

Feed the Hungry Pilot Project Plants the Seeds & Harvests the Crop!

An idea is planted, germinates and the harvest is bountiful!

The “Feed the Hungry” Project, piloted by Middleburgh Elementary third grade, now fourth grade students in June, has just harvested their crop. For many this was their first opportunity to harvest. Last spring the students planted winter squash seeds, the seedlings were then planted at Barber’s Farm. The harvest of their crop was just completed by class members, their teachers and program facilitators, Sarah Hooper of Barber’s Farm and Heather Prokop of the New York Farm Bureau State Promotion and Education Committee representing District 9. Part of the crop was donated to the Food Bank, and some of their harvest will be prepared and sampled back at school, where they will also learn about good nutrition and great taste!

The program expands knowledge of the agricultural food and fiber system and an understanding that good nutrition comes from the soil, as the farming community provides healthy food for one and all. The crop is donated to the Food Bank, which provides an understanding of community and social service.

Sarah, the program farm partner, met with the class last spring to “sow the seeds”. Each student was given an ID stick that was transplanted with the seedling as it grew. The students were treated to a delightful lesson as they planted and also received additional lessons prepared by New York Ag in the Classroom relating to the full growing cycle and presented to the students.

Five partnering organizations originally sponsored this project including New York Farm Bureau, New York Farm Bureau Foundation, NYS Agricultural Society, Cornell Agriculture Outreach and Education, which includes Ag in the Classroom and FFA.

This program does many things, including an awareness of the interface between community, school and agriculture, inter-disciplinary learning through agriculture, career opportunities, nutrition, volunteerism, community pride, and connects a “garden” to the food supply for the general public.

This is a program that truly “works” for the community, education and agriculture.