

Days of Learning Program

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UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

NEED/GOAL

Even though agriculture is one of the top industries in Maryland, our state has a shortage of agriculture workers. Cecil County is lacking in agriculture education for our high school students and is lacking in skilled agriculture workers.

There is a huge need in providing our youth with agricultural experiences for them to gain the knowledge and the hands-on experience needed to thoroughly recognize the work involved in an agriculture business.

Our goal is to provide Ag students with an up-close and personal experience on how a real agricultural business operates. We hope students will make a direct connection with one of the businesses and participate in future experiences. These experiences could be short term, mid-term, or long term and could be in the form of job shadowing, trainings or employment.



Value Added Ag Experience



Rumble Way Farm
Value Added Ag Experience

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

The program started in 2018, with a partnership between University of Maryland Extension and the Cecil County School of Technology (CCST). The initial purpose of the program was to provide the Agricultural students with some real-life Ag exposure. The CCST Ag students were taken on field trips to local farms and Agricultural businesses to learn first-hand what it takes to run a successful farm/Ag business. The field trips offered a behind-the-scenes look at the farm/Ag business's everyday operations.

In 2020, we decided to offer more in-depth "Ag Experiences." The experiences took the form of "hands-on" experiences in various Ag areas. We invited Cecil County Ag producers and agri-businesses to an Information Session to explain the program and ask for their support and participation in this program. We received a very positive response—approximately 10 agreed to partner with us in this program.

In September 2021, several Cecil County Ag businesses visited the CCST to present information on their businesses and what they could offer the students in the way of hands-on experiences and training.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

- . Field Trips
- . Small Projects
- . Guest Speakers
- . Hands-On Experiences



Calvert Farm
Organic Produce/CSA



Ag Experience Information Day
Cecil County Soil Conservation District



Flying Plow Farm
Certified Organic Farm/CSA



After the Races
Equine Rehabilitation



Heritage Hill Farm
Small Animal Care



New Bolton Center
Univ of PA School of
Veterinary Medicine



Milburn Orchards
Traditional Farm



Warwick Mushroom Farms
Mushroom Production



Green Grazer Goats
Land Clearing Goats

FUTURE PLANS

Future plans are to get all of the CCST Ag students involved in an Ag Experience of various lengths.

Short Term

Rotational Specialized Training/Hands-On Experiences: 1/2 day, full day, or several days; then move to another Ag business

Medium Term

2-5 students visit the business (2-3 times/week) for up to two weeks

Whole class participation

Long Term

An "Ag Experience" that lasts more than a month

Individual student involvement

SUMMARY

- . 56 students have participated in the program
- . 13 Field trips to local farms/Ag businesses
- . 8 Ag business guest speakers at the Cecil County School of Technology
- . 2 Ag Experience Information Days
- . 12 Planning sessions with Ag businesses to develop Ag experiences for students
- . 3 Field trips cancelled-1st quarter FY22 due to COVID

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A Collaborative Agriculture Program