

Thank Ag for Picnics

Agriculture plays a major role in all aspects of our lives. It's more than just the food we eat.

Take the typical all-American picnic basket. It is filled with fruit, sandwiches and homemade dessert - all of which we know originates with agriculture. But did you know everything at your picnic, including the actual basket, wouldn't be possible without agriculture?

As part of Noble Academy's mission, several hands-on lessons were created to provide learning opportunities to today's youth about the value of agriculture and its presence in everyday life.

Here's a look into Noble Academy's famous picnic basket lesson.

Apples

Apples are 25 percent air, which allows them to float. The most common varieties produced in Oklahoma are Gala, Jonathan, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious and Fuji.

Oranges

The United States is expected to produce about 5.4 million tons of oranges in 2016. Florida is the main production state.

Grapes

Grapes grow on vines planted in February to March in Oklahoma. Bunch grapes are grown in western Oklahoma and Muscadine grapes grow in northern Oklahoma.

Pears

Pears are good sources of dietary fiber and Vitamin C.

Ceramic Bowl

This is made from clay soil. Soil is one of the most critical aspects of agriculture. The Noble Foundation helped launch the Soil Health Institute in 2015. Learn more at www.soilhealthinstitute.org.

Coca-Cola®

Soda is made with high fructose corn syrup, a natural sweetener made from corn. About 38 million bushels of corn are consumed each year around the world.

Carrots

The edible part of carrot is the root portion. Carrots grow best in sandy soils and are resistant to most pests and diseases.

Chocolate Milk

Dairy cattle produce 83 percent of the world's milk supply. In Oklahoma, the average dairy cow produces about 5.6 gallons of milk per day. Chocolate comes from cocoa beans, which grow on cocoa trees in hot, rainy climates.

Ketchup

Ketchup is made from tomatoes. It is the most commonly used condiment.

Mustard

Mustard is made from mustard plant seeds. Mustard plants can be grown in Oklahoma but only have a 50- to 55-day growing window in the spring and fall.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the fourth-most-popular fresh market vegetable in the U.S. (after potatoes, lettuce and onions). About 93 percent of American gardens include tomatoes.

Bread

Bread is made from wheat, which is one of the staple crops for the world along with rice and corn. Red hard winter wheat is the major variety used in breads.

Salt

Salt is found in the Earth's crust. It typically comes from mining rock or evaporating salt waters. Salt is used to season and preserve foods.

Black Pepper

Black pepper comes from the fruits of a pepper plant, which is a woody, flowering vine that can grow up to 33 feet long in hot and humid tropical climates.

Pretzels

Pretzel dough is made from wheat. Wheat is the number one crop produced in Oklahoma.

Picnic Basket

Wicker, a popular type of basket, is commonly made from willow. Willow grows from temperate zones to the Arctic and from coastal plains to the mountains.

Natural Bug Spray

Bug sprays can be made with oil from cedar trees. Observations of mosquitoes staying away from cedar trees led to finding that the oil from the tree was a repellent.

Football

Even though it's called a "pigskin," cow hides are used to cover footballs. One cow hide can make about 20 footballs.

Plastic Spoons and Forks

Bioplastics can be made from cellulose and starch from plants. They are more biodegradable than petroleum-based products.

Disposable Camera

The plastic cover is made from animal fat. Early plastics were based on casein, a protein found in cow's milk. Gelatin, which is made from animal byproducts, is used in all photographic film.