Franklin County Conservation District Turns the First Grade Field Trip Into a Full-Day Event

The fourth annual Franklin County Conservation District's First Grade Field Trip saw a big change this year- it went from a half-day event for the students to an all-day event! Due to feedback from the teachers, the Conservation District worked with the Chambersburg Area School District to make this field trip a full-day event. Once again, the event was held at Caledonia State Park over the course of four days and there were approximately 700 first graders (from 31 classes across 13 different elementary schools with) and 100 adults (teachers and parent chaperones) in attendance.

In order to turn this field trip into a full-day educational event, the students were rotated through 8 different stations (rather than the typical four stations at the half-day event), which meant the District had to be creative when it came to creating new stations and finding enough presenters. The presenters are asked to do two things at their stations: keep them to 15 minutes long and make them interactive with a game or some sort of activity.

The full-day event saw the addition of several new stations, including a dairy station (students learned how the milk went from the cow to the store, and they even milked a "cow"), recycling, forestry and a nature trail walk scavenger hunt. Once again, the playground was an individual station so each class was able to have its' own 15 minutes on the equipment. Both teachers and students were very excited to be able to spend the whole day at Caledonia State Park. There has been nothing but positive feedback thus far, which is great for the first whole day event!

The Conservation District would not have been able to provide this opportunity for the first graders without the help of our local Penn State Extension Educators (4-H, Agronomy and Dairy) and some of our local Natural Resources Conservation Service employees. The students, teachers and presenters all felt that this field trip was worthwhile.