

Ag Education Day

May 23, 2016 – Perry County Fairgrounds

The biggest community service project of the year for Perry Valley Grange was the sponsorship of an Ag Education Day at the county fairgrounds for more than 150 fourth grade students. View a pictorial tour of this fun-filled and educational day by scrolling through these slides.

May 23, 2016, dawned sunny and clear for 150+ students arriving in buses from Newport & Greenwood Elementary Schools for Ag Day.



FFA members greeted the arriving students and assisted with every aspect of AG Day.



After receiving individual name tags, classes waited on the bleachers for the program to start.



Greeting the students and leading a workshop was Perry County Fair Queen Hannah Bryner .





**Two FFA students
in period
costumes
presented an
original skit about
the founding of
the Grange by
Oliver Hudson
Kelley and his
associates.**

The “All About Goats” station was set up in the animal show ring and included live goats.



Students had the opportunity to sample goat milk following this milking demonstration.



Attentive and engaged students at learning stations.



Kristy Smith of the Perry County Conservation District instructs students in the importance of watersheds.



Students learned how the topography of the land determines where the water will flow.



**The wildlife
station
included
both live
specimens
and a
collection
of
preserved
animal
skins/pelts.**





**Wow!
That's soft
and cuddly!**

Everyone gets the opportunity to experiment.



Another station gave students the chance to find references to agriculture in magazines and newspapers.



Enthusiasm was high at this “hands on” station.



Pollinators are essential to a well functioning and productive agricultural eco-system.



The PA Department of Agriculture brought the popular Pennsylvania WoodMobile to Ag Day.



What's inside that neat trailer?



Every square inch taught about trees and wood.



Students learned about the growth rings of trees.



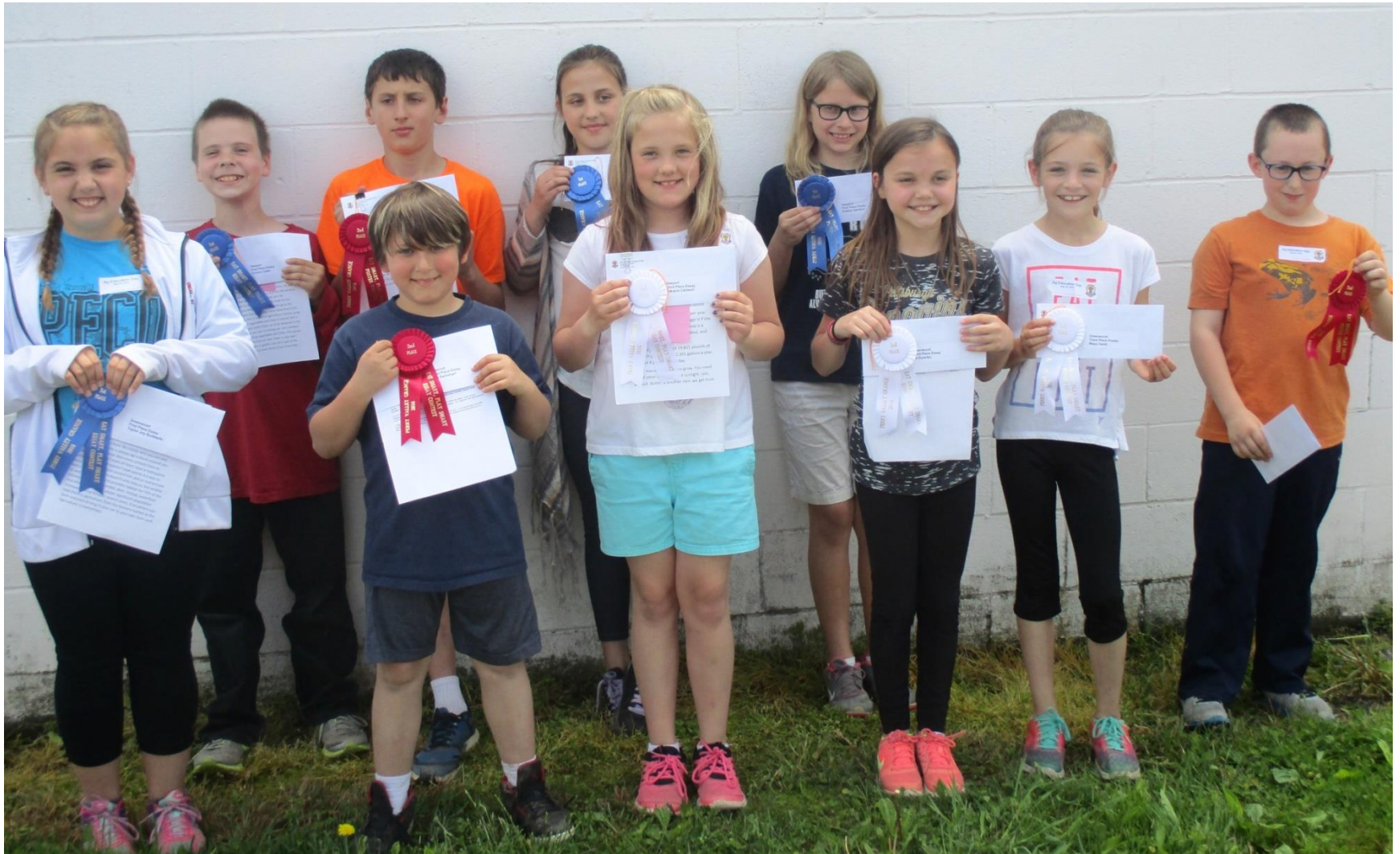
It's time for a picnic lunch provided by the Grange.





