



Destination Ag

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture

2018-2019 Annual Report





A visiting student learns where milk comes from during the *farm-to-fridge* lesson. She is seen here milking the fiberglass dairy cow, Buttercup.

Contents

4	Letter of Thanks
6	Year at a Glance
12	Impact
22	Assessment
21	Advisory Committee
26	Partners & Donors
28	Finances



Letter of Thanks

Since 2016, the Harley Langdale, Jr., Foundation has enabled ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture to engage guests in the past and present of agriculture and natural resources through Destination Ag. With this support, we provide experiential learning opportunities for the next generation of agriculture and natural resource leaders. During the 2018-2019 academic year, more than 10,500 students were impacted by participating in Destination Ag. In the following pages, you will discover that the impact of this program reaches beyond children to include teachers, parents, and ABAC students. We appreciate your interest and support as we continue *planting knowledge and cultivating the future*.



Above: Visiting students are assessing the Destination Ag “mini forest” to determine what color flagging should be used. This is one of many forest technician skills the students practiced.



Right: Students learn about the gopher tortoise. They are taught about the key role gopher tortoises have in the coastal plains georegion and how the species benefits from prescribed burning.





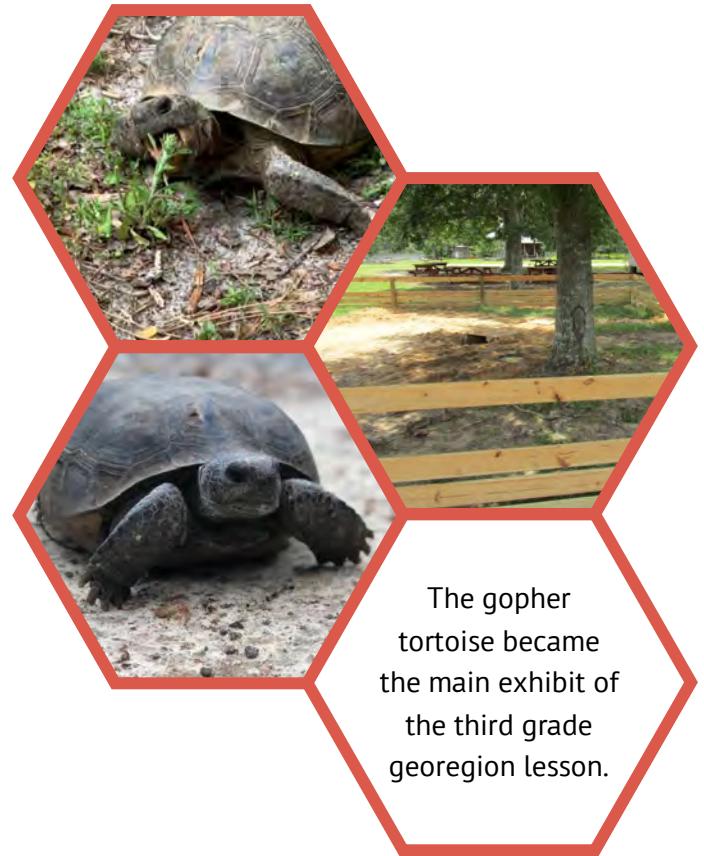
Visiting students dig through soil in an attempt to find artificial bugs. In this lesson, students learn the important role the soil, and the creatures that live in it, plays for plants.

Year at a Glance

Throughout this year, Destination Ag has incorporated new animals, new curriculum, and on-site improvements. Destination Ag and Historic Village guests can now enjoy visiting with Georgia's state reptile, a gopher tortoise. New outreach curriculum was developed for second grade, while new interpretive signs that focus on the poultry, beef, and dairy industries were added to the Destination Ag site. A pollinator garden was established for the second grade students, as well as, for all Museum visitors to enjoy.



Planter boxes like the ones pictured here were placed throughout the Destination Ag learning area. Some were built from wood, while others were created using recycled tires from agricultural equipment.



Animal additions to the Destination Ag team



New Curriculum



Destination Ag created new curriculum for fourth grade lessons, year four careers, and outreach programming.

