Recipe for an Ag Day

Suggestions for getting started

1. Form A Committee (Interested Teachers, Farmers, Parents, Ag Related People)
   Set goals, set possible dates, etc.

2. Talk To Principal


4. Call And Contact Possible Presenters

   - Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom 1-800-700-AITC
   - AITC resource guide
   - Farm Bureau office
   - County Ag extension office
   - California Women for Ag (CWA)
   - Future Farmers of America (FFA)
   - Ag related businesses
   - Colleges and Universities
   - Cattlewomen’s Association


5. Contact Farmers To Adopt Classrooms
   (Farm Bureau or Ag in the Classroom 1-800-700-AITC)

6. Acquire Sponsors- Fundraising
   CWA, Farm Bureau, Ag commodities, Ag related businesses
   Auctions, dinners, etc.

7. Other

   Contact:
   Nancy Harris
   P.O. Box 802
   Hughson, CA 95326
   (209) 522-7982
Suggested Time Line for Ag Day

* Once a date has been chosen for your Ag Day, send a letter each December wishing all presenters a happy holiday season and ask them to mark that date on their new calendars. (Maximize chances of locking in to one date.)

**Days 1-5** Committee Meeting
- Call and contact perspective presenters
- Call and contact prospective farmers to adopt a class
- Seek service clubs or sponsors for meals for presenters

**Days 10-30** Integrate Ag Related Activities into Curriculum
- Literature books, videos, etc.

**Days 31-40** Committee Meeting- Review Program
- Announce Ag related story contest
- Announce Ag related art contest

**Days 50-60** Committee Meeting
- Call and confirm presenters
- Work on schedule
- Fund raisers
- A week of Ag related P.E. activities
  (square dancing, egg relays, walnut toss, pumpkin roll, etc.)
- School wide contests- guess weight of pumpkin etc.
- Submit work orders to custodians

**Days 61-70** Send Letters To Presenters With Schedules, Maps, Etc.

**Day 89** Ag Breakfast
- Invite teachers and farmers before school.
- Present Ag story and Ag art winners awards.

**Day 90** Ag Day
- Children rotate by class every 20-30 minutes.
- Leave time at the end of the day for children to evaluate and start writing thank you notes to presenters
- If this is to be an annual event, to prevent undue repetition, assign certain animals and plants to each grade level. This can be done by using social studies and other curriculum areas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Plant/Commodity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>chickens</td>
<td>pumpkins, apples</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>bees</td>
<td>sunflowers, seeds</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>dairy cows</td>
<td>peanuts, trees</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>sheep</td>
<td>corn, almonds</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>pigs</td>
<td>wheat, water</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>horses</td>
<td>cotton, citrus</td>
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</table>

**Days 91-95** Evaluate and complete thank you notes to presenters
AG APPRECIATION DAY

We are proposing to have an all-day Ag Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 8th. All classes at the elementary school will circulate among the various stations that will be set up around the campus.

The purpose of this event is to help students gain an appreciation and understanding of the vital role agriculture plays in their daily lives. We live in an agricultural community and it is hoped that this day will enhance the communication between school and the farming communities.

Exhibitors will be asked to have displays and/or demonstrations. Some suggested areas are:

- Dairy
- Beef
- Swine
- Sheep
- Horses
- Almonds
- Peaches
- Bees
- Horticulture
- Pizza making
- Etc.

The Hughson High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) has been asked to help with this event. Several adults in the community as well as 4 or 5 agriculture teachers from the area are interested in helping.

Letters will be sent to various agriculture groups and individuals asking them to participate. The school site council voted to support this endeavor. The school board members are also invited to be present and participate!

We would be happy to let the board know more about each event as the schedule is completed.

Nancy Harris
Doris Moore
Judy Hogan

Sample Letter To School Board
March 6, 1997

Ag Day Presenters

Dear

Ag Day, March 27th, is almost here! It looks like we'll have a well-rounded program for the students to celebrate our fifth year. Each year as things seem to be getting busier than ever, I am more than grateful that you find time to fit Hughson Elementary into your busy schedule.

