**Environmental Day FarmChat - Cowles Elementary - Friday, April 19**

Theme: Conservation

Date: Friday, April 19, 2014

Contact Teacher: Mrs. Heather Anderson

Grade: 2, 4-6 grade sections (55 students) during each session

**Session 1**

9:00 – Start of 1st Session – begin intro discussion in classroom

9:10 – Start Skype

9:35 – End Skype. Wrap-up discussion in classroom

9:40 – Switch groups

**Session 2**

9:45 – Start of 1st Session - begin intro discussion in classroom

9:55 – Start Skype

10:20 to 10:25 – End Skype. Wrap-up discussion in classroom

10:35 – Switch groups

**Discussion *Before* Farm Skype:**

* What words come to mind when you hear the word Agriculture
* What’s grown in Iowa (crop and animals)?
* What are crops grown in Iowa used for?
* What do you think of when I say “Water Quality and Farmers” or “Farmers and the Environment” – (Pre-Skype Assessment)

**Discussion *After* Farm Skype:**

* What do you think of when I say “Water Quality and Farmers” or “Farmers and the Environment” (Pre-Skype Assessment)
* List Agriculture Careers

**Skype Outline:**

* Overview of where we are & Introductions (Cindy) **2 minutes**
* NRCS Introduction and Overview Nutrient reduction (Jason) **2 minutes**
  + VERY Brief Overview of what you do (more covered later)
  + Why is conservation on farm land important?
  + What is nutrient reduction and the Nutrient Reduction Strategy?
* *Break for 3 Questions from Students*
* Overview of Engler Farm, Candi’s family farm, and why conservation and water quality are important to her (Candi) **3 minutes**
  + Background of growing up on a farm Candi’s family farm –
    - Why are you in Agriculture? - John Deere & farming
    - Background on your operation
    - Overview of this property
      * When & why purchased?
      * Size?
      * Show picture
      * What do you raise/will you raise here?
* *Break for 3 Questions from Students*
* Conservation projects at Engler Farm (Candi) **4 minutes**
  + Explain Nutrient Reduction and why it is important to you and your family.
    - Nutrients make plants grow. We want to keep them where the plants grow. As a result of that we keep them out of the water. Ie: Clean drinking water. Fresh water for fish, and creek life.
  + Overview of what you’ve done.
    - Waterway project
    - Dry Dam Structure
* *Break for 3 Questions from Students*
* *Walk down to Creek, Show clear water (Cindy)*
* NRCS Prospective **2 minutes** (Jason)
  + Recap why is conservation on farm land important?
  + How do you work with farmers? – Info resource and advice, funding available, etc?
  + Any stats on farmer’s contributions to protecting natural resources
* *3-5 Questions from students*
* Cindy Wrap Up

**Total Talking Time: 13 minutes Total time for Questions: 10-15 minutes**