



Lee Ann Clark
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News Release

From Farm to Table: Virtual Poultry Farm Tour

The United States continues to become a more urbanized society and youth growing up today have little knowledge about farming or how food products are produced and processed. In Extension, we continually look for new and innovative ways to increase our youth's knowledge about agriculture. Farm tours are always a great educational tool; however, with time constraints, travel, liability, food safety and weather issues, these tours are just not an option. That is, unless it's a virtual farm tour.

One of the greatest areas for improving the quality and quantity of learning is through the use of technology. With this in mind, the St. Clair County Extension office teamed up with the Extension Communications Department at Auburn University and Extension Specialist, Kent Stanford, to develop a "Virtual Poultry Farm Tour." This unique tour, filmed in Ashville in the northeast part of St. Clair County, brings the farm to the children and allows them an up-close and personal experience at a working poultry farm. The tour introduces basic agricultural concepts while students witness the complete growing cycle of a bird and learn that farming actually puts food on their plate.

The virtual tour was first utilized as a part of St. Clair County's 5th annual 4-H Clover Classroom Advanced Kids Cooking Camp in July. The tour has also been used in 4-H school presentations across the county to promote Farm-City week, which is held November 19th-25th. A link is also available on the St. Clair County Extension's webpage, www.aces.edu/StClair, and on the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's (ACES) homepage, www.aces.edu. This tour will allow us to not only educate youth across our state, but throughout the world. Be sure to check it out!

Through evaluations, such as pre- and post-testing of participants, we will be able to track the impact of this project. Data collected thus far has revealed a positive impact on student's knowledge.

This tour was made possible through sponsorships provided by the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association, St. Clair County Farmers Federation, and St. Clair County Poultry Growers Association.

Copies of the Virtual Poultry Farm tour are also available on DVD. Please call the St. Clair County Extension office at (205) 338-9416 to request your free copy. For more information please contact Lee Ann Clark, County Extension Coordinator at clarkla@aces.edu or Tonya Tomlin, 4-H Agent Assistant at tomlita@aces.edu.