To show our appreciation, we have some special prizes to be given out this year. Place your enclosed ticket in the box in the Hospitality Room (Room 34) on Ag Day. At noon we'll draw names and the lucky winner and family will receive a gourmet dinner prepared by Diana McDonald. A hand-made throw (small quilt) and other items will also be given away. In addition, you, as a presenter, will receive a gift especially made for you by the children at Hughson Elementary.

The enclosed schedule and maps will tell you where you will be giving your presentation. For those of you presenting for the first time, you will stay at your location and the children will rotate to you. Anytime you are not scheduled for a group, feel free to go to Room 34 for coffee, cookies and visit other presenters. Lunch will be provided for you in Room 34, as well. 4-H and FFA presenters will have lunch provided in Room 3. The schedule also tells you how many students to expect for each presentation. (See schedule on the far right-hand side under teacher's name and room number.)

Farm Bureau, student teachers and some adults have also been invited and are on the schedule. We don't know how many to tell you will be in these groups.

Classrooms should be open by 7:30 a.m. unless you ask to have one opened earlier. The gate to the yard by the bus shed (Charles St.) will be open at 6:30 a.m. Please call if you need help or have any special needs.

Again, I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 27th. Together, with the children, we will celebrate and recognize the value of agriculture in our lives....and the continuing partnership between agriculture and education.

Please call if I can be of any help. (School 883-4412, Home 522-7982).

Most sincerely,

Nancy Harris
& Ag Committee
March 6, 1997

Ag Day Farmers

Dear

We are celebrating our fifth Ag Day! Please come to breakfast on Wednesday, March 26th and eat with your teacher, ______________________________ (Room______). We will start eating at 7:00 sharp.

We have invited a special speaker for you. Children will read their prize-winning Ag stories from our Plough and Anvil Contest.

There will be a drawing with special prizes for you. Bring the enclosed lucky ticket to the breakfast, and you may be a winner!

As a special treat, you can see the beautiful quilt made this year depicting the events of Ag Day. Our fourth grade students did the artwork. Meet the quilt makers, Marie and Jack Nelson and Isabel Schmidt. They will join us for breakfast.

After breakfast, feel free to join the students at our Sheep Dog Show courtesy of Mitch and Lorna Evovich.

On Thursday, Ag Day, March 27th, our rotation of presenters begins shortly after 8:20. Please check in at the office before joining your classroom. Your adopted teacher will have a schedule of the events you will see. Have a great time!

Please let me know if for any reason you cannot attend (School 883-4412, Home 522-7982). Classes feel left out if they don’t have a farmer to accompany them on Ag Day. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Nancy Harris
& Ag Committee
AG APPRECIATION DAY
Thursday, April 9, 1998
Hughson Elementary School
7201 E. Whitmore

Features and Displays

Peaches Insects Rabbits Water Almonds Sheep Dogs Swine Strawberries Miniature Donkeys Pony Express
Sheep Shearing Miniature horses Feed display Ornamental Plants Trees Apples Roping Beef - Cattlewomen Blacksmith Hilmar Cheese
Bees Eggs & Poultry Forest Plants Dairy Floriculture Petting zoo California Women for Agriculture Llamas Turkeys
Veterinarians Farm Equipment Grapes Quilting Goats Draft horses, chuck wagon Antique farm equipment
Plant Doctor Dairy Princess 4-H exhibits FFA exhibits Small engines Almond shaker Organic gardens Calves Pecans

Sample Ag Day Schedule

Giving children first-hand experience, appreciation, and knowledge about their food and fiber. Strengthening ties and building bridges between the agricultural community and school.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Contact - Nancy Harris - Hughson Elementary School - (209) 883-4412
Kindergarten
March 27, Ag. Day
Schedule

A
8:30 - 8:55 Egg.
9:20 - 9:45 Apple.
9:45 - 10:10 Plants.
10:10 - 10:35 Zoo.

B
8:30 - 8:55 Vet.
8:55 - 9:20 Apple.
9:20 - 9:45 Plants.
9:45 - 10:10 Zoo.
10:10 - 10:35 Egg

C
8:30 - 8:55 Apple.
8:55 - 9:20 Plants.
9:20 - 9:45 Zoo.
9:45 - 10:10 Egg.
10:10 - 10:35 Vet.

D
8:30 - 8:55 Plants.
8:55 - 9:20 Zoo.
9:20 - 9:45 Egg.
9:45 - 10:10 Vet.
10:10 - 10:35 Apple.

E
8:30 - 8:55 Zoo.
8:55 - 9:20 Egg.
9:20 - 9:45 Vet.
9:45 - 10:10 Apple.
10:10 - 10:35 Plants.
| AG DAY  
APRIL 98  
GRADES  
1-3 |
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<td><strong>YARD - ALVINE BARN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - HEERMAN BARN</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 13 - GOWEN PLANTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 27 - BROWN &amp; CAROL</strong></td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 12 - CAKE ORGANIC FARMING</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 16 - CHRISTIANSON</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 23 - CUNNINGHAM HOGS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 29 - DAILY FEED DISPLAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 7 - BEHR FARM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - LEVENTIS SHEEP</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 5 - FISHER VETERINARIAN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 14 - BILL HULLMAN CIGARS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 6 - MORGAN WATER TID</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - HEUDESCHER HOGS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - CARLTON DAILY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - WHITWELL &amp; GEORGE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 7 - STAR BURGINDI</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - STABBEYFIELD LAMAS &amp; MINI DONKEY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YARD - THOMAS MINI HUBBIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 4 - TULLI</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ROOM 2 - COSTA DILLY</strong></td>
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Sample Ag Day Schedule

1:20 - 2:30 STUDENTS WILL WRITE THANK YOU NOTES
## Sample Ag Day Schedule

**Ag. Day**  
**April 1998**  
**Grades 4-5**

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<td>YARD - COLLEER, BROWN, HALL, KALBY - EQUIPMENT</td>
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<td>ROOM 21 - LOVAAS 23 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>YARD - CARRIL, HORSES, WAGONS, SKOOKSMILL PONY EXPRESS, ETC.</td>
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<td>ROOM 22 - KERR 27 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 23 - DORAZ 35 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 21 - DUARTE &amp; VACA GRAPES</td>
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<td>ROOM 25 - MOORE 38 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>YARD - ELLINGTON PFP</td>
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<td>ROOM 26 - MASTERTON 30 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 22 - GARY PLANT DOCTOR</td>
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<td>ROOM 20 - SHEPHERD CATTLEWOMEN'S ASSN - BEEF</td>
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<td>ROOM 17 - HENLEY 32 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 19 - KIZE BLUE DIAMOND ALMONDS</td>
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<td>ROOM 18 - CLAYTON 32 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 22 - MATTOS CALIFORNIA POULTRY</td>
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<td>ROOM 19 - DOWLING 38 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>SHED - MCKINSEY &amp; STAPP BLACK SMITH</td>
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<td>ROOM 21 - RUEBEN 29 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 24 - NELSON AND SCHMIDT QUILTING</td>
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<td>ROOM 18 - FERRY INSECTS</td>
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<td>ROOM 17 - STARK PEACHES</td>
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<td>ROOM 11 - VANOSTENDE APPLES</td>
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From 1:45 - 2:40 students will write thank you notes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Participating?</th>
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Plough and Anvil Writing Contest

1. Grades 1 - 5.
2. Each teacher may submit only 5 stories per class.
3. Stories must be written at school.
4. Limit - 300 words.
5. Prizes - 1 winner per grade level - $10.00 each.
   - 1 Grand Prize winner - Name on plaque and presents story at Farmer-Teacher Breakfast - March 20th.
6. Theme - Agriculture related (farms, food, people, animals, etc)
7. Deadline - Feb. 21st - 3:00.
8. Give to Tess Camagna or Doris Moore.
9. Information on each entry
   Student's name, Grade, Story Title, Teacher's name.

Art Contest

1. K - 5
2. Original farm theme drawings in black and white.
3. 12x18 paper
4. Each teacher may submit only 5 drawings.
5. 1 winner per grade level.
   Winning entries will be copied and used as placemats for Farmer-Teacher Breakfast.
6. Entries due Feb. 21st - 3:00 - in office.
April 27, 1995

Dear [Name],

Thank you for helping us in celebrating Ag Week at Hughson Elementary. Children had opportunities to learn and appreciate many exciting experiences relating to agriculture. (Many learned that it takes more than a little rain to interfere with getting things done when it comes to farming and even education). It seems farmers and teachers have one more thing in common!

I feel so fortunate to live in a community where farmers such as you will take time to come to school and share in learning experiences that enrich the lives of children. You are helping children to understand more about the important role agriculture plays in their lives. One of the young students, Beth Doyle, told her teacher, "This is the best day of my life!" To me, that makes the whole thing worthwhile!

Thank you again for your participation. Please feel welcome to visit us any time. The knowledge and experiences you bring to us are invaluable!

Most sincerely,

Nancy Harris

NH: sjl
Teacher _________ Room # __
Grade _______

TEACHER - STUDENT

EVALUATION OF AG APPRECIATION DAY

1. Favorite presentation:
   Student ____________________________
   Teacher ___________________________
   Comments __________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

2. Memorable comments or quotes:
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

3. Problems or areas of concern:
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

4. Suggestions for improvement:
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

5. Would you like to have an Ag Appreciation Day next school year? ______ If so, same time of the year? ______
   Different time of the year? ______
AG. APPRECIATION DAY
Evaluation by Presenter

Presenter's Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
Phone _______________________________________

Commodity or Area ______________________________

1) What was your favorite part of the day or your best experience?
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

2) Did you encounter any problems? If so, how would you suggest improvement?
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

3) If Hughson Elementary School has an Ag. Appreciation Day next year, would you be willing to participate again?
Comments:
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Agriculture comes to school

By DON HANSEN
The Journal

HUGHSON — What goes on every day around Hughson Elementary School students come to the campus Thursday.

Youngsters received an up-close and personal look at the agricultural industry that keeps their community on the map during the second annual Ag Appreciation Day.

In a way, it was like a homecoming for many participants as farmers and people in agriculture-related activities visited the kindergarten through sixth-grade campus for the day. Topics ranged from sheep dogs and square dancing to peaches and trucks, including the privilege of tooting the air horn.

"Just about all of us went to school here," said Hughson peach and almond grower Tom Parks, who went by the title "adopted farmer" on Thursday. "This exposes these kids to some of the stuff that's going on all around them."

Students not only learned the real story about where their food comes from, but also received some eye-opening lessons about other agricultural products as well as a few history lessons.

First-grader Marcus Riggs said he was surprised to learn from Hughson fiber spinning specialist Barbara Benjamin that certain kinds of yarn come from rabbits. He watched in amazement as Benjamin gently removed fur off the coat of "Fluffbottom" and demonstrated how it's turned into yarn.

"It's pretty neat the way she takes the fluff and rolls it," Riggs said.

"I try to stress to them that it's a fun thing and that I'm not hurting the rabbit while I'm doing this," Benjamin said.

Forest Burkland of Merced, who makes appearances at historical parks and schools all over Northern California, literally roped his young audience to attention.

Dressed in 1850s attire, he displayed his expertise as a ropemaker on a machine his father purchased in 1904 for 98 cents. Third-grader Leah Wilson and her classmates took turns winding the handle on the machine as Burkland and his grandson, Joshua, spun them sample lengths of rope made from sisal, an ingredient found in yucca plants.

"They get a little living history about an art that's just about been lost," said Burkland, who learned the skill as a boy and has passed it along to his sons and grandson. "The pioneers couldn't run down to the local store for this when they needed it like people can now."

Third-grade teacher Sherry Doraz, who helped students sign certificates with an old-fashioned fountain pen, said the demonstration helped students realize what's involved in production.

"We can appreciate rope in a whole different light now," she said. "I hope this gives them an appreciation for their heritage. Sometimes we take the wonderful things we have for granted."

Professional roper and riding expert Jim Wheatley found students were more appreciative of lariats after he helped them make a few practice tosses.

"They're really gaining an appreciation for the community and the farmers are loving it," said teacher Nancy Harris who organized the event and has seen participation grow. "The Hughson 4-H has really helped make this happen, too."