



Harvest Festival and Farm-to-Table Event

An engaging agricultural education activity for the fall could be organizing a "**Harvest Festival and Farm-to-Table Event**". This activity can teach students about the harvesting process, seasonal crops, and the importance of local food systems. Here's a detailed plan for the activity:

Objectives:

- Educate students about different fall crops and their harvesting process.
- Promote understanding of local food systems and sustainable agriculture.
- Provide hands-on experience with harvesting and preparing local produce.

Materials Needed:

- Access to a local farm or school garden
- Harvesting tools (gloves, baskets, shears)
- Cooking supplies (portable stoves, pots, pans, utensils)
- Recipe cards for simple, seasonal dishes
- Educational materials on local agriculture and sustainability

Activities:

- 1. Farm Visit or School Garden Tour:**
 - Arrange a visit to a local farm or use the school's garden if available.
 - Have a farmer or garden coordinator give a tour, explaining the different crops grown in the fall (e.g., pumpkins, apples, squash, carrots).
 - Discuss the importance of harvesting at the right time and methods used.
- 2. Hands-On Harvesting:**
 - Allow students to participate in harvesting some of the crops.
 - Teach proper techniques for picking and handling produce to prevent damage.
- 3. Educational Stations:**
 - Set up stations with information on different aspects of agriculture, such as soil health, crop rotation, and sustainable farming practices.

- Include interactive elements like soil testing kits or plant identification games.
- 4. **Cooking Demonstration and Tasting:**
 - Use the harvested produce to prepare simple, healthy dishes.
 - Have a local chef or knowledgeable teacher lead the demonstration.
 - Provide recipe cards for students to take home.
- 5. **Discussion and Reflection:**
 - Engage students in a discussion about what they learned and how they can support local agriculture.
 - Reflect on the importance of eating seasonal and locally-sourced foods.
- 6. **Follow-Up Activities:**
 - Encourage students to create posters or presentations about their experience.
 - Plan a seasonal recipe contest using fall produce.

Benefits:

- Provides experiential learning opportunities.
- Enhances students' understanding of where their food comes from.
- Encourages healthy eating habits and appreciation for local farmers.

Resources:

- **Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture:** KFB offers resources and support for agricultural education initiatives.
- **Local Extension Offices:** Often provide educational materials and can assist with organizing farm visits.
- **Ag in the Classroom:** A program that provides lesson plans and resources for integrating agriculture into the curriculum.