

News Release
Donna Wice, 4-H Coordinator
February 21, 2002

4-H Ag in the Classroom

Along with the 4-H clubs and projects, the Mariposa County 4-H Youth Development Program now offers "Ag in the Classroom" which began with funding from the Mariposa County Farm Bureau in spring 2001. With this gracious donation, our local teachers can check out the materials for use in their classrooms. Last year the local teachers were able to check out incubators, brooders, and curriculum to study Embryology, as well as curriculum and larvae for Butterfly Gardens so the students could watch the life cycle of the Painted Lady Butterfly. Over 250 students at three schools had 'hands-on' experience with this new program.

Since this program was so successful in just a few months, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors allotted funding for the program to continue. Donna Wice, 4-H Coordinator, has purchased new curriculum for this school year which includes "The Honey Files: A Bee's Life", Entomology, and Root-view gardens. Students will be able to study the life cycle of the honey bee, study & view beneficial and harmful insects of the home & garden, and watch roots of various plants grow. The Ag in the Classroom program is a great opportunity for students to enjoy 'learn-by-doing' educational experiences, and develop skills that will benefit their lives. The 4-H Youth Development program's purpose is to add new materials each year, so the teachers have fun and educational curriculum to use and share with the youth of Mariposa County.

If you are interested in using the Ag in the Classroom curriculum in your classroom or would like additional information on this program, contact Donna Wice at 966-4829.

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