

FFA officers filmed for ONEOK commercial

Written by Austin Benson

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Chapter members taught fifth graders about ag and animal science

The Gothenburg FFA chapter was selected by ONEOK, Inc., a natural-gas supplier in the Midwest to shoot a commercial that promotes agriculture awareness in Nebraska.

Cameras were set up inside a Dudley Elementary classroom and near a local horse barn for a 30-second clip, according to Dan Scherer, FFA sponsor and ag teacher.

“I was impressed with how professional it was and how they captured the young kids learning,” Scherer said.

FFA officers and fifth-grade students from Sharon Andres’ class teamed up during the shoot as the older students taught elementary kids a lesson on food and how the color and smell of something gives a certain perception of its taste.

Senior Carson Messersmith said an edible aquifer was made out of ice cream, gummy bears, cereal and other goodies while Sprite acted as water.

“We put dye in the Sprite to show how chemicals can affect water and pollute it,” Messersmith said. “We had the kids drink it to get the effect of a well in action.”

Fifth grader Katie Kreis said that seeing the colored jello but having it taste a different flavor was a little weird and surprising.

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Seth Daup, also a fifth grader said they were given cotton balls with certain smells on them in an exercise to show how scent can make you want to buy something.

When cameras rolled out to a barn that houses horses owned by officer Rebecca Anderson and her family, an equine science project showed different parts of a horse and how to care for and train it.

Some fifth grade students accompanied the FFA members to Anderson's barn where they learned about horse shoes.

Kylie Farr said Anderson showed them how to groom a horse properly and make sure you aren't hurting it.

Jake Scherer, another fifth grader, said petting the horse felt weird but he enjoyed learning about the horse's diet of oats, prairie hay and alfalfa.

Overall, Messersmith said the exposure was positive for Gothenburg and the FFA chapter to be on a national commercial.

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