

## Candler County Ag Day Increases Youth Agricultural Awareness

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County

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4-H & Youth, Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture is the largest industry in Georgia with an impact of over \$70 billion annually. While Candler County is very rural, most local students do not have personal experience with agriculture; they are often 2 or more generations removed from the farm. To increase agricultural appreciation and awareness among the youth of Candler County, Extension Faculty and Agricultural Education Faculty created a program featuring 21 booths from local agricultural interest groups and businesses for elementary and middle school students in Candler County to gain more hands-on agricultural experience. Many older 4

standpoint, studies are showing the importance of integrating agriculture and science teaching into a true multidisciplinary approach, called ag-science (Rice & Kitchel, 2017; Rice & Parker, 2018, Despain, North, Warnock & Baggaley, 2016)

The Candler County 4-H and ANR Agents met with agriculture teachers at Metter Elementary and Metter Middle School to formulate a program to provide students in grades 3-6 with an interactive glimpse into the agriculture industry. This program was designed to provide supplemental education related to agriculture, science and careers standards of the Georgia Standards of Excellence. A one-day program was designed to showcase the importance and diversity of agriculture in Georgia. By highlighting this vital industry, students might realize t

connection was wonderful. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent said that her child learned more about agriculture on this day than any other program she has participated in previously.

In the weeks following the event, through host group was asked to replicate and expand the program in 2024. Plans are already underway for another 2024 program will survey a group of students to gauge the knowledge gained by participating in the program.