



The ***“Gallatin Valley Farm Fair”*** is a continuing education program for fourth-grade elementary students conducted as a three-day event with over 300 students each day. It is conducted on the Brainard ranch located between Belgrade and Manhattan offering students, teachers and school administrators lessons about agriculture production, economics, soil science, animal science, environment management and exposure to careers in agriculture related fields.

A description of the various student stations follows.....

Gallatin Valley Farm Fair – Student Stations

4-H Activities – There’s a lot to learn from the largest agricultural youth organization in the world! Enjoy seeing the various activities in which Gallatin Valley 4-H members participate. Be ready to pet rabbits, chickens, and dogs as you learn that 4-H is a positive after-school program you might want to join.



Agricultural Careers – As the largest industry in the United States, agricultural jobs are waiting for one out of every five fourth graders when they complete their education. Only 2% of the U.S. population actually works on farms, but 20% of all American jobs serve production agriculture.

Beef Cattle – Did you know that there are 2.5 cows for every person living in Montana? The beef industry produces the high quality protein meals that you use to build strong muscles in your body. You will understand how important beef products are for your health and for your continued growth into an adult.



Bees/Pollination – A true miracle of life is the production of honey. Yes, honey bees travel an equivalent of three times around the earth to collect enough pollen to produce just one pound of honey! Seeing actual honey bees and how they live will answer some of your questions about this interesting topic.



Dairy & Milking Cows – The Gallatin Valley is known for its high quality dairy cattle operations. If you have never milked a cow, you'll be amazed how easy it is and how important it is for each of us to have our three glasses of milk each day!

Dairy Goats/ Cheese – You'll be surprised to learn all the things a dairy goat does to help out on the farm. Be prepared to try your luck at milking a goat!



Draft Horses – You are going to love riding on a wagon pulled by a team of huge horses! You will get to learn about all the different breeds of draft horses and how they are used. There will be Clydesdales, Morgans, Percherons, Belgians, and maybe more.



Forestry – As you look around you, you'll see many mountain ranges surrounding you here in the Gallatin Valley. Most of you have camped and had fun in these mountains. Now, you have an opportunity to learn how trees grow and their importance to us.

Gallatin Valley Crops – Farmers in the Gallatin Valley grow wheat, barley, oats, peas, lentils, potatoes, as well as a few forage crops such as alfalfa. Weeds also grow and are pests that the farmers must control. Knowing which seeds grow into specific crops is important for all farmers to know. You will get that chance also!



Ice Cream (Tin Can) – One of your “bucket list” items should be to learn how to make your own ice cream! You’ll be amazed how easy it is and how much fun you can have making it!



Irrigation/Soil conservation – As you ride on one of the wagons pulled by draft horses, you will see in person how farmers irrigate their land and how they conserve both water and soil. Hold on tight!



Pigs – Although our 50 Hutterite Colonies in Montana produce most of the pigs, there are still numerous small hog operations, including 4-H and FFA projects. It is a remarkable process to learn how a cute little piglet grows into a market hog in such a short period of time.

Pleasure Horses – Horses love attention but can be dangerous if you don't learn some basic facts before being around them. Learn about both the English and Western styles of horsemanship and be prepared to learn to love these beautiful animals as well as learn how to train them to love you!



Potatoes – Whenever you eat fries at a fast-food restaurant be sure to thank the potato farmers in the Gallatin Valley for producing the seed potatoes that the Idaho farmers use to grow their potato crops. Confused? Be sure to pay close attention to learn about this process at this station. And, while you're at it, be prepared to get your hands dirty and dig a few spuds!

Safety – Farms are some of the most dangerous places to live and work. Whether you are just visiting a farm or riding on an all-terrain vehicle, there are safety rules to know. Knowing the rules might just save you from a serious accident in the future.



Sheep (Ewe to You) – You just might have on a pair of wool socks if the weather is cold during the Farm Fair. You'll be impressed to see how wool is produced and turned into products all of you need to stay warm in the winter.



Water Cycle – At the Farm Fair you will be surrounded by fresh water and learn the importance of keeping it clean. Since only 1% of all water on earth is drinkable fresh water, we cannot afford to pollute it. Where does the fresh water in your home come from?

Weed Identification – Do you know that many of the prettiest flowers you'll see growing in crops and by the highways are actually weeds? You will learn about some of these and how to keep them from spreading.