Competition was keen as 111 entries competed for awards in the annual essay and poster contests on the “Ag Is Everywhere” theme .

These students shared \$350 in cash awards for their first, second and third place essay and poster entries.



The afternoon focused on activities that students can enjoy at the upcoming county fair. Here, students learn how to plant and care for tomatoes that can compete for awards in the fair's youth classes.



A dog training and obedience demonstration



Samples of many different kinds of apples





**A hands-on
chance to
“milk a cow”
and learn
more about
one of Perry
County’s
largest
agricultural
commodity
industries**

Barnyard fun provides a perfect “photo op”




Ag Day even included a “mini-tractor” race!




For many students this was their first opportunity to learn about the importance of different farm animals.

Heritage Breeds of livestock


Highland Cattle
Homeland: Scotland
Positive traits:
• Do well in cold, wet weather
• Live long
• Good mothers
• Very handy




Randall Lineback
Homeland: Vermont
Positive Traits:
• Good foragers
• Resistant to cold
• Trainable as oxen
• Meat is a high quality rose veal




Florida Cracker
Homeland: Florida
Positive Traits:
• Heat tolerant
• Long lived
• Parasite resistance
• Disease resistance
• Developed to thrive in the southern part of the U.S.




MuleFoot Hog
Homeland: America
Positive Traits:
• Solid hoof similar to a mule
• Ease of fattening
• Good production of lard, meat and especially ham




Jacob Sheep-American
Homeland: Middle East and Europe
Positive Traits:
• Ancient biblical breed
• Spotted wool
• Multi horned
• Very hardy
• Need minimal care



St. Croix Sheep
Homeland: St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
Positive Traits:
• Hair sheep (no wool)
• Adapt well to hot humid weather
• Naturally polled



Spanish Goat
Homeland: Mississippi
Positive traits:
• Parasite resistant
• Adapts very well to southern states
• Good source of meat, milk and hides



How are Breeds of animals created?

- Animals adapt to the land, climate and the needs of the people keeping them.
- Each time a group of farmers migrated, animals were selected to fit their needs in that new place.
- Because of this thousands of different breed of sheep, goats, chickens and cattle were created

These natural breeds are called:
Heritage breeds

BUT...

They are disappearing in favor of breeds that do better in industrial agriculture.

A proud FFA member and her show animal.





**Rabbits,
sheep and
pigs were
also
popular
visitors to
Ag Day.
The whole
day was a
wonderful
learning
experience
for all!**