

CAREE Comments

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The CAREE program has had a busy January starting with returning to 4th grade classrooms for the 3rd "Land of Illinois" visit where Madison County 4th graders are learning about livestock. They are learning about sheep, cattle and swine, and the proper names for livestock animals. We also talk about what livestock provides us because livestock give us much more than food. Many products that we use everyday are from animal by-products. Students learn about some of the by-products that come from cattle such as gelatin, glues and cosmetics and the by-products that come from swine such as insulin, heart valves and plastics. Students also learn about the importance of animal nutrition, different nutritional needs of livestock and what types of things livestock eat. At the end of the presentation students get to make their own edible feed ration. The students enjoy doing this activity and being able to eat their feed bags.

CAREE also held its annual meeting on January 22nd at Rusty's Restaurant. CAREE was able to thank contributors for contributing to the program and it gave CAREE the chance to explain what the program has been doing in the last year. Special guests at the meeting were Triad Envirothon team members Jessie Thompson, Ryan Schutte, and Bethany Rosenthal these team members competed at the Canon Envirothon in Geneva, New York, which was held in July. Also attending was Donna Moody, a 4th grade teacher for Summit Elementary in Collinsville. The Triad Envirothon team members shared about how they prepared for the Canon Envirothon and some of their experiences while competing at the Envirothon. Mrs. Moody spoke about how she has incorporated agriculture into her 4th grade classroom.

CAREE also held a poultry workshop for teachers and 4-Hers on January 24th. Kari Weis spoke to them about different breeds of chickens and the proper way to use an incubator. The teachers and the 4-Hers also had the opportunity to participate in several different hands-on activities dealing with poultry.

