

OUTSTANDING COUNTY PROGRAM

Carroll County

Please describe a county program in depth that you feel is unique to your county.

This past year our board spent many hours trying to reach out to local companies to help sponsor the Ag Products Mobile Science Lab trailer through MAEF. Along with the daunting task to convince the Carroll County Public School Board to adjust their budget to also help implement the trailer into the elementary school curriculum. We were successful in finding an outstanding sponsorship through Lehigh Cement, based out of Union Bridge, MD. Getting the school board on board is still in the process but the outcome is looking extremely promising because we have already met with school officials and have started scheduling elementary schools for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. The school board, the Carroll County Farm Bureau and Lehigh Cement will each give \$6000 per year for the trailer to visit 8-10 elementary schools each school year for the next few years on a rotation.

The Ag products Mobile Science Lab Trailer has the ability to reach 5 classes of elementary school children every day, Monday-Friday, all school year long. There are about 3,975 elementary school classes and the average classroom size in Carroll County is 20.54 students. The cost of the trailer to educate approximately 220 students in a week is estimated to be \$1,800. With that knowledge, our \$18,000 has the potential to be at a Carroll County elementary school for 10 weeks, educating approximately 2,200 students each year. Though a drop in a bucket to the possible 81,500 students in the county, it is still a huge step in the right direction for expanding their agricultural knowledge and creating a better understanding of the trade.

The Ag Products Mobile Science Lab Trailer is a unique hands on experience for students to learn about capillary action, the environmental impact of petroleum, corn packing, how to make glue from milk, candling eggs, beeswax lip balm and cotton and wool fabrics along with other agriculture based material. The program provides an engaging curriculum that aligns with our county's common core, STEM and other school standards. The lesson doesn't end when the students leave the trailer, materials are provided to the teachers to extend the experience into the classroom.

The Carroll County Farm Bureau Board's ultimate goal is to provide a better and more innovative opportunity for students to learn about agriculture in school. Possibly reaching our middle school students as well in the future. We believe that reaching the younger audience and engaging them in a way that is more than paper and pencils will improve their understanding of all the agriculture that surrounds their everyday life. We also want to create a more promising way to keep ag in the classroom through sponsorships and funding. We all know a well-educated community heightens the chance of a better agricultural friendly community. Our students are the future of agriculture and we want to help them grow.