

Newspaper in Education Presents
Inquizi
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Inquizi Kids

SCHOOL Biz & Buzz



From the Farm to a Dream Job

Haile Middle School agriscience teacher Karen Ciemniecki knows her way around a farm. Karen's passion for agriculture began as a child where she was raised on a dairy farm in Vermont. "I love plants, animals and nature," Karen said. "I have been able to pursue my interest in agriculture in a variety of ways over the years. I've raised dairy and beef cows, and have worked with rabbits and horses. There are so many sides to agriscience. I enjoy the hands on as well as the design and management aspects. Teaching agriscience is my dream job."

Mrs. Ciemniecki places emphasis on providing hands-on experiences to the students. The first week of school included working with butterfly habitats, seedlings, and fish tanks in the classroom. In this Haile agriscience program, students experience abundant outdoor activities at the landlab site, including caring for the animals, cleaning the barn, mowing the field, and shopping for supplies. Karen serves as advisor for Haile's FFA chapter (formerly Future Farmers of America), a national association of students that encourages exploration of career and leadership opportunities in agriculture.

DISCOVER the Future

Regional Careers: Here are examples of related occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

| Occupational Title | Entry Level | Experienced |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Minimum wage | \$7.25 | — |
| Agricultural Inspectors | \$10.74 | \$16.66 |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | \$7.38 | \$13.19 |
| Biological Technicians | \$13.86 | \$21.60 |
| Environmental Scientists and Specialists | \$17.44 | \$39.05 |
| First-Line Managers of Landscaping | \$16.04 | \$29.44 |
| Farm and Home Management Advisors | \$12.94 | \$23.641 |

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
 FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in a related field can find career programs at: *Haile Middle School, Lakewood Ranch High School, Braden River High School, Manatee Technical Institute, State College of Florida, Sarasota-Manatee, University of South Florida*

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- Florida Dept. of Agriculture: www.Florida-Agriculture.com
- University of Florida Dept. of Agriculture <http://aec.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Florida FFA www.flaffa.org
- National FFA: www.FFA.org



Inno Vators

Haile Middle School Agriscience

Trivia, Facts, and Random Agriscience

Agriscience is amazing. Agricultural science is a broad multidisciplinary field that encompasses natural, economic, and social sciences that are used in the production of animals and plants for human use. These random agriscience facts may amuse and astonish you...enjoy!

PIGS



- Pigs and light-colored horses are the only two mammals besides humans that can get sunburned.
- Pigs have been rated as the fourth most intelligent animal in the world, and are believed to be as smart if not smarter than dogs.
- To "sweat like a pig" means that you do not sweat; pigs have no sweat glands.
- A female pig gestates (the time from conception to delivery) in only three months, three weeks, and three days.

HORSES



- The average horse eats seven times its own weight in food each year.
- If a female horse and a male donkey mate, the offspring is known as a mule. If a male horse and a female donkey mate, the offspring is known as a hinny. Both mules and hinnies are usually sterile.
- The underside of a horse's hoof is called a frog. The frog peels off several times a year with new growth.

COWS



- There are more cows in the United States than people.
- During her lifetime, a cow will produce about 200,000 glasses of milk.
- A Holstein's spots are like a fingerprint—no two cows have exactly the same pattern.
- A cow's stomach has four compartments: the rumen, the reticulum (storage area), the omasum (where water is absorbed), and the abomasum (the compartment with digestive juices).

CHICKENS, TURKEYS, and DUCKS



- Brown eggs come from hens with red feathers and red ear lobes; white eggs come from hens with white feathers and white ear lobes.
- Chickens absorb vitamin-D through their combs from sunshine.
- The average hen will lay 227 eggs a year.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- Most domestic turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly up to 55 miles per hour for short distances.

SHEEP



- New Zealand has more sheep than people. They have 70 million sheep but only 40 million people.
- Sheep make a bleating sound. A baby lamb can identify its mother by her bleat.
- Spinning sheep's wool into thread began about 5,000 years ago. One pound of wool can make ten miles of yarn.

GOATS



- Goat's eyes have rectangular pupils.
- A group of goats is called a trip; babies are kids; males are bucks; and females are does. A domestic male is sometimes called a billy; a female, a nanny.
- Bottled raised goats become bonded to their caregivers.
- Worldwide, more people eat the meat and drink the milk of goats than any other single animal.
- The biggest expense in goat production is fencing. Goats are good at getting out.

PLANTS



- Most breakfast cereals come from grass. Oats, barley, corn and wheat are all different varieties of grass and are from the same botanical species.
- Most of the sugar we eat also comes from grass (sugar cane), as do most of our alcoholic beverages.
- It takes 100 pounds of rain water to produce a single pound of food from the earth. Between 10 and 20 tons of water must pass through the roots of an acre of corn before one bushel of corn will be produced.

KIDZ Biz & Buzz

A Leader in Action

Jordan Pascuzzi's interest in agriculture was first sparked when she rotated through the Introduction to Agriculture class at Haile Middle School. Jordan then joined FFA and her compassion towards animals quickly grew into a passion for a career as a veterinarian or as an agriscience teacher.

Last year, Jordan served as secretary for Haile's FFA chapter and this year the eighth grader is the chapter president. As an FFA officer, Jordan will be attending a Chapter Officer Leadership Training conference—known as COLT—held in Haines City, Florida, next week. "I'm really looking forward to the leadership conference," Jordan said. "You learn how to conduct a meeting. You learn about leadership qualities and you participate in lots of different activities that help you succeed."

Jordan is also excited about the upcoming Manatee County Fair. Last year she was awarded reserve Grand Champion in livestock judging, second place in showmanship with swine, and first place in show with the FFA chapter dairy heifer. This year Jordan will be showing and selling her own steer, affectionately known as 'Chuck.'



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