



4-H Discovery Camp

July 5-9, 2010

Audience

This program is for youth ages 15 to 19. Because it was a pilot year, enrollment was intentionally small: 8 males and 1 female from 8 counties. Grades represented were 1—9th, 3—10th and 5—11th. Youth were accepted based on regional representation of the state and application question responses.

Funding

Sponsorship was provided from the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (\$3,000) and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (\$1,500). There was also a \$100 participant fee plus additional funding and in-kind support provided by MSU Extension.

Objectives

This residential conference is designed to:

- Educate youth on current issues and technologies impacting energy and the environment within Michigan's agriculture sector.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through team work and hands-on-learning.
- Expose youth to degrees and jobs in these new and exciting fields.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Foster participants' ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

Description

Participants had 42 contact hours with 16 MSU faculty and 2 MSU students along with 19 industry leaders and other volunteer resource people.

The students spent 5 days exploring ideas, research and hands-on opportunities in the field of energy as it relates to natural resources and agriculture. They worked with leading researchers at MSU who are developing the latest innovations in biofuel production and technology that offer alternatives to

fossil-based fuels. The teens also visited companies that are taking the latest discoveries of science and turning them into real products that impact our local communities and the world. They toured and did hands-on activities at Carbon Green Bioenergy, Great Lakes BioEnergy Research Center, Zeeland Farm Services Horizon Wind Energy Farm and a working house and farm that converts solar and wind energy into electricity.

Participants also attended campus activities and tours that gave them access to the MSU campus and its wealth of resources. They stayed in an MSU residence hall.

Impacts

- 100% of the youth responded to the evaluation and 100% stated that the experiences provided within this program improved their understanding and knowledge of bioenergy and the impact of energy on Michigan and them personally.
- Participants also indicated that they are more likely to pursue a degree or career in a bioenergy related field.

Additional Significant Information

This is one of the only youth camps in the county that focuses on exposing youth to opportunities and careers in bioenergy. A video of Discovery Camp was aired on RFD-TV Ag day that reaches 400,000 homes across the U.S. The Lansing State Journal and local news stations also reported on the camp. The video can be seen at:
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/events/event/4h_discovery_camp

Contact Information

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