

Agricultural Education Survey

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture 2011

Agricultural Education Survey

- 297 Responses
- All 24 jurisdictions included in survey
- Programs are: State, County and Individual
- 67% of respondents run an informal education program, 33% run a formal education program
- Nearly 40% of respondents were from non-profit organizations

Purpose of Ag Education Programs

- Develop awareness about agriculture – 68%
- Inform Decision Makers – 26.6%
- Prepare High School Students – 36%
- Educate New or Beginning Farmers – 25%
- Teach Specific Content – 33%
- Other 21%

“Other” (examples)

- Environmental Stewardship
- Training Farmers and landowners to meet certification requirements
- Teach children about where their food comes from
- Farm to School
- Leadership

Other Information

- 77% of respondents said their programs were delivered year-round
- 60% of respondents said that they used an “informal” curriculum
- 33% said they cover a “general awareness” about agriculture
- 78% do not charge the public
- On average the programs see 500+ people per year

Subjects Covered (Top 4)

- General Awareness about agriculture (33%)
- Conservation and natural resource management (19%)
- Animal Health (15%)
- Production – Traditional (7%)



Target Audiences

- High School 51%
- Elementary 41%
- Families 40%
- Middle School 37%
- Pre-K 14%
- Post-Secondary 14%

Sources of Funding

- Federal
- State
- School System
- Private Donations
- Fundraising
- University of Maryland
- In-kind donations
- Ag Tag
- Grain Check off

Barriers Identified by Respondents

- Lack of Funding
- Weather for field trips
- Liability issues
- Lack of public Interest
- Negative peer pressure among children
- Limits on times students can be outside classrooms
- Lack of school support
- Lack of interest from “higher ups”
- Lack of commitment to organized programs
- Farmers do not have time to do public outreach

Potential Solutions

- Integrate with school curriculum incubators for beginning farmers
- Incorporate agricultural education into the school curriculum early
- Provide more hands-on activities for younger kids
- Develop programs that make a relevant connection to students' lives
- Have more research and data available
- More funding needed from different sources
- State needs to show more support to the fairs and general agricultural programs

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