



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Sharon Smith, APR, Communications Director, Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center ssmith@indianastatefair.com/ 317-619-0374 Cell
Photo/Video and Interview Opportunity

DID YOU KNOW? More than 8,000 students are registered for virtual field trips during the spring semester at the Indiana State Fairgrounds? Virtual field trips are an excellent example of how the Fairgrounds' Education Department has been able to use technology to pivot during the pandemic and provide ag-oriented, curriculum-based field trips to students throughout the state.

The Fairgrounds' Youth Ag Education Program educates both children and adults about the importance of agriculture to our city, our state, our nation and the world. Annually, the Education Department reaches more than **50,000 children and adults** through on-site programs designed to educate and engage participants in agriculture education. Spring and fall field trips provide opportunities for classroom and home educators to enhance curriculum through an educational experience that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. Current programs include Farm To Pizza, Exploring Biotechnology and Plants, Animals & Me and a **new** offering called **There's a Pig in My Classroom**.

WHAT: There's a Pig in My Classroom is a virtual field trip hosted by the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center and sponsored by the LEAP Foundation, Belstra and Fair Oaks Farms. The program is designed to teach students in grades 3rd-6th about how pigs are raised on the farm, how to purchase pork, and how pork gets from the farm to their plate. Currently, 3,700 students are registered for this program!

Here's what a local educator had to say about the program:

I absolutely loved this program for my students. Due to so many current restrictions from COVID-19, we are not allowed to take field trips outside of the building. Most of my students have never seen a pig in person. This was information that they would likely have never learned if it wasn't for this experience. – Ashley Schneck, 5th Grade Teacher, Mt. Comfort Elementary

WHEN: Upcoming Spring 2021 Field Trips are scheduled March 2-4, April 20-22 and May 4-6.

HOW: To register your class or learn more about the program, visit www.indianastatefair.com/p/education/pig-in-classroom. This video also provides an overview of the program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcsJRag_QjY

TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW: Contact Sharon Smith, Communications Director, at ssmith@indianastatefair.com or 317-691-0374 to schedule an interview with Stephanie DeCamp, Director of Education, Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center.

The next "There's A Pig in My Classroom" field trip program is scheduled for March 2-4. Images may be captured of the virtual field trip program as it is in session, along with an interview of how the program was developed and its impact on Hoosier students.

