmer."