

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Regional Agriculture Day

April 18, 2023 | Calgary

Inside Education is pleased to report on our second iteration of the Regional Agriculture Days program, which took place in Calgary this spring. We invited classes from two Calgary junior high schools to join us on hands-on tours at four local farms. The day brought together a total of **96 students** to enhance and enrich their curriculum by meeting local producers and touring working farms.



Introduction and Program

Inside Education’s Regional Agriculture Day (RAD) program gave students from Twelve Mile Coulee School’s Environmental Stewardship class and the Grade 7 students from Apostles of Jesus school the opportunity to connect with local agricultural producers. This allowed the students to learn more about how regenerative agriculture can contribute to healthy grassland ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as learning about key components of animal health, and the marketing and retail components of the food system.

Each program began with an Agriculture 101 presentation at the school to introduce key topics and prepare the students for site visits.

Tour highlights included visiting cattle on native grasslands, practicing our lasso skills, learning about different forage needs for raising cattle, and checking out a “chicken tractor” which allows chickens to be moved around the property providing natural pest control and fertilizer to crops.

Upon returning to the school, the students debriefed what they learned through group discussion and written reflections.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

<p>Introduction & Agriculture 101 presentation Inside Education</p>
<p>Twelve Mile Coulee School - Tours Calgary Board of Education</p> <p>Grazed Right Beef</p> <p>Hartell Homestead</p>
<p>Apostles of Jesus School - Tours Calgary Catholic School District</p> <p>W.A Ranches</p> <p>WineGlass Ranch</p>
<p>Classroom Connections & Debrief</p>



PROGRAM IMPACT

Inside Education received positive feedback from student and teacher participants alike following the program. Tour hosts and expert guests also acknowledged their excitement to connect with students in order to build public trust in agriculture practices.



“What I learned today will likely affect my food choices as I can be more conscious about where meat, eggs or other produce is coming from. Supporting grass-fed cows supports grasslands and other Alberta ecosystems. It also supports local farms which benefits our economy” - Grade 7 Student

“The coolest thing was interacting and learning that animals have personalities, just like humans” - Shade, Grade 9 student

“What I learned today will affect how I will think about the processes the food I eat went through before arriving to me” - Grade 7 Student



“(I learned that) Science and technology are changing agriculture by advancing the knowledge of how farms work to help soil health, water quality and improve their efficiency” - Grade 9 Student

Tour Hosts & Program Partners

Thank you to the organizations and expert guests and funding partners who made this program possible. We acknowledge the time that the tour hosts and expert guests took out of their daily operations to share their expertise and knowledge.

- Ben Campbell** | Grazed Right Beef
- Nick and Alli Hartell** | Hartell Homestead
- Travis and Kara Eklund** | WineGlass Ranch
- Ed Pajor and the UCVM team** | W.A Ranches
- Amie Peck** | Canadian Cattle Association



“It was an amazing experience for the students to explore sustainable practices in agriculture and to experience a bit of farm life”- Kelly Craigue, teacher, Apostles of Jesus School

Inside Education remains committed to developing hands-on learning opportunities to support environmental literacy in Alberta and Western Canada. Inside Education recognizes that providing these unique opportunities to students creates engaged and informed citizens and stewards.

For More Information Contact:
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