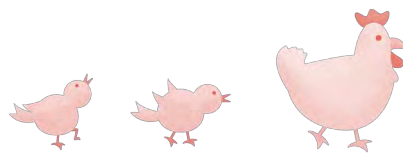
Pictured at the top are students engaged in the irrigation specialist pilot lesson and to the left students are participating in an outreach lesson about force and energy.



Pictured below are students meeting a chicken during outreach.



Agricultural & Natural Resource Educators



This year, two new agriculture and natural resource educators joined our team to help with day-to-day student instruction and lesson development. Pictured left to right, are Megan and Stephanie.



Educational Exhibits

Destination Ag's chicken coop exhibit was completed with the addition of educational signs. One set, pictured right, is located beside the chicken coop and discusses the chicken meat industry. The second set is located at the free-time area and focuses on eggs.



Educational signs were added to the beef exhibit within the Destination Ag interactive learning barn. These signs explain the many benefits of cattle, as well as, the impact that the beef industry has on Georgia's economy.

The dairy exhibit also includes educational signage. The Destination Ag interactive learning barn features instructions for the milking cow and a farm-to-fridge milk guide. Additionally, a television and looping video were added for public programming.





Native Plant Pollinator Garden



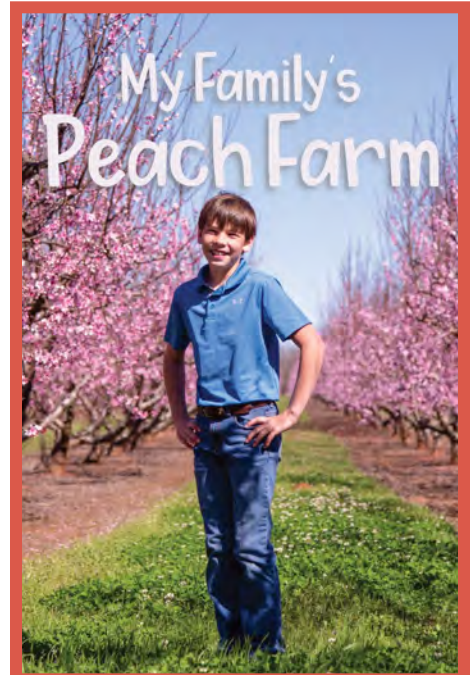
Students from ABAC's School of Agriculture and Natural Resources worked with Destination Ag staff to design and plant a pollinator garden filled with native flowers, bushes, and trees. The ABAC Grounds Department also helped with mulching the walkway.



"Family's Farm" Books



Our Family Farm books are special projects under Destination Ag to provide free resources for educators focusing on Georgia agriculture. These books are written at an elementary age level, in the perspective of a child whose family operates a farm. *Our Family's Tree Farm* focuses on Georgia's forestry industry and is currently available online with two classroom lessons. Over 2,200 books have already been distributed. *My Family's Peach Farm* is currently in production.




The students below are playing in the brand-new free-time barn.

The barn features areas for dramatic play, including an egg assessment station, a kitchen, a farmer's market, and an animal stall.



Impact

Through on-site field trips, outreach programs, materials, online resources, and social media, Destination Ag continues to extend its impact throughout Georgia. The collegiate students who work with Destination Ag are also impacted on a daily basis, gaining valuable experience and motivation from the thousands of children they teach annually.

A photograph showing a young woman with long dark hair, wearing an orange shirt, leaning over and looking down at a small orange flag on a stick held by a young boy. The boy is wearing a white shirt with a red and blue design. In the foreground, a blue baseball cap with a colorful cartoon character is visible. The background is a grassy field with a wooden fence and trees in the distance.

Student instructor, Taylor, shows students how to flag trees. They are seen here trying to determine which color flag should be used based on the health, size, and location of the tree.



On-Site Field Trips



Destination Ag hosted students from pre-k through third grade from eight participating school systems: Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Irwin, Lowndes, Tift, and Valdosta City. Third grade students were added this fall with new classes: “Georgia’s Georegions” (left) and “It Comes From Trees?” (right).



