



# SHOWING OFF AGRONOMY

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – AGRONOMY CLUB

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AGRONOMY CLUB

### Abstract

The University of Missouri Agronomy Club worked closely with the University of Missouri South Farm Agriculture Experimental Station in hopes to educate the public about agronomy and agriculture research at the annual South Farm Showcase. The Mizzou Agronomy Club had two main exhibits including an educational booth and gaming station. The educational booth attracted people of all ages. The booth included seed and plant matching of common agriculture crops grown in Missouri such as corn, soybean, wheat, sorghum and rice as well as other informative facts and statistics. The corresponding gaming area, geared for youth, consisted of hands-on activities to peak excitement and interest in agriculture. Children were able to participate in a crop toss station as well as other attractions. Overall, the annual showcase gave the public a chance to learn more about the importance of agriculture and agronomy and is an eye opening experience for people of all ages. The Mizzou Agronomy club plans to expand their role in the South Farm Showcase in years to come.



### Objectives

- Educate public on what crops are used in household products.
- Provide community members experience handling common Missouri crops.
- Describe key grain crops and their importance in everyday life.
- Engage children in interactive activities to learn about agriculture.
- Answer questions regarding general agriculture topics and issues, plant growth and development and crop cultivation.
- Highlight common end uses for crops: food, feed, fuel and fiber.



### Activities

#### Plant and Seed Identification

Agronomy Club members worked with children and adults in an educational activity that identified crops and seed and matched them to their common household products. Some of the pairings included: corn and cola and cotton and paper currency. This activity gave community members a way to associate agronomy to everyday life. Our goal was to improve public knowledge of the importance of agriculture in the United States.



#### Games

Our crop toss station attracted children of all ages. This was an exciting way to engage and give them hands-on exposure to Missouri's important crops. Children had the opportunity to toss corn, milo, or other crops through the target.



#### Question and Answer

Some of the community members came with questions regarding crops and agriculture. As a club we were able to visit with individuals and provide answers based on what we have learned in class. Questions included the following:

- What crop is grown in the field next to our house?
- What weed is this?
- How are soybeans harvested?
- Can we grow rice and cotton in Missouri?
- Are GMOs bad for you?



### Conclusion

“Showing off Agronomy” was a huge hit at the South Farm Showcase. We had hundreds of people stop by our booth throughout the day to learn about agronomy and production agriculture. Community members left with a better understanding of what crops are grown in the state of Missouri, the nation and world wide. Attendees are now more aware of the extreme importance of crops in everyday foods and household products. The club also had the opportunity to talk with numerous visitors about agricultural issues and answer any questions.

The MU Agronomy Club was happy to interact with the community to help them better relate to agronomy.

