

# CAREE Comments

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As students have headed back to school so has Madison County CAREE. CAREE has started the 4<sup>th</sup> grade “Land of Illinois” program visits. 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms are visited four times throughout the year where they learn more about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> “Land of Illinois” visit students learn more about the importance of agriculture and the history of Illinois. Students learn how they can’t go a day without agriculture because they use agriculture products from the time they wake up to the time they go to sleep. They learn more about why settlers came to the United States and Illinois and the reasons why agriculture is so important in Illinois. They get to see a demonstration that shows them how much farmland there is left.

At the ends of each lesson students get to do hands on activity. Students make an Illinois charm bag by placing different items that represent each of our state symbols and crops into a bag. This activity helps students remember the different state symbols and major crops that grow in Illinois.

CAREE would like to congratulate the Triad High School Envirothon team for winning the State Envirothon and representing the state at the Canon Envirothon in Geneva, New York. The Canon Envirothon is the largest North American high school competition. There were 53 teams from the United States and Canada. At the contest students had the opportunity to learn more about soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and alternative renewable resources. They were tested over these areas and also had to do an oral presentation about alternative renewable resources. The Triad High School team placed 23rd out of 53 teams.