

May 22, 2024. Monte Vista Learning Academy, Simi Valley, 8 AM to 1PM.

Every 15 minutes, gobs of third graders would rush to a new station to learn from practitioners of agriculture. There were 40 stations and 1,400 kids. They were excited to learn about farm machinery, horse training, fire reduction with goats, strawberries, avocados, insects and weeds and our office was there to talk to the kids about strawberry diseases, invasive pests and citrus varieties. Master Gardeners Tina Comfort, Linda Haque and Dawn Gray talked of the impact of invasive pests and especially Asian Citrus Psyllid on the local citrus industry, Oleg Daugovish covered the gamut of strawberry culture and Ben Faber showed off the range of citrus grown locally and donated by Friends Ranches in Ojai. Try covering that in 15-minute periods with a lot of excited kids who just wanted to learn. And kids say the darndest things:

When asked who eats strawberries besides people?

MONKEYS

Where do strawberries grow? In the ground , silly

Most common question was how long for strawberries from flower to fruit?

What's the most sour citrus, the biggest, the sweetest?

Why are lemons yellow and blood orange flesh red?

All good responses.

This whole massive production was organized by the students of Monte Vista and the California Women for Agriculture. Great Show.



MGs in Action



Kids in Action



Oleg in Action