

Newspaper in Education Presents

inquizi

Kidz

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Can You Judge A Chicken By Its Earlobes?



Discover the Future

The following areas offer careers in the Agriscience field.

- Agribusiness
- Agriculture
- Animal science
- Aquaculture
- Aquaponics
- Conservation
- Ecology
- Engineering
- Food science
- Horticulture
- Hydroponics
- Pet care
- Plant science
- Soil science

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
 OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



Kidz biz

Amanda and Ashley's Advice



Amanda Semrinec and Ashley Howell

By Leslie Rowe

If you need a little advice, you could try Amanda Semrinec and Ashley Howell from Lakewood Ranch High School. They're smart—they've achieved many successes in school, as well as in FFA and 4H. They're poised and friendly—just ask friends and teachers. And their character is strong—with an evident love for their family, community, country, and God.

Amanda and Ashley have proven themselves to be tremendous leaders in the Agriscience community at Lakewood Ranch High School. Since age 8, Amanda has progressively advanced in 4H, serving in her first officer position at age 10. Her resume is impressive, with skills in poultry and land judging and culminating in her current position as President of the Junior Chapter of FFA. In early June, Amanda will be campaigning for Subdistrict 1 Chairman—the student leader of Manatee and Sarasota Counties' FFA program—and competing at the State level in public speaking after placing first in the Subdistrict and District levels. Her friend Ashley started in 4H at age 7, and also possesses a strong resume. Her expertise is in beef production, and she most recently served as Subdistrict 1 Chairman and as the Senior Chapter Vice President. Both girls have participated in community service activities, fund-raising events, leadership conferences, and FFA competitions at all levels. And through it all, their faith and character shines!

Oh—and their advice? "Aim for the moon," said Amanda. "Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars!" Ashley said, "Always set goals for yourself and strive for the best...and listen to your heart!"

school biz

LRHS Agriscience — A Community Effort

By Leslie Rowe

For David Jackson and Daniel Bryan-Beachler, agriscience teachers and National FFA advisors at Lakewood Ranch High School, agriculture is more than just a heritage—although both come from a family farming background. It's more than just a job—though they teach classes and lead the school's FFA chapter. For David and Daniel, agriculture represents a passionate lifestyle and a generous, friendly community.



David Jackson & Daniel Bryan-Beachler

"We love the fact that we get to work with students like we have," said Daniel. "With these kinds of students in leadership positions—their contagious lifestyle infuses the agriculture program with a great energy. And our alumni are so supportive—I don't know where our program would be without them. They give so much time and money to support us." He grinned when he added, "And they can cook like crazy!" "Our goal is to be number one in the state in a few years—but ours is not a 'win at all costs' philosophy," David said. "We have a strong program, and so much family support. This is the best program in the county! And we have the potential to keep it that way." "You've heard the saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child,'" added Daniel. "That's what's happening here. Our community does so much. We are here to help each child maximize potential, whether they're a mechanic or college-bound. We enjoy helping kids have positive experiences, expanding their horizons and offering leadership opportunities. But we couldn't do it without our community and our alumni."

This week's InquiziKidz explores Agriscience and National FFA. The KidzBiz and School Biz sections feature Lakewood Ranch High School.

Fun and Wacky Plant and Animal Facts

By Julie Gillies

Welcome to the world of bizarre plants and incredible animals! Did you know that there is an Easter Egg Chicken? The Araucana hen can lay blue, green, or even pink eggs! Another interesting chicken fact is that hens with red earlobes lay brown eggs, and hens with white lobes lay white eggs. So you *can* judge a chicken by its earlobes! Here are some more fascinating facts from the plant and animal world:

- Can you imagine a plant that can grow an astonishing three feet per day? You can almost see some tropical Bamboo grow. Imagine coming back from a week-long vacation to find your bamboo 21 feet higher than when you left!
- You've seen apple seeds and orange seeds. But have you ever seen the seed of Coco de Mer (also known as the double coconut tree)? A single seed can weigh up to 44 pounds!
- The heaviest cabbage, grown in the country of Wales in 1989, weighed in at more than an eye-popping 56 pounds. That's a lot of coleslaw!
- The world's most poisonous fungus is the Death Cap. Most often found in Britain, this deadly mushroom is the cause of 90% of all fatal fungi poisonings.
- The Corpse flower is known as the worst smelling plant on earth. Its rotting flesh odor can be smelled from one-half mile away. Discovered in the western Indonesian rainforest in 1878, the flower grows to a huge 6.5 feet! Stand back!
- That's enough monkeying around! The world's loudest animal on land is the Howler Monkey. Located in Central and South America, the males' strange sound, resembling a barking dog and braying donkey combined, can be heard as far away as three miles.



