



For Immediate Release
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Kids & Critters

For the past week there have been lines of curious-eyed kids wondering the fairgrounds, for some of these kids, they get to see more than cotton candy and the Ferris wheel. The State Fair of Texas®, Southwest Dairy Museum and Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service are all joined together to bring better knowledge of agriculture to elementary school kids. Kids & Critters has been at the State Fair of Texas for the past five years servicing hundreds of second and third grade students from all over Dallas County.

About 500 students start off their day in the milking parlor where they learn about the importance of milk and its nutrients, the process of milking and storage, and other milk products. They also get a live milking demonstration and learn about the different types of dairy cattle. After that they head to the Little Hands on the Farm to teach them the essentials of farm life. Last, they make their way to learn about the roles of different animals, fundamental terminology and fun facts about horses, goats, sheep and cows. The kids are taught the different names of female, male, young and adult animals, their basic anatomy, and other facts which they might not get a chance to hear. This show is very interactive and energetic. It allows the students to get involved which in turn will help them to remember more.

Gustavo Arzate, a 17-year-old from Seagoville, Texas, volunteered with his chapter of FFA to help with Kids & Critters. This is his first year volunteering with Kids & Critters but second year to volunteer with the State Fair of Texas. Gustavo said he is enjoying his time here at the State Fair and likes “helping keep the kids under control!” The volunteers help seat the children for the next show and help escort them safely out to lunch.

This program has many different aspects and there are many people necessary for its daily function. Volunteers from the Seagoville FFA are one of the many parts who are helping Kids & Critters be a successful and exciting learning environment. Not only does Kids & Critters enrich the lives of students who might never set foot around agriculture, but it also teaches them the importance of agriculture in our lives and society.

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