Visiting students learned about two careers in agriculture: florists and forestry technicians.

Above: Students mark trees during the forestry technician lesson.

Below: Students make arrangements as part of the florist lesson.





Outreach Programs



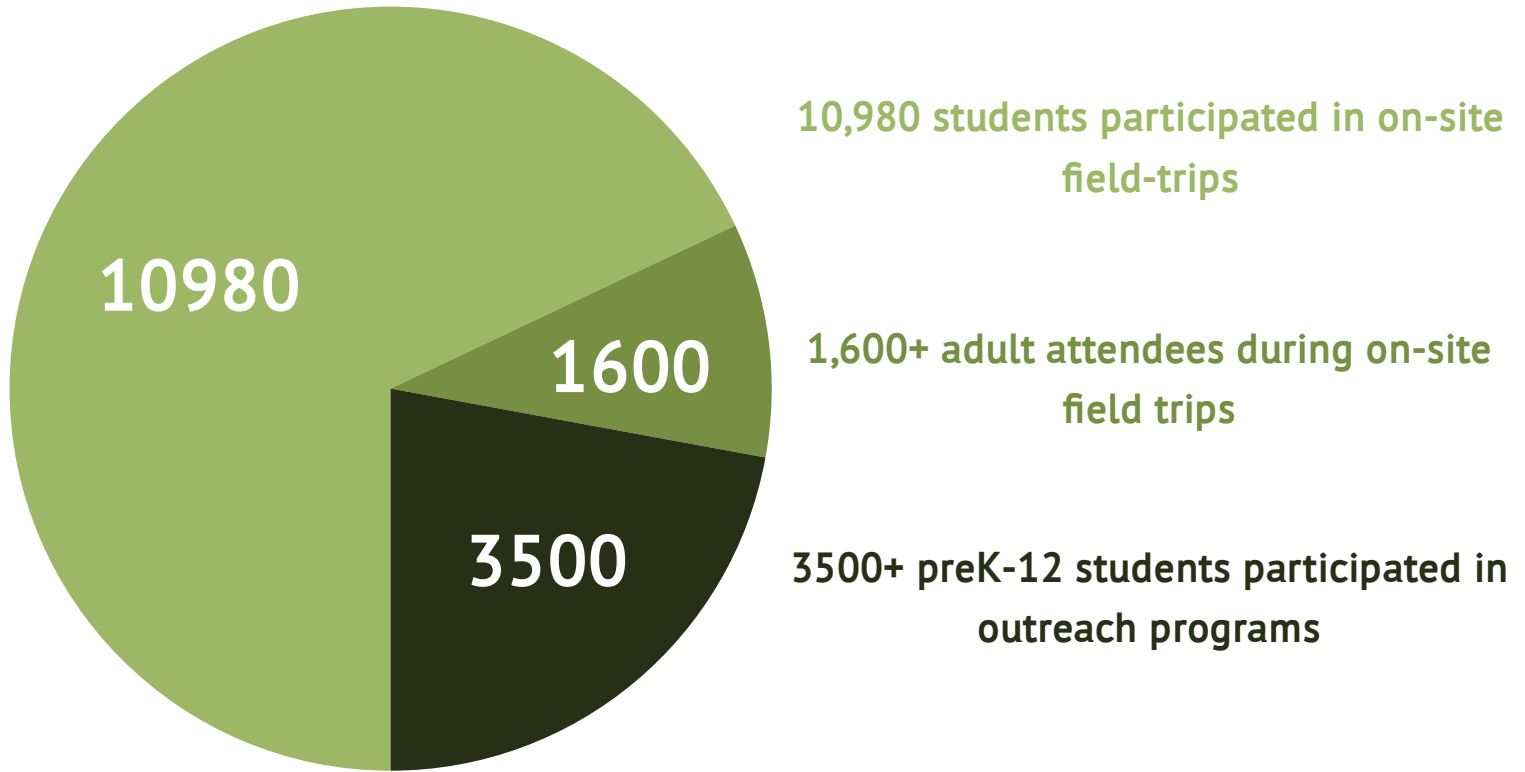
Throughout the year Destination Ag participated in multiple outreach opportunities. Destination Ag provided educational programming at the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo, *A Day in the Woods*, and at Odom Elementary School.

