

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas classrooms win pizza parties, learn how food gets from the farm to table

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Pizza... It's arguably one of the top favorite foods among children – and probably even some adults, too. It is so popular that it can be found in almost any variety imaginable from the classics pepperoni and supreme, to some non-traditional toppings like taco and Hawaiian.

Pizza is also one of the few food items that can contain items from each of the food groups on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) MyPyramid nutritional resource, making it an easy “go-to” meal for families. All of the ingredients that go into making pizza – the dough, cheese, tomato sauce, meats, vegetables and fruits – originate from farms, and it's important that both adults and children realize where their food comes from and all the work that is involved in getting it from the farm to their dinner plate. In fact, there is so much work involved to get food from farm to plate, that one in five Kansas students will grow-up to have a career in an agricultural-related field.

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC), a 501c3 non-profit organization located in Manhattan, is working to help Kansans understand how farmers and agriculture play a role in their daily lives by providing needed food and clothing. Two Kansas classrooms recently got the opportunity to learn about where the ingredients in their favorite kind of pizza come from and the steps and people involved in getting those ingredients from the farm and into their pizza.

Sheena Wyatt's first grade class at McCandless Elementary in Hutchinson, and Carol Richerson's third grade class at Union Valley Elementary also in Hutchinson both won a free pizza party by entering into a drawing at the Agriland display at the Kansas State Fair in September. Agriland is an educational “playground” for youth that is hosted by many state agriculture-related associations each year during the Kansas State Fair, including KFAC. As children walk through Agriland, they can stop at several different stations that teach them about a different aspect of the agriculture industry and how it affects them and their lives each day.

Sponsors for Agriland and the classroom pizza parties include: KFAC, Kansas Agri-Women, Kansas Beef Council, Kansas Corn Commission & Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Dairy Association, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Grain

Sorghum Commission, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Wheat, and Kansas Sunflower Association.

Interested persons can learn more about KFAC, its programs and resources by visiting the website at www.ksagclassroom.org

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Cathy Musick, KFAC Executive Director, shares how pizza ingredients get from the farm to the table with Sheena Wyatt's first grade class. *Courtesy photo.*



Students in Carol Richerson's third grade class learn about the steps and people involved in getting pizza ingredients from the farm into their pizza. *Courtesy photo.*