

Aged part of KAOL curriculum

Friday, January 02, 2009



Courtesy/Ann Stephens
Kingman Academy Intermediate School special-education class show off their "Cotton Babies."

KINGMAN - In some way, agriculture has touched your life today!

While most of your family and loved ones were getting ready for Thanksgiving feast and the holiday season, the Mohave County School Gardening Program was busy coordinating volunteers to read a fun, simple, yet informative book about agriculture to students in K-5 grades as part of the November theme for "Agriculture Literacy Days."

During the week of Nov. 19-25, Nina Brackett from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office visited local schools with volunteers from both the Mohave County Master Gardeners and the Kingman Cerbat Garden Club - Lynda Goldberg, Linda Reddick, Dianne Riehle, and Sandie Womack - to read Allan Fowler's book titled "If It Weren't For Farmers."

A total of 22 classrooms and 520 students from Hualapai Elementary, Kingman Academy of Learning Intermediate, Manzanita Elementary and Palo Christi Elementary Schools participated in the "Agriculture Literacy Days." The participating schools received the farm book for their school libraries.

The book questioned students to determine if they understand: "If it weren't for farmers, what would there be to eat?"

Teachers also received a sample test they could give students after the volunteer left. This test would enable the students to practice their test-taking skills and document the effectiveness of the presentation.

The program was part of the hands-on learning to integrate school gardening into any classroom and compliment subjects including science, math, language arts, social studies and art.

Each student who took part in the "Agriculture Literacy Days" was instructed by Master Gardeners and Cerbat Garden Club volunteers on how to make a "cotton babies" seed necklace. The students then could observe their cotton seed "germination" and record their plant growth in a small seed germination booklet.

The students could then transplant their cotton seedling into a small container and watch their plant's development throughout the school year.

Arizona Master Gardener volunteers complete a semester course, concentrating on gardening and the environment. They work with the University of Arizona providing research-based information on environmentally responsible gardening and landscaping to the public. Master Gardening is all about public education. More information is available at the University of Arizona Mohave County Cooperative Extension Office at 753-3788.

Kingman Cerbat Garden Club members meet on the second Wednesday of each month, with topics on gardening, wildlife, conservation, and floral design. Cerbat Garden Club members have been active volunteers for the local school gardening programs for both Kingman Academy of Learning and Kingman Unified School District. For club membership information, contact Diana at 757-8659.

The school gardening program is funded by the [University of Arizona](#), Mohave County Cooperative Extension Office and the Mohave County School Superintendent's office.