

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of **Autauga County Farm City Day 2025** was to increase agricultural literacy among sixth-grade students by strengthening the connection between urban and rural youth. The program aimed to enhance students' understanding of agriculture's essential role in food production, resource management, and Alabama's economy while introducing them to diverse agricultural and STEM career pathways.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The event was hosted by the **Autauga County Extension Office** on **November 13, 2025**, at the **R.H. Kirkpatrick Agricultural Arena** in Autaugaville, Alabama, continuing more than **twenty years of tradition**. The 2025 theme, "**Grow Alabama**," reflected the program's commitment to cultivating statewide appreciation for agriculture.

Participation included **671 sixth-grade students** from city and county schools and **70 volunteers** representing agricultural producers, educators, Extension professionals, and community partners. Interactive exhibits and demonstrations provided real-world insight into agricultural systems and innovations, including:

- **Southeastern Raptor Center's "Birds of Prey"** demonstration on wildlife conservation and ecological balance
- **Livestock demonstration** narrated by Representative **Van Smith**, featuring cattle, swine, and goats
- **Drone technology presentation** by **Auburn University agriculture students**, illustrating applications in precision agriculture
- **Hands-on sessions** with **Young Farmers**, **Regional Extension Agents**, and **local beekeepers**, covering row crop production, tractor operations, cotton ginning, and pollinator importance
- **Interactive roping activity** led by an agricultural instructor, promoting engagement and cultural appreciation of Alabama's ranching heritage

TEACHING METHODS

The program emphasized **experiential learning and applied science education**, aligning with **STEM and agricultural literacy standards**. Students engaged through multisensory demonstrations, active participation, and peer interaction with agricultural professionals. Teaching strategies included:

- **Demonstration-based learning** to connect classroom concepts with real-world agriculture
- **Inquiry-based instruction** encouraging students to ask questions and problem-solve
- **Kinesthetic learning opportunities** (roping activity, livestock handling, drone operation) to reinforce retention through movement and practice
- **Career exposure** via direct interaction with current agriculture students and professionals



IMPACT STATEMENT

Autauga County Farm City Day 2025 successfully bridged the knowledge gap between urban and rural youth reinforcing agriculture's significance to Alabama's economic and community stability. The program cultivated a deeper appreciation for farmers, agricultural professionals, and the processes that sustain local and global communities.

By combining technology, traditional practice, and experiential engagement, the event advanced **agricultural awareness, youth education, and community outreach**. Its measurable results demonstrate the program's continued excellence as a model for effective agricultural education and youth engagement.



EVALUATION

Evaluation incorporated both **quantitative** and **qualitative** measures:

- **Quantitative:** Post-event survey demonstrating a **79.6% knowledge gain** among sampled students (74 of 93 respondents).
- **Qualitative:** Teacher, volunteer, and partner feedback highlighting increased student curiosity, positive engagement, and improved comprehension of the agricultural industry.

Combined results verified that Farm City Day met its educational objectives and significantly **advanced agricultural literacy** among youth. Continued program success reflects the Extension Office's commitment to measurable learning outcomes, innovation, and sustained community impact. participating



RESULTS

To assess knowledge gains, the Extension Office conducted a **post-event agricultural literacy survey**. Of **671 total sixth-grade participants**, **four randomly selected classes** completed the evaluation.

- **93 students** fully completed the survey
- **74 students** demonstrated measurable improvement in agricultural knowledge
- **79.6% of respondents** showed an increase in understanding of agriculture's role in food systems, natural resource management, and career opportunities

Teachers also reported elevated student interest in agricultural and environmental topics during subsequent classroom discussions.

Student-Reported Change in Agriculture Knowledge (n=93)