Above: Destination Ag's forestry Traveling Trunks were revitalized and redistributed throughout the state. Peanut-based trunks were also created and distributed throughout the state in partnership with the Georgia Peanut Commission and Georgia Farm Bureau.

Right: In collaboration with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, Destination Ag provided a second grade outreach program featuring all new lessons.



By the Numbers



Most people reached through a single social media post

2,279

Combined followers on social media platforms

1,255

ABAC student instructional hours

1,812

College students educated in either Project Learning Tree, WET, or WILD environmental education curriculum

35

Student instructor, Kristen, shows children the corn snake during *A Day in the Woods*, a local one-day nature outreach program.



Future Educators

Professional Development Opportunities

Destination Ag is committed to assisting teachers-formal, informal, and future- in providing agriculture and natural resource education to our state's future generations. Throughout the year, various professional development workshops were offered to the local community, resulting in the certification of **9** new instructors in Project WET and **26** in Project WILD.



Destination Ag Spring 2019 Intern

Austin B., a University of Georgia Agriculture Education major, assisted Destination Ag by teaching Pre-K through first grade for over 113 hours.

ABAC Student Instructors

Destination Ag is proud to provide experiential learning for visiting school children and ABAC students alike. ABAC students become role models for visiting children and gain valuable real world work experience. Destination Ag student instructors implement the program, create lesson plans, construct teaching materials, develop interpretive exhibits, and care for Destination Ag's animal staff. They truly are the heart and face of Destination Ag.

During the 2018-2019 year, Destination Ag student instructors contributed a combined total of 1,812 instructional hours.



ABAC Student Instructors



"I have had the chance to teach local children about how vital agriculture is to everyone."

-Colbey M.

Nursing Major
Spring Instructor

"I enjoy teaching students all about ag and being there for others when they need a helping hand."

- Austin M.

Agriculture Major
Fall & Spring Instructor



"I love teaching younger generations about agriculture and seeing students make connections."

- Emily D.

Ag Education Major
Fall Instructor

ABAC
Graduate!
Spring 2019

"I believe it is essential to instill the importance of agriculture into young minds."

- Kaitlyn B.

Business Major
Spring Instructor





"I love making an impact on kids' lives by teaching them what agriculture is and does for them."

- **Taylor W.**

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

"I love sharing my love for agriculture with kids."

- **Amanda M.**

Ag Education Major
Spring Instructor



"I love the new experiences that help with my future as an ag teacher, but the kids are the best part."

- **Chasity D.**

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

"I love knowing that everyday I come to work, I have the opportunity to have an impact on a child's life."

- **M^sKenzie L.**

Ag Communications Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

2nd Year
Instructor!



ABAC Student Instructors



"I'm not only teaching kids about agriculture, but I'm reaching their parents and teachers as well."

- Taylor H.

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

"I enjoy spending time with students, helping them learn, and seeing them smile."

- Tyanne P.

Ag Business Major
Spring Instructor



"Ag is for everyone. We are all connected through agriculture and DA is helping kids see that."

- Hannah M.

Ag Education Major
Spring Instructor

ABAC
Graduate!
Spring 2019

"I love sharing my passion for agriculture with students to understand what ag has to offer!"

- Katie H.

Ag Education Major
Spring Instructor





“Destination Ag gave me an opportunity to teach children while making great friends.”

- Macy C.

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

“I am thankful for the opportunity I have to expand my teaching skills and to advocate for agriculture.”

- Courtney B.

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor



“I love inspiring the youth of tomorrow.”

- Kristen N.

2nd Year
Instructor!

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

“I enjoy educating the youth about how important agriculture is to us all.”

