

Kids Ag Day 2019

On September 4, 2019, over 350 Fourth Grade Students from Barton County invaded Diamond K Farms, located West of Great Bend. The 26th Annual Kid's Ag Day was held throughout the morning and early afternoon at the farm of Ron & Debbie Koelsch.

Volunteers from throughout the agriculture industry helped introduce the kids to life on the farm. Students got to take a ride on a hay wagon pulled behind a tractor, eat lunch in the machinery shed, and enjoy the great Fall weather. Spending about 4.5 hours on the farm, each class was able to visit the following stations:

- Petting Zoo – Animals provided by the Great Bend FFA Chapter
- Women in Agriculture – Women's Roles in Modern Agriculture
- The Cowboy Way – Guide to Cattle Management
- Cattle Nutrition and Dairy – Feedstuffs and the role of the Veterinarian in Ag
- Horseshoeing Demo – Watch a Farrier Inspect, Prepare, and Shoe a Horse
- Beekeeping 101 – Why Bees are important to farming
- Natural Resources Conservation – Demo the impact of cover crops on runoff
- Fertilizer and Chemical – Safe Use of Fertilizer and Chemicals
- Machinery – How Machinery Has Evolved over the Years
- Ag Technology – Drones and Satellite Imagery Use in Management
- Kansas Crops – Common Kansas Crops and their Uses

Several Great Bend Co-op employees volunteer at Kid's Ag Day each year. Junior Welsch, Agronomy Operations, and Mark Bauer, Precision Ag Specialist, each drove a tractor. Cammie Vaupel, Conservation Agronomy Specialist, helped with guiding classes to specified stations, helped with random jobs throughout, and documented the event with photos. Chris Staub and Christa Milton, Great Bend Co-op Agronomists, spoke with the classes about the safe use of chemicals and fertilizer on the farm and related the safety guidelines back to everyday household chemicals and pesticides as well. Fuel Truck Driver, Mike Burnham, who is also a farrier, showed the kids how to properly shoe a horse.

