



4-H Discovery Camp

July 9-13, 2012

Audience

This program is for youth ages 13 to 19. Being the third year of this program, enrollment has increased: 28 males and 14 females representing 21 counties. Grades represented were 9—8th, 22—9th, 4—10th, 3—11th, and 3—12th. Youth were accepted based on regional representation of the state and application question responses.

Funding

Sponsorship was provided from the Michigan Corn Growers Association (\$3,000) and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (\$1,500). There was also a \$150 participant fee plus additional funding and in-kind support provided by MSU Extension.

Objectives

This residential camp 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 35 contact hours with 16 MSU faculty along with 14 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 Michigan Energy Options, MSU Recycling Center, Kellogg Biological Station, MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Carbon Green Bioenergy and a substation specialized in the transfer of wind energy.

Participants were also granted access to many of the resources that MSU campus has to offer, including many lab tours and faculty presentations. They stayed in an MSU residence hall.

Impacts

- 93% of the participants who responded to the evaluation reported that after completing this camp they are more knowledgeable about Bioenergy as well as careers related to Bioenergy.
- 92% of participants also indicated that they are more likely to pursue a degree or career in a Bioenergy related field following the completion of this camp.
- 80% indicated an anticipated change in personal energy use.
- 88% plan to apply the knowledge gained through the program.
- 64% plan to teach what they have learned to others.

Steve Evans filmed aspects of the camp for WKAR-TV East Lansing (PBS). The piece ran just before "Off the Record" on Friday at 8:28pm and Sunday at 12:58pm and 11:28pm. Sara Tuttle interviewed campers for another piece on WKAR. The station reaches a total of 253,380 homes.

This is one of the only youth camps in the country that focuses on exposing youth to opportunities and careers in bioenergy. Local news stations reported on the camp.

Contact Information

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