

# SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

## Grades 6-8

The Following activities are designed to make your visit to the fair more meaningful. Hopefully, you will be able to incorporate some of the ideas into your regular curriculum.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE: LANGUAGE ARTS, AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

### PRE-FAIR

1. Discuss the importance of agriculture to the economy of the San Joaquin Valley. (The San Joaquin Valley is the richest agricultural valley in the world!) Have students brainstorm those businesses which are related and/or impacted by agriculture, specifically, in Fresno County. Ask the students to list occupations related to agriculture.

The students should select a crop they see exhibited at the fair that they would choose to raise if they were farmers.

### POST-FAIR

2. Have students write a detailed report on how they would raise the crop of their choice. They should include newspaper and/or magazine articles, pictures, graphs or anything that enhances their report. The report should also include costs involved in growing their crop, such as equipment, labor fertilizer, crop sprays, etc. Also, they should include how they intend to market their crop. They should be able to correlate some of the occupations and businesses they had listed in their pre-fair activity to their farming venture.  
(You may make this lesson as detailed as you feel is appropriate for your particular class.)

## AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE: ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, MATH, LANGUAGE ARTS

### PRE-FAIR

1. Ask: How many breeds of cattle are raised commercially in Fresno County? (Any type livestock can be used for lesson.) Record their answers on the board. Discuss what the students know about the breeds listed and give them any new information you have available. (See teachers resource and information section.)

Tell them they will be given the assignment after visiting the fair, of selecting a breed of their choice and doing a research paper on that breed. They will also have the opportunity to guess the weight of a steer at the fair, in the livestock Pavilion.

### POST-FAIR

2. Give the students the research assignment in the Pre-Fair #1 Activity above and any additional information you deem necessary. (Suggestions for inclusion in reports: ratio of grain fed to animal per pound of gain, and how that affects The cost of raising the animal.)  
This would be an excellent opportunity for students to contact outside people for information: Ag. Advisor, local ranchers, Cattlemen's Association, Fresno State University Ag. Dept., etc.

## SCIENCE: HEALTH, LANGUAGE ARTS

### PRE-FAIR

1. Ask students what "By-Products" means. Define for them if they don't know, give examples. Have students brainstorm what they know about plant and/or animal by-products. Have students list those by-products that are derived from plant or animal resources known to them, that they use in their daily lives. Give students any additional information that is available to you. (Some information included in resource section and students should look for plants or animals at fair that provide by-products.)

### POST-FAIR

2. Assign students a short written essay discussing two by-products they use the most in their daily lives. Have students bring examples of that by-product from home to be included as part of their report.