

## AG TRIVIA

Imperial County is considered the "Nation's Salad Bowl" because of the moderate desert climate. It is consistently one of the top ten agricultural counties in the nation for the past fifty years!

Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza each day, or 350 slices per second. Each man, woman and child eat an average of 46 slices of pizza per year.

Apples are a member of the rose family. Fresh apples float because 25% of their volume is air. The apples from one tree can fill 20 boxes each year.

350 million M&M's are made every day in the United States.



### "COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS ABOUT THE FARM SMART PROGRAM"

"Better than Sea World! This is the best day of my life!! FARM SMART Rocks!

Student (yelling out the bus window!)

I enjoy bringing my students to FARM SMART. I learn and so do my students. The field trip is organized, content is valuable and time is well managed. My students love it and talk about their trip to the farm until the end of the school year. At the beginning of each school year, several of my new students ask if we will be going to FARM SMART. My answer is always YES!!! Imperial County is so fortunate to have this resource.

Teacher, El Centro School District

Incorporating music in this program makes it fun! I was given a CD and activity booklet with words. We play the music and sing the songs in our classroom at least once a week. The activities in the booklet are very helpful and I can incorporate them into my curriculum. FARM SMART isn't just a one day field trip, it can last all year long!!!

Teacher, Brawley School District

# 2009 - 2010



## FIELD TRIPS

BRING YOUR STUDENTS TO THE FARM FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY OF LEARNING WITH HANDS - ON ACTIVITIES, FOOD TASTING, A FARM TOUR ON HAY WAGONS AND PRODUCE HARVESTING!

### CONTACT

**NANCY CAYWOOD ROBERTSON**

**AT (760) 356-3067**

**TO SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP**

University of California

Desert Research & Extension Center

Nancy Caywood Robertson, Outreach Coordinator

Laura Fox, Program Representative

1004 E. Holton Road El Centro, California 92243

[nlwade@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nlwade@ucdavis.edu)

URL: [desertrec.ucdavis.edu](http://desertrec.ucdavis.edu)

# PHOTO GALLERY

THE FARM SMART Program is an educational outreach program held at the University of California Desert Research and Extension Center designed to teach students of all ages about natural and renewable natural resources including agriculture. Hands-on activities, music and a hay ride are included at each program!



Milking Bessie



Sampling homemade butter



Checking out cow food



Exploring cotton in a field



Grinding corn on a metate



Exploring the corn plants



Learning about vegetables



Fresh from the field!



Great harvest!



Tasting Honey at the Insect Program



Going on a hayride



Beekeeper for a day!

# -PROGRAMS-

All programs begin at 9:30 and end at 1:00. Cost is \$3.00 per student. Comfortable clothing and close-toed shoes should be worn. Water bottles, sunscreen and hats are encouraged. Water will be provided at the end of the program. Participants need to bring a sack lunch. Picnic tables are available. Bags will be provided for produce that is harvested.

**“COTTON AND COWS- “Alfalfa is Ice Cream in the Making”** **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER** Designed to help students gain an understanding of the dairy industry, this program includes milking “Bessie” (our plywood cow who won’t bite, kick or swish her tail), make butter, learn about the importance of dairy products in our diets, sample dairy products, compare human and cattle digestive systems, visit the feedlot, observe cattle and the foods they eat, and plant alfalfa seeds. Students will be introduced to cotton because the seed is fed to cattle and cotton seed and fiber make a positive impact in our lives every day! They will walk through a cotton field, explore green bolls and then pick an open boll to take home. At the end of the program, students will enjoy ice cream which will confirm that alfalfa really is “Ice Cream in the Making”!

**“FALL FEST”- NOVEMBER/DECEMBER** - Fall is a time of harvest and holidays. Students will participate in activities that include grinding corn, dancing to traditional fiddle music at our “FARM SMART” hoedown, sample traditional foods made from corn, walk through a corn trail, enjoy a hay ride and harvest fall crops (if mother nature cooperates!) Activities may vary according to the type of plants being grown.

**“MY AGRILICIOUS FOOD PYRAMID” – MARCH/APRIL** “From seed to shelf” - students will gain an understanding of the processing and marketing of food. They will learn about seeds and how they grow, crawl through a “tunnel” where they will discover the “underground world”. Students will learn the importance of making healthy eating choices as they participate in nutrition related activities and enjoy a healthy snack. They will identify crops through music, enjoy a hay ride, harvest produce, and participate in hands-on activities that will give them the opportunity to experience the farm and have fun at the same time!

**“INSECTS” – APRIL/MAY** Students will identify insects and learn their basic anatomy, gain an understanding of beneficial and non-beneficial insects, learn the importance of bees and pollination, taste a variety of honey and make a beeswax candle. Students will be made aware of Africanized Bees and learn ways to prevent an attack as well as how to protect themselves in the event one should happen. They will participate in an activity that will help them understand pheromones, gain an understanding of the importance of insect control, tour the farm, harvest produce and observe insects in their natural environment!

**ALL PROGRAMS WILL INCLUDE: “W.O.W. – Water Out West”** - designed to give students an understanding about the Colorado River and the important impact it has on our world. Activities may include canal safety, water transportation and delivery, water quality, water users and water conservation. Students will learn how farmers irrigate their fields and some of the many challenges they face. Students will gain an appreciation of water and soil as they harvest produce to take home and share with their family.

**THERE WILL BE FOOD SAMPLING. PLEASE BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES YOUR STUDENTS MAY HAVE.**

Lessons are aligned to meet many areas of the Content Standards for California Public Schools. Teachers will be given hand-outs and follow-up activities for their students.