We hope you've enjoyed your amazing agriscience tour around the world. And next time you're looking at a chicken's earlobes, you'll know what color the eggs will be!

- A man in Ourem, Portugal owns a goat with the world's largest horns. From tip to tip, they measure a whopping 3.57 feet. No kidding!
- The record length for a snake is a reticulated python, found in Indonesia in 1912. It measured a staggering 32 feet, 9.5 inches long.
- And finally, from our own state of Florida, the largest landscape restoration project in history! Costing \$8 billion, the Everglades wetlands is currently being restored. It stands as the largest wetlands area in the United States.

explore it



About Agriscience and Agricultural Education

Agricultural education is about the science, business, and technology of plant and animal production and about the environmental and natural resources systems. Agricultural education first became a part of the public education system in 1917 when the U.S. Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act. Today, over 800,000 students participate in formal agricultural education programs offered in grades six and up throughout the fifty states and three U. S. territories.

The agriscience program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: Classroom education in agricultural topics such as plant and animal sciences, horticulture, forestry, agrimarketing, etc.; hands-on supervised agricultural career experiences; and National FFA, which provides leadership opportunities and tests students' agricultural skills.

Students participating in the agriscience program at Lakewood Ranch High School have an opportunity to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award, which pays 75% of tuition and fees to a Florida public institution. Three credits in the Agriscience program meet the vocational education program requirements of the scholarship.

As part of the Agriscience program, FFA participation develops leadership and confidence in students. It promotes achievement and excellence in scholarship. The organization encourages wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources in the community, and exposes students to the many career opportunities in agriculture. The FFA motto gives members twelve short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization:



Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.
 Source: www.ffa.org

Do-It-Yourself Egg Candling

Have you ever wondered how the eggs at the grocery store wind up with a "Grade A" rating on them? They're judged for quality, or graded. The way to grade an egg is through *candling*. Egg candling has been around since before electricity. In times past, the farmer could hold an egg up to a candle to see if the egg was good to eat, or to verify that it was fertilized and growing properly.

Today, eggs are still candled and graded during processing. During candling, the eggs pass over a strong light on a conveyor belt system. The light makes the interior of the egg visible. This allows the grader to see the condition of the shell, the size of the air cell and whether the yolk is well centered (a sign that the white is thick, as it holds the yolk in position). Any eggs that do not meet grade A standards are marked by the grader and removed from the production line by an electronic sensor.

You can try egg candling at home. You will need an egg, a small flashlight, and an empty cardboard toilet paper tube. This experiment works best in a darkened room. Carefully place an upright toilet paper tube on a flat surface that is covered with newspaper. This serves as a simple egg holder and allows good visibility. Gently place an egg on top of the tube—small end up—being careful to balance the egg. Using a small, strong flashlight, lift the tube and shine the light from the bottom of the tube up toward the egg. You will be able to see inside the egg. Most grocery store eggs are not fertilized, but if the egg was fertilized, you could see spider-like veins inside, or even a tiny baby chick. For our experiment, look at the egg through an egg-grader's eyes.

Locate the air cell and the yolk. Eggs that are stale or of poor quality will have a large air cell and the yolk will be more visible and mobile. A meat or blood spot will show up as a dark or foreign substance. In a better quality egg, the yolk should be round with no visible blemishes. The smaller the air cell, the higher the grade. Standard grades are B, A, and AA, with AA being the highest grade. Have fun candling your eggs!

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- <http://www.ffa.org/>
- <http://www.tcaviary.com/eggs.htm>
- <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>
- http://www.agriscience.ca/pages/e_main.html
- <http://www.depcoinc.com/agriscience/agbasic>
- <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs/res25-candler.html>
- <http://www3.turboweb.net.au/~garrys/poultry/candling.html>

- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz