

# CAREE Comments

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The Madison County CAREE is piloting an 8<sup>th</sup> grade program at the Highland Middle School. This program will help students broaden their thoughts when they think about a career in agriculture. It's important that students know all of the opportunities connected to agriculture. As these students are preparing to go to high school followed by either the work field or college, we would like to them to know the different opportunities there are in agriculture.

CAREE is participating in the careers classes at the Middle school and talking to the students about the many different careers that are available to them. The students are learning about different careers in the six main areas of agriculture: Production, Social Service Professionals, Education and Communications, Managers and Financial Specialist, Scientists and Engineers, and Marketing and Merchandising. They are learning about careers from food scientists to grain merchandiser.

CAREE is also going into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes each quarter and talking to the students about different career areas that relate to biotechnology. During each lesson the students will

learn about a different biotechnology area and then be able to do hands on activities that relates to that area. It is good for the students to see how much science relates to agriculture and all of opportunities there are in the agriculture industry.

During the first quarter visit students learned about genetic engineering. Students extracted DNA from different types of fruits. Each group of students were given shampoo, salt and meat tenderizer which they mixed together and then added water to the mixture. Then each group got a different type of fruit. They added some of the blended fruit to the shampoo mixture and then placed it in a filter. After a portion of the mixture was filtered threw the filter, they added rubbing alcohol to the mixture. White clumps formed and they were able to see the DNA of the fruit.

The program will help students have a better understanding about agriculture and hopefully get some students to take agriculture classes in high school or even decide on a career in the agriculture industry.