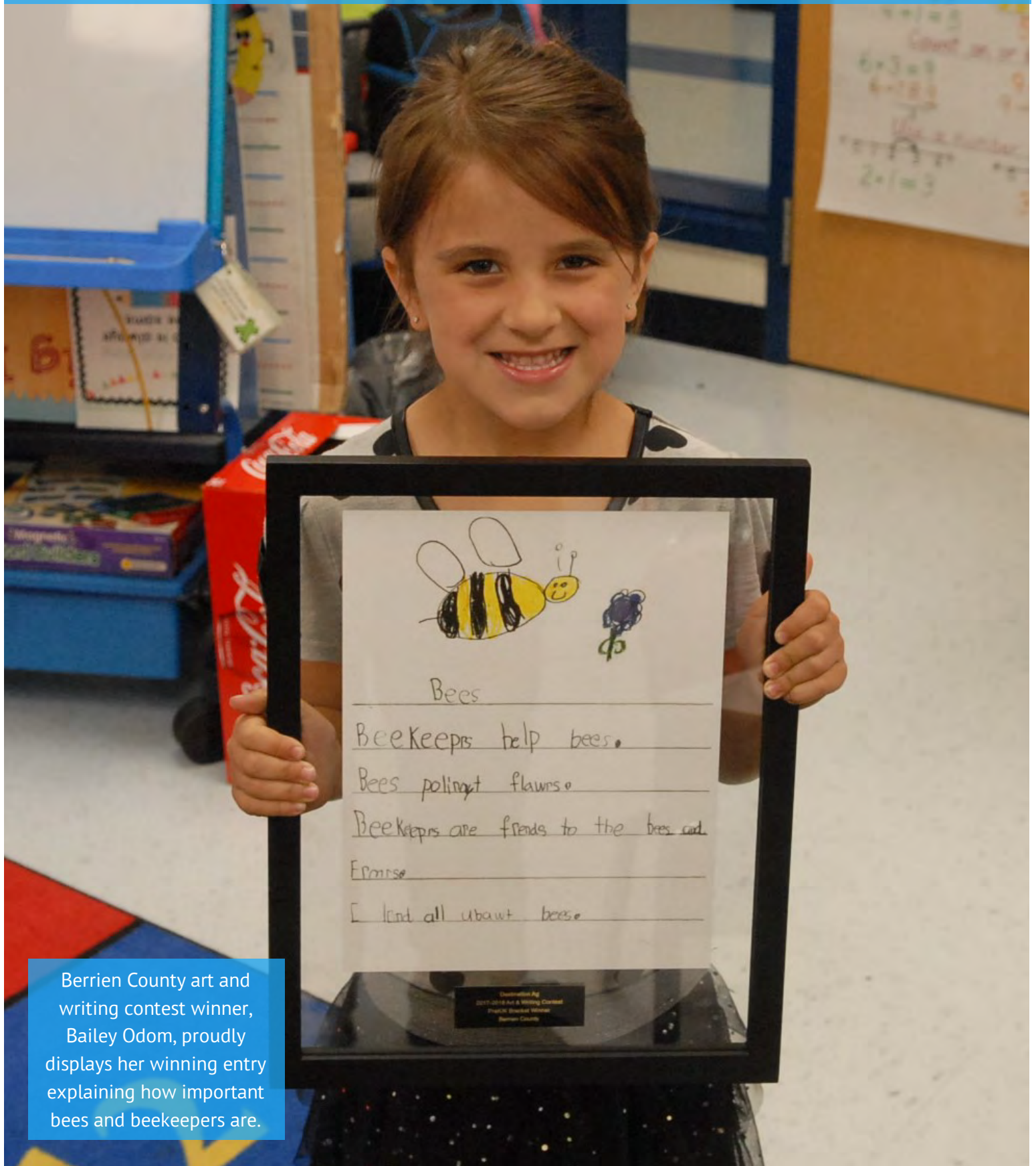
- Deaunna H.

