September 2020

- ND Farmers Union and Farmers Union Insurance are lead sponsors of Growing Science gallery area

- Exhibit Development: What if we could talk with the animals?

- Einstein on Wine Online

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The North Dakota Farmers Union and Farmers Union Insurance are lead sponsors of Growing Science, the section of Gateway to Science’s new exhibit gallery exploring agriculture. Growing Science will feature exhibits on North Dakota soil, animal sounds and cow monitoring, plus a virtual farm. These hands-on learning experiences are a perfect fit with the Farmers Union mission—the advancement of family farm and ranch agriculture and quality of life for people everywhere.

Soil Columns is one of the exhibits under development for the Growing Science section of the gallery. The Soil Columns (rendering below) will show how the various types of soils across North Dakota determine which plants will grow and thrive, helping visitors understand why specific types of agriculture are more appropriate to practice in each region.

"One of Farmers Union’s founding ideals is education. Investing in knowledge, especially in young people, is a commitment we take seriously," said Mark Watne, North Dakota Farmers Union president. “We’re excited about the new exhibit gallery that will feature agriculture and the knowledge it will impart.”

The Farmers Union hosts summer youth camps to educate and promote leadership skills in the next generation. Campers visit Gateway to Science each year as part of their focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in agriculture.
Communicating with animals is complicated. Because animals can’t actually say, “My feet hurt,” or “One of my stomachs is upset,” farmers, ranchers and veterinarians need to observe animal behavior and listen to the sounds an animal’s body is making.

Knowing what is a normal or abnormal sound for the heart, lungs and stomach are critical to helping animals live healthy lives. The only way to become familiar with these sounds is to experience them and that is what the new Animal Sounds exhibit at Gateway to Science does.

The steer in Animal Sounds has a listening device and target areas marked out on his body, aligning with the heart, lungs and stomach. A switch allows guests to listen to both the normal and distressed sounds for each of these areas so they can compare the difference. Our guests will be challenged to determine how he is doing based on what they hear.

Animal Sounds is currently nearing completion at the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM). It was designed specifically for the new Gateway to Science center and we can’t wait to have it on our floor!

When the exhibit was tested with visitors at SMM, it was a big hit. We expect our guests will like it too. Farming and ranching are an important part of who we are as North Dakotans, so we are excited to give guests a look at the kind of work that farmers and ranchers do every day. We hope this exhibit will also encourage interest in the important work veterinarians do in the agriculture industry and our communities.
The photos below show the steer in the Animal Sounds exhibit, a diagram of some of the sounds for the exhibit, and a visitor to SMM listening to the animal's heart.

Einstein on Wine Online

Get ready for Version 2.0 of Gateway to Science's beloved annual fundraiser—Einstein on Wine Online! We won't be gathering in person this year, but you can still enjoy a glass of wine, bid on fabulous items, and support the critical mission of Gateway to Science.

Mark your calendar for the evening of Friday, November 20. The program livestream will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Anyone can watch free of charge and register with ClickBid to participate in the auction and Fund-a-Mission. A variety of sponsorship packages with unique benefits and recognition opportunities are available.

Visit the event website for all the details.
Thank you for your interest and support. For more information, please contact Lesley Icenogle, Development Director, at 701-258-1975 or lesley@gscience.org.