CYPRESS is an integrated, three year project designed to expose and promote Natural Resource, Agriculture and Environmental Science careers to middle school students within Orangeburg, South Carolina. This project seeks to bridge the gap between middle and high school in providing ongoing support for students interested in pursuing agricultural careers in college.

Purpose

- To increase the cultural diversity of the food and agricultural workforce;
- To attract and educate young underrepresented groups about Agriculture; and
- To reduce the label associated with Agricultural careers among minorities – “working on the farm”

Methodology

- Throughout the CYPRESS project, the team will conduct pre and post surveys with both middle and high school students to determine if the activities were influential with students enrolling in Ag courses at the Technology Center and/or pursuing Agriculture majors in college.
- In addition, the team will work closely with the guidance counselors at participating middle and high schools to identify and track the number of students interested in pursuing Agriculture careers.
- The middle school students will be tracked for three years to see how many actually enroll in Ag courses at the high school level.

Conducted Pre and Post Surveys

- Determine Effectiveness of Programs
  - Summer Camp / 4H / MANRRS
  - Revised Curriculum at Technology Center

Identified and Tracked

- Middle School Students
  - Interested in Agriculture careers
- High School Students
  - Enrolled in Ag courses at Technology Center
  - Pursuing Ag majors in college
- Parent Survey
  - Perception of CYPRESS Summer Camp

Data Collection

- Conducted Pre and Post Surveys
- Identified and Tracked
- Parent Survey
- Data Collection - cont
- Data Collection - cont

Acknowledgement

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CYPRESS Project has been effective towards increasing awareness and interest among the middle school youths for Ag Careers. Also, CYPRESS project provides:

- Agriculture Awareness Project that targets minority youth
- Agriculture career exploration
- “Ag in the classroom” workshops for science teachers
- Food Production – from the farm to the table
- College preparation tips and scholarships
- Curriculum revision

Pursuing Careers in Ag

Want to Know More About Ag

Aware of Ag Scholarships

Aware that Ag covers Environmental Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math

Summary