Ag Education Major
Spring Instructor



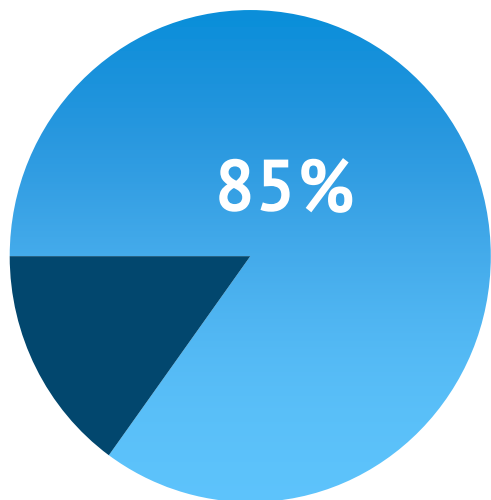
Assessment

Destination Ag is continually striving for improvement. With multiple assessment avenues such as post program surveys, art and writing contest, and pre/post online student assessments, Destination Ag is able to incorporate the needs of its target audience.

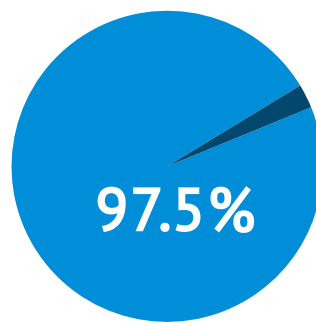


Berrien County art and writing contest winner, Bailey Odom, proudly displays her winning entry explaining how important bees and beekeepers are.

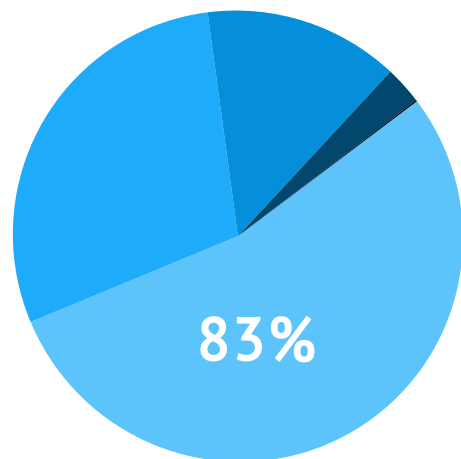
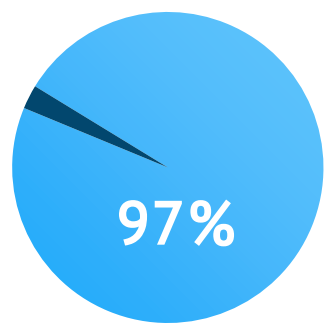
Feedback Surveys



On average 85% of teachers and visiting adults would recommend Destination Ag to others.



97.5% of **teachers** and 97% of **visiting adults** feel that students made further connections between agriculture and natural resources and their daily lives.



On average 83% of teachers and visiting adults would rate their experience as **excellent** or **good**. In addition, less than 17% rate their experience as only **fair** or **okay**, and less than 1% rate it as **poor**.



Frequent comments in field trip experience adult survey.

Personal Connections *Educational Agriculture*
Ag made fun *Awesome* **Amazing Experience**
Interactive *Meaningful* *Hands-On*
Personal *Engaging* *Comprehensive Overview*

Art & Writing Contest

2018-2019 Winners



Each county was awarded one winner in the following grade brackets: prek-first and second-third. Students were awarded \$100 and teachers were awarded \$500. Thank you to everyone who entered. There were many wonderful submissions!

Pre-K-1st Grade Bracket

2nd-3rd Grade Bracket

Berrien County

Teacher: Karla Griner

Student: Davis Garner

Berrien County

Teacher: Iris Davis

Student: Sakshi Patel

Colquitt County

Teacher: Cyndi Patterson

Student: Cotton Apperson

Colquitt County

Teacher: Noel Giles

Student: Annaliese Spradley

Cook County

Teacher: Tawuana Inman

Student: Kelci Leverett

Cook County

Teacher: Stephanie Butler

Student: Caydence Green

Irwin County

Teacher: Stacey Griffin

Student: Henli Culpepper

Irwin County

Teacher: Haley Spell

Student: Kadence Crenshaw

Lowndes County

Teacher: Taylor Hoes

Student: Aubri Jordan

Tift County

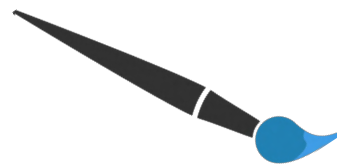
Teacher: Haley Lentz

Student: Zoey Perez

Tift County

Teacher: Nancy Garner

Student: Collins Riddle



Above: Henli Culpepper displays her winning artwork.
Left: Collins Riddle shows her winning artwork.

Pre/Post Testing

Destination Ag continued to provide a pre- and post-online assessment for visiting first through third grade students. This revised assessment allowed a more user friendly tool for students and teachers. Overall, results showed a significant positive change in agriculture and natural resources attitudes after students visited Destination Ag!

This year's data indicates the slight change in first grade students' knowledge was not statistically significant (was neither positively nor negatively affected) by visiting Destination Ag. However, the positive change in second and third grade students' knowledge was statistically significant. After visiting Destination Ag, second and third grade students showed an increase in knowledge. For all tested grade levels, there was a statistically significant increase in positive attitudes towards agriculture.



Partners & Donors

Destination Ag would not be possible without assistance from its outstanding partners and donors. We appreciate their contributions and investment in educating the future of agriculture and natural resources.

Education Collaborators

- ABAC Agriculture Education Faculty
- ABAC Natural Resources Faculty
- ABAC Rural Studies Faculty

Industry Collaborators

- Flint River Soil & Water Cons. District
- Georgia Blueberry Growers Association
- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia Peach Council
- Georgia Peanut Commission
- Georgia Pecan Grower's Association
- Georgia Power Foundation Inc.
- Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation
- Lasseter Tractor
- The Langdale Company
- Pearson Farms
- Steve McWilliams
- Stripling's General Store
- US Poultry Foundation

New this year!



Advisory Committee

Destination Ag's Advisory Committee was created to provide feedback and advice during the program's implementation. The Advisory Committee includes local educators from the targeted counties, ABAC faculty/staff, and representation from the Langdale Company. The Committee's support is a vital component to Destination Ag's continued success.

Dr. Joi Williams	Pre-K Director and Primary School A.P., Cook County Schools
Ms. Joy Folsom	K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, Cook County Schools
Dr. Tim Dixon	Superintendent, Cook County Schools
Dr. Darby Sewell	Assistant Vice President for Engaged Learning, ABAC
Dr. Sandra Giles	Professor of English, ABAC
Dr. Marcus Johnson	Assistant Professor of Education, ABAC
Ms. Joanna Hand	Pre-K - 5 Curriculum Director, Tift County Schools
Mr. Richard Fisher	Principal, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County Schools
Ms. Tracy Ingram	Teacher, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County Schools
Mr. Robert Bullington	Teacher, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County Schools
Dr. Marni Kirkland	Dir. of Curriculum, Instruction & Learning, Colquitt County Schools
Dr. Deidre Martin	Chief Development Officer, ABAC
Ms. Barbara Boler	Education and Outreach, The Langdale Company and PLT Facilitator
Ms. Trish Dubose	STEM Director, Colquitt County Schools
Dr. Frank Flanders	Associate Professor of Agriculture Education, ABAC
Ms. Belinda West	K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, Berrien County Schools
Ms. Robin Marcum	Superintendent, Berrien County Schools
Ms. Heather Purvis	Curriculum/Professional Development, Irwin County Schools
Dr. Thad Clayton	Superintendent, Irwin County Schools
Mr. Patrick Atwater	Superintendent, Tift County Schools
Ms. Holly Tucker	Principal Irwin Elementary
Mr. Paul Willis	Vice President of Finance and Operations, ABAC
Mr. James Howell	Superintendent, Colquitt County Schools



Georgia Museum of Agriculture



Destination Ag
ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Contact

1392 Whiddon Mill Road
Tifton, Georgia 31793

(229) 391-5221

destinationag@abac.edu



Destination AG



@GMADestinationAG